



The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



**Celebrating
40 years**

St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany marks its anniversary, page 7.

CriterionOnline.com

May 10, 2019

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Catholics and Orthodox must work to heal divisions, pope says

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CNS)—On the day Bulgarian Orthodox celebrate as “St. Thomas Sunday” and read the Gospel



Pope Francis

about the Apostle asking to touch the wounds of the risen Lord, Pope Francis said the divisions within Christianity are “painful lacerations on the body of Christ, which is the Church.”

Immediately after meeting Bulgaria’s prime minister and

president on May 5, Pope Francis went to the Palace of the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church for a meeting with Patriarch Neophyte and top bishops. Also present was King Simeon II, 81, who ruled only as a child in the 1940s, was exiled and returned to his homeland in 1996.

Speaking of St. Thomas and the wounds of Jesus, Pope Francis prayed that Catholics and Orthodox, like the Apostle, would “touch those wounds, confess that Jesus is risen and proclaim him our lord and our God.”

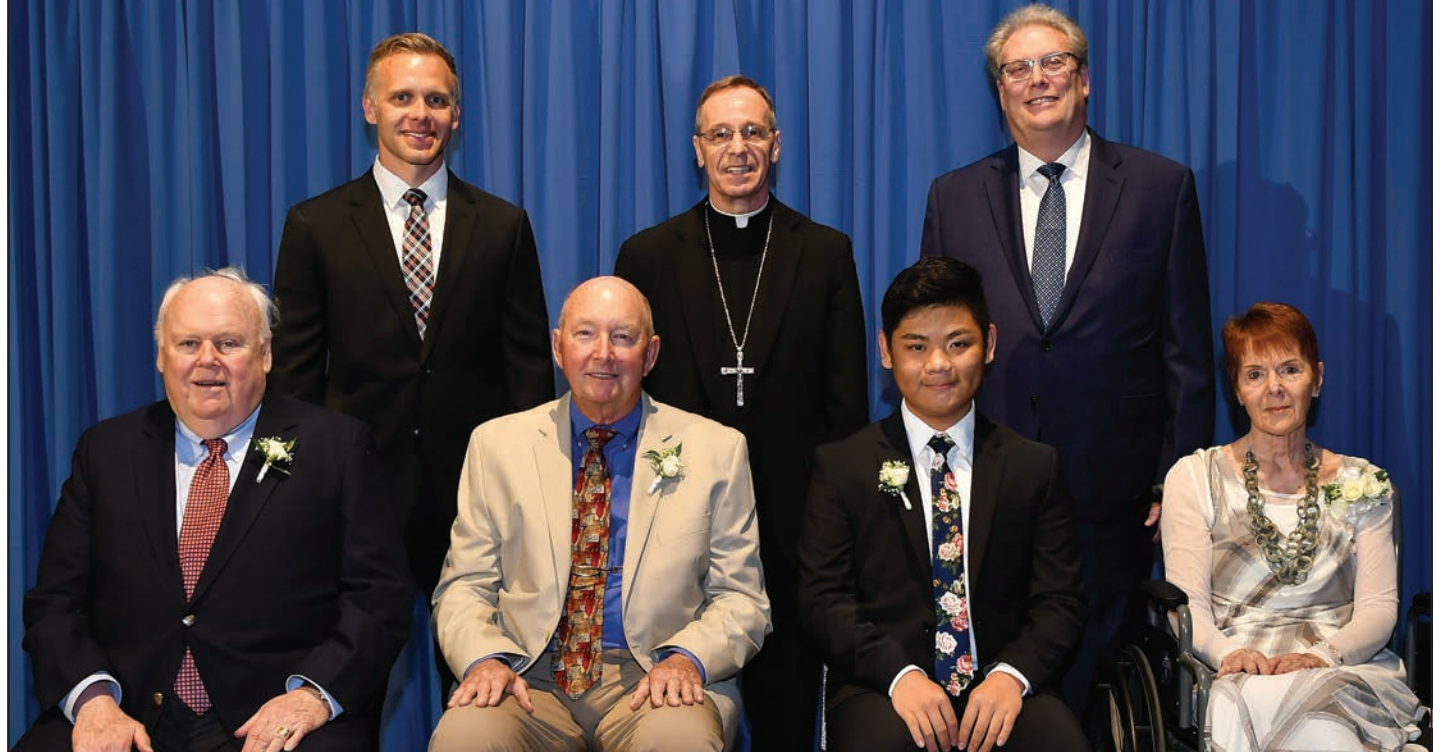
Patriarch Neophyte welcomed Pope Francis with kisses on each cheek and the greeting, “*Christos vozkrese*” (Christ is risen). According to reporters present, the pope kissed the patriarch’s “*engolpion*”—an icon on a chain worn like a pectoral cross.

The patriarch thanked the pope for the special attention the Vatican has shown to his country and his Church for decades. “This is the second visit of a pope to Bulgaria, which we cannot explain except as truly special attention,” he said. St. John Paul II visited in 2002.

Although his Church has withdrawn from the World Council of Churches and has a limited international ecumenical involvement, the patriarch told the pope that “here in the capital of Bulgaria—Sofia, which is named for God’s wisdom—we always pray for the unity of the world in Christ and so that united, Christians will be stronger.”

See BULGARIA, page 10

‘Be the Light’



Catholic Charities Indianapolis presented four individuals with Spirit of Service Awards during an April 30 dinner in Indianapolis. Award recipients, seated from left, are James Morris, Robert “Lanny” Rossman, Yan Yan and Liz Stanton. Standing, from left, are keynote speaker Ed Carpenter, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and David Bethuram, executive director of the archdiocese’s Catholic Charities. (Submitted photo by Rob Banayote)

IndyCar driver lauds Catholic Charities’ legacy of creating hope for those in need

By John Shaughnessy

It was a celebration touched by moments of light-hearted humor, including the moment when emcee Rafael Sanchez presented Archbishop Charles C. Thompson with the gift of a gaudy black-and-white-checked sportscoat—suggesting that the archbishop wear it when he gives the invocation for the Indianapolis 500 on May 26.

It was also a celebration marked by a touching moment of friendship—when keynote speaker and IndyCar driver Ed Carpenter asked the audience of 425 people to join him in a moment of silent prayer for Father Glenn O’Connor, Carpenter’s friend and former pit crew member who died of cancer on March 15.

Still, the Spirit of Service Awards Dinner in Indianapolis on April 30 was essentially the celebration of a promise that has been kept.

It’s a promise that the archdiocese made 100 years ago to “provide help and create hope” to people in need, a promise that continues to be fulfilled through the efforts of Catholic Charities across central and southern Indiana.

“The common criteria throughout all 100 years is human need,” said David Bethuram, executive director of the archdiocese’s Catholic Charities, in his remarks at the celebration at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

“We have created a proud legacy of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, supporting the disabled, strengthening families and welcoming

newcomers. And there is much more being done day in and day out to touch the lives of more than 75,000 individuals each year in Indianapolis and 200,000 individuals across our archdiocesan Catholic Charities network.”

The importance of that continuing effort was echoed by Carpenter in his keynote talk during the 100th anniversary celebration.

“I can’t imagine what the world—this community—would look like without the work of Catholic Charities and other organizations that do great work,” said Carpenter, who finished second in last year’s Indianapolis 500.

He told the audience that while racing is his passion, he and his wife Heather

See SERVICE, page 8

Readers’ stories reflect angels, life lessons, and mothers’ examples of unwavering love

(Editor’s note: In anticipation of Mother’s Day on May 12, The Criterion invited readers to share their thoughts and stories of how their mothers have lived their faith and shared their faith with their children. Here are some of our readers’ favorite memories of their moms.)

Second of two parts

By John Shaughnessy

The earliest memory that Felicia Clark recalls from her life involves a nightmarish moment and an angel’s warning.

“I woke up in my toddler bed to a room full of dark smoke, my mother stretching her arms towards me, lifting me up and clutching me to her chest,” recalls Clark, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove.

“In her arms, bobbing up and down from her frantic racing from my room to the floor below, I saw my stepfather in his pajamas bolt into my room. He tossed the burning humidifier into the snow below as my mother wrapped me in a throw blanket and held me. I saw her save my life that night, but she told me that it was really an angel who had saved me.

“As she tells it, she was in a dead sleep in the master bedroom when an angel came to her in a dream. ‘What did the angel look like?’ I asked years later, skeptical. ‘I can’t explain that. But it was an angel. I just knew.’ ‘Well what did it say?’ I asked. ‘Your daughter is in trouble, and you need to wake up to save her,’ she explained.”

Clark says that moment was just one example of her mother’s strong faith.

See MOTHERS, page 15



Amy Laddbush examines the artwork crafted by one of her 11 children on March 6 in her Bowie, Md., home. Mother’s Day is on May 12. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)



Diaconate ordination

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson ritually lays hands on seminarian Michael Prakasam during an April 27 diaconate ordination Mass at the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln in St. Meinrad. Deacon Prakasam is co-sponsored as a seminarian by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Palayamkottai, India, where he is from. (Submitted photo)



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

May 11 – 22, 2019

May 11 – 11 a.m.

Confirmation for youths of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison and St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, at St. Bartholomew Church

May 11 – 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation for youths of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, Greenwood

May 12 – 11:30 a.m.

Confirmation for youths of St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis

May 12 – 5 p.m.

Confirmation for youths of Holy Family Parish, Oldenburg

May 13 – noon

Pastoral Planning Committee meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

May 14 – 10:30 a.m.

Priest Personnel Board meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

May 14 – 3:30 p.m.

Indiana Bishops' Province meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

May 15 – 9 a.m.

Indiana Catholic Conference meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

May 16 – 10 a.m.

Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

May 16 – 6 p.m.

Circle of Giving Mass and dinner at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, Floyd County

May 19 – 10:30 a.m.

Mass of Newly Initiated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

May 19 – 2:30 p.m.

Bishop Chatard High School graduation, Indianapolis

May 21 – 7 p.m.

Confirmation for youths of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis; St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville; and St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

May 22 – 7 p.m.

Confirmation for youths of St. Anthony and St. Mary parishes, both in Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

(Schedule subject to change.)

Pope draws lessons from Mother Teresa in city of her birth

SKOPJE, North Macedonia (CNS)—Pope Francis went to the tiny Balkan nation of North Macedonia to pay tribute to a tiny saint who accomplished big things: St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Ganxhe Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje on Aug. 26, 1910. After paying the obligatory formal visit to North Macedonia's president, Pope Francis went on May 7 to the memorial and museum built on the site of the church where she was baptized.

"Moved by the love of God," the pope told the president, Mother Teresa "made love of neighbor the supreme law of her life."

At the memorial, Pope Francis did not

speak about the saintly founder of the Missionaries of Charity, but after praying silently before her relics, he praised God for the gift of her life and prayed for her intercession for North Macedonia.

Pope Francis also prayed that God would give Christians the grace "to become signs of love and hope in our own day when so many are poor, abandoned, marginalized and migrants."

Among the guests present at the memorial were dozens of Missionaries of Charity, about 100 of the people they serve in Skopje, and two of Mother Teresa's cousins, the Vatican said.

Celebrating Mass in the nearby Macedonia Square on a brisk spring morning, Pope Francis drew people's

attention to human hungers—the hunger for bread, but also the hunger for truth, for God and for love.

"How well Mother Teresa knew all this and desired to build her life on the twin pillars of Jesus incarnate in the Eucharist and Jesus incarnate in the poor," he said. "Love received and love given" marked her journey from Skopje to India and kept her going.

Too many people, he said, "have become accustomed to eating the stale bread of disinformation," and so they end

up being prisoners of a worldview that makes them either indifferent to others or downright hostile.

Christians must never be afraid to tell God that they are hungry "for an experience of fraternity in which indifference, disparagement and contempt will not fill our tables or take pride of place in our homes," he said. "We are hungry, Lord, for encounters where your word can raise hope, awaken tenderness and sensitize the heart by opening paths of transformation and conversion." †



Pope Francis and Missionaries of Charity nuns pray in front of a statue of Mother Teresa at the Mother Teresa Memorial during a meeting with religious leaders and the poor in Skopje, North Macedonia, on May 7. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Military, first responders to be remembered at Memorial Day Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Vox Sacra, the *schola cantorum* for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, will host a Memorial Day Mass at 9 a.m. on May 27 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. This will be a Mass for the Dead in honor of the deceased men and women of the military, as well as first responders.

The liturgy will be celebrated by

Father Jerry Byrd, pastor of St. Ann and St. Joseph parishes in Jennings County and St. Mary Parish in North Vernon. *Vox Sacra* will be singing Kevin Allen's "Requiem for 5 Voices."

All are invited and welcome to participate in this Mass, especially veterans and the family members and friends of those who have died serving our country. †



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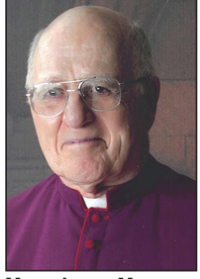
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Msgr. Lawrence Moran served in Terre Haute Deanery for 40 years

By Sean Gallagher

Retired Msgr. Lawrence Moran died on May 4 at Providence HealthCare in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. He was 91.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 8 at St. Patrick Church in Terre Haute. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was the principal celebrant of the liturgy. Father John Hollowell was the homilist.



Msgr. Larry Moran

Burial followed in the priests' circle at Calvary Cemetery in Terre Haute.

At the time of his death, he had been a priest for 67 years and was the longest-serving priest among current archdiocesan priests. He served

in Terre Haute Deanery parishes for 40 of those years, retiring as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in 2005. In retirement, he ministered as the chaplain of the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute until 2014.

Carmelite Mother Anne Brackman, the monastery's prioress, knew Msgr. Moran over his decades of ministry in west central Indiana.

The cloistered contemplative nun was amazed at how Msgr. Moran sought to proclaim the Gospel through a broad array of ministries: pastoring parishes, promoting Catholic education—including founding a Catholic high school—conducting more than 800 interviews on a Catholic radio station in Terre Haute, running a soup kitchen, counselling people suffering from addictions and serving as a spiritual director.

"His zeal for evangelization was quite remarkable," Mother Anne said.

But as active as Msgr. Moran was in his ministry, she knew that it flowed from a deep interior life of prayer focused on the Eucharist.

"The Eucharist was central to his life," Mother Anne said. "That's where I believe he gained his strength, really."

He encouraged others to share in the source of his strength by starting a perpetual adoration chapel at St. Patrick Parish in 1998. It was only the second

such chapel in the archdiocese at the time. Now there are 13.

