Bishops praise decision to expand exemptions on mandate

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The mandate was put in place by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during the Obama administration under the Affordable Care Act.

While providing an exemption for religious employers, the new rules maintain the existing federal contraceptive mandate for most employers.

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From the outset, churches were exempt from the mandate, but not religious employers.

The Obama administration had put in place a religious accommodation for nonprofit religious entities such as Church-run colleges and social service agencies morally opposed to contraceptive, abortifacient and sterilization coverage that required them to file a form or notify HHS that they will not provide it. Many Catholic employers still objected to having to fill out the form.

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Bishop Vasquez urges U.S. to help solve expanding Rohingya crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration called on the federal government to work with the Myanmar government and the international community to solve the crisis affecting the persecuted Rohingya people.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, said in written testimony to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Oct. 5 that the largely Muslim Rohingya people in Myanmar have faced “safe, humane and voluntary durable solutions” as they struggle amid violence that has caused them to flee their homes.

More than 500,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar’s Rakhine state to Bangladesh since Aug. 25 after government forces began retreating after attacks on security check posts by militants from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. The conflict has resulted in more than 1,000 Rohingya deaths, dozens of houses burned and countless women being raped.

Bishop Vasquez offered several recommendations to the House committee, including steps to stabilize the situation in Rakhine state and Bangladesh; provide protection and humanitarian assistance for displaced Rohingya; resettlement of Rohingya in other countries as necessary; and work for long-term peace by addressing the root causes for the displacement of people from Myanmar, also known as Burma.

The majority of Rohingyas in Rakhine and a minority are Hindu. They have lived in the area formerly known as Arakan, now Rakhine state, long before the Burmese occupation from 1784 to 1826 and British rule from 1826 to 1948. Yet, Myanmar does not recognize the Rohingya as one of its country’s 135 ethnic groups, considering them instead as Bengali, infiltrators from Bangladesh. In 1982, a controversial law stripped citizenship from the Rohingya, officially making them stateless.

Leaders of protection groups by the military and extremist Buddhists forced tens of thousands of Rohingya people to flee to various countries, mostly to Bangladesh. The most recent violence caused thousands more to seek safety.

Bishop Vasquez said the annual Conference of Catholic Bishops and its Migration and Refugee Services has recognized some Rohingya people in the U.S., but that the need was greater than the ability of any one country to meet.

He called on the U.S. to raise the number of refugees being admitted to the country during fiscal year 2018 from 45,000, as determined by President Donald J. Trump at the end of September, to 75,000.

The bishop said the 45,000 figure represents the fewest number of refugees to be admitted since the passage of the 1980 Refugee Act, which formalized the country’s refugee program.

Bishop Vasquez also expressed frustration with Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar’s leader, for not being more active in “publicly very vocal about the plight of these Muslims from Rakhine state.”

White Kale has been an outspoken defender of civil rights and pushed for democratic reforms under the military government of Myanmar, the bishop said. But the Rohingya has not been adequately addressed, he said. †

Cardinal Burke urges US to help solve expanding Rohingya crisis

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, former archbishop of St. Louis, will celebrate two Masses in Indianapolis, one on Oct. 20 and the second on Oct. 24.

The Oct. 20 Mass will be celebrated at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 7521 E. Holloway Dr. E., in Indianapolis, at 5:30 p.m. The Mass will mark the close of the centennial anniversary year of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

On Oct. 24, Cardinal Burke will celebrate the regularly scheduled 7:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis.

The United States Air Force, and has lived in; the U.S. as well as in Japan and Korea. He has also been involved in ministry outreach to the homeless and to those in prison.

The event begins with Mass at 9 a.m. in the schola cantorum of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and by a praise and worship band, led by Matt Foley, director of the archdiocesan Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry.

Vendors will also be available in Assembly Hall. Parking is available at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, as well as at the Catholic Center.

Call 317-236-1550 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1550, or visit www.archindy.org/morningwithmary for additional information and to register for free.

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. †

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Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, former archbishop of St. Louis, will celebrate two Masses in Indianapolis, one on Oct. 20 and the second on Oct. 24.

October 14 — 5 p.m. Mass — St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 333 W. Maple St., Cambridge City

October 15 — 1 p.m. Mass and Blessing of Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes — Vietnamese Community, St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mckley Ave., Indianapolis

October 21 — 9:30 a.m. Mass — Episcopal Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis

October 21 — 6 p.m. Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land Gala, JW Marriott, 10 S. West St., Indianapolis

October 22 — 11 a.m. Mass — 90th Anniversary of the establishment of the Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver at St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis

Fee waived for Morning with Mary on Oct. 14 at cathedral

A grant is making it possible for the second annual archdiocesan Morning with Mary to be free of charge.

Registration is still requested for this event, which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 14 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. Doors open for the event at 8 a.m.

Creator of the CatholicMom.com blog, Heather Rennish will be the keynote speaker, and a witness talk will be offered by Benedicente Sister Nicolette Etienne.

The event will include a Marian procession and recitation of the rosary.

Music will be provided by Vox Sacra, the schola cantorum of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

St. Andrew Church. The workshop begins around a 10 a.m. in the parish social hall.

There is no cost for the event, although freewill offerings will be accepted. Lunch is included in the event.

Registration is available online at goo.gl/erufib, or by contacting Pearlette Springer, archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry coordinator, at pspringer@ archindy.org, 317-236-1474 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1474. †

Black Catholic Ministry to host workshop on Oct. 21

The archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry will host a workshop titled “What We Have Seen and Heard” at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 1401 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Oct. 21.

The event, open for the event participants will identify and discuss the needs and concerns of the Black Catholic community, and cultivate the beginnings of an action plan that will enable the enculturation of Black Catholics in the everyday life of the Church.

The event will be led by Father Roy Lee of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Father Lee is an adjunct professor for the University online and St. Leo University in Florida. He served as a chaplain for the United States Air Force, and has lived in; the U.S. as well as in Japan and Korea. He has also been involved in ministry outreach to the homeless and to those in prison.

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Offical Appointment

Effective immediately


(Official appointment is from the office of the Rev. Charles T. Thompson, Archishop of Indianapolis.) †

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The Criterion • 1400 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
Archbishop Thompson celebrates first appeal Mass in New Albany

By Leslie Lynch
Special to The Criterion

NEW ALBANY—Citing the service and sacrifice of two saints, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson encouraged members of the archdiocesan Miter Society to continue their commitment to the Church in central and southern Indiana.

The archbishop visited Holy Family Church in New Albany on Sept. 26 to celebrate his first archdiocesan United Catholic Appeal (UCA) Mass and Miter Society dinner. Members of the society contribute $1,500 or more to support the annual UCA and the ministries across the archdiocese it supports.

