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Stories and Photos: Pages 9-24

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Praying for life Youths' presence highlights March for Life

By Katie Berger

Special to The Criterion

Archdiocesan youths felt a renewed confidence and enthusiasm during the March for Life on Jan. 23 after Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore told them the night before that the number of abortions is at its lowest since 1975.

Cardinal Keeler attributed much of the decrease to the gradual change in attitude among young people—a statement he made during his homily to an overflowing crowd of more than 6,000 pilgrims at the Pro-Life Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C.

The reality of abortion is what annually brings thousands of primarily young pilgrims to the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

“The opposition to abortion is strongest among the youth,” the cardinal said.

Nearly 500 archdiocesan youth and chaperones formed the archdiocesan-sponsored pilgrimage, making the trip by the busload.

Pilgrims riding four archdiocesan buses joined buses from Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, the Indianapolis North and Batesville deaneries, and St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis to participate in the 33rd annual March for Life.

Mikey Padilla, a Columbus North High School sophomore from St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, said he felt reassured by seeing the number of youth gathered, many of whom seemed similar to him.

“It’s pretty cool that the average kid is now pro-life,” Mikey said.

Year after year, the consistent witness of archdiocesan young people in Washington is a testament to their determination to defend the dignity of each human life, participants said.

See MARCH, page 8

Teacher sees annual trip as tribute to his brother's life

By John Shaughnessy

For Gerard Striby, his best journeys have often taken him to the point where the celebration of life meets the threat of death.

Four years ago, the religion teacher at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis boarded a bus filled with fellow Olympic torchbearers—a group that had been chosen to carry the torch through the city as it made its way across the country to the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

“I took the torch from a woman who had lost a loved one to cancer,” recalled Striby, a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. “She started an organization for cancer awareness. The person I gave the torch to was a man who had overcome some pretty significant physical handicaps. I shared my stories of the service things I had done, the pro-life things, working with the students.”

Then there are the journeys Striby has made the past 10 years while organizing

CNS photo/Nancy Wiehac



Emily Johannigman, 18, a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhousen, Ind., prays the rosary during the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 22.

Photo by John Shaughnessy



Inspired by the life of one of his brothers, Gerard Striby always stresses the importance of respect life issues to his students at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

Roncalli’s bus trip to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life—the event that once again drew thousands of people from all walks of life and from across the country on Jan. 23.

See BROTHER, page 7

God is love: Papal message reflects basics of faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Even before the release of Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical in late January, it was clear that the theme—“God is love”—reflected an emerging focus of his papacy’s first year.

From his inaugural Mass in April to his recent improvised sermon at a baptismal liturgy, in speeches to world leaders and bishops, the pope has been preaching a basic message—God is good, God cannot be shut out of personal and social life, and God reaches out to humanity through Jesus Christ.

Many were expecting a rule-tightening papacy from Pope Benedict, who headed the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation for 24 years. But instead of loading his talks and texts with Catholic magisterial pronouncements, the pope has used scriptural, philosophical and anthropological sources to stir an awareness of the transcendent purpose of human affairs.

As a teacher, the pope is taking a less-dogmatic approach in order to reach a wider audience. He is inviting individuals and modern society to change their relationship with God—a relationship, he argues, that is often one of indifference or antagonism.

“God does not hide behind clouds of impenetrable mystery. ... He has shown himself, he talks to us and is with us; he lives with us and guides us in our lives,” the pope said in a sermon in early January.

Two months earlier, speaking to academics at the Vatican, he warned of a tendency for modern men and women to withdraw into a “suffocating existential microcosm, in which there is no place for the great ideals that are open to transcendence and to God.”

In his sermon at Christmas, the pope emphasized that God loves everyone, then added: “But some people have closed their hearts; there is no door by which his love can enter. They think that they do not need God, nor do they want him.”

The encyclical’s theme was clearly on the pope’s mind last summer, when he confided to a group of priests: “We believe that God exists, that God counts; but which God? A God with a face, a

See ENCYCLICAL, page 2

Love stories, life's lessons and faith elements of coach's book

By John Shaughnessy

In a few minutes, Bruce Scifres will talk about how Indianapolis Colts' head coach Tony Dungy helped him decide to become a Catholic.

Yet, right now, the man who has led Roncalli High School in Indianapolis to six state championships is sharing two stories that many people wouldn't expect from a football coach—love stories.

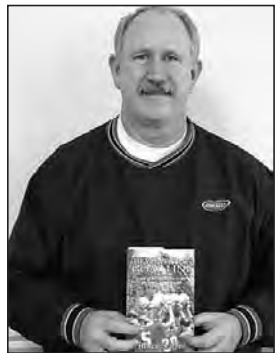


Photo by John Shaughnessy

Bruce Scifres with his book.

The first story involves a ritual that Scifres follows on Valentine's Day. Every Feb. 14, he approaches the front door or the mailbox of a woman he has loved for

decades and secretly leaves a homemade card asking the woman to be his Valentine again.

The woman is his 83-year-old mother, Mary.

The second story concerns the point he once made to his four children about priorities.

After the Roncalli Rebels won the 2004 state championship at the 4A level, the team received their state championship rings. While Scifres' son, Luke, admired the ring, he asked his father, "Dad, which of the rings you've won means the most to you?"

To make his point, Scifres put on his fingers the nine rings he has won in state championship competition: six for each of the state football championships, two for being repeat champions and another ring—for coaching a state runner-up team in track from his days at Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis.

"Then I told them, 'Now, I'm going to take these off—one by one—until I get to the one that means the most to me. The one that most represents hard work, loyalty, sacrifice and accomplishment,'" Scifres recalls. "After that, I began to take each of them off and put them back in

their boxes—pausing long enough so they could see some of the years and to pique their curiosity."

When only one state championship ring remained, Scifres quickly removed it before his children could see which year it represented. Luke balked, telling his father he didn't get to see which ring mattered most to him.

"I replied, 'Yes you did because I still have it on,'" Scifres notes. "At this point, I raised my left hand, where my wedding band was on my ring finger. 'This is the ring that matters most to me. It is, by far, the ring I am most proud of and the one I never take off.' I wanted them to know that there is nothing in my life that I am prouder of than the fact that I am married to their mother. I believe there is no better way for me to show my love for them."

Both stories are included in Scifres' book, *Beyond the Goal Line: The Quest for Victory in the Game of Life*. Scifres will discuss the book during a luncheon at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on Feb. 3, starting at noon. His talk will focus on the merits of keeping success in perspective and having a Christ-centered approach to life—similar to the approach that Dungy has used.

Dungy played an unknowing but crucial role in Scifres' decision to finally become a Catholic.

Reared as a Protestant, Scifres met his wife, Jackie, a Catholic, while teaching at Roncalli. He attended Mass with her on Sundays and agreed to have their children learn the Catholic faith and attend Catholic schools. Yet he hadn't made the commitment to joining the faith until he heard a radio interview with Dungy, a Christian, who was then the head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"Something he said has stayed with me, 'Commit everything you do in life to the Lord and you will be successful,'" recalls Scifres, a member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. "He went on to say that this holds true in all aspects of our life."

Scifres committed to the Catholic faith. He has also made that commitment of faith to the students he coaches.

"I have made the commitment that I



Submitted photo courtesy of Roncalli High School

Roncalli High School football coach Bruce Scifres addresses players, students and fans of the Indianapolis South Deanery inter-parochial high school after the Rebels earned a 2005 sectional championship in 4A with a dramatic win over Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

want to make it to heaven and that, ultimately, I want to take as many people with me as I can," he writes. "Other than my own children, I think the group I have the most positive influence over are the young people I coach on a daily basis."

That approach has led to four priorities he has set for his players, including wanting them to be good people, expecting them to make the most of their education and wanting them to be good football players. But the priority at the top of the list is this: "We want our players' involvement in football to strengthen their faith relationship with God."

That faith has been tested for players and coaches through the years when one Roncalli player died, another had a stroke and players' parents have died unexpectedly.

Scifres shares the story of being in the hospital room when Roncalli player Jonathan Page was in a coma in 2002 from injuries sustained in a car accident. With Page's parents, Scifres, a priest and several football players held hands, formed a circle around Jonathan's bed and prayed.

Several days later, Scifres gave his part

of the funeral eulogy for Jonathan before a jam-packed church that also included players and coaches from Bishop Chatard, Cardinal Ritter, Cathedral and Father Thomas Scecina Memorial high schools in Indianapolis.

"Our faith is what gives us strength when we're faced with adversity or heartbreak," he said. "It's that same faith that helps us rejoice in the good times. Life is full of both."

The seasons and the years pass, always bringing more triumphs to celebrate and more hardships to overcome. Still, there are constants in life, like Scifres reminding his players before every game, "Take God with you on every play."

"I have a better understanding of what my purpose in life is now," he said. "I've made more of a commitment to do God's work. It's made my life more fulfilling. It helps keep my life in perspective."

(For more information about Scifres' book, visit the Web site www.inspireposters.com. To register or to learn more about the Feb 3 luncheon at Fatima, phone 317-545-7681. The cost is \$20 per person.) †

ENCYCLICAL

continued from page 1

human face, a God who reconciles, who overcomes hatred and gives us the power of peace that no one else can give us.

"We must make people understand that Christianity is actually very simple and consequently very rich," he said.

That would seem to be one of the goals of his first encyclical, "*Deus Caritas Est*" ("God Is Love"), which was scheduled to be released on Jan. 25.

"God Is Love" strikes some as more fitting for a '60s poster than the cover of a papal document, especially one written by an intellectual like Pope Benedict.

The phrase, taken from the First Letter of John, may be a simple one. But it's the

starting point for what the pope hopes will be a deeper conversation with contemporary society, one that involves the nature of love and its relation to freedom, truth and Jesus Christ.

In the pope's view, unless people understand how "God is love," they will never overcome the age-old tendency to mistrust God.

In his sermon on the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, Pope Benedict said that from the Garden of Eden to modern times humans have suspected that "God is a rival who curtails our freedom and that we will be fully human only when we have cast him aside."

In short, he said, man often believes God's love creates a limiting dependency.

For the pope, the challenge facing the

Church is to make people see that "love is not dependence but a gift that makes us live" and that "God's will is not a law for the human being imposed from the outside" but something intrinsic to human nature.

The pope followed up on this theme in an address to the new British ambassador to the Vatican on Dec. 23, when he spoke about respect for the truth and its implications for civil society.

"Above all, it directs us toward a proper understanding of human freedom which can never be realized independently of God but only in cooperation with his loving plan for humanity," the pope said.

In his 2006 World Peace Day message sent to leaders around the world, the pope said acknowledging the full truth of God is the "first, indispensable condition for consolidating the truth of peace."

"God is love which saves, a loving father who wants to see his children look upon one another as brothers and sisters, working responsibly to place their various talents at the service of the common good of the human family," he said.

A pope's first encyclical is often viewed as a thematic touchstone for his pontificate. Pope Benedict has chosen to write on the place of God in human affairs and the nature of love—topics that go far beyond the borders of the Catholic Church.

In doing so, he is pointing out that, as he said last July, faith is not extraneous to life, nor is it "a package of rules that we load onto our shoulders like a heavy backpack."

Faith is "simple and rich," he said. That's how he hopes "God Is Love" will be received. †



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Advocates rally at Statehouse for lower heating costs for poor

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Hoosiers from northern Indiana traveled to Indianapolis for a Jan. 18



Statehouse rally to support heating assistance legislation

for low-income families—an issue the Indiana Catholic Conference also supports based on the biblical teaching of protecting the poor who are the least among us (Matthew 25).

Rep. Win Moses (D-Fort Wayne), author of House Bill 1094, who spoke at the rally, said, “As long as I’ve been in



Rep. Win Moses

public service, this issue causes more family damage than any other issue. When a family’s home loses its heat, the home is condemned and the family has to leave. It causes homelessness. It is a very serious problem.

“While this bill is aimed at helping the working poor, high gas prices have caused hardships for many middle-income families, too,” Moses added.

Mary Beth Fisher, public information director for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)—the administrative body that makes the rules for Indiana utilities—said the IURC’s latest action was for the worst of the worst customers—those who do not pay their bills. The rule allowed utilities to collect up to four months of the average heating bill as a deposit for reconnecting service outside of moratorium months (November to March).

“During the moratorium months, the utility can charge up to two months’ deposit for the financially qualified customers. What the new rule did was to make it easier on customers while giving utilities the right to recoup some of their losses,” Fisher said.

“The IURC has been studying this issue for two years,” she continued. “What happens is those who qualify for heating assistance use the moratorium and the heating assistance money, yet still have a balance due when the moratorium ends. They owe hundreds of dollars and are disconnected. Then they come back in November and have their heat reconnected.”



Photo by Charles Schisla

Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend) talks with South Bend residents at the Statehouse rally to support heating assistance legislation in Indianapolis on Jan. 18. Sen. Broden, a member of Holy Cross Parish in South Bend, is author of Senate Bill 216 which addresses gas utility connection charges and deposits.

While the commission sets ceilings for what utilities can charge, most of the utilities around Indianapolis do not collect the maximum, Fisher said. “The commission certainly looks forward to working with the legislature on this important issue.” The IURC is responsible for protecting both the consumer and Indiana utilities.

Senate Bill 352, authored by Sen. Tim Lanane (D-Anderson), appropriates up to \$20 million from tax amnesty revenues to expand the availability of Indiana’s heating assistance program to low-income Hoosiers coping with increased home heating costs.



Sen. Tim Lanane

“For many families, this is the period when they need help the most,” Lanane said. “With this legislation, we can take leftover tax amnesty dollars that currently are just sitting in the state’s bank account and use them to help families struggling to pay their heating bills.”

Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend), author of Senate Bill 216, said at the rally his bill would reduce the deposit fee from a four-month estimated bill to a one-month estimated bill.



Sen. John Broden

“In terms of dollars, this would reduce a deposit fee of \$700 to about \$150. The problem has really been with gas utili-

ties,” said Broden, a member of Holy Cross Parish in South Bend, Ind. “People are going without heat because they can’t afford the deposit fee. They’re using space heaters. This is no way to live.

“In the winter of 2003-04, social services and churches in St. Joseph County alone documented they had paid \$3 million for gas bills and deposit fees.”

Broden continued. “This measure is really a compromise measure. It just reduces the deposit fees utilities can collect.”

Rep. Shelia Klinker (D-Lafayette), co-author of House Bill 1081, said her bill is designed “to help folks that are disabled and vulnerable in our state,



Rep. Shelia Klinker

See HEATING, page 7

ICC supports several heating bills

Following is a list of heating legislation being considered this year that are supported by the Indiana Catholic Conference:

• **House Bill 1081 Home energy sales tax exemption**—Bill authors include Reps. David Yount (R-Columbus), Shelia Klinker (D-Lafayette), a member of St. Mary’s Cathedral Parish in Lafayette; John Day (D-Indianapolis) a member of Holy Cross Parish in Indianapolis; and Mike Murphy (R-Indianapolis), a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

The bill provides a sales tax exemption for sales of home energy to a person who acquires the energy through a home energy assistance program administered by the division of family resources.

• **House Bill 1094 Reconnection charges**—Bill author is Rep. Winfield Moses (D-Fort Wayne).

The bill provides that the amount charged by a utility, other than a telecommunications provider to reconnect service, may not exceed actual reconnection costs. It permits a utility to require a deposit before reconnecting service. It also requires a utility to reconnect service within one calendar day after being requested to reconnect service.

• **House Bill 1345 Income tax credit for sales tax paid for heating**— Bill author is Rep. Bill Davis

See BILLS, page 7



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Editorial



Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis answers questions about the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" during a press conference in Chicago last June. At their midyear meeting, U.S. bishops once again addressed topics regarding clergy sexual abuse and child protection.

Let's stop blaming the bishops

The sex abuse crisis of the early 2000s had many adverse consequences. These include an embarrassing scandal that weakened the Church's moral authority, the reopening of deep wounds for thousands of victims and their families, an assault on the image and self-confidence of the vast majority of priests who are not guilty of abuse, enormous financial settlements (even bankruptcy) in dioceses across the country and much more.

And yet the remarkable resiliency of the Catholic people has, in the main, allowed us to survive the scandal and to remain a vibrant and holy Church. Yes, there are many problems facing the Catholic Church—here in the U.S. and all over the world. But the gates of Hell have not prevailed. The Church is alive and young. Pope Benedict XVI tells us, and we have every reason to be confident that the grace of Christ will sustain the Church as it continues its pilgrim journey into the new millennium.

One unfortunate result of the sex abuse scandal is the loss of credibility that many American bishops have suffered. Ordinary Catholics wonder why the bishops didn't do a better job of protecting children and disciplining offenders. Critics on the right and on the left seem to agree (for once) that the bishops are to blame—for the sex abuse crisis and whatever else ails the Church. Liberal commentators accuse the American bishops of paying too much attention to the Vatican. Conservatives charge that the bishops pay too little attention to the Vatican. Did the sex abuse scandal really uncover a crisis in the American episcopacy?

We think not. The American bishops are a diverse group of men who carry out their enormously challenging responsibilities with remarkable fidelity (even courage) in light of everything they have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. Yes, they are human beings with weaknesses and with limitations. Episcopal ordination does not guarantee success in the ministry of teaching, sanctifying or pastoral governance. A bishop has to grow in holiness and in his ability to serve as a good steward of his diocese. Sometimes, he makes mistakes. If he is faithful to his calling, the bishop learns from his mistakes and carries on.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has been faithfully served by a diverse group of bishops since our founding as a missionary diocese in Vincennes in 1834. Our archdiocese has been served by bishops who were pioneers, builders,

extroverts, introverts, leaders, preservers, teachers, administrators, pastors, saints and sinners. All loved the Church. All worked to shepherd their flock in fidelity to the Catholic Church in light of the challenges and opportunities of the eras in which they served.

The bishops who have served our archdiocese over the years have been very much like the bishops who served in other dioceses nationwide during comparable eras. They have been faithful overseers (from the Greek word *episkopoi*) of their local Churches. They have been consistent (if not always brilliant) teachers; they have been advocates (and often exemplars) of holiness; and they have governed the Church reasonably well over the years from the pioneer days, through decades of active anti-Catholicism, to the building years of the 20th century, to the breathtaking Vatican II experience and the transitions that followed, through the amazing, long pontificate of John Paul II, until now—the fifth year of the new millennium.

We think that, in general, the Church in the United States has been well-served by its bishops. Without question, the sex abuse crisis made it absolutely clear that there is no room in the priesthood (or anywhere else for that matter) for anyone who would harm a young person. And it showed the American bishops (and the rest of us) that the old ways of dealing with these things were woefully inadequate and must never to be repeated. We believe that the audits conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops show that the vast majority of bishops have learned their lesson (the hard way). We sincerely hope that, as a result, no young person will ever again be abused by anyone (clergy, religious or lay) who is affiliated with the Catholic Church.

We think it's time to stop blaming the bishops for everything that ails us as a Church. All of us—clergy, religious and laity—have roles to play in the life of the Church. We're in this together as disciples of Jesus Christ and as members of the one family of God. Yes, we need to hold the bishops accountable (and they must do the same for us). But as family (as Church) we also need to support one another—in good times and in bad.

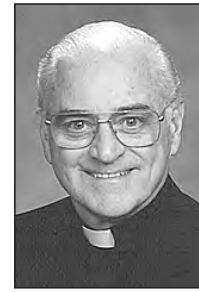
— Daniel Conway

(Daniel Conway is a member of the editorial committee of the board of directors of Criterion Press Inc.) †

Spirituality for Today/Fr. John Catoir

Healing past hurts and anger

If you are struggling with the pain of past hurts and unresolved anger, please read this article. Buried resentments are difficult to escape. The embers of anger may keep burning, but there is always grace. With God's help, spiritual healing is possible.



Lots of people suffer from this kind of emotional distress. They want to heal their wounds, but they don't know how. "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. There is not soundness, only bruises and bleeding wounds, but the wounds are not softened with oil" (Is 1:5, 6).

Whenever the pain of life becomes too much for you, turn immediately to Jesus. He may seem to ask the impossible, but his words supply the healing balm of wisdom, a wisdom that will soften the wound with oil. Here is the formula for success.

Think about what Jesus said the night before he died. He explained his purpose on earth in these words, "I have told you all these things that your joy may be full." Among his teachings, we find the mandate to forgive. Jesus told us to forgive because he wanted us to be free of emotional pain.

The Lord also asks you to forgive your "enemy" not once but "70 times seven." What does that mean in practical terms?

It means that to get rid of the distress you will need to forgive the one who hurt you. Holding onto resentment will only diminish your capacity for joy.

You can break free! There are three things to consider in order to get started.

- First, admit that you have been deeply hurt and that you are angry. Don't go into denial about it. Repressed anger

will only cause more distress.

- Second, accept the fact that you must treat your wounds in order for them to heal.

- And third, decide to treat them by doing what Jesus asked of you—namely, forgive the other person whether you feel like it or not.

Forgiveness is in the will. You don't have to have good feelings toward the person when you forgive him or her. Good feelings will come in time.

Forgive the person as an act of obedience to the Lord. This may sound impossible at first, but blind faith in the power of God will enable you to heal.

You do not even have to face the person who hurt you. You can do this spiritually—that is, by simply approaching that person in your imagination. Forgive him or her in the privacy of your own heart.

You do this not necessarily for the benefit of the other person; you do it for the Lord and for yourself.

You never have to force feelings of any kind when you forgive. Put the issue of your feelings aside for now, and forgive because Jesus asks it of you. Some bitterness may linger for a time, but if that happens say a short prayer for the person each time, a "Hail Mary" perhaps. This will serve as a sign to you that you have decided to forgive and forget.

To forgive is to turn off the furnace that fuels the resentment. Once that is done, all you need to do is wait patiently. Time heals all wounds.

If you need help in this process, try talking to a friend or a trusted priest. The sacrament of reconciliation brings God's grace to the healing process. The confessional experience can soothe a troubled soul.

(Father John Catoir is a columnist for Catholic News Service.) †

Letters to the Editor

Computer professionals deserve thanks for handling of 'Y2K' fears

In her "Perspectives" column ("Predicting the future, heeding advice," Jan. 13 issue of *The Criterion*), Shirley Vogler Meister gives free publicity to self-proclaimed "theologians" and survivalist advertising sites, yet belittles one of the true success stories of the information technology profession.

Predictions of computer failures at the year 2000 were not the ravings of some placard carrying, long-haired kooks escaped from a *New Yorker* cartoon. The warning of a "Y2K bug" was a serious analysis of the shortcomings in the date handling capabilities in thousands and thousands of computer programs and systems.

Computer professionals around the world recognized the gravity of this shortcoming and spent years of effort to assure that "mission critical" computer systems were examined, corrected and tested long before champagne corks popped at the end of 1999.

Andrew Kowalczyk, Bloomington

Catholic community must take a stand against death penalty

The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights. Coupled with the fact that, in recent times, at least 122 proven innocent people have been executed, and the staggering statistics revealing socio-economic and racial prejudice in capital punishment sentencing, it

is time for the Catholic community of our state to take a stand for life in this matter.

Life without parole protects the public, punishes the criminal without the compounding evil of human vengeance, saves money for the state (which can be put to better use for those in need) and leaves open the possibility that the accused will be alive (albeit in prison) if later evidence exonerates him/her.

Last year, when some pro-life young adults spoke their witness from the ambo on Respect Life Sunday, they spoke to the issues of abortion and euthanasia.

After Mass when I was giving them support for their presentation, I asked why capital punishment was not addressed. Their answer? "Sadly, there isn't the heart in this area of the country to address the subject. Catholics here don't seem to recognize that abolition of the death penalty is part of a seamless ethic of respecting life."

I hope you feel as I do that it is time to bring this deficit to light.

Kathleen Beck-Coon, M.D., Indianapolis

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise, temperate in tone, courteous and respectful.

The editors reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content.

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

Send letters to "Letters to the Editor," *The Criterion*, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717.

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

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.



SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

Supporting our Catholic schools continues a rich tradition

At our spring 2005 meeting, the bishops of the United States found it timely to issue a statement titled "Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium."

