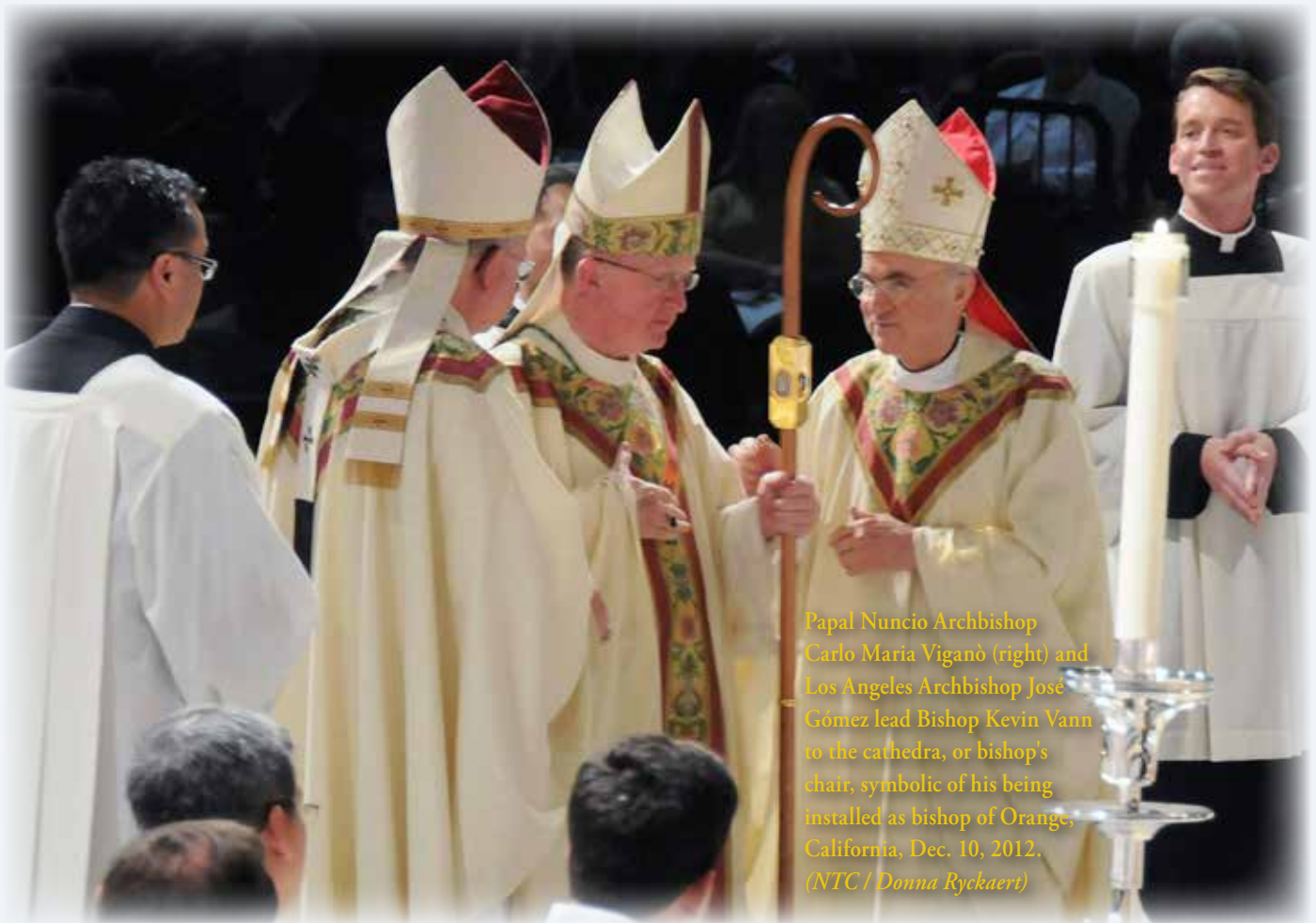


Bishop Vann installed as fourth bishop of the Diocese of Orange



Papal Nuncio Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò (right) and Los Angeles Archbishop José Gómez lead Bishop Kevin Vann to the cathedra, or bishop's chair, symbolic of his being installed as bishop of Orange, California, Dec. 10, 2012. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



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Bishop Vann prayed and visited and sang with the people of the diocese as he said his good-byes.



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St. Peter's in Lindsay began their Year of Faith with a procession, and many of the younger set dressed as saints, German saints.



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Father Bob Thames shared about his life of mission work at a recent Educate the Children Banquet.

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BISHOP VANN INSTALLED FOURTH BISHOP OF ORANGE

In a liturgy filled with ancient traditions and accompanied by the dress and customs of many of the cultures in the Diocese of Orange, Bishop Kevin Vann was installed the fourth Bishop of the California diocese.

10th largest in the country, Dec. 10.

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Guadalupean dancers brightened the reception for Bishop Kevin Vann at Denon's Immaculate Conception Church. (NTC / Wendy Pandolfo)

4 DENTON'S LIVELY SENDOFF

A festive atmosphere flowed through the reception following Evening Prayer at Denton's Immaculate Conception Church as hundreds waited to visit with the departing bishop, and he joined young people singing songs of praise.

29 MARCH FOR LIFE—DALLAS AND DC

It's the 40th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision; the Dallas march will have added somber significance. More local young people and their sponsors will be taking part in the March for Life in Washington D.C. than ever before.



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL RENOVATIONS CELEBRATED WITH RE-DEDICATION

One of Bishop Vann's last liturgical celebrations as bishop of Fort Worth came Nov. 30 when he celebrated Mass at St. Peter's School in White Settlement and blessed and re-dedicated the school after extensive renovations to the 60-year-old physical plant.

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33 PROCESSION KICKS OFF ST. PETER PARISH, LINDSAY'S YEAR OF FAITH

St. Peter Parish in Lindsay kicked off the Year of Faith with a public procession from the church through the town of Lindsay.

UDMC MOVES TO IRVING, OFFERS IDEAS FOR YEAR OF FAITH

Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell and Los Angeles Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Roger Mahony called people to renew their faith during the Year of Faith, and workshops outlined some of the ways that could be accomplished.

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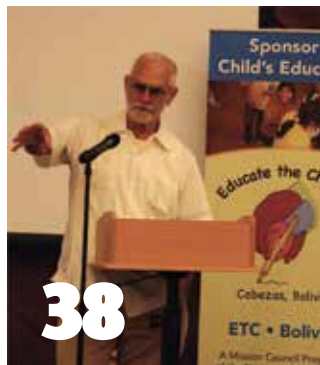
36 SPECIAL NEEDS MASS AND MORE TAKES ROOT AT HOLY FAMILY

In response to two mothers of children with special needs, Fr. Jeff Poirot, pastor of Holy Family Church in Fort Worth, established a monthly Mass so families could all attend Mass together without fear of disturbing anyone. And now a sacramental formation program is being planned.

BISHOP VANN'S VESPERS, RECEPTIONS, AND INSTALLATION

It's all here in Spanish: Denton, Fort Worth, and Wichita Falls. The stories and pictures show the large numbers of Hispanics who took part in the celebrations. The story of Bishop Vann's installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Orange in California is told in stories and pictures by Joan Gillen, Donna Ryckaert, and Kathy Hamer.

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38 FATHER ROBERT THAMES

Fr. Bob Thames has had a rich, fruitful career as a missionary from our diocese, working in Latin America. Joan Gillen captures an overview of those years of service and development, offered when he spoke to the Educate the Children-Bolivia Banquet at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth.

North Texas Catholic

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The Christmas Season is ending, and before you know it, it will be Lent

This is still our first one-year cycle of this one magazine every two months business, and there are parts of it that fascinate and frustrate. I write this piece on the 21st of December. Christmas is next week. Yet we've been planning content that will need to help us all prepare to enter Lent, since the season of repentance will be in its third week before you get your next *North Texas Catholic*.

It's a lot like aging: The further along you are, the faster time seems to go.

But speaking of Lent, it's a great time to begin something new to deepen your knowledge of the faith and grow closer to the Lord during this Year of Faith. You may want to think about joining a *Why Catholic?* small faith-sharing group. As Linda Beckley, parish coordinator for *Why Catholic?* at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Granbury points out in Michele Baker's article on **page 32**, "This truly is a perfect tie-in for the Year of Faith." She goes on to talk about her parish's efforts starting in January to get people to sign up for the six-week *Why Catholic?* session that begins in February, with its focus on prayer.

And what could be better for any of us to strengthen our relationship with God than to spend more time with Him in prayer and to learn more about the ways to pray that are available to us from our Catholic heritage?

For a lively account of Bishop Vann's installation as bishop of Orange, the tenth largest diocese in the country, read Joan Kurkowski-Gillen's story, beginning on **page 8**, accompanied by bright, colorful photos taken by our own Donna Ryckaert and Kathy Cribari Hamer.

And in case you haven't heard, Msgr. Stephen Berg, vicar general of the diocese, has been chosen by the College of Consultors, a panel of priests who provide consultative advice to the bishop, to serve as Diocesan Administrator until we receive a new bishop. To read a bit about Msgr. Berg, who is a prayerful, kind, warm, and firm leader, see his brief introduction on **page 16**. And, as always, don't forget to catch us online at northtexascatholic.org.

Jeff Hensley
Editor

Bishop Vann Farewell

Denton faithful offer a lively sendoff

By **Tony Gutiérrez**
Associate Editor

More than 500 people from the Denton Catholic Community and other parts of the North Deanery came to Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton Wednesday, Nov. 28, to thank Bishop Kevin Vann for his service to the diocese the last seven years, and to wish him well in his new assignment as bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California.

In his bilingual homily, Bishop Vann acknowledged the community that had been so well-served by the late Monsignor Charles King, who had served as pastor of Immaculate Conception and dean of the North Deanery before his passing in 2011. The bishop related anecdotes of how he and Msgr. King, who had been very close to him, would occasionally drive to the casinos in Oklahoma, followed by laughter from the congregation.

Bishop Vann also acknowledged the impact the ACTS Community has had on the diocese, and the North Deanery in particular. Since the first ACTS retreat in Denton in 2004, the program has grown to serve eight parishes in the diocese, including five in the North Deanery, offering retreats in Spanish and English for men, women, and teenagers.

Dennis Pettit, a St. Mark parishioner who had served as co-director for a retreat Bishop Vann attended in 2008, said that the bishop changed a perception he had growing up that clergy were unapproachable.

"He managed to bridge that gap between being the leader of the local Church, and the guy who touched people in a personal way, and I had never

seen that before in a bishop," Pettit said. Referencing one Friday morning when he and some others from Denton went to Mass at the Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center in Fort Worth, Pettit remembered how Bishop Vann invited the group to have breakfast at the cathedral rectory afterwards. "Here we were having breakfast with the bishop, and it was just amazing that a guy could come up to a group of people and relate to that group so well."

Bishop Vann also acknowledged the growing Blessed John Paul II Parish community, which he established on July 1 of this year as the first university parish in the diocese, serving both the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University. Parishioner Dr. Mike Sayler, faculty adviser for the UNT Knights of Columbus, acknowledged the impact the bishop's support has had on the spiritual growth of the students.

"If you just look from last semester, there are two or three times as many more people," Sayler said. "It's made a huge difference in having a pastor there. Bible studies, men's groups, Masses, confessions, all these things students wouldn't have an opportunity for just a few years ago unless they had a car."

Bishop Vann also thanked the Hispanic community for its strong spiritual presence and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, which he shares. After the Vespers service, a group of Guadalupana dancers performed a special dance for the bishop outside the church to thank him for his service and send him off.

"For the short time he was with us, he proved to be a great bishop. He was concerned about the people, and he was bilingual," said Deacon Popo Gonzalez of



ABOVE: A group of Jovenes serenades Bishop Vann following the Prayer Service at Denton.

RIGHT: Bishop Vann prays with a couple attending the reception following the Prayer Service at Immaculate Conception Church.



The Zampino family, parents Mike and Selena, and children, Peter (7th grade), Isabella (3rd grade), and Lucci (preK), are obviously proud to support ICCS, their parish school, as well as their departing bishop.



Guadalupana dancers performed a special dance for the bishop outside the church, honoring his devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a devotion that he shares with the Hispanic community.



Photos by Wendy Pandolfo

Immaculate Conception, referencing how the bishop would preach in Spanish if primarily Spanish-speakers were a part of the congregation. At Bishop Vann's recommendation, Dcn. Gonzalez

and his wife, Lupe, received the *Benemerenti* Medal from Pope Benedict XVI in 2011 for their work in the Hispanic community. "He meets people where they're at, and that makes him very special."

Bishop Vann Farewell

'Thanks' goes both ways at Fort Worth farewell reception

By Jerry Circelli
Correspondent

More than 200 people from throughout the diocese made their way to Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth on Sunday, Nov. 25, to attend the first of three Vespers services and farewell receptions for Bishop Kevin W. Vann. After seven years serving the Diocese of Fort Worth, Bishop Vann was to be installed as bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California, on Dec. 10.

The parishioners came to be in the company of the bishop they have grown to admire over the past several years and to say "thank you."

"I am thankful for all of you," the bishop told those in attendance at the Vespers service, speaking in both English and Spanish. "When I came here, I didn't have a lot of confidence. I was homesick and all those sorts of things...."

"But quickly, through all of you, I learned. Through many experiences, good and challenging, I learned what it meant to be a pastor, in a big way."

Bishop Vann's many achievements during his tenure, have been well documented.

The bishop, however, did not reference any of those accomplishments, saying only, "I thank all of you for your patience and what you have taught me. No one can do all of these things alone. It takes all of us working together. And for that, I always give thanks to God."

The bishop said he will use the same model he learned from experience in the Diocese of Fort Worth as he begins his duties in the Diocese of Orange. That model, he said, involves working together as a family with the faithful, religious, clergy, parishes, and the community to accomplish God's work.

Following the bishop's remarks and Vespers, the gathering con-

tinued in a nearby reception area. There, people lined up to thank Bishop Vann to express appreciation for his positive influence in the diocese and in their lives.

Marty and Deanna Martinez of Fort Worth were among those waiting to talk with the bishop. They have known Bishop Vann since he arrived in Fort Worth through their work with the Serra Club and through various volunteer projects. Marty said the bishop has always gone to great lengths to serve local Catholics. When he and his wife recently renewed their marriage vows after 50 years, they were elated when Bishop Vann agreed to celebrate the Mass.

Deacon Scott France from Holy Redeemer Parish in Aledo also knows firsthand that Bishop Vann goes the extra mile to connect with his people. "He's out in the parishes, visible and always in front of us," said France.

"He's our guide, our pillar of faith," said Holy Name parishioner Esperanza Barrigan. Her husband, Rafael, added, "He motivates us to remain strong in our faith. His smile is radiant and his charisma is contagious. He's proud of his faith." Daughter, Maria, a student at Nolan, summed it up: "When you see faith and you see faith in action, you see it in Bishop Vann."

Byanka Peffers, of St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, agreed. "He's personable and easy to get to know," she said. "He can relate to people very well. He's gifted that way."

Sister Mildred Gordon, pastoral assistant at St. Stephen Church in Weatherford, came to thank the bishop as well. Like the others, she was impressed that he called her out by name. "He reaches out. And he loves to know your name.... He takes pride in knowing you."

Among the younger well-wishers in attendance was a group of youth from Saint Elizabeth Ann



The Dorado family from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Fort Worth shares a few remembrances of Bishop Vann's time here, after the Vespers



Vice Chancellor Yolanda Cruz leads part of the Evening Prayer at Nolan Catholic High School, Sunday, Nov. 25.

Bishop Vann visits with a long line of well-wishers at the reception following evening prayer at Nolan.

Photos by Donna Ryckaert



Seton Church in Keller. They became acquainted with Bishop Vann from youth group activities and altar serving at special Masses.

"We got to know the bishop well and got to hang out with him," said Cris Diaz. "He's great with kids and teenagers."

"And he's just super humble," added Mark Artiles.

Following two hours of greeting well-wishers of all ages, Bishop Vann glanced around the room, as if to summarize in his mind what he had just witnessed — the thanks, the gratitude, the genuine wishes and prayers going forward from so many people he has touched.

One of the greatest gifts he carries forward, he said, is confidence. "I have confidence I don't think I had when I came here. The Diocese of Orange is a lot like Fort Worth. Mainly the same ethnic groups, but double the Catholic population in less area. I have confidence in how to minister and work with and pray with a lot of different cultures. Growing up in central Illinois, I certainly didn't have that," the Bishop said.

In summarizing seven successful years in the diocese, Bishop Vann said, "I just tried to be the bishop and the shepherd the Lord wanted me to be. And the Lord blessed me with all these people and more."

