



The Criterion

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'God was with us'

Pastors reflect on parish ministry a year after start of pandemic, page 7.

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'A night to remember'

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J. (formerly the archbishop of Indianapolis) share smiles with archdiocesan chancellor Annette "Mickey" Lentz as she holds the Sagamore of the Wabash, the state of Indiana's highest honor, during the archdiocese's inaugural Legacy Gala, held in person at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis and via livestream on April 16. The two archbishops and Lentz have each received full doses of a coronavirus vaccine. (Submitted photo by Rob Banayote)

Stories highlight ministries, honor Lentz at archdiocese's inaugural Legacy Gala

By Natalie Hoefler

It was an evening of stories—some informative, some funny, many touching—told virtually from locations around central and Indiana.

Half of the stories focused on the vital works and impact throughout the archdiocese's 39-county region of three Catholic ministries—Catholic Charities, Catholic schools and seminarian formation—and their continuing need for support.

The other half honored archdiocesan chancellor Annette "Mickey" Lentz, whose 60 years of service to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis span nearly one-third of the archdiocese's 187-year history.

There was even a surprise ending to Lentz' ministerial story that was revealed at the end of the event—an honor she now shares with presidents, astronauts and a cardinal of the Church.

These stories comprised the archdiocese's inaugural Legacy Gala. **See GALA, page 8**

Two great passions will guide new Catholic school superintendent for the archdiocese

By John Shaughnessy

After the announcement on April 14 that Brian Disney will become the new superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese on July 1, he shared three snapshots of the person and educator he



Brian Disney

is—snapshots that provide a glimpse of the leader he will be.

Focusing on his emphasis of service to others, Disney said, "Students and staff would not be surprised to see me with a mop, cleaning up a spill in the hallway or cafeteria."

Stressing his focus on being there for students, the principal of Mooresville High School shared, "We had a young lady who tragically lost both of her parents. When she returned to the school, she wanted to talk with me as her principal. And she continued to come to me for help and support."

And emphasizing his belief that education should be a journey touched with joy, he recalled that he "wore a hot dog outfit and handed out candy to make students and staff laugh right after state testing ended."

Then there is the most telling part of Disney's desire to become the leader of the 68 Catholic schools in the archdiocese that serve more than 20,000 students across central and southern Indiana. That was the emphasis that the member of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville shared in his letter to the search committee.

Disney wrote, "I am interested in combining my two great passions: education of future generations and my Catholic faith."

"My personal life mission is to build up the kingdom of God through servant leadership in educating hearts, minds and souls," he said in an interview with *The Criterion*. "My personal motto is 'Faith **See DISNEY, page 2**

FedEx tragedy strikes couple preparing for 50th wedding anniversary

By John Shaughnessy

As John and Mary Weisert looked forward to their 50th wedding anniversary later this year, they did so from the foundations of love and faith that still deeply marked their marriage.

Members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, the couple always seemed to be by each other's side, from participating in Mass faithfully together to attending monthly meetings of the parish's social group for senior citizens.

The college sweethearts who met at the University of Minnesota even shared a preference for being known by their middle names. John was Steve to those who knew him best, and Mary was known as Carol.

So as the late night of April 15 turned into the early morning of April 16 and Steve still hadn't returned from his part-time job as a package handler

See SHOOTING, page 9



John and Mary Weisert pose for a picture in the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish directory. (Submitted photo)



Brian Disney, newly appointed superintendent of Catholic Schools for the archdiocese, is pictured with his wife Tracy and their daughter Kate. (Submitted photo)

DISNEY

continued from page 1

and Family, Teach and Lead.’ Faith and family are the core of who I am. Teach and lead is how I express and live who I am.”

Married for nearly 25 years to his wife Tracy, the 50-year-old Disney is the father of Kate, a junior in college.

“My family and I are extremely excited for this opportunity to serve the Church and our Catholic schools,” he said. “I’m looking forward to having an impact on the upcoming generations of Catholic leaders who will make a positive difference in our state, country and world. I feel overwhelmed with this responsibility but know that the Holy Spirit will be guiding me.”

A leader of ‘enthusiasm, passion and faith’

Disney brings a wealth of credentials to his new position. He earned his bachelor’s degree in secondary mathematics at Butler University in Indianapolis, a master’s degree in school counseling from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Indiana University.

In his 28 years as an educator, he has been a teacher, a coach, a counselor and, since 2013, the principal of Mooresville High School.

Disney was chosen by an archdiocesan committee that began a nationwide search after Gina Fleming resigned in August of 2020. Since then, former assistant superintendent Mary McCoy has served as interim superintendent.

The combination of Disney’s leadership and the depth of his Catholic faith was praised by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

“Brian is a very devout Catholic who has been very active in his parish and beyond in living out his baptismal call to holiness and mission. Catholic identity is very important to him,” the archbishop said. “He brings to the position of superintendent a great deal of experience in education and school administration.”

The archbishop also focused on the “enthusiasm, passion and faith” that Disney will bring to the position, and he noted that Disney received high marks from the archdiocesan search committee and staff members of the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Schools (OCS).

“Obviously, there is a learning curve for anyone who takes on such a position,” the archbishop added, “but Brian is quite capable and will be serving with wonderful people in OCS and in schools throughout the archdiocese.”

Disney was also praised by the leaders of the archdiocesan search committee, chancellor Annette “Mickey” Lentz and vice chancellor Christopher Walsh.

“I am most impressed by his faith, his commitment to education and his vision for the archdiocese moving forward,” Lentz said. “Brian will be well-received in the archdiocese and by the school administrators because he is a caring person and very authentic in how he leads and how he wants to serve. I see him as being able, in time, to build relationships both within and outside the archdiocese. We are blessed to have him.”

Walsh was also impressed by Disney: “The combination of his Christ-centered values, his energy and passion for education and his rich experience as an education leader make Brian an outstanding choice to safeguard the standard of excellence for which our archdiocesan schools are known.”

‘I have regular conversations with God’

The emphasis on faith that Disney will bring to the superintendent position is a focus he has lived as a member of St. Thomas More Parish.

He has served as a lector, the chair of the stewardship commission, an extraordinary minister of holy Communion and a member of the capital campaign team. He has also taught catechism classes for youths and helped to prepare them for confirmation.

He credits his involvement to the great example of his parents and grandparents, noting they have also shaped his faith.

“My commitment to Jesus Christ and his teachings has only grown,” he said. “I have regular conversations with God, and I know that he is always there for me.

“Whether things are going well, or it is a tough day, I know that God is present and is sharing the day with me. Jesus is one of my best friends, and a highlight of the week is spending time with him in eucharistic adoration.”

His goal for Catholic students across the archdiocese is that they will learn to build their lives on the foundations of serving others and developing a deep relationship with God.



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

April 24–29, 2021

April 24 – 11 a.m.
Confirmation for youths of Immaculate Conception Parish, Millhouse; St. John the Baptist Parish, Osgood; St. Mary Parish, Greensburg; St. Maurice Parish, Napoleon; and St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County, at St. Mary Church, Greensburg

April 24 – 3 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg at Holy Family Church

April 25 – 11 a.m.
Mass at St. Jude the Apostle Church, Spencer

April 27 – 10 a.m.
Spring Business Meeting for priests and parish life coordinators at St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington

April 27 – 1 p.m.
Priest Council meeting at St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington

April 28 – 10:30 a.m.
Visit at Seton Catholic High School, Richmond

April 28 – 7 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville and St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

April 29 – 10 a.m.
Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

April 29 – 7 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis and Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

“My hope is that our Catholic students will have the courage to pursue greatness in all areas of their lives,” Disney said. “They will seek to live the Gospel values in their lives as they grow in their faith and journey to sainthood and everlasting life with God.

“I look forward to partnering with the families—the domestic churches—in helping their children grow spiritually, academically, athletically. Our graduates will become men and women of God who joyfully serve others and the Church.”

A father’s influence, and a calling from God

In seeking that goal, Disney said he will be guided by an approach that he learned from watching his role model in education—his father.

“My dad, Jim, was a teacher, coach, athletic director and principal as I was growing up,” Disney recalled. “By observing him, I was able to see how to live one’s Catholic identity by serving

others through education.

“My faith has also helped me to see my students as people with hearts, minds and souls that all need to be developed and cultivated. My belief that all people are good—and we have to bring that out in them—has helped in dealing with students facing challenging circumstances. Jesus told us multiple times not to judge, so I try to not judge students, but to teach and encourage them to be their best selves.”

Disney views the opportunity to lead Catholic schools in the archdiocese as another way to bring out his best.

“I feel that God has called me to this position at this time, and that the Holy Spirit led the entire process.

“I’m excited that I will be able to share my faith life openly with colleagues, students and families. I’m excited that I will be able to participate in daily Mass more often. I’m excited that I will be able to talk about helping to develop saints and instill Gospel values.” †

What role has the Blessed Mother played in your life of faith?

Perhaps no saint in heaven is more beloved, fosters more devotion or is called upon more frequently for intercession and aid than the Blessed Mother Mary.

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Mother. To honor her, *The Criterion* is seeking reader responses on the role Mary plays in your faith. How has she worked in your life to offer assistance or consolation? Do you have special devotion to her under a particular

title, and if so, why? How has she brought you closer to the Lord Jesus Christ?

Send your thoughts, experiences and stories by April 30 to Natalie Hoefler at nhoefler@archindy.org or by mail to *The Criterion*, attention, Natalie Hoefler—Mary, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202. Please include the name of your parish and a daytime phone number where you can be reached. †



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Advocates continue quest to help those in deepest poverty

By Victoria Arthur

As the 2021 legislative session drew to a close this week, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) and other advocates were hoping to see a long sought-after



update to a crucial cash assistance program for the neediest Hoosiers.

But that pivotal portion of the legislation concerning Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program appeared to be heading for another roadblock. During a conference committee meeting on April 19, lawmakers removed recently added language to a TANF bill that would have increased cash payments to families in deep poverty for the first time since 1988.

"While we are very grateful that many important provisions in the bill remain, it is disappointing to get this close yet again to making a meaningful expansion to TANF and not reaching the finish line," said Jessica Fraser, program manager for the Indiana Institute for Working Families and a longtime advocate on this issue.

At press time, lawmakers were taking final action on a several times-revised bill concerning TANF, which is funded by a block grant from the federal government.

As in previous years, Sen. Jon Ford (R-Terre Haute) had led the charge to



Sen. Jon Ford

modernize TANF in Indiana by pushing for the first monthly increase in cash payouts in 33 years and dramatically expanding eligibility for the program.

"It's not even costing the state of Indiana to make these changes," said Ford,

who introduced Senate Bill 233 to address the issues.

But after easily passing the Indiana Senate, the bill never received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. Instead, late in the session, the language from Senate Bill 233 was amended into

House Bill 1009, another TANF-related measure. A dissent to the amendment led to the April 19 conference committee to reconcile differences in the House and Senate versions of the legislation.

Authored by Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville), House Bill 1009 would ensure that income earned through internships or apprenticeships by dependents under age 24 do not disqualify an eligible household from receiving TANF benefits and are not considered in determining the amount of assistance a family receives. It also would increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 10% from 9%, providing additional relief to lower-income working Hoosiers, according to Goodrich.



Rep. Chuck Goodrich

"I really want to get this done for families," Goodrich said.

The lawmaker estimated that the EITC increase could put roughly \$11 million back into the hands of financially challenged working families each year. In addition, he said removing barriers for young Hoosiers looking to gain work experience and skills without jeopardizing their family's assistance through TANF is more critical now than ever.

"As the economy continues bouncing back from the disruption caused by COVID-19, skilled workers are needed to fill in-demand jobs across the state," Goodrich said. "However, some Hoosiers are not pursuing free education and work-based training opportunities because a higher paycheck could disqualify their family from benefit programs like TANF."

TANF itself encourages workforce development for all eligible adults through intensive job training, child care and other services, with self-sufficiency the ultimate goal, according to Ford.

"It's everything we say as a state that we want," Ford said. "We want people to have better training and



'Beyond the cash benefits, which are certainly critical, TANF also promotes the dignity of workers. Especially considering the devastation that many families have gone through because of the coronavirus pandemic, the needs have never been greater.'

—Angela Espada, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference

certifications so that they can get better jobs. This program helps people get on their feet and get to a place where they can provide for their families—everything that people need when they're down on their luck."

For those in deepest poverty, TANF's cash assistance payments are a lifeline. But those monthly payouts—\$288 for a family of three, for example—have not been increased since they were set by state law 33 years ago.

Moreover, only a fraction of the poorest families in Indiana currently receive even those modest benefits from the federal program because of outdated eligibility guidelines—another issue that Senate Bill 233 had been designed to address.

