



The

# Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



## Faith and Family

Children can grow close to Christ in Communion, page 12.

## Families unite in faith during Easter Vigil liturgies

Photo by Mary Ann Wyand



Father John McCaslin baptizes Wallace "Wally" Miller of Indianapolis during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 3, at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. Miller's wife, Debbie, was his Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults sponsor. Father McCaslin is the pastor of St. Anthony Parish and administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis.

### Children in two families help their parents grow in faith

By Sean Gallagher

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that parents have the "responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children" (#2225).

But what might be less known is that the Church teaches that children can return the favor and help their parents grow in holiness (#2227).

Carolyn Scott experienced this gift as she and her 8-year-old daughter, Mallory, prepared to be received into the full

**Welcome, new Catholics, page 8-10.**

communion of the Church on April 3 in the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

Carolyn, who had been baptized in a Lutheran congregation, enrolled Mallory, who also had been previously baptized in a Protestant congregation, at St. Luke School in the fall of 2008 when she was in the third grade.

"Our daughter really took to religion and really wanted to start living those values that she was learning in the classroom," Carolyn said. "She just really inspired me because of how seriously she took this."

Last summer, the mother and daughter decided that they wanted to become Catholic so they signed up for St. Luke's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Rite of Christian Initiation of Children programs.

In addition to learning about the faith in school, Mallory took classes in her RCIA program on Sunday mornings.

"They were helpful and I got to learn a little more," she said. "I didn't want to just go into it and not know what I was doing."

During the Easter Vigil, Carolyn got to see Mallory confirmed and receive her first Communion before she experienced the same sacraments.

**See RCIA, page 2**

## Years of prayer result in husband's baptism

By Mary Ann Wyand

Wallace "Wally" Miller celebrated his 58th birthday on April 3 in a special way.

The Indianapolis resident was baptized by Father John McCaslin then received the sacraments of confirmation and first Communion during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis.

His wife, Debbie, who served as his Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

sponsor, said it was a sign from God and meant to be when they learned that he would join the Church on the anniversary of his birth.

His baptism was an answer to many years of prayer by his wife.

A cradle Catholic, Debbie fell away from the Church following an abortion early in their 38-year marriage. She experienced a spiritual conversion 24 years ago during a Christ Renew His Parish weekend, and 10 years ago felt

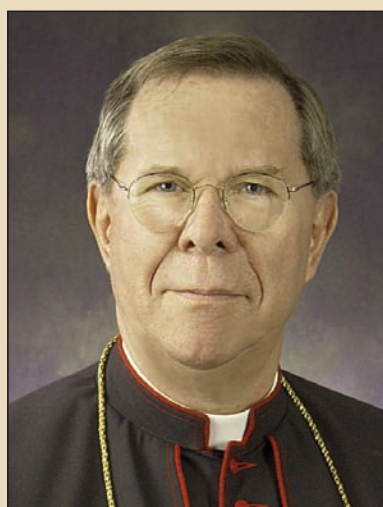
God calling her to begin Healing Hidden Hurts, a confidential post-abortion reconciliation ministry for women.

"I started praying for his conversion after I went through my own conversion experience back in 1986," she recalled. "I feel like this is the fruition of all those years of prayer for him."

"His first RCIA class was on the feast of St. Monica [on Aug. 27, 2009]," she explained, which is significant because

**See MILLER, page 16**

## Archbishop Buechlein is recovering from stomach surgery



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Since I announced last month that I would need to have surgery to remove a tumor from my stomach, I have had many inquiries about my health. I would like to thank everyone for their concern and prayers, and give you an update on how I am doing.

On April 22, a small tumor was removed from my stomach. The tumor is benign, and is not related to the Hodgkin's lymphoma that I had in 2008. After a short stay at the hospital, I am back at home recuperating and doing well.

My doctors are recommending about six weeks of recovery time.

I regret the interruption this has caused in my normal obligations. I have especially missed meeting and confirming many of our youths this spring. I'd like to thank all the pastors and staff throughout the archdiocese who are helping cover my schedule during this time.

I would appreciate your continued prayers, and please know that I will continue to pray for all of you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Archbishop Buechlein, D.*

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Indianapolis  
April 26, 2010

# RCIA

continued from page 1

“As excited as she was and as happy as she was, it was really neat,” Carolyn said. “I’m really glad that I got to see her go through before me.”

Mallory was grateful to be close to Christ in the Eucharist.

“I know that I can always look to Jesus,” she said. “And I know that I can always be assured that he is with me.”

Todd Tatlock was baptized at St. Rose of Lima Church in Franklin on the same night that Carolyn and Mallory Scott were received into the Church.

And just as Carolyn was influenced by the example of her daughter, Todd credited the example of his 15-year-old son, Trent, in leading him to enter RCIA and eventually embrace the Catholic faith.

“It was definitely influential,” Todd said. “I kind of stepped back and thought, ‘Here’s a 15-year-old kid making a big decision. And here’s a 36-year-old man that has no guiding spiritual influence in his life. It’s probably time.’ I had to do a whole lot of soul searching.”

Trent had chosen to enter the RCIA process with his mother, Julie, last summer after she decided to return to the Catholic faith of her youth.

Julie had been baptized in the Catholic Church as an infant, but never received her first Communion or was confirmed. Her parents divorced some 30 years ago when she was just 7, and they stopped practicing the faith.

Todd had not been raised in any faith community.

It was an answered prayer that led Julie to return to the Church. She had wanted to enroll their 9-year-old daughter, Taylor, at St. Rose of Lima School, but was concerned that she would have to be put on a waiting list. That was what had happened years earlier when she had tried to enroll

Trent there.

“I went back and forth about it, and prayed about it because I thought that was where she needed to be,” Julie said.

To her surprise, Taylor was accepted as a student at St. Rose School.

“[In my prayer,] I was like, ‘What now?’ And it was like God said, ‘I would like you to have a relationship with me,’” said Julie, with emotion.

When Julie and Trent went to their first RCIA meeting, Todd was still unsure if he wanted to participate. In fact, he had chosen to go to a social event with some co-workers.

“There was every reason in the world for me to stay out there,” Todd said. “There were boats, fishing to do, a cookout. It was a team-building event. But something was telling me that I needed to be there.”

So he left, went to the meeting and enjoyed learning about the faith during the next several months with his wife and son.

Julie and Todd’s three young daughters, Taylor, Trinity and Tanna, were baptized on Feb. 14. Their marriage was blessed in the Church, also knowing as convalidation, on March 24.

On April 3, Julie completed her initiation into the Church that had been cut short so long ago.

And Todd and Trent were baptized, confirmed and received their first Communion.

“I was standing there watching him go through that,” Todd said. “Then I went through it. We went back to clean up and dry off. And I looked at him and I said, ‘Wow! That was pretty neat.’”

“I was proud for him,” said Trent of his father being baptized. “It was great to see that happen, to see all the work that we had done, and all the classes, and to see him get baptized.”

That beginning also meant a lot to Julie.

“We had been anticipating [their baptisms] for almost a year,” said Julie, with joy. “It was just nice to see it finally come. We’re on our way to where we need to be.” †

Submitted photo by Walt Kuhn



Carolyn Scott receives her first Communion from Father Joseph Newton, associate pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, on April 3 during the Easter Vigil Mass at the parish church. Scott and her 8-year-old daughter, Mallory, were received into the full communion of the Church during the liturgy.

Submitted photo by Walt Kuhn



Photo by Don Piers



Above, Father Noah Casey, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, lights his parish’s Paschal Candle on April 3 at the start of the celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass. Seminarian Winston Fitzgerald holds the candle for Father Casey.

Left Trent, left, and Todd Tatlock stand before the congregation at St. Rose of Lima Church in Franklin on April 3 after being baptized during the Easter Vigil Mass. Standing behind them are their sponsors, from left, Barb Piers, partially obscured, and Steve Hollenbeck.

## Catechumen learns about the faith, prayer and community in RCIA

By Sean Gallagher

Brett and Gail Pheffer have worked hard through the years to give their children a firm foundation in the Catholic faith—taking them to Mass regularly, and



Submitted photo by Walt Kuhn

Gail and Brett Pheffer exchange looks of joy while Brett puts on a baptismal garment on April 3 during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. Just minutes earlier, Brett had been baptized. Gail, his wife of 25 years, was his sponsor.

sending them to Catholic grade schools and high schools.

Yet Brett hadn’t taken the time to focus on his own life of faith until last summer—a beginning that led him to his baptism, confirmation and first Communion during an Easter Vigil Mass on April 3 at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

“I was walking out of church this past summer before RCIA started, and it just hit me,” Brett said. “It felt right, and I’m thinking, ‘This is the time to commit myself.’”

So he entered the parish’s RCIA process with Gail as his sponsor. By doing so, Brett, who was not raised in any faith tradition, tapped into a spiritual hunger to learn more and more about the Catholic faith.

“His stack of books is growing by the day,” Gail said.

One of the most important books for Brett is a Bible that he prayerfully reads on a daily basis.

“I get up every morning in solitude and read that—before I do anything, before I drink a sip of water, before I check my phone, before I turn the TV on,” he said. “I see that being a part of my life forever now. It’s just the way to calibrate my day and to pray.”

Brett also learned the value of becoming part of a community of believers. During Lent, he attended a series of Wednesday evening soup suppers at St. Luke Parish

during which Father Noah Casey, the parish’s pastor, gave presentations on the faith.

During those events, Brett became friends with two older St. Luke parishioners, Donald Hagadorn and George Haerle.

“We formed kind of a bond with Brett,” said Hagadorn, 91. “I think it helps somebody coming into a parish as big as St. Luke.”

“They’ve lost wives, kids, war buddies—but yet they walk in with just a freshness,” Brett said. “To me, that’s a void that I know I’ve had in my life that I’ve missed. And it’s faith that gets you through that.”

On the night of the Easter Vigil, Hagadorn and Haerle surprised Brett by coming to the liturgy to help welcome him into the Church.

“When I’m walking back to be baptized, the two of them are in the back pew,” Brett said. “I looked over at Don, and he just winked.”

Gail was pleased, too, to see her husband of 25 years embrace the faith that has been a part of her life since her childhood.

“It’s a wonderful thing, and I’m thrilled for him, mostly because I think everybody needs [faith] in their life,” she said. “It’s been a great experience.” †

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# Arizona governor signs much-criticized immigration bill into law

PHOENIX (CNS)—Thousands of protesters gathered outside the state capitol and hundreds more at a state office building in Tucson on April 23 awaiting Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer's announcement that she had signed into law an immigration bill that has been harshly criticized by civil rights groups, religious leaders and even

President Barack Obama, who called it "misguided."

The law will require police to ask people they encounter in routine activities for proof of their immigration status, and makes it a crime to be in the state illegally.

Federal law treats presence in the country without permission to be a violation of civil law, and does not require people to carry proof of their immigration status.

Brewer had been bombarded with mail, phone calls and e-mail messages since the legislature sent her the bill on April 19.

Throughout the week, protesters gathered at the capitol each day, including hundreds of high school students who walked off their campuses to join the protest. Students left their high schools in Tucson to do the same at a downtown state government building on April 23.

Among those pressing Brewer to veto the bill were the state's three Catholic bishops and Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, who called the legislation "the country's most retrogressive, mean-spirited and useless anti-immigrant law" on his blog.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson said he will ask the general counsel of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to become involved in lawsuits expected to challenge the new immigration law's constitutionality.

In his "Monday Memo" posting on the diocesan Web site on April 26,

Bishop Kicanas said he believes the law needs to be challenged for reasons beyond the constitutional questions that many opponents of the bill have raised.

Among his objections to the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act are that it "does not address the critical need for border security to confront drug smuggling, weapons smuggling and human trafficking."

Bishop Kicanas also objected to the law on the grounds that it "sends a wrong message about how our state regards the importance of civil rights" distracts local law enforcement from their primary role in protecting public safety, puts additional pressure on depleted law enforcement resources, discourages people from reporting crimes if they lack legal immigration status, makes criminals out of children who were brought to the United States by their parents, risks splitting families apart, and could cause further damage to an already strained state economy.

In a phone interview with Catholic News Service on April 23, Bishop Kicanas said he hopes violence will not result from the tension in Arizona that led to the law's passage by the legislature and has accompanied its signing by Gov. Jan Brewer.

"I hope that whatever is done will be civil and not lead to violence," he said. "Emotions can lead to irrational behavior."

He said religious leaders, in particular, must work with their communities to ensure that people realize violence is not the way to address the situation.

Along with Bishops Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix and James S. Wall of



People rally against Arizona's new tough immigration law outside the state Capitol in Phoenix on April 25. Protesters decried the law as a violation of U.S. civil rights. Others renewed their call for federal immigration reform.

Gallup, N.M., whose diocese includes parts of northern Arizona, Bishop Kicanas had called for a veto of the bill and for a more comprehensive approach at the federal level to solve immigration problems.

At a press conference announcing that she was signing the bill, Brewer said it would make Arizona safer. She emphasized that "racial profiling is illegal," and that the law stipulates that police need not ask about residency status if it would impede a case.

In his remarks at a naturalization ceremony at the White House earlier on April 23, Obama said failure to enact immigration reforms at the federal level opened the door to "irresponsibility by others ... which threatened to undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe."

Obama said he had instructed the administration to study the civil rights and

other implications of the legislation. Several prominent organizations, including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union, have threatened lawsuits to stop it from being implemented.

The turbulent atmosphere in Arizona around the legislation led Rep. Raul Grijalva to close his district offices early on April 23 after threats of violence were received by the Tucson Democrat's staff.

Grijalva opposes the legislation, and has encouraged an economic boycott of the state as a protest.

Nationwide, rallies in support of federal comprehensive immigration reform long planned for May 1 were expected to have new focus and determination as supporters of comprehensive reform zeroed in on the Arizona law as a consequence of Congress' delay in dealing with the dysfunctional immigration system. †

## Deep poverty can be reversed, Catholic Charities USA president says

CLEVELAND (CNS)—One-time industrial powerhouses such as Cleveland that have been hit hard by a long-term economic downturn can still see significant declines in poverty as long as appropriate measures are enacted by the federal government, the president of Catholic Charities USA said.

Addressing the eighth in a series of regional leadership summits to discuss poverty as part of Catholic Charities USA's centennial celebration on April 22, Father Larry Snyder said steps to provide affordable housing,



Fr. Larry Snyder

encourage hiring, enact living wage laws, and increase access to food, nutrition programs and health care are needed to lower the country's 13.2 percent poverty rate.

Cleveland, which has topped the list of the nation's poorest cities twice since 2003, was targeted by Catholic Charities USA for one of the summits because of its many community-based programs involving poor and unemployed people.

The summits are part of the agency's nationwide campaign to cut poverty in half by 2020. Previous summits have been held in St. Paul, Minn.; Portland, Ore.; San Antonio; San Jose, Calif.; Atlanta; Albany, N.Y.; and Nashville, Tenn. Three more summits are planned on April 29 in Chicago, June 17 in Newark, N.J., and Sept. 25 in Washington.

Information gathered at the summits

will be used to promote legislation "that will give communities the tools and resources to reduce poverty in areas such as affordable housing, employment and living wages, adequate food and nutrition, and access to health care," Father Snyder told the gathering of civic leaders, government officials and about 200 Church representatives from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Indiana.

"You may ask why we have the audacity to undertake such an initiative," Father Snyder said. "My response is that we do it because we have no choice."