Bishop Vann Farewell

Wichita Falls area folks turn out to wish Bishop Vann a fond farewell

By Jacqueline Burkepile
Correspondent

Catholic faithful from the northwest portion of the Diocese of Fort Worth gathered Monday for Vespers and a farewell reception honoring Bishop Kevin Vann at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls. The night began with the Liturgy of the Hours, followed by a simple reception with cookies, cake, and punch for those in attendance to say their final good-byes to the bishop.

Emotions were high as many expressed gratitude, sadness, and excitement for Bishop Vann's designation as bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California.

James Phillips, a parishioner at St. Jude Thaddeus in Burkburnett, took part in the Vespers procession as a Knight of Columbus in the Fourth Degree Honor Guard. He said Bishop Vann was a friend and a great shepherd for the diocese.

"You can't keep a good guy down. It was obvious that he would go on to bigger and better things," said Phillips. "He really helped us at St. Jude. We did a renovation there, and he helped us to take care of it financially, and he's always sent us a priest. So we're very happy to have him, and we'll hate to see him leave."

Nan Ruddy, a parishioner at Sacred Heart in Wichita Falls as well as others attending the reception, said Bishop Vann has a gift for remembering names.

"It's been really nice to have him come around and visit in your parish and get to know you personally," said Ruddy.

Margarita Luna, a parishioner at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Wichita Falls and pastoral associate for St. Mary Parish in Henrietta,



Bishop Vann visits amiably with Saint Mary of Namur Sisters, Ginny Vissing, Clara Vo, and Patricia Ste. Marie.

Daniel and Karen Gagne and their daughter, Alessandra, say goodbye to Bishop Vann Nov. 26.

Former longtime OLQP business manager John Spyra shares a memory with Bishop Vann.



Photos by Juan Guajardo

also said Bishop Vann has known her by name since they met during his first year in the Diocese of Fort Worth. He's remembered her ever since she asked him for his favorite Hispanic food.

"He calls me by name every time he sees me anywhere: 'Margarita!'" said Luna. "That feels good — that a bishop with as many parishioners and parishes as he has can identify me in his flock by name."

Victor Kocks, parishioner and chairman of the finance committee at Sacred Heart in Wichita Falls, said, "He's done so many great things for our diocese. It was quite a shock [to learn of his new position]. We're disappointed he's leaving, but I know he'll do a great job anywhere he goes." Kocks added that many of Sacred Heart's programs are funded by the diocese. He said programs for seminarians, married couples, and the youth were made possible by Bishop Vann. "Those are all things that impact a parish in a big way," said Kocks.

Father Sojan George, pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace, headed

the organization of the event. He said the bishop is a good friend and was not surprised to hear the news of his departure. "This is something we all figured would happen one day," he said. "Every time an archdiocese came open, there was a rumor that he was leaving, but we didn't expect him to go to Orange County."

Father Richard Kirkham, pastor at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Burkburnett, ordained a priest in the Fort Worth Diocese last year, said he is sad that the Bishop is leaving, but proud of his new appointment. He said Bishop Vann was very supportive of him over the years.

"He influenced me with his words of affirmation, from my formation in seminary and formation as a priest," said Fr. Kirkham. "I always felt respected and supported by him, and that he was truly concerned with what I shared with him."

Dan Shine, a parishioner at Our Lady Queen of Peace, and recipient of the *Benemerenti* Medal in 2011, said God has great plans for Bishop Vann in the future, but is also sad he

is leaving. "To stay here seven years is wonderful, but there's a reason the pope moved him. I wouldn't doubt seeing him being appointed a cardinal someday."

Fe Lee, a parishioner at Our Lady Queen of Peace, wished Bishop Vann well and enthusiastically asked him to send pictures from Disneyland. "Good luck, and God bless you on your next mission," said Lee. "I hope that he'll come visit us every once in a while when he gets that opportunity."

Bishop Vann stated in his bilingual talk prior to Vespers on Monday that he is grateful for the past seven years as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"We go always forward in confidence in what the Lord has done for us," said Bishop Vann. "We can't look back, we look ahead." As he spoke of looking to the future, he said, "I know, I can do that with confidence, joy, and above all, faith, because of you all and because of the people of the Diocese of Fort Worth."

Bishop Vann Farewell

Bishop Vann's final public liturgy in the diocese celebrates first anniversary of dedication of new Vietnamese Martyrs Church

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

"It's the beginning of a new Church year and a time for new beginnings."

That's the sentiment expressed by Bishop Kevin Vann during his Dec. 1 visit to Vietnamese Martyrs Church. In his last public function in the diocese before leaving to prepare for his installation as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California, the prelate helped the Arlington community welcome a new pastor and mark the first anniversary of its landmark 2,000-plus seat sanctuary.

"I'm very honored and grateful to be celebrating with all of you who I have come to know, love, and pray with all these years," Bishop Vann said, during a Mass attended by 1,000 parishioners.

Members of one of the largest-capacity Vietnamese Catholic Churches in the U.S. turned out to bid farewell to the bishop and pastor Father Polycarp Duc Thuan, CMC, who is leaving Texas to assume a new post with his religious order in Missouri. Father Raymond Maria Nguyen Manh Thu, CMC, is the new pastor of the Arlington parish.

Times of change and transition can cause feelings of anxiety, Bishop Vann cautioned in his homily.

"Yet, the Word of God tells us not to be anxious, and to live, in fact," in just the opposite way, he added, citing the Gospel readings for the first Sunday of Advent. "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another so as to strengthen your hearts. That, my brothers and sisters, is St. Paul's prayer for each one of us in these times of change."

The bishop urged the throng



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

Bishop Vann preaches his final homily in the diocese, from the marble ambo of Vietnamese Martyrs Church. The Mass marked the first anniversary of the dedication of the 2,000-plus capacity church.

A Vietnamese choir with women in traditional dress performed at the reception following the Mass.

Bishop Vann and Fr. Polycarp were honored with crystal art commemorating their roles in the building of the new church. Parish Council Vice President Joe Nguyen, presented Bishop Vann with his artwork.

Bishop Vann poses with Fr. Polycarp in their Advent vestments. Fr. Polycarp was departing for a new assignment with his order in Missouri.



of parishioners to turn their lives, worries, and concerns over to God.

"Let us be vigilant and watchful for the coming of the Lord in our daily lives, in the new year and in the new callings in our lives," he said. "Like the Blessed Mother, let us trust that God's word to us will be fulfilled because nothing is impossible for God."

Dressed in violet-colored vestments, Bishop Vann lit the first candle on the Advent wreath before proceeding to the other side of the altar to bless a statue of St. Joseph recently purchased by parishioners.

Vietnamese Martyrs Parish was established in 2000 and named in honor of the 117 Catholic martyrs who died in Vietnam during the 19th century. A new 29,000-square-foot church, built to accommodate the growing Vietnamese population, was dedicated last year.

Following the Mass, a reception honoring Bishop Vann and Fr. Polycarp was held in the parish center. After thanking the bishop for his support of new church construction, Joe Nguyen, vice president of the parish council presented him with a crystal statue. Fr. Polycarp received

photos by Joan Kurkowski piece of crystal art from Quang Tran, parish council chairman.

Addressing the crowd, Bishop Vann thanked parishioners for sharing their Vietnamese culture and heritage with him during his seven years as Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"I'm very grateful for the witness of faith of the Vietnamese people here," he said thoughtfully. "Now I go to Orange, California where there are more Vietnamese to serve. You've taught me a lot and I thank you."

Bishop Vann Installed



Bishop Vann surrounded by the clergy, bishops, and crowd of faithful in the Bren Center, UC Irvine, Dec. 10. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Bishop Vann, sitting across from Archbishop Viganò listens as the Papal Nuncio reads the Apostolic Mandate from the Vatican appointing him Bishop of Orange. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Aztec dancer blows a conch horn as a call to worship. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Vietnamese dancers in the entrance procession. (NTC / Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Chancellor Shirli Giacomo displays the Apostolic Mandate to the assembly, having witnessed it and shown it to the College of Consultors for their inspection. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)

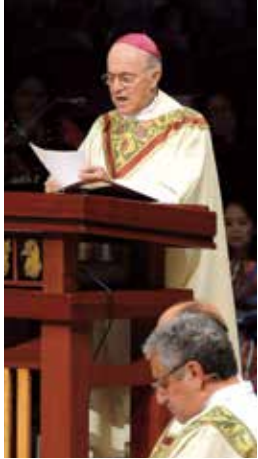
An Aztec dancer marches in the entrance procession. (NTC / Kathy Cribari Hamer)

A Vietnamese girl carries incense to the altar. (NTC / Kathy Cribari Hamer)

Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre applaud Bishop Vann after his installation. (NTC / Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Bishop Vann Installed



Archbishop Viganò reads the Apostolic Mandate appointing Bishop Vann Bishop of Orange. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Archbishop Gómez and Archbishop Viganò lead Bishop Vann to the cathedra (bishop's chair) which signifies that he has taken his place as the Ordinary of the Diocese of Orange. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Bishop Vann seated in the cathedra receives applause from the assembly, having been installed as the Ordinary of the diocese. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)

Bishop Vann installed as fourth Bishop of Orange

in ceremony steeped in cultures and traditions from around the world

**By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent**

An enthusiastic crowd of more than 4,000 people filled the Bren Events Center at the University of California-Irvine on Dec. 10 to watch Kevin W. Vann become the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Orange during an installation ceremony steeped in ritual and tradition.

Bishop Vann, who led the Diocese of Fort Worth for seven years, now leads a diocese with one of the fastest-growing Catholic populations in the U.S. There are 1.3 million Catholics in the Diocese of Orange, making it the 10th largest diocese in the country. It is also ethnically diverse with much of the growth attributed to an influx of Latin American and Asian immigrants.

The Diocese of Orange has the largest population of Vietnamese living outside of Vietnam.

To reflect a spirit of inclusiveness, elements of the Aztec, Hispanic, and Vietnamese cultures were incorporated into the solemn Mass celebrated by Bishop Vann in the arena turned worship space. Wearing ornate ceremonial headdresses, an Azteca dance troupe from Ontario, California carried smoking pots of incense and sounded horns made of conch shells to herald the start of the grand processional.

Fourteen-year-old Cassandra Ramos, felt honored to be part of the celebration.

“We want to support the bishop and our religion,” said the performer who was pleased to learn the new bishop has a special reverence for Our Lady of Guadalupe. Eight red roses on his

coat of arms honors the Virgin who is Patroness of Mexico, the Diocese of Orange, and all of the Americas. “I’m excited he shares our devotion. We pray and share our problems with her.”

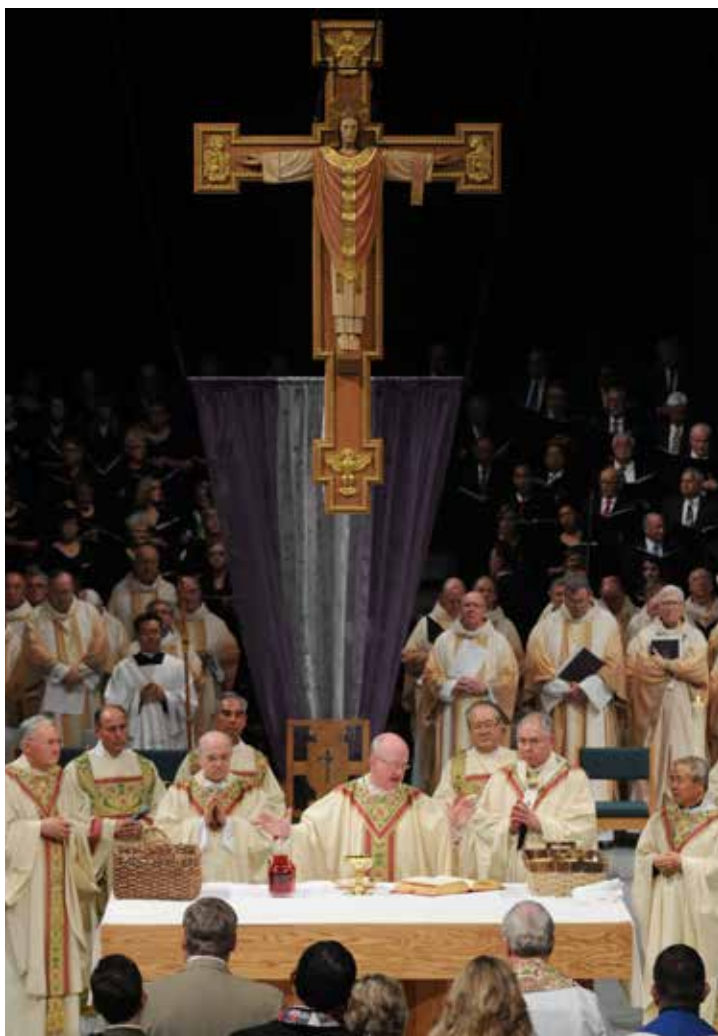
Following the entrance of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which included members from the Diocese of Fort Worth, a contingent of Vietnamese girls in Au Dai dresses led the ensemble of 50 bishops and more than 150 priests into the auditorium.

Guests included Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles, Archbishop José Gómez, metropolitan archbishop of Los Angeles and Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò. Priests attending from the Diocese of Fort Worth included newly appointed Diocesan Administrator Msgr.

Stephen Berg; Msgr. Michael Olson, rector of Holy Trinity Seminary; Msgr. Juan Rivero, former diocesan vicar for priests; diocesan Chancellor Fr. Dan Kelly; diocesan Vocations Director Fr. Isaac Orozco; and diocesan Catechesis Director Fr. Jonathan Wallis; among a number of parish priests representing the ethnic diversity of the diocese. Also among the crowd were a number of nuns and laypeople of the Diocese of Fort Worth, including representatives of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, including Vice Chancellor Sister Yolanda Cruz and Vice Chancellor Peter Flynn. Televangelist Rev. Robert Schuller, founder of the Crystal Cathedral, and Rev. Rick Warren, author of *A Purpose Driven Life* and pastor of Saddleback megachurch, were also seated in the audience.

CONTINUED

Bishop Vann Installed



As chief concelebrant, Bishop Vann celebrates the Eucharist for the first time as bishop of Orange. At his right is Archbishop Viganò, at his left, Archbishop Gómez. (NTC/Donna Ryckaert)

Orange Auxiliary Bishop Dominic M. Luong, the only Vietnamese bishop in the U.S., reads one of the prayers during the installation Mass. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Bishop Vann greets a representative of one of the Eastern Orthodox churches following his installation. (NTC / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



Bishop Vann gives a characteristic thumbs up gesture to someone in the assembly as he processes out of the installation Mass. (NTC /Kathy Cribari Hamer)



“Thank you for your generosity in answering the call to serve,” said Archbishop Viganò before reading the Apostolic Mandate from the Holy See appointing Bishop Vann to the Diocese of Orange. “We are confident that with the example of the Good Shepherd and the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of this diocese, you can meet the challenges of the new evangelization.”

Bishop Vann was then led to the cathedra (bishop’s chair) by Archbishops Gomez and Viganò. The audience burst into applause as Bishop Vann sat in the chair — symbolizing his new role as Ordinary of the Diocese of

Orange. Representatives of the Jewish and Muslim faiths, and of many Christian denominations, Catholic religious orders, lay apostolates, and parish councils were then presented to the newly installed Catholic leader.

Many non-English speaking Catholics now call Southern California home, and the bishop acknowledged their presence by beginning his homily with a welcome in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean. What followed gave listeners a taste of his outgoing personality, love of family, and appreciation for his Midwestern upbringing — traits the Fort Worth Diocese community had come to admire.

After thanking his predecessor, Bishop Tod D. Brown for his friendship and support during the transition process, the celebrant sent a personal message to his father, William Vann, who was unable to attend the ceremony for health reasons. The 87-year-old watched the proceedings via computer live stream from his home in Springfield, Illinois. Bishop Vann’s mother, Theresa, passed away in June.

“This is a time for me to say thank you, Dad, for always teaching us to do what was right all the time,” he added. “Thank you for all that you taught me and my siblings because who I am now, Dad, is greatly due to you.”

Among those present at the

ceremony were Bishop Vann’s brothers Dennis and Les, sister-in-law Shannon, godmother Rita Whitaker, and confirmation sponsor Jim Whitaker.

Continuing to reflect on his upbringing in Springfield, Illinois, the bishop remembered growing up a St. Louis Cardinals fan but then showed his allegiance to his new hometown by flashing a Los Angeles Angels baseball cap.

