

It's All Good

God should be at the center of our radar, writes columnist Patti Lamb, page 12.

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Catholic leaders find proposed federal budget largely fails the moral test

WASHINGTON (CNS)—President Donald J. Trump's proposed fiscal year 2018 budget sent shivers through many in the



WASHINGTON LETTER

social service, education and environmental communities, prompting Church leaders and advocates to question the administration's commitment to people in need.

The leaders repeated in interviews with Catholic News Service (CNS) that a budget is a moral document that reflects the nation's priorities, and that they found that the spending plan revealed on May 23 backs away from the country's historical support for children, the elderly and the poor, and protecting the environment.

Their concern focuses on the deep cuts—totaling \$52 billion in fiscal year 2018 and \$3.6 trillion over the next decade—in international aid, senior services, health care, hunger prevention, job training, air and water protection, and climate change research. The cuts essentially are paying for a corresponding \$52 billion boost in military spending.

"We say there's a human component here. It's not just about defense. It's not just about deficits," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

"Too often, we think the budget is a number. It's not. Right behind those numbers are human beings, and they look like you and they look like me," he told CNS.

Dominican Sister Donna Markham, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, echoed Bishop Dewane's contention, saying she was "profoundly disturbed" by the White House plan. "You can't have people who are suffering and expect them to bring themselves out of poverty when we cut off their access to food and health care and job training. It's absolutely ridiculous," she said.

"Clearly, it's saying where the values are of this administration. And their values

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Sheila Gilbert is the first woman to serve as president of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul. As her six-year term heads into its final months, Gilbert makes a visit to the client-choice food pantry of the Indianapolis Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, where she talks with John Ryan, president of the Indianapolis council. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

Groundbreaking woman has planted seeds to stop growth of poverty across country

By John Shaughnessy

After her groundbreaking tenure ends, Sheila Gilbert hopes to devote more attention to one of the great passions of her life—working in her garden.

She also plans to spend more time practicing the piano. For the past six years, both activities have been severely limited as Gilbert has served as the president of the national council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul—the first woman ever elected to that position.

During that time, the 76-year-old Gilbert has been planting seeds of a different kind, nurturing efforts to remove a plight that has devastated too many lives across the landscape of the archdiocese and the United States—poverty.

She has changed the focus of the national lay organization that serves more than 14 million people each year—leading an initiative to not just provide food, clothing and furniture for people in need, but to help them change their lives so they can escape the cycle of poverty.

A member of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)

Parish in Indianapolis, Gilbert has also worked to increase the scope of the society's efforts to assist people affected by disasters.

And she has embraced innovative programs to help people start a new life after prison.

Then there are the programs that Gilbert wants to become involved in *after* her term as national president ends in September, including a service-focused program she wants to start in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to attract young adults back to the Church.

So the garden work and the piano practice may have to wait again. In fact, she plans to keep volunteering as long as her mother did, which was to the age of 85.

"I probably will be at least that old, maybe older," she says with a smile. "I'm sure she'd be proud of me. That makes me feel good."

Gilbert shared her insights, plans and thoughts about being the society's first woman president during a recent interview with *The Criterion*. Here is an edited version of that conversation.

See GILBERT, page 2

Pope, President Trump speak of hopes for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis and U.S. President Donald J. Trump spent 30 minutes speaking

privately in the library of the Apostolic Palace on May 24, and as the president left, he told the pope, "I won't forget what you said."

The atmosphere at the beginning was formal and a bit stiff. However, the mood lightened when Pope Francis met the first lady, Melania Trump, and asked if she fed her husband "potica," a traditional cake in Slovenia, her homeland. There were smiles all around.

Pope Francis gave Trump a split medallion held together by an olive tree, which his interpreter told Trump is "a symbol of peace."

Speaking in Spanish, the pope told Trump, "I am giving you this because I hope you may be this olive tree to make peace."

The president responded, "We can use peace."

Pope Francis also gave the president a copy of his message for World Peace Day 2017 and told him, "I signed it personally for you." In addition, he gave Trump copies of three of his documents: "The Joy of the Gospel"; "Amoris Laetitia," on the family; and "Laudato Si": On Care for Our Common Home," on the environment.



Pope Francis greets U.S. President Donald Trump during a private audience at the Vatican on May 24. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

See POPE, page 16

Q. When you were elected president of the society's national council six years ago by the 4,500 conference presidents across the country, you said, 'To be the first woman, in some ways, feels like a heavy responsibility because if I blow it, it could be a long time before there's another woman. But it's also what other people have told me, 'It's time.'"

Talk about the experience of being the society's first female president.

A. "I hope I've lived up to the challenge. Once I got into it, I didn't see that it would be a difference whether I was a woman or a man, but there is a different way a man does something and a woman does something. I think it was refreshing in a lot of ways for people to have a woman lead the society.

"I have the approach of transformational leadership. You try to change the culture of the organization to move forward. I wanted to focus on how we think about things, how we act toward others, even how we pray, as a way to move forward."

Q. Talk about the way you've tried to move the Society of St. Vincent de Paul forward in terms of helping people who live in poverty.

A. "We've helped our conferences and councils move toward a systemic change so they've continued to do direct aid, but they're also looking at ways to get people out of poverty. In Indianapolis, that's been the Changing Lives Forever program. We're looking to help about 400 people a year.

It's a parish-based program for people who want to find a way out of poverty. Part of the program helps them to see what their strengths and weaknesses are. In that process, they do two things. One is they make a plan for themselves so it's their plan. It also helps them become aware of two different kinds of resources in the community. There are the 'getting-by' resources, like food stamps. And then there are the 'getting-ahead' resources—education resources, job-finding resources, knowing where they can get child care so they truly can be job-ready.

"They also get a good look at the community where they live, and what are the things that can help them move forward—and what are the things that hold them back. And hopefully they can

become active in getting some of those things changed."

Q. What are you most proud of in your six years as president?

A. "Probably getting the systemic change started. That was my call originally. Knowing that this crushing poverty people have is not what God wanted for them."

Q. What are some of the other national programs of the society that are having a positive impact?

A. "We're very active in providing help after disasters, such as tornadoes, floods and wildfires. Right now [that program is] working in 22 states. We're not necessarily involved in the immediate response. We're more involved in the long-term recovery, especially working with people who fall through the cracks.

"We have a program called House in a Box. If you're home has been destroyed and you have nothing, once you get another home established, then you can literally pull a truck up to our warehouse in the city where the disaster has been and get everything you need to furnish your house. All your beds, your linens, your tableware, everything. What that does is help many people who would have gone from middle class to poverty because of that disaster. We're actually keeping people out of poverty that way."

Q. Talk about St. Vincent de Paul's national efforts to help people after they've been in prison.

A. "The prison re-entry program is a five-year grant we have from the [Catholic] Campaign for Human Development. Right now, it's a pilot program in five states to reduce recidivism for prisoners, and it seems to be working well. They've worked with 800 to 900 people in prison, and there have been almost no returns. It's been absolutely amazing. It's a community organizing model where the people coming out of these facilities are very involved in running it.

"One of the things they're working hard on is making a change on job applications where you have to check a box if you've had a felony conviction. They're trying to get that box removed. Because that usually gets the application tossed in the trash. Because no matter who the person really is or what they've learned through their experience, they're not ever going to get a chance to say that in a job interview. So they're working with city-county councils and states about it.

They've had some success in getting that box removed by employers and by government."

Q. Talk about a program starting at the society's national level that you would like to see happen in Indianapolis?

A. "One of them is called Neighborhoods of Hope. It's a new thing that national is rolling out. It's really parish-based, and what it basically says is, 'How can your parish become a neighborhood of hope for the people who live there—especially for the people who are disadvantaged?'

"It takes the whole parish to become involved. The parish has spiritual and temporal responsibilities for the whole person. So it means getting the parish involved and out in the community, and getting to know the other people in their parish boundaries who are also trying to serve people in need. And begin to learn and collaborate with them to see what are the real challenges for people living in poverty—and how can they help with that.

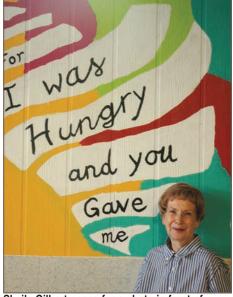
"Once the parish and the parishioners understand what the challenges and barriers are, they can be active in an advocacy way to change those things. It may be as simple as getting a bus route changed, or going to the city-county council or the state legislature, or it might be part of something that's national. But it will help the parishioners understand the role they have in social justice."

Q. What thoughts run through your mind in these last months for you as national president?

A. "I'm thinking of the whole issue of evangelization. Especially those who are in their 20s to maybe 40, 45—and how the Church is struggling to keep them, and how maybe we can regain them. We seem to have lost a couple of generations.

"I think St. Vincent de Paul can be very helpful with that. Right now, our society's conferences are parish-based, and we're not going to get people who have disenfranchised themselves from the Church in that way. They're never going to join a parish conference. But they could join if we do something on a deanery basis or a city-wide basis to invite them to come and be associate members.

"There would be a strong formation component to that, a strong service component and an advocacy component that would help them at least begin to re-engage with the Church. So I'm hoping we can start a group like that in Indianapolis. It will likely have a strong



Sheila Gilbert poses for a photo in front of a mural at the client-choice food pantry of the Indianapolis Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, where she often greeted people before she became the first woman to serve as president of the national society. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

social media component to it because we have to do it in a way that people in those age groups do things."

Q. How have your years of being the society's national president had an impact on your faith?

A. "I think I've come to trust even more in God because I know absolutely and positively that this isn't me doing any of this. God puts everything in place to make things happen, and he does it in his time frame and not necessarily mine. When I put forth this vision of ending poverty, I know that God might decide to do that in six months, six years or 600 years. But I also know that we have a definite role to play in that. All I was really called to do was what God was calling me to do right now, and leave the results to God." †

Addendum

Welcome, new Catholics!

Indianapolis North Deanery Christ the King, Indianapolis

Brennen Jenkins, Brittany Ley, Sena Meyer and Elizabeth Patton (catechumens); Harry Donovan, Adrianne Harris, Matthew Lorch and Brittney Shealey (candidates). †

Catholic groups sue over ordinance protecting abortion advocacy

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—St. Louis archdiocesan elementary schools, a Catholic-operated shelter for homeless pregnant women, and a for-profit holding company and its owner have sued the city of St. Louis over a new ordinance they say violates their religious freedom because it grants "protected status" to abortion advocates.

The Thomas More Society, a national not-for-profit law firm, filed the lawsuit on the plaintiffs' behalf on May 22 in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Enacted in February, the city ordinance provides a protected-class status to any woman who chooses to have an abortion and those who support her in that action—while also discriminating against those who promote pro-life alternatives, the lawsuit stated. The language also creates protections for anyone who has "made a decision related to abortion," even when the abortion is not their own.

The ordinance also forces private businesses to include abortion coverage in their employee health plans, even if company owners have sincere objections to abortion.

At a May 22 news conference on the courthouse steps, Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis said the archdiocese "will not comply" with the ordinance.

"As Catholics, we know that all life is a gift from God and our parents, and must

be protected at any cost," he said. "Sadly, legal protection for those members of the human family waiting to be born in this country was removed by the Supreme Court in 1973.

"Now, some of our St. Louis politicians have made a protected 'class' out of 'reproductive health,' which is merely a politically correct euphemism for abortion," he added.

Archbishop Carlson also noted that a critical point in the ordinance's passage has been overlooked: "the lives of babies in their mother's wombs that are in peril. The passage of this bill is not a milestone of our city's success. It is, rather, a marker of our city's embrace of the culture of death." †

Official Announcement Correction

Effective July 5, 2017

Rev. Santhosh Yohannan, Diocese of Quilon, India, to associate pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

(This appointment is from the office of the Very Rev. Msgr. William F. Stumpf, Administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.) †

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Immigration, religious liberty are on agenda for bishops' meeting

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The proverbial plate is full of issues for U.S. bishops to tackle at their upcoming spring assembly on June 14-15 in Indianapolis.

They will discuss issues ranging from immigration to religious freedom, as well



Bishop Oscar Cantu

as the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops on youth and the Fifth National Encuentro gathering, both coming up in 2018.

"We're certainly going to talk about the upcoming convocation in Orlando, some of the specific plans,"

said Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., referring to the "Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America" on July 1-4 in Orlando, Fla. "Other topics of interest for all of the bishops have been the fifth Encuentro, coming up in 2018, how things are developing in that."

Bishop Cantu, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), will address the persecution of Christians abroad.

"With regard to our bishops' meeting, there is the concern of the plight of Christians in parts of the world where they've been persecuted, whether it's in Africa or Syria or in any other part of the world," he said.

Bishop Cantu said he will give updates about the work of his committee, which has taken him to see some of the hardships Christians face in places like Asia and the Middle East. After making his annual trip to the Holy Land in January, Bishop Cantu said he traveled to Iraq and Kurdistan. He witnessed

some of the work by Church members, which included the building of schools, churches and universities for displaced communities of Christians forced to leave their homelands.

