Celebrating a sacrament of ‘bold faith’

Couples mark 50th anniversary during Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Archbishop Thompson

By Natalie Hoefer

Even as a youth, Eduardo Parada knew the woman he married would be from Indianapolis—despite the fact that he lived in Colombia and had no plans to travel to the Hoosier capital.

Elizabeth and Paul met as young members of the National Association of Advancement for Colored People’s (NAACP) youth council just a few months before the famous Aug. 28, 1963, March on Washington.

When John first met Mary, he was “all beat up” from a free-for-all football game while she, on the other hand, was “drop-dead gorgeous.”

These are just a few of the stories that led to 73 couples from southern and central Indiana walking down the aisle and saying “I do” 50 years ago.

These couples celebrated their 50th anniversary this year in a special way on Aug. 27 at the annual archdiocesan Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Together they represented 41 parishes, 3,650 years of marriage, 208 children, 406 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

The Mass, sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life and Family Life, was concelebrated by Fathers Eric Augenstein, Patrick Beidelman, Rick Ginther and Todd Riebe, with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson serving as the principal celebrant.

By Natalie Hoefer

More than 350 people gathered in the gymnasium of Holy Spirit Catholic School, cheering in support and applauding with approval.

The crowd was not there for sports, nor were they all Catholic.

But they were unified at this public rally to support a common cause: standing in solidarity with the Indiana Congregation Action Network (IndyCAN) to promote a 2018 federal budget as a moral document that must put families first.

The event, hosted by the Indianapolis east side parish on Aug. 30, “came about as faith leaders responded to the House budget proposal put forward this summer that included steep cuts in crucial social safety nets, while increasing investments in deportation and incarceration,” said

Pope Francis offers prayers for flood victims in U.S., southern Asia

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—After leading thousands of pilgrims in praying the Angelus, Pope Francis offered prayers for flood victims in Texas and Louisiana following a devastating hurricane that caused massive flooding.

He also prayed for flood victims in Asia where monsoon rains have killed thousands in Bangladesh, India and Nepal and displaced millions of people.

“As I renew my spiritual closeness to the people of southern Asia, who still suffer the consequences of the floods, I want to express my heartfelt participation in the sufferings of the inhabitants of Texas and Louisiana struck by a hurricane and by exceptional rains that have caused victims, thousands of displaced people and considerable material damage,” the pope said on Sept. 3.

Hundreds of thousands were displaced in Texas and Louisiana after Hurricane Harvey made landfall on Aug. 26. Across the sodden region, the storm claimed at least 60 lives, leaving tens of thousands displaced into churches and convention and community centers. Some experts estimate total losses from Hurricane Harvey would reach $190 billion, equal to Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy’s total combined costs.

In the same week, floods and landslides in southern Asia killed more than 1,000 people and affected an estimated 41 million people, the United Nations reported.

Invoking the intercession of Mary, “consoler of the afflicted,” the pope prayed that she would “obtain from the Lord the grace of comfort for our brothers and sisters” affected by the floods.

As the waters from Hurricane Harvey rose and fell, prayers uttered in Texas, Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region ranged from pleas for protection to asking God for the courage to live with charity and great
Announced to DACA program is ‘reprehensible,’ bishops say

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced on Sept. 5 that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is “being rescinded” by President Donald J. Trump, leaving some 800,000 youths, born in the U.S. or brought illegally to the U.S. as minors, in peril of deportation and losing permits that allow them to work.

“I do not believe Homeland Security will immediately stop accepting applications for the DACA program, current recipients would be protected until March 5, 2018,” which Sessions said would “create a time period for Congress to act—should it choose.”

He described the 2012 policy popularly known as DACA and implemented under President Barack Obama, as an “exercise in abdicating authority by the executive branch.”

DACA does not provide legal status for youths who were brought to the United States without legal permission as children, but it gives recipients a temporary reprieve from deportation and employment authorization in the United States—as long as the applicants meet certain criteria.

In the days leading up to the decision, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), along with other Catholic organizations, asked the president to keep the program.

“A statement from the USCCB called the cancellation of DACA ‘reprehensible,’ and something that ‘causes unnecessary further harm for DACA youth and their families,’” said Bishop Brendan J. Cahill of Boston.

“Today, our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls to respond. It is a step back from the progress that we need to make as a country,” they said, adding that the decision by the Trump administration is “a heartbreaking moment in our history that shows the absence of mercy and goodwill, and a short-sighted vision for the future.”

The bishops also urged Congress to “immediately move toward a legislative solution.”

They told DACA recipients: “You are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church supports you and will advocate for you.”

The statement was signed by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president; Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, USCCB vice president; Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration; and Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of Yakima, Washington, chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers.


dated September 8, 2017

Wanted: Nominations for Celebrating Catholic School Values awards

Nominations are now being accepted for people to be honored at the archdiocese’s 2018 Celebrating Catholic School Values Awards ceremony. The event will be on Feb. 22 in Indianapolis.

Each year, the archdiocesan Celebrating Catholic School Values Steering Committee asks people to nominate one or more Catholic school graduates who exemplify the values of a Catholic education.

Please consider nominating individuals whose ethics, leadership, service and achievements are significant to their parish, school, work and/or civic community. Nominees can include laypeople, clergy and religious. Current Catholic school students and employees are not eligible. Nominations forms are available on the Office of Catholic Schools website, orsecready.org for help in completing the nomination process.

The Celebrating Catholic School Values Steering Committee asks that you provide as much information as possible about your nominee(s). Also, nominees should not be told that they are being nominated. Incomplete forms cannot be considered. All nominations will be kept confidential unless the person is selected. Please return nomination forms by Sept. 29.

Official Appointments

Effective immediately


Rev. Sean Danda, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Franklin County, reappointed dean of the Batesville Deanery for a three-year term.


Rev. Jeremy M. Gries, pastor of St. Mary (Inmaculate Conception) Parish in Rushville, reappointed dean of the Connersville Deanery to carry out the remainder of his term.

Rev. Eric M. Johnson, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, reappointed dean of the New Albany Deanery to carry out the remainder of his term.

Rev. Mgr. Paul D. Koetter, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, reappointed dean of the Indianapolis East Deanery to carry out the remainder of his term.


Rev. Guy R. Roberts, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis, reappointed dean of the Indianapolis North Deanery to carry out the remainder of his term.


(These appointments are from the office of the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of Indianapolis.)
By John Shaughnessy

Joshua Christian has been hoping to find a home most of his life.

Now 20, Christian lived in 18 different foster homes during his childhood and his youth. Then came the late-night phone call from his case manager that Christian will never forget.

“He said, ‘I’ve been talking to my wife, and if it’s OK with you, we’d like you to move in with us. We think we can provide a loving and stable environment for you.’”

Christian recalls about the moment that still touches him deeply two years later. Christian was in his senior year of high school when he moved into the home of Matthew and Linda Oswald.

“I loved it. I wasn’t held to this perfect expectation. I was allowed to be me. It was great. I have a family.”

That feeling of home and family also grew in the late summer of 2016 when he entered St. Joseph’s College, the small Catholic college in the northern Indiana community of Rensselaer.

“They put us in the middle of this big cornfield, and we found joy. It was like a really big family. It was awesome. I thought, ‘I’m finally going to have a home for four years.’”

Christian says with a smile.

“I was really unexpected and really sad,” Christian says. “People were really mad. We all put a lot of love and hope into St. Joe’s.”

As he talks, Christian is sitting in the dining hall of Marian University in Indianapolis. It’s his newest home, the place where about 80 of his fellow Pumas—the nickname of St. Joe’s students—have also come this school year to continue their college education.

“Marian made an offer we couldn’t refuse!”

One of the realities of a new beginning—especially for young people in grade schools, high schools and colleges—is that it takes time to settle into a new environment, and it takes time to make the transition from a place and friends that are comfortable and familiar to a place and people that are new and unknown.

“That’s true even when the new place and people want to make the transition as welcoming and painless as possible.

And by all accounts, Marian has worked to make the transition as smooth as possible for the Pumas who are now also Knights—Marian’s nickname.

All the college credits that had been earned by students during their time at St. Joseph’s were accepted by Marian. And whatever the students were paying to attend St. Joseph’s, that amount was honored at Marian, even though tuition at Marian is higher than St. Joseph’s was.

That combination was crucial to Samantha Hoyt, who was a junior at St. Joe’s when the announcement was made that the school was closing. With just one year left before graduation, she considered her situation dire at the time.