As a member of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Father Snyder said he has seen how individuals can make a difference in the lives of poor people. He called on the audience to take steps to "dramatically change our country's approach to helping the most vulnerable populations among us," and "envision strategies that will have a direct and significant impact in reducing the number of children and families for whom poverty is the context of their everyday lives."

Father Snyder also said that while the current economic recession has been challenging, Catholic Charities is focused on reducing the causes of poverty while remaining committed to supporting local programs that have proven to be successful.

"You can ask the question: 'Why should we make this a priority?'" Father Snyder

said. "As Americans, I believe we should have the political will to do this because it speaks loudly and clearly to what kind of society we aspire to be. Millions of Americans are counting on us to change the trajectory that we are on and find a bridge out of poverty for them.

"For while we need to talk about statistics and poverty measurements, let us never ultimately take our sights off the faces of the individuals who need our help," he added.

During an interview with the *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, the Cleveland diocesan newspaper, Father Snyder said he was inspired by several of the comments of local leaders in the poverty fight. He cited the Building Health Communities program, which works with the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine Health System to plan health screenings for poor residents in Cleveland's Central neighborhood, one of the city's poorest areas.

One of its projects helps city residents growing fruits and vegetables on vacant city lots and selling them to employees at nearby St. Vincent Charity Hospital, operated by the health system.

He said the ideas mentioned during the Cleveland summit echoed those discussed around the country at other summits.

Catholic Charities USA is also developing what Father Snyder called a National Consumer Advisory Board, a group of people who have received

social services from Catholic Charities agencies. Their expertise will be tapped to better understand the services that individuals and families need.

"We have to get in partnership with communities," he said. "This is not a Catholic Charities project alone. It's everybody."

Leonard Calabrese, president of Catholic Community Connection, a collaboration of Catholic ministries in health care, senior living, education and human services, pointed to the Deaf Access Program as an example of how such partnerships can work. The program brings members of Cleveland's deaf community together in a wide-ranging effort to improve access to health care, transportation and human services.

"We not only must work together, but include the voices of those affected by poverty," Calabrese told a break-out session during the summit.

J. Thomas Mullen, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Charities Health and Human Services of the Cleveland Diocese, told the gathering that cutting poverty in half in a place such as Cleveland will be a challenge because of the city's status as one of the poorest in the country. The problems are compounded by the city's 10.6 percent unemployment rate and a massive number of home foreclosures.

Where Mullen becomes optimistic is in the participation and passion of people throughout the diocese as well as Northeast Ohio, who are beginning to understand that communities must work together to end poverty.

"Cleveland is a great community," he said. "We've got a lot of committed people here." †

***'For while we need to talk about statistics and poverty measurements, let us never ultimately take our sights off the faces of the individuals who need our help.'***

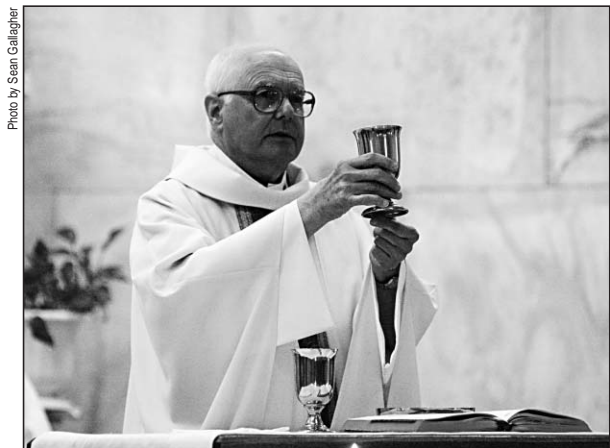
***—Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA***



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## Editorial



Retired Father Clifford Vogelsang elevates a chalice during an April 26 Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Father Vogelsang is one of many retired priests in the archdiocese who still minister in many ways in parishes in central and southern Indiana.

# Retired priests continue to minister in many ways

During this Year for Priests, we must not neglect our retired priests.

“Retired,” though, is somewhat of a misnomer. A priest never stops being a priest for, as it says in Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 7:7, “You are a priest forever.”

The archdiocesan *Directory and Yearbook 2010* lists more than 35 priests as retired. Some of them, though, continue to serve the archdiocese in positions appointed by the archbishop.

For example, Msgr. Harold Knueven, 78, formally retired in 2003, but continues to serve as the administrator of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg.

Father Joseph Kern, 79, retired in 2001, but continued to serve as either administrator or sacramental minister at parishes in Terre Haute, and is still dean of the Terre Haute Deanery.

Father William Munshower, 78, retired in 2006, but ministers as the chaplain at Cathedral High School and as a part-time sacramental minister at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, both in Indianapolis.

Father Clifford Vogelsang, 73, who retired in 2007, is the other part-time sacramental minister at St. Andrew Parish.

These are only a few examples of “retired” priests who continue to have official ministry positions in the archdiocese.

The examples given here, though, are of “retired” priests with official duties in the archdiocese, assigned by the archbishop. However, as long as their health permits, many other retired priests continue to minister as priests, often as substitutes at parishes for those occasions when the pastor must be away. Probably every pastor has the phone number of at least one retired priest on his cell phone for times of emergency.

Obviously, these retired priests have not retired from priestly ministry. What they have retired from, in most cases, is serving as the chief executive officer of parishes. They have given up administrative headaches and problems, and can now devote their time to priestly ministry—what they were ordained for in the first place.

Many retired priests actually find themselves as busy as they were prior to retirement, but they have a greater sense of satisfaction because they are busy being priests instead of

servicing as administrators.

In an article in the March 22 issue of *America* magazine, Father William Karg, a retired priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, described what he does, activities that he said are similar to those of about 90 percent of retired priests. He wrote that he celebrates Mass and hears confessions at some 23 locations, volunteers at a drop-in center for the homeless run by the Catholic Worker Movement, and offers spiritual direction and help with campus ministry at Akron University.

He also wrote that one of his high school classmates in Indianapolis, now retired, serves as the chaplain for religious sisters, encouraging them to seek spiritual direction, but he didn’t give his classmate’s name.

He and our 30-plus retired priests are not alone. There are now about 10,000 retired priests in the United States. According to statistics from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, “Dioceses now have one retired priest for every two active priests.” And that ratio will likely grow as more and more of our priests reach retirement age.

Currently, in the archdiocese, there is approximately one retired priest for every four priests who have not yet retired.

Most priests naturally prefer to do priestly ministry rather than administrative work. As one of the priests in the CARA study said, “If I win the lotto, I’d retire tomorrow—and do ministry until I dropped dead.”

Perhaps we should follow, to a certain degree, a suggestion made by Father Karg in his *America* article, and have lay administrators carry out all of a parish’s administrative duties except those that, according to the Church’s canon law, pastors alone are responsible for.

We are grateful to all our retired priests for the many years of service they have given to our parishes and our archdiocese. Those who prefer not to remain active in priestly ministry undoubtedly deserve to pursue their other interests.

Keep our retired priests in your prayers. And if you see them, as you’re likely to do sometime relatively soon in your parish, thank them for their continued service.

—John F. Fink

## Making a Difference/Tony Magliano

# God’s ways are different from the ways of the world

In response to the high priest’s order not to preach in the name of Jesus, the Apostles courageously announced, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

This passage, recently proclaimed on the third Sunday of Easter, challenges us to boldly implement the ways of God.

But the ways of many men and women in authority are often contrary to God’s ways. Because their influence upon modern culture is so encompassing, we run the risk of being pulled into their earthly kingdoms of lies, greed, lust, domination, violence and death.

Consider the following:

- The “health” of the U.S. economy mostly depends on consumerism. This economic system of buying more and more of what we don’t need—while millions of Americans remain poor and a billion human beings throughout the world go hungry—is morally sick.

- The God-given gift of sex within marriage is being forcefully challenged by much of television programming, numerous publications and countless Internet sites dedicated to promoting sexual activity outside of marriage and homosexual acts.
- Earth Day on April 22 came and went, and still millions of people ignore the overwhelming scientific evidence that our planet is warming and the climate is changing. Although the ice caps are melting, dangerous storms and forest fires are on the rise, and droughts are increasing, many people remain in denial.

- Claiming the right of everyone to possess weapons, American arms companies have flooded the country with guns, and in the name of national security, the U.S. military-industrial complex has filled much of the world with weapons of war—all done with the

blessing of the U.S. government.

Mountains of legally manufactured guns continue to be used in countless crimes. And a sea of weapons marked “Made in America” is fueling many conflicts around the globe.

American guns and weapons of war have made our cities and world far more violent. Astronomical profits are the real motivating factor of the arms industry.

From the weapons the United States sells—and gives—to nations, to the wars it is fighting, violence figures high in American strategy.

- Violence has even entered what should be the safest places on Earth—the wombs of millions of mothers. Not only does legal abortion brutally dismember and murder 1.2 million unborn babies in America annually, U.S. tax dollars

support this violent industry overseas as well.

During his peace-building visit to Ireland in 1979, Pope John Paul II challenged the insanity of violence by proclaiming “that violence is evil, that violence is unacceptable as a solution to problems, that violence is unworthy of man.

Violence is a lie, for it goes against the truth of our faith, the truth

of our humanity. Violence destroys what it claims to defend: the dignity, the life, the freedom of human beings.”

Christians and all believers are called to build up the kingdom of God. As Pentecost approaches, we are reminded that with the power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible.

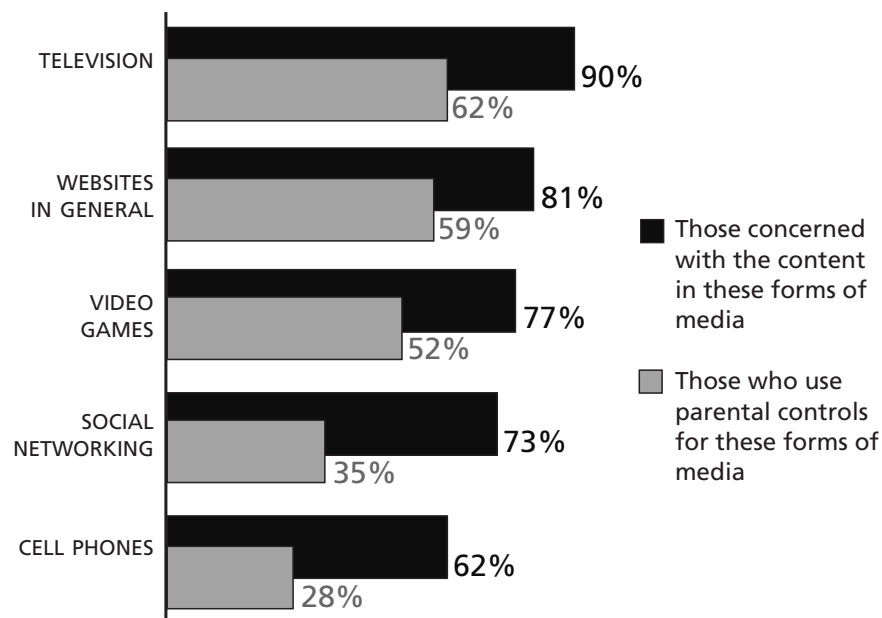
By enthusiastically cooperating with God’s grace, we can lead our world from lies to truth, from greed to justice and generosity, from lust to love, from domination to equality, from violence to peace, and from death to life!

But that will only happen when we, like the Apostles, faithfully proclaim in word and deed that “we must obey God” rather than any human authority!

(Tony Magliano writes for *Catholic News Service*.) †

*Christians and all believers are called to build up the kingdom of God. As Pentecost approaches, we are reminded that with the power of the Holy Spirit all things are possible.*

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT in the media concerns most parents, but many still say they do not control their children’s use of it.



The results presented here are based on a national random digit-dial telephone survey Feb. 16-20, 2010, of 500 parents of children ages 2-14. The margin of error from sampling is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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



# SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

## BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

### Pray for abuse victims and our faithful priests

During my recovery from surgery, I have thought a lot about gratitude.

I keep two letters in my favorite Bible, one from Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and the other from my mother.

Mom's letter was written as she was recovering from hip replacement after suffering a bad fall. I thought of her letter because in it she expressed her gratitude for our family standing by her. In doing so, she reflected on the meaning of her ordeal and said that she was overwhelmed with gratitude for the blessing and love of our family.

I believe in joining the test of my illnesses of the last two years in all their complexity to the redemptive suffering Jesus offered for all of us. In this sense, in addition to my prayers, I offered and continue to offer the sacrifice that accompanies sickness for our local Church family in all its members.

As we come to the conclusion of the Year for Priests, I also offer my illness and its consequences especially for our priests, seminarians and for the continued blessing of vocations for our archdiocese.

As I pray gratefully for the outpouring of prayers and for our archdiocesan family, I want to ask a favor of all of you. I want to ask for your prayers for those innocent victims of sex abuse, especially those offended by clergy and others who serve our Church.

I have joined my recent illness in

solidarity with the enormous suffering of Pope Benedict XVI during recent months and more. I can't imagine the cross that he carries in bearing the burden of evil and sin that mars the holiness of our Church.

I am particularly mindful of the grievous sins of sexual abuse committed by ministers of the Church. As I pray daily for the victims of sexual abuse in our archdiocese and the resulting suffering they endure, it is not difficult also to intuit some measure of the anguish of the Holy Father. He bears this heavy cross with confidence in acknowledging the truth of what is evil and the pain it has caused victims of abuse, especially by priests and bishops.

At the same time, the Holy Father also bears witness to the truth of the redemption from sin promised, won and offered by Christ in his suffering, death and resurrection.

I feel badly for sexual abuse victims and for all of us who face the embarrassment, pain and scandal of abuse.

At the same time, I offer my sentiments of admiration and gratitude for the steady fidelity of faithful members of the Church.

I pray gratefully for those who continue to express confidence in the faith that God's grace continues to support us during this time of purification. I deeply appreciate the faithful trust of believers of our community that God continues to hold out his healing to victims of abuse and his mercy to a sinful humanity, especially in the Church.

I feel badly for the overwhelming majority

of our priests who live their pastoral love generously and with integrity. Our faithful priests need to know of our support for them as they stand tall and continue to serve with humility. It has not been and is not easy.

In solidarity with Pope Benedict, we join in asking the guilty clergy and others who violated the Church's trust to "answer for it before Almighty God and before properly constituted tribunals."

An editorial in the April 2010 issue of *Traces*, *Communion and Liberation's* International Magazine, asked: "Alongside all the limitations and within the Church's wounded humanity, is there or is there not something greater than our sin, something radically greater than sin? Is there something that can shatter the inexorable weight of our evil? Something that, as the pope wrote in his Letter to the Catholics of Ireland, 'Has the power to forgive even the greatest of sins, and to bring forth good even from the most terrible evil?'"

This is the power of God's mercy, which is available to every one of us sinners.

In the same pastoral letter, the Holy Father said, "Conversion to Christ ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and

accept one's own need of his forgiveness and his friendship."

As the *Communion and Liberation* editor noted: "This is the embrace of Christ, in our wounded and needy humanity, far greater than the evil we can do. If the Church, with all its limitations, had not this to offer the world, especially the victims of those barbarities, then we would be lost—because the evil would still be here, but it would be impossible to overcome it."

