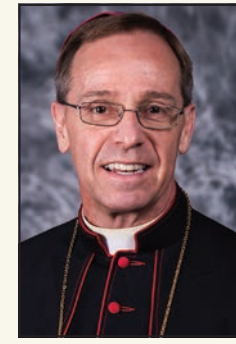




The

Criterion

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Christ the Cornerstone

We must love others to end the sin of racism, writes Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, page 5.

CriterionOnline.com

January 18, 2019

Vol. LIX, No. 14 75¢

Endowment gives \$5 million grant to St. Mary's Child Center, \$1 million grant to Holy Family Shelter

By John Shaughnessy

When she received the news that Lilly Endowment Inc. had awarded a \$5 million grant to St. Mary's Child Center in Indianapolis, Connie Sherman viewed it as "an amazing gift" to help the center continue its work of helping re-shape the future of young children who now live in



Connie Sherman

poverty. David Bethuram had a similar reaction when Lilly Endowment announced that Holy Family Shelter in Indianapolis—an agency of the archdiocese's Catholic Charities—will receive a \$1 million grant to continue its care for homeless children and families.

Both grants are among the 10 overall—totaling \$48 million—that Lilly Endowment recently awarded to human services agencies in central Indiana.

"The grants are designed to help these valuable organizations build long-term financial strength and resiliency," said Rob Smith, Lilly Endowment's vice president for community development.



David Bethuram

"The grants are not intended to fund ongoing operating support that is essential for these organizations to meet the day-to-day needs of the children, families and individuals they serve. In fact, we hope our grants help these agencies more effectively attract additional support for their critically important work."

That is also the hope of the leaders of St. Mary's Child Center and Holy Family Shelter. Still, the leaders are also thrilled to begin the year with the grants.

See **ENDOWMENT**, page 15



'We're all here to encounter Christ'



More than 17,000 college students, campus ministers, religious and more came together for praise, adoration, music, worship and inspirational speakers during the SEEK2019 conference held on Jan. 3-7 in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Sponsored by the Denver-based Fellowship of Catholic University Students, this year's conference included 12,000 students from more than 600 colleges across the country. For more coverage of SEEK2019, see pages 7-10. (Photos by Fellowship of Catholic University Students and Natalie Hoefler)

Legacy of faith, family and generosity guides recipient of Career Achievement Award

(Editor's note: On Feb. 7, the archdiocese will present Celebrating Catholic School Values Career Achievement Awards to Pat Musgrave, Virginia Marten and Jerry and Rosie Semler. In this issue, The Criterion features Marten.)

By John Shaughnessy

The early morning scene offers an insightful glimpse into just how much their Catholic faith has always meant to Virginia and John Marten.

Every morning, even before their 11 children were allowed to have breakfast, the couple gathered their family together for prayer in front of a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"We just thought it was important for us to be together and pray together—that it would sustain us all," Virginia says.

"Faith was a huge part of our family's life."

It still is.

The 11 children—who all attended Catholic grade schools, high schools and colleges—are grown now. And their Catholic faith remains a vital part of their lives because of the example of their parents, says Gini Hupfer, the youngest sibling.



Virginia Marten

"Everyone has continued their faith," Hupfer says. "Even in college, when a lot of people take a hiatus from their faith, we continued it. Our faith is just a natural routine in our day. We wouldn't have it any other way."

While faithfulness has been a hallmark

of the family, so has Virginia's generosity to Catholic education and Catholic institutions.

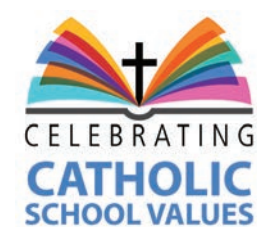
"She has a charitable foundation, and it's all about Catholicism," Hupfer notes.

That generosity has enhanced the efforts of the Catholic faith across

Indiana, including many ministries of the archdiocese.

In Indianapolis, Marian University, St. Vincent Health, Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House have also benefitted from her foundation, as well as her home parish of St. Luke the Evangelist. The University

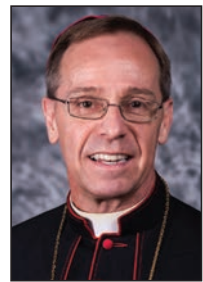
See **CCSV**, page 2



Bishops describe their retreat as inspiring and Spirit-filled

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Although the weeklong retreat for U.S. Catholic bishops emphasized quiet reflection, several bishops spoke out on social media during the retreat and after it wrapped up on Jan. 8 with positive reaction about it and to give shoutouts to the retreat leader, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, who has preached to popes and top officials of the Roman Curia for nearly 40 years.

In comments shared after the retreat, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said it was “a deeply profound experience.”



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

“We were not only blessed with an incredible retreat master, but gathering for the spiritual purpose of prayer and reflection without any order of business was also a very unique way to be with brother bishops

from all parts of the United States,” he said. “We were given much to ponder and contemplate, and I believe that many of us will continue to ‘unpack’ all that was shared with us over several weeks if not months. Personally, I came away with a renewed sense of relying more fully on the grace of the Holy Spirit in being both shepherd and fisher of men as a bishop.”

Another bishop said listening to Father Raniero was akin to being in the presence of the early Christian theologians. “Clear, intensely filled with the Holy Spirit, and all for the Kingdom of God,” Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Boulette of San Antonio said in a tweet. “Let us continue to pray for one another, our Church and our world. A blessing to be here!”

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Anchorage, Alaska, tweeted that the retreat leader was a “true instrument of the Lord,” and that the Holy Spirit was at work during the retreat.

Pope Francis suggested the bishops hold the retreat and offered the services of the 84-year-old Father Raniero, who has served as preacher of the papal household since 1980. The time of prayer on Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago was planned largely in response to last summer’s revelations of allegations

of clergy sex abuse that reached the highest levels of the Church in the U.S.

In a Jan. 8 column for *Angelus News*, the archdiocesan news outlet of Los Angeles, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles said the bishops’ retreat leader focused “our attention on the vocation and responsibility of bishops in this moment in the Church.”

“We are praying together as a visible sign of our unity as bishops and our communion with the Holy Father. There is a collegial spirit here, and a firm commitment to address the causes of the abuse crisis we face and continue the work of renewing the Church,” he added.

The archbishop said Father Raniero asked them to “trust more in the Holy Spirit. We need to have confidence that we are always living in God’s loving presence.”

The theme of the bishops’ retreat was “the mission of the Apostles and of their successors,” drawing from the Gospel of Mark, which says Jesus “appointed 12—whom he also named Apostles—that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach” (Mk 3:14).

Reflections from the retreat do not seem to be about the crisis in particular, maybe for a reason.

In a Jan. 9 column for the *Chicago Catholic*, the archdiocesan newspaper, Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said the pope’s intention for the retreat went beyond “this particular moment or challenge facing us bishops.”

“We are not leaving this retreat with all the answers to the important questions facing the Church in these days,” he wrote, but he said the bishops now have a renewed sense of the importance of taking their cues from “Christ’s spirit rather than our own efforts.”

Another blessing from the week, he said, was being drawn closer to each other and to the pope.

“I have no doubt that just as the early Church relied on Peter’s unique ministry to meet the challenges of the day, so we will draw strength and insight from our unity with his successor,” he said.

Archbishop Thompson agreed. “I pray that this retreat proves enriching for all the bishops as well as those we serve,” he said. “This will be so, if we remain centered on the Holy Trinity; discerning the will of the Father, carrying forth the mission of the Son and embracing the grace of the Spirit.” †

Indianapolis and executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization, appointed priest moderator *pro tem* of Holy Angels and St. Rita parishes, both in Indianapolis, while continuing as rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral and executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization.

(These appointments are from the office of the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of Indianapolis.) †

Official Appointments

Effective January 9, 2019

Sister Gail Trippett, C.S.J., pastoral associate at Holy Angels Parish, appointed parish life coordinator *pro tem* of Holy Angels and St. Rita parishes, both in Indianapolis.

Very Rev. Patrick J. Beidelman, rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in

Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

January 19 – 31, 2018



Jan. 19 – 10 a.m.
Baptisms in Louisville, KY

Jan. 20 – 6 p.m.
Christian Unity Prayer Service at First Friends Church, Indianapolis

Jan. 22 – noon
Respect Life Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, Indianapolis

Jan. 22 – 1:30 p.m.
March for Life, from St. John the Evangelist Church to Monument Circle to the Statehouse, Indianapolis

Jan. 24 – 7 p.m.
Theology on Tap at Marian University, Indianapolis

Jan. 26 – 9 a.m.
Black Catholic Men’s gathering at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis

Jan. 27 – 9:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer and Mass at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, Indianapolis

Jan. 27 – 4 p.m.
Mass at Sweeney Chapel at Butler University, Indianapolis

Jan. 28 – 6 p.m.
Echo, ACE, FOCUS Winter Gathering at Iaria’s Restaurant, Indianapolis

Jan. 29 – 10 a.m.
Catholic Accompaniment and Reflection Experience (CARE) program launch at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

Jan. 30 – 10 a.m.
Mass for Catholic Schools Week at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

Jan. 31 – 10 a.m.
Leadership Team Meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

(Schedule subject to change.)

CCSV

continued from page 1

of Notre Dame and Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad are also on that extensive list.

It’s a legacy of giving that Virginia says she first learned from her mother. It’s also an approach to life that she shared with her husband during their 38 years of marriage before he died in 1985. That’s why she views her Celebrating Catholic School Values Career Achievement Award as an honor for them as a couple.

“The thing that impresses me is that she and her late husband John have been true champions of the Catholic faith and Catholic education,” says Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, the pastor of St. Luke Parish who has known the family for more than 35 years. “She’s been just an absolute stellar Catholic in her devotion, her raising

of her children, and her philanthropy.” Virginia views it all as a return on the gift of faith she’s been given.

“We are Catholic, and we just thought these were the places to give our money and keep everything going for the Catholic faith,” Virginia says.

Now 93, she smiles as she talks about a life that has been built on the foundations of faith and family, a family that now includes 36 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren—“and counting.”

“Faith is the biggest part of my life,” she says. “And just having all the children was a blessing for me. We always did things together as a family. There’s been a lot of joy in my life.”

(Jerry and Rosie Semler will be featured in the Jan. 25 issue of *The Criterion*. Pat Musgrave was featured in the Jan. 11 issue of *The Criterion*. Her story can be read at www.criteriononline.com.) †

Bishop Kicanas is keynote speaker for Celebrating Catholic Schools Values

Bishop Emeritus Gerald F. Kicanas of the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz., will be the keynote speaker during the 23rd annual

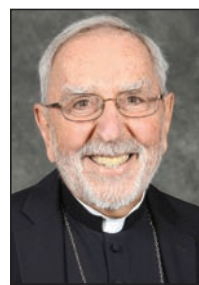
Celebrating Catholic Schools Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Reception and Awards program on Feb. 7.

The program will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Grand Hall of Union Station in Indianapolis. The invitation-only event begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. with the awards program starting at 7 p.m.

Bishop Kicanas is the chairperson of the board of directors of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Since 1996, the Celebrating Catholic School Values event has highlighted Catholic schools as assets to the corporate community, honored an outstanding group of alumni for their career accomplishments, and honored friends of Catholic schools for their community service.

This year, the archdiocese will honor four individuals: Jerry and Rosie Semler of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, Pat Musgrave of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, and Virginia Marten of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. †



Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas



Phone Numbers:
Main office: 317-236-1570
Advertising: 317-236-1454
Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
Circulation: 317-236-1454
Toll free: 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1454

Price: \$22.00 per year, 75 cents per copy
Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com
E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2018 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

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The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.
1400 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
317-236-1570
800-382-9836 ext. 1570
criterion@archindy.org
Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
Copyright © 2018
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc. 1400 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

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Senate bill would place limits on predatory lending

By Victoria Arthur

For someone in desperate financial straits, the colorful signs and billboards entice and offer hope: Need cash now? Loans in minutes. No credit check.

The storefront operations that promise relief from money woes are often located in the most impoverished neighborhoods. And opponents of the payday lending industry say that far from solving people's financial problems, they only fuel the cycle of debt and poverty—especially among the poorest populations.

Currently, the industry can charge an incremental annual percentage rate (APR) of up to a staggering 391 percent on a payday loan, also called a cash advance. Senate Bill 104, introduced this month at the Indiana General Assembly, aims to cap the interest that a payday lender may charge to a 36 percent APR, in line with 15 other states and the District of Columbia. The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) supports the bill.

"We believe that needy families in Indiana should be protected from predatory lending practices that most people would find intolerable," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, the public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "Those who use payday loans are often lower-income persons and families whose paychecks are just short of covering the month's expenses, and they quickly become entrapped in a web of interest and debt. The ICC calls upon our elected officials to take action on this legislation that would move Indiana one step closer to providing families access to small loans that charge reasonable interest rates."

Senate Bill 104, authored by Sen. Greg Walker (R-Columbus) and Sen. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper, who is also the Senate majority leader), targets the fee structures and finance charges that enable the payday loan industry to reap exorbitant interest-rate payments from consumers. Walker emphasized that a person seeking a loan of this type typically will not realize the eventual cost of borrowing until it is too late.



Sen. Greg Walker

"These loans put too much strain on fixed income [and] limited income families," Walker said. "Statistics show that 82 percent of loans of this type are renewed within 10 days. The cyclical nature of it is devastating."


This is not the first time the issue has come up in the state legislature. Last year Walker proposed a similar bill that did not receive a hearing. At the same time, a bill to expand the payday loan industry advanced in the House of Representatives but died in the Senate. This year, Walker says he is optimistic that the effort to curb the industry will fare better.



Sen. Mark Messmer

"I feel hopeful about getting a good hearing," he said. "We have more co-sponsors for this bill, and there are definitely more people listening and paying attention."

Among the staunchest supporters of Senate Bill 104 is Jim Bauerle, vice president and legislative director of the



'Those who use payday loans are often lower-income persons and families whose paychecks are just short of covering the month's expenses, and they quickly become entrapped in a web of interest and debt.'

— Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference

Military/Veterans Coalition of Indiana. A retired U.S. Army brigadier general, Bauerle served 32 years in the military, including tours of duty in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm. Now he is engaged in a different kind of battle: advocating for veterans and those currently in uniform.

As a military commander, Bauerle witnessed firsthand how the payday loan industry often preys on those serving the country, especially those who are younger and inexperienced with money matters. He recounted the story of an Army reservist in his command who learned he was being deployed to Afghanistan. The young man wanted to propose to his girlfriend and marry her before leaving, so he sought a short-term loan to cover the cost of the ring and other expenses. He soon found himself overwhelmed with debt.

"In many cases like this, a lender would call our unit threatening to garnish the person's wages and ask us to get involved and fix the problem," Bauerle said. "This is the last thing we wanted to have to do when we were worrying about our readiness to go to war and protect our country."

A federal law enacted years ago protects members of the armed forces on

active duty from predatory loan practices. However, it does not apply to reservists, members of the National Guard or veterans.