Currently, only six in 100 families in deep poverty are being helped by the program, according to Ford. The primary reason is that Indiana's eligibility level for TANF is the fourth-lowest in the United States, behind Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. To be eligible for TANF, the maximum income of a Hoosier family must be less than 17 percent of the federal poverty level.

Indiana set its income requirements to qualify for TANF in the mid-1990s, when welfare reform was signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton. Those eligibility guidelines have not been adjusted for inflation since then.

Had the provisions from Ford's bill remained, House Bill 1009 would have expanded eligibility for TANF and

increased the monthly payment amounts for a family of three from \$288 to \$513. Those amounts also would have been modified annually using Social Security cost-of-living adjustment rates.

"We were glad to see the language from Sen. Ford's bill added to House Bill 1009 and are dismayed that it was once again passed over," said Angela Espada, executive director of ICC, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "Beyond the cash benefits, which are certainly critical, TANF also promotes the dignity of workers. Especially considering the devastation that many families have gone through because of the coronavirus pandemic, the needs have never been greater."

Advocates are frustrated and puzzled as to why efforts to modernize TANF in Indiana continue to stall at the Statehouse.

"Families in Indiana need these changes, and they have needed them for a long time," Fraser said. "We will keep up the fight."

To follow this and other priority legislation of the ICC, visit www.indianacc.org. This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church's position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

(Victoria Arthur, a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †

Pro-life chairman calls HHS proposed rule on Title X 'terrible policy'

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published a proposed rule to rescind the Trump administration's enforcement of a Title X provision that "draws a bright line between abortion and family planning," as the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee chairman has described it.

Title X, enacted by the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, covers reproductive health care services for low-income patients such as wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, contraceptives, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

Section 1008 of the law states that "none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning."

In February 2019, the Trump administration implemented the "Protect Life Rule" enforcing Title X's ban on taxpayer funds from being used to promote or provide abortion as family planning. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the rule on Feb. 24, 2020.

The Biden administration's proposed rule to rescind this "is terrible policy," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "It would reintegrate abortion into what is supposed to be a pre-pregnancy family planning program.

"In spite of explicit prohibitions in federal law and clear congressional intent that abortion may not be a part of this program, it has repeatedly been coopted

by abortion supporters as a funding stream for organizations, programs and facilities that directly promote and provide abortions," the archbishop said in an April 16 statement.

HHS published its proposed rule on April 15 in the Federal Register, opening a 30-day period for public comment.

"While the USCCB has always had strong objections to government promotion and funding of contraceptives, we have also long supported clear financial and physical separation between Title X-funded projects and programs and facilities where abortion is a method of family planning," Archbishop Naumann said.

"I strongly urge the Biden administration to suspend this proposed rule and leave the Title X program as it was intended and authorized to be—a program entirely separate from abortion," he added.

On Jan. 28, Biden announced he would rescind the Trump-era rule. He stated this in his "Presidential Memorandum to Protect and Expand Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care," which also included his actions to rescind the "Mexico City policy," which blocked U.S. funding for nongovernmental organizations that perform or actively promote abortion as a form of family planning in other nations.

"The act specifies that Title X funds may not be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning, but places no further abortion-related restrictions on recipients of Title X funds," Biden said in his memorandum. †

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Editorial



Family members await information about their loved ones who work at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis after a mass casualty shooting on April 15. Eight people died in the attack and several others at the facility were injured in the mass shooting. Afterward the gunman took his own life, according to police. (CNS photo/Mykal McEldowney, IndyStar via Reuters)

Conversations about gun violence, mental health issues are necessary for peace

The headlines are becoming too eerily familiar.

A shooter fires a weapon in a place of business, at a residence, in a school, on the street—practically anywhere and everywhere—resulting in chaos, injuries and, sadly, multiples losses of life.

That heartbreaking reality occurred again on April 15 in Indianapolis when eight people were shot and killed and several others were injured at the FedEx Ground Plainfield Operations Center before the shooter took his own life.

That tragedy became another in an ever-growing list of mass shootings across the United States. Atlanta, Ga.; Boulder, Colo.; Kenosha, Wis.; and Austin, Texas, are a few of the cities recently rocked by similar acts of violence.

It also was the third mass shooting in Indianapolis since January.

On Jan. 24, six people, including an expectant mother and her unborn child, were killed on the northwest side of Indianapolis. And on March 13, four people, including a 7-year-old child, were killed on the east side.

“Once again, our nation is mourning the loss of lives in a mass shooting, and this time it is eight of our own neighbors who were killed at the Indianapolis FedEx ground center,” said Indianapolis Archbishop Charles C. Thompson in a statement on April 16. “We pray for the victims and loved ones of those who were murdered as well as those who were injured. We pray that these senseless acts of violence will stop.”

Gun violence is a serious problem in Indianapolis. In 2020, a record 245 homicides were reported in the city. Of that number, shootings were responsible for about 89 percent of Indianapolis homicides, or 218 of 245.

Indianapolis is not alone in its dramatic increase in violent crime. Nationwide, more than 19,000 people were killed by gun violence and firearm-related incidents in 2020, *Time* magazine reported—the highest number in more than 20 years.

We continue to offer our heartfelt prayers for the shooting victims’ families, those employed at the FedEx facility, the shooter’s family and our

entire community as we try to come to grips with yet another unspeakable tragedy.

As our Easter people, we must be instruments of light to help overcome the darkness that has enveloped so many through these heinous actions.

But what we do cannot end there. That point was stressed by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

“Again and again, we react in horror to these violent acts, but many cannot agree on how to stop them,” he said in an April 16 statement. “The bishops continue to support a number of policy measures to try to reduce homicides and suicides. In this Easter season, when we are reminded that there is always hope, even when we seem to be at a dead end, I would ask our political leaders, and all people of good will, once more to examine this issue and propose prudential solutions.

“It is good that President [Joe] Biden and some leaders in Congress are drawing renewed attention to this. For a comprehensive and long-lasting path to peace, it will take bipartisan cooperation. In the spirit of Easter, let us pray for renewed reverence for the gift of life, and faith that by the grace of God, we can always begin again and work toward peace.”

If we are to work toward that peace, we must be able to have constructive conversations about gun violence, mental health issues and suicide. We must reach a consensus on how best to move forward in addressing these challenging issues.

As our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, our faith demands we not sit idly by.

“The U.S. Catholic bishops have long supported changes in the law to control the sale and use of firearms,” Archbishop Thompson said. “May we all recognize that we are made in the image and likeness of God and continue to do what we can to end this senseless violence and to live together in peace.”

—Mike Krokos

Sight Unseen/Brandon A. Evans

Prayer that never ceases

There’s nothing wrong with Catholic prayer in and of itself.

In style and substance, the prayers of the Church are *incarnate*: there is a thread wound through them that connects the otherworldly to our human senses. We sing and kneel and breathe incense; we cross ourselves with holy water, wear blessed medals and adorn our houses with the icons of saints.



The sacraments are our anchors amidst a tapestry of other prayers; within their formulas are certainties of grace meant to free us from preoccupation and doubt so that our spirits can go deeper.

But, as is often the case in our fallen world, such strength can turn back on itself.

We can coast through Mass on autopilot, mumbling the same words we’ve heard a thousand times; our rosaries can become vain repetitions on our way to some set number; we can warp the promises attached to Catholic prayer until we almost believe them to be a vending machine for life’s problems.

Worse, we can become lost in the machinery and precision of it all, mistaking the form for the purpose and detaching its meaning from anything in our lives.

For if the person of Jesus Christ is the lifeblood of all things, then without a constant encounter with him even the grandest liturgy lies dormant for us: it becomes—subjectively, at least—not simply a prayer without substance, but no real prayer at all.

It turns to stone from the inside out—and our spiritual lives along with it.

We begin living in place where we perceive our only way out is to simply *pray more* and *pray harder*; to say the *right words* in the *right way*—to control our lives by forcing grace to serve us.

We grow tired, and sometimes fall away from prayer entirely, believing it to be all in vain.

But every now and again, blessedly, the depths which evaded us with beads and books and ministers can still bubble up from our humanity. In tears or laughter or deep concern, we suddenly look across the room as if Jesus was really standing there (and he is). We sit with him, we whisper, we open our feelings...or sometimes just let our eyes silently spill out everything to him that we wish we could say.

Soul, spirit and body communicate as one without having to try.

By God’s grace, these moments show us twinkles of the fulfillment of the Pauline command to pray without ceasing. For it is truly a nonsensical command—one impossible for those who live in the

world *unless* it refers not to time on our knees but rather to the prayer of *living*.

Each act of kindness can be an act of worship, each bite of warm food a thanksgiving, each smile shared with another also one shared with God. A prayer of this kind breathes into our souls the divine as our bodies breathe air, and is present in our lives more often than we may guess.

It often goes unnoticed and unnamed, slipping through the details of everyday life. For be it our empathy and compassion, our sadness and delight, our curiosity and wonder and worry, such as these *are not wasted* for the baptized.

A Christian who has the life of God in them does not have any emotion that is ordinary or sterile: each gaze of concern for a friend *is itself* a prayer for them; our common joys a shared praise for God’s creation; our sleepless tears a joining to Christ in Gethsemane.

Think, if you will, of the amazing possibility that our *very longing* to see our loved ones again in heaven may be the prayer—winding back through time—that God uses to help them choose salvation while still alive.

Or that the pain that strikes us when we hear of the agony of a friend—the breath stolen from our lungs and the sinking in our stomach—is by God’s glory a *powerful prayer* for their deliverance that has real results.

Or, with only the slightest bit of imagination, that each time the breeze rushes and twists through your hair on a windy day you may feel in it the hand of your Father lovingly reaching down to you through one of the elements he willed into being.

Such prayers as this are, admittedly, hard to sustain as conscious efforts. To catch even brief glimpses of how much grace and prayer are infused into our everyday lives is more an assurance of a *real thing* than a marvel to be relished.

For even when we don’t know it, such prayer surrounds us. The heartbeat of Christ pulses down through our fingers and to everything our lives touch; he is present in each page and for every word of our stories.

And sometimes—just *sometimes*—in an act of love beyond hope, he pulls back the curtain a bit for us to see how close he truly is, and how close we can be to him no matter our circumstances.

In silence and longing, we press our human hearts against his divine, bidding them to beat as one—a chorus where sorrows and joys are breathlessly shared, and where our deepest hopes leap forth from created to Creator without ever being in between.

(*Sight Unseen* is an occasional column that explores God and the world. Brandon A. Evans is the online editor and graphic designer of *The Criterion* and a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield.) †

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in *The Criterion* as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (*Communio et Progressio*, 116).

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

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to

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

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

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Christ the Cornerstone

Priests called to become shepherds of God's people

"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (Jn 10:11).

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, and in the Gospel reading for this Sunday (Jn 10:11-18), Jesus tells us that "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (Jn 10:11).

In his apostolic exhortation *"Pastores Dabo Vobis"* ("I Will Give You Shepherds"), the late Pope St. 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" (#74).

This means, of course, that we who have been ordained to the ministerial priesthood are called (individually and as brother priests) to be good shepherds of God's people.

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.

A 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. A bishop and his priests are true partners in ministry. Although they have different responsibilities, the Lord calls them to be united for the sake of the Church's mission.

In the first reading for this Sunday, we read:

"Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: 'Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become

the cornerstone. There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved' " (Acts 4:8-12).

Good shepherds do not minister in their own names. They are successful only to the extent that they exercise their responsibilities in Jesus' name, and base everything they say and do on the stone rejected by the builders that has become the cornerstone.

Bishops and priests are called to become guides for God's people, sharing the love they have received in the depth of their hearts from God the Father as they take up their role as shepherds. The Good Shepherd (Jesus) gives himself completely to his flock, and priests are called to do the same. However, because we are ordinary, sinful human beings, the responsibilities of priestly life and ministry would be too much for us without the grace given to us by the Holy Spirit, which enables us to shepherd God's people in Jesus' name.

In the Responsorial Psalm this weekend (Ps 118), we joyfully proclaim:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever" (Ps 118:2).

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes" (Ps 118:22-23).

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good for his kindness endures forever" (Ps 118:29).

All of Christian life, and certainly all priestly ministry, must be founded on Christ whose teaching, example and presence in our lives is the only source of our salvation. In him, and through him, we can see "what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God" (1 Jn 3:1).

When bishops and priests are growing in holiness together, and when they have based their ministry on Christ the cornerstone, 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 good shepherds of God's holy people, the flock he has chosen as his own.

Let's pray for our bishops and priests. May we always be open to God's grace; may we base our ministry on Christ the cornerstone; and may we be good shepherds of the people that God has entrusted to our care. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Los sacerdotes están llamados a ser pastores del pueblo de Dios

"El buen pastor da su vida por las ovejas" (Jn 10:11).

