



The

# Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



## Giving 'God's love'

Catholic Charities Terre Haute celebrates 50 years, page 3.

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## 'It was nothing like I could have ever imagined'



Members of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg are all smiles as they pose for a group photo in Portugal during World Youth Day, a celebration of the Catholic faith that drew 1.5 million young people from around the globe. (Submitted photo)



## Archbishop Thompson and other World Youth Day pilgrims share moments that touched their lives

By John Shaughnessy

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson quickly focuses on his most memorable moments from World Youth Day in Portugal, a celebration of the Catholic faith with Pope Francis that drew about 1.5 million young people from around the globe.

The archbishop especially recalls his two-day visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima—one day with the 60 U.S. bishops who joined in the celebration of faith on Aug. 1-6, the next day with the other 187 pilgrims from the archdiocese who made the journey to Portugal.

"The pilgrimage to Fatima was a particularly grace-filled

See **WORLD YOUTH DAY**, page 9

## With 32 seminarians, archdiocese has most potential future priests since 1997

By Sean Gallagher

**TIPTON COUNTY**—As a new year of priestly formation starts at two seminaries in the archdiocese, the Church in central and southern Indiana has 32 seminarians, the most it's had since 1997.

See **SEMINARIANS**, page 12

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson blesses nine new archdiocesan seminarians during an Aug. 15 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. He is assisted by transitional Deacon Samuel Rosko, left, and altar server Joe Gehret. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)





# Pro-life advocates rejoice as law saving most unborn babies in Indiana finally takes effect

By Natalie Hoefler

Almost a year after the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana, Planned Parenthood and other plaintiffs filed a suit on Aug. 30, 2022, charging that Indiana's new law protecting the lives of most unborn children (Senate Enrolled Act 1, or SEA 1) violated the state's constitution, the law finally went into effect on Aug. 21.

On that date, the Indiana Supreme Court denied a July 31 request by the plaintiffs to re-hear their case. The Court had ruled on June 30 that the law was not in violation of the state's constitution.

Now officially in effect, the law prohibits abortion except up to 10 weeks gestation in instances of rape or incest, up to 20 weeks gestation in cases of lethal fetal anomalies, or when the mother's life is in danger from specific medical issues.

It also requires that abortions take place at a hospital or a hospital-owned surgery center, effectively closing abortion centers in the state.

"This is truly an historic day," said Indiana Right to Life president and CEO Mike Fichter in a video statement released on Aug. 21. "We are so thankful to the thousands upon thousands of Hoosiers who worked so hard for over 50 years to bring this day about."

In an interview with *The Criterion*, Right to Life Indianapolis president



Marc Tuttle

Marc Tuttle noted that "under the new protections in Indiana law, it's estimated that 9,000 fewer babies will be aborted per year. We all have to rejoice at 9,000 precious lives being spared annually."

Brie Anne Varick, director of the archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity, shares Tuttle's sentiments.

"We have waited for SEA 1 to finally take effect, and I rejoice that the prayers of the faithful have been answered and abortion clinics in Indiana will finally be closed," she shared with *The Criterion*.

Varick also noted that "with any victory in a war, there is joy that the battle has been won, but there is also grief as we acknowledge all the loss.

"There is great work left to do as we, through the grace of God, continue to heal, transform and unify the hearts of our community and our nation."



Brie Anne Varick

Indiana was the first state to call a special General Assembly after the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24, 2022, decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* returned power to the

states in regulating abortion.

SEA 1 was signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb on Aug. 6, 2022. It was in effect between Sept. 15-22 that year, but a preliminary injunction issued on Sept. 22 as result of the ACLU/Planned Parenthood lawsuit placed the law on hold.

After the state Supreme Court's June 30 decision that the law is not in violation of the state's constitution, SEA 1 remained on hold for 30 days per state law to allow time for the plaintiffs to request a rehearing. A request was filed on July 31, causing the law to remain on hold until the court decided on Aug. 21 not to re-hear the case.

Another case charging that the law violates religious freedom is making its way through the Indiana court system. No preliminary injunction is in place for the case except for the few individuals comprising the plaintiffs.

"The pro-life community stands ready to offer help and assistance to moms in need," said Tuttle. "Now is the time for Hoosiers to come together to show that we are generous enough to support all moms and babies in our state."

Varick agreed.

"We must double our efforts and continue to pray and support those in need of healing from the trauma of abortion," said Varick. "We must continue to love and walk with moms in need, so they know they are not alone."

She is hopeful regarding the work ahead.

"As Christian people, we do not despair but live in hope," said Varick. "What God has started, he will bring to completion."

(For information on local ministries and organizations that support moms in need, go to [www.walkingwithmomsindy.org](http://www.walkingwithmomsindy.org).) †



## Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

August 26–September 7, 2023

**August 26 – 11 a.m.**

Confirmation for youths of All Saints Parish, Dearborn County; St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish, Bright; St. Lawrence Parish, Lawrenceburg; and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Aurora, at St. Louis Church, Batesville

**August 26 – 4 p.m.**

Mass and picnic for 150th Anniversary of Little Sisters of the Poor in Indianapolis at St. Augustine Home, Indianapolis

**August 27 – 2 p.m.**

Archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

**August 28 – 5:30 p.m.**

Echo, ACE, FOCUS fall gathering, Archbishop's residence, Indianapolis

**August 29 – 9:30 a.m.**

Catholic Center department gathering at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

**August 29 – 1 p.m.**

Council of Priests meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

**August 29 – 7 p.m.**

Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Barnabas Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

**August 30 – 11 a.m.**

College of Deans meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

**August 31 – 10 a.m.**

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

**August 31-September 3**

Bishops' support group meeting at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad

**September 5 – 10:30 a.m.**

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

**September 5 – 5:30 p.m.**

Mass with Missionaries of Charity at St. Philip Neri Church, Indianapolis

**September 6 – 10 a.m.**

Mass for the students of St. Mary School, Rushville, at St. Mary Church

**September 6 – 1 p.m.**

Visit to Seton Catholic High School, Richmond

**September 7 – 10 a.m.**

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

**September 7 – 6 p.m.**

Saint Meinrad Alumni Dinner at The Montage, Indianapolis

## Indiana Biking for Babies will take place on Sept. 8-10, midpoint rally on Sept. 9

The 10th annual Indiana Biking for Babies ride to help raise funds for the Indiana Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative will take place on Sept. 8-10. Monies raised are used by the Knights to purchase life-saving ultrasound machines for Indiana Women's Care Centers in hopes of more mothers choosing life for their unborn child.

Several roles need to be filled for this year's event: bikers, donors, cheerleaders, sponsors and prayer warriors.

Bikers are needed to ride either the entire 170 miles—from the Illinois-Indiana state line west of Terre Haute to the Indiana-Ohio state line east of Richmond—or any leg of the three-day journey. Each rider has a goal of raising at least \$300. The team goal is to raise \$35,000, the approximate cost of a new ultrasound machine. The Knights

of Columbus' Supreme Headquarters in New Haven, Conn., will match every dollar with the goal of purchasing two ultrasound machines. To donate or to register to ride, visit [www.kofc437.com](http://www.kofc437.com).

A midpoint rally will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., in Indianapolis, at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 9. The rally will include prayer and talks from pro-life speakers.

According to a Poynter Institute Politifact article, nearly 90% of women in a crisis pregnancy choose life for their child after seeing an ultrasound image.

For more information, contact team captain Robert Newport at [ranewport@gmail.com](mailto:ranewport@gmail.com) or Larry Kunkel, life director for the Indiana State Council of the Knights of Columbus, at [life@indianakofc.org](http://life@indianakofc.org). †

## Pope's prayer intentions for September



• **For people living on the margins**—We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

See Pope Francis' monthly intentions at [archindy.org/popesintentions](http://archindy.org/popesintentions).

## Correction

For the Mass celebrating the 200th anniversary of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyds Knobs at 10:30 a.m. on

Oct. 15, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will bless the parish's restored 1865 bell after the liturgy. †

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**Staff:**  
 Editor: Mike Krokos  
 Assistant Editor: John Shaughnessy  
 Reporter: Sean Gallagher  
 Reporter: Natalie Hoefler  
 Graphic Designer / Online Editor: Brandon A. Evans  
 Executive Assistant: Ann Lewis

MEMBER  
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# Catholic Charities Terre Haute celebrates 50 years of giving ‘God’s love’

By Natalie Hoefler

Patricia “Pat” Etling recalls her husband John receiving a call decades ago from a gas station at 2 a.m. There was a family with children stranded there with no money for gas or food.

“John said to go ahead and give them some gas, and he’d be by soon with some food,” Pat recalls.

“I said, ‘I don’t understand why people who know they have no money for gas or food go out on the road.’ John said, ‘That’s not for us to ask. They’re here and they need help.’ That really made a mark on me—it’s not ours to ask why, just to help.”

That mentality is still at work 50 years later through Catholic Charities Terre Haute (CCTH), co-founded by John E. Etling and Father Donald Schmidlin (both now deceased) in September of 1973. John served as the agency’s director for 32 years—with help and support from Pat every step of the way.

Through its food bank, Ryves Youth Center, Bethany House temporary emergency shelter, food bank, Christmas Store and other programs, CCTH has helped more than 1.2 million people in need in the Wabash Valley area of western Indiana during the last five decades.

“I’m really proud that it was led by my dad and my mom,” says John C. Etling, who has served as the agency’s director since his dad retired in 2005. “There’s a lot of people better off because of it.”

## ‘If you want to do it, do it’

Teaching at a middle school and at the former Gibault School for Boys, both in Terre Haute, John E. was familiar with—and troubled by—the problems faced by struggling families.

He asked a religious brother at the school who also served on the archdiocesan board for Catholic Charities, “Why can’t we do something in Terre Haute like [Catholic Charities] in Indianapolis?” Pat recalls.

The religious brother asked the board, “and they said if you want to do it, do it.”

When CCTH began in 1973, “It was a time that local civic and religious leaders were troubled by the growing number of people experiencing hunger, suffering from prolonged unemployment and seeking assistance,” says David Bethuram, executive director of the archdiocese’s Secretariat for Catholic Charities.

“It was acknowledged that a more comprehensive and big-picture approach was needed to tackle the ever-increasing challenges. John E. and Patricia answered that call.”

The agency’s first program began in 1975. Refugees from Vietnam were pouring into the United States, and CCTH was tasked with resettling 260 of them.

“That was something else,” says Pat. “Some were whole families.”

Helping the refugees included providing clothing and food, so the agency began a free clothes closet program and a food pantry, of which the former is still in operation.

The agency’s Christmas Store opened in 1976. For three weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, it provides 600 families with new clothing, undergarments, linens, hygiene products, household items and toys “so they can experience the joy of Christmas morning with their families and maybe have a little hope for moving forward,” says John.

The Christmas Store, which receives items through individual donations as well as unsold items from certain retailers, also serves year-round as a resource for flood and fire victims.

## ‘The ultimate goal ... is long term housing’

Catholic Charities Terre Haute’s next program, Simeon House, launched in 1978. The program offered community living for those ages 65 and older. It closed in 2007.

But the agency’s next program, Bethany House temporary emergency shelter, is still in operation. Opened in 1980, Bethany House provides temporary housing, food, clothing and case management for families, single women and married couples seeking safe housing.

Some of its first residents were among the 60 Cuban refugees the agency was asked to resettle in 1981—one of whom still works at the food bank, says Pat.

Since it opened, Bethany House has undergone two major renovations and served nearly 35,000 people.

“The average stay is 120 days,” says John.

During that time, the staff help residents develop job skills, and mental health counselors are also available.

“We especially work to help them get some money in reserve so they can withstand emergencies and not go back into the shelter,” John says. “The ultimate goal is to help people find permanent, stable, long-term housing.”

Bethany House also offered a soup kitchen until 2016. That year, it offered sack lunches on weekends and holidays, but moved the weekday full meal operation to Ryves Youth Center.

## ‘They feel included and loved’

Ryves opened in 1982 in response to a growing need for after-school care for impoverished youths.

“There were three schools in close proximity” in a neighborhood of the former St. Ann Parish, John explains. “The make-up of the community was shifting. There was a lot of



Patricia Etling, left, Terre Haute mayor Duke Bennett (behind Patricia), Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and Catholic Charities Terre Haute agency director John C. Etling cut a ribbon for the opening of Catholic Charities Terre Haute’s newly constructed foodbank during a ceremony on April 29, 2019, in Terre Haute. (File photo by Natalie Hoefler)

unemployment, dysfunction, drug use and poverty.”

Using the basement level of an unfinished church started decades prior by a St. Ann pastor named Father John Ryves, CCTH started an after-school program—named for the priest—for the neighborhood youths, providing them with food and activities.

The program and building—rededicated as Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall in 2002—have expanded through the years. In addition to activities and a hot meal, the weekday afternoon program for youths ages 5-17 now offers a gym, computer lab, tutoring, educational

programs and a full-day preschool for 3- to 5-year-old children experiencing homelessness or other special housing needs.

Ryves has served about 46,300 youths since it was founded 41 years ago.

Jim Edwards served as director of the youth center for 40 of those years, retiring in May 2022. At that time, he told *The Criterion* about Ryves’ many programs.

But those programs “are things,” he said. “What’s more important is [the children] walk in and they feel included and loved, and they need to feel those things.”

See CHARITIES, page 14



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## Editorial



St. John Paul II meets with Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos on May 13, 1982, in Fatima, Portugal. One year earlier, the pope survived an attempted assassination at the Vatican. The pope, in thanksgiving that his life was spared, had one of the bullets that struck him embedded in the crown of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. (OSV News photo/courtesy of Shrine of Fatima)

## A woman's story teaches us to persevere on our journey of faith

We can learn a simple life lesson from the Canaanite woman asking Jesus to heal her daughter in last weekend's Gospel (Mt 15:21-28).

Her story shows that perseverance is a characteristic that will serve us well on our journey of faith.

With today's it's-all-about-me attitude that some have adopted, it should come as no surprise that wanting something—and demanding it now!—has become a staple for far too many in today's ever-increasingly secularistic world. Some would even say it's become human nature to get anything and everything an individual wants—no questions asked. But it's an unhealthy habit that we believe is very detrimental if people get everything they want at a moment's notice.

Past generations were taught at a young age that patience was a virtue. Waiting for something was an important life lesson. (Remember the adage: "Good things come to those who wait?") But has that life lesson fallen by the wayside—not only where our children are concerned, but also wherever we are on our earthly pilgrimage?

We've had universal shepherds past and present talk about the gift of perseverance. During an *Angelus* address last fall, Pope Francis told his audience perseverance means being disciplined and persistent in understanding what the Lord wants for us, and to not lose focus on what that is. It means asking ourselves, he continued, about how well we persevere in striving to live by faith, justice and charity in our daily lives.

On more than one occasion, St. John Paul II mentioned the perseverance of saints and how it helped them overcome challenges they faced. The majority of saints—from the Blessed Mother to St. Peter, from St. Joan of Arc to St. Maximilian Kolbe and so many others—persevered with the aid of God's grace through what life presented them, knowing because of their faith

they were not facing those difficulties alone. Is there a better example of perseverance in prayer than St. Monica, who prayed for years for the conversion of her son St. Augustine?

John Paul II himself offered a wonderful example of perseverance. Despite an assassination attempt and serious health issues that filled his pontificate during his later years, he lived out his vocation as our shepherd to its fullest until God called him home.

Like St. John Paul II and all the saints who have gone before us, the Canaanite woman in the Gospel showed great faith. And despite Jesus' initial rebuttal—"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Mt 15:24)—there is humility and truth in her response: "Lord, help me" (Mt 15:25), she pleads, and later, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters" (Mt 15:27).

Jesus' response, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish," (Mt 15:28) should offer us all hope as it leads to the woman's prayer for her daughter's healing being answered.

A search through Scripture will reveal verses that implore us to persevere in prayer on our journey of faith, including in St. Paul's Letter to the Romans: "Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer" (Rom 12:12).