When all is said and done, our most radical reason for gratitude in any and every circumstance is God's unfathomable gift of healing and his loving mercy. †

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein's prayer list? You may mail it to him at:

Archbishop Buechlein's  
Prayer List  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
1400 N. Meridian St.  
P.O. Box 1410  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

#### Archbishop Buechlein's intention for vocations for April

**Priests:** that they may joyfully and faithfully live out their priestly promises and encourage other men to embrace God's call to the priesthood.

### Recen por las víctimas del abuso y por nuestros fieles sacerdotes

Durante mi recuperación de la cirugía he reflexionado mucho acerca del agradecimiento.

Conservo dos cartas en mi Biblia predilecta: una de la beata Teresa de Calcuta; otra de mi madre.

Mamá escribió su carta mientras se recuperaba de una cirugía de reemplazo de la cadera después de sufrir una caída terrible. Pensé en su carta porque en ella expresaba su agradecimiento para con nuestra familia por todo el apoyo recibido. Al hacerlo, reflexionaba sobre el significado de su dura experiencia y decía que se sentía sobrecogida de agradecimiento por la bendición y el amor de nuestra familia.

Creo fervientemente en unir la prueba de las enfermedades que he padecido en los últimos dos años, en toda su complejidad, al sufrimiento redentor que Jesús ofreció por todos nosotros. En este sentido, además de mis oraciones, ofrecí y sigo ofreciendo el sacrificio que acompaña a la enfermedad, en favor de todos los miembros de la familia de la Iglesia local.

Al acercarnos al final del Año sacerdotal, también ofrezco mi padecimiento y sus consecuencias especialmente por nuestros sacerdotes, seminaristas y por la continua bendición de las vocaciones para nuestra Arquidiócesis.

Mientras rezo con agradecimiento por el derroche de oraciones y por nuestra familia arquidiocesana, quisiera pedir a todos un favor. Quisiera pedirles que recen por las víctimas inocentes del abuso sexual, especialmente aquellos ultrajados por el clero y por los que sirven a nuestra Iglesia.

He unido mi enfermedad reciente en solidaridad al enorme sufrimiento del papa

Benedicto XVI en meses recientes y más. No puedo imaginarme la cruz que lleva a cuestas con el peso de la maldad y del pecado que mancha la santidad de nuestra Iglesia.

Estoy especialmente consciente de los graves pecados de abuso sexual cometidos por ministros de la Iglesia. A diario, mientras rezo por las víctimas del abuso sexual en nuestra Arquidiócesis y el sufrimiento que soportan en consecuencia, no me resulta difícil intuir también, en cierta medida, la aflicción del Santo Padre. Lleva esta pesada cruz con la certeza y el reconocimiento de lo que es la maldad y el dolor que éste ha causado a las víctimas del abuso, especialmente el ocasionado por sacerdotes y obispos.

Al mismo tiempo, el Santo Padre también es testigo de la verdad de la redención del pecado que nos ha sido prometida, la cual ha sido conquistada y ofrecida por Cristo a través de su sufrimiento, muerte y resurrección.

Me siento terriblemente mal por las víctimas del abuso sexual y por todos nosotros que debemos hacerle frente a la vergüenza, al dolor y al escándalo del abuso.

Al mismo tiempo, ofrezco mis sentimientos de admiración y agradecimiento por la constante fidelidad de los miembros leales de la Iglesia.

Rezo con agradecimiento por aquellos que siguen expresando su confianza en la fe de que la gracia de Dios continúa socorriéndonos durante esta época de purificación. Agradezco profundamente la confianza fiel de nuestros feligreses en que Dios continúa vertiendo Su poder sanador sobre las víctimas del abuso y Su miseri-

cordia sobre una humanidad pecadora, especialmente en la Iglesia.

Me siento mal por la abrumadora mayoría de nuestros sacerdotes que viven su amor pastoral de forma generosa y con integridad. Nuestros fieles sacerdotes necesitan saber que los apoyamos mientras mantienen la frente en alto y continúan sirviendo con humildad. No ha sido y no es fácil.

En solidaridad con el papa Benedicto nos unimos a su voz pidiendo a los miembros del clero y a los demás culpables de violar la confianza de la Iglesia "que respondan ante Dios Todopoderoso y ante tribunales debidamente constituidos".

Una editorial en la edición de abril de 2010 de *Huellas*, la revista internacional de *Comunión y Liberación*, preguntaba: "Junto a todos los límites y dentro de la humanidad herida de la Iglesia, ¿existe o no algo más grande que el pecado? ¿Hay algo que pueda romper la cadena inexorable de nuestro mal? ¿Algo que, como escribe el Pontífice, «tiene el poder de perdonar hasta el más grave pecado y de obtener un bien incluso del más terrible de los males»?"

Ése es el poder de la misericordia de Dios que también se encuentra a disposición de todos nosotros pecadores.

En la misma carta pastoral, el Santo Padre dijo: "Convertirse a Cristo significa precisamente esto: salir de la ilusión de la autosuficiencia para descubrir y aceptar la

propia indigencia, nuestra exigencia de su perdón".

Tal como señaló el editor de *Comunión y Liberación*: "He aquí el abrazo de Cristo, dentro de nuestra humanidad herida e indigente, y más fuerte que el mal que podamos cometer. Si la Iglesia —con todas sus limitaciones— no pudiese ofrecer este abrazo al mundo, incluso a las víctimas de esta barbarie, entonces sí que estaríamos perdidos. Porque el mal seguiría ahí, pero sería imposible vencerlo".

Al final, nuestro motivo más radical para estar agradecidos en todas las circunstancias es el obsequio insondable de la sanación de Dios y de Su amorosa misericordia. †

¿Tiene una intención que desee incluir en la lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein? Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

Lista de oración del Arzobispo  
Buechlein  
Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis  
1400 N. Meridian St.  
P.O. Box 1410  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa,  
Language Training Center, Indianapolis.

#### La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en abril

**Sacerdotes:** ¡Que ellos realicen sus promesas como sacerdotes con júbilo y fe y den ánimo a otros hombres para que contesten la llamada de Dios al sacerdocio!

## Events Calendar

### April 30-May 29

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, library, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Art exhibit**, Benedictine Brother Martin Erspamer, artist. Information: 800-682-0988 or [www.saintmeinrad.edu](http://www.saintmeinrad.edu).

### May 1

St. Vincent Hospital, Schaefer Rooms, A, B and C, 2001 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **"Safe Sitter" class**, 9 a.m., \$45 per person. Information: 317-338-4437.

St. Francis Hospital, Cancer Center, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. **Skin cancer screenings**, 9 a.m.-noon, free,

reservation required. Information: 317-782-4422.

St. Rose of Lima Church, 114 Lancelot Drive, Franklin. **"Musical Recital of Disney's Cinderella,"** 7 p.m., free-will donation, no registration required. Information: 317-738-3929.

St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. **Indoor garage sale**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142 or [stmmshea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmmshea@sbcglobal.net).

### May 2

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, to

Monte Cassino Shrine, one mile east of the Archabbey on State Road 62, St. Meinrad. **Monte Cassino pilgrimage, "Blessed Mother—Show Us the Way,"** Benedictine Father Gabriel Hodges, homilist, 2 p.m. Information: 812-357-6501.

MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville, located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. Mass, noon, on **third Sunday holy hour and pitch-in**, groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information:

812-689-3551.

### May 3

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Archdiocesan Office of Worship. **"Understanding the Liturgy—Liturgical Renewal,"** session four, Charles Gardner, presenter, 6:15-9 p.m. Information: 800-382-9836, ext. 1483, 317-236-1483 or [ctuley@archindy.org](mailto:ctuley@archindy.org).

### May 5

St. Mary Parish, 317 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over,

single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

St. Thomas More Preschool, 120 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. **Open house and enrollment for 2010-11 school year**, 6:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142 or [stmmshea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmmshea@sbcglobal.net).

### May 6

St. Francis Hospital, 1215 Hadley Road, Suite 105, Mooresville. **Skin cancer screenings**, 5-8 p.m., free, reservation required. Information: 317-782-4422.

### May 7

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Lumen Dei meeting**, 6:30 a.m., Mass, breakfast and program in Priori Hall, \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Information: 317-435-3447 or e-mail [macmac961@comcast.net](mailto:macmac961@comcast.net).

### May 8

St. Roch Parish, Family Life Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Single Seniors**, meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.

## Retreats and Programs

### May 1

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **Sixth annual Women's Day, "Women of Change,"** Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind, presenter, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$30 per person includes lunch and is due April 27, \$35 per person includes lunch after April 27. Information: 812-933-6437 or [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### May 5

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

**"A Thomas Merton Seminar—Bridges to Contemplative Living: Writing Yourself into the Book of Life,"** session two of four, Benedictine Sister Julie Sewell, presenter, Mass, 5:15 p.m., supper, 6 p.m., session, 6:30-9 p.m., \$65.95 per person includes book and supper. Information: 317-788-7581 or [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

### May 7-9

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"Aging Gracefully—A Retreat for 60s and Over,"** Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or [MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu).

### May 10

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Men's Night at the 'Burg,"** Franciscan Brother Carl Hawver, presenter, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 812-933-6437 or [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com).

### May 11

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Woman Talk—Women of Wisdom,"** session four of five, **"Women's Drug Issues,"** Denise Rush, R.Ph., B. Pharm, presenter, 6-9 p.m., \$25 per person includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7581 or

[benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

### May 12

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

**"A Thomas Merton Seminar—Bridges to Contemplative Living: Writing Yourself into the Book of Life,"** session three of four, Benedictine Sister Julie Sewell, presenter, Mass, 5:15 p.m., supper, 6 p.m., session, 6:30-9 p.m., \$65.95 per person includes book and supper. Information: 317-788-7581 or [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

## 'Bring the Gospels to Life' is May 21-22 in Columbus

"Bring the Gospels to Life," an interactive, regional social ministry training, will be presented on May 21-22 at St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., in Columbus.

The program is sponsored by the archdiocesan Catholic Charities SHINE program, which stands for Spreading Hope in Neighborhoods Everywhere.

It is intended for Catholics who are interested in leading their parish community in service to the needy through organized social ministry activities.

Participants will gain leadership skills to inspire people to help the poor, educate parishioners on this sacred work,

and manage a team to integrate social ministry into the life of the parish.

The Friday night session will feature a presentation by Jack Jezreel, the organizer of the national JustFaith ministry.

The training program begins at 5 p.m. on May 21, and continues on May 22 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The registration fee is \$70 per person for the two-day program or \$10 per person for the Friday night session. Scholarships are available.

For more information or to register for the social ministry training, contact Stefanie Anderson at 317-236-1536 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1536, or by e-mail at [sanderson@archindy.org](mailto:sanderson@archindy.org).

## Archabbot Lambert Reilly to discuss praying with St. Teresa of Avila

"Dare We Pray with Teresa of Avila—Contradict Me with the Truth" and "Where Will This Prayer Lead Us?" are the topics for a morning of recollection presented by retired Benedictine Archabbot Lambert Reilly of Saint Meinrad Archabbey on May 15 at St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., in Indianapolis.

Archabbot Lambert presented retreats to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and the Missionaries of Charity in India, and has been a retreat presenter in many other countries.

Registration with coffee and donuts begins at 8:30 a.m. The program concludes at 11:30 a.m. The early registration fee is \$5 per person, and the same-day registration fee is \$7 per person.

For more information or to register for the program, call Sharon Spencer at St. Christopher Parish at 317-241-6314, ext. 121, or send an e-mail to her at [sspencer@saintchristopherparish.org](mailto:sspencer@saintchristopherparish.org).

## Tatiana to present concert on May 7 in Richmond

Tatiana, an internationally known Catholic vocalist originally from Croatia, will present "Let It Be—Mary's Story," a Christian music concert at 7 p.m. on May 7 at Holy Family Church, 815 W. Main St., in Richmond.

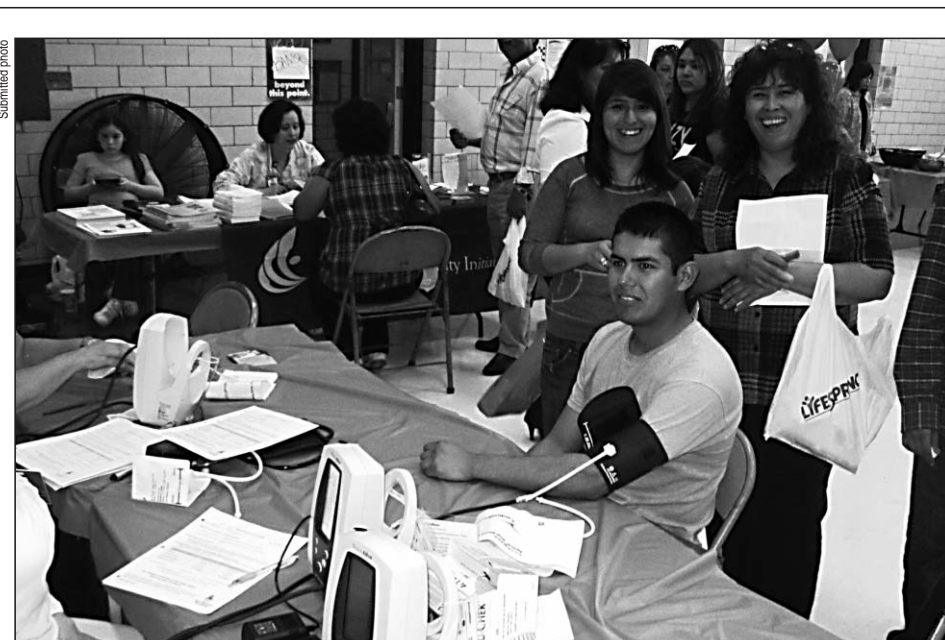
The concert is sponsored by the Richmond Catholic Community. A free-will donation will be collected.

For more information, call Holy Family Parish at 765-962-3902.



## Guérin Woods

Providence Sister Barbara Ann Zeller, center, president and chief executive officer of Providence Self-Sufficiency Ministries, discusses architectural plans for the fourth Villa at Guérin Woods, which is located at 1004 Sister Barbara Way off State Road 64, in Georgetown on March 29 with Don Lenfert, left, of Select Builders L.L.C., and Trunie Nielson, right, director of nursing for Guérin Woods, which provides assisted living and skilled nursing care options for the elderly. In late March, the third villa was occupied and ground was broken for construction of the fourth building. For more information about residency at the Villas or employment opportunities, contact Sister Barbara Ann at 812-951-1878.



## Hispanic Health Fair

José Angel Gonzalez has his blood pressure checked by Floyd Memorial Hospital employees on April 18 as his sister, Juanita, and their mother, Elvia, wait their turns for the free medical test at St. Mary Parish in New Albany. More than 300 Latinos participated in the health fair, which was co-sponsored by the Hispanic Ministry of the New Albany Deanery, the Hispanic Connection of Southern Indiana and St. Mary Parish. In addition to the blood pressure check-up and diabetes screening, participants were able to get educational information about healthy diets and other medical topics. Recent immigrants often do not have a family physician or health insurance so the health fair was a valuable community resource.

# Drug and alcohol awareness is theme of annual hoops fundraiser

By John Shaughnessy

Considering the stakes, the basketball game that was played at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis on April 16 had a significance that extended far beyond most games.

Of course, there was the usual intense competition that marks any athletic contest between two Catholic institutions. But the Docs vs. Jocks vs. Drugs game that pitted doctors from St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers against staff members from Roncalli had a higher purpose than bragging rights.