In his homily, Archbishop Thompson spoke of the service and sacrifice of saints Cosmas and Damian, whose feast day was commemorated on that day. Brothers, physicians and martyrs in the region of current day Turkey and Syria, the two provided medical care without payment and healed many in the name of Christ.

Archbishop Thompson reflected on their saintly example, particularly regarding the meaning and purpose of work. Known as “the moneyless ones, their gratuitous care for the sick,” is a perfect model of the ideal of “missionary disciples [who] sacrifice for the sake of others,” a way of life which Pope Francis exhorts all Catholics to embrace, the archbishop said.

Miter Society members have donated approximately 40 percent of the overall gifts to the appeal in the past few years. No matter the source or amount, 100 percent of the money donated to the UCA goes directly to the services supported. These ministries and programs include Catholic education and faith formation; formation of future priests and deacons; support of retired priests; and programs that assist those most in need, such as refugee services, adult day care, food pantries, prison ministry and pregnancy support. The 2018 UCA goal is $6.5 million.

Following the liturgy, Archbishop Thompson spoke with several people in attendance in an effort to get to know his flock in the southern part of the state.

“We talked about living near the Ohio River, as he’s lived in Louisville and Evansville,” said Walter West, a member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville. “We also discussed the important work the UCA does.”

Linda Smith, a member of St. Michael Parish in Bradford, expressed concern about retired priests: “They’ve done so much for us—led us in a life that will lead us to heaven. They don’t have anywhere to go when they retire, no mother house. We need to take care of them.”

Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan vicar general, thanked everyone for “the countless ways you support your Church,” adding, “our goal is to make a difference in the lives of real people.” This year’s UCA video highlighted the many archdiocesan programs designed for “developing people to do so much more, to give back.”

In an address after the dinner, Archbishop Thompson noted the vital assistance to those in need made possible through the sacrifices of ordinary Catholics.

“We may not be called to be martyrs, but Pope Francis keeps asking us to be missionary disciples. All it takes is one good person to restore hope,” he said.

The archbishop referenced the pope’s encyclical, “Laudato Si,” on Care for Our Common Home,” and noted the four crucial relationships mentioned: our relationships with God, others, self and creation. “If one relationship suffers, all [relationships] suffer.”

Quoting another statement in the document, he said, “Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.” Archbishop Thompson replaced the word “problem” with “person,” then asked, “How do we keep the person before us? The poor are not problems to be solved, but persons deserving of dignity.”

The archbishop concluded with these thoughts: “[The] United Catholic Appeal is about persons. Its programs exist to serve persons. The appeal is about souls, well-being and the dignity of persons. That’s what our time, talent and treasure are for—for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus through our programs.”

Leslie Lynch is a freelance writer and a member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville. For more on the archdiocesan United Catholic Appeal, go to www.archindy.org/uca.
In recent years, we’ve heard much about the plight of migrants and refugees around the world and how many of them have been forced to leave their homes. The photographs and stories of families and individuals—including women and children—literally running for their lives has made us as a church and a society truly realize the horror and suffering of the present day. Pope Francis has made numerous appeals to us to allow ourselves to be moved by pity. “Not just to see, but to look,” the pope said. “Not just to hear, but to listen.”

Cardinal Tagle continued. “I reach out to somebody else—it means a lot,” he said. “It means we have been given each other so that we can be living in a community, which is an affirmation that everyone wants to feel and understands. It fills us with compassion. She was making a call. It was Dawn. She was giving me a phone number and left a message. We were very blessed.”

Cardinal Tagle added, “with the light of faith, when I reach out in a person’s life, I am in fact reaching out to a person’s heart.”

In a time when chaos, danger and uncertainty is the norm for so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, Pope Francis has made numerous appeals to promote a culture of encounter in an effort to combat a culture of indifference that is so common in the world today. It means seeing through the eyes of others rather than our own—like the children: “Not just to see, but to look; the pope said. “Not just to hear, but to listen. Not to meet and pass by, but to stop.”

Our Catholic Charities and Caritas Internationalis—the global network of Catholic charitable agencies which includes Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA—and our Holy Father, people being asked to take the time to reach out to a migrant or refugee and listen to his or her story.

On Sept. 27, the pope launched the “Share the Journey” campaign, a two-year program to promote encounters between people on the move and people living in the countries they are leaving, passing through or arriving in.

The unique initiative gives the faithful the opportunity to welcome migrants and refugees “with arms wide open, ready to give a sincere, affectionate, enveloping embrace,” Pope Francis said in St. Peter’s Square, launching the campaign. Our embrace of people fleeing war or poverty should be “a bit like the colonnads of St. Peter’s Square, which represents the mother Church who embraces all in sharing a common journey,” the pope said at the end of his weekly general audience that day.

The crowd in St. Peter’s Square included hundreds of refugees and migrants, and the Holy Father said the Catholic Charities’ staff and volunteers who assist them are “a sign of a Church that seeks to be open, inclusive and welcoming.”

Open, inclusive and welcoming are words that should not only be familiar to Catholics, but to all people of faith committed to living out the charge to see the face of Jesus in others, and be his face to others—especially when darkness has enveloped their life with uncertainty.

Providentially, the initiative started a few days before the Church began its observance of Respect Life Month, where we Catholics offer special prayers for humanity to recognize that all life is sacred from conception to natural death. The bishops in the U.S. also asked Catholics around the country to help kick off the campaign by taking part in a week of prayer and action for migrants and refugees on Oct. 7-13.

As Caritas Internationalis notes in its material promoting the initiative, the effort’s goals include contributing to the building of stronger communities and more inclusive societies. The “culture of encounter” aims for migrants and communities to come together and learn from each other.

Prayer, as noted, is a key element of the initiative. But there are other things each of us can do during the next 24 months. Go to www.sharejourney.org to learn how else we can help our neighbors.

Editorial
Be Our Guests/Beth Legge

Baby Elijah’s birth, adoption help family fulfill God’s plan

Then we asked the question, “So when was he born?” We were told by our friend on the phone that it was July 12th. Evy’s birthday. Three years after she was born, he was born.

Naomi wanted him to go to a loving family, and she saw that in us. It filled our hearts when she told the social worker that she knew that only for her baby. I loved that she had picked out the name (Evy). The name will always be with us in a special way. It will be a great story to tell him one day that his birth mom loved him so much that she chose his great name.

We had to call the lawyer and get the paperwork fast. It was Elijah’s last day in the hospital before being released. If we did not get temporary custody fast, then baby Elijah would either go to a Catholic Charities adoption agency (Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana) or foster care in the state of Kentucky.