El cuarto domingo de Pascua se conoce como el Domingo del Buen Pastor, y en la lectura del Evangelio de este domingo (Jn 10:11-18), Jesús nos dice que "Yo soy el buen pastor; el buen pastor da su vida por las ovejas" (Jn 10:11).

En su exhortación apostólica *"Pastores Dabo Vobis"* ("Os daré pastores"), el difunto papa san Juan Pablo II nos recuerda que "los presbíteros, mediante el sacramento del Orden, están unidos con un vínculo personal e indisoluble a Cristo, único Sacerdote. El Orden se confiere a cada uno en singular, pero quedan insertos en la comunión del presbiterio unido con el Obispo" (#74).

Esto significa, por supuesto, que los que hemos sido ordenados al sacerdocio ministerial estamos llamados (individualmente y como hermanos sacerdotes) a ser buenos pastores del pueblo de Dios.

El vínculo principal de un sacerdote, es decir, la relación fundamental e indispensable que genera y mantiene su ministerio, es con Cristo. Nada puede reemplazar esta conexión íntima e indisoluble entre Cristo y sus sacerdotes.

Al mismo tiempo, tal como nos lo

recuerda el Santo Padre, este vínculo de amor entre Cristo y sus sacerdotes tiene una dimensión comunal, ya que cuando un sacerdote recibe el sacramento del Orden, se une a sus hermanos sacerdotes y al obispo en un presbiterio.

Un obispo comparte su ministerio con sus sacerdotes y juntos llevan a cabo la obra del Señor: por su proclamación de la Palabra de Dios, por su celebración de los sacramentos y por su liderazgo pastoral. El obispo y sus sacerdotes son verdaderos socios en el ministerio y aunque tengan distintas responsabilidades, el Señor los llama a estar unidos por el bien de la misión de la Iglesia.

En la primera lectura de este domingo, encontramos lo siguiente:

"Entonces Pedro, lleno del Espíritu Santo, les dijo: 'Gobernantes y ancianos del pueblo: Ya que hoy se nos interroga acerca del beneficio otorgado a un hombre enfermo, y de cómo fue sanado, sepan todos ustedes, y todo el pueblo de Israel, que este hombre está sano en presencia de ustedes gracias al nombre de Jesucristo de Nazaret, a quien ustedes crucificaron y a quien Dios resucitó de los muertos. Este Jesús es la piedra que ustedes, los edificadores, rechazaron, y que no obstante ha llegado a ser la piedra angular. En ningún otro hay salvación, porque no

se ha dado a la humanidad ningún otro nombre bajo el cielo mediante el cual podamos alcanzar la salvación' " (Hechos 4:8-12).

Los buenos pastores no ministran en su propio nombre. Solo tienen éxito en la medida en que ejercen sus responsabilidades en nombre de Jesús, y basan todo lo que dicen y hacen en la piedra rechazada por los constructores que se ha convertido en la piedra angular.

Los obispos y los sacerdotes están llamados a convertirse en guías del pueblo de Dios, a compartir el amor que han recibido del Padre en las profundidades de su corazón al asumir su papel como pastores. El Buen Pastor (Jesús) se entrega completamente a su rebaño, y los sacerdotes están llamados a hacer lo mismo. Sin embargo, como somos seres humanos ordinarios y pecadores, las responsabilidades de la vida y el ministerio sacerdotales serían demasiado para nosotros sin la gracia que recibimos del Espíritu Santo y nos permite pastorear al pueblo de Dios en nombre de Jesús.

En el Salmo Responsorial de este fin de semana (Sal 118), proclamamos con alegría:

"¡Alabemos al Señor, porque él es bueno; porque su misericordia permanece para siempre!" (Sal 118:2).

"La piedra que los constructores rechazaron, ha llegado a ser la piedra angular. Esto viene de parte del Señor, y al verlo nuestros ojos se quedan maravillados" (Sal 118:22-23).

"¡Alabemos al Señor, porque él es bueno; porque su misericordia permanece para siempre!" (Sal 118:29).

Toda la vida cristiana, y ciertamente todo el ministerio sacerdotal, debe fundamentarse en Cristo, cuya enseñanza, ejemplo y presencia en nuestras vidas es la única fuente de nuestra salvación. En él, y por él, podemos ver "cuánto nos ama el Padre, que nos ha concedido ser llamados hijos de Dios" (1 Jn 3:1).

Cuando los obispos y los sacerdotes crecen juntos en la santidad, y cuando han basado su ministerio en Cristo como piedra angular, están en la mejor situación para predicar eficazmente el Evangelio, celebrar los sacramentos y atender las necesidades pastorales del pueblo que les han confiado como buenos pastores del pueblo santo de Dios, el rebaño que Él ha elegido como suyo.

Recemos por nuestros obispos y sacerdotes, para que estemos siempre abiertos a la gracia de Dios; que basemos nuestro ministerio en Cristo, la piedra angular; y que seamos buenos pastores de las personas que Dios nos ha confiado. †

Events Calendar

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

April 24-May 1

St. Vincent de Paul Virtual "Love Your Neighbor 5k Run/Walk," run or walk 5K anytime/anywhere. Cost: ages 23 and older \$35, or \$30 with no T-shirt; students ages 6-22 \$20, or \$15 with no T-shirt. Registration and information: www.svdpindy.org/neighbor. Questions: dsweeney@svdpindy.org or 317-924-5769, ext. 238.

April 26, May 3, 10, 17

St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Little Flower) Parish Center, St. Therese Room, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. **SoulCore Rosary Workout**, 6:30-7:15 p.m., prayer and exercise, free. Information: 317-727-1167, joane632003@yahoo.com or soulcore.com.

April 29, May 6, 13, 20

The Third Option virtual marriage crisis/enrichment class, 7-8 p.m., series offered most Thursdays through May 20, no registration needed, free. Upcoming topics: April 29, "How to Fight Fair and Conflict Resolution," May 6, "Feelings and the Hurt Spiral," May 13, "Forgiveness and Repair," May 20, "Rebuilding Trust." Go to carmelthiroption.org/web.

click on link at top of page. Information: carmelthiroption.org/web, or Keith Ingram, kingram@aicinvest.com or 317-324-8446.

Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, via Zoom, sponsored by St. Michael Parish, Greenfield, 1-2:30 p.m., series of stand-alone sessions offered Thursdays through May 20, led by graduates of Guadalupe Bible College, free. Information and registration: Darlene Davis, ldarlene@gmail.com or 317-498-2242.

May 1-2

St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Rd. 750 N., Brownsburg. **Bruté Weekend at St. Malachy Church**, all weekend Masses, Father Joseph Moriarty, rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, will celebrate Mass and share how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501 or esanders@archindy.org.

May 5

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5:30 p.m., Catholic,

educational, charitable and social singles—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605 or 317-243-0777.

May 7

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

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Mass, 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

May 8

John Paul II Parish, St. Paul Chapel, 216 Schellers Ave., Sellersburg. **First Saturday Marian Devotion**, 8 a.m. rosary, meditation, prayer; 8:30 a.m.

Mass with confessions prior. Information: 812-246-3522.

St. Michael Church, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. **First Saturday Marian Devotional Prayer Group**, Mass, devotional prayers, rosary, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

May 8-9

St. Margaret Mary Parish, 2405 S. 7th St., Terre Haute, and St. Patrick Parish, 1807 Poplar St., Terre Haute. **Bruté Weekend at St. Margaret Mary and St. Patrick churches**, all weekend Masses, Father Andrew Syberg, formation dean of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, will celebrate Mass and share how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501 or esanders@archindy.org.

May 15

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 N. Meridian St., Greenwood. **The Amazing Race**, marriage enrichment sponsored by Celebrate Marriage ministry, 2-7 p.m., dress as a team to compete

for most fun couple, photo scavenger hunt, tailgate dinner and awards, \$30 per couple, beer and wine bracelet \$5. Information: 317-489-1557 or olgmarrageministry@gmail.com.

May 16

Roncalli High School, 3300 Prague Rd., Indianapolis. **Katie's 5K Run/Walk for Hope**, registration 12:30 p.m., start time 2 p.m., benefiting Katie Lynch Scholarship Fund, picnic to follow at St. Jude pavilion, register online by May 1 to receive T-shirt, \$25 adults, \$15 students, \$100 family. Online registration: katiesshope.org. Information: 317-502-1979 or katies5kwalk@gmail.com.

May 19

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

May 20

St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **Third Thursday Adoration**, interceding for women

experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

May 22

Virtual Dialogue on Intercultural Competency, via Zoom, sponsored by archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, 10 a.m., "Legacy of Racism and the Emerging Immigrant Church," Archdiocese of Milwaukee director of Ethnic Ministries Fessahaye Mebrahtu facilitating, freewill offering. Registration: cutt.ly/VDIC. Information: Pearllette Springer, pspringer@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

Sidewalk Advocates for Life training, location TBA, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$8 for materials. Information and registration: Sheryl Dye, smdye1@gmail.com. †

Retreats and Programs

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

April 28-June 2

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Plein Air Classes: Painting**

the Springtime Landscape, Wednesdays 9:30-1:30 a.m. or 5-7 p.m., learn outdoor painting techniques from Conventual Franciscan Father

Vincent Petersen, open to all levels, bring paints, canvases and brushes; chairs, easels and drawing tables provided, \$25 per session. Registration:

mountsaintfrancis.org/retreats or 812-923-8817.

May 5

Contemplative Prayer, via Zoom, sponsored by Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 3-4:30 p.m., Franciscan

Sister Olga Wittekind presenting, free will donation. Information and registration: 812-933-6437, www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

May 8

Mount Saint Francis Center for

Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis.

A Day with Mary, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Judy Ribar presenter, \$50 includes box lunch. Registration: mountsaintfrancis.org/retreats or 812-923-8817. †

Three retreat centers offer time and space for quiet reflection during month of May

Three retreat centers in central and southern Indiana will offer a day of silent reflection in May, some with spiritual direction or an overnight stay available for an additional fee. A day of silent retreat allows time for intentionally listening to God and reflecting on where he is in your life. It is a gift of peace, for yourself or to give to a friend or loved one.

The silent days of reflection available in May reported to *The Criterion* are as follows:

May 11

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Personal Day of Retreat, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., includes private room for the day and lunch, \$40, spiritual direction for additional \$30 (must be scheduled in advance). Registration:

www.benedictinn.org/programs. Information: benedictinn@benedictinn.org, 317-788-7581.

May 14

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. A Quiet Day of Renewal, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, or \$70 with spiritual direction. Information and registration: 812-933-6437, www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

May 17

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat Center, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Day of Silence, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$35 per day, includes room, continental breakfast, lunch and use of the common areas and grounds, overnight stays based on availability for \$28 per person, dinner additional \$9. Registration: cutt.ly/fatimaretreats, 317-545-7681 or jburger@archindy.org. †

Virtual fundraiser on May 12 will assist Catholic Charities Bloomington

Catholic Charities Bloomington will hold an online fundraiser for its counseling services from noon-1 p.m. on May 12.

In response to the agency receiving three times its normal requests during the pandemic, the event will include success stories in mental health assistance.

Located in offices in Bloomington and anywhere via telehealth, the agency's mental health professionals offer a comprehensive, integrated continuum of quality care for children and adults struggling with anxiety, depression, family conflicts, grief and

loss, life adjustments, relationship problems and stress.

Its innovative approaches include mental health assessments, individual therapy, couples therapy, EMDR (eye movement desensitization reprocessing) therapy and play therapy.

Most health insurance is accepted, and a sliding fee scale is available.

To participate in the free event, go to www.facebook.com/ccbindiana. To donate, go to ccbin.org.

For more information, contact Cheri Bush at cbush@archindy.org or 317-236-1411. †

Wedding ANNIVERSARIES

EUGENE AND CATHERINE (BASINGER) TRAPP



EUGENE AND CATHERINE (BASINGER) TRAPP

members of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on April 26.

The couple was married in St. Patrick Church in Enfield, Ill., on April 26, 1951.

They have five children: Janice Fiori, Christopher, Michael, Patrick and Timothy Trapp.

The couple also has 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. †

DAVID AND JEANNE (NEWMAN) O'DONNELL



DAVID AND JEANNE (NEWMAN) O'DONNELL

members of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 24.

The couple was married in Holy Name of Jesus Church in Beech Grove on April 24, 1971.

They have three children: Brian, Matthew and Michael O'Donnell.

The couple also has two grandchildren. †

Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to bit.ly/2M4MQms or call 317-236-1585.

GALA

continued from page 1

Legacy Gala on April 16, held this year in-person at the JW Marriott hotel in Indianapolis and virtually via livestream.

