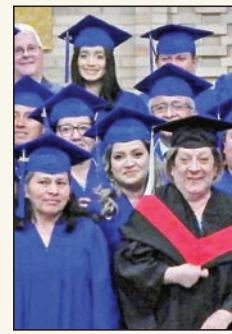




The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Intercultural Pastoral Institute

Graduates encouraged to 'serve others in the name of Jesus Christ,' page 13.

CriterionOnline.com

July 25, 2025

Vol. LXV, No. 37 75¢



At left, Evan Wise, youth minister for St. Bernard Parish in Frenchtown, St. Joseph Parish in Crawford County and St. Michael Parish in Bradford, poses with youths of the parishes and an adult chaperone at right on June 17 at Harrison County Community Services (HCCS) in Corydon, where the group prepared boxes of food for delivery to the homebound as part of the New Albany Deanery's Summer Daze program. Second from left is Deacon Rick Cooper, executive director of HCCS. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

New Albany Deanery's Summer Daze program helps youths 'live out the faith'

By Natalie Hoefer

CLARK and HARRISON COUNTIES—It was a hot day in southern Indiana on June 17, a good day to enjoy the rewarding cool of a dive in a pool.

But kids throughout the New Albany Deanery chose something more rewarding that day—serving those in need.

Several made crafts with nursing home residents in Floyd's Knobs. Others spent time in New Albany weaving plastic bags into sleeping mats for the homeless, while some helped sort clothes in Ramsey for local children in need.

At an organization in Corydon, youths filled boxes with

food for delivery to the homebound. Among the volunteers was Brigid Nance of St. Michael Parish in Bradford.

Pausing her work for a moment, the soon-to-be sixth grader said helping the organization "is good for the community, so people like the homeless or people who just can't get out can get food and be healthy."

Brigid is one of nearly 190 youths of the 16 New Albany Deanery parishes who took part in a catechetical, service-focused program called Summer Daze. It is organized by Mount Saint Francis-based Catalyst Catholic, which in part helps the deanery's parishes with youth ministry.

See **SUMMER DAZE**, page 10

Young women won't 'ever be the same' after cross-country pilgrimage with Christ

By John Shaughnessy

An odd combination of heartbreak and hope filled Cheyenne Johnson and Rachel Levy on a recent day in June as they stood amid the devastation caused

by the wildfires that swept through parts of southern California earlier this year.

The two women from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis were in their last days among the group of eight young adults who had been selected nationally

to take part in the 3,300-mile National Eucharistic Pilgrimage that began at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on May 18.

Now before them were the charred remains of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Pacific Palisades, part of the devastation in the area that killed 30

people and destroyed more than 16,000 homes and structures.

"The church was burned down and in shambles," recalls Johnson, the 26-year-old director of Catholic campus ministry at Butler University in Indianapolis.

"It was heartbreaking to see how the wildfires have impacted this community," says Levy, the 27-year-old coordinator of young adult ministry in the archdiocese.

Yet both have a look of joy and even awe as they share the hope-filled discovery that a firefighter made amid the church in ruins.

See **PILGRIMAGE**, page 9

'It was awesome!': Teenage boys embrace the opportunity to learn about priesthood

By Sean Gallagher

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS and TERRE HAUTE—Some of the 64 boys from across central and southern Indiana and beyond who took part in Bishop Bruté Days, the archdiocese's annual vocations camp held this year on July 7-10, might be future priests for the Church in central and southern Indiana.

See **BRUTÉ DAYS**, page 12

Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan vocations director, leads prayer on July 9 at the resting place of Father Simon Lalumiere below St. Joseph University Church in Terre Haute during Bishop Bruté Days. Father Lalumiere was the first man born in Indiana to be ordained a priest and serve the Church in the state. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Pope condemns Israel’s attack against church, calls for end to ‘barbarity’

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The “barbarity of war” and forced displacement of people have to end, and civilians and places of worship have to be protected, Pope Leo XIV implored. “Tragic news continues to arrive these days from the Middle East, especially from Gaza,” he said after reciting the *Angelus* with those gathered outside the papal palace in Castel Gandolfo on July 20.

“I again call for an immediate end to the barbarity of the war and for a peaceful resolution of the conflict,” he said.

“I renew my appeal to the international community to observe humanitarian law and to respect the obligation to protect civilians, as well as the prohibition of collective punishment, the indiscriminate use of force and the forced displacement of the population,” he said.

He expressed his “profound sorrow for the Israeli army’s attack on the Holy Family Catholic Church in Gaza City” on July 17, which killed three Christians and seriously wounded others.

“I pray for the victims: Saad Issa Kostandi Salameh, Foumia Issa Latif Ayyad and Najwa Ibrahim Latif Abu Daoud, and I am particularly close to their families and to all the parishioners,” the pope said.

“Sadly, this act adds to the continuous military attacks against the civilian population and places of worship in Gaza,” the pope said.

Before praying the *Angelus*, the pope spoke to reporters waiting near the entrance to the papal villa after he

celebrated Mass in nearby Albano Laziale. They asked him about the Middle East conflicts, particularly in Gaza, and he said there is a need for parties to “go to the table to dialogue and to put down their weapons because the world can’t take it anymore.

“There are so many conflicts, so many wars; there is a need to really work for peace, to pray with trust in God, but to also work” toward those efforts, he said.

When asked about his telephone call with Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on July 18, the day after the raid, the pope said, “We insisted on the need to protect the holy places of all religions,” and to work together in this regard.

But, he added, there is a need for “true respect for people, for sacred places and to try to leave behind so much violence, so much hatred, so many wars.”

After praying the *Angelus*, the pope addressed all of “our beloved Middle Eastern Christians.

“I deeply sympathize with your feeling that you can do little in the face of this serious situation,” he said. “You are in the heart of the pope and of the whole Church. Thank you for your witness of faith.”

He prayed that Our Lady intercede to “protect you always and accompany the world toward the dawn of peace.”

When greeting visitors from different parts of the world gathered in the small square, the pope thanked the International Forum of Catholic Action for promoting the “Prayer Marathon for Leaders.”

“The invitation, addressed to each one of us, is to pause today between 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. to pray for just one minute, asking the Lord to enlighten our leaders and inspire in them projects for peace,” he said. †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

July 28–August 11, 2025

July 28 – 3 p.m. Blessing at Ascension St. Vincent Lucas Family Brain and Spine Hospital, Indianapolis	August 4-6 Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention, Washington, D.C.
July 31 – 10 a.m. Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis	August 7 – 10 a.m. Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis
July 31 – 5:30 p.m. Annual priest and seminarian cookout, Indianapolis	August 9 – 10 a.m. 25th Anniversary Mass for St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, Bright, at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Church, Lawrenceburg
August 3 – 2 p.m. Confirmation Mass for the youths of Annunciation Parish, Brazil; St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Greencastle; Sacred Heart Parish, Clinton; St. Joseph Parish, Rockville; St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish, St. Mary-of-the-Woods; St. Patrick, St. Margaret Mary and St. Joseph University parishes, all in Terre Haute, at St. Joseph University Church	August 10 – 5 p.m. St. Lawrence Day Celebration for Permanent Deacons at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis
	August 11 – Noon Seminarian convocation at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

Educators: Send us your favorite photos from the first days of the new school year

The first days of a new school year are filled with excitement, hope, a touch of anxiety and plenty of promise as students return to school, and fall sports teams prepare for another season of competition.

In celebration of these new beginnings, *The Criterion* is inviting our principals, teachers and coaches in the 69 Catholic schools across the archdiocese to submit one or two photos that capture the essence of the first days of a new academic year at your school.

The photos we receive will potentially

become part of a social media presentation that will be featured on the Facebook and Instagram accounts of the archdiocese. These pages can be viewed at facebook.com/ArchdioceseOfIndianapolis and instagram.com/archindianapolis.

We also plan to showcase a selection of the pictures in a photo essay inside the printed edition of *The Criterion* in one of our August issues and in a photo gallery on *The Criterion’s* website, www.CriterionOnline.com.

Please send your photos to Robin Hartkorn at rhartkorn@archindy.org. †

The Criterion’s summer schedule will continue through August

The Criterion is continuing its summer publication schedule. The reduced printing allows us to make the most efficient use of our resources during the summer.

The Criterion will be published next on August 8 and 22. The newspaper will resume its weekly publication schedule

with the September 5 issue.

Thank you for reading *The Criterion* and please continue to go to our website, www.CriterionOnline.com, where we will be regularly posting news stories from across the archdiocese as well as important national and international news. †

Listening sessions seek input from parishioners on their role in life, mission of the Church

Criterion staff report

The archdiocese is hosting two bilingual listening sessions in August to assist with a U.S. bishops’ study seeking input from parishioners on their engagement and role in the life and mission of the Church.


The first meeting will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Aug. 12 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood.

The second meeting is scheduled from 7-8:30 p.m. on Aug. 27 at Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mt. St. Francis, in Floyd County.

The listening sessions at both locations will be held in English and Spanish. Deacon Thomas Hosty, director of the archdiocesan Department of Pastoral Ministries, and his staff are hosting the gatherings.

The meetings are being held at the request of Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minn., chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

For more information, contact Deacon Hosty at thosty@archindy.org or 317-225-5804. †



Pope Leo’s prayer intentions for August

- For mutual coexistence**—Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

See Pope Leo’s monthly intentions at archindy.org/popesintentions.



Phone Numbers:

Main office..... 317-236-1570

Advertising..... 317-236-1585

Circulation / Subscriptions ... 317-236-1425

Price: \$22.00 per year, 75 cents per copy

Postmaster:

Send address changes to *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Web site : www.CriterionOnline.com

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December, the first week of January and every other week from June to August (*summer schedule*). Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.

Copyright © 2025 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

NEWS FROM YOU!

Do you have something exciting or newsworthy you want to be considered to be printed in The Criterion?

E-mail us: criterion@archindy.org

Staff:

Editor: Mike Krokos

Assistant Editor: John Shaughnessy

Reporter: Sean Gallagher

Reporter: Natalie Hoefler

Graphic Designer / Online Editor: Brandon A. Evans


Executive Assistant: Ann Lewis

The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December, the first week of January and every other week from June-Aug.

1400 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 317-236-1570 criterion@archindy.org

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2025 Criterion Press Inc.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc. 1400 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46202



07/25/25

Moving?

We’ll be there waiting if you give us two weeks’ notice! Use the form below or at archindy.org/moving.

Name _____

E-mail _____

New Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

New Parish _____

Effective Date _____

Note: If you are receiving duplicate copies please send both labels.

The Criterion • 1400 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Father J. Lawrence Richardt helped form priests through many decades

By Sean Gallagher

Father J. Lawrence Richardt, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on July 7 at the Compassus



Father J. Lawrence Richardt

hospice facility in Indianapolis. He was 87. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 11 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was the principal celebrant of the liturgy. Retired Father Rick Ginther was the homilist. Burial followed in the priests’ garden at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery in Indianapolis.

In addition to serving in parishes across central and southern Indiana, Father Richardt, commonly known as Father Larry, ministered for decades in spiritual formation for future priests at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad and at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, continuing as a spiritual director at the latter through the spring semester that ended this May.

“Father Larry had a tireless work ethic, especially when it came to spiritual direction, confession and guiding the internal life of others,” said Father Joseph Moriarty, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis and a former rector of Bishop Bruté. “Even in retirement, he was not done serving God and wanted to spend his life for the sake of others.”

Seminarian Khaing Thu was honored to assist as an altar server at Father Richardt’s funeral after receiving spiritual

direction from him during his four years at Bishop Bruté. “At first, it was a little bit difficult for me to open up just because I’m a reserved person in nature,” said Thu, a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “But I quickly started to really confide in him as my own spiritual father. He was able to help me to see God the Father through him. I could feel God’s presence and love through Father Larry. That’s how good, gentle and kind he was.” Thu, who recently completed his third year of priestly formation at Saint Meinrad, expects to be ordained a transitional deacon in the fall and a priest next June. He looks up to Father Richardt as a model for himself, hoping, like him, “to serve until my last breath.”

“He was always gentle, merciful and kind,” said Thu. “That’s something that I’ll always try to remember as a priest, especially in confession—to always be merciful just as God is merciful.”

Father Ginther, a longtime friend of Father Richardt, spoke in an interview with *The Criterion* of how much being a member of the presbyterate of the archdiocese meant to his fellow priest.

“He sent an ordination anniversary card to every priest of the archdiocese every year,” Father Ginther said. “Hand-written, not typed.”

That commitment to his brother priests was consistent, Father Ginther noted, with his dedication to the end of his life of forming future generations of priests.

“It gave him life,” Father Ginther said. “As a priest, he wasn’t just going to stop. It was just who he was. He needed to continue to help people move toward the God that he loved so much, and the Church that he loved.”

John Lawrence Richardt was born on Sept. 4, 1937, in Chicago to the late

John and Wanda (Goodson) Richardt. The family later moved to Tell City where they were members of St. Paul Parish. Father Richardt received the sacrament of confirmation there on Oct. 29, 1945.

After graduating from the former St. Paul School, Father Richardt became an archdiocesan seminarian, receiving priestly formation at the former Saint Meinrad High School and Saint Meinrad College from 1950-59, earning a bachelor’s degree at the latter. He completed his last four years of formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he also earned a licentiate in sacred theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Father Richardt was ordained a priest on Dec. 19, 1962, at the Church of Christ the King in Rome by Bishop Martin J. O’Connor, who was the rector of the North American College at the time.

Father Richardt’s first pastoral assignment in the archdiocese was as associate pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and as an instructor at the former Archbishop Schulte High School, both in Terre Haute, where he served from 1963-68. From 1968-70, he ministered as an assistant chaplain for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

For two months in 1970, Father Richardt served as associate pastor of the former Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis before serving in the same role at the former Holy Trinity Parish in New Albany from 1970-73.

He ministered as the co-pastor of St. Paul Parish in Tell City and St. Pius V Parish in Troy and as associate pastor of St. Michael Parish in Cannelton from 1973-75.

Father Richardt’s ministry in priestly formation began in 1975 when he became

a member of the faculty of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology while also serving as co-pastor of the former St. Martin of Tours Parish in Siberia until 1979.

In 1986, after 11 years on Saint Meinrad’s faculty, Father Richardt was appointed pastor of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Jeffersonville, leading that faith community until 1989.

From 1989-92, he served as pastor of St. Paul Parish in Tell City, as administrator of St. Pius V Parish in Troy and St. Michael Parish in Cannelton and as dean of the Tell City Deanery.

Beginning in 1992, Father Richardt began his second stint of ministry in priestly formation at Saint Meinrad, serving there until 1998.

From 1998-2002, he ministered as the sacramental minister and priest moderator of St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish in St. Mary-of-the-Woods and the former St. Leonard of Port Maurice Parish in West Terre Haute. During that same time, Father Richardt also served as chaplain for the Sisters of Providence.

From 2002-03, he served as the part-time director of the archdiocesan Office of Ministry to Priests. In 2003, he was granted early retirement.

Father Richardt continued to serve in retirement as a spiritual director for lay, religious and lay Catholics. He also served as a spiritual director for seminarians at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary from 2006-25.

He is survived by a sister, Susan LeMond, and two brothers, Joseph and Stephen Richardt.

Because of his great interest in Native American culture, Father Richardt asked that memorial contributions be sent to the Eiteljorg Museum, 500 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. †

Love Your Neighbor

Summer Scirée

Save the Date

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025, 6 P.M.

Special pre-reception beginning at 5 p.m.

The Grand Hall at Historic Union Station

Crowne Plaza, Downtown Indianapolis

Cocktails & gourmet chef-attended menu stations

Live music from Night To Remember

Emcees: Ryan and Lauren Ahlwardt

Live and silent auctions, games and table activities

Purchase tickets at svdpindy.org/summer

Presented by

SVdP Indy

Serving Central and Southern Indiana

Loving Our Neighbors for Over 75 Years

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC.

MISTAKES TO AVOID

AVOIDING COMMON PLANNED GIVING MISTAKES

Many donors do not feel confident in their knowledge of planned giving. This is not surprising as there are common misconceptions about the subject. For instance, donors may feel they have to be extraordinarily wealthy to consider a planned gift – which is not the case. Donors can make any manner of planned gifts in any gift amount during their lifetime or at the time of their passing. It’s the “planned” in planned giving that is key. In the planning process of your intended gift, it is important to avoid common mistakes such as:

Sending your gift to the wrong charity (many charities have similar names, so you want to double-check you have the right one)

Not providing the charity with the details of your gift. Sometimes, monies are sent to us without any donor or beneficiary information. Always provide this information directly to the charity so your gift can be matched when it arrives. At the Archdiocese, we encourage you to use our giving forms that can be found at: www.archindy.org/ccf/fordonors

Not informing your family, and especially the executor of your estate, of your bequest intentions. Your intentions will best be fulfilled if you have previously communicated with your loved ones.

Not having an updated will. Best practice is to review your will every five years to determine if changes need to be made.

And, as always, we recommend you consult your professional advisors for legal or tax advice. If we can provide you with planned giving information, please contact the Catholic Community Foundation at ccf@archindy.org or 317-236-1482.

MCNULTY

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Tom McNulty

BROKER/ATTORNEY

317.507.0688 • mcnultyre@gmail.com

Patrick McNulty

BROKER

Brian Candlish

BROKER

Jamy Brase

BROKER

Andy Barnett

BROKER

Steve Hullett

BROKER

MCNULTYRE.COM

Experience counts... Let us share ours with you!

Serving our friends and customers for over 35 years in Central Indiana. Specializing in Brokerage, Legal, and Investment Services for all types of real estate transactions.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, *Publisher*
Sally Krause, *Associate Publisher*
Mike Krokos, *Editor*

Editorial



Pope Leo XIV delivers his homily during Mass at the Church of St. Thomas of Villanova in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on July 13. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Compassion must fill our hearts for our brothers, sisters in need

Families mourning the loss of loved ones because of unprecedented flooding in Texas.

Those dealing with the casualties of the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia and in other parts of the world where conflict is prevalent, including three people killed and several others injured on July 17 when Israeli tank fire struck Holy Family Parish, the Gaza Strip’s only Catholic parish.

