Cardinal Amato said, “When the young Bernard [his given name] Casey, entered the Capuchins, he passed from one community of faith to another.”

Blessed Solanus “focused on the poor, the sick, the marginalized and the hopeless,” Cardinal Amato said. “He always fasted in order to give others their lunch. For hours upon hours, he patiently received, listened and counseled the ever-growing number of people who came to him.”

The friar saw people “as human beings, images of God. He didn’t pay attention to race, color or religious creed,” the cardinal said.

Expansion is ‘a huge, huge blessing’ for Lawrenceburg pregnancy care center

By Natalie Hoefer

LAWRENCEBURG—Two things are consistent as Kristi Potts shows off the expanded Pregnancy Care Center of Southeast Indiana facility: her beaming smile, and her praise of God.

“We’re in a unique situation here in southeastern Indiana,” says Potts, executive director of the Lawrenceburg organization which serves Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley and Switzerland counties. “We are the only medical pregnancy center for these five counties. “In the last five to six years, we’ve just had tremendous growth in size, in reach, in services and the number of clients we’ve been seeing.”

But, she says, with only 1,500 square feet, “we were very limited in space, which limited our number of services and the number of clients we could serve. … When the opportunity for the space next door came up, God just made it all happen.”

Reach more, serve more, save more lives

The 28-year-old organization had been in a commercial building for about 10 years. They were not looking to expand.

But in the spring of 2016 when the space adjoining the pregnancy care center became available, says Potts, their landlord hoped the organization would be able to lease it.

Their landlord is Don Townsend, owner of Townsend Properties, Inc., and a member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora along with his wife, Carolyn. Both are supporters of the pregnancy care center.

“I can’t talk highly enough of them,” says Potts. “Where else can a young girl and her boyfriend or husband go [in the area] and seek counseling and get help for nothing? I’m very, very proud that they are a tenant of mine. It’s the biggest blessing we have in [the area].”

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich

CARDINAL BLASE J. CUPICH

Baltimore (CNS)—At the start of their annual fall assembly in Baltimore on Nov. 13, U.S. Catholic bishops faced some big issues—immigration and racism—straight on, and zeroed in on how to raise the national level of discussion on those topics starting in the church pews.

They acknowledged the current polarization in the country and divides within the Church, and stressed their responsibility as Church leaders to promote immigration reform, educate parishioners on justice issues and listen to those affected by “sins of racism.”

On immigration, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, who is chairman of the Committee on Migration of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said there needs to be a “path to legalization and citizenship for the millions of our unauthorized brothers and sisters who are law-abiding, tax-paying and contributing to our society.”

The bishops responded with applause and an agreement by voice vote to issue a statement calling for comprehensive immigration reform.

The bishops were keenly aware that their defense of immigrants was not necessarily the view of the Church in the U.S. at large. For example, Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich spoke of the dangers of Catholics falling prey to and believing “poisoning rhetoric” about immigrants that demonzies them.

“There’s something wrong in our churches, where the Gospel is proclaimed, and yet people leave our worship services, our Masses on weekends, with that rhetoric still echoing in their hearts,” he said.

Several bishops also brought up the
from the area funded everything you now see,” says Potts. While providing a tour of the expansion, “It doubled our space. It was a huge, huge blessing. … Our whole motto for this expansion project was to reach more, serve more, which would equal more lives saved.”

An alternative to providers who offer abortion

Among the new features which will help accomplish the goal of saving lives are an additional counseling room that doubles the number of clients able to be seen, an extra bathroom for pregnancy testing, and a new conference room that allows for group-style classes and events with speakers.

And with the expansion, the center is able to offer two new services: testing for early fertility status to both men and women, and a men’s mentoring program.

“Our goal is to reach those women and men who are most at risk for an abortion, but it also helps address the sexual health concerns maybe before they even end that unplanned pregnancy,” says Potts. “We consider it not just, ‘Let’s just reduce your risk and give you condoms or birth control,’ but ‘Let’s eliminate that risk and say you’re worth it, and that God has a plan for your life, and that there is a better way out there.’”

“We also know that providing relevant medical services, things that men and women in our community are really needing, they’re going to see us as a provider of those kinds of services and care instead of other providers that might offer abortion services.”

As for the men’s mentoring program, says Potts, “We can’t forget how important that father is in that child’s life. If we only focus on the woman and her abortion decision and forget about him, then we just missed a big piece of that puzzle.”

That puzzle includes more than assisting pregnant women and mentoring men. The pregnancy care center also offers an abstinence education program in local middle schools and high schools, substance abuse education and referrals to community resources.

With the new space and the existing and new services, the pregnancy care center is growing. The number of clients seen so far this year exceeds the number of clients seen by this time last year.

“A lot of hopeful stories’

Nestled within the five-county area the care center serves is All Saints Parish in Dearborn County. The faith community, like many others in the area, supports the organization.

“The parish has just been imperative for us to do what we do, very influential and just great dozens in the community,” says Potts.

Two women of the parish are particularly involved at Pregnancy Care Center of Southeast Indiana—client services director Jennie Chafin and board president Teresa Ward.

“I love this ministry,” says Ward, 62. “This is the most compassionate loving place. Everyone who walks through those doors is welcomed and made to feel loved. They’re given hope.”

While she has been president of the board for the last several years, Ward has volunteered with the organization for 12 years. She worked with clients who participated in the center’s earn-and-learn program where, by attending education classes such as nutrition, breast feeding and healthy relationships, women can earn points to spend in the organization’s baby store of donated items.

“I have seen a lot of hopeful stories,” Ward says. “The earn-and-learn programs are so important. It helps the girls know that they can take care of a baby. They’re learning new thought processes and breaking that cycle of the environments in which they were raised.”

Chafin, 33, agrees.

“A lot [of the women who visit] have grown up in foster care, so haven’t had a stable home life,” she notes.

Through the nearly 30 volunteers Chafin coordinates and the nearly 100 types of classes she organizes, “We work with them through the pregnancy and after the baby comes, connect them to other resources, and make it a healthy and safe pregnancy for the baby and them,” she says.

“It’s his ministry, not ours”

All Saints Parish is not the only Catholic community supporting the pregnancy care center. In August 2014, Lawrenceburg Knights of Columbus Council #1231 donated a new ultrasound machine to the facility.