“I saw the Gateway Arch being built,” Bishop Vann said, referring to the St. Louis landmark on the banks of the Mississippi River. “Little did I know then the symbolic tribute to the West would become a gateway in my own life — first to the South-

Bishop Vann Installed



LEFT AND ABOVE: Bishop Vann prays during Vespers; and reverences a portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)

UPPER RIGHT: A Korean drum group performs outside the Arboretum after the Vespers Service. (NTC Donna Ryckaert)

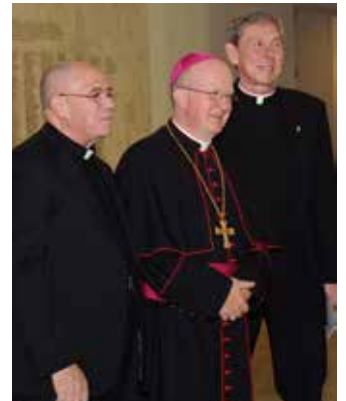


LEFT: Following Vespers Bishop Vann visited with many old and new friends. (NTC Donna Ryckaert)

RIGHT: A group of mariachis serenade enthusiastically outside the Arboretum. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



RIGHT: Bishop Vann with Msgr. Juan Rivero, his former vicar for priests and Msgr. Stephen Berg, vicar general and now diocesan administrator. (NTC Donna Ryckaert)



L. TO R. Fr. Jasso, Msgr. Berg, Msgr. Olson, Fr. Orozco, Msgr. Rivero, Fr. Polycarp, and Fr. Kelley. (NTC Donna Ryckaert)



Bishop with Sister Ines, Vice-Chancellor Yolanda Cruz (to bishop's right) and fellow SSMNs Francesca, and Patricia. (NTC Donna Ryckaert)



Bishop Vann poses with Vice Chancellor Peter Flynn and his wife Shirley (NTC / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

west where the people warmly welcomed me in Fort Worth, and now here in the West with all of you.”

Following the installation Mass and a Vespers service the previous evening, rousing performances by a Korean drum corps, Mariachi band, high school choir, and parish musical groups offered the new bishop a similar welcome. So many people turned out for the Dec. 9 liturgy inside the Arboretum at the future Christ Cathedral, fire department regulations forced the overflow outdoors. Festive dancing and singing ensued in the courtyard.

“Dancing is the way we worship. We are here to support

the new bishop,” enthused Javier Javalos as his companions stepped to the rhythm of a beating drum. “I’m very happy to be here and very excited.”

Mornette McShane, a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Church in Westminster, California, was delighted to learn her new bishop is a “people person.”

“I’ve heard he’s very kind and gracious,” she said. “Under his guidance, I hope for more healing and outreach to other faiths. I want to see people working together to make the Church stronger.”

As the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Orange, Bishop Vann will oversee that diocese’s first

ever capital campaign. The \$100 million to be raised is targeted for Catholic education, priest retirement, and transformation of Christ Cathedral — formerly known as the Crystal Cathedral. The soaring glass-paneled building and 34-acre campus was purchased in January by the Catholic diocese for \$57.5 million in a court-ordered bankruptcy sale. It is best known as the site of Rev. Robert Schuller’s “Hour of Power” television ministry.

Once dedicated, Christ Cathedral will be the largest Catholic Cathedral in the United States.

Chris and Karen Hull, parishioners from St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, traveled to

California to watch their friend become the bishop of Orange County.

“The journey continues here,” explained Karen Hull, who, along with her husband, is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. “We were there when he was ordained a bishop, so this is very meaningful for us.”

The Fort Worth couple was encouraged by the eagerness and fervor of the crowd that greeted Bishop Vann during a reception following the vespers service.

“I know we’re losing him in presence, but I really feel he’ll always be with us in spirit,” Karen added.



Photo by Andrew Gombert / CNS photo pool via Reuters

Msgr. Robert Weiss speaks to young women inside St. Rose of Lima Church during a vigil service the evening the day's tragic events unfolded Dec. 14 in Newtown, Connecticut. At least eight of the children killed in the shooting rampage at nearby Sandy Hook Elementary were to be buried from St. Rose, a parish of 3,200 families and the only Catholic church in Newtown.

'Sacramental sense' of priest's response to shooting called powerful

NEWTOWN, Connecticut (CNS) — The "sacramental sense" of a Catholic pastor's outreach after the horrific violence that took place at a Connecticut elementary school "has brought the church to bear in the most intimate and powerful way," said the director of communications for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

"It's hard to sum up how powerful his witness and testimony have been, both locally and nationally," Brian D. Wallace told Catholic News Service in describing Monsignor Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown.

"He has brought a sense of God and the beginning of healing to everything he has done under considerable stress," Wallace said in a telephone interview Dec. 17. "He was the first clergy present at the school, before the world knew what happened. He kept his composure and he worked with families."

Wallace said Msgr. Weiss was "stunned by the faith of the parents who lost children. People who lose the most sometimes give the most." He added the courage, openness, and determination of the parents is a gift to the priest.

Msgr. Weiss, his two priest associates, and men and women from the parish staff have "brought tremendous comfort to families," Wallace said.

St. Rose of Lima has taken center stage

in the aftermath of the shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School Dec. 14, which left 20 children and seven adults dead.

Parishioners and community members gathered for a prayer vigil the night of the shootings and flocked to Sunday Masses seeking solace. They looked to Msgr. Weiss, his staff and other Catholic leaders for pastoral outreach in the aftermath of the violence.

Eighteen children died at the school and two others died after they had been rushed to the hospital. All of the children were first-graders. The adults included the principal and five teachers, as well as the gunman.

Many of the dead were Catholic and were known in the St. Rose parish family. Wallace said funerals for eight of the children and one of the adults were being scheduled at St. Rose. Two funerals took place Dec. 18.

Msgr. Weiss said the children were a gift from the start, and even though the mourners are broken by their deaths, the children left them their joy, their wonder, and their zest for life. He told the parents they had a right to be angry and, unlikely as it seemed, they would be able to let go of the anger with time. He cautioned them not to become bitter.

He said the tragic events "changed us as a people, a parish, and a nation." Without offering specifics, he challenged mourners to make the change complete by going home and doing something to safeguard life.

Pope says false ideas of human nature threaten basis of the family

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said the family in Western society is undergoing a "crisis that threatens it to its foundations," owing to false ideas of human nature that equate freedom with selfishness and present God-given sexual identities as a matter of individual choice to the profound detriment of human dignity.

But the pope said that the Catholic Church, in its dialogue with states, secular society, and other religions, can help restore a proper understanding of human nature as a basis for justice and peace. The pope made his remarks Dec. 21, in his annual Christmas address to officials of the Roman Curia.

"The question of the family is not just about a particular social construct, but about man himself — about what he is and what it takes to be authentically human," he said.

"Only in self-giving does man find himself," the pope said, "only by letting himself be changed through suffering does he discover the breadth of his humanity."

As a consequence of a widespread refusal to make lifelong commitments to the family, the pope said, "man remains closed in on himself" and "essential elements of the experience of being human are lost."

Citing a study of same-sex marriage and parenting by Chief Rabbi Gilles Bernheim, of France, Pope Benedict deplored what he called a "new philosophy of sexuality," epitomized by the word "gender," which teaches "sex is no longer a given element of nature," but a "social role we choose for ourselves."

"Man and woman as created realities, as the nature of the human being, no longer exist. Man calls his nature into question. From now on he is merely spirit and will."

To reject the "pre-ordained duality of man and woman" is also to reject the family as a "reality established by creation," he said, with particularly degrading consequences for children: "The child has become an object to which people have a right and which they have a right to obtain."

Religious colleges win legal round with court ruling on HHS suit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four days after the first federal appellate-level hearing on two religious colleges' legal challenge to the contraceptive mandate, the appeals court said Dec. 18 the lawsuit will remain pending and it "will hold" the government to its word that it plans to modify enforcement of the mandate for some religious employers.

A lower court dismissed a suit from Belmont Abbey College, a Benedictine-run Catholic college in Charlotte in July. The school appealed and its case was combined with a lawsuit filed by Wheaton College, an evangelical school in Illinois.

Oral arguments were heard in the case Dec. 14 by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in Washington.

In their ruling, the judges said that the government said in its argument that "there will be a different rule for entities like the appellants ... and we take that as a binding commitment."

The government said it will publish notice of proposed rulemaking in the first quarter of 2013 and issue a final rule before August 2013.

"We take the government at its word and will hold it to it," the ruling said, adding that the government also has to report to the court every 60 days about its progress on this modification.

Last year, the Obama administration put in place a yearlong period, called "safe harbor," that protects employers from immediate government action against them if they fail to comply with the mandate. The circuit court said the government must continue to protect the two colleges from enforcement of the mandate.

William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College, called the ruling "a major victory" and "the answers to our prayers." The college's case was the first to be filed challenging the Department of Health and Human Services mandate last November.



Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / NTC

Bishop Kevin Vann blesses the Stations of the Cross donated by the Ordinariate communities. Also present were (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT), Fr. Jonathon Wallis; Ordinariate community leaders Fr. Charles Hough, III, Mr. Louis Tobola, and Fr. Timothy Perkins; and artist Jane Ladik.

Ordinariate communities thank bishop for support with Stations of the Cross

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Bishop Kevin Vann has left the Diocese of Fort Worth, but a lasting reminder of his efforts to implement the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter is now part of the Diocesan Catholic Center chapel.

To thank the bishop for his “vision and guidance” during the process that brought Anglican priests and their congregations into the Catholic Church, the communities of St. John Vianney in Granbury, St. Peter the Rock in Arlington, and Blessed John Henry Newman in Keller commissioned artist and Blessed Newman member Jane Ladik to create icons of the Stations of the Cross. Father Charles Hough, III, Father Timothy Perkins, and Mr. Louis Tobola, all former Episcopalian priests, presented the religious art to Bishop Vann at a small gathering Oct. 31 at the Catholic Center.

“In the very beginning, our communities met here at the Catholic Center, and we noticed the chapel didn’t have Stations,” said Tobola, spiritual leader of the Blessed Newman group which is currently going through RCIA. “So we decided to make that our gift to the bishop in thanksgiving for his encouragement and support for the Ordinariate.”

Created with egg tempera paints, the 14 icons depicting Christ’s passion feature rich pigments cast against an illuminating gold

background. The project took Ladik nine months to complete.

A student of iconography, Ladik explained the symbolism of each icon’s color scheme, intensity of shading, and imagery. “Icons are a language,” she said, “and every color — even the intensity of a color — means something.”

Fr. Perkins, St. Peter pastor, said the artwork is a tangible expression of the Ordinariate’s love for Bishop Vann and the diocese.

“You have modeled spiritual fatherhood, in a wonderful way, to our communities of pilgrims,” he said addressing the bishop. “You set an example of pastoral care I had never experienced before.”

Fr. Hough said Bishop Vann provided guidance as members of his congregation were transitioning into the Catholic Church.

“The Holy Spirit provided Bishop Vann to us just at the right time,” he said. “Our communities love him for everything he’s done for us, and this is a wonderful expression of our gratitude.”

Voicing his appreciation, Bishop Vann said the icons are a beautiful addition to the chapel.

“These Stations of the Cross are a wonderful testament to the history of the Ordinariate which will always be in this chapel and I thank you,” he added. “The Ordinariate is the culmination of many people’s hopes and prayers.”

New Tyler bishop urged to hit issues ‘squarely,’ remember human person



Photo by Jim D’Avignon / Catholic East Texas (CNS)

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, lays his hands on Bishop Joseph E. Strickland during his Nov. 28 installation Mass at Caldwell Auditorium in Tyler. Archbishop Sheehan is flanked by Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, a former bishop of Tyler (LEFT), and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston (RIGHT).

By Susan De Matteo
CATHOLIC EAST TEXAS

TYLER (CNS) — With cheers, tears, and frequent wild applause, Catholics in the Diocese of Tyler celebrated the ordination and installation of their new bishop, Bishop Joseph E. Strickland, a priest from its own clergy and its vicar general.

About 1,800 people crowded into Caldwell Auditorium in Tyler Nov. 28 to witness Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston consecrate the former “Father Joe” and elevate him to “Bishop Joseph,” as he wants to be known.

The cardinal was assisted by Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, who also grew up in what is now the Tyler Diocese, and Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio, Tyler’s third bishop who served for more than a decade until 2011, when he was named bishop of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., was on hand to read the mandate from Pope Benedict XVI naming then-Monsignor Strickland as the fourth bishop of Tyler. Bishops from across Texas and Louisiana also attended to welcome the new bishop into their ranks.

In his homily Cardinal DiNardo urged Bishop Strickland to “love all whom God has placed under you as father and administrator of the mysteries of faith, especially

your priests,” to honor the consecrated religious in the diocese and to “remember your seminarians.”

“Work well with families and those who are consecrated by the sacrament of marriage,” he added, calling marriage and family life a gift that is “so vulnerable in our days in this country.”

Cardinal DiNardo urged the Tyler community to understand that “your brother now is your shepherd. He’s going to call you to truth and love, and sometimes his truthful and loving words will need to be corrective.”

In English and Spanish, Bishop Strickland welcomed and thanked everyone present, both in the auditorium and those watching on television or via the Internet, “through the marvels of technology that come from God through his creative spirit in the minds of men and women.”

He reminded everyone that, “what we celebrate here today is Jesus Christ. And I can tell you, as a kid who grew up in Atlanta, Texas, what God does among us when we seek to follow his Son is simply amazing. Y’all might say, ‘awesome!’ And that is our God. That’s what we’re celebrating here today.”

Bishop Strickland gave thanks to his family who were present, and for the larger family he’s found in the Diocese of Tyler.

“That is what Jesus Christ does among us,” he said. “He draws us into the one family of God. Isn’t that what it’s all about?”

Fisher More College names dean, Dr. Taylor Marshall, as new Chancellor

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is adapted from a press release sent by Fisher More College Dec. 20.

Fisher More College President Michael King announced today the appointment of Dr. Taylor Marshall as College Chancellor. Marshall had been serving as Dean of the College since the start of the 2012-13 academic year.

Within the organizational structure of Fisher More College, the Chancellor reports to the President and is responsible for effectively communicating the mission of the College. This appointment is designed to move Marshall into a position free from executive and administrative responsibilities, so that his time and energy beyond teaching may be directed toward external promotion of the College.

Marshall, a former Episcopalian priest, was received into the Catholic Church with his wife by Bishop Kevin Vann in 2006. Since then he has written several books, including *The Crucified Rabbi: Judaism and the Origins of Catholic Christianity*, and he regularly contributes to the "Canterbury Tales" blog.

Marshall will continue in his current role as Professor of Philosophy, maintaining his regular teaching load. President King and Dr. Marshall will divide the workload of the Dean of the College until the position has been filled.

Fisher More College is a Catholic college based in Fort Worth. For more information, call (817) 923-8459 or visit www.FisherMore.edu.

Conference helps women embrace authentic femininity

By Jacqueline Burkepile
Correspondent

The Diocese of Fort Worth's first Bilingual Woman's Conference held Nov. 17 at St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, gave women from throughout the diocese the opportunity to learn about the Church's teaching on true womanhood and authentic Christian femininity.

The theme of the conference was "You too go into my vineyard," from *Matthew 20:4*. Each speaker targeted this topic, focusing on the call of Jesus. Spanish presenters included Aurora Tinajero, Hispanic coordinator for the Catholic Pro-Life Committee of Dallas, and Father José Álvarez, CORC, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Fort Worth. Featured guests were the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, presenting for both English and Spanish-speaking audiences.

The primary keynote speaker for the English session was Johnette Benkovic, a renowned Catholic speaker, author, and retreat presenter. A host for EWTN television and radio shows, she is the founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly International Inc. and Women of Grace.

Benkovic approached her presentations in the light of the gift of authentic femininity. She said women can make God's presence known through their gifts and talents.



Photo by Donna Ryckaert / NTC
Johnette Benkovic, keynote speaker at the Women's Conference 2012: "A call to transform the world," speaks to a group of women attending the conference. Benkovic is a renowned Catholic speaker, author and retreat presenter. She is also a host for EWTN television and radio shows.

"They have been chosen and sent," Benkovic said, "and He desires to use their influence, effect, and power in our day, to save humanity from falling and to save the peace of the world. I am hoping that through the gift of the Holy Spirit," that these women of God will see that, "this is their own personal call and mission, as they set off to go into the vineyard the Lord has prepared for them."

Sister Maria Silva from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, presented primarily for the Spanish-speaking audience. She used examples from Church documents to tell her listeners that God desires heaven for everyone.

"The theme of the conference is 'You too go into my vineyard,' which is really a call for holiness. It's not just limited to religious and to priests, but it's a call for everyone," said Sr. Maria Silva.

Bishop Vann receives Scouting award



Photo by Donna Ryckaert / NTC
Fort Worth Diocesan Catholic Committee chairman Earnie Doclar (LEFT) and vice chair Gary Ketchan (RIGHT) presented the St. George Emblem to Bishop Kevin Vann in a private ceremony Dec. 2 at St. Patrick Cathedral. The St. George Emblem honors individuals for "significant and outstanding contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth through Scouting that exceed those of the Bronze Pelican in both quality and time given to the Catholic Scouting Program."