Our brothers and sisters across the globe facing hunger, homelessness and other societal challenges because of their state in life.

If we read Pope Leo XIV’s homily during Mass on July 13 at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, and reflect on each of the above situations through the lens of faith, we realize each of those impacted is our neighbor.

And like the Good Samaritan cited in the Gospel (Lk 10:25-37) during that day’s Mass, we too are called to have a loving and compassionate heart for our brothers and sisters in need.

“That parable constantly challenges us to think about our own lives,” Pope Leo said. “It troubles our dormant or distracted consciences and warns us about the risk of a complacent faith that is satisfied with the outward observance of the law but incapable of feeling and acting with the same merciful compassion as God.”

We understand this Scripture passage is “really about compassion,” the pope continued, and it teaches that “how we look at others is what counts, because it shows what is in our hearts. We can look and walk by, or we can look and be moved with compassion.”

In today’s increasing “me-first” world, it is heart-rending to see how difficult it is for some to slow down, stop and help others. Too many in society have become quite good at tuning out the rest of the world as they settle into the bubble that envelops their life.

It may sound elementary, but we need to continually let faith guide us in all we say and do. Do we see Jesus in every person or situation? Are we Jesus to the person or persons?

“The parable speaks to us first about God’s way of seeing us, so that we, in turn, can learn how to see situations and people with his eyes, so full of love and compassion,” Pope Leo said.

The Holy Father told those attending the Mass that the Good Samaritan is really a figure of Jesus, “the eternal Son whom the Father sent into our history precisely because he regarded humanity with compassion and did not walk by.”

Compassion is what filled the heart of the Good Samaritan, who did not allow religion or social barriers to prevent him from helping his neighbor in need. Citing Pope Benedict XVI’s book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Leo reminded his listeners what the former pontiff wrote: “But Jesus ... turns the whole matter on its head: the Samaritan, the foreigner, makes himself the neighbor and shows me that I have to learn to be a neighbor deep within and that I already have the answer in myself. I have to become like someone in love, someone whose heart is open to being shaken up by another’s need.”

We must ask ourselves: Have our hearts hardened where our brothers and sisters in need are concerned? As we read earlier in Luke’s Gospel that weekend, the greatest commandments teach us: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Lk 10:27).

The parable, we believe, offers a necessary reminder: Each day, we are called to imitate Christ.

“Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others, whoever they may be, with their needs and troubles, to touch our heart,” Pope Leo said, “is what makes us neighbors to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers. In the end, love prevails and proves more powerful than evil and death.”

As missionary disciples charged to follow the Good Samaritan’s example, may we “go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37).

—Mike Krokos

Reflection/John Shaughnessy

The gift of a friend

When I saw the name connected to the missed call, I knew I had to return it immediately. I just hoped the opportunity hadn’t been lost to talk one more time with one of the best friends I’ve ever had.

I hope you have a friend like my friend Jim. Someone who has a way of making you smile and laugh. Someone you can count on. Someone you would reach out to for help through a tough time in your life. Someone who would have your back even if you did something wrong—and maybe even challenge you to be better. Someone who would be thrilled for you when you have good news to share.



Jim has given me all these gifts at different moments in my life, dating back to the beginning of our friendship in high school in the Philadelphia area in the 1970s. And now with his phone call that I missed, I wholeheartedly believed that Jim was trying to give me one more gift.

The gift to tell each other thanks—and goodbye.

For several years, he had fought the good fight in his battle with cancer—not just determined to beat it, but to continue to live his life with a positive energy that would bring joy, hope, smiles and laughter to his family, his friends and, well, just about everyone who crossed his path.

With him living in Minnesota and me in Indiana, our weekly conversations were mostly by phone during those years, but they were routinely the conversations I savored the most. Every one was filled with shared news about our families, memories from high school, discussions about life, his efforts to help create sports programs for children and youths in under-served, urban areas and talk about our often-frustrating, never-forgotten Philadelphia sports teams.

And no matter how much misery those teams caused us, he kept insisting that we needed to “believe” and use our “right brain” positivity for them. And so I did, because it was a blessing to join him in that hope.

He had that same abundance of hope regarding the different cancer treatments that extended his life and his quality of life.

Then came the point when the doctors told him there was nothing more they could do. And soon came the last phone call he tried to make to me, from his bed in hospice.

Seeing the missed call, I phoned him immediately, almost desperately, tapping into that “right brain” positivity that he would answer. And he did.

Hearing his voice, even though it was far weaker than usual, was a gift. So were the smiles and the laughs that came with our conversation. So were the ways we told each other, “I love you, my friend. Thank you.”

I cried when the call ended.

A few days later, one of his brothers texted me with the news that Jim had died “peacefully and gracefully” surrounded by his beloved wife Peggy and their children.

As I prayed for Jim and his family, I thought of the way that God makes his goodness and grace known in the world through our friendships.

I also thought of a column I wrote in 1986 when I worked for *The Indianapolis Star*. A reader had sent me his copy of the piece in the past year or so, and it has stayed on my work desk ever since. The column had this headline, “Friendship made in youth is special.”

“It’s a friendship with history,” I wrote. “A friendship that had its start in a time long before marriage, jobs, mortgages and children became part of the definition of our lives.

Hearing his voice, even though it was far weaker than usual, was a gift. So were the smiles and the laughs that came with our conversation. So were the ways we told each other, “I love you, my friend. Thank you.”

“Maybe you share such a friendship, the kind in which a conversation never seems to end, it just continues at a later date.

“Such friends usually are the ones who can make you laugh by merely raising an eyebrow or giving a certain look. They’re the friends who kid you mercilessly about your old romances. And they’re also the people you turn to when you need someone to listen.

“In a sense, it’s the best kind of friendship.

“One of the reasons that seems true is because it was formed in our youths. As you get older, your friends often are made through your spouse, your children, your career.

“In your younger days though, your friends are more a reflection of you. And when someone accepts you on those terms, the bond seems stronger.”

I was blessed to have that friendship with Jim.

I hope you have that kind of friendship, too.

Most of all, I hope you cherish it for the great gift it is.

(John Shaughnessy is the assistant editor of The Criterion.) †

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



Christ the Cornerstone

We are called to serve, not be served

Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mt 20:28).

Today is the Feast of St. James the Apostle. James was among the first disciples of Jesus. St. Matthew tells us that, “As he walked by the Sea of Galilee ... Jesus saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother mending their nets and he called them” (Mt 4:18, 21). Church tradition tells us that St. James was the first of the 12 Apostles to die a martyr’s death.

The Gospel for today’s feast (Mt 20:20-28) reminds us that self-sacrificing love and service are the way of Jesus, and that those who wish to follow him must embrace these virtues without counting the cost. As Jesus says in response to the mother of James and John when she asked him to give her sons favored status, his followers are required to drink from the same chalice of pain and humiliation that the Lord himself had to endure. All attempts to gain social status or power over others are self-serving and an abuse of the true meaning of Christian discipleship. Jesus says:

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. (Mt 20:25-27)

Jesus warns his Apostles that what lies ahead for them is not what the world considers a life of prestige or honor, but the hard work of selfless leadership and service in the manner of Christ himself who “did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mt 20:28).

We can’t fault the mother of James and John for wanting the best for her sons. St. Matthew tells us that the other 10 Apostles were “indignant” at her presumption, but Jesus uses this occasion as an opportunity to help them understand the kind of life that was in store for them if they continued to follow him. So, he asks them, “Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?” (Mt 20:22)

In the first reading for the Feast of St. James (2 Cor 4:7-15), St. Paul

bluntly describes what can be called “the cost of discipleship.” He says:

We hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. (2 Cor 4:7-11)

St. Paul teaches that our sufferings and hardships are a participation in the redemptive passion and death of Jesus. Death is at work in us, Paul says, only so that the One who raised Jesus from the dead can raise us up also. “For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh” (2 Cor 4:11).

The life of a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ is not supposed

to be gloomy or depressing. On the contrary, when lived fully the Christian life is filled with joy and hope. When Jesus cautions the sons of Zebedee (and all of us) that we must be prepared to “drink from the same chalice” that he accepted as the price of our salvation, he is teaching us that our joy will come from a very different source than worldly pleasure or privilege. Christian joy comes from self-emptying love and service, not from self-gratification or the adulation of others.

If we wish to follow Jesus, we must accept that the Cross is the only way to authentic freedom and joy. If we want to be leaders, we must be servants, and if we want to one day take our rightful places in the kingdom of heaven, we must be willing to live and die as Jesus did.

As we continue our Jubilee celebration as Pilgrims of Hope, let’s remember that the Cross of Jesus is the only way to the joy of everlasting life in him. St. James the Apostle, pray for us. Help us to be faithful missionary disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Estamos llamados a servir, no a ser servidos

De la misma manera que el Hijo del hombre no ha venido para ser servido, sino para servir y dar su vida en pago de la libertad de todos (Mt 20:28).

Hoy es la festividad del apóstol Santiago, uno de los primeros discípulos de Jesús. San Mateo nos dice que, “Iba Jesús paseando por la orilla del lago de Galilea, cuando vio a dos hermanos: Simón, también llamado Pedro, y su hermano Andrés. Eran pescadores, y estaban echando la red en el lago.” Jesús les dijo: —“Vengan conmigo y los haré pescadores de hombres” (Mt 4:18-21). La tradición eclesial nos dice que Santiago fue el primero de los 12 Apóstoles en morir mártir.

El Evangelio de la festividad de hoy (Mt 20:20-28) nos recuerda que el amor abnegado y el servicio son el camino de Jesús, y que quienes desean seguirle deben acoger estas virtudes sin importar el costo que esto implique. Como dice Jesús en respuesta a la madre de Santiago y Juan cuando le pide que conceda a sus hijos la condición de predilectos, sus seguidores están obligados a beber del mismo cáliz de dolor y humillación que el Señor mismo tuvo que soportar. Todos los intentos de ganar estatus social o poder sobre los demás son actos egoístas y representan un abuso del verdadero

significado de ser discípulos cristianos. Jesús dice:

Como muy bien saben ustedes, los que gobiernan las naciones las someten a su dominio, y los poderosos las rigen despóticamente. Pero entre ustedes no debe ser así. Antes bien, si alguno quiere ser grande, que se ponga al servicio de los demás; y si alguno quiere ser principal, que se haga servidor de todos. (Mt 20:25-27)

Jesús advierte a sus Apóstoles que lo que les espera no es lo que el mundo considera una vida de prestigio u honores, sino la ardua labor que conlleva el liderazgo y el servicio desinteresados a la manera del propio Cristo, que “no ha venido para ser servido, sino para servir y dar su vida en pago de la libertad de todos” (Mt 20:28).

No podemos culpar a la madre de Santiago y Juan por querer lo mejor para sus hijos. San Mateo nos dice que los otros diez Apóstoles estaban «indignados» por su presunción, pero Jesús aprovecha la ocasión para ayudarles a comprender el tipo de vida que les esperaba si continuaban siguiéndole. Entonces, les pregunta: “¿Pueden beber ustedes la misma copa de amargura que yo estoy a punto de beber?” (Mt 20:22)

En la primera lectura de la festividad de Santiago (2 Cor 4:7-15), san Pablo

describe sin rodeos lo que puede llamarse “el costo del discipulado,” y en este sentido, expresa:

Este tesoro lo guardamos en vasijas de barro para que conste que su extraordinario valor procede de Dios y no de nosotros. Nos acosan por todas partes, pero no hasta el punto de abatirnos; estamos en apuros, pero sin llegar a ser presa de la desesperación; nos persiguen, pero no quedamos abandonados; nos derriban, pero no consiguen rematarlos. Por todas partes vamos reproduciendo en el cuerpo la muerte dolorosa de Jesús, para que también en nuestro cuerpo resplandezca la vida de Jesús. En efecto, mientras vivimos, estamos de continuo en trance de muerte por causa de Jesús para que, a través de nuestra naturaleza mortal, se haga manifiesta la vida de Jesús. (2 Cor 4:7-11)

San Pablo nos enseña que nuestros sufrimientos y penurias son una participación en la pasión y muerte redentoras de Jesús. Afirma que la muerte actúa en nosotros únicamente para que Aquel que resucitó a Jesús de entre los muertos pueda resucitarnos también a nosotros. “En efecto, mientras vivimos, estamos de continuo en trance de muerte por causa de Jesús para que, a través de nuestra naturaleza mortal, se haga manifiesta la vida de Jesús” (2 Cor 4:11).

Sin embargo, la vida de un discípulo misionero de Jesucristo no debe ser sombría ni deprimente. Por el contrario, cuando se vive a plenitud, la vida cristiana está llena de alegría y esperanza. Cuando Jesús advierte a los hijos de Zebedeo (y a todos nosotros) que debemos estar preparados para “beber de la misma copa” que él aceptó como precio de nuestra salvación, nos enseña que nuestra alegría provendrá de una fuente muy distinta del placer o el privilegio mundanos. La alegría cristiana procede del amor y el servicio desinteresados, no de la autogratificación ni de la adulación de los demás.

Si queremos seguir a Jesús, debemos aceptar que la Cruz es el único camino hacia la auténtica libertad y la alegría; si queremos ser líderes, debemos ser siervos, y si queremos ocupar un día el lugar que nos corresponde en el reino de los cielos, debemos estar dispuestos a vivir y morir como Jesús.

Mientras continuamos nuestra celebración del Jubileo como Peregrinos de Esperanza, recordemos que la Cruz de Jesús es el único camino hacia la alegría de la vida eterna en Él. San Santiago apóstol, ora por nosotros y ayúdanos a ser fieles discípulos misioneros de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. †

Events Calendar

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

July 28-31

Christ the King Parish, 5884 Crittenden Ave., Indianapolis. **Encounter Summer Intensive: A Four-night Experience of the Encounter School of Ministry**, 6-9 p.m. each evening, \$35 for clergy, religious and seminarians, \$40 for parish/ministry professionals and ages 18-35, \$75 ages 36 and older; individual sessions \$25. Information: 317-721-2145, indianapolis@encounterschool.org, tinyurl.com/encintensive25.

July 31-August 2

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. **Holy Spirit Festival**, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, live music, midway rides, food, beer and wine, bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold ‘Em, silent auction, \$7,500 raffle (tickets \$20), parking shuttle available at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after Masses, non-parishioner admission \$10 in festival tickets, children 12 and younger free, ages 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Information: holyspiritfestival.org, festival@holyspirit.cc, 317-353-9404.

August 1

Women’s Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, womenscarecenter.org.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Mass 6 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Friday Devotion**, 11:40 a.m., litany, consecration to the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by noon Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

August 1-8

Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Summer Used Book Sale**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., includes books, CDs, DVDs, freewill donation for items. Information: EventsofSistersofProvidence.org, 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

August 2

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Saturday Devotion**, 8 a.m., rosary, litany, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, confession 8-8:30 a.m. followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

St. Matthew the Apostle Church, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Children’s Rosary**, 9 a.m., children of all ages invited to pray rosary every first Saturday, donuts and fellowship to follow, free. Information: julie3reyes@gmail.com.

August 3

St. Boniface Parish, 11715 E. County Road 1550 N., Fulda. **Annual Summer Picnic**, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. CT., live music, dinners, food court, Fulda’s famous soup, family fun center, quilts, raffles, free admission. Information: 812-357-5533, info@myparishfamily.church.

August 5-September 9

Franciscan Hospice House, 8414 Franciscan Lane, Indianapolis. **Men’s Bereavement Group**, 10:30 a.m.-noon, six consecutive Tuesdays (Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26, Sept. 2, 9), free, registration required. Information, registration: 317-528-2636.

August 6

McGowan Hall, 1305 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis. **Theology on Tap**, 6-9:30 p.m., panel of young adults presenting, for ages 18-39, includes presentation, full bar, food trucks and socializing, free admission. Information: 317-592-4006, emastronicola@archindy.org.

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605.

August 8-9

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., Indianapolis. **Augustravananza**, 4 p.m.-midnight, raffle, festival food, children’s games, church tours, baby crawling race, bingo, beer tent, Monte Carlo, carnival rides, live music, catered dinners in air-conditioned gym, Silly Safari, free admission. Information: 317-357-1200, nativityindy.org/augustravananza.

St. Susanna Parish, 1210 E. Main St., Plainfield. **Backyard Bash**, Fri. 5:30-11 p.m., Sat. 5-11 p.m.,

bounce houses, rock climbing wall, kids’ games, 50/50, pull tabs, bingo, games of chance, raffle, comhole, putt-putt golf, dunk tank, dessert booth, vendor tables, live music 7:30-10:30 p.m.; dinners: Fri. 5:30-8 p.m. hamburger, fries and drink \$10, Sat. 5-8 p.m. cod, fries, cole slaw and drink \$12; kid’s activity wrist band \$15; free parking available at Duke Energy lot, 316 N. Carr Road in Plainfield, Fri. 5-11:30 p.m. and Sat. 3-11:30 p.m.; free general admission. Information: 317-839-3333, info@saintsusanna.com, saintsusannachurch.com.

August 9-10

All Saints Parish, St. Paul campus, 9788 N. Dearborn Road, Guilford. **Summer Picnic**, Sat.: 5 p.m.-midnight, pork loin dinners, live music by Misty Creek. Sun.: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken dinners available 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or sold out, food prices TBA. Both days: lunch stand food, beer garden, B&G ice cream, kiddie land, raffles, \$10,000 Big Money Raffle, religious exhibit “Celebrating America,” free admission. Information: 812-576-4302, emilyalig.asp@gmail.com.

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary Dr., Lanesville. **Parish**

Picnic, Sat. 6:30-10:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., chicken dinners, quilts, games of chance, free admission. Information: 812-952-2853.

August 10, 17, 24, 31

St. Joseph Parish, 125 E. Broadway, Shelbyville. **“Know Your Fertility” Class in Spanish**, 3-5 p.m., series of four sessions, \$75. Information, registration: ccorona@archindy.org, 317-800-9306.

August 12

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Taizé Prayer at the Woods**, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available. Information: Taize.SistersofProvidence.org, 812-535-2952.