“We had this archaic dinosaur of a machine,” says Potts, who is trained to use the equipment. “We didn’t have the budget for a new machine.

“The day we got the call that we’d been approved [to receive the new machine from the Knights of Columbus], we were in tears and just praising God!”

“It has completely transformed our ministry. It really seals … that this is not just a blob of tissue as [they’ve] been led to believe. This is a baby, and there’s the heartbeat.”

It is through the generosity of organizations and individuals in the community that the pregnancy care center is able to operate, says Potts. But there is one other key factor.

“Our doors would not be open without God. His it’s ministry, not ours,” she notes.

The centrality of God to the organization comes through in its mission, which Potts says is “to use our services and our skills and our different opportunities to educate [the clients] and empower them to choose life for their baby.

“It’s our mission to share the Gospel with every man and woman that walks through our door, because we do want that young woman to choose life for her baby, but we know that the only thing that’s going to stop that cycle of whatever it is that’s led her down that path is going to be God.

“Sharing our faith with our clients is our number one mission. We hope by showing her love and compassion that she chooses love and compassion for her child.”

Pregnancy Care Center of Southeast Indiana, 62 Doughty Road, Suite 5, in Lawrenceburg, is currently in need of medical volunteers, diapers, baby wipes, baby formulas and financial donations, which can be made online at www.helpingpregnanc.org. Checks can also be made out to Pregnancy Care Center SE and mailed to 62 Doughty Road, Suite 5, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025.

For more information on the pregnancy care center, its services or needs, contact Kristi Potts at 812-537-4357.

Anonymous.

“TheCriterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.
Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2017 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.
The bishops who spoke on the floor didn’t buy that argument, and said Catholics can’t use it to push aside the need to care for immigrants. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco called this a watershed moment where the Church could play a leadership role.

Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, adding that this was “on full display.”

He also urged them to follow the lead of Pope Francis in his recent statement, “We can make America great, but you don’t make America great by making America mean,” he added, referring to a slogan of President Donald J. Trump without naming him.

On racism, Bishop George V. Murphy of Youngstown, Ohio, head of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, said the Church must recognize “and frankly acknowledge” its failings. He said the issue has found a “troubling resurgence” in recent years, referring particularly to a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., this year where he said racial hatred was “on full display.”

“Racism isn’t going to be conquered by speech, but by actions,” said Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Vatican secretary of state, at a dinner celebrating the USCCB’s 119th anniversary.

The cardinal told the bishops that the Church needs them today to “bring not only material assistance, but also the spiritual balm of healing, comfort and hope to new waves of migrants and refugees, abortion, physician-assisted suicide, gender ideologies, the meaning of marriage and all the other headlines continue to be hotly debated. But our role continues to be witnessing the Gospel.”

He explained that the National Catholic War Council, created by the U.S. bishops in 1917 in response to the world refugee crisis that emerged from World War I and the forerunner to the USCCB, was formed to address great national and international needs at a time not unlike today.

The cardinal emphasized other modern challenges such as recent natural disasters and mass shootings.

But the problems of the day should not overwhelm Church leaders who should recognize signs of new hope in the Church, mentioned by the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who addressed the bishops at the start of the meeting, and encouraged them to make time for prayer amid “burdens of the office.”

He told them to be adventurous in the “new frontier of faith” and to make a strong effort to accompany young people who often question their faith.

The bishops also heard from the bishop of the diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, a region hard hit by Hurricane Harvey, said often when tragedies occur, “you just feel very much alone and wonder how you are going to move forward.”

The bishops also previewed upcoming events such as the Fifth National Encuentro, “V Encuentro,” next September in Grapevine, Texas, and World Youth Day on Jan. 22-27, 2019, in Panama City.

The bishops identified key issues they are addressing with Congress, including health care, the federal budget and tax reform, and concluded their assembly by mentioning the impact of recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Endowments make a difference.

Do more for the least of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

God calls us to share the gifts we’ve been given. A wonderful way to do that is by creating or contributing to an endowment fund. With a fund held and managed by the Catholic Community Foundation you can support your preferred Catholic ministry. Last year, for instance, endowments helped Catholic Charities serve over 209,000 people in need of services including food, shelter and clothing in our Archdiocese. Start giving back today and make an impact in your Catholic Community. We can show you how.

30 YEARS OF LEGACIES

Endowments make a difference.

Do more for the least of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

God calls us to share the gifts we’ve been given. A wonderful way to do that is by creating or contributing to an endowment fund. With a fund held and managed by the Catholic Community Foundation you can support your preferred Catholic ministry. Last year, for instance, endowments helped Catholic Charities serve over 209,000 people in need of services including food, shelter and clothing in our Archdiocese. Start giving back today and make an impact in your Catholic Community. We can show you how.

1-800-382-9836, ext. 1482
www.archindy.org/CCF
For God, For Others, Forever

On this #GIVINGTUESDAY, help create an enduring, positive impact in the lives of others by making a gift to the United Catholic Appeal.

“All it takes is ONE GOOD PERSON to restore hope.”

POPE FRANCIS


The bishops who spoke on the floor didn’t buy that argument, and said Catholics can’t use it to push aside the need to care for immigrants. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco called this a watershed moment where the Church could play a leadership role.

Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, adding that this was “on full display.”

He also urged them to follow the lead of Pope Francis in his recent statement, “We can make America great, but you don’t make America great by making America mean,” he added, referring to a slogan of President Donald J. Trump without naming him.

On racism, Bishop George V. Murphy of Youngstown, Ohio, head of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, said the Church must recognize “and frankly acknowledge” its failings. He said the issue has found a “troubling resurgence” in recent years, referring particularly to a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., this year where he said racial hatred was “on full display.”

“Racism isn’t going to be conquered by speech, but by actions,” said Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Vatican secretary of state, at a dinner celebrating the USCCB’s 119th anniversary.

The cardinal told the bishops that the Church needs them today to “bring not only material assistance, but also the spiritual balm of healing, comfort and hope to new waves of migrants and refugees, abortion, physician-assisted suicide, gender ideologies, the meaning of marriage and all the other headlines continue to be hotly debated. But our role continues to be witnessing the Gospel.”

He explained that the National Catholic War Council, created by the U.S. bishops in 1917 in response to the world refugee crisis that emerged from World War I and the forerunner to the USCCB, was formed to address great national and international needs at a time not unlike today.