"The archbishops have done heroic work," he said.

For example, Archbishop Bashar Warda of the Chaldean Archeparchy of Irbil, Iraq, built a university so that young people who were displaced from Mosul could continue to study, said Bishop Cantu.

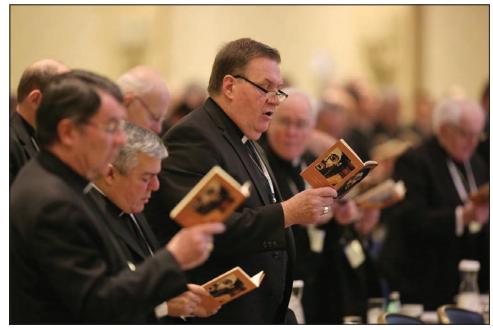
"He did that in very short order. He talked to me about that two years ago, that he wanted to create a university and so when I was there in January, I asked him how those plans were going. He said, 'Oh, we've been up and running for a year and half.' I was just absolutely astounded. He's got this, a vision, this 'do it' mentality. They've just been working constantly to give Christians every opportunity and every reason to stay in Iraq."

Another archbishop had access to a small plot of land, and there, he built a church, an elementary school and a university.

"It's amazing, just absolutely amazing, what they've done in such short time and to keep their people together and to give them a sense of identity and of support," he said.

Bishop Cantu also met with Church members in dangerous zones to talk about what Americans have been advocating, particularly for establishing safe zones for Christians in Syria and Iraq, on their

"They said they don't like that idea, they don't think it's a good idea to have a specifically Christian zone because that would make them a target for their enemies," he said. "They want to live in an integrated society with proper security and full citizenship ... that's what they believe will give them the greatest



Then-Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis, center, joins other bishops during morning prayer on Nov. 15, 2016, at the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. The bishops will hold their annual spring assembly on June 14-15 in Indianapolis. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

security, so we wanted to clarify that, as a point for safety for them, a clarification for their voice."

The bishops also will discuss the 2018 Synod of Bishops meeting, in which the pope wants discussion about "young people, faith and vocational discernment," as the theme of the gathering.

The bishops also will discuss and vote on whether to establish the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty as a permanent USCCB committee. They also will consider for discussion and votes revised Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments With Persons With Disabilities; a collection of blessings in Spanish; and a new translation of the Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the

The public sessions of the bishops' assembly will be all day on June 14 and half a day on June 15. An executive session may include "the inroads we have made into having a relationship with the new administration" in the White House, as well as the challenges, said Bishop Cantu, who also may give an update on his March meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

"We certainly expressed our concern last November about the attitude and the plight of immigrants," he said.

The bishops also may receive an update on President Donald J. Trump's executive orders dealing with his travel ban, which is tied up in the courts, yet is affecting refugees coming into the country. The bishops have issued statements opposing the original order and its revision. †

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OPINION



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Editorial



This memorial dedicated to Sister Paula Merrill, a member of the Sisters of Nazareth, and Sister Margaret Held, a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, was blessed and dedicated on May 20 in Durant, Miss. The women, who were murdered in their home last fall, were nurse practitioners at a local health clinic. (CNS photo/Ruthie Robison, Mississippi Catholic)

Remember our missionaries who died serving others

We celebrated Memorial Day earlier this week, a time when we as a nation remember and honor those who died while serving our country's armed forces both here and abroad.

While the federal holiday is always observed on the final Monday of May, we believe family members who lost military personnel take time to remember their loved ones each day.

It is also an appropriate time for all of us to thank God for the brave men and women who ventured into harm's way, and made a difference through their unwavering commitment to their mission.

Though they are not recognized on Memorial Day, we as Catholics know of modern-day American missionaries who died in service to others.

Father Stanley Rother, the first-born American martyr who will be beatified on Sept. 23 in his native Oklahoma, comes to mind.

Father Rother, who served for more than 12 years as a missionary to the indigenous people of Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, was murdered there on July 28, 1981.

Priests and religious in Guatemala were targeted when government forces cracked down on leftist rebels supported by the rural poor, and Father Rother, like so many, gave his life for Christ during that country's brutal civil war from 1960-96.

During his ministry, the bodies of some of Father Rother's deacons and parishioners were left in front of his church, and he started receiving death threats over his opposition to the presence of the Guatemalan military in the area.

Though he went back to Oklahoma for a brief period, Father Rother returned to the Guatemalan village to remain with the people he had grown to love during the time he ministered there.

"There was a moment when, after hearing news of what was going on in his parish, he said: 'A shepherd should never flee,' "Bishop Gonzalo de Villa Vasquez of Solola-Chimaltenango, the diocese where Father Rother lived, worked and died, told Catholic News Service in a recent story. "He returned to Guatemala to be with his people, to be with his flock, his faithful. It was there where they found him and killed him."

More recently, we remember the lives of Sisters Margaret Held and Paula Merrill, who were slain in their Durant, Miss., home on Aug. 25, 2016.

Though the sisters were not martyrs for the faith, they were recognized during a dedication and blessing ceremony of a monument to honor their lives of

Rodney Earl Sanders, 46, of Kosciusko, Miss., later confessed to fatally stabbing the two women and stealing their car. He was charged with capital murder, burglary and grand

Sister Paula was a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth based in Nazareth, Ky., and Sister Margaret belonged to the School Sisters of St. Francis congregation based in Milwaukee. The two nurse practitioners worked at Lexington Medical Clinic and were members of St. Thomas Parish in Lexington, Miss., located about 10 miles from their home.

Through their medical ministry, the sisters touched countless lives during the 15 years they served the poorest of the poor in rural Mississippi.

Mary James, who worked with the sisters at Lexington Medical Clinic, said that she and the other staff members at the clinic were truly blessed to have known the two women.

"They took me under their wings, and we became family," James said during the May 20 blessing and dedication ceremony. "The sisters' angelic presence was so great. We miss them daily. ... Whenever we get a little down or teary-eyed, we remember these words, 'Let love win.' If the sisters were here today, they would probably say something like this: 'There's no love like forgiveness, and there's no forgiveness without love."

"I think it isn't just their deaths that are important, it's their lives," added Sister Tonya Severin, vice provincial for the Western province of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. "They lived with the message of Jesus, that we are to give of ourselves in loving service to others, and that's what they did so unobtrusively."

The priest and religious sisters are examples of missionaries living their lives with the message of Jesus, giving themselves in loving service to their sisters and brothers in Christ. There are many others who did so as well.

Let us never forget their witness and sacrifice, and the example they offer for all of us.

-Mike Krokos

Reflection/Sean Gallagher

Get pointed in the right direction on the journey to heaven

Victory Lane at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is like heaven for drivers in the famed Indianapolis 500.

In 2012, IndyCar driver Takuma Sato



tried to make it there with a daring pass attempt in the first turn of the final lap of the race. But his car and that of leader Dario Franchitti touched, causing Sato's car to spin and crash into the first turn wall.

Sato could have played it safe and finished a respectablebut ultimately forgettable—second. But he said later, "I was going for the win." He wanted to get to IndyCar heaven.

In the next four editions of the Greatest Spectacle in Racing, Sato went off course in his journey to Victory Lane, finishing 13th twice, 19th and 26th.

In the 101st running of the Indy 500 on May 28, Sato made another daring pass for the lead with five laps to go, getting by leader Helio Castroneves just before the entrance to turn one.

Over the next three laps, Sato held off the hard-charging three-time 500 winner, ultimately finishing two tenths of a second ahead of Castroneves.

After his victory, Sato was asked what the difference was between his performance this year and in 2012. "This time, I was pointing in the right direction in turn one," he said with a laugh.

Each of us can make wrong turns on our own journey to heaven. In fact, we can make many of them.

We can let bad choices become ingrained bad habits. We can let difficulties in relationships turn into long-held grudges and deep ruptures. We can give in to attractions of the material world, and become lukewarm at best in

As each of these tendencies become more an ordinary part of our lives, it can seem more difficult for us to change them and build up a life of virtue in their place. We might even give in to the ultimate temptation of the devil and embrace a polite kind of despair, an everyday kind of hopelessness.

This is just the way I am, we might say to ourselves again and again in the back our minds, why try to change?

But in each moment of each day, God gives us a chance for victory. His ever-present grace can help us make choices to be like Takuma Sato, pointed in the right direction on our journey of faith.

Sato didn't give up hope after his attempt to win in 2012 ended with him sitting in a mangled car, watching the winner Franchitti go past him on his victory lap. He didn't give up hope as he finished in the middle to the back of the pack in the next four races.

His determined hope finally paid off when he entered Victory Lane on Sunday.

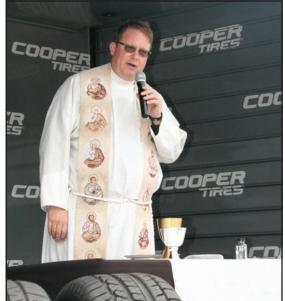
In our daily chances for victory, each of us will make wrong choices at times and get pointed in the wrong direction. But God's mercy, especially available to us in the sacrament of penance, can always get us back on course toward heaven.

God also wants his mercy to flow through each of us to each other. When we forgive each other with the help of grace, we make this journey to heaven

Victory Lane, heaven for IndyCar drivers, only admits one driver each year. Thankfully, the real heaven is big enough for all humanity. God doesn't want us to try to get there on our own. He wants us to bring as many people with us as we can.

(Sean Gallagher is a reporter for The Criterion.) †





Faith at the 500

Above, Father Michael Welch, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, prepares to deliver the invocation before the start of the 101st Indianapolis 500 on May 28 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS). Left, Father Joseph Feltz, executive director of the archdiocesan office for clergy, religious and parish life coordinators, serves as the principal celebrant for a May 28 Mass at the Midway at IMS before the race. (Photos by Charles Schisla)

BUDGET

do not align with our values as people of faith who are charged with looking out for those among us who are most in need," Sister Donna added.

But rather than directly engage the White House, officials at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and other agencies are planning to turn to Congress, which they see as a firewall to minimize the depth of the cuts being proposed. They have four months of work before a budget must be in place on Sept. 30, the start of the next federal fiscal year.

Democrats in Congress, as expected, have opposed the change in spending priorities. Many Republicans have as well, describing the plan assembled by Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget and a Georgetown University graduate, simply as a starting point.

That still worries social service administrators such as Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County in San Jose, Calif.

"By just presenting this extreme case, it's a classic negotiating ploy [to] be as obnoxious and extreme as possible and then move to the middle," Kepferle said. "It still means devastating cuts to the poor and more money for the rich. It's a breathtaking transfer of wealth from the poorest of the poor to the wealthy."

Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, is so concerned about the budget plan that he has undertaken a day of fasting and prayer on the 21st day of each month from now through December 2018 when the current session of Congress ends.

Bishop Pates said the effort, organized by Bread for the World, for which he serves on the board of directors, is a time-honored tradition in the face of injustice. "In addition to the lobbying

efforts, we really feel that prayer and fasting and relationship together as a religious community is very important,"

A look at the numbers provides insight into the concern that prompted such action.

Through fiscal year 2027, the budget outline incorporates more than \$800 billion in reduced Medicaid spending envisioned in the House-approved American Health Care Act, which is under review in the Senate. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, will see \$192 billion in reduced spending over the decade.

In Trump's plan, deep cuts are proposed for teacher training, after-school and summer programs, Women, Infants and Children nutrition assistance, and the Senior Community Service Employment Program. The \$200-million McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program and the \$3-billion Community Development Block Grant program are among the better-known programs slated for elimination.

The Environmental Protection Agency would lose \$2.5 billion, about 31 percent of its current budget. Plans call for reducing support for research and development, the Superfund cleanup program and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Funding for international climate change programs would end.

Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, said it appears that the administration values business profits over people's health.

"There's this sense that if it's hurting business then it's a bad regulation," Misleh said. "I certainly think there are undoubtedly some regulations that can be scaled back or done away with, maybe environmental regulations that outlive their usefulness. But I also think that can't be the only criteria whether we judge a regulation is good or bad.



'Too often, we think the budget is a number. It's not. Right behind those numbers are human beings, and they look like you and they look like me.'

—Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

"How these regulations impact people should be the first priority, and whether business can afford them or is truly detrimental to business is another conversation," he said. "As Catholics, we should be concerned about how these environmental rules and regulations impact people."

Some proposals in the budget have long been sought by Catholic advocates. The fiscal year 2018 plan includes \$1.4 billion for charter schools, private schools and other school choice initiatives. Another provision would prohibit funding for any agency that offers abortion services even though federal funds cannot be used for the procedure, as current law requires. If adopted, the proposal would end all federal funding for Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider.

"A great country does not send money to those who kill its children," Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, said in a statement, supporting the budget provision. "It's appropriate not to force taxpayers to subsidize abortionists, and it's logical to exclude Planned Parenthood from health programs. Abortion is not health care."

Still, there are overarching concerns about the impact of the budget on people who are least able to fend for themselves.

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, said cuts in Medicaid funding are particularly troublesome because nearly half of such spending supports senior citizens and disabled people.