August 15

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Viewrail CEO and founder Len Morris presenting “When Life Gives You Lemons, Go Find an Orange Grove,” rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on Aug. 12. Information, registration: cutt.ly/CBE-Reg. †

Retreats and Programs

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

August 8, September 12

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **A Day of Quiet Renewal**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, \$80 with spiritual direction. Information, registration: 812-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

August 9

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Osteopathy as an Expression of Franciscan Values in Body, Mind and Spirit**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., osteopathic physician Dr. David C. Eland presenting, \$30, \$45 with CEUs. Information, registration: 812-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

August 15

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 Saint Anthony Dr., Mount St. Francis. **A Day with Mary**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., facilitated by associate retreat director Judy

Ribar, includes walking the Seven Joys of Mary, praying the Stations of the Cross, guided reflections, quiet prayer time, Mass at 11:30 a.m., and lunch, \$60, register by Aug 12. Information, registration: 812-923-8817, mountsaintfrancis.org/a-day-with-mary.

August 15-17

Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. **Psychological, Emotional and Spiritual Healing**, 5 p.m. Fri.-10 a.m. Sun., Catholic therapist Dr. Peter Malonski presenting, \$241 for single, \$302.90 double, \$368 triple, \$433.12 quadruple, includes four meals and room for two nights, commuters \$50.70 includes Sat. lunch and dinner. Information, registration: 812-825-4642, ext. 1, motheroftheredeemer.com.

August 18

You Are Not Alone: The Spiritual Journey After Suicide Loss (Via Zoom), 6:30-8 p.m., sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, for adults, teens ages 15-19 may attend with parent or guardian, Father James Farell presenting, free, registration required. Registration: archindy.org/fatima-events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

August 19, September 18

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Day of Silence**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$45, includes room, lunch, Mass and use of common areas and grounds, overnight stay available for additional \$32, dinner additional \$11. Registration: archindy.org/fatima-events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org. †

All are invited to Mental Health and Addiction Ministry Mass with Archbishop Thompson on Aug. 13

A Mental Health and Addiction Ministry Mass will take place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 13.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will celebrate the Mass, which is sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity.

Options to receive a blessing from the archbishop and/or to pray with a prayer team will be offered immediately after the Mass.

All are invited to worship at the liturgy, including those suffering with—or those who know someone suffering with—mental health issues or addiction, their family and friends, those who work in the mental health and addiction recovery field, and all who want to pray for their Christian brothers and sisters enduring these crosses.

For more information, contact Brie Anne Varick at 317-236-1543 or bvarick@archindy.org. †

Wedding Anniversaries

JOSEPH, SR., AND JOSEPHINE (POLK) ANNEE, members of SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenwood, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 12.

The couple was married in St. Roch Church in Indianapolis on June 12, 1965.

They have four children: Angi Bartram, Kristen Hayse, Joe, Jr., and Tony Annee.

The couple also has 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



THOMAS AND LILLIAN (NORABUENA) FLECKER, members of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 5.

The couple was married in St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis on June 5, 1965.

They have two children: Lory Flecker and Jill Rector.

The couple also has one grandchild.



BERNARD AND GLORIA (BOHNERT) HAYES, members of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 10.

The couple was married in St. Joseph Church in Jasper, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville), on July 10, 1965.

They have two children: Kate and John Hayes.

The couple also has four grandchildren.



CHRISTOPHER AND MADONNA (CRAYS) MILES, members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelbyville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 19.

The couple was married in St. Lawrence Church in Indianapolis on July 19, 1975.

They have two children: Erin Floyd and Sean Miles.

The couple also has seven grandchildren.



JOSEPH AND JOSEPHINE (CASKEY) SIMON, members of SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenwood, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27.

The couple was married in St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis on June 27, 1975.



Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to cutt.ly/anniversaries or call 317-236-1585.

In illo uno unum (In the One Christ we are one)

One in Christ/Daniel Conway

Two brothers of faith show us the different paths to unity

In his homily for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29, Pope Leo XIV called attention to two specific aspects of the faith of these two Apostles: ecclesial communion and the vitality of faith.

“Today we celebrate two brothers in faith, Peter and Paul, whom we honor as pillars of the Church and venerate as patrons of the diocese and city of Rome,” the Holy Father said. “The story of these two Apostles has much to say to us, the community of the Lord’s disciples, as we make our pilgrim way in today’s world.”

Ecclesial communion (unity) is essential to our Church’s mission. As Pope Leo reminded us, “Peter and Paul were both ready to lay down their lives for the sake of the Gospel.” They were one in their devotion to the Lord and in their zeal for proclaiming the Gospel.

But the Holy Father pointed out that “this communion of the two Apostles in the one confession of faith was the conclusion of a long journey on which each embraced the faith and lived out his apostolate in his own particular way. Their brotherhood in the Spirit did not erase their different backgrounds.”

We know from the Scriptures that these two great men “were at odds over the proper way to deal with gentile converts, so much so that Paul tells us that, ‘when [Peter] came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned’ ” (Gal 2:11). Their opposing views came to a head at the Council of Jerusalem where the two Apostles debated the issue once more. In the end, their dispute was resolved by the intervention of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Leo insisted that disagreements do not have to destroy the fundamental unity that binds us together as sisters and brothers in Christ:

Dear friends, the history of Peter and Paul shows us that the communion to which the Lord calls us is a unison of voices and personalities that does not eliminate anyone’s freedom. Our patron saints followed different paths, had different ideas and at times argued with one another with evangelical frankness. Yet this did not prevent them from living the concordia apostolorum, that is, a living communion in the Spirit, a fruitful harmony in diversity. As St. Augustine remarks, “the feast of the two Apostles is celebrated on one day. They too were one. For

although they were martyred on different days, they were one” (Serm. 295, 7.7).

“A fruitful harmony in diversity” is not easy to achieve, especially among people who have passionate feelings and strong opinions. That is why it is so important for all of us to engage in attentive listening, respectful dialogue and prayerful discernment.

“All this invites us to reflect on the nature of ecclesial communion,” Pope Leo said. “Awakened by the inspiration of the Spirit, it unites differences and builds bridges of unity thanks to the rich variety of charisms, gifts and ministries.”

The second specific aspect that the Holy Father ascribed to Saints Peter and Paul is their “vitality of faith.” In an admonition reminiscent of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation “*Evangelii Gaudium*,” Pope Leo said:

In our life as disciples, we can always risk falling into a rut, a routine, a tendency to follow the same old pastoral plans without experiencing interior renewal and a willingness to respond to new challenges. The two Apostles, however, can inspire us by the example of their openness to change, to new events, encounters and concrete situations in the life of their communities, and by their readiness to consider new approaches to evangelization in response to the problems and difficulties raised by our brothers and sisters in the faith.

Openness to change is, perhaps, the most difficult thing for committed Christians, and the past 2,000 years of Christian history powerfully illustrate this difficulty.

“If we want to keep our identity as Christians from being reduced to a relic of the past,” Pope Leo said, recalling the frequent admonitions of Pope Francis, “it is important to move beyond a tired and stagnant faith.”

Ecclesial communion (unity in diversity) and vitality of faith (interior renewal) are necessary for pastoral revitalization. Pope Leo urges all of us, but especially the metropolitan archbishops who received the pallium from him on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, to emulate these pillars of the Church.

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion’s editorial committee.) †

Uno en Cristo/Daniel Conway

Dos hermanos de fe nos muestran los diferentes caminos hacia la unidad

En la homilía de la solemnidad de los santos Pedro y Pablo, el 29 de junio, el papa León XIV llamó la atención sobre dos aspectos específicos de la fe de estos dos Apóstoles: la comunión eclesial y la vitalidad de la fe.

“Hoy celebramos a dos hermanos en la fe, Pedro y Pablo, que reconocemos como pilares de la Iglesia y veneramos como patronos de la diócesis y de la ciudad de Roma”—declaró el Santo Padre—. “La historia de estos dos apóstoles nos interpela de cerca también a nosotros, que somos la comunidad peregrina de los discípulos del Señor en nuestro tiempo.”

La comunión eclesial (unidad) es esencial para la misión de nuestra Iglesia. Como nos recordó el papa León, “tanto Pedro como Pablo, por tanto, dan su vida por la causa del Evangelio.” Eran uno en su devoción al Señor y en su celo por proclamar el Evangelio.

Pero el Santo Padre destacó que “esta comunión en la única confesión de la fe no es una conquista pacífica. Los dos apóstoles la alcanzan como una meta a la que llegan después de un largo camino, en el cual cada uno ha abrazado la fe y ha vivido el apostolado de manera diversa. Su fraternidad en el Espíritu no borra la diversidad de sus orígenes.”

Sabemos por las Escrituras que entre estos dos grandes hombres «no faltaron conflictos respecto a la relación con los paganos, al punto que Pablo afirma: “ ‘Cuando Cefas [Pedro] llegó a Antioquía, yo le hice frente porque su conducta era reprensible’ ” (Gal 2:11). Sus perspectivas opuestas llegaron a un punto crítico en el Concilio de Jerusalén donde los dos Apóstoles debatieron la cuestión una vez más. Al final, su disputa se resolvió gracias a la intervención del Espíritu Santo.

El papa León insistió en que los desacuerdos no tienen por qué destruir nuestra unidad fundamental como hermanas y hermanos en Cristo:

Queridos hermanos, la historia de Pedro y Pablo nos enseña que la comunión a la que el Señor nos llama es una armonía de voces y rostros, no anula la libertad de cada uno. Nuestros patronos han recorrido caminos diferentes, han tenido ideas diferentes, a veces se enfrentaron y discutieron con franqueza evangélica. Sin embargo, eso no les impidió vivir la concordia apostolorum, es decir, una viva comunión en el Espíritu, una fecunda sintonía en la diversidad. Como afirma san Agustín: “En un solo día celebramos la pasión de ambos apóstoles. Pero ellos

dos eran también una unidad; aunque padeciesen en distintas fechas, eran una unidad” (Serm. 295, 7.7).

“Una fecunda sintonía en la diversidad” no es algo fácil de conseguir, sobre todo entre personas que tienen sentimientos y opiniones fuertes. Por eso es tan importante que todos nos dediquemos a escuchar atentamente, a dialogar con respeto y a discernir en oración.

“Todo esto nos interroga sobre el camino de la comunión eclesial”—señaló el papa León—. “Esta nace del impulso del Espíritu, une las diversidades y crea puentes de unidad en la variedad de los carismas, de los dones y de los ministerios.”

El segundo aspecto específico que el Santo Padre atribuyó a los santos Pedro y Pablo es la “vitalidad de su fe.” En una admonición que recuerda a la exhortación apostólica del papa Francisco “*Evangelii Gaudium*,” el papa León dijo:

En la experiencia del discipulado, de hecho, siempre existe el riesgo de caer en la rutina, en el ritualismo, en esquemas pastorales que se repiten sin renovarse y sin captar los desafíos del presente. En la historia de los dos apóstoles, en cambio, nos

inspira su voluntad de abrirse a los cambios, de dejarnos interrogar por los acontecimientos, los encuentros y las situaciones concretas de las comunidades, de buscar caminos nuevos para la evangelización partiendo de los problemas y las preguntas planteados por los hermanos y hermanas en la fe.

La apertura al cambio es, quizá, lo más difícil para los cristianos comprometidos, y los últimos 2,000 años de historia cristiana ilustran poderosamente esta dificultad.

“Si no queremos que nuestro ser cristiano se reduzca a una herencia del pasado”—expresó el papa León recordando las frecuentes admoniciones del papa Francisco— “es importante salir del peligro de una fe cansada y estática.”

La comunión eclesial (unidad en la diversidad) y la vitalidad de la fe (renovación interior) son necesarias para la revitalización pastoral. El papa León nos exhorta a todos, pero especialmente a los arzobispos metropolitanos que recibieron de él el palio en la solemnidad de los santos Pedro y Pablo, a emular a estos pilares de la Iglesia.

(Daniel Conway es integrante del comité editorial de The Criterion.) †

In illo uno unum (En el único Cristo somos uno)

After 2019 fire, pregnancy care center re-opens in new location in Indy

By Natalie Hoefer

After a nearly six-year journey, 1st Choice for Women’s new pregnancy care center opened for business on the southwest side of Indianapolis.

On Nov. 30, 2019, “a fire forced us from the building where our Gabriel Project and 1st Choice for Women offices were located,” Linda Kile, then-president and executive director of Great Lakes Gabriel Project, said to the crowd gathered for an opening event on June 14.

“It took two years of discernment and patient—and sometimes not patient— waiting before God finally revealed where he wanted us to reopen our doors. It took another two and a half years for him to connect us with the contractor that he chose to handle the renovations.

“And today, finally, we are here to celebrate the reopening of 1st Choice for Women.”

Joyous applause erupted from the roughly 50 Gabriel Project board members, volunteers and supporters.

The event included a blessing of the grounds and building by Father Jerry Byrd, then-pastor of the three parishes in Jennings County; talks by Kile, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita and others; a ribbon-cutting and tours of the facility.

“This is not just a celebration for me, for the Gabriel Project and our board of directors,” Kile told those present. “It is a celebration of your prayers, your belief in us, and your obedience to God when he called you to this ministry.”

‘God’s graces are flowing’

1st Choice for Women originally opened in 2010 in a building less than a mile from the Planned Parenthood former abortion center on the northwest side of Indianapolis. Its mission was to offer life-embracing services with compassion to women facing an unplanned pregnancy.

The facility was declared a total loss after the 2019 fire.

“At this point, it sounds like we’ll probably need to

start from scratch.” Kile said in a Dec. 13, 2019, *Criterion* article about the fire.

A two-year—and often frustrating—search led to the December 2021 purchase of the new facility, a three-bedroom home on Kentucky Avenue on the city’s southwest side—an area where the next closest pregnancy care center is nearly 20 minutes away in Mooresville.

Much work went into the location during the next three and a half years. The property had to be rezoned and brought up to code for commercial use. Then came the gutting and renovation of the home to fit the needs of the pregnancy care center.

Kile shared a story about the renovation process.

At a time when “the walls were bare and we were just down to two by fours,” she bought 10 Holy Family medals and 10 Miraculous Medals and had them blessed by the pastor of her home parish, St. Ann in Indianapolis.

“One of the guys on the renovation crew is actually a parishioner at St. Ann,” Kile said. She gave the blessed medals to him to be placed throughout the home’s structure.

“God’s graces are flowing from the walls through the miracle of the blessed medals,” she said. “So, even when people don’t know that God is in that room, he is in that room.”



Linda Kile, then-president and executive director of Great Lakes Gabriel Project, and Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita offer broad smiles as they prepare to cut a ribbon to officially open 1st Choice for Women pregnancy care center on the southwest side of Indianapolis on June 14. (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

‘Safe, loved and valued’

Kile, whose last day in her role with Great Lakes Gabriel Project was on July 14, told those gathered at the June 14 event of her excitement to finally start again the work of 1st Choice for Women.

“The work that is done at pregnancy centers everywhere ... is the work that we will do here,” she said. “The work that will help us empower women to come to us for help in their time of need. The work God has called each of us to as we fulfill his mission to create a culture of life and a civilization of love. The work that lets women know we’re

See PREGNANCY, page 19

Benedictine sisters to honor three ‘Angels of Grace’ on Aug. 23

By Natalie Hoefer

Throughout the Bible, three archangels are listed by name: Gabriel, messenger of good news to Mary and Zechariah; Michael, defender of heaven who cast the devil into hell; and Raphael, the traveling companion of Tobias.

The Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove have annually identified three women who have heroically served in the roles of messenger, defender and companion, and recognized their service with an “Angels of Grace” award.

The 2025 winners are Project Play co-founder Angie Lacy for the “messenger” Angel Gabriel Award; Village of Merici executive director Colleen Renie for the “defender” Angel Michael Award; and Tara Treatment Center CEO Jessica Daugherty for the “companion” Angel Raphael Award.

The recipients will receive their awards at the Angels of Grace Awards Luncheon at Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis on Aug. 23.

Following is more information about the 2025 messenger, defender and companion award winners.

Angel Gabriel Award: Angie Lacy

Lacy co-founded Project Play, Inc., in October 2016.

In her 30 years as a pediatric occupational therapist for the Indiana First Steps Program, Lacy worked with children from birth to 3 years who had developmental delays.

While providing therapy services to children in their homes, she realized many children do not have toys or books. Lacy has a strong belief in the power of play and that toys and books are an important part of a child’s development.

She started Project Play to provide



Angie Lacy

age-appropriate toys and books to children who may not have access to them.

Each child who is referred to Project Play receives a toy bag packed specifically for them with about five toys and up to 10 books. The bags are then delivered to the family’s home.

Project Play operates solely through volunteers and donations. Since its beginning in 2016, it has served more than 4,000 children. Lacy runs the day-to-day operations of the organization.

She also works as a preschool teacher at Downey Cooperative Preschool in Indianapolis. For more than 10 years, she has been teaching classes there for children ages 18 months to 3 years old.

Lacy has dedicated her life to serving children and their families. She is a lifelong resident of Indianapolis’ east side, where she is a member of Holy Spirit Parish. Lacy enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband Tim, their six grown children and two grandchildren.

For more information about Project Play, Inc., go to projectplayinc.org.

Angel Michael Award: Colleen Renie

Renie has been the executive director of Village of Merici, Inc., in Indianapolis, since 2016. She was one of the original developers of the Village of Merici organization, having served as chairman of the board for nine years prior.

Renie has worked as an occupational therapist for more than 40 years in the field of developmental disabilities.

In addition to service delivery, she worked in operations and program management for 24 years in her previous position as coordinator of occupational therapy, physical therapy and assistive technology for the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township in Indianapolis.



Colleen Renie

Renie has a strong history of advocating for individuals with disabilities.

She provides guidance as Village of Merici grows and fulfills its mission of providing residential and community options for adults with developmental disabilities in central Indiana. She has guided the organization’s growth from its original five employees and two clients to its current staff of 75 serving more than 130 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with three residential partnerships.

Renie is a lifelong resident of Indianapolis, where she is a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish. She cherishes time with her husband Joe and their four adult children.

For more information about Village of Merici, Inc., go to villageofmerici.org.