The cardinal emphasized other modern challenges such as recent natural disasters and mass shootings.

But the problems of the day should not overwhelm Church leaders who should recognize signs of new hope in the Church, mentioned by the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who addressed the bishops at the start of the meeting, and encouraged them to make time for prayer amid “burdens of the office.”

He told them to be adventurous in the “new frontier of faith” and to make a strong effort to accompany young people who often question their faith.

The bishops also heard from the bishop of the diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, a region hard hit by Hurricane Harvey, said often when tragedies occur, “you just feel very much alone and wonder how you are going to move forward.”

The bishops also previewed upcoming events such as the Fifth National Encuentro, “V Encuentro,” next September in Grapevine, Texas, and World Youth Day on Jan. 22-27, 2019, in Panama City.

The bishops identified key issues they are addressing with Congress, including health care, the federal budget and tax reform, and concluded their assembly by mentioning the impact of recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Bishops continued from page 1B

The bishops who spoke on the floor didn’t buy that argument, and said Catholics can’t use it to push aside the need to care for immigrants. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco took this a step further, saying prudential judgment can’t be “taken lightly” on a “justice issue like immigration.”

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami said the bishops’ defense of immigrants, as brothers and sisters, not problems, is not only right for immigrants but “for our society as a whole.”

“We can make America great, but you don’t make America great by making America mean,” he added, referring to a slogan of President Donald J. Trump without naming him.

On racism, Bishop George V. Murphy of Youngstown, Ohio, head of the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, said the Church must recognize “and frankly acknowledge” its failings. He said the issue has found a “troubling resurgence” in recent years, referring particularly to a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., this year where he said racial hatred was “on full display.”

“Racism isn’t going to be conquered by speech, but by actions,” said Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Vatican secretary of state, at a dinner celebrating the USCCB’s 119th anniversary.

The cardinal told the bishops that the Church needs them today to “bring not only material assistance, but also the spiritual balm of healing, comfort and hope to new waves of migrants and refugees, abortion, physician-assisted suicide, gender ideologies, the meaning of marriage and all the other headlines continue to be hotly debated. But our role continues to be witnessing the Gospel.”

He explained that the National Catholic War Council, created by the U.S. bishops in 1917 in response to the world refugee crisis that emerged from World War I and the forerunner to the USCCB, was formed to address great national and international needs at a time not unlike today.

The cardinal emphasized other modern challenges such as recent natural disasters and mass shootings.

But the problems of the day should not overwhelm Church leaders who should recognize signs of new hope in the Church, mentioned by the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, who addressed the bishops at the start of the meeting, and encouraged them to make time for prayer amid “burdens of the office.”

He told them to be adventurous in the “new frontier of faith” and to make a strong effort to accompany young people who often question their faith.

The bishops also heard from the bishop of the diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, a region hard hit by Hurricane Harvey, said often when tragedies occur, “you just feel very much alone and wonder how you are going to move forward.”

The bishops also previewed upcoming events such as the Fifth National Encuentro, “V Encuentro,” next September in Grapevine, Texas, and World Youth Day on Jan. 22-27, 2019, in Panama City.

The bishops identified key issues they are addressing with Congress, including health care, the federal budget and tax reform, and concluded their assembly by mentioning the impact of recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, a region hard hit by Hurricane Harvey, said often when tragedies occur, “you just feel very much alone and wonder how you are going to move forward.”

The bishops also previewed upcoming events such as the Fifth National Encuentro, “V Encuentro,” next September in Grapevine, Texas, and World Youth Day on Jan. 22-27, 2019, in Panama City.

The bishops identified key issues they are addressing with Congress, including health care, the federal budget and tax reform, and concluded their assembly by mentioning the impact of recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, a region hard hit by Hurricane Harvey, said often when tragedies occur, “you just feel very much alone and wonder how you are going to move forward.”

The bishops also previewed upcoming events such as the Fifth National Encuentro, “V Encuentro,” next September in Grapevine, Texas, and World Youth Day on Jan. 22-27, 2019, in Panama City.

The bishops identified key issues they are addressing with Congress, including health care, the federal budget and tax reform, and concluded their assembly by mentioning the impact of recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, a region hard hit by Hurricane Harvey, said often when tragedies occur, “you just feel very much alone and wonder how you are going to move forward.”

The bishops also previewed upcoming events such as the Fifth National Encuentro, “V Encuentro,” next September in Grapevine, Texas, and World Youth Day on Jan. 22-27, 2019, in Panama City.

The bishops identified key issues they are addressing with Congress, including health care, the federal budget and tax reform, and concluded their assembly by mentioning the impact of recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires.
Mike Krokos, USCCB president, said on Nov. 9, “The by the United States Conference of Christians will be observed on Nov. 26, with a Week of Awareness following it. Christ the King is a fitting solemnity of Christ the King is a fitting "Oh to be a child again, especially as we journey toward Thanksgiving. Advent and Christmas! Still, we can return to the simplicity of childhood—at least spiritually." A popular 20th-century spiritual author and poet, wrote, "To become a child is a challenge to our courage. It demands, first of all, that we dare to grow up, to give ourselves to life, to accept it as it is—and above all, to accept ourselves as we are." Householder suggested that going back to childhood means rediscovering “true values, instead of those that are based on materialism, public opinion and snobbery, that we must regain simplicity and humility and above all, to accept ourselves as we are.” At least 250,000. We can recall video of Christians fleeing the country, doing what Christ said: “In most cases, they lack the financial resources to do so.” Anderson said that the Knights have pledged $2 million to move families back to their homes in Karamles, a town on theNineveh Plains, the traditional Christian homeland in Iraq. He said that the Knights hope to be able to assist other towns as well. Furthermore, the Knights are asking its councils to contribute $2,000 as an initial goal to help families return. Anderson urged that other Catholic groups join this drive. He wrote, "If just half of America’s 17.651 parishes contributed $2,000, it would produce more than $17 million—roughly the same amount the Knights have pledged so far.” This is an effort that those who don’t Christian homeland in Iraq. However, as the Knights of among these are St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therèse of Lisieux and the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux. Poor, St. Jeanne Jugan, who frequently counseled her spiritual daughters to “do very well before God.” We can also count on two of the Church’s newest saints, Jacinta and Francisco of Fatima, who were just young children when God called them to a vocation of historic proportions for the Church and the modern world. Finally, in our journey back to childhood we are always accompanied by God, who was just a little child when He received the gift of God, and who constantly sang of her gratitude and her sense of wonder. As St. Therese of Lisieux was accomplishing in her. She is eager to help us to become, anew, children of a loving God. 

