World Youth Day: Encountering Hope

By Father Bob Robeson, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

On August 10, 2005, over 170 pilgrims representing the Church in Central and Southern Indiana departed for Rome to begin a pilgrimage that would, for many of us, change the way we thought about the Catholic Church. The group included one archbishop, four priests, 27 seminarians, 95 high school and college students, and approximately 50 youth ministers and other adults who served as chaperones for the young people on the trip.

It was a pilgrimage of wonder, awe, and sacrifice. Although I spent much of my time counting heads, searching for lost pilgrims, and solving logistical problems, I was deeply moved by the sights we saw, and the people we encountered. At one point, as I stood in an overcrowded subway station, my eyes filled with tears as I listened to thousands of young Catholics joyfully chanting “Viva el Papa, Viva el Papa” (Long live the Pope) over-and-over again. At that point I thought to myself, “Lord, how I love this awesome Church which you have given us.”

Repeatedly, I heard German natives saying, “...there are so many young people here, singing and chanting and praying – and they’re not even drunk.” What they did not understand was that, unlike many other visitors to Germany, we did not come to drink beer. No, we came to worship Him – all of us – black and white, European, American, Latino, Asian, and African. We came as a testimony of love for Christ and His Church.

Above all, I was filled with hope not just because of the fact that millions of young people from all over the world had come to proclaim their love for the Catholic Church, but also because of the incredible witness to hope I encountered among the young men and women from Indiana. Each time we celebrated Mass, our young people entered into the experience with prayer and reverence – no matter how uncomfortable and hot the Church was – no matter how difficult the circumstances.

At one point, Archbishop Buechlein celebrated Mass for us on a boat while we traveled up the Rhine River. As we celebrated Mass, other passengers arrived and, as they entered the dining room, those passengers observed the reverence with which we participated in the Mass. Before the Mass was over, about half of the other passengers were actually watching and participating in our Mass.

On another occasion, one of the parish chaperones became ill and was unable to bring her youth to the events. Thankfully, several seminarians stepped up to serve as chaperones so that these young men and women would not have to miss out on a day of activities.

As the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, I was very proud of the way our youth and our chaperones endured the difficulties we encountered on our trip. I was especially proud of our seminarians, who provided outstanding leadership and support for the pilgrimage. The seminarians were always eager to contribute – organizing our meals and our liturgies, watching over our pilgrims, and encouraging our youth in their faith – and always doing those things with patience and joy.

Yes, hope is strong for the Catholic Church in Central and Southern Indiana, because of the witness of our youth to the message of Christ and the love they have demonstrated for His Church.
Celebrating Catholic School Values 2005

The tenth annual Celebrating Catholic School Values 2005 gala event will be held on November 8, at the Indiana Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be George Weigel, official biographer to the late Pope John Paul II, author of Witness to Hope, and a highly regarded speaker of international note. Career Achievement Awards will be presented to: Paula Corley, St. Matthew Parish, a graduate of St. Rita and Bishop Chatard and a public school principal; Msgr. Larry Moran, graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Meinrad, and long-time pastor of St. Patrick in Terre Haute; Jim Curtis, graduate of St. Joan of Arc School, member of St. Pius X Parish and CEO of Sheehan Construction Co.; and, Tom Zupancic, graduate of Holy Trinity School and Cathedral High School, member of St. Malachy Parish and Vice-President of the Indianapolis Colts. The Community Service Award will be presented to Vince Caponi, President of St. Vincent Health, a Catholic school graduate and member of St. Monica Parish, who is involved in many church and community activities. The fund-raising goal for this year’s CCSV event is $450,000. (For information about tables, please call Jolinda Moore at 236-1462 or (800)382-9836, extension 1462.

Creer – A Place to Grow

The August opening of Catholic schools in center-city Indianapolis was accompanied by an increase in Spanish-speaking students in our classrooms. We welcome these students and their families who bring many gifts to share from their Latino culture.

In 2003, the Office of Catholic Education began providing services to the new members of the Indianapolis Hispanic community through Project EXCEED, a multi-faceted educational initiative made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. and other generous donors. Through the work of Margarita Solis-Deal and Flor Bickel, Hispanic Services Coordinators, we at OCE quickly learned a great deal about the needs of Spanish-speaking students and their families. These two bi-lingual staff members have become the welcoming Spanish voice at the doors of our schools.