Father Jonathan Meyer was impressed by Msgr. Moran's love of the Eucharist when he first met him in 2003 at a convocation of archdiocesan priests shortly before he was ordained a priest,

There was a room where the meeting was taking place where the Blessed Sacrament was reserved in a tabernacle. Then-transitional Deacon Meyer kept seeing an older priest coming to the room to pray. It was Msgr. Moran.

"His life of prayer was a witness to me," said Father Meyer, pastor of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County. "He very much believed in eucharistic-centered prayer. And he knew that from that life of prayer was to come evangelization. It was a game-changer in my own life."

And like Msgr. Moran, Father Meyer has also shared the strength of the Eucharist with others, starting two perpetual adoration chapels.

Msgr. Moran, who had been a priest for more than 50 years when Father Meyer was ordained, served as the younger priest's spiritual director for a decade.

"He was so gifted in knowing what questions to ask to have you talk about what's going on in your soul," Father Meyer said. "And in his great humility, it wasn't about him. It was about looking at an encounter with another human being as an encounter with Christ. Where is Christ working in this person's life, and how can I help them proclaim it?"

Msgr. Moran helped many Catholics in the Terre Haute Deanery proclaim Christ through the ministry initiatives he began, according to Mother Anne.

"If he came up with the idea and people embraced it, he let them take over," she said. "It was then their responsibility. He enabled the laity to take their responsibility for their faith life and carry it out."

Mark Fuson and his wife Susan, both members of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute, lived out their faith that was strengthened by Msgr. Moran by helping care for him in his later years.

"He was a humble, genuine and kind man," said Mark Fuson. "He was a great

friend. I never heard him say a cross word about anybody."

In addition to helping lay Catholics share in the ministry of the Church, Msgr. Moran was also dedicated to encouraging priestly and religious vocations.

"He never left a stone unturned to foster a vocation," Mother Anne said.

Father Richard Eldred knows this from experience. For some time, the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford and St. Mary Parish in Mitchell said "no" when Msgr. Moran would suggest that God might be calling him to be a priest. But when Father Eldred eventually opened himself to the possibility, he entered priestly formation and was ordained in 1999.

During the past 20 years, Father Eldred has followed in the footsteps of Msgr. Moran in many ways: beginning two perpetual adoration chapels, supporting evangelization through Catholic radio and helping people in need. And like Msgr. Moran, he doesn't seek credit for such initiatives, simply describing them as "just being a priest and doing what needs to be done."

"But at least I had a good teacher," Father Eldred said. "I'm thankful for his part in my vocation and priesthood."

Lawrence Joseph Moran was born on May 8, 1927, in Indianapolis to Lawrence and Loretta (Brouillette) Moran. He grew up as a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis, attending its school for eight years.

He then became an archdiocesan seminarian and received priestly formation for 12 years at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

Archbishop Paul C. Schulte ordained Msgr. Moran a priest on May 3, 1952, at the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln in St. Meinrad. Msgr. Moran

celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady of Lourdes Church the following day.

His first pastoral assignment was as associate pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, where he ministered from 1952-55. He also served as associate pastor of the former St. Anne Parish in Terre Haute from 1955-57, St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus and Holy Trinity Parish in Edinburgh from 1957-59, and the former St. Andrew Parish in Richmond from 1959-67.

Msgr. Moran also taught at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis from 1952-55 and the former Paul C. Schulte High School in Terre Haute from 1957-59.

In 1967, Msgr. Moran began ministry as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Rockville and administrator of the former Immaculate Conception Mission in Montezuma, continuing as pastor of the Rockville faith community until 1985. From 1985 until his retirement in 2005, Msgr. Moran served as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute.

St. John Paul II gave him the title of monsignor as a prelate of honor in 1997.

From his retirement from parish ministry in 2005 until 2014, he served as chaplain of the Carmelite Monastery of St. Joseph in Terre Haute.

In 2002, Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon presented the Sagamore of the Wabash award to Msgr. Moran for his work in supporting people with addictions. In 2005, Msgr. Moran received a career achievement award at an archdiocesan Celebrating Catholic Schools Values gala for his strong support of Catholic education.

Surviving are his sister, Patricia Carter, of Beech Grove, two brothers, David and James Moran, both of Indianapolis, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Monastery of St. Joseph, 59 Allendale, Terre Haute, IN 47802. †

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Editorial



Abby Johnson speaks on April 23 during the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington. She is a former Planned Parenthood administrator who quit her job to join the pro-life movement. The recent movie *Unplanned* details her story.

(CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)

State, national action and film helping to build a culture of life

Need evidence that our continuous prayers are bearing fruit in the pro-life arena? Recent news not only in Indiana but on the national level demonstrate that various political leaders are listening to our message, and taking steps to strengthen the culture of life that so many of us believe should be a staple of our society. And a film is helping, too.

As reported in last week's issue of *The Criterion*, the Indiana General Assembly recently passed a pair of pro-life bills, which have since been signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcombe.

House Bill 1211 bans dismemberment abortion, an abortion method in the second trimester of pregnancy that involves tearing a live fetus apart in the uterus and extracting the unborn child piece by piece. Senate Bill 201 expands conscience protection rights beyond physicians and hospital employees to nurses, pharmacists and physician assistants, ensuring that they are not compelled to participate in abortion procedures if they object on moral grounds.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana immediately challenged the dismemberment abortion law, but Mike Fichter, president and chief executive officer of Indiana Right to Life, said that the legislation is "on very solid constitutional ground."

Providentially, a few days later the announcement nationally of a new conscience protection rule on May 2 protecting health care workers who object to abortion procedures on religious grounds was welcome news.

President Donald J. Trump announced the rule at the White House Rose Garden during a speech on the National Day of Prayer.

"Just today we finalized new protections of conscience rights for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, teachers, students and faith-based charities," Trump said.

The rule, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and enforced by that department's Office of Civil Rights, offers specific guidelines requiring hospitals, clinics and universities that receive federal funding through Medicare or Medicaid to certify that they comply with laws protecting conscience rights regarding abortion, sterilization and assisted suicide.

Under the rule, medical workers or institutions would not have to provide, participate in or pay for procedures they object to on moral or religious grounds.

"Laws prohibiting government funded discrimination against conscience and religious freedom will be enforced like every other civil rights law," said Roger Severino, director of the Office of Civil Rights in a May 2 statement.

"This rule ensures that health care

entities and professionals won't be bullied out of the health care field because they decline to participate in actions that violate their conscience, including the taking of human life. Protecting conscience and religious freedom not only fosters greater diversity in health care, it's the law," he added.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, issued a joint statement on May 2 commending the adoption of these new regulations to ensure existing laws protecting conscience rights in health care are enforced and followed.

The statement said these laws have been policy for years, but "the previous administration did not fully enforce them and now they are increasingly being violated."

The bishops also pointed out that "conscience protection should not fluctuate as administrations change," and stressed that Congress should provide "permanent legislative relief through passage of the Conscience Protection Act."

Unplanned, a film released in late March based on the true story of Abby Johnson, a former pro-choice Planned Parenthood facility director turned national pro-life advocate, also drew national attention.

As expected, movie critics in the secular media had mixed reviews about the unwavering faith-based film. Nevertheless, the film ranked number four in box office ratings on its opening weekend, and eight the following weekend.

The film premiered during the annual spring "40 Days for Life" campaign, whose mission is "to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40-day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God's favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion."

Shawn Carney, president and CEO of the "40 Days for Life" campaign, shared that the film's inspirational message led some people to immediately go to a "40 Days" prayer vigil after they saw the film to pray for an end to abortion.

Let us thank God that the seeds of evangelization we are planting are bearing fruit in Indiana and around the country.

And let us pray that in our vocation as missionary disciples we continue to share our message of protecting all human life from conception to natural death.

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest/Linda Kile

Blessings Bag moves heart, helps teenager choose life

In the March 15 issue of *The Criterion*, there was an article about the sidewalk counselors who volunteer to lovingly advise women considering abortion to choose instead to save their baby's life. The article included a photo of the Blessings Bag we offer to those who stop.

I just wanted to share a recent story about how important those bags are and the difference they make. Following is a text I received from a young woman:

"On April 11th, I had gone to the Indianapolis Planned Parenthood. You guys were protesting outside and gave me a pink bag with information, candy and Linda's phone number. That is honestly what changed it all!

"At the clinic, I had an ultrasound done and a consultation. I told my mom I was unsure if I could go through with this so we need to wait before making the next appointment. On the two-hour drive home, I read over and over the bag you handed me and now, a month later I have chosen to keep my baby at the age of 17. I wanted to thank you and your team personally as I made this life-changing decision.

"That little pink bag changed my life, and I can't thank you enough! I will never throw that bag away. ... I even put my

positive pregnancy tests in it. I really support everything you guys do. My name is Alyssa. Feel free to share this with your team to let them know they are impacting my life."

Alyssa sent that text message to me on April 30. The little pink bag she is referring to is the Blessings Bags our sidewalk counselors give out as women enter the drive to Planned Parenthood. They contain a brochure with abortion information and my phone number, a handwritten note from the sidewalk counselors and a small assortment of candy. Some days, no one will stop to take a bag, but some days as many as seven bags have been given out.

It costs about \$4 to make a bag. If you would like to help us cover the cost of making our Blessings Bags, please hit the donate button on our website at www.glgabrielproject.org or mail a check to: The Gabriel Project, P.O. Box 1232, Columbus, IN 47202.

Please pray for Alyssa and her boyfriend as they embrace their journey of parenthood, and thank God for blessing Alyssa with the courage to say "yes" to life.

(Linda Kile is the president and director of the Great Lakes Gabriel Project.) †

Letters to the Editor

Reader: Pope Benedict's essay on abuse crisis is a must read

This letter is motivated by the editorial written by Daniel Conway in the April 26 issue of *The Criterion*: "To address abuse crisis, God must return to the center of our lives." The editorial is basically a commentary on the essay by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI following Pope Francis' meeting with Church leaders at the Vatican in February to discuss the current crisis of faith and of the Church.

After reading Pope Benedict's essay online, it is apparent the essay is far more than a commentary on sex abuse. To quote Pope Benedict, "the very essence of Christianity is at stake here."

Criterion's misleading headline is a disservice to its readers

One of the strong points *The Criterion* has shown in the past is to be a voice of quiet stating of positions without the use of rabble-rousing rhetoric employed by the more secular press. It is sad to see the newspaper of the archdiocese indulge in such tactics.

An article on page 16 of the April 26 issue blared "an enormous victory for life" in the headline on potential legislation in New Hampshire. Based on the verbiage, one would think cancer had

It is an easy essay to read in one sitting.

In my opinion, every Christian should have the opportunity to read this essay. Therefore, it is requested that *The Criterion* reprint the essay to make it available to all. It is an historic document.

**Emery Mapes
Lawrenceburg**

(Editor's note: Due to space constraints, we are unable to print the essay in its entirety. It is available online at www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/full-text-of-benedict-xvi-the-church-and-the-scandal-of-sexual-abuse-59639.)

been cured, or the fountain of youth had been discovered.

Reading the actual article discloses no executions had occurred since 1939, and only one person was on death row.

Granted all life is important, but the newspaper does no one any service by wildly overstating what is contained in the news.

**Michael Connor
Greensburg**

Letters Policy

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

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

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

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

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

Send letters to "Letters to the Editor," *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to critterion@archindy.org. †



Christ the Cornerstone

Good Shepherd leads his pastors and all of us to eternal life

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one" (Jn 10:27-30).

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. On this day, the Church invites us to reflect on the pastoral leadership style of Jesus, the *Pastor Bonus* (Good Shepherd).

Pope Francis tells us that a good pastor sometimes leads his people by walking in front of them; sometimes by following them; but most often by walking alongside (accompanying) them. This insight comes from reflection on the ministry of Jesus.

A good pastor should lead his people in prayer and in the search for holiness. Walking in front of his people here doesn't mean that the pastor is necessarily better at praying or that he is holier than others, but it does mean that he makes the spiritual life a top priority. In so doing, he gives witness to others about the importance, and

the richness, of spiritual health and maturity.

A good pastor should also walk in front of his people when it comes to reflecting on God's word in sacred Scripture and experiencing God's presence in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. The primary objective of all pastoral ministry is to lead others to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and, so, to experience firsthand his love and mercy, his healing and his encouragement, his suffering and his triumph over sin and death.

A good pastor walks alongside his people when he accompanies them on their personal journeys. With them, he shares in the joys of marriage and childbirth, the sorrows of sickness and death, the troubles that stem from unemployment or financial hardships, the consequences of sin and all of the experiences of daily life—good, bad and indifferent. A good pastor is close to his people. He knows them, and they know him to be one of them as a brother, a friend and a faithful companion on the road to life.

Parish life should be the place where this accompaniment is experienced

most directly and most often. The word "parish" (*paroikia* in Greek) is rooted in the idea of a pilgrimage, the journeying together of a group of people who share with one another their hopes and dreams as well as their challenges and frustrations in the search for God, for life in all its fullness.

Finally, a good pastor walks behind his people—bringing up the rear, so to speak. He points the way and then follows closely behind them in order to make sure that his people remain on the right path. A good pastor trusts that the Holy Spirit will lead and safeguard his people, but he is constantly on the lookout for danger and for evil influencers who try to lead people astray.

Jesus tells us that good pastors are willing to sacrifice themselves for the people they serve. They abandon the 99 in order to seek and find the one who has strayed. And they rejoice greatly when the one who has been lost is eventually found.

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me" (Jn 10:27). There is nothing cold, distant or indifferent about a good pastor's love for his people. Like Jesus, a good

pastor lets himself get close to us (taking on "the smell of the sheep," as Pope Francis points out). In him, we experience a degree of warmth and intimacy (always expressed appropriately) that we would not ordinarily expect from religious or civil leaders.

"I give them eternal life," Jesus says, "and they shall never perish" (Jn 10:28). A good pastor accompanies his people on the road to eternal life. He leads the way, but he also listens to his people and follows their lead when he discovers that they have insights and experiences that he does not.

Above all, a good pastor recognizes that we are all held firmly in the hand of our loving Father. As Jesus says, "My Father, who has given [my flock] to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of my Father's hand" (Jn 10:29).