Recently studies in social neuroscience have found that loneliness causes serious health risks more than the U.S. senior citizens experience frequent or intense loneliness, and 94 percent of people with disabilities feel that they lack meaningful community participation. Moreover, it suggests that we create holiday traditions “that instill more meaning into the season and encourage more laughter, creativity, and personal renewal,” rather than the accumulation of material goods and credit cards. 

For adults like you and me, our childhood holidays are often our most precious memories. Yet many of the best gifts we caught up in the frenzy of materialism, rushing around so much that we never really appreciate the heart and soul of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. While we still have time, let’s resolve to become children again.

Let’s rediscover true values of faith and family, the love of humble things and simple pleasures, gratitude and a commitment to nurturing relationships—especially with those who are at risk of being marginalized or who are in need of special attention.

Let’s ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquenching trust in an all-powerful God. Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multi-tasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engrossed at any given moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75 percent of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in 10 believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for others than exchanging gifts. 

Let’s ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquenching trust in an all-powerful God.

Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multi-tasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engrossed at any given moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75 percent of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in 10 believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for others than exchanging gifts.

Let’s ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquenching trust in an all-powerful God.

Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multi-tasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engrossed at any given moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75 percent of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in 10 believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for others than exchanging gifts. 

Let’s ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquenching trust in an all-powerful God.

Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multi-tasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engrossed at any given moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75 percent of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in 10 believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for others than exchanging gifts.

Let’s ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquenching trust in an all-powerful God.

Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multi-tasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engrossed at any given moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75 percent of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in 10 believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for others than exchanging gifts.

Let’s ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquenching trust in an all-powerful God.

Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multi-tasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engrossed at any given moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75 percent of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in 10 believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for others than exchanging gifts.

Let’s ask for the grace to recover the ability to live in the present moment and to fully experience whatever we are doing, a boundless zest for living and an unquenching trust in an all-powerful God.

Although these words were penned in 1949, they could have been written today. So much in our lives is driven by materialism and public opinion. Our attention is fragmented by constant multi-tasking and the incessant flow of information, which prevent us from fully experiencing the activities in which we are engrossed at any given moment. This is especially true in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving.

According to a national survey provided by New Dream, an organization that promotes simplicity, more than 75 percent of Americans wish the holidays were less materialistic. Nearly nine in 10 believe that holidays should be more about family and caring for others than exchanging gifts.
El Día de Acción de Gracias nos recuerda que somos un pueblo bendecido

“Los católicos celebramos la Santa Eucaristía [nombre que se deriva de la palabra griega ‘agradecimiento’] todos los días, pero en este particular, el Día de Acción de Gracias. Nos agradecemos especialmente a Dios por sus abundantes bendiciones. Esto incluye el don de la vida misma, nuestros padres y familiares, el amor que compartimos con nuestros hermanos y hermanas, nuestra libertad como estadounidenses, nuestras vocaciones como discípulos de Jesús, nuestras posesiones materiales, nuestras dones y talentos intelectuales, y mucho más.”

—Cardenal Joseph W. Tobin, Día de Acción de Gracias 2016

La fecha de publicación de esta columna es el 24 de noviembre, el día después del Día de Acción de Gracias. Desafortunadamente, esta es la fecha en la que se conoce como “viernes negro,” una fecha en la que los consumidores se preparan para el Black Friday, en nuestro país, como en otras partes del mundo, escasamente pueden atender las necesidades más básicas de la vida. El papa Francisco nos ha desafiado a que “renunciamos a la comodidad del sofá y nos aventuremos a nuestra ‘periferia’ donde habitan los pobres, los extranjeros y los marginados”. De esta manera, nos dice que tenemos que, el Día de Acción de Gracias, “renunciamos a la comodidad del sofá y nos aventuramos a nuestra ‘periferia’ donde habitan los pobres, los extranjeros y los marginados”. De esta manera, los católicos celebramos la Santa Eucaristía como una celebración de la libertad, la libertad de pensamiento y de acción, y de la libertad para servir a los demás. Es un día en el que nos recordamos de nuestras bendiciones y nuestras obligaciones. Somos llamados a “ser Cristo” para el prójimo, a servir a los demás, a compartir con ellos, y a ser responsables de la generosidad de Dios. Es un día en el que nos recordamos de nuestras bendiciones y nuestras obligaciones. Somos llamados a “ser Cristo” para el prójimo, a servir a los demás, a compartir con ellos, y a ser responsables de la generosidad de Dios. Es un día en el que nos recordamos de nuestras bendiciones y nuestras obligaciones. Somos llamados a “ser Cristo” para el prójimo, a servir a los demás, a compartir con ellos, y a ser responsables de la generosidad de Dios. Es un día en el que nos recordamos de nuestras bendiciones y nuestras obligaciones. Somos llamados a “ser Cristo” para el prójimo, a servir a los demás, a compartir con ellos, y a ser responsables de la generosidad de Dios.
November 27
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E 56th St., Indianapolis. Serra Club Dinner Meeting. Father Anthony Hollowell presenting on his vocation journey, 5-40 p.m. rosary, followed by dinner. Information: 317-748-1478 or unahollowell@holyspirit.com.

November 30
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3154 E 106th St., Indianapolis. Monthly Ecumenical Taizé Prayer Service, singing, meditation and readings. 7-8 p.m. Information: 317-991-0930 or stmichaelindy.org.

December 1

December 2
St. Peter and Paul Catholic chapel, 1347 N Meridian St., Indianapolis. Reception and tour of the Opus Dei Catholic Business Group. 6:30 a.m. Mass, 7:15-8:30 a.m. breakfast at Lincoln Square Pancake House, 2330 N Meridian St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-255-3447 or humen@deanofnet.com.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S Meridian St., Greenwood. First Friday celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Heart of Jesus, Mass, 4-5 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-888-2861 or info@olGW.org.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E 46th St., Indianapolis. First Friday Charismatic Renewal Prayer and Mass, prayer session, Mass 7 p.m. Mass 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-7328, mikeyer@indy.com.

