



The

# Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



## Devotion to Our Lady

Readers share how the Blessed Mother has impacted their faith, page 7.

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## Being a catechist is a vocation, pope says in establishing formal ministry

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Calling for formal recognition of “those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work

of catechesis,” Pope Francis has instituted the “ministry of catechist.”

“The Spirit is calling men and women to set out and encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness and truth of the Christian faith,” the



Pope Francis

pope wrote in “*Antiquum Ministerium*” (“Ancient Ministry”), his apostolic letter released at the Vatican on May 11.

In addition to releasing texts of the document in Italian, French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish, the Vatican distributed a video of the text translated into Italian sign language.

Pastors must support laypeople in answering the Spirit’s call and “enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society through the ‘penetration of Christian values into the social, political and economic sectors,’ ” the pope said, quoting what he had written about the vocation of laypeople in his 2013 apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel.”

Bishops’ conferences will need to determine the “process of formation and the normative criteria for admission to this ministry,” and devise “the most appropriate forms for the service which these men and women will be called to exercise,” the pope said.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, he said, “will soon publish the Rite of Institution of the lay ministry of catechist.” The congregation already is working on revised rites for the ministries of lector and acolyte, which Pope Francis opened to women in January.

See CATECHISTS, page 16



Julie Reyes and her daughter Ana celebrated “Mother-Daughter Day” together on May 1 at Camp Rancho Framasa in Brown County by visiting the camp’s new grotto to the Blessed Mother. The Catholic Youth Organization camp is one of the outdoor sacred spaces in the archdiocese that offers visitors fun places to explore, beautiful settings and opportunities to grow in faith. (Submitted photo)

## Adventure, faith and nature are connected in archdiocese’s Outdoor Sacred Spaces

By John Shaughnessy

As Julie Reyes put together the list of “Outdoor Sacred Spaces” in the archdiocese, the mother of two small children had a revelation that these sites would be wonderful places for families to visit.

“I was immediately thinking of families during the pandemic,” says Reyes, a member of the archdiocese’s Creation Care Commission. “As a family, we would often go to the Children’s Museum or the Indianapolis Zoo. I never thought about going to Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House or the EcoLab at Marian University [both in Indianapolis].”

“When we started putting together this list, I thought families are going to love it. Then I started sharing it with people around my age, and they said, ‘This is great. I didn’t know these places existed.’ ”

For the 38-year-old Reyes, the list of sacred places across central and southern Indiana offers a trinity of terrific qualities: They’re fun places to explore, they reveal the beauty of God’s creation, and they also offer opportunities to learn more about the Catholic faith.

“You get to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, and you can learn about our sacred traditions, the saints, new prayers and devotions, and connect with God in a new way,” says Reyes, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

See SPACES, page 8

## LAUDATO SI’ WEEK 2021

(Editor’s note: Pope Francis has proclaimed May 16-24 as ‘Laudato Si’ Week 2021. The week is dedicated to the “celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion” since the pope’s 2015 encyclical, “Laudato Si’: On Care of Our Common Home.” The package of stories in this issue of The Criterion features the bold and grassroots efforts that some parishes in the archdiocese have made toward care of the environment, opportunities that connect faith and nature for individuals and families, and fun, easy tips for making the world a better place to live.)



Franciscan Sister Joan Miller and Kenny Zauss prepare to plant trees on the grounds of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County, where she is the parish life coordinator and he is a member. (Submitted photo)

## Pope’s call to care for creation plants seeds among archdiocesan parishes to grow their efforts

By John Shaughnessy

As Franciscan Sister Joan Miller roams through her parish’s grounds marked by bird houses, recently planted trees and wildflowers that attract bees and butterflies, she believes that she and her fellow parishioners are preserving the beauty of God’s creation.

When Cliff Burk talks about the solar panels that his parish has added to its buildings, he calls it “a gift to the next generation.”

And when Paige Kervan gives a tour of the conservation efforts her parish has undertaken, she says, “The way we’re supposed to live our Catholic faith is to respect all life,

including respect for our planet.”

Burk, Kervan, Sister Joan and their parishes are striving to live out the goals of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical, “Laudato Si’: On Care of Our Common Home.”

This year, the pope has proclaimed May 16-24 as *Laudato Si’* Week, which is described on the Vatican website as a celebration of “the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion.”

In the archdiocese, that conversion sometimes has taken place in bold ways, such as the 320 solar

See EFFORTS, page 9



# Judge dismisses lawsuit against archdiocese by former Cathedral teacher

By Sean Gallagher

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis won a significant freedom of religion victory on May 7 in Marion County Superior Court.

On that day, Judge Lance Hamner dismissed a lawsuit by a former teacher at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis challenging the Church's freedom to ensure that teachers in its schools faithfully adhere to and promote Catholic teachings.

"Catholic schools exist to uphold the dignity of all persons, including those who experience same-sex attraction, and to teach the Catholic faith to the next generation," read a statement issued by the archdiocese after the dismissal. "To accomplish this religious mission, Catholic schools ask their educators to uphold the Catholic faith in word and deed.

"If a school's educators oppose core aspects of the Catholic faith, it undermines the school's ability to accomplish its mission."

Representing the archdiocese in the lawsuit is Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, a Washington-based religious liberty law firm.

"If the First Amendment means anything, it means the government can't punish the Catholic Church for asking Catholic educators to support Catholic teaching," said Goodrich. "This has always been a very simple case, because the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the freedom of religious schools to choose teachers who support their religious faith."

In 2017, the teacher, Joshua Payne-Elliott, entered into a same-sex union against his employment agreement and the teachings of the Church. For nearly two years, the archdiocese took part in dialogue and discernment with Cathedral on how best to resolve this situation in accord with Church teaching and canon law.

In 2019, the archdiocese informed Cathedral that, in order to remain affiliated with the Church, it could no longer employ teachers who did not adhere to Church teaching. The high school then chose to separate from Payne-Elliott.

He then filed suit against the

archdiocese claiming that it illegally interfered in his employment agreement with Cathedral when it sought to ensure that teachers at Cathedral and in Catholic schools in central and southern Indiana were faithful to Church teaching.

In arguing that the case should be dismissed, Goodrich cited a number of rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court that, in accord with religious liberty enshrined in the First Amendment, establish a religious organization's freedom to ensure that its mission is carried out faithfully by those who minister in it free from governmental and judicial interference.

Richard Garnett, Paul J. Schierl/Fort Howard Corporation professor of law and director of the Notre Dame Program on Church, State and Society at the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana, said the dismissal is encouraging for those who value religious liberty.



Richard Garnett

"This order [of dismissal] is consistent with the principle of church-state separation, correctly understood, and also with the constitutional right of religious communities to pursue their religious missions, even when doing so is unpopular," Garnett said. "Religious freedom necessarily includes the right of religious communities, schools, hospitals, and social-welfare agencies to be distinctively religious."

In a tweet posted on the day of the dismissal, Goodrich emphasized how the order ensures religious organizations remain free from governmental interference when choosing who will teach the faith.

"It is important that courts consistently uphold the right of religious groups to operate by their religious principles," he said. "Choosing who teaches in a religious school is a religious decision. Today's order ensures that those decisions will be made by churches, not governments."

According to an article published by the *Indianapolis Star*, Payne-Elliott is considering appealing the dismissal of his lawsuit. †



**'If the First Amendment means anything, it means the government can't punish the Catholic Church for asking Catholic educators to support Catholic teaching.'**

—Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at Becket

## Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

May 15–23, 2021

**May 15 – 5 p.m.**  
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

**May 16 – 12:30 p.m.**  
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg, at St. Malachy Church

**May 16 – 6:15 p.m.**  
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Patrick Parish, Indianapolis, at St. Patrick Church

**May 18 – 3:30 p.m.**  
Indiana Bishops' Province meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

**May 19 – 9 a.m.**  
Indiana Catholic Conference meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

**May 20 – 8:30 a.m.**  
Mass for students of Our Lady of Lourdes School, Indianapolis, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church

**May 20 – 10 a.m.**  
Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

**May 21 – 1 p.m.**  
Mass for Seniors of Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception, Oldenburg, at Oldenburg Academy

**May 22 – 9 a.m.**  
Graduation Ceremony at Roncalli High School, Indianapolis

**May 22 – 5:30 p.m.**  
Confirmation Mass for youths of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, Greenwood, at SS. Francis and Clare Church

**May 23 – 2 p.m.**  
Confirmation Mass for adults throughout the archdiocese at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

**May 23 – 6 p.m.**  
Confirmation Mass for adults from St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

## Christian leaders in Jerusalem express concern over growing violence

JERUSALEM (CNS)—The patriarchs and heads of Christian Churches of Jerusalem expressed deep concern over the growing violence in Jerusalem, which increased with 331 Palestinians reportedly wounded at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during clashes with Israeli police on May 10.

"We ... are profoundly disheartened and concerned about the recent violent events in East Jerusalem. These concerning developments, whether at the Al-Aqsa Mosque or in Sheikh Jarrah, violate the sanctity of the people of Jerusalem and of Jerusalem as the City of Peace," the Church leaders said in the May 10 statement. Sheikh Jarrah is a neighborhood in East Jerusalem.

At least 21 Israeli police reportedly were injured during the confrontations, which began early in the morning as Israelis prepared to celebrate Jerusalem Day, commemorating what Israel views as the 1968 reunification of Jerusalem and Palestinians see as the start of the Israeli occupation.

Police say they were forced to respond when Palestinians attacked a police post, hurling rocks, fireworks and other objects at police from the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a Muslim holy site. The site also is considered holy by Jews, who call it the Temple Mount after the two Jewish Biblical temples that stood there.

"The special character of Jerusalem,

the Holy City, with the existing status quo, compels all parties to preserve the already sensitive situation in the Holy City of Jerusalem. The growing tension, backed mainly by right-wing radical groups, endangers the already fragile reality in and around Jerusalem," the Christian leaders said in their statement.

In a separate statement on May 10, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem also denounced the violence.

"The violence used against the worshippers undermines their safety and their rights to have access to the holy places and worship freely," the patriarchate said. "The forced eviction of Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah is also an unacceptable violation of the most fundamental human rights, the right to a home."

Throughout April and into May, Jerusalem has been engulfed in the worst violence in years as police prevented Palestinian youth from gathering at the Damascus Gate square during the evenings of the holy month of Ramadan as usual. Police said they were responding to TikTok videos showing Palestinians attacking religious Jews in the area. Tensions have also flared over pending evictions of Palestinians from Sheikh Jarrah.

The Latin Patriarchate said it opposed any attempt to make Jerusalem an exclusive city for anyone. †



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# In uncertain year, graduation offers touches of normalcy for Class of 2021

By John Shaughnessy

The past 14 months have been unusual, uncertain and unnerving in many ways for the seniors who are preparing to graduate this spring at Catholic high schools across the archdiocese.

Still, their upcoming graduations offer touches of normalcy, too. Friends will promise to stay close forever. Seniors will seek out the teachers who have made a difference in their lives. Parents of the graduates will look at their children and wonder where the years have gone.

For the graduates and their families, it will be a time of looking back—and looking forward—with a mixture of pride, relief, nostalgia and celebration.

It will also be a time for congratulations to the Class of 2021, including this one from Mary McCoy, interim superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

“Congratulations to all of our high school graduates throughout the archdiocese, who are achieving this milestone under such unusual circumstances and during the most memorable years in our history,” McCoy says.

“Such achievement during a pandemic exhibits a great deal of courage and perseverance. Whether our graduates accomplished this virtually, in-person or through a hybrid model, they have demonstrated they are fully prepared for new endeavors.”

During this time of celebration, McCoy hopes that the graduates take time to think of all the people who have been involved in their Catholic education, especially in their challenging senior year. She also hopes their Catholic education leads them to continue their relationship with Jesus into the future.

“As another successful school year comes to a close, we want to thank those people who have helped make it all possible,” McCoy says. “None of this would be possible without the guidance of our priests, school leaders, teachers, staff members, parents and benefactors. All have gone above and beyond the calling.”

“As our graduates head to a new journey in life, may they never lose sight of the formation and education they have received in our Catholic schools. They have each received the tools and resources necessary to continue a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. May that always be a priority for whatever the future may hold.”

**Note: Most graduations and Baccalaureate Masses at the Catholic**

**schools across the archdiocese require a ticket to attend these events this year.**

Here is a listing of graduation-related information for the 12 Catholic high schools in the archdiocese.

**Bishop Chatard High School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 171 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 20 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 2:30 p.m. on May 23 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Liam Murphy**, son of Brian and Tracy Murphy of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis.

The class salutatorian is **Owen Teed**, son of Andy and Carmen Teed of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. William F. Stumpf, vicar general.

**Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 193 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be 10:30 a.m. on May 23 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7:30 p.m. on May 23 at the school.

**Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 116 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on June 3 at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on June 4 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Ethan Lettich**, son of Damon and Joanne Lettich.

The class salutatorian is **Mark Baker**, son of Bill and Amy Baker of St. Malachy Parish.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Annette “Mickey” Lentz, chancellor.

**Cathedral High School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 256 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 5 p.m. on May 21 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on May 23 at the school’s Brunette Park. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be moved to 6 p.m. on May 24 at the same location.

The commencement speaker will be Cathedral senior **Lauren Alexandra Dubbink**, daughter of Lynn Murphy-Dubbink and Kevin Dubbink of St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Chris Walsh, vice chancellor.



A member of the Class of 2020 at Bishop Chatard High School in Indiana—and its valedictorian that year—Margaret Corns shows off her diploma during the school’s commencement ceremony on July 23, 2020. (Submitted photo)

**Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School** in Madison has a graduating class of 18 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will at 7 p.m. on May 28 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 2 p.m. on May 30 at the school.