This Good Shepherd Sunday, let's pray for our pastors. May they follow the words and example of the Good Shepherd and may they know the peace, hope and joy that comes from being leaders, followers and companions of the people entrusted to their pastoral care. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

El Buen Pastor guía a sus pastores y a todos nosotros a la vida eterna

Jesús dijo: "Mis ovejas escuchan mi voz, yo las conozco y ellas me siguen. Yo les doy Vida eterna: ellas no perecerán jamás y nadie las arrebatará de mis manos. Mi Padre, que me las ha dado, es superior a todos y nadie puede arrebatar nada de las manos de mi Padre El Padre y yo somos uno" (Jn 10:27-30).

El cuarto domingo de Pascua se conoce también como el Domingo del Buen Pastor. En este día la Iglesia nos invita a reflexionar sobre el estilo de liderazgo pastoral de Jesús, el *Pastor Bonus* (el Buen Pastor).

El papa Francisco nos dice que un buen pastor a veces guía a su pueblo caminando delante de él; en otros momentos lo sigue, pero la mayoría de las veces camina junto a él y lo acompaña. Esta imagen proviene de una reflexión sobre el ministerio de Jesús.

Un buen pastor debería guiar a su pueblo en la oración y la búsqueda de la santidad. En esta metáfora, caminar delante de su pueblo no significa necesariamente que el pastor rece mejor o que sea más santo que los demás, sino que hace de la vida espiritual su principal prioridad. Al hacerlo, da testimonio a los demás sobre la importancia y la riqueza de la salud y la madurez espiritual.

Un buen pastor también debe caminar delante de su pueblo al momento de reflexionar acerca de la Palabra de Dios en las sagradas escrituras y experimentar la presencia de Dios en los sacramentos, especialmente la eucaristía. El principal objetivo de todo el ministerio pastoral es guiar a los demás hacia un encuentro personal con Jesucristo y, de esta forma, vivir de primera mano su amor y su misericordia, su sanación y su aliento, su sufrimiento y su triunfo sobre el pecado y la muerte.

Un buen pastor camina junto a su pueblo cuando los acompaña en su trayectoria personal y comparte con ellos las alegrías del matrimonio y el nacimiento de los hijos, las tristezas de la enfermedad y la muerte, las dificultades que surgen por un desempleo o dificultades económicas, las consecuencias del pecado y todas las experiencias de la vida cotidiana, sean estas buenas, malas o indiferentes. El buen pastor está cerca de su pueblo, los conoce y ellos saben que el pastor es uno de ellos como hermano, amigo y compañero fiel en el camino de la vida.

La vida parroquial debe ser el lugar donde se percibe más directa y frecuentemente esta compañía.

La palabra "parroquia" (del griego *paroikia*) tiene su raíz en la idea de la peregrinación, el viaje que realizan juntas un grupo de personas que comparten entre ellas sus esperanzas y sus sueños, así como también sus retos y frustraciones en la búsqueda de Dios, de la vida en todo su esplendor.

Por último, un buen pastor camina detrás de su pueblo para alentar a los rezagados. Él señala el camino y los sigue muy de cerca desde atrás para cerciorarse de que su pueblo se mantenga en el camino correcto. Un buen pastor confía en que el Espíritu Santo guiará y protegerá a su pueblo, pero siempre está atento a los peligros y a las influencias perniciosas que intentan desviar al pueblo de su camino.

Jesús nos dice que los buenos pastores están dispuestos a sacrificarse en favor del pueblo al que sirven; dejan a 99 para ir en busca de aquel que se ha perdido y se alegran enormemente cuando aquel que estaba perdido aparece finalmente.

"Mis ovejas escuchan mi voz, yo las conozco y ellas me siguen" (Jn 10:27). El buen amor de un pastor por su pueblo no conoce de frialdad, distanciamientos o indiferencia. Al igual que Jesús, el buen pastor se

acerca mucho a nosotros y adquiere "el olor a oveja," como lo expresa el papa Francisco. En él, somos capaces de sentir un grado de calidez e intimidad (siempre expresada adecuadamente) que no esperaríamos normalmente de otros líderes religiosos o civiles.

"Yo les doy Vida eterna—dice Jesús—ellas no perecerán jamás" (Jn 10:28). Un buen pastor acompaña a su pueblo en el camino a la vida eterna; nos guía por el camino, pero también escucha a su gente y les sigue el paso cuando descubre que tienen conocimientos y experiencias que él no ha tenido.

Por encima de todo, un buen pastor reconoce que nuestro Padre amoroso nos lleva a todos de la mano. Y tal como dice Jesús: "Mi Padre, que me ha dado [las ovejas], es superior a todos y nadie puede arrebatar nada de las manos de mi Padre" (Jn 10:29).

En este domingo del Buen Pastor, recemos por nuestros pastores para que puedan seguir las palabras y el ejemplo del Buen Pastor y que conozcan la paz, la esperanza y la alegría que proviene de ser líderes, seguidores y compañeros del pueblo que se encuentra bajo sus cuidados pastorales. †

Events Calendar

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

May 13

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Divorce and Beyond Support Group**, 7-9 p.m., Mondays through June 24 except for Memorial Day, all faiths welcome, \$30 includes materials. Registration and information: www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily (choose Divorce Ministry) or Gabriela Ross, 317-592-4007, gross@archindy.org.

May 14

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Monthly Taizé Prayer Service**, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. **Ave Maria Guild**, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-223-3687, ylgmimi@aol.com.

May 16

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.

May 17

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Indianapolis Colts general manager Chris Ballard presenting, Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$15 members, \$21 non-members. Register by noon on May 16. Information and registration: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org.

May 19

White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Sundays at the Woods: Farm Tour**, presented by Lorrie Heber, 2-4 p.m., freewill offering, registration not required. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org or www.spsmw.org/event.

May 20

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St.,

Indianapolis. **Serra Club Dinner Meeting**, Franciscan Sister Marj English presenting "Spiritual Direction for all the Seasons of Your Life," 5:40 p.m. optional rosary, 6-8 p.m. dinner and speaker, \$15 member, guests free. Information: smclaughlin@holyspirit.cc, 317-748-1478.

May 21

Ironwood Golf Club, 10955 Fall Road, Fishers (Lafayette Diocese.) **Catholic Radio Indy Annual Golf Outing**, 10 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. Mass, 11:30 a.m. lunch, noon shotgun start, dinner and prizes, \$125 per person, \$450 foursome. Registration: www.catholicradioindy.org. Information: Valerie Bendel, 317-870-8400, valerie@catholicradioindy.org.

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **"Abide" Adoration Service**, sponsored by Catalyst Catholic, 7-8 p.m., every third Thurs. of the month, featuring guest speaker, praise band, silence and confessions, child care available. Information and child care reservations: Chris

Rogers, chris@nadyouth.org, 812-923-8355.

May 22

The Well Community Center, 554 Pit Road, Brownsburg. **Caregiver Support Group**, sponsored by Catholic Charities Indianapolis, 1-2:30 p.m. Information: Monica Woodsworth, 317-261-3378, mwoodsworth@archindy.org.

May 24-25

Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, 1005 W. Main St., Danville. **Women's Club Rummage Sale**, Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., free. Information: 913-832-8472, sbliss321@gmail.com.

June 1

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

June 4

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1752 Scheller Ln., New Albany. **How to Be a Christian Consoler workshop**,

designed to offer family, friends and caregivers confident and helpful tools in being present to those suffering, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free. Register requested by May 31: 812-945-2374, tyost@olphna.org.

Mission 27 Resale, 132 Leota St., Indianapolis. **Senior Discount Day**, every Tuesday, 30 percent off clothing, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., ministry supports Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and Changing Lives Forever program. Information: 317-687-8260.

June 5

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6 p.m. Information: 317-243-0777.

June 7

Women's Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., Benedictine Father Lambert Reilly presiding, optional

tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, www.womenscarecenter.org.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday** 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: 317-888-2861 or info@olgreenwood.org.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Charismatic Renewal Praise and Mass**, praise and worship 7 p.m., Mass 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-7328, mkeyes@indy.r.com.

June 8

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Church, 5719 Saint Marys Road, Floyd Knobs. **Parish Social Ministry Gathering South**, for priests, deacons, parish staff and volunteers, 8:30 a.m. refreshments, 9 a.m.-noon program, free, but RSVP requested to Theresa Chamblee, 317-236-1404, 800-382-9836 x. 1404, tcamblee@archindy.org. †

Retreats and Programs

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

June 11

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Lunch and Learn: How to Navigate Alzheimer's Disease**, clinical social worker Kristin Cooley presenting, 11:30-1 p.m., \$20 includes lunch. Information and registration: 812-933-6437, www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

June 14-20

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **The Image as a Window to the Spiritual: An Artist's Six-Day Hands-**

on Workshop and Retreat, Benedictine Brothers Martin Erspamer and Michael Moran presenting, limited space, \$695 single, \$1,045 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

June 19

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Personal Day of Retreat**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$35 includes room for the day and lunch, spiritual direction available for \$35. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

June 21

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Day of Silence**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$35 per day, includes breakfast and lunch, room to use throughout the day, access to common areas and grounds. Depending on availability, overnight stay costs additional \$28, \$9 cold plate dinner when available. Information and registration: Khristine Meyer, 317-545-7681, kmeyer@archindy.org, www.archindy.org/fatima.

June 21-23

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St.,

Indianapolis. **Tobit Marriage Preparation Weekend**, \$298 includes separate room accommodations for couple, meals, snacks and materials. Information and registration: Cheryl McSweeney, cmcsweeney@archindy.org, 317-545-7681, ext. 106 or www.archindy.org/fatima/calendar/tobit.html.

June 22

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Forgiveness: The Healing of Memories**, Patrick Murphy Welage presenting, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$45 includes lunch. Information and registration: 812-933-6437, www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

June 23-29

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center,

1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Monastic Retreat—Women on God's Loom: Tapestries of God**, Benedictine Father Joseph Feders presenting, 6 p.m. Sun. through 1 p.m. Sat., \$525 per person, includes meals and lodging. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

June 28-30

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **The Miracle of Chartres: A Close Look at a Gorgeous Gothic Cathedral and the Mysteries Behind It**, Benedictine Father Noël Mueller presenting, \$255 single, \$425 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu. †

Events and retreats can be submitted to *The Criterion* by logging on to

www.archindy.org/events/submission,

or by mailing us at 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, ATTN: Cindy Clark, or by fax at 317-236-1593.

Archbishop Thompson to celebrate Mass for the newly initiated on May 19

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will be the principal celebrant at a bilingual Mass for the newly initiated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 10:30 a.m. on May 19.

All who were baptized and those who received their first Communion and confirmation on Easter are invited, as well as their families.

Immediately following Mass, a reception will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center across the street from the cathedral.

The parking lots at the cathedral and the Catholic Center will be open.

For additional information, contact Christina Tuley at 317-236-1483 or e-mail ctuley@archindy.org. †

Providence Sisters accepting Providence Associate applications through May 31

The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, in St Mary-of-the-Woods, are accepting Providence Associate applications through May 31.

Providence Associates are women and men of diverse faith backgrounds, ages 18 years and older, who share their own unique gifts and talents with others while walking with the Sisters of Providence.

Accepted applicants attend an orientation at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in October. Following the orientation,

the candidate spends a year meeting one-on-one on a regular basis with a Sister of Providence or another Providence Associate companion to learn and share about Providence Spirituality.

For more information, or to request an application, contact Providence Associate co-director Providence Sister Sue Paweski at 312-909-7492 or e-mail spaweski@spsmw.org.

To learn more about Providence Associates, visit www.providenceassociates.org. †

St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville to hold Marian prayer program on May 19

The Knights of Columbus Council #7431 will hold a Marian prayer service with an icon of Our Lady of Help of Persecuted Christians at St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., in Mooresville, at noon on May 19.

This will be a guided prayer service seeking intercession for people of faith

who are at risk throughout the world.

The traveling icon will be on display in the parish's perpetual adoration chapel from May 13 through the morning of May 18, and in the church until the time of the prayer service.

For additional information, call 317-919-4156 or e-mail knights@stm-church.org. †

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality to host children's art and nature camps in June

Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., in Mt. St. Francis, will be hosting two children's art and nature camps in June.

The first camp is planned from June 10-13 for children ages 6-10, and from June 17-20 for youths ages 11-16.

The camps will be held from 9 a.m.-noon each day.

Campers will have the opportunity

to work with clay, paint and explore the outdoors while learning about the Franciscan love of art and nature.

The cost to attend is \$100 per child with a \$50 deposit due upon enrollment and the balance due on the first day of camp.

For information or to register, call 812-923-8817 or go to www.mountsaintfrancis.org/retreat-offerings. †

St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany celebrates 40 years of 'giving hope, changing lives'

By Natalie Hoefler

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Ariel LaGrange was 24 and unmarried when she became pregnant. She balked when her mom encouraged her to contact St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities (SECC) in New Albany for help.

"I said I didn't want to live [in their crisis pregnancy home] because I have family to support me," LaGrange, 31, recalled.

"Then my mom said they had more to offer than just the pregnancy home, like counseling. ... It was through their counselors that I learned to become an adult."

While the counseling was instrumental, LaGrange said, she struggled to find a job to support her and her daughter and felt "stuck in poverty." Fortunately, she qualified to rent an apartment through the organization's Affordable Supportive Housing (ASH) program.

"We've lived in our own home for two years now," LaGrange said as she gestured for her 7-year-old daughter Ava Isabella to come on stage with her. "Thanks to St. Elizabeth's, I'm now able to support myself and Ava."

As she grabbed her daughter's hand and raised it high, nearly 700 supporters gave them a standing ovation.

LaGrange's story was one of several shared at the organization's annual "Giving Hope, Changing Lives" fundraiser gala, held this year at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville on April 25.

And her story is just one of thousands that could be told by those who have been helped by SECC, which celebrated its 40th anniversary at the annual event.

In the last four decades, the organization has merged with two other agencies, expanded from one service to eight programs, and grown from two buildings to 10, with additional offices in Louisville and Salem.

"When I think of all the women and children who have walked through our doors in 40 years, I'm both sad and happy," SECC executive director Mark Casper told the crowd. "I'm sad for their need, but happy we could help."

'Never been a greater need'

The agency's story begins with conversations in 1979 about a need for social services for unwed mothers in southern Indiana.

The need was acknowledged by the "pastors of the Southern Indiana parishes and Catholic Charities Indianapolis [as] a responsibility belonging to them." Such were the words of a contract formally signed in 1980 between the archdiocesan

Office of Catholic Charities and Price Counseling Associates in Louisville.