Angel Raphael Award: Jessica Daugherty

Daugherty is CEO of Tara Treatment Center in Franklin, a leading provider of addiction treatment services in Indiana.

With more than 23 years of experience in the behavioral health and addiction recovery field, Daugherty’s journey at Tara is a testament to her dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those affected by addiction.



Jessica Daugherty

She began her career at Tara in 2002 as a nurse. Through the years, she advanced through various leadership roles, balancing high-quality patient care with operational success. Her pursuit of an MBA in 2021 highlights her commitment to contributing at the highest level and staying adaptable in an ever-evolving field.

In 2025, Daugherty’s leadership journey at Tara Treatment Center culminated in her appointment as CEO. In this role, she continues to champion personalized, high-quality care that

empowers individuals on their path to recovery.

Driven by a profound desire to make a positive impact on those struggling with addiction, Daugherty is a visionary leader who inspires her team to deliver exceptional care and support. Her guidance helps clients achieve lasting sobriety and live fulfilling, meaningful lives.

With a compassionate and forward-thinking approach, she ensures that Tara’s mission of healing and hope is reflected in every aspect of the organization. Her leadership has been pivotal in cultivating a culture of high-quality care, financial stability, and unwavering compassion.

Daugherty remains steadfast in her commitment to advancing Tara’s mission to provide effective and compassionate addiction treatment programs that address the behavioral health needs of the community. She is proud to lead a team of professionals who are equally dedicated to providing the highest standards of care while empowering individuals and families in their recovery journeys.

The mother of three adult children is working on a master’s degree in counseling from Loyola University in Chicago and serves as a board of trustee member for University High School of Indiana in Carmel.

For more information on Tara Treatment Center, go to taratreatmentcenter.org.

(The Angels of Grace luncheon will be held at Primo Hall, 2615 E. National Ave., in Indianapolis, from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Aug. 23. The cost is \$45, or a table of eight for \$360. The event includes lunch, an awards ceremony, a fashion show, raffles for gift baskets and for a vacation at Lake Michigan, and a pop-up shop by Secret Ingredient Boutique. Proceeds benefit the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. To register, purchase a sponsorship or make a donation, go to tinyurl.com/AngelsOfGrace2025 or call 317-787-3287, ext. 3033.) †

PILGRIMAGE

continued from page 1

“The only thing that survived was the tabernacle,” Johnson says. “And the Blessed Sacrament was intact inside. It was like a miracle it survived. And the fact that it was at a church called Corpus Christi [Latin for “body of Christ”].

“I think it was a sign of the hope that Jesus Christ brings. Just a further emphasis of the gift of the Eucharist. That Jesus comes to protect us and comfort us and save us.”

That sign of hope was among the defining moments that Levy and Johnson experienced during the pilgrimage that ended with a Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles on June 22—a Mass during which the rescued tabernacle was prominently displayed.

Moments of beauty, peace and grace

As Johnson and Levy rode in a van with the other pilgrims during the cross-country journey, the group often stopped at parishes and churches along the way for eucharistic adoration and processions—one more highlight in the three-year National Eucharistic Revival’s effort to share with people that the Eucharist is the real body and blood of Jesus.

The eucharistic processions during the pilgrimage always had an impact on Levy and Johnson, leading to special memories for each of them.

“The first thing that stands out is a procession we had in Tulsa, Oklahoma,” says Levy, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis. “It showed the universality of the Church in such a beautiful way. You saw so many different cultures and different groups come together for this procession. There were around 800 people processing through the streets.

“It was powerful to see people in the neighborhoods coming out of their houses because they were really curious about what was going on. I had the opportunity to talk to a few people along the way. They were captivated by it. They had never seen this many people before coming together to process through the streets and, by their silent witness, proclaim our belief in the Eucharist. People were really in awe.”

Levy still smiles thinking about the conversation she had with some people who came out of their home to see the procession.

“They weren’t Catholic, but they knew a little about the Church,” she says. “This one woman said she really had wanted for a parade to come through town. And then this procession came through. She was in awe. Just her openness to hear about the Eucharist and what the Church believes.”

Johnson had a similar defining experience during a eucharistic procession in El Paso, Texas.

“We would try to evangelize during processions. We’d talk to people who were there but also to people who were on the streets,” says Johnson, a member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

“I was partnered with somebody, and we were walking, and this woman came up. The guy she was with started pushing her, and she started crying. They were speaking Spanish, so I wasn’t sure what was happening. But I got to pray with her, and there was peace in that moment. Just being able to bring Jesus to her and to help her have that peace was really beautiful.”

Johnson’s face and eyes glow as she adds, “It was beautiful, too, just being able to approach anybody. I was talking to these two women, and they were sharing their story. And how happy they were to be there. They told me, ‘You’re like our daughter now.’

“There was the beauty of seeing the universality of the Church in that.”

Johnson and Levy also found beauty in a visit to a place touched by a fragile, tough time of life.

‘A really powerful experience’

The pilgrimage included a stop at a Catholic Charities hospice facility in Tulsa called Porta Caeli House. “Porta Caeli” is Latin for “Gate of Heaven.”

“We had an opportunity to sit with, be present with and pray with these individuals who are at the end of their life,” Levy recalls. “It was a really powerful experience to be with them—and just reflect on the beauty of life, and the beauty and sanctity of every person regardless of where they are in their life. Just being reminded that their life and every life matters to God.”

The visit also led to an opportunity to pray with the families of the people in hospice.

“They were thanking us at the end, and I’m thinking, ‘I’m just a random girl,’ ” Johnson says. “I think people really saw Christ in us.

“They were able to share with us. And there was a grace to be able to receive that, and to offer it to the Lord. A lot of it was what Our Lady does, just listening to what other people are sharing and then offering it to our Lord, which is a really powerful experience.”

So was traveling across the country in a van that had a tabernacle and the Eucharist in it.

‘I hope I never take it for granted’

“I remember when we were first going out of St. John’s, I was like, ‘What’s happening?!’—Jesus was exposed right in front of me. I didn’t know what to do,” Johnson says. “But it was a beautiful way of learning to see Jesus in everything I was doing throughout the day. He was always there with us. When we were eating lunch, when we stopped at a gas station to use the bathroom, someone stayed in the van to be with him.

“Really, just to experience life with Jesus was just an incredible experience. I hope I never take it for granted.”

Both women view the cross-country journey with Jesus as a modern-day opportunity similar to the one the Apostles had.

“Obviously they were walking, and we were riding in a van across the country,” Levy says. “Our whole mission was to bring Jesus to people, to bring him to different communities.

“It was really beautiful to see how the team came together. Even in moments of frustration or little challenges that would come up, it was so prevalent throughout the entire pilgrimage that we were so focused on our mission of, ‘We’re here to follow Jesus, and we’re here to help to spread the belief that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist.’ That unified us.”

Johnson says the young adult pilgrims became “like family” during the pilgrimage.

“I’m so grateful for them,” she says. “You spend so much time together. After four weeks, someone said, ‘Every day for the past month, we’ve woken up and seen each other.’ It was great to have other people understand



National Eucharistic Pilgrimage pilgrims Cheyenne Johnson, left, and Rachel Levy, right, pose for a photo with their friend, Sara Levy, during a stop along the 3,300-mile journey from Indianapolis to Los Angeles this spring. (Photo contributed by the National Eucharistic Congress)

the universality of the Church. I have never been to Mass in so many different languages. And I encountered Christ in a new way.

“Encountering him through other people and seeing the faith of people will continue to shape me. Just really living out that call to be a missionary disciple, to get to share Jesus with others. Sometimes, you just see a demeanor change in them. You see people who are confused or on-guard, and you see that melt away. You invite them to come and pray, and they join the procession. That’s really powerful.”

The joy in her voice grows as she notes, “One of the big graces I received was growing in my relationship, like in love with God the Father, and just the desire to be a daughter, to just receive him.”

For Levy, the essence of the pilgrimage was partly captured in what she describes as a “very small” moment. It happened as she was leaving a church, and she passed a woman who was entering it.

“She asked about the pilgrimage, and we had a very brief conversation. I asked her, ‘Is there any way we can be praying for you?’ That very simple act moved her to tears. She shared a couple things I could be praying for her. That interaction reminded me of the power of prayer, and also the importance of asking people how we can be praying for them. Because everyone has something they need prayers for.”

Levy also shares one of the best gifts she received from being part of the pilgrimage.

“Being so close to Jesus in the Eucharist for so much of our days was a powerful reminder that he is really always with us,” she says. “That’s something I’m trying to bring into my life now. That even though I’m not spending hours in a van every day or walking in a procession every day with Jesus in the Eucharist, that for each of us Christ is always with us. It’s been a helpful reminder for me as I go back into my regular daily life.”

She and Johnson have embraced that feeling as they return to their ministries in the archdiocese.

Advice for the ages

“I wish everyone could have experienced some part of the pilgrimage,” Johnson says. “I think college students sometimes think they’re alone in their faith. Seeing the excitement of other people toward you—young people, old people and everyone in between—I have a renewed sense of confidence to be able to be present and to talk with people.

“That’s really what we were doing—talking to people about Jesus. I’m excited to continue to talk with students and meet new people and invite them to different things. I hope it can create a new culture of being a missionary on the college campus, throughout the archdiocese and throughout the world. Being able to confidently proclaim that Jesus is Lord. Not in an overbearing way but just that this great thing has happened to me, and I want to be able to share it with others.”

So does Levy.

“If the pilgrimage showed me anything, it’s the hunger that people have for the Eucharist,” she says. “Whether people realize it or not, I think everyone has a deep desire to know God, to know Jesus Christ. That’s something I’m keeping in mind coming back to the young adult community here. Just to continue to allow more and more encounters with Jesus really present in the Eucharist.”

Johnson offers one more thought about the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, a succinct piece of advice she shares for people of all ages.

“Just spend time with Jesus. He’s waiting there for you. He has mercy in abundance, and he wants to just love you.” †



The young adult pilgrims who recently made the 3,300-mile National Eucharistic Pilgrimage from Indianapolis to Los Angeles show their joy for the journey. In the front row are Leslie Reyes-Hernandez, left, Ace Acuña, Cheyenne Johnson and Johnathan Silvino Hernandez. In the back row are Stephen Fuhrmann, left, Charlie McCullough, Rachel Levy and Frances Webber. (Photo contributed by the National Eucharistic Congress)

SUMMER DAZE

continued from page 1

Summer Daze, now in its 25th year, is for youths entering sixth through eighth grade. Each Tuesday in June, they and their adult chaperones gather in the morning with their parish youth minister for prayer and catechesis on a theme of Catholic social teaching.

Service opportunities follow at various locations in or near the deanery. Then comes the fun as all of the kids and adults gather for a social activity.

There is a reason the program is limited to incoming sixth through eighth graders.

“These kids are at a stage in life where they want to be part of something bigger than themselves, and they want to show love to others,” explains Michelle Fessel, executive director of Catalyst Catholic. “This is the time to get them hooked on the idea of serving others.”

The Criterion met up with groups in Charlestown, Ramsey and Corydon on June 17—the third Tuesday of this year’s Summer Daze program—to see the kids put their faith into action.

‘God puts that dignity on them’

It was 8 a.m., but youths from St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville and St. Michael Parish in Charlestown were full of pep as they gathered at St. Michael.

Nick Smith, youth minister for both parishes, led them in prayer. Then came activities and catechesis centered on Summer Daze’s theme this year: human dignity.

Each Tuesday, the catechesis progressed in depth. “The first week was an introduction to the concept that every human being has dignity, that God puts that dignity on them and they deserve our respect,” Evan Wise told *The Criterion* later that day. He is youth minister for St. Bernard Parish in Frenchtown, St. Joseph Parish in Crawford County and St. Michael Parish in Bradford.

“Last week we talked about how to foster dignity in relationships, and today it was about how we see people out in the community who are labeled with negative labels. Maybe they’re seen as different or maybe they made bad life choices, but they still deserve that dignity.”

It feels ‘really good helping others’

Later, about 40 miles away in Ramsey, a group from St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight and St. Mary Parish in Navilleton were at work folding and hanging clothes at Ann’s Angels of Hope, which provides donated clothes, shoes, toiletries and other items to children in need based upon referrals in a three-county area.

Part of the goal of Summer Daze is to help youths understand the needs in their own communities. So, at each volunteer location, the groups learned about the people the organization or ministry assists and the type of help those they serve need.

“I explain to the kids that you never know what a person sitting next to you in church or school is going through, even if they seem fine on the outside,” said Annissa Kellum, founder of Ann’s Angels of Hope and a member of St. Michael Parish in Bradford.

“I share with them about how I grew up poor and why I give back, and how important it is to be involved in the community.”

Before the group tackled the bags and bins of donated clothes, she stressed the importance of the items’ cleanliness and quality.

“These kids we help are often bullied at school for not having the best clothes or fashion,” Kellum explained. “We want them to feel good about themselves.”

She noted that Summer Daze comes at a fortunate time

for Ann’s Angels of Hope.

“We usually help about 150 kids in July get ready for going back to school,” said Kellum. “The group here today helped us gear up for that. The smiles on the kids’ faces when they pick out their clothes and shoes are priceless.”

Lydia Koeppel of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton may not see those smiles, but she saw the value of helping her less fortunate peers.

“It’s important because you want to be treated the same as other people,” said the soon-to-be sixth grader. “And they can come here to get new clothes and to feel like they fit in.”

Lydia added that it felt “really good helping others, because it gives back to the world.”

‘You really helped a whole lot of people’

The next stop was Harrison County Community Services in Corydon, less than 10 miles away, where Wise’s three-parish group was busy filling boxes of food for delivery to the homebound and readying donated clothes for distribution.

Afterward, the group gathered to learn more about the non-profit organization from its executive director Deacon Rick Cooper, who serves at St. Joseph Parish in Corydon and St. Mary Parish in Lanesville

“Our goal is to help people who are in need,” he said. “We do that through our food pantry and clothes closet,” as well as limited financial assistance with essential costs.

He noted that the clothes the group prepared were just a few of the 60,000 pieces the organization distributes each year.

The group was even more surprised by the food pantry’s annual figures: 1.4 million pounds of food serving 2,500 families for a total of about 6,000 people.

Some who seek help from the pantry “are people who don’t work or can’t work,” Deacon Cooper explained. “Some are people who do work but still can’t afford enough food.”

To illustrate the problem of hunger in Harrison County, he pointed to seven kids.

“One of you is going hungry, because one of about every seven children in the county don’t have enough food,” he said, adding that the figure for adults is one in six.

The pantry also delivers food to about 90 households a month, said Deacon Cooper, “because maybe they don’t have transportation or are handicapped.

“You built boxes that were going for those home deliveries. So, you really helped a whole lot of people today.”

There is also a section of non-perishable items for the homeless, said Deacon Cooper, noting the facility sees “probably 15 to 30 [homeless] families a month—it just varies.

“But homelessness doesn’t look the same here as it would in Indianapolis or Louisville,” he said. The homeless in rural areas are more often “staying in a barn or with a friend, or sleeping under a bridge. But those people are here.”



Outside of St. Michael Church in Charlestown, youth parishioners Leslie Carrillo, left, Yarezi Martinez, Lucas Kinder, Easton Lathem, Nick Smith and John Tolliver wave at the camera before heading off to volunteer on June 17 as part of the New Albany Deanery’s Summer Daze program. (Photos by Natalie Hoefer)

of a Lilo and Stitch film, popcorn, a drink—and air conditioning.

Before grabbing a seat, several youths shared about their Summer Daze experience.

Of the different service opportunities, Kaiden Willis had a favorite: weaving sleeping mats out of plastic bags for the homeless. The activity was led by the Weaving God’s Blessing ministry at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany.

“I see homeless people when we’re driving, and see that they need help, and it really helped to know that I was making a difference,” said Kaiden, who will soon be in eighth grade at his parish’s school, St. John Paul II in Sellersburg.

Naimah Vizhnay of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville enjoyed the program so much as a middle-schooler that the incoming sophomore signed up as a chaperone the last two years.

“When we learn some people don’t have a mattress or there are elderly people who don’t have anyone to talk to, it helps us realize how fortunate we are and grateful we should be,” she said. “We help all kinds of people of all ages and circumstances so we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.”

Soon-to-be eighth grader Zadie Orr of Our Lady of Perpetual Help agreed.

Summer Daze is “a good way to live out the faith,” she said. “And it’s a good way to connect with people in different parishes.”

‘So that we can grow closer’ to God

That connection is one of the program’s three goals, said Fessel.

“We hope to build community among the Catholic youths within the parish and among other parishes,” she said.

The program also strives “to help them begin to grasp the concept of Catholic social teaching, then to connect them with needs right here in their own community,” Fessel added.

Needs like sleeping mats for the homeless. Chaperone Porsha Heck and two of her sons participated in the mat-making service opportunity.

The boys “couldn’t believe that [homeless persons] sleep on those,” said Heck, a member of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County with her husband Ben and their three children. “But I’m like, ‘Well, you’ve got to realize how blessed you are. Not everyone has a bed.’ The service opportunities just make you think.”

Raising such awareness is the program’s best benefit, said Wise.

“A big thing that I see the kids getting is the exposure to the stuff we talk about—the homelessness, the food insecurity, all these kinds of things,” he said.

“It isn’t just stuff that’s overseas or across the country or in the big cities. It is right here. It’s in your backyard. It’s 10 minutes down the road. I think that’s extremely important for kids to realize.”

And it’s important for the young Catholics to realize service “doesn’t have to be just a week in the summer,” Wise added. “It can be every weekend in your hometown.

“So that’s the big thing, just kind of showing them that the need exists and there are everyday things that you can do to help that need.”

Heck—who first volunteered as a chaperone for Summer Daze in high school with her now-husband—said learning that lesson is why she enrolled their two age-eligible boys in the program.

“I wanted them to realize that you need to help other people,” she said. “It’s not just about you and yourself. It’s about trying to serve other people.”

And why is serving others important? Earlier that day, as young Brigid paused from preparing food boxes for the homebound, she offered this insightful answer: “God wants us to help people so that we can grow closer to him.” †



Lydia Koeppel, left, and Lillian Koeppel, both members of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton, hang donated clothes for children in need on June 17 at Ann’s Angels of Hope in Ramsey as part of the New Albany Deanery’s Summer Daze program.