Like the Canaanite woman, our faith teaches us we must pray constantly and never grow tired of prayer during difficult times.

As Pope Francis said during an *Angelus* address last November: "If we persevere—Jesus reminds us—we have nothing to fear, even in the sad and ugly events of life, not even in the evil we see around us, because we remain grounded in the good. ... May Our Lady, servant of the Lord, persevering in prayer fortify our perseverance."

—Mike Krokos

## Reflection/Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

### WYD experience provides a great infusion of renewed hope

While I must admit to some hesitation about attending World Youth Day (WYD) 2023 in Lisbon, I certainly have



no regrets about having done so. It was a wonderful experience. The Church and city of Lisbon did an amazing job! The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) staff was great as well.

In addition to the opportunity to gather with the other 187 pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the time in Lisbon was a special time to bond with several bishops in a way that is not possible amid the full schedule of meetings during our spring and fall USCCB gatherings. Time was well spent with our diocesan groups, other bishops and staff members while having the opportunity to meet so many other people along the way. It was transformational for many!

Our Lady of Fatima certainly held a prominent place of pilgrimage and inspiration for WYD 2023, which was permeated by a Marian theme of "Rise Up!," based on the Blessed Virgin Mary's response of visiting Elizabeth immediately following the annunciation by the archangel Gabriel, but very Christ-centered throughout the experience. The small group sharing of the catechetical sessions, based on the synodal way of listening to the experiences, concerns and hopes of the young people, was particularly insightful and inspiring.

The highlight for many, of course, is the opportunity to gather with the Holy Father. Pope Francis was well-received and embraced by pilgrims of all ages. He spoke to the young people about being beloved children of God, embraced by the Church, called to holiness and mission, and the need to trust in the mercy of God to heal wounds.

He especially encouraged young people to rise above their fears and

dare to believe in themselves as capable of missionary discipleship in making a difference in the lives of others. Praying the Stations of the Cross was a particularly moving experience.

The bishops had several opportunities to encounter the young people, both within our diocesan groups and beyond, in various ways of dialogue and accompaniment. We met them in parks, churches, plazas, restaurants, and on the streets. They exuded joy for the Gospel, love for Jesus, devotion to the Catholic faith, and a desire to serve.

Their enthusiasm for Jesus Christ and the Church, especially during and following the large events, was particularly palpable.

Several spoke of having profound personal experiences of encountering the Lord and being called to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Several others shared about concerns back home for family members, friends and others who had fallen away from the Church and/or experiencing struggles in their lives. Still others just wanted to encounter and be encountered. As depicted on the official WYD 2023 Lisbon emblem, "JMJ," it seemed that all were entrusting their hopes and desires, concerns and fears, to God through Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The experience of WYD provides a great infusion of renewed hope. The young people, we must always keep in mind, are not the future Church but the young Church of today.

As we know through engagement at confirmations, graduations, young adult gatherings, etc., young people have much to offer the Church by way of their gifts, talents and energy. We can never tire of calling them forth and embracing all that they have to offer.

(Archbishop Charles C. Thompson is the shepherd of the archdiocese.) †

## Letter to the Editor

### Thank you, Archbishop Thompson, for reaffirming God has a plan for us

This is to say "thanks" for Archbishop Charles C. Thompson's column on life (Lazarus' story shows God's love and life-giving power") in the July 28 issue of *The Criterion*.

There's so much bad news on the TV—almost every night—that sometimes it's easy to wonder: "God, where are you? Are you still in charge?"

The archbishop's column reaffirms that God is not only in charge but has a plan for each of us, and that plan is centered

on knowing him, being in a relationship with him, and life.

In the end, even death will not stop this plan, being swallowed up by life. In just a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we will go from this world to the next and see Jesus.

Thank you, Archbishop Thompson, for the column and the friendly and encouraging reminder.

Sonny Shanks  
Corydon

## Letters Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



# Christ the Cornerstone

## The question that Jesus asks each of us to answer

In the Gospel reading for this weekend, the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus poses a direct question that every baptized Christian must answer in his or her own words:

*Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:13-16).*

"Who do you say that I am?" is the question Jesus asks each one of us. Our answers determine both our relationship to him and our ability to follow him faithfully. Who is Jesus in my life? Is he a friend and brother? Is he my sovereign Lord, the one to whom I owe absolute devotion and obedience? Is he my Redeemer who has saved me from the powers of sin and death?

The disciples' initial response was non-committal. They reported what others were saying. Some said John the Baptist. Others said Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Only Peter takes a firm stand: "You are the Christ, the

Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16). As a result, Jesus praises Peter and entrusts him with the sacred duty to lead his Church and to make binding decisions on Earth as in heaven:

*Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on Earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on Earth shall be loosed in heaven (Mt 16:17-19).*

Peter is not wise or learned. He is not a man of wealth or social status. He is a simple fisherman, but he is clearly a good man who has opened his mind and heart to the Word of God. What God the Father has revealed to Peter changes his life forever. It will also change the world.

In this Sunday's second reading (Rom 11: 33-36), St. Paul exclaims, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable

his ways!" (Rom 11:33). We might express the same utter amazement in response to Jesus' question: "Who do you say the Son of Man is?"

God the Father has given us the great gift of his only Son through the action of the Holy Spirit, and we have been empowered to proclaim this good news to the ends of the Earth. Can it really be true that we have been allowed to see the face of God in Jesus "the Christ, the Son of the living God"? And even more amazing, that we have been invited to join with Peter and all the disciples in building Christ's Church here on Earth throughout the whole world until the end of time?

St. Paul acknowledges that God's plan for each of us and for the whole world is far beyond our comprehension. "For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen" (Rom 11:34-36).

Pope Benedict XVI once wrote that for Christians the only

acceptable answer to Jesus' question is a profound but simple declaration (like Peter's) that affirms Jesus as "the meaning of my life and of the world."

If Jesus is not the fundamental center of my own life, there is no way that I can effectively proclaim him as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" to others. If we cannot give witness to Christ as the meaning of our lives, then belief in him is relative. Like the original disciples, all we can do is report what other people say: "Jesus is a good man, a prophet, a healer or an inspiring preacher."

But Jesus asks much more from us. He asks us to declare with our whole mind and heart and strength that he is God, the meaning of our lives and of the world. There should be nothing noncommittal about our response to the Lord's question. He is either everything to us (the center of our being) or he is merely incidental (on the fringes of our lives).

When we hear this Gospel proclaimed this weekend, let's respond boldly: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" †



# Cristo, la piedra angular

## La pregunta que Jesús nos pide a cada uno de nosotros que respondamos

En la lectura del Evangelio de este fin de semana, el vigésimo primer domingo del tiempo ordinario, Jesús plantea una pregunta directa que todo cristiano bautizado debe responder con sus propias palabras:

*"¿Quién dice la gente que es el Hijo del hombre?" Ellos dijeron: "Unos dicen que es Juan el Bautista; otros, que es Elías; y otros, que es Jeremías o alguno de los profetas". Él les preguntó: "Y ustedes, ¿quién dicen que soy yo?" Simón Pedro respondió: "¡Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente!" (Mt 16: 13-16).*

"Y ustedes ¿quién dicen que soy yo?" es la pregunta que Jesús nos hace a cada uno de nosotros. Nuestras respuestas determinan tanto nuestra relación con él como nuestra capacidad para seguirle fielmente. ¿Quién es Jesús en mi vida? ¿Es un amigo y un hermano? ¿Es mi Señor soberano, aquel a quien debo devoción y obediencia absolutas? ¿Es mi Redentor que me ha salvado de los poderes del pecado y de la muerte?

La respuesta inicial de los discípulos no demostraba su compromiso. Sencillamente informaban lo que decían los demás; algunos dijeron que Juan el Bautista; otros dijeron Elías, Jeremías o alguno

de los profetas. Únicamente Pedro adopta una postura firme: "¡Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente!" (Mt 16:16). Como resultado, Jesús elogia a Pedro y le confía el sagrado deber de dirigir su Iglesia y tomar decisiones vinculantes tanto en la Tierra como en el cielo:

*Bienaventurado eres, Simón, hijo de Jonás, porque no te lo reveló ningún mortal, sino mi Padre que está en los cielos. Y yo te digo que tú eres Pedro, y sobre esta roca edificaré mi iglesia, y las puertas del Hades no podrán vencerla. Te daré las llaves del reino de los cielos; Todo lo que ates en la tierra será atado en los cielos, y todo lo que desates en la tierra será desatado en los cielos. (Mt 16:17-19).*

Pedro no es sabio ni erudito. No es un hombre rico ni de estatus social. Es un simple pescador, pero es claramente un buen hombre que ha abierto su mente y su corazón a la Palabra de Dios. Lo que Dios Padre le ha revelado a Pedro cambia su vida para siempre. También cambiará el mundo.

En la lectura del Evangelio de este domingo, (Rom 11:33-36), san Pablo exclama, "¡Qué profundas son las riquezas de la sabiduría y

del conocimiento de Dios! ¡Cuán incomprensibles son sus juicios, e inescrutables sus caminos!" (Rom 11:33). Podríamos expresar el mismo asombro absoluto en respuesta a la pregunta de Jesús: "¿Quién dice la gente es el Hijo del hombre?"

Dios Padre nos ha concedido el gran don de su Hijo único mediante la acción del Espíritu Santo, y nosotros hemos sido facultados para proclamar esta Buena Nueva hasta los confines de la Tierra. ¿Acaso es realmente cierto que se nos haya permitido ver el rostro de Dios en Jesús "el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios vivo"? Y aún más asombroso, ¿que nos hayan invitado a unirnos a Pedro y a todos los discípulos en la construcción de la Iglesia de Cristo aquí en la Tierra por todo el mundo hasta el final de los tiempos?

San Pablo reconoce que el plan de Dios para cada uno de nosotros y para el mundo entero está mucho más allá de nuestra comprensión. "¿Quién ha conocido la mente del Señor, o quién ha sido su consejero? ¿Quién le ha dado primero a Dios, para que luego Dios le pague? Porque todas las cosas proceden de él, y existen por él y para él. ¡A él sea la gloria por siempre! Amén" (Rom 11:34-36).

El Papa Benedicto XVI escribió en una ocasión que para los cristianos la única respuesta aceptable a la pregunta de Jesús es una declaración profunda pero sencilla (como la de Pedro) que afirme a Jesús como "el sentido de mi vida y del mundo."

Si Jesús no es el centro fundamental de mi propia vida, no hay forma de que pueda proclamarlo eficazmente como "el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios vivo" a los demás. Si no podemos dar testimonio de Cristo como el sentido de nuestras propias vidas, entonces creer en él es relativo. Al igual que los discípulos originales, lo único que podemos hacer es informar lo que dicen los demás: "Jesús es un hombre bueno, un profeta, un sanador o un predicador que nos inspira."

Pero Jesús nos pide mucho más: nos pide que declaremos con toda nuestra mente, corazón y fuerza que él es Dios, el sentido de nuestras vidas y del mundo. Nuestra respuesta a la pregunta del Señor no debe ser nada evasiva. O lo es todo para nosotros (el centro de nuestro ser) o es meramente incidental (al margen de nuestras vidas).

Cuando oigamos proclamar este Evangelio este fin de semana, respondamos con audacia: "¡Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente!" †



# Events Calendar

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

## September 1

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

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Mass 6 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, [msross1@hotmail.com](mailto:msross1@hotmail.com).

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Friday Devotion**, 11:40 a.m., litany, consecration to the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by noon Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

## September 2

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Saturday Devotion**, 8 a.m., rosary, litany, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, confessions 8:10-8:30 a.m. followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

## September 3

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, Pump House Studio, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Bluegrass Jam**, 5:30 p.m., free. Information: [franciscansusa.org/bluegrass-jam](http://franciscansusa.org/bluegrass-jam).

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, St. John the Evangelist campus, 9995 E. Base Rd., Greensburg. **Church Picnic**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., food served noon-4 p.m., Fireside Inn fried chicken or roast beef dinners, mock turtle soup, pies, games, basket booth, raffles, country store, beer garden, free

admission. Information: 812-212-8384, [stcatherine47240@gmail.com](mailto:stcatherine47240@gmail.com).

## September 4

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4773 Church Rd., Morris. **Labor Day Picnic**, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., live music, beer garden, kids' games, grand raffle, fried chicken dinners \$14, free admission. Information: 812-934-6218, [communications@stanthonymorris.org](mailto:communications@stanthonymorris.org).

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Rd., Brookville. **Labor Day Festival**, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., fried chicken dinner, air-conditioned hall, children's games, \$30,000 raffle, quilt raffle, beer garden, free admission. Information: 765-647-5462, [brookvilleparishes.com](http://brookvilleparishes.com), [brookvilleparishes@gmail.com](mailto:brookvilleparishes@gmail.com).

## September 5

Christ the King Parish, 5884 N. Crittenden Ave., Indianapolis. **The Eucharist and Christian Unity**, 7 p.m., theologian Dr. Brett Salkeld presenting, free. Information: 317-255-3666, [qjeffries@ctk-indy.org](mailto:qjeffries@ctk-indy.org).

## September 6

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605.

## September 7

**Monthly Prayer with Sisters of Providence: "Autumn,"** for single Catholic women ages 18-42, via Zoom, 7-7:45 p.m., seventh day of each month. Information, registration:

[Events.SistersofProvidence.org](http://Events.SistersofProvidence.org), 361-500-9505, [jluna@spsmw.org](mailto:jluna@spsmw.org).

## September 8-9

Prince of Peace Schools, 201 W. State St., Madison. **Shaw and Pope John Summer Festival**, 5 p.m.-midnight, carnival rides, family games, concessions, live music, \$5 admission. Information: 812-273-5835.

## September 8-10

Dominican Sisters of Peace, 2645 Bardstown Rd., St. Catharine, Ky. **Come and See Retreat**, 5:30 p.m. Fri.-1 p.m. Sun., for women ages 18-45 exploring religious life, free. Registration, information: [oppeace.org](http://oppeace.org), 405-248-7027, [Mai-Dung.Nguyen@oppeace.org](mailto:Mai-Dung.Nguyen@oppeace.org).

## September 9

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. **French Market**, noon-10 p.m., live music, 50 artisan booths, French food, bake sale, raffle, children's games until 5 p.m., Mass 5:30 p.m., free admission. Information: 317-283-5508, [sjoa.org/about-french-market](http://sjoa.org/about-french-market).

## September 10

St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. **Chicken Dinner Festival**, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken dinner, raffles, drive-thru or carry-out, food item prices vary, free admission. Information: 765-647-5462, [brookvilleparishes@gmail.com](mailto:brookvilleparishes@gmail.com).

St. Pius V Parish, 330 Franklin St., Troy. **Fall Festival**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., eat-in or carry-out dinners, concessions, soup by the gallon, cash raffle, quilt raffle, prizes, games, free admission. Information: 812-547-7994.

St. Mary Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., Rushville. **Fall Celebration**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner served 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., grand raffle, children's games, crafts, vendor booths, free admission. Information: 765-932-2588, [dsapaeth@stmaryrush.org](mailto:dsapaeth@stmaryrush.org).

## September 12

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Taizé Prayer at the Woods**, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available. Information: [Taize.SistersofProvidence.org](http://Taize.SistersofProvidence.org), 812-535-2952.

## September 12-Oct. 24

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Rd., Indianapolis. **Project Hope: Faith-based**

**Mental Health Support Group**, 6:30-8 p.m., six sessions (Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 17, 24), limited to 8-10 participants, mental health professional present, free. Information, registration: [Inkiy.in/archindymentalthope](http://Inkiy.in/archindymentalthope), [bvarick@archindy.org](mailto:bvarick@archindy.org), 317-236-1543.

## September 15

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, presenter Jack Schmitz, CYO executive director, rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on Sept. 12. Information, registration: [cutt.ly/CBE-Reg](http://cutt.ly/CBE-Reg).