And so began Catholic Charities New Albany as an agency offering counseling services to "the unmarried mother, her family and the alleged father."

In 1986, the agency added a Supported Living Program to help maintain independent living for those with developmental delays in Clark and Floyd counties.

The following year, the agency became the coordinator for Floyd County's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, adding Washington County in 1993. CASA volunteers assist children innocently caught up in the court system.

"Because of the growing drug epidemic, there's never been a greater need for adults to speak up for children," Casper said at the gala. With SECC's help, last year 74 CASA volunteers helped 372 children—an increase of 271 percent in the last three years.

From teens to 30-year-olds

Nearly a decade after Catholic Charities New Albany was founded, another organization was created in New Albany in 1989 to help unwed mothers and their children in southern Indiana: St. Elizabeth Regional Maternity Home.

Those seeking help from the home "in the 1990s were mostly teens whose families didn't want their names sullied," Casper explained in an interview with *The Criterion*.

"Now the age goes up to about 30. And instead of mom and dad kicking them out, it's more a case of the boyfriend saying, 'I didn't sign up for this, and if you're not going to get an abortion, then I'm gone.'"

Occasionally a young mother at the home chooses to place her child for adoption, said Casper, a member of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Jeffersonville. "But usually if they live [at St. Elizabeth], it's because they want to parent."

It soon became apparent that the young mothers still needed emotional and practical support after giving birth. In response to that need, the organization created a transitional housing program in 1996.

In 2004, St. Elizabeth and Catholic Charities New Albany combined to help unwed mothers and their children. They joined their services and their names, forming St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities.

'We've had to change with the world'

"Our growth in the last 10, 15 years has been exponential," said Phil Krueger, past vice-president and president of SECC's advisory council and a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight.



During the St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities "Giving Hope, Changing Lives" gala on April 25 in Louisville, Ky., Ariel LaGrange, left, shares the story of how the New Albany agency helped her and her daughter Ava Isabella, right. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)

Now serving as head of the council's facilities committee, he noted with a chuckle that he "put in a lot of blood, sweat and tears into that expansion."

In 2012, several structures along a one-block stretch on Market Street in downtown New Albany were acquired. They include a donation of the nearly 170-year-old former Holy Trinity Parish rectory—now SECC's administration and social services building—and several homes renovated to create nine ASH units.

That same year, SECC received certification from the Council on Accreditation (COA) as a social service agency.

"That [accreditation] took us from a 'mom and pop' or 'good people doing good things' agency to an agency with a lot of strong and transparent and high-care social services," said Casper.

Those services expanded in 2014 when SECC acquired Adoption Bridges of Kentucky in Louisville, now called Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana.

"By merging, we took their staff, who are skilled at working with and training adoptive families and at finding birth mothers, and matched that up with our residential programs and counseling," Casper explained. "It was a perfect fit."

Growth continued in 2015, when SECC constructed a new building to house its Marie's Ministry Community Distribution Program. The service originally offered donated baby items to those served by SECC. With the expansion from a 200-square-foot space to a 2,500-square-foot building, the program was able to accept furniture and appliances as well.

Also in 2015, SECC began providing a licensed social worker to a local Catholic school "to meet the changing needs since the [state's] school voucher program started," Casper said. The service is now offered in four Catholic schools in the New Albany Deanery.

And just last year, SECC opened a culinary training kitchen where clients can learn a marketable skill set. SECC was chosen as Impact 100 of Southern Indiana's first-ever grant winner, receiving \$50,000 for the project.

"Everything we do comes out of the need to meet the needs of today," Casper



Mark Casper, executive director of St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany, talks about the organization on April 25 in Louisville, Ky., during the agency's annual "Giving Hope, Changing Lives" fundraiser gala.

emphasized. "The world has changed, and we've had to change with it."

'Couldn't do it without caring community'

The organization's expansion occurred despite a financial setback. In 2014, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) drastically reduced funding to agencies offering shelters and low-income rent services—both a major part of SECC's services.

"Since HUD funding was reallocated, the community has lost two shelters in southern Indiana, including a shelter for women experiencing domestic violence," Casper said. "We're now the only emergency women's shelter in the area."



Tex Very, left, and Page Walker pose with the Spirit of Hope awards they received at a St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities gala on April 25 in Louisville.

SERVICE

continued from page 1

have based their marriage on a more important goal.

“For sure, our most important job that we have is raising our three kids and helping instill in them the correct moral foundation in how to live their lives—to model how God has intended for them, for us, to live,” Carpenter noted. “Living our best life and living that way really requires service.”

Carpenter especially credited his wife in leading the two main ways that the couple tries to model the importance of service for their children.

Although their children attend a school in an affluent part of Indianapolis, the Carpenters soon learned that 70 percent of the students there were on a free or reduced-payment lunch program. So the family established a food pantry for the school, making it possible for students to have something to eat over the weekend.

“It was a great way for us to help those people in our community, but also to show our kids what that means—how to serve right there in their own school,” Carpenter said. “They need to understand that some of their friends don’t have all the blessings they have.”

The couple also started a foundation in 2007 to help people in the racing community, after a young racer named Paul Dana was killed in an accident.

“He left behind a wife and an unborn son,” Carpenter said. “We felt we needed to do something about it. Heather started the Indy Family Foundation. I’ve supported her along the way. Father Glenn was a big part of that charity as well, and he helped her. It’s an honor to help those members of the racing community, not just IndyCar but anyone who comes up on hard times—illness, loses their job, whatever. That’s something we’ve been able to do.”

At the heart of their efforts is the same foundation that guides Catholic Charities.

“For sure, faith is the foundation for all the lessons we want to pass onto our kids. Faith is the most crucial thing we can do for them, for all of us, frankly for all of society,” Carpenter said. “I think at times there is not enough faith in this day and age. Without the solid foundation and the sacrifice that God made for all of us, we wouldn’t know or understand the purpose for how we live our lives.”

Earlier during the celebration, Bethuram shared that the theme of the agency’s 100th anniversary is “Be the Light.” He said that theme will guide Catholic Charities in the archdiocese “as we launch the next century of providing help and creating hope across southern and central Indiana.”

He also noted how the agency has evolved into six sites across the archdiocese, including Bedford, Bloomington, Indianapolis, New Albany, Tell City and Terre Haute. At every location, the focus is on “touching lives.”

“As I walk through each of our sites, I am often met with a variety of emotions,” Bethuram said.

“I see a young mother indulging her son’s imagination as he so innocently talks about Spider-Man climbing the walls of our building while they wait for food. I see a young man—struggling to better himself for his family—stepping outside his comfort zone and walking into a class to learn a new and employable skill. I see an elderly man at our food pantry requesting food for the next seven days until his Social Security income has been deposited.”

He added that while the agency “will continue to provide ‘safety net’ services that help with food, utilities and emergency housing,” Catholic Charities is committed to developing strategies to help families and individuals “out of poverty.”

“To do this, we must continually study community needs, dedicate resources and



IndyCar driver Ed Carpenter delivers the keynote speech during the archdiocese’s annual Spirit of Service Awards Dinner in Indianapolis on April 30. (Submitted photo by Rob Banayote)

implement programming and services that specifically address the root causes of poverty, such as lack of training, lack of education, poor health and unbalanced diets.

“We need your support by embracing our theme of ‘Be the Light,’ to help us build a consolidated system where case management and supportive services are the critical intervention.”

During his remarks near the end of the event, Archbishop Thompson focused on the support that people give to Catholic Charities’ efforts to foster dignity in people’s lives.

“You are the face of the Church that reveals Christ’s love and mercy and

goodness to others. Tonight, we celebrate what is so wonderful about what we do as Catholics. We do it in so many ways, but no better place than in Catholic Charities. So I thank you for that great witness that you give and that you continue to bring to society and to our community.

“Our hearts burn within us to recognize and see the presence of Christ in our midst. Our hearts burn within us with that love of God. You help bring the Good News to others just by being yourselves. And the 100 years that we’ve been around doing this in Indianapolis, what a great thing to take pride in. We are very proud for this witness.” †

Spirit of Service winners live out their faith by helping others

By John Shaughnessy

Four individuals were honored for their contributions to the community during a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities in central and southern Indiana.

Here is capsulized information about the award recipients, who were each featured in front-page stories in *The Criterion* in March and April.

Robert “Lanny” Rossman, Spirit of Service Award

His joy for life often radiates from the face of Robert “Lanny” Rossman, and it was on high beam as he stood in front of a house on the near west side of Indianapolis in early March.

Rossman and his nephew Steve Adams had spent 14 months tearing down and building up the interior of the once-abandoned house—a complete overhaul that gave the 75-year-old Rossman an overwhelming sense of satisfaction.

Yet what brought the true joy to Rossman is knowing that he not only helped to transform the house, he helped to transform a family’s life. The house became a home for a single mother and her three children, a home that the family couldn’t otherwise afford.

“I remember she was extremely excited and thankful when they moved in,” says a smiling Rossman, one of the founding members of Hearts and Hands of Indiana, an organization that buys abandoned houses in the area and rehabilitates them as homes for low-income families. “I don’t think there’s a greater feeling than that, knowing you can provide a home for someone.”

A father of four, Rossman has also coached football and basketball in the archdiocese’s Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) for more than 40 years. And for the past 20 years, he has served as a volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Brown County.

“You got to be willing to help people,” says Rossman, a member of both St. Agnes Parish in Nashville and St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

“We’re only here for a short time, and I want to do what I can.”

Liz Stanton, Spirit of Service Award

As she neared her retirement, Liz Stanton offered God a deal she hoped he couldn’t resist. She just never expected that God would make her a counteroffer.

“When I retired at 66, I told him I would give him my time, energy and prayer, in exchange for him guiding me into opportunities to serve others—ultimately serving him,” Stanton notes.

She smiles as she shares God’s counteroffer: “You have to be *very* careful when *dealing* with God. He believes you can do much more than *you* believe you can do.”

Consider everything that the 78-year-old Stanton has done in the nearly 13 years since her retirement.

She seeks bargains and calls upon friends and neighbors to donate clothing, toiletries and food that she then delivers to Holy Family Shelter in Indianapolis and Operation Leftover, a monthly homeless outreach in downtown Indianapolis.

A great-grandmother, Stanton also tutors first-, second- and third-grade children at a public elementary school.

A member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, she has served as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, bringing the Eucharist to people in hospitals and nursing homes.

She also works to help people who are trying to change their lives after serving a prison sentence. She collects donated furniture, kitchenware and bedding to help them as they move into an apartment. Stanton is also the “Crime Watch” captain for her neighborhood, patrolling the streets with her 10-year-old dog that she has dubbed “Deputy Harry.”

Stanton looks forward to the daily adventures that await her and God.

“We’re going to find someone at some place who needs something,” she says. “And we’re going to cheer them up.”

James Morris, Spirit of Service Award

On every mantle in the home of James Morris, this saying is ingrained: “Thank God for faith, family, friends, community and vocation.”

That focus has guided the 76-year Morris during a career dedicated to making the world better at every turn, including: helping to transform Indianapolis into a major city, serving as the executive director of the United Nation’s World Food Programme to lessen worldwide hunger, and being the United States’ permanent representative to the executive board of UNICEF, which focuses on improving the lives of children around the world.

“It’s important for everyone to be driven to make a difference in the lives of those around them, to build great communities and great institutions,” Morris says. “None of that can be done alone. When I was at the World Food Programme, my motto was, ‘Do more. Do it better. And do it together.’”

Among his many influences in Indiana, Morris has served as the president of Lilly Endowment, Inc., founded the Indiana Sports Corporation and helped bring the Pan American Games and the National Collegiate Athletic Association headquarters to Indianapolis.

Currently the vice chairman of Pacers Sports & Entertainment, the father of three and grandfather of eight also is focused on reducing hunger among children in the city.

Morris considers all his outreach as an extension of his faith in God, and what God calls people to do in life.

“God loves us. God expects us to love each other, and that means having our arms open, being sensitive and caring, serving, sharing and doing the best we can with all that’s given us, and having respect across the board for each other.”

Yan Yan, Young Adult Spirit of Service Award

For Yan Yan, the tattoo on his right leg represents his approach to serving others and honoring God. The 20-year-old’s tattoo features the Latin phrase *Imago Dei*.

“It means image of God,” he says. “Since everyone is created in the image of God, every action I take should be for God. I got the tattoo on my leg because it’s a reminder that every step I take is to serve God.”

That philosophy has guided his efforts to help children from Burmese families in Indianapolis to improve their English and their academic skills, all in the hope of aiding them to adapt to life in America and pave the way for a better future.

Yan’s concern for youths who are struggling stems from his own struggles upon arriving in the United States when he was 13. His family’s journey to freedom began when his father—a Catholic—fled Burma because of religious persecution. Yan and his parents became refugees in Malaysia before moving to America.

A turning point in his life came when he attended St. Mark the Evangelist School in Indianapolis for eighth grade. His year there strengthened his faith and his resolve to make a difference. As a student at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, he volunteered as an English instructor for younger Burmese children.

That commitment has continued while he’s a student at Marian University in Indianapolis. He’s the after-school program coordinator for Hope for Tomorrow, an organization that helps Burmese children with their homework. Yan is also a teacher’s aide at St. Mark School, focusing on the Burmese students.

“We have so many great things that have happened to us here,” he says. “But there are so many potentials our Burmese community has, too. I’m trying to lift that up in any way I can.” †

SECC

continued from page 7

New Albany Mayor Jeff Gahan, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, told *The Criterion* that the city is “very proud of the organization and the work they do, and we’re very fortunate to have them here in New Albany. They fulfill a very important need in our community. And they do so with a lot of love and respect, providing their services with dignity to those who turn to them.”

To honor SECC’s pivotal role in the community, in 2014 the city of New Albany declared June 30 as “St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities Day.” And in light of the HUD funding cuts, the city also presented a \$25,000 check to the organization, which receives no municipal funding.

According to Casper, one-third of SECC’s budget is donated, while “the rest is earned income—billing for adoption studies, state reimbursements.

“There’s almost no funding left for shelters. We rely on \$450,000 in donations and grants as well as \$200,000 in donated materials and time to make our \$2 million budget work. We just wouldn’t be able to do it without a caring and loving community, volunteers, donors, staff and prayers.”

Noting that nearly 96 percent of every dollar donated goes directly to funding services, he acknowledged that “people want to help people. No one is excited about putting a new roof on a shelter or administrative costs.”

Rather, Casper said, a 5 percent stipend through the archdiocese’s United Catholic Appeal assists with the costs for SECC’s 16 full-time and 14 as-needed employees.