Catholic Divorce Ministry conference facilitates healing within Church teaching

By Jacqueline Burkepile
Correspondent

Catholics from across the country gathered at St. Ann Church in Burleson for the Catholic Divorce Ministry Conference Oct. 4-6.

Executive Director Gregory Mills of Fort Worth explained CDM's purpose: to reach out to divorced or separated Catholics in need of healing. They work to keep them in the Church and do that through the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.

"Our mission in this ministry is to

provide care and comfort to divorced and separated Catholics and their families as a peer ministry, meaning we are all equals," said Mills.

Bishop Kevin Vann, the episcopal liaison for the CDM, delivered the keynote address reflecting on the Year of Faith. He encouraged participants to lead others to Christ, to serve others, to deepen their prayer and spiritual lives, and to reflect on the new evangelization and the notion of gratitude.

"The Church, as a mother, seeks to embrace all who seek the love of Christ in all

moments of their lives, good and bad," he said.

The conference also featured Chris Vaughan, diocesan director of Marriage and Family Life, and Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Arlington.

Vaughan plans to encourage parishes in the diocese to start support groups, saying this ministry is greatly needed.

"So many people call me and want to know, 'What can the Church do for me? I am really hurting right now,'" Vaughan said. "Sometimes the answer is, 'Well, there's a class starting in two months,' and that's just

to me unacceptable."

Fr. Medina discussed annulments. He said CDM impacts those suffering from separation or divorce in a positive way, especially by addressing problems in a group setting.

"It helps them to heal, and it lets them see that they're not the only ones going through this. The more that people get the chance to tell their stories and name those hurts, the more control they have over their lives," said Fr. Medina.

For more information about CDM, visit www.nacsd.org.



Photo Courtesy of Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre

Newly invested members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from the Diocese of Fort Worth are pictured from left to right: Rennie Hubnik, Heidi and Bruce Ferguson, Msgr. Stephen Berg, Fr. Jonathan Wallis, and Mary Lynn and Ray Sliva.

Knights of the Holy Sepulchre invests seven new members from Fort Worth

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem invested seven new members of the Fort Worth section at the recent Annual Southwest Lieutenancy Investiture and Meeting hosted by the Diocese of Tulsa: Diocesan Administrator Monsignor Stephen Berg, diocesan Catechesis Director Father Jonathan Wallis, Heidi and Bruce Ferguson, Rennie Hubnik, and Mary Lynn and Ray Silva. Sixty Fort Worth members attended among the more than 800 members from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas which comprise the Southwestern Lieutenancy.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, Grand Prior of the Lieutenan-

cy, officiated at the Investiture ceremonies.

The Order's roots are from after the Crusades, and over the centuries papal decrees have redefined its role. The constitution describes its purpose "to strengthen in its members the practice of Christian life; to sustain and aid the charitable, cultural, and social works and institutions of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land; to support the preservation and propagation of the Faith in those lands; and to uphold the rights of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land." Members are also exhorted to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The lieutenancy's 2013 Meeting and Investiture will be in Fort Worth, Oct. 25-28.

World Youth Day challenges teens to 'walk by faith'

Jacqueline Burkepile
Correspondent

The Holy Spirit gathered thousands of youth at Six Flags World Youth Day

Singing, worship, fellowship, and faith filled the Six Flags Over Texas Park Oct. 21 as the Dallas and Fort Worth Dioceses celebrated World Youth Day together. The theme of the event was "We walk by faith and not by sight," from 2 Corinthians 5:7, coinciding with Pope Benedict XVI's "Year of Faith."

Junior high and high school students flooded the theme park. The day began with games and thrill rides, followed by prayer, and praise and worship with guests David Casey and Doug Tooke of Monarch Catholic Ministries. More than 7,000 youth and their adult leaders attended Mass beginning at 5 p.m. with Bishop Kevin Vann and Dallas Diocese Auxiliary Bishop Mark Seitz.

Teresa Montoya, a chaperone for Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville, said this was her tenth time to attend World Youth Day at Six Flags. She said the Mass is a beautiful and moving experience.

"I think it's important that my children see an example, so I bring my kids every year so they see that it's bigger than just our community. It's a universal Church," said Montoya.



David Casey of Monarch Catholic Ministries performs before the Oct. 21 Mass at Six Flags. Behind him is the event's banner with the theme, "We walk by faith not by sight."

Bishop Vann presented the homily for the World Youth Day Mass, focusing on a Christian Twitter feed based on the Gospel. The day then ended with a standing ovation honoring him for his work in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Rebecca Martin, a parent and chaperone from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, said the most remarkable part of the Mass was Bishop Vann's homily.

"He connected with the youth — inspiring them to witness to the world via their generational tools — Facebook, Twitter, etc. They may have expected something less modern, but what they received was truly inspirational to their generation," said Martin.

Martin's 12-year-old daughter, Peyton, attended and said World Youth Day brought her closer to God.

"I learned how to trust Jesus more, and I became close to many strangers that God helped me meet and have the strength to be bold," she said.

Clear vision of new evangelization helps bring dynamic leaders into FOCUS

By Jerry Circelli
Correspondent

Curtis Martin, president and founder of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), spoke Nov. 8 to members of the Fort Worth Legatus Chapter.

FOCUS has about 350 missionaries dedicated to sharing their faith with students at 74 college campuses in 30 U.S. states, including the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University in Denton.

Martin was one of only a few laymen to

attend the three-week Synod of Bishops for the New Evangelization held at the Vatican, which included daily meetings for nearly a month with 250 clergy, including Pope Benedict XVI.

"If I left with one impression about the new evangelization," Martin said, "I would use one phrase: 'All the Church for all the world.' And we need to awaken every Catholic, because the rest of the world is dying for us to awaken.

In a 2005 message directed to youth, Pope Benedict said, "The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for

comfort. You were made for greatness."

Martin repeated the message to the group of attentive Legatus members and their spouses.

"I've never met a young person who doesn't want to hear that," Martin said. "I've never met anyone who doesn't want to hear that."

It is critical to reach college students with this message, Martin said, especially considering that they are such a pivotal group in our culture. These individuals will soon become leaders in our society.

"If you reach college students, you

reach them right at the beginning of their adult lives. They can immediately choose to live for greatness and for Christ. And they can spend the rest of their lives having an impact.

In all of Martin's talks and writings about following Christ and practicing our faith, evangelization continues to be at the center.

"Catholicism is a relay race," Martin said. "No matter how well we live our faith and practice our faith, if we don't pass it on to the next generation, we lose. It's really all about the baton pass to the next generation."

DIOCESE

Msgr. Stephen Berg selected Fort Worth Diocesan Administrator

Monsignor Stephen J. Berg, former vicar general of the diocese, was elected diocesan administrator by the diocesan College of Consultors, and confirmed by Archbishop Carlo Viganò, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, on Dec. 13.

"I am very pleased to accept this interim position of service. I

hope with God's grace to serve the people of the diocese during this period of transition," said Msgr. Berg.

According to the *Code of Canon Law*, a diocesan administrator temporarily maintains the functions of the diocese until a new diocesan bishop is appointed

and installed. An administrator must take care to "maintain the status quo of the diocese."

Msgr. Berg was born March 3, 1951 in Miles City, Montana, and after a career in retail, entered Assumption Seminary in 1993, and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth May 15, 1999 by his uncle, Bishop Joseph Charron of Des Moines.

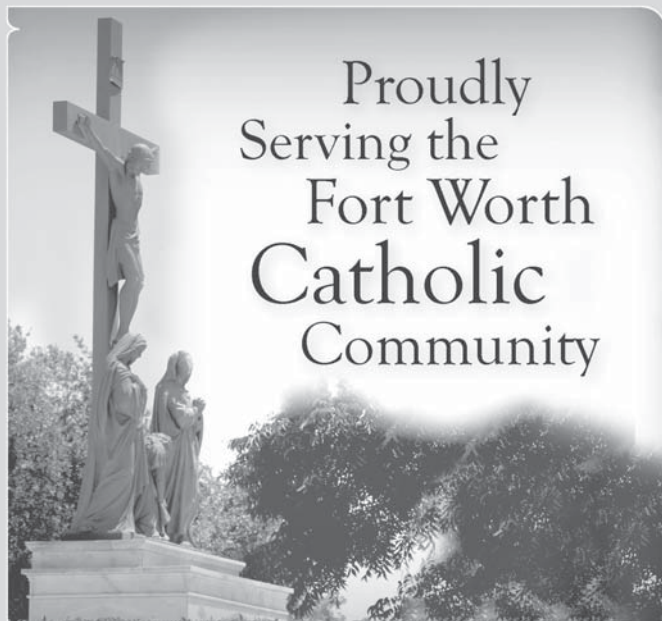
He served as parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish in Bedford 1999-2001, and St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills 2001-2002. He then served as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Henrietta, St. Jerome Parish in Bowie, St. William Parish in Montague, and St. Joseph Parish in Nona until 2008, when he was appointed vicar general of the diocese and pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in White Settlement.



Msgr. Stephen Berg

In 2010, Msgr. Berg, after being pastor of St. Peter Parish, assumed the position of diocesan moderator of the curia, while remaining vicar general.

"I appreciate the confidence of the College of Consultors, and I ask for the prayers and support of all of the priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful during this time of transition," he said.



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CATHOLIC CHARITIES



NTC Photo / Juan Guajardo

Debra Johnson (left) a former Refugee Educational Services social worker, and Elizabeth Strittmatter-Roberts, a social worker at Catholic Charities, in the new mobile service unit on Dec. 10.

CCFW services go mobile

Every staff member at Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW), at every level within the agency, embraces a fierce dedication to their common goal: to end poverty within the 28-county area of the Diocese of Fort Worth. With that in mind, CCFW's leadership encourages all employees to share their ideas about continuing innovation within their own areas of service.

"Education, especially language skills for refugees in our communities, is an essential aspect of the transition process out of poverty," says Heather Reynolds, CCFW's president and chief executive officer. "Everyone here at Catholic Charities is committed to helping our clients with that transition by fostering their ability to become self-sufficient."

Reynolds, therefore, was characteristically enthusiastic about an exciting suggestion offered by a staff member in CCFW's refugee services department: that of a multi-purpose mobile unit, a fully-equipped bus designed to serve as a portable classroom and also as a mobile Catholic Charities office in outlying areas.

Atmos Energy, agreed to partner with the agency by donating the cost of the bus, while CCFW staff worked together to design the interior of the unit in order to maximize its potential for use in a variety of ways.

"We are all just thrilled about this innovative approach to service," says Amy Snyder, program manager for CCFW's Refugee Educational Services. "We have such a need for more space for our English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. During our last contract year, we served 578 adult refugees, and the need for more classes continues to grow. When people come to this country, one of the first things that we offer them is the opportunity to learn English, so that they can obtain employment."

By going into the communities in order to teach ESL classes within the areas where groups of Burmese, Bhutanese, Iraqi, African, and other refugees are living, CCFW is able to remove barriers that can keep new arrivals to the country from learning English, says Snyder. The new mobile unit is also equipped to provide disaster response, service to the homeless, and assistance in rural communities throughout the diocese.

"We can't just do things the way we've always done them," says Snyder. "At Catholic Charities, we continue to work creatively to meet the needs."

For more information about the CCFW mobile unit, visit www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/ bus. For referral to its services, call (817) 534-0814.

Father John Hennessy (1951-2012), remembered for faith, service as a parish priest

By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

Father John Anthony Hennessy, Jr., 61, a beloved diocesan parish priest whose longest assignment was at St. Ann Church in Burleson, died Sunday, Dec. 2 in Mansfield after a long illness.

"All these years he worked as a pastor," said Father Karl Schilken, longtime friend of Fr. Hennessy, currently finishing a degree at the Catholic University of America in Washington. "He never did specialized ministry at all. He did the work of the priest, and he did it very well," Fr. Schilken said.

A vigil service was held at 6 p.m., Dec. 5 at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth. Fr. Hennessy's funeral Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m., Dec. 6 at St. Andrew's, and interment followed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, where he was buried on the Priests' Circle.

He was born on Nov. 28, 1951, to Mary Emma and John Anthony Hennessy, Sr., in Fort Worth. He attended St. Andrew Catholic School and Church, and Nolan Catholic High School. He entered Holy Trinity Seminary, and continued his theological education at the North American College in Vatican City. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth by Bishop John J. Cassata on July 29, 1978. He faithfully served the people in several parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth. His longest assignment was as pastor of St. Ann 1986-2007.

Jackie Becker, who became the main secretary and bookkeeper at St. Ann in 1995 and worked with Fr. Hennessy until he left the parish in 2007, said he helped the church achieve many financial goals including paying off the debt it incurred in 1973 with the building of the church, building a formation center in 2000 and paying it off, as



Photo by Wendy Pandolfo / NTC File Photo

In this NTC file photo, Father John Hennessy (second from right) greets Bishop John Cassata's nephew, Joe Culotta (left) of Houston, after a memorial Mass held in 2006 for the bishop who ordained him to the priesthood.

well as acquiring a nearby house as the church rectory. "When he left St. Ann's we were debt free," Becker said.

Pam Klein, who worked as Fr. Hennessy's assistant secretary at St. Ann for 10 years, said one of the things she remembered the most about him was his compassion for those in need.

"And I'm talking about from those who had lost loved ones to those who were just going through a difficult time — just anyone who needed a good listening ear or guidance. That is where he shined as a priest," Klein said.

Fr. Hennessy had also served as associate pastor of St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington 1978-1979 and at St. Patrick Cathedral 1979-1982. He then served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Henrietta, St. Jerome Parish in Bowie, St. Joseph Parish in Nocona, and St. William Parish in Montague 1982-86, and at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller 2007-2009. He then took a year of sabbatical that included study in Rome.

Father Isaac Orozco, diocesan Vocations director, said he first met

Fr. Hennessy in Rome while he was at the North American College and Fr. Hennessy was there on pilgrimage with his graduating class of 1978.

Fr. Orozco said a couple of years later, Fr. Hennessy was instrumental in his assignment to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, so they worked together until Fr. Hennessy left the parish.

"I was impressed again and again by his depth and his intuition about what I needed as a young priest," Fr. Orozco said. "He knew that I needed some space to make mistakes and learn about my own approach to ministry. He helped me to know myself better, and I am indebted to him for that."

Gabe Gutiérrez, high school youth minister at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller who worked with Fr. Hennessy while he was in Keller

and before that for a few years at St. Ann, said he was also impressed by how much Fr. Hennessy loved Jesus, the Church, the sacraments, and being a priest.

After returning from Rome, Fr. Hennessy served as parochial vicar of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Fort Worth from 2010 until his death, and concurrently at St. John the Apostle from 2011 until his death.

In addition, at the time of his death, he was serving as chaplain of the Discalced Carmelite Nuns at the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington.

"He was a very dear priest and friend of ours," said Mother Anne Teresa Kulinski, prioress of the Carmelite Monastery in Arlington. "He was very generous in serving our community. He never refused anything we asked of him. He was always there to help us whenever we needed him, and he will be sorely missed by our community."

Fr. Hennessy also served as chaplain to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur at Our Lady of Victory. As a boy he earned the rank of Eagle Scout and as a priest, he served as chaplain to the Boy Scouts of the area. He was also a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Fr. Hennessy was preceded in death by his father, John, a veterinarian. He is survived by his mother, Mary Emma Lewis Hennessy, and two brothers, Pat Hennessy and his wife Cindy, of Hico, Texas, and Paul Hennessy of Austin.

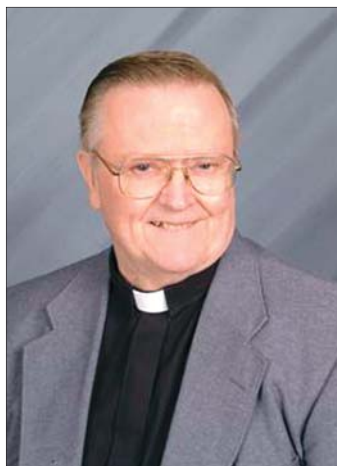
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Father Gene Sweeney, SM, founding pastor of St. Mark Parish in Denton, dies at 79

Father Eugene “Gene” R. Sweeney, SM, beloved first pastor of St. Mark Church in Denton and a former educator at Nolan Catholic High School, died in San Antonio Oct. 27. A Rosary and visitation service was held Monday, Oct. 29, in the chapel of the Marianist Residence at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio. A memorial Mass was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 30, also at the Marianist Residence in San Antonio. Visitation services were also held in St. Louis at Our Lady of the Pillar Parish on Monday, Nov. 5; followed by the Mass of Christian Burial and interment at Maryhurst Cemetery.

