CYO director nears the finish line after 46 years of serving children and families

By John Shaughnessy

That combination of passion and purpose has marked the 46 years that Tinder has devoted to serving the children, youths and families of the archdiocese—the first nine years as a teacher and coach at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, followed by his 37 years with the CYO. As the 68-year-old Tinder prepares to retire on June 16, The Criterion talked with him recently about his thoughts on the “ tug of war” in youth sports, his advice to parents and coaches, his insights into why the CYO is so important to the archdiocese and the Church, and his joy in leading the organization.

Just as revealing, it was also a conversation in which Tinder quickly turned his thoughts to his wife of 43 years, Kathy. Here is an edited version of that conversation.

Q. You’ve worked for the archdiocese since 1971. What has led you to devote these 46 years to young people, the archdiocese and the Catholic faith?

A. “I knew halfway through my college years that I wanted to get into teaching and coaching. I don’t think I’ve ever thought of anything else. I’ve been in Catholic schools the entire time.”

By Victoria Arthur and Natalie Hoefer

Ruby Dlugosz was reluctant to attend the March 25 Indiana Catholic Women’s Conference.

“I didn’t think there would be many people my age,” said the 28-year-old member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

In addition, she was dealing with worry and stress over the upcoming surgery her 4-month-old son Daniel would soon undergo. He was born with cranial scaphocephaly, a condition that occurs when the skull bones fuse prematurely.

Dlugosz decided to attend the conference, held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown hotel.

“I loved it,” she said. “I saw people of all ages, and I ran into several friends I hadn’t seen in a while. That was my favorite part—the feeling of community.”

She brought Daniel with her. He was a ray of joy, cooing, smiling and fascinated by his mother’s rosary.

Dlugosz eyed the prayer beads, too.
Meet our future deacons

John Hosier
Age: 60
Wife: Ada
Home Parish: Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Parish, Indianapolis
Occupation: Quality Reliability Engineer

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?
My Grandma Josephine showed me by her actions what it was to be Catholic. Not to be too hard on people, or to be compassionate. I also think Pope Francis is a wonderful role model.

What is your favorite Scripture verse, saints, prayers and devotions?
My favorite Scripture verses are Mt 20:28: “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve,” and Mt 28:20: “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” St. Joseph has taught me what it is to be a husband, father and a man of faith.

Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in the workplace. Why do you find that God is calling you to become a deacon?
When people asked me why God called me to be a deacon in the Church, I always tell them because I am broken and a sinner.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?
My family has had to adjust to my availability for family functions, and adjust to a husband and dad whose time is not always his own. I am very proud of the way my wife and children have adjusted to my role in ministry.

The Criterion

360-degree view.
particular parish under the Parish Listing at the website.

By Natalie Hoefer
To increase the sense of community among the parishes of the Church in central and southern Indiana, The Criterion is beginning to add 360-degree images of the interior of archdiocesan churches to the archdiocesan website.
The images can be viewed from either a computer or a smartphone. On a computer, viewers can use their mouse to scroll up, down, right and left for a 360-degree look around a church’s interior. When accessed via mobile phone, viewers can use their finger to swipe from side-to-side, tilt their phone up or down, or hold the phone steady and pivot slowly in place to view a church’s interior. No special application (app) is required to view the images. To view the images, available images by computer or smartphone, log on to www.archindy.org/360, or go to a particular parish under the Parish Listing at www.archindy.org/parish and look for a link to the 360-degree view.

Images are currently available for the following churches:
• American Martyrs, Scottsburg
• Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
• Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
• St. Agnes, Nashville
• St. Ambrose, Seymour
• St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
• St. Augustine, Jeffersonville
• St. Bartholomew, Columbus
• St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis
• St. Joseph and St. Paul churches of St. John Paul II Parish, Clarkstown
• St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis
• SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis
• St. Rita, Indianapolis
• St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis
• St. Mary, New Albany
The images, taken by iPhone or iPad, are being added gradually as reporters are on-site at a church covering an event.

With 39 counties and 133 parishes, some with multiple churches, the archdiocese is a broad area to cover. To make sure that all archdiocesan churches in central and southern Indiana are represented, we invite parishioners and parish staff to take their own 360-degree image of their church’s interior and send it in.

While we welcome images made from any 360-degree photo application, The Criterion staff has been using the iPhone-compatible Bubli app, which can be downloaded for free from the iPhone App Store (note: as of yet, we have not been able to find such an app for Android phones). In addition to orientation and compatibility requirements can be found when downloading the app.
Once downloaded, a help guide is available with instructions on how to take 360-degree images and tips for excellent outcomes.

We also welcome best exposed and aligned retakes of existing images. Send images to online editor Brandon A. Evans at webmaster@archindy.org. (Please note that neither The Criterion nor the Archdiocese of Indianapolis endorse or provide support for phone applications or the viewing of these images.)
More than 1,000 students to graduate from Catholic colleges in archdiocese

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indianapolis will award 904 degrees at its two commencement ceremonies on May 6 and 7.

Marian University in Indianapolis will award 904 degrees at its two commencement ceremonies on May 6 and 7. On May 6, 770 undergraduate and graduate students will receive bachelor’s and master’s degrees during the university’s 80th commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. at St. Vincent Health Field on the Marian campus.

The commencement speaker will be Dr. Lisa Harris, chief executive officer of Eskenazi Health. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

On May 7, the first Class of 234 students of the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine will receive doctorate degrees during a 2 p.m. ceremony at the Hilbert Circle Theatre in Indianapolis.

The commencement speaker for the medical school graduation will be John Lechleiter, chairman of the board of directors of Eli Lilly and Company. During the ceremony, Jonathan Nalli and Bryan Mills will receive honorary Doctor of Business degrees, and William and Teresa Eckman will receive honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad holds its commencement on May 13.

The ceremony will be at 2 p.m. Central Time in St. Bode Theater on the Saint Meinrad campus. The commencement address will be delivered by Benedictine Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, O.S.B., the 10th abbot of Saint Meinrad and the chair of the school’s board of trustees.

Mass for the graduates and their guests will be at 10:30 a.m. Central Time in the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods will celebrate its 181st commencement on May 6 when 100 graduates in its Class of 2017 will receive their associate’s, bachelor’s or master’s degrees.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in the college’s Church of the Immaculate Conception. The commencement ceremony will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the college’s Jeanne Knoerle Sports and Recreation Center.

The commencement speaker will be Kristin Fleschner, chief executive officer of Eskenazi Health. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Kristin Fleschner

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis will declare the sainthood of Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto, two of the shepherd children who saw Mary in Fatima, Portugal, during his visit to the site of the apparitions on May 13.

The date was announced on April 20 during an “ordinary public consistory,” a meeting of the pope, cardinals and promoters of sainthood causes that formally ends the sainthood process.

Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, addressing the assembly noted that of the future saints considered at the consistory, five were children or young teenagers. “In our time, when young people often become objects of exploitation and commerce, these young people excel as witnesses of truth and freedom, messengers of peace [and] of a new humanity reconciled in love,” the cardinal said.