Beyond advocating for Senate Bill 104, Bauerle, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette, wants the public to know that there are many alternatives to payday loans. This includes help from military organizations, as well as assistance offered by Catholic Charities and other faith-based groups.

"People talk of 'food deserts' and say that we also have 'banking deserts' in some areas, and that the only way people can deal with emergency expenses is through cash advance loans," Bauerle said. "But I don't accept that premise. We don't have 'Catholic deserts' in our state. The Catholic Church is always there to help, and the recipient doesn't even have to be Catholic."

"There are so many better options than going to a payday lender."

To follow Senate Bill 104 and other priority legislation of the Indiana Catholic Conference, visit www.indianacc.org.

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

Pope offers practical tips for keeping track of one's love of neighbor

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis offered a checklist for Catholics to keep track of how they measure up to the biblical admonition: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar" (1 Jn 4:20).

Preaching on Jan. 10 about the passage from the First Letter of John, the pope said the devil is defeated by Christians loving their brothers and sisters.

To see how one is doing in the battle, the first question to ask is: "Do I pray for people? For everyone, concretely, those whom I like and those I don't like, for those who are friends and those who are not?"

the pope said during morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

The second thing to check, he said, is how often "I feel inside me sentiments of jealousy, envy, and I start wanting to wish something bad would happen to him or her—that is a signal that you do not love. Stop there. Don't let those feelings grow. They are dangerous."

Last, he said, the most common sign "that I don't love my neighbor and so cannot say I love God is gossip. Get this clearly into your heart and your head: If I gossip, I do not love God because gossip destroys people." †

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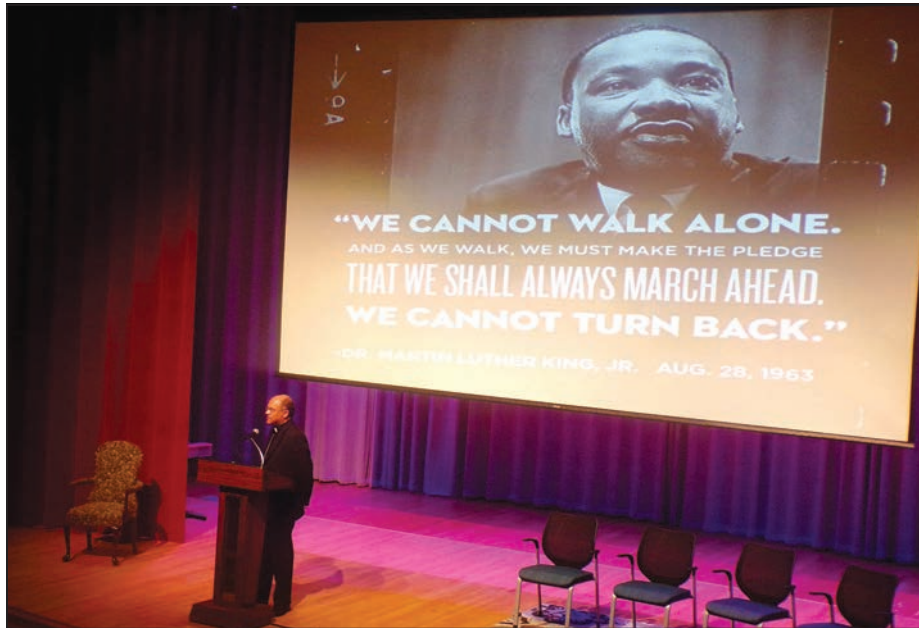


The Criterion

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Editorial



Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, La., speaks on Sept. 17 in Providence, R.I., during an evening program about racism in the Church and society titled, "Where Do We Go From Here?"

(CNS photo/Brian Fraga, Rhode Island Catholic)

The sin of racism

The American Declaration of Independence stated that all men are created equal, and the Catholic Church teaches, as the Bible says, that we were all created in the image and likeness of God. But do we really believe that and show it by our actions?

Racism has been a part of our society from the beginning. Although it surely is not as bad today as it used to be, recent events demonstrate clearly that it still exists. That's why the U.S. Catholic bishops issued a pastoral letter on the subject during their annual meeting last November. That letter hasn't received much notice because of the Church's clergy sex-abuse crisis, but it must not go unnoticed.

Called "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," the pastoral says, "Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard."

Racism is sinful, the bishops say, "when this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity."

Such acts violate justice and fail to recognize others "as the neighbors Christ calls us to love," they say.

What are those recent events that prompted this letter? The bishops mention many of them, beginning with the killing of unarmed African-Americans by law enforcement officials and the disproportionate number of ethnic minorities among prison inmates.

They also mention the reappearance of symbols of hatred, such as nooses and swastikas in public places, and the discrimination that Hispanics and African-Americans face in hiring, housing and educational opportunities. "Racial profiling frequently targets Hispanics for selective immigration enforcement practices, and African-Americans for suspected criminal activity," they say.

Anti-Semitism has also reappeared, they note, and, "there is also the growing fear and harassment of persons from majority Muslim countries. Extreme nationalist ideologies are feeding

the American public discourse with xenophobic rhetoric that instigates fear against foreigners, immigrants, and refugees."

It's hard to deny that all this has been happening in our country. The sad thing, though, is that too many people don't see it as sinful.

The bishops acknowledge that racism "can often be found in our hearts—in many cases placed there unwillingly or unknowingly by our upbringing and culture. As such, it can lead to thoughts and actions that we do not even see as racist, but nonetheless flow from the same prejudicial root."

There can be no good reason why a person should feel superior to others simply because he or she was fortunate enough to be born in this country. But that's precisely the attitude of some Americans intent on restricting immigration to those who are like them. The bishops call such an attitude exactly what it is—sinful.

Fortunately, the bishops are quick to acknowledge that the Church in the United States hasn't always been innocent of racism, including institutional ties to slavery early in our nation's history and segregation seating in churches.

The bishops say, "The persistence of the evil of racism is why we are writing this letter now," and, "We cannot look upon the progress against racism in recent decades and conclude that our current situation meets the standard of justice. In fact, God demands what is right and just."

They also say, "The Church in the United States has spoken out consistently and forcefully against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other forms of violence that threaten human life. As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue. Accordingly, we will not cease to speak forcefully against and work toward ending racism."

All Catholics, all Americans, all people should back the bishops on this issue. For all of us, it's time to examine our consciences and see when we might have been guilty of this sin—when we might have, even unconsciously, held a superior attitude toward others.

—John F. Fink

Be Our Guest/*Anne-Marie Frisby*

Saint's relic touches the 'heart' of the blessings of our faith

On Jan. 4, our high school went to SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis to see the heart of St. John Vianney.



Visiting first-class relics is a very powerful way of not only remembering the reality of the saints, but also of recollecting ourselves for prayer. It reminds us that our faith is not merely a faith of the

spirit, but also a faith of this world.

Christ became man and died for us, and his saints are also men and women like us who have chosen to live for God in the world. This is part of why we, as Catholics, reverence relics.

When we arrived, we were greeted with a line stretching to the very back of the church. Many, many people, including young adults, were drawn to the relic of this beloved saint.

It is said that St. John Vianney touched the hearts of his parishioners through the sacrament of confession. As we approached, it was clear that even [150] years later, he is still touching the hearts of those who hope in God.

The wait was very long, yet more and more people queued up for even a minute of brief prayer in front of the blessed heart.

Meanwhile, Knights of Columbus members in full regalia oversaw and stood guard over the precious relic. That which they guarded looked simple—a mass of what looked like flesh in a vessel—yet they saw it for what it truly was. It is the flesh of a man who overcame the desires of the flesh. It is the flesh of a man whose flesh will be glorified with Christ's. It is the flesh of a man who is united to us in the mystical body of Christ.

The saints are not only inspirational figures, but also our brothers and sisters in Christ. They are with us, parts of the body of Christ.

Because of this, we should treasure their relics as we would treasure the parting gift of a loved one.

Much of our faith is unseen, so all the more we must treasure that which we can see, the touchstones we have been given, the blessings that have been showered down upon us.

(*Anne-Marie Frisby is in the 12th grade at Lumen Christi Catholic School in Indianapolis.*) †

Letters to the Editor

Focus on clericalism takes away from more serious problem, reader says

With respect, I must take issue with a recent editorial in the Nov. 30 issue of *The Criterion* attributing the sex-abuse scandal to the sin of "clericalism," defined as the expectation of special privileges because of rank. This assessment is, in my judgment, misguided and dangerous, not because clericalism isn't a concern, but because it diverts attention away from something far more serious—the homosexual problem.

The facts speak even when Church leaders remain silent. Based on the data presented in several sociological studies, including the Pennsylvania grand jury report, social scientists have found a strong link between homosexuality and clerical sex abuse. In more than 80 percent of cases, the victims were male; most were adolescents, and some were seminarians.

If the crisis was rooted in clericalism, the assault rate for female victims would be much higher than 20 percent. Outside the Church, the corresponding rate is more than 90 percent. In other words,

the statistics overwhelmingly point to a homosexual problem. That doesn't mean, of course, that most homosexuals are predators, but it does mean that, in the Church, most predators are homosexuals.

For the many souls who have been psychologically and spiritually harmed by this scandal, or for the many good priests who must suffer for the sins of a few, only the prospect of a rehabilitated Church can provide consolation. The first step in that process is to call things by their right name.

If the Church's leaders continue to focus on clericalism, they will probably keep doing what they have always done—express sorrow, offer apologies, and kick the can on down the road. But if they assume their rightful role as shepherds and acknowledge the homosexual problem for what it is, they can reform the Church in the glorious tradition of St. Athanasius and, in the process, become saints themselves.

Stephen L. Bussell
Indianapolis

Church must look at new ways of utilizing the laity in discerning Spirit's guidance

The magisterium of the Catholic Church under Pope Francis realizes that the Church cannot continue to operate as it has in the past, and is beginning to evolve different and more inclusive and transparent shepherding.

The magisterium is taking up the crucial task of rebuilding people's trust in the hierarchy and the credibility of the institutional Church.

Ministry in the Church is about service, a desire for holiness (purity), building a community of trust and friendship, faithfulness to the Gospel and the teachings of Christ and a constant presence of consolation and care.

All in the Church are called to holiness and in imitating Jesus, who is our guiding light to eternal life.

In order to do this, there must be a cleansing and ceasing of clericalism, and the mentality that revels in ecclesiastical ambition, status and power.

Shepherding of the Church must look at new ways of utilizing the laity

in discerning the Holy Spirit's guidance for the doing of ministry in the Church and integrating them into "meaningful" Church decision-making roles.

Gary Taylor
Milan

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, concise, temperate in tone, courteous and respectful.

The editors reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content.

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

Send letters to "Letters to the Editor," *The Criterion*, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.



Christ the Cornerstone

We must love others to end the sin of racism

Next Monday, Jan. 21, our nation observes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On this day, we remember a man who gave his life to the cause of freedom, equality and justice for all. We honor him because his vision and courage inspired millions to choose love over hatred, freedom over oppression, and nonviolence over vengeance.

Racism is never overcome once and for all. It must be fought against and forcefully rejected by every individual, family, community and nation that recognizes the unity and equality of all human persons regardless of their race, ethnicity, or social or economic status.

We Catholic bishops of the United States affirmed the dignity and equality of all members of the human family in a pastoral letter against racism approved last November. "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love" is, first and foremost, a positive restating of our fundamental belief that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God and is, therefore, deserving of all the rights and respect due to God's children. But our statement is also a firm rejection of all racist attitudes held by individuals and embedded within our social structures.

"What is racism?" our pastoral letter asks. "Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful" ("Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," p. 3). In fact, racism can be gravely sinful when twisted attitudes or judgments lead to hurtful or violent actions against innocent victims.

Much has been accomplished since Dr. King and many others challenged our nation to revise its laws and its attitudes to ensure liberty and justice for all. But much work remains to be done—especially in light of increased violence and injustice directed toward African-Americans, Hispanics, Muslims and other minority groups.

According to our pastoral letter, "The re-appearance of symbols of hatred, such as nooses and swastikas in public spaces, is a tragic indicator of rising racial and ethnic animus. All too often, Hispanics and African-Americans, for

example, face discrimination in hiring, housing, educational opportunities, and incarceration. Racial profiling frequently targets Hispanics for selective immigration enforcement practices, and African-Americans for suspected criminal activity. There is also the growing fear and harassment of persons from majority Muslim countries. Extreme nationalist ideologies are feeding the American public discourse with xenophobic rhetoric that instigates fear against foreigners, immigrants, and refugees. Finally, too often racism comes in the form of the sin of omission, when individuals, communities, and even churches remain silent and fail to act against racial injustice when it is encountered" ("Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," p. 4).

What is the solution to the problem of racist attitudes and actions? Love. It sounds simplistic, even naïve, but there is a real sense in which humanity's most serious problems, including the violent hatred and animosity that has existed since Cain first murdered his brother Abel, can only be solved by a conversion of the human heart from sin and selfishness to genuine respect and fraternal love for all our sisters and brothers.

So, love is the only real answer to the problem of racism. But this kind of love involves much more than sentimental good feeling. It requires the kind of robust action that makes justice and equality a practical reality in people's daily lives.

Scripture tells us that "Whoever loves God must love his brother" (1 Jn 4:21). Love is not an option. It is fundamental to achieving basic fairness and equality among diverse peoples and cultures. "This is the original meaning of justice," we bishops write, "where we are in right relationship with God, with one another, and with the rest of God's creation. Justice was a gift of grace given to all of humanity. After sin entered the world, however, this sense of justice was overtaken by selfish desires, and we became inclined to sin" ("Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," p. 9).

Let's pray for the gift of God's grace that can open wide our hearts. Let's respond to the call of love by refusing to engage in any form of racist thinking, conversation or activity. Let's love one another as God loves all of us, his children, and let's give all our brothers and sisters the respect that is their due as free people made in God's image and likeness! †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Debemos amar al prójimo para erradicar el pecado del racismo

El próximo lunes 21 de enero nuestro país conmemora el Día del Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., en el cual recordamos a un hombre que entregó su vida por la causa de la libertad, la igualdad y la justicia para todos. Lo honramos porque su visión y su valor inspiraron a millones a elegir el amor por encima del odio, la libertad sobre la opresión y la no violencia sobre la venganza.

No hemos superado definitivamente el racismo; es algo contra lo que debemos luchar, algo que cada persona, familia y país que reconozca la unidad y la igualdad de todas las personas humanas, sin distinción de raza, origen étnico, estatus social o económico, debe rechazar categóricamente.

Los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos reafirmamos la dignidad y la igualdad de todos los integrantes de la familia humana en una carta pastoral contra el racismo que fue aprobada en noviembre pasado. "Abramos nuestros corazones: el incesante llamado al amor" es, primero que nada, una reiteración positiva de nuestra creencia fundamental de que cada ser humano está hecho a imagen y semejanza de Dios y que, por lo tanto, merece todos los derechos y el respeto que se les deben a los hijos de Dios. Pero nuestra declaración también es un rechazo vehemente contra todas las actitudes racistas que demuestran las personas y que se encuentran incrustadas en nuestras estructuras sociales.