“We were all thrown into a panic,” recalls Hoyt, who is 21. “I have a double major in biology and communications. I love what I’m doing, and I was upset about the prospect that I would have to drop one of my majors and I would have to stay extra time. The way that Marian is letting me finish with my double major and finish on time really means a lot to me.”

So did the fact that Marian honored the scholarship that Hoyt had at St. Joseph’s.

“For a lot of us, Marian made an offer we couldn’t refuse,” she says with a smile.

Still, the transition is naturally taking time.

“Part of it has been really easy, and part of it has been really difficult,” says Hoyt, who has a “St. Joseph’s College” key chain attached to her backpack.

“There are so many St. Joe students here that I already have friends and connections. The more difficult part is trying to get established in a new program. People have been very welcoming and helpful, but it’s a lot of floundering, trying to work things out.”

Joshua Christian is among the former St. Joseph’s University students who have found a new home at Marian University in Indianapolis. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)
A worker helps an elderly woman from a rescue boat as it evacuates people from the floodwaters of Hurricane Harvey on Aug. 30 in Houston. (CNS photo/Carlo Allegri, Reuters)

Reflection/John Mundell

The Season of Creation and awareness of ‘Laudato Si’

Since the publication in June 2015 of Pope Francis’ environmental encyclical, “Laudato Si’, On Care for Our Common Home,” a significant worldwide increase in Catholic awareness has taken place regarding our role in taking responsibility to care for the environment.

As part of those efforts, the pope has asked all of us to join with other Christians, other world religions and people of good will, to celebrate a “Season of Creation” as a way of reminding us of our connection to all that God has made for us.

This time period began with the World Day of Prayer for Creation Sept. 1 and runs through Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

So what can each one of us do individually as Catholics and as local Church communities during this Season of Creation? Perhaps, the first thing to consider is to take the “Laudato Si” pledge that is being supported by the Holy Father:

“Answering Pope Francis’ urgent call in ‘Laudato Si’, I pledge to: 1) Pray for and with creation; 2) Live more simply; and 3) Advocate to protect our common home.”

To encourage prayer and reflection during this time period, efforts to change our lifestyles and transform our hearts and minds, a number of resources are available on Catholic websites, including the following:

• Catholic Climate Covenant: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org

Global Catholic Climate Movement: www.GlobalCatholicMovement.org

Once we make the “Laudato Si” pledge, what can we do? Change might occur with small but significant steps by everyone. Focusing on just a few things may help us, just as in Advent or Lent, to be more faithful. Some examples of action to consider:

At parish level:

• Form a parish creation care team or study group.
• Form the parish carbon footprint. How does it compare with others?
• Go from “paper and plastic” to “wash and dry” at parish meetings by buying reusable ones.

At the personal level:

• Go meatless on all Fridays.
• Adjust the home thermostat and reduce energy use.
• Reduce and recycle more; share items with neighbors instead of buying new.

Our pope sees concern for the Earth and the environment as a moral and spiritual issue closely connected to our faith, not a political one.

With more than 1.2 billion Catholics on this planet, we are being called in new ways to become protagonists in making the changes needed to preserve our planet, care for the poor, and draw closer to God.

This can mean advocating for the advancement of scientific principles and clear goals for sustainable development based on sound scientific principles and clear goals for environmental protection.

This Season of Creation, Lord, see CREATION, page 15

Opinion

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

God gives us his care in the midst of the floods of life

The images and stories coming out of Texas and Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Harvey have been heartbreaking and shocking. Thankfully, living my whole life in Indiana, I’ve never experienced flooding like what has happened there; although I know waters can rise here, too.

I know that especially from a story that my father told me about an experience he had on the Flat Rock River in northern Shelby County nearly 60 years ago.

It was Memorial Day, and he was on the near Geneva on a fishing boat with a friend. There had been a lot of rain in the area during the previous days and the level of the river was high.

At one point in their time on the water, the motor on the boat struck a submerged log and stopped working. They worked to fix it as the boat floated downstream. They got it to work again, but not before they were close to the Geneva Dam.

Dad told me that usually only a few inches of water would ordinarily flow over that dam. But on that day, several feet of water were rushing over it. The current was so strong, in fact, that the boat’s now-repaired motor couldn’t keep the boat from going over it.

As my dad and his friend approached the dam, Dad dove out and away from the boat. He went under the water near the bottom of the dam, and the water rushing over it kept him at first from getting back to the surface. He was also battered by a log that was caught in the backwash of the dam.

He recalled how he finally hit the bottom of the river and pushed with all of his might up at the same moment that he took in a mouthful of river water.

Now with his head above water, Dad struggled to get to shore, where a Shelby County sheriff’s deputy was on hand to bring him to safety.

There can be moments in our lives when it seems like troubles come upon us one after another like a never-ending flood. God might be there for us with a strong arm to pull us out when we’re struggling to keep our heads above water. At other times, he might be there when we hit rock bottom to give us a push up.

In either case, if we use this opportunity to understand why God allows us to experience such torments of hardship, let alone the trials of the millions of people affected by Harvey.

We can ponder dilemmas like this, but we won’t come to a complete answer to them on this side of eternity.

It is comforting to know, however, that God is there to help us in the midst of our struggles.
I will turn 75 in April 2036, the canonical retirement age at which a bishop resigns to the Holy Father. As the wise saying goes, “Always begin with the end in mind.” However, as I assured the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, at the time of my installation, my retirement letter has not yet been drafted!

Keeping the end in mind does not mean that we should dismiss the past or present. On the contrary, as charismatic people, we should never take for granted past or present blessings of divine grace. We must learn from the past and be able to read the signs of the times in the present. These provide a framework for us to discern how best to journey forth as missionary disciples.

Pope Francis has called us to cultivate a culture of accompaniment, dialogue, encounter, mercy and care for all creation. He has made it clear that credible evangelization involves the ability to heal wounds and warm hearts. None of these are ends in themselves, but means to an end. The immediate end, of course, is personal encounter with the person of Jesus Christ, ultimately ending in the salvation of souls.

Jesus clearly kept the end in mind. Throughout his public ministry, it was the final result. His miracles or signs, his teaching, his engagement with people and his responses to the people around him give evidence that he never wavered from keeping the end in mind—not his passion and death, which were only the means to the ultimate end, but his resurrection and our salvation!

Keeping the end in mind does not mean that we know how things will actually turn out. Striving to read the signs of the times by engaging ourselves in prayer, study and dialogue to frame the questions properly enables us to be pointed in the proper direction with the resources needed to realize the goal.

Our goals are not necessarily our initiatives. It is the Lord who calls and the Lord who sends. We cannot act in the place of God, but we must be ever open in mind and heart to cooperating with his divine will.

Keeping the end in mind, we are better able to discern truth based on facts rather than on emotions, to more properly balance individual freedom with the common good. Especially by reading the signs of the times and being engaged in the framing of real questions about faith and life, we must choose to seek unity rather than perpetuating polarization, division and demonization.

Keeping the end in mind, we are able to better appreciate the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical, “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home.” “Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise” (#12).

Keeping the end in mind, we more fully realize the beauty of the consistent ethic of life in the interrelatedness of our relationship with God, others, self and all creation.

Keeping the end in mind, we no longer perceive the poor, the unborn, the immigrant, the refugee, the sick, the elderly, the addicted, the prisoner and the disabled as “burdens,” but as human beings, our brothers and sisters. Thus, we are better equipped to safeguard the dignity of every person, defend the family, heal wounds and uphold doctrine while applying the soothing balm of pastoral care.

Keeping the end in mind, justice is tempered with the sweetness of mercy and we have little to fear or to hold us back as missionary disciples pursuing the joy of the Gospel, the kingdom of God at hand, to the very margins and fringes of society. This motivates us to cultivate the virtues of courage, humility and generosity in proclaiming the beauty, goodness and truth of faith in the Holy Trinity always present and at work in our midst.

Keeping the end in mind necessarily requires us to be Christ-centered rather than self-centered. And when we keep the end in mind, as Jesus commanded us, through love of God and neighbor, all else falls into place!

The call to mission and holiness is directed toward the end goal, celebrating and relying upon the presence of the Lord all along the way. With that ultimate end in mind, striving to be proactive rather than reactive to all that lies ahead, may we leave no stone of opportunity or challenge left uncovered, no soul left behind, throughout central and southern Indiana and beyond, proclaiming the Good News.