"If [the budget is] implemented as proposed, I think many people will kind of fall through the cracks," he said. "I do have a certain hope and confidence as it goes through the legislative process that people will realize that the proposed budget needs significant modification."

When it comes to international aid, a spokesman for CRS said foreign aid cuts ultimately could affect national security because poverty and desperation would expand. Bill O'Keefe, vice president for government relations and advocacy at the agency, called on Congress to protect nearly \$60 billion in diplomacy and development aid.

O'Keefe cited the McGovern-Dole food program as one that has made a difference in the lives of children at a small cost. In a region of Honduras, for example, the program provides 90,000 children with a lunch at school, allowing them to attend classes and reducing the likelihood they will join a violent gang, O'Keefe said.

"It's not just lunch," he told CNS. "It's providing opportunities for kids to go to school, get a quality education and for the community to engage in the school in a way that's good for the community." †

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****** Free Admission ******* Featuring Different Italian Meats, Pastas, Salads & Desserts

LIVE MUSIC & DANCING • AMUSEMENT RIDES



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Meatballs

Italian Sausage

Italian Wines

Italian Beer

Traditional Religious Procession lead by the Italian Heritage Society of Indiana at 6:45 pm Followed by a Mass held in Holy Rosary Church at 7:00 pm.





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UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL Christ Our Hope



Events Calendar

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

June 6

Mission 27 Resale, 132 Leota St., Indianapolis. Senior Discount Day, every Tuesday, seniors get 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 7

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.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany. "How to be a Christian Consoler" Program, sponsored by the Ministry of Consolation, tools for family, friends and caregivers helping those who suffer, 7-8:30 p.m., no charge, register by June 5. Registration

and information: 812-945-2374 or tyost@olphna.org.

June 8-10

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. **Funfest**, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 5 p.m.midnight, dinners in air-conditioned hall, grilled and multi-cultural foods, children's games and inflatables, live entertainment, Monte Carlo, take-a-chance. Information: 317-787-8246.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklandon Road, Indianapolis. Parish Festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri.5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, "Hanover Chase" on Thurs., "The Bishops" on Fri., "My Yellow Rickshaw" on Sat., food, games, \$10 admission. Information: www.saintsimonfestival.com, 317-826-6000.

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. **Crossroads of the Americas**

Festival, Thurs. 6-10 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 4 p.m.midnight., food, carnival rides, games of chance, live music and DJ, dancing, \$25 raffle tickets, \$20,000 grand prize, \$500 second prize. Information: 317-636-4828.

June 8-11

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. Parish Festival, Thur. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.midnight, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, Sun. noon-9 p.m., family dinners, food booths, rides, bingo, cake wheel, Monte Carlo, children's games, spin and win, raffles, silent auction. Information: 317-888-2861.

June 9-10

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Annual Italian Street Festival, 5-11 p.m., Italian food, wine, beer, live music, children's games and rides, Marian procession, free admission. Information: 317-636-4478.

Holy Angels Parish, 740 W. 28th

St., Indianapolis. Music Festival, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., live music, children's inflatables, food, vendors, prizes, raffle. Information: 317-926-3324.

June 10

St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus. 50th Anniversary of the **Ordination of Father Martin** Peter, 5 p.m. Mass followed by reception until 8:30 p.m., all are welcome. Information: 812-379-9353 or jjhdah@sbcglobal.net.

June 11

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Mass in **French,** 1 p.m. Information: acfadi2014@gmail.com.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. Class of '63 monthly gathering, 6 p.m. Mass, optional dinner afterward. Information: 317-408-6396.

June 12-16 and 19-23

Roncalli High School,

3300 Prague Road, Indianapolis. Archdiocese of **Indianapolis Summer Choir** Camp, Youth Scola, eight sessions for students entering grades 5-9, 1-2:30 p.m., \$75, register by June 2. Further information and registration materials can be requested by e-mailing archindyyouthchoir@ gmail.com.

June 13

St. Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guild, Guest Day Lunch, noon. Information: 317-223-3687, vlgmimi@aol.com.

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-ofthe-Woods. St. Mary-ofthe-Woods. Monthly Taizé Prayer Service, theme "Praying for Peace in the World and in Our Hearts," 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence. Information: 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

St. John Paul II Parish,

St. Joseph Chapel, 2605 St. Joe Rd. W., Sellersburg. 100th Anniversary of Fatima, procession, Marian songs light refreshments to follow in the school building, 13th of each month through October. Information: Phyllis Burkholder, 812-246-2252.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 5692 Central Ave., Indianapolis. Recitation of the Rosary (outdoor Fatima shrine, corner of E. 57th St. and Washington Blvd.), in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, 6 p.m.; 13th of each month through October. Information: mbdoughert@aol.com.

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7575 Holliday Drive, E., Indianapolis. The Choice Wine, an evening of marriage renewal featuring "That Man is You" developer Steve Bollman, 6-9 p.m., dinner and talk \$15 individual or \$30 couple, talk only \$10 individual or \$15 couple. Information and registration: goo.gl/WzYEH9. †



William and Martha (Stenger) Dramann, members of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 30.

The couple was married in St. Michael Church in Brookville on April 29, 1967.

They have one daughter, Theresa Fullenkamp. The couple also has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. †



George and Patricia (Chapman) Mennel, members of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on June 7.

The couple was married in the former St. Catherine of Siena Church in Indianapolis on June 7, 1947.

They have 10 children: Marsha Brinson, Sandra Jones, Pamela Lohman, Theresa McClung, Madonna Petty, Donald, George, Paul, William and the late Edward Mennel.

The couple also has 26 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. †





The 'write' stuff

Five writers for the editorial staff of Trojan Matters, the monthly magazine of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, received state and national awards from the Woman's Press Club of Indiana (WPCI) and the National Federation of Press Women (NFPW). Marissa Almack, Kacee Haslett, Jacob deCastro, Abby McDonald and Sian Rhodes won first place in the WPCI state high school level communications contest in the sports category for their story "Kneeling during the National Anthem sparks debate," and Sian Rhodes won first place for her editorial titled "Illiteracy hurts student, family and community." Those same entries earned second place by the NFPW judges in their respective categories at the national level, competing against all first-place state winners. Finally, WPCI pooled the first-place winners from all 23 categories at the state level for their "Best of the Best High School Journalism Competition." The sports story received first place and the editorial received third place. The entire magazine staff poses for in this April 28 photo as follows: front row, Abby McDonald, left, Janie Gleaves, Katie Meek, Kylie Donaldson, Kacee Haslett, Greta Horton and Emma Kennedy. Back row, Marissa Almack, left, Ellen Giudice, Jacob deCastro (editor), Abigail Park, Sian Rhodes and Casey Storms. (Submitted photo)

Annual World Refugee Day Dinner will be on June 27 in Indianapolis

Catholic Charities of Indianapolis' Refugee and Immigrant Services will host a World Refugee Day Dinner at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 6:30 p.m. on June 27. During the event, refugees will

networking opportunities. Doors open

Tickets before June 13 are \$25. After

ethnic food, music, refugee artwork and

share stories while participants enjoy

June 13, they are \$35.

To register, go to helpcreatehope.org. †

Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend set for Aug. 18-20, register by Aug. 4

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend will be held at Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, in Mt. St. Francis, on Aug. 18-20.

A WWME weekend is a positive, renewing experience for couples who have a good marriage but want to make it even better. It is an opportunity for spouses to spend time together and to learn about the tools to nourish their sacrament in a

The weekend begins at 7 p.m. on Aug. 18 and ends at 4 p.m. on Aug. 20. Registration is required by Aug. 4.

There is a \$75 application fee, and a donation is requested at the end of the weekend.

For more information, call 317-435-5986 or e-mail jbradleylevine@

For an application, log on to www.wwme.org. †

Retreats and Programs

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

June 16-22 Archabbey Guest House

and Retreat Center, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, The Image as a Window to the Spiritual: An Artist's Six-Day Hands-on Workshop and Retreat, Benedictine Father Martin Erspamer and Passionist Brother Michael Moran presenting, \$650 single, \$950 double. Information: 812-357-6585 or mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

June 18-24

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Setting Out on the Way with the Gospel as Our Guide, Father Jeffrey Godecker presenting, \$500. Information and registration: 317-788-7581, www.benedictinn.org.

June 23-25

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Tobit Marriage **Preparation Weekend,** \$298 includes lodging (two rooms), meals, snacks and materials. Information, registration: www.archindy.org/fatima/ calendar/tobit.html, Marcia. johnson@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 107.

June 26

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Silent Self-Guided Day of Reflection, \$32 includes room for the day, continental breakfast, lunch and use of common areas, additional \$37 extends stay to include the night before or night after day of silence and includes light dinner. Information and registration: 317-545-7681,

ext. 107 or www.archindy.org/ <u>fatima</u>.

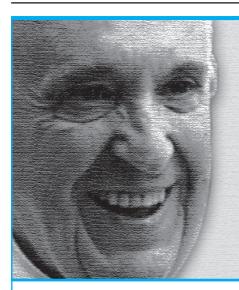
June 30-July 1

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Monasticism in the Twenty-First Century: A View from the Trenches, Cistercian monk Father Michael Casey presenting, 7-9 p.m. Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat., \$195 residential, \$145 commuter. Information and registration: 317-788-7581,

July 7-9

www.benedictinn.org.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Alcoholics **Anonymous Twelve Step** Weekend Retreat for Women. Information, pricing and registration: 317-753-



(from Pope Francis' papal bull "Misericordiae Vultus")

By Daniel Conway

The Holy Spirit, source of our true freedom

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost this weekend, it's good to recall Pope Francis' teaching about the gifts we receive from the third person of the Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the source of God's life in us. He is the gift of freedom, the liberty that allows us to come alive in our witness of the Gospel without hesitation or fear, compromise or rigidity.

In a recent homily on the Gospel account of Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus, the pope commented on Jesus' statement that he must be "born from above ... born of the Holy Spirit" (Jn 3:3, 5). This statement confused Nicodemus, as it probably confuses us.

To understand this better, he described the situation in the Acts of the Apostles where Peter and John have healed a crippled man, and the doctors of the law don't know what to do, how "to hide" what happened, "because the event was public."

When they were questioned, Peter and John "answered with simplicity," and when they were ordered not to speak about what happened, Peter responded, "No! We cannot remain silent about what we have seen and heard. And we will continue to do as we have been doing" (Acts 4:23-31).

These are the same men who cowered with fear behind locked doors immediately after Jesus' resurrection. Until they received the Holy Spirit, they were incapable of acting with boldness or conviction. The gift of the Holy Spirit freed them from their fear and their rigidity. It awakened them to the truth about themselves, and it empowered them to become new men, "born of the Holy Spirit."

According to Pope Francis, the gift of freedom that Peter and John received at Pentecost allowed them to "have courage." He says that they received "frankness, the frankness of the Spirit, which means speaking the truth openly, with courage, without compromises."

This is an important theme for Pope Francis who detests the tendency some Christians have to be legalistic in their practice of the faith. People who measure every move they make before reaching out to others in faith and charity are like the "doctors of the law," who

ritualize everything and take no risks in their observance of their religion.

"At times, we forget that our faith is concrete," the pope says. "The Word was made flesh; it was not made an idea. And when we recite the Creed, everything we say is concrete: 'I believe in God the Father, Who made heaven and Earth; I believe in Jesus Christ who was born, who died...' These are all concrete things. Our Creed does not say, 'I have to do this, I have to do that, I have to do something else, or that some things are for these ends.' No! They are concrete things. [This is] the concreteness of the faith that leads to frankness, to bearing witness even to the point of martyrdom, which is against compromises or the idealization of the faith."

Does this mean that the pope rejects the Ten Commandments or the Church's moral teaching? No! But it does mean that the gift we receive from the Holy Spirit is meant to free us from our tendency to negotiate, compromise or cling rigidly to precepts and laws and customs when we are confronted with concrete opportunities to live our faith

in the here and now. "[This is] the concreteness of the faith that leads to frankness," the pope says, "to bearing witness even to the point of martyrdom, which is against compromises or the idealization of the faith."

"The wind blows where it will and you hear the voice, but you don't know where it is coming from or where it is going," the pope says. "So it is for anyone who is born of the Spirit. We hear the voice; we follow the voice of the Spirit without knowing where it will end. Because we have made an option for the concreteness of the faith and the rebirth of the Spirit!"

"May the Lord grant to all of us this paschal Spirit, of going forward along the path of the Spirit without compromises, without rigidity, with the liberty of proclaiming Jesus Christ as he who has come: in the flesh."

Come, Holy Spirit! Grant to all followers of Jesus Christ the freedom to be bold and uncompromising in our witness to his truth and love!

(Daniel Conway is a member of The Criterion's *editorial committee*.) †

El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

El Espíritu Santo: La fuente de la verdadera libertad

Mientras celebramos la festividad de Pentecostés este fin de semana, es una buena ocasión para recordar las enseñanzas del papa Francisco sobre los dones que recibimos de la tercera persona de la Santísima Trinidad: el Espíritu

El Espíritu Santo es la fuente de la vida de Dios en nosotros. Es el don de la libertad que nos permite cobrar vida al dar testimonio del Evangelio sin titubear ni temer, sin restricciones ni rigidez.

