

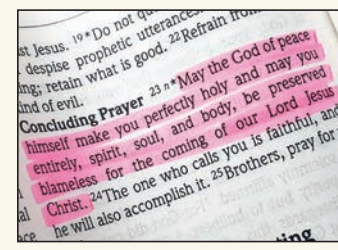


The

# Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960

## New Year's resolution



Focus on health of body, mind and soul in 2022, page 7.

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*'I want to help'*

In the adoration chapel of her parish, St. Alphonsus Liguori in Zionsville, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese), where she prays daily, D. Anne Jones holds a portrait she painted through her organization, Face to Face Fine Art, of Deb Perry, the late wife of Deacon Tim Perry, who ministers at the parish. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

## Tragic deaths, faith lead artist to paint portraits for those suffering sudden loss

By Natalie Hoefler

D. Anne Jones knew she wanted to use her gift of painting portraits to help others in some way.

"I was talking to a friend who worked for [the non-profit] Flashes of Hope taking pictures of kids with cancer, and a lot of the time those were the last photos a family would have of their child," she recalled. "I decided if I did a non-profit, I could paint portraits at no charge and raise money to fund them."

But it took tragedy to solidify the idea.

"Within eight weeks in 2012, I lost my closest sister, my mom and my husband," said Jones, 61.

"I was in shock," said Jones, a member of St. Alphonsus

Liguori Parish in Zionsville, Ind. (in the Lafayette Diocese).

But from her loss, Jones identified who she wanted to paint portraits of and for whom she would create them.

"I paint portraits at no charge for families or individuals who lost a loved one to a sudden, unexpected or tragic death," Jones said of her non-profit organization, Face to Face Fine Art.

"My goal is to help aid in their grieving process and commemorate and honor the deceased by creating a lasting memory of their life."

She says her effort is "an outlet that became a calling," one that God is very much a part of.

Losing her daughter in 2019, becoming guardian of her

See ART, page 8

## Pope calls for 'reality check' against misinformation about vaccines

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The COVID-19 pandemic calls for an urgent reality check against baseless information and for increased efforts so everyone has access to vaccines, medicines and diagnostic tools, Pope Francis told diplomats from around the world.



Pope Francis

He urged individuals, governments and the international community to recognize the

effectiveness and importance of immunizing as many people as possible as part of fighting the pandemic, which he called a "grave moment in the life of humanity."

"Vaccines are not a magical means of healing, yet surely they represent, in addition to other treatments that need to be developed, the most reasonable solution for the prevention of the disease," the pope told ambassadors from the 183 countries that have diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

At his annual meeting with the diplomatic corps on Jan. 10, the pope also told them that facing today's challenges "will require humanity to join together as one great family that, starting from different viewpoints, should prove capable of finding common solutions for the good of all."

In his speech, the pope highlighted his hopes and concerns regarding the state of the world, ongoing wars and violence, the arms trade, today's "cancel culture," the treatment of migrants, the importance of increased funding for education and the need to step-up efforts for universal vaccinations for COVID-19.

Recalling the passing of Archbishop Aldo Giordano, a well-respected Vatican diplomat who died of COVID-19 in December, the pope told the ambassadors

See POPE, page 9

## Pastor hopes church dedication will spark parishioners to spread the Gospel

By Sean Gallagher

SELLERSBURG—Members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg rejoiced on Dec. 19 in what could be described as an early Christmas gift to the New Albany Deanery faith community.

On that day, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson dedicated the parish's new \$8 million church in a Mass filled with symbolic rituals.

Looking out on the parishioners who filled

See DEDICATION, page 9



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson spreads chrism oil on the altar of St. John Paul II Church in Sellersburg during a Dec. 19, 2021, dedication Mass for the new church of the New Albany Deanery faith community. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



# ICC views lawful carry handgun legislation through pro-life lens

By Victoria Arthur

State lawmakers are again considering a measure that would allow individuals to carry a handgun without a license—a move opposed by the Indiana Catholic Conference



(ICC), many in the law enforcement community and a coalition of other allies.

House Bill 1077, which passed the House public policy committee on Jan. 5 by a 9-3 vote and was awaiting action by the full Indiana House of Representatives at press time, would repeal the law that requires a person to obtain a license to carry a handgun in Indiana. So-called “lawful carry” or “Constitutional carry” measures such as this are aimed at removing the hurdles that lawful citizens face in obtaining handgun permits, according to Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn), the bill’s author.

Smaltz and other proponents, including the National Rifle Association, argue that law-abiding citizens should not have to face undue burdens to defend themselves or otherwise exercise a right that is guaranteed by the Second Amendment. The office of Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita also supports the bill, which would make Indiana the 22nd state in the country to pass this type of legislation.

But the ICC—the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana—challenges the notion that the licensing process poses a heavy burden on individuals. Moreover, during the lengthy Jan. 5 committee hearing on the bill that included testimony from 25 individuals on both sides of the issue, ICC Executive Director Angela Espada stated that for the Church, protecting human life is always the overarching concern.

“The Catholic Church opposes this bill because we respect the dignity of life,” Espada told lawmakers during the meeting of the House public policy committee, which Rep. Smaltz chairs. “In states that don’t have the combination of background checks with a license, firearm homicides and suicides go up.”

Espada, an attorney and former deputy prosecutor in Marion County, pointed to research by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy. According to the institute, after Missouri repealed its licensing law, the state saw a 25% increase in firearm homicide and a 16% increase in gun suicide. By contrast, when Connecticut implemented a licensing law, the state’s firearm homicide rate declined 40%.

Many in the law enforcement community consider the licensing process as a screening mechanism to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. During the Jan. 5 hearing, the Indiana State Police was among the organizations standing opposed to House Bill 1077.

“We have a system that works,” said Major Rob Simpson, deputy chief of staff for the agency. He added that in just the last two years, more than 10,000

applications for handgun permits have been rejected statewide for a multitude of reasons.

Jennifer Haan, who leads the Indiana chapter of the national advocacy group Moms Demand Action and is a practicing Catholic, brought a unique perspective to the committee hearing.

“I have a license to carry a handgun in the state of Indiana, and I oppose House Bill 1077,” Haan said. “Indiana has the bare minimum requirement to obtain a license to carry a handgun. It is an online form that takes less time to fill out than it did for me to enroll my child in kindergarten.”

When growing up on the east side of Indianapolis, Haan said that gun violence was always in the back of her mind. After leaving a teaching career to become a stay-at-home mother, two national events led to her involvement with Moms Demand Action, a grassroots organization fighting for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence.

Haan vividly recalls icing the cake for her son’s first birthday on Dec. 14, 2012, when news broke about the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.—the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. On Valentine’s Day 2018, Haan again watched in disbelief as a similar scene unfolded in Parkland, Fla.

“When I saw the kids from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School begging the adults to step up and do something, that was my call to action,” said Haan, a mother of two and a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in West Lafayette, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette.

“For me, this is a pro-life issue,” Haan said. “We have to protect our children.”

The Catholic Church has long advocated for the prevention of gun and other violence as part of its commitment to promoting a culture of life. Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have called for legislation to curb gun violence, including banning assault weapons and requiring universal background checks.

“More than ever, the Church and all people of good will must work together to confront the pervasive culture of violence,” the bishops wrote in a recent statement. “The Church has been a consistent voice for the promotion of peace at home and around the world and a strong advocate for the reasonable regulation of firearms. [We recognize] that recourse to self-defense is legitimate, but also that guns are simply too easily accessible.”

To follow priority legislation of the ICC, visit [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org). This website includes access to I-CAN, the Indiana Catholic Action Network, which offers the Church’s position on key issues. Those who sign up for I-CAN receive alerts on legislation moving forward and ways to contact their elected representatives.

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



## Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

January 16–25, 2022

**January 16 – 10 a.m.**

Mass for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, offered for deceased team members and volunteers of the Indianapolis Society of St. Vincent de Paul at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

**January 16 – 1 p.m.**

Visit to confirmation class students of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis, at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church

**January 16 – 2:30 p.m.**

Preaching during Mass in the Extraordinary Form at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Indianapolis

**January 19-22**

Wedding in Beaver Creek, Colo.

**January 24 – 10:30 a.m.**

Respect Life Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, Indianapolis

**January 24 – noon**

Indiana March for Life, Indianapolis

**January 25 – 1 p.m.**

Council of Priests meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

**January 25 – 7 p.m.**

Christian Unity Prayer Service at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

## Wanted: Stories of people who show love for others in great and small ways

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not boastful or arrogant or jealous or rude. It does not seek its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrong-doing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor 13:4-7).*

We all know people who live out this passage—some in obvious ways, but many through seemingly small or behind-the-scenes actions.

Maybe there’s someone in your parish who quietly but constantly volunteers at church, cooks meals for others or has a knack for making others feel welcomed.

Maybe you saw a child sit down to lunch with a student eating alone.

Maybe you know someone who started a charity; grandparents who adopted a grandchild; a couple

or family who drives an elderly parishioner to Mass; a teacher who goes the extra mile; a priest or religious who always takes the time to listen.

For our monthly column “Love’s Litmus,” we’re looking for stories just like these, stories about people who—in obvious or quiet ways—live out 1 Cor 13:4-7.

The goal is to show the many ways, grand or simple, that we can love one another and, by doing so, help bring about God’s kingdom.

Send your stories of people you know (near or far, Catholic or not) who exemplify that Scripture passage to Natalie Hoefer at [nhoefer@archindy.org](mailto:nhoefer@archindy.org), or call 317-236-1486 or 800-932-9836, x. 1486. Include your parish and a daytime phone number where you may be reached. †

## Pope Francis to install catechists, lectors at Word of God celebration

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—At his celebration of Mass for the Sunday of the Word of God on Jan. 23, Pope Francis will formally install new catechists and lectors—ministries open to women.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which coordinates the annual celebration, said the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Basilica will include “the conferral of the ministries of lector and catechist.”

Pope Francis formally instituted the ministry of catechist in May 2021. It followed his decision in January to open the ministries of lector and acolyte to women. While in most dioceses women already served as readers and altar servers at Mass, they were not formally instituted

in those services on a stable basis.

Pope Francis often has spoken of the importance of selecting, training and supporting catechists, who are called to lead people to a deeper relationship with Jesus, prepare them to receive the sacraments and educate them in the teachings of the Church.

The Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by Pope Francis in 2019, is meant to encourage among all Catholics interest in knowing the sacred Scriptures and their central role in the life of the Church and the Christian faith. The theme for the 2022 celebration is “Blessed are those who hear the word of God,” a verse which comes from the Gospel of St. Luke. †



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# Father Louis Manna served in several parishes in southern Indiana

By Sean Gallagher

Father Louis Manna, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on Dec. 23, 2021, in his home in Clarksville. He was 76.



Fr. Louis Manna

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 6 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was the principal celebrant. Conventual Franciscan Father John Elmer was the homilist.

Burial will take place at a later date at St. Joseph Cemetery in St. Leon.

Born in Louisville, Ky., in 1945, Father Manna first discerned a vocation to religious life as a member of the

Conventual Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Consolation based in Mount St. Francis in southern Indiana.

He was ordained a priest as a Conventual Franciscan in 1973 and became a priest of the archdiocese in 1995 through a process called incardination.

Pat Cornwell and her late husband John became friends with Father Manna when he was their pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Corydon from 2000-05.

She recalled how, with few close relatives of his own, Father Manna saw the parishioners he served as his family.

“When he knew someone was scheduled for surgery, he offered the blessing for the sick without being asked,” Cornwell said. “When someone was widowed, he followed up with phone calls of encouragement. He was basically a shy person, but kept in touch with friends long after he left each of his many parishes.”

Father John, who entered the Conventual Franciscans at the same time as Father Manna, recalled how his friend maintained close ties to the community at Mount St. Francis even after he became an archdiocesan

priest—again because of his value of family.

“Even though he was no longer a member of our community, he would always come to different celebrations of the community—a birthday, an anniversary of profession or ordination, the visitation or funeral of a friar who had died,” Father John said. “He had a love for family. It goes back to his own family.”

Father Manna’s love for the Italian roots of his family led him to take several trips to Italy to meet distant relatives there.

Cornwell sees in her former pastor’s love for travel “a good metaphor for the way he accompanied individuals on their own paths.”

“He cared about their lives and trials,” Cornwell said. “He kept track of people, like the Good Shepherd who went looking for the one sheep. When my husband died, he called periodically to see how I was doing ...”

Louis Michael Manna was born on Sept. 16, 1945, in Louisville, Ky., to the late Louis and Petronilla Manna.

After his elementary education at St. Francis of Assisi School in Louisville, he enrolled in 1959 at the former Mount St. Francis High School in Mount St. Francis. At the time, it was a high school seminary for the Conventual Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Consolation.

He graduated from the high school seminary in 1963 and entered the province’s novitiate, then located in Auburn, Ind.

Father Manna professed first vows on Aug. 2, 1964, at the novitiate and solemn vows on Aug. 6, 1967, at St. Bonaventure Friary in St. Louis.

In addition to the high school seminary, Father Manna received priestly formation at the former Our Lady of Carey Seminary in Carey, Ohio; the former Assumption Seminary in Chaska, Minn.; and at St. Louis University in St. Louis.

He was ordained a priest on July 28, 1973, at St. Anthony

Church in Lorain, Ohio, by Bishop William M. Cosgrove, then an auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Cleveland.

Father Manna’s first pastoral assignment was at the Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake, Minn., where he served from 1973-75.

He then ministered for a year as associate pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac, Md., and for a year as associate pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Grand Rapids, Mich.

From 1977-79, Father Manna served as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Broken Bow, Neb., also ministering during that time at nearby mission churches. He later returned to Broken Bow to serve as pastor from 1988-91.

Father Manna began ministry in the archdiocese in 1979, serving as associate pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Terre Haute from 1979-82 and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville from 1982-88.