“Giving to the appeal is just so critical,” he stressed. “It allows the greater Church [in central and southern Indiana] to contribute; then money is redirected back down into the deanery for St. Elizabeth’s. If we had to raise an extra \$100,000 for administrative costs, we’d have to lose staff or drop services.”

‘This is St. Elizabeth’

A good portion of SECC’s needed donations for services comes through its annual gala.

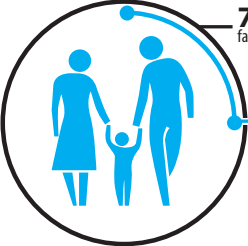
Donations are still coming in, Casper said, but so far \$281,000 has been raised, nearly \$11,000 more than last year.

The evening of live and silent auctions featured LaGrange’s talk, as well as videos highlighting SECC programs.

Each year at the event, a “Spirit of Hope” award is presented to a person or persons in recognition of their dedicated service to the organization. This year, Tex Very and Page Walker received the award. Both have served for many years on SECC’s advisory council, and both currently serve on the council’s development committee.

Providing Help *Creating Hope*

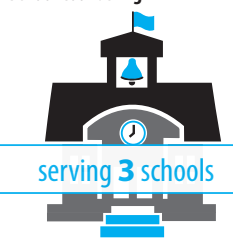
Marie’s Community Distribution Program



797 families served

24.8% of new clients receiving services for the first time


School Counseling




Offering **705** children support to succeed

servicing **3** schools

2017-18 PROGRAM STATS



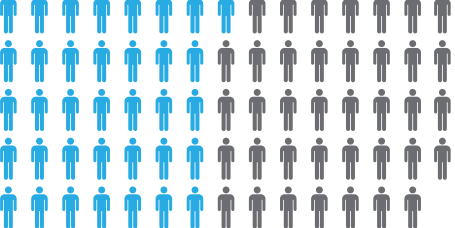
12,226 hours of direct support



Serving **17** consumers

CASA


36 new volunteers sworn in this year **74** dedicated CASA Volunteers




372 children served

Increase of **271%** in the number of children served by our CASA program over the last 3 years


Residential Programs




Women & Children’s Emergency Shelter:
Women – 58
Children – 55



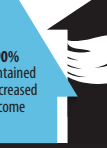
Family Stability Program:
Women – 12
Children – 16



Affordable Supportive Housing:
Women – 7
Children – 7

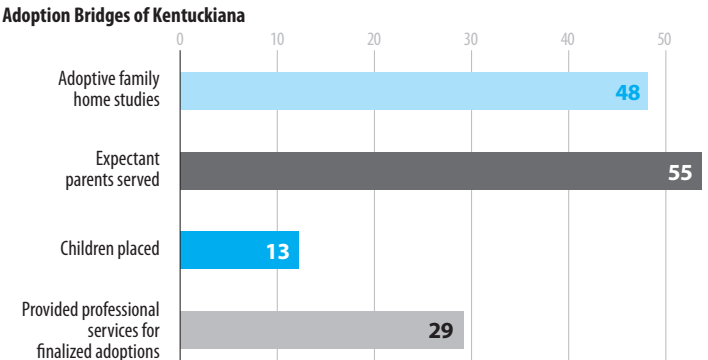


86% of residents moved on to a permanent setting



90% maintained or increased income

Adoption Bridges of Kentuckiana



Adoptive family home studies	48
Expectant parents served	55
Children placed	13
Provided professional services for finalized adoptions	29

(Courtesy of Sextons Creek)

With your support, we continue to move forward – providing more help, creating more hope and serving more women, children and families than ever before.

Casper was particularly excited about one aspect of the evening: For the first time in the gala’s history, the archbishop of Indianapolis was present to give the keynote address.

“You bring home what Pope Francis reminds us,” Archbishop Charles C. Thompson told the crowd. “He talks about accompaniment—meeting people where they are, but not leaving them there, ... looking them in the eyes as you meet their needs.

“I applaud you. ... You lead people beyond where they are now. ... I thank you for the dignity you find in every person you meet and serve. Never forget that you give witness to Christ when you serve others.”

In a lighter moment, LaGrange noted at the end of her talk that her daughter Ava was excited about coming to the gala.

“She wanted to know when she would get to meet St. Elizabeth,” she said with a laugh.

As she closed the event, master of ceremonies and Louisville ABC affiliate WHAS Great Day Live co-host Angie Fenton recalled the little girl’s wish.

“Ava, you wanted to meet St. Elizabeth,” Fenton said. Then gesturing to the crowd with a sweep of her arm she said, “Well, Ava, *this* is St. Elizabeth.”

(For more information on St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities and their programs, go to www.stecharities.org or call 812-949-7305.) †



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, left, shares a laugh with Joyce and Don Day of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg during the St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities annual “Giving Hope, Changing Lives” gala on April 25 in Louisville, Ky. Don has served either on the agency’s advisory council or development committee for 29 years, and Joyce volunteers for the organization’s community distribution program. (Photos by Natalie Hoefler)



Sharon Sapienza watches as volunteers dressed as “stormtroopers” point out autographs of actors and others associated with the 1977 movie *Star Wars* on a Darth Vader helmet made from the original mold used for the movie. The item was auctioned at the St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities annual gala on April 25 in Louisville, Ky.

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After offering instruction, pope gives first Communion to 245 children

RAKOVSKI, Bulgaria (CNS)—In the Catholic heart of Bulgaria, Pope Francis celebrated a special Mass for 245 children receiving their first Communion and thanked them for helping him, their parents and grandparents remember their own first Communion.

“Today you have made it possible for us to relive that joy and to celebrate Jesus, present in the bread of life,” the pope told the children on May 6 in Rakovski’s Church of the Sacred Heart.

While only about 1 percent of Bulgaria’s population is Catholic, in Rakovski the vast majority of the city’s 27,000 people are Catholic.

“Jesus is alive and here with us; that is why we can encounter him today in the Eucharist,” the pope said. “We do not see him with our physical eyes, but we do see him with the eyes of faith.”

After he read his prepared homily, Pope Francis focused on the first communicants, dressed in white robes and seated in the front rows.

“Are you happy to receive your first Communion?” he asked them. “Yes,” the braver ones said out loud. “Are you sure?” the pope asked. “Yes!” they all shouted.

“In the homily, I said something I want you to remember forever,” the pope told the children. “I spoke of the ID card of a Christian. I said our ID card is this: God is our father. Jesus is our brother. The Church is our family, and we are brothers and sisters. Our law is love.”

To drive the points home, Pope Francis had the children repeat each line after him—or rather, after the translator who was telling the children in Bulgarian what the pope had said in Italian.

At one point, either to test the translator or the children, the pope said, “We are enemies.” When it was about to be repeated, he said, “Are we enemies?” Of course, they shouted, “No.”



Pope Francis gives first Communion to children during a Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Rakovski, Bulgaria on May 6. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

After the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer, the pope had more words for the children. “Now you will receive Jesus,” he told them. “Do not let yourselves be distracted; think only of Jesus. Come to the altar to receive Jesus in silence; silence your hearts.”

The pope, dipping the consecrated host in the consecrated wine, personally gave Communion to each of the children, while other priests brought the Eucharist to

another 500 people inside the church and an estimated 10,000 people gathered on the church grounds for the Mass.

The Vatican press office said it was the first time on a papal trip that Pope Francis had administered first Communion.

At the Church of St. Michael the Archangel later in the day, Pope Francis urged the region’s Catholics to be bold and creative in handing on the faith to new generations.

“We have to ask how we can translate the love God has for us into concrete and understandable languages for the younger generations,” the pope said.

The key is “finding ways to touch their hearts, to learn about their expectations and to encourage their dreams as a community-family that supports, accompanies and points to the future with hope,” Pope Francis said. †

Christians’ first mission is to witness that God is love, Pope Francis says

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CNS)—God is love, but too many Christians live their faith in a way that undermines any attempt to communicate that essential fact to others, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating a late afternoon Mass on May 5 in Sofia’s Battenberg Square, the pope wore over his chasuble a gold-embroidered, Byzantine-style stole given to him that morning by Prime Minister Boyko Borissov.

The pope’s homily focused on the day’s Gospel reading about the disciples’ miraculous catch of fish after the risen Jesus told them to try again even though they had caught nothing all night.

After the resurrection, the pope noted, “Peter goes back to his former life” as a fisherman and the other disciples go with him.

“The weight of suffering, disappointment and of betrayal had become like a stone blocking the hearts of the disciples,” he said. “They were still burdened with pain and guilt, and the good news of the resurrection had not taken root in their hearts.”

When things don’t go the way people plan and hope, the pope said, it is natural for them to wish things could go back to the way they were and to just give up on hoping for something new and powerful.

“This is the ‘tomb psychology’ that tinges everything with dejection and leads us to indulge in a soothing sense of self-pity,” Pope Francis said. But the resurrection of Jesus makes clear that a “tomb psychology” is not compatible with a Christian outlook.

However, the pope said, even when Peter seems about to give up, Jesus comes to him, calls him again and reconfirms his mission.

“The Lord does not wait for perfect situations or frames of mind; he creates them,” Pope Francis told the estimated 7,000 people gathered for the Mass. Jesus “does not expect to encounter people without problems, disappointments, sins or limitations,” but he encourages and loves and calls people to start over again.

“God calls and God surprises because God loves,” he said. “Love is his language.”

Christians draw strength from knowing God loves them and that love must motivate them to love others as they try to share the Christian message, the pope said.

With papal trips always described as visits to confirm Catholics in the faith, Pope Francis used his homily to encourage Bulgaria’s 68,000 Catholics—just 1 percent of the country’s population—to acknowledge the wonders God has done for them and to set out again on mission, “knowing that, whether we succeed or fail, he will always be there to keep telling us to cast our nets.”

Thirty years after the fall of communism and the breakup of the Soviet bloc, the pope called Bulgarian Catholics to a “revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism,” and instead sharing the love of Christ. †

BULGARIA

continued from page 1

In his speech to the patriarch and synod, Pope Francis expressed hope that one day Catholics and Orthodox could celebrate the Eucharist together, but he pointed to signs that show there already exists a level of oneness in faith.

First, he said, are the “witnesses of Easter,” the Catholic and Orthodox martyrs who gave their lives freely for the faith, especially during the times of communist persecution.

“I believe that these witnesses of Easter—brothers and sisters of different confessions united in heaven by divine charity—now look to us as seeds planted in the earth and meant to bear fruit,” the pope said.

An ecumenism of service to the poor also exists, the pope said, and must be encouraged to grow. While doctrinal and disciplinary issues divide Christians, their call by Christ to assist those in need unites them.

The 9th-century missionary brothers, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, are highly venerated in both Bulgaria and North Macedonia, where the pope was scheduled to travel on May 7. The brothers, who evangelized Central and Eastern Europe before the division of Catholicism and Orthodoxy, are considered saints by both Churches.

That shared veneration, the pope said, flows from an “ecumenism of mission,” especially in a form that respects the traditions of different cultures, but preaches the one Gospel of Jesus.

The saints’ respect for differences, he said, also teaches Christians today a way to approach the process of increasing European unity while respecting the variety of languages, faiths and cultures present on the continent.

“We too, as heirs of the faith of saints, are called to be builders of communion and peacemakers in the name of Jesus,” the pope said.

After the pope’s formal meeting with the Orthodox leaders, Metropolitan Antoni of Western and Central Europe accompanied Pope Francis to the nearby St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral. The Orthodox synod had said their clergy would not participate in any joint prayer with the pope, so a chair was placed before the altar and the pope prayed alone in silence for several minutes.

In the square outside the church, the pope then led an estimated 3,000 people in praying the “*Regina Coeli*” prayer.

While Bulgaria is “an Orthodox country,” with some 80 percent of the population belonging to the Orthodox Church, the pope said, some 10 percent of the population is Muslim and about 1 percent of the people are Catholic.

The country is “a crossroads where various religious expressions encounter one another and engage in dialogue,” the pope said. He prayed that Mary would intercede with her son to ensure Bulgaria always would be “a land of encounter, a land in which, transcending all cultural, religious and ethnic differences, you can continue to acknowledge and esteem each other as children of the one heavenly Father.” †

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:

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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

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Unique feminine gifts can help all women be spiritual mothers

By Sr. Nancy Usselman, F.S.P.

Sometimes it becomes awkward in church on Mother's Day when, at the end of Mass, the priest asks mothers to stand for a blessing. As a religious sister, I've been in the position of half-standing, half-sitting, unsure of what to do, not knowing if "spiritual mothers" are included in that prayer.

If I stand, would people think I actually have children? Do they really see me as a spiritual mother? Ugh. It becomes complicated, so I slip into a noncommitted sit-kneel position.

As I leave church, ushers pass out roses to the women. One man didn't want to give me a rose because that was only for mothers. I just stared at him—somewhat pathetically—and he reluctantly gave me one!

Often, there is no mention of spiritual motherhood, but there are many single women and religious sisters who provide nurturance in an unseen manner. Perhaps spiritual motherhood



When Mother's Day rolls around, don't forget to wish all women—married, single, consecrated—a happy Mother's Day, for we all are mothers by our feminine gifts that bring to the world graciousness and blessing.

needs to be drawn out into the light.

Since I entered religious life in the mid-'80s, I've heard the term "spiritual motherhood" in relation to the missionary work of sisters.

In my community, the Daughters of St. Paul, it was in reference to our media ministry because we minister to people we do not encounter physically, but through books, music, movies and other forms of media.

We were taught that we feed those who are "spiritually poor" and offer spiritual nourishment for the soul. However, the first time I really reflected on this theologically was while reading St. John Paul II's 1988 apostolic letter, "*Mulieris Dignitatem*" ("On the Dignity and Vocation of Woman").

In it, he reflects that the two paths of motherhood and virginity are found in Mary. She became the perfect example of both paths because her motherhood did not come from the physical intimacy but through the Holy Spirit, therefore remaining a virgin even after the incarnation.

Though virginity is the renunciation of marriage and physical motherhood, there is a spousal love that captures the heart so that love is birthed through the outward expressions of daily self-gift. These expressions are the small, seemingly insignificant ways unmarried women share their life and love with the world.

St. John Paul writes, "The dignity of woman is measured by the order of love" (#29). It is this love that is the heart of all motherhood.

Pope Francis follows his predecessors by recognizing the dignity of women and the necessity for the Church to have them present at its heart. He has appointed more women to positions traditionally held by men than any other pope.