Eugene Sweeney was born Sept. 22, 1933 in East St. Louis, Illinois, to John and Adele Sweeney. He professed his first vows as a member of the Society of Mary (Marianists) Aug. 15, 1952. After receiving a Bachelors of Arts in Economics from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio in 1954, he professed his final vows as a Marianist Brother in July of 1957.

Fr. Sweeney faithfully served as a high school teacher, guidance counselor, and coach, and as a retreat master, campus minister, and parish priest in several American and Canadian communities, including Fort Worth, Denton, Omaha, St. Louis, and San Antonio. Former Nolan students, fondly



Fr. Eugene Sweeney, SM

recalling his years at the high school — 1963 to 1974 — posted several online tributes, praising his abilities as a tennis coach and as an English teacher with a sense of humor and profound integrity.

Fr. Sweeney was ordained on June 10, 1978, following studies at Notre Dame University, where he earned a graduate degree in English, and at St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto, where he completed a Masters of Divinity. Later, after returning to the Diocese of Fort Worth in July of 1995, he became the first pastor of St. Mark Church in Denton, which had been established as a mission of Immaculate Conception Church in 1990.

Longtime St. Mark staff members David and Michele Gilmore

recalled Fr. Sweeney’s talents as a dedicated leader of the parish in its early years. The parish, comprised of approximately 300 families at the time, has now grown to nearly 1,500 families. Much of the rapid growth in the first years of the parish’s history, according to the Gilmores, can be attributed to Fr. Sweeney and his reputation as an engaging homilist and compassionate priest. “He had marvelous pastoral gifts,” recalled Michele, who currently serves as coordinator of middle school ministry. “He did so much for all of us. When you were in his presence, you had his full attention, and his full support. He was so beloved by his staff and by his parishioners.”

Noting Fr. Sweeney’s visionary leadership, David recalled that the

parish community was able to pay off the five million dollar debt on their building by 2000. “That was because of the relationships Fr. Gene established,” he explained. “So many people just adored him, and they loved his homilies. He was known for his great sense of hospitality. He was very much missed when he retired in 2004, and he is still loved and missed at the parish today.”

Three brothers preceded Fr. Sweeney in death. He is survived by sisters Joan Goetz of Union, Missouri, and Eleanor Hayden of Villa Ridge, Missouri, and his religious brothers of the Society of Mary. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Marianist Province of the United States, 4425 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63108.

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Sr. Mary Carolyne of Jesus, OCD, (1924-2012) helped found Arlington monastery

On Tuesday, Nov. 27, Sister Mary Carolyne of Jesus, OCD, died at Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington, at the age of 88, after having spent nearly 60 years as a Discalced Carmelite. Her funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 30 at the monastery chapel, with Bishop Kevin Vann serving as main celebrant, joined by Father Luis Castaneda, OCD.

Sr. Carolyne, as she was called, was born Carolyne Patricia Nevel-dine in Syracuse, New York, March 7, 1924, to Anthony J. and Marjorie Burns Nevel-dine. The eldest of five children, Sr. Carolyne, who grew up in Manlius, New York, delayed her entrance into Carmel due to the her mother's unexpected death. She cared for her three youngest siblings, who were then all younger than 12.

She entered the Carmel of Oklahoma City July 27, 1951, making her

profession of vows in 1953. In 1958, she was asked to become one of the founding Sisters of the new Carmel to be established in Fort Worth, at the request of Bishop Thomas Gorman of what was then the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth. Sr. Carolyne helped set up the first monastery on Sunset Terrace, transforming a residential home near downtown Fort Worth into an enclosed monastery, Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity, named for its location on a steep bluff overlooking the Trinity River.

Sr. Carolyne was elected by her Sisters to fulfill the office of Subprioress, and served as the community sacristan for many years. According to Prioress Mother Anne Teresa, Sr. Carolyne was a gifted seamstress, "creating vestments and sacred linens, as well as sewing the nuns' clothing," wrote Mother Anne Teresa.



Sr. Mary Carolyne of Jesus, OCD

"She greatly loved and was devoted to the sacred liturgy, both the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Divine Office," added Mother Anne Teresa, noting that Sr. Carolyne had a special devotion to the Divine Mercy image and message, 'Jesus, I trust in Thee.'"

Finally, Mother Anne Teresa shared these personal recollections of the monastery's beloved community

member. "She is remembered for her beautiful smile, selfless generosity, and wonderful laughter," wrote Mother Anne Teresa, recalling that the aides who cared for Sr. Carolyne in her final days were deeply touched by Sr. Carolyne's smile.

"Three days before she died, when asked how she was doing, Sr. Carolyne replied with her usual cheerfulness, 'Doing God's will, I hope!' Such is a beautiful summation of her life of complete dedication and continual striving towards union with God at every moment and in every circumstance," wrote the prioress. Sr. Carolyne is survived by her two brothers and two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial gifts in honor of Sr. Carolyne may be made to: Discalced Carmelite Nuns, 5801 Mt. Carmel Drive, Arlington, TX, 76017.

Sr. Margarita, OCD, (1945-2012) always gave of herself, even in her illness

Sister Margarita Zamarron (Maria de los Angeles Socorro Zamarron), a member of the Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington, died Monday, Dec. 10 at the Carmelite Monastery in Arlington. The funeral Mass was held at the monastery chapel Thursday, Dec. 14, and interment was in the Carmelite cemetery.

Sr. Margarita was born Aug. 11, 1945, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, one of five children born to Margarita and Inocencio Zamarron. She immigrated to the United States as a young woman and worked in several different cities before settling in Weatherford, where she was an active member of her parish, St. Stephen, serving the Hispanic community. She was a longtime employee of Bill McDavid Pontiac in Fort Worth.

Having experienced the call to religious life for many years, Sr.



Sr. Margarita of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, OCD

Margarita was introduced to the Arlington Carmelite community by Father Tim Thompson. In 1996, after extended contact with Prioress Mother Anne Teresa, "Coco," as she was called, lived briefly in the monastery as part of her discernment process. The community members, in turn, also discerned that she could be accepted as a postulant, and she formally entered Carmel

Jan. 19, 1997.

"Sister Margarita was a very prayerful and generous person. She followed the successive stages of formation in Carmel with a humble spirit and readiness to learn," wrote Prioress Mother Anne Teresa. "She professed her Solemn Vows and became a permanent member of our community on Oct. 4, 2003."

According to Mother Anne Teresa, Sr. Margarita was diagnosed with cancer early in her years as a religious. "Even so, she worked in the various offices in the monastery. Sister had a good sense of humor and had many funny stories to tell of coming to the United States and learning English. She was very accomplished at embroidery and made beautiful baby blankets that were admired by all," wrote the prioress, recalling that Sr. Margarita deeply loved the spirituality of Carmel and

all the Carmelite saints, especially St. Teresa of Jesus.

"Sr. Margarita will be missed very much," concluded Mother Anne Teresa. "She was very devoted to Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother. Each day she prayed the Liturgy of the Hours with us; she shared in all the aspects of Carmelite community life, our joys and sorrows, our recreations... She is part of the story of Arlington Carmel and our life of prayer here at the heart of the Church."

Sr. Margarita is survived by her community members, and by her son Gerald and his wife Maricela, and their children, Brittany and Austin; her brother, Luis; her sisters, Guadalupe and Lucia, and several nieces and nephews. Memorial donations in her honor may be made to: Discalced Carmelite Nuns, 5801 Mt. Carmel Drive, Arlington, TX, 76017.

New York native Sister Barbara Wilson, SSMN, was a Texan when she died at 77

**By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent**

Sister Barbara Wilson, a retired sister of St. Mary of Namur at Our Lady of Victory Center in Fort Worth who was known for her joy and compassion, died Dec. 10.

"She was really personable and simple yet a joyful, laughing-type person, and she could always entertain everyone," said Sister Patricia Ste. Marie, who worked in adult formation for 27 years at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls.

"She was really good at ministering to the sick too," Sr. Patricia said.

Wake services for Sr. Barbara were Sunday, Dec. 16 at Our Lady of Victory. Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, Dec. 17, also at Our Lady of Victory, and interment followed at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Barbara Anne Wilson was born June 28, 1935, and entered the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in 1953. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Mount St. Joseph Teachers' College, Buffalo, New York. Sr. Barbara served as a teacher and principal in 13 Catholic Schools in New York state between 1956-77, and at the Hearing and Speech Center in Buffalo 1977-78. In 1978, Sr. Barbara moved to the Western Province of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, where she worked in adult

education and pastoral care at St. Thomas More Church in Houston 1978-81 and again 1990-96.

Sr. Barbara directed and coordinated the OLV Infirmary in Fort Worth 1981-90 and coordinated and supervised the OLV food service 1996-2002. From 2002 to 2007, Sr. Barbara lived with the sisters in Wichita Falls. Sr. Patricia said Sr. Barbara was instrumental in helping her while she was adult education director at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, assisting in adult formation, RCIA, and Bible-sharing groups.

"There was one particular Bible sharing group that she was part of and led for quite a few years. All those people just love her so much," Sr. Patricia said.

Sr. Barbara dedicated some months of pastoral presence to the sisters in their British Province in London in 2005. Her retirement at OLV Center 2007-2012 was devoted to pastoral care, especially to the sisters in the infirmary.

"She was a very compassionate person," said Sister Mary Helen Fuhrmann. "She would reach out to those with special needs. She would always reach out to people in need," Sr. Mary Helen said.

Sr. Mary Helen and Sr. Patricia both said Sr. Barbara also enjoyed parties.

"Every time we had a party at OLV she would always be on



Sr. Barbara Wilson, SSMN

the committee to help plan it," Sr. Patricia said.

Sr. Mary Helen and Sr. Patricia both said Sr. Barbara loved Texas.

"She was a true Texan," Sr. Mary Helen said. "She was from Buffalo, New York, but she came down to join the Texas province and she loved Texas," she said.

According to Sr. Mary Helen as well as other sisters at the OLV

Center in Fort Worth, Sr. Barbara shared her love of sacred Scripture and her gift of laughter even during the last months of her illness, and several sisters said they are grateful to Sr. Barbara for her gifts of life and laughter which have enriched all whose lives she touched.

"She was so peaceful and calm. She was a woman of faith," said Sr. Mary Helen.

Sr. Barbara is survived by brothers Thomas, Paul (Merida), Joseph, John (Gere), and George (Jackie) Wilson; sisters Miriam Easton and Ruth Weinberg; brother-in-law George Howell; a niece and a nephew; and the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. Memorial Gifts in Sr. Barbara's memory may be made to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, 909 W. Shaw St., Fort Worth, TX, 76110.

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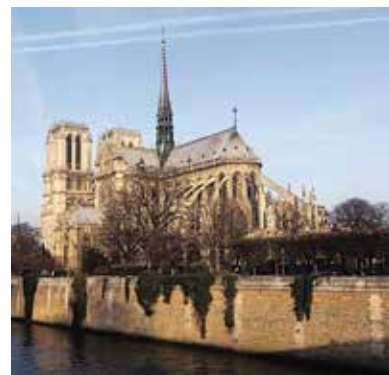
Call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services at (800) 252-5400



Children hold figurines of the baby Jesus during Pope Benedict XVI's Angelus in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 16. The children brought their Nativity figurines for the pope to bless. (CNS photo/Giancarlo Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)



Pope Benedict XVI applauds during an audience with circus performers in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Dec. 1. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Paris' Notre Dame Cathedral from the Seine River, as festivities for its 850th anniversary begin Dec. 12. The cathedral, has had its lighting improved, its organ renovated, and is having new bells cast. Notre Dame expects to welcome up to 20 million pilgrims and tourists for its celebration, ending next November. (CNS photo/Jacky Naegelen, Reuters)

A Vatican worker, known as a "sanpietrino," dusts a column of the baldacchino over the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 18 at the Vatican. The baldacchino is cleaned typically before Christmas and Easter, using a mix of ancient and modern techniques. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Pilgrims travel in boats carrying an image of Mary on the Xolotlan Lake in Managua, Nicaragua, Dec 9. (CNS photo/Oswaldo Rivas, Reuters)



Nata Ouedrago, with one of her three sets of twins, poses Oct. 23 in Yalگو, Burkina Faso. She receives nutritional aid from the recently built Blessed John Paul II Center, a medical facility run by Marianites of Holy Cross headquartered in New Orleans. (CNS photo/J.D. Long-Garcia, CATHOLIC SUN)



Cross-Words

By Mark Simeroth

Across & Down:

1. Carols
2. Unconcealed
3. Not even once
4. _____Roman wrestling
5. Leather razor sharpener

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi

Panel 1: I HEAR SOME PARENTS DON'T WANT KIDS LIKE ME.

Panel 2: THEY THINK KIDS WITH DOWN SYNDROME AREN'T VERY USEFUL.

Panel 3: I CAN LEARN HOW TO DO THINGS, BUT ONE THING I CAN DO ON MY OWN IS LOVE.

Panel 4: SO PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND IF YOU SEE A KID LIKE ME COMING.

The FLOCK by Jean Denton

Panel 1: WOW! LITTLE HOWIE IS REALLY PREPARED FOR HIS BAPTISM! I'LL SAY!

Panel 2: HEY IT'S FOREVER, RIGHT? If only everybody took it so seriously!

Our suffering can be redemptive

AS LENT AND THE MEDITATION ON THE SUFFERINGS OF JESUS APPROACHES, I am taken back to the events of last fall. Superstorm Sandy and the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School inflicted so much suffering and continue to impact the individuals, communities, and the entire nation. The question of “Why?” always comes up when such things take place and in truth there is no definitive answer to this. But, John Paul II shed some light on the subject of suffering in his Apostolic Letter *Salvifici Doloris* – “On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering.”

He says in this letter “The joy comes from the discovery of the meaning of suffering.” This is not to say that our suffering is supposed to bring joy to our lives, rather that when we find meaning in our suffering, joy can come. Suffering without meaning is just pain.

John Paul goes on to say “Suffering, in fact, is always a trial — at times a very hard one — to which humanity is subjected.” Thus he is saying that none of us escape the reality of suffering in our lives.

The beginning of finding meaning in our suffering comes when we see the power to change that accompanies the pain. John Paul says, “Suffering must serve for conversion, that is, for the rebuilding of goodness in the subject.” I think what the pontiff is saying here is whatever the situation is that is the cause of our pain, God is present and offering to help us through the pain to a place of peace where we will find that we have been changed by the journey.

“In the Cross of Christ not only is the Redemption accomplished through suffering, but also human suffering itself has been redeemed. Thus to share in the sufferings of Christ is, at the same time, to suffer for the Kingdom of God.”

—Pope John Paul II

I can attest to this reality in my own life. Early in my marriage my wife and I experienced six miscarriages in the course of three years. The suffering we endured was like nothing either of us had experienced, but the experience has changed us. Would we trade these changes for a child, yes! But the people we are today is a direct result of the journey through suffering.

John Paul connects human suffering to the sufferings of Jesus on the cross. “Love, is the definitive source of everything that exists. Love is: also the fullest source of the answer to the question of the meaning of suffering. This answer has been given by God to man in the Cross of Jesus Christ.” John Paul is not saying that we suffer because God loves us, rather

he is saying: “The victory over sin and death achieved by Christ in his Cross and Resurrection does not abolish temporal suffering from human life. It nevertheless throws a new light upon this dimension and upon every suffering: the light of salvation.

It would have been great for Jesus’ suffering and death to have been the last of human suffering, but the victory over sin and death did not abolish sin and death, it just opened a path to overcoming it and a path to turn it upside down. To this point John Paul says, “In the Cross of Christ not only is the Redemption accomplished through suffering, but also human suffering itself has been redeemed. Thus to share in the sufferings of Christ is, at the same time, to suffer for the Kingdom of



Jeff Hedglen is the Campus Minister at UTA and associate director of Young Adult Ministry for the diocese. He is also the primary convener of Camp Fort Worth’s many editions.

God.” Human suffering is not an end in and of itself; when united to the sufferings of Jesus, it can actually impact the Kingdom.

I saw this in a particular way when my mother was dying of cancer. She prayed through the pain and offered up her suffering. Yet at the same time, she did not hide her pain and suffering. She was open about it, and in doing so, we all walked the journey with her.

The suffering was not the end of the journey for Jesus or my mother, as John Paul says, “The Resurrection revealed this glory... that those who share in the sufferings of Christ are also called, through their own sufferings, to share in glory.

My mother died on Good Friday of 1992. I have always held onto this thought: my mother did not go home to the Lord, she went home with Him. It wasn’t until I read John Paul II’s reflection on human suffering that I truly understood that statement.

So as we prepare for the coming season of Lent, let us remember that just like Jesus’ sufferings, ours too do not end on Good Friday, the true end of the journey is Easter Sunday.