En una homilía reciente del relato del Evangelio sobre el encuentro de Nicodemo con Jesús, el papa comentó sobre la afirmación de Jesús de que él debe "nacer de lo alto [...] nacer del Espíritu" (Jn 3:3, 5). Esta afirmación confundió a Nicodemo, como probablemente nos confunde a nosotros

Para comprenderla mejor, describió el episodio de los Hechos de los Apóstoles que narra el momento en que Pedro y Juan curaron al tullido y los Doctores de la Ley no sabían cómo "esconder" lo sucedido porque fue un "acto público."

Durante el interrogatorio, Pedro y Juan "responden con sencillez" y cuando les ordenaron que no hablaran más de lo ocurrido, Pedro responde: "¡No! No podemos callar lo que hemos visto y oído. Y ... seguiremos así' (Hechos 4:23-31).

Se trata de los mismos hombres que se escondían acobardados a puertas cerradas, inmediatamente después de la resurrección de Jesús. Hasta que recibieron el Espíritu Santo fueron incapaces de actuar con valor y convicción. El don del Espíritu Santo los liberó del temor y la rigidez, e hizo que despertaran a la verdad sobre ellos mismos, facultándolos a ser hombres nuevos que han "nacido del Espíritu."

De acuerdo con el papa Francisco, el don de la libertad que Pedro y Juan recibieron en Pentecostés les permitió "tener coraje." Nos dice que recibieron "la franqueza del Espíritu, lo que significa hablar abiertamente y con coraje, de la verdad, sin compromisos."

Este es un tema importante para el papa Francisco quien detesta la tendencia de algunos cristianos a ser leguleyos en su ejercicio de la fe. La gente que

mide cada acción antes de acercarse a los demás en la fe y la caridad es como los "Doctores de la Ley" que ritualizan todo y no asumen ningún riesgo en su cumplimiento con la religión.

"A veces olvidamos que nuestra fe es concreta: el Verbo se ha hecho carne, no se ha hecho idea: se ha hecho carne. Y cuando rezamos el Credo, decimos todas cosas concretas: 'Creo en Dios Padre, que ha hecho el cielo y la tierra, creo en Jesucristo que ha nacido, que ha muerto...' son todas cosas concretas. Nuestro Credo no dice: 'Yo creo que debo hacer esto, que debo hacer esto, que debo hacer esto o que las cosas son así por esto ': ¡No! Son cosas concretas. Lo concreto de la fe que lleva a la franqueza, al testimonio hasta el martirio, que está contra los compromisos o la idealización de la fe."

¿Acaso esto significa que el papa rechaza los Diez Mandamientos o las enseñanzas morales de la Iglesia? ¡No! Pero sí significa que el don que recibimos del Espíritu Santo está destinado a librarnos de nuestra tendencia a negociar, a transigir o a aferrarnos rígidamente

a los preceptos, leyes y costumbres cuando nos enfrentamos a oportunidades concretas de vivir nuestra fe en el aquí y ahora. "Lo concreto de la fe que lleva a la franqueza, al testimonio hasta el martirio, que está contra los compromisos o la idealización de la fe."

"El viento sopla donde quiere y oyes su voz, pero no sabes de dónde viene ni a dónde va," nos dice el papa. "Así es para quien ha nacido del Espíritu: siente la voz, sigue el viento, sigue la voz del Espíritu sin saber dónde terminará. Porque ha hecho una opción por lo concreto de la fe y el renacimiento en el

"Que el Señor nos dé a todos nosotros este Espíritu pascual, de ir por los caminos del Espíritu sin compromisos, sin rigideces, con la libertad de anunciar a Jesucristo como Él ha venido: en la carne."

Ven Espíritu Santo, concede a todos los seguidores de Cristo la libertad para ser valientes e intransigentes en nuestro testimonio de Su verdad y Su amor.

(Daniel Conway es integrante del comité editorial de The Criterion.) †

Mission means never saying, 'It's always been done this way,' pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholics, especially members of religious orders, are called to be bold, creative and consoling "missionaries without borders," Pope Francis said.

Meeting on May 26 with members of the general chapter of the Don Orione Sisters, the pope said focusing on the call to reach out to others and share the Gospel with them is what helps Christians stop being preoccupied with their own worries and concerns.

"Mission and service to the poor put you in the position of going out and

help you overcome the risks of being self-referential, of limiting your concerns to survival and of defensive rigidity," the pope told the sisters.

Those engaged in mission and evangelization, at home or abroad, must be "bold and creative," the pope said. "The comfortable criteria of 'it's always been done this way' won't work. It won't work."

Modern societies and new forms of poverty pose new challenges, particularly for religious orders with a specific mission of evangelization and care for

the poor, he said. "We are living in a time when it's necessary to rethink everything in light of what the Spirit is asking us."

The first step, he said, is to see and truly listen to the people one is assisting and evangelizing. The key is to use "the gaze of Jesus, which is the gaze of the Good Shepherd, a gaze that does not judge, but seeks out the presence of the

Following Jesus' example means drawing near to people for a close-up view and staying with them as long as necessary, he said. It also means having a gaze that is "respectful and full of compassion, one that heals, frees and comforts."

"Your charism of serving the poor requires you to exercise the prophecy of mercy, that is to be people centered on God and on the crucifixes of this world," Pope Francis told the sisters. "Allow yourselves to be moved by the cries for help that come from so many situations of pain and suffering. As prophets of mercy proclaim the forgiveness and embrace of the Father, source of joy, serenity and peace." †

Students learn about mobile ultrasound RV's role in promoting life

By Natalie Hoefer

GREENWOOD—"Gabriel" usually only receives a few visitors a day, sometimes none.

But on May 11, "Gabriel" received scores of middle school-aged visitors, an unusual age group to be popping in.

"Gabriel" is a recreational vehicle—an RV. No ordinary RV, "Gabriel" serves as the mobile ultrasound unit for Great Lakes Gabriel Project, a pro-life ministry that offers assistance to women and families facing difficult or unplanned pregnancies.

The mobile unit and the volunteers who help in its operation visited SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood as part of the school's Faith in Action focus for the month of May.

Following is a look at the purpose of bringing the mobile ultrasound unit to the school, and the role the RV and its volunteers play in helping pregnant women choose life.

'Right here ... are people outside of that bubble'

Each month, SS. Francis and Clare students and staff participate in a different Faith in Action project "to see how they can live out their Christian values," explains Father Stephen Giannini, the parish's pastor.

The May focus on pro-life issues "is specifically to help form their hearts and minds in how we are called to help each other and see each other as children of God, and that all people are created in God's image," he says.

The May Faith in Action project always involves a donation drive for the parish's Gabriel Project, which works in conjunction with the Gabriel Project at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, says school assistant principal Rebecca Stone.

But to prevent the annual project from becoming routine, she says, "Each year, we try to give a new twist on the same

"We felt like [our students] were missing out on a whole level of what the Gabriel Project does. We certainly want to continue doing the drive and helping families in that way, but the middle schoolers are ready to know some other parts of the ministry as well.'

This year, the students in grades six through eight heard a talk from a Latino woman from the Gabriel Project of St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis, which is a recipient of the annual SS. Francis and Clare Gabriel Project donation drive

"She talked about how the project here at the school where we donate diapers and supplies to the families [goes to] St. Patrick's, and she showed pictures of people there and how they benefit



Retired nurse Donna Kelker, a volunteer on the Great Lakes Gabriel Project's mobile ultrasound RV unit, talks with middle school students at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi in Greenwood about the RV on May 11. (Photos by Natalie Hoefer)

from the things that we donate," says Bradley Doherty, a math and religion teacher for SS. Francis and Clare's middle school.

"She put life into perspective for [the students] and showed them how grateful we should be for all the things we have in our life, and how we should stand up and fight and be a voice for all life."

Stone says it's important for the middle school students to see those who are helped by the Gabriel Project.

'We live in this kind of bubble of SS. Francis and Clare, and it's a great bubble to be in," she says. "But we want them to understand that right here in our backyard there are people outside of that bubble."

Offering an explanation and tour of the Gabriel Project mobile ultrasound unit served to "show another service that the Gabriel Project offers for expecting mothers," Stone continues.

Sarah Eckhart, English teacher for SS. Francis and Clare's middle school students, says the opportunity to see the mobile unit "is not just a one-time

"We incorporate faith in everything we do" at the school, she says. "We talk about Gospel values through all of our readings and our writing [in English class], and we try to instill those in our students. ... Reflecting on our experiences here is very important. We carry it

Sandy Maners, a retired nurse and a member of SS. Francis and Clare Parish who volunteers on the "Gabriel" unit, says she was pleased with the students' response during their tour.

'There was more reaction than I thought there'd be," she says. "Several as they were walking in were like 'Oh, wow!' I don't think they expected

"When I was showing them the ultrasound machine and showing them how we did it, I expected a reaction from the girls. But there were a lot of boys that were paying close attention and said, 'This is really awesome.' It clicked with

Her fellow volunteer retired nurse and parishioner Donna Kelker agrees.

"We have a Spanish interpreter, and we have pamphlets in Spanish," she says. "The kids thought that was cool how wide-reaching [this service] can be with other cultures. After the talk on Tuesday from the lady from St. Patrick, it just kind

The situation is the problem, not the

Before students toured the RV, Kelker shared information with them about the Gabriel Project and the RV, which was made possible a few years ago by fundraising efforts and a generous donation and refitting by Mount Comfort RV in

After explaining to the students that an ultrasound machine allows a pregnant woman to see her baby, Kelker noted that some pregnant women are "poor, in their teens or homeless. Maybe they're being pressured by others to end their

"Hopefully, by having an ultrasound, these moms will see their babies up on our TV screen, see a heartbeat, see their baby moving around, and they will choose

Kelker told the students that, while free ultrasounds are available at Gabriel Project's 1st Choice for Women pregnancy clinic on the northwest side



Middle school students of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood step onto the Great Lakes Gabriel Project's mobile ultrasound RV unit, which lists its services on the side. (Photos by Natalie Hoefer)



Donna Kelker, right, shows students of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood new baby blankets stored on the Gabriel Project's mobile ultrasound RV unit. Her fellow volunteer, retired nurse Sandy Maners, stands by the ultrasound machine in the far back of the RV.

of Indianapolis, not all women have the means to travel there.

"The RV is able to travel to where it is needed," she said. "We go to places like Planned Parenthood and other abortion [centers] so we can meet and talk to these mothers in crisis. We try to help them realize that the baby they are carrying is not the problem—the situation they are in is the problem."

Carrying two volunteer nurses, the mobile unit alternates primarily between two abortion centers in Indianapolis four days a week, but also travels to other locations. After the SS. Francis and Clare event on May 11, the mobile unit headed off to provide an ultrasound to a woman considering an abortion.

In an interview with *The Criterion*, Kelker explains that women come to the RV by being walked over by a Gabriel Project sidewalk counselor standing by the drive of an abortion center, by scheduling an appointment using the number displayed on the side door of the RV, or just by sighting or by word of

"When they come into the RV, we have them sit here," says Kelker of a table surrounded by a booth that seats up to six.

They fill out a form, then Kelker says the nurses "try to develop a relationship with them—'What's going on in your life? Why are you here? What kind of problems are you having? How can we

Clients can take a free pregnancy test in the RV's restroom, or lie down for an ultrasound at the back of the unit. Those who accompany them can sit at the table and see the results on a TV monitor in the front of the RV. If the woman is far enough along, she is given a photo of her

The photo is not all the woman receives. "We give them pamphlets that show the baby's development from conception, we give them prenatal vitamins," says Kelker. "We have women who make baby blankets, and we let them pick one of those out. It helps them realize this is a real baby.

The most women seen in the usual four-hour stint that Kelker recalls was

"Some days we see nobody," she adds. "We sit in here and pray. If we see someone go in [the abortion center], we'll say a Hail Mary."

Of the women they see, says Kelker, "Sometimes we never know the end of the story, if they decide to keep the baby or not to keep the baby. ...

"But we do have some moms we develop a relationship with. We have one mom who comes frequently just to make sure her baby is OK."

Developing a relationship is key. "We tell them to come back whenever," Kelker says. "We just try to build a relationship, so they know it's not just about the baby, it's about them as a

(For more information on the Great Lakes Gabriel Project, its services and how to volunteer or donate, log on to www.glgabrielproject.org.) †

Participants in mini-marathon, 5K give witness to vocations

By Sean Gallagher

Benedictine Brother Peduru Fonseka knows what it means to be a minority.

He grew up in Sri Lanka, an island nation off the southeastern coast of India, where Christians make up only 7 percent of the national population.

So it didn't bother him to be part of the Race for Vocations team, made up of only 300 of the more than 22,000 people who participated in either the OneAmerica 500 Festival Mini-Marathon or the Finish Line 500 Festival 5K, both of which occurred on May 6 in Indianapolis.