We are committed to continuing a long-standing tradition. We Catholics of the United States inherited the rich tradition of building and maintaining schools from our immigrant ancestors. In a milieu that was less than friendly to the Catholic Church and its faith in the early days of our nation, our forbearers had to both nurture and protect the faith for their descendents.

Founding what would truly become a monumental school system was one of their initiatives. Excellence in education and religious formation became a hallmark of our schools, thanks largely to dedicated religious women and men who embraced our educational mission with zeal and at great sacrifice.

In 1999, the late Pope John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation, *The Church in America*, said Catholic schools play a vital role in the evangelizing mission of the Church. They are "the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out ... Catholic schools are at once places of evangelization, of complete formation, of inculturation, of apprenticeship in a lively dialogue between young people of different religions and social backgrounds" (*Catholic Schools on the*

Threshold of the Third Millennium, #11).

Our Catholic schools play a vital role in the development of a spiritual and moral culture in our country for our children and future generations.

In a reflection on "The Church That John Paul II Left Behind" (chapter two of *God's Choice*) among other issues, author George Weigel describes the malaise in Europe. He notes that the late Holy Father tried to offer a positive program for Europe's cultural revival. The pope suggested that Europe's greatest need was not for a common currency or a new constitution but for hope: "The most urgent matter Europe faces, in both East and West, is a growing need for hope, a hope that will enable us to give meaning to life and history" (*The Church in Europe*).

In describing how Europe's lost hope expresses itself, the pope said it was "in a kind of practical agnosticism and religious indifference whereby many Europeans give the impression of living without spiritual roots ... somewhat like heirs who have squandered a patrimony" in a "fear of the future," in "the inner emptiness that grips many people," in a "selfishness that closes individuals and groups in upon themselves" and, of course, "in the diminished number of births."

Weigel comments that Europe is also suffering from self-inflicted historical amnesia in which Christianity's contributions to the formation of Europe's civiliza-

tion are being denied (cf., Weigel's most recent work, *God's Choice*, p. 56).

We do well to reflect on the malaise that afflicts Europe because our country is no less immune to the impact of the negative effects of secular materialism. Amnesia about the necessary influence of Christian spirituality and morality leads to a loss of hope because it divests culture of its authentic meaning.

As our bishops' statement says: "Our young people are the Church of today and tomorrow. It is imperative that we provide them with schools ready to address their spiritual, moral, and academic needs. Our challenge today is to provide schools close to where our Catholic people live. In areas where there currently are no Catholic schools, we should open schools that have a mission to evangelize. ... Wherever possible, Catholic schools should remain available and accessible in all areas of a diocese for children who are from poor and middle-class families who face major economic challenges.

"In addition, Catholic schools should be available to students who are not Catholic and who wish to attend them. This has been a proud part of the history of Catholic

schools in the 19th and 20th centuries.

"We must continue this outreach in the new millennium. We must also serve the increasing Hispanic/Latino population which makes up 39 percent of our current Catholic community. Hispanics/Latinos make up 41 percent of Catholics under the age of 30 and 44 percent of Catholics under the age of 10."

The bishops' statement proposes an enormous challenge! Maintaining our Catholic schools in any environment is hard work. The need for resources both to maintain and enhance school facilities, the need to provide reasonable salaries for teachers and administrators, the need to provide tuition assistance for the economically challenged—all of these needs are formidable.

Providing for schools in some of our rural communities and in center-city Indianapolis is even more difficult. With the generous assistance of those who enjoy greater resources, we will continue to do our best. It is a part of our inherited mission as Catholics in the United States. Our hard work promises a future full of hope for our children. †

Archbishop Buechlein's intention for vocations for January

Parents: that they may remain faithful to their vocations and encourage their children to consider God's call to service in the Church, especially as priests and religious.

El apoyo a nuestras escuelas Católicas prolonga una profunda tradición

En nuestra reunión de la primavera de 2005, los obispos de Estados Unidos estimamos oportuno emitir un comunicado titulado "Renovación de nuestro compromiso con las escuelas católicas elementales y secundarias en el Tercer milenio."

Estamos comprometidos a prolongar una extensa tradición. Los Católicos de Estados Unidos heredaron de nuestros ancestros inmigrantes la rica tradición de construir y mantener escuelas. En un entorno poco favorable a la Iglesia Católica y a su fe, en la alborada de la nación, nuestros antepasados tenían que cultivar y proteger la fe para sus descendientes.

Una de sus iniciativas fue la fundación de lo que se convertiría en un monumental sistema escolar. La excelencia en educación y formación religiosa se convirtió en el sello de nuestras escuelas, en gran parte debido a hombres y mujeres religiosos dedicados, quienes acogieron la misión educativa con entusiasmo y gran sacrificio.

En 1999 el difunto Papa Juan Pablo II, en su exhortación apostólica *La Iglesia en América*, expresó que las escuelas Católicas juegan un papel vital en la misión evangelizadora de la Iglesia. Constituyen "un campo privilegiado para promover la inculturación del Evangelio... las escuelas Católicas son al mismo tiempo lugares de evangelización, de completa formación, de inculturación, de aprendizaje en un diálogo vivo entre jóvenes de diferentes religiones y procedencias sociales" (*Escuelas Católicas en el umbral del Tercer milenio, No. 11*).

Nuestras escuelas Católicas juegan un

papel vital en el desarrollo de la cultura moral y espiritual en nuestro país para beneficio de nuestros hijos y de generaciones futuras.

En una reflexión de "La Iglesia que Juan Pablo II dejó," el autor George Weigel describe, entre otros temas, los malestares de Europa. Resalta que el difunto Santo Padre trató de ofrecer un programa positivo para el renacimiento cultural de Europa. El Papa sugirió que la mayor necesidad de Europa no era una nueva divisa común o una nueva constitución, sino la esperanza, una esperanza que nos permita darle sentido a la vida y a la historia... ." (*La Iglesia en Europa*).

Al describir la expresión que toma la falta de esperanza en Europa, el Papa dijo que se trataba de "una suerte de agnosticismo práctico e indiferencia religiosa por la cual muchos europeos dan la impresión de vivir sin raíces espirituales. ... algo así como herederos que han despilfarrado todo el patrimonio..." en un "temor del futuro," en "el vacío interior que se apodera de muchas personas," en un "egoísmo que encierra en sí mismos a individuos y grupos," y, por supuesto, "en el número reducido de nacimientos."

Weigel comenta que Europa también está sufriendo de amnesia histórica auto-inflingida, por medio de la cual se niegan los aportes del cristianismo a la formación de la civilización europea (Cf. La obra más reciente de Weigel, *God's Choice*, p. 56).

Conviene reflexionar sobre los malestares que afligen a Europa ya que nuestro país no es menos vulnerable al

impacto de los efectos negativos del materialismo secular. La amnesia en cuanto a la influencia necesaria de la espiritualidad y la moral cristiana conduce a una pérdida de esperanza ya que priva a la cultura de su verdadero significado.

Como dice nuestro comunicado de los obispos: "Nuestros jóvenes son la Iglesia del presente y del mañana. Resulta indispensable proporcionarles escuelas dispuestas a atender sus necesidades espirituales, morales y académicas. Nuestro reto hoy en día es proporcionar escuelas cerca de las áreas donde viven los Católicos. En aquellas áreas donde no existan actualmente escuelas Católicas, debemos abrir escuelas que tengan como misión evangelizar... Siempre que sea posible, las escuelas Católicas deberán continuar estando al alcance y a disposición de todos los niños provenientes de familias pobres y de clase media que enfrenten desafíos económicos, en todas las áreas de la diócesis.

"Asimismo, las escuelas Católicas deberán estar a disposición de estudiantes no Católicos que deseen asistir a dichas escuelas. Este aspecto ha formado parte orgánica de la historia de las escuelas católicas en los siglos IX y XX."

"Debemos continuar esta labor de expansión en el nuevo milenio. Igualmente, debe-

mos servir a la creciente población latina/hispana, que representa el 39 por ciento de nuestra comunidad Católica. Los latinos/hispanos conforman el 41 por ciento de los Católicos menores de 30 años y el 44 por ciento de los Católicos menores de 10 años."

¡El comunicado de los obispos supone un enorme desafío! El mantener nuestras escuelas Católicas en cualquier medio ambiente es una ardua labor. La necesidad de recursos para mantener y mejorar las instalaciones escolares, la necesidad de proporcionar salarios dignos para los maestros y directores, la necesidad de proporcionar asistencia matricular para aquellos con menos recursos, todas estas necesidades son tremendas.

Brindar escuelas en algunas de nuestras comunidades rurales y en el corazón de Indianápolis, es aun más difícil. Con la asistencia generosa de aquellos que disfrutaron de más recursos continuaremos haciendo nuestro mejor esfuerzo. Es parte de nuestra misión heredada, como Católicos estadounidenses. Nuestra ardua labor promete un futuro lleno de esperanza para nuestros hijos. †

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en enero

Padres: Que ellos puedan permanecer fieles a su vocación y puedan alentar a sus hijos a considerar la llamada de Dios para ser vir en la iglesia, especialmente como sacerdotes y gente religiosa.

Events Calendar

January 27

Marian College, St. Francis Hall Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal, **praise, worship, healing prayers**, 7 p.m. Information: 317-797-2460.

St. Francis Hospital, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. **Natural Family Planning (NFP) class**, 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-865-5554.

January 28

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. Small Church Community Commission, **third annual Small Church Community Convocation**, "The Church on the Move: Forward, Deeper, Onward," 8:45 a.m.-closing session, \$30 per person.

Information: 317-888-2861.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. The American Guild of Organists Festival Choir, **free one-hour organ and choral concert**, 7 p.m. EST. Information: 812-357-6501.

January 29

Indiana War Memorial, auditorium, 431 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Right to Life of Indianapolis, **annual memorial service for the unborn and memorial walk**, 2-3 p.m. Information: 317-582-1526.

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. **Evening of reflection**, "Reflections of Haiti," 4-7 p.m., dinner 4 p.m., baby-sitting available, free-will donation.

Registration: 317-781-9630.

MKVS and DM Center, Rexville (located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South, 12 miles south of Versailles). **Mass**, 3:30 p.m., with Father Elmer Burwinkel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail frburwink@seidata.com or log on to Schoenstatt Web site at www.seidata.com/~frburwink.

January 30

Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Father Larry Richards**, 7 p.m. Information: 317-542-1481.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany. **"Catholics Returning Home,"** six-week series, session 4, 7:30-9 p.m. Information: 812-745-3112.

Vigo County Public Library, Terre Haute. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. SpiritPro Workshop and retreat series, four Mondays, session 3, **"Soul Brothers—Men of the Bible Speak to Men of Today,"** 6-8 p.m., facilitator, Congregation of Christian Brother Barry Donaghue, donations accepted. Information: 812-535-4531 or spiritpro@spsmsw.org.

January 30-March 6

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Office for Family Ministries, **Divorce and Beyond Program**, six-week sessions, \$30 per person. Registration: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1586, or e-mail mhess@archindy.org.

January 31

St. Joseph University Parish, 113

S. Fifth St., Terre Haute. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. SpiritPro Workshop and retreat series, four Tuesdays, **"Soul Sisters—Women of Scripture Speak to Women of Today,"** 6-8 p.m., facilitator, Carolyn Surr, donations accepted. Information: 812-535-4531 or spiritpro@spsmsw.org.

February 1

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Mission Day, **"Understanding and Responding to Traumatic Loss—Understanding the Assumptive World,"** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898.

St. Malachy Parish, 326 N. Green St., Brownsburg. **"Catholics Returning Home,"** six-week series, session 5, 7-8:30

p.m. Information: 317-858-8422.

February 4

St. Mary School, 420 E. Eighth St., New Albany. **Chili supper**, homemade desserts, 4-8 p.m. Information: 502-773-1946.

St. Luke Parish, 7575 Holliday Dr. East, Indianapolis. **Natural Family Planning (NFP) class**, 9-11 a.m. Information: 317-465-0126.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Church, 1045 W. 146th St., Carmel, Ind., (Diocese of Lafayette). **One day retreat for separated and divorced Catholics**, "The Power of Forgiveness," \$7 per person. Information: 317-236-1586 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1586, e-mail mhess@archindy.org. †

Retreats and Programs

January 27-29

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Tobit Weekend**. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

January 30

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Senior Mass and Social**. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

January 30-March 6

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries, **"Divorce and Beyond,"** six-week program, 7-9 p.m., \$30 per person. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

January 31-February 28

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"The Vision of Vatican II for Today,"** five-part video series, Franciscan Sister Janet Born, presenter, 1:30-3 p.m., \$35 series. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 1-22

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Basic Pottery and Beyond,"** Franciscan Sister Ann Vonder Meulen, potter, educator, 6-9 p.m., \$140 early registration. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 1-23

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Basic Pottery and Beyond,"** Franciscan Sister Ann Vonder Meulen, potter, educator, 9 a.m.-noon, \$140 early registration. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 2

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Saint Meinrad School of Theology, first of 10 sessions, **Ecclesial Lay Ministry (ELM) program**, "What Is the Bible?" Benedictine Father Bede Cisco, presenter, 9 a.m.-noon. Information: 317-236-1495 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1495.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Celebrating Our Lives with Tales of Blessing,"** Theresa O'Bryan, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

Events Calendar submissions should include a date, location, name of the event, sponsor, cost, time and a phone number for more information. All information must be received by 5 p.m. on Thursday one week in advance of our Friday publication.

Submissions will not be taken over the phone.

To submit an event, mail to: *The Criterion*, Events Calendar, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

You may hand-deliver the notice to the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis.

Events may be faxed to 317-236-1593 or e-mailed to mklein@archindy.org.

For more information about our Events Calendar policy, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com, click on the "Events" link, then on the link to our events policy. †

February 3

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Businessman's luncheon**, Bruce Scifres, Roncalli High School's six-time state championship football coach, speaker, noon-1:30 p.m., \$20 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

February 4

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1045 W. 146th St., Carmel, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette). Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Office of Family Ministries, and Diocese of Lafayette, Office of Family Ministries, **Retreat for Separated and Divorced Catholics**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$7 fee, includes continental breakfast and boxed lunch. Information: 317-236-1586, 800-382-9836, ext. 1586, or e-mail mhess@archindy.org.

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Dreams: Is God Trying to Get Your Attention?"** Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind, presenter, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$45 per person, early registration. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Kids and Clay,"** ages 7-11, Franciscan Sister Ann Vonder Meulen, art teacher, 1-3:30 p.m., \$20 first child, \$15 each additional sibling, early registration. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 9

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Day of Reflection on Peace and Justice,"** Jesuit Father Benjamin Hawley, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

February 10-12

Kordes Retreat Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). **"Living Simply So We Can Simply Be,"** \$152 per person. Information: 800-880-2777 or e-mail kordes@thedome.org

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **Married Couples Retreat, "Recognizing Jesus in One Another."** Information: 812-923-8817 or e-mail retreats@mountsaintfrancis.org.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Married Couples Retreat**, "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing." Information: 812-357-6611 or e-mail avinson@saintmeinrad.edu.

February 11

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **Married Couples' Day of Reflection**, "Love Isn't as Easy as It Looks: How to Keep the Fire Burning Through the Years," 1-7 p.m., \$60 per couple, includes a candlelight dinner. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 16

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"The Spirit in These Times,"** monthly series, 9-10:45 a.m., \$30 series, \$8 per session, Franciscan Father Carl Hawver, presenter. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 17-19

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Discerning God's Will for My Life,"** Jesuit Father Thomas Widner, presenter, \$150 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center,

1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Come and See Retreat, **"God Loves a Cheerful Giver,"** Benedictine Sister Sharon Bierman, presenter. Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedictinn@yahoo.com.

February 19

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Pre-Cana Conference**, 1:45-6 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681, 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

February 20

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Forgiveness—Not So Fast!"** Franciscan Sister Ann Vonder Meulen, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

February 24-26

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Tobit Weekend**. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

February 25-26

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Experience Spiritual Direction in a Retreat Setting."** Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedictinn@yahoo.com.

February 26

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Sacraments 101,"** Father Donald Schmidlin, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., \$25 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

February 27

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Senior Mass and Social**. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

March 1

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Ash Wednesday Morning Retreat"** 8:45 a.m.-noon. Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedictinn@yahoo.com.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Ash Wednesday Afternoon Retreat"** 5-9 p.m.

Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedictinn@yahoo.com.

March 2

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Morning for Mom,"** 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., \$25 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or e-mail www.archindy.org/fatima.

March 3-5

Kordes Retreat Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Lenten retreat, **"Understanding the Miracles of Jesus,"** Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell, presenter, \$152 per person. Information: 800-880-2777 or e-mail kordes@thedome.org.

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **Lenten Retreat, "A Journey with Jesus in the Season of Forgiveness."** Information: 812-923-8817 or e-mail retreats@mountsaintfrancis.org.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Discernment Retreat**, Benedictine Brother Mark Falkenhain, presenter. Information: 812-357-6611 or e-mail avinson@saintmeinrad.edu.

March 5

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Pre-Cana Conference**, 1:45-6 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681, 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596. †

Awards...



Stephen James, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis and the director of the archdiocesan Office of Purchasing, received The Silver Beaver Award at Crossroads of America Council/Boy Scouts of America's meeting

on Jan. 21. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest recognition bestowed on a Boy Scout volunteer. †



Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Brenda Reynolds, a language arts teacher at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, oversees a class of eighth-graders on Jan. 4 as they write letters to students at Seton Catholic Junior High School in Houston on the feast day of both schools' patron saint. Other classes wrote letters to students in other junior high schools and high schools across the country named after the saint. The school also celebrated the feast day with a special lunch and a trivia game about the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

BROTHER

continued from page 1

needs. The couple from St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis told the doctors they would take their son home and care for him with the same love they gave their other children.

"My father is still taking care of him 50 years later," said Striby, whose mother died in 1999. "My father is 87 and Timmy is still at home. My sister, Lisa, and I try to come by once or twice a week so Dad can come to Mass or get out to do errands."

Striby realizes there are some people who would question the value of his brother's life.

"People who haven't had the experience I've had, that my family has had, they might

look at taking care of Timmy for 50 years as an inconvenience," said Striby, one of eight children. "A lot of people would look at what they and their family had to give up instead of looking at the blessings we got. Some people see it as a burden, but it's an opportunity. We just don't know what kinds of lives that a child can touch down the road."

Striby knows that Timmy has touched his work in his pro-life efforts. By extension, his brother has had an impact on his students.

"He inspires me," said Lauren Fetsko, a junior at Roncalli who has made three March for Life pilgrimages. "He's made me want to stand up for life and defend it."

Another Roncalli student, senior Adam Eakman, admires the example Striby sets.

"He leads our group in protest, but he never condemns anyone," Eakman says. "It's like he hates the sin but not the sinner."

Striby also told the story of another student who, during a March for Life trip, confided how her sisters were adopted.

"She talked about how her sisters' parents could have had them aborted," he recalled. "She felt compelled to tell the group how much she loved her sisters, and how the march brought home to her the importance of protecting life."

During every March for Life journey, Striby tells the students, "You don't know the impact you have, but there are people noticing and recognizing what you stand for."

Striby makes his own stand, for himself, for his brother, Timmy.

"He has an impact on what I do," Striby said. "I feel very strongly not only about abortion, but the 'respect life' efforts in general. I'm against racism, sexism, people on death row. That's what I stand for." †

Photos by Katie Berger



Ellen Voegele, a sophomore at Marian College in Indianapolis, displays a placard during the annual March for Life on Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C.



Archdiocesan seminarian Martin Rodriguez, a resident of the Bishop Bruté House of Formation at Marian College in Indianapolis, takes part in the national March for Life in Washington, D.C.

HEATING

continued from page 3

including the aged, the people who can't get out because they are either mentally or physically disabled.

"There are single parents with babies that need to have heat to keep their families warm," said Klinker, a member of St. Mary Cathedral Parish in Lafayette.

"I'm really happy the Catholic Conference is working on this issue and it's getting attention. It's a big problem and it needs to be addressed."

In 2005, the Coalition to Keep Indiana Warm (CKIW) used an independent source to study the home heating issue which resulted in a 31-page report detailing the effects that affordability of home energy has on low-income Indiana residents.

Vickie Allen-Beeson, co-chair of the coalition, who also spoke at the rally, said, "Between the months of April and June last year, 10,000 low-income customers were

disconnected in Indiana.

"Last year, 80 percent of low-income families in Indiana came out of the winter months behind on their heating bills. While the state increased the number of households which could qualify for heating assistance—over 500,000 households qualify—the state does not have the money to fund the program," Allen-Beeson said. "The other reality is many who qualify don't know about it and many older Hoosiers are too proud to receive assistance and would rather go without prescriptions or food than have their heat turned off."

To view the Coalition to Keep Indiana Warm's heat study titled, "Indiana Billing and Collection Reporting: Natural Gas and Electric Utilities," go to the Indiana Community Action Association's Web page at www.icap.org. Click on Coalition to Keep Indiana Warm, then click on the report by Roger Colton.

Bridget Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †

BILLS

continued from page 3

(R-Portland).

The bill provides a state tax liability credit for a taxpayer: (1) who receives heating energy from a heating energy supplier; and (2) whose household federal adjusted gross income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal income poverty level. It also provides that the amount of the credit equals the lesser of: (1) the amount of sales tax paid by the taxpayer in transactions involving the sale of heating energy to the taxpayer during the taxable year; or (2) \$58.

• **Senate 216 Gas utility connection charges and deposits**—Bill author is Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend), a member of Holy Cross Parish in South Bend, Ind., in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

It provides that the amount charged by a gas utility to connect or reconnect service may not exceed actual connection or reconnection costs. It permits a gas utility to require a deposit before connecting or reconnecting service. It also provides that the amount of the

deposit may not exceed a customer's estimated average monthly bill.

• **Senate Bill 352 Energy assistance funding from tax amnesty**—Bill author is Sen. Tim Lanane (D-Anderson).

It uses money received under the tax amnesty program to provide assistance to households that are eligible for assistance under the home energy assistance program administered by the division of family resources. It directs the state auditor to transfer to a special account in the state general fund, from unrestricted revenues in the state general fund, an amount equal to the least of the following: (1) The surplus state tax amnesty revenues, as certified by the budget agency. (2) The difference between the amount of funding needed and the amount of funding available to make home energy assistance available to all eligible households. (3) \$20 million. It appropriates money in the special account to the division to provide assistance to eligible households under the home energy assistance program for the program period that includes the effective date of this act. It also provides that money remaining in the account at the end of the program period reverts to the state general fund. †

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MARCH

continued from page 1

"I think that it's a sign that our younger people recognize that life truly is a gift from God," said Father Bill Williams, the chaplain at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School and associate pastor at St. Simon the Apostle Parish, both in Indianapolis.

"I believe that with the persistence that we have, people will come to see the truth that abortion is evil," said Jeff Read, a sophomore at Marian College and resident of the Bishop Bruté House of Formation in Indianapolis, who is a seminarian for the Evansville Diocese.

Changing laws regarding abortion will help but it won't end abortion, according to Father Jonathan Meyer, associate director of youth and young adult ministry and associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.

"If we change laws to make abortions illegal, they will still happen," Father Meyer said. "We need to change hearts."

That change of heart comes when youth understand the value of chastity, Father Williams said.

"When chastity is important," he said, "then obviously the gift of life is important."

Emily Wethington, a junior at Scecina from St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, participated in the national pro-life march for the first time.

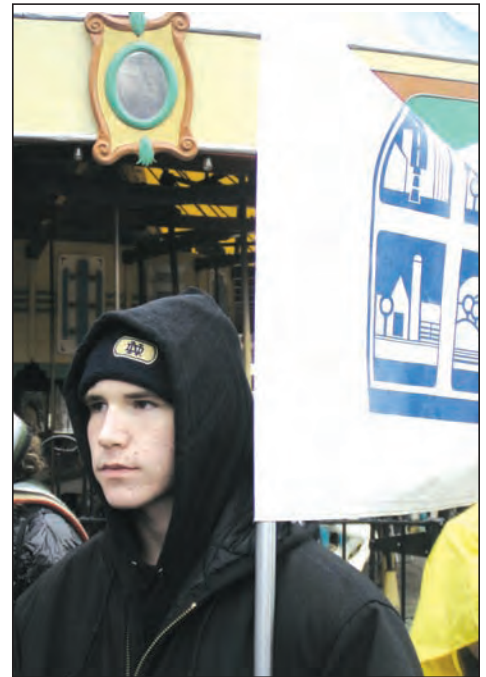
Emily said the pilgrimage was "kind of breathtaking because I didn't know that many [young people] felt the same way. I feel that it's just wrong to take [the lives of] innocent human beings who don't get a chance to live."