Preserving our kids' innocence

It won't last forever, but it's worthy of our protection

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

HER NAME WAS CATHERINE FABIOLA

PROUDFOOT, and I will never forget her.

Of course, she had a name that demanded recollection, like Slobodan Milošević or Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, men whose rhythmic, almost poetic monikers have always fascinated me. I like to say those names aloud. I also like to say Catherine Proudfoot's.

Every time I saw Catherine, we prayed together, then listened to music. We maintained that sweet tradition for a good reason: she was my piano teacher.

Catherine is the only adult I remember calling by her first name. Unless you count the nuns: "Yes, Sister" and "No, Sister" are first name usage, aren't they?

Catherine's house was walking distance from mine. That is, "walking distance" in Pueblo, Colorado 1950s terminology. It was down three blocks, around the building that housed my kindergarten, past Husted's Grocery and Uncle Sammie's house, and through a neighborhood that in retrospect reminds me of "It's a Wonderful Life."

I was in sixth grade when I began walking to Catherine's.

During that school year my friend Joey got hold of his father's gun and accidentally shot my friend Donnie. It was the day of my piano lesson, and as I walked to Catherine's house I worried and worried.

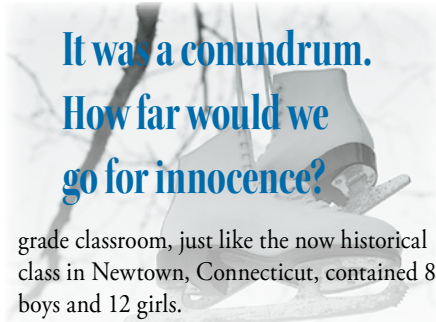
I remember every street corner and every tree in Catherine's neighborhood, because as I walked, I struggled through the fact that innocence as I knew it, was gone.

Catherine and I said our prayer that day, but we didn't play piano. She told me stories, she answered my questions.

When I got home I learned Donnie had surgery, his spleen was removed, but he was alive. It was an accident.

Last month, though, I was remembering first grade, not sixth.

I was recalling the irony that my first



grade classroom, just like the now historical class in Newtown, Connecticut, contained 8 boys and 12 girls.

It might have been in our own 8-boys and 12-girls classroom where a heinous crime took place. To us, though, in Pueblo, in the pre-sixth-grade Donnie-was-accidentally-shot era, bad things like that never happened.

At my daughter Meredith's house, the children Sam, Natalie, and Emma pray aloud at meals. Each voices intentions and after the killings at Sandy Hook, they prayed for the young victims and their families.

"When it began," Meredith said, "Dustin and I thought it was kindergarten who had been killed. Everyone was sad, but for Emma, it was less real, I think.

"A few days later, when we prayed for them, Emma asked how old they were. When she learned they were her own age, and first graders, she cried inconsolably."

Emma is the age I remember when we had the same number of children in my first grade class as the Sandy Hook School had in the class that was slaughtered.

She didn't want to know the details, my daughter Meredith, a children's therapist, reminded me, "We do need to answer what they ask. But we don't want to give too much information."

Learning the children's ages created a loss of innocence for Emma. "It is important to let our kids have innocence," Meredith said. "That night, Emma cried, 'Is our school safe?' I talked with her and said those things don't always happen; the school is safe, and it was our job to keep her safe."

"It is important for children to have beliefs and even fantasies," Meredith said, "because losing them is the same as losing innocence."

I remember when I began to lose my innocence — when Joey accidentally shot Donnie. One person who helped me was Catherine, who gave up our piano lesson to talk, listen, and pray.

One time, when my daughter Meredith was not a wise mom/therapist, but an eight-year-old — close to Emma's age — she wanted her first pair of ice skates for Christmas. The skates were not in our budget ... and we'd already finished shopping.

So Meredith asked Santa Claus.

It was a conundrum. How far would we go for innocence?

We chose to keep the fantasy. When Christmas came, Meredith opened her presents and did not find ice skates. But then she looked outside and saw ice skates hanging from the highest tree in our yard.

Many, many years later I would hear my daughter retelling that event to her children: "They were hanging there," she was saying. "Santa had to have dropped them from his sled." The children listened spellbound.

Lifting her hands in visual belief, she concluded, "We didn't have a ladder that high at our house."

Meredith was maintaining innocence for her children, as Catherine Fabiola Proudfoot did for me.

I pray for innocence to return to the children in and about Sandy Hook. And everywhere.



Kathy Cribari Hamer and her husband are members of St. Andrew Parish. Her family life column has been recognized repeatedly by the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

Sometimes the lessons are simple

and God's teaching tool has a pulse and fur

By Denise Bossert

I WENT ON MY FIRST PILGRIMAGE LAST JULY.

I knew that a pilgrimage was not supposed to be predictable. It's a journey, and journeys take on a life of their own.

My daughter and I began our day with Mass at our parish. I'm usually a morning person, but I couldn't shake the fatigue. That's when I realized that I took my evening medicine (with its soporific side effect) instead of reaching for my over-the-counter allergy pill. Wrong medicine. Definitely the wrong medicine.

I labored through Mass, and we headed back home for some coffee before hitting the road for the Shrine at Starkenburg, Missouri.

We took the scenic route — an hour on the back roads of Missouri. The scenery was beautiful, but there were few bathroom opportunities. Did I mention that I had coffee before this trip?

Finally, we made it to the Shrine.

It was about 11:30, and a number of cars were parked in the lot already. It was the second Tuesday of the month, and that meant a noon Mass at the Shrine.

We were going to step inside, take a few minutes to pray and then slip out before Mass. We had noticed a German shepherd on the front steps, and when we opened the chapel door, he scurried over the threshold and dashed past us. He was halfway down the aisle before I caught him by the collar and coaxed him out the doors. I was mortified. The faithful who were praying raised their heads and stared. I wanted to explain that it wasn't my dog. No, really! I have never seen that dog before!

My daughter and I took a deep breath and finally slipped into the back row. As we prayed, the dog whined so loudly that everyone could hear it.

We prayed for our special intentions, quickly made the Sign of the Cross, and



left the chapel.

There he was, waiting for us, his tail wagging joyfully. We walked to the Shrine, and the dog pranced along beside us. I descended the steps and escaped the heat of the July day. The grotto was dim and cool, and I knelt to pray. My daughter stayed with our new canine companion, so that he would not follow me into the holy space. The sign in front of the Shrine reminded visitors to be quiet and reverent. I suspected that meant Fido was not invited inside, although there was no front door to keep him from entering.

When I came out of the Shrine and mounted the steps, my daughter informed me that our new friend had been nearly impossible to restrain. I told my daughter to go on ahead and pray in the Shrine. Perhaps the dog would stay with me while she prayed.

The dog jerked out of my hands and bounded down the steps after her.

People were parking and walking to the church in greater numbers. Once again, I wanted to announce that I did not know this dog at all. I've never seen him before! Honest!

We left after that. The dog stayed behind. Our last glimpse of him was from the parking lot.

Later, I took my daughter to lunch. I asked her what her favorite part of the pilgrimage was. Her face brightened.

**I have only to love God
— with as much joy and
tenacity as a stray dog
for new-found friends.**

"When the dog followed us," she said with a smile.

I laughed. I worry too much what people think. Maybe that's what I needed to learn. That's the shortcoming I need to amend. Pilgrimages always teach us something about ourselves.

It doesn't matter if others misunderstand or think they know me when they don't. It doesn't matter if they draw conclusions about me that are far from accurate. I worry too much what people think.

I have only to love God — with as much joy and tenacity as a stray dog for new-found friends.

On a hot July morning, God planted a dog at the Shrine. He permitted that dog to enter into his holy place and make it halfway to the tabernacle. He inspired that dog to descend the steps to his holy shrine.

I think He did all of this to tell me to lighten up.

I'm with my daughter. The dog following us — that was the best part.

Denise Bossert has four children and is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary in New Melle, Missouri. Her column Catholic by Grace has run in 46 diocesan newspapers. Check out her blog at catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.

Praying is more than asking

So don't let those who think you think it isn't get you down

By David Mills

THE BOSS WAS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO MAKE EVERYONE AROUND THEM CRAZY. He'd come unglued over a fairly minor problem, and soon everyone who worked with him would be as hysterical as he was. People would say to me after every crisis, "I tell myself I'm not going to get sucked into this, and yet the next time he gets like that, I let myself get sucked into it."

We have a problem, many of us, when we try to respond to people arguing against the Catholic faith. We let ourselves get sucked into bad arguments. We put ourselves at a disadvantage. It's like trying to run the 100-yard sprint with your starting blocks 100 yards before the starting line. You're going to lose, unless you're racing your grandmother. And you might lose even then.

I argued once with a young man who thought he'd explained that prayer was an illusion. He argued that we just latched on to times we got what we asked for, which in the normal course of things we'd have gotten anyway, and just declared that this showed that God answers prayers.

It's not a very good argument, because (among other problems) things would look just the same whether or not God answers prayer. That apparently answered prayers might be coincidence doesn't mean they are coincidence. They could be answered prayers.

It's a sneaky argument, because it assumes precisely the claim it's trying to prove, but you can get sucked into it and feel worried that the critic has scored a point or at least raised an objection you can't answer. It made me stop for a bit, and I think about these things a lot.

You may feel this especially if you think of prayer as simply asking God for things. That's the way our secular culture understands prayer, and many of us pick up the idea without realizing it. In almost

These arguments didn't make me doubt my faith, but they did slow my growth in faith and knowledge. They discouraged me from praying as much as I should have prayed And all because I'd absorbed the idea of prayer the culture offered. I'd been sucked in.

any movie, bestselling novel, or television show, the only time people are shown praying is when they want something from God.

That's what I always thought, anyway, growing up outside the Church.

But, as you are undoubtedly saying to yourself, asking God for things is just part of it. And you're right, but I didn't know that for a long time after I became a conscious Christian.

As a result, I was long troubled by arguments that prayer was pointless because when we pray we're either telling God things He already knows or asking Him to do things He was already going to do or not do. I remember being troubled by a version of the young man's argument and wondered if Christians just talked themselves into seeing answers to prayer because they wanted to see them.

These arguments didn't make me doubt my faith, but they did slow my growth in faith and knowledge. They discouraged me from praying as much as I should have prayed and made prayer feel more like a duty — God tells us to pray, so I prayed — than a privilege. And all because I'd absorbed the idea of prayer the culture offered. I'd been sucked in.

Only years later did I realize that we prayed not just to ask God for things we wanted or needed but to grow closer to Him. I'd had it backwards. Prayer wasn't a matter of bending God to our will but bending our wills to his, not primarily of asking Him for things as to move ourselves closer to Him.

That's something I should have learned from the Lord's Prayer, which begins with our recognizing the Father in Heaven and bowing to his will and only then asks for "our daily bread." What that daily bread is we might not know, and it might be something we really don't want, but it is part of his will being done on earth as it is in heaven, which is something we do really want.

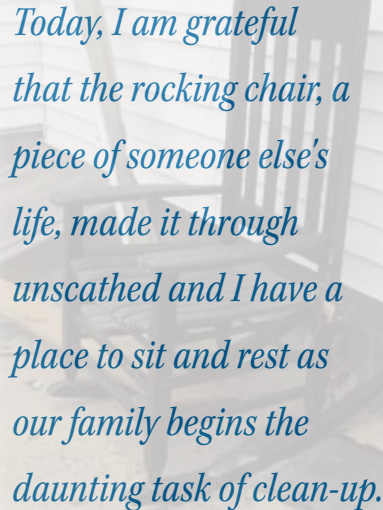
Which makes arguments like the young man's even less compelling. God does answer our prayers, but even if we had no evidence that He did, we would still pray with confidence because God's first answer to prayer is to help us become holier precisely by praying.

David Mills is executive editor of FIRST THINGS (www.firstthings.com). He can be reached at catholicism@gmail.com.

Out of the scorched earth

God will bring new life

By Mary Morrell



Today, I am grateful that the rocking chair, a piece of someone else's life, made it through unscathed and I have a place to sit and rest as our family begins the daunting task of clean-up.

FOUND: ONE BLACK ROCKER.

It was resting on our fence after the angry waters of Hurricane Sandy receded, but not before leaving five feet of water in our Ortley Beach home, and taking our front porch, some siding, a good portion of the new roof we just finished nailing up on Saturday, and everything we owned inside and out.

Today, I am grateful that the rocking chair, a piece of someone else's life, made it through unscathed and I have a place to sit and rest as our family begins the daunting task of clean-up. It has also given me a place to reflect on the loss that is, at times, incomprehensible — not just for us, but for so many who have lost so much more.

As I shared the experience with my neighbors, from the first day we lined up to board buses to the barrier island through the subsequent days when we stopped to chat with each other over mounds of belongings piled high on the curb, what struck me was that while, in many ways, loss affects each person differently, there is one common factor: Loss changes us, for better or for worse.

Loss churns up the deepest of emotions — fear, anger, love — and shakes our need for security to the core. Our inner compass seems cracked, and we are left only with a question, “What now?”

I imagined such a thought hung heavy on the mind of my neighbor who returned to the site of her home on Ocean Avenue on the same day as I did, not to clean or gather belongings or even assess damages. The house and everything in it was gone. There was nothing to clean, nothing to gather. She sat motionless on a piece of foundation protruding from several feet of sand and just stared. The few houses that remained around her were toppled and broken like a child's toy city at the end of a day.

“What now?”

On that first day, the words, though unspoken, hung in the air as the silent entreaty of a whole community, a family navigating a loss that marked the destruction of a dream and the end of an era for each person. As we looked down streets lined with the remnants of personal histories, sometimes reflecting 50 years worth of living, there was a clear understanding that things would never be the same.

But on each subsequent day, as the “now” moved into past tense and we shared our stories and commiserated about our losses, the persevering human spirit took hold, transforming the question into a statement: “Yesterday we grieved, today we build” — either a new home, a new life, or both.

And in the midst of destruction there were blessings, mostly in the shape of people; family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers, who served as God's hands and feet and crying shoulder during the aftermath. For us, it was our upstairs tenant, Stacy, who weathered the storm in her flat to be available to help neighbors who might have stayed, and our downstairs tenant, Jeff, and his girlfriend, Anna, who returned from Florida in a trailer to help us clean out and rebuild.

It was family who donned masks to help us clean and provided food as we worked, and friends who offered refuge when needed. It is my daughter-in-law who established an “Operation Ortley” restoration site in their basement, gathering together, with the other women in our family, previously used furniture, appliances, and household necessities.

And it is my sons, who, in spite of work commitments, family responsibilities, and back injuries, are willing to track through mud and mold, lifting and hauling all manner of things, to bring new life out of chaos.

Their efforts, and those of my neighbors who continually find the where-withall to laugh and plan and share their rediscovered blessings with others, remind me of the pine cones falling from one of the few remaining trees in the corner of our yard. As we haul out furniture and barbecue grills and pieces of homes that belonged to our neighbors, these little seed packages continue to drop to the ground. Their purpose, designed into all living things by our God, is to give life.

An amazing thing about some pinecones is that they only open to release their seeds in the scorching heat of a forest fire. In this way, God assures that, in midst of destruction, the forest will come to life once again.

During the past month, many of us have walked our own little piece of “scorched earth,” and from where I sit, in a little black rocker that will forever symbolize a transforming moment in our lives, I am certain that new life is already awakening.

For certainly God, in his generous love, would do no less for his people than for a simple pine tree.

Mary Morrell is the managing editor of THE MONITOR, newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey.

SEEKING GOD'S PATH VOCATIONS

The Holy Spirit will always provide for us

even when our diocese goes through a time of major transition

By Father Isaac Orozco
Vocations Director

A couple of months back I wondered if being a *sede vacante* (vacant seat) diocese would affect the number of men who seek to discern the priesthood. This is because from a theological point of view the bishop is the point of unity for a diocese and plays a central role in the work of vocations. Moreover, it is a well known fact that a bishop's public image can either positively or negatively influence a man's desire to contemplate making a promise of obedience and respect. After all, when a transitional deacon places his hands in the bishop's hands, promising obedience and respect to him and his successors, it comes after a long process of prayer and discernment.

So as our diocese walks the route of transition, I wondered what Bishop Vann's move to Orange would mean for the future of the priesthood here. As his priest-secretary for two years, I was able to see how Bishop Vann really believed that the priests were the primary collaborators of the bishop. He depended on us to assist in his ministry to sanctify, govern, and teach. For the most part, we presbyters had access to him and could call on him whenever we needed. Bishop Vann was just a cell phone

call or a text away.