In order to provide the newcomers with appropriate instruction, the coordinators use the Woodcock-Munoz Language Survey to assess the new students’ English language level. The students receive language tutoring and coursework support at St. Philip Neri and St. Anthony Schools where the enrollments are now over 50 percent Hispanic. Since 2002, as the enrollment of Hispanic children grew, Margarita began to teach English to small groups of children and parents and also conducted Spanish language classes for the teachers. In addition, several bilingual teacher aides have been hired. While these efforts have been successful for many families, we found that more intensive instruction is needed for those students who have just arrived in this country.

In response to this need, Project EXCEED initiated the “Creer Classroom” as a pilot project at St. Philip Neri School this fall. “Creer” means “to grow” in Spanish, and that is what we hope to see in the students who began this new language acquisition program. The Creer instruction takes place in a multi-age classroom for grades three and above. One English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher teaches all the Indiana Language Arts and Social Studies Standards with an emphasis on oral participation. When a student’s classmates are all learning the language, he or she is usually more willing to try to learn. It is only by hearing and speaking the language constantly that a student’s command of English can grow. Students will remain in the program for one year before joining their other classmates in all subject areas. Laura Mull, the new Creer ESL teacher, is carefully noting successful methods and time required as the students “grow”. This is an exciting opportunity for all of us as we observe the students’ becoming proficient in English.

Hurricane Relief

Catholic schools have responded to hurricane relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Nearly 2600 people from the Gulf Coast were evacuated to Indianapolis, and some of those have sought entrance to our Catholic schools. A statement posted on the OCE Website, www.archindy.org, on September 8, read: “The Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis extend an invitation to families of students displaced because of Hurricane Katrina. Our doors are open for you! We are happy to assist you in any way we can, but especially in helping you to find a Catholic school so that your children can continue their education.”

Roncalli High School President, Joe Hollowell, and some other Roncalli supporters got involved firsthand. Joe’s son, Tony Hollowell, and Ann Elsener, Roncalli graduate and daughter of former OCE Executive Director Dan Elsener, are teaching in the Diocese of Biloxi as part of the University of Notre Dame ACE Program. Their schools were badly damaged by the storm. Tony, Joe and others headed back to Mississippi after the storm with a truckload of supplies needed to get the schools up and running as soon as possible.
Saint Matthew School Receives PE Grant

Martin Erlenbaugh, principal of St. Matthew School, Indianapolis, has announced the receipt of a grant for $503,244 from the United States Department of Education to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles for students. St. Matthew was one of 92 schools in the nation to receive a Carol M. White Physical Education (PEP) grant, a three-year award for which the school is required to make an in-kind contribution equal to 13.6% of the grant.

A committee of parents and teachers assisted with the grant proposal. Mr. Erlenbaugh stated, “…this means great things for our physical education department, the students, the parish families and the community as a whole. This grant will provide opportunities for students to participate in a long list of lifelong wellness and fitness activities that have not been available to them before.” The grant will be used to purchase equipment and to increase opportunities for students. The school will work with the National Institute for Fitness and Sports (NIFS) to maximize the new resources.

Congratulations, St. Matthew!

New Catholic School Planned at SS. Francis and Clare

SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenwood has received approval from Archbishop Buechlein to begin raising funds to build a new Catholic elementary school on the parish site. A feasibility committee worked for nine months to gather data, survey the parishioners and formulate initial plans that were recently approved by the pastor, Rev. Vincent Lampert, and parish leaders. Mr. Rob Richardson and Dr. David Wolf led the committee. Rob is now the chairman of the new parish school commission that will see the project through the next phases.

According to the feasibility study, facilitated by parishioner and Indiana University Kelly School of Business Professor, Dr. Paul Friga, Ph.D., nearly 7000 new homes will be built in White River Township of Johnson County in the next five years. About 2000 of these will be within a one-mile radius of the parish. A survey of parishioners showed good support for the project including a willingness to provide the necessary financial support.

The parish is currently growing at an 18 percent annual rate and is likely to double in size within five years. Thus, the other Catholic schools in the area will not adequately meet the projected demand for Catholic school education in the parish area. The proposed school will likely start with pre-kindergarten through second or third grade and then add grades through grade eight in a multi-phase project. As a result, students currently enrolled in nearby Catholic elementary schools will not be affected by the new school.