Two students are in contention for valedictorian and salutatorian honors as

the school year draws to a close:

**Johanna Leatherman**, daughter of Gabriele Leatherman.

**Trey Suggett**, son of Beth Suggett and Rob Suggett of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Walsh.

See GRADUATION, page 10

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## Editorial

# Mary and Joseph, models for Christian living

During the month of May, the Church gives us the unique opportunity to honor both the woman who gave birth to our Lord and the man who cared for him as his own son.

Each year, we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, and we dedicate the entire month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, we are observing a special Year of St. Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis to call attention to the singular role that this righteous man played in the life of Jesus and Mary.

Mary and Joseph, together and individually, are models for daily Christian living. They show us how to respond to God's call in our lives with humility and courage, and they help us accept the challenges and obstacles that we must face as missionary disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Especially in this time of pandemic, social unrest and economic hardships, we are wise to turn to Mary and Joseph with confidence in their ability to inspire and strengthen us in every difficulty.

Throughout the Church's history, Christians have sought Mary's intercession in times of serious illness, including pestilence and plagues. As a loving mother, Mary always responds with comfort and the healing grace of her Son.

The Church encourages all of us to seek Mary's intervention in times of grave crisis, and to seek her help in every troubling circumstance no matter how insignificant it may seem to us. Mary's loving presence offers courage and hope during frightening times, especially when we are isolated from family and friends. She reassures us and reminds us that we are never alone, never without the consolation and hope won for us by her Son's suffering, death and resurrection to new life.

Many people today are either out of work or afraid they will lose their jobs because of the wide-ranging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Joseph is the patron of all who labor to support themselves and their families. As a carpenter, he knew both the blessings and the hardships of daily work. Because he understands how important work is for individuals, families and society as a whole, he is in unique position to intercede for all who are poor, unemployed or struggling to survive in these hard times. He also reminds all of us to be good stewards of all God's gifts and to share generously with others, especially the poor.

One of the most devastating effects of the pandemic—spiritually—has been the fact that millions of people have been denied full access to the sacraments—especially the Eucharist, although thankfully that number is growing smaller as more people are vaccinated and parishes grow in knowledge of how to protect worshipers from the virus.

Mary shows us the way to her Son. She is a sacrament of God's presence in the world, the gateway to grace and a model for the Church's prayer and worship.

Those who, for various reasons, continue to be deprived of access to the sacraments and to the liturgy with our sisters and brothers, understandably turn to Mary in the rosary and other devotional prayers to help fill the spiritual gaps that exist in their lives. By proclaiming this Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis has encouraged an increase in devotion to her faithful husband, Joseph, as well.



The Holy Family of St. Joseph, Mary and Jesus is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Joseph Church in Ronkonkoma, N.Y. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

In this time of worldwide crisis, and in the midst of the violence and social unrest we are experiencing here in Indiana and throughout the U.S., we need wise, prudent and compassionate leadership—now more than ever. Mary and Joseph show us the way to follow their Son, the Good Shepherd. His teaching and example powerfully illustrate the meaning and vital importance of servant leadership.

Now more than ever, we should ask the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary and Joseph—to help all our leaders in society and in the Church set aside their personal and political agendas so that they can place

the needs of others first and foremost.

In his letter announcing the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis offered the following prayer: *Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

We are blessed to have Mary and Joseph, who are first among all the holy women and men who have given their lives throughout the centuries to follow Jesus, as our sure guides in these troubled times. May their intercession give us the serenity, courage and wisdom to accept God's will for us and to remain faithful to our baptismal calling to follow Jesus without counting the cost.

—Daniel Conway

## Be Our Guest/Gary Taylor

# We must strengthen our interior lives to overcome challenges to our faith

This is in response to John F. Fink's editorial "Why Catholics are leaving" in the April 30 issue of *The Criterion*.

Since Jesus, we have been in the last times. We simply do not know when it will climax, but we do know what it will entail. Scripture and the Fathers of our Church have unveiled that understanding.

Too many Catholics are indifferent, lethargic, ignorant and unrestrained in their love of sensual pleasures.

These common habits of Catholics make it easy for the devil and the power of evil to delude the faith of fully initiated disciples within the Catholic Church. The interior eye of their human soul is being neglected and darkened. To undecieve a soul requires grace, the Holy Spirit and the habit of denouncing the ways of the world and receiving the new resurrected life gifted and offered to all Catholics from Jesus.

The solution is denouncing self, rejecting the world and returning to docility and discernment of the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the perpetual prudent providence of God.

We as Catholics need to enthusiastically open ourselves to the spirit of life receiving God, having his mysterious eternity to once again enter into us.

The solution for spiritually devout convicted Catholics is not illusive; it is interior.

Being Catholic is about being of the kingdom. Being Catholic is about

imitating Jesus and embracing our intimacy with him; embracing our adoption into the world of the divine. Being Catholic is our savoring and sensing the supernatural. Being Catholic is our confidence in being connected to the apostolic succession, the origin of the Church Jesus instituted. Being Catholic is our being informed and understanding the truths of the future life. Being Catholic is our life-giving vision inspired and infused from our inner life with the divine Holy Spirit.

The prophecies from holy Scripture warn us that our faith will undergo great challenges. Jesus himself warns us of the coming of the man of sin, and of the days of desolation. There will be a grave apostasy within our Church. The holy word of God informs us that God will allow this time of desolation to test our faith.

The Catholic Church will encounter a great apostasy, a gradual cultural overtake and a severe persecution. All the infidels, heretics, sectarians and depraved men, scattered over the surface of the Earth, will unite with the Antichrist to make war on the saints and to persecute those who are faithful to God.

The solution is in the reading and responding to Father Charles Arminjon's book: *The End of the Present World and the Mysteries of the Future Life*.

(Gary Taylor is a member of St. Mary Parish in North Vernon.) †

## Archived Editorial

### Our name

(To continue our celebration of the 60th anniversary of *The Criterion*, here is the unsigned editorial from the very first issue, dated Oct. 7, 1960, which explains why our name was chosen.)

Criterion. Hmm. A fancy name. Where did we get it? And what does it mean?

Well, we got it by thinking up all the obvious names for a Catholic newspaper—and realizing they were all in use. If you don't like it, try thinking up a better one. They're all taken.

Webster's Dictionary says "criterion" means "a standard of judging, a rule or test by which anything is tried in forming a correct judgment respecting it." In short—a standard.

It may seem a trifle immodest to label as "The Criterion" a paper in which we editors express our views about numerous subjects, but if our readers will only accept the unofficial character we claim for our editorial opinions, the title "Criterion" won't seem too arrogant.

The only "official" status this paper enjoys lies in its choice by the Archbishop to be the one medium of religious news he desires all members of the Archdiocese to receive. The official communications of the Archbishop to the clergy and the laity will appear herein, and they, of course, will be "official."

But the editorial opinions will be—

well, the editors' opinions. We don't expect you will agree with all of them. In fact, we will be seriously concerned if we don't, at least occasionally, arouse spirited disagreement. We hope you will respect our editorial opinions—not because they appear in this paper, but for whatever clarity and cogency they may possess.

We will be attempting the difficult task of applying to concrete, specific situations the religious and moral ideals of the Catholic Faith. It is not a task in which one can enjoy the easy certitude of reiterating high principles and unarguable platitudes. One must get specific, and to be specific one must know more than the principles; one must be acquainted with the relevant facts of each situation or issue. Nobody is going to be totally right all the time in an effort of this scope.

We feel strongly that Catholics have a real obligation to discuss and debate the important issues of our times in the light of their religious and moral principles. We feel that the lofty and bland philosophizing that has often passed for Catholic comment is as sterile and useless as it is non-controversial.

We do not propose to be non-controversial. Controversy means at least that someone is awake. It does not have to mean that someone is boiling mad.

We also feel that it is past time for Catholics to stop talking only to each other. We hope to catch the ear of some interested Protestants, Jews and persons of no religious affiliation who want to hear a Catholic view on current issues.

Any ears ready to listen? †

## 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.

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

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# Christ the Cornerstone

## Christ, ascended to the Father, remains close to us

One of the high points in our observance of the Easter season is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Here in our archdiocese, as in most dioceses through the United States, we will celebrate this great feast on Sunday, May 16.

The Lord's ascension into heaven is reported in Sunday's first reading (Acts 1:1-11):

*"When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven'"* (Acts 1:9-11).

As this citation from sacred Scripture makes clear, the disciples were not equipped to handle the Lord's departure from them in this way. They feared that they were once again being left alone to face a world that was hostile to Jesus and to them, and they were effectively paralyzed—gazing at the sky. The two

angels (men dressed in white garments who suddenly stood beside them) rebuked them by saying that Jesus would "return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

This is one more example of the "both/and principle" that is so prevalent in Catholic theology. The Lord's ascension into heaven is both a going and a coming. It is both a returning to the Father's right hand, and a pledge to remain close to us always.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI offers the following reflection on the Lord's ascension in his book *Jesus of Nazareth* (Part Two, Epilogue):

*The departing Jesus does not make his way to some distant star. He enters into communion of power and life with the living God, into God's dominion over space. Hence he has not "gone away," but now and forever by God's own power he is present with us and for us.*

"Heaven" is not a geographic location. It is a communion, the state of being united with God and with all the angels and saints who share in the divine life, the beatific vision. When we say that Jesus "ascended," we use a spatial

image to describe a transcendental mystery, something that is beyond the limits of space and time. Jesus did not go away. He came closer. He is *both* seated at God's right hand, *and* with us here and now by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel reading for the Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension (Mk 16:15-20) makes it very clear that even after he was "taken up to heaven and seated at the right hand of God" (Mk 16:19), he collaborated with his disciples, working with them and confirming their ministry "through accompanying signs" (Mk 16:20). Far from abandoning them (or us), Jesus is really present now and always in word, sacrament and service to all members of God's family. Once again, Pope Benedict affirms that "ascension does not mean departure into a remote region of the cosmos but, rather, the continuing closeness that the disciples experience so strongly that it becomes a source of lasting joy."

Pope Francis has repeatedly said that "closeness" and "accompaniment" lead to the joy of the risen Christ. If we walk with Jesus, recognizing him in the faces of all our sisters and brothers,

especially the poor and marginalized, we will find happiness beyond our hearts' expectations. The Lord does not abandon us by his ascension into heaven. He remains with us—in powerful new ways—to accompany us in the joys and sorrows of our individual and communal journey to our heavenly home.

In the second reading for the Ascension (Eph 1:17-23), St. Paul prays:

*"May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come"* (Eph 1:18-21).

Jesus is *both* far above us *and* closer to us than we can possibly imagine. May our hearts be enlightened and filled with joy at the real presence of the risen Lord in word, sacrament and service to all. †



## Cristo, la piedra angular

### Cristo permanece cerca de nosotros, incluso después de ascender al cielo con su Padre

Uno de los momentos culminantes de nuestra celebración del tiempo de Pascua es la solemnidad de la Ascensión del Señor. Aquí en nuestra Arquidiócesis, como en la mayoría de las diócesis de Estados Unidos, celebraremos esta gran fiesta el domingo 16 de mayo.

La ascensión del Señor al cielo se relata en la primera lectura del domingo (Hch 1:1-11):

*"Después de haber dicho esto, ellos lo vieron elevarse y ser recibido por una nube, que lo ocultó de sus ojos. Como permanecían con la mirada puesta en el cielo mientras Jesús subía, se les aparecieron dos hombres vestidos de blanco, que les dijeron: 'Hombres de Galilea, ¿por qué siguen mirando al cielo? Este Jesús que les ha sido quitado y fue elevado al cielo, vendrá de la misma manera que lo han visto partir'"* (Hechos 1:9-11).

Como se desprende de esta cita de la Sagrada Escritura, los discípulos no estaban preparados para manejar la partida del Señor de esta manera. Temían que una vez más quedarán solos para enfrentarse a un mundo que era hostil a Jesús y a ellos, y se quedaron efectivamente paralizados mirando al cielo. Los dos ángeles (hombres vestidos de blanco que de repente se pusieron a su lado) les reprendieron diciendo que Jesús

"vendrá de la misma manera que lo han visto partir" (Hch 1:11).

Este es un ejemplo más del principio del "tanto y el como" que tanto abunda en la teología católica. La ascensión del Señor al cielo es una ida y una venida; es a la vez un retorno a la derecha del Padre y una promesa de permanecer siempre cerca de nosotros.

El papa emérito Benedicto XVI ofrece la siguiente reflexión sobre la ascensión del Señor en su libro *Jesus de Nazaret* (Segunda Parte, Epílogo):

*El Jesús que parte no se dirige a una estrella lejana. Entra en comunión de poder y vida con el Dios vivo, en el dominio de Dios sobre el espacio. Por eso no se ha "ido," sino que ahora y siempre, por el propio poder de Dios, está presente con nosotros y para nosotros.*

"El cielo" no es un lugar geográfico sino una comunión, el estado de estar unido a Dios y a todos los ángeles y santos que comparten la vida divina, la visión beatífica. Cuando decimos que Jesús "ascendió," utilizamos una imagen espacial para describir un misterio trascendental, algo que está más allá de los límites del espacio y del tiempo. Jesús no se fue sino que se acercó más. Está *tanto* sentado a la derecha de Dios *como* con nosotros

aquí y ahora por el poder del Espíritu Santo.

La lectura del Evangelio para la solemnidad de la Ascensión del Señor (Mc 16:15-20) deja muy claro que, incluso después de que "fue recibido en el alto cielo y se sentó a la derecha de Dios" (Mc 16:19), colaboró con sus discípulos, trabajando con ellos y "confirmando la palabra con las señales que la acompañaban" (Mc 16:20). Lejos de abandonarlos (o abandonarnos), Jesús está realmente presente ahora y siempre en la Palabra, los sacramentos y el servicio a todos los miembros de la familia de Dios. Una vez más, el papa Benedicto afirma que "la ascensión no significa la partida hacia una región remota del cosmos, sino más bien la continua cercanía que los discípulos experimentan tan fuertemente que se convierte en una fuente de alegría duradera."