## September 15-16

St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., Columbus.

**Fall Festival**, Fri. 6-10 p.m., Sat. 4-10 p.m., live music, food, games, free admission. Information: 812-379-9353, [stbartholomewfestival@gmail.com](mailto:stbartholomewfestival@gmail.com).

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., Indianapolis. **Fall Fest**, live music, beer garden, children's game and activity area, free admission. Information: 317-259-4373, [bkudla@stluke.org](mailto:bkudla@stluke.org).

St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. **Fall Festival**, 5-10 p.m., live music, kids and teen games, raffles, bingo, beer and wine garden, food including hand-breaded tenderloins, hand-battered corn dogs, hot air balloon rides (depending on weather), free admission. Information: 317-831-4142, [pweber@stm-church.org](mailto:pweber@stm-church.org). †

## Wedding Anniversaries

### DONALD AND BARBARA (STRIBY)

**CARR**, members of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 12. The couple was married in St. Philip Neri Church in Indianapolis on Sept. 12, 1953. They have seven children: Christine Anderson, Barbara Kindred, Donna Phelan, Mary Wheatley, Andrew, Michael and Timothy Carr. The couple also has 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



### GEORGE AND BETTE-JANE

**(HENDERSHOT) MALEY**, members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25. The couple was married in St. Theresa Church in Paterson, N.J., on Aug. 25, 1953. They have five children: Debra-Ann Hitner, Susan Gonzales, Kathleen MacGill, Rachel Vantreska and Michael Maley. The couple also has nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



### JON AND PAT (POPP) MILLMAN

members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 26. The couple was married in St. Paul Church in Sellersburg on Aug. 26, 1963. They have two children: Karen Haas and Clark Millman. The couple also has four grandchildren.



### ANTHONY AND SANDRA (DUNN)

**KREBS**, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Aug. 10. The couple was married in St. Roch Church in Indianapolis on Aug. 10, 1968. They have two children: Matthew and Todd Krebs. The couple also has three grandchildren.



### THEODORE AND MARY (AGRESTA)

**KAPPES**, members of Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25. The couple was married in Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ Church in Indianapolis on Aug. 25, 1973. They have four children: Lisa Monahan, Michele Schilten, Jennifer and Daniel Kappes. The couple also has 11 grandchildren.



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

## Right to Life of Johnson and Morgan Counties to host benefit dinner on Sept. 21 in Mooresville

Right to Life of Johnson and Morgan Counties will hold a benefit dinner at Mt. Gilead Church, 6019 E. State Road 144, in Mooresville, at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 21.

Attorney General Todd Rokita will offer remarks at the event, and Greg Mayo, local author of the book *Almost Daddy: The Forgotten Story*, will serve as keynote speaker. Mayo has spent decades talking to groups

about abortion, recovery and authentic masculinity. He speaks nationwide about the pain and struggle men experience after an abortion.

The cost is \$35, with the meal catered by The House of Mooresville. Registration must be received by Sept. 14.

For more information or to register, call 317-560-0678 or email [RightToLifeJMC@gmail.com](mailto:RightToLifeJMC@gmail.com). †

## Catholic Charities Bloomington to host Mental Health Wellness Luncheon on Sept. 20

Catholic Charities Bloomington will hold a Mental Health Wellness Luncheon at Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington's Shreve Hall, 200 Daniels Way, in Bloomington, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sept. 20. From the west parking lot, enter at door #3.

At the luncheon, which celebrates the program's 40th anniversary, one of the agency's clients will share her story. The event also includes learning techniques for lowering stress, door prizes and more.

The event is free, but donations are requested. Checks can be made payable to Catholic Charities Bloomington. Those who wish to cover the cost of their lunch can add \$10 to their donation.

Registration is required by Sept. 7. For more information or to register, go to [ccbin.org/events](http://ccbin.org/events), call 812-332-1262 or e-mail [info@ccbin.org](mailto:info@ccbin.org).

Those who cannot attend the luncheon but wish to donate to Catholic Charities Bloomington can do so at [ccbin.org](http://ccbin.org). †





# The Face of Mercy

By Daniel Conway



## Francis Xavier, Theodore Guérin were passionate, Spirit-filled evangelizers

Earlier this year, Pope Francis used his weekly general audience on Wednesdays to offer his reflections on the Church's missionary work, highlighting several of the saintly women and men who have preached the Gospel with extraordinary apostolic zeal.

On May 17, the Holy Father chose one of the patron saints of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, St. Francis Xavier, to illustrate what he means by "an exemplary model of apostolic zeal."

As Pope Francis says: "St. Francis Xavier was born into a noble but impoverished family in Navarre, northern Spain, in 1506. He went to study in Paris. He was a worldly young man, intelligent, good.

"There, he met Ignatius of Loyola, who made him do spiritual exercises and changed his life. And he left all his worldly career to become a missionary. He became a Jesuit, took his vows. Then he became a priest and, sent to the East, he went to evangelize. At that time, the journeys of the missionaries to the East meant being sent to unknown worlds. And he went, because he was filled with apostolic zeal."

To be "filled with apostolic zeal" is

to be infused with the grace of the Holy Spirit and to feel compelled to share the good news of Jesus Christ as the Apostles did.

Pope Francis frequently refers to those who are called to be missionary disciples as "Spirit-filled evangelizers." In fact, this is a calling that each of us received at the time of our baptism, but the more than 2,000 years of Church history have shown us that some men and women among us have received a special calling (or "charism") that compels them to travel far and wide in spreading the Gospel.

Because he is himself a Jesuit, it's understandable that our Holy Father would call our attention to Francis Xavier as a model missionary disciple.

"Today, we choose as an example St. Francis Xavier, who some say is considered the greatest missionary of modern times," the pope said. "But it is not possible to say who is the greatest, who is the least, because there are many hidden missionaries who, even today, do much more than St. Francis Xavier. And Xavier is the patron of missions, like St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus." In truth, each of us is called to be a "hidden missionary" at least in the sense that we

must carry the message wherever we go—near or far—and are not necessarily recognized for our evangelizing ministry.

What made Francis Xavier stand out was his restless spirit, which refused to let him settle for the status quo. As the Holy Father notes, there was no shortage of hardships involved in traveling to the far east—India, Japan and almost to China—to introduce the person of Jesus Christ to people and cultures that had never known him.

"Voyages by ship were very harsh and they were perilous at the time," the Holy Father observes. "Many people died en route due to shipwrecks or disease. Today unfortunately, they die because we let them die in the Mediterranean. Francis Xavier spent more than three and a half years on ships, a third of the entire duration of his mission." And yet, missionaries like Xavier refused to let any hardships prevent them from exercising their missionary zeal.

Our co-patron of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Anne-Thérèse Guérin (1798-1856) entered religious life in her native France at the age of 25 after caring for her widowed mother and her family for 10 years.

Several years later, she led a group of five sisters on a tumultuous journey from France across the Atlantic Ocean traveling by steamship, railroad, canal boat and stagecoach only to discover that their destination was not a town but just a log cabin in the woods of western Indiana.

Once there, she encountered hostile anti-Catholicism, hunger, privation and near complete destitution resulting from a fire that destroyed the community's harvest.

In spite of everything, Mother Theodore (as she was known then) persevered. Under her leadership, the Sisters of Providence in the United States flourished, educating thousands of children throughout Indiana and the Midwest.

St. Francis Xavier and Mother Theodore Guérin (St. Theodora) show us how to take seriously the calling we have all received to be Spirit-filled evangelizers. As Pope Francis teaches, "to leave your own country to preach the Gospel is true apostolic zeal."

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

"Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God."

—Pope Francis, "*Misericordiae Vultus*" ("The Face of Mercy")

"Jesús de Nazaret con su palabra, con sus gestos y con toda su persona revela la misericordia de Dios."

—Papa Francisco, "*Misericordiae Vultus*" ("El rostro de la misericordia")

El rostro de la misericordia/Daniel Conway

## Francisco Javier y Teodora Guérin fueron evangelizadores apasionados y llenos del Espíritu

A principios de este año, el Papa Francisco aprovechó su audiencia general semanal de los miércoles para ofrecer sus reflexiones sobre la labor misionera de la Iglesia, destacando a varias de las mujeres y hombres santos que han predicado el Evangelio con extraordinario celo apostólico.

El 17 de mayo el Santo Padre eligió a uno de los santos patronos de la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis, san Francisco Javier, para ilustrar lo que entiende por "modelo ejemplar de celo apostólico."

Tal como nos lo explica el Santo Padre: "San Francisco Javier nace de una familia noble pero empobrecida de Navarra, en el norte de España, en 1506. Va a estudiar a París es un joven de mundo, inteligente, capaz. Allí encuentra a Ignacio de Loyola que le da ejercicios espirituales y le cambia la vida. Y deja toda su carrera mundana para hacerse misionero. Se hace jesuita, toma sus votos. Luego se convierte en sacerdote, y va a evangelizar, enviado a Oriente. En aquella época los viajes de los misioneros a Oriente ... era enviarlos a mundos desconocidos. Y él va, porque estaba lleno de celo apostólico."

Estar "lleno de celo apostólico" es estar imbuido de la gracia del Espíritu

Santo y sentirse impulsado a compartir la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo como hicieron los Apóstoles.

El Papa Francisco se refiere con frecuencia a los que están llamados a ser discípulos misioneros como "evangelizadores llenos del Espíritu." De hecho, se trata de una llamada que cada uno de nosotros recibimos en el momento de nuestro bautismo, pero los más de 2,000 años de historia de la Iglesia nos han demostrado que algunos hombres y mujeres entre nosotros han recibido una llamada especial (o "carisma") que les impulsa a viajar a lo largo y ancho del mundo para difundir el Evangelio.

Dado que él mismo es jesuita, es comprensible que nuestro Santo Padre nos llame la atención sobre Francisco Javier como discípulo misionero modelo.

"Hoy, por ejemplo, elegimos a san Francisco Javier, que es considerado, dicen algunos, como el más grande misionero de los tiempos modernos"—apunta el Papa—. "Pero no se puede decir quién es el más grande, quién es el más pequeño. ... Hay tantos misioneros ocultos, que incluso hoy, hacen mucho más que san Francisco Javier. Y Javier es el patrón de las misiones, como santa Teresa del Niño Jesús." En realidad, cada uno de nosotros está llamado a ser

un "misionero oculto," al menos en el sentido de que debemos llevar el mensaje allá donde vayamos—cerca o lejos—y no somos necesariamente reconocidos por nuestro ministerio evangelizador.

Lo que hizo que Francisco Javier se destacara fue su espíritu inquieto, que se negaba a conformarse con el *statu quo*. Como señala el Santo Padre, no fueron pocas las dificultades que entrañó el viaje al lejano oriente—India, Japón y casi hasta China—para presentar la persona de Jesucristo a gentes y culturas que nunca lo habían conocido.

"Los viajes en nave en aquella época eran durísimos, y peligrosos"—comenta el Santo Padre—. "Muchos morían en el viaje por naufragios o enfermedades. Hoy desgraciadamente mueren porque les dejamos morir en el Mediterráneo. ... Javier pasa en las naves más de tres años y medio, un tercio de la duración de su misión." Y, sin embargo, misioneros como Javier se negaron a que las dificultades les impidieran ejercer su celo misionero.

Anne-Thérèse Guérin (1798-1856), nuestra copatrona de la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis, ingresó en la vida religiosa en su Francia natal a la edad de 25 años, después de haber cuidado de su madre viuda y su familia durante 10 años.

Varios años más tarde lideró un grupo de cinco hermanas en un tumultuoso viaje desde Francia. Una travesía que la llevó a cruzar el Océano Atlántico en un barco de vapor y proseguir su viaje en ferrocarril, barco de canal y diligencia, solo para descubrir que su destino no era un pueblo sino una cabaña de troncos en los bosques de la región Occidental de Indiana.

Una vez allí, se enfrentó a un anticatolicismo hostil, al hambre y las privaciones, y una indigencia casi completa como resultado de un incendio que destruyó la cosecha de la comunidad.

A pesar de todo, la Madre Teodora (como se la conocía entonces) perseveró. Bajo su liderazgo florecieron las Hermanas de la Providencia en Estados Unidos, educando a miles de niños en Indiana y el Oeste Medio.

San Francisco Javier y la Madre Teodora Guérin (santa Teodora) nos muestran cómo tomarnos en serio la llamada que todos hemos recibido a ser evangelizadores llenos del Espíritu. Como nos enseña el Papa Francisco: "salir de la patria para predicar el Evangelio [...] es el celo apostólico."

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



# As he retires as CYO's leader, Scifres pursues new goal to impact coaches, youths

By John Shaughnessy

The desire to have an impact on even more young lives came in a moment of prayer and inspiration for Bruce Scifres.

For 27 years, he had been the head coach of the football team at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, leading a program that stressed the foundations of faith, character and a Catholic education while earning seven state championships in his tenure.

Yet after Roncalli's undefeated, championship season in 2016, Scifres embraced the opportunity to influence more young people in 2017 by becoming the executive director of the archdiocese's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)—which each year draws about 20,000 children and youths from across central and southern Indiana in such areas as sports, music, chess and Camp Rancho Framasa in Brown County.

"A key thing that led to me leaving Roncalli and coming to CYO was a coaching retreat I attended around 2015," Scifres recalls. "One of the things they had us do was to write a personal mission statement about why we coach. They said to write two sentences. The first sentence focused on between now and the next five years. The second sentence focused on beyond five years, for the rest of your life."

"The basic mission statement for me was something like, 'I want to live my life in a way to make my wife, my children, my family and God proud.' And the second piece was, 'I want to make it to heaven, and to take as many people with me as I can along the way.' I felt that was my mission in life."

"After I had written that, I kept it posted on my office wall at school. And when I heard Ed Tinder was retiring, I just discerned and prayed. In what other capacity could I personally serve more

people than as the executive director of CYO? And that was really a deciding factor for me in retiring from teaching and coaching. I just thought it was an awesome way to reach a lot of people, hopefully in a positive way."

Now 66, Scifres will retire as the CYO's leader on Aug. 31, hoping to have an even greater impact on young people and coaches through a new faith-first ministry he is pursuing.

Jack Schmitz will succeed Scifres as the CYO's executive director. (A related story was published in the July 14 issue of *The Criterion*.)

In a lengthy conversation, Scifres talked about the impact the CYO has had on him, the ministry he plans to pursue, and the Catholic faith that's at the heart of everything in his life.

Here is an edited version of that conversation with the father of four and the grandfather of one, including his response to one question that left him fighting back tears—and losing that battle.

**Q. What will you remember most about leading the CYO?**

A. "For sure, the best part of CYO is the people. Our office staff here and our camp staff are just amazing people. We work hard because there's a lot of work that needs to be done, but we love each other, we respect each other, we have fun. And through all that, I firmly believe we're doing God's work."

"We're helping kids with wholesome, meaningful activities, and we also influence their families doing so. There's the sense that we're affecting thousands of lives every year in a very positive and impactful way, presenting opportunities for kids to do good things. My mantra here is the same one I had at Roncalli. Without question, our number one job is to help the young people we serve get to heaven. It's been very rewarding doing

that kind of work."

**Q. What led to your decision to retire?**

A. "I've loved my time at CYO. It's been an honor to work for the archdiocese. I'm a better person because of it. My faith life is stronger."

"I feel like I've done a lot of really good things here, but I feel there's even a broader realm of people to influence. I've had some opportunities to speak with coaches, and I

hope I've had a positive impact on them, but with all the other administrative duties that are included in the executive director's role here, that was something I kind of missed—the daily interaction with coaches and athletes. After praying about it for several months and hitting full retirement age, I just thought I want that to be my passion project in retirement."

**Q. Talk about the new ministry you want to pursue in retirement.**

A. "I'm looking to start what I call Beyond the Goal Line Sports Ministry. I look to put on conferences, workshops, retreats for coaches. Football guys commit themselves heart and soul to playing the game and crossing that goal line. And every sport has a goal like that. But when you've done that for the last time, what lies beyond that? All of us will play our last game eventually. And so, what kind of preparation do we receive from coaches and parents beyond that last game?"