He also, like St. John Paul II, emphasizes that Mary was at the spiritual center of the Church in the upper room, and that the faith of the Apostles was

nurtured, sustained and developed through the presence of Mary as a spiritual mother.

What does this mean for us? The "feminine genius" that St. John Paul referred to in the Theology of the Body, is the ability to gather people together, to share life, to give comfort and support, while also influencing society with a particularly feminine way of seeing the world.

I don't go about my day thinking: "I'm now being a spiritual mother to all these people to whom I am speaking at this conference." However, without conscious awareness, I am that for the people I encounter by my spousal love with the Lord whose love speaks, acts and works through me for others.

I am not my own, but I belong to the One whose love embraces the whole world, every person and each creature. Every woman can say the same thing.

I am like Mary, that instrument of God, the "reed of God" swaying in the

wind bending in flexibility to the will of the Divine Lover, as the 20th-century English mystic Caryl Houselander would say. These characteristics make spiritual motherhood tangible and intelligible.

I remember being in our Pauline Books and Media Center in New York City assisting a patron who was looking for a gift for a friend who was suffering from cancer. I showed her several prayer books that could guide her friend to go through her terrible suffering with purpose and grace.

I began to feel the pain of the woman seeing her friend suffer while feeling helpless to assist her. At a loss, she came to us for guidance. As I spoke, she looked at me and said, "You are in love, aren't you?" I was taken back by her comment, thinking what an odd thing to say!

Then I realized what she meant and responded with absolute assurance, "Yes. Yes, I am!"

The Lord is never outdone in his generosity to us! He even sent me someone who made me discover the heart of my vocation at a time when I felt a bit discouraged and unsure about the future.

That moment of spiritual motherhood became a moment of grace for both of us, and hopefully for her ill friend as well.

When Mother's Day rolls around, don't forget to wish all women—married, single, consecrated—a happy Mother's Day. We all are mothers by our feminine gifts that bring to the world graciousness and blessing. They are nurturers, gatherers, supporters and lovers. So please give us all a rose!

(Sister Nancy Usselman is a member of the Daughters of St. Paul and director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Los Angeles. She is a theologian, film reviewer, blogger for bemeditiamindful.org and author of Sacred Look: Becoming Cultural Mystics.) †



Sister Mary Elizabeth, vicar general of the Sisters of Life, holds a baby during the annual Mother's Day celebration at the religious community's retreat house in Stamford, Conn. There are many "spiritual mothers," single women and religious sisters who provide nurturance, often in an unseen manner. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)



A doctor measures the arms of a child attending a local nutrition clinic in 2017 in Venezuela, a partnership between sisters of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception of Castres and Caritas Internationalis. Unique feminine gifts can help all women give motherly care to others. (CNS photo/Cody Weddle, GSR)

Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

Our faith calls us to 'stand in the gap' for one another

"Lord ... help my unbelief!" [Mk 9:24]. At one time or another, we have all been there ... that point of desperation from circumstances in our



life that hurl us into chaos, leaving us fearfully in a state of doubt.

But what if it's not *our* unbelief we worry about? What if we agonize over the unbelief of a loved one? In my experience, the only

thing worse than your own pain is not being able to lift the excruciating pain of someone you love.

One morning as I was driving to church, I listened to a contemporary Christian music radio station. The radio show host was interviewing the musician who wrote the song they were about to play. I was intrigued as he introduced the song's backstory.

He explained that he was inspired to write the words after he faced a serious illness that required surgery. As he awaited the operation, a nun came by to comfort him. He rebuffed her offer to pray, letting her know he was not a believer.

She replied, "That's OK, I will pray for you, and while you aren't in a space

to ask God for your own intervention, it will be my job to 'stand in that gap' for you." The lyrics of his song were about how her prayers healed him on many accounts because she stood in the gap for him.

I've thought about that so many times since. We all pray for others: when someone experiences a loss, when someone is sick, when someone has a need. But how much more powerful can it be to pray as if we are literally "standing in the gap" between that person and God?

I wondered if this notion of "standing in the gap" had scriptural significance, and I found that it did.

"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one" (Ez 22:30).

I also found this: "You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the Lord" (Ez 13: 5).

If a wall became broken down at any point, these were called "breaches" or "gaps." In Nehemiah's day, soldiers had to literally stand in those gaps to fortify the wall against their enemies, many times trying to rebuild the wall, holding a trowel in one hand while wielding

their sword in the other. They had to stand in the gap and build up the wall at the same time, interceding for their nation to create a literal and spiritual wall of protection around the house of Israel. This image gives me a whole new outlook on the phrase "spiritual warfare."

Have you ever had a loved one facing a painful time in his or her life? I have. I know this person I so dearly love believes in God but was in so much pain, he could not recognize God in his life. He said he didn't believe. That is where I know I was called to stand in that gap between his unbelief and our God.

For as long as it took, I prayed and prayed for that wall to be fortified, for that gap to be closed. He didn't experience a miraculous healing, but a slow and steady process of healing, as if God were literally building him up—one brick at a time until the gap gradually sealed.

Are you being called to "stand in the gap" for someone?

(Kimberly Pohovey is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She is the director of mission advancement for Archdiocesan Education Initiatives.) †

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

Make time to be a Good Samaritan, innkeeper to those in need

It was Ernest Hemingway who once said, "Time is the least thing we have of." And he was right.



How quickly time passes—and how often we lament this. If only we could add an extra 25 or 30 years to the usual lifespan. There is so much more we want to see, to celebrate, to do. So many places to go, so much to

enjoy, to feel, to read, to talk about, to participate in, to encounter. Yet, for each of us, this thing called time is in such short supply.

Our frustration is compounded by the numerous unimportant things that steal our minutes and siphon the significance of our hours. Things like getting gas or a haircut, standing in the endless line at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, doing the laundry, washing the dishes after a meal, mowing the lawn and a dozen other time-consuming things that have to be done. But they keep you from doing the things that make life so invigorating and fulfilling.

Since "time is the least thing we have of" and because there is no way we're going to escape all the time-traps

that accompany our earthy existence, it seems to me that we're left with two choices: either we can fuss and whine about lengthy stop lights and months trying to find our keys, or we can take the time we've got left and spend it wisely—*really wisely*—with our priorities in right order.

In 2015 during Pope Francis' visit to the United States, he continually invited us to promote a "culture of care" and compassion. He asked us to be especially attentive to the cries of the poor.

The Holy Father echoed the same message in a video message to Catholic Charities at our annual national gathering in 2014. We are all connected to one another, and we encounter the face of God through the people whose lives we serve. He added, "The compassion of the Gospel is what accompanies us in times of need, that compassion of the Good Samaritan, who 'sees,' 'has compassion,' draws near and provides concrete help" (Lk 10:33).

At Catholic Charities, we are called to be both Good Samaritans and good innkeepers, attending to those who are beaten down, the legions lying on the sides of roads of discrimination, neglect and disdain in our society. We must be ever-new and compassionate

samaritans as well as fair and attentive innkeepers.

That dual obligation comprises our response in mercy and justice on behalf of those who have been consigned to life on the margins. The samaritan fully enters into the world of our suffering neighbors with a heartfelt vision, strategic awareness and a well-conceived action plan. The innkeeper remains proactively vigilant in supporting people's return to a sustainable life.

If we are called to use our time wisely and look to the Good Samaritan as a model on how to be vigilant in both engaging and supporting those who are vulnerable and in need, then let's encourage one another to cultivate relationships, building memories that will help lift the load of future trials, and deliberately pursue activities that will yield eternal dividends.

The pillars of true charity are deeds and the gift of self. Maybe Hemingway wasn't right after all. You and I have more time than we realize—once we get our priorities in the right order.

(David Bethuram is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities. E-mail him at dbethuram@archindy.org.) †

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

Conversion, responding to God's order is remedy for true progress

Why did so many people have a conversion experience at the preaching of St. John the Baptist, Christ and the Apostles?



St. Paul gives us one answer in stating when God created us, God planted the virtue of temperance within us. Temperance is often seen as self-control. Its deeper meaning translates: "God put order in us." When our life is in

order, heartfelt progress follows.

What best generates this happiness? Ironically, it is the workings of repentance.

St. John Paul II stated in the apostolic exhortation "Reconciliation and Penance," "If we link penance with metanoia ... it means the inmost change

of heart under the influence of the word of God and in the perspective of the kingdom. But penance also means changing one's life in harmony with the change of heart. ... (#4).

"Doing penance is something authentic and effective only if it is translated into deeds and acts of penance. In this sense penance means ... asceticism, that is to say, the concrete daily effort of a person, supported by God's [grace], to lose his or her own life for Christ as the only means of gaining it; an effort to put off the old man and put on the new" (#4).

Whenever conversion occurs, it is often because we are looking for a happier life; worldly wisdom has left our hearts empty. Behind our pursuit of happiness is a desire to move on from a stagnant life lacking the spirit of asceticism that energizes God's order within us.

Much of today's life lacks order. Often those looking to restore it point to outside resources like more funding, manpower and creativity. No doubt this helps, but unless the heart is in the right place, much goes for naught because the order we pursue is not out there but within us.

The greatest human progress is made when men and women have a change of heart and die to self in order to make our world better. True happiness and desired progress ultimately depend on responding to God's order within us that prompts to "put off the old man and put on the new."

Ultimately, metanoia—conversion—and responding to God's order within us is our best remedy for true progress.

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

Twenty Something/Christina Capecchi

All the news that's fit to print

"Wife Returned After Having Fine Funeral."



The headline of a 483-word story in the March 15, 1904, edition of *The New York Times* bore a sly nod to Tom Sawyer. A man named Ignacio Valente was charging the city with a funeral bill he had been wrongfully issued, according to the *Times*.

It had all started in the kitchen: "Valente is an Italian, and about six weeks ago he quarreled with his wife, Angelico, over the way she cooked macaroni. As a result of the quarrel, the wife left Valente's home, declaring she would rather die than return."

Indeed, she did not return, and Valente reported her missing to the police, who said the body of a woman matching his description was at the morgue.

Valente identified the clothing of the dead woman, but not the body.

The story goes on: "This woman was better looking than my wife," Valente says he declared. "Death beautifies them all," the morgue man is said to have replied."

Eventually, Valente was persuaded, and he went on to have the body dressed in his wife's wedding dress, a request she had once expressed. He attended her funeral and footed the bills.

Notice of the event was published in Italian papers, which came to the attention of "the real Mrs. Valente," who hurried home. Her husband arrived and found her "rummaging about her for wedding dress."

The story proceeds: "Why, I buried you in it three days ago," Valente, in his surprise, replied. Real troubled followed this and, when Valente had satisfied himself it was his real wife who stood before him, and that he had buried the wrong woman, he could only restore peace by promising his wife another wedding dress just like the one in which the strange woman had been buried."

According to the *Times*, Valente was now demanding that the city pay for his funeral expenses as well as \$110 for a new wedding dress and \$40 "for wages lost through grief and because of illness that followed the shock of finding his wife alive."

The reader is left to imagine what that illness was and which way the scale tilted for Valente among his mixed emotions, recovering from the "real trouble" that ensued with the macaroni maker.

For all its humor, the story also has a bygone feel, harkening back to an era when the *Times* felt like a small-town paper to New Yorkers. In 1904, Ignacio and Angelico's plight had landed among "all the news that's fit to print."

The debate over what qualifies as "news that's fit to print" has picked up fervor in our Misinformation Age, when we tap through fake news, funny news and failing news with a single slide of the thumb. Editorials, advertorials and objective reporting.

The most newsworthy stories are those we can't stop thinking about, discussing over cubicles, fences and treadmills: the discovery of Jayme Closs, the Notre Dame fire.

And yet, there is another definition for Christians: the Good News.

Easter once felt like news. The shock of the empty tomb. The sought-after account of the first witness. The soaring and inexplicable triumph of it all.

For those who believe, it was—and remains—the biggest news of all time.

To truly be Easter people, as we are called, means to not only be people of hope but people of words, with a story burning in our hearts. We'd noodle it again and again like any newsworthy story: what it means to me, what you make of it, what we do and don't know so far, how it's affecting us.

We'd ask with wide eyes: Have you heard the good news?

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 12, 2019

- Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52
- Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
- John 10:27-30

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for Mass this weekend. It gives a glimpse into the St. Paul's way of life as he moved across Asia Minor in his proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus.



Paul evidently first went to synagogues, which is not surprising. After all, he was of Jewish descent and background, and he

was well educated in the Jewish culture and religion of the time. He would have been comfortable among Jews, and also more likely to be heard when he spoke to them.

Even so, he obviously was not always met by universal acceptance, although it would not be accurate to say that he attracted no converts from among the Jews whom he met. He drew many of them into the ranks of Christians, and he attracted Gentiles as well.

These details are only secondary to the story. The point of this reading is that the word of God, pronounced by Jesus, continued to be spoken and received long after the ascension. It was proclaimed by an Apostle whom Jesus personally had called and by St. Barnabas, a disciple of this Apostle.

So salvation continued through the Apostles. Jesus still spoke.

The Book of Revelation furnishes the next reading. It is symbolic in its language, but its meaning is clear. Among those saved by Jesus are people from every nation. Their number is great. They are baptized, wearing the white robes of baptism. Their sins have been washed away, precisely by the sacrificial blood shed by the Lord on Calvary.

They carry the palm branches of martyrs, as they have kept their faith despite persecution.

The Good Shepherd leads them. He rescues them from the heat of the day and the dryness of earthly life.

St. John's Gospel provides the last reading. It also presents Jesus as

the Good Shepherd. For an audience overwhelmingly agrarian, as was the audience to which Jesus preached, imagery built on shepherding, sheep and shepherds was familiar and instantly understood.

This passage states that the sheep know the shepherd. In turn, the shepherd knows them. It implies a relationship of closeness, total devotion and trust. The reading says that this shepherd gives eternal life. Following the shepherd, the sheep will never perish.

No one can snatch them away from the shepherd. The shepherd will protect them from all predators, because the sheep belong to him. It is the will of the Father.

In a great testament of self-identity, Jesus proclaims oneness with the Father.

Reflection

This weekend, the Church calls us to celebrate the resurrection once again. It begins the fourth week of proclaiming the wondrous news that it first pronounced at Easter. Christ lives!

With the readings this weekend—and with those of the preceding weeks of Easter—the Church essentially makes two points.