At the same consistory, the pope set Oct. 15 as the date for the canonizations of two priests and two groups of martyrs, including Blessed Cristobal, Blessed Antonio and Blessed Juan—also known as the “Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala”—who were among the first native converts as the “Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala”—who were among the first native converts.

They were killed in 1645 in a wave of Catholic persecution carried out by the Inquisition in Mexico. They were killed between 1527 and 1529 for refusing to renounce the faith and return to their people’s ancient traditions.

Pope Francis will preside over the canonization ceremony of the Fatima visionaries during his visit to Fatima on May 12-13.

The pilgrimage will mark the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which began on May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Church.

A year after the apparitions, both of the Maro children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco died on April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness on Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9.

Francisco and Jacinta’s cause for canonization was stalled for decades due to a debate on whether non-martyred children have the capacity to understand heroic virtues at a young age. However, in 1979, St. John Paul II allowed their cause to proceed. He declared them venerable in 1989 and beatified them in 2000.

The children’s cousin entered the Carmelites. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97. The diocesan phase of her sainthood cause concluded in February and now is under study at the Vatican.

The other canonizations set to take place on Oct. 15 include:
• The “Martyrs of Natal,” Brazil, including: Blessed Jean-Baptiste de Soveral, a Jesuit priest; Blessed Ambrosio Francisco Ferro, a diocesan priest; Blessed Mateus Moreira, a layman, and 27 others.
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• The Martyrs of Natal, Brazil, including: Blessed Jean-Baptiste de Soveral, a Jesuit priest; Blessed Ambrosio Francisco Ferro, a diocesan priest; Blessed Mateus Moreira, a layman, and 27 others.

They were killed in 1645 in a wave of anti-Catholic persecution carried out by Dutch Calvinists.

Blessed Faustino Miguez, a Spanish priest and a member of the Purist Fathers born in 1831. He started an advanced school for girls at a time when such education was limited almost exclusively to boys.

While he taught a variety of subjects and wrote numerous textbooks, he also honored an interest in botany, which led him to find a cure for a professor so ill that he was thought to be beyond hope.

People then came to him from all parts of the country seeking relief from their sicknesses.

Blessed Angelo da Acri, an Italian Capuchin priest who was born Luca Antonio Falcone. A famed preacher, he was known for his defense of the poor.

He died in 1739, and was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1875.
It was 9:00 Saturday evening, April 15, the time for the Easter Vigil. We weren’t at Mass, but rather crowding along a dark and winding country road.

The sky was black, except for the twinkling of the bright stars. My daughter was driving, and I was riding shotgun. Tucked in the back were my husband, my son-in-law and three of my nephews.

We had taken a pitch-in supper to the Hickory Creek Horsemen Camp down by Norman, Indiana, to share with my niece and her husband, who were visiting from Michigan. It was the only time we could all get together. Of all my sisters and her family were also there.

The adults had hiked in the mild spring weather along a wooded path, trimmed in redbuds and dogwoods. The children had taken turns riding the compliant horses round and round a small trail by the camp. All partook of food made from tried and true family recipes, and there were lots of conversations, catching up and sharing family stories new and old. Now, coconned in the van, we were all tailed and content.

I was feeling a little Catholic guilt about missing the Easter Vigil, but I cherished being with my niece whom I only saw once yearly at the camp. This year, it happened to fall on Easter weekend. I chose to be with her.

Anyway, my husband and I were singing Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” with the St. Charles Borromeo choir for Easter Sunday Mass, so that had to count for something.

Also, being with Mary, my niece, reminded me of my mother, my dear sister who had passed away. And it also reminded me of those family reunions of long ago—the chatter and laughter of numerous aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents. I could sense the preference of the old times gone. A communion of saints. I was in one of those sentimental and spiritual moods.

All three of the grandchildren attend St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington. Public school would be more convenient and lots less expensive, but we are all committed to a Catholic education for the children.

Cora, a first-grader: I’ll tell you how it really happened. This is the truth, guys. Jesus came to town with his friends and had a nice supper for everyone. But one friend wanted money. So he told the priests where Jesus was.

Christian, a third-grader: Cora, his friends are disciples and Judas betrayed Jesus.

Cora: Yes, Judas wanted money. How much money did he get?

Ruby: Jesus is alive, hurrah! Jesus is alive.

I didn’t think my understanding and appreciation for the triduum could grow any deeper. But it did that night.

Melinda K. Fish is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington.

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**Grandkids’ insights offer unique perspective of Easter vigil**

On this 100th anniversary of the first appearance of the Blessed Mother to three children at Fatima, Portugal, isn’t it time for you to renew your devotion to Our Lady of Fatima or start it for the first time?

Most Catholics believe that Mary has appeared to people at various times in history, and probably continues to do so. But the “big three,” if you will, that have special feast days, commemorate her appearances at Tepeyac in Mexico as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal.

The apparitions at Fatima occurred for the first time on May 13, 1917. Lucia dos Santos, 10, her cousin Francisco Marto, 9, and his sister Jacinta, 7, were told things that they wouldn’t have known in a small village in Portugal. This was 1917 when World War I was raging, but before the Communist Revolution in Russia during that year. They were told that the war would end, but that a worse war would occur while Pope Pius XI was pope. (He was elected in 1922.) They were told that Russia would “spread her poison over the whole world, causing wars and persecution of the Church.”

During the apparition on June 13, Mary told Lucia to learn to read and write, but that Francisco and Jacinta would die soon. They did, from influenza, Francisco on April 4, 1919, and Jacinta on Feb. 20, 1920. Both suffered considerably before their deaths, but offered their sufferings for the conversion of sinners. Mary appeared to Jacinta three more times during her illness.

Lucia became a Carmelite nun, known as Sister Maria Lacaia of the Immaculate Heart. She died on Feb. 13, 2005, at age 97. In 1929, Sister Lucia had a vision of the Holy Trinity with Jesus on the cross and Mary at his side. Mary told her that the time had come for the pope, in union with all the bishops, to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was finally done on March 25, 1943. Some people insisted that St. John Paul II didn’t do it properly, but Sister Lucia twice affirmed that it had been done as Mary requested.

Today there is a magnificent shrine at Fatima. More than 4 million pilgrims visit it every year, especially on May 13 and Oct. 13. Since this is the centenary year of the apparitions, more people are expected.

Pope Francis will be there on May 13, at which time he will canonize Francisco and Jacinta. Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have all visited the shrine. John Paul visited it three times.

With Pope Francis, let us renew our devotion to God’s Mother under the title of Our Lady of Fatima.

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**Reflected: Melinda Fish**

**Letter to the Editor**

Readers offer special ‘thank you’ to all who assisted with confirmation process

We are writing this letter to thank all those involved with the April 22 confirmation at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in downtown Indianapolis.

The evening involved the Indianapolis parishes of St. Christopher’s, St. Mary of the Evangelist and St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg. The principal celebrant for the Mass was Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan administrator, who shared a very moving and reflective homily on the gifts which we receive as a result of confirmation.

He spoke about the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, understanding and of reverence, the importance of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lifetime, and how they will help to lead us to the open heaven for a solid foundation for making wise decisions on our life’s journey.