En la carta pastoral planteamos la pregunta "¿Qué es el racismo?" "El racismo surge cuando—ya sea consciente o inconscientemente—una persona sostiene que su propia raza o etnia es superior y, por lo tanto, juzga a las personas de otras razas u orígenes étnicos como inferiores e indignas de igual consideración. Esta convicción o actitud es pecaminosa cuando lleva a individuos o grupos a excluir, ridiculizar, maltratar o discriminar injustamente a las personas por su raza u origen étnico" ("Abramos nuestros corazones: el incesante llamado al amor," p. 3). De hecho, el racismo puede llegar a convertirse en un pecado grave cuando las actitudes o los juicios retorcidos conducen a acciones perjudiciales o violentas contra víctimas inocentes.

Hemos avanzado bastante desde que el Dr. King y muchos otros desafiaron a nuestro país a modificar las leyes y las actitudes para asegurar la libertad y la justicia para todos. Pero todavía queda mucho por hacer, especialmente a la luz del aumento de la violencia y las injusticias en contra de los afroamericanos, los hispanos, los musulmanes y otros grupos minoritarios.

De acuerdo con la carta pastoral: «La reaparición de símbolos de odio, como sogas con nudos corredizos y esvásticas en espacios públicos, es un indicador trágico de la creciente animosidad racial y étnica. Con demasiada frecuencia, personas hispanas

y afroamericanas, por ejemplo, enfrentan discriminación en la contratación, la vivienda, las oportunidades educativas y el encarcelamiento. Frecuentemente los hispanos están en el punto de mira de prácticas selectivas de control de la inmigración derivadas de perfiles raciales, e igualmente los afroamericanos por presunta actividad criminal. También crece el temor y hostigamiento a personas provenientes de países de mayoría musulmana. Ideologías nacionalistas extremas alimentan el discurso público estadounidense con una retórica xenófoba que instiga el miedo hacia los extranjeros, los inmigrantes y los refugiados. Finalmente, con demasiada frecuencia el racismo se manifiesta en forma de pecado de omisión, cuando individuos, comunidades e incluso iglesias permanecen en silencio y no actúan contra la injusticia racial cuando se la encuentra» ("Abramos nuestros corazones: el incesante llamado al amor," p. 4).

¿Cuál es la solución ante el problema de las actitudes y las acciones racistas? El amor. Suena sencillo, e incluso ingenuo, pero existe un sentido real de que los problemas más graves de la humanidad, incluyendo el odio violento y la animosidad que han existido desde que Caín asesinó a su hermano Abel, solo pueden resolverse mediante la conversión del corazón humano, es decir, pasar del pecado y el egoísmo al respeto genuino y al amor fraternal por todos nuestros hermanos.

De modo que, el amor es la única respuesta verdadera ante el problema del racismo. Pero este tipo de amor conlleva mucho más que el sentimentalismo positivo ya que exige un tipo de acción enérgica que convierta la justicia y la igualdad en una realidad tangible en la vida cotidiana de la gente.

Las escrituras nos dicen que "el que ama a Dios debe amar también a su hermano" (1 Jn 4:21). El amor no es una opción sino un aspecto fundamental para lograr la justicia y la igualdad básica entre pueblos y culturas distintos. "Este es el significado original de la justicia—escribimos los obispos—por la cual entramos en una relación adecuada con Dios, unos con otros y con el resto de la creación de Dios. La justicia fue un don de gracia dado a toda la humanidad. Sin embargo, después de que el pecado entró en el mundo, este sentido de justicia fue distorsionado por los deseos egoístas, y nos volvimos seres inclinados al pecado" ("Abramos nuestros corazones: el incesante llamado al amor," p. 9).

Oremos para que el don de la gracia de Dios abra nuestros corazones; respondamos al llamado del amor negándonos a participar en cualquier forma de pensamiento, conversación o actividad racista. Amémonos los unos a los otros como Dios nos ama a todos, sus hijos, y démosles a nuestros hermanos el respeto que se merecen como personas libres creadas a imagen y semejanza de Dios. †

Events Calendar

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

January 21

St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. **Vigil for Life**, worship, eucharistic adoration, procession and confessions, featuring Christian music artist Audrey Assad, 7-9 p.m., freewill offerings. Tickets and information: goo.gl/a6ETs3 (case sensitive), Brie Anne (Eichhorn) Varick, 317-236-1543, beichhorn@archindy.org.

January 22

Indiana March for Life, Indianapolis. 11 a.m.: **Indoor Life Rally**, Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave.; noon: **Mass** at St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, principal celebrant, and Diocese of Lafayette Bishop Timothy Doherty, concelebrant, and **Memorial Service** at Indiana Convention Center; 1:30 p.m.: **March for Life**, from Georgia St., to Soldiers and Sailors Monument on downtown Circle, to Indiana State Capitol Building, 200 W. Washington St., 2 p.m.: **Rally**, south steps of Indiana State Capitol Building. Information: Brie Anne (Eichhorn) Varick, 317-236-1543, beichhorn@archindy.org.

St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Road 750, Brownsburg. **Divorce and Beyond Support Group**, 7-9 p.m., six consecutive Tuesdays through Feb. 26, all faiths welcome, \$30 includes materials. Registration and information: www.archindy.org/marriageandfamily/ (choose Divorce Ministry) or Deb Van Velse, 317-236-1586, dvanvelse@archindy.org.

January 25

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 317 E. 57th St., Indianapolis. **K-8 Open House**, for parents of prospective students, 1-2:30 p.m., private tours available. Information: Elise O'Brien, 317-255-5468, eliseobrien@ihmindy.org.

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Girls Night Out—Women Helping Women**, arts and crafts, shopping, door prizes, pampering, dessert bar, \$25 per person, portion of proceeds benefit Beacon of Hope Crisis Center, 7-9:30 p.m. Registration, information: bit.ly/2RAAS2v (case sensitive), 317-788-7581.

January 25-26

St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish, 1870 W. Oak St., Zionsville (Lafayette Diocese). **Rummage Sale**, Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-noon, proceeds benefit the community of St. Anthony of Padua in Croix Fer, Haiti. Donations accepted Jan. 23 3-8 p.m. and Jan. 24 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: Geri Neita, 317-873-2885, ext. 301, communications@zionsvillecatholic.com.

January 26

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklondon Road, Indianapolis. **Ultreya**, sponsored by St. Simon the Apostle and Holy Spirit at Geist Parish (Lafayette Diocese), starting after 5:30 p.m. Mass, bring a dish to share. Information: Bhsx7@sbcglobal.net.

January 27

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, 317 E. 57th St., Indianapolis. **K-8 Open House**, for parents of prospective students, 10:30 a.m.-noon, private tours available. Information: Elise O'Brien, 317-255-5468, eliseobrien@ihmindy.org.

St. Matthew the Apostle School, 4100 E. 56th St.,

Indianapolis. **Open House**, for parents of prospective students, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Information: 317-251-3997, rsobolewski@saintmatt.org.

St. Simon the Apostle School, 8155 Oaklondon Road, Indianapolis. **Open House**, for parents of prospective students in grades PreK-8, informational sessions and tours. Information: 317-826-6000, sknoop@saintsimon.org.

January 28

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Serra Club Dinner Meeting and Program**, Father Jeffrey Dufresne presenting on his vocation and first year in the priesthood, 5:40 p.m. rosary (optional), 6-8:30 p.m. dinner and program, \$15 per person for members. Information: 317-748-1478, smclaughlin@holyspirit.cc.

January 29

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. **Black Catholic Men's Gathering: Let the Glory of the Lord Rise Among Us**, morning praise and worship led by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, Jesuit Father Joseph A. Brown keynote

speaker, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$25 freewill offering suggested, lunch included. Registration requested by Jan. 24: Pearlette Springer, 317-236-1474.

February 1

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

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday** celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mass, 5:45 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following Mass until 9 p.m., sacrament of Reconciliation available. Information: 317-888-2861 or info@olgreenwood.org.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis.

First Friday Charismatic Renewal Praise and Mass, praise and worship 7 p.m., Mass 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-7328, mkeyes@indy.rr.com.

February 2

St. Michael Church, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. **First Saturday**

Marian Devotional Prayer Group, Mass, devotional prayers, rosary, 8 a.m. Information: 765-647-5462.

February 5

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

February 6

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6 p.m. Information: 317-243-0777.

February 8

St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmers Ln., Greenville. **Winter Bash Prime Rib Dinner and Dance**, 5:30-11 p.m., \$25 advance sale tickets only, must be 21 to attend. Tickets: Pattie, 812-734-5590; Nadine, 812-472-3931. Information: 812-734-5590, st.michaels@mw.twcbe.com. †

Retreats and Programs

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

February 5

Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Benedictine Spirituality: Tools**, (part one of four, Feb. 12, 19, 26), Benedictine Sister Ann Patrice Papesh presenting, 7-8:30 p.m., \$90 for series, \$25 per session. Information, registration: bit.ly/2RCIt0m, 317-788-7581.

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Dealing with our Grief**, six Tuesdays through March 12, 2:30-4 p.m. or 7-8:30 p.m., \$85 includes book. Information and registration: 812-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

February 12

Benedict Inn Retreat &

Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Benedictine Spirituality: Simplicity**, (part two of four, Feb. 19, 26), Benedictine Sister Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick presenting, 7-8:30 p.m., \$25 per session. Information, registration: bit.ly/2RCIt0m, 317-788-7581. †

Sisters of Providence to host weekend retreat for busy Catholic moms Feb. 8-10

All mothers seeking quiet time for reflection are invited to the "Retreat for Busy Catholic Moms" at Providence Spirituality & Conference Center, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 and concluding at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 10. Providence Sister Mary Montgomery will facilitate the weekend with time

for quiet reflection, spiritual enrichment and sharing with other mothers.

The cost to attend is \$220, which includes lodging and meals, or \$130 without lodging.

Lodging must be arranged by Jan. 24 with a final registration deadline of Feb. 1.

Register online at www.spsmw.org/event or by calling 812-535-2952 or e-mailing jfrost@spsmw.org. †

Art exhibit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library Gallery runs through Feb. 14

"Rhythm of All Things" is the theme of a fine arts print exhibit by artist Elizabeth Busey at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library Gallery, 200 Hill Drive, in St. Meinrad, through Feb. 14.

A Bloomington native, Busey's work is inspired with the assistance of science and technology using photographs taken from commercial airlines and satellite, and photographs of microscopic images.

Her work has been featured in

printmaking shows at the Boston Printmakers North American Print Biennial and the National Print Exhibition at Artlink in Fort Wayne.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Those wishing to view the exhibit may want to arrive at least 30 minutes before closing time.

For library hours, call 812-357-6401 or 800-987-7311, or visit the Archabbey Library's website at www.saintmeinrad.edu/library/hours. †

Parish catechetical leaders skills workshop set for Feb. 5 in Edinburgh

All parish leaders working in catechesis and evangelization are invited to attend a skills workshop using *The Effective Catechetical Leader* series from Loyola Press at Holy Trinity Parish, 100 Keeley St., in Edinburgh, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Feb. 5.

The workshop is based on the book *Cultivating Your Catechist: How to Recruit, Encourage, and Retain Successful Catechists* by Jayne Ragasa-Mondoy.

The workshop will be facilitated by

directors of religious education Christina Smith from St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour and Cindy Flaten from Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.

The cost to attend is \$25 with payment by parish assessment.

Attendees who register by Jan. 29 will receive the book prior to the workshop.

For information or to register, contact Rose Ruiz at 317-236-1550 or e-mail r Ruiz@archindy.org. †



Celebrating Simbang Gabi

Participants in the Filipino Advent tradition of Simbang Gabi pose for a photo during a reception at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis on Dec. 19, 2018. Simbang Gabi is a nine-day novena of Masses in preparation for Christmas, beginning on Dec. 16 and ending on Christmas Eve. The archdiocesan Office of Intercultural Ministry worked with nine Indianapolis area parishes, asking each to host participants for one of the parish's daily Masses during the nine days. (Submitted photo)



Young adults embrace opportunity to deepen faith at SEEK2019

By John Shaughnessy

The intriguing invitation came unexpectedly—an invitation that Timi Soyoola realized she couldn't pass up.

That's how the 20-year-old native of Nigeria found herself among the more than 17,000 young adults from across the United States and the world who gathered in Indianapolis on Jan. 3-7 for SEEK2019, a five-day conference that offered its mostly Catholic participants the opportunity to deepen their encounter with Jesus Christ.

"I was coming on a flight from Pittsburgh to Indianapolis after visiting my uncle, and a lady was talking to me about this conference," said Soyoola, a senior majoring in pre-medicine at Indiana University in Kokomo. "It's a new year, and I wanted to try something new. I wanted to learn more about my faith."

It didn't matter to her that she didn't know anyone else at the conference. After all, Soyoola—whose full first name, "*Oluwatimilehin*," basically translates to "God's got my back," she noted—already knew she could count on one person. "Jesus is the person I depend on," she said, her eyes and her smile lighting up as she mentioned his name. "When you come to a new country, you don't know anyone. He's the one I depend on. He's the most important person in my life."

Her enthusiasm and desire to draw closer to Christ was resoundingly shared by the participants who packed the Indiana Convention Center where the conference was held under the direction of FOCUS—Fellowship of Catholic University Students—the Denver-based organization that seeks to "share the hope and joy of the Gospel" with college students and other young adults.

Jenna Fisher, a senior at Indiana University in Bloomington, was among the approximately 100 students from her campus that made the journey to the convention center to attend SEEK.

"Personally, for me, it was important to actively seek to grow my faith, and my relationship with God," said Fisher, who previously served as a small group leader for St. Paul Catholic Center's young adults and is now a member of the parish pastoral council.

"I had the best confession I've ever had [on Friday night], and my heart is new today," she added

Encounter with Christ leads woman to offer that gift to other young adults

By John Shaughnessy

Tears filled Missy Brassie's eyes as she talked about the most emotional part of the five-day conference involving more than 17,000 young adult Catholics from around the world.

It happened again on the evening of Jan. 5 in a massive exhibit hall of the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis for the participants of SEEK2019, the conference

established to give its participants the opportunity to deepen their personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

"All of these people coming together for eucharistic adoration is the best part of the conference," said Brassie, 31, a resident of Denver who returned to

Arianna Dacanay, another IU senior and member of St. Paul Catholic Center, said she attended SEEK to encounter Christ "first and foremost, [and] to see what he wants from me, what he wants from my heart, how he wants me to lean into him more, but also to guide others to him that I am here with, to walk with him."

IU junior Rachel Folstrom accepted an invitation from a FOCUS missionary on the Bloomington campus to attend SEEK.