In 1991, Father Manna began the process of becoming a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, which is called incardination. It became finalized in 1995.

From 1993-2000, Father Manna ministered as pastor of the former St. Joseph Parish in St. Leon and the former St. John the Baptist Parish in Dover. The campuses of both those parishes are now part of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County.

Father Manna then served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon, the former St. Peter Parish in Harrison County and the former Most Precious Blood Parish in New Middleton from 2000-05.

Father Manna next served as pastor of American Martyrs Parish in Scottsburg and St. Patrick Parish in Salem from 2005-16. He was granted permission to retire from active ministry in 2016.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. †

# Preserve Christian identity infants receive at baptism, Pope Francis says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Before baptizing 16 babies in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis reminded parents and godparents of their responsibility to care for and preserve the Christian identity the infants were about to receive.

“This is your task throughout your lives: to guard the Christian identity of your children,” the pope said. “It is a daily commitment: help them grow with the light they receive today.”

The pope baptized the seven boys and nine girls—the children of Vatican employees—in the Sistine Chapel during the celebration of Mass on Jan. 9, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The annual tradition of baptizing infants on the feast day, which began in 1981 by St. John Paul II, was canceled last year due to the pandemic.

Although the baptisms resumed this year, the number of infants was significantly reduced. In January 2020, the pope had baptized 32 infants in the Sistine Chapel.

Delivering a brief, off-the-cuff homily, Pope Francis recalled a hymn for the feast day that said the people of Israel went to the Jordan River to be baptized “with bare feet and bare souls.”

“These children today also come here with ‘bare souls’ to receive God’s justification, Jesus’ strength, the strength to move forward in life,” he said. “Your children will receive their Christian identity today. And you, parents and godparents, must guard this identity.”

With the sounds of fussy children filling the frescoed chapel, the pope repeated his usual advice to mothers of infants, encouraging them to make their children comfortable, and to not worry if they start to cry in the chapel.

“This ceremony is a bit long, the children then feel uncomfortable here in an environment they do not know. Please, they are the protagonists: make sure that they are not too hot, that they feel comfortable,” Pope Francis said.

“If they are hungry, breast feed them here, in front of the Lord, no problem,” he added. “And if they cry out, let them cry out, because they have a community spirit, let’s say a

‘band spirit,’ a spirit of ensemble, and all it takes is for one to start—because everyone is musical—and immediately the orchestra comes! Let them cry, let them feel free.” †



Pope Francis baptizes a baby during a Mass marking the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican on Jan. 9. The pope baptized 16 infants. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

## Archdiocesan 2021 Accountability Report available online and in print by request

Criterion staff report

The archdiocese’s 2021 Accountability Report is available online, and in print for those who request a hard copy.

With text and graphics, the document reports on the archdiocese’s financial status. Sections include the Catholic Community Foundation, chancery fiscal year operating results, parish

and archdiocesan stewardship income, insurance and retirement plan financial information, archdiocesan grant figures and financial positions of the chancery and certain archdiocesan entities.

To view the report online, go to [www.archindy.org/finance/archdiocese](http://www.archindy.org/finance/archdiocese).

For a hard copy of the report, contact Stacy Harris at [sharris@archindy.org](mailto:sharris@archindy.org) or by phone at 317-236-1535 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1535. †

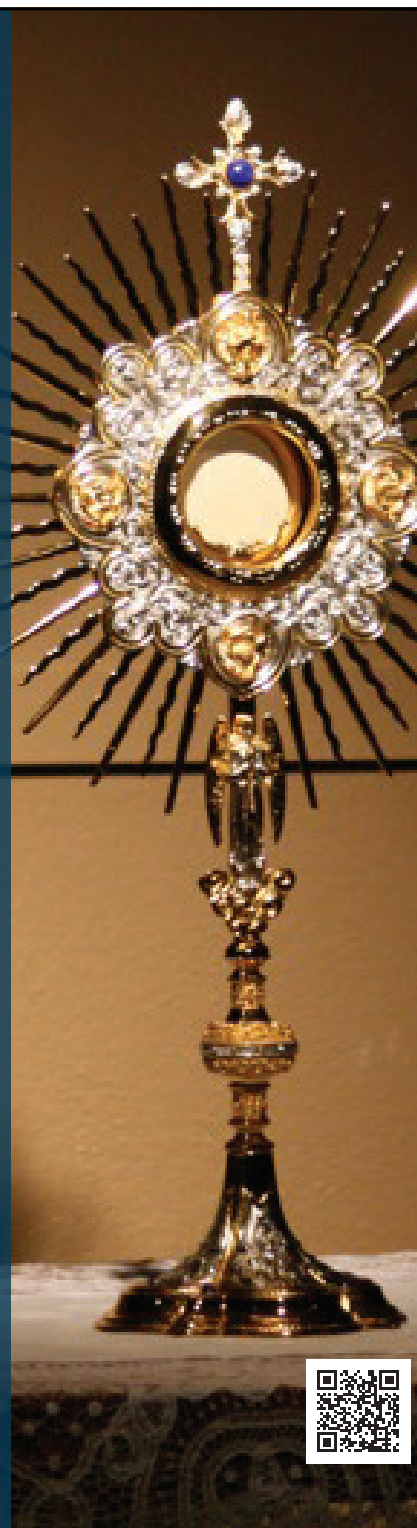
United  
in the Eucharist

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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## Editorial



Pope Francis greets children as he participates in an Evening Prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Dec. 31, 2021. The traditional service on New Year's Eve is to give thanks for the past year. (CNS photo/Stefano Spaziani, pool)

## A resolution for the New Year

New Year's resolutions outline actions that we believe will be most productive in helping us achieve a better experience this year than we had the previous year.

Looking back, an argument can be made that in 2021 "factionalism" was the most serious problem we experienced as a society and as a Church.

The many issues we were confronted with—a seemingly endless pandemic, deep-seated social unrest that too often erupted into violence, poverty, homelessness, social anxiety, political divisiveness and more—were all made worse by our tendency to isolate in groups of like-minded (closed-minded) intolerant factions.

Instead of coming together to face our problems squarely, we too often found ourselves on opposite sides of an ideological divide hurling insults at one another and refusing to even consider any forms of compromise.

Even in the Church, we too often forget the unity that was won for us by our Lord's victory over sin and death on the cross.

Acting like our own religious faction has the only true understanding of Church teaching, liturgical practice or the demands of social justice, we reviled our opponents and circled our wagons against the feared encroachment of our religious enemies.

Perhaps this ugly truth is what prompted Pope Francis to proclaim a synodal process dedicated to genuine encounter, attentive listening and discernment of God's will for the Church. Unless we come to see ourselves as God's people walking together on a journey of faith, hope and charity, there's no way we can be authentic missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, writing on the feast of St. Francis Xavier, co-patron of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, said:

*"The synod process that we have begun here in our archdiocese, and in dioceses throughout the world, has a profound missionary character. We are being asked, in the words of Pope Francis, 'to move beyond ourselves' as individuals, families and communities. We are being challenged to look at one another with new eyes and to listen attentively to the voices of those who are different from us. The objective, ultimately, is to help all of us—each in our own way—to encounter the person of Jesus Christ as he comes to meet us*

*'where we are' on our life's journey."*

Looking at one another with new eyes, listening attentively to the voices of those who disagree with us, may be the greatest challenge we face as 2022 gets underway. For us Catholics, "synodality," a strange, unfamiliar and difficult to define word, may well be our best opportunity to set aside differences and discover common ground.

There is no comparable term in secular discourse. Here in the United States of America, we have been so focused on "rugged individualism" that we tend to forget one of the most important principles that our founders built our nation on: *United we stand. Divided we fall.*

So much of what we hear in political discussions and in the media is unreal. Identifying the truth in any given situation is an increasingly difficult challenge today. All too often, we listen to the "truths" we want to hear, and we seek out the "facts" that serve to prove the opinions that we already hold deeply. The end result is wishful thinking (at best) and a distorted view of the world we live in.

A movie review of *West Side Story 2021* by Barbara Nicolosi makes this point beautifully: "We're never going to stop this hateful red Montague-blue Capulet cycle we are trapped in culturally if we don't acknowledge that everyone has some truth to share." *West Side Story* is a powerful film, a plea for unity, or at least mutual respect, that challenges us to reject factionalism and search for ways to live together in peace.

"Everyone has some truth to share" doesn't mean that truth is whatever anyone believes it to be. It also doesn't mean that we shouldn't have firm beliefs or strongly held convictions. But it does mean that we should listen to each other—even, or especially, those who think differently than we do. And acknowledging the human dignity of all people, including strangers, political opponents and people with vastly different ideas about religion and spirituality, is necessary if we ever hope to solve (or at least survive) the enormous challenges we face in 2022 and beyond.

"Committing to overcome factionalism by respecting one another" might well be the substance of a New Year's resolution that can really make a difference in our society and in our Church. At the very least, it's worth a try.

—Daniel Conway

## Reflection/John Shaughnessy

### A life-changing offer, including the best benefit package in the world

Spaced a few feet from each other, the four signs outside the restaurant reflect the economic reality of our times—the desperation, the pleading, the way the world has changed.



One sign notes, "Now hiring! Servers." The next one reads, "Now hiring! Hosts." A third states, "Now hiring! Line Cooks."

And the last one practically begs, "Now hiring! Everything!"

They're all signs of how the pandemic continues to impact so many parts of our lives, including leaving many employers and business owners wondering where all the workers have gone.

As another new year begins, faith leaders of all Christian denominations must have the same reaction—again—after welcoming and witnessing another blessed Christmas of their churches overflowing with people drawn together by the birth of Christ:

Where have all these people suddenly gone in the new year?

In the midst of that questioning, I imagined another set of signs that could be placed outside churches—signs that would reflect hope instead of desperation, future promise instead of current reality, and an invitation focused on how the world can be changed instead of how the world has changed.

**Needed!** People who welcome strangers, who seek to find common ground with others whose viewpoints differ from theirs, and who are willing to build bridges with people of different races, cultures and economic backgrounds.

**Needed!** People willing to listen, take time and forgive, including seeking forgiveness for themselves.

**Needed!** People who have the courage to live their faith—and the compassion to use their faith to uplift the lives of other people.

**Needed!** Everyone!

**A life-changing offer:** We want you with us. We know we are better when we are together. Most importantly, God wants you. And we know you will be better with him in your life.

Admittedly, the Church is not perfect. Neither are people. But God's love is. On Christmas, you welcomed the Christ Child into your heart. He longs for you to stay near him now. He longs to walk through this life with you.

**Benefit package:** We say this humbly, but it is *the best* benefit package that you will ever be offered in this life. And we're certainly not talking about free coffee and donuts on an occasional Sunday morning, although admittedly it's a nice way to begin a Sunday and meet some good people.

The one who founded our Church offers life-giving sustenance in the Eucharist. He's big—downright huge—on mercy and forgiveness, so whatever mistakes you make, you don't have to worry about getting a second chance. In fact, the benefit package includes *unlimited* forgiveness and second chances.

And he never views you as an employee. He sees you as a friend.

You know how some people say they would die to give life to someone they love? He's proven to be that person for everyone, whether you love him or not.

Still, here's the best part of this best-ever benefit package: Once you join him, he'll never let you go. And even if you leave for something that sounds better or more exciting to you, he'll wait for you and welcome you back when that time comes. He wants you to be with him forever.

**Accepting all applicants!** No experience necessary. Just a willingness to learn, grow and love. Inquire within and ask for Jesus. He wants to talk to you and listen to you about your present and your future.

(John Shaughnessy is the assistant editor of *The Criterion*.) †

## Be Our Guest/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

### It's time to regenerate our moral compass

An increase in self-centeredness and the deterioration of dignified speech are indicating a malfunctioning moral compass.



Evil is what ought not to be and is the opposite of goodness. Increasingly dark dispositions are an especially daunting problem today of what ought not to be.

The core of a moral compass is our disposition. It is the way events influence us and cause us to go in one direction and avoid another.

To be morally sound requires a disposition that reflects God's graciousness. God desires to be one with us and a loving intimate friend. Embracing God's graciousness is the very heart of being well disposed.

What is destroying a sound disposition is the exaggeration of the "me society," which is more about my philosophy, my political beliefs and individuality, and less about being open to another's views and beliefs. It is a "me-mine rights society" that is splitting inspirational dialogue.

Undoubtedly, personal preferences and one's beliefs are vital. They possess the power to strengthen our faith, increase our hopes and enliven our love. Faith generates commitment and is an anchor keeping us from

drifting. Hope enables us to look forward to new horizons, and love warms the heart.

However, when the heart becomes hardened and unable to expand, friendship fades. Chaos then results, and God's peaceful rule of order falls into disorder, crippling our moral compass.

The antidote is unselfish camaraderie driven by a warm loving heart, a God-inspired disposition desiring peaceful, productive unity.

Another way to sense an endangered moral compass is the deterioration of rhetoric. Irrational character assassination is replacing character promotion. Cruel destructive innuendo is used as the preferred weapon of the day. Twisted truth has also been employed as a destructive weapon.

It is not an exaggeration to say many in exalted leadership positions who should be talking with one another to solve overwhelming postmodern challenges are not doing so. The heart-to-heart communication and dialogue essential to problem-solving are missing.

History has repeatedly shown the downfall of civilizations happened when they deserted their moral compass, when a loving, gracious God was excluded from the conversation.

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





# Christ the Cornerstone

## The miracle of Cana, and a marriage blessed by God

*“When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servers, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’” (Jn 2:3-5).*

The Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time recounts the familiar story of the miracle worked by Jesus at a wedding banquet in Cana.