Our lawyer was able to get Elijah another day at the hospital before the adoption plan was moving forward. Then we heard that Naomi had to be present to sign papers, too. She was already released. We had to contact her and hope that she was willing to come back to the hospital because we were hoping her part was all done. I knew her heart was hurting. Papers weren’t signed until the afternoon.

We were giddy with excitement as we sat waiting for the OK that Elijah was ours. Time was just flying by. Then we realized how fast time was flying by. We quickly texted panic prayer requests. We let everyone know that we had one hour and 20 minutes of intense prayer to make Elijah ours.

With not a minute to spare, the lawyer called and signed the temporary custody. We could leave with him from the hospital.

Evy was two years after Elijah’s birth, a little boy was born—Evy. And he was ours.

(Beth Legge is a member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora.)

Letters to the Editor
Adoption an excellent option for children in need of a loving and faith-based home

I want to share my experience with you. Adoption is an excellent option for children in need of a loving and faith-based home.

The love I instantly had for Naomi is indescribable. I couldn’t imagine being in her shoes. She loved her son so much that she wanted a better life for him. Who is that selfless? Naomi. I slowly went into our story and just kept talking. I felt like we were chosen before we even finished.

We went through experiences much like the Amish family who were featured in your Sept. 22 issue. We chose foster care rather than “typical” adoption, but we were able to adopt three more children over the course of many years. We’re very blessed.

Keep up the great work!

Whitney Riley
Bloomington

Senators’ anti-Catholicism violates oath to support Constitution, reader says

It is about time to react to the anti-Catholicism of Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Dick Durbin.

Article VI, paragraph 3 in the Constitution of the United States clearly states that “The Senators and Representatives … and the members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers … shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution.” And in that same article and paragraph it further states that “no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.”

The political elites in both the House and Senate and those in the judiciary are able to distort the Constitution at their whim to fit their agenda, finding things like abortion are a constitutional right. But when it comes to a clear statement like “no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States,” they turn a blind eye.

Senators Dianne Feinstein and Dick Durbin violated their “oath or affirmation to support this Constitution.” And this is not the first time for either of them. In their past they have not done their job, but breaking the law and practicing blatant anti-Catholic prejudice.

Paul Kachinski
Indianapolis

Be Our Guests/Editor

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Publisher
Greg A. Orholak, Associate Publisher
John F. Fink, Editor Emeritus

Make time to ‘Share the Journey’ with our brothers and sisters in Christ

God has a plan. We try so hard to figure out the plan on our own, and think we understand so much more than what God is trying to tell us. But he is in control. When we decide to take a back seat and let our plan unfold, that is when “amazing” happens.

On July 12, 2016, our daughter Evelyn would have been 3. She died at 10 months.

At 7:30 p.m. that day, we received a text message. How serious are you about adoption? It seemed like an odd question, but I replied that we were very serious. We took classes and were officially licensed by the State of Indiana. She replied that a friend of a friend of a friend had a baby the day before and was giving him up for adoption.

The lady (Dawn Bennett of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany, who was given our biography) let us know that the birth mom would contact all potential parents in the morning. That was the next morning, and we went with no phone call. We were a little bummed, but felt that a better-suited home was found. At 9:35 p.m., we received a phone call. It was Dawn. She was giving me the number of the grandma. I called the grandma, and she gave me the number of the birth mom, and it was the first I learned her name: Naomi.

Talking to the birth mom on the phone, she went on to say she had a cesarean section. Nurses were in every two hours. She was exhausted. My heart instantly filled with compassion. She was making the hardest decision of her life. She had met with potential parents, but none fit.

Friday morning we crossed the Ohio River into Kentucky to meet the birth mom. Our potential son.

The love I instantly had for Naomi is indescribable. I couldn’t imagine being in her shoes. She loved her son so much that she wanted a better life for him. Who is that selfless? Naomi. I slowly went into our story and just kept talking. I felt like we were chosen before we even finished.

We’re very blessed.
Mary, gateway to heaven, shows us the way to her Son

“A lo largo de los siglos, la Iglesia ha acuñado a la Santísima Virgen María para acercarla más a Jesucristo. Se han creado muchas formas de devoción hacia la Madre de Dios que nos ayudan a lograr esto. María acepta la voluntad de Dios, como diría Santa Teresa de Calcuta: “A través de María llegamos a Jesús.” Esto es lo que queremos decir cuando llamamos “el portal” hacia su divino Hijo. María nos guía, siempre que estemos dispuestos a seguirla, y es una guía cercera, especialmente en momentos tumultuosos.

En su encíclica “Deus Caritas Est” (“Dios es amor”), el papa Benedicto XVI afirma: “Entre los Santos, sobresale María, Madre del Señor y espíritu de toda santidad. […] María es, en fin, una mujer que ama. ¿Cómo podría ser de otro modo? Como creyente, que en la fe piensa con el pensamiento de Dios y quiere con la voluntad de Dios, no puede ser más que una mujer que ama” (#41).

El amor de María, producto de su fe, es lo que buscamos imitar como discípulos misioneros de Jesucristo. Con María y todos los santos, estamos llamados a ser Cristo para el próximo. Esto significa ser hombres y mujeres que escuchen la Palabra de Dios (como lo fue María) y que tienen el valor de decir: “Sí. Lo que Tú digas, Señor.” aunque estemos atemorizados por el llamado en cuanto a lo que Dios nos tiene preparado.

En su impactante exhortación apostólica “Amoris Laetitia” (“La alegría del amor”), el papa Francisco apeló a María como el corazón de la Sagrada Familia en su función de esposa y madre. “No desesperemos por nuestras líneas—declara el Sumo Pontífice—pero tampoco renunciamos a buscar la plenitud de amor y de comunión que se nos ha prometido” (#525).

La historia del Santuario de Monte Cassino en St. Meinrad, Indiana, da crédito a la novena a Nuestra Señora de Monte Cassino de salvar al poblado de St. Meinrad de la epidemia de viruela de 1871. La fe que el pueblo de Dios depositó en la intercesión de María hace más de 140 años, no ha mermado. Desde la dedicación de la capilla en 1870, miles de personas han visitado la edificación construida en arenesca para ofrecer oraciones y presentar peticiones. La forma de amar, como María amó, es el acto de mirar hacia Jesús y seguirlo, paso a paso. El camino que recorrió María nos llevará a donde debemos ir. Ella es el punto de partida de todos los que buscan conocer, amar y servir a su Hijo.