"I took that call and ran with it ... to see what ways God could shape my heart again," she said.

The opportunity to deepen their faith drew Josh and Katie Fatzinger from their home in Flagstaff, Ariz. The young married couple arrived at the conference with their 1-year-old daughter Ellie, with other extended family members, and with Katie scheduled to give birth to their second child in February.

"I'm here with my mother, my wife, one of my sisters and three of my brothers," said Josh, who is 27. "I'm from a big Catholic family, one of 14. I encouraged my younger brothers to come because it was a great experience for me when I came in 2013. It's a great place to encounter a lot of people, and we're all here to encounter Christ."

That relationship guides his life. "My faith informs my worldview and how I make all my decisions," he said as he held Ellie. "I'm hoping to learn more about how to disciple my children."

Standing by Ellie's stroller, Katie looked around the crowd at the convention center and noted, "There's all the hope you see and all the excitement. It's very uplifting. It's really powerful to celebrate the sacraments and be with that many people praising God. I'm waiting to see how he can impact their lives."

Louis Cain had the same hope as he led a group of 60 students from McNeese State University in Louisiana during the conference that featured opportunities for Mass, confession and eucharistic adoration as well as faith-related workshops, inspirational speakers and entertainment by Catholic musicians. In his third year as a FOCUS missionary on a college campus, Cain embraces the opportunity to bring other young adults to a relationship with Christ.

"It's really cool to have this time in my life when I'm trying to get closer to Jesus and help others to do the same 24-7," said Cain, whose hometown is Williamsburg, Iowa. "One thing that's cool about being here is that you realize you're not alone. Everyone is here to grow in their faith. It's pretty amazing."

Cain kept that positive attitude as he



Dominican Father Patrick Hyde, associate pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington and head of the parish's campus ministry serving the students of Indiana University (IU), center, enjoys a break on Jan. 5 with IU students Jenna Fisher, Rachel Folstrom and Arianna Dacanay during SEEK2019 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Also pictured at right is Thomas Leah, a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Chicago. (Photo by Mike Krokos)



Josh and Katie Fatzinger of Flagstaff, Ariz., and their 1-year-old daughter Ellie experienced SEEK2019 as a young family during the conference in Indianapolis on Jan. 3-7. (Photo by John Shaughnessy)

answered a question about how he thinks the clergy sexual abuse crisis has had an impact on young adults' perspectives of the Church and their faith.

"Our Church needs healing," he said. "In times of crisis in the Church, great saints rise up. We need to have saints rise up in our Church. It should motivate us to live our faith more seriously."

Cain also shared a message for young adults who have drifted away from the Church and their faith.

"A reason that a lot of young people leave the faith today is that they don't think it has an impact on their lives. They're looking for fun, for pleasure. For me, nothing else satisfies me or fulfills me like trying to follow Jesus."

Amy Gasper has that same feeling—a feeling enhanced by being among more than 17,000 young adults coming together to deepen their faith, giving hope for their Church and for themselves.

"You get to see how hungry people are for the Lord. It makes my heart leap for joy," said Gasper, 19, a sophomore at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind., one of

more than 600 colleges represented at the conference. "There are people here who are wanting to devote their life to God and grow in their relationship with him."

Gasper counts herself among that group. "Every day I wake up, I want to grow more in my faith. I know I'm alive for one reason, and that's to answer God's call for my life. It's a never-ending joy. So many people search for that. You have to let God take over your life for the good."

She tries to help others do the same as she interacts with students on her campus—from people who challenge and denigrate her Catholic faith to those who embrace it as fully as she does.

"Anyone I see on campus who is searching for God's love, even those who don't know it, I pray for them. I just try to share Jesus' light with people. No matter what, I know God is working through me to reach other people. Coming to SEEK makes me want to love them and pray for them even more."

(Editor Mike Krokos contributed to this story.) †



Missy Brassie

her hometown of Indianapolis for the conference.

"Surrounded by thousands of their peers during adoration, they feel that they're not alone in their faith, and they feel that they're personally spoken to by the Lord. People say that everyone around them disappears. It's just Jesus and that person in that moment."

Brassie had that experience again at this year's SEEK conference, which is organized by FOCUS—Fellowship of Catholic University Students—the organization that seeks to "share the hope and joy of the Gospel" with college students and other young adults.

"My relationship with Jesus is always deepened here," Brassie said about the conference, which she has attended eight times. "Even though I've been to so many conferences, there is always something that renews me."

For the past seven years, Brassie has served as a missionary for FOCUS,

striving to bring college students to a deeper relationship with God in such places as the University of Illinois, Texas A&M University and Ave Maria University in Florida—and also in her current work at FOCUS headquarters in Denver.

Her role as one of the nearly 700 missionaries in 159 locations around the world has led her to interactions with a wide range of people, from international students who have no knowledge of Jesus to lifelong Catholics seeking to become closer to him. No matter their background, her conversations involve asking people two defining questions.

"I say, 'Do you know that God loves you? Do you know he has a plan for you?'"

"Our conversations go from the basic level to deep discussions. That has been really cool. I don't have to have all the answers because Jesus loves them."

Brassie knows that love in her own life. The 2005 graduate of Roncalli High

School in Indianapolis said she had "a pretty strong faith life in high school," but it wasn't a primary focus during college until she studied abroad in Sydney, Australia, in 2007.

"It was the year before World Youth Day was held there in 2008. I had an encounter with the World Youth Day cross that travels around the world. Seeing that cross, I realized that God cares about me personally. It was the first time I felt he found me or I found him.

"My life has never been the same. That was the day I gave Jesus my heart and let him make me what he wants me to be."

Now, the former member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis works to help other young adults experience that same relationship with Christ.

"He really provides and intervenes in our lives in ways that mean so much to us." †

Priests laud benefits of SEEK to students, chaplains and more

By Natalie Hoefler

Priests who serve as college chaplains or campus ministers do not have an easy load to shoulder. These days, that role is likely just one of his many duties.

“With the priest shortage, it’s difficult to have priests to be there on campus,” says Father Rick Nagel, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish and chaplain of Indiana University-Purdue University



Fr. Rick Nagel

Indianapolis (IUPUI), both in the heart of the capital city.

This reality is true for Father John Hollowell. In addition to serving as chaplain for DePauw University in Greencastle, he is also pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in the

same town and of Annunciation Parish in Brazil, as well as chaplain of Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Dominican Father Patrick Hyde can also relate. He ministers as associate pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, as well as head of the parish’s campus ministry serving the students of Indiana University (IU).

But the three priests share one powerful source of help: Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

And part of FOCUS’ help in ministering to college students is its biennial SEEK conference.

“It has a profound impact,” says Father Nagel of the five-day experience. “I’ve never heard anyone say it didn’t make a difference in their life.”

With the support of the late Indianapolis Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein, he brought FOCUS and its lay missionaries to the IUPUI campus in 2009. The organization and its “multiplication of discipleship” concept now also serves at DePauw, and started serving at IU two years ago.

With its thousands of participants—

more than 17,000 at SEEK2019 in Indianapolis on Jan. 3-7—students get “a sense of the universal Church not just with the other students, but also the hundreds of priests, religious and bishops,” says Father Nagel. This year, the bishops were primarily from other countries, as the bishops from the United States were on a retreat at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago.

Witnessing the myriad religious men and women—many in traditional habits—is not the only impressive sight at a SEEK conference.

“When you’re in a room with 17,000 college students that are all in adoration or all in Mass, and are really into it, I think that’s something that blows people’s minds in a good way,” says Father Hollowell. “Certainly a lot of [college students] are falling away in frightening numbers, but it almost makes the faith of those who stay and those who are coming back seem even more powerful.”

Father Nagel has attended four SEEK conferences before and witnessed its impact.

“Sometimes there can be a ‘mountaintop’ experience with a retreat, but then they re-enter the world, and the effects wane over time,” he says.

“But SEEK ‘disciples’ students so they have real, tangible takeaways, like ways to pray or a particular way to live your life. It enhances our ministry and allows us to build on that when they go back on campus.”

SEEK, which Father Hollowell says FOCUS “describes as an experience rather than a conference,” also serves as a way for chaplains and campus ministers to connect with their students.

“One of the best things for me to be here is that we have about 97 people here from Bloomington,” says Father Patrick. “It’s really beautiful to see students I recognize but don’t know, because that’s a sign that something good is happening, that maybe people who were on the fringe



Father John Hollowell, third from left, smiles as he is introduced at a Campus Ministry Track panel discussion on Jan. 6 during SEEK2019 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

are going a step deeper. And that’s just cool to see.”

Father Hollowell, too, has taken advantage of the opportunity to attend the conference with the DePauw students he ministers to.

“I try to be with the students as much as I can here,” he says. “We’ve had lunch and dinner. I’ve gone to several talks with them. There are a lot of great questions and discussions.”

“It’s a great opportunity for me to be with them and have conversations, to interact with them outside of my formal role. Some do that on campus, but for others who don’t want to ‘bother me,’ there’s a sense that, ‘I can talk to Father because he’s sitting here eating dinner with us.’”

While Father Nagel notes that the majority of SEEK participants are university students, he says it reaches a broader audience as well.

“A year ago, they began a Lifelong Mission Track [of sessions and speakers] for non-students,” he says. “Last year, there were about 1,000 who participated in that, and it’s grown this year [to 1,700]. We have about 50 non-students from the parish going.”

FOCUS also welcomes non-Catholics to the conference. Father Hollowell’s group included “a few non-Catholics and one person going through RCIA [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults].”

SEEK offers a special track for the chaplains and campus ministers as well.

“It’s an opportunity to talk shop and share best practices with other campus ministers,” says Father Patrick. “It’s an interesting, full spectrum of what college campus ministry looks like now in this country.”

What’s more, FOCUS covers the cost of SEEK for priests who are college chaplains or ministers on campuses where FOCUS ministers, says Father Hollowell.

“They recognize priests need ongoing formation too, and they make it as easy as possible to utilize that. That’s really impacted me as a priest.”

In terms of more immediate impact, Father Patrick says he looks forward to witnessing SEEK’s effects on the students he ministers to.

“I’ve heard people have been blown away by the talks and the atmosphere,” he says. “It’s going to be really interesting to see a diverse response to what God does this week in their lives.” †

Lives changed, faith deepened in sacrament of penance at SEEK2019

By Sean Gallagher

SEEK2019 might be best known for its massive gatherings.

More than 17,000 people from across the nation, most of them Catholic college students, filled a quarter-mile long cavernous hall in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis to worship together at Mass, listen to keynote speakers and adore the Blessed Sacrament.

But as the biennial conference sponsored by the Denver-based Fellowship of Catholic University Students concluded on Jan. 7 and all the attendees made their way from Indianapolis back to their homes, many of them went away with a powerful memory of a more intimate encounter in

the sacrament of penance that might just change their lives.

Conference attendee Timothy Flax reflected on his experience of confession moments after he had received God’s mercy in it on Jan. 4.

“Getting away from the noise and digging into yourself and your soul, what you’re sorry for, getting into that room and being alone with just the priest is definitely a very holy moment,” said Flax, a junior at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan. “Everyone should have that experience.”

Emily Angelotti, a junior at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., who attended SEEK, agreed.

“God is calling everyone here to enter into a very specific relationship

with him,” Angelotti said. “And it’s a very personal relationship that occurs one-on-one. So he speaks to us through those large keynote speaker [sessions] and he speaks to us in these little, quieter moments of the conference.”

Father John Fletcher, a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, was one of many priests leading penitents in the sacrament of penance at the conference where Flax, Angelotti and a long line of others went to confession.

“It’s super impressive to see so many young people standing in line for a long time to go to confession,” said Father Fletcher. “There were probably 25 priests in there, full at it all day basically. It just says to me that God is still alive and at work, and that people are responding.”

Having 25 priests hearing confessions for several hours was how the sacrament was offered on most days at SEEK.

But things changed on the evening of Jan. 5. Waiting in a line that snaked back-and-forth in the convention center much like a line for a roller coaster at an amusement park, thousands of attendees walked for more than a mile as they made their way to a large hall where nearly 500 priests were hearing confessions.

At the heart of the room was the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney, a 19th-century French priest who is the patron saint of parish priests and is famous for spending up to 18 hours each day hearing confessions.

One of the priests there was Dominican Father Patrick Hyde, associate pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, who heard confessions for several hours over the course of the conference.

Before the room was opened for the

sacrament, he said the priests there “sat in almost complete silence preparing in the presence of the incorrupt heart relic of St. John Vianney, the great confessor and parish priest.”

“To see his heart, to pray in its presence, was a visceral reminder of the absolute necessity of having a generous, gentle, loving and priestly heart,” Father Patrick said.

Guadalupe “Trey” Rodriguez, a student at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, was one of the conference participants who happily stood in line on the evening of Jan. 5 for the sacrament of penance.

“You look in the eyes of the priest in confession and you see God there,” Rodriguez said. “Any Catholics that haven’t gone, no matter how scared you are, I beg you—God begs you—please come back to confession and feel his mercy. He knows how scared you are. We’ve all been there. I didn’t go for so many years, and it felt incredible.”

Having the chance to share God’s mercy at SEEK with young people like Rodriguez encourages Father Patrick in the campus ministry he helps lead at Indiana University and for the broader Church.

“At SEEK, the culture—the large number of priests, the open and honest conversations about faith, struggle, and the power of God’s love and mercy—makes it possible for people to seek Christ in profound and life-changing ways,” Father Patrick said. “This is what gives me the greatest hope and joy: young people striving after Christ, and doing so within the life of the Church.”

(Criterion reporter Natalie Hoefler contributed to this article.) †



A priest offers absolution to a SEEK2019 participant after hearing their confession on Jan. 5.

(Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Seminarians inspired by example of faith in SEEK attendees

By Sean Gallagher

Archdiocesan seminarian Charlie Wessel stood on the stage at the front of a quarter-mile long cavernous hall in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis and looked out at a sea of 17,000 young people prepared to worship together in a celebration of the Eucharist.

It was the opening Mass of SEEK2019 on Jan. 3,

a biennial conference sponsored by the Denver-based Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), and Wessel was an altar server during the liturgy.

The moment humbled Wessel, a senior at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish, both in Indianapolis.

“Being able to stand there up at the altar before all these people—who I am to stand here? How did I get here?” he said. “I haven’t done anything to get to that spot. Wow. What a blessing that I can be here and partake in this wonderful Church.”

Wessel was one among nearly 300 seminarians from across the country to attend SEEK.

Father Eric Augenstein, archdiocesan vocations director, described seminarians attending SEEK as a “double opportunity.”

“On the one hand, the participants in SEEK are the peers of a lot of our seminarians—similar in age and situation,” he said. “And so our seminarians are able to be there as a part of a peer group that are all trying to seek Christ, to grow in their faith and to discern their call.”

“On the other hand, the seminarians are able to be a witness for their peers of seriously considering a particular vocation.”