We do not meet the newly married couple whose wedding celebration narrowly avoided disaster by running out of wine, but we can say with certainty that their union was blessed by God. Not only were the Son of God and his Blessed Mother present during the wedding banquet—a great blessing in and of itself—but they intervened and saved the day by making sure that this solemn occasion was not marred by a grave sin against hospitality.

During the past 2,000 years, many have wondered why Jesus’ first miracle was not more dramatic—like the miracle of the loaves and fish or raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus himself suggests that this was not

the most appropriate time or place to reveal his divine mission. And yet, he gives in to his mother’s instruction to the servers: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5).

As a result, our Lord’s first public sign is a domestic manifestation of his divinity, not unlike his miraculous birth some 30 years earlier in an undistinguished stable in the little town of Bethlehem.

The story of Jesus’ conception and birth is also the story of a marriage blessed by God in the most extraordinary circumstances. In that story, it was the Archangel Gabriel who, in effect, said to Mary, and then to Joseph, “Do whatever [God] tells you.” And because Mary and Joseph were obedient, following instructions that didn’t necessarily make sense to them, the salvation promised us since our first parents’ original disobedience was realized.

Mary commands the respect of her adult son because he knows what she has sacrificed by doing God’s will. She directs the servers to do whatever her son tells them to do because she knows that he has the compassion, and the power, to make things right in this impossible situation. She doesn’t

beg, argue or cajole anyone, least of all her son. She merely states the case: “They have no wine” (Jn 2:3). Then she instructs the servers to do as Jesus commands.

None of Jesus’ miracles, or “signs” as St. John calls them, are intended to show off his power. They all point to something much deeper and more profound. The miracle of the loaves and fish signifies God’s ability to satisfy our hungry hearts, especially through his real presence in the Eucharist. The miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead is a powerful reminder that God alone has authority over life and death. And the miracle Jesus worked at the wedding feast in Cana demonstrates that if we follow God’s will—in little things as well as in big things—all will be well.

“Do whatever he tells you” is more than just good advice from our Blessed Mother Mary. It is the principle that she lived by her whole life. She knows from her own experience that this kind of obedience is the only way to live if we want to grow in holiness and become faithful missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. If we do whatever he tells us to do, all will be well.

The synod process that Pope Francis inaugurated last fall invites us to encounter Jesus, to listen prayerfully to God’s word and to each other, and to discern God’s will for our Church. We should look to Mary as we journey together, and we should follow her words (and her example) by doing whatever her son, Jesus, tells us to do.

The married couple in Cana, whose wedding was blessed by God, are also a miracle (or sign) from God. They encourage us to keep this great sacrament holy, and they remind us that whatever hardships must be faced in the course of married life, Jesus and his mother are present. Jesus and Mary walk with every wife and husband on their journey together, and they affirm that if each couple can listen to each other and seek God’s will for their marriage and family, all will be well.

“Do whatever he tells you” ought to be the guiding principle for all who seek to follow Jesus and live peaceful, productive lives of love and service. Let’s turn to Mary and ask her to help us encounter her son, listen to one another, and discover God’s will for us. †



## Cristo, la piedra angular

### El milagro de Caná y un matrimonio bendecido por Dios

*“Cuando el vino se acabó, la madre de Jesús le dijo: ‘Ya no tienen vino.’ ‘Mujer, ¿eso qué tiene que ver conmigo?’ respondió Jesús. ‘Todavía no ha llegado mi hora.’ Su madre dijo a los sirvientes: ‘Hagan lo que él les ordene.’” (Jn 2:3-5)*

La lectura del Evangelio del segundo domingo del tiempo ordinario narra la conocida historia del milagro obrado por Jesús en un banquete de bodas en Caná.

No conocemos a la pareja de recién casados cuyo festejo de boda se salvó por poco de convertirse en un desastre al quedarse sin vino, pero podemos decir con certeza que su unión fue bendecida por Dios. El Hijo de Dios y su Santísima Madre no solo estuvieron presentes durante el banquete de bodas, lo que ya de por sí era una gran bendición, sino que intervinieron y salvaron a los novios asegurándose de que esta solemne ocasión no se viera empañada por un grave pecado contra la hospitalidad.

Durante los últimos 2,000 años, muchos se han preguntado por qué el primer milagro de Jesús no fue más dramático, como el de los panes y los peces o el de la resurrección de Lázaro. El propio Jesús sugiere que este no era el momento ni el

lugar más apropiado para revelar su misión divina y, sin embargo, cede a la instrucción de su madre a los servidores: “Hagan lo que él les ordene” (Jn 2:5).

En consecuencia, el primer signo público de nuestro Señor es una manifestación doméstica de su divinidad, no muy diferente de su nacimiento milagroso unos 30 años antes en un establo poco conspicuo de la pequeña ciudad de Belén.

La historia de la concepción y el nacimiento de Jesús es también la historia de un matrimonio bendecido por Dios en las circunstancias más extraordinarias. En esa historia, fue el Arcángel Gabriel quien, en efecto, dijo a María, y luego a José, “Haz lo que [Dios] te ordene.” Y puesto que María y José fueron obedientes y cumplieron instrucciones que no necesariamente tenían sentido para ellos, se llevó a cabo la salvación que se nos prometió desde la desobediencia original de nuestros primeros padres.

María tiene el respeto de su hijo adulto porque sabe lo que ella ha sacrificado al cumplir la voluntad de Dios. Ordena a los sirvientes que hagan todo lo que su hijo les ordene porque sabe que él tiene la compasión y el poder para componer una situación imposible. No ruega, ni

discute, ni engatusa a nadie, y menos a su hijo. Se limita a exponer el caso: “Ya no tienen vino” (Jn 2:3). Entonces, instruye a los sirvientes que hagan lo que Jesús les mande.

Ninguno de los milagros de Jesús, o “señales,” como los llama san Juan, tiene por objeto mostrar su poder, sino que apuntan a algo mucho más profundo. El milagro de los panes y los peces ilustra la capacidad de Dios de satisfacer nuestros corazones hambrientos, especialmente a través de su presencia real en la Eucaristía. El milagro de la resurrección de Lázaro es un poderoso recordatorio de que solamente Dios tiene autoridad sobre la vida y la muerte. Y el milagro que hizo Jesús en las bodas de Caná demuestra que si seguimos la voluntad de Dios, tanto en lo pequeño como en lo grande, todo marchará bien.

“Hagan lo que él les ordene” es algo más que un buen consejo de nuestra Santa Madre María; es el principio por el que se ha regido toda su vida. Sabe por experiencia propia que este tipo de obediencia es el único modo de vivir si queremos crecer en santidad y convertirnos en fieles discípulos misioneros de Jesucristo. Si hacemos lo que nos ordena, todo irá bien.

El proceso sinodal que el Papa Francisco inauguró el pasado otoño nos invita a encontrarnos con Jesús, a escuchar en oración la Palabra de Dios y a los demás, y a discernir la voluntad de Dios para nuestra Iglesia. Debemos mirar a María en nuestro camino, y debemos seguir sus palabras (y su ejemplo) haciendo todo lo que su hijo, Jesús, nos diga que hagamos.

Los esposos de Caná, cuya boda fue bendecida por Dios, son también un milagro (o señal) de Dios. Nos animan a santificar este gran sacramento y nos recuerdan que, sean cuales sean las dificultades que haya que afrontar en el curso de la vida matrimonial, Jesús y su madre están presentes. Jesús y María acompañan a cada esposa y a cada esposo en su camino juntos, y afirman que si cada pareja puede escucharse mutuamente y buscar la voluntad de Dios para su matrimonio y su familia, todo irá bien.

“Hagan lo que él les ordene” debería ser el principio rector para todos los que buscan seguir a Jesús y vivir vidas pacíficas y productivas de amor y servicio. Acudamos a María y pidámosle que nos ayude a encontrar a su hijo, a escucharnos unos a otros y a descubrir la voluntad de Dios para 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](http://www.archindy.org/events).

**January 17, Feb. 21**  
**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](https://cutt.ly/SrTheaPrayer), meeting ID: 810 3567 0684 or dial-in at 301-715-8592. Information: Pearllette Springer, [pspringer@archindy.org](mailto:pspringer@archindy.org) or 317-236-1474.

**January 19, Feb. 16**  
 Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Monthly Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439 or [www.catholiccemeteries.cc](http://www.catholiccemeteries.cc).

**January 20, Feb. 17**  
 St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **Third Thursday Adoration**, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

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

**January 21**  
 Northside Events and Social Club, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, former

Congresswoman Susan Brooks presenting, 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 Jan. 18. Information and registration: [cutt.ly/CBE-Reg](https://cutt.ly/CBE-Reg).

**January 23**  
 Vigo County Courthouse, 33 S. 3rd St., Terre Haute. **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday solemn observance**, 2-3:30 p.m., signs provided, parking behind courthouse. Information: Tom McBroom, 812-841-0060.

**January 25**  
 St. Simon the Apostle Parish, St. Elizabeth Room, 8155 Oaklandon Rd., Indianapolis.

**SHIP (Singles Hoping Involved Partnership)**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., fellowship ministry for singles ages 45 and older, Italian pitch-in and game activity, free. Information: [martinlow8@cs.com](mailto:martinlow8@cs.com) or 317-826-6000.

**January 26, Feb. 9**  
**Group Lectio** via Zoom, 7 p.m., second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, Benedictine Sister Jill Marie Reuber, facilitator, sponsored by Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Ind. (Diocese of Evansville). Information: [vocation@thedome.org](mailto:vocation@thedome.org).

**January 30**  
 St. Matthew the Apostle School, 4100 E. 56th St.,

Indianapolis. **Open House for Prospective Families**, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Information: 317-251-3997 or [dsmock@saintmatt.org](mailto:dsmock@saintmatt.org).

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

**February 12, March 12**  
 Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, 1 Sisters

of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Teen Volunteering Opportunity**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., ages 12-18, assist with retired Providence Sisters. Information and registration: 812-535-2952, [provctr@spsmw.org](mailto:provctr@spsmw.org) or [spsmw.org/events](http://spsmw.org/events).

**February 19**  
 St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. **Helpers of God's Most Precious Infants Prayer Vigil for Life**, 8:30 a.m. Mass, then prayer partners carpool to Clinic for Women at 3607 W. 16th St. for vigil. Information: [eric@romancatholicgentleman.com](mailto:eric@romancatholicgentleman.com). †

## Retreats and Programs

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to [www.archindy.org/retreats](http://www.archindy.org/retreats).

**Weekly on Mondays**  
 Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **"Brother Bob's Bible Study,"** Mondays 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m., led by Andrew Hennessy, free. Information and registration: [mountsaintfrancis.org/bible-study](http://mountsaintfrancis.org/bible-study) or 812-923-8817.

**February 7**  
 Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Keeping a Spiritual Journal**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., includes lunch, \$75. Information and registration: [mountsaintfrancis.org/spiritual-journal](http://mountsaintfrancis.org/spiritual-journal) or 812-923-8817.

**February 9, March 9**  
 Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Personal Day of Retreat**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$40, includes a private room for the day and lunch; spiritual direction is available for an additional \$30, must be scheduled in advance. Information and registration: [benedictinn.org/programs](http://benedictinn.org/programs), 317-788-7581, [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

**February 11-13, March 11-13**  
 Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 100 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Beyond the Fantastic!**, for married couples, Benedictine Father Noël Mueller presenting, \$425 double. Registration: [saintmeinrad.org/retreats](http://saintmeinrad.org/retreats).

**February 12**  
 Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Pilgrimage: Charity**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., walking hike pilgrimage lead by Conventual Franciscan Father Vincent Petersen, bring water bottle and lunch, rain or shine, \$25. Information and registration: [mountsaintfrancis.org/pilgrimage](http://mountsaintfrancis.org/pilgrimage) or 812-923-8817.

**February 14**  
 Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Day of Silence**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$35 per day, includes room, continental breakfast, lunch and use of the common areas and grounds, overnight stays available for additional \$28 per person, dinner additional \$9. Registration: [cutt.ly/fatimaretreats](https://cutt.ly/fatimaretreats), 317-545-7681 or [jburger@archindy.org](mailto:jburger@archindy.org).

**February 18**  
 Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **A Day of Quiet Renewal**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, \$70 with spiritual direction. Information and registration: 812-934-6437, [www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org](http://www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org).

**February 19**  
 Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **St. Hildegard of Bingen**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$25, Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind presenting. Information and registration:

812-934-6437, [www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org](http://www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org).

**February 26**  
 Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Women's Retreat: "Watch One Hour with Me,"** 9 a.m.-5 p.m., \$50 includes meals, additional \$100 for optional overnight stay. Information and registration: [mountsaintfrancis.org/womens-retreat](http://mountsaintfrancis.org/womens-retreat) or 812-923-8817.

**March 1-3**  
 Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 100 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Freedom Through Forgiveness**, Benedictine Brother Zachary Wilberding presenting, \$300 single, \$425 double. Registration: [saintmeinrad.org/retreats](http://saintmeinrad.org/retreats).

**March 2**  
 Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **The Cross: The Heart of the Lenten Journey**, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Benedictine Sister Betty Drewes presenting, \$65 includes lunch. Information and registration: [benedictinn.org/programs](http://benedictinn.org/programs), 317-788-7581, [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

**March 8**  
 Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Coffee and Conversation**, 8-11:30 a.m., first of five

individual sessions (March 15, 22, 29, April 5) based on Ann Voskamp's book *One Thousand Gifts*, Patty Moore presenting, \$25 per session or \$100 for the series, journals provided. Information and registration: [benedictinn.org/programs](http://benedictinn.org/programs), 317-788-7581, [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org).