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church, 7195 S Merzys, Road, Floyd County, Indiana. The Vigil Project “To Save Us All” presented by New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries, all-Catholic musics focusing on prayer, reflection and community through music and media, all ages welcome, no admission, freewill offering, reception in Assumption Hall afterward. Information: Sandy Winsted, 812-923-6355, sandy@indyOUTH.org or www.benediktproject.com.

December 3
St. Matthew the Apostle Church, 4100 E 56th St., Indianapolis. Advent Evening of Reflection, music, readings, prayer and reflections, 6 p.m., refreshments to follow. Information: 317-257-4297, belfeinstein@stmartinart.org.

St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. African Catholic Mass, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presiding, celebrated with African music, language and dance. 3 p.m., reception to follow featuring African and African-American foods, all are welcome. Information: 317-236-1474 or pigeon@archindy.org.

December 5
Mission 27 Resale, 132 Levitra St., Indianapolis. Annual Discount Day, every Tuesday, seniors get 30 percent off clothing, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 317-257-8260.

December 6
Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6 p.m. Information: 317-243-0777.

December 13
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E 56th St., Indianapolis. African Catholic Mass, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson presiding, celebrated with African music, language and dance. 3 p.m., reception to follow featuring African and African-American foods, all are welcome. Information: 317-236-1474 or pigeon@archindy.org.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Gymnasmum, 21 N 16th St., Indianapolis. Altar Society Christmas Bazaar and Chili Luncheon, exhibitors and vendor booths, cookie decorating, crafts, white elephant bazaar, homemade desserts, noon-3 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus visit 2-3 p.m. Information: glf@ombraston.org or 317-257-6585 or globglobal.org.

December 14
Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Shop Inn-Spired Christmas Sale, deals for your holiday needs, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., have your picture taken with Santa for $5 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581, benedictinn.org.

December 19

December 20

December 21
St. Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. Sing Ye Noël, Benedictine Father Noel Mueller. $25 single, $42 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or office@stmeinrad.edu.

December 31
Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. Sing Ye Noël, Benedictine Father Noel Mueller. $25 single, $42 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or office@stmeinrad.edu.

Early December
The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, in partnership with the Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, will host their Annual Christmas Fun at the Woods from 1-4 p.m. on Dec. 9. The doors will open at 12:30 p.m.

The event will feature rides by carriage, bus, wagon and trolley; a display of Nativity sets, a Christmas doll house and village; plus cookie dough and face painting. Christmas sing-a-longs.

Mrs. Claus and her elf, Christmas decorations, a bake sale, raffles, and the opportunity to visit Santa at the White Violet Center for Eco-Ejustice. Tours of the Saint Mother Guérin Shrine will also be available throughout the day.

The event is $5 per person, and free for children 3 years and younger.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, call 812-535-2952 or e-mail jfrost@spmw.org.

Events Calendar

For a list of events for the next few weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.

Retreats and Programs

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

VIPS

Faith Alive!

Thanksgiving can be marked by holiness, unity and gratitude

By Fr. Herbert Weber

Michael celebrated his first Thanksgiving as a married man at the home of his wife Maria’s parents. Gathered for the huge midday meal were her parents and Maria’s siblings with their spouses. All the traditional foods were served and the conversation was good.

After the meal, Michael went into his in-laws’ living room, turned on the television to watch football games. He was just settling in when Maria came into the room and asked what he was doing.

His answer was that he was planning to spend the afternoon watching games or helping the turkey-invited trypophan to bring on a nap. In defense, Michael said that is what his dad and brothers and he always did at their house after the Thanksgiving Day meal.

Maria’s quick answer was, “Well, we don’t do that in our family.” Then she added that everyone helps clean up so they can all relax.

Michael shared his faith pastors in Maria’s presence, and both of them assured me that they would continue to learn from each other.

With perhaps the exception of Christmas, it seems no holiday has as much tradition as Thanksgiving. But it soon becomes clear that those traditions vary from house to house. One family may have unique ethnic foods at their meal, while another has an afternoon game of touch football. One family I know always starts with a 5K run. In my previous parish where we offered a free community meal, many parishioners volunteered to serve the food first before going to their own homes to celebrate.

Thanksgiving Day holds a special place for pastors. I have come to find this is a legal holiday that can also easily be experienced as a holy day. I don’t mean a holy day in any official sense, but a day where a spirit of holiness prevails.

It is found in the elements of giving thanks, discovering unity and reaching out to others. In truth, it is not that hard to infuse the Christian element of these qualities into a day already special in many people’s minds. Holiday traditions can easily become holy traditions.

Beginning with giving thanks, people already know that this harvest festival has roots in appreciation for the bounty of the land. At the same time, many 21st-century people struggle to associate the food on the table with its agricultural source.

Thanking God for food is just the tip of the iceberg of showing appreciation on Thanksgiving Day. Other reminders, faith communities can help people learn the goodness of expressing gratitude. People can be reminded to set aside time for prayers of gratitude, especially before the big meal. This can easily draw attention to the many blessings received every day and throughout the year.

For most Catholic parishes, a morning Mass has become an expected event on Thanksgiving Day. At our parish, we have consciously worked to make this eucharistic celebration a focal point. It is a Mass that emphasizes all the blessings of the year.

Furthermore, we work to provide a warm setting where people have a feeling of family.

Celebrating the Eucharist itself makes sense on this day. Giving thanks is at the heart of the Mass. Thanksgiving Day Mass flows from a faith that is filled with gratitude, connecting with every Mass celebrated throughout the year. Giving thanks becomes a prayer of admission of our dependence on a gracious and loving God, a major step of spirituality.

The act of prayerfully giving thanks also helps us celebrate unity. Although private prayer is good, communal prayer in church or at the dinner table draws people together. We not only thank God for each other, we thank God with each other.

When we started this parish some 12 years ago without property or building, a small Lutheran Church allowed us use of their worship space on a regular basis, a kindness for which I remain grateful.

When the first Thanksgiving was nearing, the pastor asked me what my thoughts were. I knew I wanted to have a parish gathering for prayer. He said his congregation desired to invite us to join them on the Wednesday evening before the holiday for a joint prayer service.

And to sweeten the offer, he said they have a tradition of having “all things pumpkin” to share afterward—pumpkin pies, cakes, breads and more. That evening’s gathering reminded me of the traditional image of Pilgrims and Native Americans feasting in unity.

