



The Criterion

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Joyful Witness

Be sure to take friends as you journey through life, page 12.

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With a tip of the hat, NFL player impacts people with a powerful bond of friendship

By John Shaughnessy

If you have ever needed a friend, or been a friend to someone in need, you will appreciate the beauty of what Ted Karras is doing.

You may even marvel at how a small yet meaningful token of his friendship—a hat—is making such a huge difference to a Catholic-inspired place in Indianapolis that fosters friendships and a sense of community to people who desperately need and want those gifts in their lives.

Through the sales of his personally-designed hats in the past seven months, Karras—a 2011 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and now an offensive lineman for the Cincinnati Bengals—has helped raise nearly \$400,000 for the Village of Merici, an organization that provides housing, support services and educational opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

Named in honor of St. Angela Merici, the Village holds a special place in Karras' heart for the hope and the promise it gives people.

"It provides such a wholesome environment for these people to live in, and it provides independence which otherwise would be hard to achieve," he says. "These are adult men and women

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Six residents of the Village of Merici in Indianapolis—a Catholic-inspired place of hope and growth for adults with disabilities—showcase the hats and T-shirts that are part of a fundraising effort led by Cathedral High School grad and Cincinnati Bengals football player Ted Karras that has raised nearly \$400,000 for the Village. The residents are Mary McClamroch, left, Jason Renie, Trese Mascari, Sarah Boyd, Angie Cain and Steve Mailloux. (Submitted photo)



Dallas bishop reacts to mass shooting with 'heavy heart,' urges 'prayers for peace'

(OSV News)—Dallas Bishop Edward J. Burns addressed the faithful of the diocese "with a heavy heart" late on May 6 after at least



Bishop Edward J. Burns

eight people, including a child, were killed during a mass shooting that afternoon at an outlet mall in Allen, Texas.

"Like all of you, I am deeply troubled by the shooting in the community of Allen and the senseless disregard for life that has occurred in our community," Bishop Burns said in a statement. "The Catholic community is in unity and solidarity with the families who have lost loved ones in this tragedy. May God, our heavenly Father, bring comfort and strength to all affected by this tragic event. We ask God to comfort our community, the victims and their families."

Authorities said a gunman opened fire at the Allen Premium Outlets, a Dallas-area outlet mall, killing eight and wounding at least another seven people before being killed by a police officer who happened to be at the mall.

The Allen Police Department said one of its officers had already responded to the outlet mall on an unrelated call, when the officer heard gunshots shortly after 3:30 p.m. The department said this officer "engaged the suspect and neutralized the threat."

Victims range in age from 5 to 61 years old, authorities said.

Late on May 7, the Texas Department of Public Safety

See TEXAS, page 8

Faith fills woman honored for 'heart for serving' needy and mothers of miscarriage

By Natalie Hoefler

Jessica Murphy admits to feeling "a bit uncomfortable" about recently being named one of Terre Haute's "12 Under 40" professionals who have made significant contributions to the community.

"Honestly, I thought, 'Well, I'm just doing my job,'" says the development director for Catholic Charities Terre Haute.

But scratch beneath the surface of her humble response, and a story much deeper is revealed.

It's the story of a geologist who, just shy of receiving a

See WOMAN, page 9

Jessica and Kevin Murphy smile with their son Daniel in December 2022. She was recently named one of Terre Haute's "12 Under 40" professionals who have made significant contributions to the community. (Submitted photo)





Oblate Father Kevin Collins, pastor of St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish, in Brownsville, Texas, places his hand onto his forehead in prayer with migrants at the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, a shelter for migrants and homeless, after a deadly incident where a car ran into pedestrians at a bus stop on May 7. (OSV News photo/Miguel Roberts, Reuters)

Bishop: Tragedy at bus stop reflects ‘corrosive tendency’ to devalue life

(OSV News)—A vehicle crashed into a crowd waiting at a bus stop outside a migrant shelter in the border city of Brownsville, Texas, killing at least seven people and injuring at least 10 others, authorities said.

Around 8:30 a.m. on May 7, a gray Range Rover crashed into a bus stop where a group of individuals were waiting for a bus, several of whom were sitting on a curb, as the unmarked city bus stop lacked a bench, local police said. The bus stop is outside the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, where surveillance footage captured the incident.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville called the crash indicative of a “corrosive tendency” to devalue vulnerable human life.

The driver, George Alvarez, 34, has been charged with eight counts of manslaughter, police said, adding that he has an “extensive rap sheet.”

Many of the victims were Venezuelan men, local officials said, who were waiting for a bus back to downtown Brownsville after spending the night at the shelter.

Brownsville has seen an increase in Venezuelan migrants in recent weeks. Shelter director Victor Maldonado told the Associated Press (AP) that the shelter had not previously received threats, but they have since the incident.

“I’ve had a couple of people come by the gate and tell the security guard that the reason this happened was because of us,” Maldonado said.

Prior to identifying Alvarez as the suspect, Brownsville police investigator Martin Sandoval told the AP that police did not yet know whether the crash was intentional, but that the suspect was being uncooperative.

Sandoval told the AP that there are three possible scenarios for the collision.

“It could be intoxication; it could be an accident; or it could be intentional. In order for us to find out exactly what happened, we have to eliminate the other two,” he said, adding the suspect is “being very uncooperative at the hospital, but he

will be transported to our city jail as soon as he gets released.”

Alvarez is a resident of Brownsville, local media reported.

In a statement issued in both English and Spanish, Bishop Flores said, “We mourn and are shocked by the horrific loss of the lives of the seven immigrant men from Venezuela who were killed when a vehicle crashed into them this morning in Brownsville. And we pray for several others who were injured and are in serious condition.

“This tragedy occurred this morning outside the Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, a place that has served the homeless and immigrants for decades,” Bishop Flores said. “Over the past several months, in particular, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley has worked closely with the Ozanam Center in Brownsville to help provide humanitarian aid to the immigrant population as they seek shelter while making arrangements to meet with their families further north.”

Bishop Flores said that humanitarian aid is conducted “as an assistance to, and with the cooperation of, government authorities.

“The safety, protection and assistance of the immigrant men, women and children who have been given permission to stay in the United States remains a priority for the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville and for our generous staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley,” Bishop Flores said. “We must resist the corrosive tendency to devalue the lives of immigrants, the poor and the vulnerable. Let us take extra steps as a local community to care for and protect one another, especially the most vulnerable.”

Bishop Flores added that “as we await a fuller report from law enforcement authorities, let us stop for a moment to mourn these losses of life and to pray.

“Pray for the victims, pray for their families and loved ones, and pray for our community,” he said. “And after we pray, let us continue our common efforts to serve those most in need.” †



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

May 12–20, 2023

May 12 – 11:30 a.m.
Archdiocesan Maintenance conference and lunch at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

May 12 – 7:30 p.m.
Shabbat service honoring Rabbi Dennis Sasso at Congregation Beth-el Zedeck, Indianapolis

May 13 – 2 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus and Prince of Peace Parish, Madison, at St. Bartholomew Church

May 16 – 10 a.m.
Archdiocesan Priest Formation Day at St. Agnes Parish, Nashville

May 17 – 10 a.m.
Department Heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

May 17 – 2 p.m.
Indianapolis Eucharistic Revival Planning Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

May 17 – 7 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of St. Anthony Parish, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

May 18 – 9:30 a.m.
Catholic Center department gathering at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center

May 18 – 12:30 p.m.
Women’s Care Center Board luncheon meeting at Women’s Care Center, Indianapolis

May 18 – 7 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for the youths of St. Roch, St. Monica and St. Michael the Archangel parishes, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

May 19 – 1 p.m.
Senior Mass at Oldenburg Academy Sisters of St. Francis Chapel, Oldenburg

May 20 – 9 a.m.
Graduation at Roncalli High School, Indianapolis

May 20 – 5:30 p.m.
Confirmation Mass for youths of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, Greenwood and St. Martin of Tours Parish, Martinsville, at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Church

Pope: Jesus shows what path to take, especially in times of trouble

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians have no need to be afraid or hopeless because Jesus always tells the faithful where they are going and how to get there, Pope Francis said.

“At times, especially when there are major problems to face and there is the sensation that evil is stronger, we ask ourselves: What should I do, what path should I follow?” he said on May 7.

Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6), which means “Jesus himself is the way to follow to live in truth and to have life in abundance,” the pope said.

Before reciting the midday “*Regina Coeli*” prayer with about 20,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis spoke about the day’s Gospel reading, John 14:1-12, which is among Jesus’ discourses at the Last Supper before his death.

“The disciples’ hearts are troubled, but the Lord speaks reassuring words to them, inviting them not to be afraid,” the pope said. Jesus “is not abandoning them, but is going to prepare a place for them and to guide them toward that destination.”

Jesus tells his disciples that “there is space for you, you are welcome, you will

always be received with the warmth of an embrace, and I am in heaven to prepare a place for you,” the pope said. Jesus also “prepares for us that embrace with the Father, the place for all eternity.”


This is a source of consolation and hope for the faithful, he said. “So, when we experience fatigue, bewilderment and even failure, let us remember where our life is headed.

“We must not lose sight of the destination,” he said, which is the “greatness and the beauty” of heaven.

The faithful are invited to follow Jesus and imitate him, “especially with deeds of closeness and mercy toward others,” Pope Francis said. “This is the compass for reaching heaven: loving Jesus, the way, becoming signs of his love on Earth.” †


Correction

The website address for Bread for the World listed in the “St. Vincent de Paul Society and Bread for the World join to fight hunger” article in the April 28 issue was incorrect. The correct web address is bread.org. †



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E-mail us: criterion@archindy.org

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



Phone Numbers:
Main office: 317-236-1570
Advertising: 317-236-1585
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Seniors will soon celebrate their Catholic high school graduations

By John Shaughnessy

Pride and relief, nostalgia and celebration will blend once again as seniors prepare to graduate this spring at Catholic high schools across the archdiocese.

It's a time when friends promise to stay close forever, when seniors seek out the teachers who have made a difference in their lives, when parents of the graduates look at their children and wonder where the years have gone.

It's also a time for congratulations to the Class of 2023, including this one from Brian Disney, superintendent of Catholic schools in the archdiocese.

"Congratulations to our Catholic high school graduates throughout the archdiocese," Disney said. "We are proud of you for your accomplishments and are excited to see the continued impact you will make in our Church, communities, nation and world. Be who God meant you to be and go set the whole world on fire."

The superintendent applauded the graduates for how they have "demonstrated their intelligence, courage, strength and commitment by excelling in academics, athletics, performing arts and other activities."

He especially saluted the graduates for the way they have lived their faith—through their community service, their participation in the sacraments and their growing relationship with Jesus.

Disney also praised all the people who have supported and contributed to the success of this year's graduates.

"All the successes of our graduates would not be possible without their parents, their primary teachers," he noted. "The dedication and support of their priests, school leaders, teachers, coaches and staff members have contributed to their successes as well. All their opportunities are enhanced by those committed to Catholic schools, including our benefactors and prayer warriors."

The superintendent also hopes the graduates will continue to build upon the formation and education they have received in their Catholic school as they journey into the future.

"May their relationship with Jesus Christ remain strong, and may they use their gifts to bring glory to God."

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

Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 156 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 18 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 2:30 p.m. on May 21 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Jackson Herrera**, son of David and Lori Herrera of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.

The class salutatorian is **Catherine Joven**, daughter of James and Carol Joven of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. William F. Stumpf, archdiocesan vicar general and pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 194 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. on May 21 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m. on May 21 at Clowes Memorial Hall on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis.

Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 113 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on June 1 at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on June 2 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Anna Kokosa**, daughter of Chris and Mary Kokosa of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg.

The class salutatorian is **Carson Vrabel**, son of Kevin

and Megan Vrabel of St. Malachy Parish.

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

Cathedral High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 247 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. on May 19 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on May 21 at the school's Brunette Park.

The student commencement speaker will be *summa cum laude* graduate **Joseph Mariani**, son of Tom and Myra Mariani of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis.

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

Father Michael Shawe Memorial High School in Madison has a graduating class of 38 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 2 p.m. on May 28 at the school.

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

Numerous students are in contention for valedictorian and salutatorian honors as the school year draws to a close, according to school officials. The announcement of these honorees will be made on May 28.

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

Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 101 students.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on May 25 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on May 26 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Mason Beriault**, son of Justin Beriault and Niki Matherly of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis.

The class salutatorian is **Andrew Causemaker**, son of Dan and Andi Causemaker of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. William F. Stumpf, vicar general and pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Lumen Christi Catholic High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 6 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony will begin at 5:15 p.m. on May 18 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis.

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg has a graduating class of 41 seniors.

The archdiocese will be represented by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson during a Senior Mass at 1 p.m. on May 19 at the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg.

The graduation ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on June 4 at the Chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg.

Four students are currently in contention for valedictorian and salutatorian honors, which will be announced during the senior awards ceremony on May 19. The students are listed in alphabetical order:

Madelyn Henry, daughter of Brad and Miranda Henry of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg.

Mary Hunter, daughter of Jeff Hunter and Lisa Mattucci-Hunter of St. Louis Parish in Batesville.

Erin Pottschmidt, daughter of Todd and Carolyn Pottschmidt of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright.

Clare Van Meter, daughter of Daniel and Jennifer Van



Members of the Class of 2022 of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis show their joy as they process from their graduation ceremony in May of 2022. (Submitted photo)

Meter of St. Michael Parish in Brookville.

Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville has a graduating class of 75 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 7 p.m. on May 26 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in New Albany.

The graduation ceremony will be at 5 p.m. on May 28 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Ethan Richards**, son of Jack and Anne Richards of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

The class salutatorian is **Maci Hoskins**, daughter of Michele Hoskins of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville.

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

Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 41 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 1 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on June 2 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Benjamin Torrijo**, son of Rosa Hernandez.

The class salutatorian is **Florgisel Garcia**, daughter of Juan Garcia and Florentina Cazares of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis.

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

Roncalli High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 257 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 6 p.m. on May 19 at the school.