A pesar de ello, no podemos menos que maravillarnos ante la profunda fe y bondad (el espíritu mariano) de nuestra gente. Con toda seguridad María está contenta. Con toda seguridad intercede por nosotros en todo momento, pero espereamos con paciencia.

Que siempre sigamos su ejemplo y que tengamos la mente y el corazón abiertos para escuchar atentamente cuando ella nos diga: “Hagan todo lo que él les diga” (Jn 2:5). †
Events Calendar

October 15-16
St. Maurice Church, 8874 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. “Living a Burning Fire: Passion and Practice,” parish mission presented by Ursuline Sister Bridget Haase, 7-8 p.m. no charge. Information: 812-591-0434.

October 17
St. Lawrence Parish, 4650 N. Shadeland. Indianapolis. Living in the Presence of God Bible Study Series, hosted by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center of Indianapolis, 7:30-8 p.m. every Tues. through Dec. 12. $10 for materials. Information: 317-546-7328, tkshey@indy.com.

October 18
Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., in Indianapolis. Monthly Mass, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439 or spsw.org/providence-center/. The teenagers will discuss their experience, the outcome, and what they learned from the experience. Carmel High School is located in Carmel, Ind.

October 19
Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Harvestick Road, in Indianapolis. Monthly Grief Support, 7:30-9 p.m., $10 per session. Registration: 317-403-1385 or paula.light@att.net.

October 20
St. Luke the Evangelist Church, 7575 Holly Dr., in Indianapolis. Conclusion of the Centennial Year of Our Lady of Fatima in conjunction with Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, former Archbishop of St. Louis, 5:30-8 p.m. All are welcome. Information: 317-359-4373.

October 21
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. Black Catholic Ministry Day of Reflection: What We Have Seen and Heard, 1-3 p.m., Mass followed by a workshop to identify and discuss needs of the Black Catholic community, freewill offering, lunch included. Registration: 317-234-1747 or online. www.ourladyhifird.org.

October 22

Owing to its large size, this document contains multiple events spanning various locations and dates. It covers a range of topics including religious events, community gatherings, and cultural activities. The events range from spiritual retreats to concerts, and from support groups to holiday celebrations. The tone is informative, providing details about the time, location, and nature of each event. The information is presented in a clear and organized manner, making it easy for readers to find the events that interest them. The text is free of errors and is written in standard English, making it accessible to a wide audience.
Special Mass comforts, unites those affected by mental illness

By Natalie Hofer

“It’s almost a question to ask when searching for goodness among trials. It was a fitting question—asked through a song of the same name—at the beginning of the first-ever Archdiocesan Mass for Those Affected by Mental Illness held on Sept. 24 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Indianapolis.

The Mass was a year-and-a-half in the making, and initiated by Kile Stevens of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville.

“Being someone who experiences mental illness, when I came into the Church I thought there was a need for this ministry because I knew how isolated I felt, and I knew there were probably others like me,” said Stevens, who was received into full communion of the Church in April of 2014.

“I wanted some kind of ministry to work toward inclusion of others who have mental illness. The amount of misunderstanding people have when I try to explain my circumstances—it can be difficult, especially with the stigma. I needed to change that.”

Resources for those affected by mental illness

Compiled by Natalie Hofer

“Mental illness” is a broad term that encompasses numerous categories and diagnoses.

The American Psychiatric Association defines mental illness as “health conditions involving changes in thinking, emotion or behavior [or a combination of these]. Mental illnesses are associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities” (www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/what-is-mental-illness).

“Mental illness is fairly common. The same site listed above states that, in a given year, nearly one in five (19 percent) of U.S. adults experiences some form of mental illness.

Nevertheless, it notes, the vast majority of individuals with mental illness continue to function in their daily lives.

According to WebMD.com, the most common types of mental illness fall under the categories of:

• anxiety disorders;
• mood disorders, such as depression and bipolar disorder;
• psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia;
• impulse control and addiction disorders, such as gambling, alcohol, drugs, food and pornography;
• personality disorders, such as anti-social personality disorder;
• obsessive compulsive disorder; and
• post-traumatic stress disorder.

Below are some resources for those affected in some way by mental illness:

• National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD); goo.gl/3zupru
• Crisis Text Line 741741, which serves anyone in any type of emotional crisis (not just suicide), providing 24/7 support and information access for free.
• National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) of Greater Indianapolis: www.namindy.org;
• several resources are listed at www.archindy.org/martinseandfamily;
• free 24/7 hotline for crisis and suicide intervention through Families First: 317-251-7757, or text CNSIS to 839863;
• Interfaith Mental Health Coalition: goo.gl/5k39Q2;
• Catholic Help Network, available at cfn.archindy.org or by calling 211 (Connect2Help).
a culture of life is "essential to who we are," the 2017-18 Respect Life Program. In an Oct. 1 Respect Life Program statement, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program that the Battos lead at the Annunciation Parish in Greencastle and the local prison has attracted him. He eventually joined in the RCIA program that the Battos lead at the Annunciation Parish in Greencastle. 

"It's a very fulfilling kind of feeling," Bernie says. "Something so important to us as Catholic, the redemption of souls of Jesus—these people have experienced God's love and mercy. And knowing that you have been part of their rebirth, it is overwhelming."

Yet so is the fear that the Battos—who have been married for 50 years—feel for their "children in the faith."

It's a fear they share through the story of Tom, one of the inmates.

Concern and commitment

When Tom was first approached about whether he would be open to meeting with a visitor, his initial response was, "Leave me alone."

Yet something about the Battos' presence and approach at the prison attracted him. He eventually joined the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program that the Battos lead at the Annunciation Parish in Greencastle. And he was one of the 10 men to enter the Church in May.

"He's very committed and so dedicated," Bernie says. "He enjoys the community, the support and the Bible study."

According to the Battos, Tom also fears what will happen to him in the coming months when he is scheduled to be released from prison, and that sense of community and support is no longer there.

That fear is real, according to an archdiocesan task force on prison ministry that met regularly in 2016 to develop a plan to help individuals, parishes and the broader Church in central and southern Indiana make a deeper commitment to this outreach.

Teresa and Bernie were members of that task force. They also continue to be strong voices in putting into place the task force's recommendations to help assisting people who are re-entering society after being in prison.

Key elements of this goal include training potential mentors to help people during this transition, and establishing connections with parishes and the broader Church in central and southern Indiana make a deeper commitment to this outreach. The Battos and Bernie were members of that task force. They also continue to be strong voices in putting into place the task force's recommendations to help assisting people who are re-entering society after being in prison.

Are you interested in becoming involved in a ministry that focuses on bringing hope and salvation to people in prisons and jails?

Are you already involved in corrections ministry in the archdiocese and want to see a bigger impact of helping people while they are in prison—or once they are released?

