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Content from NCR special sections, including our June 7-20, 2013, Ministries edition, is not available online. These sections explore topics important to today's Catholics, including Our Environment, Catholic Education, Family Life and Theology.

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The 'Bike Lady'
Her shop in Asbury Park, N.J., supplies much more than bicycles
By Tom Roberts

Asbury Park, N.J., - Twenty-one Main Street in this gritty little town along the central Jersey Shore is a place where the improbable has become somewhat ordinary.

From the outside, it appears an unassuming storefront, save for the zany promo board and a dressed-up skeleton that might make the occasional appearance. Inside, it is a 7,500-square-foot warehouse originally intended for other uses that never panned out. So it became Second Life Bikes, a used bike shop, social services center, youth training site, and occasional (three times) hangout for rock legend Bruce Springsteen.
Read more[3]

House a respite for prisoners? families
By Patrick O?Neill

On a Sunday morning, Brian DeRouen took a phone call from someone making a reservation at the Alderson Hospitality House. Seconds later, a guest stopped by his office door to ask a question, and then shoved a load of sheets and towels into the dryer. ?I can?t fall behind on this,? he said with a smile. And there were dishes to wash, food to put away, funds to raise and bills to pay.

Weekends are especially hectic at the three-story, circa 1890s house that features 13 guest bedrooms with amenities as nice as any bed-and-breakfast. However, the folks who come to Alderson Hospitality House can stay for free- food and house-keeping service included.
Read more[4]

Ministry of music leaders and volunteers vital to parishes? liturgical life
By Porsia Tunzi

It was Sunday morning and the time had arrived for the procession of the gifts in the stone Catholic church on the corner of 39th and Troost in Kansas City, Mo. There was a silence as a group of women volunteers made their way to the front left. They started to use their hands as instruments, clapping to a steady beat. The small Nigerian choir sang, lifting their voices, and in turn, the spirits of the congregation.
Read more[5]

Doctors answer God?s call to serve
By Brian Roewe

Some families spend summer vacation overseas. For Brent Burket, Jennifer Thoene and their four children ?an American family-overseas means Oregon. Having arrived in May back in the U.S. after three years in Guatemala, they will again depart in August, this time for Cameroon, their home through 2016. Such is the life of medical missioners.
Read more[6]

Wife and husband open their home to LGBT youth

By Eloísa Pérez-Lozano

Though Deb Word has two biological children, she has been a mother to about 15 others, all of whom lived in her home in Memphis, Tenn., if only for a short while. Since December 2009, she and her husband, Steve, have been taking in youth who have been kicked out of their homes because of conflicts over their sexual and gender identities.
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