The graduation ceremony will be at 9 a.m. on May 20 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Anna Dressman**, daughter of Bruce and Lori Dressman of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

There are two salutatorians:

Andrew Dial, son of Greg and Kristen Dial of St. Barnabas Parish.

Robert "Max" Neitzke, son of Robert and Anne Neitzke.

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

Seton Catholic High School in Richmond has a graduating class of 23 seniors.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be at 1:30 p.m. on June 4 at St. Andrew Church in Richmond.

The graduation ceremony will follow at 3 p.m. on June 4 at the school.

The class valedictorian is **Jack Martin**, son of Edward and Jennifer Martin of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond.

The class salutatorian is **Josey Meeks**, daughter of Jim and Beth Meeks.

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

World Youth Day prep advice from pope: speak to your grandparents

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Approximately three months before



Pope Francis

World Youth Day gets underway in Lisbon, Portugal, Pope Francis said young people should consult their grandparents about how to prepare.

In a two-minute video message recorded in Spanish and published on

May 4, the pope urged young people

preparing for World Youth Day to "look toward your roots.

"Try to spend time with the elderly. Many of you have grandparents; visit your grandparents," he said, and ask them "what do you think I must do?" to prepare for World Youth Day.

"Talk a little with your grandparents. They'll give you wisdom, but always go forward," said the pope.

Pope Francis is expected to attend part of the weeklong international meeting, which will take place on Aug. 1-6.

Despite the many things young people have on their mind to prepare

for the international gathering—such as requesting vacation or getting what they need in order before making a long trip—they must look to World Youth Day with hope, Pope Francis said.

"Have hope, because one grows a lot at an event like World Youth Day," he said. "We don't realize it, but things remain inside us. The values we find within us remain, the relationships we form with other young people from other countries, the encounters, it all remains inside.

"Above all," he said, "seeing the

strength of young people. The Church has the strength of the youth."

A spokesperson for World Youth Day said that as of May 4 more than 550,000 young people already were registered for the event in Lisbon. The pope, on camera and live in front of thousands of people gathered to pray the *Angelus* with him, registered in October with the help of some Portuguese young people.

The theme for this year's World Youth Day is "Mary arose and went in haste" (Lk 1:39), a verse from the Gospel of Luke. †



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, *Publisher*
Mike Krokos, *Editor*

John F. Fink, *Editor Emeritus*

Editorial

'Have your faith set on fire,' attend National Eucharistic Congress in 2024

It isn't too early to start making plans for the summer of 2024.

In fact, we're encouraging members of parishes throughout central and southern Indiana to mark July 17-21, 2024, on their calendars to be a part of the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, which will be the cornerstone of the National Eucharistic Revival launched last year by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The revival is a three-year campaign whose goal is to increase the Catholic understanding of and devotion to Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Its vision is to inspire a movement of Catholics across the United States who are healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and who are then sent out on mission "for the life of the world."

Part of the impetus for the campaign was a Pew Research Center study in the fall of 2019 that showed that only about three out of 10 Catholics in the United States understand and believe in the real presence.

The National Eucharistic Revival opened on June 19, 2022, on the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which is traditionally called *Corpus Christi*. It is a feast that celebrates Christ's gift of himself to us in the Eucharist. Many dioceses marked the day last year with eucharistic processions.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis celebrated two Masses—one primarily in English, the other in Spanish—at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Following the liturgies, several hundred people then took part in a eucharistic procession in downtown Indianapolis from the cathedral to St. John the Evangelist Church, where about 1,000 people filled the church to overflowing for adoration of the Eucharist. It offered a powerful witness of faith.

The revival is currently in its first year, the Year of Diocesan Revival. The second year, the Year of Parish Revival, begins on June 11 (help for parishes in planning for the year of revival can be found at cutt.ly/LeaderPlaybook). While the diocesan year efforts have focused on forming priests, diocesan staff and other Church leaders, efforts in the parish year will turn to Catholics in the pews, noted Tim Glemkowski, executive director of the National Eucharistic Congress.

"The full process of evangelization is about a ... personal encounter that changes our life—the invitation to a depth of discipleship," he said in an interview earlier this year with OSV News. "What we're inviting parishes to do is to follow a similar trajectory."

What will be the U.S. Catholic Church's 10th National Eucharistic Congress next summer is expected to draw more than 80,000 people to our archdiocese. Organizers have compared the event to World Youth Day, with prayer and liturgies, catechesis for individuals and families and a festival-like atmosphere.

Our faith teaches us the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

life, and as Archbishop Charles C. Thompson said in an interview last month announcing a eucharistic revival reflection series aimed to form disciples on mission, "The National Eucharistic Revival involves an intentional effort to both evangelize and catechize, predicated on the long-standing Catholic belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ—his body and blood, soul and divinity—in the Eucharist."

The reflection series runs through May 25 and is being offered through the online "Heart of the Revival Newsletter," a weekly publication of the National Eucharistic Revival, begun last June, which can be accessed at eucharisticrevival.org/heart-of-the-revival-newsletter.

Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., who has led the effort to develop and launch the eucharistic revival in his work as chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, said during an interview in November of 2021, "These large Catholic events are unique moments to experience the fruitfulness of the Holy Spirit, as we gather to share the incredible gift of our faith. They allow us to experience a small taste of the universality of our Church."

"Worshipping with Catholics from all over the country and from many different cultures throughout the United States shows us the true depth of the love of Christ which unites us," he continued. "We are all different, but all one in our need for Christ's transforming love in the Eucharist."

In that same interview, Bishop Cozzens, who is serving as chair of the National Eucharistic Revival, said that he hoped the eucharistic congress "will set a fire that I hope will burn in our country for many years."

Those who want to attend next summer's National Eucharistic Congress can sign up at the website, www.eucharisticcongress.org.

"As Pope Francis has said, now is the time for every Catholic to understand that they are called to be missionaries of the love of Jesus," Bishop Cozzens continued. "The Eucharist is the source and summit of that mission. Come to Indianapolis in 2024 to celebrate the gift of the Eucharist and to have your faith set on fire."

—Mike Krokos

Be Our Guest/Ann Wolski

On Mother's Day—and every day— remember her rules to live by

"No wearing white shoes after Labor Day." I've heard this fashion advice all my life. Because I look up to my Mom,



I follow her directive and dutifully put away my white sandals at summer's end.

Of course, this is the same Mom who encouraged me to "eat my peas [yuck]" because there are so many starving children in China." I am pretty sure kids halfway around the world don't like peas any more than I do, especially leftover peas.

Another favorite saying was, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." Consequently, my teenage years were pretty much spent in silence.

Luckily, Mom shared other "pearls of wisdom" that have become far more important than saving me from a fashion *faux pas*. These gems include:

- Believe in the power of God and Jesus Christ—thank heaven I'm not totally in charge.
- Love one another and yourself—you be you and let others be themselves. Everyone is of value.
- Be grateful for life's opportunities—there are no coincidences so look for the good in every situation.
- Be thankful for your blessings—you have so many.
- Be kind to the world—throw away your trash!

I send up lots of prayers for the wisdom, the guidance and the strength to survive another day following Mom's life guidelines. Some days, my prayers are answered. Some days, all I can pray for is another day to do better. Some days "don't wear white" and "watch what you say" are the only things I achieve.

And maybe that's OK.

But, sorry Mom, I will never, ever eat my peas.

(Ann Wolski is a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.) †

Be Our Guest/Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens

Encounter Jesus and prepare to be revived and changed by his presence

I am always amazed that on the road to Emmaus, as the two disciples journeyed from Jerusalem, they did not recognize



Jesus when he started to walk with them. I theorize that they didn't recognize his presence because they believed he was still dead. Strikingly, it is when they invite Jesus into their home and "he took bread, said the blessing,

broke it, and gave it to them" that their eyes were opened (Lk 24:30-31).

In the Eucharist, they encountered Jesus Christ alive. Changed by this encounter, they immediately ran back to Jerusalem to inform the other disciples.

We see that this encounter with the living Jesus makes all the difference in their lives and in ours. Pope Francis made this point in his apostolic letter on the Eucharist. He said, "Christian faith is either an encounter with him alive, or it does not exist" (*"Desiderio desideravi,"* #10). He is making the point which he already made in his first apostolic exhortation on evangelization, quoting Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction" (*"Evangelii gaudium,"* #7).

Christianity begins when we encounter the living God in the person of Jesus Christ—when we realize that he is the one who made us, who knows us and who loves us even though we are not worthy of his love. When we experience that recognition that "Jesus died for me, to save me from my sins," then, as St. Paul said, "I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me" (Gal 2:20).

Every Christian needs some form of this encounter. Paul had it on the road to Damascus. St. Peter had it on the Sea of Galilee when, realizing who Jesus was in the miraculous catch, he cried out, "Leave me Lord, I'm a sinful man!" (Lk 5:8)

Jesus doesn't leave him. In fact, he invites Peter to follow him and to lead his Church.

We could list many other examples of this encounter, including Zaccheus, the woman at the well, the sinful woman who washes Jesus' feet and the woman caught in adultery. The list grows with all the saints through history who encountered Jesus alive and followed him in his Church.

In each case, someone "meets" Jesus and realizes they are in the presence of God incarnate. They recognize their profound unworthiness—their need for conversion—and at the same time, they understand that they are infinitely loved by the one who knows everything about them. They know they cannot live without him and must follow him in his Church.

Each of us should ask ourselves: Have I had this kind of encounter with Jesus Christ?

Do I believe he is alive and that he sees me and knows me right now?

When I stand in the light of his gaze, do I realize my profound need, that I am a sinner, but that also I am infinitely loved by him?

Pope Francis points out we need to continually seek this encounter: "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfaithfully each day" (*"Evangelii gaudium,"* #3).

This is one of the main reasons why Jesus leaves us the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Again, Pope Francis writes, "In the Eucharist and in all the sacraments, we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his paschal mystery reach us" (*"Desiderio desideravi,"* #11).

Jesus is alive. He is living in the Eucharist and wants to encounter you. If you open your heart to him, he will change you. If you let him, he will turn you into himself. Let us pray that we and many others might encounter Jesus alive in the Eucharist during the National Eucharistic Revival.

(Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens is chair of the National Eucharistic Revival and the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Crookston, Minn.) †

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



Christ the Cornerstone

Mary and the rosary: the path to peace in our lives, our world

Immaculate Mary, we stand before you to entrust to your maternal care ourselves, the Church, the entire world. Plead for us with your beloved Son that he may give us in abundance the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, which is the fountain of life. (Pope St. John Paul II, Consecration to Mary).

The liturgy for Saturday, May 13, proposes to us the optional memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. The accounts of the Blessed Virgin Mary's apparitions beginning in the spring of 1916 to three shepherd children in Portugal are fascinating. Seen from the perspective of religious history, the Fatima story is full of apparently contradictory elements.

First, the children's parents were doubtful about the truth of the apparitions; then, local authorities went so far as to put the children in jail for fear of the political implications in the officially secular first Portuguese Republic; next, large crowds flocked to the sites where the Blessed Mother (or "an angel dressed in blue") was said to have appeared; and, finally, Church officials were cautious and painstaking in their investigations of the veracity of the children's claims.

In fact, it was not until 1930 that the local bishop declared that the Blessed Mother's appearances were "worthy of belief," and in October 1942, Pope Pius XII in a radio address to the people of Portugal discussed the apparitions of Fatima and consecrated the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin, with specific mention of "peoples of Russia."

Consecration of Russia to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception is a major feature of the Fatima story. So are the "three secrets" that Sister Lucia dos Santos, the surviving member of the three children (Francisco and Jacinta Marto died in the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918) wrote about in 1941 in her third memoir.

Perhaps the most important revelation of Our Lady's appearances to the three Portuguese children is her promise that if we pray the rosary daily, the world will be at peace.

The rosary is a Scripture-based prayer which centers on the events of Christ's life, summarizing the great mysteries of our Catholic faith. There are four sets of mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and the Luminous (added by St. John Paul II in 2002). The

repetition in the rosary is meant to lead us into restful and contemplative prayer related to each mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit of peace dwells.

The rosary, which can be said privately or with a group, is intended to bring peace and calm to troubled hearts. It is a source of hope for those who are anxious or despairing. And praying the rosary is an excellent way to enter into the life of Christ along with Mary, Mother of the Church and our mother.

Recent popes have all affirmed the Blessed Mother's message about the importance of the rosary as an instrument of peace. They have also taken seriously the act of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In March 1984, Pope St. John Paul II consecrated "the world" to the Immaculate Heart in a public ceremony at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. This consecration was carried out in union with Catholic bishops throughout the world. The Holy Father further credited Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life following an assassination attempt on May 13, 1981, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Then on May 12, 1987, the pope expressed his

gratitude to the Virgin Mary for saving his life. The following day, he renewed the consecration of Pope Pius XII to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin.

In May 2010, Pope Benedict XVI visited the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima and strongly stated his acceptance of the supernatural origin of the Fatima apparitions. The pope also recalled the "invisible hand" that saved St. John Paul II, and he referred to the Fatima prophecy about the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

When Russia invaded Ukraine last year, the Catholic bishops in Ukraine asked Pope Francis to "publicly perform the act of consecration to the Sacred Immaculate Heart of Mary of Ukraine and Russia, as requested by the Blessed Virgin in Fatima." The Holy Father invited dioceses in all regions of the world to join him in consecrating both Ukraine and Russia to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As we remember this holy day dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, let's pray for peace in our hearts and in our world in the words of Pope Francis: May the Mother of God, Queen of Peace, accept our prayer: *Regina pacis, ora pro nobis* (Queen of Peace, pray for us). †



Cristo, la piedra angular

María y el rosario: el camino hacia la paz en nuestras vidas, en nuestro mundo

María Inmaculada, nos ponemos bajo tu confianza y consagramos a tus cuidados maternales a todos los hombres, a la Iglesia y al mundo entero. Ruega por nosotros a tu amado Hijo para que nos dé en abundancia el Espíritu Santo, el Espíritu de verdad, que es fuente de vida. (Papa san Juan Pablo II, Consagración a María).