No one knows that purpose better than Dr. Don Kerner, the retired chief medical officer at St. Francis, who started the annual basketball game 24 years ago to raise money and awareness about the effects that drug and alcohol abuse can have on teenagers and their families.

"It's a problem in every community," Kerner says. "It begins as soon as they become teenagers. It doesn't matter if it's a city school, an urban school or a

suburban school. It crosses all economic layers.

"It's not a question of *if* your child will be approached to use drugs and alcohol. It's a question of *when* because they will be. What matters is, 'How does that teenager respond?' The studies show that the more attention and the more education we give to this issue, the better the results."

So Kerner was on the St. Francis bench again on April 16, serving as the team's manager for the game which raised money that Roncalli plans to use in the next school year for a program to address issues about drug and alcohol abuse among teenagers, and help students make the right choices in life.

Yet while the issue is a serious one, an atmosphere of fun always overflows during the event. The Indiana Pacers mascot, Boomer, entertained the crowd. Roncalli's show choir performed during halftime. And the school's band played throughout the game, with the cymbals and the drums pounded as the doctors shot free throws. In the end, the doctors overcame the home

court antics and advantage, winning 73-62.

"The docs did a great job," glowed Bob Tully, Roncalli's campus minister, who served as the head coach for the school's team. "Our talent was good, just not as good as theirs. It was a good game. Our experience is nothing but positive with St. Francis. They always want to give back to the community. They are a great group of people. And they've been doing this for

24 years."

Besides the win, two notable streaks continued for the St. Francis squad. Five of the doctors on this year's team have played all 24 years—Pat Enright, Bob Robinson, Don Rockey, Phil Snyder and Tom Wisler. The team has also been coached during those 24 years by Dr. Marvin Christie.

"He's the glue that keeps our team together," Kerner says. "It's been very gratifying to see the response of the physician community. We've had well over 100 physicians play in these games over the 24-year span. The docs tell the host high school that we will double the gate [proceeds] up to a total of \$5,000. There is no expense for the school. The more attendance they have, the more money they raise. For the past 10 years, the range that schools have gained from the game has been \$6,000 to \$10,000."

Nearly every high school on the southside of Indianapolis has held one of the Docs vs. Jocks vs. Drugs games, according to Kerner. This year's game marked the third time it has been played at Roncalli during the 24 years.

"All the schools' administrators understand the problem is there with alcohol and drug use," Kerner says. "The schools now, whether they're public or private, don't have the funds to support these programs. They're willing to



Competitors reached for the goal of raising funds for an alcohol and drug awareness program during an April 16 basketball game that matched staff members from Roncalli High School in Indianapolis against doctors from St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers. Brian Lauck, an assistant coach for the Roncalli football team, swoops toward the basket in the Docs vs. Jocks vs. Drugs game.

participate in this program because if the message gets to just a few students who don't go down the road of drugs or alcohol, it's well worth it." †



Dr. Marvin Christie, left, and Dr. Don Kerner pose for a photo before the annual Docs vs. Jocks vs. Drugs basketball game on April 16 at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. Twenty-four years ago, Kerner started the annual game that raises funds for alcohol and drug awareness programs for high schools on the south side of Indianapolis. For all those years, Christie has coached the team of doctors from St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers.

# Townpeople's efforts add another spire to the 'Village of Spires'

By Sean Gallagher

OLDENBURG—Oldenburg is a town nestled among the hills that dot the landscape of southeastern Indiana.

As you drive into town from the south along State Road 229, you first see it as you drive down one of those hills.

What stands out in the view are the four spires that dot its skyline, known by many in the area as the "Village of Spires."

Two spires are on buildings on the campus of the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. The other two are on the current and former church of Holy Family Parish in the center of the town.

One parish spire was installed recently as a way for the villagers to pay tribute to the history of Oldenburg, which was founded by German immigrants in 1837.

The parish's "onion dome" was a spire shaped like an onion, which sat atop a stone church that served as the parish church from its construction in 1846 until the parish's

current brick church was built in 1862 to accommodate the town's growing Catholic population.

The spire on the stone church was modeled after similar architectural features of Baroque churches in central Europe.

It was removed from the stone church in 1949 after it had fallen into disrepair.

A 25-year effort to restore it finally came to fruition on Feb. 3 when a new steeple, modeled after the original, was installed on the stone church that now serves as the offices of Holy Family Parish.

"I'm just thrilled to see it up," said Franciscan Father David Kobak, Holy Family's pastor. "It's a thrill to see that steeple every time that I pull in the driveway or come down [State Road] 229. It rises above the trees, and really is a beautiful addition to the Village of Spires."

The drive to restore the onion dome was the work of the townspeople alone. The nearly \$120,000 project was paid for through donations from Oldenburg residents and others interested in its history.



At left, spires dot Oldenburg's skyline, a historic village nestled in the hills of southeastern Indiana that was founded by German immigrants in 1837. The onion dome spire, second from left, was recently installed. It was modeled after a similar structure that sat atop Holy Family Parish's old stone church from 1846 until 1949.

At right, the new onion dome spire is 46 feet tall. It stands atop Holy Family Parish's old stone church, which currently houses the parish offices. The nearly \$120,000 cost of restoring the dome was collected through donations of Oldenburg residents and others interested in its history.

But more than money was needed to bring back the onion dome. A lot of fortitude and love for Oldenburg was also required.

That was what fueled the efforts of people like Gary Munchel, Jeff Paul, Paul Selkirk and William Selm to add one more spire to the town.

"Those Germans [settlers] had a lot of pride and hard work and dedication," said Paul, a member of Holy Family Parish. "They did all of this locally."

"For us, [restoring the onion dome] was a tribute to them. This was so important to them. It reminded them of their homeland. If it wouldn't have been for the founding fathers here, we wouldn't have what we have here."

Paul, who owns a grocery store in Oldenburg, is from a family that immigrated to the town during the 1850s.

By comparison, Selkirk is a relative newcomer to Oldenburg, having moved there "only" in 1970. Yet over the past 40 years, he has come to love the town greatly.

"It's a small community," said Selkirk, a Holy Family parishioner. "We know everybody. ... We're just blessed with what we've got. It's such a unique place."

Although now living in Indianapolis, Selm was raised in Franklin County. His mother grew up in Oldenburg. And he has lovingly

studied its history for much of his adult life.

He was in the town on Feb. 3 to see the new onion dome installed.

"It was a dream come true," Selm said. "How many times is it that something has been gone that long—61 years—and then comes back?"

Selkirk said the efforts to restore the onion dome and the work done in organizing the town's annual Freudenfest are indicative of the love for Oldenburg seen in a growing number of its young adults.

Selm thinks that the town's future, like the new onion dome, is on good footing.

"It's a solid base," he said. "That's pretty obvious. These things that they're doing are imparting to the children of the [town] that they've got something there. It's different."

Father David agrees.

"I think that onion dome will be up there 300 years from now," he said. "I have all the faith in the world that that will happen."

"It's a beautiful, quaint village. Oldenburg is 110 percent pure Americana."

(The onion dome at Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg will be dedicated following the conclusion of the 10 a.m. Mass on May 23. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, call the parish at 812-934-3013.) †

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# Welcome, new Catholics

We welcome the new Catholics who have become full participants in the Church since last Easter. Most of the people listed here received initiation sacraments during the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 3. The names listed here were provided by religious education leaders in local parishes.

The 433 catechumens listed are people who have never been baptized and—within the past year—were baptized, confirmed and received their

first Eucharist.

The 445 candidates listed were baptized in other Christian traditions, and were received into the full communion of the Catholic Church with a profession of faith, confirmation and first Eucharist during the past year.

Most people are listed in the parishes where they received their religious formation and the sacraments of initiation. †

## Batesville Deanery

**St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora**  
Kaley Barnes, Kelly Barnes, Maggie Granatir, Abigail Wiesen and Coleman Wiesen (catechumens); Allison Janes and Derek Meyer (candidates)

**St. Louis, Batesville**  
Dustin Blanken, Marah Duncan, Amanda Evans, Ryan Kent and May Thomas (catechumens); Kayla Adams, Rita Belter, Brent Imel, Jessica Imel and Greg Wade (candidates)

**St. Mary, Greensburg**  
Derrick Fulton and Matthew Lawrence (catechumens); Allison Berkshire, Robert Best, Judy Brashars, Cody Gault and Michael Lang (candidates)

**St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg**  
Codi Kidd (catechumen); Brian Freking, Jennifer Morton and Stacey Perleberg (candidates)

**Immaculate Conception, Millhouses**  
Carrie Stier and Gregg Matox (candidates)

**St. Maurice, Napoleon**  
Kyle Black (catechumen)

**Holy Family, Oldenburg**  
Natalie Robertson (catechumen); Vicki Blanken, Holly Foley and Robert Wittmer (candidates)

**St. John the Baptist, Osgood**  
Cherokee Mullins, Mikhaela Mullins and Greg Scott (catechumens)

**St. Denis, Jennings County**  
Ryan Walsman (candidate)

**St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County**  
Brian DeWitt (catechumen)

**St. Joseph, Shelbyville**  
Lana Freeman and Michel Freeman (catechumens); Dustin Smith and Leann Smith (candidates)

**St. Martin, Yorkville**  
Brandon Lang (candidate)

**St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright**  
Scott Daniels, Skip Hobbe, Brian Thomas and Chantz Zell (candidates)

## Bloomington Deanery

**St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford**  
Sandra Thorp (catechumen); Timothy Childers, Connie Crowe, Sandra Luman and Steven Thorp (candidates)

**St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington**  
Craig Hickman, Ted Hickman, Lauren Kelly, Jim Parham, Marion Titus, Matt Todd and Kristin Willard (catechumens); John Craft, Sally Crouch, Colin Howell, James Rae Jr., Jonathan Rae, Robert Switzer and Lori Till (candidates)

**St. John the Apostle, Bloomington**  
Allen Horton (catechumen)

**St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington**  
Brandon Coldiron, Rebecca Legge, Emily Weisbard and Jiaan Zeng (catechumens); Jonetta Fogerty, Amy Gill-Horton, Joseph Horton, Michael Minnick, Judy Summersville, Holly Wonder and Jeffery Yoder (candidates)

**St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville**  
Brian Collier, Daniel Lawson and Donald Grubbs (catechumens); Joshua Brosmer, Kodie Egenolf and Jathan Rose (candidates)

**St. Agnes, Nashville**  
Lauren Brumett and Andrea Swift (candidates)

**Our Lord Jesus Christ the King, Paoli**  
Victoria Tuell (catechumen)

**St. Jude the Apostle, Spencer**  
Jean Michalow and Art Sims (candidates)

## Connersville Deanery

**St. Michael, Brookville**  
Gary Crain and Jodie Short (catechumens); Zoie Pflum, Courtney Seals, Justin Seals and Marcus Whalbring (candidates)

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Cambridge City**  
Brice Craig (catechumen); Kristina Derrickson (candidate)

**St. Gabriel, Connersville**  
Tina King (catechumen); Al Meyer, Erika Moffett and Karl Moffett (candidates)

**St. Anne, New Castle**  
April Barricks, Christina Gwinn and Michael Jones



Catechumen Eugene Earls of Indianapolis cries tears of joy after being baptized during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3 at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. Earls also was confirmed and received first Communion during the Holy Saturday liturgy. Father John McCaslin, the pastor of St. Anthony Parish and administrator of Holy Trinity Parish, both in Indianapolis, celebrated the Easter Vigil Mass with members of the Indianapolis West Deanery faith communities. St. Anthony parishioner Debbie Miller of Indianapolis stands beside Earls.

(catechumens); Dawn Barker, Lisa Eversole and Jack Rusch (candidates)

**St. Mary, Rushville**  
Tonya Todd (catechumen); Tony Fudge and Caitlyn Hasche (candidates)

**Richmond Catholic Community, Richmond**  
Joshua Bergfield, Sharon Crowder, Benjamin Hobbs, Karen Lykins, Chad Nolte, Cindy Potter, Henry Potter, Jenna Potter, Sarah Potter, Betty Shearer, Esther Williams and Amy Jo Witte (catechumens); Craig Barth, Melissa Bryant, Mary Butler, Tabitha Dale, Paula Gottochalk, Toby Harvey, Randy Hollingsworth, Jeffrey Martin, Melissa Martin, Pat Masters, Kasey Nolte and Brent Swinney (candidates)

## Indianapolis East Deanery

**SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral**  
Priscilla Crawford, William Hill, Jill Murillo, Jodi Newell and Christopher Price (catechumens)

### Holy Cross

Samuel Black, Zachary Bratcher, Noah Dillehay, Kyven Doss and Linda Rigdon (catechumens); Thelma Grant, Randall Green and Reginald Stewart (candidates)

### Holy Spirit

Denis Acosta, Aimee Bixler, Charles Broyles, Ashley Cooper, Christine Edwards, Robbie Kelly, Tina Jo Mattingly, Kristan Mills, Cheryl Papalia, Shawn Parks and Natalie Rollman (catechumens); Angela Frazer, Daniel Gilbert, Melodie Gilbert, Cary Gillihan, Barbara Hines, Pauline Jones, Julie Kopermak, Julie Lyons, Donald McClary and Natalie Shelton (candidates)

**Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette**  
Peggy Dean, Curtis Eaton, Christian Navarra, Bailey Sims and William West (catechumens); Dean Black, Candy Marshall and Wendy Rowe (candidates)

**St. Mary**  
Aaron Ermel and Toni Scott (catechumens); Jessica Arnett, Michael Bilderback, Luis Estuardo Aparicio Chacon, Joshua Dixon and Catherine Jones (candidates)

**St. Michael, Greenfield**  
Jacquelyn Farmer, Michaela Hamilton, Jill Keyes, Adrienne LaFollette, Christina Rowland, Evaline Soltes, Lillian Sturm, Katrina Trattner and Caden Wildey (catechumens); Brian Burkhardt, Dean Felker, Joann Felker, Douglas Meier, Amy Sturm, Isaiah Sturm, Jonathan Sturm and Jennifer Zink (candidates)

## St. Philip Neri

Ninfa Cayetano, Leonardo Cruz and Josue Salvador (catechumens); Andrés Martinez, Jose Ponce, Antonia Ramirez and Kathryn Remington (candidates)

### St. Rita

Tarique Harden, Paul Howard, Marcus Parks, Michael Parks Jr. and Tyara Parks (catechumens)

### St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)

Steven Brown, Shonda Glawatz, Shelby Hughes, Lisa Luttrell, Colin McNabb, Candace Miller, David Miller, Stephanie Whitlow and Jeff Wellner (catechumens); Michelle Gross, Joseph Jacobs, Thomas Jacobs, John Steadham and Julie Steadham (candidates)

## Indianapolis North Deanery

### St. Andrew the Apostle

Denisha Jackson, Donté Jackson, Miesha Jackson, Dashaun Sparkman and Sierra White (catechumens)

### Christ the King

Kortney Wenclewicz and Brant Yeskie (catechumens); Elaine Branson, Courtney Leamon, Rob Quinn, Pete Vandervart and Mark Wenclewicz (candidates)

### Immaculate Heart of Mary

Jack Elkins, Kim Elkins and Laura Guntz (catechumens); Juanita Albin, Melissa Carlock, Kara Clinton, Darcy Field, Roys Laux, Christine Malasto, Chad Mills, Emily No wlin, Lauri Page, Tim Perl and Laney Scheetz (candidates)