The new annual event raised nearly \$22,000 in donations and close to \$11,000 from its auction, plus \$313,000 from sponsors and donors before the event.

Donating to the ministries “isn’t limited to such an event,” Lentz told *The Criterion*. “These ministries are in great need 365 days a year.”

Ministries share ‘common thread’—the future

“We started planning this gala nearly two years ago,” Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said in remarks during the event. “We had originally planned to hold it a year ago, but the pandemic dashed those plans.”

The gala combines the former Celebrating Catholic School Values and Catholic Charities’ Spirit of Service events, and includes seminarian formation.

The ministries “share a common thread, and that common thread is the future,” said archdiocesan vicar general Msgr. William F. Stumpf in a pre-recorded video.

Catholic schools “shape children ... to be the leaders of tomorrow,” Catholic Charities gives hope in the future for those in crisis, and seminarian formation gives hope for the future of the Church, he said.

Archbishop Thompson noted that life “has changed dramatically since the pandemic began, and it certainly has had an effect on our parishes and schools.

“But it has never stopped us from carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ ... to minister every day to the people of central and southern Indiana” by offering the sacraments, educating and forming children and seminarians, and providing aid “to thousands of people who need us more than ever.”

Addressing ‘the root causes of poverty’

During the gala, Lentz and event emcee Raphael Sanchez of Indianapolis’ WRTV6 News led participants on a video tour of facilities representing the three ministries.

The tour began at Catholic Charities’

Crisis Office in Indianapolis, where more than 70,000 individuals were helped in 2020.

In a video-recorded letter to viewers, archdiocesan Catholic Charities’



David Bethuram

executive director David Bethuram shared about the works of the ministry in central and southern Indiana.

During the office’s more than 100 years meeting the needs of the poor in central and southern Indiana,

he said, “comprehensive, integrated services” have been developed to address various types of poverty.

Such services include mental health counseling in Bloomington; shelter for mothers in crises pregnancies in New Albany; temporary housing for families in Indianapolis; programs for youths in Terre Haute; and food for the hungry in Tell City.

Bethuram noted that helping those in need throughout central and southern Indiana is possible only through the time, prayers and financial support of parishioners. Such help allows Catholic Charities “to provide resources to specifically address the root causes of poverty, to stop another generation of poor children who will become poor adults raising poor children,” he said.

“Know that whenever we stand by a child, their parent, a senior citizen who is struggling, you—our benefactors—are right beside us.”

In a separate video, Art Wilmes of The Wilmes Family Charitable Foundation, a sponsor of the gala, noted that stewardship “is our opportunity to do something with the gifts we were provided by God, and to apply those gifts in a positive way.”

‘Open doors, open arms, open hearts’

The next stop on the video tour was Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, one of the archdiocese’s 68 Catholic schools.

The Catholic schools in the archdiocese “are all just wonderful, all doing what they can to help children

grow in their life, in their faith and in their education,” said Lentz, calling the teachers “a blessing.”

She wanted members of the archdiocese to “know that everything they do to donate—and I’m not just saying in treasure, but also in time and in talent—helps these schools make a difference.”

In a video-recorded message archdiocesan interim superintendent of schools Mary McCoy noted that Catholic schools throughout the archdiocese “serve over 20,000 students with open doors, open arms and open hearts.”

When schools closed for in-person instruction in March of last year to help stop the spread of the pandemic, she said, “Our teachers and administrators did not miss a beat. ... They have continued to form our young people every day—sometimes in-person, sometimes virtual, and sometimes both at the same time. ... They are our true heroes.”

In a separate pre-recorded message,

gala chairpersons John and Melissa Duffy spoke of the importance of Catholics helping the next generation by supporting archdiocesan ministries now.

“We’re trying to be good role models for our children and hope that they



Mary McCoy

observe what we do with volunteering, to just give back,” said Melissa. “Because things don’t work without volunteers and without everyone caring.”

John encouraged Catholics to consider donating to Church-supported

agencies that impact all who live in central and southern Indiana.

“If someone is unsure if they want to give their time or talent or financial support to the Church,” he said, “I would question them, ‘If not us, then who?’ Look at all the things we’ve been able to do in our faith because of people in our past.”

‘God dwells here ... in these very men’

The last stop on the video tour was Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

“This is holy ground,” Lentz said of the former Carmelite monastery where young men now pursue a degree from nearby Marian University while discerning a possible call to the priesthood.

“Christ is the foundation and the cornerstone” of the college seminary, said rector Father Joseph Moriarty in a letter to viewers filmed in the seminary’s chapel.



Fr. Joseph Moriarty

He called the location “a home because God dwells here ... in the Blessed Sacrament ... and in these very

men who go to the chapel to seek direction for their life.”

He lauded the men for “their courage at age 19 to be mature enough [to] ask God, ‘Might you be calling me to serve you as a priest?’”

Father Moriarty said he sees how “God dwells in the hope that these young men offer our Church as potential future priests. These seminarians understand that without priests, we cannot have the sacraments, namely the Eucharist. And without this sacrament we cannot nourish [people] to eternal life.”

And without help from parishioners from throughout central and southern Indiana, he noted, college men discerning a call to the priesthood would not have Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary as an option.

“I humbly ask you to support us in the effort of all the good work that’s begun in this house—in the lives of these men—to continue to be a place they can call home,” Father Moriarty said, “as they continue to respond to God’s call to further his kingdom by their lives, to be living stones in the foundation of the body of Christ.”

‘It was a night to remember!’

A living legend herself, Lentz has worked in the archdiocese since 1961 as a teacher, principal, superintendent of schools, executive director of education and faith formation, and chancellor.

In a Sept. 25, 2020, article in *The Criterion* detailing Lentz’s 60 years of serving in the archdiocese, she noted that people “are very important to me. I have always felt that if you treat people with respect and dignity, you earn it back in many ways, and the relationship builds into trust.”

That philosophy has proven successful. The proof was seen in the many pre-recorded messages of thanks and best wishes for Lentz—as well as memories and humorous stories—shared by her co-workers and friends throughout the event.

The evening culminated with



Archdiocesan chancellor Annette “Mickey” Lentz waves as those present applaud her at the in-person portion of the Legacy Gala on April 16 at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis.

(Submitted photo by Rob Banayote)

Archbishop Thompson recognizing her contributions to the archdiocese by presenting her with two awards live at the JW Marriott. One she expected, and one she did not.

But first, he honored the lives affected by the tragic event that took place in Indianapolis late on the night prior to the gala.

“We woke up this morning to the devastating news of the shooting at the Federal Express facility” in Indianapolis in which eight were killed and numerous others injured, the archbishop solemnly noted. “It’s only fitting to take a moment of silence and prayer before God to bring reconciliation and peace. ... Let us hold these people, these victims and their families in our prayers.”

After prayer and a moment of silence followed by words of thanks for all who made the gala possible, Archbishop Thompson called Lentz to the stage.

“She has truly dedicated her entire adult life to her faith, family, friends and the archdiocese,” he said. “Mickey has been a close friend and collaborator to ... Archbishop Daniel [M. Buechlein], Cardinal [Joseph W.] Tobin and me.”

Archbishop Thompson then presented Lentz with the archdiocese’s first Legacy Award, noting that she “has built a legacy through her commitment and dedicated service that have set the bar high for everyone throughout the archdiocese. In spite of all of her accomplishments, Mickey never made anyone feel like she was overshadowing them.”

Lentz exuded joy as she received the award. But the accolades were not finished, and the archbishop asked her to remain on the stage for one more honor.

“This award has been given over the years to astronauts, presidents, ambassadors, artists, musicians, politicians and citizens who have contributed greatly to Hoosier heritage,” he said, as well as to Cardinal Tobin during his time as archbishop of the Indianapolis Archdiocese.

Then, “on behalf of Gov. Eric Holcomb,” Archbishop Thompson presented Lentz the Sagamore of the Wabash award, the state of Indiana’s highest form of recognition.

She later shared her reaction with *The Criterion*.

“I’m not sure words can express my feelings about this tremendous recognition,” Lentz said. “Especially when I’m doing what I love to do—serve others.

“However, I would say I’m humbled, honored and blessed in so many ways.”

Reflecting on the Legacy Gala, she was overcome with gratitude.

“Thank you to everyone!” Lentz said enthusiastically. “I am so grateful to all who recognized me in some way. So many best wishes, tokens and wonderful memories shared.

“It was a night to remember!” †

A heartfelt ‘thank you’ to everyone who played a part in the Legacy Gala

Words cannot begin to adequately express the many “thank you’s” I want to extend to those who made the archdiocese’s inaugural Legacy Gala on April 16 a tremendous success.

From the individuals who planned and executed the event to all who attended the evening at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis and all who watched it online, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

The financial support so many individuals and corporate sponsors offered for our archdiocesan Catholic schools, Catholic Charities and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis demonstrates how much our faith community values these ministries. Your generosity helped us raise \$345,000.

I offer thanks to our Legacy Gala honorary chairpersons, Jack and Casie Doyle and Jerry and Rosie Semler, and our event chairpersons, John and Melissa Duffy.

I thank Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin and Msgr. William F. Stumpf, our vicar general, for their support.

I also wanted to offer special thanks to Rita Maguire, Cathy Mayer, Dana Stone and Jolinda Moore, who were instrumental in making sure the planning and evening went off without a hitch.

Also, thanks to Rafael Sanchez for serving as our entertaining emcee.

As we move forward with this annual event, I hope and pray the Legacy Gala will continue to offer an opportunity for many of us to share our blessings with the Church in central and southern Indiana.

God bless!

—Annette “Mickey” Lentz, archdiocesan chancellor

Archbishop Thompson prays for shooting victims, a stop to 'senseless violence'

From staff and wire reports

Expressing sorrow for the loss of life in yet another mass shooting in the U.S., this time at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson prayed for the victims and their families.

He also prayed that "these senseless acts of violence will stop.

"Once again, our nation is mourning the loss of lives in a mass shooting and this time it is eight of our own neighbors who were killed at the Indianapolis FedEx Ground center," the archbishop said in an April 16 statement. "We pray for the victims and loved ones of those who were murdered as well as those who were injured."

The FedEx Ground Plainfield Operations Center is near the Indianapolis International Airport, and the shooting took place on the night of April 15. CNN quoted a police official as saying law enforcement arrived to "a very chaotic scene, with victims and witnesses running everywhere."

Eight people were killed and several others were wounded by a gunman who killed himself after his shooting spree. In a late afternoon story on April 16, the Associated Press said the shooter had been identified as 19-year-old Brandon Scott Hole of Indianapolis, a former employee who last worked for the company in 2020.

Law enforcement officials identified the victims as Matthew R. Alexander, 32; Samaria Blackwell, 19; Amarjeet Johal, 66; Jaswinder Kaur, 64; Jaswinder Singh, 68; Amarjit Sekhon, 48; Karli Smith, 19; and John "Steve" Weisert, 74. (See related story, page 1.)

Deputy Police Chief Craig McCart told AP and CNN that witnesses said the gunman "got out of his car, and pretty quickly started some random shooting" in the parking lot then went inside the facility and continued shooting.

By the time police arrived, he had not gotten too far inside and "apparently killed himself shortly before police entered the building," AP reported.

According to an April 19 news report, the motive for the shooting was still being investigated. Hole was known to federal and local authorities after his mother raised concerns about his mental state and suicidal tendencies. She also said he had a potential for violence, according to three law enforcement sources familiar with the matter who spoke to CNN. However, Hole was able to buy two assault rifles legally.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, in an April 16,



People embrace on April 16 after learning their loved one was safe after a mass casualty shooting at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis the night before. Eight people died in the attack and several others were injured in the mass shooting. Afterward the gunman took his own life, according to police.

(CNS photo/Mykal McEldowney, IndyStar via Reuters)

statement, offered prayers for all involved.

"Tragically, we awoke to learn of another mass shooting today, this time in Indianapolis, that has reportedly left eight dead and several wounded," Archbishop Coakley said. "As we heard at Mass yesterday, 'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted' [Ps 34:19]. We again need prayer and concrete acts of charity for the families, and for all victims of violent crime."

"The U.S. Catholic bishops have long supported changes in the law to control the sale and use of firearms," Archbishop Thompson said in his statement. "May we all recognize that we are made in the image and likeness of God and continue to do what we can to end this senseless violence and to live together in peace."

Archbishop Coakley likewise said the U.S. bishops "continue to support a number of policy measures to try to reduce homicides and suicides."

Four of the eight who were killed were members of Indiana's growing Sikh community.

About 75 people attended a vigil at Monument Circle in downtown

Indianapolis on the afternoon of April 18 while a similarly sized group gathered in the rain to pray at City Hall in nearby Beech Grove in the evening.