La liturgia del sábado 13 de mayo nos brinda la opción de celebrar el memorial de Nuestra Señora de Fátima. Los relatos de las apariciones de la Santísima Virgen María a partir de la primavera de 1916 a tres niños pastores en Portugal son fascinantes. Vista desde la perspectiva de la historia religiosa, la historia de Fátima está llena de elementos aparentemente contradictorios.

Primero, los padres de los niños dudaban de la veracidad de las apariciones; después, las autoridades locales llegaron a encarcelar a los niños por miedo a las implicaciones políticas de estos sucesos para la primera República Portuguesa, oficialmente laica; seguidamente, grandes multitudes acudieron a los lugares donde se decía que la Virgen (o "un ángel vestido de azul") se había aparecido; y, por último, los funcionarios eclesiásticos fueron cautos y meticulosos en sus

investigaciones sobre la veracidad de las afirmaciones de los niños.

De hecho, no fue hasta 1930 cuando el obispo local declaró que las apariciones de la Virgen eran "fidedignas," y en octubre de 1942, el Papa Pío XII, en un discurso radiofónico al pueblo de Portugal, habló de las apariciones de Fátima y consagró la raza humana al Inmaculado Corazón de María, con mención específica a Rusia.

La consagración de Rusia a la Santísima Virgen María bajo el título de la Inmaculada Concepción es una de las principales características de la historia de Fátima. Así son los "tres secretos" que sor Lucía dos Santos, la única sobreviviente de los tres niños (Francisco y Jacinta Marto murieron en la epidemia de gripe española de 1918) escribió en 1941 en sus terceras memorias.

Quizá la revelación más importante de las apariciones de la Virgen a los tres niños portugueses sea su promesa de que, si rezamos el rosario a diario, el mundo estará en paz.

El rosario es una oración basada en las Escrituras que se centra en los acontecimientos de la vida de Cristo y que resume los grandes misterios de nuestra fe católica. Existen cuatro grupos de misterios: gozosos, dolorosos, gloriosos y luminosos (añadidos por san Juan Pablo II en

2002). La repetición en el rosario tiene por objeto conducirnos a una oración reposada y contemplativa con respecto a cada misterio. La suave repetición de las palabras nos ayuda a entrar en el silencio de nuestro corazón, donde habita el espíritu de paz de Cristo.

El rosario, que puede rezarse en privado o en grupo, tiene por objeto llevar la paz y la calma a los corazones atribulados y es una fuente de esperanza para quienes se sienten ansiosos o desesperados. Rezar el rosario es una excelente forma de entrar en la vida de Cristo junto con María, Madre de la Iglesia y madre nuestra.

Todos los papas recientes han afirmado el mensaje de la Virgen sobre la importancia del rosario como instrumento de paz y han adoptado con seriedad el acto de consagración al Corazón Inmaculado de María.

En marzo de 1984, el Papa san Juan Pablo II consagró "el mundo" al Inmaculado Corazón en una ceremonia pública en la Plaza de San Pedro en el Vaticano. Esta consagración se llevó a cabo en unión con los obispos católicos de todo el mundo. El Santo Padre atribuyó además a Nuestra Señora de Fátima el haberle salvado la vida tras un intento de asesinato el 13 de mayo de 1981, fecha de su festividad. Más adelante, el 12 de mayo de 1987, el

Papa expresó su agradecimiento a la Virgen María por haberle salvado la vida y al día siguiente renovó la consagración del Papa Pío XII al Inmaculado Corazón de María.

En mayo de 2010, el Papa Benedicto XVI visitó el Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Fátima y afirmó rotundamente su aceptación del origen sobrenatural de las apariciones de Fátima. El Papa también recordó la "mano invisible" que salvó a san Juan Pablo II, y se refirió a la profecía de Fátima sobre el triunfo del Inmaculado Corazón de María.

Cuando Rusia invadió Ucrania el año pasado, los obispos católicos de Ucrania pidieron al Papa Francisco que "realizara públicamente el acto de consagración de Ucrania y Rusia al Inmaculado Corazón de María, como pidió la Santísima Virgen en Fátima." El Santo Padre invitó a las diócesis de todas las regiones del mundo a unirse a él para consagrar tanto a Ucrania como a Rusia a la Santísima Virgen María.

Al recordar este día santo dedicado a Nuestra Señora de Fátima, recemos por la paz en nuestros corazones y en nuestro mundo con las palabras del Papa Francisco: Que la Madre de Dios, Reina de la Paz, acoja nuestra oración: *Regina pacis, ora pro nobis* (Reina de la Paz, ruega por nosotros). †

Events Calendar

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

May 12-May 28

RISE UP! Daily Easter Reflections, one- to two-minute video reflections led by Father Jonathan Meyer, pastor of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, receive link via text or e-mail, text "Riseup" to 84576, free. Information: 812-576-4302, clairkeck.asp@gmail.com.

May-August

Marian University, 3200 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis. **Summer Youth Camps**, Innovation Through Engineering, Missionary Disciples Institute, theatre, Launch Your Future 21st Century Scholars, SYO Summer Music, athletic camps; age levels, final registration deadline June 12, fees vary. Information: 317-955-6102, camps@marian.edu, cutt.ly/mariancamps23.

May 15

Sr. Thea Bowman Black Catholic Women Monthly Prayer Gathering, via Zoom, third Monday of each month, sponsored by archdiocesan Black Catholic Ministry, 7 p.m. Join meeting: cutt.ly/SrTheaPrayer, meeting ID: 810 3567 0684 or dial-in at 301-715-8592. Information: Pearllette Springer, pspringer@archindy.org or 317-236-1474.

May 17

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439, www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

May 18

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

May 19

Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Indiana Canine Assistant Network, Inc. president Jillian M. Ashton presenting "All Dogs Go to Heaven: How About Us?" rosary 6:35 a.m., Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$18 members, \$24 non-members. Register by 4 p.m. on May 16. Information, registration: cutt.ly/CBE-Reg.

St. Francis Xavier Parish, 101 N. Ferguson St., Henryville. **Fish Fry**, 5-7 p.m., fried fish, shrimp, fries, coleslaw, dessert table, dine in, carry out, \$12 dinners, \$8 fish sandwich, \$8 8 pieces shrimp. Information: 812-294-4682, stfrancissecretary@northclarkcountycatholic.org.

Deadline to receive checks for St. Agnes Academy All-Class Reunion on June 4

Riviera Club, 5640 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, noon, for graduates and those who attended the academy at some point, bring guests, bring yearbooks, photos and memorabilia, \$26 per person, send check payable to Pat Douglass—with maiden name and class year—to Pat Douglass, 7550 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46240. Information: Pat Douglass, 317-340-7550, padouglass@gmail.com.

May 20

Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Music at the Mount: Appalatin and John Gage**, 6-9 p.m., gates open at 5 p.m., \$15 online, \$20 on site. Information, tickets: franciscansusa.org/event/appalatin.

May 20 21

St. Augustine Church, 315 E. Chestnut St., Jeffersonville. **Bruté Weekend**, Sat. 4 p.m., Sun. 8:30 a.m., Masses celebrated by Father Daniel Bedel, Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary spiritual director, talks on how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501, esanders@archindy.org

esanders@archindy.org

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1840 E. Eighth St., Jeffersonville. **Bruté Weekend**, Sat. 5:45 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m., Masses celebrated by Father Daniel Bedel, Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary spiritual director, talks on how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501 or esanders@archindy.org

May 25

Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Benedictine Room, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigrant Services Volunteer Information Session**, 10-11 a.m., refreshments provided. Information, registration: cutt.ly/CCRIS or Laura Sheehan, lsheehan@archindy.org.

May 27

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Faithful Citizens Rosary Walk**, 10:45-11:45 a.m., meet in front of church. Information: holyrosary.prolife@gmail.com.

May 27, 28

Mary, Queen of Peace Church, 1005 W. Main St., Danville.

Bruté Weekend, Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., Masses celebrated by Father Andrew Syberg, Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary vice rector, talks on how the seminary forms future priests. Information: Ellen Sanders, 317-236-1501 or esanders@archindy.org.

May 28

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

May 29

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, 11 a.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.cc.

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

May 30

Virtual Come and See Retreat: Learn What It Means to be a Providence Associate, 7 p.m., sponsored

by Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, free. Registration, information: PAComeandSee.SistersofProvidence.org.

May 30-June 1

Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N Cumberland Ave., Chicago, Ill. **Catholic Writers Conference**, for new or experienced writers of any genre, manuscript feedback, pitch sessions with Catholic publishers and literary agents, CWG members \$100, nonmembers \$140, includes boxed lunch on Wednesday, register by May 29. Information: cutt.ly/CWGconference.com, conferencechair@catholicwritersguild.com, 847-848-3799.

June 1-3

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklandon Rd., Indianapolis. **Parish Festival**, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. And Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, live music, food, beer garden, rides, games, kids' zone, Vegas room (ages 21 and older), \$10 food/drink ticket per person or per family required for admission. Information: chair@saintsimonfestival.com, 317-826-6000, saintsimonfestival.com. †

Retreats and Programs

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

June 3

Providence Spirituality and Conference Center Foley Room, 1 Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Faith and the Arts**, 9 a.m.-noon, Indiana State University Professor Emeritus Dr. Arthur Feinsod presenting, \$25 includes materials and refreshments, register by May 31. Information, registration: 812-535-2952, jfrost@spsmw.org.

spsmw.org/events.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **How Do We Pray? An Introduction to Liturgical and Devotional Prayers**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. CT, Benedictine Father Lorenzo Penalosa presenting, \$55. Information, registration: saintmeinrad.org/retreats.

June 5

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat

House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"The Chosen" Season 3: Discussion and Dinner Series**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., first eight Monday sessions (June 12, 19, 26, July 10, 17, July 31, Aug. 7), episode viewing and discussion, \$16 per session or eight sessions for \$115, includes dinner, popcorn and refreshments. Registration: ftm.retreatportal.com/events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

June 7

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Contemplative Prayer**, in person or via Zoom, 2-3:30 p.m., Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind presenting, freewill donation. Information, registration: 812-933-6437, center@oldenburgosf.com, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

June 7

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Personal Day of Retreat**,

9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$40, includes private room for the day and lunch; spiritual direction available for additional \$30, must be scheduled in advance. Information, registration: benedictinn.org/programs, 317-788-7581, benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

June 8

Virtual Guided Meditation Retreat, 6:30-7:30 p.m., sponsored by Sister of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Providence

Sister Corbin Hannah presenter, registration required, free. Information, registration: Events.SistersofProvidence.org, 812-535-2952, provctr@spsmw.org.

June 9

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **A Day of Quiet Renewal**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, \$70 with spiritual direction. Information, registration: 812-933-6437, center@oldenburgosf.com, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org. †

Retreat on discernment will take place at Our Lady of the Greenwood on June 3

A "Day of Discernment" retreat will take place at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood, from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on June 3.

The retreat, sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, is geared for those ages 18-39 but is open to all.

It addresses how to include God in decision-making through witness talks and discernment advice from a

married couple and two Dominican priests from St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington—Fathers Simon-Felix Michalski and Reginald Wolford.

The day also includes group discussion, Mass, adoration, the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, breakfast and lunch.

The cost is \$20. To register, go to cutt.ly/DiscernmentDay. For more information, contact Shae Beechler at 217-220-5744 or shaebeechler@gmail.com. †

Join in National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion effort to pray for U.S. bishops

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Champion, Wis., site of the only approved Marian apparition in the United States, recently launched the Shepherd Project, an effort to pray for diocesan bishops serving throughout the nation and in U.S. territories.

Each day from May through October, a candle will be lit and one bishop prayed for by name in the

shrine's chapel. All are invited to join in the effort.

A prayer list, access to the daily prayer that will be said, and the ability to sign up for daily reminders are available at championshrine.org/shepherd-project. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will be prayed for on May 29.

For more information, go to championshrine.org/shepherd-project. †

Wedding Anniversaries

WINK AND ELLEN (SCHOETTELKOTTE) RAUCH, members of St. Peter Parish in Franklin County, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 17.

The couple was married in St. Peter Church in Franklin County on March 17, 1973.

They have three children: Brad, Brett and Eric Rauch.

The couple also has eight grandchildren. †



RONALD AND FRANCES (BERTRAM) STEININGER, members of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 12.

The couple was married in St. Joseph the Worker Church in Gary, Ind. (Diocese of Gary), on May 12, 1973. †



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

St. Agnes Parish serves needy in Brown County, sees ‘visitors from all over’

By Natalie Hoefer

Joseph and Agnes Nurre owned a successful plate glass company in Bloomington in the early part of the last century. Among the products they made were glass backboards for basketball goals—not surprising, given their location in the city and state where basketball is religion.

But the Nurre’s true religion was Catholicism. In 1937, the couple approached then-Bishop Joseph E. Ritter with an idea to build a chapel in nearby Brown County in thanksgiving for their many blessings and for their children.

There was no Catholic church in the county at the time. So, instead of approving the Nurre’s idea, he asked Joseph and Agnes to contribute to the establishment of a parish in Brown County. In 1940, a log church was dedicated along State Road 135 on the north side of the town of Nashville.

So began St. Agnes Parish—as a nod to Mrs. Nurre.

Service-minded, from youths to young at heart

Twenty years ago, a new parish church was built just a half-mile west of downtown Nashville.

“The church is nestled in the woods of Brown County with an abundance of windows that let visitors and

parishioners alike take comfort from being among God’s creation,” says parish life coordinator Deacon Russell Woodard.

Indeed, the light

and view of the woods through the massive windows lining the sanctuary side of the church give the feeling of worshipping at an outdoor Mass.

While the majority of parishioners are retired, says Deacon Woodard, the parish’s youth and young adult ministries are still “vibrant.”