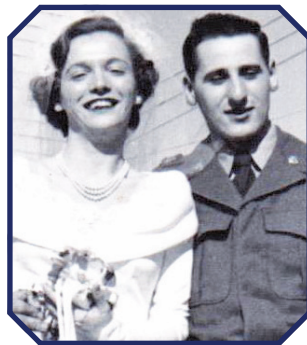
**March 11-13**  
 Benedict Inn Retreat &

Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Priest, Prophet and King: A Lenten Retreat**, 8:30 a.m. Fri.-1 p.m. Sun., Patty Moore and Benedictine Sister Carol Falkner presenting, \$300 (\$275 if registration received before Jan. 5), includes room and meals. Registration: [www.benedictinn.org/programs](http://www.benedictinn.org/programs). Information: [benedictinn@benedictinn.org](mailto:benedictinn@benedictinn.org), 317-788-7581.

**March 12**  
 Mount Saint Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mt. St. Francis. **Pilgrimage: Repentance**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., walking hike pilgrimage lead by Conventual Franciscan Father Vince Petersen, bring water bottle and lunch, rain or shine, \$25. Information and registration: [mountsaintfrancis.org/pilgrimage](http://mountsaintfrancis.org/pilgrimage) or 812-923-8817. †

## Wedding Anniversaries

### BOB AND MARILYN CRISCI



**Bob and Marilyn (Battrell) Crisci**, members of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carmel, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese), former members of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Sept. 29, 2021.

The couple was married in the chapel at Camp Atterbury in Johnson County on Sept. 29, 1951.

They have 10 children: Cindy Carman, Cathy Mecker, Debbi Turner, Mary Anne, Chris, Mark, Michael, Rob, Stan and the late Carole Crisci.

The couple also has 18 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

They celebrated with a large gathering of family and friends on Oct. 3, 2021. †

### WILLIAM AND TERESA THOMAS



**William and Teresa (Tamplin) Thomas**, members of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Dec. 31, 2021.

The couple was married in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Louisville, Ky., on Dec. 31, 1966.

They have two children: Jenifer Thomas-Schumann and William Thomas III.

The couple also has five grandchildren. †

### LARRY AND CLARA ANN ZINSER



**Larry and Clara Ann (Kraus) Zinser**, members of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 2, 2021.

The couple was married in St. John the Baptist Church in Dover, now a campus of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, on Oct. 2, 1971.

They have three children: Angela Whitaker, Edwin and Jonathan Zinser.

The couple also has three grandchildren. †

## Sistine Chapel art exhibit available near Dayton, Ohio, from Jan. 14-Feb. 13

An exhibit called Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition is available in the upper level of the previous Elder-Beerman at the Mall at Fairfield Commons, 2727 Fairfield Commons, in Beaver Creek, Ohio (near Dayton), on Wed.-Sun. from Jan. 14 through Feb. 13.

Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition allows visitors to experience this famous art from an up-close, life-sized and never-before-seen perspective.

With special expertise and care, the ceiling paintings from the Sistine Chapel have been reproduced in a truly unique way using licensed high-definition photos. Brought to life using a special printing technique

that emulates the look and feel of the original paintings, visitors are given a chance to engage with the artwork at their own pace in ways that were never-before possible: seeing every detail, every brushstroke and every color of the artist's 34 frescoes.

Each image is accompanied by informative signage, and audio guides are available to rent for an even more in-depth experience.

Time slots are available on Wed.-Sat. between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and on Sundays between 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$12.90-\$27.50.

For more information or to order tickets go to [chapelsistine.com/exhibits/dayton](http://chapelsistine.com/exhibits/dayton). †

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



# Focus on improving health of body, mind and soul in 2022

By Natalie Hoefler

Do you like crowds? Try heading to the gym any day in January as all those people who made New Year's resolutions to get physically fit try to make good on their goals.

But God gave us more than a body. He gave us a mind and soul too, and those can get out of shape and need tending to as well.

St. Ignatius of Loyola said it well: "It is not the soul alone that should be healthy; if the mind is healthy in a healthy body, all will be healthy and much better prepared to give God greater service."

The health of one component can affect the health of the others.

For example, the National Center for Biotechnology notes that "exercise improves mental health by reducing anxiety, depression and negative mood and by improving self-esteem and cognitive function."

Body? Check. Mind? Check. Add prayer to your exercise and you've managed a body, mind and soul trifecta! (It actually is possible, as you'll see later in this article.)

While it's not necessary to address all three in one fell swoop, it is necessary to address all three.

So make 2022 the year you improve body, mind and soul—one, two or all three at a time.

## Soul—getting more out of Scripture and the Mass

As Catholics, we know that grace abounds through Mass and receiving Christ in the Eucharist. But be honest—are you fully engaged during Mass or has it become a rote routine?

One way to get more out of Mass is to read and reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings in advance.

It just takes a quick Google search on "Mass reading reflections" to find numerous online sources that provide Sunday and even daily Scripture readings and meditations.

For those who eschew the screen for the solid printed page, try a subscription to *Our Daily Bread* or *Magnificat*; these small periodicals provide daily Mass readings, reflections, information on saints and more. To view their online resources or to order a subscription, go to [odb.org](http://odb.org) or call 616-974-2210 for *Our Daily Bread*, or go to [us.magnificat.net](http://us.magnificat.net) or call 866-273-5215 for *Magnificat*.

A hands-on person myself, I was excited to receive a new tool this Christmas to help prepare for Sunday Mass called *Every Sacred Sunday* by Kassie Manning and Christie Peters.

It's a self-published journal with the Sunday readings based on the liturgical year. It includes advice on how to read and meditate on Scripture, space each week for writing Scripture reflections and taking homily notes, and room for noting prayer intentions and a weekly focus. For more information, go to [everysacredsunday.com](http://everysacredsunday.com).

Beyond the Scripture readings, the Mass itself—the prayers, responses, actions, order, gestures, sacrifice—are steeped in biblical history and meaning.

There are many books available explaining the components of the Mass. I've read Edward Sri's *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* (Ascension Press, 2011, expanded in 2021) and personally found it riveting. In less than 200 pages, it explains 25 components of the Mass from the opening sign of the cross to the final dismissal, including a section on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The book promises to "renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist." I certainly found this to be true.

## Mind and soul—'Know thyself ...'

Sometimes it seems the very core of who we are gets in the way of our spiritual journey.

St. Augustine once said, "Know thyself, and thy flaws, and thus live." I

would add also knowing "thy strengths" to the quote, but here's the gist: Once you know who you are by nature, it's easier to identify and work on flaws that hinder your relationship with God and to improve upon your natural strengths that can help you better serve God and others.

Granted, each person is unique, and no one perfectly fits a personality label.

Bearing that in mind, a book I found helpful is *The Temperament God Gave You: The Classic Key to Knowing Yourself, Getting Along with Others, and Growing Closer to the Lord* by Art Bennett and Laraine Bennett (Sophia Institute Press, 2005).

This book helps readers identify themselves generally as one of four personality types and details the common strengths and weaknesses of each.

It also has chapters on understanding the temperament of your spouse and children, marriage and parent/child temperament combinations, temperament and the spiritual life, and more.

The book is less than 270 pages. Personally, it proved eye-opening and helpful for me in understanding my nature and allowing God's grace to perfect it.

## Mind, body, soul—when to seek help

As St. Thomas Aquinas noted, God's grace perfects our nature to draw us closer to him on Earth and for eternity.

Part of our nature includes our mental health. Be honest—how is your mental health right now? If you answer, "Maybe not the best," you're not alone.

A 2019 National Institute of Health report stated that one in five adults suffered some form of mental health issue. Recently, a Statista poll showed that by November 2020 more than one in three U.S. adults reported symptoms of anxiety.

Mental health can affect not just our spiritual life and relationship with God but our physical life as well—even to the point of death by illness or suicide.

If you think—or know—you're suffering from mental health issues, don't wait to seek help. The archdiocese is a good place to start.

Catholic Charities Bloomington has mental health professionals in offices throughout the city who can address numerous mental health, relationship and family issues. For more information, go to [www.ccbn.org/our-services](http://www.ccbn.org/our-services) or call 812-332-1262.

Catholic Charities of Indianapolis also offers individual, couple and family counseling. For more information, go to [cutt.ly/IndyCCtherapy](http://cutt.ly/IndyCCtherapy) (case sensitive) or call 317-236-1500.

The archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity's Mental Health Ministry website lists Catholic therapists in Indianapolis and Clarksville, as well as crisis hotlines. For more information, go to [cutt.ly/MentalHealthMinistry](http://cutt.ly/MentalHealthMinistry) or call Brie Anne Varick at 317-236-1543.

One source I've found informative about mental health from a Catholic perspective is *St. Dymphna's Playbook: A Catholic Guide to Finding Mental and Emotional Well-Being* by Tommy Tighe (Ave Maria Press, 2021). It addresses forms of depression, anxiety, trauma, relationships and grief that cause mental health issues.

Each of the 20 short chapters briefly describes the condition, offers basic advice to promote further action, then looks at what the Bible and the saints say regarding the condition.

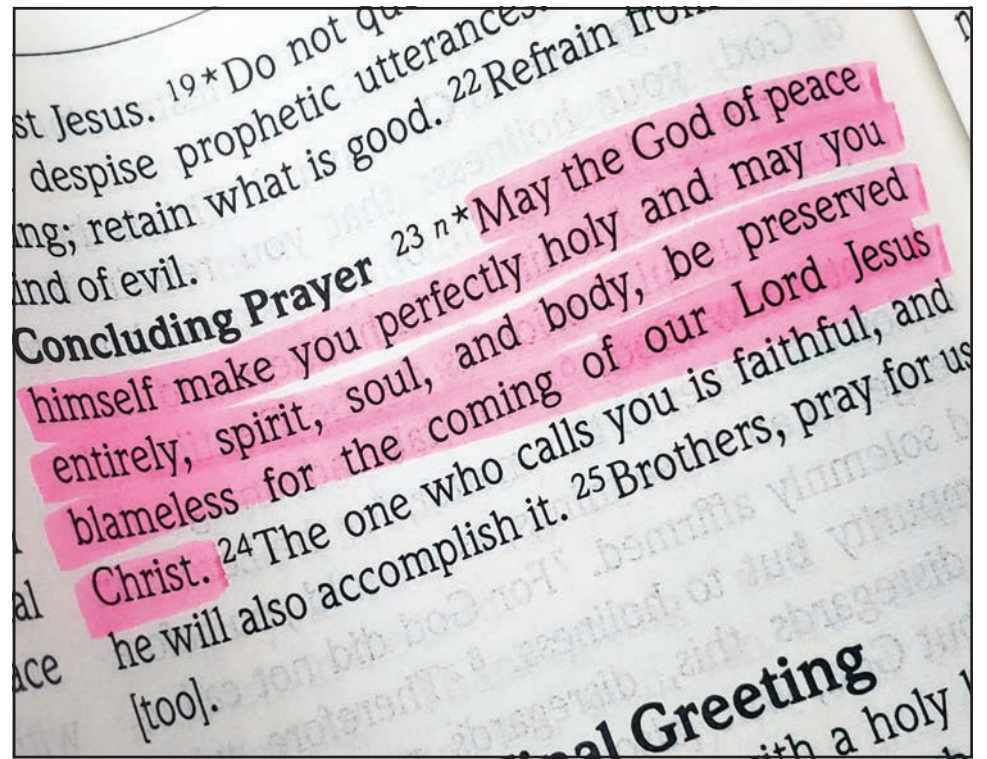
## Body, mind, soul—the trifecta

Here it is—the promised suggestions on how to incorporate exercise and prayer to boost your body, mind and soul!

Honestly, it can be as simple as praying the rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet or any standard or spontaneous prayer while walking, jogging or riding a bike.

Some people are even talented enough to read spiritual material while on a treadmill or stationary bike. (I am not one of those people.)

If you need a little more structure, try SoulCore, started by two women in the



This Scripture passage from 1 Thes 5:23 points to the importance of health to more than just the body. (Photo by Natalie Hoefler)

Lafayette, Ind., Diocese. They developed workouts incorporating core-strengthening moves with the praying of the rosary, holding a pose or stretch through each prayer while meditating on the mysteries.

The program had just started when *The Criterion* published an article about it in 2015, including the inspirational story that led to the formation of SoulCore ([cutt.ly/SoulCoreArticle](http://cutt.ly/SoulCoreArticle)—case sensitive).

Now they offer workout DVD's (including sets for those who need the assistance of a chair), digital downloads and a streaming subscription. Plus SoulCore-trained instructors offer in-person classes in 39 states, including two locations in the archdiocese (and

three sites internationally!). For more information, go to [soulcore.com](http://soulcore.com).

## 'Sound and blameless'

The above resources and ideas hardly scratch the surface of improving body, mind and soul. Maybe these suggestions will help, or at least start the process of considering how you might focus on these three intricately tied components this year and going forward.

Meanwhile, in the words of St. Paul: "May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thes 5:23). †

# Marriage

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a part of our Spring Marriage Edition

February 25 issue of *The Criterion*

Couples who are planning to be married between Feb. 25 and July 8 in a marriage that is recognized as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage, or couples who were wed between June 30, 2021, and Feb. 11, 2022, in such a recognized marriage and did not have their engagement announcement in *The Criterion* are invited to submit the information for the upcoming Feb. 25 Spring Marriage Edition.

Announcements can be submitted using the form below, or online at [www.archindy.org/engagements](http://www.archindy.org/engagements).

### E-mailed photos

Photos should be saved in jpg format and be at least 500 kb. Color photos are preferred. We recommend sending a photo where the couple's faces are close to each other. Please send the photo as an attachment to the e-mail:

[alewis@archindy.org](mailto:alewis@archindy.org). Subject line: Spring Marriage (Last name). In the e-mail, please include the information in the form located below.

If it is not possible to e-mail a photo, a photo can be mailed with the bottom form. Please no photocopy photos. To have the photo returned, please include a return addressed envelope with a postage stamp on it.

### Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 11. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.)