ECHO: Catechetical Leadership Program

The new National Directory for Catechesis states that “…the single most critical factor in an effective parish catechetical program is the leadership of a professionally trained catechetical leader” (par. 224). The University of Notre Dame is committed to providing professional catechetical leaders through ECHO, a two-year service program in faith formation leadership sponsored by the University’s Institute for Church Life. The Archdioceses of Indianapolis and Galveston-Houston and the Diocese of Peoria became ECHO partners with Notre Dame at the beginning of the 2005-2006 parish catechetical program year.

The mission of ECHO is to form new parish catechetical leaders to assist with parish ministry through the application of their gifts and talents as recent Notre Dame graduates. The five apprentices who live in community at the former rectory at Holy Trinity Parish, Indianapolis, are assigned to the following parishes and mentors:

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<th>Apprentice</th>
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<td>Kenna Rae Brewer</td>
<td>St. Monica</td>
<td>Mary Jo Thomas Day</td>
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<td>David Michael Ballintyn</td>
<td>St. Mark</td>
<td>Mary Lynn Cavanaugh</td>
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<td>Alexa Nicole Puscas</td>
<td>Our Lady of Lourdes</td>
<td>Bev Hansberry</td>
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<td>Kyle Ried Bertoli</td>
<td>Christ the King</td>
<td>Cindy Flaten</td>
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<td>Rose Marie Beauclair</td>
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To learn more about the ECHO program go to the Notre Dame website at http://www.nd.edu/~cci.faith
Cristo Rey High School Project

Planning a new Catholic high school in Indianapolis has moved into the design and preparation phase with opening scheduled for fall of 2006. The new school will serve students in center city Indianapolis who could not otherwise afford to attend an archdiocesan high school. Having been presented with the findings of the 2004 feasibility study and a report of the progress that followed, both the Archdiocesan Council of Priests and the Archbishop’s Board of Consultants unanimously approved the plans and recommended that Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein allow the project to move forward. This approval marks the latest effort by the archdiocese to demonstrate its profound commitment to education of youth in the center city.

The private, college-preparatory high school, officially named Providence Cristo Rey High School, will be owned and operated by a board of directors under the sponsorship of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The school will be responsible for securing long-term funding. It will be the first of its kind in Indiana and will join a nationwide network of Cristo Rey schools. Currently, eleven Cristo Rey schools are in operation. The schools are modeled on the very successful Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, opened in Chicago in 1996. Providence Cristo Rey High School will be located in center city Indianapolis, and at capacity, the school will enroll approximately 400 students. When the school opens in 2006, it will enroll 100 freshmen.

Providence Cristo Rey will integrate rigorous classroom instruction with real-life work experience in partnership with businesses and corporations in Indianapolis. Students who enroll at Providence Cristo Rey will earn nearly 75 percent of their tuition by working five days each month as members of a job-sharing team in entry-level positions at businesses and corporations that enter into an agreement with the school. When enrollment reaches capacity, student earnings will cover over 60 percent of the total cost of operation of the school each year. The work experience will also expose students to a variety of career options.

Businesses and corporations in the Indianapolis area have responded favorably to the Cristo Rey concept. As part of the feasibility study, numerous businesses were approached about the possibility of sponsoring student work teams. Over forty companies have expressed interest, and their firm commitments are now in the process of being secured.

The Archdiocese received funding from the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation and the Center for Excellence in Leadership for the feasibility study. Most recently, the school received $150,000 from the Cassin Foundation to assist with start-up costs.

Sr. Jeanne Hagelskamp, S.P., who will serve as the first president of Providence Cristo Rey High School, is coordinating the design and preparation for the school within the Office of Catholic Education.

Notre Dame ACE Leadership Program Grads

Congratulations to two teachers from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis who graduated from the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame on July 22, 2005. Ruth Tinsley, former Master Teacher in the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) at Saint Barnabas School is now the principal at Saint Andrew & Saint Rita Catholic Academy. Michael Joseph is a teacher at Holy Angels School. They were commissioned at a special liturgy at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

Peggy Elson, former TAP Master Teacher at St. Lawrence School, Indianapolis, and currently TAP Director for the archdiocese has completed her first summer in the program. Peggy will assist in administrative duties during her internship year at Saint Lawrence under the guidance and supervision of Principal Betty Popp.
The Lalanne Program continues

The Lalanne Program from the University of Dayton is one of a growing number of Catholic college programs designed to prepare teachers for service in urban Catholic school settings upon their graduation. The novice teachers commit to two years of service in Catholic schools. These young men and women live in community supporting each other in ministry and earning a Master’s Degree in education from the university.