"I believe that our ultimate goal line sits at the pearly gates of heaven. That's the final goal line we want to cross. If we believe that heaven is this wonderful place, where we get to spend eternity with God, then it doesn't end there really. I think there's two more questions we have to ask ourselves. Number one, if we are blessed to cross that final goal line, who are we taking with us? And what are we willing to do to make that happen? That's the essence of Beyond the Goal Line."

**Q. Part of what you've always stressed is the ability that coaches have to transform lives. Talk about that in**



After six years as the executive director of the archdiocese's Catholic Youth Organization, Bruce Scifres is retiring to start a new personal ministry to impact the lives of coaches and young people. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

**terms of Beyond the Goal Line.**

A. "Research shows over and over again for athletes that next to a young person's parents, so many times a coach is the next most influential adult in their life. And that influence can be both positive and negative. If a coach doesn't have his priorities right, if he doesn't see the big picture, it can be a very negative influence on young people."

"Recreational coaches teach a kid how to play a game. Transformational coaches teach a kid how to play a game and have fun, but way beyond that, they teach them how to be the person God created them to be—how to become better husbands and wives and parents and productive members of society. Coaches have such a wonderful platform to do that."

**Q. Talk about your own faith journey to eventually becoming a Catholic.**

A. "I was raised a Christian for sure. Went to an interdenominational church, Camby Community Church. Mom and dad made sure we went to church every Sunday. That's been good for me, too, to have an innate appreciation for different faith denominations."

"My wife, Jackie, was from a large Catholic family in Seymour. We got married in the Catholic Church in 1987, and then I came back to be the head coach at Roncalli in 1990. So I was teaching at a Catholic school, married to a Catholic gal, going to a Catholic church with her, and we committed that we were going to raise

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# WORLD YOUTH DAY

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moment,” Archbishop Thompson recalls. “Witnessing the faith, devotion and enthusiasm of people was a deeply profound grace. It was quite evident that the devotion and enthusiasm for the faith exuded by young people had an inspiring impact on Pope Francis and the bishops.

“Despite the heat, humidity and various obstacles along the way, the young people continued to evidence great joy, energy, curiosity and passion for their Catholic faith.”

The archbishop notes that the theme of this year’s World Youth Day had a clear connection to the Blessed Mother—both with the emphasis on Our Lady of Fatima and the “Rise up and go in haste” sessions related to Mary’s actions after the annunciation that are captured in Luke 1:39. At the same time, the archbishop says, “the celebrations of Mass and eucharistic adoration provided a very Christ-centered focus.”

The closing Mass of World Youth Day celebrated by Pope Francis in Lisbon provided another memorable moment for the archbishop.

“Pope Francis consistently and emphatically proclaimed the unconditional love of God for each of us, as well as faith in each of us to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ with the grace of the Holy Spirit,” the archbishop says. “He stressed the power of that love to heal wounds, warm hearts and overcome our fears. He made it very clear that all are welcome and have a place within the Church, the family of God.”

That welcoming, embracing message echoed throughout all the events of the World Youth Day celebration, according to the archbishop.

“In the spirit of synodality, it was important to listen to the hopes, dreams, concerns and insights of those participating in World Youth Day. Many young people, including several of those from the archdiocese, participated in respectful, fruitful and genuine dialogue.”

The archbishop has a hope of his own after those conversations and experiences of World Youth Day.

“It is certainly my hope that those participating in World Youth Day, whether in person or virtual, will carry with them that message of being beloved children of God with a sense of belonging, meaning and purpose as missionary disciples—to embrace their role in the Gospel mission of Jesus Christ to transform the world in bringing about peace, hope, healing and reconciliation.”

## ‘It was nothing like I could have ever imagined’

At 18, Caroline Bell viewed participating in World Youth Day as a special way to thank God for being with her through her cancer diagnosis and recovery



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson smiles following a Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. (Submitted photo by Emily Mastronicola)

earlier this year.

“Through cancer, I was really able to have my relationship with God really flourish and grow strong because of the trials I had gone through,” says Bell, whose thyroid cancer is now in remission.

While she had the opportunity to share her gratitude with God in Portugal, her experiences were still beyond her expectations.

“Even though I tried to prepare myself, it was nothing like I could have ever imagined. Being surrounded by so many people who shared the same faith, who have the same love for Christ, was just so amazing, so beautiful.”

A member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, Bell became overwhelmed with emotion when she entered a setting where nearly 200 huts were set up for people to take part in the sacrament of reconciliation, with long lines stretching outside the tents—“everyone waiting to receive the grace of God and forgiveness for our sins.”

The 2023 graduate of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis also became emotional when she joined the 26,000 pilgrims from the United States “on their hands and knees, just worshipping and praising God”

during eucharistic adoration in a field.

She even had a feeling of joy as she walked 5 miles in near-100-degree heat to sleep overnight in a field—in preparation for being there the following morning when Pope Francis celebrated Mass for 1.5 million people.

“Just gratefulness to God for being able to be there,” she says about the entire experience. “And I really felt that even more with Mary being one of the main themes for this—‘to go in haste.’ She went with haste to see Elizabeth after she said yes to God. I could feel God’s presence. There was just an overwhelming joy and peace that I had never experienced before.”

Her goal is to continue to grow in her faith, to draw closer to God as she begins her studies at St. Louis University, hoping to pursue a career researching cures for brain diseases.

“One thing that Pope Francis said was that this is an amazing time to be here together, but what really matters is what you choose to do after this when you leave. Thinking about that, I thought about how I could grow my faith. So, I’m trying to go to daily Mass and say the rosary every day and really grow in my prayer life.”

## ‘The joy of being gathered together in Christ’

One of the distinctive features of World Youth Day is to meet people from different countries and cultures, at the same time knowing there’s the bond that’s already shared as followers of Christ and members of the Church.

That reality came to life in a memorable way for Father James Brockmeier, director of the archdiocese’s Office of Worship and the rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

“The thing that impacted me the most about World Youth Day was encountering so many young people, both in our own archdiocesan group and from countries all over the world, who shared their love for Jesus with joy,” says the 33-year-old Father Brockmeier. “At Fatima, along with a few of our pilgrims, I met a young man from the Netherlands named Marcel. When he found out we were from the United States he got a big smile on his face.

“He was there with his twin brother and some other friends who were students in Amsterdam. Marcel shared with me and our pilgrims how much he wanted his identical twin brother to be a priest. With his brother right next to him, he said, ‘I know him better than he knows himself, and he would be such a wonderful priest.’ He asked me to tell his brother how I decided to become a priest, so I got to share my vocation story.

“I told Marcel’s brother I would come to his ordination in Amsterdam if he discerns the priesthood. I was so moved at how much these young men loved our Lord and how much they wanted to share that joy with us.”

Two other moments stood out to Father Brockmeier. “Another memorable highlight was the experience of hundreds of thousands of people being silent at the same time during eucharistic adoration. Only Jesus could quiet the hearts of that huge crowd.

“Over and over again, I saw people having reunions with friends they hadn’t seen in a while but ran into at World Youth Day. It was a little vision of the joy of



A video screen captures Pope Francis celebrating the Aug. 6 closing Mass of World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, which drew about 1.5 million young people to the celebration of the Catholic faith, including a group of 188 from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

(Submitted photo)

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meeting with our loved ones again in heaven. It was amazing how many ways the joy of being gathered together in Christ was present in everything.”

**A reminder from God**

Going to Portugal for World Youth Day, Rachel Gilman had one overriding personal hope: “I went searching for a big, life-changing, ground-breaking moment in my relationship with God.”

That hope was never realized. Instead, Gilman says, “I walked away with something much sweeter—a reminder that God is constantly reaching out to me, interrupting my life and calling me closer to him. I only have to pay attention and listen.”

That lesson was reinforced for 31-year-old Gilman in her experiences of the opening Mass of World Youth Day and during the journey to the closing Mass with Pope Francis.

“The opening Mass was the very first large event that everyone at World Youth Day was invited to attend, and I had no idea what it was going to be like or how many people would be there,” says Gilman, the director of youth ministry for the archdiocese.

“We arrived two hours early just to try to get a spot within the park and had to wait for 30 minutes just to get through security. While we were waiting to get our bags checked to get into the park, groups were waving their country’s flags, singing popular songs from their cultures, and there was an excitement in the air that I don’t think I’ve ever experienced before.

Once we were settled in the park, sitting on our makeshift tarps and on patches of grass and dirt, I was overcome with awe as people continued to pour into the park.

“By the time Mass began, there were over 150,000 people packed into the park, with everyone speaking the Mass parts in their native languages. I became overwhelmed with a sense of profound awe at the largeness of our Catholic community like I had never seen before—and gratitude for the aliveness and excitement of the young people of our Church. It was then that I realized, this is what World Youth Day is all about.”

Her joy and excitement were challenged later in the week when her group headed to the park in Lisbon where 1.5 million people would camp out for the night in anticipation of the closing Mass to be celebrated by Pope Francis the next morning.

“Our journey to the site really stands out to me as representing this pilgrimage experience,” Gilman says. “To get to the park, our group had to travel for several hours and included a metro ride, 3-plus miles of walking with very heavy backpacks with food and supplies for a night under the stars, and a 1.5-hour wait on a closed-down highway while we waited for security to open the gates. Oh, and did I mention that we did all of this in 96-degree weather and in a heat advisory?”

“This journey was *hard*. I was exhausted, hot, probably already a little bit smelly, and yet I felt this intense and innate sense of purpose while we were making this journey—like all of this pain, sacrifice and hardship were because we were journeying to something greater, a shared experience in our faith that we would never get at any other times in our lives.

“Although the journey itself taught me a lot, it was really the 1.5-hour wait on the highway that stands out most to me. I remember initially feeling so frustrated because we had to wait in the blazing heat on a hot highway for who knows how long until the gates would be opened? And yet, in the midst of this frustration, I had an intense moment of clarity where I realized, ‘Holy cow! Lisbon literally closed down a six-lane major highway for us, so that we could walk to our vigil site location.’ ”

While sitting on that hot highway, Gilman thought about how the six lanes were likely usually filled with cars. That’s when it sank in for her that “Lisbon had to



Pilgrims from All Saints Parish in Dearborn County visit the catacombs of St. Sebastian in Rome prior to arriving in Lisbon for World Youth Day. (Submitted photo)

disrupt their entire infrastructure to accommodate our pilgrimage to the vigil site.”

When that revelation struck her, two other ones followed.

“We as a pilgrim people of World Youth Day were creating a major moment of evangelization for the city of Lisbon and the country of Portugal. The people of this country literally couldn’t escape our witness and devotion to our faith as we stopped traffic, closed down major roads, and overwhelmed metro stations *just* to travel to a field to pray together as a young Catholic community. There was no way that we would go unnoticed.”

Her second revelation from that moment is her biggest takeaway from World Youth Day, one that she believes *all* Catholics should embrace.

“God calls us to be interrupters in other people’s lives so that we can show them his love, his truth and his goodness,” she says. “Just like our presence on the closed-down highway interrupted people’s daily lives in Lisbon, so too are we called to interrupt and speak God’s love into the lives of others who don’t know God, who have fallen away from the Church, or who don’t see faith as something to be actively practiced.

“God is a God who interrupts our lives. Just like in those moments I described, God interrupted those moments to call me closer to him and to be his love in the world—even when I didn’t want to at all.”

**‘Jesus is seeking us’**

When Luke Hornbach signed up to attend World Youth Day, the 20-year-old member of All Saints Parish



One of 60 pilgrims from Marian University in Indianapolis, Daysun Brown creates the shape of a heart during a joyful moment at World Youth Day. (Submitted photo by Emily Mastronicola)

in Dearborn County did so because he didn’t want to pass up the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who share the Catholic faith.

Yet the true impact of his pilgrimage to Portugal turned out to be in the way he grew even closer to people who were already a part of his life.

He made the pilgrimage with his older brother Alex, his younger brother Matthew, and his oldest sister Sarah, plus some of their female cousins. He also drew closer to friends who were part of the 72 people from All Saints who joined in the archdiocesan pilgrimage.

And the experience had the result of making him even closer to his parents at home, because his time in Portugal made him see the struggles that many people face in that country and how blessed he is.

Then there is the impact the pilgrimage had on his relationship with Jesus.

“A big thing for me when we were there was eucharistic adoration,” he says. “We’d go, go, go all day. Being able to sit there and reflect on the day at adoration was really powerful. To take a break and just talk to Jesus and offer up what was on our hearts and whatever was hurting on my body. Being able to offer that up for my family at home and people who I know are struggling with things.”

Throughout the challenges of the pilgrimage—the heat, the exhaustion—Hornbach tapped into a constant message shared by Father Jonathan Meyer, who serves the four parishes in Dearborn County. Father Meyer told the group that Jesus was with them, constantly seeking them. Hornbach experienced that feeling at different points of the journey.

“This really showed me that Jesus is seeking us. He wants us to come seek him as well. To see him chasing after us was really powerful, just to know that he really is with us at all times.”

**A view of the meaning of friendship**

The scene is engraved in Felix Navarrete’s mind, a moment that reminds him of one of the most powerful stories of friendship and faith.

“While we all climbed a small hill looking for a better view of Pope Francis during the day of his welcome, I saw a group of young people who were accompanying a disabled young man,” recalls Navarrete, the coordinator of Hispanic ministry for the archdiocese.

“For obvious reasons, this young man could not get up the hill on his own in his wheelchair due to the inclination of the hill, but it was not an impediment for him to achieve it because he was accompanied by his friends. One of them took this young man, put him on his back and began to walk up the hill while two other young women carried his wheelchair.

“I immediately remembered the paralytic whose friends took him to Jesus with the faith that he would be healed of that disease. The scene on the hill is very similar. These young people wanted their friend to have the same opportunity as them, to reach a high point to see the successor of Peter. I do not know the outcome of this story, but I sense that Jesus already was doing great things in them.”

The 35-year-old Navarrete says that scene and so many



Archdiocesan pilgrims from Dearborn County get their photo taken with one of the countless police officers who kept the 1.5 million pilgrims safe in Lisbon. (Submitted photo)

others nourished his faith and his desire to bring more young people, especially in the Latino communities of the archdiocese, closer to God and the Church.

“I am hopeful that our Church will be renewed once more by the Holy Spirit, giving rise to a generation of fervent, holy young people, in love with the liturgy and the beauty of our Catholic tradition.”

**‘We are working together to reach our heavenly home’**

Emotion overwhelmed Lucas Cummings on the day he traveled to Fatima with about 60 other students from Marian University in Indianapolis who made the pilgrimage.

“I’ve had a fascination with the apparition of Mary there and the stories of the three children,” he says. “The outdoor Mass was beautiful. A statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which would be traveling to Lisbon in the coming days, started its journey at our Mass. I was brought to tears by seeing the amount of people from countless walks of life. We chanted the ‘*Salve Regina*’ after Mass and the bells of the old basilica were ringing. I’ll never forget it.”

He also won’t forget what he did during a rally in Lisbon for the 26,000 Americans who attended World Youth Day.

“A bishop stepped up and talked about vocational discernment,” recalls Cummings, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Kokomo, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese. “He asked everyone who was considering religious vocations to raise their hand.

“I personally have always had an open heart toward potentially becoming a priest, so I raised my hand. I saw some other hands go up as well. The bishop congratulated us for our courage and open hearts, and the crowd began to applaud us. I started to tear up again. It was a rush of relief and hope that gave me chills. I felt close to Christ at that moment.”

The experience of World Youth Day also left him feeling connected to fellow young Catholics from around the globe.