— Use this form to furnish information —			
Clip and mail to: BRIDES, <i>The Criterion</i> , ATTN: Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367			
Deadline with photos: Friday, Feb. 11 at 10 a.m.			
Please print or type:			
Name of Bride (first, middle, last)	Daytime Phone		
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
Name of Bride's Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Name of Bridegroom (first, middle, last)			
Name of Bridegroom's Parents (first, last)			
City		State	
Wedding Date	Church	City	State
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Enclosed			
<input type="checkbox"/> Return photo			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Picture	Signature of person furnishing information	Relationship	Daytime Phone



# ART

continued from page 1

granddaughter and moving to a new part of the state in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic proved only to strengthen Jones' faith and her calling.

Her journey actually began decades before, when she realized she had a gift for creating art.

## 'Something clicked, and it made sense'

Jones discovered her artistic talent at a young age.

"I began pursuing art and especially portraiture in seventh grade when my art teacher told my parents I had some ability for it," she said. "I was 12 when I began doing portraits."

It was in art class where she met her husband, Christopher.

"I was 15 when we started dating," she said. "We were together 36 years and married for 32." Together they had five children.

Christopher was Catholic. Jones, who was baptized and raised in a fundamentalist Christian church, was with him at Mass in Mishawaka, Ind., one Sunday in the early 1990s when she heard the priest ask from the pulpit, "Are you looking for a new church home?"

She felt a nudge and contacted Gus Zuelke, the parish's religious education director.

"The one thing he talked about was the Eucharist becoming God," she said. "I never understood the point of communion in the fundamentalist church. When I learned the whole truth about the bread and wine actually becoming the body and blood of Christ, something clicked, and it made sense!"

Jones was soon welcomed into full communion of the Church. Their children started going to Catholic school, and Christopher finally received the sacrament of confirmation.

She now spends time every day in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Alphonsus Liguori Church, just north of Indianapolis.

The couple lived most of their married life in northern Indiana, where Jones worked as a stay-at-home mom. She took portraiture classes her mother-in-law paid for "just so I could get out of the house."

Those classes and the time Jones spent studying under internationally acclaimed Viennese artist, Alice Schlessinger, helped her hone her skills.

In 2002, she started traveling to art and craft shows within a reasonable radius of her northern Indiana home as a vendor 46 weekends a year.

"I probably did up to 1,000 heads a year during that time," she said.



The daughter of Judy Dietrich poses with a portrait of her deceased mother painted by D. Anne Jones through Face to Face Fine Art. Dietrich was killed in a car accident when her daughter was a baby. (Photo courtesy of Face to Face Fine Art)

## 'I had no one else to turn to'

By 2011, Jones was getting burned out from working the weekend craft show circuit. That's when she started considering how she could use her gift in a non-profit capacity.

That November, her closest sister, Lisa, was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

"We had raised our kids together on the telephone," Jones recalled. "We'd talk a couple of times a day."

Lisa died on March 17, 2012. It was too great a loss for her mother to handle.

"Mom was a miracle," said Jones. "She had pancreatic cancer for 22 years. Originally, they told her she'd live five years.

"The last two years she was on a feeding tube. She was in and out of skilled care, assisted living, the hospital. When my sister Lisa died, she was done and just wanted to go. Seven weeks later, my mom died. We buried her the day before Mother's Day."

But Jones still found cause for joy. One of her and Christopher's children would be married just seven days later on May 19.

"That morning of the wedding, my husband did not wake up," said Jones. "He was totally fine the night before. We went to bed, told each other we loved each other, and I found him dead at 7 in the morning."

She leaned heavily on her faith after the loss of three loved ones in just eight weeks.

"I don't know how anyone gets through the loss of anyone major in life without the Lord," Jones said. "It's like all the people I was closest to were taken. I had no one else to turn to but the Lord."

Through her loss and through prayer, Jones found the cause she was looking for to create a non-profit. And in the process, her own heart healed.

"I really believe that if you are hurt and in pain, if you can do something for somebody else, it helps take your mind off your own pain."

With her non-profit Face to Face Fine Art, those who lose a loved one suddenly, unexpectedly or tragically can submit an application for a free painting of the loved one they lost. The applications are reviewed and voted upon by the board of directors.

"If there's funding, they OK as many as they can," Jones explained, noting that it costs \$400 to make a portrait, or \$450 if a frame is requested. "If there's not enough money, then they might approve an application, but it will be a while before the portrait is made."

Initially, painting the portraits was difficult for Jones.

"At first, I would cry when I painted them," she said. "I realized that I was feeling the pain that family was feeling."

## 'It definitely helped us heal'

Since 2013, Jones has created more than 200 portraits through Face to Face Fine Art from photographs sent by individuals and families.

One of her early projects was for Jim Darlington, who lost his wife Linda in a car accident in 2013.

"I had an 11- and 9-year-old then," he recalled. "We hung [the portrait] in a prominent place in the house. It gave us permission to talk about [Linda], not forget her, and to go through the grieving process. It's still hanging there today in the same place."

Darlington calls himself a "big supporter" of Jones and her non-profit.



A police officer stands in front of a portrait of Officer Perry Renn of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department painted by D. Anne Jones through her non-profit, Face to Face Fine Art. Officer Renn was shot and killed in the line of duty on July 5, 2014. (Photo courtesy of Face to Face Fine Art)

"It's hard for me to put into words how it impacted us," he said. "It definitely helped us heal and grieve and get past the loss of my wife and the kids' mother."

"I think it's a tremendous thing she's doing. I think it's valuable and I continue to support her financially today, to pass along the opportunity for other people to get that kind of remembrance."

Jones' non-profit work has even touched those overseas. In 2016, she and Zuelke, who is now vice-president of Face to Face Fine Art's board of directors, went to the Holy Land.

"Gus had the idea to go and do a peace retreat in the West Bank," she said. "I made 18 portraits for Israelis and Palestinians who had lost someone in the conflict there. That was the highlight of my life. And it was 2016, [which Pope Francis proclaimed] the Year of Mercy."

## 'A source of healing and joy'

In 2019, tragedy again struck. Jones' daughter, Leah, died unexpectedly, leaving behind an 11-year-old daughter, Emma. Jones became her legal guardian.

In addition to seeking healing through her portrait projects, she also published a book that year. Called *Balm for the Heart: My Journey Through Loss and Bereavement*, it is described on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) as telling "how God used [Jones'] losses to draw her closer to himself and to enter into a more intimate relationship with him."

Jones, who had been living in northern Indiana, looked for housing in Zionsville so Emma could remain in her school. She moved there in February 2020.

Then the pandemic struck.

"I was in a new town, isolated, not knowing anyone," said Jones.

Once again, her faith and her devotion to her non-profit cause got her through. She took a part-time job for a while, but recently quit.

"I wasn't home for Emma," said Jones. "And I feel like I'm supposed to put my resources and energy into Face to Face."

She said she finds "a lot of joy in helping other people through these portraits," and prays over each one asking that "God will make them a source of healing and joy."

Face to Face Fine Art was created from pain. But from that pain has come hope and heart-mending for Jones and others.

"God let me experience all this [suffering] so I can have empathy for other people," said Jones. "And I want to help."

(For more information about Face to Face Fine Art, to donate or to find a link to D. Anne Jones' book, go to [facetofacefineart.org](https://www.facetofacefineart.org).) †

# New monthly feature will use travel twist to highlight parishes

By Natalie Hoefler

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is vast. It reaches from the scenic Ohio River to the skyline of Indianapolis, to the borders of Illinois and Ohio.

In regions from rural to urban, farmland to suburbs, wooded and hilly to cosmopolitan and flat, the 126 parishes within the archdiocese's 39-county area do tremendous work sharing the good news of Christ and serving their local communities.

Together, the more than 221,500 Catholics comprising these parishes

form one family in Christ.

What family doesn't celebrate their relatives' accomplishments and visit them for a meal from time to time?

Likewise, wouldn't it be interesting to worship at Mass with family members in Christ around the archdiocese, to admire their churches and to see the areas they serve?

We at *The Criterion* think so. That's why we're starting a new monthly feature called "Mass Excursions."

Consider it a parish spotlight with a travel twist.

Each article will introduce a parish, provide a brief history and share its unique ministries and traditions.

Then it will suggest an excursion to the area that includes time for Mass at the parish. Perhaps the trip will center around a parish festival, a nearby

attraction or an event a parish's region is known for. Maybe there is a local dive the parish priest recommends for the best grub in town.

For instance, an article highlighting St. Mary Parish in Greensburg might conclude by recommending going to Mass there in late August during the parish's festival and also suggest a drive by the Decatur County Courthouse with the world-famous tree growing through its roof for more than a century.

Or after an article discussing St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, it might suggest worshipping at Mass there after spending a Saturday taking in the beautiful grounds and grottoes of the nearby Sisters of Providence's motherhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Or the end of an article spotlighting

Prince of Peace Parish in Madison might propose combining Mass there with a day of hiking at Clifty Falls State Park.

The goal of the monthly feature is two-fold. First, it aims to shine a light on all of the parishes in our expansive archdiocese. Second, it seeks to encourage readers to worship at Mass in churches throughout central and southern Indiana, a journey made more doable when combined with a fun outing.

We hope you come to appreciate all of the archdiocese's parishes, the beauty of their churches and the areas they serve, with Christ at the center of these "Mass Excursions." †



Natalie Hoefler





# DEDICATION

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the pews of the new church that seats nearly 800 people, Archbishop Thompson reflected in his homily that “the profound beauty of this sacred space pales in comparison to the profound beauty of you, the people, the temples of the Holy Spirit, gathering in faith and prayer.”

As hard as Father Thomas Clegg, St. John Paul II’s pastor, and his parishioners have worked since launching a capital campaign in 2018 to fund the building of the church, his focus, too, was on the people who filled the pews—and their mission to share the Gospel in the growing Sellersburg community.

In an interview with *The Criterion*, Father Clegg noted that if he and his parishioners don’t rededicate themselves to “growing as missionary disciples at the same time that we dedicate this church, we’re simply changing the address and rearranging the furniture.”

“This is not the completion of anything. It’s a beginning,” Father Clegg said. “We have to be willing to not sit back at this point, but to really move forward with all the evangelization tools

that we’re using. We have to be prepared to double down on those and make it the center of who we are as Church—not just building a church, but being Church.”

This outward mission of drawing others to Christ and helping them become missionary disciples comes for the parish after a time of working for many years to form one new parish community.

St. John Paul II Parish was created in 2014 when the former Sellersburg parishes of St. Paul and St. Joseph were merged as one faith community.

The campus for the new parish church lies at the base of the hill on which sits the parish’s St. Joseph Chapel.

Now that the new parish church has been completed and dedicated, St. Joseph Chapel will only be used for weddings and funerals. St. Paul Chapel will continue to be used for Masses for St. John Paul II School, which remains on the St. Paul campus.

Getting to the dedication Mass was a challenge for St. John Paul II Parish even before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. Original plans for the new church had its cost set at about \$6.5 million. Increased building costs in 2019 took that price tag up to \$8 million, with much of those funds being raised at the start of the pandemic.

Even though COVID-19 had such negative effects on the economy, Father Clegg was confident that God’s providence would see his parish community through.

“I said to our people all the way through this that if God wants us to build this church, he’s going to provide the



Janelle Lewis, left, president of the parish council for St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg, kneels in prayer with her daughter Mazden, her husband Damon and her daughter Darbi Lewis during a Dec. 19, 2021, dedication Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

resources,” he said. “If God sends you on a mission, he’s going to provide you with the resources to do it. That proved to be true in this particular case.”

As parish council president, Janelle Lewis has been very involved in many aspects of the building project.

Taking part in the dedication Mass with her family was “extremely emotional.”

“I wasn’t expecting the overwhelming feelings I had,” Lewis said. “So many years of meetings, decisions, stress, worry, excitement and anxiousness culminated into an immense feeling of joy.”

Some of these emotions were spurred by prayerfully watching the unique rituals that happen during a church dedication Mass.

Lewis in particular was impressed by how Archbishop Thompson spread chrism oil over the new church’s large marble altar, “making sure he covered every square inch.”

“It really felt like I saw Christ at the altar,” Lewis said.

In his homily, Archbishop Thompson emphasized to his listeners that the dedication of their new parish church should lead them to a closer encounter with Christ.

“In this sacred action, we celebrate and prepare to receive more than a thing,” he said. “Through his passion, death and resurrection, Jesus has given us the real presence of himself in the form of bread and wine.

“It is his body and blood that has sustained St. Paul Parish, St. Joseph Parish and now St. John Paul II Parish. Through



An exterior view of the new St. John Paul II Church in Sellersburg, which was dedicated on Dec. 19, 2021. A steeple is being constructed for the church and is expected to be installed later this year. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

him, with him and in him, in union with the Blessed Virgin Mary, may our souls proclaim the goodness of the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, for he has indeed done good things for us.”

Lewis hopes that this encounter with Christ in the new parish church will lead her, Father Clegg and fellow parishioners to share the Gospel in a Sellersburg community that continues to grow with new residents who commute to work in nearby Louisville, Ky.

“I believe that we will be a light for the community, a place of welcoming, a place of sharing God’s love, a place to be fed with both word and Eucharist,” Lewis said. “The parish can be a place to bring others to Christ and make disciples, a place where people want to be, a place that permeates joy in Christ.

“I believe that when our parish family comes in with joy, then we will be able to go out with Christ to make disciples.”

(For more photos of the dedication Mass for St. John Paul II Church in Sellersburg, read this story at [www.CriterionOnline.com](http://www.CriterionOnline.com).) †



Jerry Ernstberger leads the choir and instrumentalists of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg during the dedication Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



Members of St. John Paul II Parish in Sellersburg, filling the pews of the faith community’s new church, listen to Archbishop Charles C. Thompson deliver a homily during a Dec. 19, 2021, dedication Mass. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)

# POPE

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the fight against the pandemic still calls for “significant effort” by everyone—on a personal, political and international level.