After all, with the help of God’s grace, there is much work for us to do together before I turn 75!
September 11
St. Mary Parish,
1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way,
Greensburg. Seasons of Hope,
faith sharing group offering consolation to those who have
lost a loved one, six consecutive Mondays,
6:30-8:30 p.m. Information and registration: 812-663-8427.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Information and registration: 812-663-8427.

St. Mary Parish,
1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way,
Greensburg. Confort by Candlelight Concert: An
Evening with Kathy Troccoli, acclaimed Christian music
artist, author and speaker, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free admission
but ticket required: gocglive@comcast.net or at parish
office. Information: 812-663-8427. †

St. Mary Parish,
1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way,
Greensburg. Confort by Candlelight Concert: An
Evening with Kathy Troccoli, acclaimed Christian music
artist, author and speaker, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free admission
but ticket required: gocglive@comcast.net or at parish
office. Information: 812-663-8427. †

September 13
Holy Trinity Heritage Park,
702 E. Market St.,
New Albany. Grand Opening,
located on the site of New Albany’s First Catholic parish,
hosted by St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities. 4 p.m. ribbon
cutting, 6 p.m. outdoor Mass (bring chairs or blankets). Information: www.grandopening.
org. 812-949-7305.

St. John Paul II Parish,
St. Joseph Chapel,
2605 St. Joe Rd. W.,
Sellersburg. 100th Anniversary of Fatima apparitions,
commemoration events vary per month, 6 p.m. Information:
Phyllis Burkholder, 812-246-2252.

St. Luke the Evangelist Church,
Church Chapel,
7575 Holiday Dr., E., Indianapolis. 100th Anniversary of Fatima Holy Hour,
after 5:30 p.m. Mass, prayer and rosary. Information:
712-259-4373.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish,
St. Clare Room,
8155 Oakland Road,
Indianapolis. Reception of the Rosary outdoor
Fatima shrine, corner of E. 57th St. and Washington
Blvd., in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, 6 p.m.;
recurring each 13th of the month through October. Information:
info@stsimonap.org.

 SEPTEMBER
St. Mary Parish,
6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis.
Charismatic Renewal of Indianapolis,
Life in the Spirit Seminar,
6-8:30 p.m. Information and registration:
317-223-3687, mkeyes@indy.rr.com.

St. Lawrence Parish,
6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis.
Knights of Columbus Council
1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.
Candlelight Concert: An
Evening with Kathy Troccoli,
acclaimed Christian music
artist, author and speaker,
6:30-8:30 p.m., free admission
but ticket required: gocglive@comcast.net or at parish
office. Information: 812-663-8427. †

St. Simon the Apostle Parish,
St. Clare Room,
8155 Oakland Road,
Indianapolis. Seasons of Hope
Bereavement Support Group,
6-week session, 7-9 p.m. and
Thursdays through Oct. 19. Register: Susan Cesnik, 317-443-
3900. hoosier@comcast.net.

St. Benedict Inn Retreat &
Conference Center,
9825 N. Old State Road 135,
Sellersburg. Angelara Jakeh
facilitating. 7-8:30 p.m., free
will donation. Information and registration:
317-788-7581. www.stbenedictin.com

September 14
Military Park,
W. New York St., Indianapolis.
22nd Annual
Indy Irish Fest,
cultural demonstrations and exhibitions,
music, food and beer, admission permitted,
Kids’ games, bingo, beer garden.
Information: 317-546-4065. †

St. Lawrence Parish,
6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis.
Country Fair
Festival,
Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,
food, live music, midway rides,
kids’ games, bingo, beer garden.
Information: 317-546-4065. †

St. Rose of Lima Parish,
114 Lancelot Dr., Franklin.
Parish Festival,
Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,
food, live music, midway rides,
kids’ games, bingo, beer garden.
Information: 317-783-9292.

September 15
Northside Catholic,
Cathedral of Columbus,
2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis.
Catholic Business Exchange,
Gannettsor Free Clinics
development director, Tom
Fagan presenting, Mass,
breakfast and program,
7-9 a.m., 515 members, 521
non-members, breakfast included.
Registration and information: www.
catholicbusinessexchange.org.

September 16
St. Malachy Parish,
983 E. County Road 750 N.,
New布朗出现。

City Fair
Festival,
Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 5-11 p.m.,
hog roast, carnival rides and midway,
youth and adult games, food, drinks, entertainment.
Information: 317-852-3195.

VIPS

Donate to St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities during online giving event on Sept. 14
St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany is participating in a one-day, online fundraising effort called Give for Good Louisville. Donations of as little as $10 can make a huge impact through strategic prizes and matching funds. The more that is donated, the more funds can be raised through the prizes and gift matching in this special 24-hour event.

Donate to St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities

Funeral of Auxiliary Bishop Edward T. O’Meara, who served the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as auxiliary bishop, diocesan cathedral vicar and executive director of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

Informative meeting for grief ministers to be offered in Indianapolis on Sept. 27
The Archdiocesan Ministry of Consolation Team (AMCT), which represents the Indianapolis deaneies, will offer an informational meeting at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Sept. 27.

The meeting will include a comparison of support available groups in various parishes, and look at what is available in the local community to help those who are grieving. AMCT offers quarterly meetings designed to guide grief ministers, or those wishing to become involved in the ministry, the tools to help them reach out and comfort those who are hurting. For more information, contact Deb VanVelde at guerres@archindy.org or 317-236-1586. †

White Mass for Catholic medical professionals set for Sept. 28
The St. Raphael Catholic Medical Guild of Indianapolis is sponsoring a White Mass for Catholic health care professionals at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 6 p.m. on Sept. 28.

The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. A dinner reception will follow at the Episcopal O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., until 9:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. John Brebner, an ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center and past executive director of the Catholic Medical Association.

During the reception, winners will be announced for the St. Gianna Medical Foundation, the St. Luke Catholic Clinical Health Care Professional of the Year and the St. Barbara Catholic Non-Clinical Health Care Worker of the Year awards. The cost for the reception is $25 per person. The cost for medical students is $5, and children ages 12 and younger are free. Tickets can be purchased at indycatholicfoundation.org.

For more information, e-mail info@indycatholicfoundation.org. †

Father Daniel Bedel, administrator of St. Margaret Mary and St. Patrick parishes, both in Terre Haute, blesses the equipment at WHJO 91.9 FM radio station in Terre Haute on Aug. 17. The Catholic radio station is part of Covenant Network. (Submitted photo)
Sept. 30 men’s conference to feature three popular speakers

By Natalie Hoefer

The 2017 Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference will feature three speakers who are well-known Catholic media personalities.

The speakers are Msgr. Charles Pope, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington; Deacon Larry Oney, a deacon of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; and Brian Patrick, who has hosted shows on EWTN television and radio.

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. on Sept. 30 at the Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave., in Indianapolis, and will conclude by 4:30 p.m.

Conference organizer Mike Fox, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, has been involved with the annual event since it began in 2006. He and other conference supporters saw a need for it a decade ago and have worked hard to keep it going.

“I still see that need today, actually even more,” said Fox. “With the secular world pulling men in one direction, I see how this conference is important in pulling the men back or keeping them close to Christ and his Church.”

Registration for the conference, which is sponsored by the Marian Center of Indianapolis, is $50 per person. $45 per person in groups of 10 or more, and $30 per person for deacons and students. Priests and seminarians may attend free of charge. Registration fees will increase after Sept. 18.

Also included in the conference will be a midday Mass at nearby St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis, followed by a eucharistic procession on the surrounding downtown streets and lunch. Opportunities for eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of penance will also be available throughout the conference.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will welcome conference participants at the start of the event.

Msgr. Charles Pope is a regular columnist for Our Sunday Visitor newspaper and The Catholic Answer magazine, and writes blogs for his archdiocese and the National Catholic Register.

Deacon Oney leads Hope and Purpose Ministries, which promotes the new evangelization through preaching, teaching and the media. He is also a successful business leader, serving as chairman of HGI Global, a third-party administration and project management firm. A popular speaker throughout the world, Deacon Oney has made frequent guest appearances on EWTN and Catholic radio programs.

Patrick hosts EWTN’s flagship radio show, “Morning Glory.” A 40-year broadcast news veteran, he previously anchored EWTN News Nightly while also serving as its executive producer.

Morning with Mary on Oct. 14 to feature CatholicMom.com blogger

By Natalie Hoefer

In its second annual event of honoring the Blessed Mother during the month of October, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is hosting a Morning with Mary on Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 14 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, as well as at the assembly hall, which is sponsored by the Marian Center of Indianapolis.