Our daughter Lillian had prepared with a number of other candidates from St. Christopher with service projects, a retreat, faith formation sessions and guidance from her sponsor.

There was also special music. All in all, it was a successful event, which will be cherished by many for years to come.

Thank you to everyone involved, and also to the folks with the St. Christopher Parish’s youth ministry, Father Paul Shulski, our pastor, and to Father Matthew Tucci, our associate pastor.

Mark and Siming Hummer

Indianapolis

**Letters Policy**

Letters from readers are welcome and should be relevant, express their views, be well-written, be expressed, concise, temperate in tone, courteous and respectful. The editors reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limitations, potential 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.
virtually all my life, with the exception of my four years at Butler. It was a compromise. I was also always interested in athletics, so I’ve always been interested in coaching people, and having an impact on their lives.

“A lot of people think camp is all fun and games, but there’s a lot of coaching and the high-ropes challenge course. And it is a lot of fun. We meet a lot of new friends there. But everything we do down there is tied to a mission and a purpose. We view camp as a platform to reach kids in a more meaningful way. I’m probably more proud of our camp program than anything we’ve ever done—because I know the challenge that it has been.”

Q. As you look back on the 46 years, what are a few of the specific moments that stand out for you?

A. “I’ve enjoyed helping people and coaching people. I still think that what I do is teach and coach. You deal with all sorts of circumstances that take place in an athletic, competitive environment. Circumstances where emotions are brought to a level that only coaches can bring them down. And sometimes people act in a way that is not normal for them.

As a young kid, you’re perhaps going to grow up in an environment where you’re going to get everything. And as you go through life, that expectation continues with you. Athletics is going to put you in situations where every one of those experiences is going to be challenged. Maybe you’re not going to be the quarterback. You’re not going to be the best player. You’re going to be a role player. You’re going to win some games. You’re going to lose some big games. Maybe you’re not going to like the coach. Maybe you won’t like some of the things that happen. But you’re going to be an unbelievable number of life experiences. And the coach, for whatever reasons, is not always going to be there to shepherd them through those experiences. Everything—good, bad and in between—they’re going to experience. They’re going to care and loves them, and works with them through those experiences to ultimately be better people.”

Q. What advice would you give to coaches when it comes to working with the children and the youth they coach?

A. “Coaches worry about what parents think. They worry about what the community thinks. They worry about what they say in certain situations, worry about what play call. They worry all the time.

I tell the coaches that we have this huge program, with a tremendous number of teams and all sorts of sports. We have 450 boys’ basketball teams. That’s a whole lot of coaches. Some of those coaches are going to be good coaches, some of them are going to lose games. But if your ultimate purpose is to just love those kids and focus on those kids, you’re going to be a successful coach.”

Q. What advice would you give to parents about their relationship with their children when it comes to sports?

A. “Love them. As a coach, you’re concerned and interested in what they’re doing. And show passion for what they’re doing. There’s nothing wrong with that. But be there for them—for guide them through the experiences that athletics naturally bring to the table.

As a young kid, you’re perhaps going to grow up in an environment where you’re going to get everything. And as you go through life, that expectation continues with you. Athletics is going to put you in situations where every one of those experiences is going to be challenged. Maybe you’re not going to be the quarterback. You’re not going to be the best player. You’re going to be a role player. You’re going to win some games. You’re going to lose some big games. Maybe you’re not going to like the coach. Maybe you won’t like some of the things that happen. But you’re going to be an unbelievable number of life experiences. And the coach, for whatever reasons, is not always going to be there to shepherd them through those experiences. Everything—good, bad and in between—they’re going to experience. They’re going to care and loves them, and works with them through those experiences to ultimately be better people.”

Q. Why are you involved in coaching?

A. “I get to do something I love. I get to be part of something bigger than myself. I get to make a difference. And I get to get better every day. And I get to compete. And I get to lead. And I get to teach. And I get to be part of something that’s bigger than me. And I get to be part of something that’s bigger than me.”

Q. When we began this conversation, the first person you mentioned was your wife, Kathy. Talk about what her support has meant as you’ve led the CYO?

A. “This is really kind of a lonely job. You’re on an island. That’s kind of odd to say when it’s such a people program. The decisions you make and having to deal with situations, you need somebody to be on that island with you. You need somebody to be with you through the tough times, and talk you down from the ledge—all the things a spouse is good at.

I almost missed the birth of one of our children because of CYO. We have three married children, and I told each one of them to make sure you check the CYO calendar before you schedule the wedding. I hate that, but I was always supported at home. And I know she felt the same about her job. She’s a person who cares deeply about the kids and her job. And I’m the same way.”

Q. How do you view the CYO’s role in the archdiocese and the Church—and your role in leading the CYO?

A. “I’m very proud of the CYO. It’s a part of the Catholic Church where more Catholic families are involved than CYO. That’s the key reason that is huge. The archbishop and the archdiocesan administration count on us to lead this organization in a way that is a ministry of the Catholic Church.

I always felt like I was given the key to a tremendous responsibility that was so very important. It’s been a blessing beyond what I ever imagined. I hope families know I tried to lead it in a way that was meaningful to their kids and to them. I just tried to do the best I could.”

Q. What are your retirement plans?

A. “I probably have as many career transitions going into retirement as I am excited. I’m probably more nervous about it because I’m still driven by relationships and people. These things excite me because I have great joy and passion in what I do. And fulfilling that in retirement. I’m not sure how I’m going to be able to do that.

And this is maybe a little bit on the egotistical side, but I fear irrelevance. From the time I graduated college, I was in front of a class, I was in front of a team. I’ve been in administration. I like the opportunity to share my passion with the audience I’m talking to. That’s what I mean by relevancy. I’m a coach. I’m not going to have a team. I’m going to have to remain involved with the Catholic community somehow, because it’s really been my life. I want to give back in some way, and be involved in some way.”

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We’re pulling it to be a platform of teaching
Gospel messages. I know that’s kind of scary
sometimes to coaches. Our job is to teach
that it’s not as scary as it sounds—because
Gospel messages are very simple. It’s how
we should lead our lives.

—Ed Tinder, longtime director of
the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization

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FAREWELL

continued from page 1
**Events Calendar**

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

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**Sisters to host discussion on Mary, Our Lady of Providence on May 4**

The Sisters of Providence will offer a talk on “Woman of So Many Names: Mary, Our Lady of Providence” May 4 at the Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, 1 Providence Way, in Terre Haute.

A Stephen Ministry workshop will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14596 Oak Ridge Drive, Carmel, Ind. (LaFayette Diocese), from 2:30-4 p.m. on May 6.

**Stephen Ministry caregiver companion workshop set for May 7 in Carmel**

A Stephen Ministry workshop will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14596 Oak Ridge Drive, Carmel, Ind. (LaFayette Diocese), from 2:30-4 p.m. on May 6.

**Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests set for May 7 at Holy Rosary**

The Indiana Regional Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests will be held at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis, starting at 2 p.m. on May 7.