Through their determination and pro-life service, Emily and thousands of other young people who participated in the march are a part of the generation that can make a positive shift toward what Cardinal Keeler called "the triumph of life."

(Katie Berger is the youth ministry coordinator at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.) †



Father Bill Williams, associate pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish and chaplain of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School, both in Indianapolis, delivers the homily during a Jan. 23 Mass for archdiocesan pilgrims in Washington, D.C.



Our Lady of the Greenwood parishioner Nick Welch of Greenwood helps carry the archdiocese's banner during the 33rd annual March for Life.

Rally speakers praise pro-life efforts, call for increased action

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The different starting point for this year's annual March for Life did not go unnoticed by some of the speakers at the annual rally who compared the closer location to the U.S. Capitol to the progress made by the pro-life movement.

"We're seven blocks closer" and "getting closer to the end" of legalized abortion, said a speaker giving the opening prayer at the hour-and-a-half rally on Jan. 23 on the grounds of the National Mall several blocks from the front of the Capitol building.

The March for Life usually begins at the Ellipse, located between the White House and the Washington Monument, but was

held in a different location this year because of construction. The rally started under gray skies and cool temperatures and included periods of light, cold rain. Speakers thanked the crowd for braving the unfavorable weather conditions and for their continued fight to promote the sanctity of life.

As in recent years, many speakers directed their comments directly to the young people in the crowd of tens of thousands. This year, many of them were huddled in rain ponchos while holding aloft placards saying "Defend Life" or "Justice for All Born and Preborn."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, urged the young attendees to be the "new generation of

enlightened public policymakers—faith-filled young lawmakers and legislative aides, fiercely dedicated to truth, justice and fundamental human rights."

"Young people, the country needs you. We need your ideas and goodness and courage and deep faith in God to enact durable, sustainable policies to protect innocent human life from those who slaughter and inflict pain," he said.

Nellie Gray, the rally's organizer, also linked pro-life issues with the ballot, telling the crowd that "pro-life trumps politics. We'll support only those candidates who are pro-life."

Midway through the rally, a telephone message from President George W. Bush

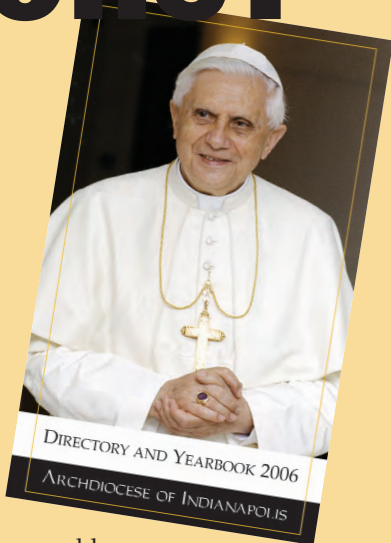
was broadcast to the crowd. The president, calling from Manhattan, Kan., where he was delivering a speech on the war, told the rally participants that positive steps have occurred in the pro-life movement, but added that "there's more work to be done."

"We're vigorously promoting parental notification laws, adoption, teen abstinence, crisis pregnancy programs and the vital work of our faith-based groups," he said.

The president, in his four-minute address, noted that the House has passed a bill to ensure that "state parental involvement laws are not circumvented by those who take minors across state lines to have abortions." †

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CHRISTOPHER WEST THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

'Catholic Schools: Character, Compassion, Values'

By Annette "Mickey" Lentz
Special to The Criterion

I am especially pleased with the theme for Catholic Schools Week 2006—"Catholic Schools: Character, Compassion, Values"—since it so clearly exemplifies the key elements of the enterprise of Catholic education in the United States.



Annette "Mickey" Lentz

This week, more than 7,800 Catholic schools throughout the U.S. will examine

the ways that character, compassion and values are instilled in every student, teacher and administrator.

Jesus, the Great Teacher, reminds us that we are about more than reading, writing and arithmetic. We are also, more importantly, about the "R" of religion—that which is taught in the classroom and the faith formation that flows from living the Gospel message and infusing character, compassion and values into the entire school community.

Character is defined as "a set of qualities that make a person distinctive, interesting or attractive."

Since Jesus Christ is the reason for Catholic education, it is the character of Jesus that we are called to emulate and model to the best of our ability.

Character can lead us to lives of compassion, showing sympathy for others and reaching out, as Jesus did, to help those in need.

We work for Jesus and, as he told us, what we do for the least among people we do for him. Catholic values guide our mission and all our activities. We value prayer, spiritual growth, community life and social justice within a setting of academic excellence but, most of all, we value the fact that all people are made in the image and likeness of God.

Our Catholic schools will continue to make a difference as they strive to foster the attributes of character, compassion and values that Jesus both taught and modeled.

Loving God, please continue to bless the schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

(Annette "Mickey" Lentz is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation.) †

Catholic Schools
Character. Compassion. Values.

Inside:

- Grade schools celebrate 50 years, Pages 10 and 11
- Archdiocesan students help hurricane-damaged schools, Page 12
- Shawe graduate and Aurora students publish books, Pages 15, 21
- National Directory for Catechesis helps schools evangelize, Page 20

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand



Holy Angels School sixth-grader Marcus Saloane of Indianapolis leads students in reciting the "Student Pledge of Nonviolence" during a Jan. 13 Mass and program at Holy Angels Church that honored the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Students from Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis also participated in the liturgy.

Holy Angels students honor life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Mary Ann Wyand

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech is a powerful reminder of the importance of working for peace, justice and equality as well as respecting the dignity of every person and seeking nonviolent solutions to problems.

Holy Angels School students in Indianapolis try to live out King's dream by honoring his life and legacy of promoting civil rights during an annual march and Mass commemorating his Jan. 15 birthday.

Rain forced St. Joseph of Carondelet Sister Gerry O'Laughlin, the principal, to cancel the school's annual memorial march along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street on Jan. 13, but the students and their guests from Holy Cross Central School in Indianapolis participated in a program and Mass at Holy Angels Church to remember King's dream.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Holy Angels fifth-grade student Deon Holder sang "Amazing Grace" then classmate Orlonzo Scott read King's speech.

Sixth-grader Marcus Saloane served as the master of ceremonies for the liturgy and led the children as they recited the school's "Student Pledge of Nonviolence."

The pledge states, "Making peace

must start within ourselves and in our classroom. Each of us at Holy Angels Catholic School commits ourselves as best as we can to become nonviolent and peaceful people. We pledge to respect self and others, to communicate better, to listen, to forgive, to respect nature, to play creatively and to be courageous. This is our pledge. These are our goals. We will help each other become more peaceful people."

After the Mass and program, Orlonzo said he was surprised to be chosen to read King's speech.

"I think Sister Gerry picked me because she knew I am a good reader," he said. "It means a lot to me ... so I'm very grateful. I studied hard and practiced with my family, too."

Orlonzo said it's important for everyone to try to carry on King's legacy.

"I think living his legacy is very important because he didn't have to do that, but he did," Orlonzo said. "He died for us so that we will not be racist and not be violent. I think it's very important what he did."

Orlonzo said he likes helping people, and tries to show his little brothers and sisters how to get along with each other. He wants to help people when he grows up, too.

"I want to be a basketball player or a

See HOLY ANGELS, page 19



Above, during a Jan. 13 Mass at Holy Angels Church in Indianapolis, Holy Angels School sixth-grader Janay Hamilton holds the Lectionary after presenting the first reading.



Left, Holy Angels School first-graders Arthur Boyd IV, left, and Alexis Jones kneel during Mass on Jan. 13 at Holy Angels Church in Indianapolis. The liturgy and a program honored the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The students had hoped to carry posters and march along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street by their school, but rain forced St. Joseph of Carondelet Sister Gerry O'Laughlin, the Holy Angels principal, to cancel the outing.

St. Malachy School celebrates 50 years of 'learning with Christ'

By Mary Ann Wyand

BROWNSBURG—St. Malachy School is "Celebrating 50 Years of Learning, Loving and Living with Christ" in Hendricks County this year.

The school's 50th anniversary slogan is displayed on a billboard in Brownsburg with the school's Web site address (www.saint-malachyschool.org) to invite parents to consider Catholic education for their children.

It's this kind of welcome that has helped St. Malachy School experience a significant growth in enrollment during the past five decades.

Irish immigrants founded St. Malachy Parish in a rural area of central Indiana in 1869. The parish membership has continued to grow steadily every year as more and more Catholic families move to one of the many new housing developments in Hendricks County.

In recent years, the 2,233-household parish has outgrown the church and school at 326 Green St. in Brownsburg so plans are under way to build a new worship space and later a school on 40 acres at the southwest corner of 750 North and 1000 East near Brownsburg after breaking ground for the church in 2007.

Mary Sullivan, St. Malachy's new principal, taught fourth-grade classes for 16 years before being named assistant principal three years ago. She was promoted again when longtime principal Mary Margaret McClain retired last spring and moved to Illinois.

"When I first started teaching, we had 200 or 220 students so I have seen the enrollment double," Sullivan said. "We have 430 students in kindergarten through the eighth-grade with two classes per grade. But even though we have grown large in numbers, we have still maintained a family atmosphere as a parish and school family."

In recent years, she said, "we have added

a full-time Spanish program for kindergarten through the eighth-grade, a computer lab staffed by a computer aide, a music teacher and a physical education teacher. We want to educate the whole child so we present them with all kinds of opportunities to share their gifts and to grow in all kinds of areas—emotionally, socially, artistically and spiritually."

Sullivan said the faculty and staff have "used every corner, every closet, every space available in the school building, and we look forward to being able to serve even more of our parishioners with the expansion."

St. Malachy parishioners are proud of their Irish heritage, she said, and the school's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams are called the Shamrocks. Green and white 50th anniversary T-shirts promote the school motto of "May God hold you in the palm of his hand," an old Irish blessing.

"The public school system is very good in Brownsburg," Sullivan said, "but the students who attend public schools cannot live their Catholic values every day, cannot pray together and staff members cannot use those values in the discipline system. We pray together, work together, learn together and have fun together."

She said St. Malachy's student creed states that, "We have been blessed by God and it is our job to develop those gifts and talents to the best of our ability."

Sullivan said students come from Lebanon, Pittsboro, North Salem and Avon as well as Brownsburg.

"We have dedicated parents who literally go that extra mile to get their children to school here," she said. "They support us in their children's upbringing and the development of their work ethic."

Because of that, Sullivan said, "we have very little turnover of teachers and staff members."

Middle school mathematics teacher Larry Hart of Brownsburg has taught at



St. Malachy School third-grade teacher Beth Lewis helps Fredeline Datizan from St. Marguerite Parish in Port Margo, Haiti, with a picture book while third-grader Adrienne Damlar, left, listens as she reads it in March of 2004. Fredeline lived with Paul and Sheila Zielinski's family in Pittsboro and briefly attended St. Malachy School while recuperating from surgery on her arm. She celebrated her eighth birthday in Indiana.

St. Malachy School for 36 years and has seen the enrollment more than double in recent years.

"I've seen many physical changes and changes in technology at the school, but the one thing that has remained constant is the support of the parish for the school and parishioners' involvement with the school and extracurricular activities," Hart said. "We always have somebody willing to volunteer at the school."

Hart said he thinks teachers at all the parish schools in central and southern Indiana are dedicated to seeing their students do well in school and in life.

He is "very proud of the fact that two of my former students are studying to be priests—Sean Danda and Eric Hodde—and one student—Heather Danda—is studying to be a sister."

Kathleen Givan, a teacher's aide for first-grade students for eight years, said her parents helped found St. Malachy School in 1955.

"It was very important for both of my parents—Patrick and Mary Wynne—to make sure that their five children received a Catholic education," Givan said. "At the time, the closest Catholic schools were at St. Michael the Archangel Parish and St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis."

Ground was broken for St. Malachy School on April 3, 1955, and the new school opened that September.

"The legacy lives on and on," Givan said, "because of the love and care and concern of early parishioners who looked ahead [and planned] so their children could be educated in a Catholic environment."

Third-grader Donnie Hott said he likes attending St. Malachy School because "the

teachers are really nice" and he gets to play on the parish's CYO third-grade football team.

Seventh-grader Emily Metallic—whose mother, Donna, is the president of the Parent Teacher Organization—said she is happy attending St. Malachy School because she has "a lot of friends and the teachers help you if you have problems."

When St. Malachy School was founded 50 years ago, the students learned about Haiti and other Third World countries in geography or social studies classes.

Now, St. Malachy students raise funds to help children receive a Catholic education in Haiti.

"Each class sponsors a school child in Haiti and sends money there regularly," Sullivan said. "We have pictures of the students in the classrooms, and occasionally we'll send letters to Haiti. The classes raise money for the Haitian students with school fundraisers and free-will donations."

She said St. Malachy Parish has "a very active medical mission that goes to Haiti twice a year to help the people."

That's how an 8-year-old girl named Fredeline Datizan from St. Marguerite Parish in Port Margo, Haiti, was able to attend St. Malachy School temporarily while recuperating from surgery on her arm two years ago.

"It was a very good learning experience," Sullivan said. "She stayed with the Zielinski family. It was a good experience for Fredeline as well as for us. I think the students realized how much more we have in the U.S., and they enjoyed seeing Fredeline experience that. The kids loved her. She was quite charming. They took her in and she was one of them." †



St. Malachy School kindergartners, from left, Evan Pierce, Tyler Sylvia, Cam Houston, Ashton Hickam, McKenzie Schwartz, Drew Carty, Sydney Parry and Rachel Barnes perform the song "Baby Jesus, We Love You" during the annual Christmas program for kindergartners through third-graders on Dec. 9 at the school's Noll Hall. The concert and program related the story of the Nativity.

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Nativity School celebrates 50 years with new chapel

By Mary Ann Wyand

Nativity School in Indianapolis is 50 years old this year, and the parish has established a chapel in the school to commemorate a half century of Catholic education.

Peg Dispenzieri, Nativity's principal for the past four years, said Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ parishioners are very supportive of the school ministry, which was started in a converted barn on the parish property at 7225 Southeastern Ave.

"We're the only Catholic church and the only Catholic school in Franklin Township," she said. "We're a big part of the community. We hold our Catholic faith very much in the forefront of what we do here at the school."

Dispenzieri said Nativity School has maintained "a tradition of academic excellence with extremely dedicated teachers" during three building programs in the past decade that were necessitated by the continued population growth in what was formerly farmland southeast of Indianapolis.

"There are so many people moving into the area that we've needed three expansions in 10 years," she said, "but the thing that amazes me is that Nativity parishioners have been so supportive of the

building programs that they have committed their time and resources to complete them. The parishioners really believe in the school, and they support it 100 percent. We have pretty much paid off the expansions as we've done them."

Nativity School serves preschool-age children through the eighth-grade, she said. There are two classes per grade, 24 teachers and 345 students this school year.

"The primary grades, the kindergarten and the preschool—which was started two years ago—are located in the second new addition that was built about five years ago," Dispenzieri said. "The middle school—the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grades—has pretty much taken over the last new addition that was added a couple of years ago."

This year, she said, "we're very proud of the new chapel in what used to be our old computer lab. We have morning prayer there for teachers, and students use it for prayer services or for music and liturgy practice before school Masses on Fridays in the church."

Parishioner Bob Gries of Indianapolis built the altar and is currently finishing the ambo, she said, and students from every grade helped make colorful banners depicting the fruits of the Holy Spirit that decorate the chapel walls.

She said Father Patrick Doyle, Nativity's pastor, will dedicate the chapel after Gries installs the new ambo.

"The chapel is a mixture of lots of different gifts from many people," she said. "The students are excited to use it and like to share their faith."

Nativity Parish was founded in 1948 and the school opened in 1955.

"We're celebrating our anniversary with events throughout the school year," Dispenzieri said. "We had a huge parish Mass at the beginning of the school year and tied it into our parish festival. We also sponsored a family fun run in October at [nearby] Southeastway Park, and lots of people participated in the 5K race."

Sixth-grader Emily Dehner said she has enjoyed the anniversary celebrations this year and likes attending Nativity School because "the people are really nice and you learn a lot here."

Second-grader Evan Fehring likes the celebrations too, and thinks its "pretty cool" that Nativity's modern school

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand



Nativity School second-graders Matthew Strattman, from left, Erin Starks, Nicole Emmert, Shelby Winton and Galen McColly of Indianapolis hold their class banner depicting peace as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit on Jan. 11 in the school's new chapel. Nativity School is 50 years old this year.

building started out as a converted barn.

Bob Gries' wife, Kathy, started the kindergarten program and now teaches a first-grade class. She has worked at Nativity School for two decades.

"I think one of our big pluses is that although we've grown as far as having extra classes, we've also kept a little bit of the small school atmosphere," Kathy Gries said. "People know each other, we have really good financial support from our families, and the teachers have a wonderful rapport with parents. We have good ISTEP scores, and I think we do a good job with academics."

Best of all, she said, is the fact that "we can bring God into all our different classes, and have the opportunity to attend liturgy, prayer services and other special things together in Lent and Advent that are a real advantage for us."

Nativity's other first-grade teacher, Ann Skirvin, is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis and also has taught at Nativity School for more than 20 years.

Skirvin remembers teaching kindergarten when that classroom was located in the church building.

"In 1977, my first year of teaching, I had 35 students," she said. "That was a lot of kids. With all the building that is underway in Franklin Township in recent years, the parish is really making an effort to offer a Catholic education to more families."

"As a teacher, I feel very welcome here," Skirvin said. "I've spent my whole career here, and never wanted to work anywhere else. I really enjoy the families here, and there is a lot of parish support for the school. Adding on to a school three times in the fairly recent past is very expensive, but parish support for the capital campaign made it possible. It's a good feeling as a teacher to know that the whole parish family is supportive of the Church's mission of Catholic education."

Skirvin said she also appreciates the addition of a chapel for the students, faculty and staff.

"It's nice to have a sacred space in the school," she said. "I told the children that it's nice to be able to focus on prayer there because we can't necessarily hear God with our ears, but sometimes we can hear him in our heart when we're in a nice, quiet place." †



A painting of Christ talking with children welcomes students, faculty and staff to the new chapel at Nativity School in Indianapolis.



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Archdiocesan students aid schools damaged by hurricane

By Sean Gallagher

When Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, Catholic schools and their communities across the region were severely damaged by the storm's strong winds and its subsequent flooding.

The hurricane also tested the mission and identity of Catholic schools far away from the area, including those in the archdiocese.

Now, five months after Katrina blew ashore, Catholic school faculty members, staff and students in central and southern Indiana are able to see how they passed that test with flying colors.

Tony Hollowell, a graduate of Nativity School and Roncalli High School, both in Indianapolis, witnessed the impact of the relief efforts of archdiocesan schools as a teacher at Resurrection High School in Pascagoula, Miss., in the Biloxi Diocese.

The devastation that he saw at Resurrection High School when he returned to it three days after the storm hit was hard for him to fathom.

"There's really nothing to describe it," said Hollowell, who teaches there through the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program.

"You never would think you would see that place the way you saw it," Hollowell said. "It was your home for so long and then to see it completely uprooted—you've never seen something this big before."

But with the help of his high school alma mater and several nearby Catholic schools and parishes, Resurrection High School reopened just six weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi coastline.

Hollowell's father, Joseph Hollowell, is the president of Roncalli High School and led fundraising efforts in Indianapolis for repairs to Resurrection High School.

By early November, approximately \$42,000 had been funneled through Roncalli to help rebuild the storm-damaged high school.

Those funds were collected from Roncalli students, St. Roch Parish and School, Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High

School, Cathedral High School and Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, all in Indianapolis, and also from several individuals.

The approximately 290 students, teachers and administrators of St. Roch School raised \$24,000 in a walk-a-thon last fall. These funds also aided in the rehabilitation of Mercy Cross High School in Biloxi, Miss., in the Biloxi Diocese.

"A part of our everyday mission is teaching how Christ ministered to those in need," said Joseph Hansen, St. Roch School's principal. "These people had fallen on some tough times, and it was a great opportunity for our kids to minister and show how much they care."

Tony Hollowell said he was astonished by the magnitude of the response by archdiocesan schools.

"You're overwhelmed by the storm," he said, "but it's even more overwhelming to see that response, that generosity, that people gave to our school so openly."

Katrina was a heavy burden for Tony Hollowell and the Resurrection students and teachers to bear at the start of the school year last August.

But he said the response to the storm strengthened his "conviction of the value of Catholic schools and their responsibility to form people who will change the world, not only by what they believe but also by what they do."

Many other archdiocesan schools organized relief efforts to aid those schools and students affected by Katrina.

Students at Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison collected more than \$1,300 for hurricane relief.

Eighty shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts were sent to students at St. Stephen School in New Orleans by St. Christopher School students in Indianapolis.

Students at Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis were among the volunteers who traveled to Louisiana to help repair St. Anthony of Padua School in New Orleans.

The service trip was sponsored by Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood shortly after Christmas. The students helped clean up the school and



Classroom furniture and supplies ruined by Hurricane Katrina are piled up outside Resurrection High School in Pascagoula, Miss., in the Biloxi Diocese in the days after the storm blew ashore on Aug. 29. Several archdiocesan schools and parishes raised funds for the storm-ravaged school, which was reopened six weeks after the hurricane battered the Gulf Coast.

prepare the classrooms for its reopening. Archdiocesan schools also helped those affected by Katrina by opening their doors to students whose families moved to Indiana because of the storm.

At least 10 schools across the archdiocese collectively took in more than 20 students.

Haley Lafferre, a fifth-grader at St. Lawrence School in Lawrenceburg, and her family moved to the southeastern Indiana town in mid-September after their home in Ocean Springs, Miss., was destroyed by Katrina.

They decided to move to Indiana because they have relatives who are Lawrenceburg residents.

Haley said she was nervous about becoming a student in a new school in a place that she had only visited briefly at Christmas, but the warm welcome she received from St. Lawrence students soon calmed her fears.

"It's been really great," she said. "Everybody's nice. On my first day, [students] came up and asked me if I wanted to sit with them at lunch and go outside and play with them."

She said that she wants to complete the academic year at St. Lawrence School, but there is a possibility that her family might return to Mississippi in February.

Haley said that, wherever she lives, she wants to stay in touch with the friends she has made in Lawrenceburg.

Dena Steiner, the principal of St. Lawrence School, said the welcome given to Haley and her sister are indicative of the school's Catholic identity.

"I think that's what we're all about, opening up our arms and welcoming

everybody that needs us into our school," Steiner said. "We try to teach our students that there are other people out there [who need help]. We encourage them to help others, whether it's in our neighborhood, whether it's in the United States or whether it's in the world."

Last September, the community at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis welcomed Christian Curry-Jeffries of New Orleans, now a junior at the school, when she was displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Christian was a student at a public high school in New Orleans and now lives with her grandmother, Franciscan Sister Jannette Marie Pruitt, at St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis.

While she said that she has had to adjust to the fact that Cardinal Ritter has "a little more rules" than the previous school she attended, Christian appreciated the welcome she received there, saying that she feels like her fellow students have known her "all her life."

Christian said she plans to continue her studies at Cardinal Ritter until she graduates in 2007, and is thankful for the stability that the Indianapolis West Deanery high school's community has afforded her.

"It will just help me to study more and get my life together," she said, "rather than worrying about whether or not I'll have to move and make new friends again."

Christian said she is especially looking forward to school events like the spring prom, and "everything that comes with being a junior and senior in high school, those special moments." †

St. Christopher School fourth-graders Jack Steinacker and Maddison Schiller of Indianapolis display Christmas gifts they packed in decorated shoeboxes last December for students at St. Stephen School in New Orleans. Students at the Indianapolis West Deanery school and other archdiocesan schools helped raise funds for parishes and schools in the Gulf Coast states that sustained structural damage during the hurricane.