### St. Joan of Arc

Jeremy Chandler, Ross Eggers, Jennifer James, Maggie Kelly, Adele Kirk, Joe Vallone and Garret Walton (catechumens); Travis Chapman, Matt Chenoweth, Victoria Connors, Jamie Griffith, Bethany Kolp, Amy Mehall, Staci Mock, Jacqueline Pinaire, Emily Shelman, Charles Smith, Amy Stovall, Kathryn Wertz, Abby Williams, Kyle Williams and Jon Zeh (candidates)

### St. Luke the Evangelist

Joshua Horlander, Ryan McCreery, Brett Pheffer and Shulyer Williams (catechumens); David Gilley, Stacey McCreery, Genevieve Miller, Christopher Murray, Carolyn Scott, Mallory Scott and Richard Young (candidates)

### St. Matthew

Angela Garner, Elena Garner, Finley Garner, Luke Garner, Zachary Garner and Amy Inskeep (catechumens); Jacob Garner, Martha McCurdy, Ken Rogers, Julianne Schau, Ashley Scott and Kris Teter (candidates)

### St. Pius X

Daniel Bedwell, Camden Douglas, Christi Franklin, Dillon Glass, Grace Glass, Celine Nguyen, Thiery Nguyen, Ethan Pratt, Harrison Pratt, Julie Pratt, Tiffany Seal, Zoë Seal, Jason Smith, Parker Smith and Nicole Stearns (catechumens); Sybil Edwards, Elizabeth Rowe and Rodney Stearns Jr. (candidates)

### St. Simon the Apostle

Candice Dreves (catechumen); Alicia Bacci, Holly Brown, Jeffrey Brown, Bradley Combs, Rebecca DeFeo, Jeffrey Hite, Nicole Lazo, Eric Sortore and Megan Zimmer (candidates)

### St. Thomas Aquinas

Jenny Forsee and Ashley Rister (catechumens); Kather Gaskin and Dorie Hertzell (candidates)

## Indianapolis South Deanery

### Good Shepherd

David Brinkley, Ciera Hughes, Martina Mays, Oli via Mays, Savannah Mays, Shay Mays, Amanda Pero, Vincent Pero, Dezi Ramos and Tiq Ramos (catechumens); Melinda Hart, Ashley Mays and Jennifer Moore (candidates)

### Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Maura Bryant, Lou Everett, Jeremy Thomas and Shannon Tichenor (catechumens); Dawn Burkhardt, Zandra Deardorff, Lydia Glass and Amanda Rail (candidates)

### Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary

Jessica Begines, Katherine Jordon, Jamie Jorczak, Marla Richards, Rick Peercy and Connie Shonk (candidates)

### Sacred Heart of Jesus

Jessica Bau, Casey Cox, Callidora Heginbothan, Camille Khelseau, Janet Moreno, Aiden Rich, Christopher Rich, David Rich, Haylee Rich, Kelley Rich, Kenedei Rich, Sydni Rich and Brittanie Warren (catechumens); Michael Allen, Chad Daniels, Gayle Lang,

Anna Sewell and Jack Sewell (candidates)

### St. Barnabas

Alison Haynes and John Hughes (catechumens); Thomas Blair IV, Jennifer Richardson and Sherry Sessler (candidates)

### St. Patrick

Geramel Cedano, Yesenia Chavarria, Veronica Chavez, Teresa Concha, Cristian Gonzalez, Claudia Martinez and Beatriz Venegas (catechumens); Socorro Arellano, Esther Cedano, Diego Cortez, Diego Diaz, Alfredo Garcia, Graciela Martinez, Jose Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez and Diana Sanchez (candidates)

### Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove

Trenton Helton and Dwight Smith (catechumens); Dennis Buckley, Patty Buckley, Ron Miller, Dave Sims and Brian Tomamichel (candidates)

### Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Joanna Bratager, Adrianna Harritt, Jeremiah Harritt, Loan Hoang Cam Nguyen, Jerry Ottinger, Richard Potts, Andrea Smith, Al Stong, Ali Stong, Breyanna Urquhart, Charlene Walker, Jason Wienhorst and Holly Winckelbach (catechumens); Caroline Acevedo, Erma Allison, Glenn Beasley, J.R. Carter, Thomas Cashion, George Dodd, Thomas Halla, Shannon Kinney-Carter, Craig Koch, Sreedhar Lakamsani, Lindsey Lux, Maggie Mohr, David Renick, Tammy Schroeder, Edward Stephenson, Barry Ulerick, Stephanie Whitney and Michael Wiesemann (candidates)

### SS. Francis and Clare, Greenwood

Nathan Schipp, Aaron Schrader, Christopher Starnes, Krista Watt and Anna Winkler (catechumens); Marc Chance, Robert Conlon, Jeremy Kilgus, Ryan Lopez, Michael Putzek, John Winters and Carrie Zapfe (candidates)

### St. John the Evangelist

Aaronette Brinkmoeller, Austin Howard and Christina Sharpe (catechumens); Erin Archer, Thomas Breedlove, Russell Hansen, Douglas Hass, Robert Jaeger, Richard Kaufman, Brooke Kolczak, Michael Morin and Romeo Nunziello (candidates)

### St. Jude

Courtney Brown, Joni Brown, Richard Brown, Joanne Clark, Chase Harker, Aubree Loyal, Kenneth Loyal, Cheryl Robb, Christopher Robb, Tracie Smith, Cortney Tyler and Lori Tyler (catechumens); Brooks Elliott, Emily Elliott, Evan Elliott, Sheila Elliott, Lynne Gorski, Deborah Harker, Nancy Murphy and Justin Storm (candidates)

### St. Mark the Evangelist

Stephanie Davis, Michael Harris, Melissa Molinda, Jared Neutzman, William Shepherd and Richard Wallace (catechumens); Randy Cochran, Erin Kissinger, Angela Magno, Cyndi McQueary and Angela Walker (candidates)

### St. Roch

Kristy Hargrove, Danielle Hatcher, Timothy Hommel, Craig Longstreth, Linh Mai, Stacie Martinez, Jack McDonald, Morris Palmer, Kevin Stafford and Melissa Taylor (catechumens); Clifford Brooks, David Carson, Tricia Crain, James Farrell III, Larry Harvey, Brandy Jennings, Bob May, Christopher McDonald, Shian Mize, Jennifer Moyer, Daniel Steiner, Gwen Taulman, Debra Walton, Andrew Witjen and Elaine Wyss (candidates)

## Indianapolis West Deanery

### St. Anthony

Albert Almonte-Miranda, Betty Almonte-Miranda, Carlos Caballero, Jennifer Caballero, Julio Caballero, Albert Diaz, Wallace Miller, Eugene Earls and Katherine Steenbergen (catechumens); Francisco Amezcua, Joshua Bohlen, Kelly Brummett, Asuncion Caballero, Beatriz Caballero, Saray Flores, Carlos Jimenez, Jose Julian, Linda Luevano, Jorge Magallanes, Rigoberto Magallanes, Samuel Monterroso, Amanda Neal, Christopher Rodriguez, Carlos Ronquillo and Yadira Villatoro (candidates)

### St. Christopher

Cade Gibbs, Daryl Gibbs, Daryl Gibbs II, Jak ob Gibbs, Laurny Harcus, Nicole Harcus, Brandy Jugg, Richard Kappel, Anthony Moran, Mollie Moran and Jeffrey Williams (catechumens); Cory Lettelleir, Stephanie Moran, Jennifer Segur, Blair Westerman and

Larry Zore (candidates)

### St. Gabriel the Archangel

Iris Aldana, Casey DeGroot, Diana Esqueda, Estrella Esqueda, Jessina Esqueda, Brian Garcia, Bradley DiRuzza, Michael DiRuzza, Phyllis DiRuzza, Isabelle Harmeling, Matthew Sturgis and Kevin Vinson (catechumens); April Baston, Julieta Cervantes, Linda DeWalt, Abigail Esqueda, Juana Esqueda, Eddie Jones, Elizabeth Martinez, Patricia Martinez, Teresa Munoz, Perla Perez and Gerardo Rodriguez (candidates)

### St. Michael the Archangel

Dana Nehring-Terrell (catechumen); France Agnew, Jim Agnew and Thomas Jeschke (candidates)

### St. Malachy, Brownsburg

Ezekiel Bewley, Kathy Bewley, Megan Hendrickson, Emma Griffith, Isaiah Griffith, Joy Hafner, Dana Lashley, Richard Mace, Megan Marks, Jaret Moody, Matthew Perronie, Chris Roberts, Andrew Wakefield, Kennedy Winkler and Sierra Winkler (catechumens); Jason Borem, Angela Carr, David Deer, Matthew Marks, Rowena Miller, William Murray, Thomas Wakefield, Gerald Willis and Philip Wilson (candidates)

### St. Monica

Flor Angel, Yarelit Angel, Gregory Begley, Bryan Estrada, Kelly Estrada, Edgardo Flores, Patrick Lomeli, Eric Muel, Lissethe Medina, Brenda Moreno, Jeanne Rodriguez, Abril Silvestre, Damian Silvestre, Ana Sotelo, Kelli Totleben, Francisco Valdez, Bella Wells, Erick Zelaya and Maria Zelaya (catechumens); Juan Arroyo Toral, Don Bisesi, Leonel Catalan, Liliana Ceron, Soledad Ceron, Aaron Coffel, Rachael Coffel, Emeteria Cortez Jimenez, Maureen Fischer, Ana Flores, Roberto Galvez, Antonio Jimenez, Alfredo Lomeli, Kimberly Lyles, Jack Mansfield, Esmeralda Martinez, Efigenia Ruano Esteban, Christopher Silvestre, Victor Valdez and Steven Weiger (candidates)

### Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville

Clare Leatherman, Grant Leatherman, Stephanie Meunier, MaarKana Schmitt and Heather Vargas (catechumens); Shannon Beaman, Ron Beaman, Dewayne DesJarlais, Harrison Fletcher, Mary Garland, Robert Garland, Shannon Larsen, Reed Leatherman, Thomas McEvilly and Tara Sheringer (candidates)

### St. Thomas More, Mooresville

Donnie Bentley, Henry Gregory Jr. and Jody Veraldi (catechumens)

### St. Susanna, Plainfield

Amanda Collyer, Dakota Collyer, Andy Natalie and Aaron Stephens (catechumens); Josie Bergin, Pat Buker, Tim Conner, Stephanie Gessner, David Hodson, Ida Hodson, Bridget Margiotti and Tom Truesdale (candidates)

## New Albany Deanery

### St. Michael, Bradford

Dakota Mullis, Danielle Mullis and Presley Posante (catechumens); Brian Tinch (candidate)

### St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

Mary Benford, Trinity Cardwell, Haley Feree, Jennifer Flissart, Gavin Love, Kimberly Pierce and Christie Stiles (catechumens); Tiffany Daugherty and Benjamin Hughes (candidates)

### St. Mary, Navilleton

Jerry Baylor, James Sturgeon and Harry Wood (catechumens)

### St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs

Nettie Farris and Alan Kerr (catechumens)

### Sacred Heart and St. Augustine, Jeffersonville

Jewell Cook, Morgan Faulkenburg and Wayne Tomlin (catechumens); Megan Darby, Shawn Gray and Nancy Villier (candidates)

### Holy Family, New Albany

Amber Hunter and Amanda Vest (catechumens); Nancy Anderson and Lori Druen (candidates)

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany

Donna Burden and Cheric McIntosh (catechumens); Scott Brewer, Brad Burden, Scott Embry, Beverly Heeke, Kristi Klimesh, Elnola Gay Miller and Kathryn Van Slyke (candidates)

### St. Mary, New Albany

William Board, Billie Faith, Amanda Fischbach and Aimee Holtgreffe (catechumens); Alicia-Gabrielle Barry,



# CATHOLICS

continued from page 9

James Barry, Ronald Kerr, Elizabeth Ott, Heather Stocksdale and Jennifer Viznav (candidates)

## St. Joseph, Sellersburg

Donald Osterhoudt Sr. and Cassie Jo Zehnder (catechumens); George Bowles Jr., Michael Coburn, Matthew Cooper, Raymond Helms, Ashley McKnight, Rosanne Recupero and David Reynolds (candidates)

## St. Paul, Sellersburg

Michael Absher, Dale Gerard, Terra Gerard, Angela Hazen, David Palazzo, Danielle Reynolds and Nicholas Ritchie (catechumens); Amanda Schindler (candidate)

## St. Joseph, Corydon; St. Peter, Harrison County; and Most Precious Blood, New Middletown

Thomas Bennett, Travis Bennett, Natisha Smith and Toshina Smith (catechumens); Allen Gardner (candidate)

## Seymour Deanery

### St. Ambrose, Seymour

Dana Dieckmann, Brian Goble, Suzanne Helt, Terry Miller and Autumn Weber (catechumens); Jay Dieckmann and Chris Hine (candidates)

### St. Bartholomew, Columbus

Brandy Boaz, Leroy Brown, Sarah Ferguson, Victoria Fields, Lizbeth Gonzalez Perez, Patricia Hartman, Lisa Hill, Jane Kennedy, Aaron Sadtler, Ryan Sadtler, Frances Sparks, Richard Sparks, Kyla Stamper and Jared West (catechumens); Joseph Anderson, Rachel Anderson, Bente Bouthier, Kirsten Bouthier, Nina Bouthier, Roberto Bustamante Gonzalez, Thomas Conway, Kathleen Darnell, Melina DeWeese, Irydian Gutierrez, Alison Likens, Nicholas McGuire, Lauren Megel, Jeanine Polk, Katina Sadtler, Priscilla Scaff, Kevin Shoun, Anthony Smith, Michael Underwood, Nestor Valenzuela and Jeremy West (candidates)

### Holy Trinity, Edinburgh

Todd Tatlock and Trent Tatlock (catechumens); Miguel Hernandez, Austin Slattery, Cosmo Slattery, Samantha Slattery and Julie Tatlock (candidates)

### St. Rose of Lima, Franklin

Rodney Frith and Scott Deering

(catechumens)

### Prince of Peace, Madison

Kendra Cole-Bear, Kenneth Cole, Daphne Lare, Dianna South and Carrie Welsh (catechumens)

### St. Mary, North Vernon; St. Ann, Jennings County; and St. Joseph, Jennings County

Christina Brown, Ashley Clark, Reily Clark, Donald Egan, Mark Ferguson, Justin Hall, Brad Morris, Lynda Pettigrew, Rebecca Ray, Andrew Richmond, Christopher Swygart and Jay Williams (catechumens); Kristina Clark, Bryce Downs, Kimberly Harsh, Stella Herr, Courtney Kreutzjans, Lindsey Millsbaugh, Tamicka Schroeder, Kim Smith, Evan Sporleder, Chad Stone, Brian Taylor and Jerry Troupe (candidates)

## Tell City Deanery

### St. Paul, Tell City

Anna Carpenter, Sarah Cartwright, Randolph Davis, Lori Hammond and Kacie Salmon (catechumens); Isiah Glenn, Tyla Hoch, Bobby O'Dell, Jennifer Reed and Adam Salmon (candidates)

## Terre Haute Deanery

### Annunciation, Brazil

Fritz Modisett (candidate)

### Sacred Heart, Clinton

Dave Chavis, Marsha Ciolli, Vickie Fenoglio, Lynn Harden, Missy Kanizer, Denyelle Osborne and Dana Swinford (catechumens); Bryan Holland, Judith Rankins, Marcia Stengel, Donald Stevenson, Vanessa Williams and Cindy Wilson (candidates)

### St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle

Betty Bruner, Carey Stapert, Rinze Stapert, Jon Wilson, Michael Wilson and Rebecca Wilson (catechumens); Kris Long and Sharlene Wilson (candidates)

### St. Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods

Charlie Cummins and Paul Lewis (catechumens)

### Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute

T.O. Miller and Jeanette Yatsko (catechumens)

### St. Benedict, Terre Haute

Evin Crane, Dale Hendricks, Mason Holt, Audrey Smiddy, Angela Snow and Bradley Snow (catechumens); Andrea Stevens (candidate)

### St. Joseph University, Terre Haute

Maggie Lelak (catechumen); Carol Atkinson, Jennifer Atkinson, Jodi Johnson and Tracy Thomas (candidates)

### St. Patrick, Terre Haute

James Perry and Jodi Sexton (catechumens); Kristin Arikian, Melissa Brumbaugh and Shane Hemrich (candidates) †

# Parish center dedication



Retired Benedictine Archabbot Bonaventure Knaebel, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, prays a prayer of blessing for a new parish center at St. Michael Parish in Bradford on April 18. He is assisted, from left, by altar servers Derrick Roll, Nicholas Murner and Collin Book. Father John Fink, the current pastor of St. Michael Parish, stands at right. Standing in front of the sign is Larry Timperman, one of the architects for the parish center.