John Cadwallader, an Indianapolis clinical psychologist, spoke with *The Criterion* after it was learned that the shooter in the FedEx incident had been identified as a person with violent and suicidal tendencies.

Cadwallader, who incorporates the Church's spiritual traditions and understanding of the human person into his professional training and experience, said that suicide prevention should be seen as part of the Church's mission.

"We are our brother's keeper," Cadwallader said. "The mission of the Church has always been to protect the dignity of human life. We, as disciples of Jesus, are called to care for others in this most important way. As the prevalence of suicide is growing exponentially in recent years, we must be vigilant, as this concern is a reality that will affect all of us."

The clinical psychologist said the signs and symptoms of a person with suicidal tendencies can include "depressed mood, mood instability, withdrawing from activities of interest, changes in sleep patterns, low self-esteem, increased isolation, excessive anger at self or others, hopelessness and despair [and] recurrent thoughts of death.

"If a loved one or someone you know seems to be struggling with depression, do not be afraid to talk with them," Cadwallader said. "We can easily dismiss the concern, as we fear that we will be wrong in our observation. Better to show your care and concern being wrong, than to ignore a cry for help.

'If a loved one or someone you know seems to be struggling with depression, do not be afraid to talk with them. We can easily dismiss the concern, as we fear that we will be wrong in our observation. Better to show your care and concern being wrong, than to ignore a cry for help.'



—John Cadwallader, Indianapolis clinical psychologist

"You do not need to have the answers on how to solve the problem, but you can help them get connected with a mental health professional who can."

Cadwallader recommended visiting www.catholictherapists.com to find therapists who work out of a Catholic background. He also recommended people use when needed the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255.

(Reporter Sean Gallagher contributed to this story.) †



'The U.S. Catholic bishops have long supported changes in the law to control the sale and use of firearms. May we all recognize that we are made in the image and likeness of God and continue to do what we can to end this senseless violence and to live together in peace.'

—Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

SHOOTING

continued from page 1

at the FedEx Ground Plainfield Operations Center in Indianapolis, Carol naturally worried.

Her worry turned to devastation and heartbreak in the hours ahead when she learned that her 74-year-old husband was one of the eight people who were shot and killed at the FedEx center before the 19-year-old shooter took his own life.

In the days since the mass shooting, Diane Schafer—St. Luke's director of spiritual life and formation ministries—has been in regular contact with Carol. The two women shared a bond before the tragedy, but it has grown deeper in recent days because Diane also suffered the loss of her husband Kevin last year.

Noting how hard this time is for Carol, Diane said, "She's doing as well as she can. There's a sense that she

knows God is going to take care of everything. They lost a baby [earlier in their marriage]. She talked about how she knows that Steve is with their son now."

That belief is a reflection of how deeply the couple—the parents of three children—has lived their Catholic faith through the years, especially as longtime members of St. Luke.

"They were always faithful. They were always here. They always made it to Mass," said Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, pastor of St. Luke Parish. "And he was a charter member of our St. Luke Council of the Knights of Columbus."

In a letter to St. Luke parishioners, Msgr. Schaedel also noted about Steve, "He had some trouble walking, which made me admire him all the more. He slowly but surely made it to his pew every weekend.

"They both volunteered at Conner Prairie in Fishers and for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. They were also train buffs, volunteering for the Indiana

Transportation Museum when it was located in Noblesville."

Diane Schafer recalls the joy that the Weiserts had from being part of the parish's social group for senior citizens.

"They were very much a part of our group," she said. "Unless he had to work, they were always here. We meet every first Friday. We go to Mass together and have lunch. Carol always brought a pie or a cake. And Steve was so proud of her. He would always make sure to save me a piece."

Schafer noted that Carol has received "a lot of support" not just from the parish, but from people across the country and around the world.

"She's appreciative of all the people who have reached out," Schafer says. "She does feel really grateful."

Schafer shares one more thought about the couple.

"They were loving, caring. You really didn't see one without the other. They were wonderful together." †

Race for Vocations to be in-person event on May 8 in Greenfield

Criterion staff report

After a year's hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Race for Vocations mini-marathon and 5K will be an in-person event this year beginning at 8 a.m. on May 8 at St. Michael Parish, 519 Jefferson Blvd., in Greenfield.

The move to the Indianapolis East Deanery faith community was made after organizers of the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon and Delta Dental 500 Festival 5K chose to keep both events virtual for a second consecutive year.

With both a 5K and mini-marathon, this year's Race for Vocations will begin at St. Michael, proceed to the nearby Pennsy Trail and return to the parish. A post-race gathering will take place on the parish grounds.

A Mass for vocations will be celebrated the night before the race at 6:30 p.m. on May 7 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St. in Indianapolis. Archbishop Charles

C. Thompson is scheduled to be the principal celebrant of the liturgy.

A pasta dinner, which costs \$10, will take place after the Mass at the Knights of Columbus' McGowan Hall, 1305 N. Delaware Street, in Indianapolis. Registration is required.

The Race for Vocations is sponsored by the Indiana State Knights of Columbus.

For more information about the Race for Vocations or to register for the Race for Vocations and/or the pasta dinner, visit raceforvocations.org. †

Members of the Race for Vocations team pose on May 6, 2017, in Military Park in Indianapolis after participating in either the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon or the Finish Line 500 Festival 5K, both in Indianapolis.

(Submitted photo)



Advocates, editorials call on President Biden to end federal death penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The death penalty has been getting attention across the country this year with legislation introduced or voted on in several states aimed at limiting, repealing or even renewing capital punishment.

These discussions in state capitols, along with the lack of action by President Joe Biden to end the federal death penalty, have prompted advocates to keep speaking out and also have led to a number of newspaper editorials condemning continued use of the death penalty and the need for elected officials to put an end to it.

The death penalty still exists in 27 states, including Indiana, and about 50 prisoners are currently on federal death row.

In late March, Virginia announced it was abolishing the death penalty and became the first southern state to do so. In recent weeks, state legislators in Ohio, Nevada, Wyoming and Florida have made advances to limit or even fully outlaw capital punishment.

In Montana, a bill that would have allowed the state to resume executions after a 15-year hiatus was defeated in the state Senate on April 16. In Arizona, the state's attorney general is similarly moving to resume executions that have been put on hold since 2014.

Although the nation has a mixed record at the moment on capital punishment, Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network, said that "despite the regressive actions of a few states, the trends clearly indicate that the U.S. is moving in the direction of abolition—regardless of political affiliation."

In an April 16 e-mail to Catholic News Service (CNS), she said advocates for ending the death penalty are "still celebrating Virginia's death penalty repeal," particularly in light of the state's history "as one of the most active death penalty states."

She said when Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, signed the bill ending capital punishment on March 24, he was surrounded by Republicans and Democrats as he said the practice is fundamentally flawed and has no place in the state or the country.

"It was a powerful moment," she said.

The state's action was praised by Virginia's Catholic bishops and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, who called it a "bold step toward a culture of life."

"I urge all other states and the federal government to do the same," he added.

During the bill-signing ceremony, many people thanked the state's Catholic conference for its advocacy work, including the bill's sponsor, Democratic state Sen. Scott Surovell, who thanked the conference, the public policy arm of Virginia's bishops, and several priests for their work behind the scenes.

"I can't tell you how much that has helped," he said.

In other state actions, Vaillancourt Murphy said Catholic advocates brought a "strong, persistent voice in support of these efforts to chip away at the deadly practice and have served as key advocates toward repeal progress."

She also said support against capital punishment has not just come from Democrats. In Montana, the bill to reinstate the death penalty was pushed by Montana's Republican attorney general, but the state's Senate Republicans spoke against it on the floor, she said.

In his testimony before Montana's House Judiciary Committee in February, Matthew Brower, executive director of the Montana Catholic Conference, said the proposed legislation would move the state "further away from embracing a vision of mercy and justice."

He said the Church follows the example of many families of crime victims "who have rejected capital punishment as a system that denies the goodness and beauty of their loved ones and perpetuates an unending cycle of violence."

Brower said the Catholic Church has long been vocal in its opposition to the death penalty, noting it is not "some novel shift" introduced by Pope Francis, but stressed by the two popes before him and Church leaders dating back to St. Augustine in the year 412.

As the states examine their own death penalty laws, Vaillancourt Murphy said, it also is time to look at, and end, the federal death penalty, adding that there is momentum behind this in the wake of the "unprecedented federal execution spree by the Trump administration."

She stressed that Biden—whom she described as "the first sitting U.S. president to publicly oppose capital punishment and to have campaigned on an explicitly anti-death penalty platform"—has yet to formalize his opposition to the death penalty.

Concrete steps he could take, she said, would be to declare "an official moratorium on executions, commuting the death sentences of those on the federal death row and advocating to end the death penalty in law with Congress and the states."

Catholic Mobilizing Network has been calling for the president to take this action in an online letter: bit.ly/3tyM4PZ.

Vaillancourt Murphy sees a strong connection between ending the federal death penalty and the president's platform of racial justice and said he needs to "prioritize dismantling the archaic, broken systems that prop up racism in our country."

She isn't alone in calling the president to act. Two recent editorials on this topic offer similar pleas: "Biden should make good on pledge to end death penalty," said the April 7 editorial in the *Chicago Sun Times*, and "Stop the Executions, President Biden" was the headline for a March 26 *New York Times* editorial.

The *New York Times*' editorial urged Biden to help break the cycle of violence by "imposing an immediate moratorium on federal executions, and commuting the sentences of the 50 or so inmates on federal death row."

The *Chicago Sun Times* offered similar advice and also said the president could "push legislation through Congress to abolish the death penalty, as many states have done."

"This would be the best option, if Congress will have it," it said. "But what matters most is that Biden send a message: The death penalty is broken and can't be fixed." †

Saying he missed people, Pope Francis returns to window for Sunday prayer



Pope Francis greets the crowd as he leads the "Regina Coeli" from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on April 18. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Greeting visitors in St. Peter's Square after nearly a month of tight restrictions due to the pandemic, Pope Francis said he was happy to see people allowed to gather and be present for Sunday noonday prayer.

"I offer a warm greeting to all of you, people of Rome and pilgrims," he said, pointing out the many flags he could see being held high.

A few hundred people, all wearing masks and socially distanced, attended the recitation of the "Regina Coeli" prayer on April 18 after nearly a month of tighter controls on gatherings in an ongoing attempt to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

"Thanks be to God, we can find ourselves again in this square for the Sunday and holiday appointment," he said, adding how much he misses greeting people in the square when he must recite the midday prayer inside the apostolic library.

"I am happy, thanks be to God! And

thank you for your presence," he said to applause.

In his main talk, Pope Francis said Jesus is a real living person whose presence always leaves the person encountering him astonished, which "goes beyond enthusiasm, beyond joy; it is another experience" that is profoundly beautiful.

He said the day's Gospel reading of the risen Christ's appearance to the disciples in Jerusalem "tells us that Jesus is not a 'ghost,' but a living person," who fills people with joy.

"Being Christian is not first of all a doctrine or a moral ideal; it is a living relationship with him, with the risen Lord: we look at him, we touch him, we are nourished by him and, transformed by his love, we look at, touch and nourish others as brothers and sisters," he said.

Jesus invites his disciples to truly look at him, which involves "intention, will" and an attitude of loving care and concern, he said.

More than seeing, it is the way parents

look at their child, "lovers gaze at each other, a good doctor looks at the patient carefully. ... Looking is a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others," the pope said.

By inviting the disciples to touch him, he said, Jesus shows that a relationship with him and with one's brothers and sisters "cannot remain at a distance," but requires a love that looks and comes close, making contact, sharing and "entering into a communion of life, a communion with him."

And the verb, to eat, clearly expresses "our humanity," he said, and "our need to nourish ourselves in order to live."

When people come together to eat, it becomes "an expression of love, an expression of communion, of celebration," which is why "the eucharistic banquet has become the emblematic sign of the Christian community. Eating together the Body of Christ: this is the core of Christian life," the pope said. †

Faith *Alive!*

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Border ministry advocates for protection of migrants' dignity

By Josephine von Dohlen

A few years ago, a woman migrating from Mexico to the United States with her children arrived at Kino Border Initiative's center in Nogales, Ariz.

Her family had suffered in custody with border control as her children's food was taken from them and they were forced into a cold room. She had been cussed at and called names.

As she shared her experience with Providence Sister Tracey Horan, a member the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the religious sister asked her if she would like to file a formal report of what she experienced.

"I just saw her face change," Sister Tracey said, that it clearly meant a lot to the woman "just to know that it was possible that she could be heard and that her story could make an impact and that someone cared and wanted to acknowledge that what had happened to her was unjust."