Rachel Gilman, center, director of youth ministry for the archdiocese, shares the joy of taking part in World Youth Day with her friends, Jen Linder, right, and Marissa Paradiso. (Submitted photo)

“I met pilgrims from Canada and Australia, rode the metro with pilgrims from Germany and France, and befriended a pilgrim from a small group out of Singapore. Even in the crowded, hectic spaces we shared with the other pilgrims and locals or through the blazing temperatures, it was a beautiful slice of cultural discovery and celebration of God’s creation.

“This experience overall reminded me that we are all pilgrims, that this earthly life isn’t permanent. We are working together to reach our heavenly home. Things aren’t perfect and there are challenges throughout life, so we must trust in Jesus Christ to guide us in the moments we have little influence over.

If we begin to spend more time with Jesus, we can find him more within the hearts of others and pay compassion forward to others in our lives.” †



Father Jonathan Meyer, foreground, who serves the four parishes in Dearborn County, provides the sacrament of reconciliation to a young Catholic during World Youth Day in Portugal. (Submitted photo by Emily Mastronicola)



Pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis gather to listen to the English translation of the opening Mass of World Youth Day at a park in Lisbon, Portugal. (Submitted photo by Emily Mastronicola)



# SEMINARIANS

continued from page 1

Fourteen are enrolled at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis and 18 at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad. Nine are new seminarians this year, with six at Bishop Bruté and three at Saint Meinrad.

The total of 32 seminarians is an increase of 10 from just three years ago.

“It’s very encouraging for the future to see the number of men who are actively discerning, but also the quality of the men,” said Father Eric Augenstein, archdiocesan director of seminarians. “These are men who take their faith, ministry and service seriously. They have strong faith and are from strong families. They come from good parish communities. It gives us good promise for the future.”

He made these comments at the St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center in Tipton County in the Lafayette, Ind., Diocese. Nearly all of the seminarians met there on Aug. 13-16 for the annual seminarian convocation.

It’s an opportunity for the seminarians to spend time with each other before they go to their seminaries and involves prayer, presentations on the faith and time together to build up fellowship.

On Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the seminarians traveled to Indianapolis to spend time with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, including worshipping at a Mass he celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral during which he blessed the nine new seminarians.

In comments made to *The Criterion*, Archbishop Thompson gave credit to Catholics across central and southern Indiana for the growth in the number of seminarians.

“All of our priests give good witness and encourage vocations,” he said. “And the people in our parishes are praying for vocations and encouraging them. It’s all that prayer and encouragement that’s coming to fruition. It’s creating a culture of vocations in the archdiocese.”

## ‘I’m glad to have a lot of brothers’

This was the eighth convocation for seminarian Liam Hosty, a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

Early on in his formation at Bishop Bruté, there were only 15 archdiocesan seminarians. He called having 32 now “super encouraging.”

“They’re a joy to be around,” Hosty said. “They’re lighthearted. But these guys are also pretty serious about their vocation, what God is calling them to in their lives. I’m glad to have a lot of brothers here.”

At this year’s convocation, William Rees was in the place where Hosty was eight years ago. Days before the convocation started, he moved into Bishop Bruté as a new seminarian. That took place just days after Rees returned from World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

Like Hosty, Rees valued the fraternity among the potential future priests of the archdiocese, noting he was impressed by “seeing and feeling the brotherhood among everyone, knowing that we’re all in this together and trying to discern the same thing even though we have completely different lives.”

A member of St. Nicholas Parish in Ripley County, Rees is a recent graduate of the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg. He is also the first academy student to become a seminarian since its first co-educational graduating class in 2004.

“I’ve been looking at [the priesthood] since I was in second grade,” said Rees. “So, I’m extremely excited for where the future will lead me.”

Jack Adams is another new archdiocesan seminarian. A member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, he recently graduated from Marian University in Indianapolis.

He said the convocation was “a real opportunity to recognize that I have 31 brothers now. I can grow in love and charity for them.”

Transitional Deacon Samuel Rosko reflected during the convocation that fraternity among the seminarians is first based in prayer.

“The most important thing we can do in these days is to grow in our relationship with Christ in prayer and in our love of the Lord,” he said.

Praying together at Mass, in the Liturgy of the Hours and in a daily holy hour during the convocation, Deacon Rosko said, strengthens the spiritual bonds of the seminarians when they go their separate ways for a year of seminary formation.

“Having moments of prayer together, when we’re all kneeling before our Lord in the Eucharist just before the start of the semester, will unite us in the mystical body of Christ even though we’ll be separated at different seminaries,” he said.

## ‘God is pouring out his graces on our archdiocese’

What has led to the greatest number of seminarians for the archdiocese in a quarter of a century?

Priests involved in promoting vocations and priestly formation and archdiocesan seminarians spoke with *The Criterion* about several potential reasons.

Father Augenstein has been involved in vocations ministry in the archdiocese for 10 years. He was vocations director and oversaw the archdiocese’s seminarians from 2013-19. Since 2019, he has ministered as director of seminarians and as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis.

When he served as vocations director full time, he was the only priest assigned to that ministry, which limited his ability to meet one-on-one with men discerning the priesthood.

“I was only able to be at one place at one time,” he noted.

In late 2019, Archbishop Thompson created a team of priests to promote priestly vocations. It is led by Father Michael Keucher, archdiocesan director of vocations, and a group of priests who serve as assistant directors of vocations across central and southern Indiana.

Father Keucher sees a distinct advantage in having priests serving in parishes who also dedicate themselves to assisting men discerning a possible priestly call.

“Almost every time I have a meal with someone who is expressing interest [in the priesthood], I’m telling him what’s going on in my parishes and priesthood,” said Father Keucher, who also serves as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County. “They love those stories. It’s exciting for them to talk with a priest who is not just out trying to recruit them, but who’s also living a pastor’s life. I’m a witness to them in addition to encouraging them in their vocation.”

As he has come to know the growing number of his brother seminarians through his years in priestly formation, Deacon Rosko has seen the positive influence of pastors.

“It’s a really beautiful thing and an example of how God is pouring out his graces on our archdiocese,” said Deacon Rosko, one of four archdiocesan seminarians for



Seminarians Todd Seiler, left, Emiliano Enriquez de Alva, Khaing Thu, Nathan Huynh and Joshua Russell kneel in prayer during an Aug. 15 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. (Photos by Sean Gallagher)



Seminarians Robert McKay, left, Nathan Huynh, Abraham Hudepohl, Aidan Smith and William Rees chat during lunch on Aug. 14 at the St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center in Tipton County in the Diocese of Lafayette, Ind.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

“It’s due to the grace of God and the example of priests in our archdiocese who are really fostering the spiritual lives of their people, helping them follow the Lord’s call wherever it may be, but into the seminary especially.”

Deacon Rosko is looking forward to being ordained an archdiocesan priest next June with two other transitional deacons, Deacon Anthony Armbruster and Deacon Bobby Vogel.

Although many factors may play into the significant growth in archdiocesan seminarians, Father Keucher said its ultimately rooted in prayer.

One of the first initiatives he launched as vocations director was to invite people who pray in perpetual adoration chapels in the archdiocese to offer holy hours for priestly vocations. His hope was that there would always be someone praying for priestly vocations around the clock.

“I think we’re seeing the fruit of a lot of prayer and fasting for vocations in our parishes,” Father Keucher said. “Any vocation is a work of God. You can analyze it to a certain extent, but you can’t get to the final reason. It’s all God’s grace at the end of the day.”

(For more information on the 32 archdiocesan seminarians and on a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit [HearGodsCall.com](http://HearGodsCall.com).) †



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and archdiocesan director of seminarians Father Eric Augenstein pose on Aug. 15 on the front steps of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis with 31 of the archdiocese’s 32 seminarians.



# Three women receive Sisters of St. Benedict's Angels of Grace awards

By Natalie Hoefer

Throughout the Bible, three archangels are listed by name: Gabriel, messenger of good news to Mary and Zechariah; Michael, defender of heaven who cast the devil into hell; and Raphael, the traveling companion of Tobias.

The Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove have annually identified three women who have heroically served in the roles of messenger, defender and companion, and recognized their service with an "Angels of Grace" award.

The 2023 winners are Beacon of Hope Crisis Center CEO Sandy Ziebold for the "defender" Angel Michael Award; Megan Weisenbach Foundation co-founder Theresa Weisenbach for the "companion" Angel Raphael Award; and Roncalli High School English and psychology teacher Kim Striby for the "messenger" Angel Gabriel Award.

The recipients will receive their awards at the Angels of Grace Awards Luncheon at Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis on Sept. 30.

Following is more information about the 2023 messenger, defender and companion, as listed at [benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace](http://benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace).

**Angel Michael Award: Sandy Ziebold**

Ziebold has served as Chief Executive Officer of Beacon of Hope Crisis Center domestic violence and sexual assault services and referral agency in Indianapolis since January 2016. Beacon of Hope serves new victims and past survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, including intimate partner violence and family violence.

Ziebold has influenced positive changes to the law and is an expert witness, which has positively impacted

lives. She is an expert in matters pertaining to domestic violence, strangulation and even pet abuse.



Sandra Ziebold

Ziebold was inspired to become involved in this work because she wanted to improve early intervention and barrier reductions and grow healing art opportunities. Through Beacon of Hope's foster pet program, she also likes to ensure that

pets of victims can be fostered and reunited with their owners once victims achieve safety, independence and self-sufficiency.

For more information on Beacon of Hope Crisis Center, visit their website at [www.beaconofhopeindy.org](http://www.beaconofhopeindy.org).

**Angel Raphael Award: Theresa Weisenbach**

A wife, mother, grandmother and registered nurse by profession, Theresa and her husband Tom, who live in



Theresa Weisenbach

Indianapolis, started the Megan Weisenbach Foundation in 2013—one year after losing their youngest daughter to Sanfilippo A MPS III A, a rare autosomal recessive disease caused by an enzyme deficiency.

Unfortunately, there is no cure, and when Megan was diagnosed there were no treatment options available.

Megan was in a wheelchair fulltime by age 9, and this also required a lot of changes to the family's home and van to accommodate her needs, which was not covered by insurance. Megan was

on the waiting list for state assistance for eight years and never received any assistance before she passed away.

Throughout their journey, Theresa and her family wanted to find a way to help other families that were experiencing this same financial stress with outside medical expenses and accommodating handicap accessibility. They established the Megan Weisenbach Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to

provide financial assistance to families that have children with special needs to assist with quality of life.

For more information, visit [www.themwfoundation.org](http://www.themwfoundation.org).

**Angel Gabriel Award: Kim Striby**

Striby is in her 18th year of teaching English and psychology at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

During her time at Roncalli, she has earned the respect of her students and peers for excellence in the classroom as well as her giving heart.

Striby has a passion for teaching, but her focus is not so much on teaching as it is on learning. She will do whatever it takes to ensure that her students master the course material and find success in her class.



What also sets Striby apart is her giving heart. She lives her life with a daily focus on how she can help others. In big and small ways, in seen and unseen ways, she consistently gives of herself—of her time, talent and treasure, but mostly of her heart which is filled with a love for all people.

For more information about Roncalli High School, visit their website at [www.roncalli.org](http://www.roncalli.org).

*(The Angels of Grace Luncheon will be held at Primo Banquet Hall, 2615 National Ave., in Indianapolis, from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sept. 30. Tickets are \$45. Proceeds benefit women's programming at Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove. For more information, to register, to donate or to become a sponsor of the event, go to [benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace](http://benedictinn.org/angels-of-grace), call 317-788-7581 or e-mail [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).) †*

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# CHARITIES

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## 'We need to be part of the solution'

The year 1983 also saw the founding of another still-thriving program—the Catholic Charities Terre Haute Food Bank. By providing food to distributors, its impact in helping those experiencing a food emergency or food insecurity is felt beyond Terre Haute.

After remaining in the same location for 37 years, the food bank opened a new, 10,000-square-foot warehouse—more than double the size of the former structure—in 2019.

In an interview with *The Criterion* at the new facility's grand opening, the agency's then-development director Jennifer Buell (now CCTH assistant agency director Jennifer Tames), said Feeding America's 2018 Map the Meal Gap survey showed that one in seven adults and one in five children in the food bank's "seven-county service area are food insecure—they lack access to adequate amounts of nutritious food to lead a healthy lifestyle."

That need for food grew exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the food bank never ceased operations.

"We saw so many households and families who were one missed paycheck away from not making ends meet," said CCTH development manager Jessica Murphy in a recent interview with *The Criterion*. "When I know that we can provide them a service and do it in a way that is respectful and makes them feel comfortable, I think that's so rewarding."

Since the food bank opened, it has distributed nearly 74 million pounds of food, equating to more than 61.5 million meals for more than 1.2 million people. Its latest improvement was the opening of a covered drive-through pick-up space in July.

Looking to the future, John says he would like to see the food bank create "a hub and spoke system, where we would provide food and maintain hubs in under-served or more remote and rural areas to take the load off of pantries and so people can drive 5 instead of 30 miles to get to food."

He would also like to see the food bank "move to a network of pantries and partners offering more produce and less processed food."

"We want people to have healthier options, because we know better food choices result in better health care outcomes. We need to be part of the solution by teaching people that there is great value in eating healthier and doing things that have better health consequences from better choices."

## 'An opportunity God put in front of me'

While some might say CCTH was blessed by the Etlings' impact, Pat says the opposite is true.

"Our kids have always been involved" in the agency, she says of the couple's 10 children, one of whom died from leukemia two months after the agency started.

Pat retired from her official roles with CCTH in 2009, four years after her husband retired in 2005.

When their son John C., then 45, took on the role as agency director, it was quite different from his educational and professional experience.

"I studied microbiology and environmental science," he says. "I had a different idea of what my future would be—up until 9/11," when the Twin Towers in New York were attacked in 2001.

"That was a pivotal time in my life to re-evaluate things. My family and I were living in Michigan. I knew that my dad was thinking about retiring, and he asked if I was interested in moving back to Terre Haute."



Former Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein congratulates John E. Etling, co-founder of Terre Haute Catholic Charities, for 30 years of distinguished service to the poor in Vigo County during a Nov. 6, 2002, open house at Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall in Terre Haute. (Criterion file photo)



Children pose outside Catholic Charities Terre Haute's Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall in Terre Haute in this submitted photo. (Photo courtesy of Catholic Charities Terre Haute)

"It was a good opportunity for our children to know [his and his wife's] parents better. I felt that was an opportunity God put in front of me."

He had big shoes to fill. His dad had received numerous awards in his 32 years of service. There was the honorary doctorate degree from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, the archdiocese's Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Respect Life Award, and a Sagamore of the Wabash Award from the State of Indiana, among others.

"But he was most proud of the award he got from the pope," says Pat, referring to the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Award he received from St. John Paul II via then-Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein in 1995. The award is the highest Church honor a lay person can receive.

## 'It's God's love that we give'

John E. Etling died on April 6, 2015, at the age of 85.

Pat fondly recalls a comment about her husband by now-retired Father David Lawler, co-paster of the former St. Ann Parish when CCTH began and a good friend of John E.

"Father Lawler said John taught him more about social justice than anyone ever had," she says.

John C. recalls a conversation he had with his father several years ago.

"I couldn't help but notice that dad was different," he says. "There was a certain kind of peace about him."

When John asked him about the change, his dad said, "I feel like I'm living the Gospel. We provide food, clothing and shelter for people, and that is living the Gospel."

It's something Catholic Charities Terre Haute has done for 50 years, with no plans to stop.

"There's always going to be work to do," John admits. "But it's in giving that we really get to demonstrate who we are with our love. And it's God's love that we give."

(Catholic Charities Terre Haute will celebrate its annual Giving Week from Sept. 18-26. To make a donation in honor of the agency's 50th anniversary, go to [lnkiy.in/CCTH50](http://lnkiy.in/CCTH50). All are invited to participate in a free 50th anniversary celebration in the upstairs theater of the Vigo County Historical Museum, 929 Wabash Ave., in Terre Haute, on Sept. 26. Light refreshments will begin at 5 p.m. followed by a short program at 6 p.m. For more information about Catholic Charities Terre Haute, go to [www.CCTHin.org](http://www.CCTHin.org).) †



Have you ever struggled with whether or not to make a charitable gift anonymously or publicly recognized? There are pros and cons to both. And it's ultimately the donor's decision.