“Healthen Renshaw is very popular on the Catholic Blog circuit, says Ken Ogorek, director of the archdiocesan Office of Catechesis, of the nationally acclaimed Catholic speaker.

In addition to posting articles about faith, family and fun on her blog, Renshaw is also the author of Real Catholic Mom, All Things Girl: Truth for Teens, and Blessed is She. She is the producer and co-host of the radio show “The Visitaton Project,” and speaker and event organizer for the “Catholic Women Rejoice” and “Called to Love” retreats.

Her CatholicMom.com blog includes articles by other Catholic moms, Sunday Gospel activities for children, Catholic Bible studies, family-related information and advice, suggestions for family activities, catechesis lesson plans and much more.

Renshaw left the Catholic faith for a time, but returned with a desire to minister to Catholic moms and families. The married mother of five young children promotes consecration to Jesus through his Blessed Mother.

Topics to be discussed at the event include Mary, Fatima and conversion.

Light refreshments and an opportunity to talk with the speakers will be available before and after the event in the assembly hall, including items from the gift and bookstore of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis, and local artisans of religious items, including rosaries.

Parking is available at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, as well as at the Catholic Center. The event is $5, and registration is required.

To register, go to www.archindy.org/morningwithmary. If help is needed with the cost, scholarships are available by calling 317-236-1550 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1550.

If you are unable to attend the Marian Jubilee, please join the archdiocese in solidarity by praying a rosary on Oct. 14 between 8 a.m. and noon.
It was a typical day for Maira Bordonabe last spring. “I dropped my children off for school, then I spent some time in [adoration],” said the married mother of two children ages 7 and 12, and a member of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

On that typical spring day as she pulled out of the parking lot to head home, Bordonabe had no idea she would not see her family again as a free woman for nearly five months.

On her way home, she was stopped by two ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] officers charged with the task of taking her to Chicago, where she was to then be sent back to her native country of Mexico.

Bordonabe, now in her 30s, had immigrated to the United States at a younger age with her family. She married a U.S. citizen, her children are U.S. citizens, and she is working toward a degree in health sciences to help her husband provide a better life for their family.

She hardly fits the criteria president-elect Donald Trump claimed would be the focus of his deportation efforts: undocumented immigrants who were “criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers,” as he outlined during an interview on the news show “60 Minutes” on Nov. 13, 2016.

Nevertheless, Bordonabe was immediately taken to a detention center in Chicago.

“I spent four months there with other women, most of them mothers,” she said, her voice quivering with emotion, as she shared her story with a crowd of more than 350 people at a “families first” budget rally hosted by Indiana Congregation Action Network in Indianapolis on Aug. 30. “One woman from Africa had been there for eight months trying to prove her need for asylum.”

Unlike the woman from Africa, Bordonabe said she was “blessed” to have support and from her family and her faith community at St. Gabriel, where prayer vigils were held nearly every Monday evening that she was absent.

When she got no response to a request for a review of her case for asylum, her supporters contacted her United States representative, Andre Carson, for help.

“That move helped her get the initial step to say, ‘I can’t go back due to credible fear,’” said Bordonabe’s lawyer Angela Adams in an interview with The Criterion.

“All I could do was just pray,” Bordonabe said as she wiped away tears. “I wanted to get back home, Bordonabe shared with the audience. ‘But then I had to figure out how to help her, I had to do it on my own. When she had to go back to Mexico, I knew I had to find a way to get her back to Chicago.’”

While Bordonabe can now never be deported, she must check in with ICE every six months.

Still, the case was won, and the federal government, which had 90 days to appeal the ruling, opted not to challenge the decision. Bordonabe was free to return home.

Her husband and children arrived in Chicago. Adams recalled Bordonabe had her few belongings packed in a box and was ready to go.

But then something happened that Adams said still leaves her in disbelief.

“ICE officials, one in particular, changed his mind and said, ‘No, she has to wait 90 days to see if there’s another country we can send her to,’” Adams said. “ICE makes it very easy for us to separate children from parents. Everyone lost it. It was a blow. She literally had the document [for her release] in her hand signed and her belongings packed up.”

Carson was again called upon to intervene, and Bordonabe was released within four days. She returned home with her family in late August.

“Before this [occurrence at the deportation center] happened, even as an immigration attorney I thought, ‘Oh, it hasn’t changed much under this new administration,’” said Adams, who has been involved in immigration law for more than 15 years.

“But I can tell you from personal experience and being in the field, it’s a lot different.”

“There’s no regard for humanity. There’s a lack of respect. I feel like there’s been a call or a directive from above. [ICE officials have] been given the power to break up families,” Adams said.

“Everyone in the family had a really difficult time dealing with her absence. They were devastated. The children didn’t understand— they just needed their mother home.”

Bordonabe’s 12-year-old son Luis can attest to the hurt of losing his mother for nearly five months.

“I was mind-blown,” said the student of St. Michael-St. Gabriel Archangels.

“Supporting families is a core principle of our faith and our teaching,” he said. “At the center of that is the dignity of the person, and again, solidarity—we have to stand together for what is right and just.”

Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, pastor of New Era Baptist Church in Indianapolis, who has been a vocal advocate for immigrants rights,

“While this drew applause from the students, it also drew questions from the audience, of one the longest rounds of applause of the evening. In response to a question by Archbishop Thompson.

“The quality and character of a nation is not so much its military power or its financial budget,” he said. “But it’s the way it treats its most vulnerable.”

Bordonabe passed to wipe away tears during an IndyCAN “families first” budget rally in Indianapolis on Aug. 30, where she shared her story of being separated from her family for nearly five months after being taken for deportation last spring.

School in Indianapolis of the ICE officer’s decision not to release her mother. “I was so disappointed. Me and my sister had hopes that she would come home, but she didn’t. It was really hard.”

Bordonabe couldn’t agree more with her son.

“This is a very hard situation to put a family through,” she said at the IndyCAN event.

“We need to keep families together.”
Annunciation Parish celebrates re-opening of restored church

By Shayna Tews

BRAZIL—As incense rose in the morning air at the front of a procession on Aug. 27, the sound of chiming bells rang throughout the city of Brazil to announce the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The faith-filled walk that followed led almost 150 parishioners home to their newly renovated church.

“We took Jesus to the streets,” said Annette Durcholtz, a member of Annunciation Parish in Brazil. “I’m just overwhelmed. It’s so surreal.”

Durcholtz, other parishioners and Father John Hollowell, the parish’s pastor, had spent time during the last two years celebrating Mass elsewhere, including most recently at Brazil’s First Presbyterian Church, while Annunciation Church was undergoing a much-needed overhaul.

It was only fitting that the Gospel reading that day was from Matthew 16, which recounts how Jesus declared that he would build his Church on the rock of Peter. Years ago, that Scripture passage inspired the parish’s capital campaign slogan, “A Firmer Foundation.” The money was necessary for a much-needed overhaul of its 136-year-old church building which was in jeopardy from a failing foundation.

In his homily, Father Hollowell noted that God himself could have planned it so beautifully.

“A very powerful thing”

“A lot of the parishioners kind of feel like we’ve been out in the desert and wandering around,” explained Father Hollowell. “We pack a suitcase up for every weekend Mass, and we’ve been blessed to have a great place to celebrate Mass [at First Presbyterian Church]. They’ve been awesome hosts and just very gracious, but home is home. So it will be good to be back and not wandering about anymore.

Now, the wandering has indeed come to an end—but not before one final journey: Father Hollowell planned a eucharistic procession following the faith community’s final Mass in their temporary worship space.

Members of the Knights of Columbus, in full regalia, carried a canopy over a monstrance. Every youth altar server was on hand to bring Jesus home, some young men even returning from college and the seminary to be part of the event. With a leader announcing through a megaphone, seminary to be part of the event, with a leader announcing through a megaphone, the procession, sharing Hail Marys through the city.

“The youths of the parish were deeply touched by the renovations as well.”

“Some people wanted this church to be torn down and [for us to] build a new one. It’s nice that it is the same, but it has some new features,” explains 11-year-old Vivian Eiting. “All the painting, and how they have the angels with the candles. … It looks like the altar is in heaven while we are on Earth.”

Father Hollowell spoke briefly to the congregation once inside, the pews full of parishioners now happily back at home.

“It’s been a beautiful journey, a great journey for our parish,” he said. “This isn’t the end. It’s more of a beginning.