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Office of Catholic Education's Web site is helpful resource

By Brandon A. Evans

About two years ago, the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education (OCE) received an opportunity to radically improve its Web site.

"With Project EXCEED funds—that's money from Lilly Endowment Inc. and other generous corporate and individual donors—we developed a Web site that was very functional," said G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of Catholic education.

While the rest of the archdiocesan Web site is out of date—and receiving a major renovation later this year—OCE took advantage of the right moment to create a powerful site (www.archindy.org/oce) with the help of ServerSide Inc., which hosts the main archdiocesan site.

Though it is still "a work in progress," Peters said, it has already shown tremendous success. In a single month last year, OCE garnered half of the hits that all the rest of the archdiocesan site received and more than 7,500 visitors registered more than 80,000 "page views."

Those who use the site include the general public, pastors, principals, directors of religious education and youth ministers. Each week, an *OCE-notes* e-mail newsletter packed with links to the site is sent to the principals.

Besides the public face of the site,

school administrators can access a members' section that contains a variety of information, including archives of newsletters, the chance to apply for jobs or the opportunity to sign up for workshops.

Visitors can browse through the OCE staff listing, look up individual schools, see the archdiocesan curriculum or check out an organized calendar of events.

Local news and announcements are posted on the homepage, and those interested in something more specific can delve further into the site.

Peters said that besides troubleshooting and the development of new features, ServerSide is not involved much with the site. It was created by the company so it can be updated internally by OCE employees.

"We can easily update most sections of our Web site through our administrative assistants," Peters said. Anyone who knows how to use a word processing program can learn how to update the site, and they can do it from the office or from home if necessary.

One of the effects of the Web site, he said, has been to make the archdiocese "smaller"—to pull together many aspects of Catholic education in central and southern Indiana in one place.

The future will see continued development of the OCE site, and the redesign of the archdiocesan site will take into account the effectiveness of OCE's site. †

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Catholic Education. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: OCE Home, Our Schools and Parishes, Curriculum, Our Programs, Calendar of Events, About Us, Come Work With Us, and Contact Us. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation is a quote: "I sleep but my heart watches over this house which I have built. Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin". The main content area features an "EVENT CALENDAR" for January 2006. On the left, there are "Calendar Areas" with checkboxes for: A Promise to Keep, Archdiocese, Catholic Center, Catholic Schools, Faith Formation, Holidays, Office of Catholic Education, Project Exceed, SPRED, and Youth Ministry. Below this is a "Calendar Instructions" section and a "Complete Event Listing" link. On the right, a calendar grid shows dates from 1 to 31. At the bottom of the calendar, there is a "Date Finder" section with dropdown menus for the month (January), day (18), and year (2006), along with a "Go to Date" button and a "Back to Current Date" link. A copyright notice at the bottom reads: "© Copyright 2006. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis. All Rights Reserved. Schools and Parishes | Project Exceed | Calendar of Events | CYD | About Us | Come Work with Us | Contact Us | Professional Development Opportunities. Site developed and powered by ServerSide."

The archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education's Web site at www.archindy.org/oce features, among many other things, a calendar of events organized by type and updated often. About two years ago, the Office of Catholic Education received an opportunity to improve its Web site with Project Exceed funds.

Archdiocesan Schools Consortium serves center city

By John Shaughnessy

A framed poster in Connie Zittnan's office asks the simple question that guides her efforts as the director of the Archdiocesan Schools Consortium: "How can we turn away from the faces of the children?"

Zittnan gave her own answer as she lightly hit a table with her fist—a gesture that stresses the point that she will never turn away from any child because she has seen even those who seemed beyond hope achieve tremendous success.

Like the girl from a difficult family background who came to an Indianapolis center-city Catholic school and went on to become a lawyer.

Or the boy filled with anger and hurt who seemed destined to end up in a gang yet instead found a home and a new focus on life at one of the six Catholic schools that form the consortium.

The Archdiocesan Schools Consortium serves Holy Angels School, Holy Cross Central School, Central Catholic School, St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy, St. Anthony School and St. Philip Neri School, all in Indianapolis.

"We want them fully prepared to be leaders in their high school settings," Zittnan said. "We want them to be leaders in the community and role models for those who come behind them."

"There is data to support that when students move through our six consortium schools, the rate of graduation from high school is going to be high," she said. "Students who start in our consortium schools and move through our Catholic high schools will attend post-secondary education four to seven times that of their counterparts who do not attend our Catholic schools."

The consortium began in September 2004, driven by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein's desire to continue to offer a quality Catholic education to center-city students.

The consortium approach complements that desire by helping the six schools operate more efficiently by consolidating and

coordinating such areas as finances, maintenance and marketing, according to Tony Watt, the consortium's chairman of the board.

He said financial support for the consortium schools has come from the archdiocese through generous contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals.

"It's not just [a sharing of] financial resources but human resources," Watt said. "One of the goals of the consortium is to extract the principal from non-academic tasks. We're trying to get more bang for our buck."

For Zittnan, the program's greatest return will come as it continues to produce the kind of student success stories that she witnessed for about 10 years as the principal of the school which is now called the St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy. The two schools were merged before the 2002-03 school year.

"There are many cases where children came in at the pre-school or middle school [grades], and they've graduated from post-secondary education and they're now in their careers," she said. "You have to look at every individual child. If the attention wasn't given to that child, [he or she] wouldn't have moved on."

Zittnan said she often gets questions from people who wonder why the archdiocese has made such a big commitment to the consortium schools when about 75 percent of the students are non-Catholic.

"A lot of times we'll hear, 'Why are we in the urban setting when most of the children are not Catholic?'" she said. "I say, 'That's why we are there.' We're Catholic. That's our mission—serving others. Our faith is why we are there."

Watt nodded his head and added, "Jesus didn't separate people. He evangelized to everyone. One of our responsibilities is to help those in need. Many of the children who go to our schools are in need. If we get a child at a young age, we can take them to the road of success in education."

Both Watt and Zittnan credit the principals, teachers, staff and volunteers at the

consortium schools for making a difference in the lives of the students.

They also stress the need for help from volunteers and parishes who aren't a part of the consortium schools.

"When they say it takes a village to raise a child, we need six villages and the villages beyond—which are the parishes

beyond the consortium—to make this happen," Zittnan said. "We need to get it done."

(For more information about ways to help the Archdiocesan Schools Consortium serve students, call 317-236-7324 or 800-382-9836, ext. 7324.) †

The advertisement features a large, stylized word "innovative" in white lowercase letters against a dark background. Below the word is a photograph of a woman with blonde hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. The background of the photo is slightly blurred. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a dark grey box with white text. The text reads: "Finding new and better ways to meet your ever-changing business and personal financial needs is the goal of FORUM Credit Union. We have been innovating for our members for nearly 65 years. Many individuals and businesses utilize the expertise of FORUM professionals to solve their financial needs...from basic services of checking and loans to sophisticated investment and estate planning services." To the right of this text is the FORUM CREDIT UNION logo, which consists of a stylized 'F' icon followed by the word "FORUM" in a bold, sans-serif font and "CREDIT UNION" in a smaller font below it. At the bottom right, the phone number "317.558.6000" and the website "www.forumcu.com" are listed. The slogan "Your Money. Your Voice.™" is positioned at the bottom left of the dark grey box.

The advertisement features a computer monitor displaying a website with various articles and images. To the left of the monitor, the text "Visit us online!" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below this, the website address "www.CriterionOnline.com" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background is dark, making the white text and the image of the monitor stand out.

U.S. Department of Education honors five schools

By Mary Ann Wyand

Five Catholic schools in central and southern Indiana earned national recognition for excellence in education last year.

During a U.S. Department of Education ceremony on Nov. 11 in Washington, D.C., representatives of the archdiocese's newest No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence accepted the awards on behalf of the students, faculty, staff, parents and volunteers who helped make this recognition possible.

The newest archdiocesan schools to receive the national honor are St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis, Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis, St. Michael School in Greenfield, St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis and Holy Family School in New Albany.

During their visit to the nation's capital, representatives of these schools also attended a special reception on Nov. 10 that was hosted by the National Catholic Educational Association.

"The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have been extraordinarily well-represented in the Blue Ribbon Schools program since its inception," said G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of Catholic education for the archdiocese.

Six archdiocesan schools were awarded Blue Ribbons during 2004 and four schools earned this national recognition during 2003, Peters said, for a total of 15 awards in the past three years.

Since the first Blue Ribbon award was presented in 1985, he said, 24 national Blue Ribbon awards have been earned by 19 Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

Peters said the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has earned more Blue

Ribbon Schools of Excellence awards from the U.S. Department of Education than any other diocese in the country.

Gerald Ernstberger, principal of Holy Family School in New Albany, said the school's 362 students were excited to celebrate the distinction of receiving the national education award for the second time since 2001 during a Mass and open house on Nov. 20 at the New Albany Deanery parish.

"It's nice to have earned the Blue Ribbon award under both programs—the original U.S. Department of Education award and then the No Child Left Behind Act award," he said. "The criteria are different, and it's nice to be able to get that recognition under both sets of criteria."

Ernstberger said he and eighth-grade teacher Kathy Weber enjoyed hearing Margaret Spelling, secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, speak during a Nov. 11 luncheon in Washington, and they appreciated the workshops with administrators of other schools that earned Blue Ribbon awards.

"We were learning from administrators of schools that have done really great things," he said, "so it was very helpful."

Kristine Cohn, U.S. Department of Education regional representative from Chicago, visited the school on Dec. 16 to congratulate the students, faculty and staff.

But the best part about receiving the national education award, Ernstberger said, is sharing it with the students.

"They're good kids," he said. "It's a great school. Obviously, standardized tests are now a very important part of the award. We have a lot of high expectations, and it was particularly satisfying, I think, for the teachers and myself given the fact that we got the award for the second time. That was really special." †



Representatives of the five newest No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis receive their award plaques on Nov. 11 during a U.S. Department of Education ceremony in Washington, D.C. They are, left to right, Laura Mates and Kathy Wright from St. Simon the Apostle School in Indianapolis; Theresa Cooper and Annette Jones from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis; Theresa Slipher and Cindy Geswein from St. Michael School in Greenfield; Bonnie Stevens and Sandy Hines from St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis; and Gerald Ernstberger and Kathy Weber from Holy Family School in New Albany.

Grants help A Promise to Keep promote chastity

By Mary Ann Wyand

Lights ... camera ... action! It's time to update seven educational videos for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education's A Promise to Keep: God's Gift of Human Sexuality chastity program.

Thanks to a \$45,000 grant from Our Sunday Visitor Inc. in Huntington, Ind., awarded on Nov. 21, Margaret Hendricks, the program director of A Promise to Keep, will be able to update printed materials and videotapes used by teenage peer mentors who present the abstinence education programs to adolescents at Catholic middle schools and parish religious education classes.

"Since 2001, Our Sunday Visitor Inc. has supported A Promise to Keep with grants," Hendricks said. "We're very grateful for their continued support."

St. Vincent Health in Indianapolis also has helped fund OCE's chastity program since A Promise to Keep was created in 1994, she said, by providing an annual grant to help with operating expenses.

"We would not be where we are today if it wasn't for the help we receive from Our Sunday Visitor and St. Vincent Health," Hendricks said. "We appreciate their ongoing corporate support of our operating expenses. Originally, St. Vincent Health officials made a three-year commitment to help underwrite some of the expenses for A Promise to Keep. However, due to the program's success, as early as 1995 St. Vincent Health officials reconsidered their commitment and encouraged the Office of Catholic Education to apply annually for a St. Vincent Health Charity Care grant."

Hendricks said there also has been financial support from other benefactors, who requested that they remain anonymous.

In May, Hendricks will start writing the scripts for the new videos, which will be produced by an Indianapolis production company and are expected to be ready for use in the classroom setting during the 2007-08 school year.

The pilot program was created by Eve Jackson, the former A Promise to Keep coordinator, in the archdiocese 12 years ago. About 100 teenage peer mentors from the six Catholic high schools in Indianapolis were trained as chastity peer mentors to present abstinence education programs for middle school students at 30 Indianapolis-area grade schools

in 1994.

This year, about 425 high school peer mentors are reaching about 5,000 junior-high-age adolescents enrolled in parish grade schools and religious education programs in seven deaneries in the archdiocese.

Evidence of the success of A Promise to Keep is also seen through the growth of The PEERS Project and the expansion of the Peers Educating Peers about Positive Values (PEP) curriculum.

Jackson, now the executive director of The PEERS Project, said the PEP curriculum is a non-sectarian version of A Promise to Keep and is presented in approximately 50 public school corporations and youth-serving organizations in 34 counties throughout the state.

Hendricks said Jackson produced the first chastity education videos in 1995 and 1996.

"We have had to use the videos for both A Promise to Keep and the federally funded Peers Educating Peers project," she said. "Now we will be able to add more Catholic theology to the updated videos for A Promise to Keep."

The high school peer mentors who acted in the first videos are college graduates now, she said. "They are moms and dads and firemen and teachers. They're all grown up, and it's past time for the videos to be updated."

During the past 10 years, Hendricks said, "we have seen a reduction in the number of sexually active teenagers, but the spread of sexually transmitted diseases has continued to rise exponentially. From a faith perspective, we have an opportunity to introduce God's instructions for our life by applying the deeper meaning of the [Ten] Commandments and Catholic teachings on the theology of the body. We couldn't do that before because we also had to use the videos for secular venues."

Hendricks said the Our Sunday Visitor grant will also enable OCE to introduce social justice issues and other Catholic topics in the new videos.

"It is evident that there is an urgent need for our program and its curriculum to update the factual information referenced in the videos," she said. "It will strengthen our faith-based program to add Catholic theology to the videos so they will reflect the wisdom and beauty of our Church's teaching on chastity and sexuality, ... and adoption as a loving option for unplanned pregnancy." †

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Shawe Memorial senior's book to be published this year

By Mary Ann Wyand

Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School was founded 50 years ago in Madison, and its history was a story waiting to be told until a Shawe senior decided to write a book about it in 2005.

Now a freshman and communications major at Berry College in Rome, Ga., Prince of Peace parishioner Jacob Laskowski of Madison is currently putting the finishing touches on his book, *Looking Back: The Story of the Hilltopper*, and raising funds to pay for printing costs.



Jacob Laskowski

"What started as a school project my senior year quickly turned into a much larger undertaking than I ever imagined," he said. "With only one year of a journalism class, I hadn't the slightest idea [how to begin] making an entire book by myself. I figured it would be easy when I started, but I soon realized it wasn't close to what I had dreamt it would be. However, I was too excited about finishing it to ever think about giving up."

His book focuses on "the things that make Shawe Memorial different from other schools."

He decided to start his book with a chapter about "the rich history of Catholic education in Madison" and the events that led to the school's founding in 1955.

"Then came the part I never thought I'd finish—the pictures," Laskowski said. "I went through tons of photos from old newspapers to all 49 yearbooks. I borrowed photos from alumni, parents and anyone willing to help."

But when Laskowski finally thought he was finished with the book last year, he decided that he didn't like the way he had designed it so he started over.

"When I did finally finish, I began writing to several Madison-area community organizations soliciting funds to print the book," he said. "I still can't believe I actually finished. It has been an immense joy researching [facts] for this project. ... It's been something that I will never forget doing, and will always help me remember my days at 201 W. State St."

He has collected about half the money he needs to cover printing costs, and plans to return home to attend Shawe Memorial's homecoming celebration on Jan. 28 to promote advance sales of the book. He has received \$7,000 in major donations, but still needs to raise \$8,000 to print copies of the 130-page, hard-cover book, which has 250 color or black and white photographs.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "I learned so much, and I'd do it again."

Laskowski hopes Shawe alumni will buy the book, and that it will help them remember the days when they were Hilltoppers.

He also hopes Madison-area residents and other people interested in the history of this scenic southeastern Indiana community will purchase the historical book about five decades of Catholic school events, including academics, extracurricular activities and sports.

Chapters include "The History of the Catholic Church in Madison," "Building a Catholic High School," "The Doors Open," "When Toppers Get Involved," "Home of the Hilltoppers," and "Growing in Mind, Body and Spirit."

Father Hilary Meny of Haubstadt, Ind., a retired diocesan priest who celebrated his 91st birthday on Jan. 21, wrote the foreword for the book.

Laskowski explains that "Father Meny is credited with the vision of a Catholic high school and grade school on the hilltop in Madison. With the help of a group of supporters, Father Meny created Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School and then, 10 years later, Pope John XXIII Elementary

School. He worked hard to raise the money needed to build these two schools."

In the foreword, Father Meny recalls a "routine meeting of the priests" with Archbishop Paul C. Schulte in the early 1950s at the St. Mary Parish rectory in North Vernon.

"The archbishop stated that he would like to meet with the priests from the Madison area ...," Father Meny writes. "All of us were moved with wonder as to what the archbishop was going to say to us. Then the archbishop relayed to us that he had received a letter from the Mother Superior of the Ursuline Sisters in Louisville. In her letter, the Mother Superior offered that, if the two parish grade schools in Madison, St. Mary's and St. Michael's schools, were combined as one in one building, she would be willing to staff a Catholic high school at Madison."

Archbishop Schulte told the priests that this offer was "too good to be turned down" and asked the priests to sign a document endorsing the proposal.

Father Meny and other Madison area priests—Father George Sebastian, pastor of St. Mary Parish; Father Charles Walsh, pastor of St. Michael Parish; Father Albert Diezeman, assistant pastor of St. Mary Parish; and Father Henry Gardner, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in China—signed the document.

Laskowski dedicates the book to the Hilltoppers alumni and explains that it is because of the graduates that Shawe Memorial High School is "what it was years ago, what it is today and what it will be in the future."

Readers will learn that Madison was settled by hunters in the early 1800s and mapped as a town in 1809. The first Catholic Mass was celebrated there in 1814, but Catholicism "was not respected highly" and "many Catholics in the town were driven away from their faith."

Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté, the first bishop of the Vincennes Diocese in Indiana, was determined to establish a Catholic parish in Madison and began sending missionary priests there. He appointed Father Michael Shawe as the first resident priest in Madison.

Construction of the Madison-Indianapolis Railroad by Irish immigrants increased the number of Catholics in the primarily Presbyterian town, and many of the workers decided to live in the Ohio River community.

A Presbyterian man donated the land for the construction of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, which was founded in 1837.

In 1993, St. Michael, St. Mary and St. Patrick parishes in Madison and St. Anthony Parish in China were consolidated and renamed Prince of Peace Parish by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein. The former St. Mary Church is now Prince of Peace Church.

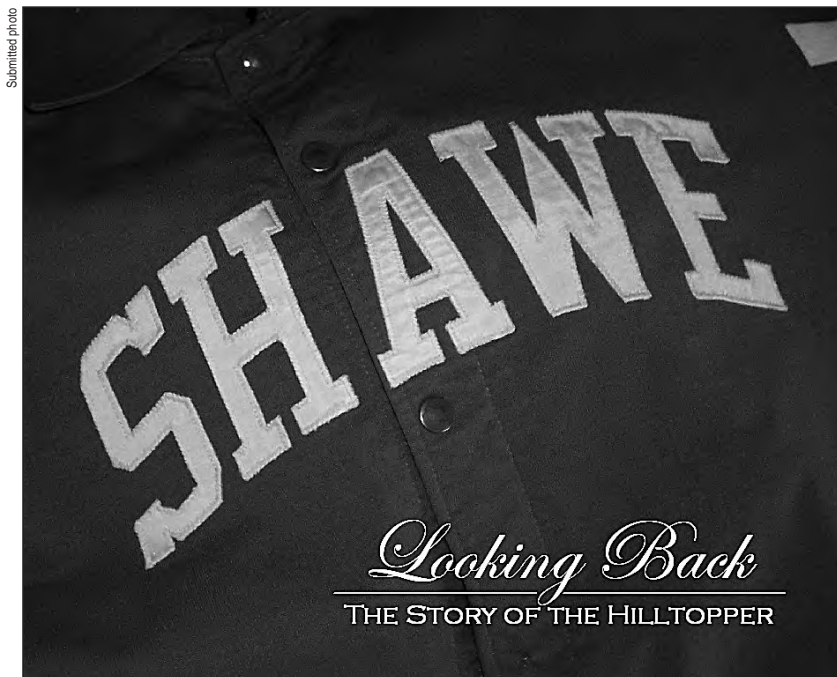
When Laskowski writes about the founding of the Catholic grade schools and his alma mater, it is evident that he appreciates the hard work and sacrifices of Catholics who contributed money to construct the buildings.

Shawe Memorial's first freshman class was established in 1952 and the students completed two years of studies at St. Michael School until the new high school officially opened for the 1954-55 school year.

"Shawe Memorial has continued, since 1952, to educate its students with caring, devoted teachers ...," Laskowski says in the book. "Small classes encouraged individual attention, which gave students more knowledge of what was being taught to them."

At the conclusion of the manuscript, Laskowski acknowledges that the book is a work in progress.

"As another chapter in *The Story of the Hilltopper* ends,"



Shawe Memorial High School graduate Jacob Laskowski of Madison wrote a historical book about his school during his senior year. It will be published this year. History teacher Jennifer Nigg of Madison and others helped him complete the book.

he writes, "one more will begin. The future of *The Story* depends on every Hilltopper—every student, every teacher, every alum. This is your story. Keep writing it."

Marta Belt, director of development and marketing for Shawe Memorial High School and Pope John XXIII School in Madison, said on Jan. 19 that "when Jacob started this project he was 18, a senior in high school, and it was a project for one of his classes. It blossomed into something that he thought would be good for his school. That was why he did it. That was Jacob's purpose all through high school. He did things that were good for his school and community. He's an amazing young man, and was named an Outstanding Hoosier by the governor."

Belt hopes Shawe's more than 1,000 graduates will order the keepsake book.

"It's going to be such a neat thing for people to have, not just our alumni and our parents," she said, "but all the people who are interested in the history of the Catholic Church and Catholic education in Jefferson County."

Belt said any money raised over and above the cost of printing the books will be donated to the high school to help pay for office equipment for *The Topper Tribune*, the student newspaper.

"Jacob was instrumental in getting the newspaper started again when he was a student at Shawe," she said. "He wants to set up an office with a computer that is just for the paper."

Prince of Peace parishioners Mike and Jean Laskowski of Madison are looking forward to the publication of their son's book this spring. She is a kindergarten teacher at Pope John XXIII School.

"We think it's great," she said of their son's hard work. "He's very creative and goes full-force when he comes up with ideas."

While writing the book, she said, he also served as president of the Student Council, was a member of the tennis team, worked part time, volunteered as a lector at church, and helped with the Mayor's Youth Council, Students Against Drug Abuse and other service projects. Several years ago, he started Diversity Week at the high school.

"You name it, he did it," she said. "He likes to be busy."