Court term’s major decisions set stage for more on religious liberty

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—The U.S. Supreme Court concluded its 2024-25 term, which included cases on topics such as the scope of authority of federal judges, immigration and religious liberty. When the court begins its 2025-26 term, it will again hear cases concerning religious liberty.

John Bursch, Alliance Defending Freedom senior counsel and vice president of appellate advocacy, told OSV News that the high court has recently shown a trend of “vigorously protecting religious liberty,” and such cases will continue.

“We sometimes think of this court as being divided six feet between conservatives and liberals, but there have been several unanimous religious liberty cases, and Catholic Charities was just the latest,” Bursch said in reference to *Catholic Charities Bureau v. Wisconsin Labor & Industry Review Commission*. The ruling overturned a decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court after the Catholic agency argued the state court wrongly discounted its religious identity in denying it an exemption from paying into the state’s unemployment benefit program available to employers that operate primarily for religious purposes.

“This term showed the court’s strong commitment to religious liberty and to the idea that Americans shouldn’t have to leave their faith at the door when they enter public life,” Mark Rienzi, president and CEO of Becket, told OSV News.

Among the religious liberty cases heard by the court during its recently concluded term were *Mahmoud v. Taylor* and *St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School v. Drummond*. In *Mahmoud*, the court ruled in favor of an interfaith group of Maryland parents who sought to opt their children out of classroom instruction pertaining to books containing LGBTQ+ themes to which they object on religious grounds.

Mahmoud, Rienzi said, “was a historic victory reaffirming the right of parents to direct the religious upbringing of their children.

“The court made clear that parents don’t surrender that right just because they use public schools,” he added.

In the *St. Isidore* case, a deadlocked court sidestepped a major ruling over what would have been the nation’s first Catholic charter school. The 4-4 split effectively blocked the effort by leaving in place a ruling by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, which found the establishment of the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School as a publicly-funded religious school was unconstitutional.

“*St. Isidore* left open the critical question of whether religious groups can participate equally in charter school programs,” Rienzi said. “While that was disappointing, the court is likely to revisit the issue soon.”

But one religious liberty case the court declined to take up was *Apache Stronghold v. United States*, involving a coalition of Western Apache people, along with other Native American and non-Indigenous supporters, that sought to protect their sacred site at Oak Flat, Ariz., from destruction by a copper mining giant.

But Rienzi argued the *Mahmoud* ruling may give the group a new avenue forward.

“There is still time for the court to protect Oak Flat from destruction by a Chinese-owned mining giant,” he said. “A pending petition for rehearing offers the justices another chance to consider the case in light of the *Mahmoud* ruling.”


Other major cases included the high court’s first significant foray into the issue of state laws banning certain types of medical or surgical gender reassignment procedures for minors who identify as transgender. In *United States v. Skrmetti*, the court found that a Tennessee law restricting gender transition treatments, including puberty blockers for minors, did not violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

The court also found in *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic* that there is not a private right to bring a lawsuit challenging South Carolina’s decision to end Planned Parenthood’s participation in the state’s Medicaid program, likely paving the way for other states to remove the nation’s largest single abortion provider from their Medicaid programs.

Bursch, who argued the case before the court, said the ruling was “an unqualified victory for states that want to be able to defund Planned Parenthood” or “other abortion providers in their state.”

Federal law generally prohibits the use of Medicaid funds for abortion. However, supporters of allowing Planned Parenthood to receive Medicaid funds point to that group’s involvement in cancer screening and prevention services—such as pap tests and HPV vaccinations—but critics argue the funds are fungible and could be used to facilitate abortion.

Perhaps the most controversial of the court’s decisions was a ruling limiting the ability of federal judges to issue



‘This term showed the court’s strong commitment to religious liberty and to the idea that Americans shouldn’t have to leave their faith at the door when they enter public life.’

—Mark Rienzi, president and CEO of Becket

nationwide injunctions in *Trump v. Casa, Inc.* The case concerned the Trump administration’s executive order to end birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to parents without legal status or temporary visa holders, without addressing whether or not the order itself is constitutional.

Bursch argued, “I think another big theme is that the court is willing to apply the rule of law even when some people might not be happy politically with the decisions that they make.

“That certainly applies to the Planned Parenthood defunding case that I argued, but also would apply to the national injunctions case, where the court did exactly what it was supposed to do in defining what the role of the federal judiciary was, even though it got a lot of political pushback because of that,” he said.

Writing for a 6-3 majority in *Trump v. Casa*, Justice Amy Coney Barrett said, “Federal courts do not exercise general oversight of the Executive Branch; they resolve cases and controversies consistent with the authority Congress has given them.”

But at a Georgetown law conference on July 2, Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of UC Berkeley School of Law, argued the ruling ended “an important judicial check on the federal government.

“This lessens the power of federal courts to check the executive branch of government, and it happens at the moment when the executive branch is systematically ignoring the Constitution,” he argued.

Pedro Aleman, a policy advocate for the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, also known as CLINIC, told OSV News that one of the key takeaways of the term was that the Supreme Court “will have a firm grasp on our immigration system for years, and possibly decades to come.

“Many of these decisions, no matter what the outcome, will have a rippling

effect for future generations,” he added.

In *Trump v. Casa*, the court did not directly rule on the question of birthright citizenship in the case, Aleman stressed. He argued if the order were enforced in the meantime, it would have “devastating and long-lasting consequences, both in our immigration and judicial system.

“Birthright citizenship has been the rule of law for more than 150 years,” he said. “The United States has held birthright citizenship as a clear element of its laws and values in society. In fact, under English common law—the foundation of American law—birthright citizenship has existed since colonial America. Time after time, centuries of unanimous rulings have favored birthright citizenship.”

Aleman cited rulings from the court that “allowed the administration to pave the road and terminate the statuses of more than half a million individuals under the CHNV [Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela] program, terminate Temporary Protected Status [TPS] for more than 300,000 Venezuelans, and the use of an 18th-century law, the 1798 Alien Enemies Act, to deport undocumented individuals” as among other causes for concern.

In its next term, the Supreme Court will hear cases including challenges to Idaho and West Virginia state laws requiring student athletes to compete on sports teams that correspond to their biological sex rather than their gender identity, and an appeal from a group of faith-based pregnancy centers in New Jersey. The group is challenging an investigation by that state’s attorney general alleging the pregnancy centers misled people about their services and seeking information about their donors.

It will also hear a First Amendment challenge to a Colorado law banning counseling services that practice so-called “conversion therapy” for minors, or efforts intended to change one’s gender identity or sexual orientation. †

Rhode Island celebrates pope’s declaration that baby’s healing was a miracle

(OSV News)—Rhode Islanders are celebrating Pope Leo XIV’s declaration that the healing of a baby born in their state back in 2007 was indeed miraculous, and advances the sainthood cause of a 19th-century Spanish priest.



Venerable Salvador Valera Parra

Pope Leo XIV had promulgated the acceptance of the miracle for Venerable Salvador Valera Parra on June 20, with decrees for various other sainthood cause recognitions presented to the pope by Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

The dicastery’s website specified that Father Valera’s intercession had been attributed to the miraculous resuscitation of “little Tyquan,” born critically ill on Jan. 14, 2007, at the now-closed Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, R.I.

Catholic News Service in Rome had noted the U.S. connection in its June 20 story on the decrees. But local coverage of the miracle gained momentum on July 18, following a GoLocalProv article published that day by religion writer Daniel J. Holmes.

Holmes cited a June 20 interview by *Vida Nueva*—a Madrid-based Catholic news outlet—with the attending physician at the infant’s delivery, Dr. Juan Sánchez-Esteban, a native of Huércal-Overa, located in Spain’s

Diocese of Almería. *Vida Nueva* published the child’s full name as Tyquan Hall.

Sánchez-Esteban told *Vida Nueva* the infant—who according to the dicastery’s website had been born prematurely through induced labor and then Caesarean section due to a low fetal heart rate—was barely breathing and after an hour of recovery efforts lacked a pulse.

In a July 18 statement posted on its Facebook page, the Diocese of Providence, R.I., explained baby Tyquan had not drawn a breath or demonstrated a pulse “for 65 minutes despite life-saving measures.”

Desperate, the Spanish doctor recalled a childhood prayer to Father Salvador Valera Parra, a diocesan priest born in 1816 in Sánchez-Esteban’s hometown. The dicastery noted on its website that Father Valera, who died in 1889, “distinguished himself for many works of a spiritual and social nature,” especially during cholera outbreaks and earthquakes in his area of service.

Sánchez-Esteban told *Vida Nueva* that he said, “Father Valera, I have done everything possible; now it’s your turn.”

As the doctor headed to inform the parents of their child’s death, a nurse advised that the child began breathing normally, with a restored heartbeat, according to *Vida Nueva*—with the dicastery noting on its website the recovery took place “without any external intervention.”

The dicastery webpage said Tyquan was then

transferred to the neonatal intensive care unit at the Women and Infants Hospital, and remained there “for 15 days with a diagnosis of hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy.”

“Doctors were certain he would suffer serious developmental damage, such as cerebral palsy or intellectual disability,” said the dicastery on its website. “However, despite his clinical symptoms, the child showed spontaneous activity.”

On March 1, 2007, Tyquan was transferred to Hasbro Children’s Hospital, having undergone a colectomy procedure, and then fully discharged on April 3, 2007.

“Subsequent checkups revealed psychomotor development that led him to speak at 18 months and walk at 2 years of age,” said the dicastery. “Little Tyquan continued to grow like a normal child, leading a regular life and participating in sports.”

The Providence Diocese’s chancellor Father Timothy Reilly called the miracle “wonderful news” in a statement and said the diocese was “thrilled” the miracle would advance Father Valera’s cause forward toward beatification and finally canonization, which would require a second verified miracle.

Father Reilly, who had assisted the Diocese of Almería in the 2014 investigation of Father Valera’s sainthood cause according to the Providence Diocese, said the miracle “is a reminder of the power of prayer and the intercession of holy men and women. God is indeed close to us.” †

BRUTÉ DAYS

continued from page 1

And several archdiocesan seminarians who are previous camp participants helped run the camp this year.

While the majority of Bishop Bruté Days take place at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, the potential future priests joined Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan vocations director, in pilgrimage on July 9 at St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute, where they prayed at the resting place of Father Simon Lalumiere, the first man born in Indiana to serve the Church here.

In a homily during Mass celebrated on that day in St. Joseph Church, Father Keucher told the Bishop Bruté Days participants about Father Lalumiere.

He shared with them that the priest served at the same time as other saints and hopeful future saints—St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests canonized 100 years ago; St. Theodora Guérin, a co-patron saint of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; and Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté, the first bishop of Vincennes, Ind., which later became the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

“Father Lalumiere was a very faithful man,” Father Keucher said. “We look to his example, to the example of Mother Theodore Guérin, to the example of St. John Vianney, to the example of Bishop Bruté and we say, ‘Lord, help me care that much about heaven. Help me care that much about souls. Help me do my best to say yes to whatever it is that you call me to do, ... just as they did.’ ”

In addition to visiting the crypt of St. Joseph Church, the Bishop Bruté Days participants also prayed at the tomb of St. Theodora Guérin on the campus of the



Teenage boys taking part in Bishop Bruté Days, the annual archdiocesan vocations camp, pray on July 9 by the remains of St. Theodora Guérin, the first saint from Indiana, on the campus of the Sisters of Providence of Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.



John Racanelli, left, and his sons James and Luke kneel in prayer on July 10 on the grounds of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis during the closing Mass of Bishop Bruté Days, the annual archdiocesan vocations camp. The Racanelli family are members of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Ian McKiernan, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and soon-to-be senior at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School, both in Indianapolis, said praying at the resting place of Father Lalumiere and Mother Theodore “was quite profound.”

“It reminded me that you don’t have to be such a profound person,” said Ian. “Just going out there and giving yourself to the Church is one of the greatest things that you can do.”

‘That’s what keeps bringing me back’
 This year’s Bishop Bruté Days drew 22 junior high-aged boys from 15 parishes throughout the state for its event on July 7.

The 64 teenage boys who took part in the high school Bishop Bruté Days on July 8-10 came from 26 parishes across central and southern Indiana, plus other faith communities in the Evansville and Lafayette dioceses and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

This year was the second time that Matthew Green, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, attended Bishop Bruté Days. He enjoyed the outdoor games at the event, such as team dodgeball, “capture the flag” and “knock out” played on the seminary’s basketball court.

But he also appreciated the prayerfulness of his peers.

“It was just really powerful to see so many high school boys get completely silent in front of the Blessed Sacrament when they’re usually goofing off,” said Matthew. “Seeing their reverence and devotion was very powerful.”

The camp interspersed times for social and athletic activities with prayer: daily Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the opportunity for the sacrament of penance.

A eucharistic adoration holy hour took place daily, too. In addition, boys in the camp signed up for shifts of adoration through each night of the camp.

Patrick Egan, a member of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright who will be a homeschooled sophomore this fall, took a 2-3 a.m. shift. It was his first time attending Bishop Bruté Days.

“It was awesome,” Patrick said. “We were all tired. But for the love of God, we powered through. Father Keucher had said that God really talks to you in the hours of the night and early morning. And he really does. It was a really powerful experience.”

After taking part in Bishop Bruté Days for the first time, Patrick said he “absolutely” wants to do it again.

“It was awesome to meet all these guys,” he said. “Seeing how they live through their faith was really empowering for me. I loved watching how God works through them. It helped me to find new ways to pray and think about things.”

Ian McKiernan said he attended Bishop



Conrad Otten, a member of St. John Vianney Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, left, and Matthew Biehl, front row, a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, kneel in prayer on July 8 during a Mass in the chapel of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis during the archdiocese’s annual Bishop Bruté Days vocations camp. Also taking part in the camp are Joshua Fuller, second from left, of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, and Joshua Skidmore, right, a member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)



Participants in Bishop Bruté Days take part in a team dodgeball game on July 8 on the grounds of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

Bruté Days three years ago because “my dad kind of just sent me here.” His first experience has led him back twice.

“There was something there about the adoration and the love I saw in people for the Church that opened my eyes to the fullness of what I can gain from loving Jesus and his Church,” said Ian. “I think that’s what keeps bringing me back.”

Max Ecoff, a new archdiocesan seminarian from Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, is a former Bishop Bruté Days participant. He had experiences at it much like those who took part this year.

Now, as an incoming first-year seminarian at Bishop Bruté, he helped lead the camp.

“I just want to give these guys the experience I had when I [attended] Bruté Days a few years ago,” said Ecoff. “Maybe it will help them in their discernment. Maybe some of them will be brother seminarians in a few years.”

Fostering a ‘culture of vocations’

Father Keucher sees signs for hope in the growing faithfulness of those who keep coming back to Bishop Bruté Days and in the support of their parents who send them to the camp.

“The growth of Bruté Days shows that a culture of vocations is truly taking form and growing in the archdiocese, in our schools, in our families, in our youth groups,” said Father Keucher. “It’s becoming more of a normal thing for young men to say, ‘I’m thinking about the priesthood. I’m thinking about the seminary,’ and for their friends to say, ‘That’s awesome.’ ”

Some of the people who supported the culture of vocations found at Bishop Bruté Days were volunteers who helped provide meals, such as members of the Serra Club of Indianapolis and the Knights of Columbus.

Dan Murphy and fellow members of St. Malachy Knights of Columbus

Council 12540 in Brownsburg have supported the vocations camp for several years.

“One of the things that the Knights of Columbus does is to support all vocations, seminarians certainly being part of that,” Murphy said. “It’s a great opportunity for us. And we have a little bit of fun doing it at the same time.”

Part of that fun is watching how quickly the grateful teenage boys ate the supper the Knights provided.

“There is certainly no shortage of kids who love pizza,” Murphy said with a laugh. “They consumed about 36 pizzas here in about 20 minutes. They’re growing boys.”

That support could also be seen in the parents of the participants who attended the closing Mass of Bishop Bruté Days on July 10, celebrated outdoors on the seminary’s campus.

Renae Schoenig, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, is the mother of Dominic Schoenig, who took part in the camp.

She was encouraged by seeing so many other parents from across the archdiocese being supportive of their sons discerning a possible priestly vocation.

“It’s a really beautiful experience,” Schoenig said. “And it’s a great extension of the vocational discussions and awareness that we have in our household. We want our children to be open to God’s will.

“He calls people at different times to whatever their vocation is. We all want to support the different vocations. This is a beautiful way for that to flower more in the larger Church, outside of our domestic Church.”

(To view a gallery of photos from Bishop Bruté Days, visit www.CriterionOnline.com. For more information about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit HearGodsCall.com.) †

IPI graduates encouraged to ‘serve others in the name of Jesus Christ’

By Mike Krokos

It began with a “yes.”

That word was at the heart of the journey shared by the 32 individuals who graduated from the archdiocesan Intercultural Pastoral Institute’s (IPI) Leadership two-year certification program on June 4.

“It was the enthusiastic ‘yes’ of young people to serve. The ‘yes’ of couples who chose to study together. The ‘yes’ of families learning side by side. The ‘yes’ of brothers and sisters in faith. And the transformative ‘yes’ of someone who came to support others, only to discover their own calling,” noted IPI graduate Andres Pecho in an address he gave before the certification ceremony at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis.

“We each arrived with different stories, but we all responded with the same heart: ‘Here I am,’ ” added Pecho, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis who attended IPI classes with his wife Ena and was chosen to give a speech on behalf of his classmates during the certification program.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson began the event by celebrating Mass. The evening also included a graduation ceremony, the presentation of diplomas and dinner.

A ministry of the archdiocesan Intercultural Ministry Office, the two-year IPI certification program forms pastoral and catechetical leaders within the various ethnic communities in the archdiocese and the Lafayette Diocese.

The 32 members of this year’s class were transformed during their time of formation, noted Pecho, who serves as assistant to the director of faith formation at St. Monica.

But the graduate also reminded his classmates that their ministry is only beginning.