“We’re going to go out from here and invite people to Christ. And hopefully [the restoration] is a beautiful thing for all the people in our community, for those living near our church. We did it for the poor and for everybody to come and pray.”

—Father John Hollowell, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil

“We’re going to go out from here and invite people to Christ. And hopefully [the restoration] is a beautiful thing for all the people in our community, for those living near our church. We did it for the poor and everybody to come and pray.”

(Shayna Tews is a freelance writer and a member of Annunciation Parish in Brazil. An open house and Annunciation School reunion are planned for Sept. 9 at the parish, 19 N. Alabama St., in Brazil. The event includes food and tours from noon-2:30 p.m., a sacred music concert featuring Indiana University Jacobs School of Music professor emerita Marilyn Keiser on the newly restored organ from 2:30-3:30 p.m., recitation of the rosary at 3:30 p.m. and Mass at 4 p.m.)

Father John Hollowell, Annunciation Parish’s pastor, and altar servers kneel on Aug. 27 before the Blessed Sacrament in the newly renovated Brazil church’s sanctuary. The parish returned to the church after a two-year renovation project, which led the faith community to worship in a local Presbyterian church during the last six months.

Father John Hollowell, Annunciation Parish’s pastor, and altar servers kneel on Aug. 27 before the Blessed Sacrament in the newly renovated Brazil church’s sanctuary. The parish returned to the church after a two-year renovation project, which led the faith community to worship in a local Presbyterian church during the last six months.
Couples’ advice: Communicate, be patient and pray together

Compiled by Natalie Hoefer

Elizabeth and Paul Malone, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Indianapolis

• Elizabeth: “It’s about commitment. It’s about will and work.”
• Paul: “When you make the commitment to love, honor and cherish one another, that’s a primary factor in remaining married for 50 years.”

John and Mary Paddenburg, All Saints Parish, Dearborn County

• Carol: “You have to talk things through. Kathy and Dane Lantz, Holy Spirit Parish, Indianapolis

• Dane: “Have a good group of friends as support and a good sounding board. Saying, ‘Yes, dear!’”
• Kathy: “Patience and tolerance.”
• Ginny and Dan O’Brien, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis

• Ginny: “Have a whole lot of patience and stick-to-it-iveness. I think it just makes a big difference to have [faith] in common.”
• Dan: “We have continued practicing our faith, and it has kept us together.”

Archbishop Thompson pointed out that Peter is the one Apostle who was known to be married. Nevertheless, he said, Peter desired an ongoing personal encounter with Jesus Christ. For this reason, he dared to take risks and step out of his comfort zone from time to time. Peter’s faith grew to keep Jesus Christ at the center of his life.

“We too must keep Jesus Christ at the center of our vocations, be it priesthood, marriage, diaconate, religious consecrated life, or single life, families, homes, parishes, relationships and creation.”

The archbishop noted that the couples were there to celebrate the sacrament of marriage, upon which God bestows special grace.

“Each [couple] is here today by the strength of their covenant and the sacramental grace of God,” he said. “We all have our stories to tell, but each and every one must be founded upon Christ the cornerstone, who beckons us to proclaim as did Peter—in the midst of our marriages, in the midst of our lives, in the midst of our vocations—‘You are Christ, the Son of the living God’” (Mt 16:16).

‘One step at a time, together’

The year was 1963. The civil rights movement was underway, and the NAACP was concerned about civil rights issues. "One day, I found out we were expecting [a child], and two weeks later I was able to resign from the Navy," said John of his military service. "I thought I'd never see her again, because we were out playing a free-for-all [football] game, and I was all beat up," John recalled. "She was drop-dead gorgeous. She was absolutely a charming young lady." He said he thought to himself, "What chance does a guy like me have with a girl like that?"

Quite a good chance, as it turned out. "He was somebody I didn’t know—I didn’t want to date somebody I’d known all my life," said Mary. "I met him in El Paso, Texas. John’s best friend introduced him to Mary, who was selling tickets for a spaghetti dinner."

"I knew the first time I met her"

Eduardo Parada was only 8 years old living in his homeland of Colombia when he knew he would marry a woman from Indianapolis.

"A friend of ours went to Purdue University, and he married a girl from Indianapolis," recalled Eduardo. "When I saw her I thought, Wow! Indianapolis was the best city in the world!"

He moved to San Francisco with his family years later. He joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis.

It was at a dance there that he met his wife Lois, who was a Red Cross volunteer. "I knew the first time I met her," he said. "Lois had been praying with her mother for a good Catholic husband for years, particularly calling upon the intercession of St. Anthony."

"That didn’t stop me from going to services, though," said Paul. "He’s always participated in the Catholic Church with me and our kids." Such commitment is what Paul cited as a primary factor in remaining married for 50 years.

"When you make the commitment to love, honor and cherish for the rest of your life, you should really take that to heart," he advised. "It’s not just words, you have to believe it." The couple reflected on the fact that they’ve been married for half a century.

"In some ways it seems time flies, but in other ways, I think time stands still," said Paul. As for Paul, "I can’t get my mind around 50 years," he admitted. "It’s just one step at a time, together."
Faith Alive!

Evangelization takes place primarily in personal relationships

By Nathan Stanley

I recently had an encounter with a fellow traveler at a restaurant. We made small talk for a few minutes and then started to talk about family life. Before I knew it, I was reflecting on my faith in Christ and asking him about how he has seen God working in his own life.

It is amazing what happens when we are open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “God, infinitely perfect and holy, shared his own blessedness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man.”

God always is close by and at work in our conversations with others. The French writer and Catholic convert Leon Bloy, who died about a century ago, wrote, “The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint.” We live in a time where the world needs saints more than ever and not just any saints, but saints that live in the midst of ordinary life.

The catechism speaks of our common vocation in baptism as a “vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world” (#1533). But how do we do this in the midst of our ordinary lives?

First, we must look to Jesus. Jesus spoke to the masses and gave great speeches, but he most deeply invested his life in 12 men. Jesus told the Apostles, “I no longer call you slaves ... I have called you friends” (Jn 15:15).

It is in friendship that we can imitate Jesus’ model for evangelization in ordinary life. Opus Dei Father C. John McCloskey wrote, “Friendship, for a Christian, can be an effective form of evangelization. Throughout the history of the Church, starting with our Lord himself, Christianity has spread principally throughout one-on-one encounters.”

Friendship fosters a natural encounter with other people and space for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of others. Our ordinary circumstances allow for these opportunities of authentic witness.

In his recent book, Strangers in a Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a Post-Christian World, Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput comments on this fact: “The most powerful kind of witness doesn’t come from a classroom or pulpit. It doesn’t come from imposed from without and calling for the impossible, rather of a freely-bestowed experience of love from within, a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others. Love grows through love.”

As we build friendships with others, we should not only look to their spiritual needs, but their temporal needs as well. In his book, Jesus as Friend, Salvatore Canals writes, “Before wanting to make saints out of all of those people we love, we have to make them happy and joyful, for nothing better prepares the soul for grace than joy.”

We must be people who live like thermostats, not thermometers. A thermometer measures the temperature in a room, but a thermostat impacts the temperature of its environment. As Pope Francis said in his apostolic exhortation “The Joy of the Gospel,” “An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!”

We are called to live the joy of the Gospel and proclaim it “whether it is convenient or inconvenient” (2 Tim 2:5). And from this joy, we look for ways to serve those around us.

Pope Benedict XVI commented on this in his encyclical “Deus Caritas Est” (“God is Love”): “No longer is it a question, then, of a ‘commandment’ imposed from without and calling for the impossible, but rather of a freely-bestowed experience of love from within, a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others. Love grows through love.”

Finally, at the foundation of our evangelization efforts is prayer, particularly prayer for other people. Pope Francis has said, “One form of prayer moves us particularly to take up the task of evangelization, and to seek the good of others. It is the prayer of intercession.”

In order to bring people to the heart of Jesus, we must develop a heart for them in prayer. I would recommend the advice of Father Leo Trese in his book The Faith Explained: “There are so many to pray for ... A practical suggestion is to write down on a card or a sheet of paper a list of all the people for whom we wish to pray, and cast a quick eye over it each morning at the time of our morning prayers.”

By this simple practice, we will see the Holy Spirit open doors for us in our daily interactions with others.

God is calling each of us ordinary Catholics to be evangelizers in our daily lives. Each of us has the chance to bring Christ to others. This is our vocation, our way of being saints in the modern world.