El papa Francisco ha dicho repetidamente que la "cercanía" y el "acompañamiento" conducen a la alegría de Cristo resucitado. Si caminamos con Jesús, reconociéndolo en el rostro de todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas, especialmente de los pobres y marginados, encontraremos una felicidad que supera las expectativas

de nuestro corazón. El Señor no nos abandona con su ascensión al cielo: permanece con nosotros, en formas nuevas y poderosas, para acompañarnos en las alegrías y las penas de nuestro viaje individual y comunitario hacia nuestro hogar celestial.

En la segunda lectura de la Ascensión (Ef 1:17-23), san Pablo reza:

*"Pido también que les sean iluminados los ojos del corazón para que sepan a qué esperanza él los ha llamado, cuál es la riqueza de su gloriosa herencia entre los santos, y cuán incomparable es la grandeza de su poder a favor de los que creemos. Ese poder es la fuerza grandiosa y eficaz que Dios ejerció en Cristo cuando lo resucitó de entre los muertos y lo sentó a su derecha en las regiones celestiales, muy por encima de todo gobierno y autoridad, poder y dominio, y de cualquier otro nombre que se invoque, no solo en este mundo, sino también en el venidero"* (Ef 1:18-21).

Jesús está *tanto* por encima de nosotros *como* más cerca de lo que podemos imaginar. Que nuestros corazones se iluminen y se llenen de alegría ante la presencia real del Señor resucitado en la Palabra, los sacramentos y el servicio a todos. †

## Events Calendar

### May 17, 24, June 7, 14

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](mailto:joane632003@yahoo.com) or [soulcore.com](http://soulcore.com).

### May 19

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

**The Third Option virtual marriage crisis/enrichment class**, "Rebuilding Trust," 7-8 p.m., no registration needed, free. Go to [carmelthirdoption.org/web](http://carmelthirdoption.org/web), click on link at top of page. Information: [carmelthirdoption.org/web](http://carmelthirdoption.org/web), or Keith Ingram, [kingram@aicinvest.com](mailto:kingram@aicinvest.com) or 317-324-8446.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk**, 10:45-11:45 a.m., meet in front of church. Information: [faithfulcitizens2016@gmail.com](mailto:faithfulcitizens2016@gmail.com).

**Bible Study: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans**, via Zoom, sponsored by St. Michael Parish, Greenfield, 1-2:30 p.m., seventh of seven stand-alone sessions, led by graduates of Guadalupe Bible College, free. Information and registration: Darlene Davis, [ldarlene@gmail.com](mailto:ldarlene@gmail.com) or 317-498-2242.

### May 21

Knights of St. John Hall, 312 S. Wilder St., Greensburg. **Bob Rust Memorial Dinner**, drive-thru dinner benefitting Decatur County Right to Life, 4-7 p.m., \$10 dinner

includes grilled pork chop or grilled chicken breast, mac and cheese, green beans and roll, ticket required, register by May 17 at [cutt.ly/BobRustDinner](http://cutt.ly/BobRustDinner) or contact Patricia Louagie at 812-614-2528 or [decaturcortl@outlook.com](mailto:decaturcortl@outlook.com).

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Seth Monholand presenting "Project Young Catholic: Keeping the Catholic Church Relevant in Modern Times," rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by noon on May 18. Information and registration: [cutt.ly/CBE-Reg](http://cutt.ly/CBE-Reg).

### 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](http://cutt.ly/VDIC). Information: Pearllette Springer, [pspringer@archindy.org](mailto:pspringer@archindy.org) or 317-236-1474.

**Sidewalk Advocates for Life training**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$8 for materials, call for location. Information and registration: Sheryl Dye, [smdye1@gmail.com](mailto:smdye1@gmail.com).

### May 25

Plum Creek Golf Club, 12401 Lynnwood Blvd., Carmel, Ind. **Catholic Radio Indy's Annual Golf Outing**, check-in 10:30 a.m., Mass 11:30 a.m., lunch noon, shotgun start 1 p.m., \$125 individual, \$450 foursome, priests, deacons, vowed religious free. Registration: [catholicradioindy.org](http://catholicradioindy.org). Information: 317-870-8400 or [valerie@catholicradioindy.org](mailto:valerie@catholicradioindy.org).

### May 29-30

St. Agnes Parish, 1008 McLary Rd., Nashville. **Bruté Weekend at St. Agnes Church**, all weekend Masses, Father Joseph Moriarty, rector of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, will celebrate Mass and share how the

seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501 or [esanders@archindy.org](mailto:esanders@archindy.org).

### May 31

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, noon. Information: 317-784-4439 or [www.catholiccemeteries.cc](http://www.catholiccemeteries.cc).

### June 2

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.

### June 3-5

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road., Indianapolis. **Parish Festival**, 6:30-11 p.m., carnival rides, live music, Monte Carlo, children's games, food trucks, free admission. Information: 317-786-4371.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklandon Rd., Indianapolis. **Parish Festival**, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight; live music Thurs. Jason and Joy, Fri. Nauti Yachtys, Sat. Stella Luna and the Satellites; new rides, Kids' Zone, free entry with purchase of \$10 in food and beverage tickets, early-bird family package available. Information: [saintsimonfestival.com](http://saintsimonfestival.com), 317-826-6000 or [chair@saintsimonfestival.com](mailto:chair@saintsimonfestival.com).

### June 4

Women's Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, [www.womenscarecenter.org](http://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](mailto:msross1@hotmail.com). †

Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Art and Soul Creation Guild**, choose between 9:30-11:30 a.m. first Wednesday of the month or 6:30-8:30 p.m. first Thursday of the month, Providence Sister Rosemary Schmalz presenting, \$30 membership fee to join group, \$5 per session after. Information and registration: Jeanne Frost, 812-535-2952, [jfrost@spsmw.org](mailto:jfrost@spsmw.org) or [Events.SistersofProvidence.org](http://Events.SistersofProvidence.org).

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Plein Air Classes: Painting the Springtime Landscape**, 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. Registration: [mountsaintfrancis.org/retreats](http://mountsaintfrancis.org/retreats) or 812-923-8817. †

# Wedding ANNIVERSARIES

## MIKE AND MELANIE KRAEMER



**MIKE AND MELANIE (KENDALL) KRAEMER**, members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on May 21.

The couple was married in Holy Family Church in Richmond (now a campus of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish) on May 21, 1966.

They have three children: Jesuit Brother Joseph, Matthew and Mitchell Kraemer.

The couple also has four grandchildren. †

## ED AND JUDY BECHER



**ED AND JUDY (BAEHL) BECHER**, members of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 15.

The couple was married in St. James Church in Haubstadt, Ind. (Evansville Diocese) on May 15, 1971.

They have three children: Laurissa Bray, Tena Ellis and Kendra Smith.

The couple also has six grandchildren. †

## THOMAS AND MARY KAY MELTON



**THOMAS AND MARY KAY (DIERKES) MELTON**, members of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22.

The couple was married in St. Patrick Church in Madison (now a campus of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison), on May 22, 1971.

They have two children: Alison Fozkos and Brian Belton.

The couple also has six grandchildren. †

## JOSEPH AND MARYANN SKOWRON



**JOSEPH AND MARYANN (LUEBBERT) SKOWRON**, members of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 15.

The couple was married in Sacred Heart Church in Granite City, Ill., on May 15, 1971.

They have one child: Theresa Skowron Dunn.

The couple also has two grandchildren. †

## LARRY AND JANET WILLIAMS



**LARRY AND JANET (MICHAELIS) WILLIAMS**, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 23.

The couple was married in St. Jude Church in Indianapolis on April 23, 1971.

They have five children: Jennifer Himelick, Angie Uberta, Brian, David and Michael Williams.

The couple also has 10 grandchildren. †

For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to us, log on to [www.archindy.org/events](http://www.archindy.org/events).

## Retreats and Programs

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to [www.archindy.org/retreats](http://www.archindy.org/retreats).

### May 28

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Painting with Padre**, doors open 5:30 p.m., painting instruction from Conventual Franciscan Father Vincent Petersen 6-9 p.m., cheese and light snacks, bring your own beverage, \$40 per session. Registration: [mountsaintfrancis.org/retreats](http://mountsaintfrancis.org/retreats) or 812-923-8817.

### June 2, June 3

Providence Spirituality and

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

## Readers share stories of Blessed Mother's role in their lives

(Editor's note: In honor of May as the month of Mary, The Criterion recently asked readers to send in their stories of the impact of the

Blessed Mother on their life and their faith. This week presents the second of four installments featuring the responses received.

From Indianapolis to New Albany, this week's reader responses honor Mary and her desire to help her children at all stages of life.)

# M

# Mary has been 'at the center' of couple's 30-year relationship

By Natalie Hoefler

Lisa and Craig Whitaker have dedicated their marriage to helping the Church and spreading the faith.

One was raised on Catholicism and novenas. The other was a non-practicing Protestant who later converted to the Catholic faith.

What follows is a story of the Whitakers, members of Holy Family Parish in New Albany. Both were seeking to live their faith more deeply when God crossed their paths through a specific medium: the Blessed Mother.

### Trusting the 'intercession of the Mother of God'

Lisa was born into a family with a generational devotion to Mary through parish novenas, starting with Lisa's great-grandmother at what is now the Basilica of St. Anne-de-Beaupre near Quebec, Canada.

Lisa was in seventh grade when her parish established weekly prayer in the church to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The prayer time included eucharistic adoration.

It was during these sessions, along with "what my mother taught me," that she says she "developed my love for Our Lady and a deep, abiding devotion to all things Marian," says Whitaker.

"It is precisely during those weekly times ... that I was schooled in what it means to have a real, true, living faith which includes trusting in the intercession of the Mother of God."

More than a decade passed. Some unwise choices were made, and Lisa was a struggling single mother in 1989 when she realized she needed help.

"I asked Jesus to help me," she recalls. "Christ pointed me in the clear direction of his Blessed Mother. [She], in turn, happily pointed me back to her Son with an echo of similar words she spoke to the

wine stewards at the wedding in Cana, 'Do whatever he tells you, Lisa.'"

When she exited the chapel, she noticed a small newspaper with a photo of Mary on the cover. The publication, produced by Peace Center Tours, was about Marian apparitions that were reported to have been occurring since 1981 at Medjugorje in what was then Yugoslavia.

Lisa took it home, read it—and was fascinated.

"I started living the message—turning back to God, going to confession and daily Mass," she says.

Two weeks later, she and her sister drove an hour and a half from their home in Georgetown, Ky., to hear the author of the tract speak in Louisville.

### 'It was Mary who brought me to Christ'

Craig was a non-practicing Protestant Christian whose parents divorced when he was young. He lived with his mom, who provided "a motherly figure" in his life, he says. But faith was never a primary focus in the home.

But it was for his best friend's family. "They strongly practiced their Catholic faith," he recalls. "I was over at his house every day after school. They became my second family."

This was especially true after Craig's mother died when he was just 14. He lived with his grandparents, then with his grandfather after his grandmother died when Craig was 18.

All the while, Craig drew closer to his friend's family.

"I started going to Mass with them," he says. "Finally, I came into the Church in 1984."

He took a corporate job, "climbing the ladder of success," Craig says.

He worked in California and Chicago. But by 1987 he left the company, got a job in Louisville and moved to New Albany to care for his grandfather.

A year later, he happened across a small newspaper about Medjugorje.

"The newspaper rang true to me," Craig recalls. "I was a practicing Catholic, but I didn't know much about Mary. I shared the newspaper with some friends in my Bible study. They were interested in going. Then we saw there was a pilgrimage [group] leaving in May. I knew I had to go."

The journey impacted him greatly, says Craig. When he returned, he became involved with Peace Center Tours and its mission.

"Part of my ministry was to get youth involved [in their faith], understand their faith better and come to love Jesus through Mary," he explains.

"I didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus. But it was Mary who brought me to Christ, and I wanted to share that with others in my situation, how they could pray for Mary's intercession and ask her to introduce [Jesus] to them."

Another part of Craig's service to the organization was helping deliver talks about Medjugorje.

Thus he found himself in Louisville co-hosting a presentation when a young woman in the crowd asked him about the Blessed Mother's message for young people.

The woman's name was Lisa.

### 'A spiritual level first'

"I stayed after to thank him," Lisa recalls.

"I thought she was 16 or 17," says Craig, who was 31 at the time. He didn't realize she was 24.

Thinking she was part of a youth group, Craig got her address to send her information. He ended the conversation by reaching into his pocket and giving her a Miraculous Medal.

"I'd had it in my pocket for two years," Craig shares. "I said, 'I think Mary wants you to have this.'"

A few weeks later, Lisa received a package in the mail from Craig with a picture of Mary, a rosary and information on how to pray it. Despite the novenas she prayed with her family, "I didn't really pray the rosary growing up," Lisa admits.

Now armed with beads and instructions, she began praying the rosary. She wrote Craig to thank him, and in the process "poured my heart out to him.

"I said here's my situation, here's how I came to it, and I'm thankful I met you, and I'm trying to live the messages" from Medjugorje (still unverified by the Vatican as supernatural, as the apparitions are reported to still be occurring).

"I gave him my phone number," says Lisa. Then she adds with an audible smile and bubbly joy, "That man is my husband! Craig!"

The couple began corresponding in June of 1989. Lisa formed a prayer group in her parish and invited Craig to the weekly sessions. By August, they decided to date.



Craig and Linda Whitaker and Linda's—now the couple's—son Johnathan honor Mary during their wedding Mass at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Georgetown, Ky., on Dec. 8, 1990. (Submitted photo)

Their first date, however, did not occur until after they were engaged, Lisa admits.