“The redemptive work of Jesus is complete and perfect, but the mission to extend God’s kingdom continues and is entrusted to every generation of believers,” he said. “That’s why we believe the Lord called us, formed us, spoke to us ... and now sends us out once again as disciples and missionaries.”

‘Serve others in the name of Jesus Christ’

In his homily, delivered in Spanish, Archbishop Thompson reminded those in attendance that, “As the Church teaches, every baptized person has a vocation—whether to priesthood, religious life, marriage, single life.

“While there are many ways to live out one’s baptismal vocation, every vocation is a sharing in the single mission of Jesus Christ,” the archbishop continued. “Those being certified this evening are being recognized for their willingness to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.”

During their two years of study, which included various challenges and responsibilities, the students were not deterred from “growing in faith and understanding of what it means to be a missionary disciple of Jesus,” Archbishop Thompson noted.

He added, “A personal encounter with the person of Jesus is predicated on a life of prayer, the word of God, sacramental grace and service to others. This is essential



Thirty-two graduates were recognized on June 4 at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis as the 2025 graduating class of the archdiocese’s Intercultural Pastoral Institute. The program is operated by the archdiocesan Intercultural Ministry Office. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson celebrated a liturgy, then took part in a Pastoral Leadership Certificate ceremony. (Photo by Mike Krokos)

for pastoral leadership in the Church.

“We pray that our graduates may use what they have learned for the glory of God and service to God’s people.”

‘A time to serve with hope and spiritual renewal’

In her remarks to this year’s graduating class, Dr. Carmen Hernandez, the coordinator of IPI, acknowledged the work of the students.

“What a great blessing and joy this day is for you, as you become certified as pastoral leaders—a joy that is present within the framework of the Jubilee Year,” she said, “a time of grace, forgiveness and reconciliation; a time to serve with hope and spiritual renewal, always seeking God’s mercy.”

Hernandez also noted how the graduation offered “a special day of grace to remember and celebrate what God has given you all as a gift of life. You will leave a legacy in the history of this institute, a legacy marked by several generations, united as a family to achieve the commitment to be co-responsible for a Church that

advances—because our Church is walking with all of us, and we are walking with it.”

Hernandez, who is stepping down after serving as IPI’s coordinator for four years, encouraged the graduates to be joyful in their ministry of faith.

“Be servants of faith and joy, live your lives with a spirit of joy and profound gratitude, gratitude that should be manifested in your service to God and your neighbor,” Hernandez said. “Always remember the reflection I gave you when I had classes with you: Do you know what I learned from Jesus? That betrayal never took away his desire to love. ... I invite you to that.”

(Spots are still open for those interested in joining the next class of the Intercultural Pastoral Institute’s two-year certification program. To sign up, scan the accompanying QR code.) †



Se anima a los graduados del IPI a ‘servir a los demás en nombre de Jesucristo’

Por Mike Krokos

Todo comenzó con un “sí,” la palabra que se convirtió en el epicentro del recorrido que compartieron las 32 personas que el 4 de junio se graduaron del programa de certificación de liderazgo de dos años de duración que imparte el Instituto Pastoral Intercultural (IPI) de la arquidiócesis.

“El ‘sí’ enérgico de los jóvenes al llamado a servir; el ‘sí’ de las parejas que decidieron estudiar juntas; el ‘sí’ de las familias que aprenden codo con codo; el ‘sí’ de los hermanos y hermanas en la fe; y el ‘sí’ transformador de alguien que vino a apoyar a otros, y terminó por descubrir su propia vocación,” señaló el graduado del IPI, Andrés Pecho, en un discurso que pronunció antes de la ceremonia de certificación en la Casa de Retiros Nuestra Señora de Fátima en Indianápolis.

“Cada uno llegó con historias diferentes, pero todos respondimos con el mismo corazón: ‘Aquí estoy,’ ” añadió Pecho, miembro de la parroquia de Santa Mónica de Indianápolis, que asistió a las clases del IPI con su esposa Ena y fue elegido para pronunciar un discurso en nombre de sus compañeros del programa de certificación.

El arzobispo Charles C. Thompson inició el acto celebrando la misa, y la velada incluyó también una ceremonia de graduación, la entrega de diplomas y una cena.

El programa de certificación de dos años del IPI es un ministerio de la Oficina de Ministerio intercultural de la Arquidiócesis, cuyo objetivo es formar líderes pastorales y catequéticos dentro de las diversas comunidades étnicas de la Arquidiócesis y de la diócesis de Lafayette.

Los 32 integrantes de la generación de este año vivieron una transformación durante el tiempo que duró su preparación, señaló Pecho, que trabaja como asistente del director de formación en la fe en Santa Mónica.

Pero el graduado también recordó a sus compañeros que su ministerio apenas está comenzando.

“La obra redentora de Jesús es completa y perfecta, pero la misión de extender el reino de Dios continúa y se confía a cada generación de creyentes”—afirmó—. “Por eso creemos que el Señor nos llamó, nos formó, nos habló ... y ahora nos envía de nuevo como discípulos y misioneros.”

‘Servir a los demás en nombre de Jesucristo’

En su homilía, pronunciada en español, el arzobispo Thompson recordó a los asistentes que “tal como nos enseña la Iglesia, toda persona bautizada tiene una vocación, ya sea al sacerdocio, a la vida religiosa, al matrimonio o a la vida de soltero.

“Aunque hay muchas maneras de vivir la vocación bautismal, toda vocación es una participación en la única misión de Jesucristo”—prosiguió el Arzobispo—. “Quienes se están certificando esta tarde están recibiendo un reconocimiento por su voluntad de servir a los demás en el nombre de Jesucristo.”

Durante sus dos años de estudio, que incluyeron diversos retos y responsabilidades, los estudiantes no cesaron en su compromiso de “crecer en la fe y en la comprensión de lo que significa ser un discípulo misionero de Jesús —señaló el arzobispo Thompson—.

“Un encuentro personal con la persona de Jesús se basa en una vida de oración, la palabra de Dios, la gracia sacramental y el servicio a los demás. Esto es esencial para el liderazgo pastoral en la Iglesia.

“Oramos para que nuestros graduados puedan usar lo que han aprendido para la gloria de Dios y el servicio al pueblo de Dios.”

‘Un momento para servir con esperanza y renovación espiritual’

En su discurso a los graduandos de este año, la Dra.

Carmen Hernández, coordinadora del IPI, reconoció la labor de los alumnos.

“Qué gran bendición y alegría es este día para ustedes, al certificarse como líderes pastorales; una alegría que está presente en el marco del Año Jubilar”—dijo—, “un tiempo de gracia, perdón y reconciliación; un tiempo para servir con esperanza y renovación espiritual, buscando siempre la misericordia de Dios.”

Hernández también señaló que la graduación constituye “un día especial de gracia para recordar y celebrar lo que Dios les ha dado a todos como regalo de vida. Dejarán un legado en la historia de este instituto, un legado marcado por varias generaciones, unidas como una familia para lograr el compromiso de ser corresponsables de una Iglesia que avanza, porque nuestra Iglesia camina con todos nosotros, y nosotros caminamos con ella.”

Hernández, quien se retira después de servir como coordinadora del IPI durante cuatro años, animó a los graduados a ser alegres en su ministerio de fe.

“Sean servidores de la fe y de la alegría, vivan sus vidas con espíritu de gozo y profundo agradecimiento, el cual debe manifestarse en su servicio a Dios y al prójimo. Recuerden siempre la reflexión que les hacía cuando teníamos clases: ¿Sabes lo que aprendí de Jesús? Que la traición nunca le quitó las ganas de amar. ... Los invito a que sigan su ejemplo.”

(Todavía quedan cupos para quienes estén interesados en incorporarse a la próxima generación del programa de certificación de dos años del Instituto Pastoral Intercultural. Para inscribirse, escanee el código QR de este artículo.) †



From Boston to Baton Rouge, faithful unite to help Texas flood victims

(OSV News)—From Boston to Baton Rouge, La., faithful across the nation are reaching out to bring material and spiritual aid to those impacted by the devastating July 4 flash floods in the Texas Hill Country.

The deluge has so far killed at least 135—among them, dozens of children. Herr County, the hardest hit area, still reports three missing.

Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the Catholic Church in the nation, has launched a donation campaign, which can be accessed online at catholiccharitiesusa.org.

In Texas, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Antonio is offering assistance with emergency finances, short-term housing, funeral expenses, counseling, legal services and other immediate needs, according to its website.

The archdiocese’s territory includes the flood-ravaged areas, with Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller making a pastoral visit hours after the disaster and celebrating Mass at Notre Dame Church in Kerrville for all those affected.

The agency is also accepting donations online at ccaosa.ejoinme.org/helptoday.

“With our wraparound services, we can support this community with the love and care of emergency assistance, counseling, and other services to provide comfort in their time of need,” said the agency on its donation page. “Our prayers remain for all who are impacted by the flooding. You can join us in supporting our neighbors as they journey through this crisis.”

On July 7, Bishop Gregory Kelly of Tyler, Texas, announced a special July 12-13 collection for victims, coordinated through Catholic Charities of East Texas, “to provide the assistance needed by so many during these difficult days.”

In Dallas, Bishop Edward J. Burns

scheduled an emergency second collection for July 19-20 to support both immediate and long-term needs for survivors. The funds, which will be sent directly to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, “will provide food, shelter, aid and hope,” said the diocese on its website.

Along with encouraging financial contributions to San Antonio’s Catholic Charities agency, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has asked for donations of baby items, hygiene products and cleaning supplies, which its Catholic Charities office will accept for delivery to its San Antonio counterpart.

The archdiocese also said on its website that the Veteran Success Center at the University of St. Thomas in Houston held a July 10 drive-through drop off, gathering nonperishable food, bottled water, gently used clothing and shoes, and dog and cat food.

In Louisiana, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux teamed up with Catholic Charities of Acadiana for a July 16 “item-specific supply drive” at several locations “to collect essential relief items for flood survivors.”

The donations, which will be transported to Catholic Charities responding on site in the flood region, are set to include trash bags, cleaning supplies, diapers, detergent and \$25 Visa gift cards.

The Diocese of Baton Rouge organized a July 17 donation drive at its Catholic Charities office, seeking \$25 gift cards for Visa or Walmart, along with monetary donations of any amount. The funds will be sent to Catholic Charities in San Antonio for distribution to those in need.

“We’ve been in touch with Catholic Charities agencies serving the impacted area, and the greatest need right now is monetary donations and gift cards,”

Stephanie Sterling, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, said in a diocesan media release. “The devastation this flooding has caused is staggering, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to help our neighbors in Texas.”

The Diocese of Charlotte, N.C., took up a special collection for Catholic Charities of San Antonio at all of its July 12-13 Masses, while the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., also highlighted the call for donations to the agency on its website.

In Boston, Archbishop Richard G. Henning has invited pastors “to voluntarily consider a special collection to support Catholic Charities relief efforts” throughout July and August, with the archdiocese sending the contributions to Catholic Charities USA.

Archbishop Henning also noted that “parishes may determine other ways to lend support along with prayers and special intentions for overcoming this immense challenge.

“In solidarity with our brothers and sisters suffering from the effects of the Texas flood, we pray for all who have perished and for their grieving loved ones,” he said. “May the communities and families devastated by the floods find strength and hope in their faith.”

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas—founded in 1903 and



In Hunt, Texas, on July 10, people pray after placing a cross by the Guadalupe River across from Camp Mystic following deadly flooding. (OSV News photo/Umit Bektas, Reuters)

one of the oldest organizations of Catholic women in the U.S.—is also rallying relief funds, with individual members and local chapters asked to forward their contributions to the group’s national headquarters in New York.

Susan Moné, the group’s national regent, said in a statement that “any amount helps.

“There are so many sad stories of the victims, many of whom are from the same family. It is impossible to even imagine being in this situation. It seems surreal, like I’m watching a drama movie,” she said. “But it is all real and heartbreaking. We sit feeling so helpless, and all we can do is pray.”

Moné asked “all my Catholic Daughters to pray for all those who were affected by this terrible disaster and especially for the many lost souls and their families, that the Lord will hold them in his loving arms.” †

77th ANNUAL!

JULY 31, AUG 1 & 2! 3 DAYS!

WEB: HolySpiritFestival.org HolySpiritFestival1

IT'S AN EASTSIDE REUNION!

EVERYBODY'S INVITED TO JOIN US AT ONE OF THE OLDEST CATHOLIC FESTIVALS IN INDY!

FREE PARKING AT GET FIT, FREE SHUTTLE RIDES- EVERY 5 MINS! THIS IS CONVENIENT AT 7140 E Washington St, INDY 46219

OUR ROSE GARDEN FEATURES LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT! WINE, BEER, SELTZERS...

All supporting our parish of over 2,500 families and a school of 400 students on the Eastside of Indianapolis. **You'll be supporting a great cause while having a wonderful time!**

7243 East 10th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219

WEB: HolySpiritFestival.org HolySpiritFestival1

FOR THE KIDS!

Merry-go-Round, PLUS MANY MORE exciting midway rides AND FUN GAMES SPONSORED BY HOLY SPIRIT...MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME INCLUDED!

FOR THE ADULTS!

Monte Carlo, Blackjack, Texas Poker, Bingo, and more. There will be a **Silent Auction** with items to bid on and a **Grand Raffle** for \$7,500, with tickets for \$20. License 001303

FOR EVERYBODY!

KNOWN FOR INCREDIBLE **FOOD & DRINK** from famous shish kebobs and Indiana tenderloins to mouthwatering hamburgers, bratwursts, hot dogs, and much more! **Something for everybody!**

19TH ANNUAL AUGUSTRAVAGANZA

AUGUST 8-9, 2025

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
7225 SOUTHEASTERN AVE, INDIANAPOLIS

PREVIEW NIGHT! THURSDAY, AUG. 7

CUPCAKES AND CANVAS
RSVP ONLY
MYSTERY BEER TASTING
COMPETITION AND DINNER

FESTIVAL FRIDAY AUG. 8 FROM 4-MID

RIDES, GAMES, BINGO
FIESTA CATERED DINNER
MONTE CARLO, LIVE MUSIC

FESTIVAL SATURDAY AUG. 9 FROM 4-MID

EARLY MASS AT 4P
RIDES, GAMES, BINGO
CATERED DINNER, BABY RACE
SILLY SAFARI
MONTE CARLO, LIVE MUSIC

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE

\$5 PER TICKET

1ST PRIZE = \$3,500
2ND PRIZE = \$1,000
3RD PRIZE = \$500
4TH & 5TH PRIZE = \$500 GIFT CARD TO LOCAL FURNITURE STORE

MORE INFO AT NATIVITYINDY.ORG /FESTIVAL

LICENSE NUMBER 000754

SIMPLY CATHOLIC

Blessed Solanus Casey showed holiness through listening and prayer

By Catherine Odell

(OSV News)—Though Blessed Solanus Casey died nearly 70 years ago in 1957, Detroit has never forgotten the Capuchin Franciscan priest, whose feast day is on July 30.

Authentic and approachable, Father Solanus, who was born in 1870, was a soft-spoken friar and son of Irish immigrants. He loved hot dogs with onions, shooting pool, family reunions, practical jokes and was a devoted fan of the Detroit Tigers.

Most of all, as others knew, he loved God and helping others. In 1929, four days after the stock market crash, Father Solanus helped start a soup kitchen. All too soon, as automobile factories closed, they were feeding between 1,500 and 3,000 people a day. Even with this great legacy, in the eyes of many it was undoubtedly his ministry of prayer and healing were was the primary sign of his sanctity.

However, it requires more than a legacy and life devoted to prayer and healing to be declared by the Church a blessed or saint. On May 4, 2017, speaking to an excited and joyous crowd at the Solanus Casey Center in the Capuchins' St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit, now-retired Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron explained that the miracle needed for the beatification of Solanus Casey had been approved in September 2016 by the Holy See's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

The miracle involved Paula Medina Zarate from Panama, who had an incurable, congenital skin disease. She was visiting friends in Detroit and asked to go to the Solanus Center to pray at Father Solanus' tomb. She wanted to pray for others who needed healing. While praying, she heard a voice within saying, "Pray for yourself." She did and was instantly cured of her lifelong skin ailment.

Back in her own country, she went to five doctors. They all agreed that there was no scientific explanation for her cure. She wished to remain anonymous for a time, the archbishop said, because she didn't want to draw undue attention to herself—a consideration that mirrored Father Solanus' own modesty.

Bernard Francis Casey, Jr., was born on Nov. 25, 1870, in Oak Grove, Wis. "Barney," as he was known, was the sixth child of Ellen and Bernard Casey, Sr., and, after three boys, the couple decided to give this son his father's name—Bernard Francis. More Casey children followed, and eventually there were 16 children in the close-knit clan. They farmed on the Midwestern frontier, and every young Casey child helped to support the family.

Farming was a risky business, and the nightly Casey family rosary often ended with prayers for good harvests and protection from prairie fires, locusts and droughts.

There was a spiritual depth in Barney that stood out, even in his large, busy family. He was deeply committed to prayer, especially the rosary. At the same time, he was witty, handsome, athletic and strong. He was a fearless catcher for family baseball games, but he wouldn't participate in the amateur boxing matches his brothers organized, apparently because he didn't like the idea of hitting and hurting an opponent.