(*Looking Back: The Story of the Hilltopper*, a hardcover book with color photographs, sells for \$25. For more information or to order a copy of the book, call Marta Belt at 812-273-5835, ext. 245.) †

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Principal Tina Albin

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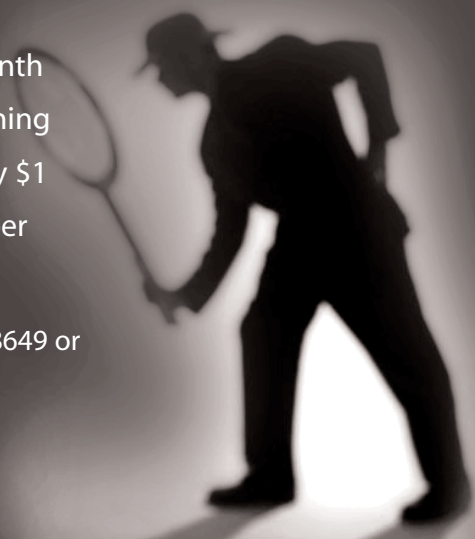
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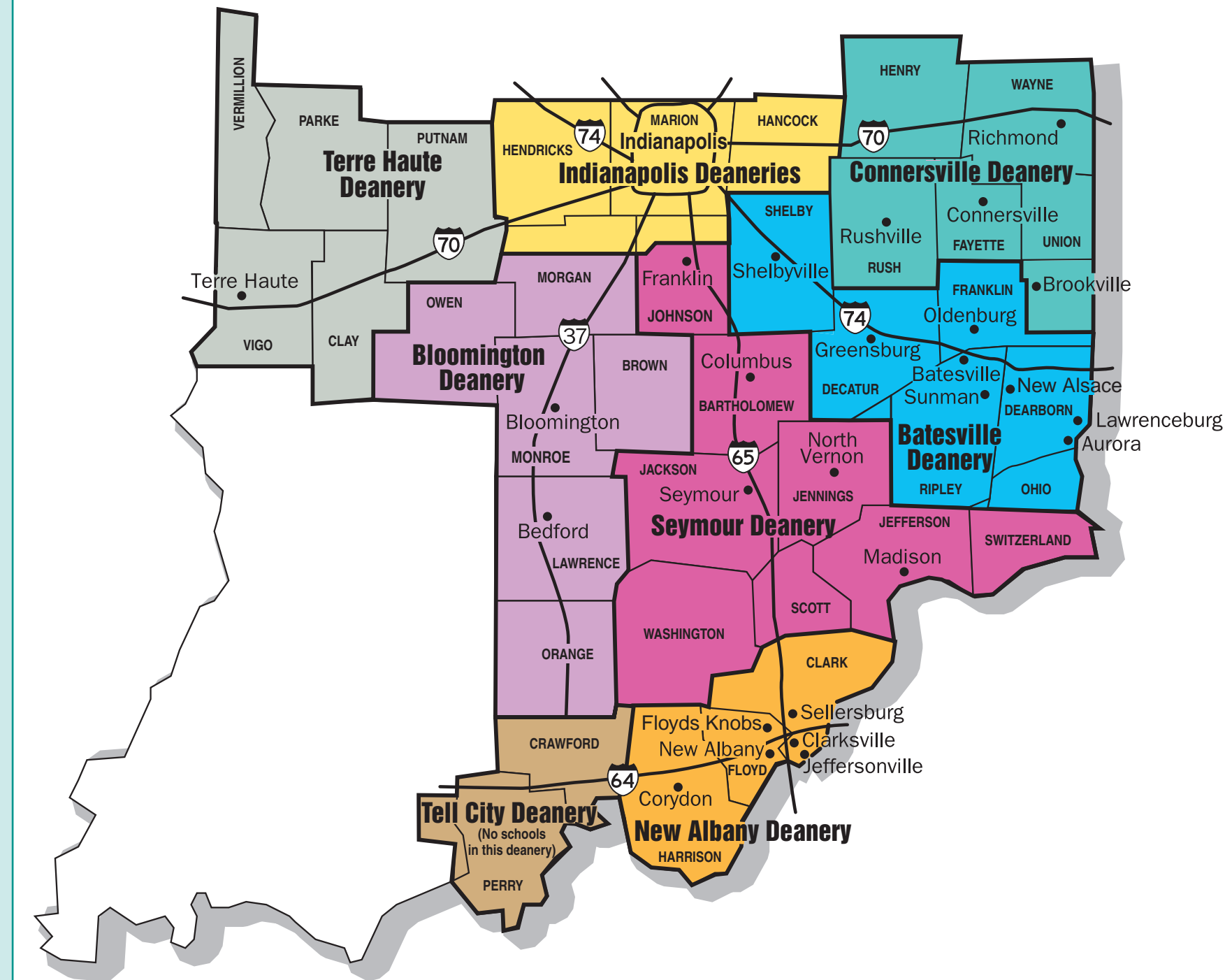




Catholic Schools

An answer to a parent's prayer

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS



DEANERY SCHOOLS

Batesville Deanery

Aurora
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School (K-8)
211 Fourth St.
Aurora, IN 47001
812-926-1558

Batesville
St. Louis School (K-8)
17 St. Louis Place
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-3310

Greensburg
St. Mary School (P-6)
210 S. East St.
Greensburg, IN 47240
812-663-2804

Lawrenceburg
St. Lawrence School (K-8)
524 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
812-537-3690

New Alsace
St. Paul School (P-6)
9788 N. Dearborn Road
Guilford, IN 47022
812-623-2631

Shelbyville
St. Joseph School (P-5)
127 E. Broadway
Shelbyville, IN 46176
317-398-4202

Sunman
St. Nicholas School (P-8)
6459 E. St. Nicholas Drive
Sunman, IN 47041
812-623-2348

Bloomington Deanery

Bedford
St. Vincent de Paul School (P-8)
923 18th St.
Bedford, IN 47421
812-279-2540

Bloomington
St. Charles Borromeo School (P-8)
2224 E. Third St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-336-5853

Connersville Deanery
Brookville
St. Michael School (K-8)
P. O. Box J, 145 Wallace St.
Brookville, IN 47012
765-647-4961

Connersville
St. Gabriel School (P-6)
224 W. Ninth St.
Connersville, IN 47331
765-825-7951

Richmond
Seton Catholic High School (7-12)
233 S. 5th St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-965-6956

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School (P-6)
801 W. Main St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-962-4877

Rushville
St. Mary School (P-6)
226 E. Fifth St.
Rushville, IN 46173
765-932-3639

New Albany Deanery

Clarksville
Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
707 W. Highway 131
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-945-2538

St. Anthony School (P-8)
320 N. Sherwood Ave.
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-282-2144

Corydon
St. Joseph School (K-6)
512 Mulberry
Corydon, IN 47112
812-738-4549

Floyds Knobs
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs School (P-3)
3033 Martin Road
Floyds Knobs, IN 47119
812-923-3011

Jeffersonville
Sacred Heart School (P-8)
1842 E. Eighth St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-283-3123

New Albany
Holy Family School (P-8)
217 W. Daisy Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-6090

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (P-8)
1752 Scheller Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-7676

New Albany, cont'd

St. Mary School (K-8)
420 E. Eighth St.
New Albany, IN 47150
812-944-0888

Sellersburg
St. Paul School (P-6)
105 St. Paul St.
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812-246-3266

Seymour Deanery
Columbus
St. Bartholomew School (P-8)
1306 27th St.
Columbus, IN 47201
812-372-6830

Franklin
St. Rose of Lima School (P-8)
114 Lancelot Drive
Franklin, IN 46131
317-738-3451

Madison
Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)
201 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-2150

Pope John XXIII School (P-6)
221 W. State St.
Madison, IN 47250
812-273-3957

North Vernon
St. Mary School (K-8)
209 Washington St.
North Vernon, IN 47265
812-346-3445

Seymour

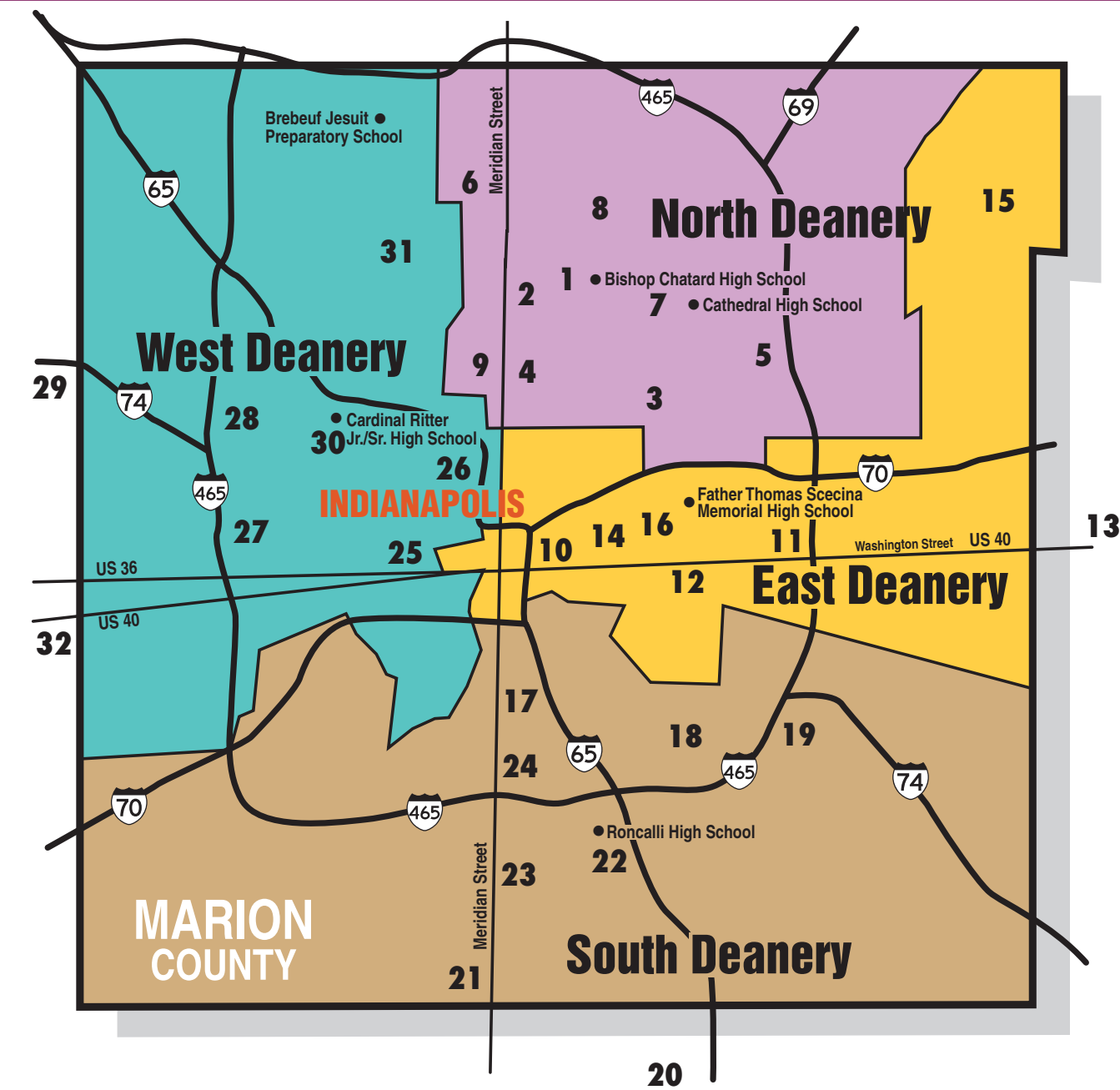
St. Ambrose School (P-6)
301 S. Chestnut St.
Seymour, IN 47274
812-522-3522

Terre Haute Deanery
Terre Haute
Sacred Heart of Jesus School (P-6)
1330 Lafayette Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47804
812-232-8901

St. Patrick School (P-8)
449 S. 19th St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
812-232-2157

Private High School
Olenburg
Olenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception (9-12)
P.O. Box 200
Olenburg, IN 47036
812-934-4440

GREATER INDIANAPOLIS



GREATER INDIANAPOLIS DEANERY SCHOOLS

Indianapolis North Deanery

• **Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)**
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-1451

1. **Christ the King School (K-8)**
5858 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-257-9366

2. **Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)**
317 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-255-5468

3. **St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy (P-8)**
4050 E. 38th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46218
317-549-6305

4. **St. Joan of Arc School (P-8)**
500 E. 42nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-283-1518

5. **St. Lawrence School (P-8)**
6950 E. 46th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-543-4923

6. **St. Luke School (K-8)**
7650 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-255-3912

Indianapolis East Deanery

• **Father Thomas Secena Memorial High School (9-12)**
5000 Nowland Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-826-6377

10. **Holy Cross Central School (P-8)**
1401 N. Bosart Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-838-9068

11. **Holy Spirit School (P-8)**
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243

7. **St. Matthew School (K-8)**
4100 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-3997

8. **St. Pius X School (K-8)**
7200 Sarto Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46240
317-466-3360

9. **St. Thomas Aquinas School (K-8)**
4600 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-656-6244

Indianapolis South Deanery

12. **Our Lady of Lourdes School (P-8)**
30 S. Downey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-357-3316

13. **St. Michael School (P-8)**
519 Jefferson Blvd.
Greenfield, IN 46140
317-462-6380

14. **St. Philip Neri School (P-8)**
545 N. Eastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-636-0134

15. **St. Simon the Apostle School (P-8)**
8155 Oaklandon Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-826-6000

16. **St. Therese of the Infant Jesus/Little Flower School (P-8)**
1401 N. Bosart Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-355-2282

10. **Holy Cross Central School (P-8)**
1401 N. Bosart Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201
317-838-9068

11. **Holy Spirit School (P-8)**
7241 E. 10th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-352-1243

Indianapolis West Deanery

• **Roncalli High School (9-12)**
3300 Prague Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-787-8277

17. **Central Catholic School (K-8)**
1155 E. Cameron St.
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-783-7759

18. **Holy Name School (K-8)**
21 N. 17th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107
317-784-9078

19. **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ School (P-8)**
3310 S. Meadow Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-357-1459

20. **Our Lady of the Greenwood School (P-8)**
399 S. Meridian St.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-881-1300

21. **St. Barnabas School (K-8)**
8300 Rabke Road
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422

22. **St. Jude School (K-8)**
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828

Indianapolis North Deanery

1. **Bishop Chatard High School (9-12)**
5885 N. Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-1451

2. **Immaculate Heart of Mary School (K-8)**
317 E. 57th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-255-5468

3. **St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy (P-8)**
4050 E. 38th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46218
317-549-6305

4. **St. Joan of Arc School (P-8)**
500 E. 42nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-283-1518

5. **St. Lawrence School (P-8)**
6950 E. 46th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-543-4923

6. **St. Luke School (K-8)**
7650 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-255-3912

7. **St. Matthew School (K-8)**
4100 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-3997

Indianapolis South Deanery

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Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-881-7422

22. **St. Jude School (K-8)**
5375 McFarland Road
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-784-6828

Indianapolis West Deanery

• **Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School (7-12)**
3360 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-924-4333

25. **All Saints School (K-8)**
75 N. Bellevue Place
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-636-3739

26. **Holy Angels School (P-6)**
2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-926-5211

27. **St. Christopher School (P-6)**
5335 W. 16th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-241-6314

28. **St. Gabriel School (P-8)**
6000 W. 34th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46224
317-297-1414

29. **St. Malachy School (K-8)**
330 N. Green St.
Brownsburg, IN 46112
317-852-2242

30. **St. Michael the Archangel School (K-8)**
3352 W. 30th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
317-926-0516

31. **St. Monica School (K-8)**
6131 N. Michigan Road
Indianapolis, IN 46228
317-255-7153

32. **St. Susanna School (P-5)**
1212 E. Main St.
Plainfield, IN 46168
317-839-3713

Private High Schools

• **Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (9-12)**
2801 W. 86th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-872-7050

• **Cathedral High School (9-12)**
5225 E. 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46226
317-542-1481

Multisensory techniques help resource students

By Mary Ann Wyand

Windows of learning open easily for some students, but may not open at all for children who struggle with learning disabilities.

Parents share their children's frustrations because they don't know how to help them understand school assignments.

Resource programs and specially trained teachers at Catholic schools are an answer to prayers for many parents who want their children to attend a "main-stream" school.

St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner Patrice Payne of Carmel, Ind., has served as the resource teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis for 18 years and enjoys helping students discover their own unique ways to understand mathematics or learn how to read better using multisensory techniques.

Payne works with Peggy Linard of Indianapolis, who also is a resource teacher at the Indianapolis North Deanery grade school, to help students accomplish tasks they never dreamed they could do because of their learning disabilities.

Some students receive resource services once or twice a day, Payne said, while others only need extra help a couple of times a week for study skill support or an occasional consultation to check on their progress.

Each student's learning needs are unique, she said, and every student is special. Some students learn best with the "pull-out" model in the resource classroom, and others can be helped with the "inclusion" model in the classroom.

"Recently, I read a report that said 4.4 million children have been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder in the U.S.,"

Payne said. "That covers all age levels up to age 18. Researchers are also finding that more adults have attention deficit disorder than previously suspected."

Learning disabilities can cause students to suffer from depression or struggle with self-esteem, she said. "It affects how students perform in the classroom and how their peers perceive them."

At St. Thomas Aquinas School, there is no stigma attached to resource lessons, Payne said, and students enjoy spending time with "Mrs. Payne and Mrs. Linard."

"We assist students in all subject areas as they progress through their years at St. Thomas Aquinas School," Payne said. "Some students just need a little bit of help to get a jump-start on the year and then they're fine, but usually those are the students who don't have a diagnosed learning disability."

Payne said the term "learning disability" is "a kind of catch-all phrase" that covers many different kinds of special needs.

"As we do more research and learn more about the brain, we're finding that it encompasses so much more than just cognition and learning," she said. "Especially in terms of the spectrum disorders—autism or Asperger's [syndrome], for example—we're finding that there's a lot of connections ... where these conditions will exist side by side."

She said various types of sensory activities can help students cope with their learning disabilities and figure out ways to increase their level of comprehension.

St. Thomas Aquinas School's resource program earned its second national SPICE (Selected Program for Improving Catholic Education) Award from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)



St. Thomas Aquinas School resource teacher Patrice Payne works with second-grader Hannah Fritz on a review of short vowel sounds using multisensory techniques on Oct. 12 at the Indianapolis North Deanery grade school.

last year.

Payne and Linard attended the 2005 NCEA Conference on June 24-26 in Boston to present a workshop about resource techniques that enhance learning skills.

Payne earned the school's first national SPICE Award in 1997.

They are especially grateful to the Guardian Angel Guild in Indianapolis, whose members raise funds to support resource programs at Catholic grade

schools in Marion County. The guild was founded in 1959.

"They have done so much to help the Catholic schools throughout the years," Payne said. "They underwrite so much of the private tests that have to be done at St. Mary's Child Center in Indianapolis, and that has helped parents who can't afford to pay for tests for their children. The guild also supplied specially engineered sound therapy equipment to help us improve students' learning modalities." †

Blue Ribbon celebration

Left, Bishop Chatard High School's junior varsity cheerleaders help St. Thomas Aquinas School students, faculty and staff celebrate the Indianapolis North Deanery grade school's selection as a 2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education during a Nov. 7 pep rally at the grade school.



Far left, Cathedral High School sophomores Michael Chastang and Gina Corsaro of Indianapolis and the Pride of the Irish marching band provide music for the Blue Ribbon celebration on Nov. 7 at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis. Michael is a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis.



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Students' ISTEP scores show continued improvement

By John Shaughnessy

For five straight years, Catholic school students in the archdiocese have shown continued improvement in Indiana's standardized testing—just one of the trends that excite educators and administrators at the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education.

"The trend lines we want to show are that the longer the students are with us, the better they get," said G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of Catholic education for the archdiocese.

Both trends surfaced in the office's report of the archdiocese's scores for the 2005-06 ISTEP+ (Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus).

Since the 2001-02 school year, the percentage of archdiocesan students passing both the math and language arts tests has risen from 75.7 percent to 86.2 percent for this school year. The 86.2 percent compares to the 64.1 percent of all Indiana students passing both tests.

"One of the advantages we have is the continuity we're able to maintain with our students from the K [kindergarten] through the eighth-grade," said Ronald Costello, associate executive director of Catholic education and school improvement and director of Project EXCEED. "And we're able to sustain that at the high school level."

Costello and Peters credit this success to stressing two key areas: aligning the curriculum to meet the academic standards and providing expanded training for educators.

The increased emphasis began in 2001-02 with a \$10 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. that was combined with \$5 million from other corporate and individual donors.

"We focused on the areas [where] the students needed the most help—writing and problem solving," Costello said.

Now, the Office of Catholic Education has added another focus: an approach to standardized testing called "Value-Added Assessment."

Developed by an education researcher in Tennessee, the approach concentrates on measuring not only a student's proficiency, but also the "growth" of a student's improvement in test scores from one year to the next.

For the archdiocese, the focus is a combination of achieving "high proficiency" for all students and "high growth" for each individual student.

"We really ought to be looking at each student," Costello said. "We've moved accountability away from the school level to the individual level. You can look good on the average, but not be meeting the needs of the individual student."

The Office of Catholic Education has already begun to collect information from several schools concerning that approach.

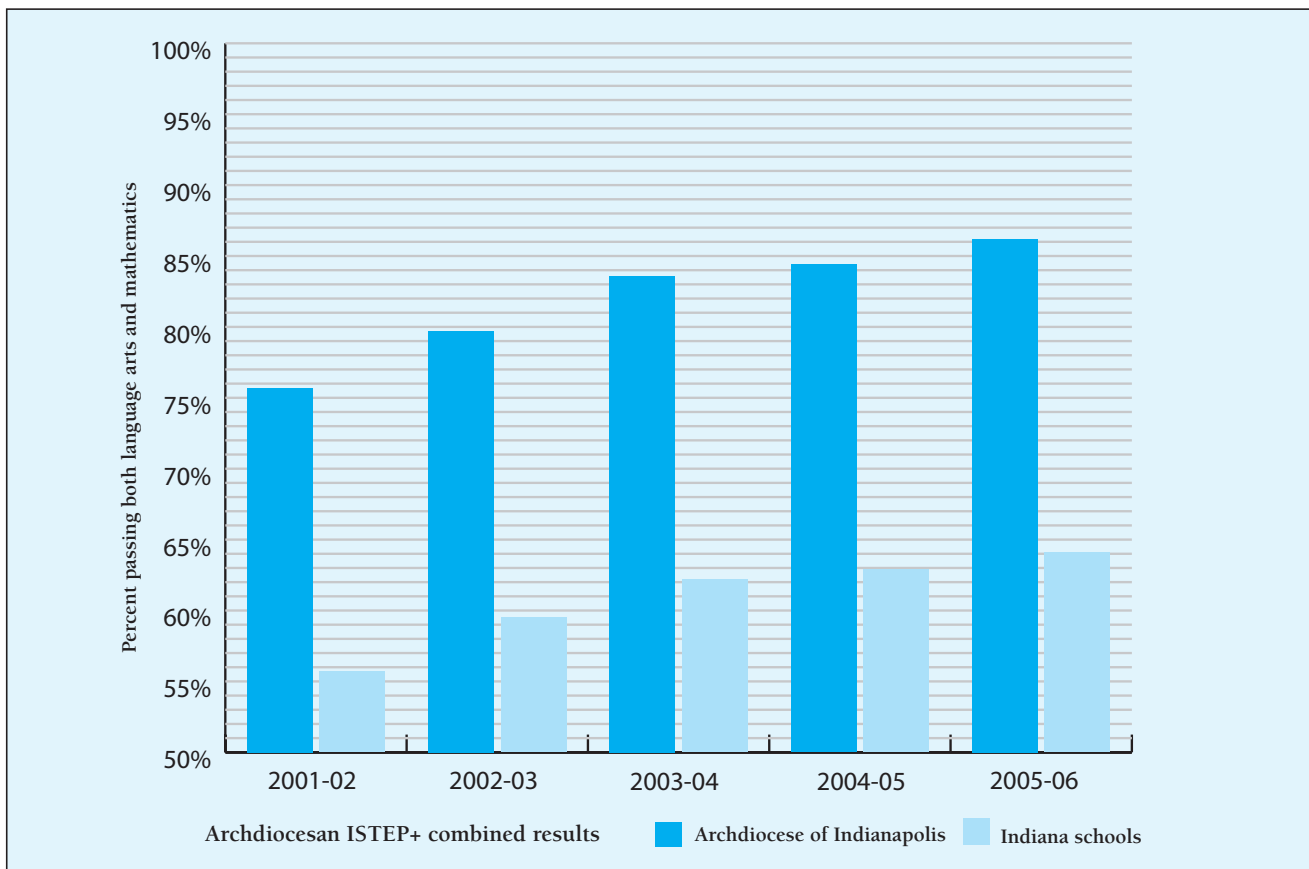
To show the benefits of value-added assessment, Costello shared an article written by Theodore Hershberg, executive director of Operation Public Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

In his article, Hershberg notes that several states—including Arkansas, Minnesota, Colorado and Florida—have passed legislation calling for the introduction of value-added assessment models.