"Our relationship started on a spiritual level first, then friendship, then we realized, 'There's something here,'" she says.

After a volleyball match at her parish's annual picnic that fall—still dating but not having gone on a date—Craig asked Linda to pray with him in her parish's adoration chapel.

"We prayed, then started talking, then he said, 'Well, this isn't what I planned—.' Then he got down on his knee and proposed," says Lisa.

Three months before their wedding, she and her sister joined Craig on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

The couple married in 1990 on the day they both knew should be their wedding date: Dec. 8, the feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception, which happened to fall on a Saturday that year.

### 'Mary, she's been at the center'

"She really is a momma to us," Lisa says of the Blessed Mother.

Both have been active in the New Albany Deanery and in Holy Family Parish with Bible studies and nearly two decades of helping with the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

The couple even founded a charter Catholic school in Louisville, for which Lisa served as principal and teacher and Craig served in administration. The donor-funded school was able to operate for 10 years "by the grace of God," Craig notes.

"We always said we're meant to work in the Church and help spread the faith. And that's what we've done for 30 years," says Lisa, who served as director of religious education at the former St. Joseph Parish in Clark County from 2001-2011, and at St. Joseph Parish in Corydon from 2011 until her retirement last December.

"We both knew when we married and through the years that our marriage was founded on our faith and love of God and Jesus through Mary—and St. Joseph, he's active in our lives and marriage, too!" says Lisa.

Still, the Blessed Mother has played a vital role in the couple's lives, says Craig.

"Mary, she's been at the center of our relationship, and continues to be." †

## Having 'both a spiritual and an earthly mother' is 'very important'

By Natalie Hoefler

As a young girl, Helen Stephon was fascinated by the stories her grandmother shared about the Blessed Mother.

"She didn't drive, so we'd pick her up, and she would just love to sit and tell us [kids] stories," Stephon recalls, "especially stories about how the Blessed Mother often appeared to little children around the world, like Fatima and the [three shepherd] children."

Later in life, Stephon would travel on pilgrimage with her own mother to several sites where Mary appeared to

children, including Fatima and Lourdes.

"I was fortunate to attend those Marian pilgrimages with my mother," she says. "What a gift!"

As Stephon grew in her faith, she also grew closer to the Virgin Mary.

"I always felt like I had an earthly mother and a spiritual mother," she says. "Both are very important."

So when her faith community, St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, announced a group study in 2012 using Immaculate Conception Father Michael Gaitley's Marian consecration book titled *33 Days to Morning Glory*, Stephon immediately signed up. The date chosen for the consecration was March 25, the feast of the Annunciation.

Knowing that Christ's birth would be celebrated nine months later, "our teachers, Paul and Clara Kachinski, invited us to ask for a special intention from the Blessed Mother and to receive the answer on Christmas Day," she says. "I immediately thought of my daughter, who had just recently had a miscarriage."

That same year, Stephon received wonderful news—her daughter was expecting another child, and the due date was Dec. 25.

"I about hit the floor when she told me the due date!" says Stephon.

The baby ended up being born on Dec. 27, but she still sees him as a gift through the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

"What a blessing he is," the happy grandmother gushes. †



Helen Stephon of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis poses in front of the shrine in Lourdes, France, in 2017. (Submitted photo)

# Connection of God, nature and humanity guides Creation Care Commission

By John Shaughnessy

As a child, she loved being surrounded by nature—walking through the woods, wading in water, climbing rocks and trees.

As a college student, her love for the outdoors led her to northern California where she hiked among the giant redwoods—a spiritual experience that filled her with awe about the majesty of God’s creations.

As an adult, she still savors being immersed in nature, planting flowers and caring for trees on the grounds of the place she now calls home—Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

A lifetime of such experiences has led Benedictine Sister Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick to appreciate the eloquent urgency of Pope Francis’ encyclical about the interconnectedness of humanity and the natural world, “*Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home.*”

The 2015 encyclical has also led her to become involved—as a member of the archdiocese’s Creation Care Commission—in the effort to help Catholics across central and southern Indiana live out the pope’s call to care more deeply about our intertwined relationships with God, people and Earth.

As the days of May 16-24 have been designated as *Laudato Si’* Week for the global Church this year, *The Criterion* asked Sister Sheila and fellow Creation Care Commission member Rosemary Spalding to share their thoughts on the continuing importance of the encyclical, the progress that has been made, and the hopes and challenges of bringing the goals of the encyclical to life for people and parishes across the archdiocese.

Here is an edited version of that interview with Spalding, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis, and with Sister Sheila, director of facilities at the Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center in Beech Grove.

**Q. Talk about the continuing importance of *Laudato Si’*.**

**Spalding:** “*Laudato Si’* is a clear and urgent call to action from the highest authority in the Catholic Church and possibly the most respected religious leader in the world. *Laudato Si’* makes clear that addressing the climate crisis is a moral imperative because of the impacts on all of creation, most especially the poorest and the most vulnerable among us. It provides the foundation for the Commission’s work as we try to change the hearts and minds, and most importantly, the behaviors of our fellow Catholics throughout the archdiocese.”

**Q. What is one of the main themes or passages of *Laudato Si’* that especially connects with you?**

**Sister Sheila:** “The concept of ‘integral ecology’ is most meaningful for me. We cannot select one issue to predominate, for they are all connected. The beauty and theology of Catholic social teaching is that we must see all aspects together as a whole picture, each in relationship to each other. I appreciate what has been termed ‘The Kinship Model’: ‘Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor, and with the Earth’ (*Laudato Si’*, #66). “The relationships are inseparable.”

**Q. What led you to want to become involved in the Creation Care Commission of the archdiocese?**

**Spalding:** “In March 2015, then-Archbishop Joseph [W.] Tobin spoke about creation care at an event at Marian University [in Indianapolis]. His remarks were inspiring and a preview of the highly anticipated encyclical that was expected later in the spring.

“I already was working with John Mundell on creation care issues, and through the event at Marian we met several others who had been as well. After the issuance of *Laudato Si’*, we reached out to Archbishop Tobin to ask how we could help him answer the urgent call to action throughout the archdiocese. He responded enthusiastically and asked our group to proceed with developing a plan of action. With his approval and direction, the Creation Care Commission was born.”

**Q. Talk about some of your main hopes for the Creation Care Commission?**

**Sister Sheila:** “My hope for the commission is that we can be a way to reduce barriers that prevent individuals and parishes from enabling Care for Creation practices in their homes, parishes and schools. We need both a top-down and bottom-up approach. If we can help promote both aspects by bringing people together, we will have accomplished much.”

**Q. What do you consider as some of the ministry’s success stories so far?**

**Sister Sheila:** “Our biggest accomplishment is the creation of an assessment process that parishes and schools can use to determine areas of improvement in energy efficiency and reduce waste. These tools are available for any parish or school. We have also held events such as tree and seed sales.”

**Q. There’s a strong emphasis on getting parishes involved in this effort. Talk about the importance of parishes becoming involved in this effort.**

**Spalding:** “There are two important reasons why parishes must be involved with this effort. First, the archdiocese has more than 125 parishes, each with buildings and many with a school. Collectively, these parishes and schools contribute significantly to the carbon footprint of the archdiocese and the negative impacts to the environment.

“Second, the parishes, through the pastors and parish



Benedictine Sister Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick, left, and Rosemary Spalding pose on the grounds of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove. They are among the members of the archdiocese’s Creation Care Commission. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

leadership, are the primary source of spiritual guidance to members of the parish. The parish is critical to the dissemination of information through the bulletin, newsletters, programs, ministries and, of course, the pulpit. The parishes can be the most effective messengers to the faithful on all aspects of creation care.”

**Sister Sheila:** “Also, the more parishes and schools involved, the more we learn from each other and improve our connections across the archdiocese.”

**Q. What do you hope can be accomplished by parishes and the archdiocese in the next five years?**

**Sister Sheila:** “I believe we can reduce the carbon footprint across the archdiocese. We also can do this as part of a global Catholic effort: the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform. In five years, imagine what Catholics across the world can do to care for creation. I want the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to be a part of this wonderful endeavor.”

**Q. How can the Creation Care Commission help parishes get involved in this effort?**

**Sister Sheila:** “Contact us at [mail@ourcommonhome.org](mailto:mail@ourcommonhome.org) or visit our website at [www.ourcommonhome.org](http://www.ourcommonhome.org). We are happy to assist you in beginning a Creation Care Team, performing an assessment or connecting in some other way to care for creation.” †

## Fun and easy tips help families care for creation

Families can add touches of fun, joy and growth in helping care for the world. The Creation Care Commission of the archdiocese offers these suggestions for parents and their children to share:

- Take a walk or hike as a family, noticing all the elements of nature along the way—birds, trees, flowers, wildlife.
- Find and prepare fun, meatless recipes.
- Plant a garden or grow plants indoors.
- Use reusable products for school lunches, such as a water bottle and containers for sandwiches and snacks.
- During walks through your neighborhood, pick up litter safely.
- Plan an activity that does not use electricity or a motorized vehicle.
- Share a prayer of thanksgiving for all that God has given us in creation. †

that what I do isn’t just impacting the present, it’s also impacting the future.”

Here is a list of 10 of the “Outdoor Sacred Spaces” in the archdiocese, including some of their main features as recorded on their websites:

**Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove**

The nearly 50 acres of this monastery of the Sisters of St. Benedict features an outdoor replica of the prayer labyrinth of the Chartres Cathedral in France and a 3-acre Peace and Nature Garden.

**Marian University in Indianapolis**

The campus is home to the 75-acre Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab, a habitat with more than 3 miles of trails. The EcoLab also features a Blessed Mother Mary Shrine and Rosary Walk.

**Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis**

With 13 wooded acres, this refuge features trails, a prayer labyrinth, Stations of the Cross and a Rosary Walk and Prayer Garden. Shrines to Our Lady of Fatima and the Holy Family are also highlights.

**The Woods in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods**

The home of the Sisters of Providence near Terre Haute features a replica Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, St. Anne Shell Chapel and the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice.

**Oldenburg Franciscan Center in Olenburg**

The grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis provide a scenic walking tour of shrines and the sisters’ cemetery.

Michaela Farm offers more opportunities to connect with God in nature.

**Camp Rancho Framasa in Brown County**

Hiking trails and a grotto to the Blessed Mother are among the features of this 297-acre camp in the rolling hills of southern Indiana that serves children, adults and families for scheduled stays throughout the year.

**Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Bloomington**

Known locally as “The Farm,” the retreat center’s hilly grounds offer a haven of peace and prayer, including a Seven Sorrows of Mary Path, a Rosary Walk and Stations of the Cross.

**Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad**

The archabbey offers paths through woods that lead to a number of shrines and sculptures. The shrine of Our Lady of Monte Cassino is surrounded by trees and scenic views, with a prayer garden nearby.

**Mount St. Francis in Mt. St. Francis**

The home of the Conventual Franciscan Friars sits on 400 acres with woods, nearly 10 miles of walking trails and a 17-acre lake. The grounds also feature a park, a prayer labyrinth and a meditation path.

**Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand (Evansville Diocese)**

Known as the “Castle on the Hill,” the monastery is surrounded by spectacular views from its hilltop location. The monastery grounds include a prayer labyrinth, Lourdes Shrine and flower-bordered paths. †

# EFFORTS

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panels that have been added to the buildings of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington.

It has also occurred in the equally important “grassroot” efforts at Kervan’s home parish—Our Lady of Lourdes in Indianapolis—and Sister Joan’s home parish—St. Vincent de Paul in Shelby County—as well as other faith communities across the archdiocese.

Still, there is much more work to be done, say the leaders of the archdiocese’s Creation Care Commission, and the greatest impact of that effort will need to happen at the parish level.

**A commitment to care**

“There are two important reasons why parishes must be involved with this effort,” says Rosemary Spalding, a member of the archdiocese’s Creation Care Commission.

“First, the archdiocese has more than 125 parishes, each with buildings and many with a school. Collectively, these parishes and schools contribute significantly to the carbon footprint of the archdiocese and the negative impacts to the environment.”

She also believes “the parishes can be the most effective messengers to the faithful on all aspects of creation care”—by providing information through their bulletins, ministries and “of course, the pulpit.”

Father Rick Ginther has embraced that approach as the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. By making “creation care” part of the parish mission, he believes it sets an example for parishioners to follow personally.

“I find the mantra, ‘reuse, recycle, renew,’ helpful,” he says. “It plants the seed of the idea—the truth—of our planet home’s need for our kindness. It plants the seed that our neighbor—next door and around the world—depends upon what we do in caring for creation. And finally, it plants the seed that our children and grandchildren, born and yet to be born, are relying upon our present, persistent commitment.”

Paige Kervan’s commitment to caring for the environment intensified after she and her husband Kevin were part of the team charged with the recycling effort during Our Lady of Lourdes’ Fall Festival in 2019. The mother of two grown children couldn’t believe the total weight and volume of what was collected, and what had been discarded and wasted.

When she mentioned her concern to Father Ginther, he told her he needed to get her on the parish’s Creation Care Committee. Soon, she was leading the parish’s grassroots efforts.

Rain barrels have been placed around the parish’s campus, collecting water that is used to nourish plants and flowers. A plan has been made to eliminate the use of Styrofoam at the parish by the end of 2021. A connection has been made with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to plant trees throughout the parish’s boundaries this fall.

Efforts have also been made toward composting and purchasing reusable dishes and flatware instead of plastic ones. And the school’s kitchen staff has placed an increased emphasis on recycling and using sustainable products.

“We have an obligation to give back to the Earth and the environment,” Kervan says. “It really doesn’t require a lot of money to make a difference. It’s our responsibility to make attempts. And small attempts help to sustain the environment.”