The team, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, was unified in wearing blue shirts that promoted vocations and in spirit through praying for vocations during the events and in their training leading up to them.

"Isn't that the reality for our Catholic faith?" wondered Brother Peduru, a member of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad. "We always represent the minority."

In addition to religious like Brother Peduru, there were also many seminarians, priests and lay Catholics who were part of the team.

"People in religious life, married life or consecrated single life, whichever vocation it may be, are all walking in this journey toward holiness together as a team," he said. "We are all running towards one finish line."

Lynne and Kelsey Kluesner, both members of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville, were a mother/daughter pair on the team. Lynne walked the 5K, while Kelsey ran the Mini.

"I've always been a runner, and in the years that I've been competing, we've never taken an advantage of an opportunity to do something together," said Kelsey. "The Mini was a great start to do something together, but being on the Race for Vocations team really tied that together because we got to incorporate our faith.'

When Kelsey and I put on our vocations shirts and we saw the other blue vocations shirts, I hoped and prayed that those in the discernment process would know that we are praying for them as well and that they have a lot of support," said Lynne, who is the secretary of St. Martin

Parish. "We all have a calling, and to be part of a team of over 300 people supporting vocations was truly an amazing experience."

The night before the Mini and 5K, many team members gathered at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis for a Mass for vocations. A pasta supper was held afterward under a tent in the church parking lot.

Father Michael Keucher, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish and a team organizer, was the homilist at the Mass. He said that the team members, and all Catholics, need to set a

> Father Eric Augenstein, archdiocesan vocations director, celebrates a May 5 Mass for vocations at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. Concelebrating the Mass are Conventual Franciscan John Bamman, left, and Father Michael Keucher, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in



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

good pace to compete well in the journey of faith. He took each of the letters of "pace" to give advice on how to do this.

"P" stood for prayer for Father Keucher.

"Make it a prayerful event," he said. "Pray along the way. We're not just doing this race for me, for my fitness or my health. We're carrying other people with us in our hearts and minds as we go."

'A" meant aspire.

"We should aspire to do well," Father Keucher said. "God's dreams for us are much greater than our own dreams. He wants more for us than we could ever

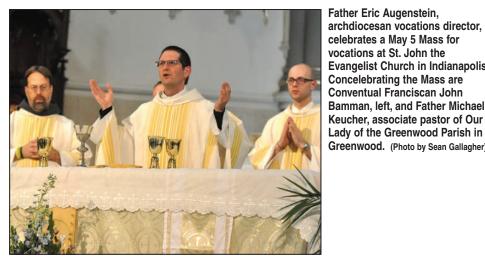
want for ourselves."

"C" stood for communion.

"How could we ever keep going if we don't have people at our sides, and behind us, pushing us, and ahead of us, leading us," Father Keucher asked. "We need that communion."

Finally, "E" meant Eucharist.

"Our real fuel as Christians is the body and blood of Jesus," Father Keucher said. "The Eucharist is the fuel that keeps us going. It gets us to the finish line, both tomorrow and throughout our whole lives." †



Cardinal Tobin: Being with those in need, distress communicates Christian message

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS)—Simple acts of accompaniment communicate the Christian message of hope, said Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J.



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin

He was the keynote speaker at DeSales Media's celebration of World Communications Day in Brooklyn on May 17.

Held at BRIC House in the downtown area, the daylong conference brought together about 250 people

involved in both the religious and secular media as well as interested parishioners.

To illustrate his point, Cardinal Tobin used a well-publicized incident when he accompanied to the federal courthouse in Newark a poor Mexican immigrant who was threatened with deportation. He prayed with members of other faiths alongside Catalino Guerrero, a 59-yearold grandfather who was in the country without legal permission but had never been charged with any crimes and who suffers from diabetes and heart disease.

"This act of accompaniment was simply a singular act of trying to make a difference in the face of vast hopelessness," the cardinal said. "As Christians we have no alternative but to communicate hope, and we do that when we put a face on those who have been frequently demonized into being something they are not."

He said this "facelessness" of the poor and the downtrodden is "aided and abetted by political rhetoric and also by a complicit news media."

The cardinal said he does want to make the media into a punching bag, but he added there were some glaring deficiencies in the news industry that demand attention.

The media, he said, "doesn't always report the facts straightforwardly," instead opting for the spectacular "if-it-bleeds-itleads" approach.

He felt that the push to get good ratings to earn advertising revenues and the challenge of maintaining the 24-hour news cycle can compromise reality with the spectacular. He felt that news coverage relies more on opinion and less on facts.

He also pointed to the "fear-based" coverage of events that causes hysteria and stirs controversy rather than simply reporting the facts.

To counteract the "facelessness" of the poor and forgotten, Christians, he said, are called to communicate the Gospel of Jesus by simple acts of compassion.

"Accompanying Catalino Guerrero was simply an act of compassion on my part," he said. "But to many it was a symbol that communicated hope and a sign that the Church does not live in some ivory tower.

"Standing beside and praying with Catalino Guerrero and his family, speaking to the media about it, were actions taken together that provided a lens through which others might see this event," he said. †



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Meet our future deacons

On June 24, the third class of permanent deacons for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will be ordained at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. There are 21 men from across central and southern Indiana who will be ordained.

This week's issue of *The Criterion* continues a series of profiles of these men that will run in the weeks leading up to that important day.

To see previous profiles, go to www.archindy.org/deacon. †





My role models are my parents,

worked very hard to give us a

better life. He was what I call "a

professional student." He always

was looking to learn something new.

My mother was in charge to let us

She helped us to make faith in God

circumstances, follow our heart and

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions?

Among my favorite Scripture verses

My favorite saints are St. Peter and

are the Liturgy of the Hours and the

Deacons often minister, formally or

How have you experienced that

informally, to others in the workplace.

Our Father. And my favorite devotions

St. Paul. My favorite prayer is the

are Lk 15:11-32 and Mt 5:1-11.

know the don'ts and do's of life.

our foundation, to rise above our

show compassion for others.

Rogelio and Guadalupe. My father

Juan Carlos Ramirez

Wife: Gabriela Home Parish: St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus Occupation: Quality Director

Who are the important role models in already and what do you anticipate your life of faith? doing in the future?

I've found what people need more than anything is often just someone to listen. And it helps if that someone has walked the same road, had the same struggles and understands all the problems that go with family life.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

God has given me many gifts in my life. I feel called now to use these gifts serving God's Church, and to use them in his service.

How do you hope to serve through your life and ministry as a deacon? The best way to describe the impact diaconal formation has had in my life is that it has been transformational. The program has nurtured me in my faith journey. I have learned through self-reflection to better identify God's presence in everyday life, including my family, friends, co-workers and even those who I do not know well, yet consider me a friend. †



Matthew (Tom) Scarlett

Age: 47 Wife: Kathy Home Parish: St. Mary in Mitchell and St. Vincent de Paul, Occupation: Vice President of Sensors Division, Tri Star Engineering

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

Both of my parents are still quite firm and confident in their faith, and give me that enduring foundation on which my journey through the diaconate formation solidly rests. Along with them, my wife constantly shows me how faith in adversity is quiet strength to accomplish anything, a welcome reminder when challenges

What are your favorite Scripture verses, saints, prayers and devotions? My favorite Scripture verse is Mt 6:25-34. I pray often to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and find comfort and consolation by offering my prayers

up through her intercession. Deacons often minister, formally or informally, to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that

already? The workplace has been a great ministry for me and continues to challenge me. I have discovered fellow Christians at my secular job that slowly began sharing their journeys of faith over the course of work days. In a time when prayer in the workplace may not be viewed as acceptable for all, a band of Christians have formed to openly share morning prayer as a group to start the workday.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

We are all called to serve God. Listening for this call can be challenging, and hearing it can be difficult. I try to listen in spite of the noise of daily life and keep putting one foot forward while prayerfully considering this as the direction God is calling me.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?

Over the course of formation, my family has watched my growth into a role of service and accept it as the obvious thing to do. As for my teenage kids, I will still be Dad who likes to help people. †

Spirit of 'we' leads to special grant for East Deanery schools

By John Shaughnessy

For Msgr. Paul Koetter, the special gift of \$225,000 represents more than one of the current great success stories in the

Indianapolis East

The gift also

represents potential

school students in the

deanery will benefit

from the funds being

promote education

used for programs that

success stories in the future—as grade

school and high

Deanery.



Msgr. Paul Koetter

in the areas of science, technology,

potential—are the result of a unique

The success stories—current and

collaboration called the Eastside Catholic

School Partnership, a partnership among

Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High

Since 2010, the four schools have

worked together to strengthen the quality

of a Catholic education on the east side of

The partnership has worked so

well that a Catholic family—who

Indianapolis, combining their resources and

their ideas to enhance enrollment, marketing

Flower) and Our Lady of Lourdes.

and planning efforts.

School and the elementary schools of Holy

Spirit, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little

engineering and math (STEM).

donated \$225,000 so the schools can collaboratively increase their STEM education efforts.

"It's a Catholic family here in the archdiocese," says Msgr. Koetter, the pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis. "The wife has been a teacher and has an interest in the STEM effort. The family has been very supportive of Catholic endeavors of different kinds."

wishes to remain anonymous—has

The gift is the latest reason to celebrate the partnership, according to Joseph Therber, president of Scecina High School.

'Our partnership has built a spirit of 'we' not 'me,' "Therber says. "Shared liturgies, professional development, brainstorming among school and parish leaders, marketing our four schools as one vibrant ministry, and the recent fantastic grant for STEM opportunities have all had positive impacts on relationships and school vitality."

When the partnership first started, one of its main efforts was to focus on increasing enrollment, says Msgr. Koetter, who leads the partnership's board that include the pastors, presidents and principals of the parishes and the schools involved. Now that enrollment has stabilized and increased, the focus is on increasing the quality of the education—and communicating the



'Our partnership has built a spirit of "we" not "me." Shared liturgies, professional development, brainstorming among school and parish leaders, marketing our four schools as one vibrant ministry, and the recent fantastic grant for STEM opportunities have all had positive impacts on relationships and school vitality.'

—Joseph Therber, president of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis

benefits of that quality Catholic education to the community.

"Just this past spring, we put out an information postcard to all the families in our areas to advertise the schools," Msgr. Koetter notes. "It was something we did together, and that's kind of unique. Parishes in the past have operated as independent silos. Cooperation is an area where we need to be growing on so many different levels. Parishes still need their own identity, but the quality of what we do improves when we work together."

The partnership creates opportunities for combined training for teachers, and improves the ability of the schools to attract better speakers, Msgr. Koetter says. It also helps the three elementary

schools—the dominant feeder schools for Scecina—dovetail their teaching with the approaches at the high school.

"The impact on Scecina has definitely been positive," Therber says. "East Deanery pastors, principals and teachers are physically inside Scecina for more programs and meetings than ever before.

"Our students see their parish leaders at Scecina and vice versa. When a deanery pastor, principal or teacher speaks of Scecina as 'our parish high school,' you get a warm feeling about the identity and future of Scecina."

Therber gets the same feeling about the partnership.

"We are working as one shared ministry, not as four distinct schools." †

Online Lay Ministry Formation

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

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Pope Francis wants the Church to listen to young people

By Christopher White

Pope Francis hasn't shied away from talking about his own mortality in recent months—and perhaps that's the reason he's increased his focus on young people over the past year.

During April, his monthly prayer intention was for the young people of the world. That same month, at a prayer vigil in anticipation of World Youth Day 2019, he declared: "Every young person has something to say to others. He or she has something to say to adults, something to say to priests, sisters, bishops and even the pope. All of us need to listen to you!"

And that's precisely why Pope Francis has chosen the theme of "Young people, faith and vocational discernment" for the next meeting of the world Synod of Bishops that will take place in October 2018.

This, however, will not be a time of lecturing. Instead, it will be an occasion for collaboration, motivated by the pope's conviction that "by listening to young people, the Church will once again hear the Lord speaking in today's world"

Much of what has driven this papacy has been an eye toward the future. In his encyclical "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home," Pope Francis asked the world to consider creation as a whole and tasks us to steward the environment in a way that not only serves our present circumstances, but that of future generations.

In naming cardinals from remote regions of the world, he has redirected our focus to areas where the Church is growing and thriving, and he's invited the rest of the world to consider their example.

So it should come as no surprise that Pope Francis is now concentrating on today's youth—the constituency of the Church that will be tomorrow's future families, priests, religious men and women, and lay faithful that will shape the Church over the 21st century.

Here at home in the United States, an honest assessment serves as a sobering reminder that there's much work to be done. A 2016 study from the Public Religion Research Institute revealed that young Catholics are leaving the Church at a faster pace than any other religious group in this country, and according to the Pew Foundation, the vast majority of Catholics who leave the Church do so before the age of 23.

While some may see this as cause for despair, Pope Francis is seizing this as an opportunity and inviting the universal Church to do the same. A primary theme of this papacy has been creating a "culture of encounter"—one that is motivated by engagement and seeking understanding.