Attending SEEK reminded Wessel of

the importance of living out the faith he is called to offer other young adults.

“I need to be on my game and really stick to my prayer life, really stick to all of the commitments that God’s calling me to, because this is the Church that I want to serve. I don’t want to just slack off and not be present to this.”

At the same time, the conference encouraged seminarians from across the country in their priestly formation.

“It’s so thrilling and inspiring to see so many young Catholics so eager to learn more about their faith and to deepen their faith,” said Jordan Sanchez, a seminarian from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M.

“It really inspires me to give myself to the Lord all the more.”

In 2016, archdiocesan seminarian Bobby Vogel was inspired at a FOCUS conference to open his heart to a possible call to the priesthood. Three years later, including

two spent as a FOCUS missionary at Eastern Michigan University, Vogel has entered priestly formation and assisted at all the liturgies during SEEK in Indianapolis.

“Being asked to help make liturgies happen was the highlight of the conference,” Vogel said, “because I was helping bring Christ to the 17,000 attendees so that he could encounter them, personally, just as he did so with me three years ago.”

Like Vogel, Joe Culligan, a seminarian from the Diocese of LaCrosse, Wis., was previously a FOCUS missionary. His experience of helping college students enter more deeply into the Catholic faith helped him discern a possible call to the priesthood.

“Being in a community [of people] who are striving for Christ ignited something within me and caused me to desire more intimacy with Christ,” Culligan said. “The more I encountered people on fire for God,



Fr. Eric Augenstein



Archdiocesan seminarians James “JJ” Huber and Andrew Alig, front left and right, lead the procession for the opening Mass of SEEK2019 on Jan. 3 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

the more I desired to be on fire for God.”

He added that SEEK had been “monumental” in his discernment.

“The first time that I [attended] was the first time that I really encountered Christ in the Eucharist,” Culligan said. “That’s where I really fell in love with prayer and with the Church. My desire for holiness really began there.”

Like Wessel, Isaac Doucette, a seminarian from the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, was present at SEEK’s opening Mass.

“People wanted to be there and wanted to do this,” Doucette said. “They know it’s an important thing in their lives. It spurs me on to keep being a good steward and putting in work for them to bring them closer to Jesus.”

While SEEK’s opening Mass was occurring in Indianapolis, the bishops of the U.S. were gathered on retreat about four hours away where Doucette receives his priestly formation—Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary

of the Lake in Illinois near Chicago.

The reality of the current clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Church gave Doucette an added motivation to attend SEEK.

“It’s a gut check in terms of where everyone’s at,” he said. “Are we meeting people where they’re at? Are we smelling like the sheep, so to speak? Are we going out to the peripheries? Hopefully, that’s what the bishops are focusing on, too. Are we doing what we need to be doing? That’s definitely a component of why we’re here.”

Standing on the stage during SEEK’s opening Mass along with Wessel, archdiocesan seminarian James “JJ” Huber also found hope for the Church, despite the challenges it is facing.

“The faith is still very much alive in the Church, regardless of everything that’s been going on,” said Huber, a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville. “We shouldn’t be afraid. We should do what we can to fix things. But we shouldn’t be afraid.” †

Once a stranger in America, native of India finds his faith home in Indiana

By John Shaughnessy

If he had given into his fears, it would all be different for Jay Vennapusa.

He would likely be back in India, the homeland he left in 2014, the homeland he seriously considered returning to



Jay Vennapusa

a short while later because he felt so alone and such a stranger in the United States.

Instead, he still lives in this country. And during the SEEK2019 conference in Indianapolis on Jan. 3-7,

the 26-year-old

Vennapusa was among the more than 17,000 young people from around the world who had come together with the goal of exploring and deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ.

It was a choice that made him smile, being there with “so many young people saying ‘yes’ to Christ.” It was a choice that also made him remember the days of his fears.

“When I came here from India, I did not know a single person in the United States except my cousin,” recalled Vennapusa, who arrived in the United States to earn a master’s degree in mechanical engineering at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. “My whole family is back in India. I thought of going back because I was so scared.

“At that point, I felt Christ was calling me, drawing me closer.”

That feeling became even stronger when he came in contact with two people he met at the college’s Newman

Center, a center for students of the Catholic faith—the faith in which he was raised.

“I saw young people on fire for Christ,” he recalled about his college days as he sat on a bench in the Indiana Convention Center where the SEEK conference was held. “They cared and considered me as one of their brothers. They held me accountable in my spiritual life. That’s when I started practicing my faith. Going to church is one thing. Practicing your faith is another. That’s when I started encountering Christ.”

That relationship has continued to grow since he graduated with his master’s degree in 2016 and was hired by Cummins Inc., in Columbus. There, he has become a member of St. Bartholomew Parish and has found a home in the young adult Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

His involvement in the IndyCatholic community began by playing volleyball in the program’s young adult intramural program. Then he started attending spiritual retreats, and the connection has continued.

“I left the vibrant community in Peoria and found it in Indy,” he said. “Once again, I have people who hold me accountable for my faith. I see people who care for each other, who ask, ‘How can I pray for you?’ They try to uplift you. They ask me, ‘How is your relationship with Jesus?’ These are words I’ve never heard before. I have this through this strong IndyCatholic community.”

He describes this young adult community as “people our age who are not afraid of who they are,” people

who are open about sharing how God permeates their lives. It’s helped him do the same.

“I don’t think I would have received so many blessings if I didn’t take my faith life so seriously,” he said. “Without this faith life, I would be lost. I wouldn’t have these genuine friendships or a community that cares about each other.”

That reality today makes him think of how far he has come from his time of

fear five years ago—and how different people have helped lead him to a deeper relationship with Christ.

“I’m a complete stranger here. I’m not even the same color,” he said about his arrival in this country. “Now, I’m receiving the same unconditional love that Christ gives to all of us. It makes me want to share the same unconditional love that I’m receiving from Christ.” †

Conference inspires ways to bring faith to others

By John Shaughnessy

Fletcher Kitchell considered the question, the one that asked him, “What role does your faith play in your life?”

After a moment, the 24-year-old member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis offered this response: “I’m at the point in my life where I’m asking, ‘What role does my life play in my faith?’ Where can I go, what can I do to enrich my faith and share it with others?”

Kitchell had a few new answers to those questions after spending five days at the SEEK2019 conference in Indianapolis on Jan. 3-7, a conference that drew 17,000, mostly Catholic young adults from around the world



Fletcher and Olivia Kitchell

who wanted to explore and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

“The biggest thing was an excitement and a plan for things I want to take back to my church and my work,” Kitchell said. “I want to start a men’s group and a small group Bible study.”

He and his wife of eight months, Olivia, also hope to use their home as “a tool for evangelization.”

“Imagine the house as a little church,” he said. “It’s a space where groups of people—family, friends—share a meal together, pray together and read Scripture together. It would also be a place for kids. We can use the house in a way to give back to God and bring others into a relationship with him.”

Having these concrete plans has already had an impact on his relationship with God.

“It brings me peace. It brings me joy that I’m able to use the gifts God has given me.” †

Keep bringing Christ to others, Denver archbishop says

By Sean Gallagher

Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila saw in the 17,000 mostly college students attending SEEK2019 in Indianapolis “a great sign of hope for the Church, that the Church is alive and well among young people.”

He celebrated Mass on Jan. 6 for the participants in the biennial conference sponsored by the Denver-based Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

Founded in 1998, FOCUS seeks to nurture the Catholic faith in college students. In the 2018-19 academic year, it has nearly 700 missionaries serving on 153 college campuses in 42 states and five international locations.

Archbishop Aquila remarked in his homily during the Mass that he was briefly “playing hooky” from the retreat taking place for bishops in the U.S. at



Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila

Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago to celebrate the Mass in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

This year’s SEEK gathering is the sixth such conference that Archbishop Aquila has attended.

“Certainly you can see the deep faith in the young people,” he said in an interview after the liturgy. “What their encounter with Christ has brought about is palpable. When you give young people the truth of Christ and Christ as the light and the one who gives meaning to life, it changes everything.”

In his homily for the Mass celebrated on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord that recalls the adoration by the magi of the Christ Child, Archbishop Aquila recalled the first reading from Isaiah in which the prophet said that “darkness covers the Earth. Thick clouds cover the peoples. But upon you the Lord

shines, and over you appears his glory” (Is 60:2).

He noted that “darkness covers our Earth” today in consumerism, incivility and of the “sin by certain members of the clergy.”

“All of that can, at times, discourage us,” Archbishop Aquila said. “But in the midst of that is the light of Jesus Christ. And it is that light that we must focus on.”

He spoke about how Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher of the papal household who led the bishops’ retreat, told the bishops that society has lost the “sense of eternity” and that “when we look at the darkness of the world, when we look at the darkness within the Church, we have lost the sense of eternity, that we really do not believe in Christ as the light, in Christ as the one who is come to give us eternal life.”

Turning to Christ and entering into a relationship with him, Archbishop Aquila said, can draw people out of this darkness.

“Jesus can heal any wound. He can restore any disorder. He can bring light into darkness.”

Archbishop Aquila praised those attending the conference, “I have never seen faith like this. ... That is why when I come to SEEK—and this is my sixth one—I am always filled with hope. I am always filled with joy, because I see the depth of your faith. I see how Jesus and



Colleen Tragonksi, center, kneels with other young people in prayer on Jan. 6 during a Mass at the SEEK2019 conference that drew 17,000 mainly college students from across the country to the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. “The Holy Spirit is so present here, everywhere in the atmosphere,” Tragonksi said. “That’s the best way that I can put it.” (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

encountering him has transformed your life.”

He then implored his listeners to take the light of Christ they have received through FOCUS and share it with others.

“You are the light of the world today, in history,” Archbishop Aquila said. “You are the ones who reflect the light of Christ to others. You are sent on mission in whatever walk of life you are in, to bring Christ to others.”

Colleen Tragonksi came to SEEK2019 from Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., where she is a junior. A native of Charlotte, N.C., Tragonksi said the effect of the conference is “so hard to put into words.”

“The Holy Spirit is so present here, everywhere in the atmosphere,” she said. “That’s the best way that I can put it.”

Attending the conference gave her “an incredible hope,” despite the challenges facing the Church at present.

“It’s amazing to see thousands and thousands of college students celebrating the Mass, all making this journey to Indianapolis, but also to heaven,” Tragonksi said after the liturgy.

As she prepared to return to Auburn, Tragonksi looked forward to embracing the mission that Archbishop Aquila presented to her and other conference attendees.

“I hope that I can take everything that I’ve learned and use it in every single moment of my life to be the light of Christ for other people,” she said. “It’s so easy to be on a high when you’re here. It’s the biggest challenge to ... bring that to other people.” †

SEEK2019 donation drive gets attendees ‘more invested in mission’

By Natalie Hoefler

The weather was unseasonably warm in Indianapolis on Jan. 3-7. This was good news for the 17,000 participants of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) SEEK2019 conference held on those dates in Indianapolis.

It was also good news for the homeless



Schyler Smith places items in a donation bin on Jan. 6 during the Fellowship of Catholic University Students SEEK2019 conference held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. This was the first year a donation drive was held during the biannual conference. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

of the city.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, nearly 1,700 people are sleeping in temporary shelters, transitional housing or on the streets on a given night in Indianapolis.

Those people had more good fortune than just mild temperatures on Jan. 3-7. Through a donation drive during the conference, 30 50-gallon bags were filled with winter hats, gloves, scarves and socks, as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and other hygiene items—all to help the homeless and others in need in the city.

The items were donated to two ministries for distribution. One was the Garden Door Ministry of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, located next to the Indiana Convention Center where the conference was held. The other was Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ Catholic Charities, where Theresa Chamblee serves as director of social concerns.

“The SEEK participants blew me away with their overwhelming generosity of donations,” she says. “I just knew those attending the SEEK conference would be generous, but their generosity exceeded my expectations.”

Kathleen Tierney agrees. She is coordinator of the Garden Door Ministry of St. John Parish, which feeds and clothes the homeless who live near the downtown parish.

“I’m overwhelmed by the [charity of the] SEEK participants,” she says. “But at the same time, it’s not surprising because the people who are involved in the FOCUS movement, their faith is lived in service. We’re very grateful and very humbled by their generosity.”

This year marked the first time a service project was incorporated into the biannual SEEK conference. The drive was sponsored by FOCUS Greek, a branch

of FOCUS particularly involving college students who are members of a fraternity or sorority.

A statement issued by FOCUS Greek explains that the donation drive

“will provide an opportunity for Greek students and missionaries to be more deeply invested in the mission.

“Philanthropic events and service are an integral part of Greek life, and each year, collegiate fraternity and sorority

students raise thousands of dollars for their designated philanthropic charity or organization. ... Similarly, FOCUS Greek is sponsoring the donation drive, [and] all conference participants are invited and encouraged to participate.”

FOCUS, started in 1998 and based in Denver, seeks to form intentional disciples by sending missionaries to colleges and universities. They currently serve on more than 150 campuses internationally.

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) is one of three FOCUS campuses in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. St. John the Evangelist serves as the faith home for IUPUI’s FOCUS missionaries and many of its Catholic students.

Choosing the parish’s Garden Door Ministry as a recipient of the collected items was a way for FOCUS to contribute to a parish so involved in the organization’s mission.

And selecting the archdiocese’s Catholic Charities—which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year—was a way to give back to the community that hosted SEEK2019.

Chamblee notes that Catholic Charities

“touches the lives of over 150,000 people a year through numerous programs offered by our five central and southern Indiana agency locations.”

She says the items donated by SEEK2019 participants will go to four specific Catholic Charities ministries: Holy Family Shelter, which houses approximately 350 families and more than 650 children each year; the Crisis Office, which provides food, clothing, rent and utility assistance to low income individuals in need; Refugee and Immigration Services, which offers refugees pre- and post-arrival help, job assistance, housing and basic acclimation into society; and Senior Companion Program, which connects seniors with homebound elders to offer friendship and help with daily tasks.

“We originally expected to get 25 50-gallon bags-worth of donations,” says Chamblee. “In the end, we had enough to fill 30 bags.”

“Many of the donations we received such as the winter hats, gloves, scarves and hygiene items are items that Catholic Charities doesn’t regularly receive, but are so needed by many of our vulnerable neighbors within Indianapolis.

“Most importantly, the donations will go a long way in helping us to be the face of Christ to those we serve, as we in turn see the face of Christ in them.

“While at SEEK, I had several people comment to me that it impacted them to encounter many of the neighbors in downtown Indianapolis who will be the recipients of their donations. It was a humbling experience for them.”

Tierney says the “Garden Door neighbors are very appreciative [of the items]. We’re just always running short. There’s such a great need.

“I know they’re appreciative from the bottom of their hearts.” †

Mass is not a spectator sport, invites active participation

By David Gibson

The action on the field during a particularly exciting football game often locks spectators in its grip. With minutes to go and everything hanging in the balance, spectators hold their breath, jump up and down or even pray. The moment consumes them.