"These states have recognized the many advantages of value-added assessment," Hershberg writes. "It traces the academic progress of individual students, rather than cohorts; it focuses on ensuring that all students, not simply the lowest performers, receive at least a year's worth of growth in a year; it provides educators with rich diagnostics to improve instruction."

Costello stated the goal of the archdiocese's educational ministry more simply.

"Every student has value," he said. "We expect them to grow at more than a year's level each year." †



HOLY ANGELS

continued from page 9

policeman someday," he said. "I want to be a pastor, too."

Immaculate Heart of Mary Reparatrix Sister Christine Nantaba, the computer teacher, also helps the children learn how to participate in school liturgies and prayer services because many Holy Angels students are not Catholic.

"We teach the children about God's love and how to show respect for him," Sister Christine said. "We try to instill the good Christian values in the children, and it starts with their being together in the classroom, on the playground and in church."

At the beginning of the school year, she said, "Sister Gerry gathers the children together, brings them to church and goes through all the specific things that we need to do in the Catholic Church. She teaches them to show respect. She always says that every Church has its own way of doing things, and this is what we do in the Catholic Church. They really follow through. Every Friday [during the school Mass], she expects that from the children."

Sister Christine grew up in Kkong Parish in the village of Nnono in Uganda, where she learned about King's efforts to promote equality through the civil rights movement.

"Dr. Martin Luther King was a man of peace for this country and was also very important for the whole world because the human rights that he put forward should be recognized everywhere," Sister Christine said. "I heard about him in Africa because he worked so hard to achieve basic human rights for all people. Dr. King is a man for everybody, and his message is for the whole world."

During his homily, Father Kenneth Taylor, Holy Angels' pastor, reminded the children that King never gave up his dream even though his life was difficult at times.

"One of the reasons why Dr. Martin Luther King had to do what he did is because we are sinful people," Father Taylor said. "It is the sinfulness in us that brings about racism, prejudice and injustice. We need to rid ourselves of that sinfulness to be the people that God wants us to be."

Father Taylor also serves as the administrator of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis and director of the archdiocesan Multicultural Commission.

"Our nation is different today than it was before because of what he did," Father Taylor told the children. "While Martin Luther King was leading the civil rights movement, he was trying to change not only the laws of our country, but also the minds and hearts of the people. It wasn't easy. In the years before he was assassinated, he was arrested, thrown in jail and beat up. People treated him very badly because a lot of people didn't like what he was doing."

But King didn't give up on his dream, Father Taylor said. "He was a man of strong faith. He was totally devoted to Jesus Christ, and he knew that—as with every Christian—he had a call from God that what was going on in the nation was wrong and needed to be changed. His faith gave him the strength and the courage to keep going."

Christ also suffered because of his calling from God, Father Taylor said. "Jesus' life ended in a horrible way, too. The people turned against him and crucified him on the cross. But he had a calling ... and was true to his calling all the way to the end."

Because of your baptism, he told the children, "you are followers of Jesus Christ and are called to make a positive difference in the world. Dr. King showed us that it can be done. ... You can do what's right, you can do good things, if you have a strong faith, strong spirit, stay true to your call and have a close relationship with God." †

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National Directory for Catechesis helps schools evangelize

By Sean Gallagher

Catholic schools should be centers of evangelization and places where young boys and girls are formed to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

This is the vision set out for Catholic schools by the new *National Directory for Catechesis (NDC)*, published last year by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

According to Harry Dudley, associate executive director of faith formation for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education (OCE), the *NDC* affirms many of the things that Catholic schools in central and southern Indiana are already doing, but asks them to be more deliberate about passing on the faith.

"What I think the directory is going to call us to do is to be more intentional about it," he said. "We're doing a lot of good things in isolation and unconsciously."

"I think the directory is calling us to say, 'Let's not do them unconsciously. Let's do them intentionally and well or we could be doing them unintentionally and poorly,'" Dudley said.

Kent Clady, principal of Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood, keeps his school's mission of evangelization very much at the forefront of its

day-to-day life.

He said that proclaiming the Gospel is at the heart of the school's ministry because of its Catholic identity.

"It makes all of the children and all of the staff evangelization crusaders," Clady said. "If we're not able to live our mission, then we're headed in the wrong direction. I feel that that's one of the things that drives everything we do."

This focus on evangelization that the *NDC* calls schools to take on brings forward the challenge of how Catholic schools relate to their students who are not Catholic.

John Valenti, OCE's associate director of religious education, sacramental, adult and family catechesis and the archdiocesan evangelization coordinator, said that the *NDC* calls Catholic schools to be true to their Catholic identity and mission as well as respectful of students who practice another faith or none at all.

"Our schools are to present our Catholic faith and our belief in Jesus Christ in such a way that it should arouse interest and it should enlighten people," Valenti said. "And at the very least, people should walk away with the sense that Catholic schools are being faithful to the mission of Jesus Christ. Then if they would want to join the Church, we would be really glad to invite them to it."

Oldenburg Franciscan Sister Joanita Koors, principal of St. Mary School in North Vernon, sees the Catholic identity of her school embodied in everything it teaches.

"If [the students] grow in their faith, it's because we're not here just to teach religion," she said. "It permeates every subject area. You can't separate it."

But more than simply allowing the school's Catholic identity to be embodied in all its academic subjects, Sister Joanita emphasized that the Catholic nature of St. Mary School seeps down into the way that students and staff relate to one another.

"It's the courtesy," she said. "It's the respect [shown] toward one another. It's the expectations throughout the whole day and the way they treat one another. Ultimately, we learn this through Jesus."

The *NDC* also emphasizes that a parish's school should be integrated into the ministry of the entire parish.

Valenti said that parishes and schools



A statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a crucifix adorn a stairwell at St. Mary School in New Albany in this file photo from 2004. The *National Directory for Catechesis*, published last year by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, calls Catholic schools to be centers of evangelization and places where its students are formed to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

ultimately have the same mission of bringing people to Christ through the Catholic Church.

"I think if the whole parish is on board with that concept," he said, "it means that they're able to support the school better because the school is a very important and integral part of that total parish ministry plan."

Clady gained an appreciation of this through his own personal experience. Before becoming the principal of Our Lady of the Greenwood School, he served as a volunteer catechist for the parish's religious education program.

Since starting his work at the school, he has fostered a close relationship between the school and the parish.

This bond was embodied recently by the decision to name a library of religious education resources at the school after Beth Perkins, a former director of religious education, who died in 2004.

Sister Joanita encourages St. Mary School students to be involved in the parish's service ministries, including its St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter.

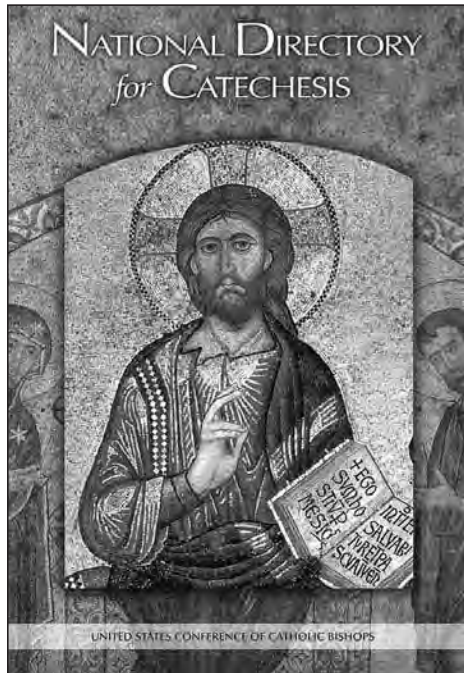
"Our students help out with that whenever they can," she said. "We're all in it together. [We're] not separate."

Clady is looking forward to studying the *NDC* with both members of the staff and those in the parish involved in religious education programs.

"That is one of the [top] priorities for us," he said.

Dudley said that over the next year and a half, other school leaders in the archdiocese will have the opportunity to learn more about the *NDC* through archdiocesan-sponsored convocations and deanery-based workshops.

He also said the University of Dayton is offering online courses for school leaders to learn more about the *National Directory for Catechesis*. †



The publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops published this new *National Directory for Catechesis* on May 1, 2005.

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Book shares creative side of Aurora students

By Mike Krokos

*The sun shines in the morning air,
The moon will glow when you say a
prayer.
The sky is so blue you'd think it's a
sea,
Southern Indiana will fill you with
glee.*

Titled "Southern Indiana," that poem by sixth-grader Margo Tedesco begins *Along the River in Southeastern Indiana*, a collection of fictional stories and poems written by students of St. Mary of Immaculate Conception School in Aurora.

What makes the 121-page book, published by Pen & Publish in Bloomington, even more impressive is the fact that all 145 of the school's kindergarten through eighth-grade students share their talents. While some students wrote poems or stories, others used their artistic gifts to draw illustrations.

"A parent suggested it," explained Beth Eldridge, the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade language arts teacher, of the

book project. "I got the kids started on it at the beginning of the school year."

What followed was two months of brainstorming and work where the students focused on creating fictional stories about southeastern Indiana.

Some chose to focus on well-known local sites such as Hillforest Mansion and Riverview Cemetery. Others felt compelled to include other nearby treasures like the Ohio River.

Sixth-grader Mark Hetzer's poem titled "The Ohio River" speaks volumes about how he feels about the body of water that plays a big part in the life of many Aurora residents:

*The Ohio River runs by here,
I like it a lot cause it's so near.
Boats go by every day,
But never stop to chat and play.
I swim and I fish,
And boy do I wish
To go for a sail,
And see a big whale!
It can sometimes be quite a bore,
To sit and watch along the shore.
I will grow up and move away,*

*But I'll always remember where I
used to play.*

Seventh-grader Taylor Tufts' fictional account of "The Mystery Flood" deals with a catastrophe that initially wipes out all but one resident of the town, 5-year-old Annebelle.

"Ms. Eldridge gave us an idea," Taylor said of the project.

"I liked that everybody could throw their own ideas into it and show their abilities in writing," Taylor added.

Seventh-grader Natalie Horn penned "The New Tool," the story of two plow horses—Dark Sunshine and Phantom—who were out of a job when a farmer purchased a new tractor to work his fields. In the end, the machine breaks down and the horses save the day by showing what a valuable commodity they truly are.

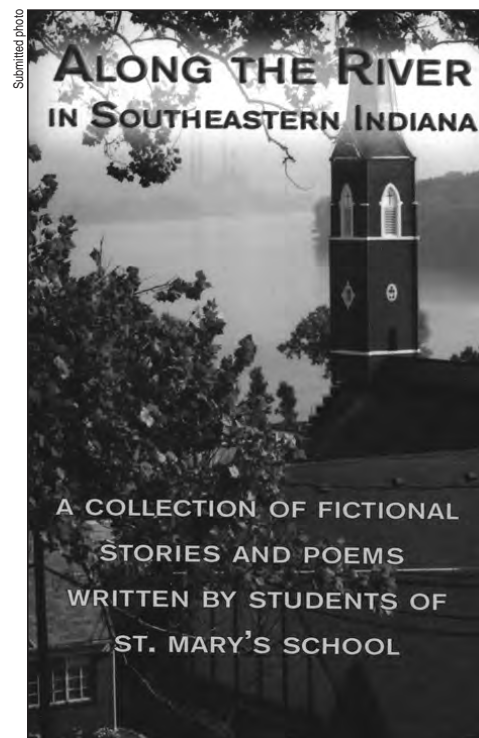
"I like that students were able to put their ideas into the stories," Natalie said.

There was no lack of enthusiasm for the project, Eldridge said, but the biggest challenge was "getting organized and getting all the students involved."

The community response to the book project was overwhelming, Eldridge said. Seventh- and eighth-grade students went around Aurora seeking \$10 donations from businesses to help pay for the book's publishing costs. More than 40 businesses contributed—with some giving as much as \$50 each for the project.

To date, 220 copies of the book have been sold, and the proceeds are being used for the school's accelerated reading program.

Despite the challenges and hard work, Eldridge said she hopes to repeat the project.



St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School students in Aurora recently wrote and illustrated a book about life in southeastern Indiana.

"I got to see all types of creativity," she said.

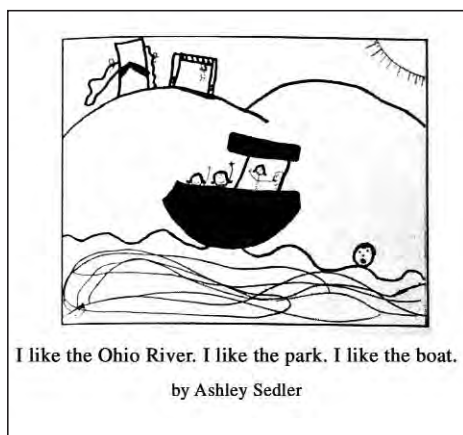
In the end, the various gifts that students shared are what really make the book so special, the teacher said.

"I'm so proud of the students and the work they did," she said, "and I think they're proud of it as well."

Taylor agreed.

"It was awesome," she said.

(For more information or to purchase a copy of *Along the River in Southeastern Indiana*, call St. Mary School in Aurora at 812-926-1558. The book may also be purchased online at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.) †



Second-graders Ashley Sedler and Kirsten Stenger both drew illustrations about the fun they have living near the Ohio River.

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Leadership program recruits strong administrators

By Sean Gallagher

Catholic schools in central and southern Indiana have a long history of excellence. A part of maintaining this achievement record is the recruitment and training of strong candidates for administrative positions at archdiocesan schools.

For more than 10 years, the archdiocese's Office of Catholic Education (OCE) has been effective in doing this through its Catholic School Leadership program.

More than half of the program's 45 participants during its first eight years became administrators of archdiocesan schools.

Rob Rash, OCE's associate director for schools, administrative personnel and professional development, oversees the program and thinks it is a good way for the archdiocese to be pro-active about recruiting strong school leaders.

"It's a deliberate effort," Rash said. "We just don't sit around and wait for them to come."

The Office of Catholic Education encourages current school principals to identify strong candidates among their teachers for the leadership program. Rash also offers informational sessions that let prospective principal candidates know more about it.

Over an approximately 12-month period, the program's participants learn in 18 sessions about specific aspects of leading a Catholic school that ordinarily would not be covered in graduate school classes required for those interested in becoming principals.

Tina Albin, in her first year as the principal of St. Nicholas School in Ripley County, participated in the program last year. She had been studying for her administrator's license at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and found that the Catholic School Leadership program helped her to become a strong school leader in the archdiocese.

"It gave me the knowledge of exactly [what] ... being an administrator at a Catholic school is about," she said.

Part of what Albin learned is the close relationship that Catholic school principals in the archdiocese form with each other and those who serve them in archdiocesan leadership.

The program helped her and the other participants

form these bonds with other principals, those who work in OCE and such diverse archdiocesan leaders as Edward Isakson, director of human resources, and Jeffrey Stumpf, chief financial officer of the archdiocese.

Ruth Tinsley was a program participant with Albin and now leads St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy in Indianapolis.

Tinsley said that the relationships she formed through the program gave her a broad base of knowledge that she can use to face her center-city school's challenges.

"You didn't just get one possible solution," she said. "You had the combined knowledge of everyone in the group [and the presenters] to help you solve your problem."

Topics that the program's presenters address include the budget process for Catholic schools, how to do job interviews, school fundraising and the professional standards for Catholic school principals.

But, according to Rash, the program is set up for its participants to gain practical knowledge in these and other areas.

"It exposes the candidates to real-world situations," he said. "It's designed to be more experiential than traditional textbook [learning]."

But Tinsley also noted that, in addition to helping her know the specific administrative tasks of leading a Catholic school, the program helped her be more attentive to a parish school's overall Catholic identity.

"This allowed us to specialize," she said. "It brought the specialty area of the Catholic [faith] in and so it reinforced the Catholic identity and how we can lead as Catholic principals."

"When I'm in a Catholic school, I can pray with my students," Tinsley said. "I can model what it is to be an adult who is Catholic. And I can do all of that in any subject that we have here at the school, whether it be math, science or social studies. It does not have to be religion classes. It's in what we do every day."

The program will start again soon, and Albin encouraged Catholic school teachers who might be interested in administration to consider participating in it.

"It's such a wonderful program for aspiring administrators to take," she said. "It gives you a hands-on



Ruth Tinsley, the principal of St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy in Indianapolis, helps pre-kindergarten student Chya Jennings with her classroom work on Jan. 12. Tinsley, who is in her first year as principal of the school, was a participant in the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education's Catholic School Leadership program, which recruits and trains school administration candidates.

experience and knowledge of what exactly a Catholic school principal does."

(Teachers who want to learn more about the Catholic School Leadership program should call Rob Rash at 317-236-1544 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1544.) †



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Facts about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Archdiocesan administration

The Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis includes the Office of Catholic Education (OCE), the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and St. Mary's Child Center.

The Office of Catholic Education oversees and assists the Catholic schools, parish faith formation, evangelization and youth ministry programs for 150 parishes and missions in 11 deaneries throughout a 39-county area of central and southern Indiana, comprising some 13,757 square miles and serving more than 232,000 Catholics.

Special programs operating under the auspices of OCE are A Promise to Keep, a peer-mentoring sexual abstinence program sponsored by St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, and SPRED, the Special Religious Education program serving parishioners with developmental disabilities.

The Office of Catholic Education was founded in 1974 when the former school office and office of religious education were formed into one of the first offices of "Total Catholic Education" in the nation.

Under Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and in consultation with the Archdiocesan Education Commission, OCE utilizes a team management approach in support of the teaching mission of the Church—"learning, teaching and sharing our faith."

In 2002, youth and young adult ministry was added to the OCE mission, and evangelization programs were added in 2003.

Support for site-based programs is provided through direct service, resources, consultation, training, community-building and collaboration with constituents in the parishes and schools in conjunction with other archdiocesan agencies.

OCE received a historic \$10 million challenge grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. for school improvement from 2002-06. The challenge was met with \$5 million in matching gifts from generous corporate and individual donors and grants.

Project EXCEED focuses on a new set of the three "R's" in our Catholic schools:

- Recruit, retain, reward and develop the best school teachers and administrators.
- Raise the level of students' performance and report their progress.
- Reach out to special populations with advanced capabilities or special needs.

Major constituencies of the Office of Catholic Education include pastors, principals, parish administrators of religious education, youth ministers, and members of school and faith formation commissions and high school boards.

Constituents are involved collaboratively in projects to design and develop curriculum, provide inservice training, produce manuals and guidelines, and foster professional development.

Office of Catholic Education

1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1410
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317-236-1430 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1430
Fax: 317-261-3364
E-mail: indyoce@archindy.org
Web site: www.archindy.org/oce

Catholic schools:	70
Elementary schools:	60 (28 in Marion Co.)
High schools:	10 (7 interparochial high schools, 4 in Marion Co.; 3 private high schools, 2 in Marion Co.)
Pre-school programs:	34 (Pre-K programs for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds)
Extended care programs:	55 (Pre-K-8, before and after school care or both)

Professional staff: 2,320 (full-time and part-time)

Enrollment 2005-06: (Unofficial Oct. 1, 2005, enrollment)

Total pre-school-12:	23,336
Pre-school:	1,765
Elementary (K-8):	16,063
High school (9-12):	5,508

Religious composition:	Elementary	High school
Catholic:	86%	80%
Non-Catholic:	14%	20%

NOTE: Approximate demographic figures for seven Indianapolis center-city schools are: 65% minority, 69% non-parishioners and 58% qualified for Federal Lunch Program.

High school graduation rate, 2004-05:	98.4%
Percent of graduates entering college, 2005	94.5%

NOTE: All figures above this line include three private high schools.

Average tuition rates, first child, (estimated)	Catholic	Non-Catholic
Elementary schools:	\$2,795	\$3,992
Interparochial high schools:	\$5,006	\$7,085

NOTE: Elementary tuitions are set at the parish level and vary greatly. Schools receive parish subsidies except for private high schools (not included).

Estimated operating costs of Catholic schools in the archdiocese, 2004-05:

Elementary schools cost-per-pupil:	\$3,989
Interparochial high schools, cost-per-pupil:	\$7,679
Total operating cost of archdiocesan schools:	\$89 million

(K-12 enrollment, excluding private high schools and capital costs)

Annual savings to Indiana taxpayers (estimate): \$200 million

(@ aggregate public school K-12 composite estimated cost-per-pupil of \$9,642 x Catholic school K-12 enrollment, excluding private high schools)

West Deanery Schools

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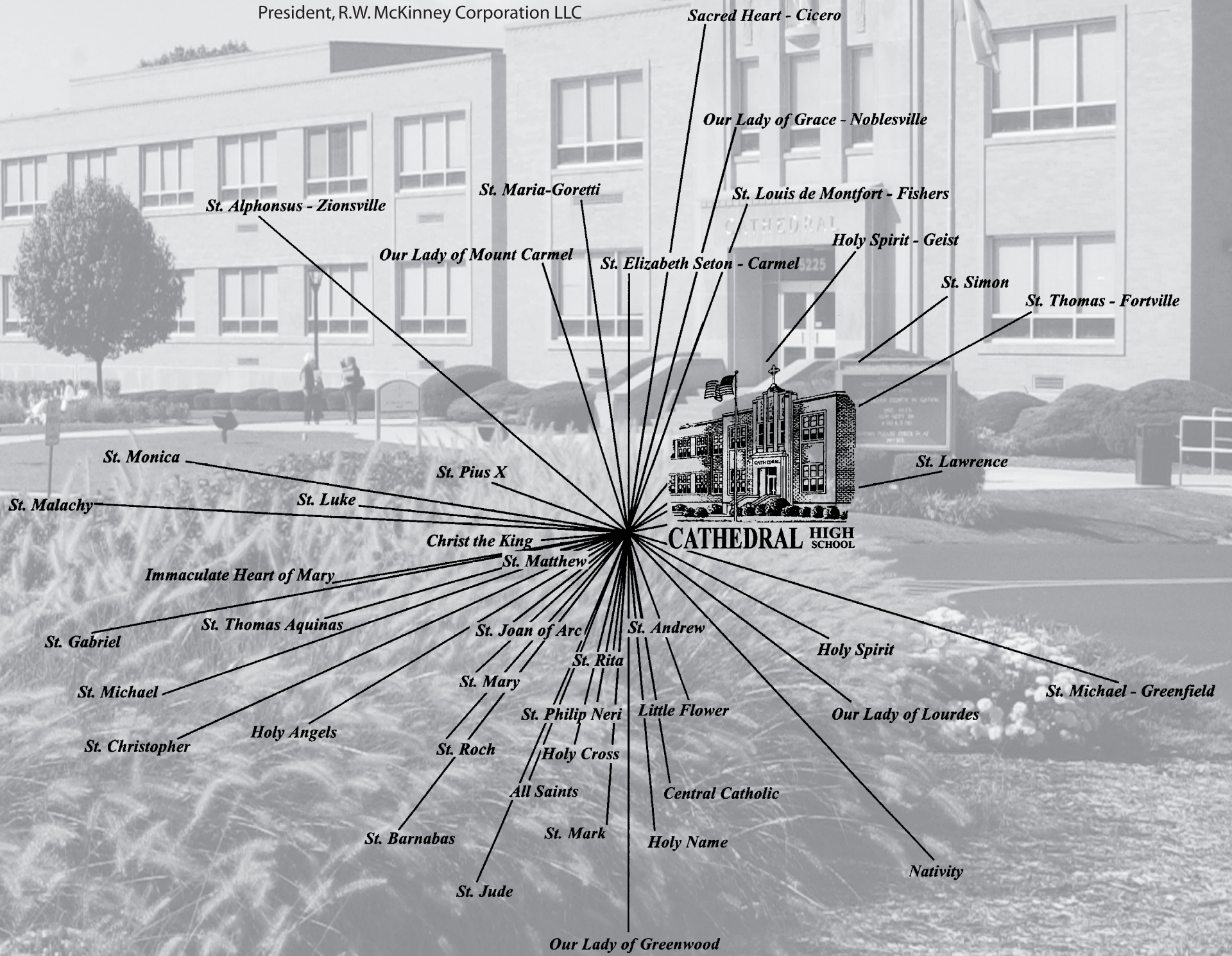


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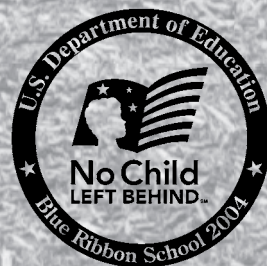
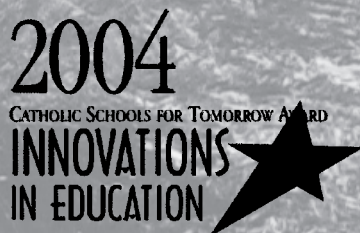
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Viable parish fosters sense of belonging and responsibility

By Margo MacArthur

When Father Curtis Guillory became bishop of the Beaumont, Texas, Diocese five years ago, he sought, first of all, to understand the people he was to shepherd.