“They’re active. They like to do service work and help St. Vincent de Paul [of Brown County],” he says. The youth group goes to the National Catholic Youth Conference, often attends the annual One Bread One Cup liturgical leadership conference in St. Meinrad, and this year will make a pilgrimage to Rome and then to Portugal for World Youth Day, thanks to a “tremendous outpouring of financial support from our parishioners,” he notes.

Those parishioners also make a tremendous impact on the local community.

“The Brown County St. Vincent de Paul conference is led for the most part by members of the parish,” says Deacon Woodard. “They serve thousands of residents every year providing food, toiletries, clothing and household items to those in need.

“Our parishioners also support our Brown County Habitat for Humanity by providing volunteers who help to build houses and by providing financial support.”

Deacon Woodard notes that “a lot of school kids in the county are on reduced or free lunches.” The parish’s Brown County Weekend Backpacks ministry fills backpacks with food to distribute to schools on Fridays “for children whose parents can’t provide for them on the weekends,” he says.

Parishioners also volunteer for the United Service Organization at Camp Atterbury in nearby Edinburgh, and the faith community is working to develop a relationship with a parish in the Appalachian area of Kentucky.

For a literal taste of the St. Agnes faith community, come the first Friday and Saturday of November for the parish guild’s annual Christmas Bazaar.

“There is a plethora of baked goods for sale,” says Deacon Woodard. “There’s also an abundant variety of crafts and artwork from local artisans for sale, and we raffle off a hand-sewn quilt each year.”

When you come, expect to be joined by visitors from a plethora of places who’ve come to enjoy Nashville and beautiful Brown County.

“Every weekend, we have visitors from all over Indiana, the Cincinnati



area, Kentucky and Illinois,” says Deacon Woodard. He invites all to join them and the parishioners to worship at the Lord’s table in St. Agnes Church.

For Mass times, go to stagnescatholicnashville.org.

Famous park, famous town, famous artist

Encountering Christ in the Eucharist during Mass at St. Agnes can be part of a day or weekend trip to Brown County, where God can also be seen in the area’s

See EXCURSIONS, page 10



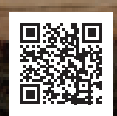
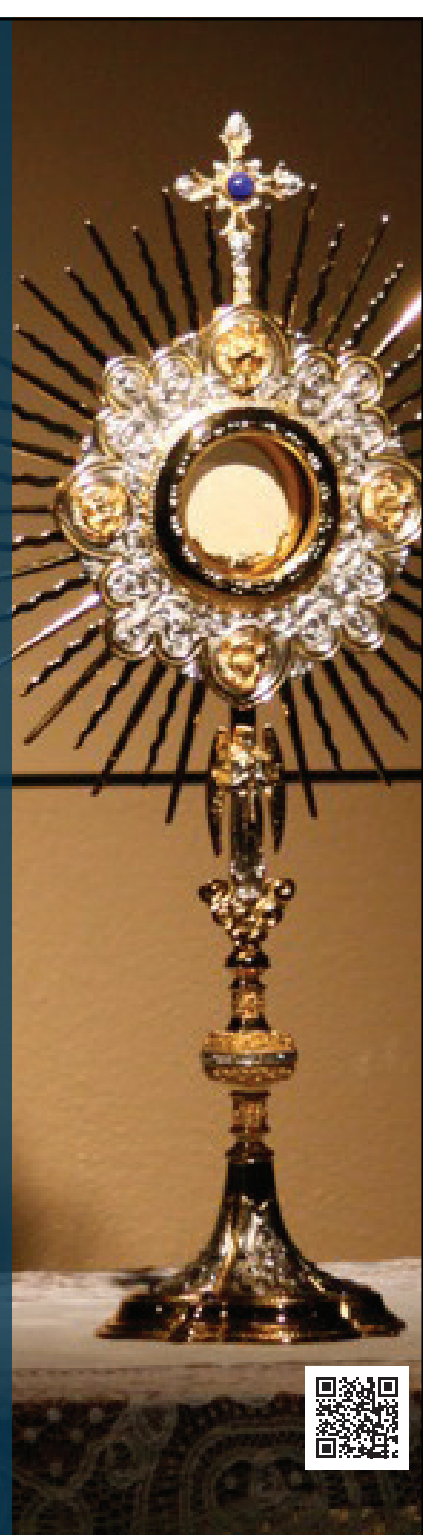
United
in the Eucharist

We were made
to share HOPE.

There’s no greater hope
than that which we find
in the Eucharist.

Help us nourish others
with the word of life
and the bread from heaven.

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL



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Invite you to be a part of a custom designed tour of Ireland for parishioners of the Archdiocese of Central and Southern Indiana!
July 6th – July 19th, 2024

Can you imagine seeing the Cliffs of Moher, kissing the Blarney Stone, exploring the Titanic Belfast Museum, and seeing the Ring of Kerry? Learn about the 3,000 years old sport, “Hurling” (you can even give it a try!). We will also visit local pubs for songs and Irish tales along the way and MUCH more.

Luke (a true Irishman) from Brendan Vacations, will be holding an informational webinar on July 3, 2023. If you are interested in this trip, please send an email to landandseaexecutive@gmail.com and you will receive the detailed itinerary and the cost (the more people; the cost goes down!). Please put “IRELAND TRIP” in the subject line. Don’t miss out on this once in a lifetime custom designed tour of Ireland!!

We are offering groups from any parish to get 25 confirmed double occupancy rooms; your parish priest’s trip will be paid for!



Thinking of You Jdub Happy Mother’s Day! Happy Father’s Day! We Love You!

Jdub’s letter to his mom.

Mom, if you are reading this just know nothing was your fault. You were the best mother I could of ever asked for and I love you so much. I never understood why any of this had to happen to me, but I am finally at peace with everything and all the pain and suffering is gone. You and dad gave me the best life any kid could have asked for and you guys will never know how thankful I was for everything. Even though I am no longer here, I will always be here in your guys hearts. I had 23 great years of life and wouldn’t change a thing. Take care of Maebre and tell her I love her, and tell mamaw and dad I love them too. Don’t be sad or hurt, just know I am happy now and in a better place. I’ll always love you mom, thank you for everything. —Your son Jdub ❤️

Jdub’s letter to his family and friends.

If you are reading this my fight with cancer has come to an end. I gave it everything I had and never gave up one second, but God had other plans for me. I want to thank everyone who has been there for me through it all. I never knew how many people loved and cared about me, and I will never forget any of you. I am at peace now and all the pain is gone. I love everyone from the bottom of my heart, and I had the best 23 years of life anyone could ask for. One thing I learned through all this is never give up no matter what you are going through, and to go live your life to the fullest, go do those things you’ve always wanted to do and never hold grudges life is too short. I will see you all again one day, and I’ll always be watching over all of you ❤️ —Love Jdub

VILLAGE

continued from page 1

who want to be social, who want their independence, who want to have friends and activities. It does so much good, and it's the honor of a lifetime to just be a small part of it."

Still, there's another reason that connects the 30-year-old Karras to the Village. That connection reflects a time in his young life when *he* was longing for a community that would feel like home to him.

'A tight-knit group of friends'

Karras' approach to friendship has been shaped by living in 18 different communities across America in his 30 years of life.

It's the result of growing up as the son of a football coach who has coached in many places—and it's also the result of his own playing career in the National Football League that has led to two Super Bowl rings.

Through it all, he has learned two truths from always being "the new kid in town" growing up: You long to find a home with people who will welcome you, accept you and befriend you. And you will never forget the people who gave you that feeling.

That's why Karras has such an appreciation for the Village and another community in Indianapolis.

It all started when a coaching move for his dad led Karras to St. Matthew the Apostle School in Indianapolis as an eighth-grade student. There, he was immediately embraced by a group of friends and their families.

"The Indianapolis Catholic community really welcomed me in and gave me the feeling of a hometown that I had yet to feel up to that point in my life," he says. "One of the really unique factors of that community is the lifelong bonds that people form with the friends they made in middle school and high school.

"I've yet to see another place in America where there's such a tight-knit group of friends who have been friends since they were 10 or so. We've been friends for 20 years now. Not only friends, but intimate confidants and buddies."

One of those friends became his introduction to the difference that the Village of Merici makes.

'I really can't think of a place that does more good'

Karras calls Matt Renie "my best friend." They became close at St. Matthew, with Karras remembering how welcomed Renie made him feel. Their bond grew even tighter during their four years at Cathedral, years in which they volunteered together at the Village, each for personal reasons.

Karras has family members who have a history of autism. And Renie's oldest sibling, Jason, has intellectual

and developmental disabilities. Their mother, Colleen Renie, is also one of the founders and is now the executive director of the Village of Merici. And there's a beautiful story of how she and her husband Joe brought Jason into their lives as a toddler shortly after they were married 45 years ago.

"Jason is 44 now," says Colleen about the oldest of their four children. "He was a patient of mine at Crossroads Rehabilitation Center when I first got out of college. He was a foster child, and the Children's Bureau was not going to try to place him. He had developmental delays. For two years, he wasn't talking and crawling.

"I told my husband there's this little boy at work that they're not going to try to place. I told him I think we could do him some good and be a great, loving family for him. We applied for adoption and were able to bring him into our family."

As a teenager, Karras saw that same approach of love and care being shared with the residents of the Village.

The power of that impact stayed with him as he continued playing football at the University of Illinois—and as he has carved out a seven-year pro career that has included seasons with the Bengals, the Miami Dolphins and the New England Patriots, earning two Super Bowl rings with that team.

"I heard people's stories and how the Village was affecting them," Karras says. "I really can't think of a place that does more good than the Village."

That belief led to his touching gift to the Village in the past year, a gift that had its start in a simple sharing of a small yet meaningful token of his friendship—a hat.

'It's just a sign of my friendship'

When Karras joined the Bengals last year, he wanted a way to make an immediate connection with his new teammates. So he personally designed a hat with "Cincy" emblazoned across its front.

"It was a token of my affection and friendship, and that I want to continue to grow our relationship," Karras says. "The guys really responded to it. They wore the hats everywhere."

Karras also gave one to Renie last summer when he came to visit him in Cincinnati.

"It was a really cool hat, and I said, 'This is awesome,'" Renie recalls. "He said, 'I made it. It's just a sign of my friendship. If you're my friend, you get a hat.'

"I wore the hat to a Bengals' game, and I got stopped by multiple people saying, 'I've seen the players wearing that hat. Where can I get one?'"

The word soon spread that Karras had made them, and the requests from fans about how to buy one increased dramatically.

The interest became so huge that beat reporters for the Bengals started asking



The friendship of Cincinnati Bengals football player Ted Karras, left, and Matt Renie began in a Catholic grade school and has blossomed ever since, with the two friends joining together in a project that has raised nearly \$400,000 for the Village of Merici, an Indianapolis organization that provides housing and support services for adults with disabilities. (Submitted photo)

Karras about the hats, just so they could pass along the information to their readers and followers. Wanting to focus on the Bengals' push to the playoffs in November, Karras tired of questions about the hat.

"Almost out of a frustration, I said, 'We are going to sell it, and it's going to be for charity, and the only charity I support is the Village of Merici.'"

When Matt Renie heard about his friend's out-of-the-blue plan, he was stunned. So was Colleen Renie. They were even more stunned by what happened after Matt told Karras that he would take over the sales and distribution of the hats.

"Ted was all in," says Matt, who works for a software startup company. "We created a business in about two weeks. The first night, we sold about \$70,000 in hats. It was like a true explosion. Up to the end of the Bengals' season, we had sold just under 10,000 hats.

"This has brought a sense of pride to the villagers. They've helped a lot with the project, packing orders, helping us organize our inventory. It's so much fun to see them involved, to see how much they care, to see how proud they are that people are rallying around them and supporting them. There's a feeling of, 'Ted's taking an interest in us. That's so cool.'"

'To live their best life'

In all, the effort with the "Cincy" hat raised about \$380,000 for the Village, Colleen says.

It has also inspired the creations of an "Indy" hat and T-shirts that Karras has designed, timing their introductions with the Indianapolis 500 this May.

"We're from Indianapolis," Karras says. "The race is the biggest sporting event in the world. We want to tie this

into our hometown."

The proceeds from both hats and the t-shirts will be used to expand the housing capabilities of the Village, Colleen says. Right now, the facility is able to accommodate about 80 people in its location on the east side of Indianapolis. A new facility scheduled to open in nearby Carmel this summer—and another facility planned on the east side to open in 2024—will double the number of people who will benefit.

"My Catholic faith has always been my motivation to serve as much as possible to the less fortunate," Colleen says. "We named it after St. Angela Merici because of her deep commitment to a sense of community and developing that community support for individuals. That's the mission that has been driving us—how can we support individuals with disabilities to live their best life?"

She's seen the difference the Village has made to her son, Jason, leading him to independent living, to a job in a restaurant, to connections with friends.

Karras also insists the Village helps him live his best life.

"My relationship with many of the villagers is like a shot of light for me," he says. "There's this one villager, Marty. One time when I came to the Village, I missed him because he was working. I ended up popping into Kroger to see him and to make sure he knew I was thinking about him."

If you have ever needed a friend, or if you've been a friend to someone in need, you know the power of that bond.

(For information about how to purchase an "Indy" hat or T-shirt to support the Village of Merici, visit the website, theindyhat.com. For more information about the Village of Merici, visit the website, www.villageofmerici.org.) †

TEXAS

continued from page 1

identified the gunman as Mauricio Garcia, 33, who wore tactical gear, used an assault-style weapon and had multiple rounds of ammunition with him, according to news reports. Police investigators were looking into his social media accounts to see if he had links to extremist groups.

Garcia was working as a security guard and was staying at a motel near the mall. Police searched the motel as well as a Dallas-area house reportedly owned by his parents.

"We must work for an end to the violence," Bishop Burns said in his statement. "We must pray for peace within our communities. And, we must have the courage to stand up to the forces of evil and the culture of death."

President Joe Biden said in a May 7 statement that "eight Americans—including children—were killed yesterday in the latest act of gun violence to devastate our nation.