At the heart of Kino Border Initiative's ministry is education, advocacy and care for migrants—from listening to their stories, offering food and shelter, to providing them guidance throughout their journey.

Through educational programming, Sister Tracey, the initiative's associate director of education and advocacy, said she works to "move minds, hearts and policies toward more human migration."

By inviting groups from throughout the United States and beyond to immerse themselves in the migrant experience, Sister Tracey said that people are able to really learn the truth about conditions at the border and encounter those who are in the midst of their "sacred journey of migrating."

Prior to the pandemic, about 40 groups would visit Kino Border Initiative each year.

"We really challenge them to return home and take action in their communities in solidarity with migrants," Sister Tracey said.

Working to advocate for migrants both in the United States and in Mexico, Kino Border Initiative documents abuses that migrants experience as they're traveling to the border or while in the custody of



Providence Sister Tracey Horan, center, a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, aids migrants on Oct. 21, 2020, in her ministry at the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Ariz. "We have a responsibility to lift up migrant voices and make sure their real experiences are being highlighted," said Sister Tracey. (CNS photo/Julius Schlosburg, courtesy Kino Border Initiative)

U.S. officials and reports them to the proper authorities, Sister Tracey said.

"Part of it is just people having the chance to be heard," she said. "Sometimes people will come in and say that this is the first time in months or even in a year that someone actually cared about their story or why they are migrating."

Much of the work of the Kino Border Initiative is rooted in Catholic social teaching on the dignity of the human person and the respect that every individual deserves as a child of God.

"We think a lot about the Holy Family here because we see many holy families that come through our door fleeing persecution for a number of reasons," she added. "Venezuelans who are fleeing dictatorship and

political persecution, mothers with small kids fleeing domestic violence, young people fleeing abuse at the hands of organized crime.

"For me, it's so easy to see how the person of Jesus is so present here," Sister Tracey said.

Prior to the pandemic, Kino Border Initiative's shelter and offices in Nogales would open up their soup kitchen to those who wished to attend Mass. Since the pandemic has introduced several challenges to their programming, Sister Tracey said that ensuring that their work continues to "encounter" migrants has become a main priority.

"You see their faces and recognize the way that they light up—and so often I think people come just as much for our company and the environment

of welcome that we have as they do for the food," Sister Tracey said.

As situations at the border are still difficult and often dangerous for migrants, Sister Tracey said, "we have a responsibility to lift up migrant voices and make sure their real experiences are being highlighted."

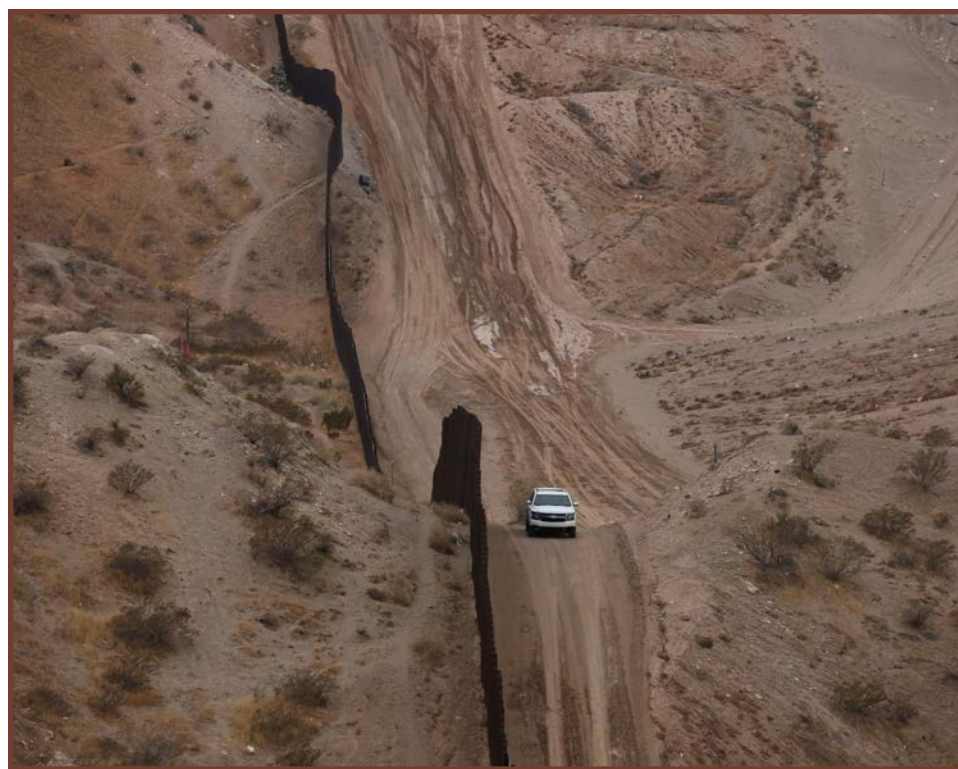
She encouraged people to reach out to their elected officials, expressing their concern and care for the migrants seeking shelter in the U.S.

To learn more about Kino Border Initiative and their ministry to care for migrants, visit www.kinoborderinitiative.org.

(Josephine Von Dohlen is communications coordinator at Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America in Washington, D.C.) †



Jorge Alberto Pastrana, 18, from the Mexican state of Guerrero, waits for dinner to be served at the Aid Center for Deported Migrants in Nogales, Mexico on March 31, 2014. At the heart of Kino Border Initiative's ministry is education, advocacy and care for migrants—from listening to their stories, offering food and shelter, to providing them guidance throughout their journey. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



A Customs and Border Protection officer patrols along the border wall in Sunland Park, N.M. on Jan. 20. (CNS photo/Jose Luis Gonzalez, Reuters)

Corrections Corner/Brett Buskirk

Former inmate hopes to be a beacon of light to others

(Editor's note: Brett Buskirk was recently released from the Indiana Department of Correction. This column was written prior to his release.)



I have been incarcerated now for 24 years. I was locked up when I was 18, and I haven't seen freedom since. I was angry, misguided, full of hate, and lost. I didn't believe in concepts like love, hope or

redemption. Those things were reserved for other people—better people. All I knew was darkness.

The first few years I spent in prison did little to improve my stance. It was a violent, chaotic place that seemed determined to strip away what was left of my humanity. For a while, I gave up and surrendered to the madness.

Like so many before me, I assumed God had abandoned me for what I had become. Soon, I gave up on him altogether. For several years, I remained

godless. Yet, I couldn't escape this nagging feeling that "something" was there. So, I began to search.

Through the next several years, I studied and practiced many different belief systems. I gained a lot of valuable insight, but none of them seemed to be a perfect fit. I even considered science as a religion for a time, studying theoretical physics in an attempt to understand the nature of reality. Ironically, this pursuit only deepened the belief that everything was too perfectly arranged to be mere coincidence.

Then, after 17 years of searching, something extraordinary happened. I was accepted to attend a Kairos weekend, even though I wasn't Christian at the time. Of course, I was only interested in going because they served "real" food during the event. What I didn't know was how genuine these people were or how much their love would affect me.

So, I decided to give God another try. I picked up a Bible for the first time in years and began reading. I sought out Christians and asked them questions. My initial steps were awkward and clumsy, and once again nothing seemed

to fit perfectly. I asked God to help me understand him. Then I was transferred to another prison.

Soon after my transfer, I got a job working in the chapel. I met a lot of great volunteers. One of them, Teresa, invited me to attend a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults class. I was interested in Catholicism, so I agreed. It was an amazing experience. For once, everything seemed to fit perfectly. I knew early on that I was in the right place, and eventually I joined the Church.

My interest kept growing, however, so I became an oblate of St. Benedict affiliated with St. Meinrad Archabbey and have taken great comfort in the *Rule of St. Benedict*. Both the *Rule* and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* have helped me in some pretty dark times.

As I near the end of my sentence, I look forward to actually attending church on the outside. God has worked strongly in my life as of late, and I hope to be a beacon of light to others lost in the darkness of despair. I wish to take the love he has given me and pay it forward. It's the least I can do. †

Faith at Home/

Laura Kelly Fanucci

Ripping the roof off the house

Since I was young, leafing through colorful pages in my children's Bible, I've loved the Gospel story where the friends lowered the paralyzed man through the roof of the home where



Jesus was staying.

It's a story to seize the imagination: the crowd pressing close, the creativity of determined friends and the drama of a man being lowered on a stretcher to Jesus' feet.

But the part that catches me now—as a homeowner—is the roof. They ripped it off the house.

Whether they removed tiles (Lk 5:19) or opened a hole in straw and clay (Mk 2:4), they decided no barrier could keep their suffering friend from the hope of healing. Whether the roof could be repaired was no concern. They needed to get their friend closer to Jesus now.

This Gospel story teaches an important truth about dismantling barriers that keep others from God. The friends open up the roof, making a way where there was no way. What roof might need to be ripped off the structures we have built, to help people get closer to Jesus?

Many of us spend heaps of time, energy and money on the maintenance of our homes. But do we stop and ask what in our lives might be keeping people from closer communion with Christ?

If this story feels uncomfortable like a pebble in the shoe or unsettling like the shaking of a firm foundation, this is a good sign. The Gospel truth is tearing down our own defenses.

Jesus sees and affirms the faith of the roof-wrecking friends. He doesn't yell at them for making a hole or shame them for not using the door like everyone else. He heals their friend's paralysis and forgives their sins—even more than they had hoped for.

Who in our life might be longing to get closer to God—and might need us to rip off the roof of the way we've always done things? How could our homes become more welcoming to friend and stranger alike, with all their messy humanity?

Our first reaction might not always be the most compassionate or Christ-like. If my kids tore a hole in the roof of our house (literally or metaphorically) I'd likely yell or scold first. But Jesus sees what matters most: the need of the suffering man and the faith of his friends. He does not worry about the externals.

He reminds us there is always room, beyond what we think possible.

Christians are called not to close ourselves off to the world, but to let others inside our homes and holy places and help them come closer to God.

Servant of God Dorothy Day urged people to keep a "Christ room": a place where strangers would always be welcomed. Every time I read her words, I'm challenged to consider whether this is true for my own home or heart:

"Every house should have a Christ's room. The coat which hangs in your closet belongs to the poor. If your brother comes to you hungry and you say, Go be thou filled, what kind of hospitality is that? ...

"Of course, husbands must be considered, and wives must be considered, and children. One must look after one's own family, it is true. But Father Coady said once, 'We can all do 10 times as much as we think we can do'" (*The Catholic Worker*, 1947).

How can we be unafraid to rip off the roof and help others (and ourselves) to get closer to God, whatever it takes? How could the walls of our hearts become more porous, letting in all whom God asks us to love?

(Laura Kelly Fanucci is a writer, speaker, and author of several books, including *Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting*. Her work can be found at laurakellyfanucci.com.) †

That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

Take time to appreciate the faith and goodness in the stranger

(Following are musings based on reflections offered at the National Workshop on Christian Unity 2021 by Benedictine Father William Skudlarek.)



The Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey trained me. Based on the *Rule of St. Benedict*, they instilled in me a sense of "hospitality": "Let all guests who arrive be treated as Christ" (53:1).

Taking note of one's own feelings of being "other" helped to connect to the guest. Additionally, Jesus' teaching, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Mt 7:12; Lk 6:31), was an

inspiring touchstone.

Who is the guest? Our first thought might be someone whom we know. On second thought, however, that does not seem to be the focus of the sixth-century monk, St. Benedict.

Monasteries in his time, and still today, are places of rest for many, mostly strangers.

In the Book of Exodus, Moses said: Remember, we were strangers so welcome the stranger. (Ex 22:20)

Jesus told the story of the Samaritan who showed neighborliness. Two strangers—one Jew, one Samaritan—one welcomed, one welcoming, because of human need.

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, one who welcomes the stranger is the one judged righteous, that is, walking in the way of God.

This backdrop of monastic and biblical hospitality is rooted in two Greek words: *philos* and *xenos*. Literally—love of the stranger.

This is "upside down" teaching. One is not to just love your family, kin, clan. One is to love the stranger.

Abraham, the father of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths, is the oldest root in the tree of hospitality, God being the taproot.

In Genesis 18, Abraham sits at his tent and encounters the divine spirit. When he opens his eyes, he encounters three strangers, foreigners. They were pagans, people with differing

beliefs and strange ways. Yet, in them, Abraham sensed messengers of God (angels).

Abraham embraced these foreigners with faith and hospitality. Clement of Rome wrote in his letter to the Corinthians in 96 A.D. The three are saved by the hospitality of God (for God sent them). Thus, they were welcome guests.

Recently, someone asked why a Catholic Christian would want to visit the Jain temple. (See my invitation to do so in last month's column.) Why, I was asked, would the questioner want to be among heathens?