(Nathan Stanley is the director of apostolic development at The Fellowship of Catholic University Students. He writes at www.practicalcatholicism.com/blog.)
History of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana during the 1920s

Last week, I wrote about the ancient political party the Ku Klux Klan in this country about 100 years ago. It resulted in the revival of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) nationally and regionally, where people were killed in Indiana where D.C. Stephenson was Grand Dragon, beginning in 1922.

Stephenson originated in Evansville, where he was successful at recruiting members of KKK members. He then moved to Indianapolis and took up residence in a mansion in Irvington.

Stephenson spread the Klan’s anti-Catholic message through its newspaper, The Fire, and stratified Catholics of being behind secret plots to attack the largest membership in the country.

But the story of the clash was told by Todd Tucker in his book Notre Dame vs. the Ku Klux Klan: The Fight to Save the University called the Ku Klux Klan, available in a Kindle edition at no cost.

In 1925, Stephenson was able to brag, “I am the law in Indiana.” But then, that year, after the inaugural ball of Edward Longacre, a local politician and state government were KKK members.

In 1924, the Klan planned a large “Klan Youth Train” for traveling on the roads against the University of Notre Dame. It was meant to intimidate its faculty and students because the university was Catholic. When Notre Dame students learned about the event, some of them met the train that brought the first Klan members. They roughed them up, shredded their robes and regalia, and forcibly put them back on the train.

South Bend police arrived and allowed additional trains of Klan members to depart. But close to the state line and Klan members occurred throughout the weekend until Father Matthew Walsh, Notre Dame’s president, arrived to the campus by train.

Football coach Knute Rockne then spoke at a campus rally and implored the students to resist from violence and demonstrations.

The Klan as a whole shriveled up almost overnight. The story of the clash was told by Todd Tucker in his book Notre Dame vs. the Ku Klux Klan: The Fight to Save the University, available in a Kindle edition at no cost.

Between July 1922 and July 1923, almost 2,000 new members were added each week. Membership grew to 250,000, or about one out of 20 of the population, making it the largest membership in the country.

Carmen Lupin/Christina Capecchi

Do we eat to live, or do we live to eat? Recognizing God’s gifts for us

Did you ever notice how much we talk about food? It almost makes me hungry to think about it. Of course, food is essential to human survival, but it’s so much more than that.

Food tells us a lot about the people who consume it. Regional and ethnic environments often determine what and how we eat. At Scandavins tends to make dishes that are both heavy on the carbohydrates. After all, they live in a cold climate. For people like them, they need to keep their bodies warm and well padded. And the vegetables they can grow are often limited to root vegetables such as potatoes and carrots. Italians, on the other hand, live in a hot climate where they can grow more energizing vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers and onions. And they can grow the wheat for pasta, which is a good energizing meal. The Vikings, who live near the sea or lakes and rivers eat lots of fish prepared in many different ways, from baked walleye to sausages.

People grow the crops and raise the animals which are suited to where they live. But despite how different they may be, the foods we eat are for the needs of those who eat them. Food provides warmth, strength and a natural feeling of well-being. And the enjoyment of our food reflects the relative plenty of this century compared to many in the past. There was a time when potatoes were very much the food of the poor because meat was rare or too expensive. But nowadays, the host must be prepared for the reverent guest.

Of course, since we’re human, there’s always a certain amount of greed or gluttony or selfishness in our attitudes toward our food. We need to nourish ourselves to honor our bodies, and we may that effort as delightful as possible—without forgetting our obligations to feeding the poor and to the natural environment.

Next time we get ready to chomp on that juicy hamburger or binge into that heavenly dessert, we can thank God for them. We can thank God for the pure joy of good eating—just one more of God’s little gifts for us.

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

Coming of Age/Maria-Pia Negro Chinn

Teenagers recognize humanity’s role in respecting all of God’s creation

Within the same week, I got both to admire the beauty of God’s creation and see the effects of pollution—both man-made and industry-made—on people. This prompted me to think about how our actions can be respectful of God’s care and regard for all of God’s creation.

Student reflections from Maryknoll’s annual essay contest looked at “ Laudato Si’ ”, a Catholic encyclical on the environment and its thoughts on Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment helped me to answer that question.

Many of the 7,000 students who submitted essays said they cared for the Earth by recycling, buying less and reducing their waste as well as by encouraging their families, friends and communities to use renewable forms of energy, drive energy-efficient cars, and buy their fruits and vegetables locally.

I was inspired to look further and wanted to give us ideas about how we can be more environmentally conscious. I was also inspired by organizations doing their part to protect the environment such as St. Bonaventure’s College, a K-12 school in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

According to the Ignatian Solidarity Network, St. Bonaventure’s College worked with students and teachers to work with students and teachers to help us to answer Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si’” and his call to “Care for Our Common Home,” and his call to “Care for Our Common Home.”

Cynthia Dewes

Evangelization and the solar eclipse

The rain fell heavy Monday morning in Des Moines, Iowa. Over eggs and potatoes at the breakfast table, my family and I talked about the early morning eclipse viewed alternative routes.

A white-haired man wearing a satin shawl hovered near the window. He could have been Trevor, who works for Des Moines, Mo., than Kansas City, Mo., and decided to attend the added hour of travel for a bone and a view of a solar eclipse.

“Can’t we make it there in time, ship, our ship is sunk.” Preparations had been hurriedly made. With precision: a map to consult, checklists and a prepared schedule. Did you want two minutes and 34 seconds of totality in Grand Island, Neb., or two minutes and 38 seconds in St. Joseph, Mo.

It felt like a menu, like an Amazon—Prime level of control: order and arrive. Armchair research continued in that satisfying blend of novel and familiar cities to consider and amenities with Which to compare and contrast. Make your reservation, guarantee your fun.

Then came the packing: coolers filled to the brim, premiere eclipse goggle tucked into glove compartments, tripods and telescopes collapsed in trunks.

In order to make current planning, the one factor we could not control—the weather—forced many Midwesterners into last-minute cancellations. Amid our anxious Googling, more than one of us uttered a prayer for a break in the clouds. My husband and I chose Labor Day, to brave a little town in northwest Missouri, as our destination, and after two hours of construction delays, our rental car was finished. With two minutes to spare and parked beside a cornfield that squished in the path of totality.

The clouds obscured part of the view, revealing more of a crescent than a ring, but the moon’s shadow still cast light. The sudden and complete darkening was a thrill in itself. The air cooled, and the crests of the hills chirping their hiccups.

Before long, we were back on the road, participating in another national act of solar worship, and instead of parking along a lake or a river, at a tiny town in northwest Missouri, as our destination, and after two hours of construction delays, an ending license plate in griddle. College-aged men in a car rolled down their windows and tossed grapes to a man in the street, who(G.K. Chesterton quote: “An adventure is only an inconvenience when you aren’t in it.”)

Waiting in line to use the restrooms at Casey’s General Store, travelers snatched weary smiles. Somehow, we were meeting the traffic, like the clouds, with optimism; it was all part of the experience.

It called to mind a G.K. Chesterton quote: “An adventure is only an inconvenience when you aren’t in it.”

The miracle was not just the eclipse but the universe. And we kept an eye on the sky. But How do we look at this up? These days we tend to run on worry. This thought finally led us.

The last I get, there is one thing to see that life can echo the mysteries of the rose: joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous. People gather next to each other to show off, or we plan to make fish soup as delicious as the one we had in Oslo. Maybe it’s the challenge of feeding the poor and to the natural environment.

Next time we get ready to chomp on that juicy hamburger or binge into that heavenly dessert, we can thank God for them. We can thank God for the pure joy of good eating—just one more of God’s little gifts for us.

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

Prime
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, September 10, 2017
• Ezekiel 33:7-9
• Romans 13:8-10
• Matthew 18:15-20

For the first reading at Mass this weekend, the Church gives us a passage from the Book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel’s name in Hebrew in effect was a prayer, “May God make [him] strong.” It was fitting since, as the prophet himself said in complaint, his calling to be a prophet put him at odds with so many people.

For God’s people, times were hard. The Babylonian Empire, at the time one of the Middle East’s most powerful states, had destroyed much in the Promised Land and had killed many. Then, the Babylonians took back to Babylon many survivors of the invasion.

Ezekiel, these exiles and later their descendants languished for four generations. Ezekiel saw this disaster not as a direct punishment from God, pressed down upon the people in a fury of revenge for their sinfulness, but as the result of the people’s sin.