**St. Patrick’s Day with St. John Paul II**

Pilgrims from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford and St. Mary Parish in Mitchell will process with their pastor, Father Richard Eldred, after he celebrated Mass at the altar of the tomb of St. John Paul II at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on March 17. (Halfstock photo)

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**May 17-19**

Archbishops Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Fruits of the Catholic Faith, Benedictine Brother Simon Hermann presenting, $225 single, $425 double. Information: 812-357-6855 or mjhooper@smhs.edu.

**May 20**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5533 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Silent Self-Guided Day of Reflection, $32 includes room for the day, continental breakfast, lunch and use of common areas, additional $37 extends stay 9-10 hours of silence and includes light dinner. Information and registration: 317-545-7681, ext. 107 or www.archindy.org/fatima.
The wonder of our Lord’s resurrection, sources of faith, hope, love

Faith leads to freedom, not compromise, Pope Francis says at morning Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christian faith is belief in the concrete work of God and love for humanity, Pope Francis said in an April 24 homily, to the chagrin of some of his action believers, Pope Francis said.

The Christian creed details concrete events because “the Word was made flesh, it was not made an idea,” the pope said on April 24 during his morning Mass in the chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae. “The creed does not say, ‘I believe in that’ or ‘that, things are made for this reason.’ No! They are concrete things,” such as belief in God who made heaven and Earth or believe in Jesus who rose from the dead, died and was buried, the pope noted.

Pope Francis reflected on the day’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which recalled Peter and John’s healing of a disabled man.

Noting their courage in the face of persecution, the pope said that their defiance of the Sanhedrin’s order not to preach in the name of Jesus was an example of the courage of the Christians, which means speaking the truth openly without compromises.

The “rationalistic mentality” shown by the Sanhedrin, the pope added, did not end with them, and even the Church itself. Christ our hope has conquered sin! There is need of faith and hope to open this new era, the pope said.

During the Easter season, Christians stand before the empty tomb and wonder at the miracle that occurred here 2,000 years ago. We are amazed by the wondrous love of Jesus who gave himself completely, selflessly, as a ransom for our sins.

“Life has conquered death. Mercy and love have conquered sin,” the pope said on April 24 during his morning Mass in the chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae.

“Let us be pervaded by the emotions that resound in the Easter sequence,” the Holy Father says. “Yes, we are certain. Christ is truly risen. The Lord has risen among us! This truth marks an indelible way the lives of the Apostles who, after the resurrection, again felt the need to follow their Master and, receiving the Holy Spirit, went without fear to proclaim to all what they had seen with their own eyes and personally experienced.”

The risen Christ empowers us to break free from the chains of fear, apathy and indifference. “Christ, my hope, is risen!” Pope Francis exclams, adding that “if Christ is risen, we can look with new eyes and hearts at every event of our lives, even the most negative.” If we are open to the grace of the Holy Spirit and recommit ourselves to following Jesus, we will be set free. Our worst fears and darkest doubts will be overcome by the power of God made manifest in Christ’s resurrection from the dead.

“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 misery and our weakness, the risen Christ gives us the strength to lift ourselves up. If we have faith in him, his grace saves us!” Pope Francis continues. “The crucified and risen Christ, the living and present, is the living hope and he is our hope today.”

“If we still have doubts or are still uncertain about what the empty tomb, as a sign of Jesus’ resurrection, means for our daily lives, Pope Francis urges us to look to Mary, “the silent witness to the events of the passion and resurrection of Jesus.”

“In the broken heart of a mother, there was always the flame of hope: We ask her also to help us to accept in fullness the Easter proclamation of resurrection, to embrace it concretely in our daily lives. “May the Virgin Mary give us the certainty of faith, that it will become a blessing and joy for us and for others, especially for those who suffer because of selfishness and indifference.”

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion’s editorial committee.)
"We haven’t been praying the rosary as much as we should," she admitted. “It occurred to me during the conference that I take time to phone my mom when I don’t call for weeks at a stretch!" So that’s what she did throughout the day as the women prayed the life of the saint, listened to those whose talks were focused on Mary, marveled at Mass and participated in a eucharistic procession through several blocks in Indianapolis.

Drugo seized the opportunity "to draw closer to God" through her son’s holy name.

"It was as God was saying, ‘Come back to me, children. You can’t live on me; you can’t fix me. You need me.’" At the end of the conference Drugo’s husband, Michael, joined her in having their new blessed rosary be blessed by one of the speakers, Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father Ronan Murphy and author, blogger and Pontifex (@vickithorn).

"Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Father James Blount makes a point during the Indiana Catholic Women's Conference in Indianapolis on March 25. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)"

Father Ronan Murphy talks about the rosary during the Mass for the day of the conference in Indianapolis on March 25. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)"}

"Mary said ‘yes’ to five things—"

"Excerpts from talk of Father Ronan Murphy (Father Murphy, a native of Dublin, Ireland, is associate pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis)"

Father Ronan Murphy, left, Father Michael Keucher, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, both spoke at the March 25 conference.

"The rosary is not just a Marian prayer— it’s a Marian/Christocentric prayer, because anything basically Marian is authentically Christocentric. It is a Marian/Christocentric prayer. The rosary is a Bible on a string. It’s a very beautiful way to look at Christ's relationship with Mary—his sanctification, his Marian Christocentric prayer. Pope John Paul II said that the rosary is the means of drawing closer to Christ. The rosary is a very beautiful way to live inside the circle of Christ's loving Mary that [everything] was transformed."

"We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, namely, the saints. And do you know what the saints, the holy men and women—hold in common? They all used the rosary and many used the rosary to grow in heights of holiness.

"Pray the rosary every day. Who is a praying nation? Who is a prays constantly to Mary? Throughout history, prayers are offered for every single thing. "Pray the rosary always has been a prayer of the family and for the family. According to [Fatima], Saint Lucy, the final confrontation between God and the devil is in three later times over the marriage and the family."

"Sow my seed into schools... I ask [the students], ‘How much time do you spend in prayer with Jesus—every day?’ Do you know what the average of Your students? They tell me 'I don’t know. I don’t want to. I’ll say, ‘That was last year. ‘You really need to pray!'" Since the surgery, Drugo shared some good news—her April 10 surgery was a success.

"Sow my seed into schools... I ask [the students], ‘How much time do you spend in prayer with Jesus—every day?’ Do you know what the average of Your students? They tell me 'I don’t know. I don’t want to. I’ll say, ‘That was last year. ‘You really need to pray!'"

"How much time do you spend in prayer with Jesus—every day?’ Do you know what the average of Your students? They tell me 'I don’t know. I don’t want to. I’ll say, ‘That was last year. ‘You really need to pray!'"

"I am all in the body of Jesus. It's why we have food pantries, because we have schools, because Jesus taught. We have to do what Jesus taught. We have to do what Jesus taught."

"Mary lived and walked by faith, especially when she was on her way to front of her and held his lifeless body in her arms. She alone had faith at that moment. If we want faith we have to do what Jesus said..." Mary taught us to receive him with hunger—go to Mass simply. It was so powerful. Taking Jesus to the streets in a world so hungry for real Jesus...

"You know how you’re in love with God? He’s the one you spend the most time with. ‘H’ is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit who we’re receiving, and we have to..."