That's why the preparatory document for this synod meeting concludes by posing questions attempting to better understand the plight of young people today.

Young people from around the world have been asked to consider both practical questions (such as how the language of today's world that's used in sports, arts, music and other arenas can be integrated into the Church's outreach to young people) and pastoral ones (such as, "What does 'spiritual fatherhood' mean in places where a person grows without a father figure?").

For Pope Francis, the Church must be guided by the concrete realities that affect the faithful. This was true for the previous synod meeting on the family, and it will prove equally true for this gathering on young people. It's for this very reason that he so often uses the paradigm of accompaniment and the images of becoming neighbors and walking alongside those journeying in faith together.

Just as neighbors and friends do in our everyday lives, the Church will attempt to engage in the practical concerns of young



Pope Francis poses for a selfie during an evening prayer vigil with young people at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome on April 8. Pope Francis has chosen the theme of "Young people, faith and vocational discernment" for the next meeting of the world Synod of Bishops to take place in October 2018. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

people. The synod preparatory document, like the synod meeting itself, will address matters of employment, immigration, sexual exploitation, drug trafficking and the growing tide of secularization that makes embracing the faith difficult.

This is an approach that is rooted in an understanding of the importance of relationships and realizing that individuals must feel loved, known and cared for, before they can be challenged and changed.

Or as the preparatory document declares: "In the task of accompanying the younger generation, the Church accepts her call to collaborate in the joy of young people rather than be tempted to take control of their faith."

In one of his first major papal documents, "Evangelii Gaudium" ("The Joy of the Gospel"), the pope tasked all of us to become "joyful"

messengers of challenging proposals" (#168). It's a recognition that the demands of Christian life are great—but ultimately are the source of joy and salvation.

It may seem countercultural to invite the youth of the world to re-evaluate their lives in light of the Gospel and consider a new way of living, but fortunately there's precedent for that.

Two thousand years ago when a ragtag gang of young fishermen were approached and asked to do the same, their consequential "yes" changed their lives and that of the world. For a world that's looking for hope and a new way of living, Pope Francis is hoping that this invitation to young people might just have a similar outcome.

(Christopher White is director of Catholic Voices USA and a columnist for Catholic News Service.) †

Social media can be effectively used to proclaim the Gospel in secular society

By Matt Palmer

The "greatest generation" had radio and television stars. Baby boomers and Generation X had movie and rock legends. For millennials and their younger brothers and sisters, celebrities come from places like YouTube, Facebook, Netflix, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter.

Vine, the now-defunct quick clip video social network, lifted some people up to superstar status in less than seven seconds.

Just as cable ended the "Big Three" television network model, the Internet has opened the world of a la carte and streaming. People consume what they want, when they want.

In the case of some young people, if they don't see or hear it, they go make it themselves with relatively inexpensive cameras, microphones and software.

This is the landscape that the Church finds itself in right now.

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have all emphasized videos in recent years to big results, and they all feature autoplay. Many people stopped scrolling in their social media feeds when they saw Pope Francis participate in a TED Talk on April 25.

Parishes could follow that lead and broadcast homilies on Facebook Live. Nothing is more inspirational or motivational than insights into the Gospel. It's an easy, tangible way to evangelize.

Parishioners can share the parish broadcasts on their own social media. They become missionaries of evangelization in the process. You'll be surprised by the thousands you reach and engage with by simply going live.

Who knows? Maybe you can even encourage live

viewers of such homilies to come and hear them in person, which should be a goal of such broadcasts.

YouTube Christian "vloggers" (video bloggers) have gained millions of followers by sharing their lives with seven- to 10-minute daily entries. The videos frequently share the vlogger's personal and family adventures, but also feature insights to prayer or scenes of trips to church

Imagine if a young Catholic family shared a window into their lives and casually articulated the Catholic faith by doing a vlog. Millions of previously unchurched people might want to learn more.

Broadcasting life is natural for millennials. Podcasts have undergone a massive renaissance thanks in large part to iPhones, National Public Radio and thousands of upstart podcasters around the globe.

When I worked at *The Catholic Review* newspaper in Baltimore, I would often record my interviews, write a 500-word story and then have hours of unused audio. Editing and uploading that material as a podcast took the story further and allowed listeners to more closely identify with the people I interviewed.

Pope Francis' use of Twitter proves daily that the Gospel's message can be shared in less than 140 characters. Simple, inspired and creative messaging—through text, video, images and memes—changes hearts in secular culture all the time.

The same holds true in the Catholic world. It's amazing how a meme featuring a quote from the pope or a bishop can reach and engage millions.

That's the lesson learned. If we want to change the culture, we should let it change us as well, at least in positive ways. The call to evangelize is daunting, but our faith has endured for 2,000 years for a reason: Our



Nashville seminarian Luke Wilgenbusch holds a cellphone on Aug. 12, 2014, showing a video link on social media to a fellow seminarian. Pope Francis' use of Twitter proves daily that the Gospel's message can be shared in less than 140 characters. (CNS photo/Rick Musacchio, *Tennessee Register*)

ancestors evangelized by adapting their presentation of the timeless Gospel to the times.

Now is our time to accept that challenge. Our faith depends on it.

(Matt Palmer is social media strategist for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a former reporter and social media coordinator at The Catholic Review in Baltimore.) †

Observing some of Father Pancho's work in Guatemala

Last week, I wrote about a visit I made to Guatemala in 1993 and introduced you to a priest everyone



called Father Pancho. He served 50,000 parishioners plus Catholics in 82 villages in the hills where there were 22 chapels.

One of the villages we visited consisted of 10 families who had organized in 1986 and bought 78 acres of

good land. To do so, they got a loan from an institute backed by USAID at 12 percent interest. The institute dictated what the families were to plant—cash crops for export to the United States. When the villagers couldn't pay back the loan, the interest rate was increased to 23 percent.

Then Father Pancho got involved. He negotiated forgiveness of the interest. He then got them started planting fruit trees, corn and trees for firewood. They built more stable homes and even installed electricity from a company Father Pancho helped create.

When we were there, the village didn't have a well yet, but the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (now called Unbound) sent a well-digging rig. Father Pancho drove to the border with Mexico to meet those who were bringing the rig to ensure that they wouldn't have to pay bribes to get it into Guatemala. The rig, and Father Pancho, arrived while we were there.

Father Pancho told us that we would be picked up by a bus to take us to San Andres Church for 6 a.m. Mass on Sunday. When 6 o'clock came and went, some of us decided to walk the mile to the church. The bus came while we were walking and picked us up. There was, however, no fear that we would be late for Mass. Father Pancho was the bus driver. Mass started at 6:17 a.m.

The church was absolutely packed. We estimated that there were at least 2,000 people, most of whom had walked many miles from the mountains to get to the church. They were very devout, listening intently to Father Pancho's 20-minute homily.

At the end of Mass, Father Pancho told the congregation that our group was there, and urged families to invite us into their homes for breakfast. Felipe and Juana, Mayan Indians, invited me to their home. They spoke absolutely no English, so I really had to give my limited Spanish a workout. They had six children, three boys and three girls, ranging in age from 15 to 2. Felipe's mother and father, Juan and Francisca, also lived with them.

Their cement-block home with a corrugated steel roof had three bedrooms and a large concrete slab that served as a living room. Two chairs, a bench and a cupboard comprised their only furniture. I learned that Felipe worked as a mason in Guatemala City, traveling there by bus six days a week. He left at 4 a.m. and got home at 9 p.m.

Breakfast was a mixture of some kind that I couldn't identify. There was a hot drink, but it didn't taste like coffee.

Before I left, Juana put some artificial flowers in a clay vase and gave it to me.

(John Fink's recent series of columns on Church history is now available in book form from Amazon. It is titled How Could This Church Survive? with the subtitle, It must be more than a human institution.) †

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For the Journey/Effie Caldarola

Evicted: The U.S. housing crisis

My husband and I are sitting on our front porch on a gentle spring evening,

reading.

I hold up my book and show Jim Chapter 6: "Rat Hole." "This pretty much

sums up this book," I say, and silently thank God for my house, my neighborhood, my life. Simultaneously, I grieve for my country.

I am reading Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, by Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond, which won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction. If you thought you knew how bad America's housing crisis is, read this book and think again.

At the same time I was making my way through this harrowing chronicle of cockroaches, clogged toilets, broken windows, filthy carpeting and people's every possession being thrown to the curb in repeated evictions, I watched a program on Public Broadcasting Service's "Frontline" that aired on May 9. Called "Poverty, Politics and Profit," it's a combined investigative piece by National Public Radio (NPR) and "Frontline."

It, too, explores the housing crisis in America. This may be the worst housing crisis we've seen in this country's modern era, and as with so many bad things, the horrors are falling chiefly on the poor.

More than that, the lack of affordable housing is causing poverty. The majority of poor renting families pay half or more of their income on rent.

Every year, said "Frontline," 2.5 million people are evicted nationally. Rents are going up as wages stagnate. Part of this is a result of the 2008 recession, which pushed millions out of their homes and into the rental market due to foreclosures.

Desmond's book chronicles the lives of eight families in Milwaukee from 2008 to 2009. Rather than dry statistics, it's a heartbreaking tale of people spending just about everything on rudimentary and virtually unlivable shelter. There's money in being a slumlord, and Desmond introduces you to some of them, too.

"Frontline" tells us about two government programs that are supposed to be helping. One of them is popularly called "Section 8," in which the government subsidizes the rent over and above what someone can reasonably be expected to pay. The problem: such a lack of available Section 8 housing that only 1 in 4 eligible folks are able to benefit, and the waiting list is years long.

The other program is less well-known: The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit is a federal program providing billions of dollars to states to issue tax credits for the acquisition, rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing targeted for use by the poor. This tax credit gives developers an incentive to develop low-income housing, and some great projects have resulted.

Alas, fraud has resulted as well.

"Frontline" and NPR examine the millions of dollars of fraud discovered in south Florida alone. Supporters worry that the scrutiny resulting from these fraud cases will destroy what was essentially a good idea.

But some, like Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, see the need for much greater oversight. There have been, he told "Frontline," seven audits of the program in 29 years. Yes, only seven audits of a program worth billions per year.

Meanwhile, the poor suffer.

What can we do? We can urge our representatives to support the tax credit program, but demand far better oversight and auditing. Without fraud, this program could be producing many more affordable units to confront an American emergency.

Then, visit justshelter.org to learn what's going on in your area and how you might help.

(Effie Caldarola writes for Catholic News Service.) †

It's All Good/Patti Lamb

Faith affirms God should be at the center of our radar

Recently at work, our team encountered an unexpected setback. We were called to an impromptu stand-up



meeting to address the critical issue. Our manager gathered us to share her thoughts and speak to key concerns.

She did a great job disseminating information and communicating her vision regarding

forward movement, despite new challenges. Due to the nature of the topic, however, the environment was tense, and the stress was palpable.

At the end of the meeting, our boss asked if there were questions. One gentleman raised his hand and admitted that his question was off topic.

That gave our fearless leader a smile. She had been knee deep in the dilemma *du jour*, and she was thrilled to talk about anything other than what had recently been the office noise.

His question—something about the lack of ample parking spaces at work coupled with the recent increase in the cost of parking—was far removed from anything that required the immediate attention of this weary bunch.

There was an awkward pause in the room.

Our manager responded simply with this: "Thanks for your question. That's not on my radar at this time, and, right now, I can't even speak to that."

She had a bigger vision, a sharp focus, and she couldn't entertain trivial

The episode at work that day served as a sort of wake-up call for me and caused me to reflect. Lately, I've been distracted by some of life's hiccups, which have made several very important priorities fall off my radar. I suppose you could call these "faith distractions."

I shared this story with some friends, and they admitted that they, too, are dealing with issues that consume their

The issues they shared ranged widely. One friend is tackling monstrous debt and the associated strain. Another is coming to terms with a diagnosis while some other friends are working to settle a lawsuit. I think we all have issues that surface at times, hijacking center stage, which should be God's territory. He should be at the center of our radar.

The work meeting that day reminded me that I so easily lose sight of the goal—to know, to love and to serve God, and to get to heaven.

My faith affirms that when my priorities are aligned with God's will, life's challenges won't seem like such big waves. They will be more like small ripples because I'm connected to my Creator, who sustains me.

So often, however, I get caught in task mode, trying to fix problems and cross things off my list. Instead, I should follow the advice of St. Paul: "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Col 3:2)

In *Jesus Calling*, a fantastic devotional for children by Sarah Young, there's a passage my daughter encountered recently, which says, "In a world of unrelenting changes, I am the One who never changes. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Find in me the stability for which you have yearned. ... In my presence, you can face uncertainty with perfect Peace."

Reflecting on words like these reminds me that, despite faith distractions—which will never come to an end in this life—we should recognize that life is better when our radars are in sync with God's. We must trust our fearless leader's vision.

(Patti Lamb, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

Putting sound sense, greater awareness into a march

2017 has become the year of marches not only in Washington, but throughout our country and the world.



The word "march" means to "pace off the boundary, to examine limits and border lines." It also connotes moving forward at a steady pace.