On April 18, retired Benedictine Archabbot Bonaventure Knaebel blesses a new \$2.5 million parish center at St. Michael Parish in Bradford. Archabbot Bonaventure was a previous pastor of St. Michael Parish. The blessing and dedication ceremony was part of an ongoing series of events to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the New Albany Deanery parish. Assisting Archabbot Bonaventure are, center, altar server Hayley Renneker and Benedictine Father Julian Peters, the master of ceremonies.

## Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

**"Our Lady of Fatima: Our Special Patron in Many Ways!"**  
A Day of Reflection

with  
**Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel**  
Vicar General, Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
May 13, 2010 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Sixty years ago Archbishop Paul C. Schulte established a retreat ministry in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He chose as patron for this ministry, Our Lady of Fatima. This day of recollection will reflect on who Our Lady of Fatima is, her message, and why Mary is the model disciple and model for us today.

We look forward to celebrating our feast day with you!

The day will include silent reflection time, Mass, the rosary, and a brief period of Eucharistic Adoration.

**\$35 per person**

**Registration, check-in and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m.**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

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## Bishops and priests are called to spiritual fatherhood

By Archbishop Robert J. Carlson

In his apostolic exhortation “*Pastores Dabo Vobis*” (“I Will Give You Shepherds”), the late Pope John Paul II reminds us that “priests by means of the sacrament of orders are tied with a personal and indissoluble bond to Christ. ... The sacrament of holy orders is conferred upon each one of them as individuals, but they are inserted into the communion of the presbyterate united with the bishop.”

A priest’s primary bond, the fundamental and indispensable relationship that creates and sustains his ministry, is with Christ. Nothing can replace this intimate, indissoluble connection between Christ and his priests.

At the same time, as the Holy Father reminds us, this bond of love between Christ and his priests has a communal dimension. When a priest receives the sacrament of holy orders, he is joined with his brother priests and his bishop in a presbyterate.

The bishop shares his ministry with his priests. Together, they carry out the Lord’s work—by their proclamation of the word of God, by their celebration of the sacraments and by their pastoral leadership.

In John 21:15-17, Jesus questions St. Peter’s love for him three times before putting St. Peter at the head of his flock, the Church, and then invites him to tend and feed his sheep. The spirituality of the bishop and the priest is the same as that of the Galilean fisherman who became the first pope and the head of the Church.

We are called to love the Lord with our whole heart and soul.

Bishops and priests are called to share the love they have received in the depth of their hearts from the Father as they take up their role as spiritual fathers.

I find this sense of spiritual fatherhood, love for others in Christ, in St. Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thes 2:1-12). Here the disciple, or spiritual father, is called to be a positive influence, to lead a transparent life, base his ministry only on spiritual authority, show affection toward those he is called to serve, and be known for unselfish living.

The spiritual father gives himself completely in proclaiming the Gospel.

Therefore, we understand that preaching the Gospel is not merely pronouncing words, but the giving of oneself in love. It is the role of the spiritual father expressed through attentive listening, and anchored in one’s prayer and discernment.

St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars and



Then-Deacon Rick Nagel ritually places his hands in the hands of Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein as he promises obedience to him and his successors during the June 2, 2007, ordination of Deacon Nagel to the priesthood at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Bishops are spiritual fathers to their priests, and both are called to be spiritual fathers to all the faithful under their pastoral care.

patron saint of parish priests, expressed this love when he prayed for the conversion of his parish, and said he would undergo any suffering that God would send to him.

On another occasion, when asked about the great sinners that came to him, he said that he would only give them a small penance and then make up the difference in his own life through prayer and mortification.

In Philippians 2:1-3, St. Paul describes this behavior as selfless friendship: “If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.”

Spiritual fatherhood is rooted in a

theology that is Trinitarian and Incarnational. The late Cardinal Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan suggests four characteristics found in a spiritual father:

- Intimacy—A relationship of love and tenderness with others. Just as the Good Shepherd knows his sheep, so the

bishop and priest are called to listen attentively to those entrusted to their care, and always be welcoming and forgiving, bringing the healing hands of Christ.

- Dedication—A decision to give his life for his sheep, giving of himself generously without reserve. And it does not matter whether or not others respond.

What counts is the total gift of the spiritual father.

- Evangelization—Reaching out to every person and every aspect of human life. We are never stopped by rejection or indifference. Rather, we are always trying to build relationships on love.

- Unity—“That they may be one” (Jn 17:11). Zacchaeus changed, Matthew changed, Mary Magdalene changed and the boy possessed changed. Everyone who finds Jesus changes!

Recently, I led a pilgrimage retreat with 22 priests from the Archdiocese of St. Louis to Ars, France, to the church where St. John Vianney ministered to his people and to the thousands who came to him for spiritual guidance.

I believe it is important for me as a bishop to pray for and with my priests. It is also important for priests to gather with each other and with their bishop as a presbyterate.

When a bishop and his priests are growing in holiness together, they are in the best possible position to effectively preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, and serve the pastoral needs of the people entrusted to their care as spiritual guides and fathers.

(Archbishop Robert J. Carlson leads the Archdiocese of St. Louis and is chairman-elect of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.) †

*Bishops and priests are called to share the love they have received in the depth of their hearts from the Father as they take up their role as spiritual fathers.*

### Discussion Point

#### Priests value a close relationship with their bishop

##### This Week’s Question

As a priest, what is one kind of support that you especially appreciate receiving from your bishop?

“Support in whatever ministry you are assigned and do every day. Our parish has a particular ministry to the poor, and [our bishop] points out the importance of my work, encourages me to continue and supports us in any way he possibly can.” (Father Joseph McNulty, Cleveland, Ohio)

“The bishop of El Paso is about the friendliest bishop I’ve ever met. For example, he recently called to ask about a member of our parish who was sick. He cares about us [priests] and knows us by our first names. ... He has a tremendous warm and personal relationship with the priests in the diocese.” (Jesuit Father Edwin Gros, El Paso, Texas)

“It’s important if there is an understanding that the

bishop/priest relationship is more like father and son than boss and employee. I value receiving the attention, approval and fatherly affection of a bishop who I look to as a spiritual father.” (Father Philip Halfacre, Ottawa, Ill.)

“I think the best support from a bishop is praying for priests of his diocese. It means a lot because he is our leader, our local shepherd.” (Father John J. Mitchell, White Bear Lake, Minn.)

##### Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Have you ever obtained an indulgence? How was it obtained, and what was your intention?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to [cgreene@catholicnews.com](mailto:cgreene@catholicnews.com) or write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †



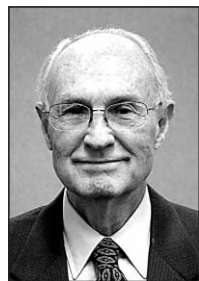
CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Catholic News World

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

## Brief descriptions of 15 favorite psalms

(Twelfth in a series of columns)

Let me briefly describe 15 of my favorite psalms, 10 percent of the total



150, in numerical order. Other people might have different favorites, but these are the ones that seem most meaningful to me.

Psalm 8 celebrates both God's majesty and human dignity. It describes how awesome God is, marveling at his creation and how he has given us mortals rule over all things on Earth.

Psalm 15 asks, "Who may abide in God's tent?" (Ps 15:1). The answer is those who walk without blame, do what is right, speak the truth, and several other things. It's like a checklist.

Psalm 23 is a comforting psalm, assuring me that God is always at my side, no matter what.

Psalm 27 tells me to trust in God because he will never forsake me.

Psalm 42 is a longing, a thirst, for God. This is a sentiment I want to become a part of me. Psalm 63 expresses the same sentiments.

Psalm 51 asks God to have mercy on me and to blot out my offenses. It goes on to pray for a clean heart and a steadfast spirit.

Psalm 84 is similar to Psalm 42 in that both express a longing for God. It says that the one praying is yearning and pining for the court of the Lord.

Psalm 90 reminds me of God's eternity and the shortness of my life. It says that the span of our lives is 70 years or 80 for those who are strong, and that they pass away quickly. It asks God to grant me the wisdom to understand the shortness of my life, and to grant success to the works of my hands.

Psalm 91 is a good night prayer. It assures me that there is security under God's protection.

Psalm 100 is a short hymn of praise and thanksgiving. It was originally an invitation to people to enter the temple to offer thanks to God.

Psalm 103 is a prayer of thanksgiving, but it also praises God's goodness. It reminds me not to forget God's gifts. However, as Psalm 90 does, it says that the days of our lives are like flowers that bloom, but are blown away by the wind.

Psalm 130 is a prayer for pardon and mercy. It begins: "Out of the depths I call to you, Lord; Lord, hear my cry! May your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy" (Ps 130:1-2).

Psalm 139 is, I believe, the most intimate psalm. It acknowledges that God knows all about me because he created me and knows my most intimate thoughts.

Psalm 148 summons all creation to praise God—angels, hosts, sun, moon, shining stars, highest heavens, sea monsters, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds, mountains and hills, trees, animals, and all peoples, young and old alike.

Psalm 150 calls us to praise God for his mighty deeds and his great majesty. It says we should praise him with horns, harp, lyre, tambourines and dance, flutes and strings, and crashing cymbals. †

The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

## A Connecticut mother's friend: Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle is a longtime friend, an author and mother of five. Her latest book, *Mother Teresa and Me: Ten Years of Friendship* (Circle Press),



certainly underscores her belief that "nothing happens by chance. ... In fact, the Lord places us right where we need to be at exactly the right moment."

Because we both live in adjacent towns in Connecticut and are Catholic

writers, I knew about her association with Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, now beatified by the Church, but I didn't really hear her full story until we sat in a quiet corner of a small restaurant and she told me of her long association with the beloved nun who brought Jesus to the slums of Calcutta.

Donna's enthusiasm was catching! She met Mother Teresa by coincidence—unless you believe as many do that God has much to do with these often unexplainable happenings! It was in the late 1980s that Donna, her husband and her young children had gone to Georgetown University in Washington to meet with Jesuit priest Father John A. Hardon, a writer. Unexpectedly, they also met Mother Teresa after attending the same Mass.

Donna felt she had been near "a living

saint," and wanted to correspond with the diminutive woman who was a spiritual giant. To her utmost surprise, in October of 1987, Donna received a response from a letter she wrote to Mother Teresa.

That was the beginning of their friendship that lasted 10 years, cemented by many other letters. Mother Teresa died in 1997 at the age of 87.

Still, for Donna, the amazing Mother Teresa, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, is forever with us in the lessons she has given this world. In her book, Donna cites some of Mother Teresa's lessons.

Donna writes that it was very important to Mother Teresa that people really understand that there is a lack of love and care in this world, and that is perhaps the worst disease of all. Mother Teresa would tell people, "Take time to care."

Donna sometimes asked, "Why should we go out of our way to love the people who are unloving to us?" And when she did, silently she would hear Mother Teresa's answer: "Because Jesus asks us to. Isn't that enough?"

Mother Teresa often said, "Look around carefully ... because the poor come in many

sizes, shapes and colors. ... You don't have to run off to Calcutta to be able to help people."

Mother Teresa's special and lasting gift, Donna points out, is that she forced the world to see the poor and how they were neglected, and she never stopped affirming that it is up to us, each one of us, to do

something about this, to change it for the better.

Donna drew her inspiration from Mother Teresa, and has written seven Catholic books. She is the host of the EWTN television series "Everyday Blessings for Catholic Moms." She is active in her parish and has established a lay missionary group called Friends of Veronica, whose work focuses on

"the lonely, such as people in nursing homes. They're starving for love."

Donna said she takes her faith "out into the streets" where she has "to share all the blessings" she received from Mother Teresa, whose spirituality has a rippling effect that continues to impact her own life and others around the world.

(Antoinette Bosco writes for *Catholic News Service.*) †

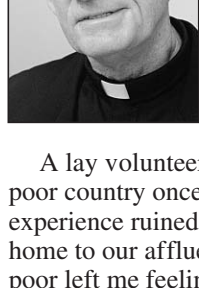
**'Look around carefully ... because the poor come in many sizes, shapes and colors. ... You don't have to run off to Calcutta to be able to help people.'**

—Mother Teresa

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

## Bringing Christ to the 'dump people' of Guatemala

As two students of St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., reported their experience of working with the "dump people" in Guatemala, the idea of being "ruined for life" coursed through my mind.



"Dump people" reside in garbage dump areas where they live on what they can find there.

A lay volunteer who had served in a poor country once told me, "The experience ruined me for life! Returning home to our affluence after living with the poor left me feeling extremely uncomfortable with our way of life."

This same sentiment was echoed by the students of St. Vincent College in recalling their Guatemalan experiences.

The squalid huts that these people live in are constructed of scrap corrugated tin. Sickening odors of garbage permeate the air. Paved streets are nonexistent, and young, innocent children living among the

rubble contract debilitating diseases.

What also appalled the St. Vincent students was a four-story supermarket crammed with food and luxury items within walking distance of these people. The disparity between the poor and the wealthy living side by side was a sad reminder that inequality often exists around the corner for many of us.

Student projects like these, more often than not, are meant to broaden their education primarily. Not so with these students! Their primary mission aimed at bringing Christ to these people. They were there to bring joy, peace and beneficence, three of love's precious qualities. They didn't picture themselves as social workers so much, but rather as living witnesses of Christ's redemption.

Will they return? Yes, they will, but the next time they plan to be more fluent in Spanish. Although they were able to communicate relatively well, fluency is an equalizer that says, "I am one with you and not above you by struggling to master your language rather than

remaining comfortably in my own."

We Americans are extremely blessed in having most of our needs met. However, this has a flip side of becoming absorbed with these needs, self-centered and forgetting how the other half lives.

Today, universities and colleges realize the propensity to be insular and inward looking. To counter this, they are including community service as part of the curriculum.

For these institutions of higher learning, education is not solely about learning to get ahead and serving one's own needs. More important, it is about being altruistic, humane and serving others.

Our young people are the future of America. From what I have experienced around the country, many of today's students are receiving well-rounded educations through service projects like this that are aimed at ensuring a bright and wholesome future.