Though he was aware of the problems common today to Catholic parishes almost anywhere, Bishop Guillory sought to grasp firmly the particular problems facing the 45 parishes in his charge and to respond to them.

His first act was to visit every parish, meet with every pastor and—using a town-hall-meeting forum—ask the people how they perceived their parishes.

What he learned from the faithful became the basis for his groundbreaking pastoral letter titled “Revitalizing Our Parishes for Mission” in January 2005.

It holds the ideas and actions of a shepherd determined to help his parishes grapple with the difficulties of remaining viable and vibrant in an increasingly secular world.

“People told me: ‘We’re dying [as a parish]. ... ‘It’s hard to attract the young. ... ‘We need a spiritual spark,’ ” recalled Bishop Guillory.

His response was to challenge Catholics to examine their parishes’ viability in terms of worship, community, service and education/formation.

“A viable parish is a faith community that fosters in each member a sense of belonging, ownership, responsibility and Christian growth,” the bishop said. “It requires the full participation of everyone, not just priests and religious, not just the members of Church committees and councils—but every baptized Catholic.

“Each person has to undergo conversion into a new way of thinking about life—as stewardship. This is not first and foremost about money. It’s much more about giving of one’s time and talent as well as treasure.”

For one Catholic, this may mean assisting in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays as an usher, musician or altar society member.

For another Catholic, it may mean sharing time or people skills to visit the elderly or sick.

Another parishioner may contribute skills as a tradesperson to help repair and maintain the church’s physical plant.

All of these—and many more—are acts of stewardship that contribute to the parish.

To survive in today’s expensive world and increase their opportunities to become more viable and vibrant, many parishes are becoming more collaborative and proactive, reaching out to adjacent parishes and sharing resources.

This “partnership mentality,” said Bishop Guillory, is vital to the good health of the parishes.

Two or three parishes, for instance, may share a bookkeeper. Or parishes may want to come together for Bible study, management of youth groups or retreats.

The challenges that face the Beaumont Diocese mirror those of many other dioceses:

- a priesthood spread thin,
- smaller congregations at weekend Masses,
- shifting population trends that impact parish membership,
- failure to adequately instruct and retain young Catholics,

Volunteers revitalize parish life

By David Gibson

Do you have strong organizational abilities? If so, Bishop Curtis Guillory of Beaumont, Texas, would say that is one of the gifts you might contribute to your parish, perhaps by “volunteering to head up a fundraising event.”

He said “people skills” and a “compassionate heart” also are gifts to share, perhaps by “serving on the bereavement committee or visiting the elderly or sick.”

Other gifts he mentioned in a recent pastoral letter include teaching ability, maintenance and repair skills, computer and electronics expertise, and love of the Lord.

“The opportunities to share our gifts

are unlimited, if only we have eyes to see,” Bishop Guillory said. He proposed that such sharing is needed for revitalizing a parish, essential for parishes at risk of “slipping into ‘maintenance mode’ rather than becoming ‘mission driven.’ ”

He encouraged people to become more informed about faith and more grounded in it because then they will become “more spiritually energized” and want to share that with other people.

“You will be more alive and willing to share your enthusiasm with your parish,” he said. “This will, in turn, revitalize your parish.”

And, he said, enthusiasm is contagious.

(David Gibson edits Faith Alive!) †



Jesus called the faithful to go forth and evangelize, and Catholics can do this by becoming active in their parish and inviting others to attend Mass. In a recent pastoral letter, Bishop Curtis Guillory of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, noted that a viable parish is a faith community that fosters in each member a sense of belonging, ownership, responsibility and Christian growth.

- and a reduction of evangelization efforts by baptized Catholics living their lives largely in a secular, modern world.

Bishop Guillory suggests in his letter that each of these issues can be solved by the people themselves, availing themselves and their parishes of the help of the diocese, and of each other’s gifts and talents.

First, parishes suffering the loss of a pastor are encouraged to follow the pastoral leadership model known as “area ministry” introduced in 2004 by the Josephites. In it, two parishes are placed under the leadership of one pastor assisted by priest vicars.

In Beaumont, Our Mother of Mercy and Blessed Sacrament parishes now share one Josephite pastor and two parochial vicars. Other similar accommodations have been made elsewhere in the diocese and other dioceses.

Second, the diocesan Catholic Education and Ministry Institute, created in 1999, offers Catholic lay men and women in all parishes the chance to participate in workshops on theology, liturgy, ministry and administrative services.

These are intended to prepare laity for immediate service to their home parishes, where they may become active in preparing the liturgy, providing catechism to the young and educational leadership for Scripture study groups.

One workshop even is meant to serve as a pre-diaconate program to assess the candidacy of future deacons.

Finally, evangelization—spreading the good news in many ways—must be practiced by living the faith and spreading it to those in need.

According to Bishop Guillory, evangelization is a baptismal call to reach out to those who no longer practice their faith, to children and adults who need instruction in the faith and to those who have no faith.

This can mean simply living the faith on a daily basis in ways visible to others or consciously sharing faith with others.

“If parishes do not continue to mobilize as they have begun to in recent years, many will decline to the point that they must merge or close, as has occurred elsewhere in the United States,” Bishop Guillory reminded his people.

“If people are not being served, if faith is not being nourished, if the community is not being evangelized,” he said, “then the parish is built on sand, not on solid rock, and its future is uncertain at best.”

(The full text of Bishop Curtis Guillory’s pastoral letter is available online at www.dioceseofbmt.org. Margo MacArthur is a free-lance writer in Andover, N.J.) †

Discussion Point

Programs inspire Christian service

This Week’s Question

Describe a parish-based educational program/seminar that you found particularly helpful.

“We had one deacon who gave a Lenten program on the Acts of the Apostles. He supplied us with a lot of material, was very informative and provoked a lot of discussion.” (Jim Welch, Pawtucket, R.I.)

“Our Bible study group is using ‘Adventures in Matthew’ by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer. There are 24 sessions and we really go deep into Matthew. It’s very educational and a priority for me.” (Kay Engman, Waukesha, Wis.)

“As the co-chair for adult education at our parish,

I am a presenter. We mostly have biblical and spirituality programs like ‘Finding God in All Things,’ an adaptation of Week 1 of the Ignatian spiritual exercises. Presenting forces me to read and pray before I can share it with an audience.” (Jim O’Brien, Birmingham, Ala.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: How do you use the Bible in your prayer and/or spirituality?

To respond for possible publication, e-mail cgreene@catholicnews.com or write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †



CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Northwest Indiana Catholic

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Jesus in the Gospels: Anointing at Bethany

See Matthew 26:6-16, Mark 14:3-11,
John 12:1-11



Luke's Gospel doesn't tell us about the anointing of Jesus' head and feet at the home of Simon the leper in Bethany. On the other hand, Luke is the only one who told us earlier about the washing of Jesus' feet by a penitent sinner in Capernaum. Were there two similar incidents? Probably not. Luke frequently told his stories differently from the other evangelists.

In this case, John's Gospel (but not Matthew's or Mark's) names Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, as the woman who did the anointing. Luke's penitent sinner was unnamed. Through the centuries, these incidents became interwoven and the tradition grew that it was Mary of Magdala who did the washing or the anointing. But none of the Gospels names her. John's Gospel named Mary of Magdala (or the Magdalene) in several

places, but never in connection with Lazarus and Martha.

John's Gospel disagrees with Matthew's and Mark's about when the dinner occurred. He places it the day before Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem while the other two place it afterward. Considering the fact that the Gospels were written from 40 to 65 years after the event, why would we be surprised about that?

The host for the dinner is called Simon the leper. We can safely presume that the leprosy had been cured—maybe by Jesus—and was no longer contagious. Perhaps, though, he continued to be called a leper because the disease had changed his appearance. At any rate, he invited Jesus, his neighbor Lazarus, and presumably Jesus' Apostles, for a festive dinner. As was the custom among the Jews, the women (including Martha) served the table, but didn't join the men during the meal.

That's when Mary took a very expensive nard oil in an alabaster vial, broke the neck of the vial and poured the perfume over Jesus' feet (or head, according to Matthew, as a sign of regal, messianic

anointing). The reaction was immediate: Why this extravagance? The money for that expensive perfume could have gone to help the poor.

Jesus, though, who always championed the poor, would have none of that. He defended Mary's loving action, saying that she anticipated anointing his body for burial. He knew that he would soon be killed as a prisoner and his body would not be anointed.

His response reflected the debate among rabbis over the relative merit of almsgiving to the poor and proper burial for the dead. Those who argued for a proper burial believed it essential for sharing in the Resurrection. There would always be chances to care for the poor, Jesus said.

For Judas, though, this incident seemed to be the last straw. Matthew and Mark both report that, immediately after this incident, Judas went to the chief priests to see how he could hand Jesus over to them. We don't know precisely what motivated Judas. John says simply that he was a thief. The money he was offered, though, 30 pieces of silver, was a paltry price. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

Carrying Jesus' message within our bodies

There's a passage in Second Corinthians that I find especially intriguing because it seems to be the salvation message in a nutshell. It's 2 Cor 4:10:



"Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed."

I take this to mean that Jesus became a man, not only as a sacrifice for human sins, but also as an example for human living and dying. The Messiah, the Christ, shows us the way to be truly human while striving for eternal connection with divinity. It's as though he's telling us, "Hey you guys down there on earth, almost [but never quite] perfect, keep on trying!"

It's not hard to relate physically to Jesus the man. We're born as he was, of a woman. We grow up, increasing "in wisdom and in strength," as he did. We grieve, as he did over Lazarus, and indulge our moms now and then, as he did at the wedding feast at Cana.

Like us, Jesus experienced hunger and

thirst during his 40 days in the desert. He was tempted by the devil as we are, although what he was offered in exchange for his soul was certainly greater than anything we might ask in exchange for ours—not to mention the pleasure it would give the devil!

Sometimes, we're punished fairly for our offenses by parents, teachers, spouses or employers, and sometimes we punish ourselves with guilt. Sometimes, we're hurt physically, in grade-school bullying or adult violence, or we're wounded emotionally, even by people we love and admire.

Our pain of all kinds is real and it occurs regularly throughout life. Jesus, too, felt emotional pain when the disciples deserted him, and when people rejected the Good News he brought them. And the physical pain he experienced in the Crucifixion surpasses almost anything the rest of us ever endure.

As we age, the inevitability of death becomes more apparent because our bodies and minds begin to falter. Whatever false pride we had about our appearance, the size of our biceps or full heads of hair fade in significance. We're humbled at this end of life as we were humble infants in the beginning.

If Jesus showed us how to live fully human, he also showed us how to die with grace. Note the operative word "grace" because it's only by the grace of God that we come through the passage of death peacefully. Even the Savior begged, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Still, he gave us an exemplary model for the scariest human experience—death. Knowing his fate, he accepted injustice, beatings, scorn, terror and agony because it was his duty in following God's will. He didn't complain that he was misunderstood or try to lay blame on someone else for his imaginary sins. Rather, he suffered and commended his spirit into God's hands.

We've all been inspired occasionally to see those who die gracefully, as Jesus did. They're the folks who try to be cheerful no matter what comes, always thinking first of others' feelings. They're the brave ones who accept the inevitable without bitterness and live as fully as possible until the end.

They're the ones who "get" Jesus' message. They're the faithful ones.

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

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Devotional book fosters interfaith understanding

When someone suggested last year that I contribute to a 20th anniversary devotional



book being published by IAI: Interfaith Alliance Indianapolis, I did not follow through. Why? Because after prayer, I knew in my heart that I should decline. I did not understand why then. Now I do. If something of mine had been

accepted, I would not feel free to feature the book now. As is, I can report on it with objectivity.

I endorse and applaud the depth and the variety of the contributors' works. Each shares a quotation from a sacred book, plus a prayer and personal experiences or observations. The readings are so varied that one comes away with gratitude and a better understanding of varied religions.

The book is divided into sections representing Religious/Spiritual Journeys; Appreciation for Those of Different Faith; Prayer, Poetry, Images and Visions; Dialogue, Listening and Peace;

International Faith; and Indianapolis and Interfaith Alliance Indianapolis.

IAI membership includes six Indianapolis Catholic parishes, the Carmelites of Indianapolis and the Brebeuf Jesuit community in addition to the Butler Seminar on Religion as well as a variety of Christian/Protestant, Baha'i, Buddhist, Islamic, Jewish, Protestant, Sikh, and Universalist faith groups.

It is impossible to mention all 39 contributors for the 55 devotionals, but—because this is a Catholic publication—I list these Catholic writers and parishes in the order of their appearance: John Shaughnessy, assistant editor of *The Criterion* and member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, whose foreword first appeared as an *Indianapolis Star* article last May; Jeff Fites from St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield; Mary Weber, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis; Lola McIntyre from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis; Judith Cebula from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish; Benedictine Father Boniface Hardin, founder and president of Martin University in Indianapolis; and Carmelite Sis Marcie Malone, a member of

the Monastery of the Resurrection in Indianapolis.

Other Catholics and parishes noted among the 30 members of the IAI Plenum Board since 1992 are Carl Boehler from St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis; Jack Hill, a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis; Mary Prouty and Mark Prouty from St. Pius X Parish as well as Father Clem Davis, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, who was one of the early faith leaders when IAI began in 1985.

Another initiative was the founding of the "Hamilton Niss Memorial Youth Award" recognizing Indiana high school students who demonstrate interfaith understanding and significant community service. This is especially important since younger generations are our future faith leaders.

Readers wanting more information about Interfaith Alliance Indianapolis or interested in copies of *For the Good of the City* (\$10 plus \$2.50 shipping) should log on to www.interfaithindy.org.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Baptismal anniversaries can be special celebrations

The Church celebrated the feast of the Baptism of the Lord recently, yet I suspect for most Catholics, it passed by without notice.



Ordinarily, the feast falls on a Sunday, when parish communities gather together for worship. But because Christmas fell on a Sunday this liturgical year, it was transferred

to the Monday after Epiphany, which happened to be Jan. 9.

In Rome, Pope Benedict XVI baptized several infants at the Sistine Chapel that day. On that occasion, he offered some reflections on the meaning of the great sacrament of baptism.

"Through baptism each child is inserted into a gathering of friends who never abandon him in life or in death because these companions are God's family, which in itself bears the promise of eternity," the pope said.

If we sit back and let this truth about baptism—which the Church has proclaimed throughout its history—truly sink in, then we can't but be struck anew by its transformative power in our lives.

When this happens, the date of our own baptism should become important to us. Baptismal anniversaries in our families should be special days of remembrance.

On Feb. 20, my family will mark the first anniversary of the baptism of my second son, Raphael.

One special thing that we'll do is bring out and light his baptismal candle at the family supper.

It will also be a moment when I can begin to explain to his big brother, Michael, now that he is getting older and just starting to understand such things, what baptism is all about.

But we'll also recall a lighter moment from that day. During the Mass at which Raphael was baptized, Cindy, myself, Michael and Raphael brought the offertory gifts to the altar.

Just as we were turning to go back to our pew, it seemed like Michael wanted to give his little brother a kiss. But as he leaned forward toward him, instead of kissing him on the cheek, he bit him.

Little Raphael, only 6 weeks old, who just moments earlier during his baptism hadn't made a peep, filled the church with wails of pain.

He may have, in the pope's words, just been "inserted into a gathering of friends, ... which in itself bears the promise of eternity," but Michael's bite was a humorous reminder that until that eternity dawns for us, we'll experience pain—even from those friends who make up the family of God.

Yet the grace poured into our hearts at baptism and continually renewed in the other sacraments—especially the sacrament of reconciliation—assures us that we can at least move slowly in the direction of overcoming pain in our relationships.

Now I can say that, a year after Raphael's baptism, his big brother still frequently fails to grasp how to play with him without causing him to cry, but Michael is learning, albeit slowly.

These things, both light and weighty, come to mind as the first anniversary of Raphael's baptism approaches.

I encourage families, if they don't remember the dates of each member's baptism, to learn when it happened. All it takes is a phone call to the parish where the baptism occurred. A staff member there can usually find it in their baptismal registers.

Then mark the dates on your calendars and celebrate them with joy. They can be one more day for families to rejoice together and, at the same time, renew their appreciation of this great sacrament.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion.)

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

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Jan. 29, 2006

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- Mark 1:21-28

The Book of Deuteronomy furnishes the first reading for this weekend.



Deuteronomy appears in modern Bibles as the fifth book in sequence in the Old Testament. It is one of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, all of them attributed to Moses.

It is most unlikely that Moses himself literally wrote these books, in the sense that authorship is understood today. However, since ancient times they have been regarded as containing the thought of Moses. For this reason, these five books comprise the Torah, the basic document of Judaism.

In this reading, Moses addresses the Chosen People, whom he has led—with God's help—from Egypt, where they were enslaved.

Moses promises that God will send prophets, with whom the people can relate. But if anyone presumes to take the role of prophet upon himself or herself, without having been called by God, then this imposter will die. God will not allow the people to be misled.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading.

From the earliest days of Christianity, virginity has been a treasured virtue. Christians have never been forbidden to marry, although all Christians are bound to be chaste, according to their state in life.

Surely in the first century A.D., and certainly in Corinth, a city infamous for its outrageous licentiousness, virginity was seen as a powerful, countercultural alternative lifestyle.

In this reading, Paul brings a more practical reason into play. Persons not obligated by marriage and parenthood can devote their whole time to God's service.

For its last reading, the Church offers us this weekend a selection from St. Mark's Gospel.

Luke's Gospel contains an almost exact parallel story. Matthew treats this event briefly.

Judaism has never required weekly attendance by Jews at synagogue services. However, going to synagogue to pray together, and to learn the teachings of the Torah, is definitely a high value among Jews today as it was among the Jews during the time of Jesus.

The fact that Jesus is reported as being in the synagogue, and on the Sabbath at that, reveals how seriously the Lord took the Law of Moses.

As Jesus speaks—the people spellbound at the knowledge of things relating to God spoken by Jesus—a man “with an unclean spirit” appears. Was he “possessed by the devil” in the sense understood by later Christian theologians? Certainly, the Evangelist presumed that the man was.

Important here is the fact that this man recognizes Jesus as the “Holy One of God.” Furthermore, the man believes that Jesus has the power to do anything. The climax of the story is when Jesus orders the unclean spirit to leave the man, and the unclean spirit obeys him. Again, the people are amazed.

Reflection

Thanks be to God, few people today would say that they, or great numbers of people, are “possessed by the devil,” although the Church still teaches that such possessions occur.

However, all people have “unclean spirits” within them. All people sin, and sin is the mark of the devil's involvement—to some extent, at least—in any person's spiritual life.

People can be aware of their sins, and indeed usually they are aware of how and when they turn away from God and harm themselves or others. For many people, this realization produces a sense of guilt, or the cynical hunch that virtue is impossible for them to attain.

For them, these readings are especially comforting and encouraging. God will never leave us. Such was the promise of Moses.

This promise was perfectly fulfilled in Jesus, with God's own power to put away any unclean spirit. He can strengthen our resolve to be holy, even to be holy in the most radical way. †

Daily Readings

Monday, Jan. 30
2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13
Psalm 3:2-7
Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday, Jan. 31
John Bosco, priest
2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a,
30-19:3
Psalm 86:1-6
Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday, Feb. 1
2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17
Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7
Mark 6:1-6

Thursday, Feb. 2
The Presentation of the Lord
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40
or Luke 2:22-32

Friday, Feb. 3
Blaise, bishop and martyr
Ansgar, bishop
Sirach 47:2-11
Psalm 18:31, 47, 50-51
Mark 6:14-20

Saturday, Feb. 4
1 Kings 3:4-13
Psalm 119:9-14
Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, Feb. 5
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 147:1-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Deacon and lay minister can administer blessing of throat

Q On the feast of St. Blaise, it is customary to have our throats blessed.



We were surprised to see [lay] ministers giving the St. Blaise blessing last year. Have they been mandated by the bishop to perform this blessing? (New York)

A According to the approved blessing of throats on the feast of St. Blaise, which is on Feb. 3, “the blessing of throats may be given by a priest, deacon or lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.”

During Mass, the blessing follows the reading of the Gospel, homily and the General Intercessions.

Outside of Mass, within a prayer service, the blessing is made at an appropriate time.

In either case, with crossed candles touched to the throat of each person, the priest, deacon or lay minister says, “Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Priests and deacons make the sign of the cross over the person as the invocation is recited.

Lay ministers say the same words, touching the throat of each person, but do not make the sign of the cross over the person receiving the blessing.

Thus, what you experienced is entirely proper in the Church's regulations for the blessing of throats.

A further regulation provides that if the blessing cannot appropriately be given individually, the priest—or whoever is leading the celebration—extends hands over the people and says the prayer of blessing for everyone at the same time.

These rubrics are found in the *Book of Blessings for the United States*, confirmed by the Vatican in 1989.

Q A church in our community has a Latin Mass, which we have attended occasionally. The priest says he is a member of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen.

We enjoy the Mass when we go, but

some ideas in the homilies (they still call them sermons) make us wonder. Is this a true Catholic Church? (Oklahoma)

A The Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen is one of the groups I wrote about a few weeks ago who reject changes in the Church since Vatican Council II. These changes, so the priests of this congregation believe, threaten the true doctrine and worship of the Catholic faith.

According to their position statement of 1997, these are among their beliefs:

1. The Second Vatican Council is a false council, which erred in its teachings on faith and morals.

2. The New Order of Mass, which the Catholic Church uses today and which is the usual form of Mass in Catholic parishes, is invalid or of doubtful validity.

Those who participate in these Masses sin gravely.

3. The new rites for the sacraments used by the Catholic Church today are of questionable validity. Priests of the group should administer all sacraments again conditionally for persons who received their sacraments with the “new” rituals.

4. The present “ecumenical” Church stands in contradiction to the true Catholic Church.

5. Since Pope John Paul II taught heresy, promoted ecumenism and fostered interfaith worship, he cannot be recognized as a successor of St. Peter in the papacy.

6. The present Code of Canon Law imposes obligations opposed to faith and morals, and therefore lacks all force of law for the Catholic Church.

This should answer your question. †

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” *The Criterion*, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org. †

My Journey to God

Light a Candle

Light a candle in the heart.
Burn the incense of love.
Pray without ceasing.

Ask for God's mercy,
Healing power and wisdom.
Pray without ceasing.

Touch the hem of Jesus' garment.
Dry His feet with your hair.
Pray without ceasing.

Take up His cross.
Seek His face. Call His name.
Pray without ceasing.

Surrender to the Holy Spirit.
Praise God in thanksgiving.
Pray without ceasing.

Light a candle in the heart
Burn the incense of love.
Pray without ceasing.

By Trudy Bledsoe

(Trudy Bledsoe is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis and the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites at the Monastery of the Resurrection in Indianapolis. This poem was inspired by 1 Thes 5:17, which encourages Christians to pray without ceasing.)



CNS photo by Bob Nichols

In 2005's cinema, art often triumphed over box office

By Harry Forbes and David DiCerto

NEW YORK (CNS)—In spite of disappointing box-office revenues, from an artistic standpoint 2005 was a rewarding year at the movies. And while the holiday season ushered in the usual flurry of quality fare, in compiling our list of top 10 films, we've tried not to discount those pictures that were out of the gate early.

What we've come up with is a mixture of titles that were generally praised, such as *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (a no-brainer for our list) and *Crash* (a searing study of racial prejudice, lauded by the secular and religious press despite its hard-hitting adult nature), along with films such as *An Unfinished Life* and *The Greatest Game Ever Played* that we found particularly worthy, but were dismissed by the mainstream.