I was shocked.

Welcoming the stranger—indeed, allowing oneself to be welcomed as the stranger (the disciples sent on mission)—is at the very root of Christian identity. God in Christ invites everyone with the gift of life and salvation. (Jn 3:16)

Why learn about another religion from a member of that religion? Why learn from a non-Catholic Christian?

Learning what they believe, how they express that in prayer, how they live it in their daily life, how they express it in art and architecture, how they find hope and good will springing forth—that is why!

Welcome the stranger! Welcome the "other"! Because to some, you are the "other."

Love the stranger as you would love yourself.

To love the other requires getting to know the other.

This is the root of "dialogue" on any level. But it is especially true for a lay person. Each one of us may "dialogue." Learn. Listen. Appreciate the faith and goodness in the stranger.

Be heard. Speak. Allow the other to appreciate the faith and goodness in yourself.

"Let all guests [strangers, the other] who arrive be treated as Christ" (53:1). That phrase is a Benedictine mandate rooted in biblical revelation and Christ's command.

It is a mandate to embrace, to live, to celebrate. Strange, but necessary.

(Father Rick Ginther is director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs. He is also the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.) †

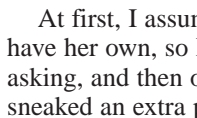
Window Seat Wisdom/Katie Prejean McGrady

Daughter's kindness reminds us of beauty of giving to others

Every morning, as we wait in the drop-off line at school, my daughter Rose and I share a pack of Belvita breakfast cookies.

It's usually my breakfast, half of it siphoned off by an already fed (but quickly growing) 3-year-old who is about to have quite a full day in her pre-K classroom. I usually don't mind sharing.

But lately, Rose began asking if we could bring two packs



with us in the morning.

At first, I assumed it was so she could have her own, so I said no. But she kept asking, and then one day, she cleverly sneaked an extra pack into her backpack.

Right as I launched into a lecture about honesty and not sneaking things out of the pantry, Sister Mary Hannah (a Religious Sister of Mercy who teaches at the school) walked past our car and Rose hastily rolled down her window and thrust the extra pack of breakfast bars toward the startled nun.

Sister Mary Hannah chuckled, thanked Rose, and took the cookies, walking off with a big smile across her face.

Beaming, Rose turned to me and said, "See, Mom! I just wanted to share with Sister! Because I love her!"

She just wanted to share. Because generosity, at least in the hearts and minds of little children, is the priority. Especially when you love someone.

With all her gumption and strength, Rose was determined to offer something

she enjoyed to a religious sister she sees every day and adores.

We are often told many stories about Sister Mary Hannah at dinner. Funny enough, Sister teaches the middle schoolers, and yet Rose only seems to have eyes for her.

She tells us about her fun outfit (her habit), how she's really good at playing on the monkey bars (I'd pay big money to see a nun running around the playground), and Rose has more than once told us that Sister Mary Hannah is "the best prayer person I've ever seen!"

It's a pure love for this nun that my daughter has, and one that I deeply admire. A love so great, in fact, that she wanted to share some breakfast cookies with her.

See MCGRADY, page 15

Fourth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, April 25, 2021

- Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12
- 1 John 3:1-2
- John 10:11-18

The first reading for Mass this weekend is from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is fascinating. It reveals the priorities and beliefs of the first Christians.



The setting is Jerusalem. A Christian community has formed, very visibly and deliberately clustered around St. Peter and the other Apostles.

Prayer, total devotion to the Lord, great charity and a sense of unity characterize the early days of the Church there.

Also vital to the community is its solemn responsibility to make Jesus known far beyond the circle of believers.

In this reading, Peter preaches. He speaks for all the other Apostles and the community as a whole. Peter is the unchallenged leader of the Christians.

Acts says that Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 4:8). He was speaking in and with the power and grace of God. Peter emphasized that, in healing a cripple (recalled earlier in Acts), he acted with the healing power of Jesus.

In his sermon, Peter insists that salvation is impossible without Jesus, because God gave Jesus to the world as the redeemer of humanity.

The First Epistle of St. John is the source of the next reading.

The three epistles attributed to John all have an eloquence and depth that is most appealing. The passage offered in this reading in fact is rather brief, only two verses, but it nonetheless is most expressive, reassuringly a declaration of the theological fact that believers are nothing less than God's beloved children.

The imagery is strong. No other human relationship so directly and well conveys the notion of love, caring, and the giving of life than that of a parent and child.

This reading also says that those who are worthy of being God's children one day will see God and will be with God.

St. John's Gospel supplies the last

reading. It is a glorious revelation about the Lord Jesus. Everyone in Roman Palestine at the time knew what herding sheep was about. It was, by and large, an agricultural region in which shepherding was common.

The image of sheep is important. Sheep are gentle animals, vegetarian and not at all aggressive. They also are quite vulnerable. Predators easily make sheep their prey. Aggressors hunt for them, particularly the weak, young and unhealthy. Unable because of their placid nature to fight for their lives, sheep very much need their shepherds. Good shepherds care for the sheep, helping them to overcome the vulnerability created by their meekness and lack of fighting skills.

Jesus, in this passage, compares us humans to sheep.

Reflection

On several occasions in the Gospels, Jesus compares humans and sheep. The likeness is a fact, but a fact that humans prefer to forget. We are vulnerable. We need a shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He lays down life itself for us. He wishes that none of us be lost.

He is the Good Shepherd. It is an image that has survived the cultural transition in much of the world from the agrarian to the technological.

This weekend's liturgy builds on this image, presenting it in this marvelous reading from St. John's Gospel. When the superb literary technique of this Gospel is added to the process, the image is stunning and beckoning in its brilliance. So, its meaning is clear because of the frankness of the Gospel.

It is vital that believers, indeed all people, realize that humans are very much like sheep. In so many ways, humans are at risk. Our instincts do not always serve us well. Sin threatens our eternal lives.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who supplies all that we lack. He defends us against peril. He leads us to safety. In Jesus alone is life, as St. Peter proclaimed. †

Daily Readings

Monday, April 26

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4
John 10:1-10

Tuesday, April 27

Acts 11:19-26
Psalm 87:1b-7
John 10:22-30

Wednesday, April 28

St. Peter Chanel, priest and martyr
St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, priest
Acts 12:24-13:5a
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
John 12:44-50

Thursday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church
Acts 13:13-25
Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
John 13:16-20

Friday, April 30

St. Pius V, pope
Acts 13:26-33
Psalm 2:6-11b
John 14:1-6

Saturday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker
Acts 13:44-52
Psalm 98:1-4
John 14:7-14

Sunday, May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Help is available for Catholic returning to sacraments after many years away

QI am considering coming back to the Church after 50-plus years. In the meantime, though, I was married, divorced and remarried years later in a non-Catholic ceremony to a divorced man. Am I even eligible to receive the sacraments? (New York)



A Before answering, I would need to know more about your situation. Was your first marriage performed with the Catholic Church's approval, and is your first husband still alive? Next, are you at the present time living with your second husband?

Depending on your answers, the solution could be fairly easy, requiring that you simply go to confession. Or it could be a bit more complicated, involving some annulment papers and the Church's convalidation of your present marriage.

Why not meet with a priest whom you know or has been recommended to you and talk over your situation?

I am pleased that you are thinking about coming back to the sacraments, and please know that I will pray for you as you do so.

This is not an unfamiliar story. I've known others who had drifted away from the Church but who, in their later years, missed deeply the strength and peace that had come from the sacraments.

QI am an 80-year-old cradle Catholic, but the Mass doesn't speak to me now. The verbiage keeps changing—what the heck is "consubstantial"? I have belonged to my parish

since its inception many years ago, but if I died the priest would not know me now and has made no effort to do so, and I know only about eight people in the entire parish.

I miss the Latin Mass more than ever; when I could go anywhere and hear the same words, it was so comforting. (location withheld)

A Your question reflects a familiar lament from Catholics in your age group (which, by the way, is my own age group as well). Let me separate your concerns in order to respond.

First, I agree with you on the word "consubstantial," which is technical, heavily philosophical and puzzling to many Catholics.

This is what happened: When the current English text came into use (in 2011), the language of the Nicene Creed—which formerly had said "one in being with the Father"—was changed to "consubstantial with the Father."

This was thought by many theologians as well as the Vatican to be a more literal and accurate translation of the language from the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, which had defined that doctrine.

You might be interested to know that the word "consubstantial" is also rooted in the Latin word "*consubstantialem*," which is part of the Nicene Creed in the Latin Mass for which you seem to retain an affinity.

Next, on the matter of priests knowing their parishioners, the recent history of the Church, especially in the United States, has been marked by necessary parish mergers and consolidations.

Regrettably, a natural consequence is that priests are not able to know as many of their parishioners personally as they once were.

You might consider someday dropping by your parish's rectory and simply saying hello to your parish priest, telling him that you miss the "old days" when priests had more chances to meet and get to know their parishioners.

As to the language of the Mass, I grew up in the days when it was comforting to be able to go anywhere in the world and hear the familiar sounds of the Latin Mass. But on that, I much prefer the present, when the Mass is said in the vernacular and everyone can understand what the priest is saying.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.) †

My Journey to God

WHEN TROUBLE COMES ALONG

By Gayle Schrank

Are you afraid of living
Or are you afraid of dying
Do you know what you're afraid of
Don't get caught up in denying
WHEN TROUBLE COMES ALONG
Who do you blame
Or WHO do you proclaim
Keep in mind
One will bind you up and victimize
or ONE will release you and call your name

(Gayle Schrank is pastoral associate of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton. Photo: Icicles drip from an angel at Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Tenn., on Feb. 17.)
(CNS photo/Karen Pulfer Focht)



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.

ADERS, Virginia R., 85, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, March 18. Mother of Cindy Begle, Doris Robinson and Randall Aders. Sister of Faye Welp. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 22. Great-great-grandmother of seven.

COURTNEY, Mary Helen, 98, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, April 6. Mother of Patricia Cross, Janet Hoeping, Katie Mason, Anne, Robert and Thomas Courtney. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 10.

DURBIN, James, 78, Christ the King, Indianapolis, April 4. Husband of Joanne Durbin. Father of James and Joel Durbin. Brother of Marilyn Feltman and E. Don Durbin. Grandfather of one.

GOFFINET, Mary Rita (Smallwood), 83, St. Paul, Tell City, April 9. Wife of Robert Goffinet. Mother of Lisa Miller, Jon and Nick Goffinet. Grandmother of seven.

HEEKE, Eugene R., 88, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, April 2. Husband of Lula Heeke. Father of Sharry Gault and Paula Shroul. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of three.

HELLMAN, Sr., David M., 78, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, April 11.

Husband of Barbara Hellman. Father of Cynthia and David Hellman, Jr. Brother of Dennis and Jerry Hellman. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of seven.

HESS, Laura A., 64, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, March 3. Wife of Larry Hess. Mother of Maria Hoke, Elizabeth Sartain, Nicole Swanson and Joshua Hess. Sister of Theresia Cunningham, Donna Langdon, Mary Shoultz, Bernadette Wheatley, Bernard, Edward, Michael and Ronald Korte. Grandmother of two.

HOLSCLAW, Patricia A. (Didat), 83, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, April 12. Mother of Cheryl Norwood, Chris and Curtis Holsclaw. Sister of Elmer, Jerome and Regis Didat. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of two.

KERSTIENS, Dennis H., 80, St. Boniface, Fulda, March 20. Father of Karen Ketzner, Debra Moore, David and Randall Kerstiens. Brother of Virlee Howe, Anna Jacob, Marilyn Mullis and Bill Kerstiens. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of eight.

KOSTIN, Robert J., 69, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, April 7. Husband of Kathleen Kostin. Father of Angela Childers, Laura Hall, Jaclyn Harvie, Colleen Mooney and Nicholas Kostin. Brother of George and Rick Kostin. Grandfather of eight.

KRUER, Marcella M., 93, St. John the Baptist, Starlight, April 6. Mother of Rebecca Cheek, Elaine Stiller and Gary Krueer. Sister of Raymond Gettelfinger. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of 12.

LEWELLEN, M. Frances, 76, St. Jude, Indianapolis, April 2. Mother of Christina Lewellen. Sister of Patricia Perkins and Edward Keefe.

MAHAFFEY, Jr., Frederic L., 80, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, March 26. Husband of Cathy Mahaffey. Father of Frederic, III, James and Garrett Mahaffey. Brother of Dalene and Reenie. Grandfather of seven.

Tulips in Judy



Colorful tulips adorn a yard on a bright spring day on April 17 in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

MCANDREWS, Jr., John L., 95, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, April 11. Father of Theresa Creekmore, Carol Harr, Patricia Humphries, Linda Martin, James and Michael McAndrews. Brother of Thomas McAndrews. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of seven. Great-great-grandfather of two.