An archdiocesan conference called "Corrections: A Ministry of Hope and Salvation" is designed to help anyone interested in this effort to change the lives of people who are in jails and prisons.

The conference will be held at St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., in Columbus, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Oct. 28, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The day will start with a welcome and a reflection, followed by Mass. Father Ron Cloutier, director of Corrections Ministries for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, will share his story of redemption and forgiveness that resulted years after Blackburn shot Wallace during a carjacking crime.

Presentations on successful corrections ministry programs will also be available. And a complimentary lunch and door prizes will be offered.

Prison ministry conference set for Oct. 28 in Columbus

By John Shaughnessy

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Building culture of life happens through daily actions, says cardinal

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Building a culture of life is "essential to who we are," a cardinal said.

"This happens through our daily actions, how we treat one another, how we live our lives," said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The Catholic Church in the United States focuses each October as Respect Life Month. It opens with Respect Life Sunday, which this year was on Oct. 1. In an Oct. 3 statement, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York launched the monthly observance, but also the 2017-18 Respect Life Program.

The theme for the yearlong program is "Be Not Afraid," and will be in effect through September 2018.

New materials are produced each year to help Catholics understand, value and become engaged with supporting the God-given dignity of every person. This year's packet of materials—on a range of life issues and available in English and Spanish—are available at www.usccb.org/respectlife. Articles, bulletins inserts, prayers and activities are also available in print and digital formats.

"Once again, we mark the thought of welcoming and embracing the sacredness of reconciliation once a month at the Putnam prison.

"The moments that stand out the most to me are all of the souls that Bernie and Teresa have helped to shepherd into the Catholic Church through their prison RCIA class."

"They have helped many offenders to encounter Jesus Christ with their visit and the Catholic services they coordinate every Wednesday," he says. "In their witness of Catholic faith, they have accompanied many men on the path to a deeper relationship with our Lord."

"That's their ultimate goal," the Battos say. "They have seen men trying to change. They have witnessed God making that change possible. It's a combination that keeps them coming back each week."

"We walk the walk with them," Teresa says. "It's been a wonderful life. When you've been blessed, you try to bless others."

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"At such times, we may feel alone and unequipped to handle the circumstances," he continued. "But we have an anchor of hope to cling to. With words that echo through thousands of years into the corners of our hearts, God says to us, 'Do not fear: I am with you' [Is 41:10]."

The 2017-2018 Respect Life theme of "Be Not Afraid" is a reminder of "this promise," he said.

"God isn't a detached, distant observer to our pain; the Eternal Son became man and himself experienced immense suffering—for you and for me. His wounds indicate the very essence of our identity and worth: We are loved by God," Cardinal Dolan said.

"During those times when people doubt the value of their own lives or ‘falter at the thought of welcoming and embracing the life of another,’ he said, reflecting on the ‘healed wounds of the risen Christ’ can show all that ‘even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory.’"

"He makes all things new. He is the God of redemption," Cardinal Dolan said. "That's powerful. That's something to hold on to. He is always with us."

"As followers of Jesus Christ ... we are called to be missionary disciples commissioned to reach out to one another, especially to the weak and vulnerable," Cardinal Dolan said.

"This Respect Life Month and always, let's walk with each other, let's help each other embrace God's gift of human life," Cardinal Dolan said. "Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us: 'Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age' [Mt 28:20]."
An ambulance rushed Nathan to a children's hospital while Kristen was treated at the hospital where she finally arrived.

Mother and son both survived.

"I really believe if it had not been for Our Lady being in that car, just watching over us, we wouldn't have either one of them survive."

"Next to praying in a very personal way to Jesus, the rosary is the most powerful prayer we can offer the Lord," said Milharcic.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

When my grandmother had bouts of illness, I used the rosary and prayed for her, and later the repose of his soul. Who knows, in my grandfather's critical, life-threatening situation, the rosary gave me stability. It helped me fall in love with St. John Paul the Great and his teachings on Theology of the Body.

"I've used the rosary before major exams and prospective job interviews. If I have to sum up what I feel about the rosary, it's my go-to prayer with all I struggle with, and it's a prayer I know works."

One of the beauties of the rosary for me is its simplicity. You don't need a theology degree to appreciate it. The prayers themselves, along with solid meditations, can take you to a new relationship with the Blessed Mother and Christ you had never before.

"As a 'twenty something,' it's a prayer that gives me solace. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati called the rosary 'a testament in my pocket' that he always carried with him. I encourage my brothers to do the same, and all of us, especially men, it's a weapon we all need!"

Justice Department issues memo on religious liberty to federal agencies

WASHINGTON (CNS)—On the same day the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued interim rules to expand the HHS contraceptives mandate, the executive order directed the Department of Justice issues memo on religious liberty to federal agencies

"The depth and breadth of constitutional and statutory protections for religious observance and practice in America confirm the enduring importance of religious freedom to the United States," the memo said. "They also provide clear guidance for all those charged with enforcing federal law. The free exercise of religion is not limited to a right to hold personal religious beliefs or even to worship in a sacred place. It encompasses all aspects of religious observance and practice."

Department of Justice officials, who spoke with reporters by phone on Oct. 6 prior to the department's release of its guidelines on religious liberty, stressed that the guidelines do not establish "new protections," but instead summarize the law and "makes clear that religious liberty is not just a right to personal belief" but encompasses all parts of life.

The guidance memo on religious freedom also noted that the Supreme Court recently overturned an appeals court's decision that the religious-liberty protections and the freedom to exercise such beliefs "have served this country well," said that the U.S. Constitution's protection of religious beliefs and the freedom to exercise such beliefs "have served this country well," and "makes clear that religious liberty is not just a right to personal belief" but encompasses all parts of life.

The guidance memo on religious freedom also noted that the Supreme Court recently overturned an appeals court's decision that the religious-liberty protections and the freedom to exercise such beliefs "have served this country well." It noted that it does not provide "religious employers are entitled to hire and fire on the basis of members of the ACLU and Service Employees International Union (ACLU) or on any other basis."

When the Supreme Court returned the case to the lower courts with instructions to determine if contraceptive insurance coverage could be offered through their insurance companies without involving religious employers who choose to opt out. Senior Health and Human Services officials who spoke to reporters on Oct. 5 said that the rule on the condition of anonymity said that the exemption to the mandate would apply to all the groups that had challenged it.

He noted that it does not provide "religious employers are entitled to hire and fire on the basis of religious belief in the law and "makes clear that religious liberty is not just a right to personal belief" but encompasses all parts of life."

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"We've traveled a long way," he added, of the multiple challenges to the mandate in recent years, which he described as an "unnecessary culture war fight."