(Father Eugene Hemrick writes for *Catholic News Service.*) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

## Children can grow close to Christ in Communion

I began writing this column in *The Criterion* almost eight years ago. In



one of my first columns, I reflected on a question put to my wife, Cindy, and me when our oldest son, Michael, was baptized on June 8, 2002:

"You have asked to have your child

baptized. In doing so, you are accepting the responsibility of training him in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

I admitted back in that column that this question was a daunting one. It still is today. I knew then, as prone to sin as I was, that undertaking the spiritual guidance of my newborn son was a duty that I would surely fail at were it not for our heavenly Father's mercy and grace.

The last eight years have confirmed this intuition. I have failed many times to be a good father for Michael. But God, in his great goodness, has helped Cindy and I care for his soul despite our—and especially my—failings.

Over that time, I have been blessed to see him grow in his faith. I have seen him learn many prayers and many time-tested teachings of our faith. And I can see a budding relationship between him and our Lord.

All of this comes to mind because last Sunday Michael took another important step in his life of faith. He received his first Communion, which I believe will greatly deepen his relationship with the Lord in the years to come.

Michael can't be expected at this point to understand how awesome a gift the Eucharist is for us. He can't know yet how close the Lord can draw us to himself in this great sacrament.

Indeed, until the day we die, all of us can grow in our appreciation of the Eucharist and into greater intimacy with Christ through our frequent reception and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

That is my great hope for Michael as he no longer sits in the pew at Communion, but will approach the altar with Cindy and me. I also hope that Michael will also grow in his friendship with Christ as he comes to know his loving mercy through regular celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation.

It is also my hope for the other boys and girls in Michael's first Communion class and for all Catholic children.

For the next decade, Cindy and I will continue to be directly responsible for Michael's spiritual guidance. I am confident that our heavenly Father will continue to support us as we strive to lead him closer to Christ.

Knowing from personal experience how much we need God's help in raising our children in the faith leads me to want to pray more frequently for all Christian parents and to invite all of you to do the same.

In the weeks and months leading up to Michael's first Communion, I prayed for him and his classmates pretty regularly. But we parents need a lot of help, too.

If we storm heaven with prayers, just think of the effect on our families, the Church and the world if more children were trained well "in the practice of the faith," if they learned well how "to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor," if they became close friends of our Lord in the Eucharist. †

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 2, 2010

- Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27
- Revelation 21:1-5a
- John 13:31-33a, 34-35

As throughout this Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for this weekend's liturgy.



This reading tells the story of some of the missionary activities of Paul and Barnabas. Although eventually they parted, Paul and Barnabas, Paul's disciple, visited several places in

Asia Minor that were prominent cities in the Roman Empire of the first century A.D.

Ancient traditions see all the Apostles as missionaries. Most of them indeed went far and wide to proclaim the Gospel, although for most of the Apostles the details have been lost or are kept only in pious traditions.

However, Acts reports many of Paul's efforts in evangelizing. It is more than a travelogue. It reveals the conditions in which these two great figures in early Christianity lived out their mission as Apostles. It is a lesson about the faith of Paul and Barnabas.

Speaking to Christians in the cities that they visited, Paul and Barnabas realistically warned these followers of Christ that hostility and difficulties were ahead.

Their warnings hardly came from paranoia or as a strategy to build regard for themselves by fabrication. The culture of the Roman Empire was absolutely hostile to the values of the Gospel. Moreover, the political order was becoming hostile.

Paul and Barnabas faced hostility and endured difficulties. Nevertheless, they were undaunted. Ignoring risks, rejection or setbacks, they continued to move from city to city, from Christian community to Christian community, proclaiming Christ. Their faith inspired and impelled them.

For the second reading, the Church this weekend offers a passage from the Book of Revelation.

This book, the last book of the New Testament in the translations and versions that have been used for centuries, is highly poetic and symbolic, moving and strikingly beautiful in its imagery. Often, its symbolism is very involved or unique to the first century. As a result, understanding the book is not always easy without reading scholarly commentaries along with the text itself.

However, the meaning of Revelation is not beyond human intelligence. The book

looks to the spiritual life, to life in a world transformed by Christ.

This reading gives a vision of heaven symbolized by the holy city of Jerusalem, but a transformed Jerusalem, and a vision of God. It looks into eternity and to the place there for all who love God.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading.

This is not a Resurrection Narrative, but is strongly reminiscent of the Resurrection and of the Lord's death on Calvary.

Jesus obliquely refers to the Crucifixion and to rising from the dead. Eternal life is open to humans who follow the Lord in obedience to God, in sacrifice and in faith.

## Reflection

Last month, the Church called us, with joy and the deepest faith, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after the terrible event of the Crucifixion.

Gradually, gently but unrelentingly, the Church has called upon us personally to respond to Jesus, to bond ourselves with the salvation that Jesus offers us.

This weekend's readings proclaim the sacrificial death of Jesus as well as the rising of Christ from the dead, and also calls upon us to respond by following the Lord.

As the second reading from Revelation, eternal life with God in heaven will be our reward.

But we still are in this life. We become authentic disciples by loving God, each other and all people as Jesus loved everyone. In this love, Jesus died on Calvary as a sacrifice.

In the Resurrection, Jesus triumphed. We can walk the same path. We must walk the same path.

Empowering us spiritually, guiding us, are the Apostles, still with us in their successors to early bishops, such as Barnabas. Through them and with them, we find strength and access to the Lord. †

## 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](mailto:criterion@archindy.org). †

## Daily Readings

Monday, May 3

Philip and James, Apostles  
1 Corinthians 15:1-8  
Psalm 19:2-5  
John 14:6-14

Tuesday, May 4

Acts 14:19-28  
Psalm 145:10-13b, 21  
John 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 5

Acts 15:1-6  
Psalm 122:1-5  
John 15:1-8

Thursday, May 6

Acts 15:7-21  
Psalm 96:1-3, 10  
John 15:9-11

Friday, May 7

Acts 15:22-31  
Psalm 57:8-10, 12  
John 15:12-17

Saturday, May 8

Acts 16:1-10  
Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5  
John 15:18-21

Sunday, May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29  
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8  
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23  
John 14:23-29

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

## Fasting and abstaining from meat help Catholics share in suffering of Jesus

As our parish Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults group was



wrapping up after Easter, they asked why the Church insists so much on abstaining from meat on days of abstinence. We had no good answer.

We all agreed that eating fish on

Lenten Fridays is no special penance because we like fish, and even cheese dishes, at least as much as meat. (New York)

Considering the importance that occasional abstinence from meat has in the tradition of Christian spirituality, there is precious little information on why this should be so. What we do have, however, is curiously fascinating.

Long before Christianity, as we know, the Hebrew people kept a tradition of occasional abstinence, not only from pork, for example, but even from all meat.

We find evidence of this in several biblical passages, such as the story of Daniel and his friends, who rejected meat offered to them by the king and chose to eat only vegetables (Dn 1:8-16).

Their reasons apparently went beyond devotion to Jewish laws concerning "unclean" food. At least in that Old Testament story from the Book of Daniel, they were determined to avoid all meat and perhaps other foods as well.

From the beginning, it seems, Christians embraced some forms of abstinence by avoiding certain kinds of food along with fasting by limiting the amount of food as ascetical practices.

It was not that meat or any other creature was bad and to be avoided. Rather, the purpose was, among other intentions, to do penance, to share voluntarily in the sufferings of Christ, and to assure control over the use of these good things so they would not begin to control us.

As St. Augustine, a bishop in North Africa from 396 to 430, explained in a homily for the second Sunday of Lent, "We keep from wines and meats, which we have enjoyed the whole year, so that at least for these few days we may live more in the Lord."

I sometimes send the family of a deceased friend a card promising a Mass intention.

Someone I know died recently who

was not Catholic, but a good Christian and friend.

Is it all right to send a Mass card for him? Would it offend the family or be in poor taste? (Louisiana)

It is permitted to offer Mass for Non-Catholic Christians. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith liberalized the law in this matter in 1976 following requests in several countries for priests to celebrate Mass for deceased persons baptized in other Christian traditions.

The Masses may be announced publicly, in the parish bulletin, for example.

This happens especially when the deceased person showed special respect for the Catholic faith or held public office in service to the whole community.

These Masses are not only permitted, said the decree, they are encouraged for reasons of patriotism, friendship or gratitude, and have, in fact, become rather common.

Only two conditions apply in this situation.

The family of the deceased must request it or at least not be opposed to a Mass intention.

And there should be no scandal resulting either for Catholics or those of other faiths because of the announced intention for the Mass.

Your column recently discussed older widows and widowers who were reluctant to marry because they thought they would lose their Social Security benefits.

They should know that the Social Security Act now allows remarriage after age 60 without endangering their benefit checks. (New York)

I'm grateful to the reader for this information about remarriage for senior citizens.

Individual eligibility for continuation of benefits after remarriage may be verified by calling the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.

(A free brochure answering questions that Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail to [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).) †

## My Journey to God

### Easter Sky

When I awoke  
I looked up high  
and saw the bluest and clearest  
and calmest of skies  
I heard birds sing with such merriment  
and delight  
I felt the hope and promise  
of the Risen Christ

Yes, there will be fear and doubt  
in me sometimes  
That is when  
I will look up high  
and remember that forever  
I walk secure and in peace  
beneath an Easter Sky

By Cathy Lamperski Dearing

(Cathy Lamperski Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.)

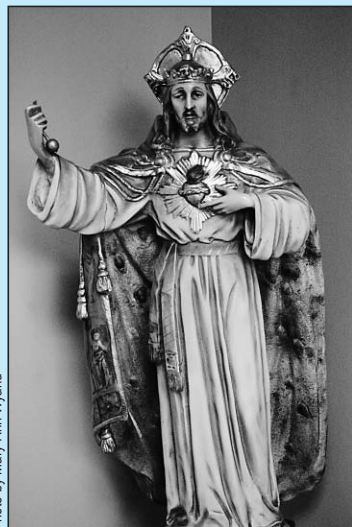


Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

# 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.

**ALERDING, Robert J.**, 89, St. Matthew, Indianapolis, April 1. Father of Ann Fitch, Margaret Horton, Mary Schaffner, Joseph, Michael and R. James Alerding. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of 23. (correction)

**ANTICO, Theodore A., Jr.**, 52, St. Louis, Batesville, April 20. Brother of Mary Emery, Patty Janson and Ralph Antico.

**BOYD, Guy F.**, 89, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indianapolis, April 3. Father of Sandi Scheetz, Gregg, Guy III and Jack Boyd. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of seven.

**BRANAM, Anna M.**, 81, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, April 16. Wife of Charles Branam. Mother of Judy Rawnsley and Charles Branam II. Sister of Charles and Joseph

Clark. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of three.

**BRAUN, Richard**, 80, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, April 20. Husband of Milli (Thomasson) Braun. Father of Tricia Fox, Mary Heller, Kelly Schopmeyer, Nancy, Chris, Drew, Mark, Matt, Nick, Paul, Rick and Thom Braun. Brother of Margaret and Harold Braun. Grandfather of 40. Great-grandfather of 25.

**BURKE, Thomas Patrick**, 64, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, April 4. Husband of Gwendolyn Burke. Father of Carie Reagan, Cindy Gilbreath, Lisa Starnes and Richard Burke. Brother of Joyce Belokopitsky, Maureen McBain, Janise Walsh and Jack Burke. Grandfather of nine.

**CLEVELAND, Rosemary**, 99, St. Augustine Home for the Aged, Indianapolis, Feb. 16. Mother of Providence Sister Jean Marie Cleveland and Charles Cleveland. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of eight.

**DAVIS, Alfred, Jr.**, 80, St. Mary, Richmond, April 16. Husband of Betty Davis. Father of Jamie Smith and Brad Davis. Grandfather of two.

**FERKENHOFF, Mary E.**, 96, St. Louis, Batesville, April 17. Mother of Linda Knapmeyer.

Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of 15. Great-great-grandmother of two.

**GAUSE, Fred J.**, 83, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, April 2. Husband of Patricia Gause. Father of Joani Fletcher, Mary Beth Ginther, Jean Rawlinson, Kathy Thoman, John, Michael, Steve and Thomas Gause. Grandfather of 22. (correction)

**GUTZWILLER, Ralph H.**, 95, St. Peter, Franklin County, March 7. Husband of Eleanor Gutzwiller. Father of Diane Gramman, Sharon Simmermeyer, Nita and Edward Gutzwiller. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of 14.

**HALL, Delilah Maria**, 69, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 25. Wife of Lewis Hall Jr. Mother of Anita Hall. Sister of Barbara Gray. Grandmother of two.

**HAZELWOOD, James Daniel**, 61, Holy Family, New Albany, April 15. Husband of Jo Hazelwood. Father of Sheila Kent, Cindi Thompson and Robbie Hazelwood. Son of Mary Hazelwood. Brother of Beverly Neuwirth, Molly Roth, Joyce Thompson, Faye Twyman and Glen Hazelwood. Grandfather of five.

**HUTCHISON, Essie J.**, 75, St. Mary, Indianapolis, Jan. 31. Wife of John Hutchison. Mother of Tracy, Darrell and Keith Hutchison. Sister of Thersia Cade, Claudia Proctor, Arlean Wright and John Harris. Grandmother of four.

**KELLEY, Richard F.**, 67, Holy Cross, Indianapolis, March 28. Husband of Charlene Kelley. Brother of Kathy Dishman.

**KLEESE, Edward C.**, 88, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, March 27. Father of Ed and Mike Kleese. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of six.

**McGUIRE, James Patrick**, 69, St. Joseph, Indianapolis, April 11. Father of Jamie Konidare and Jonathan McGuire. Stepfather of Donald Brenneman. Brother of Maryann, Mark and William McGuire. Grandfather of four.

**MORGAN, Frank T.**, 84, St. Mary, New Albany, April 17.

Father of Michele Engle. Brother of Charles, Robert and Tom Morgan. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of three.

**PETER, Paul Wayne**, 71, St. Mark, Tell City, April 12. Husband of Linda Peter. Father of Debbie Dauby, Sherri Fortwendal, Mindy Lawalin, Paula Patton, Lisa Wardrip, Cindy Young, Randy and Roger Peter. Brother of Margie Bolin, Carol Lautner, Dave, Joe, Pat, Richard and Vince Peter.

**PINEDA, Carmen Amaya**, 55, St. Mary, New Albany, April 12. Mother of Jose Luis, Eloy and Osiris Gandara. Grandmother of five.

**RIGGEN, Kaylee J.**, infant, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, April 11. Daughter of Jason and Stephanie (Stevens) Rigger. Granddaughter of Richard and Kathy Rigger and Joseph and Joyce Stevens.

**RODGERS, Helen L.**, 90, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, April 18. Mother of Judith Chaplin, James, Patrick, Terry and William Rodgers. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 10.

**RYAN, Kerrick Charles Casey**, 56, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, April 13. Son of Dr. John and Dora Ryan. Brother of Kathleen Ryan-Acker and Kevin Ryan.

**SCHMITT, Cornelia Ann**, 80, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, April 10. Sister of Vivian Schmitt.

**SMITH, Marjorie Lee**, 78, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, April 14. Wife of Richard Smith. Mother of Teri Sinise, Julie Underwood and Patrick Smith. Sister of Rita Smith, David, Gene and Leroy Hudson. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of one.