"Jill and I are praying for their families and for others critically injured, and we are grateful to the first responders who acted quickly and courageously to save lives," Biden said, adding he has "directed federal agencies to provide all needed support to federal, state, and local law enforcement involved in the response.

"Yesterday, an assailant in tactical gear armed with

an AR-15 style assault weapon gunned down innocent people in a shopping mall, and not for the first time," Biden said. "Such an attack is too shocking to be so familiar. And yet, American communities have suffered roughly 200 mass shootings already this year, according to leading counts. More than 14,000 of our fellow citizens have lost their lives, credible estimates show. The leading cause of death for American kids is gun violence."

Biden touted the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, legislation he signed into law last year passed by Congress in the wake of a mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. That legislation expanded the background check system for prospective gun buyers under 21 years old, closed a provision known as the "boyfriend loophole," banning domestic abusers from purchasing firearms regardless of their marital status, and funded new investments in mental health resources.

But, Biden said, "we need more action, faster, to save lives.

"Once again I ask Congress to send me a bill banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines," he said, adding, "Enacting universal background checks. Requiring safe storage. Ending immunity for gun manufacturers. I will sign it immediately. We need nothing less to keep our streets safe."

Biden ordered flags flown at half-staff as "a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence," according to a proclamation issued by the White House.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, wrote on Twitter that he is

"grieving with the Allen community," and thanked local police and first responders "and all of those involved in responding to this afternoon's horrific incident."

St. Jude Parish in Allen, Texas, posted on its Facebook page, "Let us pray together for the tragic events that occurred earlier today and all those affected by the devastating loss of life.

"Lord God, Father in heaven, our hearts are broken, and we pray for all impacted by the horrible events that unfolded today in our community," the posted prayer said. "We ask that you comfort all the families dealing with suffering and loss and pray that you give consolation as only you can give. We ask this in the name of Jesus Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, the Lord."

That prayer was followed by a request for the intercession of Mary and all the saints and the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, which says in part: "Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil."

In a statement posted on its website, Allen Premium Outlets said, "We are horrified by today's senseless tragedy and outraged by the violence that continues to plague our country.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and others affected by this heinous act," the statement said. "We are thankful for the police officer's heroic actions and for the support of all the first responders." †

WOMAN

continued from page 1

doctorate, discerned a call to serve others and took a leap of faith—and a complete change of careers—to discover her passion in life.

It's a story of crushing heartache and wavering faith through the loss of four children to miscarriage.

And it's a story of restored faith and a passion to hear and walk with women who've experienced the same common but often unspoken pain of such loss.

The story begins in northern Michigan with a girl who "grew up loving the outdoors."

'Definitely a leap-of-faith moment'

When Murphy learned in high school that "you can get a job to be paid to work outside," she was all in.

Her enthusiasm and studies took her to Terre Haute, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in geology at Indiana State University (ISU).

Murphy switched to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis to earn her doctorate in applied Earth sciences. It was while preparing her dissertation in 2015 that she unearthed a new calling.

"My dissertation looked at lead in soil in Indianapolis and how it affects children's health and can impact their lives through adulthood," Murphy explains. "I was working with these different groups and populations who felt they had no voice, and no one was listening to them.

"I'd never experienced that and immediately felt, 'You are in a position where people listen to you, and you need to be a voice for these people. ... I think that's where I'm being called to be.'"

Doing an about-face so close to completing her doctorate was a difficult and even frightening idea.

"I remember having conversations with my husband [Kevin] that, 'I really feel God is pulling me into this career of service,'" says Murphy who, with Kevin and their son Daniel, is a member of St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute.

She notes that she and Kevin, a career firefighter, "always joked that he was going to be a fireman and I'd be professor and he'd retire at 40. It was definitely a leap-of-faith moment. I did a lot of praying and finally thought, 'OK, I hope I'm making the right choice.'

"God has definitely showed me that I did make the right choice."

'We get to be a beacon of light'

That choice led first to a project manager position for the Safe Urban Gardening Initiative in Indianapolis, then to a role as community outreach coordinator for Chances and Services for Youth in Terre Haute.

In 2018, Murphy was hired as development manager for Catholic Charities Terre Haute, where she primarily raises funds for the archdiocesan agency's food bank.

During COVID, says Murphy, "We saw so many households and families who were one missed paycheck away from not making ends meet. When I know that we can provide them a service and do it in a way that is respectful and makes them feel comfortable, I think that's so rewarding."

It was in part for Murphy's role in organizing emergency food distribution during the pandemic that her friend, Julie Manson, nominated her for the "12 Under 40" honor.

"She has such a huge heart for serving others in the community of Terre Haute and beyond," says Manson.



Jessica Murphy, development manager for Catholic Charities Terre Haute, helps sort food at the agency's food bank on May 6. (Submitted photo)

"She never wants accolades. She doesn't want awards. She just wants to continue to try to help others."

In her role with Catholic Charities, that help is extended through food, finances—and faith.

"There's a lot of times we get a phone call, and even if we're not able to help them, like paying rent, there's time where we just pray with people on the phone," says Murphy. "It's a very humbling moment but also very special, to know that we get to be an example of Christ to these people. Some of them, on their worst days, we get to be a beacon of light for them."

Providing help, offering hope, extending faith. These are components that make Murphy "passionate about what I do."

"I'm very blessed to work somewhere where it doesn't always feel like a job every day," she says. "I get to work somewhere that is family-focused and faith-focused, and those are all things that help keep me grounded and appreciate my family situation."

'They're still part of that body of Christ'

For Murphy, that "family situation" includes the gift of her and Kevin's 3-and-a-half-year-old son Daniel.

"He's energetic," she admits with a chuckle that rings with love and joy.

But there is sadness, pain, even anger and a test of faith that figure into the Murphy's journey as parents.

Married in 2013, Murphy recalls the couple's three-year struggle with infertility before finally conceiving a child in 2016.

About 10 weeks into the pregnancy, Murphy experienced bleeding. An ultrasound at the hospital revealed the devastating reality—they had lost their child.

The mourning couple drove directly to St. Joseph University Church, where Sunday morning Mass had just ended. Their priest offered words of consolation that, to this day, says Murphy, "I think of every time I go to Communion.

"The gist was, we're all one in the body of Christ. When we lose someone, they return to the hands of Christ. So, when we go to receive that sacrament of Communion, we're taking in also a piece of that loved one with us. We're joined with them physically in that moment.

"Not only am I physically receiving the body of Christ, but I'm getting to be with" the child she lost—and the three other children she miscarried after Daniel was born.

"Even though they were here for such a short time, they're still part of that body of Christ," Murphy continues. "I take a lot of comfort from that."

'He was there the whole time'

As comforting and impactful as the priest's message was, Murphy's soul was far from healed.

"God and I have had a rocky relationship through my infertility journey," Murphy admits.

After her first miscarriage, she was "very angry" with God, questioning why he took her child. That anger persisted even after Daniel was born in September of 2019.

Later that fall, Murphy attended an ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology, Service) retreat through her parish—a ministry she now helps to coordinate.

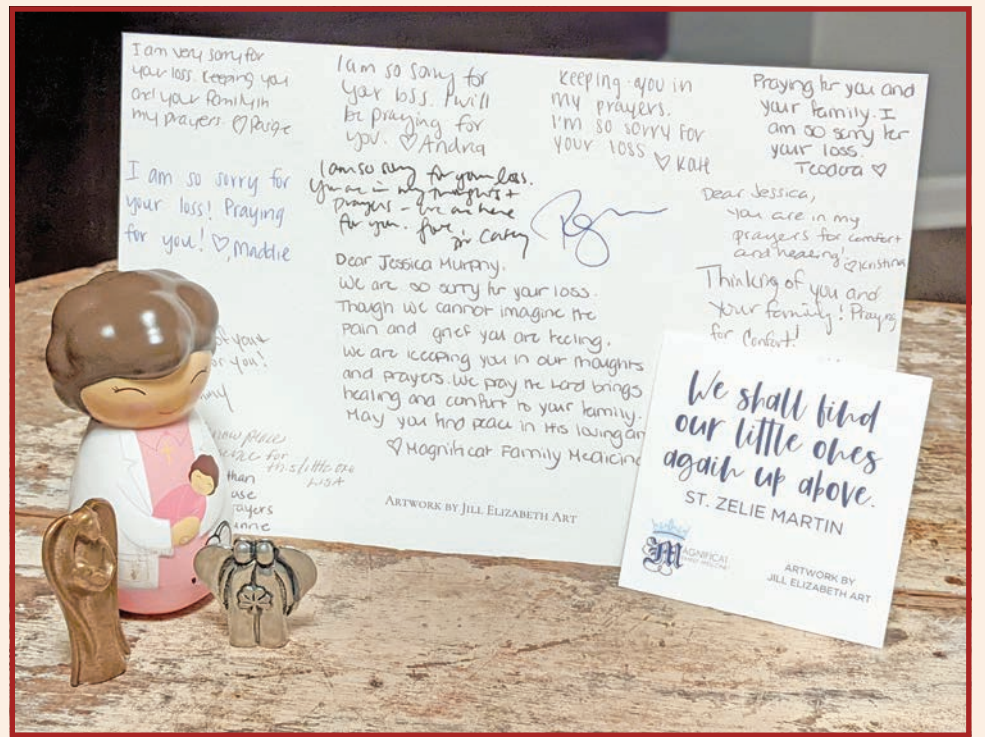
"I was in the chapel asking God to forgive me for the anger I was harboring toward him," she recalls. "In that moment, I saw Christ. He reached out his hand to me and had with him a little girl 2, maybe 3 years of age.

"I realized I didn't need to seek his forgiveness. He was there the whole time and was ready to walk with me, I just had to let my guard down."

Murphy says a weight "I don't think I realized I was carrying" was "immediately lifted off of me. It was a huge turning point for me."

That experience of unexpected grace carried Murphy through the loss of three more children through miscarriage after 2019.

"Now I know God is there for me to get me through these hard times," she says. "He's not taking these



A photo shows items Jessica keeps to memorialize the four children she lost to miscarriage. Among them are a small St. Gianna Molla doll and a card of condolence from the staff of Magnificat Family Medicine in Indianapolis after one of her miscarriages. (Submitted photo)

children from me—he's there to greet them and walk with me through these losses.

"It's not always easy, but it is definitely much more comforting."

In line with a character Manson describes as "so giving" and "making people feel welcome and wanted where they are," Murphy now comforts other women who have lost children to miscarriage.

After her first miscarriage, she found that "whenever I mentioned we had a miscarriage, so many said, 'Oh we did too.' I found it was this thing that was very common but that no one talked about. There were all these women fighting this battle on their own."

She began to feel a call to share about her miscarriage on her Facebook page.

"I didn't want it to be a 'pity me' post," she says. "I wanted to be there for women who either wanted to talk about [miscarriage or infertility] or didn't want to talk about it but wanted to feel justified in whatever they were feeling, be it anger or sadness—it can make you feel very broken that as a woman you can't do that one thing you're supposed to do."

Responses started pouring in from women who had lost children through miscarriage or struggled with infertility.

In sharing her story, Murphy "created a space where it is safe [for women] to have difficult conversations and express and accept their emotions, good or bad," Manson wrote in her letter nominating her friend for the "12 Under 40" honor.

Murphy has since walked with more than 30 women, saying she has "a personal relationship with a lot of them. They know they can call or text me anytime."

Recently, she started making baskets for women who suffered a miscarriage. They include "things they need and just some things for comfort," like an ice pack, heating pad, Tylenol, snacks, a magazine.

She also includes something to memorialize the baby.

"I think sometimes, especially if it was an early miscarriage, sometimes the mother can minimize the importance of that life," Murphy notes. With something to honor the baby, the woman will "always be able to tell someone the baby was with you."

'A challenge to get out and serve'

Murphy, while grateful, still struggles with being honored for "giving to the public sector [and] the private sector," as Manson wrote in her nomination letter, listing other ways that her friend helps at her parish and with other charitable organizations—while still teaching a course at ISU.

But Murphy chooses to see the honor as a way to plant a seed for service in the hearts of others.

"When they had the [12 Under 40] awards ceremony, they asked each of us to speak for a few minutes," she says.

She used the time to inspire others, saying, "We're all in this room with 12 people who work for great organizations. I hope someone sees this as a challenge to get out and serve.

"There's lots you can do. And when it's something you're passionate about, it makes the service that much more rewarding."

(Women seeking help in walking through the pain of miscarriage or infertility can reach Jessica Murphy at onaajourneywithjess@gmail.com.) †

Hospital says government backs off ultimatum to extinguish candle in chapel

(OSV News)—A Catholic hospital in Oklahoma said the federal government has backed off after presenting it with a choice to either extinguish a candle in its chapel's sanctuary or risk its ability to treat patients covered by Medicare, Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which would have jeopardized its ability to operate at all.

Saint Francis Hospital South was represented by Becket, a religious liberty law firm, that says the government violated the First Amendment.

Lori Windham, vice president and senior counsel at Becket, wrote on Twitter on May 5 that the government "has seen the light and has abandoned its attempt to force an Oklahoma hospital to blow out a small candle or stop serving elderly, disabled, and low-income patients."

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Windham said, "has told Saint Francis that it can keep its living flame—a sacred candle housed in the hospital chapel."

St. Francis Hospital South, which is part of St. Francis Health System, the 12th largest hospital system in the nation, has a sacred candle lit inside its hospital chapel at all times, in accordance with Catholic teaching that a lit candle is a symbol that Christ is present. The hospital said it follows every pertinent fire regulation, and the sanctuary flame is enclosed, away from any medical equipment and

regularly passes annual reviews by the local fire marshal.

But the hospital said that following a February inspection on behalf of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a federal agency under HHS, a surveyor said the flame was not in compliance with CMS regulations.

In response, Becket sent a letter on May 2 to HHS officials stating that despite "many sprinkler heads surrounding the candle, good exhaust, the flame's double glass encasing, the bronze top enclosing the flame, despite its mounting to a wall over six feet high, and despite the surveyor's knowledge of the fire marshal's long-standing approval of the eternal flame, the sanctuary lamp did not meet with the surveyor's favor.