"When Mary said ‘yes’ to five things—"

"Excerpts from talk of Father Ronan Murphy (Father Murphy, a native of Dublin, Ireland, is associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood)"

"Mary said ‘yes’ to five things—"
Pope pay tribute to modern martyrs, calls for witnesses of God's love

ROME (CNS)—The Christian church is reaching out to modern martyrs, such as those in Egypt and Syria, Pope Francis said at his homily in the small basilica on Tiber Island.

He said it was “a joyful and grateful heart” that he was heading to Egypt—the “cradle of civilization, gift of the Nile, land of sun and hospitality, where patriarchs and prophets lived,” and where God—benevolent, merciful, and the one and almighty—made his voice heard.

The day the video was released, on April 25, was also the feast day of St. Mark, who evangelized the Egyptian port city of Alexandria, Egypt, before being martyred there.

Pope Francis dedicated his morning Mass to “my brother Tawadros II, patriarch of Alexandria of the Coptic Orthodox Church, asking that God abundantly “bless our two churches.”

In Egypt, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said Egypt would welcome the pope, and “looks forward to this significant visit to strengthen peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue as well as to reject the abhorrent acts of terrorism and extremism.”

Christians in Egypt, Syria and Iraq struggle with constant pressures from extremists challenging their religious identity and the right to practice their faith and continue to exist in their ancestral homelands.

Pope Francis has urged an end to what he called a “genocide” against Christians in the Middle East, but he also has said it was wrong to equate Islam with violence.

Christians are among the oldest religious communities in the Middle East, but their numbers are dwindling in the face of conflict and persecution. Egypt’s Christian community makes up about 10 percent of the country’s 92 million people.

A high point in the pope’s schedule is an international peace conference at Cairo’s Al-Azhar University, the world’s highest authority on Sunni Islam, hosted by Sheikh Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of the educational institution.

Pope Tawadros and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, are also expected to participate.

The pope will also meet separately with el-Sisi and other officials. Observers will be watching whether the pope will take on thorny issues with his hosts, such as the detention of thousands of Egyptians, without due process, simply held on suspicion of opposing el-Sissi.

Others will watch to see if Pope Francis prods the Sunni Muslim religious establishment to take a more forceful stand on religious extremism perpetrated in the name of God.

Many hope the Al-Azhar meeting will sound a moral wakeup call to leaders worldwide to combat religious intolerance while seeking greater cooperation to fight growing threats by Islamic State and other extremist groups. ♦

Events to celebrate 100th anniversary of the first Marian apparition in Fatima

To register, call 812-738-2742 or e-mail parish.office@catholic-mainstream.org

• May 13: St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., Indianapolis. The pope will offer Mass at 8:15 a.m., followed by breakfast around 9 a.m., during which Criterion assistant editor and author John Shawglasswill speak on “Unlikely Encounters and Unexpected Graces.”

While the breakfast, which will be in the Father Courtney Room of the church, is free, those wishing to attend are asked to call the parish office at 317-259-4373 to RSVP. From 10:15-11 a.m., there will be the recitation of the rosary and other Marian prayers, and a procession of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima. For more information, call the parish office at 317-259-4373.

If your parish is hosting any events from June-October commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, details can be submitted either online by using the events submission form found at www.archindy.org under “Newspaper” then “Send Us Information,” or by calling 317-236-1855.

Msgr. Lawrence Moran to celebrate his 90th birthday on May 8

Msgr. Lawrence Moran will be celebrating his 90th birthday on May 8. He graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis, and attended St. Meinrad Seminary.

He served at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, the former St. Ann Parish in Terre Haute, St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, and the former St. Andrew Parish in Richmond. He then was assigned to Rockville and helped construct the new St. Joseph Church there. He was later administrator at the former Immaculate Conception Parish in Monticello, then named pastor of St. Patrick Parish for 20 years in Terre Haute. Msgr. Moran also served as administrator of the former Holy Rosary Parish in Seelyville.

He still resides in Terre Haute at the Carmelite Monastery. Cards and well-wishes would be appreciated, and can be sent to: Msgr. Lawrence Moran, P.O. Box 10099, Terre Haute, IN 47801.
Papal interest in social problems was made clear in the late 19th century by Pope Leo XIII, who wrote on the volatile issues of his day, defending the rights of workers and labor unions in his 1891 encyclical, “Rerum Novarum,” the template for Catholic social justice. As Jesuit Father James Martin reminded us in a 2015 article in America magazine, an encyclical carries great authority in the Church—only below the teaching of an ecumenical council or the Gospels themselves.

Pope Francis quotes St. Francis of Assisi’s 13th-century poem, “Canticle of the Creatures,” in the opening lines of “Laudato Si’.” Beyond this great saint of nature, care of creation can be traced to Jesus and beyond him to Genesis. This is a Catholic issue. In his article, Father Martin says, help explain the lengthy encyclical in 10 main takeaways. One thing Pope Francis has done, Father Martin says, is bring faith into the international dialogue on the issue.

Pope Francis brings home another message, Father Martin explains, that environmental destruction has a disproportionate effect on the poor. The wealthy exploit resources from the poor, who cannot defend themselves from the ravages of climate change.

Why, Father Martin says the pope asks, are so many of the wealthy turning away from the poor? This is a grave moral question of our time.

The U.S. bishops have been vocal on climate change. In 2001, the bishops wrote, “Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good.”

“Action to mitigate global climate change must be built upon a foundation of social and economic justice,” they wrote. In their document, the bishops stated, “We especially want to focus on the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests.”

Again, we hear the Catholic plea to listen to the poor rather than powerful interest groups and lobbyists that so often dominate politics today. But, we ask, who is listening to the cry of the poor?

After the March 28, 2017, executive order in which President Donald Trump effectively dismantled the federal Clean Power Plan, the chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development criticized the decision.

“The USCCB, in unity with Pope Francis, strongly supports environmental stewardship and has called consistently for ‘our own country to curb carbon emissions,’” said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., in response to the order.

“This executive order places a number of environmental protections in jeopardy and moves the U.S. away from a national carbon standard, all without adopting a sufficient plan for ensuring proper care for people and creation.”

What can an individual do?

Pope Francis tells us this is a personal, moral issue of connectedness between us and God’s creation.

We must examine our own greed, our personal connection and concern for the poor. What is our role in what the pope calls a “throwaway culture”? Do our cars and driving habits consider fuel efficiency? Are we wasteful, recreational shoppers? Do we turn our thermostats on and off throughout the day? Do we buy our products from the cheapest store or the store we feel is doing the most environmental good? Do we turn off the lights and close the windows of our homes when we leave home for the day? Do we go out of our way to incorporate environmental concerns into our daily lives?

What can an individual do? We can clean up our lives. We can vote. We can write our representatives. Join the Catholic Climate Covenant!

Pope Francis has given us a strong mandate: On climate change, “there is therefore a clear, definitive and urgent ethical imperative to act.”

(Effie Caldarola is a freelance writer and a columnist for Catholic News Service.)
Jim Fleming taught me biblical geography at Tantor

Last week, I wrote about the three months I spent studying in Jerusalem in 1997 at the Tantor School of Theology, a formation center for priests and deacons.