Although the prophet was harsh in this respect, he also comforted the people that a better day would come—if they returned to God. If they obeyed God, then God would protect them.

No matter the people’s disobedience, Ezekiel wrote, God would not forsake them and never desert them in the face of peril.

St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans is the source of the second reading. It continues the pattern for these weekends of the summer, so many of which have presented readings from Romans.

A highly educated, sophisticated and wealthy Jew, fully versed in the teachings of Judaism, Paul knew the commandments well. While he saw a special vocation in his outreach to gentiles, he knew that God had acted through Hebrew agents in the past.

The commandments were from God, given to Moses, for example. Paul set the commandments in context. People should obey God because they love him. People should treat others well, according to the commandments, because they love others. This urgent echoed the teaching of Jesus.

For its last reading, the Church this weekend offers a passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew. Jesus told the disciples to admonish anyone among them who somehow is at fault.

The Lord gives a progression of steps to follow in doing this. First, a Christian should call a wayward brother or sister to task. This step failing, the Christian should seek the aid of others in calling the wayward back to the right path. Finally, this step also failing, the disciple should go to the Church.

If the wayward will not reform, the Church should dismiss the wayward.

Being a follower of Jesus is a serious matter. The Church, representing Christ, has the right to judge a member’s behavior, even a member’s sincerity. Christ is in the assembly of disciples.

The Church is not simply a convenient, occasional gathering of people of like minds or good intentions.

Reflection

For weeks, we have heard advice about being good disciples. We hear advice again this weekend about discipleship.

Ezekiel gives us a clear message. People should obey God because they love him.

We are responsible for what we do. We are weak. We miscalculate. We are afraid. Even so, if we ask for help, God will strengthen us.

God speaks and acts through the Church. So the Church acts with God’s authority. It guides us, and it warns us.

Frank and straightforward, it reminds us that we must love God above all else.

You have no doubt heard the saying, “When in Rome, do as the Romans do.” But in the case which you pose, following that maxim would be wrong.

When traveling for brief periods, as you were, Catholics should follow the rules of their own country on Mass attendance.

Recently, I was traveling on business in Toronto. Because that day happened to be the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I went in search of a church to attend Mass.

I learned, though, that the Assumption is not a holy day of obligation in Canada, and no additional Masses were being offered beyond the normal weekday schedule.

I was determined to attend Mass anyway, and managed to do so, but it made me wonder. Do the obligations as determined in your home country hold when you are away from home and find yourself in a place with different norms? Or was the obligation lifted because it did not apply in the place where I happened to be that day? (Virginia)

Monday, September 11
Colossians 1:24-2:3
Psalm 62:6-7, 9

Tuesday, September 12
The Most Holy Name of Mary
Colossians 2:6-15
Psalm 45:1-2, 8-11
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday, September 13
St. John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor of the Church
Colossians 3:1-11
Psalm 145:2-3, 10-13
Luke 6:20-26

Thursday, September 14
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Numbers 2:2-6
Psalm 78:1b-2, 34-38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Friday, September 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
I Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14
Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11
John 19:25-27
or Luke 2:33-35

Saturday, September 16
St. Cornelius, pope and martyr
St. Cyprian, bishop and martyr
I Timothy 1:15-17
Psalm 115:1-7
Luke 6:43-49

Sunday, September 17
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Strach 27:30-28:7
Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Question Corner

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Attendance at holy day Masses governed by the bishops of the country one lives in

Q

About two years ago, I made a promise to the Blessed Virgin Mary that I would fast on the Wednesdays and Fridays of each week, taking only bread and water—for the poor souls in purgatory and for peace in the world. I have remained faithful to this commitment since then and intend to continue for the rest of my life.

Recently, my wife celebrated her 50th birthday, and the same day also happened to be our 20th wedding anniversary! Unfortunately, it fell on a Wednesday, so I refused to take anything but bread and water. My wife was not very happy with that, and has remained upset about it since that day.

We are both practicing Catholics, although I believe that I pray much more than she does and attend Mass every morning, while she goes on Sundays and holy days. We have had a good marriage over the years, enjoying many happy moments together, and God has blessed us with four beautiful kids. I have always thought it important to put God before family, and I find it hard to break a promise made to the mother of God.

Please advise me as to how I can explain this to my wife, so that I am free to worship as I want and so that my personal sacrifices do not infringe on our daily lives. Should I have taken a break on that one special day and had a meal with her, or did I do the right thing by sticking with my fast? (New York)

A

This question is an easy one. Of course, you should have had a meal with your wife on her birthday and your wedding anniversary!

Read the Gospel of St. Mark (Mk 2:23-28), where the disciples of Jesus picked grain because they were hungry—even though it was the Sabbath. Jesus defended them against the complaining Pharisees, saying “The Sabbath was made for man, not for the Sabbath” (Mk 2:27).

I am impressed and edified by the penitential practice you have chosen, but I feel quite confident that the mother of God would have approved your “taking a break” on that very special day, or at very least, transferring that fast to another day. I think that you should apologize to your wife and take her out for a very nice dinner.

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

My Journey to God

Stargazer

By Dr. C. David Hay

It is a night to stir the soul.
To watch the heavens all aglow;
A colorful specter meets the eye
As fiery meteor bursts by,
Born of brimstone, fire and coals
With a destiny no one knows.

Does life exist out in that maze
Of worlds that glow and stars that blaze?
A universe of endless space
Where planets spin and comets chase;
Infinite wonders of the skies
Awaits gaze of curious eyes.

So if you be one of these,
Seeking cosmic sights that please,
Blessed by beauty that you see,
You are a dreamer just like me—
Beholding trails to the face of God.
And know you saw the Face of God.

(Dr. C. David Hay is a member of St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute.
Poor Clare Sister Mary Francis views the solar eclipse through a pair of special lenses on Aug. 21 at the Monastery of St. Clare in St. Louis.)

(CNS photo/LeeAnn Hake, St. Louis Review)

The Criterion Friday, September 8, 2017

Page 13
Praying for peace

With the Chicago skyline in the background, dascanos pray as worshippers gather to end violence and promote peace during the eighth annual Sunrise Service and Mass on Aug. 26. Chicago. Wshippers gathered at the shore of Lake Michigan to pray for nonviolence, the healing of families, schools and communities. The event was sponsored by the Black Deacons of Chicago. (Eti pho by Cathey, Chicago Catech)

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan assistance coordinator: 


OHAKHIU, Thaddeus. 48, St. Monica, Indianapolis. Aug. 22. Brother of Father Ben Okonkwo, Emmanuel and Marcel Okahiku.


St. Rose of Lima grew as a ‘lily among thorns,’ Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Like other great women in the Catholic Church’s past, St. Rose of Lima dedicated her life to marginalized people and gained eternal life through her devotion to St. John of the Cross, Pope Francis said.

In a letter marking the 400th anniversary of the Peruvian saint’s death, the pope praised St. Rose’s love for all creation, which can be seen in her “frequently inviting animals, flowers, plants and every living being to praise the Creator.”

“The most glorious St. Rose of Lima, who grew as a lily among thorns became friends with the Lord from childhood to the point that from a young age she consecrated her virginity to him and began to cultivate virtues,” he said.

Pope Francis addressed his letter to Ecuadorian Cardinal Raul Eduardo Vela, retired archbishop of Quito, who was the pope’s special envoy to the celebrations on Aug. 30 in Peru.

Vela read the letter to thousands of pilgrims attending the anniversary celebrations in the Peruvian capital’s main square.

Born in the 17th century, St. Rose of Lima dedicated her life to caring for the sick and the poor.

Known and venerated throughout Latin America, she was canonized by Pope Clement X in 1671, making her the first saint from the Americas. She is the patroness of Peru, the Americas and the patron saint of nurses and police officers.

Pope Francis asked Cardinal Vela to “exhibit the people gathered to a fervent devotion to St. Rose of Lima so that she might obtain from God many favors for the good of the entire Archdiocese of Lima, as well as for all men and women in the regions of Peru and in the whole world.” †
A transition of help and healing

Marian’s commitment to the students who have transferred from St. Joseph’s has been commendable, according to a former professor and board of trustee member at St. Joseph’s College. After 40 years of serving at St. Joe’s, Missionaries of the Precious Blood Father William Stange is making his transition back to Marian—as a college chaplain.

Father William remembers the night when St. Joseph’s officials told the student body the college would be closing.