These meanings lead us to ask: What are some of the threatened boundaries that cause an outcry?

For example, has science's concern about the future of our ecosystem crossed the line, causing undesirable anxiety, unreal expectations and economic woes? Or have those limiting science imprudently crossed the line? Is conservation overstated, or are those championing it attempting to move us forward?

Are some marches heavily motivated by the philosophy that more and bigger

are better, or do marchers realize small can be beautiful, sufficient, efficient and wholesome?

Is the selfish mentality of "the more we get, the more we want" a driving force, or is a march motivated by the desire to reach out to the less fortunate so they aren't in want or injured? How much is a march for what I can get personally versus what can I do to serve a universal, worthy cause?

Do in-depth reasons surpass an unwieldly mob mentality? Does desiring a nobler way of life outweigh a pseudo good-life mentality in which I feel I have a right to everything in it?

Are marchers guided by a moral compass? During rallies, are the ego and the will of the people foremost to the exclusion of God's role in their cause? Or do they see themselves defending God's order and including God's wisdom to accomplish this?

The definition of march includes the idea of "steady," i.e., making forward

progress toward an end. It is not an end in itself, but rather, the beginning of a sometimes tedious effort to ameliorate a

situation.

That effort must include laborious study of a cause, its hoped-for outcomes, plausible and implausible strategies to achieve success, and needed stamina to maintain the course.

Will 2017 be a year marchers have achieved their goal in creating greater awareness, more followers and needed change? Will their minds become more enlightened in pursuing change for the better? Or will unyielding minds become more emboldened?

Marches have changed the face of America for the better. This can be repeated if they are based on valid motives, sacrifice and strong faith in their cause, and if God's wisdom is included.

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

Pentecost Sunday/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 4, 2017

- Acts 2:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
- John 20:19-23

Pentecost, the feast celebrated on this weekend, is the greatest day of the Church's year, save for Easter and



Christmas. It is interesting in that it is the only ancient Jewish feast still observed by the Church.

In the beginning, Christians almost invariably were of Jewish origins. Quite early in Church history, the Apostles

took the Gospels far and wide. As a result of these missionary efforts, many came into the Church who were not of Jewish backgrounds.

When the Church was born, a series of political upheavals were causing great stresses in traditional Judaism.

All these developments meant that the attention that once would have been paid by early Christians to Jewish feasts, just as the Lord observed them, faded and eventually ended altogether. Pentecost is the lone exception.

For Jews, Pentecost celebrates God bringing them together as a people. More than just ethnic or genetic unity was achieved in this act. They were unified as a people in their mission to be true to God and to profess God before all the nations.

Christians see Pentecost as a holy day for them also, recalling the moment when the Holy Spirit poured new life into the Apostles. Receiving strength and power from the Spirit, the Apostles then went forward to proclaim salvation in Christ to the entire world.

This first reading recalls this event and its aftermath. Under the leadership of St. Peter, the Apostles were united and emboldened. They never relented from their mission of declaring Jesus as Lord and Savior. According to tradition, all but one died as a martyr.

For the second reading, the Church presents a passage from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Absolute faith in Christ, as God and as Savior, is key. Without grace that accompanies this absolute commitment, and indeed enables faith, humans are confused and liable to fatal misstep.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading, which is a resurrection narrative. The risen Lord appears before the Apostles. As God, possessing the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives the Apostles the power to forgive sins, extraordinary because only God can forgive sins.

Reflection

For weeks, the Church has exulted in the resurrection, joyfully proclaiming that Jesus is Lord, and that Jesus lives!

As this season has progressed, the Church, through the readings at Mass, also has called us to realize what effect the resurrection has upon us and human history. The salvation achieved by Christ on Calvary never will end. It is for all time and people.

How will it be accomplished? Through the Lord's disciples in every consecutive

Since true conversion requires a completely free and uncompromised individual decision, true Christians are bound together in the Church. They share their identity with Christ and the grace of the Spirit. As Acts reveals, they are part of the Church still gathered around the Apostles, under the leadership of Peter, and still looking for guidance and direction from the Apostles, in their successors, the bishops.

Through the Apostles and their successors, the Church links itself to the Savior, to the Father, and to the Spirit. The Church lives, and in it Jesus

Christians, however zealous, cannot be ships passing each other silently in the night. They bear together the mission to bring God's mercy and wisdom to the world. Christians belong to and are one in the Church.

On this feast, the Church's lesson therefore is very relevant here and now. We belong, as did the first Christians, to an apostolic Church, a community created by God to bring divine mercy to weary and wandering humans.

This feast invites us into the framework of holiness formed by Jesus. None of us is alone in faith. We share a common bond with Christ. We share in the mission of Christ. †

Daily Readings

Monday, June 5

St. Boniface, bishop and martyr Tobit 1:3; 2:1b-8 Psalm 112:1-6 Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday, June 6

St. Norbert, bishop Tobit 2:9-14 Psalm 112:1-2, 7-9 Mark 12:13-17

Wednesday, June 7

Tobit 3:1-11a, 16-17a Psalm 25:2-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mark 12:18-27

Thursday, June 8

Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a Psalm 128:1-5 Mark 12:28-34

Friday, June 9

St. Ephrem, deacon and doctor of the Church Tobit 11:5-17 Psalm 146:1b-2, 6c-10 Mark 12:35-37

Saturday, June 10

Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20 (Response) Tobit 13:2, 6efgh, 7-8 Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, June 11

The Most Holy Trinity Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9 (Response) Daniel 3:52-56 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 John 3:16-18

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Christ invites his followers to join their penances to his perfect sacrifice

I am a Catholic and, at present, live in a retirement community. The non-Catholics here have said in



discussions that we do not need to do penance, that Jesus did it all for us.

They have gone so far as to claim that our doing penance is an insult to Christ, as if to say that all he did for us was not enough. (Ohio)

The Catholic Church has always Arecognized the fact that Christ's life, death and resurrection was more than enough to cover the debt of our sins. Penitential practices, far from downplaying the dimensions of Christ's redemption, show our profound gratitude for all that Jesus suffered for us.

The penance that the Church has consistently counseled is based in the Scriptures, links us to Christ in his suffering, shows sorrow for our sinfulness, strengthens us to resist temptation, opens us to the Holy Spirit and gives us grace to perform works of

The Jews of the Old Testament often fasted as a sign of their repentance: "I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes" (Dn 9:3), and personal sacrifice was endorsed by Jesus, who fasted for 40 days before beginning his public ministry and who once said, "when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ... and your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you" (Mt 6:17-18).

In his Letter to the Colossians, St. Paul mysteriously says that in his own sufferings, "I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church" (Col 1:24).

Over the centuries, the Church has not seen in this a denial of the inadequacy of Christ's death, but as an affirmation of the Lord's invitation to us to join our own hardships to Christ's suffering, and so to offer them up as a penance for sin.

I belong to a large parish and find my affiliation with it meaningful and positive—except for one thing. I've struggled with this, as I don't want to be unkind, so I would appreciate your guidance. One of our regular song leaders is difficult for me to listen to.

I understand that he is a volunteer and I don't expect professional musicians, but he is always half a step flat, cannot read music and sings very loudly. Parishioners visibly show their difficulty with his singing. Attending Mass at a different time is usually not an option for me, or I would try that.

Recently, when our parish surveyed us on what we thought about parish programs and services, I tried as tactfully as possible to address this situation—but several months have passed since, and this gentleman continues to lead us in song. I would think that he might be able to sing in a less prominent way—perhaps as a member of a choir, but not as a solo singer. (Missouri)

First, I should say that there's a fair Aamount of subjectivity when judging musicians. If, though, parishioners' discomfort is as universal as you suggest, the time has come for action. Since you've already tried raising the issue individually—apparently without result—the next step would be a more concerted effort.

I'd suggest that you find a couple of other parishioners who feel as you do and go together to see your pastor. This would create, of course, a certain awkwardness for him—the difficult thing about volunteers is that they are hard to fire—but it goes with the job. Worship is a pastor's highest responsibility, and the experience of worship must always be prayerful, not distracting or distressing.

(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. 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 46202-2367or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org. †

My Journey to God

Prince of Peace

By Sandy Bierly

Where is the peace My heart searches for? It's not found in things Or seeking more and more.

No, it's found in prayer, Conversation with God, While resting in silence In His presence here.

I share heart to heart, My deepest joys and trials, Giving all to the King of kings, Who is the Prince of Peace.



(Sandy Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. A student at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis prays before the Blessed Sacrament in the school chapel on Nov. 7, 2014.) (File photo by Natalie Hoefer)

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.

BANTZ, Henry, 68, St. Roch, Indianapolis, May 13. Husband of Linda Bantz. Stepfather of Jimmy and Tim Courtney. Step-grandfather of one.

BATES, Gloria R., 82, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, May 17. Mother of Rosemarie Johnson, Mary Sherman, Mark, Matthew and Michael Bates. Grandmother of nine.

BLANKEN, Alvin J., 84, Holy Family, Oldenburg, May 6. Husband of Shirley Blanken. Father of Tracy Blanken-Zeller, Doug, Eric, Greg, Jeff and Kelly Blanken. Brother of Jerome Blanken. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of six.

BROWN, Constance A. (Marsh), 70, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis, May 16. Mother of Cynthia Brown Deerwester, Jennifer Brown Keoshgerian, Angela, Marie, Theresa, James, Joseph and Kevin Brown. Sister of Rebecca Chaney, Viola Polley and Jeanne Stahl. Grandmother of four

BUMGARNER, Janet L.,

71, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, May 17. Mother of Sheri Luedeman and Tony Bumgarner. Sister of Sharon Hawks, Phil and Steve Schultz. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of 13.

DESIDERIO, Falco J., 85, St. Jude, Indianapolis, May 16. Father of Giovann Thomas. Brother of Mike Desiderio. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of three.

DUGGER, Danion T., 46, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, May 4. Husband of Annice Willard. Father of Josephine and Katherine Dugger. Son of Fred Dugger and Marguerite du Boulay. Brother of Rachael du Boulay, Dawn Krone and Rebecca Dugger.

ENGLISH, Alan R., 80, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis. April 21. Husband of Donna English. Father of Karen Lux, Kim Miggenburg, Kristy Powell, David, Jeff and Mark English. Brother of Barbara Dean, Judy Greene, Peggy Stinson and Jerry English. Grandfather of 17.

ERNSTBERGER, Perry J., 55, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, May 16. Father of Kristen and Sydney Ernstberger. Son of

Great-grandfather

of 10.

Paul and LaVerne Ernstberger. Brother of Jill Finnegan, April Libs and Tracy Loi.

FINK, Otho F., Sr., 91, St. Gabriel, Connersville, May 17. Husband of Marilyn Fink. Father of Sue Gunckel, Patricia Hunger, Nancy Porter and Frank Fink. Brother of Dorothy Hicks, Corena Marshall, Bill and Larry Fink. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of seven. Great-great-grandfather of two.

HIGHT, Beverly, 81, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, May 16. Wife of Fred Hight. Mother of Gregory Hight. Sister of Maralyn Hipskin, Lynda Zierman and Marland Myers. Grandmother of two.

JOURDAN, Diane, 52, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, May 12. Mother of Eileen and Anthony Jourdan. Sister of Karen Heraty, Mary Beth and Tim Burkey.

KENNEDY, Barbara V. (**Douglass**), 85, Holy Spirit,



Easter blessing

Pope Francis greets residents as he gives an Easter blessing to a home in a public housing complex in Ostia, a Rome suburb on the Mediterranean Sea on May 19. Continuing his Mercy Friday visits, the pope blessed a dozen homes in Ostia. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

Indianapolis, May 14.
Wife of Thomas Kennedy.
Mother of Joan Bruce, Marie
Chorpenning, Charles and John
Kennedy. Grandmother of 11.
Great-grandmother of eight.

KITLEY, Julie A., 32, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, May 17. Wife of John Kitley. Mother of John and Henry Kitley. Daughter of Richard and Nancy Harrison. Sister of Mollie Shick and Nathan Harrison.

KNABLE, Gilberte M., 86, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, May 21. Mother of Therese Winner, Elmer, Jr., Karl and Robert Knable. Sister of Evette Glascock. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of six.

LEONARD, Deborah A., 64, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, May 4. Sister of Elaine Daniel, Melissa Hutchison, Linda Mikels, Sharon Williams and Marybeth Leonard. Aunt of several.

LINNE, Darlisa, 48, Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brazil, April 26. Wife of Andrew Linne. Mother of Jamie Michael. Daughter of Darrell and Betty Porter. Sister of Becky Bennett, Jenny Johnson, Candy Mandeville, Carol McGee, Darlene Page, Sandy Stanley, Renea Waddel and Clifton Porter. Grandmother of two

LUKEN, Carol M., 63, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, May 2. Wife of Bill Luken. Mother of Susan Henderson, Benji and David Luken. Sister of Ann Collins, Katie Wood, Bill, John and Richard Fowler. Grandmother of one.