Echoing a major theme that Pope Francis shares in *Laudato Si’*, she adds, “We have an obligation to look out for our fellow man and neighbors. And part of that is making sure we have a healthy environment to live in.”

Cliff Burk has a similar thought when he considers the addition of 320 solar panels to the buildings of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington.



When it comes to combining her love of her Catholic faith and her love of nature, Paige Kervan finds the right blend in the grotto area of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis, where she is a member. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

**‘I’m glad we’re doing something’**

The 74-year-old retired engineer used his science background to support the goals of *Laudato Si’* when he helped to lead the parish’s effort to install solar panels on its buildings in late 2017. The parish paid \$180,000 for the solar panel system, Burk noted.

As the gleaming blue solar panels absorb the sun’s rays and convert the energy into electricity that provides power to the parish school, rectory and church, they’ve had a dramatic impact in helping reduce the parish’s electricity costs. So have replacing the parish’s indoor lights with LED lights and updating heating and air conditioning units with more energy-efficient ones.

In 2014, electric bills had crept up to more than \$23,000, Burk said, noting that electric bills in 2020 were about \$1,500.

The impact on the environment has been dramatic, too.

“The reporting system for the solar panels is telling us that 523,000 pounds of carbon dioxide have been saved,” Burk said about the major greenhouse gas that scientists maintain has contributed significantly to global warming. “That’s about 262 tons of carbon dioxide that has been saved. That’s equivalent to [the impact of] planting 3,300 trees.”

Burk acknowledges that there are fellow parishioners who have questioned the high, initial cost of the solar panels. And there’s the reality that such a system may not be financially feasible or fitting for the needs of other parishes.

“Many people in the parish get concerned that it’s going to take 12 to 14 years to recoup the cost of the system,” he says. “Then there are others who say, ‘I’m more in tune with creation and the encyclical, and I’m glad we’re doing something.’”

Burk personally considers the system as “a gift to the next generation.”

“I’m not one to study encyclicals, but the idea of taking care of the Earth and improving people’s health is near and dear to anyone who has children. It should be near and dear to everyone.”

The combined efforts of different generations have led to another kind of environmental transformation at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, a rural faith community in Shelby County.

**‘This world is all we have’**

As the parish life coordinator of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Sister Joan wanted to do something more, several years ago, with three acres of unused land in the parish.

When she had previously watched the land become overgrown and then need to be mowed down, she worried about what happened to the animals who made their nests and homes there. So she decided to transform the area.

“We’ve planted wildflowers which are good for bees and butterflies,” she says. “We’ve planted about 20 trees. There’s a bench to sit [on] and a path you can walk. The kids made bird houses. They put them together and painted them. The birds come and build their nests. There’s also a bee house. We’ve got to save the bees and the butterflies.”

Known as the Pollinator Habitat, the transformed area is one part of the parish’s grassroots effort to bring *Laudato Si’* to life. Recycling, reducing the use of



A statue of the Blessed Mother and the solar panels on a building at St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington show the connection between faith and care for the environment that marks Pope Francis’ encyclical, “*Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home.*” (File photo by Katie Rutter)



A bee house, a bird feeder and a small statue of the Blessed Mother mark a small area of the grounds of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County that has been transformed into a welcoming place of nature. (Submitted photo)

Styrofoam and plastic and trapping rainwater to water the plants and flowers of the parish also fit into that goal.

“It’s all little things, but they’re things we can do every day,” Sister Joan says. “There’s one lady who goes down her lane and picks up trash. If everybody did their little bit, it would make a big difference.”

“Pope Francis says we need to care for our Earth. This world is all we have. We have to take care of it for future generations.”

(For parishes seeking help in forming or developing a creation care ministry, contact the archdiocese’s Creation Care Commission at [mail@ourcommonhome.org](mailto:mail@ourcommonhome.org) or visit its website at [www.ourcommonhome.org](http://www.ourcommonhome.org).) †

## A selection of quotes from *Laudato Si’*

Pope Francis focuses on the connections that all people share with one another and the natural world in his encyclical, “*Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home.*” Here is a selection of quotes from the encyclical that reflect that overall theme:

- “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents” (“*Laudato Si’*,” #14).
- “Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another” (#42).
- “If the simple fact of being moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty toward nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith” (#64).

- “Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God” (#84).
- “When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities—to offer just a few examples—it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected” (#117).
- “The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things” (#233). †





# National Shrine to host May 17 worldwide praying of the rosary

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will host a recitation of the rosary at noon (EDT) on May 17 as part of Pope Francis' call for a worldwide marathon of rosaries for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each day during May at noon, the rosary will be prayed from a different Marian shrine around the world. Pope Francis began the rosary marathon on May 1 at the Vatican, and will conclude it there on May 31.

Washington Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory will lead the recitation of the rosary at the basilica on May 17.

"It is an honor for us to participate in this important initiative of the Holy Father as he invites the world to offer this great Marian prayer asking God, through the intercession of Our Lady, to bring an end to the pandemic," said Msgr. Walter Rossi, the basilica's rector.

Last month, the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization announced the worldwide rosary marathon during May, which is traditionally devoted to Mary.

"Dating back to the Middle Ages, the month of May has been dedicated to Our Lady. ... In each of [her] apparitions, Our Lady called for the rosary to be prayed for conversation of hearts and as an instrument for world peace. Now we offer this prayer in hope that with vaccines being administered, our world will return to a form of normalcy," Msgr. Rossi said.

In addition to the Washington basilica, other Marian shrines that have or will participate in the monthlong global rosary are those located in Ireland, Belgium, Algeria, Portugal, India, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Australia, France, Turkey, Cuba, Japan, Canada, Malta, Mexico, Ukraine, Germany, Lebanon and Italy.

Each of the participating Marian shrines around the world will pray the rosary for a specific prayer intention. The May 17 rosary at the basilica will be prayed for "all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations."

Other intentions during the month include for an end to the pandemic, for all of humanity, for all who have died, for the sick, for expectant mothers, for pharmacists and other health care workers, for peace, for nurses and doctors and for essential workers.

The overall theme for the worldwide event is: "From the entire Church an unceasing prayer rises to God," which comes from a passage in the Acts of the Apostles that describes how all members of the Church prayed for St. Peter's miraculous escape from prison.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, said in a letter to Cardinal Gregory that this year the month of May is "dedicated in a special way to prayer for an end to the coronavirus pandemic," and asked the cardinal to "promote the initiative and to encourage the participation of the faithful in it."

This will be the third time that the basilica has joined an international effort in praying for the intercession of Mary during the coronavirus pandemic.

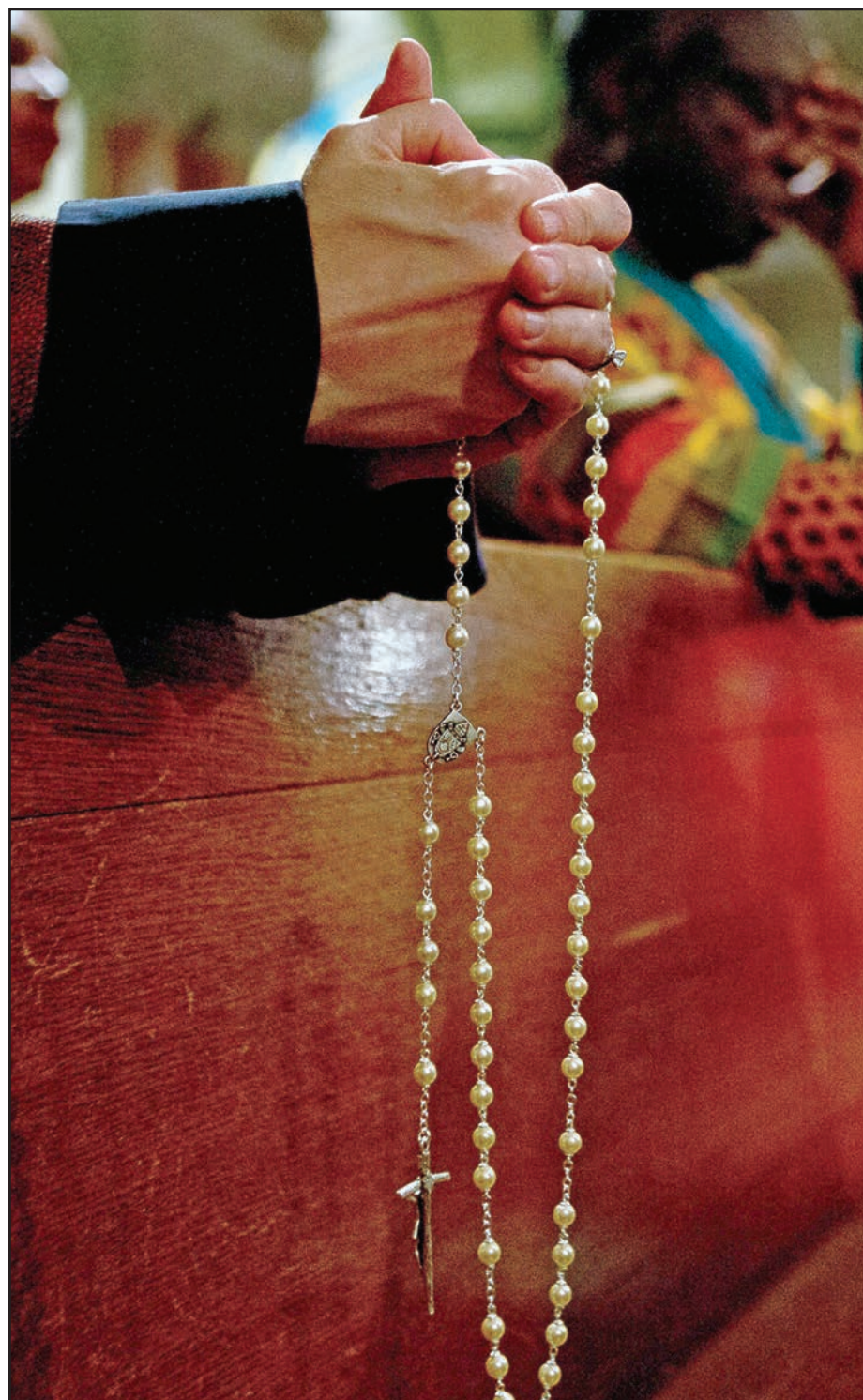
On May 1, 2020, at the basilica, then-Archbishop Gregory joined with bishops throughout the United States and Canada in rededicating the two countries to Our Lady.

And on May 30 last year, while the basilica was closed to the public as part of the effort to halt the spread of COVID-19, Msgr. Rossi and the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate prayed the rosary in the Great Upper Church at the same time the pope led the rosary from inside the Vatican Gardens in Rome. That livestream was broadcast around the world along with the prayers from the other Marian shrines.

The May 17 recitation of the rosary will be livestreamed from the basilica's website [www.nationalshrine.org/mass](http://www.nationalshrine.org/mass) and on various Vatican social media platforms. EWTN will also broadcast the prayer.

"With the world living for more than a year in pandemic mode, I trust that everyone would agree that we need some 'rearranging,'" Msgr. Rossi told the *Catholic Standard*, archdiocesan newspaper of Washington. "And so, my hope is that through this monthlong worldwide praying of the rosary, Our Lady will look favorably upon our pleas and present our great need before her Son."

The rosary recitation is open to the public. The basilica can host up to 1,000 people while maintaining social distancing guidelines and other safety protocols. †



A woman prays at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on June 23, 2017. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

## GRADUATION

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**Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 93 students.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on May 27 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on May 28 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Olivia Kriech Smith**, daughter of Ruth and Jason Smith of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis.

The class salutatorian is **Daniel Linn**,

son of Catherine and Chad Linn of St. John the Evangelist and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. Stumpf.

**Lumen Christi High School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of two seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 5:45 p.m. on May 20 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The graduation ceremony will follow.

**Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception** in Oldenburg has a graduating class of 52 seniors.

The graduation ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on May 30 at the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg.

Three seniors are in contention for valedictorian and salutatorian honors, which will be determined at the end of the academic year. The students are listed in alphabetical order:

**Mia Keller**, daughter of Paul and Gina Keller.

**Jacob Sheets**, son of Kebe and Diana Sheets of St. Louis Parish in Batesville.

**Patrick Thompson**, son of Tom and Misty Thompson of St. Michael Parish in Brookville.

The archdiocese will be represented by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson during a Senior Mass at 1 p.m. on May 21 at the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg.

**Our Lady of Providence High School** in Clarksville has a graduating class of 101 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on May 28 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 5 p.m. on May 30 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Allen Kruer**, son of Kyle and Duane Kruer of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg.

The class salutatorian is **Grant Dierking**, son of Lisa Mock and William Dierking of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Walsh.

**Providence Cristo Rey High School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 46 seniors.

The graduation ceremony will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 26 at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

The class valedictorian is **Alexcia Thorpe**, daughter of Facia Hilton.

The class salutatorian is **Jacqueline Hughey**, daughter of David and Dora Hughey of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Michelle Radomsky, assistant superintendent of Catholic schools.

**Roncalli High School** in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 235 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6 p.m. on May 21 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 9 a.m. on May 22 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Rachel Anne Hahn**, daughter of Julie and Patric Hahn of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

The class salutatorian is **Lauren Marie Prather**, daughter of Joseph and Kelly Prather of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Thompson and Lentz.

**Seton Catholic Jr./Sr. High School** in Richmond has a graduating class of 24 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 1:30 p.m. on June 6 at St. Andrew Church in Richmond.