Similarly, some films move viewers to laughter or tears. Perhaps they identify with the profound anguish or desperate plight of a character in the story.

A game and a film both can cause viewers to feel caught up in actions unfolding before their very eyes. These largely remain the actions of others, nonetheless. Spectators remain a step removed from the action and its outcome.

The Second Vatican Council raised the issue of spectatorship in its 1963 “Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy” (“*Sacrosanctum Concilium*”). The council’s footprint undoubtedly is noticed most often today through this document’s impact because it involves the celebration of the Mass and sacraments, so recognizably part of the lives of Catholics.

It is difficult to define with precision what a “spectator” is. But the council insisted forcefully that Catholics are not present as “silent spectators” during the Mass or celebrations of other sacraments. Catholics should be prepared to “take part in the sacred action, conscious of what they are doing”—to collaborate fully and with devotion in the liturgy, the constitution asserted (#48).

I call attention to this whenever I teach the class in my parish that prepares parents for the upcoming baptism of an infant or young child. A reason parents are asked to attend this class is so that they will not approach their child’s baptism as spectators, but will be present to “take part in the sacred action, conscious of what they are doing.”

If the council hoped believers would not assume the posture of “silent spectators” during sacramental celebrations, does that imply that they should be spectators of some other kind, noisy or incessantly vocal, for example? It implied, in the council’s words, that they should participate both “internally and externally” in the liturgy (#19).

Today, worshippers participate in the Mass through verbal responses and singing. They listen in an active, focused way to the biblical readings, and they participate through prayer that is spoken aloud with others and prayer that is quietly personal. Some participate by proclaiming the Scripture readings, distributing Communion and in roles meant to assure that newcomers and others feel welcome.

Catholics do not tend to think in our times that they are present only to observe what is done by the priest, the altar servers or the choir, for example.

Yes, Catholics do not remain silently quiet throughout the Mass, as they might have done in the distant past. This teaching of the council has taken root.

Active, informed and collaborative participation in the institutions and



An extraordinary minister of holy Communion distributes Communion during Mass. Worshippers participate in the Mass through verbal responses and singing. Some participate by proclaiming the Scripture readings, distributing Communion and in roles meant to assure that newcomers and others feel welcome. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

associations that fulfill roles in people’s lives is a sign of our times. Twenty-first-century citizens are not surprised to be invited to contribute not only their best thinking but their energies and talents to achieving the goals of communities that are intimate parts of their lives.

If the Second Vatican Council in certain ways reflected this cultural sign of the times, its call for full liturgical participation nonetheless was based upon the basic purposes of liturgical worship.

“Fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations” is actually “demanded by the very nature of liturgy,” the council’s liturgy constitution noted. It explained that “such participation by the Christian people ... is their right and duty by reason of their baptism” (#14).

People born long after the council may wonder why the liturgy constitution thought it necessary to accent the importance of participation in the entire Mass, including the Liturgy of the Word in which the biblical readings are proclaimed and the homily is heard. Few Catholics today would question the value of this part of the liturgy.

After all, the Church experienced an explosion of interest in Scripture during the decades after the council. Scripture seminars often became a mainstay of parish life, and the Bible was accorded a key role in Catholic spirituality.

“The two parts which, in a certain sense, go to make up the Mass, namely the Liturgy of the Word and the eucharistic liturgy, are so closely

‘Vatican II ... fostered liturgical participation through its emphasis on holiness as a goal for all, not just for some.’



Worshippers pray during Mass. Massgoers participate through verbal responses and singing. They listen in an active, focused way to the biblical readings, and they participate through prayer that is spoken aloud with others and prayer that is quietly personal. (CNS photo/Dave Crenshaw, Eastern Oklahoma Catholic)

connected with each other that they form but one single act of worship,” the liturgy constitution commented (#56).

Vatican II also fostered liturgical participation through its emphasis on holiness as a goal for all, not just for some. “All the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of the Christian life,” the council affirmed in its “Dogmatic Constitution on the Church” (“*Lumen Gentium*,” #40).

Jesus, it pointed out, “preached holiness of life to each and every one of his disciples of every condition” (#40).

Exploring the life of holiness, many now look more and more to the liturgy as, in the words of the liturgy constitution, “the primary and indispensable source from which ... to derive the true Christian spirit” (#14).

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service’s editorial staff for 37 years.) †

Amid the Fray/Greg Erlandson

Recovering intimacy, offering hope in a lonely world

In the early 1990s, the famed mystery author P.D. James published *The Children of Men*. Set in the year 2021, it describes a dystopian world where the human race had become incapable of reproducing itself.



The scientific reason for this sudden and total collapse in the birthrate was unknown, but the story's narrator concludes:

"Pornography and sexual violence on film, on television, in books, in life, had increased and become more explicit, but less and less in the West we made love and bred children."

James wrote this book well before the rise of the Internet, but like all good science fiction, she had a glimpse of a possible future world. It wasn't pretty.

Not quite three decades later, and James' dystopia seems to be arriving right on schedule. Sex, love and marriage all are showing troubling signs of decline, according to a recent article in *The Atlantic* magazine. Titled "The Sex Recession," the author, Kate Julian, actually ends up reporting on an even more worrisome decline in intimacy. It's not just in the United States, and it's not just among millennials.

The author at first takes a rather head-scratching tone: Why aren't these young

people having more sex the way they are supposed to in our enlightened age? But the research she quotes shows that rates of sex are declining for all age groups and in many Western countries.

Despite the increasingly graphic presentations of popular media, despite the multibillion dollar and increasingly perverted pornography industry, physical and psychological intimacy are on the skids. People are hooking up less, dating less, having sex less, enjoying it less.

Masturbation, coyly called "self-pleasuring" but referred to in slang as "fapping," is no longer taboo. In Japan, where the birthrate has plummeted to near demographic extinction, self-pleasure aids are booming. Of course, this is what porn is ultimately all about, but in Japan, porn involves not just human actors, but animated fantasy creatures, making the experience singularly unreal.

Back home, the report tells us, dating and hookup apps and ubiquitous smartphone screens aren't making things better. What they are doing is degrading the ability to simply approach another person and have a conversation or suggest a date.

In fact, teens who report going on dates are decreasing. College classes now instruct students on the lost art of dating. Even at Catholic universities, kids are looking for how-to instructions on negotiating this suddenly strange terrain. In the world of #Metoo, asking someone

out seems less like an invitation to coffee than potential harassment.

That license has led to lassitude is not likely to shock the Church, which has two millennia of wisdom when it comes to human nature and sex. Sexual love is meant to be expressed in the context of marriage, the Church teaches. It is meant to be at once total, faithful, exclusive and fecund.

In his much-abused encyclical "*Humanae Vitae*," Pope Paul VI talked about the "inseparable connection" in marital love between the "unitive" and "procreative." For the past century of birth control, the battleground has been about the procreative aspect. Now the other shoe is dropping.

The "inseparable connection" has been severed. Society has become increasingly efficient at separating conception from sex, and as Pope Paul predicted, the unitive aspect that is lifelong intimacy is eroding.

The collapse of intimacy that *The Atlantic* describes may be an opportunity for the Church to recast its message. Rather than "Thou shalt not" as its battle cry, the Church can offer a genuinely positive vision of "the joy of love," a holistic understanding of sex and intimacy for a society increasingly despairing about both.

(Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, can be reached at gerlandson@catholicnews.com.) †

Living Well/Maureen Pratt

Patching the holes in my bucket list

Standing for 12-plus hours in the cold and driving rain to experience a less-than-one-minute moment isn't exactly my idea



of a good time, but on New Year's Eve, hundreds of thousands seemed to think that the pain was worth the "gain" to be able to say, "I was in Times Square as the ball dropped."

In fact, several of those interviewed for

television mentioned that their experience fulfilled one of the must-do items on their bucket lists. No matter the discomfort, the accomplishment added up to a long-dreamed goal pursued and met.

Snug in my comfy chair at home, I watched the evening unfold and heard the many references to "bucket lists" with growing curiosity. On the surface, experiencing Times Square on New Year's Eve seems a plausible endeavor, despite the fact that this year, it took a great deal of stamina, grit and willingness to endure awful conditions to "get it done."

But, if we look at bucket lists through the prism of faith, and New Year's Eve 2018/19's rain-soaked event, how many of us would endure the same degree of hardship in pursuit of other, more faith-centered goals or activities, that could have a positive, perhaps lasting, impact on others?

Or, putting the question differently, what if all those hundreds of thousands of people took that same time and effort and fed the homeless, built shelters, visited the lonely or—a wonderful thought—prayed together?

I don't mean to imply that the whole Times Square/New Year's Eve festivities are meaningless or bad. The turning from one year to another merits marking, and I was among the many who watched, albeit from a distance, as the ball dropped somewhere in and through the rain. And, of course I, like most people, have a bucket list of things I'd like to accomplish or do or see in my oh-so-finite lifetime!

But I do wonder about how we, myself included, prioritize our goals and decide just how much effort or discomfort we're willing to endure to accomplish them.

To go the next level up in a career, for example, requires above-the-call effort. To increase in depth of faith requires extra work, too, but is that before or after the hours spent toiling overtime "at work"?

The conditions under which we undertake to achieve our goals often come into play, too. So many were willing to weather the weather to see that ball drop. But, if the same rain were falling on a day set for volunteering outdoors, well, I confess I might beg off, along with, perhaps, many others.

Those of us who live with chronic pain might consider these questions even more personally. As we already have discomfort, just how much more can or should we take to serve God better? More effectively?

If we already feel as if we are sacrificing by living with poor health or other challenges, what other sacrifice are we called to make? How can we see beyond ourselves to better find our place among others, including those in greater need, in the world?

None of these questions has an easy answer. But as I begin this new year, I am grateful that they popped into my head late on Dec. 31, 2018.

These and other faith-centered musings make me rethink the priorities on my "bucket list," not necessarily to bring on more hardship, but to "live well" in all the fullness of the term—with emphasis on compassion, service and deepening of faith and, yes, joy and enjoyment of God's world and all that is precious in life!

(Maureen Pratt writes for Catholic News Service. Her website is www.maureenpratt.com.) †

The Theology of Technology/Brett Robinson

Matters of life and death in a world of freedom

Of the many technologies that have changed the course of culture, contraception may be the most pernicious.



In his landmark encyclical "*Humanae Vitae*," St. Paul VI foresaw that the rise of artificial birth control methods would also lead to more marital infidelity, the lowering of moral standards and the objectification of persons. One does not

need to look far to see that these bitter fruits have taken deep root in the culture.

Alongside the birth control technologies themselves is the contraceptive mentality that they foster. What is a contraceptive mentality? The idea that we can be free without taking risks.

In "Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander," one of Thomas Merton's journal entries describes the Trappist monk's encounter with a black widow spider:

"It is strange to be so very close to something that can kill you, and not be defended by some kind of invention. As

if, wherever there was a problem in life, some machine would have to get there before you to negotiate it. As if we could not deal with the serious things of life except through the intermediary of ... our inventions ... the inventions which have become our world."

These are matters of life and death. From the life-giving conception of a child to the lethal reality of a venomous spider, nature is an awing and powerful reality. Our attempts to circumvent nature or reprogram it are foolhardy and ultimately dehumanizing. In our desire for a risk-free existence, we end up sacrificing our freedom and humanity.

In the early stages of modern technology, there was a sense that anything that could be done technologically should be done. Even instruments of war that could kill millions were pursued in the name of national security. The atomic bomb was justified as a safeguard of national freedom, just as contraception is justified as a safeguard of individual freedom.

In both cases, life and the potential for new life are snuffed out in the name

of security. When we limit contingency or uncertainty, we lose our ability to see God's grace at work in our lives.

The black widow spider did not bite Thomas Merton because he spotted it just after sitting down. This was more than a stroke of luck, it was a sign of our radical vulnerability in a world of providential encounters, some that give life and some that take it away. Living in the midst of that risk is what makes us human and makes us free.

In his reflections on technology, Pope Benedict XVI said that the goal of technology should not be material security but a greater inner freedom and renunciation that leads man to himself.

What did Pope Benedict mean? That morality is our true source of security, not human invention. We are called to something higher. Our freedom is not limitless, but our limits are only bounded by caritas, seeking the good of the other in love.

(Brett Robinson is director of communications and Catholic media studies at the University of Notre Dame McGrath Institute for Church Life.) †

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

Digging deeper into our interior, taking anger by the horns

Wherever we look, anger is on the rise and is calling for a deeper look at its anatomy.



Anger, which is one of the seven capital sins, is often painted as evil. Psychologists would advise, however, that we take a closer look at it before condemning it completely.

Anger can be good when it addresses a disorder that needs immediate attention.

My dad was a very patient man and could put up with almost anything. One day, his anger stunned me when he caught a dishonest merchant trying to pull the wool over his eyes. The confrontation that followed corrected the situation and hopefully helped the merchant to

reconsider his honesty.

Anger possesses an energetic prompting that sometimes is required to address wrongdoing, injustice and malice. Ironically, lethargy and failing to take responsible action to correct an evil is also a capital sin.

Anger is evil when it spawns revenge and the desire to create harm and disorder. It is the opposite of kindness that prompts us to be well-disposed toward others, life and God, and to work toward restoring order.

Today we are experiencing a rise in incivility in which ill-disposed people are out to get others. They not only mirror anger at its worst, but exhibit a disposition that takes the heart out of reconciliation and efforts at creating unity.

In his book *Power and Responsibility*, Father Romano Guardini implored our postmodern age to develop greater

interiority to deal with today's challenges that threaten our kindness. He called us to meditate, and become more reflective and prayerful about destructive evil influences like anger that are invading our times.

It is so easy to succumb to lethargy and let the daily spirit of anger, incivility and revenge enter our homes, workplaces, government and churches. Father Guardini cautioned that this is no time to give in to matter-of-factness and to feel this is a natural part of our life.

On the contrary, it is a time to dig deeper into our interior, to reflect on the status quo and how it is destroying the God-given order for which God created us. In the best sense of the word, it is time to become angry at that which is taking the very heart out of our life.

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, January 20, 2019

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- John 2:1-11

The Book of Isaiah furnishes the first reading for this weekend's Mass.

When this third section of Isaiah was written, the Hebrew people had just emerged from a terrible period in their history. Their homeland, divided into two kingdoms after the death of King Solomon, had been overrun by the mighty Babylonian

Empire, centered in today's Iraq.

Many were killed in the conquest. Others were taken to Babylon, the imperial capital. There these exiles, and then their descendants, languished for four generations until political fortunes changed. The more powerful Persians conquered Babylonia.

As a result, the exiles were allowed to return to their homeland. The prophets did not see the sequence of events leading to this happy release as merely coincidental or the result of human decision-making. Rather, God provided for it. God had promised to protect the people. The people upset the arrangement by sinning.