"You have threatened to deny accreditation because Saint Francis keeps a candle—an eternal flame—in its hospital sanctuary," the letter from Becket said, adding, "If we go to court, you will lose."

Barry Steichen, St. Francis' executive vice president and chief operating officer, said in a statement that "over 60 years ago, Saint Francis was founded by William K. and Natalie Warren as an act of gratitude and service to God and to the people of Oklahoma.

"The cornerstone of Saint Francis is love for God and man," Steichen said. "To this day, the Saint Francis torch insignia indicates a space of hope: a place where

the medical and spiritual stand as one."

Steichen, whose statement was issued before Becket said the government had backed off its demand, said the hospital was "being asked to choose between serving those in need and worshipping God in the chapel, but they go hand in hand.

"To share a quotation of Saint Francis Xavier that is familiar to many Saint Francis staff, 'It is not the actual, physical exertion that counts toward one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken,'" he said. "Our work depends upon our faith in the living God, and the sanctuary candle represents this to us." †



Pictured above is the living flame sanctuary candle located in the chapel at St. Francis Hospital South in Tulsa, Okla. (OSV News photo/courtesy St. Francis Health System)

EXCURSIONS

continued from page 7

natural cathedral of rolling, wooded hills.

Brown County State Park is one of Indiana's most popular state parks, with its hilly hiking trails and hazy vistas. While it's especially known for its brilliant fall foliage, the park is a natural respite any time of year (and from personal experience, the park makes for a beautiful setting to get engaged!). Hike, climb the park's 90-foot-tall fire tower for a panoramic view of the hills or take a horseback ride. Come for a day

or spend the night in a room or cabin at the park's Abe Martin Lodge, where you can cool off in its 12,000-square-foot indoor water park. Camping is an option, too.

For a different perspective on the hills of Brown County, go ziplining or take an all-terrain vehicle ride with stops to learn about the Native American and pioneer history of the area. Both are available through eXplore Brown County. Call 812-988-7750 or go to explorebrowncounty.com for more information.

Nashville itself is a well-known destination, a walkable town with a cozy, rustic ambiance. It's popular for

its clothing and jewelry boutiques; shops selling local-made art, crafts and furniture; wine-tasting rooms; restaurants and more. Stores are typically open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., although some remain open later on the weekends and during the fall season.

Be sure to stop by Gifts from the Heart in the Heritage Mall, 41 S. Van Buren St., where you can purchase rosaries made by German-born Marie Nealy, a Catholic who was one of four rosary makers featured in an article in the Oct. 22, 2021, issue of *The Criterion*.

Nashville was also the home of world-renowned artist T.C. Steele (1847-1926), a member of the then-famous

Hoosier Group of Impressionist painters. You can tour his hilltop home—known as the House of the Singing Wind—and art studio at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site, 4220 T.C. Steele Road, in Nashville. The site and tours are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information or to purchase tour tickets, call 812-988-2785 or go to indianamuseum.org/historic-sites/tc-steele.

(*Mass Excursions* is a feature highlighting an archdiocesan parish and local attractions, encouraging a trip to the area that includes Mass with the members of that parish.) †

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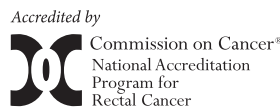
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SIMPLY CATHOLIC

Families can meditate on Jesus with Mary in rosary's joyful mysteries

By Dr. Joseph White

(OSV News)—The rosary is one of the most popular prayers of all time.

In the rosary, we meditate together with Mary on the mysteries of the life of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church. The joyful mysteries include five joyful events in the life of Jesus and Mary: the Annunciation; the Visitation; the Birth of Jesus; the Presentation in the Temple; and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

Praying the joyful mysteries as a family, especially during the Marian month of May, can help us discover the real joy of living the Gospel in our everyday lives.

Family meditations for the joyful mysteries

First mystery—The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38)

God had a special job for Mary to do, and she said “yes.” Rosary reflection: What is God asking our family to do right now, and how can we say “yes” to him?

Second mystery—The Visitation (Lk 1:39-45)

Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, and was encouraged by her. Rosary reflection: Who are we encouraged by in our extended family? How can we reconnect with them, or connect with them more often?

Third mystery—The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-14)

Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus into their home and family. Rosary reflection: How do we welcome Jesus into our home and our family life?

Fourth mystery—The Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-38)

Mary and Joseph presented to God that which they loved the most—their new baby child. Rosary reflection: How do we trust God to bless all that is precious to us? Do we hold anything back from him? Or do we offer everything to him, knowing that he is the source of all good things?

Fifth mystery—The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52)

Mary and Joseph didn't expect Jesus to remain at the temple in Jerusalem after they had left, but Jesus said he had to do his Father's work. Rosary reflection: What different or unexpected things does our family sometimes do because we are followers of Christ?

How to pray the rosary

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
2. Pray the Apostles' Creed while holding the crucifix.
3. Pray an Our Father on the first bead above the crucifix.
4. Pray three Hail Marys on the next three beads.
5. On the next bead, pray the Glory Be, announce the first mystery, and then pray an Our Father.
6. Pray 10 Hail Marys for the next 10 beads (called a decade).
7. Pray the Glory Be (optional: then pray the Fatima Decade Prayer).
8. For each following decade, announce the mystery, next say the Our Father, then pray 10 Hail Marys and the Glory Be (and the Fatima Decade Prayer optionally).



A woman prays the rosary during Eucharistic adoration following the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life on Jan. 19 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)



A family is pictured praying the rosary in their Phoenix home. Catholic experts are expressing concern after a recent Pew Research Center survey found that only 35% of U.S. Catholic parents say that it is extremely or very important to them that their children grow up to hold similar religious beliefs. (OSV News photo/CNS file, J.D. Long-Garcia, The Catholic Sun)

9. After the five decades are completed, pray the Hail, Holy Queen and the Closing Prayer.

Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (At the words that follow, up to and including “the Virgin Mary,” all bow) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Our Father (The Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Decade Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls into heaven, especially those most in need of thy mercy.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Closing Prayer

O God, whose only begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the reward of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that by meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Dr. Joseph White is a clinical psychologist and associate publisher for catechetical resources at OSV. A frequent guest on Catholic radio, he is the author of 12 books and numerous articles on catechesis, ministry, and other topics, including *Listening for God in Everyday Life*.) †

Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

Be sure to take friends as you journey through life

Throughout my life, I've been blessed with the most amazing friends. Some friends I grew up with, some friends



I made in college, other friends were co-workers. I met friends in all the cities in which we lived. I have befriended my husband's friends. There have been friends who are neighbors and even friends who came into

my life for just a season. As I've walked through life, I have come to understand that it's best to journey with friends.

A few weekends ago, I was blessed to spend a weekend in a rented house in Brown County with nine of my treasured high school friends. I can't recall the last time I belly-laughed that much; my cheeks ached by the end of the weekend. Our time together was filled with food, drinks, shopping, crafts, games, '80's music, stories and lots of laughter. But the best part was just being in communion with these women I have known forever.

We updated each other on our lives and families and, of course, reminisced about

our younger days. While playing a game one evening, I just kept looking from one woman to the next and thinking about memories I made with each of them. As I studied their faces, I saw the teenagers they once were. It dawned on me that we still essentially had the same personalities.

There is the friend who cheers us all on, the artsy type, the mother hen of the group, one who embodies sunshine, the one who is quick-witted, the sporty one, the introspective friend, the career-driven one and the brainiac. Apparently, I'm still the group organizer.

I went from kindergarten through high school with one of the girls; first grade through college with another. The rest I met in high school, and my life has been enriched ever since. Through life's ups and downs, we have remained close. The busy years between graduating high school and now have been filled with marriages, children, parents passing, children passing, a spouse passing, all of life's challenges, and too much cancer. And yet, when we reunite, we pick up not where we left off, but where we first began. We are carried through time to relive our youth and the fun and pure goodness of the collective friendship we share.

Some of us worshipped at Mass together at St. Agnes Church in Nashville during our girls' weekend. We heard the walk to Emmaus story in Scripture. Throughout the Gospel reading (Lk 24:13-35), I couldn't help but draw parallels between Jesus' walk with his friends and the time I was spending with mine.

There are so many lessons to be learned from this Scripture, but hearing it that day in church, I heard it through the lens of friendship. The disciples' hearts were burning, kindled by the love of Jesus' presence. My heart was ablaze basking in the joy these women bring to my life.

I dined (way too much) with my friends, and in those times, I came to clearly recognize how each of them have impacted my life, much like the disciples recognized Jesus as he broke bread. And then there's the walk itself—certainly a metaphor for life. And I thought: how blessed am I to journey with friends?

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

Twenty Something/

Christina Capecchi

Hand-me-downs, pick-me-ups and 'the creativity of love'

It all started with a used coat.

Betty Henson didn't need her fuzzy green coat anymore, so she offered it to



her son, an aspiring puppeteer. Jim stuffed and stitched it, creating a round head, a dense torso and lanky limbs. He folded a deep mouth and split a ping pong ball to make the eyes.

An adorable amphibian was born: Kermit the Frog.

In 1955, Kermit debuted in "Sam and Friends," airing on WRC-TV, a local Washington, D.C., station. The frog proved remarkably expressive, thanks to Jim's decision not to stuff the head. With only his hand inside it, each movement became a subtle change of expression. Somehow, Kermit reached through the television and connected with viewers.

He would soon become a star, paving the way to the global phenomenon of "The Muppet Show"—all thanks to a mother's hand-me-down.

I've been reflecting on her gift this May, as we celebrate Mother's Day and power through a busy month held together by moms armed with snacks, schedules and stain remover, the family's comprehensive to-do list etched into their sleep-deprived brains.

Their daily sacrifices make it all possible. Sometimes their dreams are spurred in surprising ways, and the Church—the body of Christ—springs into action.

That's what happened to Mindy Hoefler, a 42-year-old mom of eight who belongs to St. Pius X Parish in White Bear Lake, Minn. For years, her wedding dress sat in a brown box in the closet, professionally cleaned and tucked away. Out of sight, out of mind.

It had been perfect for her June wedding—a David's Bridal "Lady Eleanor" dress with a sheer overlay and beaded floral design.

It wasn't until Mindy's oldest daughter Eva was preparing for her first holy Communion that it occurred to the busy mom: perhaps her wedding dress could be made into a first Communion dress. Mindy couldn't find anyone willing to take on a project of that scope, so instead, she contributed her wedding veil for Eva's big day.

Life marched on, but Mindy never forgot her vision to give the old dress a new purpose.

Last year at their parish fundraiser, Mindy's name was drawn in a raffle. She could pick one item from the live auction before it began.

Mindy recalled that a parishioner named Debbie had donated an alterations certificate and that her daughter, Cecilia, would be making her first holy Communion the following spring.

Mindy made her choice.

Debbie was more than receptive to the idea. The two women discovered "a unity in dream and desire to draw my daughters closer to Jesus through the dress," Mindy said. "The Holy Spirit's involvement became abundantly clear."

As Debbie worked, the dress proved to be "a vehicle for evangelization," Mindy said, sparking conversations with friends, neighbors and grandchildren about its special purpose.

Twenty years after Mindy wore her wedding dress, it was worn for another sacrament: Cecilia's first Communion.

God blesses our faith-filled efforts. He multiplies our generosity—finding

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

Celebrating moms who work hard to overcome life's challenges

During the month of May, Catholic Charities is focusing on celebrating mothers (and fathers!) and the vital role they play in shaping our lives. With your support, Catholic Charities



is able to provide assistance to mothers and fathers in need and make a positive difference in their lives.

For pregnant women and new parents without a reliable place to live or access to basic necessities like diapers and health care, Catholic Charities is a source of support.

Many women and girls who find themselves in need—whether due to financial hardship, lack of education, or feelings of fear and isolation—turn to Catholic Charities' agencies for help, often referred to us by friends or the court system.

The pregnancy services provided by Catholic Charities are comprehensive and include confirming a woman's pregnancy, distributing essentials like diapers, wipes and baby clothes, offering parenting classes and early childhood education, and providing full medical care, behavioral health counseling, possible mentoring, home visits, housing for those experiencing homelessness, and adoption services. These services have a significant impact on the lives of those who use them, whether they are already parenting or considering adoption.

One such success story is that of "Carla" (not her real name) a homeless single mother with two children who came to Catholic Charities seeking assistance. Despite her challenging history—including past incarceration and addiction issues—she was determined to be a good mother and not relapse into addiction.

Her case manager at Catholic Charities helped her access a variety of support services, including therapy, addiction recovery, vocational rehabilitation, and budgeting and life skills classes.

With the help of Catholic Charities, Carla was able to turn her life around, completing the terms of her probation, fixing her credit, finding full-time employment and even receiving a raise after her first year on the job.

When it comes to working with women and children in crisis, there are numerous complexities to consider. Each situation is unique, and Catholic Charities' committed staff understands that success means different things to different individuals and families. What may work for one woman may not work for another, and predicting outcomes can be challenging.

Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to support mothers and families in crisis, providing the resources and guidance they need to make healthy decisions and achieve their goals.

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

Guest Column/Sr. Hosea Rupprecht, E.S.P.

Pope Francis' challenge on World Communications Day

If you've never heard of World Communications Day, you're not alone. Each Sunday before Pentecost (on



May 21 in 2023), the Church celebrates social communications media as God's gift to humanity, with great potential for evangelization. World Communications Day reminds the Church to embrace media technologies for the

proclamation of the Gospel and the spread of goodness, and serves to educate her sons and daughters to be critical thinkers when engaging media messages.

In this year's message, Pope Francis addresses "Speaking with the heart." Jesus once warned the Pharisees that what makes one unclean comes from the heart. "For from the heart come wicked thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness and blasphemy" (Mt 15:19). Of course, if our hearts are filled with joy, compassion, love, gratitude and forgiveness, then those very qualities will overflow into our lives and communications with one another. To

paraphrase Luke 6:44, every tree is known by its fruits.