The graduation ceremony will follow at 3 p.m. on June 6 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Jonah Falcone**, son of Robbie and Krista Falcone of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

The class salutatorian is **Xen Cartwright**, son of Tony and Shantel Cartwright of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Archbishop Thompson. †



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—Saint John Paul II, The Gospel Life*

# Faith *Alive!*

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## Growth in holiness happens in little steps in life made in joy

By Nicole M. Perone

My husband's paternal grandfather often said that "life is all about the little things." It is a simple yet profound saying that has passed down through the men in the Grosso family, often cited by my husband to this day.

In reading "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), the third apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, this adage kept rising to my mind with a slight amendment: "Holiness is all about the little things."

For me, that phrase is a relief. The concept of holiness can seem daunting at best, utterly unattainable at worst. We might consider holiness as a prize for the perfect, for the consecrated religious who have the time and energy to spend hours in deep, unwavering prayer, or for saints who lived long before social media, endless Zoom meetings and globalized crises.

However, "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" gently reminds and firmly challenges each of us to take small steps each day on the journey to holiness. In re-reading this exhortation from 2018, when the circumstances of the Church and world were certainly different than they are right now, I found that the document's relevance is deepened.

Pope Francis rises to the challenges of our time and repropose "the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities" (#2).

Here are my top takeaways on striving for holiness today, right now: —Holiness is not about a state of perfection, but the process of strengthening our "holiness muscle" over time.

Pope Francis exhorts us not to be discouraged by perceived unattainability of holiness, because everyone's journey to holiness is different. Whether looking at well-known saints or people we put on a pedestal, we cannot hold up the final product of holiness without considering the path each took to get there.

He suggests looking beyond the well-known holy figures to "the saints



Family members attend Mass on Sept. 9, 2020, at St. Peter Claver Church in St. Inigoes, Md. In his apostolic exhortation "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), Pope Francis teaches that a person grows in holiness primarily through small acts of charity lived joyfully in daily life. (CNS photo/Andrew Biraj, Catholic Standard)

next door," citing examples of everyday people in our lives who model walking the path to holiness (#6). Regardless of whom we look to for inspiration, we are invited to forge our own path to holiness that is right for each of us, right where we are.

He writes, "We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in

everything we do, wherever we find ourselves" (#14).

Subsequently, it is not hours of kneeling in adoration or lying prostrate while reciting the rosary that make a person holy, though certainly those are spiritually enriching and deeply prayerful activities. The point that "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" makes is that the small gestures—such as minute choices for the good, brief acts of charity, moments of prayer, etc.—are the ones that strengthen us in holiness. —Being a "model Catholic" or a "know-it-all" is not what makes us holy.

Pope Francis spends quite a bit of time on "two subtle enemies of holiness" (#35). We cannot become consumed with having all of the answers or getting things perfectly right, and thus considering ourselves allegedly more holy than others because of that.

"As time passed, many came to realize that it is not knowledge that betters us or makes us saints, but the kind of life we lead" (#47). Subsequently, it is not our own efforts that make us holy, wherein we lose ourselves to the letter of the law, consumed by rules and concern for getting everything "just right" in the hopes of being the most perfect Catholic.

It is when we acknowledge our own limitations even while thirsting for knowledge and tradition that we make room to be strengthened in holiness through the grace of God.

—Modeling holiness is what will attract people to Christ and the Church.

Pope Francis puts it simply: "Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church" (#9). While the body of Christ desires for the

Church to grow, and holiness requires boldness, passion, and fearlessness of spirit, the most effective method of evangelization is, to paraphrase Gandhi, to be the Church you want to see in the world.

To model holiness is to be impelled to be the hands and feet of Christ to a hurting world. Simply put by this exhortation, "The beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card" (#63).

Pope Francis does not shy away from the truth that Christ spelled this out for us in the Gospel, that charity should be paramount in striving for holiness. "Those who wish to give glory to God by their lives, who truly long to grow in holiness, are called to be single-minded and tenacious in their practice of the works of mercy" (#107). —Holiness is intrinsically tied to joy.

Pope Francis reminds us that the saints were joyful, despite experiences of profound suffering and sorrow. He encourages us to have the same spirit, letting joy be the spark that fuels the fire of holiness in each of us.

Holiness is not to be so pious that we are dour, or so consumed by what lies beyond this world that we forget to delight in the here and now. Rather, holiness stems from being who God created each of us to be and living that fully.

The invitation to walk the path to holiness, together as the body of Christ, rings as true today as it did when "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" was published—and our small steps, "the little things," can make a big difference.

(Nicole M. Perone is the national coordinator of ESTEEM, the faith-based leadership formation program.) †



New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan receives chocolate from a child at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City after Easter Mass on April 4 amid the coronavirus pandemic. Pope Francis reminds Catholics in his apostolic exhortation "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" ("Rejoice and Be Glad") to look for examples of holiness in the "saints next door" (#6). (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)

Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

## Enrich your life, listen to what a young person can teach you

I sat in awe at the words spoken by such young persons. They were all well-written essays, but one stood out to me. It was the essay written by the youngest award recipient: a petite seventh-grade student. Not only were her words inspiring, but the poise with which she delivered her essay was amazing.



As a member of the Serra Club of Indianapolis, I was privileged to attend their annual Vocations Essay Contest awardees' luncheon a few weeks ago. One student is chosen from each of grades seven through 12. This year's contest theme focused on St. Joseph, and I was reminded how important it is to listen to our youth.

Many years ago, while I was attending a Christ Renews His Parish retreat, I was similarly inspired by a teenage girl. It was late on Saturday evening, and we were seated around the altar of our church. With dimmed lights, we were in a quiet and prayerful state.

Our leader introduced this young person, who proceeded to give a talk on the meaning of the Eucharist. I sat

mesmerized as she eloquently described the meaning of the source and summit of our faith. I was struck that such a young woman carried a maturity beyond her years and spoke from the strength of a faith that I was just beginning to better understand myself—in my late 30s.

I don't know if it was because she sensed she was not completely getting her point across or whether it was a premeditated part of her talk, but at one point, she hurriedly crossed in front of the altar, stood beneath the massive crucifix, pointed up, and very loudly and intensely proclaimed, "I hope you understand that he did *THIS* for us."

I don't even remember her name, but I'll never forget that moment. I know God spoke to me through that young woman. I wept and thought I will never fully understand the depth of God's love for us, but I vowed never to take it for granted.

Another inspiring moment occurred when we lived in Fort Wayne and our closest friends, Donna and Joe, were transferred there as well. Donna was a practicing Lutheran and was visiting different churches to see where her family might best worship.

Our children are the exact same age, so our kids were always together. Whenever their son Conor was at our house on a

weekend, we would take him with us to the youth Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church. At some point, Conor let his Mom know that he wanted to go to *our* church. I'm sure she didn't pay much attention at first, but he kept bringing it up. She eventually decided it was wise to closely listen to her son and found that he was drawn to the music and energy at the Catholic Mass.

After some contemplation, Donna decided she needed to respond to his desire and attended a few Masses with Conor to find out more. A few became a regular thing until Donna herself felt called to convert.

We often think of the phrase "and the children will lead them" when we think of how Donna and her whole family became part of the Catholic Church. I still tear up when I think of standing behind her, as her sponsor, when she entered the Catholic faith on that long-ago Easter Vigil. Today, she is one of the most devoted Catholics I know.

Just as Jesus himself had a soft spot for children, our lives can be enriched by listening to what our youths can teach us.

*(Kimberly Pohovey is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese.) †*

Twenty Something/

Christina Capecchi

## Hello World!: advice for grads from a curious Catholic

George Corrigan never met a person who didn't fascinate him. The delivery guy. The plumber. The barista. He wanted to know their names and their life stories, which came tumbling out when he flashed his megawatt smile and asked his earnest questions.



His love of humanity flowed from his love of God, culminating each day at noon Mass. "Going to Mass every day was a binding element for the many parts of him," said his daughter, Kelly Corrigan, who called him Greenie.

You could count on Greenie to sing his heart out—whether or not he knew the words. He delighted in serving as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion. And the sign of peace set his heart aflutter. "I think that can be a worldview," Kelly said.

That worldview now feels antiquated, dating way back to the pre-COVID days, when hugs and handshakes could be given freely and 6 feet, readily shattered.

Social distancing would have been unfathomable to Greenie, a Villanova, Pa., native who worked as an ad man and a high school lacrosse coach.

Every kid on the team was "a great guy" or "one of the all-time greats," his son George said in an interview. "[Greenie] would give every person he met his best. If someone wanted to talk with him for an hour, he'd give them one hour. Because people knew that he cared on such a real level and he was always rooting for you—this was the magic he brought to every one of his relationships."

It was evident on Feb. 28, 2015, when more than 700 people showed up at Greenie's funeral Mass at Villanova University's main chapel. At 84, he had died after a battle with bladder cancer.

Now the philosophy that brought Greenie so many friends is encapsulated in a children's book and ready for the graduate in your life.

Kelly, a well-established and best-selling memoir writer, decided to switch gears and pay tribute to her dad in a different format. The result: *Hello World!*, a bright picture book published last month by Penguin Random House's new imprint Flamingo Books.

Writing for children provided a creative challenge for the 53-year-old California mom of two. She tested out an early draft by reading it to her friend's classroom of 5-year-olds. They gobbled up the zany parts and inspired Kelly to "be weirder."

"I was leaving a lot on the table," she said. "It gave me permission to be more myself."

Kelly added to the alliteration with quirky new bits, like an old lady who reveals: "I dreamt I was playing the banjo on a balance beam made of bacon!"

This revelation, and many others, spring forth because the protagonist makes like Greenie and asks questions.

"There's more to everyone than you think," Kelly writes. "So how will you know? You'll ask!"

She provides conversation-starters: "What do you know? And how do you know it?" "What do you want? And why do you want it?"

It's a twist on *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, Dr. Seuss' perennial graduation gift. Greenie's version is "Oh, the People You'll Know!"

Those connections are what make life meaningful, Kelly said. It's an approach that is inherently Catholic, honoring the dignity and worth of each person, and is

See CAPECCHI, page 14

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

## A family's 90-day journey to hope with the help of a Catholic Charities' shelter

Many of us can accomplish a lot in 90 days, but what if that is all the time you had to turn your family's life around?

What if you had a family of 10, no job, outstanding bills, no transportation and no home?



This nightmare scenario is where the family of Charles and Anita found themselves in the winter of 2019.

Charles, Anita and their eight children lived a basic life in a home provided by Charles' employer. Anita cared for the children and home while Charles provided income. Their world was crushed when Charles's employer downsized, and he lost his job. With one last paycheck on the way,

the family had no place to turn. They had no family or friends' support in the area to help them. They had no home, no income and no transportation.

Through community referral services, the family found a safe place to live at one of our emergency family shelters. Once the family was situated, their case manager began helping them with a plan.

Schooling was the first course of action. The six school-age children were already attending school in another district, but the oldest was in an alternative school in yet another district. The schools were not equipped to provide the case manager any assistance as she attempted to advocate for the children. When the kids finally transferred schools, they determined that the oldest was best suited for a talented and gifted program. Shelter staff decided it was imperative for the family to remain in the shelter for the remainder of the school year to ensure the children had proper support throughout this transition.

Charles and Anita worked side by side with shelter staff on the school plans. Once that was settled, Charles resumed his full-time search for work. With guidance and encouragement from staff, he was able to secure a job within a few weeks.

As the family settled into a school and work schedule, Anita was seen less and less. She would retreat to the family's room for most of each day with the two youngest children. Through one-on-one discussions, Anita revealed that she had received little medical care, including adequate care for the youngest child who was born prematurely.

She was reluctant to seek care and had little faith in the medical community. She felt that people judged her for the number of children she had. The staff made arrangements so Anita could get the medical care she needed. Anita attended a medical appointment for herself and worked with the doctor to treat her postpartum depression.

Housing this large family was a difficult undertaking. Case management staff helped Charles and Anita work through the barriers they were facing. Financial education, community resources and planning enabled the family to pay off a \$1,500 outstanding utility bill and save for rent. With the debt out of the way, they were fortunate to find a spot in a low-income housing program. As luck would have it, they also found a house that would be big enough for all of them. They would be in an area where bus service was accessible, as this would be their only transportation.

The family stayed at the shelter for 90 days. They came to us feeling hopeless, yet they accomplished so much in just three months. The children had made a lot of progress in their new schools. Charles had found work, and Anita's health

See BETHURAM, page 14

Guest Column/Richard Etienne

## Be present in the moment, sit and listen to God's invitation for you each day

Please answer the following question: Which of these best describes how often that you find yourself hurrying: rarely,

occasionally, regularly, or quite often?



There is a natural tendency in most of us to be one of the following: "almost always done early," "just in time" or "usually late."

Why does it even matter? I have been

taught—and it is now my firm belief—that hurrying can steal joy from the present.

When a person is nearly always focused on some quickly approaching deadline, it is difficult to enjoy the present task.

Even something as small as washing dishes can be an event to be savored—the feel of the warm water on your hands, a brief moment of quiet in your day, etc.

But if a person is already dreading the

remaining tasks on their "to do" list or regretting or rehashing some event that happened in the past, it is difficult to enjoy the gifts of the present moment.

My spiritual director calls this syndrome "the future draining the present." If we spend too much time dwelling on the future—or reliving the past for that matter—there is little psychological energy available to deal with the issues that surround us in the "now" or current moment.

Our task is to "be where our feet are planted" and not somewhere else in our mind in the distant future or past.

Yes, it is true that there are times when it is quite appropriate to hurry—a pan on the stove that has caught fire, a small child crawling toward open steps, etc.

But, far too often, hurrying becomes a familiar habit and a regular way of life that zaps the joy of living from the current moment.

Having said all of this, one might ask:

Is there a time when even God would have us hurry? In the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, we hear, "Now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2).

We are always invited to accept God's invitation to follow immediately!

There are times when it is appropriate to hurry, but should it become our everyday mode of operation?