Despite their sinfulness, however, God was constant. He provided.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church presents a passage from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

Leading the Corinthian Christians to genuine fidelity was a considerable challenge for Paul. In reaction to rivalries and arguments in Corinth, Paul wrote what has become a blueprint for Christian living. He reminded the Corinthians that each of them had special gifts and opportunities. Such diversity was welcome since it meant that there were so many occasions for individual believers to bring the sweetness of the Gospel into the world. Paul even listed different skills and talents to make his point.

St. John's Gospel supplies the third reading.

Unique to John, the miracle at Cana in Galilee was the first recorded of the

Lord's miracles. It marked the beginning of the Lord's public ministry.

The emphasis usually lies upon the marvel of the changing of the water into wine. This indeed was remarkable, but the story has other powerful lessons.

A great lesson is about Mary. John's Gospel never names her. It always simply refers to Mary as "the mother" of Jesus. This is not an oversight. It stresses her unique role as the Lord's earthly parent.

The response of Jesus to the obvious embarrassment of the host in not having enough wine for the guest can be puzzling. Was the Lord indifferent to the host's distress? His reply only stressed that the messianic mission was not to provide for earthly human needs, but to draw all to God and to eternal life.

Mary enters the picture. First, Jesus hears her. Secondly, her faith is unqualified and frank. She trusts the Lord, telling the servers to do whatever the Lord orders them to do.

So, this reading reveals the power and mission of Jesus, as well as Mary's perfect response in faith to the Lord.

Reflection

The Church celebrated the feast of the Nativity at Christmas, rejoicing in the birth of the Lord in time and space. In observing the feast of the Epiphany, the Church joyfully proclaimed to us that the Lord came to show all of us the unlimited love of God for us. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord told us that Jesus lived and eventually died for us. He became one of us.

This weekend, in the words of Isaiah, the Church declares that earthly life would be beautiful if we all loved God in return.

How do we love God? The story of Cana tells us. Jesus teaches us that no human situation should distract us from the fact that being with God is our destiny, and therefore our priority.

Mary instructs us that we can go to Jesus with any worry. But her example also tells us, as she told the servants, that we must follow the Lord and trust in him. †

My Journey to God

Prayer of Supplication: Journeying from Darkness to Light

By Sally Meyer

O God, I want to step into the light. Take my hand, and draw me in.

Show me how to be confident in the ways I can love. Increase my desire to live out the potential that is hidden within my heart.

You know these parts of me well. Show me how to magnify your beauty.

In the light, I want to be able to stand with joy and gratitude that I am your creation, and you love every part of me.

O God, as I take that step out of darkness into the light, reveal what I need to see in myself. Although I am vulnerable in this place, help me search

for your mercy and love with confidence and trust.

With outstretched hands, I offer myself to you. As my weaknesses are exposed in this gentle light, transform what is fragile into a blessing of courage and hope for others.

I surrender my will, asking you, O God, to help me embrace my true self. Help me to see what you see. Help me to love what you love.

In this Sacred Light, shining around me and through me, bend my heart and will towards you.

Amen.

(Sally Meyer is a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.)

Daily Readings

Monday, January 21

St. Agnes, virgin and martyr
Hebrews 5:1-10
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Hebrews 6:10-20
Psalm 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c
Mark 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 23

St. Vincent, deacon and martyr
St. Marianne Cope, virgin
Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 3:1-6

Thursday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor of the Church
Hebrews 7:25-8:6
Psalm 40:7-10, 17
Mark 3:7-12

Friday, January 25

The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Acts 22:3-16
or Acts 9:1-22
Psalm 117:1b-2
Mark 16:15-18

Saturday, January 26

St. Timothy, bishop
St. Titus, bishop
2 Timothy 1:1-8
or Titus 1:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10
Mark 3:20-21

Sunday, January 27

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19:8-10, 15
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Donating to Shriners hospitals is morally acceptable, doesn't promote freemasonry

Can Catholics morally give donations to the Shriners hospitals? Their ads are very convincing, but aren't the Shriners Masons? (Virginia)



All Shriners are Masons. (The reverse, though, is not true. Shriners International began in 1872 as a spinoff of Freemasonry, with philanthropy as one of its principal goals.) Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network

of 22 facilities across North America that specializes in treating children with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lips and palates—all without regard to a family's ability to pay.

True, Catholics have long been prohibited from joining the Masons since it is, at its core, a naturalistic religion. Pope Leo XIII in 1884 said that Masonry had as its fundamental tenet "that human nature and human reason ought in all things be mistress and guide," and the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared in 1983 that "the faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin."

Your monetary donation to the Shriners hospitals, though, is given not to advance the spread of Masonic doctrine, but simply to help offer compassionate care to children, and I would feel comfortable making such a donation.

Over the years, I have noticed that the question of how long Advent candles are displayed and lighted varies widely from parish to parish. When I was growing up, the practice seemed to be that it was lighted on the First Sunday of Advent and concluded with the feast of the Epiphany.

But now, it seems, while virtually all parishes start on Advent's first Sunday, the "end date" varies widely. The most ridiculous, in my opinion, is that some parishes cease using the Advent candle as of Christmas Eve. What is the official Church teaching on the matter? (Georgia)

I am not sure that there is a definitive answer to your question or any "official" Church teaching on it, so we may just have to deal with some ambiguity.

The devotional use of the Advent wreath has a long tradition. In pre-Christian times, people would gather evergreens and light candles to counteract the darkness of winter and to show that "greener times" were on the horizon. Germans of the 16th century seem to have "Christianized" that custom with the Advent wreath, and the practice gradually spread throughout the Christian world as Germans emigrated.

As you indicate, the manner of use varies somewhat. Universally, the first candle on the wreath is lighted on the first of the four Sundays of Advent, and then the other three on the three succeeding Sundays. Some parishes do cease using the wreath and remove it from the sanctuary when the first Mass of Christmas Eve is about to be celebrated. I don't really find that "ridiculous," since the season of Advent does end with the celebration of Christ's birth.

In other parishes, though, a white candle is inserted in the center of the wreath—the "Christmas candle." That candle (larger than the others) is then lighted at each liturgy throughout the Christmas season, which ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, ordinarily celebrated on the first Sunday after the Epiphany. Once Christmas has arrived, some parishes also replace the three purple and one rose candle with four white ones, symbolizing the Church's joy at the birth of the Christ Child.

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

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

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

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

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

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.

ARMBRECHT, Gary, 67, Prince of Peace, Madison, Jan. 5. Husband of Maria Quentina Armbrecht. Father of Kelly Armbrecht Perry, Diane Armbrecht Wolfer and Eric Armbrecht. Brother of Dena Cartwright, Edward and Larry Armbrecht. Grandfather of nine.

BEGLEY, Silvestre Jaramillo, 21, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, Dec. 20. Son of Silbestre Jaramillo.

BERGMAN, Carol L., 62, St. Louis, Batesville, Dec. 24. Wife of Dennis Bergman. Mother of Krista Grow, David and Marc Bergman. Sister of Cheryl Siebert, Gary Meyer and Scott Moeller. Grandmother of three.

BILBREY, Dorotha J. (LaBolt), 86, St. Mary, Greensburg, Dec. 31. Wife of Claude Bilbrey. Mother of Susan Martin, Julie Mentz, Dan and Jim Bilbrey. Sister of Janice Stacy, Charles and Harold LaBolt. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of 10.

BISCHOFF, Mary Grace, 76, All Saints, Dearborn County, Jan. 3. Wife of Cliff Bischoff. Mother of David, Todd and Tony Bischoff. Sister of Dorothy Gillman, Rosie Lohman and Alean Saunders. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of two.

BUCHANAN, Charles, 68, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, Dec. 5. Brother of Alice and Richard Buchanan.

DANDRIDGE, Jack E., 82, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, Dec. 30. Husband of Rosemary Dandridge. Father of Renee Gragnon and Jared Dandridge. Brother of Alice Dandridge. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of one.

DAUBY, Jeanette A., 91, St. Paul, Tell City, Dec. 21. Mother of Janean Dauby Fella, Jane Dauby Kelly, Jolene Dauby Peterson and Jack Dauby. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of 21.

DIRKSEN, David J., 77, Prince of Peace, Madison, Dec. 23. Husband of Rosemary Dirksen. Father of Arlene Dirksen Semon, Alan, Doug and Timothy Dirksen. Brother of Kathleen Gasson, Clete, John and Michael Dirksen. Grandfather of five.

DOLEHANTY, Mary Jane, 78, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, Dec. 28. Wife of Joseph Dolehanty. Mother of Carole, Casie, Darrin and Dennis Dolehanty. Sister of Marilyn Kettler, Marguerite Stephens, Donald, Harry, Phil and Thomas Maurer. Grandmother of six.

FOSTER, Rodger, D., 70, St. Paul, Tell City, Dec. 24.

Husband of Linda Foster. Father of Dexter and Nealon Foster. Grandfather of four.

FRANCESCON, Quentin Benito, 90, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Dec. 28. Husband of Mary Lou Francescon. Father of Carol Bennett, Marlene Blackwell, Andrea Broderick, Mark, Quentin and Thomas Francescon. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of one.

HICKS, Norma J., 91, St. Christopher, Dec. 19. Mother of Linda Hicks Crown, Brenda Hicks Wickersham and Garry Hicks. Sister of Betty Roush and Ronald Maschino. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of eight. Great-great-grandmother of three.

HIGGINS, John M., 85, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 30. Husband of Charlotte Higgins. Father of Jeanne Bergin, Anne Edwards, Carole Morris, Chuck and Mike Higgins. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of one.

HOFFMAN, Lena M. (Kruse), 91, Prince of Peace, Madison, Jan. 3. Mother of Tracey Hoffman Boling, John, Matthew III, Neal and William Hoffman. Grandmother of 17. Great-grandmother of 22. Great-great-grandmother of five.

JUGG, Arthur S., 96, St. Christopher, Dec. 31. Father of Sheila, Dave, Doug and Steve. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather of several.

KOCHERT, James, 91, St. Mary, Lanesville, Dec. 23. Husband of Suzanne Kochert. Father of Julie McCartin. Grandfather of two. Great-grandfather of two.

KRACKENBERGER, Beatrice, 88, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Dec. 15. Mother of Rhonda Gill, Marilyn Howell, Darlene McLquhan and Kathy Noerr. Sister of Mildred Milby, Patricia Ramsey, Frank, James and William Broughton. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of 12.

LATHAM, Dennis, 72, All Saints, Dearborn County, Jan. 3. Husband of Dorothy Latham. Father of Lori Bishop, Diana Olazabal, Lindsey and Michelle Latham and Danny Shell. Brother of Ruth Assalone. Grandfather of five.

LONNEMAN, Michael, 70, St. Mary, Greensburg, Jan. 2. Husband of Connie Lonneman. Father of Mychelle Baechele, Amy Stier, Candi Wesseler, Chad and Ryan Walterman and Tony Lonneman. Brother of Janet Johnson, Gail Morrissey, Pat and Rich Lonneman. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of two.



Filipino faith

Pilgrims celebrate as they wait to touch the Black Nazarene during a Jan. 9 procession in Manila, Philippines. The wooden statue, carved in Mexico and brought to the Philippine capital in the early 17th century, is cherished by Catholics there, who believe that touching it can lead to a miracle. (CNS photo/Soe Zeya Tun, Reuters)

LOZON, John R., 60, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Jan. 6. Husband of Sheila Lozon. Father of Emily Lozon-Forster, Katherine Lozon-McDermott and Jonathan Lozon. Brother of Diana Abbott-Huber. Grandfather of three.

MCKINLEY, Norma L. (Kessinger), 87, St. Michael, Bradford, Dec. 31. Mother of Dan, David, Doug, Pat and Conventual Franciscan Father Stephen McKinley. Sister of Jerry and Mike Kessinger. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of eight.

MILTO, Nathan P., 24, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Dec. 28. Son of Philip and Tricia Milto. Brother of Joey, Nicholas and P.J. Milto. Grandson of Wilma McDermott and Dick Wood.

MOOS, Phillip R., 94, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Dec. 23. Husband of Dorothy Moos. Father of Cathy, Ginny, Julie, Lory, Marilyn and Larry Moos. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of 17.

MUNN, Peter, 95, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Dec. 19. Father of Debbie Kelly, Laura Miller, Sheila Stevens, Lance and Steven Munn. Grandfather of 10. Great-grandfather of four.

MULLIS, Marion A., 82, St. Paul, Tell City, Dec. 23. Husband of Doretta Mullis. Father of Karen Griepenstroh. Brother of Carolyn Dauby, Monica Sicard, Anna Wheatley, Benny, Bill, Gary, Merle and Rupert Mullis. Grandfather of one. Great-grandfather of one.

NIEDENTHAL, Thomas, 74, St. Michael, Brookville, Dec. 23. Husband of Karen Niedenthal. Father of Mandi Bennett. Brother of Diane and Robert Niedenthal. Grandfather of three.

OBBERGFELL, Gerald E., 81, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 23. Husband of Patricia Obergefell.

OEKEY, Donald J., 83, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 28. Father of Sherrie Dilk and Tammy Mattingly. Grandfather of five.

REED, David L., 78, St. Joseph, Corydon, Dec. 23. Husband of Diane Reed. Father of Theresa Wise. Brother of Pamela Hunchman and Judy Kemp. Grandfather of four.

REUTER, Francis L., 91, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis, Dec. 28. Father of Judith Bussell, Joyce Taylor Evans, Donna Graham, Linda Rowland and Francis Reuter, Jr. Brother of Eileen Blatz, Angela Miner, Roseann Schonfeld and Alfred Reuter. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of six.

SCHWEGMAN, Dolores M., 60, St. Mary-of-the-Rock, Franklin County, Dec. 29. Sister of Marilyn Schwegman. Aunt and great-aunt of several.

SEUFERT, Mary Ann, 81, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Jan. 3. Wife of Clifford Seufert. Mother of Kathleen Grimes, Theresa Sispera, Dan, David, Jim, Joe, John, Mike and Steve Seufert. Sister of Theresa MacHolland, Cecilia Turner, Martha and Joseph Thie. Grandmother of 19.

SMITH, Catherine A., 95, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, Jan. 2. Sister of Marie Mitchell. Aunt of several.

STRONG, Ann E., 85, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, Dec. 26. Mother of Kathleen Walsh, Mary Willman, Kenneth and Steve Strong. Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of two.

TORMOEHLEN, Doris, 80, St. Ambrose, Seymour, Dec. 31. Wife of Kevin Tormoehlen. Sister of Helen Elkins, Christine Fordice, LaVerne Taskey, Alan, Alvin and Ernie Maschino. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of seven.

TRINKLE, James H., 40, St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford, Dec. 31. Son of James Trinkle and Dinah Goodin. Brother of Olivia Zajac. Uncle of two.

WATTS, Joseph P., 60, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Dec. 16. Son of Geraldine Watts. Brother of Lori Johnson, Julie Spangler, Kevin and Nick Watts. Uncle and great-uncle of several.