MILLER, Richard A., 90, St. Jude, Indianapolis, May 14. Father of Cammy Mauzy, Laura Simmons, Edie, Jean, Mark, Matt and Richard Miller. Grandfather of 14. Great-grandfather of five.

MILLER, Sharon, 70, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, May 14. Wife of Bill Miller. Mother of Billy, Greg and Tom Miller. Sister of Marcia Barnett, Donna Crone Gravitt, Lori Volpert and Buddy Crone.

PFERRER, Nanette (Fox), 88, St. Matthew the Apostle, Indianapolis, May 14. Wife of John Pferrer. Mother of Eric and Drew Pferrer. Grandmother of four.

SHERRY, Donald R., Jr., 48, St. Paul, Tell City, May 18. Husband of Michelle Sherry. Father of Brittany Backer-Cheatham, Courtney Backer, Caleb and Cameron Sherry. Son of Sandra and Donald Sherry, Sr. Brother of Peggy Greer, Jeffrey and Robert Sherry.

WAGNER, Charles, 85, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, May 19. Husband of Marilyn Wagner. Father of Liz Grant, Diane Rader, Sharon Roembke and Michael Wagner. Brother of Richard Wagner. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of seven.

WERNER, Floyd J., 80, Holy Family, Oldenburg, May 22. Father of Becky McLean, Carla Meer, Theresa Owens, Cora, Andy, Mark, Matthew and Steve Werner. Brother of Franciscan Sister Mary Louise, Charles, Donald and Ray Werner. Grandfather of 23. Great-grandfather of 11.

WHEELER, Margaret, 83, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville, May 12. Mother of Tricia McGuire, Donnie, Jake and Lonnie Wheeler. Grandmother of six. Step-grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of 10.

WHITTAKER, Ruth, 88, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, May 11. Wife of Charles Whittaker. Mother of Dawn Hess, Karen Long and Charles Whittaker. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of eight. †

God is no warlord claiming victory with enemies' blood, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—If it seems hard to find God in this world, it is because he chooses to be with the defeated and dejected and in places where most people are loath to go, Pope Francis said.

"God does not like to be loved the way a warlord would like, dragging his people to victory, debasing

them in the blood of his enemies," the pope said on May 24 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's

The audience began just after Pope Francis had met U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Our God is a dim flame that burns on a cold and

windy day, and, for as fragile as his presence seems in this world, he has chosen the place everyone disdains," Pope Francis told the crowd in the square.

Continuing his series of talks on Christian hope, the pope looked at the Gospel of Luke's account of the two disciples traveling on the road to Emmaus after Jesus had been crucified and buried.

In the story, the pope said, the disciples are struggling to understand how such a fate could have befallen the man they had faith in: the son of God.

Their hope was merely human, he said, and it easily shattered after such an unforeseen defeat of God, who appeared "defenseless at the hands of the violent, incapable of offering resistance to evil."

"How much unhappiness, how many defeats, how many failures there are in the life of every person. In essence, we are all like those two disciples," he said. Just when life seems to be going well, "we find ourselves struck down, disappointed."

But just as Jesus was on the road with the disciples, the pope said, he is also walking with everyone on their journey through life.

"Jesus walks with all those who are discouraged, who walk with their head down," so he can offer them renewed hope, he said.

But he does so discreetly, the pope said. "Our God is not an intrusive God."

Even though he knows what is bothering the disciples, he asks them a question and listens patiently, letting them tap into the depths of their bitterness and sadness.

Whoever reads the Bible will not find stories of "easy heroism, blazing campaigns of conquest. True hope never comes cheap—it always comes through defeat." †



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'Do-it-all' priest makes generous gift to Catholic schools in Madison

By John Shaughnessy

The touching scene led to smiles and even tears for everyone who witnessed it.

That emotional moment also helps explain the generous gift that the late Father Hilary Meny made to



the endowment of Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School and Pope John XXIII School, both in Madison.

As they headed to a state musical competition in 2014 in Evansville, Ind., the 45 members of Shawe's first marching band made a special stop in nearby Haubstadt to salute Father Meny just shy of his 100th birthday.

It was the band's way of thanking

and celebrating the priest, who led the efforts long ago to establish the two Catholic schools in Madison. As the students performed, Father Meny beamed and moved his hands like he was conducting the students.

You came a long way to say thank you," he told the band members. "That you did this for me is wonderful."

Father Meny's love for the two schools is reflected in the gift that he left Shawe and Pope John after he died at the age of 101 in late 2016—a gift of \$360,000 that was just recently announced.

"It is fitting that Father Meny would choose to support the schools with a lasting legacy as he was instrumental with respect to Shawe being built and took a leadership position during the construction and opening of Pope John," said Rob Barlow, president of the Friends of Shawe and Pope John Schools, a non-profit organization that has established an

endowment to support the long-term needs of the schools at Prince of Peace Parish.

Barlow added that the organization "is extremely grateful to have had the support of Father Meny for many years, and will be eternally grateful for his generosity."

Father Meny's connection to Madison began in 1949 when he became pastor of the former St. Patrick Parish. He served in the area for more than 40 years, according to Phil Kahn, president of the two Prince of Peace schools.

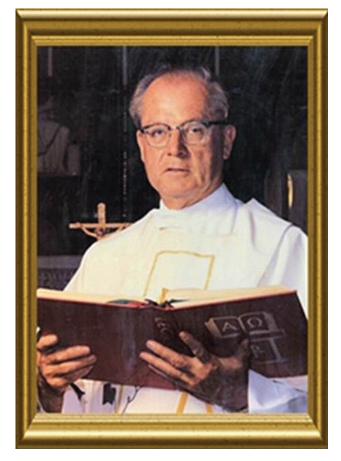
"Father Meny is still viewed as an iconic figure connecting both the Catholic community for the parish and the schools," Kahn said. "He was seen as a 'do-it-all' priest. Father Meny was not only the pastor but the administrator and the bookkeeper, and he mowed the grass and helped fix things around the church and the school. He cared deeply about this community and Shawe and Pope John."

With Father Meny's gift, Shawe will create an annual fund of \$10,000 to support the activities of the band, art and theater programs, Kahn said. A new sign will also be added to the front of the entrance to the Father Hilary Meny Gymnasium. And another \$8,000 was used to buy a new stage curtain for the gym.

One of Kahn's favorite memories of Father Meny extends back to his youth.

"When I was in school at Pope John and Shawe, you would always see him out walking the campus and picking up trash wherever he would be," recalled Kahn, a 1987 graduate of Shawe. "My thoughts were always like, 'Why is he always picking up trash on campus?'

"Today as I walk around campus, I always find myself bending over and picking up the trash that I see. It drives me crazy to see trash on our beautiful campus. I truly believe that Father Meny felt the same way. He was a great pastor and leader. He was always setting a great example for all of us to live by." †



Shown is a portrait of Father Hilary Meny. In his will, the priest left a \$360,000 gift to the endowment of Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School and Pope John XXIII School, both in Madison. (Submitted photo)

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Please send resumé, references and cover letter by **June 9** to:

Ken Rosenbaum, Chair St. James Principal Search Committee PO Box 201 • Harrods Creek, KY 40027 Or email: kgrosenbaum@bellsouth.net

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~ POSITION OPENING ~

The Indianapolis Council of St. Vincent de Paul is now seeking candidates for its presidency. This position is voluntary in nature and has a 3-year term beginning October 1, 2017.

Candidates for this position must be able to:

- lead a team of Vincentians who are committed to serving the needy within the Central and Southeastern communities of Indiana.
- work through District and Conference Presidents, as well as operating unit leaders and board members, to be the Council's voice to the Catholic, social services, and legislative communities (at both regional and local levels).

The president's responsibilities also include the spiritual growth of its members, financial solvency of the organization, and compliance with governance requirements.

Interested candidates are invited to send a letter of interest to:

Society of St. Vincent de Paul **Attn: Council President Nominating Committee** 3001 E. 30th St. - Indianapolis, IN 46218 or one can email: cnm.2007@hotmail.com



Coordinator of High School Youth Ministry St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church – Fishers, IN

St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church has an opening for a full-time Coordinator of High School Youth Ministry. The primary goal of the position is to develop and oversee a Youth Ministry program for teens in the parish in grades 9-12 and oversee and ensure Confirmation preparation.

Oualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Theology/Religious Studies or equivalent
- Experience in a parish youth ministry program, prefer 2+ years in a paid position
- Demonstrated skills in program organization and administration
- Practices a deep prayer life rooted in regular participation in the Sacraments of the Catholic Church
- Willingness to work a very flexible schedule (many evenings and weekends required) while also holding regular office hours during the week
- Prefers working in a collaborative, creative process within a team
- Ecclesial Lay Minister Certification and/or Certificate in Youth Ministry (or willingness to pursue)

Applicants are encouraged to show their interest as soon as possible. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resumé to:

> **Sandy Schrader** St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church 11441 Hague Road • Fishers, IN 6038 sschrader@sldmfishers.org

Knowing that Pope Francis frequently has quoted the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Trump presented Pope Francis with a large gift box containing five of the slain civil rights leader's books, including a signed copy of The Strength to Love.

"I think you will enjoy them," Trump told the pope. "I hope you do."

After meeting the pope, Trump went downstairs to meet Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister. He was accompanied by Rex Tillerson, U.S. secretary of state, and H.R. McMaster, his national security adviser. The meeting lasted 50 minutes.

Tillerson later told reporters that climate change did not come up in the meeting with the pope, but that U.S. officials had "a good exchange on the climate change issue" with Cardinal Parolin.

"The cardinal was expressing their view that they think it's an important issue," Tillerson said. "I think they were encouraging continued participation in the Paris accord. But we had a good exchange [on] the difficulty of balancing addressing climate change, responses to climate change, and ensuring that you still have a thriving economy and you can still offer people jobs so they can feed their families and have a prosperous economy."

Asked how Trump responded to Cardinal Parolin's encouragement to stick with the Paris climate agreement, Tillerson said: "The president indicated we're still thinking about that, that he hasn't made a final decision. He, I think, told both Cardinal Parolin and also told [Italian] Prime Minister [Paolo] Gentiloni that this is something that he would be taking up for a decision when we return from this trip. It's an opportunity to hear from people. We're developing our own recommendation on that. So it'll be something that will probably be decided after we get home."

Tillerson also told reporters he did not know what Trump meant when he told the pope, "I won't forget what you said."

The Vatican described the president's meetings with both the pope and with top Vatican diplomats as consisting of "cordial discussions," with both sides appreciating "the good existing bilateral relations between the Holy See and the United States of America, as well as the joint commitment in favor of life, and freedom of religion and of conscience."

'It is hoped that there may be serene collaboration between the state and the Catholic Church in the United States, engaged in service to the people in the fields of health care, education and assistance to immigrants," the Vatican said.

The discussions also included "an exchange of views" on international affairs and on "the promotion of peace in the world through political negotiation and interreligious dialogue, with particular reference to the situation in the Middle East and the protection of Christian communities."

Because of the pope's weekly general audience, Pope Francis and Trump met at 8:30 a.m., an unusually early hour for a formal papal meeting. The early hour meant Pope Francis still could greet the thousands of pilgrims and visitors waiting for him in St. Peter's Square.

Reaching the St. Damasus Courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where the U.S. flag flew for the morning, Trump was welcomed by Archbishop Georg Ganswein, prefect of the papal household, and a formation of 15 Swiss Guards.

Although the president and Pope Francis are known to have serious differences on issues such as immigration, economic policy and climate change, the pope told reporters 11 days before the meeting that he would look first for common ground with the U.S. leader.

"There are always doors that are not closed," the pope told reporters on May 13. "We have to find doors that are at least a little open in order to go in and



Melania Trump, wife of U.S. President Donald Trump, hugs a patient as she visits Bambino Gesu Hospital in Rome on May 24. (CNS photo/Evandro Inetti, pool)

speak about things we have in common and go forward."

After leaving the Vatican, the president was driven across Rome for meetings with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni.

Asked by reporters there how his meeting with the pope went, Trump responded, "Great."

"He is something," Trump said. "We had a fantastic meeting.

Meanwhile, the first lady went to the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesu children's hospital—right next door to the Pontifical North American College, which is where U.S. seminarians in Rome live. Trump's daughter, Ivanka, went to the Community of Sant'Egidio, a Catholic lay movement, for a meeting on combating human trafficking.

The United States and the Vatican have long partnered on anti-trafficking initiatives, a common effort White House officials had said Trump hoped to discuss with the pope. The White House also pointed to a shared commitment to promote religious freedom around the world and to end religious persecution.

The evening before Trump met the pope, the Vatican newspaper carried two articles on Trump policies. One, echoing the U.S. bishops, praised the Trump administration's decision to extend by six months the Temporary Protected Status program for Haitian citizens in the United

The second article was about the budget plan the Trump White House released on May 23. L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, noted that it contained cuts in subsidies "for the poorest segments of the population," and "a drastic—10 percent—increase for military spending."

What is more, the newspaper said, "the budget also includes financing for the construction of the wall along the border with Mexico. We are talking about more than \$1.6 billion." †