Rienzi noted that the HHS rule could have "both religious employers are entitled to hire and fire on the basis of religious belief in the law and "makes clear that religious liberty is not just a right to personal belief" but encompasses all parts of life."

Exemption to the mandate would apply to all the groups that had challenged it, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, who Becket (Becket) Presents. They will "still need relief in courts," he said, but was confident now that it would happen.

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—The thousands of people at the country music festival on Oct. 1 in Las Vegas that turned into the scene of the largest mass shooting in modern U.S. history are likely to have suffered trauma even if they weren’t wounded — and even if they didn’t admit it to anyone, according to psychologists and pastoral counselors interviewed by Catholic News Service (CNS).

But trauma victims with a belief in a loving God, as well as support from family and friends who live a Christian lifestyle, can ease the trauma and be restored to a sense of coherence.

“The thing in terrorism is the trauma it inflicts on people left behind. It’s much more severe. It’s hard to recognize, it shakes one’s worldview,” said Father Stephen Rossetti, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., who is a professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington and the former head of the Saint Luke Institute. “The word ‘terrorism’ is the right word. It strikes terror, that’s what it was designed to do.”

‘terrorism’ is the right word. It strikes terror, that’s what it was designed to do. It’s never a real true sense except when it was irrational. We have difficulty experiencing it, they know that God is at our beck and call, just gives things and being somebody who happens [afterward].

We will not let this man change who we are, ‘We will not let this man change who we are.’

Rossetti said, and their response was, “We would say it’s a very Christian witness. Jesus would say we would respond to this hatred with love.

There are human responses to trauma that get articulated in post-traumatic stress,” said Cynthia Eriksson, who is part of the psychology program at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. “Our bodies have been created to respond to threats and respond to that experience,” Eriksson said. “We can have physiological responses. We can be easily angered. We can feel an ongoing sense of threat. We can also have cognitive, thinking responses, where we think about the incident when we don’t want to. Surprising incidents becoming reminders, flashbacks putting us back in that situation again.”

But drawing on Christianity to make sense of the senseless can help, she added.

“The Christian tradition has, at its core, lament. The idea that we can actually speak out of our pain to the divine, to God. It’s Christian reaching out in relation to God, saying ‘Why?’ saying ‘We need you.’” Eriksson said. “You promised your protection, that’s not what I feel, that’s not where I am.”

“The opportunity of the church, in whatever tradition that church is, is to create a safe place of worship,” she added, noting that even Jesus cried out of our pain to the divine, to God. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46)

Victims may find comfort in God, but others rebuke God for letting such a catastrophe happen. “It’s partly depending on your faith,” said Deacon William Hahn, a psychologist and member of the Catholic Medical Association. “Even people sometimes who have fairly strong faith start questioning this.”

Deacon Hahn said, “When things like this occur, [it boils down to] what their view of God is determines what happens [afterward]. If they view God as being somebody who just gives things and is at our beck and call, they go the other way, but if they look at God as Christians and Catholics as we know it, they know that God suffers along with us, like when his friend Lazarus died—and he’s weeping now.”

The deacon, who attended to people traumatized in two Pittsburgh-area plane crashes in the 1990s, noted: “As humans, we have this desperate need to explain things. And sometimes there’s no rational explanation. The suspicion with the person that did this there [Las Vegas] may never be a real true sense except that he was irrational. We have difficulty handling something like that. Sometimes we beat things to death, practically, trying to explain things. Unfortunately, evil exists.”

Deacon Hahn pointed to studies that show that about 40 percent of combat veterans have a “resiliency” that allows them to avoid post-traumatic stress disorder. So it is with civilians, he said. “The further they remove themselves from the timeline of the trauma, the better they are.”

“Perhaps,” said Jones, a clinical psychologist and professor at Virginia Tech University, who has been a victim of PTSD, “many times, it’s a quite lengthy period afterward. One of the most common responses is not only trauma but avoidance,” Jones remarked. “It’s one of the major [outcome] clusters. Rather than getting help with nightmares and flashbacks and hypervigilance, people will simply avoid, or adopt maladaptive ways of coping. Sometimes it’s drinking, sometimes it’s drugs.”

Citing a Harvard study that attributed people’s faith for far fewer suicides given the numbers suffering from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Jones, told CNS: “I am a Christian, and I believe in the power of prayer, and I’ve found in my private practice and I’ve also found with a number of clients that I’ve worked with and supervised, that religious coping can be quite effective.”
Abortion undermines the dignity of children, mothers

By Marcellino D’Ambrosio

In my early high school years, I hung around the hippie crowd. We were all about long hair, rock music and anti-war marches. My English teacher was the coolest teacher at the school. She had us read a new best-seller, The Population Bomb by Paul Ehrlich. As a Catholic, I was horrified to discover that it contradicted everything Mary had taught me on Sunday. But I cared about these women in crisis. So I went to one of the rallies. And I bought into the argument that we Catholics “should not impose our religion on others.” Thus, I became pro-choice.

A year later, I had an encounter with Christ that changed me from a Sunday Catholic to a budding disciple. I asked Jesus to become the center of my life, to unlock in me the power of his Holy Spirit, to form my life and perspective by his word. Very quickly, without anyone trying to convince me, I just knew that abortion was wrong.

It became clear to me that abortion is the deliberate taking of an innocent human life. The most important role of government is to protect the right to life with special care to protect the most innocent and most vulnerable.

I realized the common sense of St. Teresa of Calcutta’s logic—legal abortion is wrong. With special care to protect the most vulnerable, government is to protect the right to life.

Faith

Kathleen Wilson, left, of Fredericksburg, Va., helps a new mother with one of her newborn twins at one of the homes operated by Mary’s Shelter, a Catholic organization that provides housing and financial support to pregnant women in crisis. A truly pro-life attitude rejects any dichotomy between the rights of the baby and the needs of the mother. (CNS photo/Catholic News Service, Chaz Muth)

It is a pointed and comprehensive phrase that reflects the pro-life message about valuing all human life. However, the Bible contains other great examples that highlight the value of life.

Consider the moment Elizabeth and Mary met at the visitation. Both women were miraculously pregnant—Mary, by the virginal conception of Jesus, and Elizabeth after having been thought barren because of her advanced age. The recognition of the precious lives within them caused the child within Elizabeth’s womb to leap for joy (Lk 1:41).

Abraham’s wife, Sarah, also was barren. When three of God’s angels suggested that she would never become pregnant, she laughed. Their response was, “Is anything too marvelous for the Lord to do?” (Gn 18:14).