Finally, the tradition of Thanksgiving Day for many people is to reach out to others, sharing and including those alone or overlooked. Sharing is always an expression of gratitude for what we have. Besides serving free meals at a parish or community center, many have found other ways to share.

Over the years, I have brought refugees from other countries to our family’s Thanksgiving meal. Exchange students have been present as well. And an elderly neighbor of my brother was always a special guest. All were graciously included.

By expressing gratitude in prayer, by finding expressions of unity and by sharing with and including others, we can help people create new traditions as we find this holiday becomes even more holy to us.

(Former Fr. Herbert Weber is the founding pastor of St. John XXIII Parish in Perrysburg, Ohio.)

The psalms teach ways to be grateful to God in both good times and bad

By Nancy de Flon

A wise person once observed that “gratitude is the aristocrat of attitudes.” Gratitude not only shows consideration for the one who gave a gift or a favor—it also promotes mental health if we cultivate the habit of gratefulness for things great and small.

“Giving thanks is the foundation of a grateful heart,” the author of Psalm 116 (Nancy De Flon is editor-at-large at Paulist Press and author of The Joy of Praying the Psalms) has written.

Several psalms offer invaluable guidance for cultivating this “aristocratic attitude.” In modeling how to express our gratitude in prayer, the psalms suggest two major reasons for doing so.

First, in several psalms of petition the psalmist promises to tell others of the favors received—to thank the Lord “before the assembly.” In voicing our thanks to God for his goodness, we evangelize others.

For centuries, Christians have reflected on Christ’s passion with Psalm 69, which is a cry from the depths of distress. In it, the psalmist promises to praise God in song and adds, “The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive” (Ps 69:33). The author of Psalm 142, begging for rescue from pernicious friends, says, “Around me the just will assemble because of your goodness to me” (Ps 142:8).

This theme is reflected in a reading from St. Mark’s Gospel. The man from whom Jesus had driven many demons begs to be allowed to follow him. Instead Jesus says, “Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you.” The man does so, and “everyone was amazed” (Mark 5:20).

Gratitude ranges from those composed for a king’s victory to psalms of private individuals for unspecified favors. Psalm 18 rings out King David’s praise for God, who snatched him from a powerful enemy whose strength he could not match. It closes with the promise: “I will praise you, Lord, among the nations” (Ps 18:90).

In contrast, Psalm 116 fulfills the promise of an anonymous, grateful petitioner to praise God before all the people. Perhaps this psalm was composed by an “official” psalmist at a grateful person’s request, much as we might request a Mass to be celebrated for our intentions.

Second, expressing gratitude to God increases our confidence that he will hear our prayers again. Psalms of petition often reflect God’s previous favors and thank him.

Even Psalm 22, which begins with “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” is suffused with confidence based on God’s favors to Israel and on the fact that God has always “heard the poor when they cried” (Ps 22:1.25). Whatever the person’s present trials, the Lord is greater still.

A prayer for Thanksgiving or any time: “God, giver of all good, unite us in our gratitude to you, to one another and for your countless gifts.”

(Holy Cross School fifth-graders Joseph Ashmead, left, and Marguerite Kasingo join classmates in bringing Thanksgiving offerings to the alter during a Nov. 24, 2015, Thanksgiving Mass at Holy Cross Church in Rochester, N.Y. The Book of Psalms shows ways to thank God in many of life’s circumstances.)
Debra Tomaselli

Doctor's visit reveals God knows what we need before we even know

"I wish hadn't made this doctor's appointment," I thought as I looked back at Joe as we sat in the waiting room. Moments later, the nurse led us to an exam room. The doctor will be with you shortly," she said, before slipping away. I looked at Joe.

"This isn't where I want to be," I grumbled. I've never been to a doctor's office before, except for a single pregnancy test, and it doesn't make me feel any better. My problem is much bigger than this.

"This is your head," I pointed. "Maybe I really want to be back at the oncology's office," I said. "I don't need to do this. Dr. Taylor can't help with that. He knows nothing of my health history. Cancer isn't his specialty."

"It's true," I agreed. "I just need easy answers."

Although I was here at the nanonucleotide center in Gurgaon handling my care, I suddenly felt that adding another specialist would complicate things. I wanted to leave.

"Let's pray," I said. Frustration punctuated every word.

Doctors visit reveals God knows what we need before we even know

Ema, Emmaus Weekly/Debra Tomaselli

"I wish I hadn't made this doctor's appointment," I thought as I looked back at Joe as we sat in the waiting room. Moments later, the nurse led us to an exam room. The doctor will be with you shortly," she said, before slipping away. I looked at Joe.

"This isn't where I want to be," I grumbled. I've never been to a doctor's office before, except for a single pregnancy test, and it doesn't make me feel any better. My problem is much bigger than this.

"This is your head," I pointed. "Maybe I really want to be back at the oncology's office," I said. "I don't need to do this. Dr. Taylor can't help with that. He knows nothing of my health history. Cancer isn't his specialty."

"It's true," I agreed. "I just need easy answers."

Although I was here at the nanonucleotide center in Gurgaon handling my care, I suddenly felt that adding another specialist would complicate things. I wanted to leave.

"Let's pray," I said. Frustration punctuated every word.
On this weekend, the Church concludes its liturgical year. Next week, a new year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent. This weekend the Church closes the year with an excited and fervent proclamation of Christ as the king of the universe.

The first reading for this great feast comes from St. Matthew’s Gospel. In this reading, God speaks in the first person, promising protection of the flock, in other words, the people of God. He is the shepherd, seeking the lost, caring for the injured, rescuing the imprisoned. God will also distinguish between the sheep and others who assume other identities because of their desire to be unfaithful to him.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This selection is a proclamation of the resurrection, and of the role of the Lord as redeemer of humanity. He is the risen Lord, the first of those who will rise to everlasting life. Those who will follow Jesus in being raised from the dead are “those who belong” to Christ, in other words, those persons who have admitted God, through Jesus, into their lives, and who have received from the Lord the gift of grace, eternal life and strength (1 Cor 15:23).