“It was kind of like announcing that someone is seriously ill,” Father William recalls. “We had to help them to understand that we weren’t abandoning them to their fate—that we were trying to get them into new homes, to help them with their hopes and dreams, to let them be able to graduate, and place them in their sports and activities.”

As a chaplain at Marian, Father William has been keenly aware of the transition the transfer students from St. Joe’s are experiencing.

“Again and again, I’ve heard they’ve really felt welcome here,” he says. “They’re going to classes and getting involved. I think it’s working out well so far. If you make a transition, you have to see how it plays out fully. I’ll be keeping in touch with them to see how it’s working out for them.”

“I’ve seen Marian reaching out. They’ve helped with the transition and the healing. I’m very grateful and proud of what Marian has done. I’m a strong believer in a Catholic education, and in a small Catholic college. I’m glad to be at another school that has the same sense of mission of educating the whole person. At the same time, I have a new home. They are good people. I’m feeling good about being here.”

“My name is Puma and a Knight!”

That feeling of connection is also strong among Marian’s prospects, says the university’s president, Father Elsener. “We’re both Catholic institutions, both started by religious orders, both with a core of liberal arts, so we are part of a family,” Elsener says. “And in 2000-2001, Marian on paper should have closed [because of financial concerns]. So I had some empathy for their situation and the trauma their students would go through.”

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“The bigger story here is that you have your values on the wall, but it’s really what you do when that moment of truth comes. I’m so proud of our faculty, our staff and our board. And I’m sure the Holy Spirit is involved in this. I’m so proud of the students from St. Joe, too. They’re very talented. They’re part of us.”

—Daniel Elsener, president of Marian University in Indianapolis

Samantha Hoyt and Niko Lara have transferred from St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Ind., to spend their senior years at Marian University in Indianapolis. (Photo by John Drzewiecki)

President, Presentation Academy

St. Margaret Mary and St. Patrick parishes, located in Terre Haute, Indiana, are starting a faith day, a full-time position of DRE to serve both unique and diverse parishes. Applicant should have a love for the Catholic faith; knowledge of and commitment to the Archdiocesan Faith Formation Guidelines and Faith Formation Curriculum; and the ability to work with catechists, youth group leaders, school personnel and pastoral staff. It is preferred that candidates possess a master’s degree in Theology, Religious Education or Pastoral Ministry; a master’s degree in marriage, family or Christian counseling; and a master’s degree in Religious Studies. The successful applicant will have experience in parish religious education; and must be highly organized, capable of delegating work, demonstrate strong leadership abilities and have excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Bilingual skills in Spanish preferred, but not required.

To view the position core competencies and find out more about us, please see our parish websites at: www.sanmartin.org or www.smthh.org

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—“Excessive inequality” threatens cooperation among all people in society “and the social pact it supports,” said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., in the U.S. bishop annual Labor Day statement.

In the message, Bishop Dewane cited the words of Pope Francis, who told factory workers in Genoa, Italy, “The entire social pact is built around work. This is the core of the problem. Because when you do not work, or you work badly, you work little or you work too much, it is democracy that enters into crisis and decay.”

Dated Sept. 4, the federal Labor Day holiday, the statement was released on Aug. 30.

Bishop Dewane, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, pointed to a “twisted understanding of labor and laborers” that fosters deepening inequality.

In Genoa, the pope “acknowledges that ‘merit’ is a beautiful word.” Bishop Dewane said, “but the modern world can often use it ‘ideologically,’ which makes it ‘distorted and perverted’ when it is used for ‘ethically legitimizing inequality.’”

“Wages remain stagnant or are decreasing for the vast majority of people, while a smaller percentage collect the new wealth being generated. Economic stresses contribute to a decline in marriage rates, increases in births outside of two-parent households and child poverty,” Bishop Dewane added. “Economic instability also hurts the faith community, as Americans who have recently experienced unemployment are less likely to go to church, even though such communities can be a source of great support in difficult times.”

He said, “When a parent—working full time, or even working multiple jobs beyond standard working hours—cannot bring his or her family out of poverty, something is terribly wrong with how we value the work of a person.”

Pope Francis has said it is “inhuman that parents must spend so much time working that they cannot play with their children. Surely many wish for more time, but their working conditions do not allow it.”

He quoted St. John Paul II’s encyclical “Centesimus Annus,” saying, “Profit is a regulator of the life of a business, but it is not the only one; other human and moral factors must also be considered, which, in the long term, are at least equally important for the life of a business.”

“A culture that obsesses less over endless activity and consumption may, over time, become a culture that values rest for the sake of God and family,” Bishop Dewane said.

He added, “Our Lord’s ‘gaze of love’ embraces men and women who work long hours without rest to provide for their loved ones; families who move across towns, states, and nations, facing the highest risks and often suffering great tragedy in order to find better opportunities; workers who endure unsafe working conditions; low pay and health crises; women who suffer wage disparities and exploitation; and those who suffer the effects of racism in any setting, including the workplace.”

Bishop Dewane suggested several approaches to right the imbalance brought by inequality.

“Worker-owned businesses can be a force for strengthening solidarity, as the Second Vatican Council encouraged businesses to consider ‘the active sharing of all in the administration and profits of these enterprises in ways to be properly determined,’” he said. “The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has helped in the formation of many employee-owned companies which provide jobs in communities where work opportunities may be scarce.”

“Workers’ legal rights to ‘a just wage in exchange for work, to protection against wage theft, to workplace safety and just compensation for workplace injuries, to health care and other benefits, and to organize and engage in negotiations, should be promoted,’” he added.

“Workers must be aided to come to know and exercise their legal rights. As an example, CCHD has supported the Don Bosco Workers in Westchester, N.Y., which has launched a successful campaign to combat wage theft. Persons returning from prison also need support to understand their legal rights as they seek new employment. CCHD has helped the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Cincinnati and elsewhere as they work with returning citizens to find stable and meaningful jobs.”

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Catholic Benefits Association presses Trump to end HHS mandate

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Frustrated by federal court inaction and the Department of Justice blocking the way, the Catholic Benefits Association (CBA) has called on President Donald J. Trump to intervene directly in the legal battle over the Affordable Care Act’s contraception, abortifacient and sterilization mandate.

“This is a problem that’s easily remedied,” Douglas C. Wilson, CBA’s chief executive officer, told Catholic News Service. “It was created by [President] Obama’s regulatory administration, and it can be undone by the Trump administration just as easily.”

In an Aug. 18 letter, Wilson asked the Trump administration, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Justice to stop defending the mandate in court and agree to a permanent injunction protecting the plaintiffs in all cases. The letter also urged the White House to adopt, unchanged, a proposed HHS regulation, submitted in May, to exempt employers with conscientious objections from having to comply with such mandants.

The mandate requires employers to provide coverage for contraception, abortifacients and sterilization, opposed by Catholic moral teaching, under penalty of fines.

Wilson said he has not yet received anything other than a pro forma White House acknowledgement of the letter.

Asked about it during an Aug. 24 news conference, White House representative Sarah Huckabee Sanders responded, “I’m not sure if [Trump is] aware of the complaints or any specific places where that’s being ignored.”

On May 4, Trump, in a Rose Garden ceremony, announced an executive order, “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty.”

“The long ordal will soon be over,” he announced to religious groups that included the Little Sisters of the Poor, whose Supreme Court victory in 2016 was widely considered the beginning of the end of the mandate. “We are ending the attacks on your religious freedom.”

The CBA, based in Castle Rock, Colo., and representing more than 1,000 Catholic employers, has been the largest single plaintiff challenging the mandate. The association first sued HHS in March 2014. CBA members “are facing a 60 million plus in accumulated penalties should this fail to be resolved,” Wilson said.

Finally, the CBA filed a motion with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver asking for affirmation of its 2014 injunction blocking implementation of the mandate. But on July 31, Justice Department lawyers opposed the motion and asked that the appeal be kept alive.

“They cited only some unspecified efforts to reach a regulatory resolution outside of the judicial process, but we have no guarantee that such a resolution will be either timely or sufficient,” Wilson’s letter added.

(HHS Secretary Tom Price) “believes that the Little Sisters, 80 Catholic bishops, and hundreds of other religious employers should win their lawsuits. The president likewise has promised the religious employers victory. For whatever reason, the Justice Department keeps defending Obama’s contraception mandate in court,” Eric Kniffin, a CBA lawyer said.

Wilson added, “It seems that this issue never reaches the finish line.”

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