Now I’d like to tell you about some important people who were on the staff there. Jim Fleming taught biblical geography and took our class to places that most tour groups never get to visit.

He taught in a room equipped with several large maps, one with lights marking various places in the Holy Land and another showing various elevations.

Fleming was a master at using this equipment. A short, slight man with curly, grey hair, he had a light green board and a long pointer to show things on maps, slides, lights, etc., to get his points across.

Our “notebook” for his course consisted of a large package that contained maps and site diagrams of all the places we would be going, along with Bible readings that pertained to those places. There were 24 maps altogether and the diagnosis was that we were looking at two of them, top left, top right, on the whole map six feet in depth. It was a tremendously impressive “notebook.”

Fleming was an archeologist who organized a dig in the Holy Land some years before that unearthed a lot of pottery shards and a large and an Old Testament scroll predating the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is now a special exhibit in the museum.

We went to his dig, where we saw 11 tombs from about 500 B.C. Fleming pointed out that they had basically the same floor plan as the homes we had seen when we went to the ruins of the ancient city. Arad, i.e., four areas for storage, animals, cooking and sleeping. The tombs were set up literally as homes for the dead.

Fleming also created the Biblical Resources Scripture Garden on Tantor’s property. It contained maps and replicas of objects from daily life in the time of the Bible. There were 21 of them, running from a threshing floor to a Jewish altar to a vineyard, a plank bridge, tents, tombs, a watchtower, sheepfold, and Roman crosses.

Fleming never went on tours, other guides always deferred to him because he was so much more knowledgeable. In 2006 when I was back in the Holy Land with some members of my family for a quick two days, our tour guide quoted Fleming extensively. Fleming told him that he had been my teacher at Tantor, she was impressed.

I was there in 1997, Fleming expanded his scriptural garden. Then, in 2006, he moved it to LaGrange, Ga., calling it Explorations in Antiquity. It is now called the Biblical History Center. It’s a museum with numerous exhibits showing what life was like in biblical times, complete with artifacts from the Israelite Antiquities Authority.

My name has always been among the 15,000 names in its database, and I receive its biannual newsletter. Fleming serves as its editor or publisher, doing, as he says, “as I accelerate, that I’d made the wrong choice.”

I’m here, Christ seemed to say. “I’m in your world. Can you see me now?”

When Mary thought he was the gardener, and she asked where they put the Lord’s body, Jesus called her name. “Mary!” (Jn 20:16) And with that, she recognized him.

“Mary the gardener? Th…” Thomas exclaimed.

This is especially the case with the work we do in our dioceses, especially in areas with many young people. Our work is not just a part of our daily life, but a part of the fabric of our communities.

It’s clear that we need to turn often to the help of God’s grace, they become daily and more generally.

Perspectives

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Great dignity is found in the work of parents and all who labor

My life changed forever 15 years ago on May 1, 2002. On that day, Michael, our oldest child, was born.

He came into this world on the feast of St. Joseph, whose shrine which the Church will again celebrate in a few days. That’s the reason the mother, Cindy, and I gave him that as his middle name.

It’s fitting that our first child was born on this feast because we’ve been working ever since, especially as Michael’s four brothers have come along.

There may be some humor in this, but I say it in all seriousness, too.

The feast of St. Joseph is the Worker, a feast that reminds us that the work we do as parents is an extension of our inherent dignity as children of God.

St. Joseph served God quite literally in his earthly work and in the care he gave to Mary and Jesus. Our Lord himself is the Son of Joseph, whose name was used for Jesus.

Debra Tomaselli writes from Altamonte Springs, Fla. She can be reached at dtomaselli@cfl.rr.com.

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

Every day brings new stories to help us live our lives

It seems to me that life is a succession of anecdotes. Some are forgettable and may seem so insignificant and some downright scary.

It’s hard to be bored when you’re a teacher because stories bring such things to life.

Then there are other people’s stories. My sister-in-law had bad hips and walked with two canes. Her husband was confined to a wheelchair because of polio, but he was so proud he refused to get a handicap permit.

One day during the height of the Christmas shopping season, Betty gave up after searching for a handcart to push her cart. She paused to ask a laundry worker in the hallway, who noticed a laundry worker in the hallway, and pointed sympathetic. Now, what else can I do for you? I don’t need a cart. I need a wheelchair.

Among our friends and neighbors was a hardworking farmer who made the U.S. by the Quakers after World War II. Fred had been an unwilling member of the army and went into civil life and later helped the Allies as an interpreter. His wife had been virtually imprisoned by the Russians in northern Germany and when she and her little boy ran away to the west.

Another child had already died and the baby was born “funny,” some new kids on the block. Andy gave us lots of good stories.

One day Andy escaped the notice of his siblings and wandered into a house on the next block.

The family’s kids were watching TV while their mom cooked dinner. Andy sat down with them and then noticed the intruder she asked her children who he was. “Oh, that’s Andy,” they said, and watched as his brothers appeared to take him home.

Every day brings new stories to help us live our lives.

Emmaus Walk/Debra Tomaselli

‘Can you see me now?’ Christ is always in our world

It always amazes me that the disciples didn’t recognize the risen Christ.

Mary thought he was the gardener. Thomas couldn’t believe the other Apostles really saw him alive. The disciples had the idea that the road to Emmaus thought he was some part-time worker pretending them along the way.

How could they not know? How could they miss it?

And it makes me wonder: How many times have I not recognized the presence of Christ in my world?

I was driving home from the downtown dentist when I saw her. The girl in the yellow shorts was sitting under an overpass, alongside shabby housing projects. She had her knees pulled up under her shirt and was staring at the ground.

Something urged me to help her, but I didn’t know what to do. At least I could have rolled my window down and offered an encouraging word. But when the light turned green, I drove away, I knew, even as I accelerated, that I’d made the wrong choice.

I’m here, Christ seemed to say. ‘I’m in your world. Can you see me now?’

One day I was at the hospital on a particularly scary and lonely day. I noticed a laundry worker in the hallway, pushing her cart. She paused to ask me if I needed anything. The room was chilly, I asked for a blanket. As we spoke, I had the feeling that I’d known her all my life. Her presence was such a comfort. This stranger offered understanding and compassion just when I needed it most.

I’m here, Christ seemed to say. ‘I’m in your world. Can you see me now?’

During a difficult struggle in my life, I suddenly decided to hurry to a weekday Mass. It was like something was calling me to be there.

During the consecration, even though I was alone in the pew, I felt a presence surrounding me. It was like somebody was calling me to be there.

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Tuesday, May 2
St. Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church
Acts 7:51-56
Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6-7b, 8a, 17, 21ab
John 6:30-35

Wednesday, May 3
St. Philip, Apostle
St. James, Apostle
1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Psalm 19:2-5
John 14:6-14

The title for priests of monsignor given by the pope is purely honorary

Could you explain for me the difference (if any) between a priest and monsignor? Under what circumstances is a priest given the title of monsignor? (Virginia)

A “Monsignor” is a title bestowed on a priest who has distinguished himself by exceptional service or, at least in the past, who has been asked to take on an office of particular responsibility in the Church. It is a title granted by the pope—typically, upon the recommendation of the priest’s diocesan bishop. It is a purely honorary title and does not give his priestly life and ministry a dignity above that of an ordinary priest.