Effective vaccination campaigns have decreased the risk of the “severe repercussions of the disease,” he said. “It is therefore important to continue the effort to immunize the general population as much as possible.”

Individuals have a duty to care for themselves and their health, which includes “respect for the health of those around us,” he said. But “sadly we are finding increasingly that we live in a world of strong ideological divides” where people let themselves be influenced by ideologies built upon “baseless information or poorly documented facts.”

“Every ideological statement severs the bond of human reason with the objective reality of things,” he said. “The pandemic, on the other hand, urges us to adopt a sort of ‘reality therapy’ that makes us confront the problem head on and adopt suitable remedies to resolve it.”

Governments can help by engaging citizens more and fostering constructive discussion, he said. “The lack

of resolute decision-making and clear communication generates confusion, creates mistrust and undermines social cohesion, fueling new tensions. The result is a ‘social relativism’ detrimental to harmony and unity.”

Another area of concern, he said, is the field of multilateral diplomacy, which is undergoing “a crisis of trust” due to the reduced credibility of many institutions.

When social or governmental agencies make important resolutions or decisions “without a genuine process of negotiation in which all countries have a say,” the imbalance generates disaffection toward these groups and makes them “less and less effective in confronting global challenges,” he said.

The pope also criticized a “form of ideological colonization” that “leaves no room for freedom of expression.” He said it “is now taking the form of the ‘cancel culture’ invading many circles and public institutions.

“Under the guise of defending diversity, it ends up cancelling all sense of identity, with the risk of silencing positions that defend a respectful and balanced understanding of various sensibilities,” he said.

Effective and respectful multilateral diplomacy is possible, he said, but it calls for mutual trust, the willingness to listen and share different views and to

come to agreement and walk together.

The pope lamented the ongoing conflicts or tensions in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Ukraine and Myanmar, among other places.

And he encouraged Israel and Palestine to “rebuild mutual trust and resume speaking directly to each other, in order to reach the point where they can live in two states, side by side, in peace and security, without hatred and resentment, but the healing born of mutual forgiveness.”

He told the diplomatic corps these conflicts are worsened by the abundance and ready availability of weapons. “We deceive ourselves into thinking that these weapons serve to dissuade potential aggressors.”

Autonomous weapons’ systems must come under international scrutiny and nuclear arms must be abolished, he said, saying they “are an inadequate and inappropriate means of responding to security threats” and their possession “is immoral.”

Pope Francis also called for increased funding of education, which is critical for young people’s spiritual, moral and social growth.

The pope also thanked those who work to ensure that migrants “are welcomed and protected, and to support their human promotion and integration in the countries that have received them.” †



# Pope offers condolences to victims of Bronx fire that killed 17

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Pope Francis offered condolences to families of those killed in a Jan. 9 apartment building blaze in the Bronx that killed 17 people, including eight children.

Initially, city officials said the death toll was 19 people and nine children, but they revised this figure on the afternoon of Jan. 10.

In a Jan. 10 telegram to Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, the archdiocese where the apartment building is located, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said: "His Holiness Pope Francis was saddened to learn of the recent devastating fire in the Bronx in which a number of children lost their lives.

"In offering heartfelt condolences and the assurance of his spiritual closeness to those affected by this tragedy, he entrusts the victims and their families to the merciful love of almighty God and invokes upon all consolation and strength in the Lord," the telegram said.

The five-alarm fire on Jan. 9 injured more than 60 others, with dozens going to hospitals in critical condition. More than

200 firefighters responded to the blaze in the 19-story building.

Cardinal Dolan planned to visit the site on Jan. 10 and tweeted: "It doesn't get worse than what we witnessed in New York yesterday at that tragic fire in the Bronx. I'm visiting the scene with the fire companies that responded so that I might see how the Church can assist. Thank God for the @FDNY"

St. Simon Stock-St. Joseph Parish, which serves the Bronx neighborhood where the apartment building is located, celebrated a special Mass on the evening of Jan. 10 for the deceased and all affected by the tragedy.

Carmelite Father Michael Kissane, parish pastor, reported the church is located one block from the apartment building. The apartment complex was home to a large number of Gambian immigrants, many of whom are Muslims. Only one registered family from the parish lived in the building—and that family was displaced because of the fire.

An early indication was that a space heater may have set off the fire in the



Emergency personnel from the Fire Department of New York City provide medical aid as they respond to an apartment building fire in the Bronx borough of New York City on Jan. 9. Pope Francis sent his condolences to families of the 17 people killed in the fire. (CNS photo/Lloyd Mitchell, Reuters)

120-unit building. New York City Fire Commissioner Louis Nigro said victims were found "on every floor, in stairways." It was the second U.S. apartment fire

in less than a week that claimed double-digit casualties. A dozen fatalities were reported from a Philadelphia apartment fire on Jan. 5, eight of them children. †

# Chicago cardinal says unborn children could soon get legal protection

CHICAGO (CNS)—There is hope that legal protections for unborn children "which we have advocated for decades will soon become a reality," Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago told a pro-life rally.

Addressing the annual March for Life Chicago on Jan. 8, Cardinal Cupich expressed the hopes of the pro-life community without directly naming the abortion case the Supreme Court heard in December.

The case, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, involves Mississippi's appeal of a lower court's injunction on its law banning most abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy.

The cardinal's comment was met with a few cheers from the several hundred people gathered in the city's Federal Plaza.

Cardinal Cupich, who was wearing a mask to protect

against the surging coronavirus pandemic, went on to say that other lives must be the focus of pro-life efforts as well.

Overtuning the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion is "really not our only goal," he said.

"It's important for children who are brought into the world that their mothers are supported, that their families are supported. We march today for respect for all human life. That's the goal that we need to pursue."

The cardinal also commended people at the rally who were wearing face masks, urging them to "continue to look for ways to end the pandemic by promoting life."

"It's really important to do that," he added, a comment that was followed by a few boos and heckles from the crowd.

In response, Cardinal Cupich said: "Now I know

there's some people in this crowd who don't respect the unborn and that's too bad. But let me speak, let me speak."

The cardinal described the importance that pro-life efforts must also embrace caring for immigrants, people on death row, the elderly and victims of poverty, war and famine.

The heckles then picked up, continuing throughout the rest of Cardinal Cupich's speech and lasting about five minutes. It was unclear what was being shouted based on a review of the recorded livestream of the rally on Facebook.

"These people won't let me talk because they're not here to respect the unborn. They're not here to respect you," he said, calling on the audience to continue to advocate for "the human right to life at all stages." †

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# Faith *Alive!*

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## Life of Father Walter Cizek a dramatic example of being poor in spirit

By Fr. Richard G. Malloy, S.J.

Walter Cizek was a tough kid growing up in the rugged coal country of Shenandoah, Pa., in the first decades of the 20th century. In the mysterious ways of God, he entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1928 and, as a novice, offered to be a missionary in the Soviet Union.

In 1938, he was sent as a newly ordained priest to eastern Poland. His dream of serving in Russia was only delayed however. After the Soviet Union invaded Poland at the start of World War II, he secretly accompanied workers who were heading to logging camps in Russia's Ural Mountains, hoping to minister there as a priest. He was arrested on a bogus charge of being a Vatican spy in 1941.

Kept in solitary confinement for five years and subject to endless interrogations and psychological torture, eventually his captors broke his spirit, and he signed a confession to avoid immediate execution.

"Do you realize, you stupid American, the seriousness of this final procedure? ... If you don't sign those papers, I can sign one right here, and you'll be dead before the sun sets!"

After having prayed for strength, prayed for the conversion of his captors, prayed to be an instrument of God's grace for the Russian people, the tough guy from Pennsylvania coal country had been beaten.

Father Cizek went back to his cell feeling horrible. He had given in. He felt he had failed the Jesuit order, the Church and God. But he eventually learned the lessons of poverty of spirit.

There had been too much of his egocentric self, too much of Walter and not enough of Jesus in his life.

His false self, his overly strong guy independent self, underwent a "purging, through purgatory, that left me cleansed to the bone. It was a pretty hot furnace ... very nearly as hot as hell itself. Yet, thanks be to God ... I had learned, to the depths of my shaken soul, how totally I depended on him for everything even in my survival and how foolish had been my reliance on self."

Father Cizek survived 23 years in Russia, 15 of those in inhumane conditions in a Siberian labor camp inside the Arctic Circle.

Although his years in Norisk, Russia, were horrific in the treatment that he and his fellow prisoners received, he was finally able to minister as a priest, but always in great secrecy. During it all, Father Cizek practiced living each day totally dependent on God.

What was God doing through Father



Jesuit Father Walter J. Cizek, a Pennsylvania-born missionary to the Soviet Union, is pictured in an undated file photo. Father Cizek survived 23 years in Russia, 15 of those years at hard labor in horrific Siberian labor camps. His cause for beatification and canonization is now underway. (CNS photo/A.D. Times)

Cizek during all those years of hidden ministry? Preparing him to write two books, with the great help of a fellow Jesuit. Out of those trials and stripping of the false self came *He Leadeth Me*, a spiritual classic for the ages.

Father Cizek co-wrote this book and *With God in Russia*, after he was returned to the U.S. in a spy swap in 1963. He died in 1984. His cause for beatification and canonization is now underway.

Father Cizek learned in a very difficult

way that to be poor in spirit is to be in need of God, to desperately desire God's consolation and aid. Comfortable lives mask our need for and our dependence on God. We think we can take care of ourselves. We say "In God we trust" on our money, not about our celebration of the Eucharist.

The coronavirus pandemic has revealed to many of us our deep need for community and the Church. Let's keep in touch with our poverty, our need for God and one another as we return to a new normal.

When we trust in possessions, power,

pleasure and in our own strengths, we too often pulverize the poor and erect walls and barriers to true community. When we trust in God, we realize our need for God's grace. To borrow the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, we see "the ability to do what we could not do before."

Being poor in spirit encourages and enables us to reach out to economically distressed and disadvantaged people, not as superior beings, but as brothers and sisters. Kind kinship is the goal of the kingdom of God.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical, *"Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship,"* challenges and calls us to serve one another out of our poverty of spirit. When we learn poverty of spirit, we build bridges, not walls.

The pope writes of "the temptation to build a culture of walls, to raise walls, walls in the heart, walls on the land, in order to prevent this encounter with other cultures, with other people. And those who raise walls will end up as slaves within the very walls they have built" (#27).

(Jesuit Father Richard G. Malloy is director of mission integration at Cristo Rey High School in Baltimore.) †



A stained-glass window depicts Jesus giving his Sermon on the Mount, which begins with the beatitudes. To be poor in spirit, one of the beatitudes, is to "desperately desire God's consolation and aid," says Jesuit Father Richard G. Malloy. (CNS photo/Crosiers)



## Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

## Combine spiritual resolutions, personal goals to succeed in life

And so, another year begins, and many of us follow the age-old tradition of setting new year's resolutions. Have you ever set a resolution or two at the beginning of January only to find that you've let yourself down by February? Popular resolutions include weight loss, increased exercise or other superficial goals that may or may not work, but will never fill the God-sized hole within us.

So this year, I'm going to concentrate on spiritual goals. And I'm going to make them attainable, so I'm not left feeling guilty or beating myself up for not sticking with them. I often start out gung-ho, but as my enthusiasm wanes, I eventually reach a point of giving up. Honestly, sometimes I just plain forget over time.

Quite a few years ago, I set a goal of losing weight; however, I coupled it with praying the rosary. I managed to lose 40 pounds that year by praying the rosary while I worked out. Maybe God rewards a goal when we are inspired to persevere through prayer? Hedging my bet, I've decided to combine goals with an

enhanced prayer life.

Practically my whole adult life, I have worked too hard. And in recent years, it has been easy to experience the blues over my health issues. As I get overwhelmed by work or personal circumstances, it is easy to lose sight of a deep spiritual life. So for 2022, I'm going to concentrate on balance and joy through daily prayer, intentional discernment and asking God to present opportunities.

Balance. I always prided myself with a hard work ethic and was easily annoyed with folks who did not put in 110% effort. But honestly, due to either aging or life circumstances, I realize how important balance is for every part of our life—balance between work and home life, balance when eating or drinking alcohol, maintaining balance in our mental health.

Not too many years ago, I would have told you that work-life balance were just buzz words, but I have to admit that younger generations who actively practice this are on the right track. To do this, I plan to spend more time in prayer asking God what he wants of me. And, I hope through more intentional discernment, to figure out what God is *not* calling me to.

Joy. When you are experiencing stress in your life—whether marriage or family-related, health-related or maybe due to

financial issues—it is easy to get down. Due to some personal health problems I have experienced in recent years, I have found myself feeling blue more than I consider acceptable.

This year, I plan to focus both on the word “joy” as well as seeking joyful experiences. I plan to surround myself with items that say “joy” on them as a reminder to myself that I can choose joy every day. And in terms of seeking joyful experiences, my plan again is to turn to God in prayer, asking him to present me with joyful opportunities and then to inspire me to say “yes” to them.

As I've said, my past resolutions have been easily derailed. This year, however, I plan to allow myself the grace to forget or screw up, and then encourage myself to pick back up where I left off and try again. I'm guessing God would prefer I try again over and over than to just surrender.

This year, how might you combine spiritual resolutions with your personal goals to help yourself stay on track and deepen your spiritual life?

*(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

## The thrifting Catholic: giving new life to old things

Emily Hannon was surprised by the children's clothes she saw at big-box stores and popular websites when she became a mom. And not in a good way.



Obnoxious graphics, offensive messages, neon colors. It fell short of her long-held beliefs as a Catholic and her powerful new emotions as a mother. It didn't suit her newborn son

with his peach fuzz and bright eyes.