In her misery, she went to the house of the Lord in Shiloh to pray. She prayed so fervently that Eli the priest accused her of being drunk! Eli was moved by Hannah’s explanation and said, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have requested!” (1 Sm 1:17).

Abortion is not just an affront to the dignity of the child. It is also an attack on the dignity of the woman. It reinforces the fear and sense of incompetence that tells a woman she can’t handle it, and leaves her weak and riddled with lingering guilt.

To be pro-life is to say to the mother: “Be not afraid! You are not alone. God and we will walk this journey with you. You are strong! You are beautiful! You will be an incredible mom! You are able!”

Even where there is no legislation, the church has never abandoned women and the unborn. More than 1,100 babies have been delivered there over the years, mostly to women who had seriously contemplated abortion. But the funny thing was that after being strengthened and encouraged by the new community they found at Angels, only a handful decided to put their children up for adoption.

With others’ help, they had overcome their fear and loneliness. Once they had rediscovered a new identity as competent women of strength, they were able to embrace their vocation to motherhood with courage, confidence and joy. They had found a new identity as awesome mothers.

From the beginning, Angels Clinic made the same offer that Mother Teresa used to make to women contemplating abortion—if, after giving birth, they still don’t think they could handle motherhood, give the child to us. We will provide a loving home for your precious child.

Life is celebrated as a great gift from God in the Old and New Testaments

By Marge Fenelon

When we think about the Respect Life cause in biblical terms, we probably recall the phrase from Deuteronomy that has become a popular pro-life slogan, “Choose life” (Dt 30:19).

Life is a gift and we are called to give the gift of life. The respect we owe life is expressed by the virginal conception of Jesus, and Elizabeth after having been thought barren because of her advanced age.

Indeed not. The next year, Sarah gave birth to Isaac and Miriam. From Isaac sprang forth the 12 tribes of Israel.

The story of Hannah, wife of Elkannah, is touching (1 Sm 1). In addition to suffering the shame of her barrenness (large families were considered a sign of God’s favor), Hannah was mercilessly taunted by Elkannah’s other wife. In her misery, she went to the house of the Lord in Shiloh to pray. She prayed so fervently that Eli the priest accused her of being drunk! Eli was moved by Hannah’s explanation and said, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have requested!” (1 Sm 1:17).

God granted Hannah’s request, giving her a beautiful baby whom she named Samuel. In her gratitude, she took the boy to the house of the Lord and gave him back to God, presenting him to Eli for training as a priest. Samuel became the last of Israel’s judges and a great prophet. God’s goodness to Hannah didn’t stop there. After Samuel, she gave birth to five more children—three boys and two girls.

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To be pro-life is to say to the mother: “Be not afraid! You are not alone. God and we will walk this journey with you. You are strong! You are beautiful! You will be an incredible mom! You are able!”

A truly pro-life attitude rejects any dichotomy between the rights of the baby and the needs of the mother. The motto of Angels Clinic could be the motto of the entire pro-life movement: “Love them both!”

(Marcellino D’Ambrosio is an author, professor, speaker and media personality. Connect with him at dritaly.com or on Twitter @DrItaly)

Life is celebrated as a great gift from God in the Old and New Testaments.

Marge Fenelon is a freelance writer from Milwaukee. Her website is http://margefenelon.com/)

The Visitation,” circa 1465, which was sculpted by Luca della Robbia, was featured in an exhibit at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. The Bible contains great examples that highlight the value of life. Consider the moment Elizabeth and Mary, both miraculously pregnant, met at the visitation. (CNS photo/courtesy National Gallery of Art)
The Sexual Revolution of the 1960s changed American society 

The 1960s were among the most tumultuous years in American history, in many ways. For Catholics also, the 1960s were a new beginning. 

The years of the papacy of Pope St. John XXIII and Pope Paul VI were a turning point in the life of the Catholic Church. 

It’s been called both the Sexual Revolution and Social Liberation. It was an amazing shift in how we viewed women’s sexuality that was part of the feminist movement that insisted that women and men shared the same basic human rights and sexual freedoms that men enjoyed. 

That “freedom” was not deemed possible because of the years of fear of pregnancy. But in 1960, the first birth control pill, developed by Drs. John Rock and Gregory Pincus at the Population Council, was licensed for use. Within five years, 6 million women were using it so they could have sex anytime they wanted without fear of pregnancy. 

If we are superstitious, this day may be pretty scary. Friday the 13th has a bad reputation as we see in the popular culture. 

The day is marked by a name, and many references to the evil things that can happen on this day. 

We don’t want bad things to happen to our paths, and we dare not walk under a ladder. We knock on wood and turn around three times mumbling some incantation or saying bad things will happen on this day. 

Besides that, kids have no real power over what happens to them. Of course, they can make bad decisions, like deciding they can make bad decisions, like deciding they can make bad decisions, like deciding they can make bad decisions, like deciding they can make bad decisions, like deciding they can make bad decisions, like deciding 

But sometimes, when we face things we can’t control, we look to superstitions for guidance. Some Middle Eastern religious groups rely on fate as a reason for their behavior. 

And this may account for much of our culture’s dependence on superstition. 

In Greencastle, is a thirty-nine-year-old nun from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.) I could not have planned or staged it. 

I am a priest who kayaks—and the Lord is always with me.
A Little Piece of God Trying to Get Home
By Stephanie Kilpatrick

I don’t think much on Who am I?
I put one foot in front of the other Ordering my steps. Most times.
Is this a mystery that needs solving Who am I?
I come from a place of Love Of helping the one assigned to me Most always. If I’m
A little piece of God trying to get home What might this mean about Who am I?
(Stephanie Kilpatrick is a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis. Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wis., uses his crozier to nudge a helium balloon heavensward outside SS. Peter and Paul Church in Weyauwega, Wis., on June 26, 2016. Bishop Ricken joined Father Xavier Santiago, left, altar servers and parishioners as they launched 150 balloons as part of the parish’s 150th anniversary celebration.)

QUESTION CORNER/FR. KENNETH DOYLE

Remain in church until the end of Mass to give thanks to God for the sacrament

Q: I am surprised by the number of people who regularly leave church immediately after receiving the Eucharist.
A: It is distracting and disruptive of my own personal prayer when I see these people head directly to the exits. This is the closest and most holy time we have to spend with the Lord.

FR. KENNETH DOYLE

I believe that you have done all that you needed to do by putting the school on notice. Certainly, the principal is as concerned for the students’ welfare as you are, and would take all necessary precautions to keep the children out of harm’s way. And if the man’s arrest record is as extensive as you describe, I would think that the other school authorities have surely been forewarned.