I believe a healthier approach to existence would best be served in a state of awareness and mindfulness of our surroundings in this present moment.

Do you need to hurry away now for some reason? Or do you have a minute to sit with the Lord and see what message or activity that God has prepared for you today?

*(Richard Etienne has a degree in theology from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad and resides in Newburgh, Ind.) †*

The Ascension of the Lord/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 16, 2021

- Acts 1:1-11
- Ephesians 1:17-23
- Mark 16:15-20

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for this important feast in the Church, the celebration of the Lord's wondrous ascension into heaven.



This reading begins as if it were a letter. It is addressed to Theophilus, as was the Gospel of St. Luke. Who was Theophilus? Was he a person with this as his name? Was he a devout Christian?

Someone curious about Jesus? He may have been a devout Christian, because the name Theophilus may have been a title. In Greek, it means "friend of God."

Regardless, both Acts and Luke were sent, as it were, to this person, arguing for a common authorship of these two New Testament works.

In this reading, the author states that Acts continues the story of salvation in Jesus begun in the Gospel of Luke. It describes the ascension of the Lord into heaven, an event occurring after Jesus had risen from the dead and had been among the Apostles and others faithful to God.

As the moment of the ascension approached, the Apostles still were confused. This confusion simply reveals that they were human. Their ability to grasp the things of God and his mind was limited, to say the least.

Jesus eases their confusion. He affirms that, while they are limited, all is in God's plan. The Apostles have been commissioned. To enable them to fulfill their commissions, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with them. The Spirit will guide them to proclaim the Gospel even "to the ends of the Earth" (Acts 1:8).

St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians provides the next reading. It is a prayer that begs the blessings and guidance of God upon the faithful Christians of Ephesus. They need God, as all humans need God. His strength will be

mighty. After all, divine strength raised Jesus from the dead. It is a power over everyone and everything.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a resurrection narrative at the conclusion of Mark.

The Lord, having risen on Easter, appears to the Eleven, the surviving Apostles reduced by one in number because of the suicide of the despondent, traitorous Judas.

In a final commission, Jesus sends the Apostles into the world, far and wide. They are to proclaim the Gospel to all creation. He has prepared, instructed and guided them. Anyone who accepts the Gospel they proclaim will be saved and be capable of marvelous deeds. The Lord will protect them. No true believer will ever die an eternal death.

Then, the passage says that Jesus ascended into heaven. Faithful to the Lord, the Apostles went forward and proclaimed the Gospel everywhere as they had been commissioned.

## Reflection

Celebrating the Ascension of the Lord in the form of a special liturgical feast is a revered and ancient tradition in the Church.

In the early years of the Church, it may have been celebrated together with Pentecost. For seventeen centuries, however, it has been a feast of its own.

Such is proper. The Ascension revealed much. Many lessons come from this feast. It again reveals Jesus, divine and human, crucified but risen. It reveals that we are not alone. Christ did not leave us. He lives with us, and teaches us still, through the Apostles and through the Church and its sacraments of the Church that they helped form and celebrated.

This feast, however, is more than a commemoration of a day 20 centuries ago. It calls us modern disciples to live for Jesus, and to love all others as Jesus loved.

When we do this, we, too, shall ascend, finally, to heavenly glory. †

## Daily Readings

### Monday, May 17

Acts 19:1-8  
Psalm 68:2-5d, 6-7b  
John 16:29-33

### Tuesday, May 18

St. John I, pope and martyr  
Acts 20:17-27  
Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21  
John 17:1-11a

### Wednesday, May 19

Acts 20:28-38  
Psalm 68:29-30, 33-36b  
John 17:11b-19

### Thursday, May 20

St. Bernardine of Siena, priest  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11  
John 17:20-26

### Friday, May 21

St. Christopher Magallanes, priest, and companions, martyrs  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b  
John 21:15-19

### Saturday, May 22

St. Rita of Cascia, religious  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Psalm 11:4-5, 7  
John 21:20-25

### Vigil Mass of Pentecost

Genesis 11:1-9  
or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b  
or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
or Joel 3:1-5  
Psalm 104:1-2a, 24, 35c, 27-28, 29bc-30  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 7:37-39

### Sunday, May 23

Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-11  
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13  
or Galatians 5:16-25  
John 20:19-23  
or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

## Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

### Confession of venial sins is encouraged but not required by the Church

**Q**I am a 92-year-old homebound woman—nearing the end of my earthly journey. Lately I have been plagued by the thought that I might be committing a grievous sin for receiving holy Communion without going to confession first. With a clear conscience, I know that I have not committed a mortal sin.



I have not gone to confession for more than 50 years, if memory serves me right, but I had been receiving Communion weekly up until the onset of COVID-19. Now my grandniece plans to resume driving her mom and me to weekly Mass, since we have already had our second vaccinations. Can I continue to receive holy Communion? (location withheld)

**A**Please relax and be at peace. You may certainly continue to receive holy Communion. If you have not committed any mortal sins, you are not obliged to go to the sacrament of reconciliation first.

Canon 989 of the Code of Canon Law says, "After having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully his or her grave sins at least once a year."

So, strictly speaking, one is obliged to go to confession only for mortal ("grave") sins. I am an advocate, though, of much more frequent confession, and I have read that Pope Francis receives the sacrament every two weeks.

Without any sense of urgency, I would suggest that you might ask your grandniece to drive you to a church to go to confession when it is available there. I think

it would bring you a sense of peace, and it would certainly be consistent with the mind of the Church.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Without being strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults [venial sins] is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church. Indeed, the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit" (#1458).

**Q**In a recent column, you said that if a couple enters into marriage consciously intending never to have children, that marriage would be invalid. That response took me by surprise.

If a couple in their later years (past the age of childbearing) is seeking the sacrament of marriage, would their marriage be deemed invalid? Also, if a young couple simply cannot afford to raise a child, would their marriage also be invalid? (Virginia)

**A**The Church views children as the supreme gift of marriage and has always regarded openness to children as an essential part of what marriage is. That having been said, a couple who marry later in life (beyond childbearing years) may certainly contract a valid marriage in the Church's eyes.

One of the questions the priest or deacon asks a couple during the wedding ceremony is this: "Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"

But the ritual itself instructs the officiant that this question "may be omitted if, for example, the couple is advanced in years."

As to the young couple who feel they can't afford a child, I would ask: Do you mean "not right now" or "not ever"?

The difference is this: If the couple simply wants to wait to have children, that doesn't automatically affect the validity of the marriage. If, however, they intend to exclude children always and forever, this would render the marriage invalid in the mind of the Church.

I might also ask this couple whether they have considered deferring their marriage until a more suitable time.

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

## My Journey to God

### Waiting

By Patrick Harkins

This silent spring is not silent.  
Cardinals and robins who spent  
winter away from the winds and ice  
now bob and sing as if in paradise.

I wait for the Provider of Peace to say  
rise up, come out, go on your way.  
But I hear only the caw of crows,  
the whisper of a stream that flows,

geese going, coming, breaking  
the gray of heaven, wings unfolding.  
The All Generous One is waiting for me  
to break the silence, patiently, patiently.

(Patrick Harkins is a member of St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute. Photo: Canada geese fly in front of the setting sun above the Atlantic Ocean near Far Rockaway, N.Y., on Oct. 29, 2013.)

(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

# 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.

**ADAMS, Roger D.**, 72, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, April 28. Husband of Susan Adams. Father of Hope Huling, Patricia and Jim Adams. Brother of Lynda Cash. Grandfather of three.

**BROWN, Angelia**, 65, St. Rita, Indianapolis, April 26. Mother of Patrick Coleman. Sister of Ruth Golden, Dollie Smith and Jack Edwards. Grandmother of one.

**GAUGHAN, David T.**, 89, St. Jude, Indianapolis, March 28. Father of Alice Miller, Mary, Tim and Vince Gaughan. Brother of Dennis, Edward and Tony Gaughan. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of six.

**GUDINO, Carol A.**, 74, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, April 20. Wife of Lou Gudino. Mother of Dana Kesler, Lisa Minor and Lou Gudino. Sister of Tom Schramm. Grandmother of four.

**HOEHN, Bertha**, 87, St. Michael, Bradford, May 3. Mother of Johnna Collard, Tamara Pearce, Janine Spurlock, GERALYN Wetzel, Donna Whalen, Monica, Daryl, Greg, Mike, Ray and Ron Hoehn. Grandmother of 36. Great-grandmother of 45.

**KLEEMAN, Francis**, 89, St. Pius V, Troy, May 4. Husband of Helen Kleeman. Father of Christina Olivero, Leah, Bret and Rocky Kleeman. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of 19.

**MARTIN, Dale D.**, 80, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, April 30. Husband of Helen Martin. Father of Charla Graveel, Carla Holland, Denise Hughes, Dale, II, and Michael Martin. Brother of Keith and William



A yellow flower blooms from a prickly pear cactus in the Spur Cross Ranch conservation area north of Phoenix. Yellow, orange, purple, magenta and white flowers dot the Sonoran Desert in the spring. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Martin. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of three.

**MEER, Andrew**, 44, St. Mary, Rushville, May 2. Son of Tim Meer. Brother of Christina Meer.

**OEHMANN, Joan (Graninger)**, 89, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, April 28. Mother of Denise Eichstaedt, Dana Heath and David Oehmann. Sister of Sharon Edwards. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 11. Great-great-grandmother of one.

**OLIGER, Cody P.**, 26, St. Mary, Greensburg, April 30. Son of Peter and Lora Oliger. Brother of Brady, Casey and PJ Oliger. Grandson of Loretta Colson. Uncle of several.

**REIMER, Robert A.**, 97, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, April 27. Father of Barbara Glanz and Kathleen Shank. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of four.

**SEIPP, Nancy**, 80, St. Michael, Bradford,

April 3. Mother of Stacy Pitman, Lori Smith, Kim and Monnie Seipp. Sister of Bonnie Copass, Gwendolen Receveur and Johnny Prechtel. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of seven.

**SOUZA, Carolyn K.**, 89, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, April 20. Mother of Andrea Davis, Christian, Jonathan and Matt Souza. Grandmother of seven.

**SPRIGLER, Everett L.**, 78, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd

County, April 30. Husband of Mary Sprigler. Father of Brad, Brent and Chad Sprigler. Brother of Jeanette Bedan, Paul and Thomas Sprigler. Grandfather of four.

**STILGER, Larry Joe**, 83, St. Mary, Lanesville, April 9.

Father of Julie Willoughby, Daniel, Matthew and Michael Stilger. Grandfather of 11.

**STUEHRENBURG, Jerry L.**, 70, St. Mary, Greensburg, May 4. Husband of Nancy Stuehrenberg. Father of Jennifer Ruse and Eric Stuehrenberg. Brother of Diana Bare and Tom Stuehrenberg. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of two.

**VOGEL, Joseph**, 86, St. Mary, Greensburg, May 4. Husband of Mary Anna Vogel. Father of Cathy Hastings, Daniel, Mike and Phillip Vogel. Brother of Kenneth Vogel. Grandfather of 15. Great-grandfather of 16.

**WADE, Geraldine (Zimmerer)**, 84, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, April 23. Mother of Betty, Mary Jane and Claude Vest. Sister of Barbara Cissell, Margi Decker and Betty Kimpflein.

**WEISERT, John S.**, 74, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 15. Husband of Mary Weisert. Father of Lisa and Michael Weisert.

**WOODS, Edward J.**, 92, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, April 27. Husband of Dolores Woods. Father of Kathy McCullough, Ed, Kevin and Tom Woods. Brother of Mary Ruprecht. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of four. †

## Benedictine Brother Angelo Vitale served as a tailor and shoemaker for 56 years

Benedictine Brother Angelo Vitale, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, died on May 2 at the monastery infirmary. He was 80.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 5. Burial followed at the Archabbey Cemetery.

Brother Angelo was a jubilarian of monastic profession, having celebrated 58 years of monastic profession.

Pasquale William Vitale was born on Feb. 26, 1941, in Connellsville, Pa., to Anthony and Catherine (Siwula) Vitale. His family later settled in Hope, Ind., and were members for periods at St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus.

Brother Angelo went to high school at Hauser High School in Hope, the former archdiocesan Latin School in Indianapolis, the former St. Mary's Minor Seminary in St. Mary, Ky., and the former St. Placid Hall of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, graduating from the latter.

He was invested as a novice of Saint Meinrad on May 10, 1961, professed temporary vows on May 13, 1962, and perpetual vows on Nov. 13, 1965.

Brother Angelo served in the monastery's bakery, as a barber for his community and as a radio operator for the Saint Meinrad Volunteer Fire Department. He also for several years rang the tower bells for the monastery's liturgies.

Brother Angelo is most known for his 56 years of work as a tailor and shoemaker for the monastery, having studied pattern making at the Myers School of Fashion Making in New York City.

For decades, he supplied the monks and other religious communities across the country with habits, albs and stoles.

Brother Angelo was a member of the National Registry for Orthopedic Shoe Technicians and was recognized for his craftsmanship in custom making and modifying shoes according to the needs identified by medical caregivers.

He is survived by two brothers, Joseph Vitale of Indianapolis and Paul Vitale of Pocatello, Idaho.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577. †

### Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Distance University (CDU) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:

- Earn certificate in Lay Ministry
- Complete 12 courses online with ND STEP program
- CDU offers classes on Catechism of the Catholic Church
- 20% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners

For more information, please log on to [www.archindy.org/layministry](http://www.archindy.org/layministry)



### REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator. There are two ways to make a report:

- 1 Ethics Point**  
Confidential, Online Reporting  
[www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com](http://www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com) or 888-393-6810
- 2** Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Victim Assistance Coordinator  
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410  
**317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548**  
[carlahill@archindy.org](mailto:carlahill@archindy.org)

## BETHURAM

continued from page 12

and mental well-being were improved. The family left the shelter with housing, knowledge of resources in the community and basic financial plans for the future. With

the support of Catholic Charities' staff, the family left our facility not only whole but rejuvenated and empowered. And it all happened in 90 days.