Since 2002, twelve Lalanne teachers have served in schools of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. During this time, these well-prepared professional educators have accepted leadership roles, served as coaches and mentors, and have provided good role models for the students.

One goal of the Lalanne program is to retain these teachers in Catholic schools beyond their initial commitment. The following Lalanne teachers chose to continue to teach in their schools after having completed two years of service: Andrew Cain, Katie Coyle, David Jacob, Aimee Vogt and Jennifer Zielonko. Their principals and students are blessed to have them. The current six teachers in the Lalanne community are assigned to St. Andrew & St. Rita Catholic Academy, Holy Angels School, St. Philip Neri School, and Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School.

As new Lalanne teachers arrive each year to enrich Catholic education in our urban schools, the Lalanne - OCE partnership grows stronger and its legacy becomes more visible.

... John Valenti, Associate Director for Evangelization and Faith Formation. John comes to OCE from Harcourt Religion Publishers and is a former director of religious education for the Diocese of Jackson, MS. A native of St. Louis, MO, John also served as a director of religious education and pastoral minister in parishes of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He holds a BA in psychology from the University of Missouri, an MA in religious studies from St. Louis University and is studying for a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia.

... Rob Rash, Associate Director, Schools, Administrative Personnel and Professional Development. Rob is the immediate past principal of Our Lady of Lourdes School. He was principal of St. Simon School when that parish relocated to a new site further north in Indianapolis and built a new school building. He also taught at Nativity and Our Lady of Lourdes Schools as well as in the Indianapolis Public Schools. Rob holds an MA in Administration from Butler University and a BS in Education from Indiana University.

... Veronica (Ron) Wyld, Coordinator, Special Religious Education (SPRED Program) since January 2005, is now full-time in the position. Roni has been involved in the development of the SPRED program in the archdiocese since 1998. Her training has been through the SPRED Centers in Chicago and Oakland, California. Roni has over 20 years experience working with special needs populations in schools, group homes and as a Special Olympics coach. Her educational background is in psychology, education and child development, and she is planning to pursue a Master’s Degree in Lay Ministry.

... Sr. Jeanne S. Hagelskamp, SP, Project Coordinator, Phase II, Cristo Rey High School Project. Sr. Jeanne is a Sister of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She taught math, physics, and computer science at Ladywood and St. Agnes High Schools in Indianapolis and at schools in Illinois. She also worked as a curriculum director/principal in the Chicago area. Most recently, she taught in the Catholic Educational Leadership program and served as Director of Teacher Education at the University of San Francisco. Sr. Jeanne earned her EdD in Educational Leadership from USF. She holds a BA in Mathematics from St. Mary of the Woods, an MS in Math from Purdue and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Administration from National Louis University.

... Cindy Clark, Office Manager for OCE. She has served as administrative assistant for Project EXCEED and the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) and will retain some of the duties of that position. Formerly, Cindy was school secretary at St. Barnabas for eight years. She has a degree in graphic design from Vincennes University.
People Making a Difference

Every time I begin to write this message, I am challenged because I think of so many individuals and groups in the archdiocese who are making a difference in other peoples' lives. So, choosing the topic and writing this is always a difficult task for me, and, as most of you know, I am a better speaker than I am a writer.

In my first essay of the new program year, I want to reflect with you on leadership. This summer at our administrators’ conference at French Lick Springs, I shared these thoughts with our administrators. I said that each person is special, like a present or more precisely, a gift -- a gift that keeps on giving. And, people who are passionate about what they do positively influence lives.

We can have strategic plans, best practices, and deeply moving catechetical programs, but if we are not meeting the needs of the people we serve, then we are not "making a difference." Leaders must have bold visions of what can be that they passionately share with others. What a challenge and a privilege that is! With great visions rooted in our mission of faith, we are focused, centered, and our hands and minds are steadied. Every year the demands get greater, the tasks get harder, but we still can accomplish great things when we help others to see a bigger picture.

My challenge to our leaders this year, is to be deeply spiritual -- prophetic, visionary and empowering. Live your faith and walk your talk! Let us continue to embrace one another on this journey as we go about serving the Church in central and southern Indiana. Society needs us to "make a difference."

God bless.

Mickey

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