In January 2014, Pope Francis instructed the bishops of the world that diocesan priests would no longer be awarded the title before reaching the age of 65. No reasons were published for his decision, but Pope Francis has often cautioned priests against careerism and personal ambition. He seems to have long felt uncomfortable about ecclesiastical titles; when he was a bishop and later a cardinal in Argentina, Pope Francis always asked people to call him “Father.” And notably, while he served as archbishop of Buenos Aires (1998-2013), not once did he petition the Holy See to have one of his priests named a monsignor.

Since 1969, when the Vatican published new liturgical norms and the three-year cycle of Scripture readings for Mass, this particular Sunday has been called “the Fifth Sunday of Lent,” and the Gospel readings used in antiquity have been restored. (This year, 2017, the Gospel passage told of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.)

The purpose of the change, as I understand it, was, at least in part, to be able to devote the first five weeks of Lent, as was in the Church’s early history, to the preparation of catechumens for entrance into the Church. One vestige of the former calendar remains: Beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the practice of covering crosses and images in a church is permitted. (Note that it is “permitted,” not mandated, discretion is given to the local pastor.)

Images (statues of saints, for example) are intended as a reminder of the Easter Vigil; crosses are unveiled on Good Friday, when the faithful are invited to venerate the cross.

The reason most commonly offered for the veiling is that they represent a sort of “false” image of Jesus and reflects the belief that ultimately led to the glory of our salvation.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at ukdfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr. Albany, New York 12203.)

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of relating to faith 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 46202-2367 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.

My Journey to God

Magdalen’s Sonnet

By Larissa Tuttle

What blackness sways before my tear-y eyes?
What madness do I taste in my own grief?
Why was the heaving time a day so brief?
How quick I fell from mirth to wailing sighs.
Thou not the one who bid me “Daughter Rise?”
From seven spirit’s claws gave me relief?
What madness do I taste in my own grief?
My Journey to God

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My Journey to God
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 layatives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; these are separate obituaries on this page.


CROSSLAND, Patricia (Berry), 90. St. Jean de Arc, Indianapolis. April 3. Mother of Katy Freitag, Kristine Grosvenor, Karen, David, Garry, Jeff and Tim. Great-grandmother of one. †


LYND, Rick A., 63, St. Louis, Batesville. April 12. Brother of Connie Brunner; Dave, Randy, Dorothy, Steve and Tim Umeyer. Uncle of several.


SIMS, Agnes (Woods), 87, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, April 12. Mother of Patricia Emerson, Mary, Patricia, Raymond, Jr. and Tim Sims. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of 33.


WOLFF, Henry J., 90, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis. April 3. Father of Katherine Parker, Christine Taylor and Joseph Wolff. Brother of Ingebor Hoskins. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of one. †

Christianity is born from here. It is not something we search for God—a search that is, truthfully, somewhat shaky—but rather God’s search for us,” the pope said. The pope, bundled up in a white overcoat due to the unusually chilly and windy weather, entered a parked St. Peter’s Square in his popemobile. Immediately, he invited two girls and a boy, dressed in their altar server robes, to board the vehicle and ride with him around the square.

Pope Francis also took a moment to greet an elderly woman who, overcome with emotion, cried and stretched out her arms to embrace the pope. He stopped, warmly embracing the woman and gently crying her face before making the sign of the cross over her forehead.

Continuing his series of talks on hope, the pope reflected on St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians in which the Apostle emphasizes the Resurrection as “the heart of the Christian message.”

“One day something completely unpredictable happens: the encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus.”

It is the surprise of this encounter, the pope continued, that all Christians are called to experience “even if we are sinners.”

Like the first disciples who saw the stone overturned at Jesus’ tomb, all men and women can find ‘happiness, joy and life where everyone thought there was only sadness, defeat and darkness,’” the pope said.

God, Pope Francis said, is greater than “nothingness, and just one lit candle is able to overcome the darkest night.”

“If we are asked the reason for our smile and our patient sharing, we can respond that Jesus is still here, he continues to be alive in our midst,” the pope said. “Jesus is here, in this square with us, alive and risen.”
By Patricia Happel Cornwell

Special to The Criterion


The occasion was the fifth annual Irish coffee lecture sponsored by the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation. Joseph E. Ritter (1892-1967) is the only native Hoosier ever to become a cardinal. He was noted for desegregating Catholic schools in the archdioceses of Indianapolis and St. Louis before it became federal law through Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. The home at 2128 E. Oak St. where he was born was saved from demolition in 2001, and purchased by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana in 2002.

Renovated and expanded to include a community room and a small museum about the cardinal’s life, it now serves as the Passionist Earth and Spirit Center, Indiana’s southern Indiana regional office of Home of the Innocents, a Louisville agency that serves children and families. Kramer, a member of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, and his family spent 15 years as organic farmers in Spencer County in southwestern Indiana before moving to New Albany, near New Salisbury. He is the author of A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer and Diet (Ave Maria Press, 2010). He is also a columnist for St. Anthony Messenger magazine and a “climate ambassador” for the Catholic Climate Covenant.

Kramer said he “like to call Pope Francis a ‘conservative tree-hugger,’ but he also ‘hugs’ God’s Spirit in all of creation, across the whole Catholic Church. The springboard for his theology is always a pastoral and encyclical, not just an environmental encyclical,” Kramer said. “Pope Francis’s book, Laudato Si’, is first and foremost a sociological analysis and a call to action, not just an environmental call to action.” Kramer said he “like to call Pope Francis a ‘conservative tree-hugger,’ but he also ‘hugs’ God’s Spirit in all of creation, across the whole Catholic Church. The springboard for his theology is always a pastoral and encyclical, not just an environmental encyclical,”

Kramer discussed the key components of the encyclical, which led up to the conclusion that “we are called to listen to the present call of creation.”

He said the pope points out that pollution and climate change cause great suffering to the poor, whom Kramer calls “the bottom billion.” Instead of being the most affected, the least responsible for what is being done to the planet. Ismoxam as you heal the planet, you heal people.” Kramer said many environmentalists think humans are “a scourge upon the Earth,” but that the pope does not think so. He cited three social conditions that isolate humans from nature: anthropomorphism, individualism and consumerism, in which a person only values things in relation to human beings’ lifestyle.

“This is what I want you to remember: We don’t have a social crisis over here and an environmental crisis over there,” Kramer said. “We have one crisis. Planetary and social health are inseparable. The question Pope Francis asks is, if these things hold together, what would a flourishing planet look like? We would have an economy that serves and heals human life, a healthy relationship with others, a concern for the common good.

“We need to redefine what we mean by progress,” he continued. “Our economy, as it stands, relies on infinite growth, but that can’t be sustained. What went wrong in our stewardship of the Earth? We fell in love with power ever since we fell in love with agriculture 12,000 years ago, and in the 1700s with fossil fuels. The digging stick became the bulldozer.