Paul frankly admits in this reading that forces are at work in the world that are hostile to God. These forces cannot be dismissed as insignificant or timid, although they are by no means omnipotent. In and through Jesus, the power and life of God will endure. God will triumph over all evil. No one bound to God should fear the powers of evil, although they are by no means formidable. In other words, the people of God. He is the shepherd, seeking the lost, caring for the injured, rescuing the imprisoned. God will also distinguish between the sheep and others who assume other identities because of their desire to be unfaithful to him.

The second reading, on the other hand, is a selection from the Book of Revelation. In this text, we hear the description of the kingdom of the Lord, the eternal kingdom.

On this Sunday, the reading in the first person refers to the people of God, the “sheep.” God will be with the faithful until the end of the world, and will bring them to eternal life. The second reading, on the other hand, is a description of the kingdom of God, the “city of God,” which is open to all who believe in Christ and follow him.

So, on this Sunday, we have two readings: one from St. John’s Gospel and one from the Book of Revelation. As we reflect on these texts, we are reminded of the promises of God and the hope that we have in Christ. We are encouraged to follow the Lord, even in the midst of difficulty and persecution, and to trust in his mercy and forgiveness.

The Church does care deeply about the possibility that someone might be recognized as a saint. This is not something that is decided lightly or easily. It requires careful investigation and study. The process of canonization is a long and complex one, and it is only after thorough examination that a candidate can be declared a saint.

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that the Church is not focused solely on the possibility of canonization. Instead, it is focused on the work of spreading the message of Jesus Christ and helping people to live lives that are faithful to his teachings. This is the true goal of the Church, and it is something that we can all work towards, regardless of our personal situations or circumstances.

My Journey to God

FED

By Sonny Shanks

Some walked in with a limp. Some walked in with a cane. Some walked in with a walker. Some couldn’t walk.

We had only a small bowl of chili to give each, along with some crackers. I saw smiles all around as people ate. One man was an elderly, disabled lady. “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so,” she sang slow and true. Others joined in, and more after that. Soon the whole place was full of the song. Then it got quiet, and people started praying for each other.

No one was left out.

It was an elderly, disabled lady. “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so,” she sang slow and true. Others joined in, and more after that. Soon the whole place was full of the song. Then it got quiet, and people started praying for each other.

Some couldn’t walk.

We had only a small bowl of chili to give each, along with some crackers. I saw smiles all around as people ate. One man was an elderly, disabled lady. “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so,” she sang slow and true. Others joined in, and more after that. Soon the whole place was full of the song. Then it got quiet, and people started praying for each other.

No one was left out.

I couldn’t believe such meager and humble circumstances could produce such love and gratitude and devotion.

After it was all over I walked home, feeling warm and well fed. And I hadn’t had any chili; we ran out.

The Church does care deeply about the possibility that someone might be recognized as a saint. This is not something that is decided lightly or easily. It requires careful investigation and study. The process of canonization is a long and complex one, and it is only after thorough examination that a candidate can be declared a saint.

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that the Church is not focused solely on the possibility of canonization. Instead, it is focused on the work of spreading the message of Jesus Christ and helping people to live lives that are faithful to his teachings. This is the true goal of the Church, and it is something that we can all work towards, regardless of our personal situations or circumstances.

My Journey to God

FED

By Sonny Shanks

Some walked in with a limp. Some walked in with a cane. Some walked in with a walker. Some couldn’t walk.

We had only a small bowl of chili to give each, along with some crackers. I saw smiles all around as people ate. One man was an elderly, disabled lady. “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so,” she sang slow and true. Others joined in, and more after that. Soon the whole place was full of the song. Then it got quiet, and people started praying for each other.

No one was left out.

I couldn’t believe such meager and humble circumstances could produce such love and gratitude and devotion.

After it was all over I walked home, feeling warm and well fed. And I hadn’t had any chili; we ran out.
SOLANUS continued from page 10B

A congregation of more than 60,000 filled Ford Field, home of the NFL’s Detroit Lions, which was transformed for the ceremony. The altar, placed at midfield, was created originally for St. John Paul II’s visit to the Pontiac Silverdome in 1987.

To the right of the altar was a large painting of Blessed Solanus. It was unveiled after the beatification rite, which took place at the beginning of the Mass.

Dozens of bishops, priests and deacons processed into the stadium for the start of the Mass. The music was provided by a 25-member orchestra and a choir of 300 directed by Capuchin Franciscan Father Ed Foley. The singers were members of parish choirs from across the Detroit metro area.

Cardinal Amato was the principal celebrant, joined at the altar by Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Detroit Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, himself a Capuchin Franciscan, and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J., a Detroit native who also previously served as shepherd of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

In the congregation were 240 Capuchin friars and at least 300 members of the Casey family from across America and their ancestral country of Ireland. The Casey family’s Irish roots were reflected in the Irish hymns chosen as part of the music for the liturgy.

“What we witness was our beloved Solanus,” said Father Michael Sullivan, provincial minister of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph based in Detroit, as the ceremony began. “He opened his heart to all people who came to him. He prayed with them, he appreciated them, and through him, God loved them powerfully again and again.”

“For decades, countless faithful have awaited this moment,” said Archbishop Vigneron before asking Cardinal Amato to read the decree from Pope Francis declaring Father Solanus “Blessed.”

“This is the second American-born male to be blessed. Blessed Stanley Rother, a North American priest from Oklahoma who was martyred while serving the people of a Guatemalan village, was beatified on Sept. 23 in Oklahoma City.

As a fellow Capuchin, Cardinal O’Malley was inspired that one in his ranks is now “Blessed.” “It’s very encouraging to see the first American to be beatified in our community [the Capuchins]. It’s a great honor for us,” he told The Michigan Catholic following the liturgy.

Among the hundreds, if not thousands, of healings attributed to Blessed Solanus during and after his lifetime, Pope Francis recognized the authenticity of a miracle necessary for the friar to be elevated from venerable to blessed after a review by the Vatican’s Congregation for Saints’ Causes was completed earlier this year.

The miracle involved the healing—unexplained by medicine or science—of a woman with an incurable genetic skin disease, Paula Medina Zarate of Panama. She was only recently identified publicly and transferred back to Detroit in 1924, less than a year after Solanus’ death.

He went to Detroit to join the Capuchin order in 1897. He was given the religious name Solanus. He continued to struggle academically but was finally ordained in 1941 as a “simple priest,” meaning he could celebrate Mass but could not preach doctrinal sermons or hear confessions.