The 29-year-old Pittsburgh photographer had always sought beauty in hidden places. She'd taken to heart St. John Paul II's words in his 1999 letter to artists and quoted a passage in her Instagram profile: “beauty that stirs you to wonder ... to the sense of eternal.”

Now Jack was choosing how to dress her son, Jack, and feeling compelled to look beyond the mall.

“The loud graphics and words all over clothing take away from the beauty and dignity of the person wearing them,” Emily said. “God made us each with such intricacy and complexity, and our clothing shouldn't detract from that, but should simply point to it.”

Outfits saved from her childhood and her husband's seemed like the answer, which led Emily to visit consignment stores. Oh, was she in for a treat! Peter Pan collars! Smocked dresses! Knit sweaters! Corduroy overalls!

Vintage children's clothing felt timeless, like her baby himself: not dated or defined by one era, but rather, shimmering with a transcendent beauty, rising above.

“It reflects the joy that a new baby brings into the world just by their very existence,” Emily said. “They are perfectly pure and deserving of all our love.”

As Emily and Sean were blessed with another son, Peter, and then a daughter, Lucy, the young mom's appreciation for classic children's clothing has grown. The thrill of a great find spurs her along, prodding her to frequent a few favorite thrift shops.

Some discoveries seem meant to be, like a high-end European brand tucked between modern dresses. “Beauty is always there—you just have to open your eyes to find it!” she said.

Thrifting feels countercultural, in keeping with Pope Francis' caution about a “throwaway culture.” It feels Catholic.

“Our culture is constantly pressuring us to buy more, spend more, accumulate more. We've lost a sense of reusing things from the past or passing down things that may not be brand new but still hold tremendous value.”

Searching for secondhand finds cultivates a loving disposition. It fosters a forgiving and unrushed eye, the ability to slow down and sift through, recognizing the potential in something old and overlooked. It feels spiritual. Emily can give an old dress another chance, another child.

See CAPECCHI, page 15



Emily and Sean Hannon are pictured with their children: Jack, 4, Peter, 3, and Lucy, 10 months. (Submitted photo)

## Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

## Charity teaches us to have a Christ-like love for our neighbors

January is Poverty Awareness Month, focusing on hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, disabilities and restricted access to participation in the democratic process. These are some of the manifestations of poverty. It is a complex social issue, which is why it is important for Catholics to understand and embrace the virtue of charity.

As Catholics, we have been taught about charitable works through the Gospels and various practices like outreaches. St. Thomas Aquinas esteems charity as “the most excellent of the virtues.” What does charity mean in the context of the Catholic faith? Why are charitable works important to us as Catholics?

Most people think of charity simply as a kind act of giving. The most general definition of charity, however, means so much more. Charity, in its purest sense, means love. It encompasses our love for God and love for others. St. Thomas Aquinas said, “The habit of charity extends not only to the love of God, but also the love of our neighbor.” These two kinds of love are closely tied to one another.

Christian theology upholds charity as the greatest of the three theological virtues, which also includes faith and hope. According to moral theology, charity is a divinely infused virtue which lets us focus our will to cherish God above all things for his own sake and to cherish all others for the sake of God.

Charity is the ultimate perfection of the human spirit because it is a reflection and glorification of God's nature. It binds all virtues together in perfect harmony. It also purifies and uplifts human love to the perfection of God's love.

As members of the Catholic faith, we are encouraged to

practice charity in different ways. Since the apostolic age, Christians were taught to not just give, but to give from the heart to everyone in need regardless of their race or religion because “Christ is all and in all.”

Although many world religions uphold charitable works, it is especially emphasized in the Christian faith and is a central message in the Gospels.

In St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians, we are instructed to love our neighbors because they are the children of God (Col 3:11). We are all part of the same human family and share the same nature, needs and dignity. Because of our kinship and unity as God's people, we must have compassion and understanding for one another.

Charity teaches us to have a Christ-like love for our neighbors. This kind of love is unconditional, and by it we are able to reach out to our brothers and sisters and help relieve any physical, mental, moral or spiritual needs they may have.

The simplest way we can express charity is to speak, act and think with love. We must keep in mind that charity is all about love. As Scripture says, “Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth” (1 Cor 13:4-7).

With this Bible verse in mind, let us remember to always treat others with compassion. When we have love in our hearts and minds, it is easy for us to put the needs of others first. We act without self-interest and always with the goal of helping others.

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



## Guest Column/Richard Etienne

## Build the kingdom by using your talents to serve God and others

Have you consciously taken an inventory of the knowledge, strengths and skills that God has given you to use?

And just as importantly, how are you doing in using those gifts in building his kingdom?

I grew up in a home where my parents actively sought to further their education in faith as adults. And at the critical time I was growing from a child into a young adult, part of my parents' education was clearly focused on the newly released insights of the Second Vatican Council.

As I developed, one strong message that always stayed with me was that I could do and be anything in life: I only had to use those talents that God gave to me.

In my young mind, this was one of the key messages from Vatican II. No big deal, a person might think. But this single thought has shaped my entire life.

My knowledge and skills are not just for me. These gifts are to be used in the service of God—to bring glory to God's name. (No big burden there.) Be whatever you want—as long as you are using your talents to serve God and others.

We read the Parable of the Talents in the Gospel of St. Matthew (Mt 25:14-30), where a talent represents coins. In this passage, we see one servant bury their talents, while the other two people in the story invest their talents wisely and are rewarded by their master.

The servant who buries his talent is described as “wicked and lazy” (Mt 25:26) and has his single talent taken from him. The message is clear to me—we are to use

our talents as we discover them.

As I continue to look at how I am living out my vocation, I ask myself, “What talents do I have to use at this particular time in my life?” I also ask: “How can I best apply these gifts to serve God and others?”

These are questions worth pondering during the quiet moments you carve out for the Lord.

Do you have time now to cease busy tasks and sit quietly with the one who sent his first disciples into the world to share their talents? If your answer is “no,” why not make time to discern how the Lord is asking you to use your talents to build his kingdom?

*(Richard Etienne has a degree in theology from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad and resides in Newburgh, Ind.) †*





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

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, January 16, 2022

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

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

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



Empire, centered in today's Iraq.

Many were killed in the conquest. Others were taken to Babylon, the imperial capital where they and then their descendants languished for four generations until political fortunes changed when the more powerful Persians conquered Babylonia itself.

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

The people upset the arrangement by sinning. Despite their sinfulness, however, God was constant. He provided.

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

Leading the Corinthian Christians to genuine fidelity was a considerable challenge for Paul. In reaction to rivalries and arguments in Corinth, Paul wrote what has become a blueprint for Christian judgment of people.

Each human being, a child of God, is precious. Each has special gifts and opportunities. Such diversity was welcome since it meant that there were so many occasions for individual believers to bring the sweetness of the Gospel into the world. Paul even listed different skills and talents to make his point.

St. John's Gospel supplies the third reading.

Unique to John, the miracle at Cana

in Galilee was the first recorded of the Lord's miracles. It marked the beginning of his public ministry.

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

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

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

Mary entered the picture. First, Jesus heard her. Secondly, her faith was unqualified and frank. She trusted her divine son, telling the servers to do whatever he ordered them to do.

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

## Reflection

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

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

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

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

## Daily Readings

### Monday, January 17

St. Anthony, abbot  
1 Samuel 15:16-23  
Psalm 50:8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23  
Mark 2:18-22

### Tuesday, January 18

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 89:20-22, 27-28  
Mark 2:23-28

### Wednesday, January 19

1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51  
Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10  
Mark 3:1-6

### Thursday, January 20

St. Fabian, pope and martyr  
St. Sebastian, martyr  
1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7  
Psalm 56:2-3, 9-13  
Mark 3:7-12

### Friday, January 21

St. Agnes, virgin and martyr  
1 Samuel 24:3-21  
Psalm 57:2-4, 6, 11  
Mark 3:13-19

### Saturday, January 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children  
2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27  
Psalm 80:2-3, 5-7  
Mark 3:20-21

### Sunday, January 23

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19:8-10, 15  
1 Corinthians 12:12-30  
or 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27  
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

### The perpetual virginity of Mary is one of the Church's oldest dogmas

When I was an evangelical Christian, the standard take on Mary's virginity was that she remained a virgin until after the birth of Jesus, but afterward went on to have normal marital relations with Joseph, which produced up to six more children.



These ideas were based on passages like Matthew 1:25 ("He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus") and Matthew 13:55 ("Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us?").

Now, as a Catholic, I am told that Joseph was significantly older than Mary, was a widower with adult children from his first marriage and that Jesus' "brothers and sisters" were more like stepbrothers and sisters.

Could not Mary still have attained "Queen of Heaven and Earth" status without being a perpetual virgin? (Indiana)

As to your specific question, whether Mary could be thought of as queen of heaven and Earth without having been a perpetual virgin, the answer of course is yes. But that is not the issue here.

The teaching of Mary's perpetual virginity is one of the longest defined dogmas of the Church. It was taught by the earliest Church fathers, including Tertullian, St. Athanasius, St. Ambrose and St. Augustine, and it was declared a dogma at the fifth ecumenical council at Constantinople in 553.

As to the scriptural passages to which you refer, I would make two points. First, the footnote in the New American Bible explains Matthew 1:25: "The Greek word translated 'until' does not imply normal marital conduct after Jesus' birth, nor does it exclude it."

As to your other scriptural reference, the words here in their original language do not mean

simply biological brothers or sisters, but could apply to other relatives such as stepbrothers or stepsisters or cousins.

There is one tradition that says that Joseph was a widower who married the Virgin Mary later in life after already having a family with his first wife. One is free to believe that, but this is why I would have my doubts. From the cross, Jesus entrusted Mary's care to the Apostle John.

If Jesus had had surviving siblings, that would most likely not have happened. Normal Jewish practice would have Jesus' siblings at the cross, and the eldest surviving son would be entrusted with the care of his mother.

While I know that only confession will reconcile me with God, I am confused about the terminology used in my parish. We are a rural parish and have very few opportunities for confession, but there is always the chance to make a private appointment for confession.

Any scheduled confessions are now announced as reconciliation, and I am not clear as to what to expect when I go. Sometimes, there is a reconciliation service followed by confessions; other times, there are only confessions.

Does the Church no longer recognize a difference between the reconciliation service (which was to prepare us for confession) and the sacrament of confession (which is private). In other words, is there still a sacrament of confession? Or is it now called the sacrament of reconciliation? (Virginia)

Generally, the sacrament of penance can be called confession or reconciliation, and the three terms are used interchangeably. In fact, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1423-24) lists several names by which the same sacrament can be designated.

These include: the sacrament of conversion, the sacrament of penance, the sacrament of confession, the sacrament of forgiveness and the sacrament of reconciliation.

The catechism notes that "the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament" (#1424).

Sometimes, parishes offer reconciliation services that include prayers and scriptural readings on forgiveness, as well as a homily on the same topic. It would be good for a local church to mention in advance what the format will be for the sacrament—in particular so that parishioners can know how much time to allow.

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

## My Journey to God

### Being Present

By Sandy Bierly

I sit in the silence,  
Watching, listening,  
Quieting my thoughts,  
Looking with love  
On the Eucharistic Presence  
Of the Blessed Sacrament.

What brings me here?  
He called, I answered.  
Nothing more,  
He desires my presence,  
Sitting here, all alone,  
So Love can enter my soul.

(Sandy Bierly is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. Photo: Youths at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis kneel during eucharistic adoration in the Indiana Convention Center on Nov. 18, 2021.) (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.

**BACHER, Paul**, 87, Holy Family, New Albany, Dec. 9. Husband of Irene Bacher. Father of Mark and Matthew Bacher. Brother of Philomena Edwardson, Theresa French, Frances Jones, Mary Tupica, Elizabeth Wilson, Norma and Bernard Bacher. Grandfather of four.

**BACON, Kathi (Mazuch)**, 70, St. Joseph, Corydon, Dec. 18. Wife of Michael Bacon. Mother of Jennifer Curry, Danielle and Lindsay Bacon. Sister of Nancy Prater. Grandmother of three.

**BACON, Marilyn A.**, 81, Holy Family, New Albany, Dec. 19. Mother of Annette Kaiser and Matt Bacon. Sister of Sue Harvey, Bernie and Tim Reeves. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of one.

**BAYLOR, Jerry E.**, 76, St. Mary, Navilleton, Jan. 2. Husband of Brenda Baylor. Father of Dena Rogers. Grandfather of two. Great-grandfather of one.

**BOTTORFF, Betty**, 92, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, Dec. 21. Mother of Christy Freund, Brenda Wilton, Jay and Lester Bottorff. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of four.

**BUCHHEIT, Peter R.**, 82, Holy Family, New Albany, Dec. 5. Husband of Carol Buchheit. Father of Rhonda Gray, Kelly McGuffey, Brian, Joe, John and Peter Buchheit IV. Brother of Jane Barker. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of nine.

**CHARLEBOIS, Anna**, 93, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Dec. 18. Mother of Ellen Lane, Eileen Underwood, Linda, Patrice and Thomas Charlebois. Sister of Agnes Domonkos. Grandmother and great-grandmother of several.

**COOPER, Jerry T.**, 74, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 12. Father of Darlene Hawk, Amy Kendall, Stacy O'Gara and Keith Cooper. Brother of Brenda Turk. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of 11.

**COX, Lynnette**, 84, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Dec. 10. Wife of Keith Cox. Mother of Jennifer Ingen and Connie Meyers. Sister of Lois Johnson, Marilyn Mahoney, Margaret Schwendeman, Edward and Stan Hennen. Grandmother of four.

**DUNLOP, Debbie**, 62, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 16. Daughter of Mary Lou Dunlop. Sister of Diane Gibson and Greg Dunlop.