MEH, Lu, 19, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Jan. 18. Daughter of Kay Reh and Neh Meh. Sister of Koe and Baw Meh.

MOE, May, 76, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Feb. 28.

MURPHY, Joyce A., 82, St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, March 22. Mother of Christine Scott, Victoria Zambrotto, Kent and LeRoy Wickham. Sister of Judy Dial, Ida Kelly, Eleanor Lasher, Ruth Werne, Gerald and Maurice Aders. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of three.

NAVILLE, Rita E., 92, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, April 2. Mother of Ellen Coulter, Joan, John, Pat and Tim Naville. Sister of Marty Collings. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of 23.

SEABROOK, D. Mark, 69, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, April 5. Husband of Ellen Seabrook. Father of Corinne Moore. Brother of Karen Bunch. Grandfather of two.

STEEB, Helen (Walker), 86, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, April 8. Mother of Susan Wesley, James, John and Michael Steeb. Sister of Kay Petroff, Loretta Withem and John Walker. Grandmother of four.

STEVENSON, Dorothy, 93, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, Feb. 21. Mother

of Catherine Overturf. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of nine.

TUYO, Steven P., 28, St. Roch, Indianapolis, March 26. Husband of Katye Tuyo. Son of Gerald Tuyo. Brother of Laura Turner, Michelle, Gerald, John and Mike Tuyo.

WASHBURN, Rock W., 70, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 8. Husband of Peggy Washburn. Father of Kaia Coughlin, Andy, Chris and Matt Washburn. Brother of Kristine Rader. Grandfather of 12. †

FDA criticized for lifting in-person requirement to receive abortion drug

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The decision by the acting commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to suspend enforcement of the agency’s in-person prescribing requirement for the abortion drug mifepristone endangers women’s health and possibly their lives, pro-life leaders said.

On April 12, Dr. Janet Woodcock said the FDA will “exercise enforcement discretion” regarding its own

requirement that is part of the risk management program for mifepristone as long as President Joe Biden’s declaration of a public health emergency for COVID-19 remains in place.

The brand name for mifepristone is Mifeprex. Also called RU-486, it is used to end pregnancies during the first 10 weeks.

Woodcock said making women pick up the drug may increase their risk of contracting COVID-19, so it will temporarily allow clinics to distribute the drug via telemedicine, directly by mail or through a mail-order pharmacy.

FDA regulations also required patients to sign a form acknowledging risks associated with the drug before they could receive it in person.

“The FDA’s announcement yesterday that they plan to lift safety restrictions that govern the dispensing of medication abortions makes women’s health simply a pawn in the effort to push for more abortion,” Dr. Christina Francis, chair of the American Association of Pro-Life OB/GYNs, said in an April 13 statement.

Francis said her organization “represents approximately 7,000 women’s health care practitioners who will not allow our patients’ lives to be put in jeopardy in order to appease the abortion industry and their allies.

“An in-person visit is medically necessary and sound medical practice because it ensures that every woman receives a full evaluation for any contraindications to a medication abortion,” she said.

She said a recent analysis of adverse events submitted to the FDA with the safety regulations in place “shows [more than] 3,000 women suffering with complications, of which 24 of these women died, and another 500 would have died if they had not reached emergency medical care in time.”

These numbers “will only increase” with the current safety regulations removed, she added.

“The Biden administration makes catastrophic loss-of-life-by-mail its legacy in choosing to weaken the minimal health and safety in place to protect women from the deadly consequences of chemical abortion pills,” said Students for Life Action, a sister organization of Students for Life of America.

“Sending deadly pills through the mail without any prescreening or follow-up care is convenient and cost effect for corporate abortion, but women will pay the price along with countless preborn infants,” the organization said on April 13, adding that the abortion drug now ends more than 40% of preborn life.

In July 2020, U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang in Maryland agreed to suspend a rule that requires women during the COVID-19 pandemic to visit a hospital, clinic or medical office to obtain an abortion pill.

He concluded that the “in-person requirements” for patients seeking medication abortion care impose a “substantial obstacle” to women seeking an abortion and are likely unconstitutional under the circumstances of the pandemic.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other groups sued the FDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in May 2020 to challenge the in-person dispensing rule, arguing it infringed on a woman’s lawful right to obtain an abortion.

In his ruling, Chuang said suspending the requirements aligns with public health guidance to eliminate unnecessary travel and in-person contact.

The Trump administration appealed the ruling and on Jan. 12, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the federal requirement that women who are seeking abortion-inducing drugs must do so in person, not by mail. †

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New fundraiser launched for Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A novel fundraising approach to restore one of the most iconic monuments in the world, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, enables donors to choose a piece of history.

On April 15, Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris unveiled an interactive website—restorennotredame.org—that allows people to donate by adopting or sponsoring pieces of precious art and artifacts that were damaged in a 2019 fire. Donors can engage with the objects of their choosing and select which they'd like to help restore, whether it is a painting or statue. Funds can also go toward the cathedral's restoration as a whole if the person prefers.

The organization was established in 2017 to help cover the cost of repairing damages caused by time, pollution and the use of inferior stone used in construction of the 12th-century Gothic landmark. The cathedral had not had any major repairs since the mid-1800s, so the group launched an international campaign to raise the \$135 million needed for those essential renovations—augmented by a \$45 million budget from the French government.

On April 15, 2019, a fire broke out in the attic and completely consumed the timber roof and spire. The burning debris and melted lead from the roof fell on top of a stone vault below. Most sections of the cathedral remained intact due to the rib vaulting, and most of the precious art and religious relics were saved, including what is believed to be Jesus' crown of thorns and a piece of the cross from his crucifixion, the Tunic of St. Louis and the

14th-century Virgin of the Pillar statue.

After the fire, the mission of the Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris had an even greater scope—rebuilding from ashes. Since the fire, more than \$1 billion from more than 150 countries has been pledged to rebuild the cathedral, said Michel Picaud, president of Friends of Notre-Dame.

Picaud said the item people feel most sentimental about is probably the Virgin of the Pillar, which “attracts the attention of believers because it is the Virgin Mary in all her beauty and significance.”

The May paintings are one of the top features of the restoration effort. They are a series of paintings commissioned in the 17th- and early 18th-century by the goldsmith's guild of Paris to offer to the cathedral in the month of May. They are approximately three by four meters high and depict scenes from the Gospels. Smaller models of the paintings also were created. The fundraising process has helped reveal the location of some of those that were not in the cathedral collection.

“I was called by an American family that owned the model of the Crucifixion of St. Peter. The family told me they were on the brink of auctioning the painting, but they gave it to Notre Dame when they discovered what it was. This is an example of the love for Notre Dame by the American people,” Picaud said.

The massive project is currently in the safety phase, which should last until the summer of 2022, Picaud said. It includes protecting the vaults from rain with a tarp; lead decontamination; fortifying the



Workers are pictured near a stained-glass window under the vaults at the reconstruction site at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on April 15. (CNS photo/Ian Langsdon, pool via Reuters)

north, south and west gables, particularly to protect the three large rose windows; fortifying the most damaged pillars of the nave; reinforcing the flying buttresses; wrapping and protecting the gargoyles and other sculptural elements of the north and south towers; and removing burned and melted scaffolding that had previously surrounded the spire.

Notre-Dame Cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is one of the most recognizable and beloved monuments in the world. More than 12 million people visited every year before the fire. As a result, the outpouring of support has been at a global level and from people of all belief systems—from the envelope Picaud received that contained a \$10 bill from a woman in the U.S. Midwest

to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York launching its own fundraising effort.

Even while the fire was burning, Picaud was being interviewed by media and he met a Moroccan-born man who was a Muslim. The man described Notre Dame as “our” cathedral.

“I think this is the beauty of Notre Dame and the church of the Virgin Mary,” Picaud said.

He emphasized that the United States has been the source of some of the largest donors. The Friends of Notre-Dame received two donations totaling \$10 million from two American foundations, he said.

The French government has set a target date to reopen the cathedral to the public in April 2024, but Picaud said there is no way of knowing the exact time this will happen. †

Appeals court says Ohio can enforce Down syndrome abortion law

CINCINNATI (CNS)—A federal appeals court on April 13 upheld a 2017 Ohio law that prohibits doctors from knowingly participating or performing an abortion because of a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

In a 9-7 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, based in Cincinnati, overturned an injunction against the state's Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act, saying the law “does not create a substantial obstacle to a woman's ability to choose or obtain an abortion,” as its opponents contend.

Ohio “has legitimate interests in enacting such a law,” it said.

The 6th Circuit said these interests are threefold: “protecting the Down syndrome community from the stigma it suffers from the practice of Down syndrome-selective abortions; protecting women whose fetuses have Down syndrome from coercion by doctors who espouse and advocate the abortion of all such fetuses; and protecting the integrity and ethics of the medical

profession by preventing doctors from enabling such targeted abortions.”

It noted the lower court found “a likelihood that is an impermissible infringement on women's ‘unfettered right to choose whether to terminate, or continue, a pregnancy previability’ and therefore enjoined the defendants from implementing or enforcing” the law, also known as H.B. 214.

“But as a legal proposition, that claim contains three flaws,” said Circuit Judge Alice Batchelder, who wrote the majority opinion. “One, the right to an abortion, even before viability, is not absolute. Two, viability is not germane to this analysis or decision. And three, the ‘right’ actually implicated or affected here is not the woman's right merely to obtain an abortion. The plaintiffs cannot succeed on a claim framed in this way.”

Batchelder wrote that even though H.B. 214 “does not prohibit Down syndrome-selective abortions and might not actually reduce the incidence of such abortions, by prohibiting doctors from

knowingly participating in this practice, it sends a resounding message condemning the practice of selective abortions.”

Circuit Judge Richard Griffin, who voted with the majority, wrote that “many think that eugenics ended with the horrors of the Holocaust.

“Unfortunately, it did not. The philosophy and the pure evil that motivated Hitler and Nazi Germany to murder millions of innocent lives continues today,” he said.

After Gov. John Kasich signed H.B. 214 into law, a federal judge blocked

it in March 2018 and the case had been in the federal courts since. The full 16-member 6th Circuit heard an appeal of the injunction on the law in March 2020.

Among those who challenged H.B. 214 were Preterm-Cleveland, Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region, Dr. Roslyn Kade, Women's Med and Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, Susan B. Anthony List president, applauded the 6th Circuit for a ruling that “upholds Ohio as a safe haven for unborn babies with Down syndrome.” †

MCGRADY

continued from page 12

And isn't that what love asks of us? Love asks that we share.

If we truly care for another, valuing them and honoring who they are, acknowledging their dignity and worth, then we must give to them. Give of our time, give of our treasure. Seek to serve them, in whatever small or big way that is needed.

And it took the persistence, and sneakiness, of my daughter wanting to give cookies to a nun that reminded me that I am not called to be stingy or hardhearted to those I love.

In fact, it reminded me that the love I am called to have for every single person is meant to be a generous love, a self-giving love, a love that responds and acts for their good.

It's a love that doesn't just ask, “what's the bare minimum required of me in this moment?” But instead, a love that pours out: to build up, aid and care for others.

We often limit the love we give. We are not abundantly generous. We barely give. We offer leftovers, scraps or what we think we don't need. On more than one occasion, I've thought, “I couldn't

possibly give this or that. ... I don't have enough of it myself.”

And yet, Jesus tells us to give of our first fruits, not the mere leftovers. The widow, who offers her only two coins is more faithful—loves the Lord more!—than the wealthy man who drops in his spare change.

Rose didn't want to give Sister Mary Hannah a piece of her cookies. She wanted to offer her an entire pack, all for herself. Sister was worth that to her. A whole pack.

And I was the one keeping her from giving her that.

How often have I done that? How often have I held back, from pouring out and pouring into those in need, those with less than me, even those who perhaps just want a chance to be seen, heard and cared for by me?

As we celebrate the Easter season, perhaps we can take intentional time to look for ways we can give, even if it means sneaking an extra pack of cookies out of the pantry.

(Katie Prejean McGrady is an award-winning author and host of “The Katie McGrady Show” on Sirius XM. She lives in Louisiana with her husband and daughters.) †

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Legacy Gala

Keeping in Step with the Spirit

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." Galatians 5:25



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The Legacy Gala Virtual Event was a **GREAT** success! Because of your generosity and the generosity of all of our incredible sponsors, we were able to raise more than **\$345,000** for Catholic Charities, Catholic Schools and Seminarian Education.

If you were not able to tune in on Friday evening but would still like to watch the event, it's not too late! Simply scan the QR code below to watch the full program.



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