These questions of mine soon found answers over the last three months. The answer is that God's work continues on and his grace infuses the work of his faithful especially in a time of transition. Really, there was nothing for me to worry about. Since random email inquiries and phone calls have been steadily coming in, I can say that hearts are being moved, and the lay faithful do their part to support and complement the ministry of the priest by supporting vocations. Retreats continue, conversions take place, Mass is celebrated, confessions are heard, and people return to God on a daily basis. I don't always see how the mysterious work takes place, but in moments of grace it is quite clear that it does.

A funny little personal experience comes to mind when I think about the work of the Holy Spirit. In 2004, while still a seminarian in Rome, I was having a conversation with a seminarian from another diocese in the South. He told me how when he was applying to seminary in his diocese that as the summer before he was due to begin went forward, he hadn't heard anything from the vocations director about where he would be going to seminary,

and this was a source of consternation.

By late July, my friend related, he had no idea where his diocese would be sending him for seminary. So he went to his pastor to see if there was anything he could do to find out where he would be sent and when he would start. He knew that he was accepted to his diocese but little else. To his dismay, his pastor responded with an equal amount of confusion and recommended that he ask the bishop, who was due to make a parish visit within the next week or so.

When the bishop came to the parish and the seminarian said that he didn't know where he would be sent for seminary, the bishop told him to talk to the vocations director. Since approaching the vocations director was the original point of confusion, stating that he had to ask the bishop first, the seminarian got discouraged but not enough to give up. He decided to take matters into his own hands and called the seminary to say that he was accepted by his diocese but was given no further instruction about what he needed to do. The seminary representative told him that they hadn't heard anything about him attending seminary but not to worry and that he should talk to his vocations director.

Flustered and disappointed, the young man called the vocations director again one last time. When he told the vocations director that he talked to his pastor, the bishop and even called the seminary in the hopes of finding out at least something about what to expect, the vocations director responded, "Well, I suppose we should start that paperwork..."

My friend (now an ordained priest), having made it through all the rigamarole, looked back at this situation with humor. He looked at me and laughed, concluding that when it came to vocations, he knew that the Holy Spirit really did the work since obviously no one in his diocese did!



Bishop Vann ordains two Franciscans serving in diocese to priesthood



Photo courtesy of Franciscan TOR Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

On Nov. 3 Bishop Kevin Vann ordained Father Jonathan McElhone, TOR, (left) and Father Ronald Hurl, TOR, to the priesthood for the Franciscan Third Order Regular, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Both priests had been serving in the Diocese of Fort Worth prior to their ordination. Fr. McElhone serves at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville, and Fr. Hurl serves at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth.

RESPECT FOR LIFE AT ALL STAGES

An invitation to survivors to march on the courthouse where *Roe v. Wade* began

By Chris Vaughan
Director of Marriage and Family Life

IF YOU WERE BORN AFTER 1973, YOU CAN CONSIDER YOURSELF A SURVIVOR.

Anyone born after the tragic 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision could have had their life legally ended by abortion.

Stop and think about it. In my own life, my mother who was an immigrant to this country from Mexico, found out she was pregnant after she and my father had separated and were starting divorce proceedings. She could have chosen abortion, gotten a divorce, and headed back to Mexico to start a new life. It would have been simple. Thankfully for me, that thought never entered her mind, but if it had, there was no longer a law to protect me.

Abortion in our country has now been legal for 40 years. It is time for us to put a stop to it.



Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC File Photo

Thousands of pro-lifers march to the rally site in this NTC file photo from last year's march. The ecumenical March for Life gathered an estimated 8,000 people from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, and from several other Christian churches, including First Baptist Church, where a praise and worship service was held prior to the march.

One fantastic way that you and your family can participate is by attending the March for Life

Jan. 19 in Dallas, co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth. A bilingual Mass will be concelebrated by Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell, along with diocesan clergy at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, 2215 Ross Ave. at Pearl St., in Dallas at 10 a.m. After the Mass, at noon, participants will join pro-life supporters of other faiths for the March to the Earl Cabell Federal Courthouse where *Roe v. Wade* was originally filed. The March will conclude with a rally and prayers for a greater respect for life and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

Last year the event drew more than 10,000 participants. Let's rise up together and show the Metroplex that we stand for life. For more information about the March contact me in the Office of Marriage and Family Life (817) 560-3300, ext. 269 or by e-mail at cvaughan@fwdioc.org, or visit the website www.prolifedallas.org.

Washington March is a life-changing experience, especially for youth

By Sue Laux
Youth for Life Coordinator

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE MARCH FOR LIFE 2013 ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF *ROE V. WADE*, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the U.S., I think back on the recent history of youth involvement from our diocese in the March for Life. Now more than ever, we must redouble our efforts to change hearts and build a culture of life.

In 1999 Matt Gill held the first Lock-in for Life to educate teens about the tragedy of abortion and to raise money for airfare scholarships for teens to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The scholarships could be won by Pro-Life Essay Contest winners. In 2000 Matt organized the first youth pilgrimage to the March for Life in D.C. that I know of from the Fort Worth area.

In 2003 my daughter was an essay winner and I attended as a chaperone. The experience changed my life. Prior to the Pro-Life education I received from Matt and the experience of the March, I really hadn't thought about the issue much, and I didn't realize the gravity and enormity of abortion



Photo by Gregory A. Shemitz / CNS File Photo

In this CNS file photo from last year's March for Life in Washington, D.C., high-schooler Cameron Walton of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller prays the Rosary at the Verizon Center while holding a "Youth for Life" banner on Jan. 23, 2012.

in our country. I had no idea that 1.29 million babies were aborted each year affecting one of every four pregnancies in the U.S. at that time. I also didn't realize how much the moms and families of these babies suffered after having an abortion.

After the experience of marching with hundreds of thousands of joyful pro-lifers, most of them under 25, I was hooked. As my faith grew,

God called me to get more and more involved in the Pro-Life movement. In 2006 I began the Youth for Life program in the diocese under Catholics Respect Life, in an attempt to prevent young women from having to endure this tragedy. I also began volunteering at Mother and Unborn Baby Care in order to assist women in crisis pregnancy situations to choose life.

From Jan. 24 to 27 I will lead my seventh teens' pilgrimage to the March for Life. Each year more youth groups from around the diocese attend the March for Life in Washington. This year parish youth groups from St. Thomas the Apostle in Fort Worth, St. Thomas Aquinas in Pilot Point, Sacred Heart in Muenster, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller will all be taking groups for a total of about 150 from the Fort Worth Diocese.

I hope that someday every parish will send a group to the March for Life in Washington. They can start with an easy drive to Dallas for the *Roe v. Wade* Memorial March which will be on Saturday, Jan 19. It is such a blessing to see the passion in the teens who attend and to see them grow as pro-life leaders among their peers and continue their involvement into college and beyond.

Celebration of Catholic Schools (26th)

Saturday, January 26
Fort Worth Convention
Center Ballroom

Social Hour 6 p.m.
Dinner 7 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Joseph Boland
Senior Director of Grants
Catholic Extension

\$85.00 per person
Reserved table for 8
(prime seating) \$1,000

Benefiting

Bishop's Scholars
Fund Contribution
(tuition assistance)
Teacher sponsorship

RSVP by January 18

Diocesan Leadership Award

Most Rev.
Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD

2013 Catholic School Honorees

All Saints – Jean Gatch

Cassata – Nancy Martin

Holy Cross – Rev. Michael Holmberg

Holy Family – Karen Roach

Holy Trinity – Lisa Peterson

Immaculate Conception

– Dr. Joan Moran

Nolan Catholic – Gabriel Duarte

Notre Dame – Teresa Brady

Our Lady of Victory – Lisa Losoya

Our Mother of Mercy – Mary Battle

Sacred Heart

– Jimmy Jack and Donna Biffle

St. Andrew – Christina Cornevin

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

– Diane Geiser

St. George – Mary Lazo

St. John the Apostle – Amy Felton

St. Joseph – Sharon Waldrep

St. Maria Goretti – Gael O'Connell

St. Mary – Sonja Swirczynski

St. Peter the Apostle – Helen Scott

St. Rita – Claudia Hernandez

WE'RE ON A MISSION FROM GOD



CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Saturday, January 26, 2013

For more info, contact Lisa Griffith 817.560.3300 x 280

A Sturdy Foundation

Renovations to 60-year-old St. Peter School save it from 'falling apart,' and update it for 21st century education

By John Henry / Correspondent • Photos by Juan Guajardo

THE RECENTLY COMPLETED RENOVATION OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE SCHOOL ALONG THE WINDING ROAD OF SOUTH CHERRY LANE IN WHITE SETTLEMENT (on Fort Worth's West Side) is a story of a parish community's ongoing allegiance to the education of children through Catholic schools and enlightening them to the relationship between human wisdom and the Gospel.

"A parish school ... is one of the best vehicles to teach the faith in all its aspects," said Bishop Kevin Vann, after a re-dedication ceremony Nov. 30, marking one of his last official acts as leader of the Diocese of Fort Worth before leaving for his new post as bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California.

"You have every subject taught in the context of faith. Schools like this reinforce our Catholic identity and faith, and our freedom to live our faith," the bishop said.

A Mass of celebration marked the \$1.2 million overhaul, held on the feast of St. Andrew, the one who brought his brother, Peter, to Christ.

It's these times, said Bishop Vann, that make the mission of St. Peter's all the more critical at this intersection of history, when both secular and government forces are infringing on the freedom to live in the faith.

St. Peter's capacity to do that was in jeopardy because of the condition of its school, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Stern realities confronted school administrators, teachers, parents, parishioners, and Father Richard Flores, the community's pastor: the building was falling apart. Concerns about the safety of an aging electrical network created a sense of urgency, said Dr. Cindy Cummins, St. Peter principal.

"I used to have to go out in the summer and trip the breaker, so that the AC would start," said Sylvia Mendez, the church's business manager. "And one teacher would have to turn her [AC] off while she went to lunch, so the other classroom's would work. That opened some eyes."

The restrooms, along with all the fixtures, were the same as when Fr. Flores himself went to school here ... many years ago.

"We haven't had anything done to this building," Mendez said, comparing it's upkeep to having been pieced together by band-aid fixes. All the floors and windows were replaced, too.

"Today we ask God's blessing ... here at St. Peter's School, the center of learning and teaching what is true," Bishop Vann said as part of the dedication.

On a leisurely tour of the school, the bishop



ABOVE: Students bring up their offerings during Mass. Bishop Kevin Vann celebrated the Nov. 30 Mass and then blessed and dedicated the renovations to St. Peter the Apostle School. • **LEFT:** Bishop Vann blesses the school with the help of fifth-grader Abdiel Perez. Several renovations were made to the school building including an upgraded air conditioning system, roofing repairs, new gym floors, and new gym windows.

greeted students and sprinkled classrooms with Holy Water.

Started in 1952 with a kindergarten and first grade class, the school expanded to include second through eighth grades as those first students of Mrs. Palmquist and Mrs. Carroll progressed through the grades. The first school building was a used barracks from Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells donated by nearby St. Alice Parish, now Holy Family Church.

Catholic schools exist because of faith in God, and a devotion, not to mention will, to make it happen. But Catholic schools do more than "make do." They make things happen.

By 1955, Bishop Thomas K. Gorman was standing in the vicinity of the spot where Bishop Vann now stood, blessing St. Peter's new church and four new classrooms for ministering mostly to Catholics connected to Carswell Air Force Base and Convair, the airplane manufacturer that today is Lockheed.

"... We also ask that the students will find in their teachers the image of Christ so that through human and divine learning they in turn will be able to enlighten and assist others," Bishop Vann concluded.

Today, 90 students are enrolled at the school. There's room for it to grow to 258, said Cummins, who noted that the renovation also included an expansion of the computer classroom with all the wiring necessary to accommodate the technological advances needed for a first-class education.

The hardware is there, too, now, thanks to a donation of 65 used computers by Baylor All Saints Hospital.

Bishop Vann continued his blessing: "All disci-

pline, science, and teachings about the world, about human life that we pursue, must have as their final purpose to bring us to a knowledge of the truth."

Workers began their overhaul in the spring of this year. As in 1952, they finished just in time for the beginning of school in August. The St. Peter community would stop at nothing to have a Catholic school in 1952, and the current generation's dedication to the project transformed the dream and need of repairs into reality.

The parish's "Remember, Rebuild, and Renew" capital campaign, started only in September 2011, raised \$300,000, and the renovation project carried with it no debt. The generosity of the diocese, at the direction of Bishop Vann, made sure of that.

"The parish is wonderful," said Cummins, who is in her third year at St. Peter and her 40th as a teacher or administrator in Catholic schools in Oklahoma, Dallas, and Fort Worth.

"They so truly support the school, and even though it's an aging population, the parishioners all know the kids, the kids all know the parishioners."

A students' trip to the Golden Seniors is a regular occurrence. The second-graders, she said, visited for lunch recently. They also sing songs for their older friends. The eighth-graders enjoy pizza once in awhile with them.

"It's a blessing," said Cummins at a reception following the formal dedication ceremony. "You can't even begin to see what all was done."

"It's a 60-year-old school, and half the time the heat or air didn't work. You're trying to educate children and ... and if it's 105 degrees outside, and you don't have any air, it's uncomfortable and dangerous in Texas."

Bishop Johnston tells women to model faith of Mary at DCCW's annual Day of Reflection

By Michele Baker / Correspondent

“Rejoice, Full of Grace!”

These words, spoken by the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation, became the centerpiece of the remarks made by Bishop James V. Johnston of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in his address for “A Day of Reflection for Women” sponsored by Bishop Kevin Vann and the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW). The event, which took place at the St. Patrick Cathedral Pastoral Center Nov. 28, drew more than 100 women from parishes throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Bishop Johnston, who gave the keynote for this year’s Day of Reflection, is the Liaison to the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a personal friend of Bishop Vann’s.

“We were thrilled with the turnout,” said Margaret Adams, president of the Fort Worth DCCW. “It was Bishop Vann’s suggestion that we do this day of reflection to get the word out about who we are and what we do.”

The DCCW seeks to educate and empower Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. Parish-based and organized around the deaneries of the diocese, each group expresses these aspects according to the needs of individual parishes.



Photo by Wendy Pandolfo / NTC

Bishop James V. Johnston of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri, episcopal liaison to the National Council of Catholic Women, reflected on the role of Mary as a model for women at the DCCW’s Day of Reflection.

“They all do different things around the parishes,” Adams explained in a recent interview. “Some do homebound ministry. Some do art and environment. It just depends.”

Parish groups report to their deaneries, which in turn are linked to the diocesan council. The diocesan council belongs to the province one of many linked to the National Council.

Warm and genuine, Bishop Johnston gave an extended reflection of the Joyful Mysteries that showed not only devotion to the Blessed Mother but a sincere love for womanhood.

“The first word out of Gabriel’s mouth is often translated ‘hail’ but the Greek word is translated ‘rejoice,’” he said. “Rejoice, Full of Grace is God’s

title for Mary; his way of addressing her.”

Bishop Johnston went on to build on the concepts of joy and grace often quoting Blessed John Paul II who taught that grace is a source of joy and that true joy comes from God. Using Mary as the model of joy even in the midst of trials, Bishop Johnston exhorted those gathered to look to the Blessed Mother and the sacraments to live as women full of grace.

“When you were baptized, God poured out his sanctifying grace upon you. Your parents could look at you and see one who is full of grace,” he said. “We follow Mary’s example by reflecting on what God has done for us.”

Beyond the theological and sacramental, however, Bishop Johnston conveyed a deep personal respect for women and their unique gifts. Perhaps most telling was the way he described his own mother’s faith as a reflection of the Blessed Mother’s joy.

“My mother’s joy drove away all shadows and fears,” he said. “It was like a sun shining its rays on our family. What must it have been like for Jesus to have experienced joy radiating from his mother, the Bride of the Holy Spirit?”

Adams and organizers hope that the Day of Reflection for Women will become an annual event.

“Hopefully, our new bishop will be supportive of us and allow us to continue,” she said.

Why Catholic? offers opportunity to deepen understanding during Year of Faith

By Michele Baker
Correspondent

The Year of Faith. During this year the Holy Father has asked the faithful to study and reflect on the documents of Vatican II and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. With various initiatives coordinated by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, the Year of Faith offers an opportunity for all to more closely examine and affirm the faith they profess.

“In the U.S. the big problem isn’t faith,” explained Father Carmen Mele, OP, director of Hispanic Adult Catechesis and Director of the John Paul II Institute for the Diocese of Fort Worth. “The big problem is commitment. People believe, but there’s a real erosion to the acceptance of the truths of faith. This is critical.”

The *Why Catholic?* faith formation and evangelization program for adults, a parish-based ministry of Renew International, addresses this erosion. Structured around the four main sections of the *Catechism*, *Why Catholic?* provides a framework for the faithful to deepen their understanding of the faith in practical ways grounded in solid Catholic teaching.