The first point is that Jesus lives, literally, and the sublime act of resurrection gives us evidence that Jesus is divine, the Son of the eternal Father. As risen, Jesus is unique among humans. As God, Jesus is the bearer of life, truth, peace and joy. There is no substitute for the Lord.

The second point made this weekend and in past weeks is that the word of Jesus, and the salvation given by Jesus, continue. They did not cease with the ascension. Jesus lived in the preaching and the good works of the Apostles and lives in their followers and successors.

As an example, through Paul and Barnabas, Jesus touched people needing hope and salvation, needing to know God.

By emphasizing these points, the Church presents us with its basic belief that Jesus is God. In Jesus is truth and life. The Church reassures us. Jesus is with us still. †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4
John 10:1-10

Tuesday, May 14

St. Matthias, Apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Psalm 113:1-8
John 15:9-17

Wednesday, May 15

St. Isidore
Acts 12:24-13:5a
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
John 12:44-50

Thursday, May 16

Acts 13:13-25
Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27
John 13:16-20

Friday, May 17

Acts 13:26-33
Psalm 2:6-11b
John 14:1-6

Saturday, May 18

St. John I, pope and martyr
Acts 13:44-52
Psalm 98:1-4
John 14:7-14

Sunday, May 19

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 14:21-27
Psalm 145:8-13
Revelation 21:1-5a
John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Bishops are the successors of the Apostles in the Church today

My understanding is that the Church teaches that bishops and priests are the successors of the Apostles. Can this line



really be traced back to one of the original Apostles? (Ohio)

The 12 Apostles were the privileged eyewitnesses sent to proclaim the teachings of Jesus. The Gospel of St. Matthew

reflects the fact that Christ, following the resurrection, commissioned the Apostles and guaranteed his help:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt 28:19-20).

It is the further belief of the Church, in what is known as the doctrine of apostolic succession, that bishops today are linked in an unbroken line to those same original Apostles. Priests share in the ministerial priesthood of the bishops. But it is the bishops alone who have the fullness of this priesthood and are considered successors of the Apostles.

St. Ignatius of Antioch—who died in the year 108 and is believed to have been a disciple of the Apostle St. John—wrote in a letter to the Ephesians: “For we ought to receive every one whom the Master of the house sends to be over his household, as we would do him that sent him. It is manifest, therefore, that we should look upon the bishop even as we would upon the Lord himself.”

The visible sign of ordination, from the New Testament onward, has been the imposition of hands. Thus, the transmission of the apostolic ministry is achieved by that ritual, together with the prayer of the ordaining bishop that the ordinand be granted the gift of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the ministry for which he has been chosen.

Can a divorced person serve as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, or do you need to receive an annulment first? I have no intention of remarriage, nor am I living with a partner or having a sexual relationship with anyone. What is the Catholic Church's rule on this? (Trinidad and Tobago)

Yes, you absolutely can serve as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion—and no, you do not need

to get your marriage annulled first. You would only need to do that if you wanted to remarry.

Your question reminds me that there is a fair amount of misunderstanding among Catholics about divorce. Sad to say, some Catholics who have been divorced—sometimes through little or no fault of their own—feel that they have thereby separated themselves from the Church and may even stop coming to Mass.

So, it is helpful when a parish explains on its website, as does the parish of St. Vincent de Paul in Niagara Falls, N.Y., that “Catholics who are separated or divorced, and who have not remarried outside of the Church, are in good standing in the Church and can receive the sacraments, including holy Communion.

“[They] are encouraged to fulfill their Catholic commitment by attending Church on a weekly basis ... [and] to fully participate in all aspects of parish life. [They] are invited to serve in any ministries—including lectors, eucharistic ministers and catechists. [They] may serve as godparents for baptism or sponsors for confirmation. Catholics who are separated or divorced are not excommunicated.”

Similarly, St. John Paul II said in his 1981 apostolic exhortation “*Familiaris Consortio*”: “I earnestly call upon pastors and the whole community of the faithful to help the divorced, and with solicitous care to make sure that they do not consider themselves as separated from the Church, for as baptized persons they can, and indeed must, share in her life” (#84).

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

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. “Poems should be no longer than 25 lines (including lines between stanzas if applicable) of either 44 characters (including spaces) to allow room for a staff-selected photo, or 79 characters (including spaces) if no photo is desired.” Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367 or e-mail to nhoefler@archindy.org. †

My Journey to God

Special Graces

By Gayle Schrank

As Jesus' Mother,
Mary is always close to His heart.
That fact will make it natural:
special graces she will impart.
Let us not reject
this wondrous gift we have been given.
Our prayers joined with Mary's
will help us get to heaven.
The salvation we seek
comes from God alone.
But, we need one another,
to find our way home.



(Gayle Schrank is a member of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton. Photo: This stained-glass image of the Blessed Mother adorns the narthex of St. Susanna Church in Plainfield.)

(Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

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.

ALLEN, Gloria A. (Bailey), 96, St. Gabriel, Connersville, April 17. Mother of Joan Brockman, Lisa Campbell, Jane Ann Stidham and Mark Allen. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of two.

ALLEN, Richard L., 91, St. Jude, Indianapolis, April 25. Father of Diana Castner, Linda King, Nancy Mills, David and Daniel Allen. Brother of Rosemary Heidelberger and Robert Allen. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of seven.

BOKELMAN, Arnold, 84, St. Mary, Greensburg, April 24. Husband of Rita Bokelman. Father of Ann Sciarra, Mark and Mike Bokelman. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of five.

BOONE, James R., 89, Prince of Peace, Madison, April 17. Husband of Rita Boone. Father of Collista Krebs, Linda Huber, Joe and Todd Boone. Brother of Amanda Battcher, Charlotte Blair and Ann Hagan. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of six.

CREBBE, Jocelyn A., 85, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, April 22. Wife of Kenneth Crebbe. Mother of Carrie Lange, Susan Sonomyama and Neil Crebbe. Sister of Cathy Hayes and William Gallagher. Grandmother of seven.

GANNON, William, 76, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis, April 19. Brother of Mary Mattingly. Uncle of several.

HABOUSH, Natalie, 96, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, April 20. Mother of Barbara, Jacqueline and Alexander, Jr. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 13. Great-great-grandmother of five.

HAGAN, Robert J., 61, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, April 24. Father of Amanda Stephenson. Brother of Mary McAuley, Donny, Greg, Jeff, Marty, Michael, Ricky and Timmy Hagan. Grandfather of five.

HARMON, Timothy J., 64, St. Mary, Greensburg, April 26. Husband of Janet Harmon. Father of Hillary Ebejer, Kellen and Ryan Lawrence. Grandfather of three.

KLOSE, Gilbert, 88, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, April 29. Father of Megan, Christopher and Kevin Klose. Grandfather of five.

KREKEL, George M., Jr., 84, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, April 27. Husband of Joanne Krekel. Father of Kelley Blasdel, Pamela Seewer, Chris and Patrick Krekel. Brother of Joyce Koeberlein, Diane Wibbels and Donald Krekel. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of two.

LAYNE, Kathy A., 68, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 17. Sister of Diane Chastain and Robert Layne. Aunt and great-aunt of several.

MAHONEY, Thomas R., Sr., 83, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, April 27. Husband of Betty Mahoney. Father of Lisa Howard, Laurie Pry, Rick and Tom Mahoney, Jr. Brother of Linda Stravakis and Jenny Youngs. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of eight.

MEDENWALD, James J., 86, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, April 13. Father of Paula Berry, Sandra Fansler, Arlene Sheean and Dean Medenwald. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of 14.



Spring at the seminary

A statue of Mary is visible among the vivid spring blossoms on May 1 at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y. (CNS photo/Chaz Muth)

RIPBERGER, Henrietta J. (Brunsmann), 83, St. Gabriel, Connersville, April 29. Mother of Dianna Caudle and Joyce Ruckel. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of one.

ROTHBAUER, Charlie, 91, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg,

April 26. Husband of Elizabeth Rothbauer. Father of Donna Koenig, Diana Waggoner and Richard Rothbauer. Brother of Henry and Steve Rothbauer. Grandfather of four. Great-grandfather of nine.

SCHEIDLER, Jamie (Prang), 60, St. Luke the Evangelist,

Indianapolis, April 23. Wife of John Scheidler. Mother of James, John, Jr. and Joseph Scheidler. Sister of Debbie Phelps and Doug Prang. Grandmother of six.

SULLIVAN, Sherrey T., 70, Our Lady of Lourdes, April 4. Wife of Michael Sullivan. Sister

of Yvonne Grismore, Robin Slye and Wanda Thompson. Aunt of several.

TAYLOR, Amy C. (Weber), 39, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, April 22. Mother of Tiffany Taylor. Daughter of Larry and Mary Weber. Sister of Lori Pol. †

Providence Sister Mary Leahy served in education and development work

Providence Sister Mary Leahy, formerly Sister Marie Anita, died on April 30 at Mother Theodore Hall at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 84.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on May 17 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse. Burial will follow at the sisters' cemetery.

Mary Ann Leahy was born on Jan. 25, 1935, in Chicago. She entered the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Jan. 7, 1952, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1959.

Sister Mary earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a master's of education degree in science at the University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in biology at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minn., and a master's degree in business administration at Rosary College (now Dominican University) in River Forest, Ill.

During her 67 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Mary ministered as an educator for 25 years in schools in Illinois, Indiana and Washington, D.C. In the archdiocese, she served at the former St. Margaret Mary School in Terre Haute

from 1954-55 and as vice president for institutional advancement at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods from 1985-87.

After earning a master's degree in business administration, she moved from education to development work, serving in a parish in Illinois, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and in Washington at Georgetown University and the National Catholic Education Association.

In 1997, Sister Mary began service as director of the National Religious Retirement Office at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, retiring in 2000. She then served as a development consultant and in ministry at a parish in Bradenton, Fla., until returning to the motherhouse in 2018, where she committed herself entirely to prayer.

She is survived by two sisters: Sheila Ruskauff of Mount Pleasant, S.C., and Margaret Frederick of Libertyville, Ill.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

Visit to memorials expands high school students' civil rights views

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS)—St. Thomas Academy senior Sean Hubbard understood the story of Rosa Parks in a new light when he saw the bus stop in Montgomery, Ala., where she boarded a bus on Dec. 1, 1955, the day she refused to give up her seat because of her skin color.

"It's a completely different thing because you actually get the feeling of being there where actual history took place, so you actually have more of a feel for it, and you don't take it as something light," said Sean, 17, a member of St. Peter Claver Parish in St. Paul.

He joined 19 other local high school students and chaperones from four Minnesota parishes for a civil rights field trip in Alabama this spring. The group visited civil rights museums and memorials in Montgomery and Selma that told the stories of slavery to modern-day racism.

"It was a very eye-opening experience for me," Sean said, noting that the trip taught him more about that part of history.

Everlyn Wentzlaff, 67, a St. Peter Claver parishioner, organized the youth trip after sharing her experience with fellow parishioners about her own trip to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery when it opened last year.

Social justice groups from St. Peter Claver Parish and Guardian Angels Parish in Oakdale sponsored the trip. Wentzlaff also received a grant through the National Black Catholic Conference.

Wentzlaff, who chairs the St. Peter Claver social justice committee, said a lot of African-American history isn't taught regularly in public schools. She said the trip deepened the students' understanding of civil rights and blacks in the Catholic Church.

She added the students were amazing on the trip, and she thinks it was a good experience and life lesson.

As part of the trip's application process, the students responded to essay

questions about why they wanted to go. Before leaving, they read the 2010 book *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* by Father Bryan Massingale, a professor of theological and social ethics at Fordham University in New York.

"It really made me think about our history," said Elise Carroll, 15, a member of St. Cecilia Parish in St. Paul. She said seeing exhibits of people's struggles for civil rights and hearing stories told by tour guides made things come alive for her.

Hubbard said the sites helped him understand "the deeper context of the civil rights movement."

Liza Pirjevce, 17, a member of St. Peter Claver, said she was particularly impacted by letters on display written by incarcerated African-Americans, noting that some were from people as young as 15.

In Montgomery, the group visited the National Civil Rights Memorial, the Freedom Riders Museum and the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. first served. In Selma, they visited the Slavery and Civil War Museum, the National Voting Rights Museum and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of brutal beatings during a 1965 civil rights march that came to be known as Bloody Sunday.

"It's important to know this information and to be able to share it with other people," Elise said. †



Kenny Jordan and Shaquille Young view a statue during a tour of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice on April 1 in Montgomery, Ala., organized by St. Peter Claver in St. Paul, Minn.

(CNS photo/Debi Green for *The Catholic Spirit*)

MOTHERS

continued from page 1

“She is the strongest person I know, full of grace even in the face of hardship. When I was in elementary school, I was one of the few children without a father in my class. She and my stepfather had divorced years earlier, and I had been curious about where my biological father was. I learned that she had been a teenage runaway when she became pregnant with me.

“I felt very guilty because I thought of how I must have been the reason she didn’t graduate high school and had to work two jobs just to put food on the table. I remember I asked her why she didn’t just have an abortion, and if she ever thought her life would have been better if she had.

“You were the greatest gift God gave me. He had a plan for me. You saved my life. Abortion never crossed my mind,” she told me. “I wouldn’t change a single thing because now I have you.”

Her mother’s unflinching love has guided her life and her relationships, Clark notes.

“I did not have a father at home, but I believe God made that plan for our family for a reason. I am no longer angry, and I have recently reconnected with my father and forgave him for not being around.

“I believe my mother taught me that there is strength in forgiveness. Now I have my own daughter, and I try my best to instill the same strong Christian values my own mother put in me. Some days are harder than others, but my mother taught me to have faith—and to listen to the angels.”

A mother’s best lesson in love

As a teacher, Sue Levell knows the importance of passing along knowledge from one generation to the next. The Martinsville woman says she learned her greatest lessons from her mother.

“I learned to read from hearing my mother read the Bible to my brothers, and I therefore read before I began school,” Levell says. “I learned by heart that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son’ (Jn 3:16).

“In my heart, I know God is love and God is truth. Thank you, Mama.”

A love letter to Mom

She came across the letter recently, a letter she had written to her mother when she was a freshman in college nearly 60 years ago.

“My mother has been gone for 27 years, and I would express the same sentiments today if only I had the chance,” notes Mary Steinberger Mohr of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis. “The fact that she had saved the letter for 30 years is a testament to our mutual love and respect.”

Here is a slightly edited version of the letter that Mohr wrote on Feb. 13, 1961.