**EIGEL, Stephen J.**, 66, Prince of Peace, Madison, Dec. 16. Husband of Tammy Eigel. Father of Nora and Andrew Eigel. Brother of Mindi, James, Joseph and Kenneth Eigel.

**GREGORY, Jr., Charles E.**, 91, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 12. Father of Rebecca Gregory-Chifos, Anthony and James Gregory. Brother of John Gregory. Grandfather of two. Great-grandfather of three.

**HAMM, Carolyn A.**, 87, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Dec. 23. Wife of Theodore Hamm, Sr. Mother of Betty Fraley, Eric and Jimmy Hamm. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of seven.

**HAYDEN, Sally (Tracy)**, 67, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Dec. 17. Wife of Mike Hayden. Mother of Sara Hayden and Tracy Schamel. Sister of Sue Tracy. Grandmother of two.

**HERBERTZ, Albert J.**, 87, St. Barnabas, Indianapolis, Dec. 31. Father of Diane Carter, Mary Kay Hahn, Patricia, Brian, David, Gerald, Mark and Rick Herbertz. Brother of Susanne Click, Linda Livingston, Carol Szephegyi and Michael Herbertz. Grandfather of 17. Great-grandfather of 13.

**KIESLER, Sr., Paul J.**, 96, St. Mary, Navilleton, Dec. 1.

## Epiphany polar plunge



Men and children sing and dance in the icy waters of Tundzha River in celebration of the feast of the Epiphany in Kalofer, Bulgaria, on Jan. 6. (CNS photo/Spasiyana Sergieva, Reuters)

Husband of Elizabeth Kiesler. Father of Kathryn Grant, Mary Horn, Laura Lampton, Paul, Jr., Phillip and Robert Kiesler. Brother of Martha Cox, Jean Dethy and Marvin Kiesler. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of nine.

**MCDONALD, David**, 76, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 7. Husband of Becky McDonald. Father of Terri Earle and Brian McDonald. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of two.

**MCGRADY, Aileen**, 97, St. Anne, New Castle, Dec. 19. Mother of Sheila Bolduc, Maureen Talbott, Denise Van Brunt and Dennis McGrady. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of 27.

**PIETRAS, Henry V.**, 90, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Dec. 15. Husband of Rose Pietras. Father of Carol Hebenstreit, Christine Hood, Henry, John and Michael Pietras. Grandfather of eight.

**PUTNAM, Mary E. (Dietrich)**, 86, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 10. Mother of Bill, James and Ron Putnam. Sister of Geri Keatts, Marlene Wall, Dick and Raymond Dietrich.

Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of one.

**SACKMAN, Amy L. (Skinner)**, 51, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Dec. 27. Mother of Hunter Ross and Tyson Sackman. Daughter of Larry and Peggy Skinner. Sister of Travis Skinner.

**SNYDER, James P.**, 91, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 8. Husband of Ruth Ann Snyder. Father of Mary DeArmond, Christopher and Thomas Snyder. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of three.

**SOMMERS, Lawrence D.**, 82, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Dec. 20. Husband of Marjorie Sommers. Father of Nicki Kucer, Cheryl Yokovich, David, Eric, Larry and Tim Sommers. Grandfather and great-grandfather of several.

**SPEIER, Philip J.**, 68, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Dec. 15. Husband of Kathleen Speier. Father of Heather Showalter and Crystal Speier. Grandfather of six.

**STENGER, Roderick W.**, 76, Holy Family, Oldenburg,

Dec. 20. Brother of Sandy Starost, Gary and Steve Stenger. Uncle of several.

**STUMPF, Elizabeth**, 93, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 14. Mother of Mary Fields, Ann Jansen, Betty, Bill, Bob, Ed, Joe, John, Rick and Tom Stumpf. Sister of Marge Dicks. Grandmother of 50. Great-grandmother of seven.

**SULLIVAN, Mark A.**, 60, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis, Dec. 18. Father of Holly and Mark Sullivan. Son of Judith Sullivan. Brother of Amy Bonte, Bonny Rouleau-McCabe, John and Michael Sullivan. Grandfather of three.

**TOBY, Viola (Sprigler)**, 99, St. John Paul II, Sellersburg, Dec. 21. Mother of Angela Ratledge and Patricia Stumler. Grandmother of six. Great-grandmother of 12.

**TOUMEY, Richard S.**, 68, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, Dec. 15. Husband of Sharon Hilmes. Father of Alexander and Daniel. Brother of David, Jonathan and Stephen Toumey. Grandfather of one.

**TROUTMAN II, Nelson**, 42, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 3. Husband of Ranae Troutman. Father of Adam, Aaryan, Brody and Rocky. Son of Deborah Wood and Nelson Troutman, Sr. Brother of Marcy Dillard, Angela Hickey, Jessica and Brandon Wood. Grandfather of two.

**WILKERSON, Jack**, 68, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Dec. 18. Husband of Debra Wilkerson. Father of Christopher Wilkerson. Brother of Cynthia Doulen. Grandfather of two.

**YAGGI, Judith A.**, 81, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, Dec. 19. Aunt and great-aunt of several.

**ZOELLER, Diane P. (Thornton)**, 69, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County, Dec. 18. Wife of Frank Zoeller. Mother of Heidi Hubler, Gretchen Wright, Sunnye Zoeller-Stumler and Miles Zoeller. Daughter of James Thornton. Sister of Bonnie Lee Duley, Susie Ratliff, Todd Jenkins, Andy, Eric and Matt Thornton. Grandmother of five. †

## St. Joseph teaches fatherly love in 'orphaned' world, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph is an example of the need for loving fathers and mothers in “an age of notorious

orphanhood,” Pope Francis said.

The “demographic winter” in many Western countries, due in part to couples unwilling to have children, “diminishes us, it takes away our humanity,” the pope said on Jan. 5 during his weekly general audience.

There are “many couples who do not have children because they do not want to, or they have just one, but they have two dogs, two cats. Yes, dogs and cats take the place of children,” the pope said, eliciting laughter. “Yes, it’s funny, I understand, but it is the reality.

“In this way, civilization becomes aged and without humanity because it loses the richness of fatherhood and motherhood. And our homelands suffer because they do not have children,” he added.

In his main talk, Pope Francis continued his series on St. Joseph, reflecting on his role as Jesus’ foster father.

In recognizing Jesus as his son, St. Joseph shows that “a man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.”

St. Joseph, he continued, also teaches the value of fatherhood and motherhood, especially by those who “welcome life by way of adoption,” and “shows us that this type of bond is not secondary; it is not an afterthought.

“This kind of choice is among the highest forms of love, and of fatherhood and motherhood,” the pope said. “How many children in the world are waiting

for someone to take care of them! And how many spouses wish to be fathers and mothers but are unable to do so for biological reasons; or, although they already have children, they want to share their family’s affection with those who have been left without.”

Speaking off the cuff, the pope said that the example of fatherhood and motherhood was an important value to think about because “our civilization is something of an orphan.”

Pope Francis encouraged couples, especially newlyweds to “think about having children, giving life, because they will be the ones who will close your eyes [at death], who will care for you in the future.

“And if you cannot have children, think about adoption. It is a risk; yes, having a child is always a risk, either naturally or by adoption. But it is riskier not to have them. It is riskier to deny fatherhood or to deny motherhood, be it real or spiritual,” the pope said.

As he has been doing since beginning his series on St. Joseph, Pope Francis read a prayer he had written.

He asked St. Joseph to “be close to the many children who have no family and who long for a daddy and mommy,” and to “support couples who are unable to have children.

“Make sure that no one lacks a home, a bond, a person to take care of him or her,” he prayed. “And heal the selfishness of those who close themselves off from life, that they may open their hearts to love.” †

### Online Lay Ministry Formation

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

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### 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](http://www.archdioceseofindianapolis.ethicspoint.com) or 888-393-6810
- 2 Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Victim Assistance Coordinator**  
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410  
**317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548**  
[carlahill@archindy.org](mailto:carlahill@archindy.org)



# CAPECCHI

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Emily couldn't keep her thrifted finds to herself—nor did she need them all. Four months ago, she opened an online shop to sell her secondhand purchases: vintage children's clothing, heirloom toys

and antique homewares. She named it The Simple Daisy, a nod to the St. Therese quote about the "simple charm" of a daisy, and secured the domain [thesimpledaisyshop.com](https://thesimpledaisyshop.com).

To her surprise, the shop has been a huge hit. She has already sold hundreds of pieces. Thanks to savvy marketing on social media, sharing glimpses of what's

to come, many pieces sell three to five minutes after a "drop," or online release.

Emily is excited to grow the shop in 2022. Stepping into a new year surrounded by old clothing feels like a hug from the past. It harkens back to simpler times and warms the future with well-worn history.

"I love that each piece tells a story,

often one we don't know," Emily said. "I sometimes imagine other children who are now fully grown playing with the toys my children play with. It makes me feel connected to others, even those I'll never meet, like we're all part of something bigger."

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

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### Employment

#### School Principal

St. Mark Catholic School, located on the south side of Indianapolis, is seeking a principal effective with the 2022-23 academic year. St. Mark has an enrollment of over 500 students, Pre-Kindergarten – 8th grade. The school has an exceptional teaching staff with strong support from the pastor, parents and parish. St. Mark continues to grow in its diversity and resources, as well as the expansion of the facilities to meet the needs of the growing community. A recent capital campaign raised nearly \$4.8 million to expand the school and parish campus. The parish pastor, Fr. Tim Wyciskalla, is supportive and excited to lead this future endeavor.

For more information about the school, visit: <https://www.stmarkindy.org/school-website>.

A candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a deeply rooted Catholic identity.

A valid administrators license (or working toward it) is preferred. Must have a commitment to diversity, possess exceptional leadership and interpersonal skills.

Applications will be accepted through February 1, 2022.

For information and/or submit supporting documentation (i.e., resume, cover letter, references, etc.) contact:

Joni Ripa  
Office Manager  
Office of Catholic Schools  
1400 North Meridian  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
317.236.1444  
[jripa@archindy.org](mailto:jripa@archindy.org)

#### Foundation Administrator with CPA or Banking Background

Private Catholic-based charitable foundation seeking an administrator. Duties include assisting executive director with communications with grantees and maintaining accurate records of grantmaking activities. No prior foundation administration experience is required as training will be provided. Candidate must have extensive CPA or banking experience, an active Christian faith, and be in support of the mission of helping the poor and marginalized. Position is remote and part-time with the possibility of becoming full-time. This is an ideal second job for a retired or established CPA or banker looking to make a difference. Please send resume with cover letter and references in care of [jrogers@luvaascobb.com](mailto:jrogers@luvaascobb.com) with the subject line "Foundation Administrator."

#### Youth Minister, St. Pius X Catholic Church

St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis is seeking a FULL TIME Coordinator of Youth Ministry to join our parish staff.

**The Coordinator of Youth Ministry** is responsible for a comprehensive youth ministry program for junior high and high school, grades 6 through 12. Based on the "Renewing the Vision" document, this ministry fosters both the personal and spiritual growth of the youth, and seeks to draw youth into awareness and participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community and the larger church.

Major responsibilities include the High School Confirmation program, and High School and Middle School Catechesis and programming, as well as collaborating with pastoral staff and various committees. The Youth Minister is to be a visible and active member of the St. Pius community, participating in parish and school activities and events, present and involved in liturgical celebrations, and actively involved and present in the school. Usual work hours will include nights and weekends.

Applicant must be a professed and practicing Catholic with a solid knowledge of the Traditions and teachings of the Church, have a Bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry, religious education, theology or related field and have previous pastoral ministry experience in parish or campus setting.

Please email a cover letter, resume, and list of references to: Kaitlyn Blandford at [kblandford@spxparish.org](mailto:kblandford@spxparish.org).

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[danshearhu@gmail.com](mailto:danshearhu@gmail.com)

### Employment

#### Assistant Superintendent, Personnel and Policy Support

The Office of Catholic Schools of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time Assistant Superintendent to serve as a resource to pastors, administrators, teachers, staff, and school commissions in the areas of personnel, legal, safety, policy, enrollment management, and leadership development. The duties of this position include serving as a member of the Archdiocesan Schools Team in a mission-driven, Christ-centered, and student-oriented environment. The Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Policy Support is responsible for providing proactive leadership to ensure excellence in Catholic school education in support of the mission of the Office of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

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

Applications are due by January 31, 2022

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

Andrea Wunnenberg  
Director, Human Resources  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
1400 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
E-mail: [awunnenberg@archindy.org](mailto:awunnenberg@archindy.org)

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#### Part Time Pastoral Associate, St. Pius X Catholic Church

St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis is seeking a PART TIME Pastoral Associate to join our parish staff.

**The Pastoral Associate** is a lay minister who collaborates with the Pastor and staff in the overall pastoral care of the parish. This position ministers to the sick and dying, nursing homes, coordinates bereavement for our parish, as well as other programs.

Major responsibilities include Pastoral Care and bringing the Eucharist to those sick in hospitals, nursing homes, and home bound, Senior Adult ministry, ministering to the bereaved, coordinating volunteers for outreach ministries, and coordinating the Christ Renews His Parish retreats for both men and women.

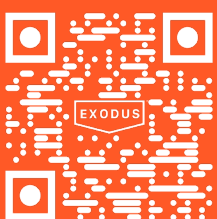
Applicant must have previous pastoral or related ministry experience, a basic, well-balanced foundation in Vatican II Catholic theology and spirituality and some understanding of human psychology and the grief process. It is preferred that the applicant have a Bachelor's degree in Theology/Pastoral Studies or Pastoral Ministry/Religious Studies.

Please email a cover letter, resume, and list of references to: Sharon Wagner at [swagner@spxparish.org](mailto:swagner@spxparish.org).



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