WHALEN, Sophia, 85, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Dec. 10. Mother of Carole Belmonte, Mitzi Callaway, Shannon Estrada, Mary Rector, Mike, Nick and Tony Whalen. Grandmother of 17. Great-grandmother of seven. †

Providence Sister Ann Marie Boyce ministered in Catholic education for 40 years

Providence Sister Ann Marie Boyce died on Jan. 1 at Union Hospital in Terre Haute. She was 88.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 11 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Sister Ann Marie was born on May 1, 1930, in Richmond where she grew up as a member of the former St. Mary Parish. She entered the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Jan. 7, 1948, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1955.

Sister Ann Marie earned a bachelor's degree in education from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in St. Mary-of-the-Woods and a master's degree in education from Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

During her 70 years as a member of the Sisters of Providence, Sister Ann Marie ministered for 40 years as a teacher in Catholic schools in California, Indiana and North Carolina. She returned to the motherhouse in 1999, where she served for 20 years as a driver.

In the archdiocese, Sister Ann Marie served in Catholic education in Indianapolis at St. Jude School from 1977-78 and at the former St. Ann School from 1950-53. She also served at St. Susanna School in Plainfield from 1959-64, the former St. Anne School in New Castle from 1967-77, at St. Paul School in Sellersburg (now St. John Paul II School) from 1978-85 and at the former Sacred Heart School in Terre Haute from 1996-99.

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. †

Franciscan Sister Mary Gloria Gallagher ministered in music for 63 years in Indiana, Ohio

Franciscan Sister Mary Gloria Gallagher died on Jan. 7 at the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 94.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 10 at the Motherhouse Chapel in Oldenburg. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Mary Ann Gallagher was born on Nov. 12, 1924, in Cincinnati. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis on Sept. 8, 1950, and professed final vows on Aug. 12, 1956.

Sister Mary Gloria earned a bachelor's degree in music and chemistry at Marian University in Indianapolis, a bachelor's degree in music at the College of Music in Cincinnati and a master's degree in Music at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati.

During 68 years as a Sister of St. Francis, Sister Mary Gloria ministered in music for 63 years, teaching at schools in Indiana and Ohio. In the archdiocese, she served at the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg from 1950-54 and 1960-80, and on the faculty of Marian University from 1980-2013. She was also a longtime member of the choir of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Sister Mary Gloria was also known for composing music for her community and for Marian University.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036-0100. †

Online Lay Ministry Formation

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

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

For more information, please log on to www.archindy.org/layministry



REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT NOW

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

1 Ethics Point
Confidential, Online Reporting
www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com or 888-393-6810

2 Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Victim Assistance Coordinator
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410

317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
carlahill@archindy.org

ENDOWMENT

continued from page 1

We are absolutely delighted and are very honored," noted Sherman, the executive director of St. Mary's Child Center. "We are grateful to the Lilly Endowment and to all who have provided the support through the years that has allowed us to do the work that resulted in this amazing gift."

As the executive director of archdiocesan Catholic Charities, Bethuram said, "This is truly a blessing for our agency and the shelter.

"This was a grant process that was initiated by the [Lilly] Endowment wanting to reach out to strong community organizations with a long track record of effective and efficient care for homeless children and families. Holy Family Shelter's staff continues to provide exceptional work since it first opened its doors 34 years ago."

Bill Bickel oversees the shelter in his role as director of program evaluation and development for the archdiocese's Catholic Charities. He knows the difference the Lilly Endowment grant will make.

"The real benefactors of this funding are Indianapolis' most vulnerable and poorest members: homeless families," Bickel said. "This generous support will allow us to continue to offer high quality emergency services to the poorest of the poor, which includes more than 650 homeless children each year."

Both Holy Family Shelter and St. Mary's Child Center aim to improve the futures of children and families who live in poverty.

Holy Family Shelter does its part by offering services that include health care, job training and legal assistance. Life skill classes also focus on parenting, nutrition and budgeting.

St. Mary's Child Center has a strong history of serving children from poor family backgrounds, according to Sherman.

The center's website notes that 93 percent of its students live in poverty, a reality that creates the risk for these children to fall behind academically at an early age

and never recover. St. Mary's strives to counter that risk with high-quality, early childhood education, giving the children equal footing for their futures, Sherman said.

The Lilly Endowment grant will help "ensure the long-term financial sustainability" of the center, she noted.

"The grant will be invested in an endowment. The grant is not intended to fund ongoing operating support. The annual proceeds from the investment will be used for targeted, one-time investments designed to move the organization forward in big ways."

Sherman said proceeds from the grant will allow the center to address issues that include "technology, improved fund development, the recruitment, development and retention of staff and long-term leadership."

The Lilly grant is a difference maker in helping the center continue to make a difference, she said.

"The success of our mission to powerfully impact the lives and futures of our young children and their families who live in poverty will be sustained." †

'The real benefactors of this funding are Indianapolis' most vulnerable and poorest members: homeless families. This generous support will allow us to continue to offer high quality emergency services to the poorest of the poor, which includes more than 650 homeless children each year.'



— Bill Bickel, director of program evaluation and development for Holy Family Shelter in Indianapolis

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Employment

Chief Operating Officer St. Anne Communities/Fort Wayne, IN

St. Anne Communities is looking for qualified candidates to fill the role of Chief Operating Officer. St. Anne Communities is a non-for-profit five star continuing care retirement community which strives to be faith centered and family focused. The COO is responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of the company, including management of the profit and loss statement for the business, as well as the related resources associated with the operation. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration, Nursing, Finance, or other relevant field of study. Candidates must have or the ability to obtain a licensure as a Health Facility Administrator in Indiana.

To view a full job description, please visit www.diocesefwsb.org/Current-Job-Postings.

To apply, please send a resumé and cover letter via email to Bob Nicholas at Bob.Nicholas@oninvestments.com, or mail to 116 E. Berry St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Attn: Bob Nicholas.

Employment

Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education

The Catholic Schools Office of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time Assistant Superintendent to serve as a resource to administrators, teachers, staff, students and families in the areas of curricular support, communications, business management, policy guidance and data analysis. The duties of this position also include serving as a member of the Archdiocesan Schools Team in a mission-driven, Christ-centered and student-oriented environment.

The position requires a master's degree in education, business or a related field and at least five years of educational or business leadership experience, preferably involving school leadership (paid or volunteer) and preferably in Catholic education. Applicants should be professed and practicing Roman Catholics with a deep commitment to Catholic education. Candidates should also have experience in development and/or marketing efforts and be both proponents and role models of lifelong learning. Preference may be given to individuals who are bi-lingual and bi-cultural.

Please e-mail cover letter, resumé, and list of references, in confidence, to:

Ed Isakson
Director, Human Resources • Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46202
E-mail: edisakson@archindy.org

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Executive Director, Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC)

The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of the ICC and as a registered lobbyist serves as spokesperson for the five Roman Catholic Bishops in Indiana. The Executive Director also serves as the liaison to United States Catholic Conference, members of Federal and State legislatures, Executive and Administrative offices and statewide organizations. Responsibilities include enabling Catholics to participate in development of public policy and the political and democratic processes.

Candidates must be a practicing Roman Catholics with an in-depth knowledge of the faith and Catholic social teachings. Excellent oral and written communication skills along with demonstrated analytical and organizational ability are required. An advanced degree (or equivalent experience) in one or more of the related fields is preferred: theology, political or social sciences, philosophy, or education. Previous employment or volunteer experience in the Catholic Church, ideally involving administration, is preferred. The preferred starting date for the position is July 1, 2019.

Please e-mail cover letter, resumé, and list of references by February 1, 2019 to:

Ed Isakson
Director, Human Resources • Archdiocese of Indianapolis
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E-mail: edisakson@archindy.org

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP

The Catholic Diocese of Evansville, Indiana, seeks a Director of Stewardship. This position coordinates and manages the stewardship efforts that support the mission of the diocese. This individual will work closely with the Bishop and his staff to determine and communicate stewardship priorities. A description of this position can be found at www.evdio.org. This position reports to the bishop and chancellor/coo. Qualified applicants are invited to submit a professional resumé, cover letter, and salary requirements to hr-stewardship@evdio.org. Applications will be accepted—and interviews conducted on a rolling basis—until the position is filled.

PRINCIPAL IN THE HIKES POINT/BUECHEL AREA OF KENTUCKY

John Paul II Academy is a Regional School (PreK-8) sponsored by the parishes of St. John Paul II and St. Bartholomew in the Hikes Point/Buechel Area.

The Principal is responsible for the overall operations of the school which include but are not limited to: curriculum, supervision of faculty and staff, good fiscal management, maintaining/enhancing a Catholic environment and student recruitment. They must be a practicing Roman Catholic with a Master's degree in education and a minimum of four years of successful teaching experience. The applicant must have an Advanced or Master Catechist Certification.

The expertise/competencies necessary for this position would include:

- Excellent communication and organization skills
- Curriculum
- Finance & Budget
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Knowledge of Archdiocesan policies and procedures.
- A valid Kentucky Teacher's Certificate (Rank II or I) and Kentucky Principal's State of Eligibility (Rank II or I).

Please submit your resumé electronically to: Father Bill Burks at bburks@stjpiiparish.com no later than Monday, February 11, 2019.



Director of Campus Ministry Full-time Position

Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deanery High School of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is accepting applications for the full-time position of Director of Campus Ministry, to begin June 1, 2019.

Qualifications: Applicants must be an active member of the Catholic Church. The ideal candidate will have at least three years of experience ministering to young people, particularly high school students. Strong organizational and communication skills are essential, as are a love of one's faith and a desire to ignite the fire of faith in young people.

Responsibilities: The Director of Campus Ministry reports to the Vice President for Mission and Ministry and is responsible for:

- Scheduling, planning, and overseeing retreats for each grade level (12-15 retreats per year depending on class sizes)
- Overseeing the service program and school-wide Community Service Day
- Overseeing service/mission trips
- Working with other Archdiocesan youth/campus ministers in the coordination of special events
- Assisting the Vice President of Mission and Ministry as needed with the liturgical needs of the school—weekly Mass, penance services, Living Rosary, etc.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resumé with references, and a letter from your parish pastor confirming your membership and participation in the parish to Deacon Rick Wagner, Vice President for Mission and Ministry.

Submit electronically to: rwagner@bishopchatard.org

Applications will be accepted until February 1, 2019. To learn more about Bishop Chatard High School, visit www.BishopChatard.org.

Faith is passed on at home, pope tells parents at baptism

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Faith isn't something learned just by studying the catechism but rather is a gift passed on to children by the example of their parents, Pope Francis said.

Although children learn the tenets of the Catholic faith in catechism class, it is first transmitted in the home "because faith always must be transmitted in dialect: the dialect of the family, the dialect of the home, in the atmosphere of the home," he said before baptizing 27 babies.

The pope celebrated the Mass and baptisms on Jan. 13, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, in the Sistine Chapel.

"The important thing is to transmit the faith with your life of faith: that they see the love between spouses, that they see peace at home, that they see that Jesus is there," Pope Francis said during his brief and unscripted homily.

As the lively sounds of babies' squeals and cries filled the frescoed Sistine Chapel, the pope said babies often cry when they are "in an environment that is strange" or because they are hungry.

Repeating his usual advice to mothers

of infants, the pope urged them to make their children comfortable, and "if they cry because they are hungry, breastfeed them."

Children "also have a polyphonic vocation: One begins to cry, then another makes a counterpoint, then another and in the end, it is a chorus of cries," he said.

Offering a piece of advice to parents, the pope called on them to pass on the faith by letting their children see their love and refrain from arguing in front of them.

"It is normal for couples to argue, it's normal," he said. "Do it, but don't let them hear, don't let them see. You don't know the anguish a child has when he or she sees parents fighting."

Later, after praying the *Angelus* with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis asked those gathered to pray for the newly baptized babies and their families. He also asked them to "keep the memory of your own baptism alive."

"There you will find the roots of our life in God; the roots of our eternal life that Jesus has given us through his incarnation, passion, death and resurrection," he said. "Our roots are in baptism." †



Pope Francis baptizes one of 27 babies during a Mass on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican on Jan. 13. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Catholic parish of teen who escaped abduction credits power of prayer

WASHINGTON (CNS)—For nearly three months, members of St. Peter Parish in Cameron, Wis., were praying for the safe return of one of their own—13-year-old Jayme Closs.

When parishioners heard the news that she had escaped her abductor on Jan. 10 and was safe, their prayers switched to gratitude.

The parish sign said, "Praise God Welcome Home Jayme," after its Mass times listing. It joined dozens of messages that had sprung up in signs and storefronts across the Wisconsin town and neighboring towns cheering the teen's safety.

"Our prayers have been answered, and God is good," parishioner JoAnn Trowbridge told the local NBC affiliate, WEAU, after the Jan. 13 Mass at St. Peter Church.

St. Peter Parish, in the Diocese of Superior, Wis., is where Jayme attended

religious education classes and Mass with her parents, James and Denise, who were murdered on Oct. 15, 2018. Their funeral Mass was celebrated at the church on Oct. 27.

Superior Bishop James P. Powers said in a Jan. 11 message to priests and parish leaders that he hoped all parishes would add a "thanksgiving petition to God" during Masses that Jayme was found alive and safe. He said that during her nearly three-month captivity, she had to endure "God knows what kind of physical and mental torture as we kept her in our prayers asking for her safe return."

"We now want to keep her in our prayers asking God's healing touch on her body, mind and spirit," he said in a message posted on the Facebook page of the *Catholic Herald*, Superior's diocesan newspaper.

Jake Patterson, 21, has been charged with the couple's murder and with kidnapping Jayme, both of which he has confessed to, according to a criminal complaint released on Jan. 14 by the Barron County District Attorney.

Jayme was found in the town of Gordon, about 70 miles from her home in Barron, when she escaped the cabin in the woods where she had been held for 88 days and met a woman walking a dog who took her to a nearby home and called police.

Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald told reporters when he announced the teen's return that she was back through the "hope and the prayers in this community and what everybody did."

He also primarily praised the teen saying: "She took that first step. Taking that step was just unbelievable." He said when people talk about this kind of situation with their kids they need to advise them: "Never give up hope, keep

your prayers alive. When you get into a situation, you never give up."

Jayme is currently staying with an aunt. Her grandfather told the Associated Press that she is "in exceptionally good spirits."

St. Peter Church will hold a special service of Thanksgiving for her return on Jan. 20.

During the parish's Jan. 13 Mass, parishioners prayed for Jayme and her family and for all who had searched for the teen while she was missing.

They said they want her to know of their support in the weeks, months and years ahead, particularly that she can "handle this and get her life back together," as one parishioner put it. †



Jayme Closs

and God is good," parishioner JoAnn Trowbridge told the local NBC affiliate, WEAU, after the Jan. 13 Mass at St. Peter Church.

St. Peter Parish, in the Diocese of Superior, Wis., is where Jayme attended

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