While some are motivated to remain anonymous in their gift-giving out of humility, others wish to conceal their wealth to deter too many organizations from soliciting them. These are all certainly valid reasons; we challenge you to consider the following:

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# SIMPLY CATHOLIC

## St. John Paul II encyclical ‘*Veritatis Splendor*’ a ‘milestone’ in moral theology

By Carl E. Olson

(OSV News)—Aug. 6 marked the 30th anniversary of the issuing of St. John Paul II’s encyclical letter “*Veritatis Splendor*” (“The Splendor of Truth”).

The first and so far only papal encyclical focused on moral theology, its continued importance cannot be underestimated, even while its teachings are often overlooked or even ignored.

It is a rather dense document, making for difficult reading at times. But it is also very direct in addressing confusion following the Second Vatican Council about foundational truths regarding morality, freedom and conscience.

Here are four essential truths the pope taught through the encyclical.

### Man can know the truth.

Truth makes man what he is. We are called to know truth. It is truth that sets us free.

The opening lines of the encyclical state: “The splendor of truth shines forth in all the works of the Creator and, in a special way, in man, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gn 1:26). Truth enlightens man’s intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord” (#1).

This is a summary of what we call “natural law.” As St. John Paul states a bit later in the document, “Only God can answer the question about the good, because he is the Good. But God has already given an answer to this question: He did so by creating man and ordering him with wisdom and love to his final end, through the law which is inscribed in his heart (cf. Rom 2:15), the ‘natural law’ ” (#12).

Truth is what is real. To grasp truth is to see things and relationships as they are, through use of reason and correct judgment. Contrary to the relativistic and even fatalistic views popular today, we are created in truth and for truth.

### Christ is the true light.

St. John Paul begins by reflecting on original sin. We are tempted to turn away from God and toward idols. “Man’s capacity to know the truth is also darkened, and his will to submit to it is weakened” (#1).

The solution to that darkness is “Jesus Christ, the true light that enlightens everyone,” he writes. The “decisive answer” to all of our questions “is given by Jesus Christ, or rather is Jesus Christ himself” (#2).

St. John Paul then focuses on Christ’s statement: “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free,” words that contain both a fundamental requirement and a warning (Jn 8:32).

We must avoid false and superficial freedoms; we need, as St. John Paul wrote earlier in his first encyclical, “*Redemptor Hominis*” (“Redeemer of Man”), to “see Christ as the one who brings man freedom based on truth, frees man from what curtails, diminishes and, as it were, breaks off this freedom at its root, in man’s soul, his heart and his conscience” (#35).

The first major section of “*Veritatis Splendor*” is focused on the dialogue of Jesus with the rich young man (Mt 19). Which brings us to the third truth.

### True freedom is freedom for the good.

St. John Paul notes in “*Veritatis Splendor*” that, for the rich young man, “the question is not so much about rules to be followed, but about the full meaning of life.” Which is why Jesus responded: “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good” (#6).

If we are honest, we recognize our desire for something or someone beyond ourselves. The transitory things of this world cannot satisfy us. We long for what is good: “Only God can answer the question about what is good, because he is the Good itself. To ask about the good, in fact, ultimately means to turn towards God, the fullness of goodness” (#9).

But if God alone is the Good, our natural human efforts, including keeping the commandments, cannot fulfill the law. The essence of legalism is the conviction that doing the right things will suffice. What must be done? We must participate in the very life of God by his grace and mercy in order to attain the beatitude and happiness we desire (see #12 and #41).

Many people mistake authentic freedom with individual autonomy. But true freedom is not given so man can do whatever he pleases, but so he can choose the good. “Genuine freedom is an outstanding manifestation of the divine image in man” (#34).

In sum, true freedom is freedom for the good. In this



St. John Paul II is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Patrick Church in Smithtown, N.Y. Aug. 6 marked the 30th anniversary of the issuing of his encyclical letter on moral theology, “*Veritatis Splendor*” (“The Splendor of Truth”). (OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

true freedom we find our real dignity. “Freedom then,” writes St. John Paul, “is rooted in the truth about man, and it is ultimately directed towards communion” (#86).

### One’s conscience judges an act. It does not determine moral truth.

“Conscience” is a key word in “*Veritatis Splendor*,” appearing 108 times.

St. John Paul knew that many people erroneously think their conscience is the final guide to what is truth and good. “The individual conscience is accorded the status of a supreme tribunal of moral judgment,” he writes, “which hands down categorical and infallible decisions about good and evil” (#32).

He notes that some people set aside truth and replace it with “a criterion of sincerity, authenticity and ‘being at peace with oneself,’ ” which can lead to “a radically subjectivistic conception of moral judgment” (#32).

Ironically, those claiming they have attained truth by appealing to their conscience actually deny the existence of a universal, objective truth.

The problem worsens when they construct a morality based on whims divorced from universal truth. The conscience is given “the prerogative of independently determining the criteria of good and evil and then acting accordingly.” This reflects “an individualist ethic, wherein each individual is faced with his own truth, different from the truth of others” (#32).

Ultimately, this leads to a denial of “the very idea of

human nature” (#32). There are two ways of approaching reality: trying to create our own reality, which is destructive, or conforming ourselves to reality—to what really is.

And, importantly, but contrary to popular opinion, one’s conscience can be wrong.

“Conscience, as the judgment of an act, is not exempt from the possibility of error” (#62). The conscience cannot create moral truth. Rather, it makes an informed judgment about actions, based on what is true and morally right, because conscience “is a moral judgment about man and his actions, a judgment either of acquittal or of condemnation, according as human acts are in conformity or not with the law of God written on the heart” (#59).

In 1998, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger described “*Veritatis Splendor*” as “a milestone in the elaboration of the moral message of Christianity” while noting that it had “more positive receptions among thinkers outside the Church than among some exponents of Catholic theology.”

The situation remains much the same today. Truths about man, Christ, freedom and conscience still require clear explanations and consistent applications. This great encyclical has yet to be studied, assimilated and applied as deeply as it should be.

(Carl E. Olson is editor of Catholic World Report and Ignatius Insight and the author of several books. Follow him on Twitter @carleolson.) †



## Worship and Evangelization Outreach/Anita Bardo

## Listening well is an essential part of evangelization

“So, where are we?”

This question is a quote from Archbishop Christophe Pierre to the USCCB, in an address last November by the apostolic



nuncio to the U.S. reflecting on encountering and accompanying each other on our Christian journey.

After reflecting on this address, I found myself thinking about the phrases and words that stuck out to me. I know you’ve read articles or books, and maybe reflected on what made you think further.

I would like to share with you my reflection on Archbishop Pierre’s thoughts and Pope Francis’ teachings.

We are all invited to enter a process, opening our hearts and sharing our love with one another.

Where are we? Where is our Church leadership? We are in a state of division, imbalance and spiritual discord, all trying to find our spiritual path. Are we lost in the worldly way or lost in the Church itself?

The question we ask ourselves is how we can fix the “where” and the “we.” We start by understanding the direction we are going. Are we going down this narrow road with no room to budge unless we are willing to move forward from our own comfort zone?

Knowing that the basic doctrinal and moral teachings of God’s Church is a trustworthy and reliable light on our path in life, how do we relate to others? How are we accompanying our neighbors? And how are we listening without judgment?

When we understand these three questions, then we can begin to flourish humanly and spiritually. We also take a step back and look at the need for charismatic renewal, a spiritual movement of our personal relationship with God, and find the necessary steps to feel co-responsible for the Church we love, our parishioners and our leadership.

Pope Francis encourages us to be “a missionary Church, to be evangelists.” What we’ve forgotten is how to listen, understand the cultures and traditions of others and use this to build bridges and communities.

This is not a one-time process but something we must do again and again. We are all called to heal, reignite and talk about it. Discernment is so evident. Being present is what leads us to trust more and lean on God through our prayers, which allow us to be a more authentic community.

We must use our imagination, and we must bring our creativity to evangelize by reaching our unchurched, our alienated, our practicing Catholics, all who are yearning for the Gospel.

Our experience with God, our encounter with him is, as Pope Francis says, “when we allow God to take us beyond ourselves.” Then we have that desire to share with others.

I would like to reference a statement from Archbishop Pierre’s address to his brother bishops.

He invited them to “examine how well local churches embody the characteristics of an evangelizing community. ... Do we go forth and take initiative? Do we get involved? Do we accompany others, showing patience? What are the fruits that we are seeing from our evangelization efforts? Finally, do our local Churches demonstrate the joy, which flows from the Eucharist?”

We can’t stay silent. We are all called to share the goodness of God, and the National Eucharistic Revival is our step forward. I challenge you to share your story.

St. Paul said that “for all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God” (Rom 8:14). We too have that same Spirit to share, teach and guide others. Are you ready to evangelize?

(Anita Bardo is the archdiocesan coordinator of evangelization and discipleship.) †

**Pope Francis encourages us to be “a missionary Church, to be evangelists.” What we’ve forgotten is how to listen, understand the cultures and traditions of others and use this to build bridges and communities.**

## That All May Be One/Fr. Rick Ginther

## Interreligious relationships can enrich personal, spiritual life

Recently, a Passionist priest came to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis for a mission appeal. He had flown from Australia, where he works in the Passionist headquarters and assists at a large local parish. His “base” for his mission appeals is in Louisville, Ky.

He grew up in India, in the southeastern-most state of Tamil Nadu. To the west is the state of Kerala. Both are home to the majority of Indian Catholics.

Father Giltus Mathias is one of four children.

His late father was Roman Catholic, his mother, Hindu.

Raised as a Catholic, he grew up learning to appreciate the Hindu philosophy, its feasts, food, and customs.

He told me his life of faith was richer because of his exposure to Hinduism. Richer, but not threatened.

His relationships with both Catholic father and Hindu mother were primary and formative. Baptized a Catholic, he embraced his faith even as he witnessed another.

This past year I met a married couple: he, a practicing Jew, she a practicing Catholic. They raised their three children in the Catholic faith. They attended synagogue on Saturday, and their Catholic parish on Sunday.

This family found a richness in the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. They spoke openly about their varied religious and worship experiences. Because of this, they remain open to a variety of interreligious relationships.

Throughout my life, I have been blessed to know other people in interreligious marriages. Their trust in their relationship has allowed them to be open to what is different and what is good in the other’s belief structure.

Not all of us have been able to meet such couples. Not all of us have been able to be in relationship with a person of another religion.

It is the relationship as human beings which comes first. The trust built through the relationship can lead to openness to our differences, especially how we see God, pray, worship and the culture(s) from which our religions emerge and blend.

On Sept. 10 from 1-5 p.m., the 11th annual Festival of Faiths will take place at University Park in downtown Indianapolis.

As in past years, many religions will be represented: Sikh, Hindu, Jain, Bahá’i, Islam, Judaism, Buddhist, Pagan, Latter Day Saints, Roman Catholic, and other Christians, to name a few.

“Nourishing our spirits” is this year’s theme. The festival booths will offer a variety of ways each religion feeds the spirit of its believers: prayer, worship, fellowship, food, festivals.

The archdiocese will have three conjoined booths.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House will show how a retreat house offers spiritual nourishment opportunities for Catholics, Christians, and others. In 1996, Fatima was the host for the inaugural and subsequent meetings of the Midwest Region Catholic-Muslim Dialogue of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The archdiocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs will occupy the other two booths. In one, the Eucharist as “the source and summit” of our spiritual nourishment will be the central focus. In the last, various Catholic spiritualities—Benedictine, Dominican, Franciscan and Jesuit—will be offered. Practitioners of each will share the uniqueness in how it expresses a Catholic spiritual life.

The festival offers moments for all visitors from a variety of religions to learn something about each other. Such learning, if carried forward, can lead to understanding. This can lead to appreciation and strong interreligious relationships and a growth in the value and embracing of one’s own religion.

Come! Explore the spiritual richness, diversity, and commonalities of the human spiritual journey. Be well fed, literally and figuratively!

Be moved by the Spirit.

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

**The festival offers moments for all visitors from a variety of religions to learn something about each other. Such learning, if carried forward, can lead to understanding.**

## Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

## Parents teach their children the most important lessons

A new school year has begun. For some families, it may have started a month or more ago. For others, kiddos have gone back to school only in recent days.



Learning, however, never stops at home. More broadly speaking—and more importantly—neither does formation.

God has given parents the mission

to form their children to become adults who seek with the aid of his grace to be disciples of Christ living lives of virtue and holiness.

This basic human reality is why the Church recognizes parents as the primary educator of their children.

It’s not the teachers in any of our Catholic schools, no matter how faith-filled they might be. It’s not any of the many dedicated educators in any public school. And it’s certainly not supposed to be our government in general or the growing power of our technology-driven culture.

Parents, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, are to create a home “where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment and self-mastery—the preconditions of all true freedom” (#2223).

Given that our culture in many cases only pays lip service to these values and virtues and often promotes ways of living that run wholly counter to them, this duty of parents can easily seem like their own “mission impossible.”

And certainly if approached from our human skills and talents alone, parents will inevitably fail at this task—and sooner rather than later.

But if the mission of parents in forming their children is given to them by God, then we are invited to trust that he will give us the help for us to accomplish it.

In fact, veteran Catholic parents often discover as they look back over their years of trials and blessings in raising their family that, more often than not, God, in the mysterious working of his providence, did the heavy lifting in bringing their children to a virtuous and faith-filled adulthood.

Formation in the values noted in the catechism doesn’t proceed according to carefully drawn up lesson plans. It happens slowly and often imperceptibly in the ups and downs of daily life.

But even if it is difficult for parents to observe how this formation is working in its tiny, incremental steps, there is the still the necessity for them to put themselves into this mission with great intentionality.

This doesn’t mean that parents go into the task in control of the situation. They’re not, and they’ll only drive themselves crazy if they think they are.

But God blessed parents with the power of reason, with their own experiences and those of friends and family. When parents combine these gifts with the power of God’s grace and providence, they’ll witness the wonders he works in their dear children, wonders whose miraculous qualities grow the more unpredictable and unexpected they are.

Our faith transfigures the daily demands of parenting into an adventure with God’s glory as its goal. Yet our heavenly Father takes it higher still when parents spiritually place their tireless and tiring efforts, marked by both laughter and tears, to draw their children ever closer to him on the altar at Mass, joining them to Christ’s perfect sacrifice of himself for the salvation of the world. †



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, August 27, 2023

- Isaiah 22:19-23
- Romans 11:33-36
- Matthew 16:13-20

The first section of the Book of Isaiah provides the first reading for Mass this weekend.



In this passage, Isaiah speaks for God. With God's authority, Isaiah declares that a new master of the court should be named. The master functioned as the king's chief representative and exercised the

authority of the crown. The symbol of office was a key.

Having a master of the palace, along with subordinate figures, enabled the king to reign more efficiently. In the mind of Isaiah, and of all the prophets while the monarchy existed, the ultimate purpose of the king's reign was to draw the people to God. Maintaining the nation's faithfulness to God was the king's first duty.

As part of the apparatus of government, the master shared in this duty. The royal duty also bound the master, who would be the king's delegate. Hence, the appointment of the master was a serious step.

This reading is hardly the only occasion when God speaks to people through human instruments. This is the message: We have our needs. We are only human. God lovingly supplies for our needs.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans provides the second reading. The Christians in Rome lived in what then was the most imposing city on Earth, or the Earth as it then was known in the west. Much of Rome's splendor lay in the great temples within the city dedicated to various gods and goddesses. Even today, tourists marvel at the Pantheon, an ancient temple in Rome intact after all the years largely due to the fact that it was later turned into a Catholic church.