To be better communicators of God's love, both in our words and in our lives, Pope Francis presents a few challenges for us within this digital age.

—Purify one's heart. If we are to speak the truth with charity, we must purify our hearts. Our hearts will never be totally pure due to sin, but we strive to grow in virtue each day. The Holy Father states, "Only by listening and speaking with a pure heart can we see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, also in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live."

Ask: What in my heart needs to be purified so my communication uplifts others?

—Communicate cordially. This seems like a no-brainer, but I recently saw a news segment about an airline passenger who was unreasonably and loudly complaining about a crying baby on the plane. His shenanigans caused the flight to be diverted, and he was arrested. His communication was far from cordial.

Pope Francis refers to the risen Jesus who speaks to the distraught disciples on the

road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35). Jesus speaks to them from his heart, respects their suffering and doesn't impose himself on them. What he does is lovingly open their minds to the profound meaning of what has happened. Jesus' cordial communication made it possible for their hearts to burn within them.

Ask: Is my communication cordial, exuding inspiration and compassion?

—Be authentic. The Holy Father presents St. Francis de Sales as a model of communication that comes from love. St. Francis was convinced that "in order to speak well, it is enough to love well." This 17th-century Jesuit believed that "we are what we communicate." Authentic communication has suffered in a culture marked by outrageous behavior on social media, many people present what they wish they were rather than their true selves. "Speaking from the heart" means being real in our communications.

Ask: Am I being authentic in my communications, especially online?

—Speak according to "God's style." This challenge touches on the synodal process. Pope Francis says, "We have a pressing need in the Church for

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 14, 2023

- Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
- 1 Peter 3:15-18
- John 14:15-21

The Acts of the Apostles once again this Easter season furnishes the first reading for Mass this weekend. In the



readings of the weekends earlier in this season, the identity of the Apostles clearly has been established.

In a critically important revelation, the Apostles exercised the very power of Jesus in naming a

new member of their group, Matthias, to succeed the dead Judas. With power held by Jesus, St. Peter healed the sick. On behalf of the Apostles, Peter spoke as Jesus had spoken.

Clearly the Apostles discharged the divine power that had belonged to Jesus, and they continued the mission of Jesus the Redeemer. They had been the Lord's specially selected students and companions, but in Acts they possessed a unique role themselves.

Through them, the Lord continued the mission of salvation. They bore within themselves the Holy Spirit, and they gave the Holy Spirit to others.

While Acts already has established that Peter was the head of the Apostles, the character of "Apostle" belonged not just to him. It was also with the others.

Thus, in this reading, the central figures are Philip and John. They performed miracles, as Jesus had performed miracles, having been sent by the Apostles to Samaria.

This destination reveals much. The leaders of the early Church looked to the salvation of all people, even of Samaritans, whom Jews so despised. No one was beyond the scope of salvation in Jesus. No one was inherently bad and beyond redemption.

The second reading is from the First Epistle of St. Peter. It is a strong, joyful, and enthusiastic proclamation of Jesus as Lord, calling believers to hear and follow him. The Lord should be in their hearts and minds.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Not a Resurrection narrative,

it nonetheless serves the Church's purpose as it teaches us this weekend. After celebrating the Resurrection for these weeks since Easter, the Church gently summons us to look at our lives in our times, occurring with circumstances particular to us and to our time.

This reading is our blueprint for life. Our task as disciples is to love others as Jesus loved all. It is clear. In God's love, given to us in the Lord, is our salvation. Indeed, the very act of giving us a blueprint for living is a vitally important gift given in love to us by God.

Reflection

The next major liturgical event for us will be the celebration of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Soon after this feast, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. Within sight now is the close of the Easter season.

For these weeks, the Church has enthusiastically proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus, gloriously occurring after the dreadful events of Good Friday. It has shared with us its joy, echoing the joy of the first Christians. It has told us again and again of the risen Lord's appearances and admonitions.

The message is strongly catechetical. Communion with Jesus was not lost with the Ascension, when Jesus returned to the Father. Communion with the Lord remains clearly in the visible Church. The Church offers us the service of the modern successors of Peter and the other Apostles.

Through them, we still hear the words of Christ. In the sacraments they celebrate, we still access the power of Christ's eternal life. We encounter Jesus in the sacraments and in the Church.

Finally, in the reading from John's Gospel, the Church tells us how to live. We must love others.

Gently, gradually, but intently, the Church has entered and pursued the process of leading us to ask what the Resurrection deeply and really means for each of us individually.

Remaining for us is the obvious question: are we willing to accept the risen Lord? †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 15

St. Isidore
Acts 16:11-15
Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b
John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 16

Acts 16:22-34
Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8
John 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 17

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14
John 16:12-15

Thursday, May 18

St. John I, pope and martyr
Acts 18:1-8
Psalm 98:1-4
John 16:16-20

Friday, May 19

Acts 18:9-18
Psalm 47:2-7
John 16:20-23

Saturday, May 20

St. Bernardine of Siena, priest
Acts 18:23-28
Psalm 47:2-3, 8-10
John 16:23b-28

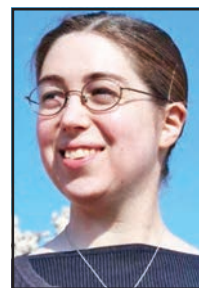
Sunday, May 21

The Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

Prayers for the dead aid souls in purgatory being purified for heaven

Why do Catholics pray for the souls in purgatory to lessen their sufferings? Is it possible that the souls already in purgatory would even go to hell, so our prayers for them would save them from going to hell? (New Jersey)



We don't pray that souls in purgatory won't wind up in hell,

because hell is no longer a possibility for them. We do pray because we hope that, through our prayers and sacrifices, the sufferings of their purgation might be eased and their journey to heaven might be hastened.

Recall that heaven is a state of eternal happiness arising from perfect union with God, and hell is a state of eternal suffering arising from one's freely-chosen rejection of God.

It is by God's grace that heaven is possible for us in the first place, but to an extent where we spend eternity depends upon us. We can choose to reject God through our sinful actions, or we can choose to accept God's gift of eternal life by striving with the help of his grace for a life of virtue and in repenting from our sins.

Whether we go to heaven or hell is decided at the point of our death. But we know that God is merciful and wants us to be in eternity with him. God is therefore very forgiving and will save even the most sinful soul—even if that person only repents at the last minute!

Think for instance of St. Dismas, the "good thief" who was crucified next to Jesus, and to whom Jesus promised paradise (Lk 23:39-43).

However, not everyone ultimately destined for heaven will be ready to meet

the all-holy God face-to-face immediately upon death. Catholics believe in a state called purgatory, which is a state of purification specifically in preparation for heaven.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: "It is necessary to understand that sin has a double consequence. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the 'eternal punishment' of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on Earth, or after death in the state called purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the 'temporal punishment' of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin" (#1472).

In other words, all sin leaves some damaging effect on our souls which can often last even after we have repented or received absolution in the sacrament of penance. Purgatory is a time of repairing this damage. We understand purgatory to be a finite period of suffering, often described or depicted artistically as a purifying fire.

Still, the suffering of purgatory is of a radically different nature than the torments of hell, since the souls in purgatory have the joy of knowing that they are on their way toward God.

Incidentally, we can pray for the dead even if we may personally have doubts about an individual's salvation. While a soul in hell can no longer benefit from prayers, we never know what happens between a soul and God in the final moments of life. Prayers for the dead are never wasted.

There are several biblical citations referencing prayers for the dead, most famously, in the Second Book of Maccabees: "For if [Judas Maccabee] were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin" (2 Mc 12:44-45).

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



Historic Habit

The sight of a mannequin donning the original habit of the Little Sisters of the Poor when the order arrived in Indianapolis 150 years ago greeted those who attended the Hats Off to Spring fashion show fundraiser at the Ritz Charles event center in Carmel, Ind., on May 3. The annual event is sponsored by the St. Augustine Home Guild, which supports the Little Sisters' St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis.

(Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

ALVEY, Dana, 83, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, April 30. Mother of Brady, Jack and Kelly Alvey. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of four.

COWDEN, Lewis, 98, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, April 27. Father of Becky Mangum, Linda Moore and Jim Cowden. Grandfather of eight.

DAUBY, Diane P., 78, St. Mark, Perry County, April 28. Mother of Phyllis LaGrange, Brad and Todd Dauby. Sister of Bonnie Cravens, Linda Tempel and Kenny Ziegelgruber. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 12.

GALLUZZI, Roberta, 98, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, April 15. Mother of Diane Pusnik and Richard Galluzzi.

Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of three.

GETTELFINGER, John, 84, St. Michael, Bradford, April 6. Father of Rhonda Gettelfinger-Curd, Mary, Greg and Jeffrey Gettelfinger. Brother of Ann Knable, Mary Evelyn Sprigler, Delores Striegel, Marcella Stumler, Hilda Thieneman, Dave and Joe Gettelfinger. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of several.

JEFFERS, Mary Jo, 91, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,

Richmond, April 28. Mother of Nanette Elmore, Anita McVay, Laura Turner, Julie, Mark and Rick Jeffers. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 17.

JOHNSON, Curtis R., 59, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, April 9. Husband of Maggie Johnson. Father of Jacklyn Williams and Christopher Johnson. Brother of Doris More. Grandfather of one.

JOHNSTON, Mary C., 95, Our Lady of the Greenwood,

Greenwood, April 12. Mother of Lucia Begley, Mary Jane Blackwell and Jim Johnston. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of 12. Great-great-grandmother of one.

KARBOWSKI, Joan M., 85, St. Louis, Batesville, April 23. Wife of Donald Karbowski. Mother of David, Michael and Thomas Karbowski. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of six.

LOEW, Jim, 57, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis,

April 14. Husband of Sally Loew. Father of Emily Loew and Allison Rocus. Brother of Rose Yeager and Bob Loew.

MCQUEARY, Larry D., 76, St. Jude, Indianapolis, April 12. Brother of Eleanor Cochran.

MEYER, Melvin E., 89, All Saints Parish, Dearborn County, April 25. Husband of Millie Meyer. Father of Mary Back, Margie Eckstein, Anita Gunter, Linda Williamson, Kathy Zins, Janet, James,

Mary's month

A detail of a 16th-century painting by Baldassarre Peruzzi depicting Mary holding the child Jesus alongside St. Brigid of Ireland is seen on May 3 in the Church of St. Mary of Peace in Rome. May is traditionally a month in the Church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. (CNS photo/Justin McLellan)



Dialogue requires sincerity, respect, pope tells Christian, Muslim leaders

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Interreligious dialogue requires sincerity and mutual respect to be fruitful, Pope Francis told Christian and Muslim leaders.

It also requires “the awareness of both convergences and divergences” between different faiths, he said, but with emphasis on “what unites us on a religious and spiritual level as well as on an ethical-moral level.”



Pope Francis

The pope met on May 4 with Catholic and Muslim leaders gathered in Rome for the sixth colloquium between the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue and the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, which is based in Amman, Jordan.

Jordan’s Prince El Hassan bin Talal founded the institute in 1994 to promote “common human and ethical values that contribute to strengthening cooperation and interfaith relations” and to rectify misconceptions about others, according to the institute’s website.

In his remarks to those attending the colloquium, Pope Francis praised the “enlightened leadership” of the prince and the institute’s work regarding “the preservation and enhancement of the Arab Christian heritage.”

“I can but express further gratitude, because this not only benefits the Christian citizens of yesterday and today, but also protects and consolidates this heritage throughout the Middle East, so diverse and rich in ethnicities, religions, cultures, languages and traditions,” he said.

“It is indeed a matter of jealously preserving each piece of this beautiful mosaic,” which would benefit from closely cooperating with other Christian institutes that have the same goal, he added.

Pope Francis also expressed his “appreciation and gratitude” to the prince’s uncle, Jordan’s King Abdullah II,

“for his attention to the Christian communities not only in his country, but also those of the Middle East, especially in times marked by conflicts and violence.”

“His majesty does not tire of repeating that the Christians of those blessed lands are natives, meaning they live where their ancestors lived for long centuries,” the pope said.

The pope also told his guests that he has been updated about “the tragedy in Turkey and northern Syria,” which had been hit by two devastating earthquakes on Feb. 6, killing more than 59,000 people and causing tens of billions of dollars in direct physical damage.

“Our heart, too, is close to the many people who have suffered as a result of [these] terrible earthquakes. Let us pray for them and do our best to help them. There are Muslims, Christians, our brothers and sisters,” he said. †

CAPECCHI

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the seamstress, making the way. He simply asks us to set things into motion.

Pope Francis expressed this during Lent of 2020, early into the COVID-19 quarantine. He preached, “This is what we need today: the creativity of love.”

What some might call magic or luck—the winning of a raffle, the work of needle and thread, the transformation

of an old green coat—has a more apt name. The creativity of love.

So go ahead with your meager offerings. Give up your scraps, your bad jokes, your early mornings. Reheat the leftovers and say a prayer. Offer up your off-key songs and your lumpy body, your half-baked ideas and your overcooked ham. Toss it all into a pot and trust the creativity of love.

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

RUPPRECHT

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communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters.” This kind of communication first listens to the other without prejudice and then speaks, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. If we can model this kind of communication in a polarized world, what a gift it would be to our culture.

Ask: Do I model listening in my communication, or am I too busy trying to be heard?

With these challenges, Pope Francis calls all people to grow in a way of communication that speaks the truth from the heart, “which is essential to foster a culture of peace.” Only when we speak from the heart can the “miracle of encounter,” as the pope calls it, take place.

The pontiff closes his message with a prayer which we can offer for ourselves and our world:

“May the Lord Jesus, the pure Word poured out from the heart of the Father, help us to make our communication clear, open, and heartfelt.

“May the Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh, help us to listen to the beating of hearts, to rediscover ourselves as brothers and sisters, and to disarm the hostility that divides.

“May the Lord Jesus, the Word of truth and love, help us to speak the truth in charity, so that we may feel like protectors of one another.”

Amen to that.