In addition, we've included smaller gems such as *Dear Frankie*, *The Ninth Day* and *Millions*, which failed to receive wide distribution, but nonetheless left a strong impression.

Cinderella Man was an example of a film that garnered generally good reviews, but curiously tanked at the box office, prompting Universal to attempt a rerelease in the fall.

The Upside of Anger and *North Country* were other admirable releases, overlooked by most critics in their year-end tallies.

Here then—in alphabetical order—are our picks, followed in parentheses by their USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating:

• *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, a captivating live-action fantasy adventure based on C.S. Lewis' beloved children's

classic set in World War II-era England about four siblings' adventures in the enchanted realm of Narnia. Seeded with Christian symbolism and subtext, the beautifully told and faithful adaptation explores themes of good and evil. (A-II, PG)

• *Cinderella Man*, the moving true-life story of Depression-era boxer Jimmy Braddock who—after several years out of the ring—took up fighting again to support his loving wife and their three young children, making a miracle comeback. The human story of Jimmy's devotion to his family is paramount. (A-III, PG-13)

• *Crash*, a powerful drama with a strong moral center about a disparate, racially mixed group of Los Angeles residents whose lives intersect in unlikely and redemptive ways. A transcendentally moving essay on the benevolence that may lie beneath racial intolerance, and the interconnectedness of human beings,

showing how good and bad can coexist in all of us, and how the former generally prevails. (L, R)

• *Dear Frankie*, a heart-warming film set in Scotland about a loving single mother who pretends to her 9-year-old deaf son, Frankie, that his father—whom the boy has never seen—is simply away at sea, and forges letters purporting to be from the absent father, then pays a stranger to pose as the father for a day. A beautifully written story that is immensely appealing, sensitively acted and sure to bring a lump to the throat. (A-III, PG-13)

• *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, an absorbing and inspiring true-life story of a young amateur working-class golfer, Francis Ouimet, who played against British golf champion Harry Vardon in the 1913 U.S. Open. The themes of class conflict, overcoming the odds, loyalty and good sportsmanship are vividly drawn. (A-I, PG)

• *Millions*, a disarming fable about a 7-year-old enthralled by the lives of the saints who finds a stash of stolen money and, believing it is from God, tries to do good with it by giving it to the poor. There are delightful vignettes in which the young hero talks with various saints, and the modest film touches on themes of the corrupting influence of money and humanity's basic decency. (A-II, PG)

• *The Ninth Day*, a quietly arresting drama about an interned Catholic priest who is given nine days to convince the staunchly anti-Nazi bishop to sign a letter supporting Hitler. Based on the prison diaries of Father Jean Bernard, the film is an emotionally forceful and morally complex meditation on faith, redemption and the cost of true discipleship. (A-III, not rated)

• *North Country*, a compelling drama set in northern Minnesota about a struggling single mother who

takes a job at a local mine, encountering hostility and abuse from the predominantly male ranks, eventually filing a landmark sexual harassment lawsuit against the mining company.

Touching on issues of gender discrimination, justice, family, community and human dignity, the film's highlight is a tender scene with a strong pro-life undertone. (L, R)

• *An Unfinished Life*, the absorbing story of an embittered Wyoming rancher who takes care of a ranch hand badly mauled by a bear and gives shelter to his son's widow and the 11-year-old granddaughter he never knew he had, when the woman flees her abusive boyfriend. The film vividly conveys an admirable message about forgiveness and letting go of the past. (A-III, PG-13)

• *The Upside of Anger*, a profoundly moving comedy-drama set in a Detroit suburb about an embittered wife deserted by her husband who finds healing with a burned-out DJ who becomes a surrogate father to her four daughters. A sharply observant spin on the nature of anger, which intercuts the story with clips of hatred's ramifications on a global scale, and imparts a strong moral message about the destructive nature of misplaced animosity. (L, R)

Editor's Note: Following is the key for the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classifications and Motion Picture Association of America ratings for the above movies.

USCCB:

A-I—General patronage;

A-II—Adults and adolescents;

A-III—Adults;

L—Limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

MPAA:

G—General audiences. All ages admitted;

PG—Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children;

PG-13—Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13;

R—Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

(Forbes is director and DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.) †



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Meeting aims to help people learn to coexist amid their diversity

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic organizers expressed hope that a Washington meeting of major world religious leaders on April 26-27 will help people learn to live together amid their diversity after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks sparked a focus on their cultural differences.

"It is a duty to underline that coexistence is possible in this world during the difficult period after 9/11," said Italian Msgr. Ambrogio Spreafico, vice president of the Sant'Egidio Community, a Rome-based lay organization that is the meeting's main organizer and one of its sponsors.

"In the U.S., we want to underline the reality of a society which is already pluralistic," said Msgr. Spreafico, rector of the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome. "People in the U.S. are living in coexistence but are unaware of it."

"There are tensions," he said. "We think dialogue is the answer to the clash of civilizations."

Msgr. Spreafico briefed journalists in mid-January about the meeting, called the 2006 International Prayer for Peace. The briefing was held at Jesuit-run Georgetown University, another meeting sponsor and the site of the events. The other sponsors are The Catholic University of America and the Archdiocese of Washington.

The meeting will mark the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's gathering of top world religious leaders in Assisi, Italy, in 1986.

Since then, Sant'Egidio has been annually organizing similar Prayer for Peace meetings in different cities with Vatican encouragement but without the

presence of the pope. The 2006 meeting will be the first time the gathering is being held in the United States.

The theme of the Washington meeting is "Religions and Cultures: The Courage to Dialogue." It will feature prayer sessions and panel discussions on world issues. Planned panel topics include:

- Religions addressing terrorism in the post-Sept. 11 world.
- Mass media and the portrayal of religion as a source of conflict.
- Religion and the secular world: pluralism in democracy.
- Islam in America.

Among the invited participants are former Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, said Msgr. Spreafico.

Among the speakers listed are Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yona Metzger of Israel; Abdullah Ibn Abdul al-Turki, secretary-general of the Muslim World League; the Rev. Robert Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary; and Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue.

The meeting also hopes to bring together secular political leaders and non-believers "to avoid religious leaders isolating themselves," said Msgr. Spreafico.

Claudio Betti, Sant'Egidio spokesman, said at the briefing that the aim is to get religious leaders to interact with political leaders, "not to do the work of politicians."

The role of religious leaders is different from that of politicians, said Betti. "Religious leaders talk to the hearts of their people. They change hearts."



CNS photo Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic

Eric Hamza Byas of the Islamic Center of Long Island calls the assembly to prayer at the beginning of a concert at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., in October. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II and his outreach to all faiths. Interreligious events that show people can live together in their diversity are important after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S., said Catholic organizers of an April 26-27 meeting in Washington of major world religious leaders.

Betti said that "coexistence is almost in the DNA" in the U.S. but that attitudes toward living together seem to be changing since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The meeting "aims to be a sign of

hope instead of a sign of fear," he said.

Msgr. Spreafico said that there is a symbolic value to seeing different religious leaders talking together. Often, the symbolic value is more important than what is said, he added.

He cited Pope John Paul II's historic 1986 visit to Rome's main synagogue, the first time a pope had stepped inside a synagogue since biblical times.

"I doubt many Italians read the pope's speech. But the visit showed that Jews weren't the enemies of Christians," said Msgr. Spreafico.

"Religion can play a role in lessening fear. Religion can't solve conflicts," he said.

Msgr. Spreafico said that dialogue over disagreements on such things as religion does not mean that people have to eliminate what makes them different from each other.

Dialogue is an effort "to find what unites us," he said.

"Because I am strong in my faith, I can dialogue without nullifying what I believe," he said.

Christ is a big divisive force between Christians and Jews, and "we can't deny this," said Msgr. Spreafico.

"But Christians and Jews also have much in common. We all believe we are children of God," he said.

(Editor's Note: Organizers said events of the "Religions and Cultures" meeting are open to the public and free of charge, but that registration is necessary. Information about registration and program events is available online at <http://president.georgetown.edu/prayer-forpeace2006>.) †

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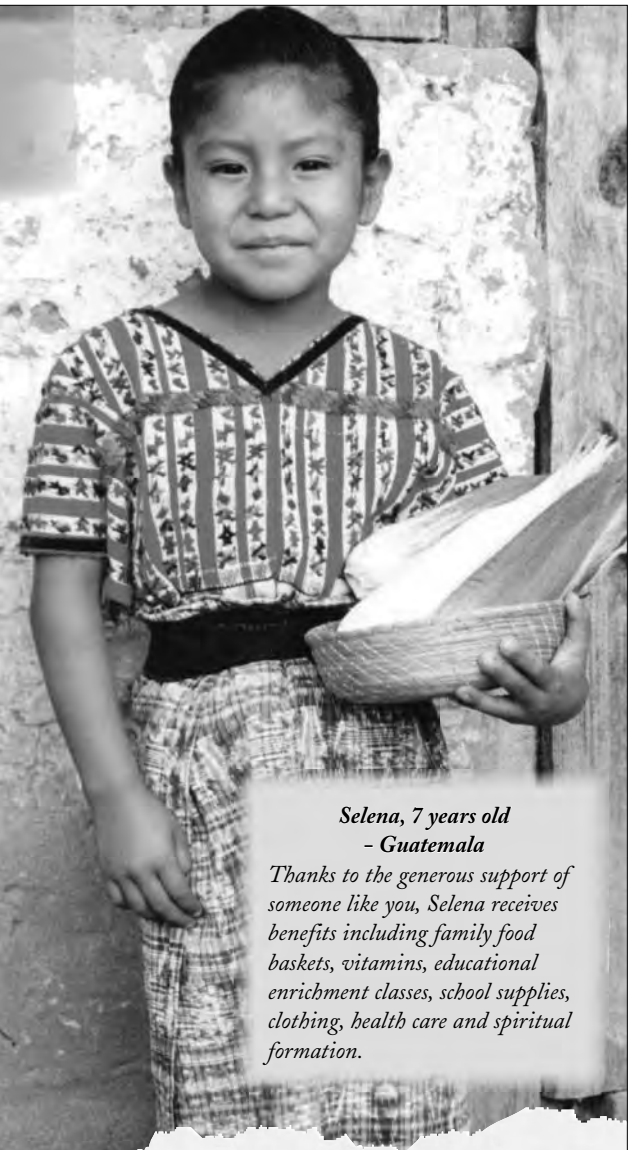
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Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

ALLARD, Jack Mitchell, 61, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, Dec. 18. Husband of Mary (Michael) Allard. Father of Michele Allard-Taylor, Mendee Briggeman, Monica Davis and Marcella Wilson. Son of Leah Allard. Brother of John Allard. Grandfather of 14.

BEEVER, Nancy (Wiley), 68, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 9. Mother of Dianne and Robert Beever. Sister of Margaret, Bill, James and Richard Wiley.

BILLERMAN, Mary C., (Thomas), 57, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Dec. 10. Sister of Sue (Cassidy) Heath.

CARMODY, Martha Louise, 81, St. Luke, Indianapolis, Dec. 15. Wife of Dr. John Carmody. Mother of Carol

Harrell, Jeannie, Molly, Dan and Phil Carmody.

CHERMANSKY, Mary S., 95, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, Dec. 13. Mother of Veronica Negley, Mary Ann Wolf, Peter Jr. and Stephen Chermansky. Sister of Ann Fletcher and Joseph Klobucar. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of nine.

CURFMAN, Alice Jane, 77, St. Joseph, Indianapolis, Jan. 11. Mother of Mary A. Woods, David, Gregory, Philip and Rick Curfman. Grandmother of six.

DECKARD, David, 57, St. Michael, Bradford, Jan. 6. Father of Tammy Thomas. Brother of Katherine Potter, John and Virgil Deckard. Half-brother of Charles and James Moore. Stepfather of Alma Campbell and Wilma Carrithers. Grandfather of three.

DOLAN, Catherine L., 84, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Dec. 12. Mother of William Myers. Sister of Mildred Johnson. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of five.

DOVER, Christopher Robert, 30, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, Dec. 24. Son of Judy Dover. Father of Jayden Dover. Brother of Yvonne Beaumont and Heather Dover.

DOWNHAM, Pamela A., 45, St. Matthew, Indianapolis, Dec. 10. Wife of Mark Downham. Mother of Megan Mauhar. Step-mother of Alysse and Chelsea Downham. Daughter of Tom and Carol Gregoire. Sister of Polly Anderson, Patty Schrader, Penny, Paul and Peter Gregoire.

ETTEL, Jean F., 74, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, Dec. 6. Wife of Charles Ettl. Mother of Chuck, Dennis, Frank and Mike Ettl. Grandmother of five.

FALKENSTEIN, Agnes M., 85, Holy Family, New Albany, Jan. 6. Mother of Rose Receiver. Sister of Dorothy Reese. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of one.

GOELZ, Daniel A., 72, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 8. Husband of Winifred Goelz. Father of Monica Haflatt, Kathleen Osborne, Bruce and Thomas Goelz. Brother of Marjorie Armstrong, Eleanor Cox, Willa Mae Stafford and Herbert Goelz. Grandfather of 14.

GOODWIN, Evelyn Louise, 87, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, Nov. 22. Sister of Louis Hutt.

HEEZEN, Mary Helen, 42, St. Luke, Indianapolis, Dec. 14. Mother of Megan Heezen. Daughter of Donald and Patricia Heezen. Sister of Angela Brocato, John Heezen and Brian Miller.

HERMESCH, Philomena M., 84, St. Mary, Greensburg, Jan. 9. Mother of Ruth Fulton, Virginia Kellerman, Betty Martin, Mary McDonald, Cora Newby, Linda Newman, Anna Riggans, Charles, John and Thomas Hermes. Sister of Maryann Metz, Benedict, Dennis and Joseph Suttmiller. Grandmother of 28. Great-grandmother of 38. Great-great-grandmother of two.

HUBER, Walter George, 91, St. Gabriel, Connorsville, Jan. 14. Husband of Emma (Fuchs) Huber. Father of Sharon Quyle and James Huber. Brother of Paul Huber. Half-brother of Anna Michaels, Mary Ann Ramsey, Carl and Michael Huber. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of 22.

HYDE, Charles W., 88, St. Joseph, Jan. 6. Husband of Minnie Festa-Hyde. Father of Bonnie Mothersbaugh and Joe Hyde. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of four.

JONES, Matthew Jack, 64, St. Matthew, Indianapolis, Dec. 21. Husband of Christine Jones. Father of Michelle Boyd, Nicole and Steve Jones. Brother of Mariam Stratman and Alan Jones. Grandfather of three.

KAELIN, Terry L., 55, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs, Dec. 12. Husband of Alice Kaelin. Father of Chesley Blackford and Brad Kaelin. Brother of Crystal, Jayme, Sherry and Robert Kaelin. Grandfather of two.

KOMLANCE, Carol Diane, 49, Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, Dec. 28. Mother of Travis Bell. Sister of Linda Devish, Vickie Duncan, Nancy Johnson, Jackie Potter, Cheryl Snow, Sue Ann Weber, Chris, David, Dennis, Jimmy and Tim Komlance. Grandmother of two.

KOVACH, David P., 70, St. Rose of Lima, Franklin, Jan. 9. Husband of Mary Kovach. Father of Gwendolyn Solis, Charles and Kevin Kovach. Brother of Helene Campagna, Elizabeth Heller and Andrew Kovach. Grandfather of two.

MAUSER, Carl F., 89, Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, Dec. 8. Husband of Mary H. (Steele) Mauser. Father of Mark and Wally Steele. Step-grandfather of eight. Step-great-grandfather of 10. Step-great-great-grandfather of two.

MAYS, Earl (Woodson), 83, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Dec. 10. Husband of Rosella Z. Mays. Brother of Madden Howard.

MERKEL, Urban John, 84, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 19. Husband of Helen (Haag) Merkel. Father of Rosemary Gravel, Frederick, John, Michael and William Merkel. Brother of Loretta Bedel, Edward and Martin Merkel. Grandfather of 14. Great-grandfather of one.

MILLER, Edna, 78, St. Paul, New Alsace, Dec. 10. Mother of Sharon Shackelford, Jayne Weber, Marlene Wullenweber, Donnie, Eddie and Mike Miller. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of four.

MILLER, Ruth Katherine, 67, St. Mary, Aurora, Dec. 31. Wife of Philip Miller. Mother of Ruthie Sestito and Robyn Woodruff. Sister of Linda Bowling and Frances Meigs. Grandmother of three.

MISINIEC, Andrew James, Jr., 60, St. Rose of Lima, Franklin, Dec. 13. Husband of Sue Ann Misiniec. Father of Jill Down, Jessica Kinslow, Jennifer Westerfield and Jason Misiniec. Son of Grace Misiniec. Brother of Joe and John Misiniec. Grandfather of five.

NEWTON, Francis Leon, 64, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Jan. 5. Husband of Ethel (Hamilton) Newton. Father of Carol Hamilton, Debbie McCambridge and Linda Ramsby. Brother of Mary Ann Brown, David and William Newton. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of seven.

ONDOVICK, Virginia R., 73, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute, Jan. 12. Mother of Linda

Davis and Joe Ondovick. Grandmother of six.

PHILLIPS, Gertrude J., 86, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, Jan. 2. Mother of Mary Anne Brock, Bernie Lytton, Therese Owens, Patty Rynders, Cathy Sharp, Agnes Stigall, Joe and Pete Phillips. Sister of Sister Mary Borromeo, Agnes and Marcella Scherschel. Grandmother of 17. Great-grandmother of 13.

PRUITT, Theresa Marie, 56, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, Dec. 24. Wife of Charles Pruitt. Mother of Donna Clark and Robert Pruitt. Sister of Dora Caraway, Mary Lucas, Frank, Johnny and Louis Basinger. Grandmother of four. Step-grandmother of one. Step-great-grandmother of two.

RAGLE, Frances Lucille, 90, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Dec. 13. Mother of Kathi Phillips, Britt and Chuck Ragle. Sister of Rosie McCracken, Jim and Salvatore Sgroi. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 17.

RALSTON, James R., Jr., 77, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Jan. 12. Father of Jeanette Cook, James III and John Ralston. Grandfather of three.

RAMILO, Dr. Napoleon L., 66, St. Mark, Indianapolis, Jan. 11. Husband of Teresita Briones-Ramilo. Brother of Nelia Ebrenica, Gloria Morton and Pepito Ramilo.

REMEDIOS, Leonel Jose, 88, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Dec. 16. Husband of Marie Remedios. Father of Caroline Lowenthal and Tom Remedios. Grandfather of six.

RICHMOND, Anna Mae, 63, Sacred Heart, Indianapolis, Dec. 9. Mother of Rhonda Arnold. Sister of Karen Montgomery. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of three.

RIEDMAN, Mary A., 76, St. Michael, Brookville, Dec. 1. Mother of Ann Rusterholz, Jane Wetzel and Steve Riedman. Sister of Ruthie Glascock and Alice Marie Rolfes. Grandmother of eight.

ROBERTS, Emma C., 94, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs, Jan. 12. Mother of Judy House and Leonard Roberts. Sister of Leoda Freiburger.

ROBINSON, Byron E., 74, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Jan. 7. Husband of Annette Robinson. Father of Donald Wyatt Jr. Brother of Mary Ann Trent. Grandfather of one.

SCHOONOVER, James L., 93, St. Rose of Lima, Franklin, Dec. 10. Brother of Ann Nugent. †

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Hockey-playing Chicago bishop dubbed 'holy goalie'

CHICAGO (CNS)—The puns are obvious: “Who IS that masked man?” “‘Stick’ with me, kid.” And, of course, “Hey, fella, you’re on thin ice.”

But in this case, the “fella” would be Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki—all dressed up in a Chicago Blackhawks uniform and ready to take to the ice at the United Center.

Neither is it all for show.

Bishop Paprocki, 53, has been involved with hockey for a long time—as a fan and a player.

He was profiled in the December issue of *USA Hockey* magazine, where he was pictured in his episcopal robes holding a hockey stick and helmet.

The article’s headline, appropriately enough, was “Holy Goalie.”

Bishop Paprocki has been playing hockey—floor hockey—since he was a boy, but it’s only been in the past decade, he told the magazine, that he’s taken to the ice. Now, twice a week he plays at McFetridge Ice Center, stopping pucks in an over-30, no-check league. The bishop is also a veteran marathon runner, which he does just to stay in shape for hockey, he told the magazine.

The feature in *USA Hockey*—the official magazine of the national governing bodies of U.S. ice and inline hockey, with a circulation of 430,000—led to an invitation from the Blackhawks to attend a team practice on Jan. 12 and get a little ice time with the team.

“When they started practice, I watched from the bench for about half an hour,” the bishop told the *Catholic New World*,

newspaper of the Chicago Archdiocese.

Toward the end of the formal practice, goaltender coach Stephane Waite warmed him up on the sidelines. “He did some drills with me. ... He wasn’t shooting real hard, but stopping his shots boosted my confidence,” Bishop Paprocki said.

But then the warm-up was over. “I was in the net and facing the Blackhawks. Several players took shots at me,” he said. “I stopped several until one of the players said, ‘Has anyone scored yet?’ On the next shot, Mark Bell ripped one past me. Then Denis Savard came over and took a few shots. My head is still spinning from his moves, but I think I did manage to stop at least one of his shots.”

However, Bishop Paprocki conceded that he “lost count of the ones that went through.”

It was, he said, a day he’ll never forget.

Is a career on the ice in the offing? The bishop laughed and said, “None of the Blackhawks goalies should feel their jobs are threatened—and the cardinal [Chicago Cardinal Francis George] doesn’t have to worry that I’m going to give up my day job.” †

Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki prepares to get on the ice after suiting up to practice with the Chicago Blackhawks on Jan. 12. Bishop Paprocki, 53, has been playing floor hockey since he was a boy, but in the past decade he’s taken to the ice, he told *USA Hockey* magazine. He was profiled in the December issue of the magazine and was pictured wearing his episcopal robes and holding a hockey stick.

‘None of the Blackhawk goalies should feel their jobs are threatened—and the cardinal doesn’t have to worry that I’m going to give up my day job.’

CNS photo/Sandy Berling, Catholic New World



LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

For Our Children and the Future

SACRED HEART STUDENTS ‘CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION’

When Santa Claus visited the Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Terre Haute this Christmas, students predictably asked for the year’s most popular toys. One young girl, however, wanted a bird feeder. Her love of the animals grew out of hands-on learning in the classroom.

“It’s making an impression,” said Providence Sister Theresa Bowland, principal at Sacred Heart. The school’s place-based education program uses *Care for God’s Creation* at its core, and develops “experience lessons” for its students.



Kindergarten and second grade students created butterfly habitats. Pre-schoolers regularly observe outside birdhouses and bird feeders. The fifth-graders have their own weather station, and all 55 students recycle cardboard and plastic items in the Sacred Heart cafeteria.

“We needed to have a different niche, and it is part of our Catholic identity to take care of God’s creation,” Sister Theresa said. “It increases academic achievement, creates stronger ties to the community, enhances appreciation of nature and heightens commitment to service as active citizens.”

“We want to be a good choice for parents and have a bigger influence on the neighborhood and community.”

Sacred Heart is also in the process of involving the Terre Haute community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum.

The *Legacy for Our Mission Campaign* will assist Sacred Heart of Jesus School and Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Sacred Heart hopes to further develop its hands-on education, including conserving energy in its building, beautifying the outside and forming an environmental committee.

Sacred Heart is also concentrating on building its enrollment in preschool and kindergarten. “We don’t have to be a huge school, but we would like to work with 100 students,” Sister Theresa said. “We want to be a good choice for parents and have a bigger influence on the neighborhood and community.”

The school’s unique educational approach is making a difference in its students, like the girl who asked for a bird feeder for Christmas.

“We’re just at the beginning; that’s the key thing. We want to create a future for our children and for future generations.”

As Sacred Heart looks toward the future, both the teachers and students are excited about what is to come with its programming. “We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation,” Sister Theresa said.

Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese’s upcoming capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as Home Missions. By contributing to Legacy for Our Mission through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to Catholic education programs and distributed to organizations such as Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Terre Haute.