Paul constantly had to draw Christians away from the lure of the gaudy, materialistic, libertine Roman culture to the God of Jesus. In this reading, Paul extols the majesty of God, greater than any earthly majesty.

For its third reading this weekend,

the Church offers us a selection from St. Matthew's Gospel.

The setting is Caesarea Philippi, a place northeast of Capernaum, still quite picturesque and pleasant. The Jordan River forms southward from springs in this place. Even today, Israelis go there to relax.

Jesus and St. Peter enter a dramatic exchange. The Lord asks Peter, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (Mt 16:13). Jesus identifies himself as the "Son of Man," an Old Testament title describing one who acted on God's behalf and was unfailingly true to God.

Peter replies that people are confused. Some see Jesus as John the Baptist, Elijah or another prophet. But, for himself, Peter declares that Jesus is the "Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16).

## Reflection

World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal, a few weeks ago, was exciting to watch, even if our own youth has long gone personally and if the sight was only provided by television or on online.

More than a million Catholic young people from around the globe gathered around the pope. They enthusiastically proclaimed their faith in Jesus Christ, and they enthusiastically proclaimed their faith.

None knew what the future would hold, but they were confident and hopeful. Jesus, the Son of God, the loving Lord, the Risen, the Redeemer, was with them and would be with them.

Through the centuries, countless numbers of people, young and old, have found excitement in knowing that the Lord lives, and that the Lord is beside them and with them at every moment of life, be it sad or glad.

Nothing equals the relief, joy and perception discovered when Christ fills a human heart. It is no wonder that believers can exclaim with the determination of Peter, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God."

**As *The Criterion* will not have an issue next week due to its summer schedule, the reflection of Msgr. Campion for Sunday, Sept. 3, will be posted at [www.archindy.org/campion](http://www.archindy.org/campion). †**

## My Journey to God

### Sanctuary candle

By Paige Hash

Made of simple wax and wick,  
my eye is drawn to your flicker and flick.  
You clothe yourself in red,  
to bring attention to another instead.  
Your time you melt away  
by minute, hour, and day.  
Silently and humbly ablaze  
to bring another praise.  
May I learn to be more like you,  
in all that I choose to do.  
Bringing praise and glory in His name  
with the flicker of my flame.

(Paige Hash is a member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. Photo: A sanctuary candle stands in the chapel at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis, indicating the presence of Christ in the tabernacle.) (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)



## Daily Readings

### Monday, August 28

St. Augustine, bishop and doctor of the Church  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10  
Psalm 149:1-6, 9  
Matthew 23:13-22

### Tuesday, August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Psalm 139:7-12b  
Mark 6:17-29

### Wednesday, August 30

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Psalm 139:7-12b  
Matthew 23:27-32

### Thursday, August 31

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13  
Psalm 90:3-5, 12-14, 17  
Matthew 24:42-51

### Friday, September 1

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8  
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 10-12  
Matthew 25:1-13

### Saturday, September 2

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11  
Psalm 98:1, 7-9  
Matthew 25:14-30

### Sunday, September 3

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jeremiah 20:7-9  
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9  
Romans 12:1-2  
Matthew 16:21-27

### Monday, September 4

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Psalm 96:1, 3-5, 11-13  
Luke 4:16-30

### Tuesday, September 5

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11  
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14  
Luke 4:31-37

### Wednesday, September 6

Colossians 1:1-8  
Psalm 52:10-11  
Luke 4:38-44

See READINGS, page 19

## Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

### The Church allows in some cases for married men to be ordained as priests

Q My new parish priest's wife died before he became a priest. He sometimes even talks about his



grandchildren during the homily. Why is this allowed? He obviously wasn't always celibate, and I thought priests had to be celibate? (Maine)

A Latin (a.k.a. "Roman")

Catholic priests are indeed expected to be celibate. As canon 277, 1 of the *Code of Canon Law* tells us, they are "obliged to observe perfect and perpetual continence for the sake of the kingdom of heaven and are therefore bound to celibacy. Celibacy is a special gift of God by which sacred ministers can more easily remain close to Christ with an undivided heart and can dedicate themselves more freely to the service of God and their neighbor."

(A quick note on terminology: in canon law, "continence" means refraining from all sexual relations, while "celibacy" refers to being unmarried. "Chastity," a term not mentioned in this canon, means expressing one's sexuality in ways appropriate to one's state in life.)

However, priestly celibacy is not a retroactive requirement. Provided that he is otherwise suitable, a man can be ordained to the priesthood if he is presently unmarried and willing to commit to a life of chaste celibacy going forward—even if he had been previously married or is a father to children.

Of course, if a previously married man aspires to the priesthood, generally during his formation period there will be additional, careful discernment concerning any possible family obligations he may have. For example, men with minor children are generally not admitted to seminary formation, since in such a case he would already have serious preexisting obligations as a natural father.

Incidentally, married Catholic clergy are not quite as extraordinary as you might expect. Permanent deacons, while not priests, have still received the sacrament of holy orders and are therefore still considered clergy. Most of the permanent deacons we have in the United States are married men.

The various Eastern Catholic Churches have a tradition of married priests. There is also a pastoral provision that allows ministers from Protestant communities with a liturgical tradition, such as

Anglicanism or Lutheranism, who have converted to Catholicism to discern a vocation to the Catholic priesthood, allowing for the possibility of their ordination even if they are married.

There also exist in the Church ordinariates (structures like dioceses) for groups of Anglicans or Episcopalians who have been received into the full communion of the Church. The ordinariates, including one for the U.S. and Canada, incorporate certain spiritual practices of Anglicanism, including ordaining married men as priests.

But one major caveat in this discussion is that while it can be possible to ordain already-married or once-married men, a man cannot validly marry after he has been ordained. This means that married Eastern Catholic priests, permanent deacons, etc. cannot re-marry if their wife dies. And in the case of your pastor, a widowed man who later becomes a priest obviously would not be allowed to marry again.

Q Is a tattoo a good way to develop a devotion to Our Lady? (Wisconsin)

A Tattoos are certainly not one of the Church's first line, go-to recommendations for deepening any sort of devotion. And as far as I have been able to tell, the Church does not have any specific teaching regarding tattoos in general.

That being said, whether or not a tattoo could be useful for a specific person to develop a devotion to Our Lady depends on that particular individual, his or her particular life circumstances and cultural context, personal spirituality and unique spiritual needs. While there needs to be sufficient reflection for any permanent decision, in theory I would imagine that a tasteful and artistically beautiful tattoo in a Marian theme could help some people further love and honor Our Lady.

Interestingly, although the Church doesn't have any official doctrine on tattoos, there are a few instances where tattoos are part of a broader cultural Catholic tradition. One good example is a custom, dating back to the Middle Ages, where Catholic pilgrims to the Holy Lady get a religious tattoo to commemorate their pilgrimage.

(Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to [CatholicQA@osv.com](mailto:CatholicQA@osv.com).) †



# 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.

**BOLANDER, John A.**, 32, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, July 4. Son of Albert Bolander, Jr. Brother of Rose Licata, Maria Stulz and Albert Bolander III. Grandson of Mary Bolander.

**BOVA, Michael A.**, 20, St. Jude, Indianapolis, June 11. Son of Michael and Melissa Bova. Brother of Katelyn, Adam and Vincent Bova. Grandson of Mike and Margaret Bova. Great-grandson of Marguerite Bova.

**BRAUN, Daniel G.**, 62, Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, June 30. Son of Betty Jane Braun. Brother of David and Tim Braun.

**DOOLITTLE, Joel L.**, 73, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, June 19. Husband of Debora Doolittle. Father of Meghan, Bryan and Gary Doolittle. Grandfather of nine.

**EAST, Bernard R.**, 88, St. Jude, Indianapolis, July 14. Father of Tammy Hanley, Tim and Tom East. Brother of Rita and Steve East. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of four.

**EISFELDER, Tricia**, 57, St. Joseph, Crawford County, June 23. Wife of Jeff Eisfelder. Mother of Cathy Clift and Josh Eisfelder. Daughter of Joe and Mary Jo Titkos. Sister of Tabbi Gibbons, Bridgett Pittmen. Tommie St. John, Tami Schwenk, Trina and Joey Titkos. Grandmother of four.

**FULLEN, Paula A.**, 58, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, July 18. Mother of Jessica, Jonathan, Josh and Justin Fullen. Daughter of Wallace Blue. Sister of Michael and Patrick Blue. Grandmother of eight.

**GREEN, Robert L.**, 89, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora, July 16. Husband of Marlene Green. Father of Judy Copper, Victoria Facemyre, Kathy Meyer, Keith Green, David and Donny Livingston. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of 16.

**GRUT, George W.**, 72, St. Mary, Lanesville, July 15. Husband of Rita Grut. Father of Rhonda Blanford and Joseph Grut. Brother of Virginia Smith and David Grut. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of 13.

**KLINE, Douglas R.**, 71, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, July 14. Husband of Mary Ann Kline. Father of Andrea Padilla, Megan, Sarah and Jon Kline. Brother of Barbara Becker, Kathleen McArdle and Kurt Kline. Grandfather of three.

**KNABLE, Ann**, 86, St. Mary, New Albany, July 17. Mother of Tammy Gibson, Denise Konkle, Diane Lilly and Donna



Black-eyed Susan blossoms grace the grounds of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on Aug. 6. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

Resch. Sister of Mary Ellen Sprigler, Delores Striegel, Marcella Stumler, Hilda Thieneman, David and Joe Gettlefinger. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of 14.

**LAGRANGE, Dorothy A.**, 92, St. Mark, Perry County, July 14. Wife of Ovale LaGrange. Mother of Mary Carter, Sheila Kleeman, Debbie, Joan, Dave, John, Stan and Tim LaGrange. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of 47.

**MANUS, Mary Jane**, 87, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, July 15. Mother of Cheryl Gettlefinger, Sue Stauble and Mark Manus. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of 10.

**MARTINEZ, Jose Luis Cruz**, 49, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, July 4. Father of Erick, Jose Luis and Sergio Cruz Galan. Son of Francisco Cruz Acosta and Pauline Martinez Garcia. Brother of several. Grandfather of three.

**MCCOOL, William R.**, 77, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, July 14. Husband of Christine McCool. Father of Kimberly Brooks-McCool and Patrick McCool. Son of Helen Zimmer. Brother of Suzanne Craig. Grandfather of four.

**MEIRLE, Garry W.**, 81, Prince of Peace, Madison, July 19. Husband of Janet Meirle. Uncle and great-uncle of several.

**MILLER, Patricia M.**, 63, St. Philip Neri, Indianapolis, July 6. Mother of Kathleen Bullock, Mitchell and Scott Miller. Sister of Mary Anne Wayne, Daniel, James and Michael Hagist. Grandmother of five.

**NARDINA, Sara**, 92, St. Jude, Indianapolis, June 15. Wife of Charles Nardina. Mother of Debbie Santerre, Lisa Smeltzer, Shawn Altman and Ron Blackgrave. Sister of Mary Auberle. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of three.

**POTOSNAK, Richard**, 59, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, July 12. Husband of Kimberly Potosnak. Father of Olivia Hempleman and Paul Potosnak. Brother of Mari Ann Miller, Mari Beth Sylvster and Juli Williams.

**RITZMANN, James M.**, 68, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, July 14. Husband of Ann Hammond-Ritzmann. Father of Catherine, Charles, Edward and James Ritzmann. Grandfather of two.

**ROGERS, Harvey**, 82, St. Mary, Rushville, July 16. Husband of Donna Rogers. Father of Tiffany, Charles and Scott Rogers. Brother of Susie and Nicholas. Grandfather of two.

**RUTH, Margaret E. (Wilson)**, 95, Sacred Heart, Indianapolis, July 14. Mother of Mary Feldhake, Ann and Michael Ruth. Grandmother of three.

**SCHUTZ, Mary A.**, 89, St. Jude, Indianapolis, June 15. Mother of Sandy Garrett, Sarah Koors, Scott, Stan and Stephen Schutz. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of 22.

**SKINNER, Frank B.**, 87, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, July 12. Father of Anne Marie Sutton, Andy, David and Doug Skinner. Brother of Mary Snyder and Lewis Skinner. Grandfather of nine.

**SMALLWOOD, Phyllis (Becht)**, 85, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, July 16. Mother of Cheryl Bigler, Donna Cain, Bernadette Mudd, Cynthia Niehoff, Karen Stacksteder, Nicholas Seng and Tony Smallwood. Sister of Mary Becht, Sandy Pinnick and Linda Steinbrenner. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of 14. Great-great-grandmother of one.

**STEWART, Krista K.**, 67, St. Mary, Greensburg, July 10. Wife of James Stewart. Mother of Brian and Dwayne Stewart. Daughter of Francis and Shirley Fetter. Sister of Kathy Jackson, Karey Miller and Scott Fetter. Grandmother of four.

**STRACK, Margaret M. (Stahl)**, 85, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, July 4. Mother of Andrea Carver, Theresa Chaniga, Jeanine Currans and David Strack. Sister of Yoko Boyer, Carolyn O'Donnell, James and William Stahl. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of one.

**TIMBERLAKE, Lisa J.**, 60, St. Mary, Lanesville, July 11. Wife of Gary Timberlake. Mother of Nicholas Timberlake. Daughter of JoAnn Millner. Sister of Debora Bushau and David Brown.

**TORLINE, Charles J.**, 85, Prince of Peace, Madison, July 19. Father of Brian,

James, Joseph, Robert and William Torline. Brother of Dr. Phillip Torline. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of 17.

**WAGNER, Sharon M.**, 65, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, July 15. Wife of Chris Wagner. Stepdaughter of Donna Wagner. Sister of John, Mark, Mike, Deacon Rick and Steve

Wagner. Stepsister of Cathy Fiala and Mark Crayton.

**WOOD, Julia P.**, 98, Christ the King, Indianapolis, July 20. Mother of Melissa Wood Buechler, Carolyn Charles, Janie Richardt, Jennifer Wood Thompson, Ellen, Jackie, Julie, Jeremy, Joe and John Wood. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of nine. †

## Providence Sister Adele Beacham served in Catholic schools, parish ministry

Providence Sister Adele Beacham, previously Sister Joseph Therese, a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, died on Aug. 7 at Mother Theodore Hall on the campus of her religious community's motherhouse. She was 97.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 17 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Adele was born on March 9, 1926, in Toronto, Canada, and later lived with her family in Dayton, Ohio. She entered the Sisters of Providence on July 22, 1946, and professed final vows on Jan. 23, 1954.

Sister Adele earned a bachelor's degree in education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a master's degree in reading at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee and a master's degree in theological studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary

and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

In her 77 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Adele served for 30 years in Catholic education in schools in Illinois and Indiana. In 1979, she began ministering in parishes. Retiring from ministry in 1998, Sister Adele continued to volunteer in prison ministry. Beginning in 2020, she dedicated herself entirely to prayer.

In the archdiocese, Sister Adele served in Indianapolis at St. Anthony School from 1949-50, as a school supervisor in the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education from 1969-72 and at the former Holy Cross Central School from 1972-79, and as a pastoral associate at St. Anne Parish in New Castle from 1979-82. At the motherhouse, she ministered as director of development from 1987-90.

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

## Providence Sister Helen Vinton was an environmental advocate for 43 years

Providence Sister Helen Vinton, a member of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, died on Aug. 5 in New Iberia, La. She was 90.

A funeral service was held on Aug. 12 at the David Funeral Home in New Iberia. Burial followed at Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery in Jeanerette, La.

Sister Helen was born on Dec. 12, 1932, in Gordon, Neb. She entered the Sisters of Providence on July 22, 1953, and professed final vows on Jan. 23, 1961.

Sister Helen earned a bachelor's degree in English at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a master's degree in biology at St. Mary University in Winona, Minn.

A member of the Sisters of Providence for 70 years, Sister Helen served in Catholic education for nine years in schools in Illinois and Indiana. She then served on the staff of publications of the National Catholic Rural Life

Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

In 1980, Sister Helen began ministry with the Southern Mutual Help Association in Jeanerette, La., serving in it until her death. In this organization, she was an advocate on environmental issues, assisted families involved in farming and fishing and sought to remedy problems related to pesticides in Louisiana agriculture.