(Daughters of St. Paul Sister Hosea Rupprecht is the associate director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies, a ministry of the Daughters of St. Paul.) †

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
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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 Victim Assistance Coordinator**, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
victimassistance@archindy.org

Possible eucharistic miracle in Connecticut under investigation

(OSV News)—A possible eucharistic miracle in Connecticut is now under investigation by the Vatican.

Archbishop Leonard P. Blair told a Hartford television news station on May 2 that the Dicastery (formerly

Congregation) for the Doctrine of the Faith will examine whether an apparent multiplication of Communion hosts during a March 5 liturgy at St. Thomas Church in Thomaston, Conn., was supernatural. The church, along with

Immaculate Conception and St. Casimir churches, both in Terryville, Conn., is part of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.

St. Maximilian Kolbe pastor Father Joseph Crowley said in a YouTube livestream of his March 12 homily that an unnamed extraordinary minister of holy Communion at the previous week's liturgy had begun to run out of hosts—only to find that “all of a sudden there [were] more hosts in the ciborium.”

The minister continued to distribute the hosts to some “100, 150 people in the congregation,” after which “there was the same amount, if not more hosts” in the ciborium, said Father Crowley in his March 12 homily. “What happened is Our Lord multiplied himself. ... I have no doubt. I know what I gave the person. I know what [was] returned [to the tabernacle]. It was just very obvious and plain to me as to what happened.”

In a livestream video of his post-Communion remarks at the March 5 liturgy at St. Thomas Church, a visibly struck Father Crowley said the experience was “very powerful, very awesome, very real, very shocking.”

A local saint in the making also may have played a role, Father Crowley said in his March 12 homily, since Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, served as pastor of St. Thomas Church from 1884 until his death in 1890.

“I think in a very profound way that ... because of Blessed McGivney's life here ... it shows that this is a very special place. And it's important to God,” said Father Crowley in that reflection. “And I think good things are coming. I think

great things are coming.”

David Elliott, associate director of communications for the Archdiocese of Hartford, told OSV News at the time that the archdiocesan judicial vicar, Father George Mukuka, was “looking into the possibility of a eucharistic miracle” at the parish.

Speaking to media on May 2, Archbishop Blair said he had “[sent] out an experienced priest who has knowledge of Church law, canon law, to follow procedure, [and] to just examine exactly what happened and under what circumstances.”

He noted that “the guidelines for these kinds of situations do call for me to notify the [Dicastery] for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome.”

The Vatican's investigation is expected to take approximately two weeks.

In the 21st century, only four Eucharistic miracles have been recognized throughout the world, according to the Magis Center, which, under the leadership of scholar and Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer, promotes dialogue between faith and science.

The last recognized miracle occurred in 2013 in Legnica, Poland, where a consecrated host, left to dissolve in water after it was accidentally dropped, formed red stains that under scientific analysis were found to contain fragmented parts of cross-striated muscle resembling that of heart muscle. The host was approved for veneration in April 2016 by then-Bishop Zbigniew Kiernikowski of Legnica.

OSV News has contacted both the Archdiocese of Hartford and Father Crowley for comment. †

Empowering Young Families, Inc., helps young moms and dads in southeastern Indiana

Walking with Moms is a monthly feature highlighting organizations that help—and need support in helping—expecting and parenting mothers in need in central and southern Indiana.

Empowering Young Families, Inc.
P.O. Box 43
Brookville, IN 47012
Contact: Lyn Weidner, 513-476-2863,
livingston.tanya@yahoo.com,
www.empoweringyoungfamilies.com
Service area: Dearborn, Fayette,
Franklin, Ripley and Union counties

Services: Three primary services: 1) Teen Mother Choices assists mothers ages 13-23 complete high school, HSE, college degree and/or work full time. Assists these mothers with child care costs and diapers, and offers weekly Monday evening meetings that include meal and Life Skills Workshops based on biblical principles (including parenting skills, financial management, monthly budgeting, educational guidance, job skills, healthy relationships and more). Mentors help these moms set and complete short- and long-term goals. 2) Dedicated Active Dads (DADs) 8-week program offered in spring and fall. Dads learn parenting skills, self-assessment, caring for self and relationship skills, receive diapers/wipes each week and a \$100 gift card at end of program. 3) Provide baskets of items to pregnant mothers.

Item Donations: Diapers (especially



newborn, size 1 and 2), baby wipes, \$100 gift cards (from gas stations, grocery stores, Amazon) for the DADs program.

Financial Donations: Online at www.empoweringyoungfamilies.com or mail check for Empowering Young Families to Empowering Young Families, P.O. Box 43, Brookville, IN 47012.

Volunteer needs: Entirely operated by volunteers. For Monday evening Teen Mother Choices: volunteers to provide a simple meal for the moms, their children and volunteers; child care providers; Life Skills Workshop speakers to give young moms information on skills they need as a mom, employee, student, teen or woman seeking Jesus. Mentors walk side by side with the young moms on their journey with Teen Mother Choices. †

*Walking with
Moms in Need*



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Employment

Assistant Director of Development Seccina Memorial High School

We are seeking a full-time Assistant Director of Development to join our Development Team in the rewarding work of engaging donors to support and advance the mission of Seccina Memorial High School.

Key responsibilities include:

- Helping design and execute an annual development strategy to support school priorities and programs.
- Building and maintaining relationships with a portfolio of donors and prospects and helps identify other prospective donors.

The successful candidate must demonstrate a commitment to Catholic education. Experience preferred but not required. Archdiocese of Indianapolis benefits provided. More information and full job description at scecina.org/careers. Please send a cover letter, resume, and salary expectations, in confidence, to Beth Murphy at bmurphy@scecina.org

Employment

Principal

St. Matthew Catholic School, Indianapolis

St. Matthew Catholic School in Indianapolis is seeking a principal for the upcoming school year. St. Matthew has an enrollment of over 340 students, from kindergarten through eighth grade as well as over 40 students in preschool. This school has been a vibrant part of the Indianapolis Catholic Community since 1958 and forms Catholic leaders for the twenty-first century.

Applicants must possess a valid administrator's license, have demonstrated ability to foster Catholic identity, possess a passion for education of all students, and be a practicing Roman Catholic. Applicants may apply online at <https://archindy.applicantpro.com/jobs/> and are asked to submit a letter of interest, resume, and professional references by May 25, 2023 to:

Anne Krieger, Office Manager
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Office of Catholic Schools
1400 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
317-236-1444
akrieger@archindy.org

Employment

Mother Theodore Catholic Academy Maintenance Technician

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking to hire a full-time maintenance technician. The person hired for this job will train with the Archdiocese Catholic Center Staff but will become the primary maintenance technician for the Mother Theodore Catholic Academy (MTCA). The MTCA has four schools in Marion Co., Indianapolis. This person will be responsible for the maintenance of all four schools.

The major responsibility of the person in this position is to oversee the maintenance of our four MTCA schools. This is a hands-on position, but it also requires the oversight and management of subcontractors.

- The person in this job will need to be an independent thinker.
- Responsible for the maintenance and safety of the MTCA buildings.
- Good communication skills are required
- 10 years of experience in property management or commercial building maintenance.
- GED is required.
- A valid driver's license is required.

Interested candidates apply to Daniel Herbertz at Dherbertz@archindy.org.



Congratulations to the Roncalli Class of 2023

The faculty, staff and administration of Roncalli High School are very proud of all that these young men and women continue to accomplish. They have challenged themselves, embraced their faith and are prepared to make their own unique impact in our world. The prayers and support of the entire Roncalli family accompany them on their journey. May God bless and protect the Class of 2023.



Roncalli Salutes the Graduating Class of 2023

Ayden Noli Adame
Veronica Grace Allen
Mikenzie Lynn Anderson
Evan Michael Baker
Madilyn Martha Baker
Audrey Mary Balint
Nicholas Jack Bardonner
Alexander James Barkley
Andrew Joseph Baugh
Annie Jane Bauman
Meredith Anne Bean
Andrew Noah Beard
Morgan Alicia Beaupre
Colin Michael Beer
Rory Griffin Beikes
Samantha Michelle Belden
Julia May Benich
Aris Michelle Berger
Lucas Michael Billerman
Ansley Marie Bishop
Lyla Elise Blackwell
Lauren Elizabeth Bobko
Olivia Marie Bognar
Lauren Marie Boone
Elliot Carter Borders
Anthony Joseph Brockman
Audrey Marie Brown
Olivia Frances Brownfield
Charles Joseph Buckel
Anne Pauline Buening
Elizabeth Ann Buening
Abigail Marie Bullock
Faith Ann Burch
Scott Michael Burke Jr.
Shaun Michael Byrne
Michael Scott Childers
Easton Andrew Clowers
Callum Sheehan Cougill
Campbell Grace Craciunoiu
Sophia Maria Crews
Iain Nicholas Crowe
Adia Mary Kathleen Dant
Jack William Davis
Dylan Thomas Day
Ethan Robert Dexter
Andrew Joseph Dial
Bradford Reed Dollens
Anna Catherine Dressman
Anthony Celestino Dueñas
AvaMarie Lynn Durrett
Mallory Noel Dwyer

Cordelia Lourdes Eble
Ian Matthew Eldridge
Rosalia Marie Elsener
Gavin Andrew Farris
Allison Marie Fleetwood
Jazzlyn Alicia Fonseca
Ezekiel Andrew Fox
Joseph Dennis Gadaleta
Andrew Thomas Gallagher
Thomas Richard Gallagher
Jose Francisco Gallegos
Elizabeth Dianne Gantner
Eros Rex Garcia Garcia
Todd Darrin Gebhart
Diana May Geiger
Lucy Kay Gibbs
Matthew Robert Golab
Alejandro Francisco Gomez-Alejo
Megan Olivia Gonzalez
Gabrielle Marie Goodnight
Eli Jerome Gosser
Reece Daniel Gosser
Andrew Michael Greene
Stephanie Alexandra Gutierrez
Luke Patrick Hansen
Joshua Sun Harbers
Nathaniel Sung Harbers
Jenna Rose Harter
Tyler Blayne Hatcher
Kaylee Ann Heidelberger
Jordan Christine Hendricks
Derek Hernandez
Irvin Blair Hernandez
Bryce Robert Hillan
Sui Lian Hmung
Abigail Marie Hofmann
Thomas Christopher Hollcraft
Fletcher Kristian Nathan Hooten
Emily Marie Hornek
Sydney Leigh Horton
Henry William Howe
Angel Lin Hudspeth
Tanner Hague Hudspeth
Jacob Bernard Irmer
Jessica Rose Irvin
Olivia Grace-Marie Jackson
Ariel Marie Johnson
Matthew Jeffrey Johnson
Oliver Thomas Johnson
Cameron Marie Jones
Monica Michelle Jones

Nora Elizabeth Jordan
Sarah Kathleen Jordan
Zane Joseph Kale
Leo Kam
Luke Elijah Kanter
Maria Leona Kautsky
Elizabeth Fay Keers
Lucas Benjamin Kegerreis
Connor James Kellams
Elsie Marie Kerr
Kam Sian Khai
Lauren Elizabeth Kill
Dylan Shay Koglin
Noah Anthony Kunz
Holly Patricia Kuzmic
Brayden Charles Lauck
Trevor Dawson Lauck
Judson JonPaul Lawrie
Sophia Rose Lawson
Kaitlyn Renee Leister
Elijah Joseph Littell
Emma Kathleen Loebig
Sofia Natalie Lopez
Bryce Keagan Lowery
Mary Frances Luebke
Nathaniel Edward Lyle
Christian Maldonado
Nicholas John Abraham Marshall
Lauren Elizabeth Marsicek
George Paul Marten
Kevin Isai Martinez
Anthony James Maxwell
Ana Sofia Maya Estrada
Andrew David Mayer
Kira Emily McElwain
Patrick Michael McGinley
Grace Margaret McGraw
Sara Lynn McGraw
Isabella Rose Josephine McLinn
Connor Michael McNeeley
Jackson Matthew McNeeley
Ann Marie Meek
Evan James Meer
Whitney Rivera Meinerding
Estefani Melchi
Liceth Miranda-Garcia
Noah Robert Moore
Hannah Marie Morgan
Arik Ray Moyers
Keith Stenson Nara
Braxton William Neighbors

Robert Maxwell Neitzke
Ava Grace Nelson
Brady Joseph Neu
Emma Rae Nielsen
Linda Sofia Noe
McKenna Katherine Nolting
Clare Julia Oelker
Marshall Tyler Oelschlager
Josie Darlene Origer
Bawi Thluai Par
Joseph Andrew Parrett
Grace Marie Parton
Walter Andrew Patrick
Michaela Joyce Payne
Anthony Michael Paynter
Ian Padraig Peats
Hannah Francene Pierce
Isabel Morgan Pierce
Olivia Marie Plummer
Carina Jean Purdy
Jackson Walter Lige Quebe
Ingrid Quiala
Jesus Abraham Quintana
Brooke Irene Raines
Kyle Steven Ramey
Catherine Taylor Reed
Georgia Claire Reed
Christopher Ethan Render
Joshua Glen Renshaw
Evan Michael Rieger
Ricardo Sebastian Roman
Robert Glenn Rooney
Keagan Nicole Rothrock
Mia Lynn Samuelson
Bryson Allen Sandefur
Antonina Anixi Saran
Shaunessy Kathleen Saylor
Mary Elizabeth Schaefer
Mary Elizabeth Schafer
Michael Andrew Schafer
Zachary Michael Schneider
Ava Lachelle Schoettle
Bayley Michael Schoettle
Grace Rose Marie Schoettle
Harold Anthony Schoettle
Hayden Alexander Scott
Samuel Joseph Scott
Spencer Lucas Sims
Simranjit K Singh
Megan Rose Harrington Sinovic
Grace Wenyi Sipe

Elisa Emelyn Sizemore-Dalton
Luke Silas Skartvedt
Morgan Riley Slivka
Elijah Jeffrey Small
Isabel Christine Spencer
Lucy Kathrine Spindler
Hannah Kathleen Spotts
Kaley Marissa Sprouse
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