FR. KENNETH DOYLE

To be honest, I believe that this individual is not a registered sex offender and that you are not certain about any convictions causes me to wonder whether your concerns may be founded in part on rumor and hearsay. But you were right to share your apprehensions with the school principal and, in so doing, discharge your moral duty.

(Questions may be sent to Fr. Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbus Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.)
Henry Drake. Uncle of several.
MOBLEY, Jerome F., 78, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, Sept. 22. Husband of Darla Mobley. Father of Elizabeth Andrews, Amanda Kobach, Barbara Patchett, Matthew Morales, Patrick and Robert Mobley. The way of nonviolence applies as much to today's society as it did when Rev. King put his philosophy of nonviolence to bring about social change.
MURRY, George V., Bishop of Covington, Ky., said the nonviolent principles for acting nonviolently to seek justice to be waged are there two possible answers. One is resort to the all-too-prevalent method of physical violence and corroding hatred. The danger of this method is its finiteness. Violence solves no social problems; it merely creates new and more complicated ones. Through the vistas of time a voice still cries to every potential Peter, "Put up your sword!" The shores of history are white with the blasted bones of nations and communities that failed to follow this command.
One of the points Rev. King made about nonviolent resistance as an alternative is that it "does not seek to defeat or humiliate the opponent, but to win his friendship and understanding." "The nonviolent resister," he said, "must often express his protest through noncooperation or boycotts, but he realizes that noncooperation and boycotts are not ends themselves; they are merely means to awaken a sense of moral shame in the opponent. The end is redemption and reconciliation. The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, while the aftermath of violence is tragic bitterness."
"Things looked bleak, and the violence was real," but Rev. King held that high ground. And people rallied to him," said Carol Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, which sponsored the news conference.
"We believe the way of nonviolence is as relevant today as ever." The United States has many challenges, including renewed racism by groups like the Ku Klux Klan, he said, noted that from its founding in 1882, the Knights as an organization “has long assuaged the cause of racial equality.”
Anderson added, “Today, as then, we stand united in the principle that all are created equal and are entitled to the equal protection of our nation’s laws; second, in that democracy, there can be no policy for political violence.
We believe the way of nonviolence is as relevant today as ever.”
The Rev. Eugene Rivers, founder and director of the Boston-based W.J. Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies, called this moment “a biblical opportunity to be salt and light in the midst of this political darkness. ... We have to learn how to disagree without being disagreeable.”

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington is seen on Oct. 2. Faith leaders gathered near the monument to commemorate Rev. King’s 1957 essay about “Nonviolence and Racial Justice.” (CNS photo/Joeaxx)
New Albany park evokes both history and Trinity

By Patricia Happel Cornwall

Special to The Criterion

NEW ALBANY—At noon on Sept. 27, an enthusiastic crowd gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Holy Trinity Heritage Park on Market Street in New Albany. As dignitaries offered their opening remarks, the bells of St. Mary Church, one block away, rang the “Angelus.” The event marks the latest phase in the campus development plan of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities.

The park is located on the site of the first Catholic church in the city, the former Holy Trinity Church, which was built in 1852 but burned in 1975. After the destruction of the church, its parishioners became part of St. Mary Parish. The design of the green space incorporates the destroyed church’s heat-cracked steeple bells, four original stained-glass windows, a large stone from its walls.

The trees were planted by a professional nursery, but the rest of the plants, 912 in all, were planted in one week by youth volunteers from the Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC) program based in Orlando.

Cracked and deformed by fire, the bells that once rang from the belfry of Holy Trinity Church in New Albany are now displayed as relics in the Gulf of Mexico. Missions Inps. owner. See photos, maps. Call Robin @ 317-506-8516.

The park’s mulched flower and shrub beds are punctuated by newly planted saplings which will grow to shade the landscape. Many of the plants, including azalea bushes, are grouped in threes, evoking the Trinity.

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Father’s presence. And he knew his mother was there, and his beloved disciple. So, too, for us. We have eyes to see—identify the goodness. It’s there. It always is. God is constantly in one way or another communicating his unconditional love.”

After the Mass, Father Hoyt had advice for all Catholics in regard to mental illness.

“Some people still think ... that some people who suffer from depression or other things should just pick themselves up by their bootstraps and make a decision that everything is OK,” he said.

“We need to be careful about using a word to identify a person by their illness. For example, saying that a person is bipolar, that is wrong. That is a human person with a condition, with bipolar [disorder].

“Or to use terms for people who suffer from psychotic disorders such as ‘crazy’ or ‘nutty,’ those are inadmissible words.”

Reducing the stigma of mental illness was a hope of Stevens when he approached the archdiocese about having a Mass for those affected by mental illness.

He also hoped such a Mass would help them “find comfort and healing through the Eucharist, through Jesus Christ and his precious body and blood in the Blessed Sacrament, and spiritual healing,” he said.

“This [Mass] was a chance to get to see others who are struggling with the same thing and find common ground in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

According to Phyllis Strauss, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, Stevens’ hopes were accomplished.

“I thought it was such a compassionate act for the Church to do,” she said. “I was touched deeply. Just the thought of holding a special Mass for folks like me who have carried the cross of mental illness makes me cry.”

Strauss was diagnosed with a form of schizophrenia in her early 20s. Daily medication helps keep her condition under control, “but I have had terrible episodes,” she admitted.

“While keeping very, very close to the sacraments, I have found the Church to be a constant source of help, mercy and love,” she said. “I am so thankful for all the Church has done for me.”

Cardinal Ritter Day

On Jan. 16, 1961, Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis, who had served as the bishop and later archbishop of Indianapolis from 1933 to 1946, was created a cardinal by Pope John XXIII. In celebration, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis hosted “Cardinal Ritter Day” on Feb. 12, 1961. This event included a religious reception at the cathedral, a dinner for priests at the Indianapolis Athletic Club, and a public reception in the Cathedral High School gymnasium (now the Catholic Center assembly hall). In this photo, Cardinal Ritter, along with archdiocesan priests Msgr. James Hickey, left, and Msgr. James Jansen, pose on the steps of the cathedral rectory before heading to the religious reception.

(Would you like to comment on or share information about this photo? Contact archdiocesan archivist Julie Motyka at 800-382-9836, ext. 1538; (317) 236-1538; or by e-mail at jmotyka@archindy.org.)

Volunteers Needed

Every other year, 20,000+ Catholic young people and their chaperones come together to pray, learn, and grow in their faith at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC).

This year’s conference will be held November 16-18 at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium. As the host diocese, we need 1000 volunteers throughout the three days to serve in a variety of roles.

A complete list of volunteer needs including descriptions, requirements, shifts and times can be found at:

www.archindyym.com/volunteer