In the archdiocese, Sister Helen served at St. Mary School (now St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School) in Richmond from 1958-64, and in Indianapolis at the former Ladywood School for Girls from 1964-70 and the former Ladywood-St. Agnes High School from 1970-75.

Sister Helen is survived by a sister, Donnie Connealy.

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



**Investing with Faith/**Kimberly Pohovey

# A personal choice: the pros and cons of giving anonymously

Sharing our blessings with others brings great joy not only to those we support, but also to us. Still, once



we've decided to give to those in need, we might find ourselves wondering whether it is better to give publicly or anonymously.

From a Catholic perspective, the answer isn't as clear

as we might think. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus cautions us against doing good to attract the praise of others the way hypocrites do. Instead, he counsels, "When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Mt 6:3-4).

But in the very same teaching, he also tells us, "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Mt 5:16).

Faithful Catholic donors may wish to keep their generosity private

in order to avoid the spotlight and remain humble. Those who do, trust that God knows their hearts—and their gifts. On the other hand, however, those who give in more public ways may inspire others to join them in generously sharing what they have. They may also want to draw attention to a particular charitable endeavor or a favorite cause by openly voicing their support.

But there are other practical things to consider too.

### Pros and cons

Like most of the choices we make, there are pros and cons, advantages and drawbacks to both anonymous and public giving.

Reasons donors have for giving anonymously include:

- Wanting to remain humble before God and others,
- The need to avoid associating your name with a cause that is controversial generally, or just among your friends and family members,
- A desire to avoid receiving an overwhelming number of other requests,

- A preference for keeping personal facts private,
- A passion for giving credit to those who provide services, rather than to those who fund them.

Reasons donors have for making a charitable giving known include:

- The hope that your gift may encourage others to support a cause close to your heart—or theirs,
- A desire to make others aware of a particular need,
- A willingness to allow a charity to use your name to gain more support for their organization and mission,
- An aspiration to set an example of responsible stewardship for your family and/or community,
- Eagerness to voice confidence in a particular charitable initiative.

### The choice is a personal one

Some thought should be given to the decision you make regarding whether your charitable giving should be made public or kept private. The fact that most charitable institutions prefer public giving may influence what you do, but the choice is a very

personal one only you can—and should—make.

Choosing how we give is certainly important, but never as important as the choice to give at all.

Giving is always a win-win, especially when it comes to spreading the compassion of Jesus Christ throughout central and southern Indiana.

So, whether you decide that anonymity is the way to go or choose to embrace the call to share your faith as well as your assets, know that you are building God's kingdom right where you are.

Not sure what's best for you? The Catholic Community Foundation is happy to help you decide. Contact us at 317-236-1482 or [ccf@archindy.org](mailto:ccf@archindy.org).

*(Kimberly Pohovey is the director of major and planned gifts for the archdiocese. Tax or legal information provided herein is not intended as tax or legal advice. Always consult with your legal, tax or financial advisors before implementing any gift plan. For more information on the Catholic Community Foundation, visit [www.archindy.org](http://www.archindy.org)/CCF, e-mail [ccf@archindy.org](mailto:ccf@archindy.org), or call 317-236-1482.) †*

## SCIFRES

continued from page 8

our children in the Catholic Church.

"A turning point for me was with Joe Hollowell, who I think had 11 kids and was president of Roncalli at the time. I always made the excuse I was too busy to go through the [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults] process. Joe and I would talk about it. He said, 'If you ever decide to take that step, I'd be honored to be your sponsor.'

"It was like a light switch went on for me. 'For heaven's sake, Bruce, you big knucklehead, you're making this excuse that you don't have time because you have four kids and you're a head coach, and here's a guy with 11 kids who says he'll take the time if I'm interested.' At that time, I had no more excuses to not become Catholic."

**Q. What does the Catholic faith mean to you?**

A. "It becomes the core of who you are and how you're going to live your life. Certainly, I believed in Jesus and God and heaven prior to becoming Catholic, but

the Catholic faith for me kind of felt like coming home—to where you feel a part of a family.

"Gosh, at the end of the day, it's like your compass, your moral compass. In our human condition, periodically we stray a little bit, but our faith always becomes the compass guiding us home—who we should be and how we should be. Ultimately, just as a compass magnetically points to the North Pole, I think our Catholic faith magnetically points us to heaven. That's what we're gravitating to. That's what I've grown to love and appreciate about the Catholic faith."

**Q. What do you want to be remembered for? (The question that led him to try to fight back tears and lose that battle.)**

A. "It's hard to answer that without getting emotional. Maybe to be remembered as somebody who loved kids and loved his faith. And wanted to share that faith with kids and their families. Somebody who worked hard to make his family and God proud. And maybe somebody who worked hard to make it to heaven and take others with him." †



The Scifres family members are all smiles as they pose for a photo. Caleb, left, Bruce and Luke are in the front row while Abby, left, Jackie and Meggie form the back row. (Submitted photo)

## READINGS

continued from page 17

**Thursday, September 7**

Colossians 1:9-14

Psalm 98:2-6

Luke 5:1-11

**Friday, September 8**

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Micah 5:1-4a

or Romans 8:28-30

Psalm 13:6abc

Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

or Matthew 1:18-23

**Saturday, September 9**

St. Peter Claver, priest

Colossians 1:21-23

Psalm 54:3-4, 6, 8

Luke 6:1-5

**Sunday, September 10**

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9

Romans 13:8-10

Matthew 18:15-20

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### Employment

#### Bishop Chatard High School Donor Information Manager



Bishop Chatard High School is seeking a task-driven, engaging, and detail-oriented individual to carry out the duties and responsibilities of Donor Information Manager. The Donor Information Manager is a member of the school's advancement team and reports to the Executive Director of Development. This is a full-time, 12-month

position. Qualified candidates will have a strong work ethic, experience with Blackbaud products including but not limited to Raiser's Edge or compatible software, and the ability to work collaboratively with a team and the BCHS community. A bachelor's degree is required.

To apply, please email a resume and cover letter to J.T. Funk, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at [jfunk@BishopChatard.org](mailto:jfunk@BishopChatard.org). Resumes and cover letters will be accepted until the position is filled.



# IPI graduates encouraged to bear fruit in service to others

By Mike Krokos

Oscar Salcedo almost didn't graduate.

Personal problems caused him to step away from taking classes at the archdiocesan Intercultural Pastoral Institute (IPI) after his first year of studies, leading him to believe he wouldn't complete the two-year leadership program.

But a phone call changed that.

"I received a call from Dr. Carmen Hernandez [the coordinator of IPI], urging me to return and finish the leadership program," said Salcedo, a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus.

Although he initially told Hernandez "no, no, no ... she kept insisting, until she convinced me to return to the institute. Thank you very much, doctor, for your insistence.

"I finally learned that my 'no, no, no' ... was insignificant before the will of God," Salcedo continued. "That is why I place myself before God's disposal, that he use me as his instrument, and his will be done, not mine."

Salcedo was chosen to give a speech on behalf of his classmates during IPI's Pastoral Leadership certification program held on June 28 at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson began the event by celebrating Mass, and the evening also included a graduation ceremony, the presentation of diplomas and dinner.

IPI forms pastoral and catechetical leaders within the various ethnic communities in the archdiocese and the Lafayette Diocese, and at the gathering, 22 graduates were recognized.

## 'Let us go and make a difference'

In his homily, shared in Spanish, Archbishop Thompson congratulated the graduates on earning their certificates. Their work, he noted, included much time in "prayer, study and discernment for service in the Church.

"Those who have remained steadfast in faith, persevering in their efforts and ardent in missionary discipleship are to be recognized for the fruit of their labor," he said. "Like trees that bear good fruit because their roots run deep in the Earth, so the roots of those being certified in spiritual direction and pastoral leadership must remain deeply connected to the person of Jesus Christ. Without a personal encounter and ongoing relationship with him, how does the fruit of one's ministry remain good?"

The liturgy was celebrated on the feast of St. Irenaeus, the bishop of Lyons in what is now France for 25 years before being martyred around 202. He was known for



Graduates of the archdiocesan Intercultural Pastoral Institute are pictured with Archbishop Charles C. Thompson after a graduation ceremony in the chapel at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on June 28. In all, 22 individuals received diplomas.

(Photo by Mike Krokos)

his writing to dispute the heresies of his time and to explain principles of the Christian faith.

The archbishop told those in attendance the saint was "firmly rooted in Jesus Christ through a deep commitment to prayer, Scripture and the sacraments," and that "his witness bore the good fruit of a life rooted in personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

Like St. Irenaeus, Archbishop Thompson said, "we must allow ourselves to be instruments of his saving grace of healing, unity, mercy and reconciliation."

Relying upon God's divine grace available through word, sacrament and service, the archbishop encouraged the graduates to help carry out Jesus' mission.

"Remaining forever deeply rooted in personal relationship with Jesus Christ, bearing the fruit of Good News of Salvation," he continued, "let us go and make a difference in the lives of others. By your fruit of faith in action, may you be known."

## 'The teaching model of Jesus'

In her remarks to the 11th graduating class of the two-year formation program, Hernandez acknowledged the efforts, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of the students.

"Starting today, you are going to give life to your lives. You are going to give life to your new paths as pastoral leaders," she noted. "Always remember that the

best model of Catholic leadership is that of the servant leader, the teaching model of Jesus that leads us to unite in prayer and help our brothers, particularly those most in need. St. John Paul II pointed it out well when he said, 'Love is looking at the other, not to make use of him, but to serve him.'"

As they minister in the future, Hernandez continued, it will offer the graduates the chance to grow closer to Jesus, follow him, serve him and lead others to him.

"The God-love is the true strength of the soul, the powerful conviction that moves us to have confidence in him and to walk toward him, from love to the brother and in particular to the most in need, to the poor in a material and spiritual sense," Hernandez said. "This is the direction that you, now pastoral leaders, must have as your north."

Loving and serving God, Salcedo noted, will be at the heart of his mission.

"If we remain faithful to God, without a doubt, love will flourish in our being," he said. "This is the love that comes from God who transforms us, makes us more serene, more optimistic, more compassionate, wiser. And it's through love where you get the true way to serve and live in this world for others."

(To learn more about the Intercultural Ministry Institute and its program, visit [www.archindy.org/multicultural](http://www.archindy.org/multicultural).) †

## Los graduados del IPI están llamados a dar fruto en el servicio a los demás

Por Mike Krokos

Oscar Salcedo estuvo a punto de no graduarse.

Debido a problemas personales tuvo que dejar las clases en el Instituto Pastoral Intercultural (IPI) de la Arquidiócesis tras su primer año de estudios, lo que le llevó a pensar que no completaría el programa de liderazgo de dos años.

Pero una llamada telefónica lo cambió todo.

"Recibí una llamada de la Dra. Carmen Hernández [coordinadora del IPI], instándome a regresar y terminar el programa de liderazgo," recuerda Salcedo, miembro de la parroquia de San Bartolomé en Columbus.

Aunque al principio le dijo a Hernández "No, no, no. ... Pero siguió insistiendo, hasta que me convenció para que volviera al instituto." ¡Gracias por insistir, doctora!



Oscar Salcedo de la parroquia de San Bartolomé de Columbus y graduado del Instituto Pastoral Intercultural, reflexiona sobre su experiencia en el programa de dos años. (Foto de Mike Krokos)

"Finalmente me di cuenta de que mi negativa era algo insignificante ante la voluntad de Dios"—continuó Salcedo—. "Por eso me pongo a disposición de Dios, para que me use como su instrumento y se haga su voluntad, no la mía."

Salcedo fue elegido para pronunciar un discurso en nombre de sus compañeros durante el programa de certificación de Liderazgo Pastoral del IPI, celebrado el 28 de junio en la Casa de Retiros Nuestra Señora de Fátima de Indianapolis. El arzobispo Charles C. Thompson inició el acto celebrando una misa, y la velada incluyó también una ceremonia de graduación, la entrega de diplomas y una cena.

El IPI forma líderes pastorales y catequéticos en las diversas comunidades étnicas de la Arquidiócesis y de la diócesis de Lafayette, y en la reunión se otorgó reconocimiento a 22 graduados.

## 'Vayamos y marquemos la diferencia'

En su homilía, pronunciada en español, el arzobispo Thompson felicitó a los graduados por haber obtenido sus certificados. Señaló que su trabajo incluía mucho tiempo de "oración, estudio y discernimiento para el servicio en la Iglesia.

"Aquellos que se han mantenido firmes en la fe, perseverantes en sus esfuerzos y fervientes en el discipulado misionero serán reconocidos por el fruto de su labor. Como los árboles que dan buenos frutos porque sus raíces son profundas en la tierra, así las raíces de los que se certifican en guía espiritual y liderazgo pastoral deben permanecer profundamente conectadas a la persona de Jesucristo. Sin un encuentro personal

y una relación continua con él, ¿cómo se mantiene bueno el fruto de nuestro ministerio?"

La liturgia se celebró en la festividad de San Ireneo, obispo de Lyon durante 25 años antes de ser martirizado cerca de año 202. Era conocido por sus escritos para rebatir las herejías de su época y explicar principios de la fe cristiana.

El arzobispo dijo a los asistentes que el santo estaba "firmemente afianzado en Jesucristo a través de un profundo compromiso con la oración, las Escrituras y los sacramentos," y que "su testimonio dio el buen fruto de una vida arraigada en la relación personal con Jesucristo."

El arzobispo Thompson expresó que, al igual que san Ireneo, "debemos permitirnos ser instrumentos de su gracia salvadora de curación, unidad, misericordia y reconciliación."

Ayudado en la gracia divina de Dios que recibimos a través de la palabra, los sacramentos y el servicio, el arzobispo animó a los graduados a ayudar a llevar a cabo la misión de Jesús.

"Permaneciendo para siempre profundamente arraigados en la relación personal con Jesucristo, dando el fruto de la Buena Nueva de la Salvación"—prosiguió—"vayamos y marquemos la diferencia en la vida de los demás. Que los reconozcan por su fruto de fe en acción."

## 'El modelo de enseñanza de Jesús'

En su discurso a la 11.ª promoción del programa de formación de dos años, Hernández reconoció el esfuerzo, la dedicación, el entusiasmo y el compromiso de los estudiantes.

"A partir de hoy, van a dar vida a sus vidas, a sus nuevos caminos como líderes pastorales"—señaló—.

"Recuerden siempre que el mejor modelo de liderazgo católico es el del líder servidor, el modelo de enseñanza de Jesús que nos lleva a unirnos en la oración y a ayudar a nuestros hermanos, en particular a los más necesitados. San Juan Pablo II lo destacó cuando dijo: "El amor es mirar al otro, no para servirse de él, sino para servirle."

Hernández aseguró que al ministrar en el futuro, los graduados tendrán la oportunidad de seguir creciendo cerca de Jesús, seguirle, servirle y guiar a otros hacia él.

"El amor a Dios es la verdadera fuerza del alma, la poderosa convicción que nos mueve a tener confianza y a caminar hacia él, desde el amor al hermano y en particular a los más necesitados, a los pobres en sentido material y espiritual"—expresó Hernández—. "Esta es la dirección que ustedes, ahora líderes pastorales, deben tener como norte."

Salcedo señaló que amar y servir a Dios será el núcleo de su misión.

"Si permanecemos fieles a Dios, sin duda, el amor florecerá en nuestro ser. Este es el amor que proviene de Dios que nos transforma, nos hace más serenos, más optimistas, más compasivos, más sabios. Y es a través del amor donde se consigue la verdadera forma de servir y vivir en este mundo para los demás."

(Para conocer más sobre el Instituto Pastoral Intercultural y su programa, visite [www.archindy.org/multicultural](http://www.archindy.org/multicultural).) †