Paula Medina Zarate is escorted by two Franciscans as she attends the beatification Mass of Blessed Solanus Casey on Nov. 18, 2017, at Ford Field in Detroit. The Panamanian woman's miraculous healing from a skin disease was the miracle needed to advance the Capuchin Franciscan friar's beatification cause. (CNS photo/Jeff Kowalsky, courtesy Michigan Catholic)

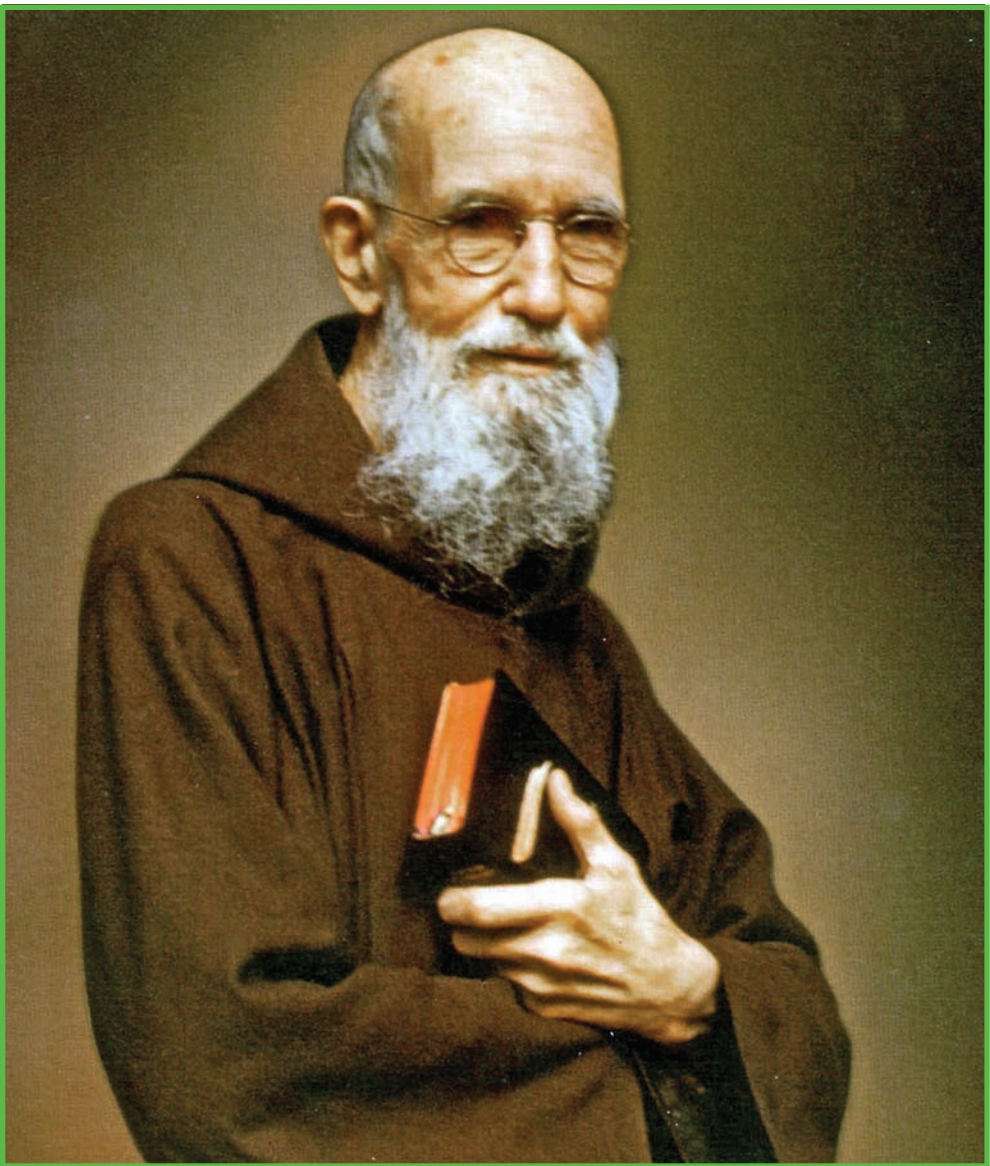
At 18, he fell in love with Rebecca Tobin. After he proposed marriage, Rebecca's mother refused to give her consent and sent Rebecca away to a boarding school. Shaken and sad, Barney continued working for some years as a streetcar conductor, first in Stillwater, Minn., and later in Superior, Wis. And yet he remained unsettled.

After years of prayer and soul-searching, Barney felt that God was calling him to be a priest. He entered the seminary of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, but had to leave because of academic problems. At age 26, he entered a seminary in Detroit operated by the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, a branch of the Franciscan order.

Since the seminary faculty spoke mostly German, Barney was at a disadvantage again. His superiors were eventually concerned about his theological knowledge and understanding. When ordination finally came in 1904, he was ordained as a "simplex" priest. That meant that he couldn't exercise the priestly faculties of hearing confessions or preaching homilies—ordinary responsibilities for a parish priest.

What limitations these were for a 34-year-old priest who wanted to give everything to God! Though it surely humiliated him, Father Solanus was completely obedient and ready for any role. His first pastoral assignments were at Capuchin parishes in New York. Solanus was given simple jobs: acting as doorkeeper, training altar boys, serving as sacristan, moderating the Ladies Sodality.

Ironically, parishioners were soon drawn to Father Solanus—finding that the doorkeeper was compassionate, wise and patient—and sought his pastoral care. Unburdened by the usual responsibilities of a parish priest, he had time to listen. God used that. Within a year or two, the lines of visitors wanting to talk with the doorkeeper about their family, medical and financial problems were long—every day.



Blessed Solanus Casey was beatified during a Mass on Nov. 18, 2017, at Ford Field in Detroit. The Capuchin Franciscan friar is pictured in an undated photo. (OSV News file photo)

In New York parishes and later back at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit and at St. Felix Friary in Huntington, Ind., Father Solanus reminded people that he couldn't hear confessions. He did assure them of God's mercy and unbounded love. "Thank God ahead of time," he counseled. "His plans for us are always the best."

As well as providing a listening ear, Father Solanus continued to demonstrate his devotion to prayer, healing and the Church. He asked those who could afford it to make a contribution to the Capuchins' Seraphic Mass Association, which supported Capuchin missions around the world. While Father Solanus was still in New York,

his Capuchin superiors asked him to keep a record of prayer requests. He also took notes when a healing or an unexplainable turn of events was reported.

Eventually, Father Solanus filled seven ledger-style notebooks with notes on more than 6,000 "cases." On about 700 of those case notations, he later went back and added amazing endings. Among them:

"Papa went to confession and holy Communion for the first time in 49 years," Solanus penned at the end of an entry about a woman asking for prayers for her father who had left the Church.

"Walking out of the monastery without assistance" followed his notations on a 46-year-old man who suffered a fractured skull and broken back several weeks earlier in a car accident. The man had been carried in to see Father Solanus.

"Declared entirely cured July 2 without having any operation." Father Solanus added that note to data recorded about 59-year-old Bertha Smith, who had been diagnosed with stomach cancer. She had already had four operations at Detroit's Ford Hospital.

As the decades moved by, Capuchin authorities tried to reduce demands made on Father Solanus. He was getting old and rarely got more than five hours of sleep a night. To the frustration of his superiors trying to ease his burdens, Father Solanus always found it hard to turn away hurting and needy people.

A terribly painful skin disease plagued Father Solanus in his last years. In the summer of 1957, he was hospitalized. On the morning of July 31, he sat up and stretched out his arms as if on the cross. "I give my soul to Jesus Christ," he said before falling back and taking his last breath. Father Solanus was 86. Around 20,000 people came to the doorkeeper's wake and funeral.

In 2017, Father Casey was beatified in Detroit. Beatification moved the priest, declared venerable in 1995, much closer to sainthood through the Church's canonization process. Father Casey is one of the currently few native-born North Americans to be beatified.

Today, people come from all over the world to visit his tomb, where they leave tiny slips of paper with prayer requests. He is a model for the value of caring and continues to teach us the power of listening.

(Catherine M. Odell is the author of religious curriculum and several books. She writes for OSV News from Indiana.) †

Joyful Witness/Kim Pohovey

Europe’s great cathedrals now seen as tourist attractions

I spent a good deal of my recent vacation in church ... well ... churches, actually.



While vacationing, we attended Sunday Mass at the Catedral-Basilica de Santa Maria de Mallorca located in Palma, Mallorca, an island off the coast of Spain.

I don’t think I’ve ever seen such a huge and unbelievably ornate church. It rivals the churches I toured while in the Holy Land a few years ago. It took nearly 400 years to construct, from 1229 to 1601. It has one of the tallest naves in the world, surpassing Notre Dame in Paris. It boasts 61 vibrant stained-glass windows, giving it the nickname “Cathedral of Light.” The Mass was in Spanish, and the priest spoke so fast that I didn’t catch everything, but the beauty of the universal Church is that I always knew where we were in the liturgy.

We sat in one of the front rows, so it wasn’t until Communion that I realized there were probably only 50 or so people in attendance in a cathedral that

holds 18,000 people. It’s considered a national treasure in Mallorca, which is predominantly Catholic, and yet so few attend Mass there.

We also visited Basilique du Sacré Coeur de Montmartre (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), located in Paris, France. It was an impressive feat of architecture, and the statues, art, mosaics and vaulted ceilings with angel carvings were gorgeous. Construction was completed in 1924. It also features 14 side chapels, each dedicated to a different saint, and perpetual adoration has been taking place there since 1885! Located on the second-highest point in Paris, one must climb 270 steps to reach the top. But it was worth every step.

We had to wait in a long line to enter the basilica. In the plaza right in front of the church were street vendors selling souvenirs. Despite signs calling for silence in the basilica, it seemed less than prayerful with loud chatter and folks taking selfies in front of sacred spaces. Many visitors were not dressed appropriately to be in the presence of this holy site.

Although I felt blessed for the opportunity to visit this amazing church,

it also left me sad for the irreverence I observed. In a country that has long been regarded as predominantly Catholic, only 25% of French citizens now identify as Catholic, according to a 2023 survey by [Aleteia.org](#). I think it shows. Many of the famous churches in France are viewed more as tourist attractions now, as opposed to worship spaces.

I would never want to bar non-Catholics from experiencing these churches, as I know it may be an opportunity for evangelization and education. I also realize historians and artists, whether Catholic or not, value the opportunities for learning and inspiration.

While standing in front of the beautiful, solid silver statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I couldn’t help but wonder what he thought of some of the disrespectful behavior.

Would he just be glad that crowds of people visit there every day? Or does his sacred heart break just a little?

(Kim Pohovey is a member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. She is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Grandparents can do much to shape faith of grandchildren

My grandparents were a big part of my life when I was growing up. I was the youngest grandchild on both sides of the



family and by some years. So, when I got to spend time with them, I usually had them all to myself.

My sole living grandfather, Victor Gallagher (my mother’s father died before my parents met) had had a stroke

when I was 3 that limited his physical abilities and brought significant changes to his personality, making him far less lively, according to my older relatives.

That didn’t matter to me. Grandpa was just Grandpa since I had no memory of what he had been before his stroke.

I enjoyed keeping score for him when he played horseshoes on his farm, walking with him to get the mail and sharing meals with him and Grandma. In the winter, we’d sometimes watch basketball games on TV, and he’d regale me with stories about how he’d played the game in the 1920s, including the times when he went up against the legendary college coach John Wooden, who grew up one county away from Grandpa.

But what sticks with me most about Grandpa is his faith. When asked why he went to confession on a weekly basis, he simply replied, “Because I’m a sinner.” I remember him teaching me as a young boy how to pray the rosary. When I made mistakes in praying it with him, he’d just smile at me and continue on.

With the help of God’s grace, I try to put the faith at the center of my life and the life of my family, although I know I fall short of that in various ways on a daily basis. But whatever good I’ve been able to do in this regard, I give a good amount of credit for it to Grandpa.

That’s also why I’m grateful for the relationships that my five sons have had with their grandparents. My son Philip, who is now 16, is especially close to my father-in-law, Steve Lecher. They’re both handy around the house and love to work outside, whether it’s caring for the lawn or the garden of Steve and my mother-in-law Edith Lecher, or in helping him cut and split wood. But Philip and Steve also share a deep love for the faith and living it out in a down-to-earth way.

The relationships that I had with my grandparents and those that my sons have had with theirs also make me grateful for our late Pope Francis’ creation of the Church’s World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which is celebrated each year on the Sunday closest to the July 26 feast of SS. Joachim and Ann, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandparents, according to the flesh, of Christ. This year, the celebration will take place on July 27.

I know from my own experience how formative my grandparents were for me and my faith. And I can see so clearly and am thankful for the many good ways that Steve has helped to shape Philip into a good, hard-working, faith-filled young man.

Our loving, provident God makes grandparents and grandchildren gifts to each other. The blessings he bestows on them go in both directions.

And, as a parent standing in the middle between these two generations, I simply am filled with wonder as I watch the love between them replay in their own unique way the love I knew in my relationship with my grandparents.

So, parents, do what you can to foster loving, faith-filled relationships between your children and their grandparents. You’ll surely be touched by the grace that will flow abundantly between them. †

Journey of the Heart/Jennifer Burger

Allow God to do the heavy lifting with life’s burdens

Several weeks ago on my morning commute, I saw a large semi with a flatbed trailer on top of which sat about a dozen large stone “slabs” parked along the side of the road. Having driven this route many times, I was aware of ongoing construction hidden up the hill behind a dense patch of trees that line this well-travelled road, so I wasn’t surprised to see this at the bottom of the drive.

Nearly every morning for three weeks, I saw the same truck loaded with a dozen more slabs, ready to take the next cumbersome load up the steep drive for another day’s delivery on the project site.

Initially, I could only think of how heavy these slabs must be that a vehicle that strong and durable would be necessary to transport only a dozen or so of them at a time. I thought of the heavy burdens that some people I knew were carrying and offered a prayer for them. I also offered a prayer of gratitude knowing that when we are facing uphill battles and our burdens are so heavy and we simply cannot carry them ourselves, God will lift and hold them in the strong and durable flatbed of his hands.

With each passing day, I began to wonder how those slabs were moved from the flatbed and for what purpose? Moving these massive pieces would no doubt require a special piece of equipment and, given the quantity and the project situated on a hill, I assumed they might become a retaining wall.

There are heavy burdens in our lives from which we may never be freed, but if we can allow ourselves to be unencumbered by them and lean into the mercy and love of

God, we can clear the path by which God can deliver these pieces toward something useful and permanent in our life—where they are no longer obstacles but opportunities.

The special means by which these pieces are moved is God’s grace—his divine assistance. Activated by our prayer and with our cooperation, God carefully and skillfully puts into place each piece to become a “retaining wall” that shores up and prevents further erosion of our hearts. In turn—and in time—this provides level and fertile ground that promotes and yields new life and growth within us.

Similarly, the many stones of worry, anxiety, fear, shame and guilt that we carry can become a heavy load for us. Sometimes we can move them piece by piece on our own, but too often they accumulate quickly, and we are unaware of them until we feel the heaviness of it all in our hearts.

Here too, God can do the heavy lifting and facilitate proper placement for us. Whereas, stones may not make the strongest retaining walls on the hilly terrains of life, they can become the foundation of a new road or path that God has and desires for us.

We cannot always see or we’re not always aware of this kind of work in our lives—each of us is a “work in progress”—but we are assured that God does and always will do the heavy lifting.

Each day, he waits for us along the well-worn and traveled roads of our life, ready to move mountains if we but ask.

Let us be open to and allow God’s grace to “re-purpose” what lays heavy on our hearts today to become the support and strength we need for our journey of self, with others and with God!

(Jennifer Burger is a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. She is also a spiritual director.) †

Faith at Home/Laura Kelly Fanucci

Let’s remember, kids need lots of people who love them

I was sitting at work, eating my lunch alone, when I overheard a line from the next table: “Kids need lots of people who love them.”



At the time I was still far from parenthood, working at Catholic Charities as an intern for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development while I was in graduate school. But my

husband and I were hoping for a baby, trying for a baby, and praying for a baby. Every day, my thoughts were consumed with children, even if my life was still far from them.

So, when I heard the social worker at the next table pronounce this truth aloud, my ears perked up. She was talking about the children she worked with in foster care, many of whom lacked a consistent, healthy adult presence in their lives. When they connected with someone who could fill in where their parents were unable to provide, it brought such balm.

An attentive teacher, a supportive coach, a loving grandparent, a welcoming neighbor or an encouraging mentor—any of them could change the life of a child. But none could do it alone. Kids need a constellation of caring adults to help them flourish.

For whatever reason—the longings of my own heart during infertility, the clear wisdom of a seasoned professional, or most likely the workings of the Holy Spirit—the words I heard that day in the lunch room became a refrain that never left me.

Kids need lots of people who love them. This truth brings relief for overworked parents, especially in today’s era of intensive parenting when we’re supposed to be, do and provide everything for our kids. Parents cannot do it all, despite what social media might tell us.

Humans thrive in community, and we need the proverbial village to help us raise a child.

But as a mother, I often have to remind myself that I cannot be the end-all, be-all for my children. I’ll confess that a twinge of jealousy pricks my heart when one of my kids delights in a special activity or relationship with an aunt, uncle, grandparent

or sitter. I secretly long to do everything fun and memorable with them myself.

That’s when I remind my all-too-human heart: “Kids need lots of people who love them.”

Loving children might mean praying for the family with the fussy baby behind us at Mass instead of glaring with annoyance. Loving children might mean volunteering to teach faith formation classes long after our own kids have grown. Loving children might mean smiling at rambunctious toddlers in our pew, inviting children to participate in the parish ministries we lead, or praying for teenagers we see at Mass, trusting that God is working through their lives, too.

Kids need lots of people who love them: at home, at school and at church. If Jesus took a child upon his lap, against his disciples’ protests that kids distracted from their “real work,” are we not called to heed his words and welcome each young one in his name?

(Laura Kelly Fanucci is an author, speaker and founder of Mothering Spirit, an online gathering place on parenting and spirituality.) †

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, July 27, 2025

- Genesis 18:20-32
- Colossians 2:12-14
- Luke 11:1-13

The Book of Genesis is again the source of the first reading for Mass this weekend. It is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. The story has fascinated and sobered people for a long time. It involves catastrophic but just punishment for sinning against God. Its central points actually are about God’s availability to people in prayer and God’s merciful protection of the faithful. For example, Abraham, regarded as the father of the Hebrew race, the great figure of faith, literally converses with God.

Make no mistake. God is almighty and supreme. Abraham is not equal to God in any way. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah have sinned outrageously. God, who is wholly just, insists that this vice will result in their devastation. Abraham pleads instead for divine mercy.

God sets a mark. Abraham asks that the hurdle be lowered. God agrees. Then Abraham asks for a further lowering. God agrees, and so on. It does not illustrate bargaining so much as God’s great mercy.

Humans create their own troubles. It stands to reason. Look at the despair war brings upon affected populations. Look at the heartbreak that infidelity brings upon marriages.