We created a new idol. Anything we’re not willing to let go of is our golden calf.”

“Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home,” Kramer said. “We have one crisis. Planetary and a social crisis over here and an environmental crisis over there,” Kramer said. “We have one crisis. Planetary and a social crisis over here and an environmental crisis over there,”

Kramer noted that the pope’s encyclical offers practical steps that can be taken now to live a more moderate lifestyle, in which less is more. “The pope urges recycling, saving water, reducing use of paper and plastic, turning off lights, taking public transportation, only cooking what one can eat so as not to waste food, and other measures.

In a moderate lifestyle, Kramer said, “it’s about freedom from consumption, not freedom to consume. I drove here in an electric car. I bought it to be the ‘green’ hipster, but now I love it.” Kramer said he “like to call Pope Francis a ‘conservative tree-hugger,’ but he also ‘hugs’ God’s Spirit in all of creation, across the whole Catholic Church. The springboard for his theology is always a pastoral and encyclical, not just an environmental encyclical,”

Before the lecture, Ritter Birthplace Foundation board member Ray Day gave an update on the group’s activities. In mid-March, the center hosted a group of eighth-graders from Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis who visited the Ritter House as part of a pilgrimage tracing their school’s nameake from Indiana to St. Louis. Boush said Tedesco also recently transported the bonded bronze version of sculptor Guy Tedesco’s bust of the cardinal to Indianapolis to show it to other Ritter High School students and to personnel at the Indiana State Museum, where they hope to have a display created about the cardinal’s life. A solid bronze version of the bust will eventually be cast and kept at the Ritter House.

Tedesco described the latest artistic project at the center, a sculpture group of the cardinal and several children, which is slated to be installed on the property. A model of the group was displayed during the Irish coffee event.

The glass blocks create a very real barrier,” Tedesco said, “and the cardinal is pushing it over. The blocks all have words on them, negative words on one side and positive words on the other side. The symbolic ‘wall’ will probably never be completely gone, but the children are turning those blocks into a path. In 100 years, this will be as powerful a statement about us as it is about the work that Cardinal Ritter did in his day.”

Day said a long-planned rose garden at the Ritter House will come to fruition this summer. A half-wall has been built to enclose a small courtyard, and stone pavers have been laid, leaving a central area and four corner plots where rose bushes will be planted. The project will be a memorial to the cardinal’s hobby of growing roses and a place for prayer and reflection. The pope’s encyclical can be downloaded free online at the USCCB or Vatican’s websites or purchased at major book stores.

Information about the Cardinal Ritter House and the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation is available at cardinalritterhouse.org.

(Patricia Happel Cornwell is a freelance writer and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon.)

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Mercey opens door to understanding mystery of God, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Mercy is a true form of knowledge that allows men and women to understand the mystery of God’s love for humanity, Pope Francis said.

Having experienced forgiveness, Christians have a duty to forgive others, giving a “visible sign” of God’s love, the pope said.

But maybe,” he added, “progress really looks like more time with family, more time to spend in nature or to volunteer in the community?”

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(Patricia Happel Cornwell is a freelance writer and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon.)
The 2017 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly convened on April 21. Each session offers opportunities to advance consistent life ethic and further the common good, said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), who serves as the public policy spokesperson for the bishops in Indiana.

Tebbe noted that it has been the work of the ICC to communicate the value and dignity of the human person from conception until natural death, and in 2017, several legislative initiatives furthe these goals in the form of pro-life legislation, education policy and support for low-income children and families proved successful.

ICC worked in cooperation with the Indiana State Medical Association to halt a proposal to legalize physician-assisted suicide in Indiana. National groups like Compassion & Choices and Death with Dignity actively work to legalize physician-assisted suicide and continue to lobby state legislators and members of the Indiana House and Senate introduced bills which would have allowed a person with a terminal illness to request a lethal dose of medication from their attending physician to end the individual’s life.

“I am grateful that the physician-assisted suicide proposals failed to get a hearing this year,” said Tebbe. “We need to stand up for the inherent dignity due each person, especially the most vulnerable. We oppose efforts to legalize physician-assisted suicide.

Sen. James Merritt, R-Indianapolis, authored a death penalty bill, which is not supported by the ICC and authored by Sen. Erin Housen, R-Salem, adds verification of parental identity, as well as a process of parental notification for minors seeking an abortion. The provision was added to Indiana’s informed consent law. It gives the parents of a minor who obtains an abortion without parental permission the ability to collect damages against a person who either posed as the parent, or aided the parent’s minor child in obtaining an abortion. The bill increases the age of reporting child sex abuse from under the age of 14 to under 16 years of age.

The ICC supported legislation, which passed, calling for improvement in abandoned infant protection by placing a “baby box” at hospitals or hospital-affiliated locations. Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, authored the bill, which improves existing Indiana law by implementing a “baby box,” at designated locations. The change involved allowing new devices to be placed only at hospitals or hospital-affiliated locations for safety reasons.

In the area of education, two proposals supported by the ICC passed, including an expansion of pre-kindergarten (pre-K) and religious liberty in schools. The pre-K expansion, House Bill 1004, authored by Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, builds upon the state’s Office of Early Childhood’s (OEC) pilot program which serves income-eligible 4-year-olds in five counties, but expanded it to 20 counties statewide. An important component of the pre-K expansion includes a voucher component which allows pre-K students to attend kindergarten using a voucher to remain in the school where they attended pre-school. Without this provision, income-eligible students who were attending a pre-K program—which also has a nonpublic K-8 school attached to it—would have been forced to leave to attend kindergarten in a public school first if they wanted to use a voucher. Tebbe said the voucher program allows seamless transition for children to remain in the same school setting.

A bill to protect students’ religious liberty was supported by the ICC and passed. House Bill 1024, authored by Rep. John Bartlett, D-Indianapolis, allows students to express religious beliefs at school or in class assignments. Tebbe said the legislation codifies case law that the ICC has developed over the past few decades. Bartlett said, “It is giving Hoosiers the ability to express their faith without fear of discrimination.”

Efforts by the ICC to assist low-income families and children paid off as it authored two bills. Senate Bill 154, authored by Merritt, increases the assets a low-income person may retain while continuing to receive food assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Sen. Tebbe said raising the asset limit helps low-income persons by setting them up for long-term self-sufficiency while meeting their current need for food. Under the proposal, recipients of SNAP benefits would be allowed setting up a small savings, but rather helps them have a reserve for emergencies.

A payday lending bill deemed to harm low-income persons failed in part due to efforts made by the ICC and other advocates for low-income persons. The proposal, Senate Bill 245, authored by Holdman, would have expanded payday lending and allowed persons to borrow larger amounts at a rate of 216 percent of the annual percentage rate. Tebbe said the ICC opposed the short-term loans due to concerns that it would trap lower-income persons in debt and a process of recycling high interest loans.

While the Indiana General Assembly completed its legislative business on April 24, the ICC continues to work with public policy officials as laws are implemented. Interim study committees also examine issues to inform policy legislation in 2018.

By Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion. To view a more detailed update on bills which passed, go to the ICC Web page at www.indianacc.org.