(David Bethuram is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities. You can contact him at [dbethuram@archindy.org](mailto:dbethuram@archindy.org).) †

## CAPECCHI

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also urgently needed, enabling us to overcome the sharp societal divisions that mark our times.

"Greenie had a deep trust that the world was fundamentally a good place, and I think that trust was

continually reinforced by going to daily Mass," Kelly said. "If you do something every day that's orienting you toward the greater good and toward humility, you can't help but feel a certain security in the world and a certain optimism."

(Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.) †

# Catechesis for Discipleship Award honors witnesses to Christ

## Criterion staff report

The “Catechesis for Discipleship Award” is a new annual honor given to one catechist from each of our 126 parishes in central and southern Indiana by the archdiocesan Office of Catechesis. Pastors, parish life coordinators and parish catechetical leaders are asked to identify a catechist who excels at teaching the faith and witnessing to the life-changing power of a disciple relationship with Jesus lived in full communion with his body, the holy, Catholic Church.

Following is a list of honorees by deanery as selected by parish leaders throughout the archdiocese:

### Batesville Deanery

- Joyce Munchel, All Saints Parish, Dearborn County
- Julie Diekhoff, Immaculate Conception Parish, Milhousen
- Roberta Weisenbach, St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Morris
- William “Bill” Nobbe, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Decatur County
- Karen Bruns, St. Louis Parish, Batesville
- Cathy Stockhoff, St. Michael Parish, Brookville
- Aaron Cornett, St. Nicholas Parish, Ripley County
- Bill Cannon, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, Bright
- Rosanna Rodgers, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Shelby County

### Bloomington Deanery

- Mike Volrich, St. John the Apostle Parish, Bloomington
- Lou Getman, St. Mary Parish, Mitchell

### Connersville Deanery

- Amy Howard, St. Anne Parish, New Castle
- Peggy Rokosz, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Richmond
- Kathy Dattoli, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Cambridge City
- Tammy McIntyre, St. Gabriel Parish, Connersville
- Steve Thomas, St. Mary Parish, Rushville

### Indianapolis East Deanery

- Steve Tutsie, Holy Spirit Parish, Indianapolis
- Rachael Oesterling, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Indianapolis

- Flor De Los Santos, St. Mary Parish, Indianapolis
- Deacon Stephen Hodges, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish, Indianapolis
- Domoni Rouse, St. Rita Parish, Indianapolis
- Amanda McAlarney, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Fortville

### Indianapolis North Deanery

- Phyllis McNamara, Christ the King Parish, Indianapolis
- Patrick Gibbons, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Indianapolis
- Dee Janik, St. Joan of Arc Parish, Indianapolis
- Dale Gill, St. Lawrence Parish, Indianapolis
- Michelle Eads, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis
- Tom Alyea, St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis
- Eric Donnenhoffer, St. Simon the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis

### Indianapolis South Deanery

- Patty Wulf, Good Shepherd Parish, Indianapolis
- Holly Mappes, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, Indianapolis
- Irene Tenorio, Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood
- Shelly Beauchamp, St. Ann Parish, Indianapolis
- Linea Vincent, St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis
- Jana Kovacs, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, Greenwood
- Sheila Gramling, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis
- Richard Corona, St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis
- Donna Rudolf, St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis
- Bernadette Kailie, St. Roch Parish, Indianapolis

### Indianapolis West Deanery

- Kirth Roach, Holy Angels Parish, Indianapolis
- Jean Knarr, Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Danville
- Nancy Martinez, St. Anthony Parish, Indianapolis
- Megan Hassler, St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg
- Monique Ware, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Indianapolis
- Paula Paul, St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis
- Beth Clark, St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield

- Pete Majeski, St. Thomas More Parish, Mooresville

### New Albany Deanery

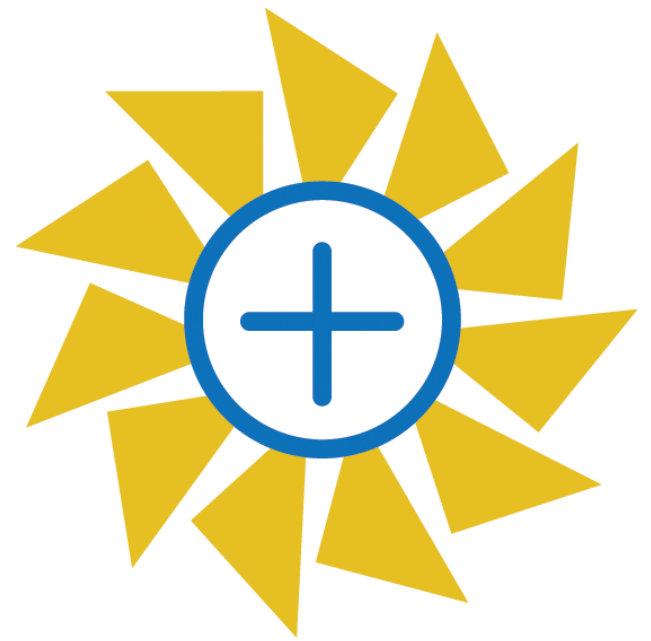
- Christina Kendall, Holy Family Parish, New Albany
- Butch Lang, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, New Albany
- Mike Bary, St. Bernard Parish, Frenchtown
- Lynell Chamberlain, St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg
- Kim Pangburn, St. John the Baptist Parish, Starlight
- Tina Schunemann, St. Joseph Parish, Corydon
- Lisa Zwissler, St. Mary Parish, Navilleton
- Laura Reis, St. Mary Parish, New Albany
- Linda Rothrock, St. Michael Parish, Bradford
- Jennie Lathem, St. Michael Parish, Charlestown

### Seymour Deanery

- Mary Smith, American Martyrs Parish, Scottsburg
- Scott Fangman, Holy Trinity Parish, Edinburgh
- Sofia Enriquez, St. Ambrose Parish, Seymour
- Robert Harmon, St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus
- Penny Peterson, St. Rose of Lima Parish, Franklin

### Tell City Deanery

- Marty Kaiser, St. Paul Parish, Tell City



### Terre Haute Deanery

- Miranda Goodale, Annunciation Parish, Brazil
- Jonathan Helt, Sacred Heart Parish, Clinton
- Diane Smith, St. Benedict Parish, Terre Haute
- Sarah Wyrick, St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish, St. Mary-of-the-Woods
- Jackie Cleary, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Greencastle

Please continue praying for catechists and your parish catechetical leader. Is God calling you to teach the faith to your fellow parishioners? Make an appointment with your parish catechetical leader today to discuss your role in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus: “Go and make disciples!” †

## Employment

### Executive Director of Mission Integration Bishop Chatard High School

Bishop Chatard High School, an archdiocesan Catholic high school located on the north side of Indianapolis, is seeking a dynamic Catholic leader and visionary to fill the position of Executive Director of Mission Integration.

At Bishop Chatard, we believe that ministry formation is a dynamic, life-long process rooted in the person of Jesus Christ and the teachings of His church. Building upon the lived experience of students, staff, parents, alumni and community partners, the Executive Director of Mission Integration creates opportunities for ongoing growth. Under the executive director’s leadership, the formation experience provided by Campus Ministry helps all BCHS stakeholders to articulate, implement, and integrate our Catholic educational mission as it inspires our community to live in a way which is consistent with an authentic Catholic Identity. The executive director promotes workplace spirituality as a key component of mission integration.

A qualified candidate will possess a Bachelor’s Degree; a Master’s Degree in Ministry is preferred. Relevant experience in school, parish or other Catholic institutional ministry is required. For more information on the duties and responsibilities of this position, view the job description at [www.bishopchatard.org/about/employment/](http://www.bishopchatard.org/about/employment/)

To apply, email a resume, cover letter and references to Maureen Malarney, Assistant to the President, at [mmalarney@bishopchatard.org](mailto:mmalarney@bishopchatard.org). Submission deadline is May 21, 2021.



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## Employment

### Director of Enrollment Management Bishop Chatard High School

Bishop Chatard High School, a dynamic archdiocesan Catholic high school located on the north side of Indianapolis, is seeking a creative and engaging individual who will be responsible for the development and implementation of the school’s Enrollment Management program. The Director of Enrollment Management serves as a member of the school’s Advancement team in support of the Bishop Chatard mission. This is a full-time, 12-month, salaried position.

Qualified candidates will possess exemplary written, presentation and interpersonal communication skills; be proficient with technology and social media; and have the ability to manage and work collaboratively on diverse initiatives. A Bachelor’s Degree is required, and three to five years of experience in Enrollment Management or a related field is preferred.

For more information on the duties and responsibilities of this position, view the job description at [www.bishopchatard.org/about/employment/](http://www.bishopchatard.org/about/employment/)

To apply, please email a resume, cover letter and references to Executive Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management Kelly Lucas at [klucas@bishopchatard.org](mailto:klucas@bishopchatard.org).



# CATECHISTS

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While millions of lay men and women around the world already serve as catechists, lectors and altar servers, formal institution into the ministries signifies that the service is stable, delegated by the bishop and publicly recognized by the Church.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, noted how St. Paul VI wrote in 1975 about the importance of laypeople using their gifts for the growth of the entire Church.

“It has taken almost 50 years for the Church to come to recognize that the service rendered by so many men and women through their catechetical commitment truly constitutes a distinctive ministry for the growth of the Christian community,” the archbishop told reporters at a news conference to present the pope’s document.

In his document, Pope Francis noted how teachers of the faith were present from the earliest days of the Christian community and were recognized as having a special gift of the Holy Spirit for carrying out their role within the community.

“At times,” he wrote, “the charisms that the Spirit constantly pours out on the baptized took on a visible and tangible form of immediate service to the Christian community, one recognized as an indispensable ‘*diakonia*’ for the community.”

In looking at the history of evangelization, the pope said, Catholics cannot overlook “the countless lay men and women who directly took part in the spread of the Gospel through catechetical instruction. Men and women of deep faith, authentic witnesses of holiness, who in some cases were also founders of churches and eventually died as martyrs.”

Still today, he said, “many competent and dedicated catechists are community leaders in various parts of the world and carry out a mission invaluable for the transmission and growth of the faith.”

Especially in communities without a resident priest, catechists are the leaders of the local Catholic community, evangelizing, convoking and guiding their fellow Catholics in prayer and works of charity. And, in missionary territories under the guidance of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, they already serve with a specific mandate from their bishop.

“The long line of blessed, saints and martyrs who were catechists has significantly advanced the Church’s mission and deserves to be recognized, for it represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality,” Pope Francis wrote.

The formal institution of catechists, he said, should be a sign and encouragement for all lay Catholics to recognize “even more the missionary commitment proper to every baptized person, a commitment that must however be carried out in a fully ‘secular’ manner, avoiding any form of clericalization.”

Archbishop Fisichella said Pope Francis was insisting that lay “men and women are called to express their baptismal vocation in the best possible

way, not as substitutes for priests or consecrated persons, but as authentic laymen and laywomen who, in the distinctive nature of their ministry, are able to experience the full of extent of their baptismal vocation of witness and effective service in the community and the world.”

Laypeople who feel called to the ministry of catechists should be actively involved in the life of their Catholic communities and faithful to the Gospel and the teaching of the Church, Archbishop Fisichella said. But they also must receive “suitable biblical, theological, pastoral and pedagogical

formation to be competent communicators of the truth of the faith.”

“Catechists are called first to be expert in the pastoral service of transmitting the faith as it develops through its different stages from the initial proclamation” of the Gospel, preparation for receiving the sacraments and support in living a Christian life, the pope said.

Presenting the document to reporters, Archbishop Fisichella said catechesis “cannot be improvised.

“Those who will be catechists must know that they speak in the name of the Church and transmit the faith of the Church,” he said. †



Pope Francis watches as a family carries offertory gifts to the altar during a Mass for catechists in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in this Sept. 29, 2013, file photo. In a document released on May 11, Pope Francis instituted the “ministry of catechist.” (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

## Cathedral Congratulates the Class of 2021 Summa Cum Laude Graduates, their Parents, and their Parishes

### Preston James Avery

Melissa and Bryan Avery  
Immaculate Heart of Mary

### Kyleigh Savannah Braun

Chalene and David Braun  
Holy Spirit at Geist

### Grace Maria Delgado

Sarah Delgado  
St. Luke

### Abygail Mae Dravis

Barbara and Bryan Dravis  
St. Simon

### Lauren Alexandra Dubbink

Lynn Murphy-Dubbink and Kevin Dubbink  
St. Louis de Montfort

### Madeline Claire Elson

Megan and Greg Martin  
Kris and Ricky Elson  
St. Pius X

### Matthew See Fiedeldey

Kyoungah See and David Fiedeldey  
St. Malachy

### Nathan See Fiedeldey

Kyoungah See and David Fiedeldey  
St. Malachy

### Maura Kathleen Flood

Catherine and Michael Flood  
St. Luke

### Eric Michael George

Carolyn and Malcolm George  
Our Lady of Grace

### Kieran McKenna McCauley

Clarice and Christopher McCauley  
St. Louis de Montfort

### Isaac John Michael

Catherine and Jon-Adam Michael  
Holy Rosary

### Taylor Rae Prince

Kelly and Richard Prince  
St. Simon

### Anna Katherine Shea

Christine and Patrick Shea  
Holy Spirit

### William Galvin Teasley

Colleen O'Brien-Teasley and Kevin Teasley  
St. Monica

### Levi Irvin Wojtalik

Ann and Christopher Wojtalik  
Holy Rosary and Immaculate Heart of Mary