He went to New York and served for two decades in friaries and churches there and was transferred back to Detroit in 1924, where he began working as the parson, or doorkeeper, of St. Boniface Church. Father Solanus co-founded the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in 1929, and today it serves the Detroit metro area by providing food, clothing and human development programs to the people of the community. In preparing and serving up to 2,000 meals a day, the facility has an emergency food pantry, service center and a tutoring program for children.

He spent his life in the service of people, endearing himself to thousands who would seek his counsel. From 1946 to 1956, he was at the Capuchin novitiate at St. Felix in Huntington, Ind., then was transferred back to Detroit for what was the last year of his life.†
‘Invest in love,’ pope says on first World Day of the Poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—People have a basic choice in the way they live: either striving to build up treasures on Earth or giving to others in order to gain heaven, Pope Francis said.

“What we invest in love, the rest vanishes,” the pope said in his homily on Nov. 19, the first World Day of the Poor.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 people attended the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica as special guests, the Vatican said. While almost all of them live in Europe, they include migrants and refugees from all over the world.

Among the altar servers were young men who are either poor, migrants or homeless. The first reader at the Mass, Tony Battah, is a refugee from Syria.

Pope Francis made a specific plea for the poor, to the wounded flesh of the Lord. “In the poor, Jesus knocks on the doors of our heart, thirsting for our love,” he said. True goodness and strength are shown “not in closed fists and crossed arms, but in ready hands outstretched to the poor, to the wounded flesh of the Lord.”

Before joining his guests for lunch, Pope Francis recited the Angelus prayer with thousands of people in St. Peter’s Square.

The previous day in Detroit, he told the people, Capuchin Father Solanus Casey was beatified. “A humble and faithful disciple of Christ, he was known for his untiring service to the poor. May his witness help priests, religious and lay people live with joy the bond between the proclamation of the Gospel and love for the poor.”

Pope Francis told the crowd that he hoped “the poor would be at the center of our communities not only at times like this, but always, because they are at the heart of the Gospel. In them, we encounter Jesus who speaks to us and calls us through their suffering and their needs.”

Offering special prayers for people living in poverty because of war and conflict, the pope asked the international community to make special efforts to bring peace to those areas, especially the Middle East. Pope Francis made a specific plea for stability in Lebanon, which is in the middle of a political crisis after its prime minister announced his resignation. He prayed the country would “continue to be a ‘message’ of respect and coexistence throughout the region and for the whole world.”

Classified Directory

For more information, please log on to www.archindy.org/layministry
Advent penance services are scheduled at archdiocesan parishes

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Advent. The following is a list of services that have been reported to The Criterion.

Batesville Deanery
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Martin of Tours, Shelby County
Dec. 14, 6 p.m. Mass, 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary, Napoleon
Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. at St. Rose of Lima, Franklin
Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at St. Monica, Portland

Connersville Deanery
Dec. 12, 7 p.m. at St. Anne, New Castle
Dec. 13, 6 p.m. Mass, 6:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel, Connersville
Dec. 14, 6 p.m. Mass, 6:30 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle, Fortville
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Rita and Holy Angels (West Deanery) at St. Rita of Cascia, Sellersburg
Dec. 10, 2 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 12, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Sellersburg
Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Mass, 6:30 p.m. at St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad

Indianapolis East Deanery
Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Spirit Parish, Greenfield
Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church, Bloomington
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Rita and Holy Angels (East Deanery) at St. Rita of Cascia, Sellersburg
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Greenfield
Dec. 14, 6 p.m. Mass, 6:30 p.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, Sellersburg
Dec. 10, 2 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 12, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 6, 6:30-7:30 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County
Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael, Bradford
Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 9, 8-10 a.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 12, 6-7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
Dec. 5, 6-7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
Dec. 6, 6:30-7:30 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County
Dec. 12, 6-7 p.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 14, 6-7 p.m. at St. Mary, Lanesville
Dec. 16, 7-8 a.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 17, 7-8 a.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight
Dec. 19, 6:30-7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

Indianapolis West Deanery
Dec. 6, 7 p.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville
Dec. 6, 7 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel, Danville
Dec. 7, 9-11 a.m. at Cardinal Ritter Jr./St. High School
Dec. 9, 7:30-9:30 at St. Monica, Portland
Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. for St. Anthony and St. Christopher at St. Christopher
Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at St. Malachi, Brownsburg
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. for Holy Angels and St. Rita (Indianapolis East Deanery) at St. Rita of Cascia, Sellersburg
Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More, Mooresville
Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at St. Susanna, Plainfield

New Albany Deanery
Dec. 5, 6-7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
Dec. 5, 6:30-7:30 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County
Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael, Bradford
Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 9, 8-10 a.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 12, 6-7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at St. Monica, Portland
Dec. 10, 2 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 12, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Pius X Parish, St. Pius X Church
Dec. 6, 6:30-7:30 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County
Dec. 12, 6-7 p.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
Dec. 14, 6-7 p.m. at St. Mary, Lanesville
Dec. 16, 7-8 a.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 17, 7-8 a.m. at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight
Dec. 19, 6-7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

Terre Haute Deanery
Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods
Dec. 12, 1:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute
Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Terre Haute
Dec. 19, 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart, Clinton +

Catholic Community Foundation to support the growth of parish, school, and agency ministries.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and the Catholic Community Foundation invite you to

**An Evening of Lights**

Archdiocesan Christmas Tree Lighting & Prayer Service
Thursday, December 7, 2017 • Catholic Center Assembly Hall
1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202

Prayer service begins at 6 p.m. • Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Reception to follow.

Just as the Vatican in early December lights the Christmas tree in St. Peter’s Square and the Holy Father reflects on the Nativity, so, too, will Archbishop Thompson lead an Archdiocesan Christmas tree lighting and prayer service.

At this special event, we will prepare our hearts for Jesus’ coming as the Light of the World and celebrate those who have shared their own light by establishing memorial endowments in the names of loved ones.

For a donation of $10 or more, you can dedicate a luminaria in memory of a loved one, which will be lit at the prayer service. Their legacy will live on as the gifts will be invested in the Catholic Community Foundation to support the growth of parish, school, and agency ministries.

To RSVP by Wednesday, November 29, and/or to make a donation, please visit www.archindy.org/CCF/EveningOfLights

For God. For Others. Forever.