**SUESS, William E.**, 79, St. Matthew, Indianapolis, April 2. Husband of Joan Suess. Father of Rebecca Gress, Barbara Ham, Karen Mitchell, Mary and William Suess. Brother of Laura Rumpf and Edward Suess. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of three.

**SWANZ, Kirsten Collins**, 28, Our Lady of Perpetual Help,



## Mourners

Mourners visit a sculpture outside St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Ill., commemorating the 1940 Katyn massacre. The sculptor, Wojciech Seweryn, was killed in a plane crash on April 10 near Smolensk, Russia, along with Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, Maria, and Catholic clergy, including Archbishop Tadeusz Ploski, Poland's military archbishop. They were on their way to a service commemorating the Katyn massacre where the Soviet secret police murdered about 22,000 Polish nationals.

New Albany, March 30. Daughter of Peter and Peggy Swanz III. Sister of Jonathan and Peter Swanz IV.

**WEBER, Theodore N.**, 96, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, April 10. Husband of Geneva Weber. Father of Barbara Dieruf and Mark Weber.

## Franciscan Sister Loretta Feeney served as a teacher and principal

Franciscan Sister Loretta Feeney died on March 22 at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility for the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 91.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 25 at the motherhouse chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

The former Anna Louise Feeney was born on June 12, 1918, in Indianapolis.

She entered the Oldenburg Franciscan community on Sept. 8, 1935, and professed her final vows on July 2, 1941.

Sister Loretta ministered as a teacher and principal at Catholic grade schools in Indiana and

Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of one.

**ZINKAN, Margaret G.**, 95, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, April 11. Mother of Karen McCrary, Danny, John and Michael Zinkan. Grandmother of one. Great-grandmother of three. †

Ohio for 49 years.

In the archdiocese, she served at St. Mary School in Greensburg, Little Flower School in Indianapolis and Holy Name School in Beech Grove.

Sister Loretta also taught at the Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg.

From 1987 until her retirement in 1997, Sister Loretta served as a clerical assistant at the Deanery Resource Center at the motherhouse.

Surviving are many nieces and nephews.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036. †

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# Tragedy, adventure and faith shape priesthood of Father John Meyer

(Editor's note: In conjunction with the Year for Priests, The Criterion is publishing a monthly feature titled "Faithful Fathers." For previous installments in the series, log on to [www.CriterionOnline.com](http://www.CriterionOnline.com).)

By John Shaughnessy

MADISON—Twenty-five years have passed, but the tragedy still shapes the priesthood of Father John Meyer as he cares for the faithful in many ways in this southern Indiana community.

The tragedy unfolded on Aug. 31, 1985, when an early morning fire spread through the rectory of St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight and killed the beloved pastor, Father Richard Smith, and two friends who were visiting him, Father William Fisher and Father Kenneth Smith.

Just ordained in 1982, Father Meyer was assigned to be the administrator of the parish following the tragic loss—his first assignment in leading a parish. It was a daunting challenge considering the circumstances and the fact that Father Meyer had a fear of speaking in public.

"With the people grieving for their pastor and worrying about their future, I started to worry less about how scared I was as a young priest," he recalls. "I left the podium that day, stood with the people and said, 'My heart is with you. I'll do my best to let go of my own insecurities and be there for you.'"

"That's what I want to be as a pastor. My focus is to love them. While I know that sounds simplistic or a very common Gospel theme, that's pretty much my daily prayer—that I be nourished with God's love, and that I can take that gift of love to whoever I met

that day and whoever I serve that day."

That approach continues to guide the 54-year-old priest today as he serves the archdiocese in multiple roles—the pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison and Most Sorrowful Mother of God Parish in Vevay, chaplain of Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, dean of the Seymour Deanery, and the priest who attends to the spiritual needs of students at Hanover College in Hanover.

A native of southern Indiana who has served most of his priesthood in that part of the archdiocese, Father Meyer recently received an Honored Alumnus Award from the parish and school of his youth—St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora.

**Life in the fast lane**—"I drove a sports car until I was assigned to Starlight. I always felt the need for speed. I'd mention that sometimes in my homilies. The parishioners at Most Sorrowful Mother of God picked up on it and gave me the gift of 30 laps on the Kentucky Speedway in the Richard Petty Driving School. I got up to 150 miles per hour over 30 laps. It was intense, a real thrill. I'd like to do it again."

**Closeness of family**—"I'm lucky to have my mom [Ruth] in the parish and the youngest of my three sisters [Carla] in the parish. And I'm close to her two daughters, Abbey and Audrey. I don't have a lot of time to spend with them, but it's nice to have them close."

**The joy of ministering to young people at Shawe and Hanover**—"Early on in my priesthood, I was worried about how to relate to young people. But I feel very comfortable ministering to them. I'm always thinking back to how I felt in high school and as a young adult in college. I want them to feel they can talk to me about their day-to-day struggles and their lives. I want to make them feel the Church is theirs, and to have a role in it."

**Coming full circle in the faith**—"If I was to pin down a sacramental moment, it

was in my junior year of high school. My uncle, Father Benedict Meyer, was in the missions in Peru and Brazil for most of his priesthood. That summer, he took me and my cousin, Benny, down to Mexico City. We drove down there. We got to serve Mass in the original Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. That was cool.

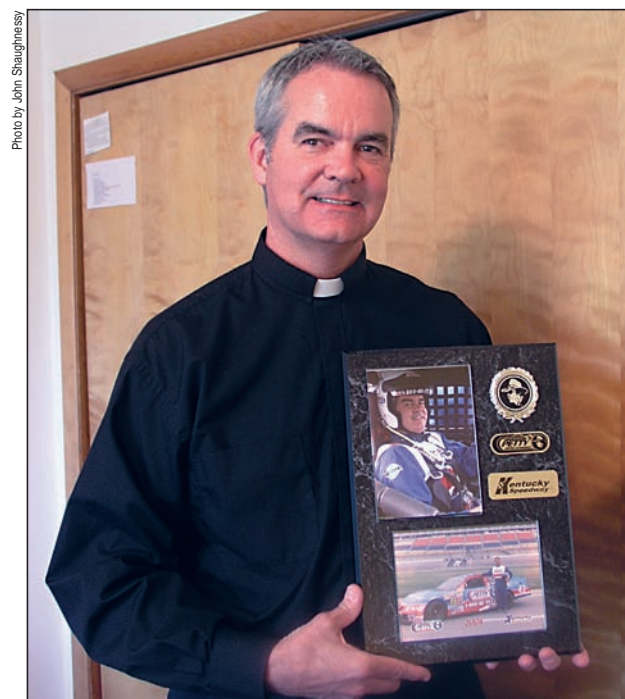
"Over the years, I've been here [and connected to Shawe], we've done lots of mission trips to Mexico with our youths and adults. As a priest, I've been able to go back there and show the kids the new basilica. I celebrate Mass with them in a little chapel."

**His most unusual job**—"After my senior year in high school, things got confusing for me as far as my future. I took a year off and worked most of that time for the Aurora Casket Company. As I say all the time, that job kind of died out."

**Pivotal moment in his vocation**—"I was still kind of lost after that year. I went back to St. Mary's and talked to Father Harold Ripperger about helping out at the parish. I painted and did some janitorial work. It was during that summer that I started thinking about Saint Meinrad and the seminary. A friend was talking about it, and I thought I'd check it out."

"On my birthday—July 21, 1974—my mom and dad and I went to visit Saint Meinrad. Archbishop Daniel [Buechlein]—Father Daniel then—was the only one in the office on that summer day. I asked him what I should do about coming to the seminary. I really fell in love with Saint Meinrad and the atmosphere there."

**Defining qualities of Catholics in the southern part of the archdiocese**—



Standing in his office, Father John Meyer holds a plaque that celebrates one of the most unusual adventures that he's had during his 28 years as a priest in the archdiocese—driving up to 150 mph at the Kentucky Speedway while participating in the Richard Petty Driving School. The experience was a gift from one of the two parishes he leads in southern Indiana.

"They're self-sufficient, they're independent, they're close to one another, and they look out for one another."

**Special interests**—"Due to a recent failed foot surgery, many of the things I like to do, I can't do now. In the summer, I like to jet-ski. In the winter, I like to snow ski. On a regular basis, I like to listen to a variety of music. I've had some fun with scuba diving, too. The priesthood has enabled me to participate in a lot of awesome activities."

**Favorite activity as a priest**—"I love the Sunday Mass, daily Mass, any Mass. Celebrating the Eucharist is just life-giving for all of us. It makes me realize my calling is authentic." †

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# MILLER

continued from page 1

this saint prayed for her son's conversion for many years. St. Monica's son, Augustine, later became a saint and a doctor of the Church.

"When Wally found out in class that he would be baptized and brought into the Church on his birthday, he said, 'Now, I've got to go through with this,'" Debbie recalled. "Before that, he was just inquiring, but then he saw that this was God's plan for him. He realized that God was saying, 'This is your time.' It was very exciting to watch him grow during the RCIA process. ... He was really excited about what he learned."

The second of 10 children, Wally said he "thought about Jesus and always knew there was a God, but just wasn't religious."

Even though he "wasn't raised in a religious home," he said, his mother encouraged him after he asked her about going to church on Easter when he was about 11 years old.

"We lived in a little town called New Augusta," he recalled. "There was a Lutheran church two blocks from our house. I told my mom, 'I want to go to church on Easter Sunday.' She thought that was nice, and even bought me a new shirt.

"I walked to the church by myself and climbed up the steps," Wally said. "At that age and as nervous as I was, it felt like I was climbing a ladder. The doors to the church were closed. I stood there and heard music and people singing, but I was afraid to open the door. I knew if I opened the door everybody would turn around and look at me, so I didn't go in. I turned around and went home and cried to my mom."

As a husband and father, he occasionally went to Mass with his wife and their two children, who joined the Church during their grade school years.

Last August, 46 years after his childhood desire to know Jesus, Wally inquired about the RCIA process then enthusiastically began to learn about God, Scripture, the sacraments and the teachings of the Church.

He started reading the Bible during Lent, and is enjoying the Gospel stories.

"In my entire life, I had never opened a Bible," he said. "It's interesting. I started reading the Gospel of Luke and I'm reading the Gospel of John now. I want to learn. I'm still learning. I'm still growing. I still have many questions that I don't know how to ask so I sit back and listen."

Father John McCaslin, the pastor of St. Anthony Parish and administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in the Indianapolis

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand



Father John McCaslin hugs catechumen Wallace "Wally" Miller of Indianapolis after baptizing him during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3 at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. Watching are, from left, catechumen Eugene Earls of Indianapolis and Miller's wife, Debbie, who was his RCIA sponsor.

West Deanery, said during an April 1 interview that Debbie's faithful witness and years of prayer for her husband are an inspirational example of what can happen when people place their trust in God.

"Debbie lived her faith, ... and prayed for him and loved him, and honored her commitment to God and to their marriage vows," Father McCaslin said. "I think that the best thing we can do to help others who are still in their own search and journey is simply living our lives faithfully. Through our example of living our life of faith, the invitation [to others] is finally heard and received and can be answered. What we can continue to do [as Catholic parishioners] is be a place where they feel welcomed and loved and wanted."

For priests, "it's a wonderful joy for us to know that we're helping to bring people into the fullness of the sacramental life of the Church," Father McCaslin said. "... To be able to celebrate the Easter Vigil [Mass] with the sacramental celebration of initiation is a particularly beautiful aspect of the priesthood and of the life of the [Church] community. ... We're calling people to active participation in the Church and the life of the Body of

Christ, and to know that we're helping people is a wonderful affirmation."

The Church's Holy Week liturgies "call us to a deeper understanding of how generous and loving our God is," he said. "... We experience that great love of God, and our response is, 'I want to be a better person. I want to be all that you made me to be with joy and love.'"

As the clock neared midnight on Holy Saturday at St. Anthony Church, Wally couldn't stop smiling as he talked about his baptism after the Easter Vigil Mass.

"I feel like a new person, a whole new human being," he said. "I'm going to try real hard. I have a new life in Christ. This is a fresh start for me. It was emotional. It was great. ... Father [McCaslin] asked everybody to come back every Sunday and receive the Eucharist. That's what it's all about." †



St. Anthony parishioner Debbie Miller of Indianapolis holds the baptismal candle for her husband, Wally Miller, during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 3 at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis.

## Debbie Miller answers God's call to offer post-abortion reconciliation

By Mary Ann Wyand

Healing Hidden Hurts began as a result of prayer.

Ten years ago, St. Anthony parishioner Debbie Miller of Indianapolis felt called by God to begin this confidential post-abortion reconciliation ministry for women.



Debbie Miller

"I felt the Lord was calling me to this ministry," Miller said, which was inspired by her participation in Elizabeth Vecchio's Victims of Choice reconciliation program in Naperville, Ill., for women suffering from the trauma of abortion.

Symptoms of post-abortion syndrome include feelings of loss, sadness, shame, guilt, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, severe emotional pain, relationship problems, anger, nightmares, drug and alcohol abuse, and other self-destructive behavior that may result in repeat abortions.

"All you know is that something is wrong," Miller said, "that you are not acting or reacting normally in situations, and you have no idea how to fix it."

The 10-step process of Healing Hidden Hurts focuses on God's love, mercy and forgiveness, she said, as well as time spent before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer.

To educate people about her ministry, Miller shares her

own abortion story, which dates back to 1977 and the early years of her 34-year marriage to Wallace "Wally" Miller.

It was a time when their financial situation was tenuous and they had two young children.

It was also just four years after abortion was legalized by the U.S. Supreme Court in its *Roe vs. Wade* decision on Jan. 22, 1973, a time when women didn't know that abortion is physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually harmful.

"Women are really hurt by abortion," Miller said, "but a lot of times they don't understand how they have been affected because the symptoms [of post-abortion trauma] are not always recognizable to them. When women come for help 15 or 20 years later, they don't realize the impact that the abortion has made on their life, and how it is still affecting them."

After they learn the symptoms of post-abortion syndrome, she said, they are stunned.

"I've also talked with women that have experienced infant loss from miscarriage or stillbirth," she said, "who tell me that they can identify with those symptoms."

Women always regret their abortion decision, Miller said, and it is a decision that they have to live with for the rest of their life.

"They always regret that they don't have that baby," she said. "When they start the program, they are suffering and have a lot of pain. But we always have the hope that their child is with God and hopefully one day they will be reunited with their child."

As part of the abortion reconciliation process, women name their babies.

"Naming is very important because it gives the child an identity and a dignity," Miller said. "A lot of times, the woman will know instinctively that her child was a boy or girl and a name will come to her during prayer. ... That's very comforting for her. She is encouraged during the program to build a relationship with her child by writing a letter or note. Thinking about what she wants to say to her child is very helpful. This relationship continues to give her strength through prayer."

The 10-step process involves revisiting the events of a woman's life leading up to her crisis pregnancy and abortion experience, she said, as well as the assurance of God's love, mercy and forgiveness so that she can forgive herself and find healing.

"This program meets the woman individually where she is in her faith life and in her place of pain," Miller said. "Many women do not come forward until the pain is severe, and they feel forced to do something about it. Many times, the Lord will give her a nudge and then she knows it is right. ... The Lord wants her to deal with the past and begin the path of healing. ... Her faith frees her from the guilt, grief and shame of her past."

(For more information about Debbie Miller's Healing Hidden Hurts post-abortion reconciliation ministry, log on to [www.healinghiddenhurts.com](http://www.healinghiddenhurts.com).) †