“Dear Mother,
“Instead of a Valentine card, I want to express my feelings in my own words. I think my love for you must have begun long before I was born for I can’t remember when it didn’t exist. It has since grown and been cultivated into one of the most wonderful things this world has to offer.

“Love is a strange thing. Although it is God’s most wonderful gift, it can be the cruelest thing imaginable. How true are the words, ‘We always hurt the one we love.’ Your love has always sheltered me from the brashness of the world, all the while being careful to warn me realistically of the dangers that could await me as I ventured into the real world.
“I love you for the many nights you walked the floor with me so I could breathe; for the comfortable home I have always had no matter how great a sacrifice it demanded from you; for the Catholic education which I know was very expensive; for the many Christmases and birthdays filled with joy.

“Yes, I love you for all these things, but most of all, I love you for the understanding way in which you always listened to my problems, no matter how trivial, and helped me to solve them.

“The most wonderful thing you have done for me is to instill in me a

deep love for God and a strong faith in him. I hope I will carry to my deathbed the principles of morality which you have taught me and your beautiful interpretation of sex—a word which has come to be associated with so much that is disgusting and degrading in this world and is so frequently misused. Amidst all the repulsive talk of sex, I can still see the beauty of it when used as God intended.

“Without the Christian training received from you, this world would often seem void of any good, and life would have no meaning.

“I realize that often I have gone against your wishes and returned sorrow for your love. I hope you will forgive me and I feel that you already have, for your love has always been a love of complete sacrifice and giving of self. I hope I can repay you for your undying love, but right now all I have to offer is my sincere love in return.

“Love always,
Mary”

A truck-driving mom’s road to faith

Mary Sommer admits that her favorite memories of her mother don’t include the Sunday mornings when her mom drove the family to Mass in a coal truck.

“It was a little embarrassing at that time, since most people had cars, before pick-ups became an item,” notes Sommer, a member of St. Augustine Parish in Leopold, about the truck that her father drove for his work.

Still, Sommer has nothing but pride for the way her mother embraced and lived her faith.

“She was raised of a strong Baptist faith until after she married my dad who was Catholic. I was the youngest of six children that God blessed them with, and the only girl. She told me that when my oldest brother started school at St. Paul’s in Tell City, they decided to send him through catechism classes and she attended with him. By the time he finished, she realized Catholicism was the true religion. We were all baptized at the same time with her.”

That faith guided her mother through tough times in her life—working in factories and tobacco fields, and even shoveling coal off a truck to help her husband. As a balance to that side of her life, she wrote poetry.

“She had a hard life for the most part, but she never lost hope or faith. She lived to be 94 and published her book, *A Lifetime of Poetry*. She is my inspiration for my faith. I hope I can be an inspiration for all my children and grandchildren as she was for us.”

The Blessed Mother, a blessed mother

Amelia Mick Titsworth can still see the vigil light burning in front of the 2-foot-high statue of the Blessed Mother that her mother kept in her bedroom. In a way, it reflected how her mother’s faith inflamed her life.

“Growing up in the 1960s, our house was where my mother Dolores Mick instilled in my three brothers and me the gift of faith. We knelt around our parents’ bed to say the rosary. This is how we learned our prayers,” says Titsworth, a member of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville.

“By far, the best example of faith were her yearly retreats to [Our Lady of] Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. Every Lent, she would call or visit women in the parish to encourage them to spend a weekend with God. Assumption Parish always had more than the bigger parishes, which she was so proud of. I couldn’t wait to go with her when I was 18, and see how special it was.

“My mom always prayed for her children and grandchildren to have the gift of faith, and she offered us back to the Blessed Mother at baptism as a thanksgiving. She felt Catholic education was important, and we all attended grade school and high school. I went to a Catholic college for nursing school. I am so thankful for a loving mother—and father—who instilled in all of us the gift of faith.”

“Thank you, Mom”

Similar to many people, Tom Yost says he owes a debt to his mother.



A woman plays with her 1-year-old son in late February at Our Lady’s Inn maternity home in St. Louis. All mothers are honored in special ways on Mother’s Day, which is on May 12 this year.

(CNS photo/Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review)

It starts with the way she treated him and his four brothers.

“Mom spent hours upon hours listening to her sons talk about school, work, money, relationships, hurtful situations, and much more,” says Yost, a pastoral associate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. “She is by far the best listener I have ever known. I have given her the title of Patron Saint of Listeners. She still listens to me each morning in prayer.”

Yost has counted on that connection since Juanita Yost died suddenly of a stroke two years ago.

“Like her family and friends left behind, I am sure she was surprised at the time of her death,” he says. “Although she may have been surprised, I have no doubt she was ready to be called home by Christ. She lived life daily with faith, love and service to God and to others.

“I owe my mom so much for who I am today. She gave me the confidence and encouragement to sing publicly, play the guitar, graduate from college, be a good husband and papa, write and speak about God in my life, and to choose to work in the Church. Thank you, Mom. I miss you and I love you.”

A mother’s example

As the only daughter of her mom’s seven children, Mary Schott paid close

attention to the way her mother lived her life.

She noticed how her mom “imparted the goodness of God” through her actions.

She knew the comfort of her mother’s affection.

She also saw how her mother “gave completely” to her family.

All those qualities contribute to the way she still feels about her mother 44 years after her death.

“I miss my mom,” notes Schott, a member of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove. “I miss her warmth and her kindness, her serenity and her gentle nature. I miss her deferential ways and her servant attitude. I miss her heart.

“I remind myself of her chastising words in my raucous teenage years, ‘Just because everybody’s doing it doesn’t make it right.’ We would do well to remember that wisdom in today’s crazy culture.

“I look forward to the day on which I can look her in the eyes and express those simple words of praise and affection, ‘Thank you.’”

(The Criterion would like to thank everyone who submitted a Mother’s Day tribute. Because of the volume of responses, we weren’t able to include every submission in our stories. We wish all the mothers in our reading audience a Happy Mother’s Day.) †

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School library at St. Luke in Indianapolis

In this photo, Tim Fox and Irma Noel peruse the biography section of the library at the St. Luke the Evangelist School in Indianapolis. The photo was published in the St. Luke the Evangelist Church dedication souvenir booklet from Oct. 22, 1961. The booklet notes that the school library contained 1,200 books at that time. St. Luke Parish was established on Sept. 2 of that same year, and the school, which had already been under construction, opened a few days later.

(Would you like to comment on or share information about this photo? Contact archdiocesan archivist Julie Motyka at 800-382-9836, ext. 1538; 317-236-1538; or by e-mail at jmotyka@archindy.org.)

Satan, not God, tricks people with temptation, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—God never tricks, traps or tempts his children to sin or commit evil, Pope Francis said.

God is with his people every step of the way—during times of joy and



Pope Francis

sadness, triumph and tribulation—and he always helps lead people away from the devil and his temptations, the pope said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square on May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Marking the feast day, the pope prayed that the saint, a carpenter and Jesus' guardian, would support people sacrificing so much to do good in the world and intercede on behalf of all those who have lost their job or cannot find employment.

Unemployment "is a global tragedy today," he said at the end of his audience.

In his main audience talk, the pope continued his catechesis on the Lord's Prayer, looking at the next to last invocation, "Lead us not into temptation."

Modern translations from the original Greek expression "are a bit shaky" and do not give a precise rendering of the real meaning, he said. But recent Vatican-approved translations in some languages, like French, Italian and Spanish, include equivalents such as "Do not abandon us to temptation" or "Do not let us enter" or "fall into temptation."

Pope Francis already highlighted the translation issue as part of a television series on the Lord's Prayer in 2017 when he said some translations of the "Our Father" can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation.

"I'm the one who falls. But it's not [God] who pushes me into temptation to see how I fall. No, a father does not do

this. A father helps us up immediately," he had said in the interview.

The pope reiterated the same point at his general audience, saying that despite the various translations, one thing is undisputed: "We must exclude God as the source of the temptations that impede humanity in its journey as if God himself were on the prowl, setting snares and traps for his children."

In the Gospels, Jesus has revealed the true image of God as a loving, protective father, he said.

"Christians don't have anything to do with a jealous God who is competing with humanity or who enjoys testing them. These are images of many pagan divinities," the pope said.

God the Father is not the source of evil, he said. Rather, when evil appears in people's lives, God is the one "fighting at their side so that they may be freed. [He is] a God who always fights for us, not against us."

Evil and temptation come from the devil, who even targeted Jesus in the desert before his public ministry began, Pope Francis said.

"So many people say, 'Oh, why do you talk about the devil when it is so old-fashioned? The devil doesn't exist.' Well, look at what the Gospel teaches. Jesus faced the devil and was tempted by Satan," he said.

But Jesus rejects every temptation and is victorious in his battle against evil no matter the difficulties and anguish it causes, the pope said.

During his moment of great agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked his friends to stay and "keep watch" with him, he said. Instead, they fell asleep.

But "during the worst moments in life, the most insufferable, the most distressing, God keeps watch with us, God fights with us, he is always near," the pope said. "Why? Because he is a father" who never abandons his children. †

No Hesburgh documentary without Catholics vs. Convicts, filmmaker says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Patrick Creadon, who made the new documentary *Hesburgh* about Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, the priest who led the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, said that film wouldn't have been possible had it not been for a feature he made three years earlier for ESPN, *Catholics vs. Convicts*.

The latter documentary chronicled the buildup to a legendary Notre Dame vs. Miami football game played at Notre Dame in 1988. Both teams were undefeated, Notre Dame won 31-30, and the infamous T-shirt that gave the film and the rivalry its nickname had been made by Creadon's roommate at Notre Dame, where both were seniors.

The show debuted on ESPN in 2016. Father Hesburgh had died the year before.

"I was on campus a lot. I started thinking a lot about him, and what his life was and what his life means," Creadon told Catholic News Service (CNS) in an April 25 telephone interview from Chicago. "I started thinking this is the kind of movie that might never get told."

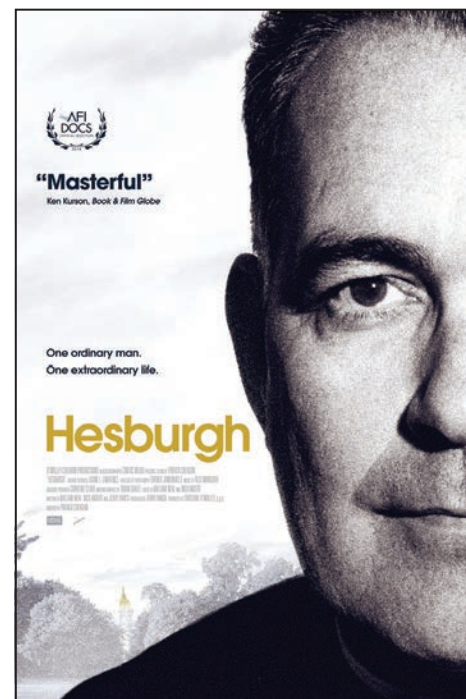
Instead, Creadon and his crew spent two and a half years making *Hesburgh*, which opened on May 3 in 35 U.S. cities with the promise of more cities in following weeks. "I never thought of his story as just a Notre Dame story. I always thought of it as an American story."

Creadon said: "I think the fact that we had made the ESPN film really helped us." He described it as "an olive branch" to the two schools, even getting a handwritten thank-you note from Jimmy Johnson, then the Miami coach, who is now a studio analyst on the Fox network for pro football.

"To be honest with you, when we started making *Hesburgh*, I was somewhat disappointed—although not totally surprised—that few people knew who he was. Now, his name is going to live on forever in the Notre Dame community and the Notre Dame family," Creadon said. But "step out of the Notre Dame community, and the name recognition falls off," he added. "Catholics know who he is, a little bit. ... It would be a terrible loss to let his story fade away."

Even though he's a Notre Dame graduate, "I didn't get into this line of work to make puff pieces about people," Creadon said. "We looked, really, for missteps along the way. We researched 12 or 15 archives around the country. We dug and dug and dug. At the end of the day, he's an individual who lived an extraordinary life. And certainly, as much I am disinclined to do a puff piece for someone, I am also disinclined to become a muckraker or find things that weren't there."

Hesburgh follows its subject not through every part of his peripatetic presidency, but frames it largely around his work on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, to which he was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and, as commission chair, forced to resign by President Richard M. Nixon after Nixon's 1972 re-election because the commission had named the federal government as the biggest danger to civil rights due to lax law enforcement.



This is a promotional poster for the new documentary "Hesburgh," about Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, the priest who led the University of Notre Dame for 35 years. Director Patrick Creadon and his crew spent two and a half years making "Hesburgh," which opens on May 3 in 35 U.S. cities. (CNS photo/courtesy OCP Media)

The civil rights commission was just one of 16 federal commissions on which Father Hesburgh sat. He also was awarded 150 honorary degrees. "That's in the *Guinness Book of World Records*," Creadon told CNS.

Creadon said Father Hesburgh's story "really speaks to the moment we're in in the country right now."

He added: "I think anyone who plans to vote in 2020 and is looking for a different kind of leadership, a different style of leadership, this film is a very good first step in considering what very strong, wise, kind leadership can look like. Hesburgh was one of utmost influential men in America for decades. ... He never raised his voice. He certainly didn't swear. He was decent and kind and he was a gentleman, even to people who were his most powerful adversaries."

Hesburgh got its debut on April 26 in Chicago and South Bend, Ind. Creadon grew up in Chicago; his father and grandfather went to Notre Dame. His college roommate, the T-shirt maker, still lives in Chicago and has found success in the business world. "We're best friends," Creadon said. "We stood up at each other's weddings. His daughter is my goddaughter."

And in South Bend, where Father Hesburgh's name still resonates, interest in the film was so strong at one multiplex that it pushed aside a pair of opening-night showings of *Avengers: Endgame* to satisfy the need for *Hesburgh* tickets.

"The Walt Disney Co. is going to do just fine," Creadon said. "But in South Bend, Ind., Father Ted took away two of the *Avengers*' screens to meet the desire of their customers." †



Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, second from left, joins hands with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Edgar Chandler and Msgr. Robert J. Hagarty of Chicago, far right, in 1964 at the Illinois Rally for Civil Rights in Chicago's Soldier field. The image is part of the new documentary *Hesburgh*, about Father Theodore Hesburgh, the priest who led the University of Notre Dame for 35 years. Director Patrick Creadon and his crew spent two and a half years making *Hesburgh*, which opened on May 3 in 35 U.S. cities. (CNS photo/courtesy University of Notre Dame)