In this story, Abraham realizes the deadly effects of human decisions, such as the decisions leading to immorality in these cities. Nevertheless, he asks God for mercy, but beyond mercy, he asks God for life.

God hears Abraham and extends mercy.

For its next reading, the Church presents a reading from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Colossians. The Christians of Colossae were no different from other Christians in the Roman Empire’s Mediterranean world of the first century.

To them, the Christian faith was new. It utterly was opposite the values and attitudes prevailing around them. In the face of such an overwhelming pagan culture, following this faith was a challenge indeed.

Encouraging them, Paul reminds the

Colossian Christians that, in being united with Christ, they themselves had died to the culture and to their own instincts. Baptism drowned their sins and their weakness before the pressures of their surroundings and of their nature. In baptism, they died, but they also rose to life in Christ, with its energy and strength.

St. Luke’s Gospel supplies us with the last reading. It is the beautiful revelation of the Lord’s Prayer. No prayer has been more beloved by Christians, now and throughout Christian history. Each verse is powerful and profoundly expressive.

The first verse is especially telling, setting the stage for all the others. Jesus tells the disciples to address God as “Father,” not as king, ruler, judge or creator, distant and aloof (Lk 11:2). Instead, he invites them to see themselves in a relationship with God that is among the most intense and personal: father and child.

The second part of the reading is also reassuring. Jesus insists that God’s door is never closed. Loving people with an infinite love, God will give them life if they ask. He even gives life to sinners if they repent and, in love, turn to God.

Reflection

The reading from Genesis and the reading from Luke call us to approach God in full confidence that our pleas will be heard. It is particularly comforting when we turn to God after sinning—the cause of eternal death. If we reject our sins and turn to God, our sins will be forgiven.

It is consoling because the Christians of Colossae give us evidence, as if we need any, that our instincts and pressure around us can be difficult to overcome. But, with the help of God’s grace, we can overcome sin and avoid sin’s deadly consequences, if we are sincere as believers.

Christ literally is in us, with strength, insight and power, uniting us with God, our Father, who always hears our pleas. Jesus is the way, the Savior, the source of life and insight and meaning.

The Criterion will not have an issue next week due to its summer schedule. The reflection of Msgr. Campion for Sunday, August 3, will be posted at www.archindy.org/campion. †



Daily Readings

Monday, July 28

Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
Psalm 106:19-23
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday, July 29

SS. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28
Psalm 103:6-13
John 11:19-27
or Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday, July 30

St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop and doctor of the Church
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99:5-7, 9
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday, July 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest
Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38
Psalm 84:3-6a, 8a, 11
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday, August 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor of the Church
Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37
Psalm 81:3-6, 10-11b
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday, August 2

St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop
St. Peter Julian Eymard, priest
Leviticus 25:1, 8-17
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 7-8
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, August 3

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-14, 17
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

Monday, August 4

St. John Vianney, priest
Numbers 11:4b-15
Psalm 81:12-17
Matthew 14:13-21

See READINGS, page 20

Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

Chronic substance abuse can affect a person’s ability to marry validly

Q My brother is an alcoholic and has already had one failed marriage because of it. He recently got an annulment and is now planning his second wedding. How can the Church let him marry again when it seems obvious that his second marriage is going to fail as well?



A Naturally, I cannot comment on your brother’s specific case here. I don’t have all the information. Even if I did, I would still refrain from commenting for the sake of respecting your brother’s privacy. However, I can share some observations about these kinds of situations in general. First, it is possible that you might not have all the information yourself. Unless your brother shared all the paperwork he received from the marriage tribunal with you, you don’t know for sure exactly why your brother’s first marriage was declared null.

It might have been for some other reason besides a psychological impediment related to his alcoholism. For example, the union might have been declared null because of some impediment on your former sister-in-law’s part.

While alcoholism and drug addiction are, objectively, serious problems for people’s lives, in specific instances they might not always be of such a nature or severity so as to render a particular marriage invalid.

The Church does not declare marriages invalid because of alcohol or drug addiction per se. Rather, a marriage might be declared null for reasons related to substance abuse because the misuse of such substances caused people to suffer from a “grave lack of due discretion of judgement” (see canon 1095, 2 of the Code of Canon Law). This means that they were unable to rationally evaluate the prospect of marriage as applied to themselves.

It can also mean that their chronic substance abuse left

them “incapable of assuming the essential obligations of marriage” (canon 1095, 3). This is understood that they were unable to do the basic things married people need to be able to do, such as being able to care for children or remaining faithful to a spouse.

But assuming, for the sake of argument, that your brother’s first marriage was declared invalid for reasons directly related to his alcohol abuse, the Church does acknowledge that it is possible for people to overcome such problems. At the same time, the Church—and certainly tribunal staff as well—is not naïve about such things. And so often, if a marriage is declared null because of issues related to substance addiction, the tribunal will place what is called a “*vetitum*” on the affected party.

A *vetitum* is a liftable restriction on marrying. Usually for cases of nullity related to addiction, the *vetitum* will be something along the lines of the affected party needing the tribunal’s permission to marry, with the tribunal consulting mental health experts in determining whether to grant that permission.

Practically, this means that the affected party will need to see a psychologist or similar professional who will advise the tribunal on whether the person is sufficiently healed so as to now be able to contract a valid marriage.

Underlying all these considerations is a perhaps surprising but still foundational principle in the Church’s understanding of marriage: Namely, that human beings have a fundamental right to marry.

Of course this is not an absolute right, and a priest can and should refuse to witness a couple’s exchange of wedding vows when there are obvious impediments, such as if someone is already married. But, for the most part, a pastor cannot refuse to witness a marriage in more ambiguous scenarios, such as when there are possible but not totally indisputable psychological issues.

Even if the priest has his own personal doubts, he is still obliged to celebrate the wedding—though he might put a discreet note in the marriage file “just in case” it should ever land on the desk of the marriage tribunal in the future.

(Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.) †

My Journey to God

Saint Joan of Arc

By Clare Fritch

Ride on, O maid of Orleans
Through land, through heaven
Kindle the hearts of mankind
Kindle them with the flame
Of love for our Lord
Your banner, emblazoned
‘Jhesus, Maria’
Led the knights to victory
And now leads souls on the march
to heaven
Walk with me as I climb
The path, long, weary,
The path to eternal joy
The path to Our Lord

You have tread the path already
Pray for us, Saint Joan of Arc



(Clare Fritch is a member of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville. Clare is homeschooled and will enter her freshman year this fall. Photo: This image is part of a triptych titled “The Life of Joan of Arc” painted by Hermann Stilke in 1843. According to the record of St. Joan of Arc’s trial in 1431—found at Jeanne-darc.info/trial-of-condemnation-index—she gave a detailed description of the banner she carried as commander of the French army, noting it included the words, “Jhesus Maria.”) (Image courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org.)

Investing with Faith/Edward O. Martin

A few important ‘don’t forget’ tips for your planning purposes

As a young lawyer settling into a new parish, I was struck when I first saw an ad in the bulletin that read: “Don’t Forget



to Remember Your Parish in Your Wills and Trusts!” That message stays with me, even now. And that’s coming from a person who can sometimes walk into a room and forget why he’s there!

As a Catholic and an estate planning lawyer, I’m often reminded, whether through a Scripture reading at Mass or the thoughtful foresight of a client, that estate plans are a powerful way to steward our blessings, both for our families and for the Church.

The Gospel’s Parable of the Talents stands out in particular. Two of the servants wisely use their master’s gifts and are proudly able to return them with increase at the end. That’s the hope for

every good plan: to reflect gratitude, prudence and faith.

Through the years, I’ve seen a few common missteps that can cause stress for families or unintentionally exclude the people and ministries that matter most. Here are three key “don’t forget” steps that can help support your loved ones and your parish.

—Don’t forget to create a will.

Without a will, state law decides who inherits your property, which might not reflect your true wishes. A well-drafted will allows you to name heirs and include charitable gifts to a parish or Catholic ministry that’s meaningful to you. Even a small gift can help meet parish needs or support ministries like Catholic education or Catholic Charities. Consulting with an attorney can help ensure your will is clear, valid and faithfully reflects your intentions.

—Don’t forget to update your plan.

Life is always changing. We get

married, welcome a new grandchild, move or join a new parish, and our priorities shift. I’ve seen outdated estate plans cause stress and confusion for families. That’s why I recommend reviewing your plans every few years or after major life events. It’s also a good opportunity to add new gifts or change previous ones to reflect your current priorities. Of course, an attorney can help make those updates simple and effective.

—Don’t forget to review payable-on-death transfers.

Some of your most significant assets, like IRAs and life insurance policies, pass directly through beneficiary forms instead of your will. If those forms are outdated, your assets could go to unintended beneficiaries. A quick review every few years can prevent this. Many people don’t realize you can even name your parish, a ministry or its endowment as a beneficiary.

Following these steps—creating a will, updating it and reviewing payable-on-death transfers—can go a long way in honoring what matters most to you.

Like the wise servants in the Gospel parable, your planning can be an offering back to the Master, blessing your family and supporting Catholic ministries.

Consider working with an attorney and financial advisor to create a plan that reflects your values and supports your loved ones, your parish and your faith.

(Edward O. Martin is a Centerville, Ind., attorney who practices in the areas of estate planning and administration, business, and real estate. He is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond and is currently serving on the archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation’s Professional Advisor Group.) †

PREGNANCY

continued from page 8

here for them to listen to them, to educate them and empower them with truth and love, to help them be great moms and strong leaders of their families.”

1st Choice for Women offers free pregnancy testing, free ultrasounds, peer mentoring and help to connect women to local resources.



Father Jerry Byrd, then-pastor of the three parishes in Jennings County, blesses the 1st Choice for Women building on the southwest side of Indianapolis during the facility’s grand opening on June 14.

“When a woman comes through our door, we will share the truth with her about all three of her options: parenting, abortion and lovingly placing for adoption,” Kile explained.

“For the moms who may need a little extra hand-holding, we will connect them to a Gabriel Project church. They will be adopted and mentored by a Gabriel Angel not only during her pregnancy but also beyond the birth of her child.”

Through a partnership with Bright Course, women who receive help from 1st Choice for Women “can take hundreds of life skill classes covering topics like fetal development, parenting, budgeting and more,” said Kile.

“Each time [a mom] takes a class or visits our center, she will earn points that she can use in our [on-site] baby store to shop for the things that she chooses for her child.”

She spoke of a promise “to each woman who comes through our doors: to offer confidential, loving care in an atmosphere where she feels safe, loved and valued.”

This ‘is where the culture changes’

Prior to cutting a ribbon with Kile to officially open 1st Choice for Women, Rokita addressed those present, focusing on the different roles between government and citizens in eradicating abortion.

The role of the attorney general’s office is prosecuting doctors and others who break state laws regarding abortion, he explained.

“We could do everything possible to enforce the laws” surrounding abortion, said Rokita. “We can follow



Some of the roughly 50 attendees at the grand opening of 1st Choice for Women pregnancy care center on the southwest side of Indianapolis on June 14 admire the facility’s baby store for its clients. (Photos by Natalie Hoefer)

the letter of all those words.”

But making abortion illegal can’t be the end goal, he continued. Rather, the goal is for abortion “to be unthinkable,” said Rokita, a Catholic. “It has to be a cultural change that comes into the heart. ... To me, that’s really what the Gospel instructs us to do.”

While the government’s role is to protect the vulnerable—“and the unborn are the most vulnerable of all of us,” he noted—“government is not meant to make those cultural changes. Citizens are.

“This work [of 1st Choice for Women] is where the culture changes. It’s not supposed to be through my office. It’s here. You have to do this—we have to do this—one heart at a time. ...

“On behalf of the people of Indiana, I

want to thank you,” said Rokita. “Because you are the solution.”

That solution comes through the compassion offered to those seeking help at 1st Choice for Women. As Kile noted in her address, “We want every woman facing an unplanned pregnancy to know that we’re here for her.”

(1st Choice for Women is located at 3727 Kentucky Ave. in Indianapolis. Donations to Great Lakes Gabriel Project can be made online at tinyurl.com/GLGP-Give, or send a check for “The Gabriel Project” to Gabriel Project, P.O. Box 422, Camby, IN, 46113. To learn about volunteer opportunities at 1st Choice for Women, contact Lourdes Padilla at 812-374-7331 or padillas4life@gmail.com.) †

Classified Directory

For Sale

CALVARY CEMETERY, 435 W. Troy, Indianapolis. True Companion mausoleum crypt in SOLD OUT Court of the Apostles, Chapel D, Tier F, Crypt #110. Holds 2 caskets. Inscription and entombment included. \$14,500. Call 317-709-5991.

Employment

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Maintenance Technician

This full-time, hourly, position is responsible for the maintenance of several buildings.

Duties include:

- Completing repairs, preventative maintenance and maintenance tasks on buildings and grounds.
- Responding, in a timely manner, to internal equipment repair needs.
- A verifiable background in building maintenance.
- A working knowledge of all building systems and components.
- The ability to evaluate and repair existing equipment.
- The ability to work with contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers.
- An ability to work with the Archdiocesan staff.
- Basic computer skills.
- Good organizational and communication skills.

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume to: bburkert@archindy.org.

Medicare Insurance



Health Insurance Professionals

Turning 65, retiring, SS disability, or Medicare supplement premiums continuing to increase? Confused with what type of plan fits your needs, or how to enroll into Medicare part B?

- ❖ Give us a call and allow us to review your needs, for your unique circumstances.
- ❖ With over 30 years experience we represent several companies for Medicare Supplements, Rx, & Advantage plans, as well as Life companies.
- ❖ Serving 126 Parishes in 39 Counties

Gives us a call or send us an email, we will set up a visit today!

PH: 317-787-4638

danshearhu@gmail.com

Dan Shea, RHU
Long time Parishioner of St John the Evangelist Indianapolis.

SERRA CLUB VOCATIONS ESSAY

Student finds hope in priestly, religious and married vocations lived faithfully

By Faustina Darnowski
Special to *The Criterion*

The *Baltimore Catechism* defines hope as the “virtue by which we firmly trust that God, who is all powerful and faithful to his promises, will in his mercy give us eternal happiness and the means to obtain it” (#3).



Faustina Darnowski

This promise of eternal life is sanctity, or living in God’s divine will. The Second Vatican Council addressed this universal call to holiness, which is brought about through faithfulness to our vocation, our calling in life. Our vocations bring hope to others. Priests and nuns who tirelessly serve others and adore God, spouses who love each other and who bring joy and beauty into the world through their marital love and spread the joy of Christ to others.

Many priests and religious have given me powerful advice in seeking God’s

will, but one that has stood out the most for me was from a Dominican nun. She said, “Faustina, live in the present moment. That is where you will find God, and he will find you. The past is in his mercy. The future is in his providence. And the present is in his hands.”

This is so true! All the saints—religious, married or single—lived every minute with a burning desire to serve God. We each try to be holy in our state in life: a holy teenager; a holy businessman; a holy mother; a holy sibling; a holy student.

This is how Blessed Carlo Acutis, Giuseppe Moscati and SS. Zelie and Louis Martin all became saints. This is how anyone can become a saint: by doing all things with great love. That is what St. Thérèse of Lisieux described in her autobiography *The Story of a Soul* as the “little way” to holiness.

Pursuing a vocation brings hope into my life because living God’s will is the most joy-filled thing to do. For me, the dream of becoming a nun is what drives me to do my best now as a daughter, a sister

and a student. By living my daily duty now, as faithfully as possible, I am getting ready for the next part of my life following God.

The inspiration of my parents gives my siblings and I the model of devotion to our callings. When they heroically adopted five children with special needs, when they deny themselves plenty of sleep, relaxation and extra vacations to be able to take care of us, we see how beautiful love for God and others is! This is hope in human form.

Like the faithful servants in the parable of the talents (Mt 25:14-30), we are called to take what our Lord and Master gives us and to double it with our efforts. God wants us to use and enjoy our gifts, not just for ourselves but for all. I am preparing to know where God is calling me to build up his kingdom with my God-given talents by trying to live my duty of the moment, namely being a good daughter, a good sister, a good student and a holy teenage girl.

Taking time as a family and as an individual for daily prayer and meditation, and especially seeking God’s will by

attending daily Mass and weekly confession, definitely make his plans for me and my family clearer. Good, holy friendships and yearly retreats also give me valuable time and perspective to truly examine my life and to make sure I am living my vocation as well as I can for God.

Hope is an anchor that keeps us all from abandoning our station in the storms and trials of this world, which truly is often a “valley of tears.” Now, as you live your life and pursue with great fervor the vocation to which you have been called, go about with these words from St. Paul in your heart: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15:13).

(Faustina Darnowski and her parents, Doug and Adele Darnowski, are members of St. Michael Parish in Bradford. She recently completed 11th grade as a homeschooled student and is the 11th-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2025 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.) †

READINGS

continued from page 17

Tuesday, August 5
The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Numbers 12:1-13
Psalms 51:1, 3-7, 12-13
Matthew 14:22-36
or *Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14*

Wednesday, August 6
The Transfiguration of the Lord
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 9
2 Peter 1:16-19
Luke 9:28b-36

Thursday, August 7
St. Sixtus II, pope, and companions, martyrs
St. Cajetan, priest
Numbers 20:1-13

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9
Matthew 16:13-23

Friday, August 8
St. Dominic, priest
Deuteronomy 4:32-40
Psalms 77:12-16, 21
Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday, August 9
St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin and martyr

Deuteronomy 6:4-13
Psalms 18:2-4, 47, 51
Matthew 17:14-20

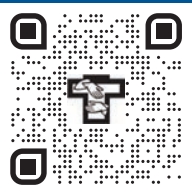
Sunday, August 10
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 18:6-9
Psalms 33:1, 12, 18-22
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
or *Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-12*
Luke 12:32-48
or *Luke 12:35-40*

25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

INDIANA’S PREMIER
BLOOD AND BONE MARROW
TRANSPLANT PROGRAM



LEARN MORE
OR TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR



Franciscan HEALTH
CANCER CENTER

INDIANA BLOOD & MARROW TRANSPLANTATION