An estimated 7,000 people in the diocese remain active participants in the program which was introduced, across the diocese, in 2010 and Fr. Carmen, who serves as the diocesan contact and coordinator of the program, is hopeful that the Year of Faith will be an occasion for even wider participation.

“This truly is a perfect tie-in with the Year of Faith,” said Linda Beckley, parish coordinator

for *Why Catholic?* at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Granbury. “We’re working on our promotional materials for sign-ups on Sundays in January and we want people to see this as an opportunity to participate in the Year of Faith.”

By Beckley’s count, St. Frances Cabrini has about 10 *Why Catholic?* groups. And while the *Why Catholic?* materials are structured around six weekly sessions based on a theme — Prayer being the central focus of the series beginning in February 2013 — the groups themselves form a connection that Beckley finds encouraging.

“I would say that people have really bonded with their groups,” Beckley said. “My group stays together for most of the year now. I think it’s a

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St. Peter Parish kicks off Year of Faith with Eucharistic Procession through Lindsay

By Jeff Hensley / Editor • Photos courtesy of Joe Myrick

St. Peter Church in Lindsay initiated the Year of Faith with a Eucharistic Procession Saturday, Oct. 27. Altar servers and adults carrying bright banners proclaiming the Year of Faith led the procession, followed by St. Peter pastor Father Ray McDaniel, accompanying the litter carrying the Blessed Sacrament. Children in saints' costumes were among the hundreds of parishioners participating in the procession.

The procession, which covered about a mile through the streets of Lindsay, wrote Fr. McDaniel in a recent e-mail, stopped at three parishioners' homes, where temporary altars were set up and decorated with flowers and candles. At each stop parishioners recited prayers and litanies, and St. Peter's children's choir led Eucharistic hymns.

Later that evening, at a parish potluck, first grade students dressed as German saints honored the heritage of the parish's heritage. St. Peter's was founded by German immigrants, many of whose descendants remain faithful members of the church.

An oil painting of the Sacred Heart of Jesus commissioned by the parish was carried in the procession in honor of the parish placing its observation of the Year of Faith under the Sacred Heart's intercession. Families, Fr. McDaniel added, will enthrone a copy of the image in their homes.

At the dinner that evening, free copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* were given away, along with a Sacred Heart

prayer card with the Act of Faith on one side, and yellow "Catholic Strong — Year of Faith" wristbands.

St. Peter parishioner Dr. Matt Gomulak crafted the litter that carried the monstrance.

"The litter is a class of wheel-less vehicle, a type of human-powered transport used to carry royalty. This vehicle was designed and built for the specific intention of bearing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," Dr. Gomulak said.

Dr. Gomulak described the symbolism of the litter, including the trim and finials resembling an acorn, a symbol of rebirth and renewal in Germany; the hand-painted ceiling mirroring the Holy Trinity; and the litter itself representing Mary, who was the first person to carry Christ.

Photographer and St. Peter parishioner Joe Myrick captured the beauty, excitement, and pageantry of the event and shares a selection of his photos on SmugMug. To see more photos, visit joephoto.com/smugmug.com/Events and click on the icon for "2012-St. Peters Procession."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Fr. Ray McDaniel places the monstrance to be carried on the litter. • Altar servers lead the procession under the archway in front of St. Peter Parish. • First-graders dressed as German saints participate in the procession. • Parishioners carry the litter during the procession.



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unique outlet to share the way we live our faith."

For Mary Pesqueda, who has more than 30 years of experience working for the Church as both a volunteer and an employee, sharing is essential to living the faith.

"There's nothing like being involved," she said in a recent interview. A member of a Spanish-speaking group at St. Ann Parish in Burleson, Pesqueda has seen her fellow group members grow. "It's not a huge group; about 20 people. But they've been very consistent and have grown spiritually. They've learned a lot. Because of *Why Catholic?*

they feel that they've matured in their faith."

Maturity and growth go to the heart of *Why Catholic?* Combining solid Catholic teaching with the opportunity to discuss the ways in which to live the faith builds the confidence of group members, which allows participants to more openly share their faith with those in all areas of their lives.

In his apostolic letter, *Porta Fidei*, in which he declares the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI mentions the "witness offered by the lives of believers" as being yet another way in which the renewal of the Church takes place.

For Pesqueda, it comes down to the ability to build that witness. She relates a story about a

Southern Baptist gentleman to whom she delivers meals. He admitted that growing up, he'd always been taught that Catholics weren't Christian, but that through the conversations he'd had with Pesqueda, he'd come to see things differently.

"One day he said, 'Y'know, I feel like I've grown so much just talking to you. I feel like I've really matured in my faith, and I feel like I can really see Catholics as Christians,'" said Pesqueda. "That kind of thing is very encouraging to me. I feel so confident and sure of my faith. *Why Catholic?* has helped it. When you share your faith with other people and see that you've made a difference, it's very fulfilling."



Year of Faith is main focus at annual UD Ministry Conference

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Correspondent

For the more than 5,000 people who filled the Irving Convention Center Oct. 26-27, the sixth annual University of Dallas Ministry Conference was a clarion call to participate in the Year of Faith.

"Today is a great beginning, not just for our conference, it's a great moment to begin this Year of Faith," Dallas Bishop Kevin J. Farrell enthused before an audience composed of educators, lay ministers, parish staff, and clergy who gathered for the two-day seminar on discipleship. "And there is no more appropriate way to initiate this year called by the Holy Father than to reflect on our Catholic faith, traditions, and how we live the faith in our communities."

In *Porta Fidei*, his Apostolic Letter issued Oct. 11, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI asked Catholics around the world to spend the next year experiencing a renewed conversion to Christ. The Year of Faith began Oct. 11, 2012 on the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and continues until Nov. 24, 2013. Studying Vatican II documents, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, lives of the saints, and more ardent devotion to the Eucharist, are paths to developing a closer relationship to God, the pontiff suggests.

Many conference speakers and workshop presenters encouraged participation in the movement and offered tools on how to bring faith to the forefront of Church life.

"Wherever we are in our faith journey, we're asked to begin anew during this Year of Faith," explained Cardinal Roger Mahony in a keynote address launching the conference. "We're asked to appreciate the gift of faith, to deepen our relationship with God, and to strengthen our commitment to share the faith with others."

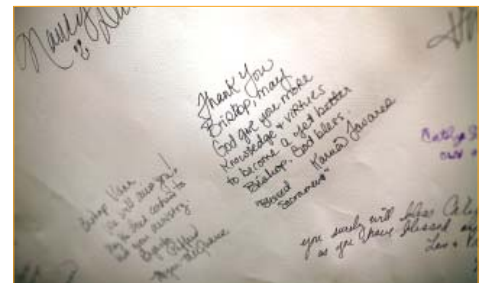
The cardinal emeritus of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles said issues raised during the 2012 presidential campaign forced people to reflect on the nature of faith and what is central to Catholicism. Faith is often thought of as solely an affirmation of religious doctrines, but the speaker expanded that definition.

"Faith is standing firm, being resolved, and standing true," he added "To have faith is



ABOVE AND BELOW: UDMC organizers displayed a banner thanking Bishop Vann for his years of service and support of the annual conference and wishing him luck in the Diocese of Orange. Individuals hand-wrote personalized notes for the bishop, wishing him well. • **LEFT:** Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop emeritus of Los Angeles, told participants to appreciate the gift of faith and deepen their relationships with God during this Year of Faith.

(Photos by Juan Guajardo / NTC)



to abandon yourself without reserve and with boundless confidence into the arms of God whose faithfulness is as certain as life."

As parishes plan Year of Faith activities and engage in the new evangelization, the cardinal urged lay ministers to follow the lead of Pope Benedict who considers the first Christian community of Jerusalem a source of inspiration for modern man.

"Don't we love the Acts of the Apostles proclaimed during the Easter season?" he asked the crowd. "That's because we're reminded of that special belief in our risen Lord Jesus and being formed into a community of believers — the Church."

Initiating a fresh encounter with Jesus Christ is a challenge in today's culture but can happen in unexpected places and with unfamiliar people. The cardinal said he experiences Christ in the face of the immigrants. Retired since February 2011, he now spends time

working for immigration reform and the rights of 11 million undocumented people who live in the shadows of U.S. society.

"Every time I meet one of these wonderful people, I feel deeply a fresh encounter with Jesus Christ," he said. "And our offer of hope and understanding to these people allows them to encounter Jesus Christ in us."

Sponsored by the University of Dallas and the Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, the 2012 Ministry Conference presented 134 breakout sessions in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Held for the first time inside the Irving Convention Center, the new venue provided the modern amenities of electronic signage and wireless Internet. The layout also allowed multiple gathering spaces for viewing liturgical art displays and enjoying musical performances.

According to Danielle Schumer, communications manager for the UD School of Min-



Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC

John Allen, Jr., a prize-winning correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter* and Vatican analyst for CNN, talks about the persecution facing Christians worldwide during a workshop presented Oct. 27.

istry, the convention center brought “warmth, energy, and community to the conference. More than 100 companies filled the Exhibit Hall and brought countless resources to help teachers, catechists, religious educators, and lay Catholics evangelize the faith.”

Schumer called the 2012 conference a “huge success” noting “the liturgies, especially the closing Mass, saw the largest attendance to date.”

Conference attendees benefited from a variety of workshops with topics ranging from an examination of the Nicene Creed to athletics as ministry. In his presentation, Lucas Pollice, former director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth who now lives in Denver, called the Year of Faith a blueprint for the New Evangelization.

“The Holy Father is telling us there’s a crisis of faith and we need to do something about it,” Pollice explained. “It’s preparing us in the Church to increase our faith so that we can then go out and initiate the New Evangelization. Before we can be evangelizers, we have to be re-evangelized.”

Catholic author Lisa Hendey’s workshop, “Saints for Slackers, Seekers, and Sinners,” introduced listeners to well-known, little-known and newly canonized saints. Increased awareness of saints is a Year of Faith objective.

“When we think of saints, we think of extremely holy, devout people,” Hendey said. “But the truth is Christ called many different types of people to sainthood.”

During the Year of Faith, the U.S. Catholic bishops are promoting 10 saints American Catholics can use as examples of dedication and service. Included on the list are St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who started the first free U.S. Catholic school, and St. Frances Cabrini, the first U.S. citizen canonized.



Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / NTC

Father Carmen Mele, OP, director of the diocese’s John Paul II Institute School of Lay Ministry, and Brian Kohler from Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, join other UDMC participants in Morning Prayer Oct. 26.



Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC

Sisters Mary Jean Warmuth (left) and Patricia Ste. Marie, both of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur form Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls, participate in one of the many workshops offered.

“Wherever we are in our faith journey, we’re asked to begin anew during this Year of Faith. We’re asked to appreciate the gift of faith, to deepen our relationship with God, and to strengthen our commitment to share the faith with others.”

**— Cardinal Roger Mahoney
Archbishop Emeritus
of Los Angeles**

“You’re here today because you want to shake up, challenge, and inspire the people around you who are — in their own right — saints in the making,” Hendey added.

Toni Corbett, a theology teacher at Nolan Catholic High School, conveys what she learned at the conference to her students. The veteran educator teaches a senior level course on the New Testament Gospels of St. John and St. Paul.

“One of the workshops explained how the Creed is a living text and not just a list of facts,” Corbett explained. “I always learn something interesting I can share with my classes.”



Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC

Vincent Lujan, lead singer for the Dallas-Fort Worth-based Latin fusion Christian band Jesus Team A/Jesus Te Ama, performs at the Irving Convention Center during the sixth annual University of Dallas Ministry Conference.



Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC

Participants in the UDMC congregate during some off-time at the Irving Convention Center.



Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / NTC

Lucas Pollice, the Symbolon RCIA director of Training for the Augustine Institute in Denver, and former Catechesis director for the Diocese of Fort Worth, discusses the Year of Faith being a blueprint for the New Evangelization.



The Unkefer family and the Flores family pose together. The moms, Rose Unkefer and Robyn Flores, came to Fr. Jeff Poirot, pastor of Holy Family Church, to request the creation of a liturgy for families with children with special needs.

A Special Mass for Special Families

Holy Family Church is meeting the sacramental needs of special needs children and their families

BY JOHN HENRY / CORRESPONDENT • PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCGEE

LOVE AND FAITH, BLESSED MOTHER TERESA ONCE SAID, WALK SIDE BY SIDE, PERFECTING ONE ANOTHER STRIDE BY STRIDE.

In harmony, these two essentials of the spiritual life also provide a foundation of strength and confidence. And peace for the entire family, especially families who face special challenges.

It's easy to find all those among the families of the Holy Family Church community who file into the chapel for the special needs Mass at 7 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month.

"This Mass has been such a blessing to us," said Robyn Flores, who along with her husband, John, is raising Ethan, a special needs child with autism.

"We cannot express the feeling of peace that we experience on these wonderfully special Saturdays. The Holy Spirit is present at every Mass and fills us with a feeling that cannot be duplicated."

Before the new Mass, a typical weekend

almost always included splitting up the family to go to church. One or the other spouse would take their daughter, Mia, to church while the other would stay home with Ethan. Or the couple would have someone come to the house to stay with their son, so the three other family members could attend Mass together. "Either way, he was not able to celebrate with us. Now, once a month, we are all able to go together. We have peace while we are there, knowing we are not disrupting the Mass for anyone else."

Rose and Darius Unkefer were encountering the same challenges. Rose Unkefer, who like John Flores, is a graduate of Nolan Catholic High School, had attended a parish meeting to discuss ministries within the church community during the early days of Father Jeff Poirot's pastorate.

Rose Unkefer said she was talking to Fr. Jeff privately about the meeting and asked him to consider one more: a special needs Mass, which Unkefer and Robyn Flores had been talking about for some time.

Done, he said. He immediately embraced the idea and said he would do it even if it was only for the two families.

"Fr. Jeff's initial reaction to our request to have a Special Needs Mass was absolutely-without-hesitation yes," Unkefer said.

The families made sure to get the word out. There were more families with a similar need.

And steadily, attendance at the Mass has increased.

On most Saturdays, the chapel is filled with families with special needs children and their extended families and friends.

It has become an event of solidarity.

"The Mass strengthens me to try to live God's word in everyday life," Rose Unkefer said. "Having a special needs child, for us means sharing in the brightest moments, with every step forward, as well as moments of worry and despair.

"The Mass is a time to look up to God, ever thankful for the beauty He has created in each and every child."

“Either way, (our son) was not able to celebrate with us. Now, once a month, we are all able to go together. We have peace while we are there, knowing we are not disrupting the Mass for anyone else.”

*— Robyn Flores
Mother of a special needs child*

The special needs Mass at Holy Family has led to making provisions to meet the sacramental needs of these children and teens. A program to catechize special needs children is under way at Holy Family.

One of the children who attends the Mass was also the first child Fr. Jeff baptised at the church, who knew families who had struggled to have their special needs children receive the sacraments, Rose Unkefer said.

There are many stories of children with special needs demonstrating an understanding of the essential truths of the Church. Many children started by making the Sign of the Cross and then by praying. Special needs children at Holy Family will soon be able to deepen their knowledge of the faith.

“We can even see it in Ethan,” Robyn Flores said. “He is becoming more comfortable and slowly learning the progression of the service.”

Ethan, who is 7, has started the sacramental program, taught by Nancy Wainscott, a certified behavior analyst.

The program is based on the work conducted by the Rizzo family of Marlton, New Jersey. David and Mercedes Rizzo wanted a sacramental program for their daughter, who is autistic.

“It was very important to us that she made her sacraments,” Mercedes Rizzo told the *National Catholic Register*. “At the same time, it was important that she was really ready.”

The only available materials for children preparing for First Communion were very verbal and included complex concepts that are difficult to understand for many children with autism, according to the *Register* article, “Catechesis for the Autistic.” Many children who are autistic, like their daughter Danielle, are not



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Monsignor Phil Johnson leads worship in the chapel of Holy Family Church at a packed Special Needs Mass. • Mia Flores, sister of Ethan, serves as a lector at a special needs Mass at Holy Family Church in West Fort Worth. • Msgr. Johnson gives a blessing to a special needs child during Holy Communion.



verbal. Learning for children with autism and similar disabilities is not language-based, but rather visual.

The Rizzo parents developed their own methods for teaching, the article went on, and like Danielle, the special-needs children of Holy Family are doing much of their catechesis through flash cards.

The Rizzos’ son, Brendan, turned his parents’ work into an Eagle Scout project and created a collection of autism teaching resources for the family’s parish in New Jersey, the *Register* article said. His final work, “Adaptive First Eucharist Kit,” was published by Loyola Press.

Robyn Flores said they are grateful to have “a specialized way to teach [Ethan] about our faith.”

The program at Holy Family was shaped through the work of Mary Ellen McBee, the



director of formation at Holy Family.

In addition to the “Adaptive First Eucharist Kit,” McBee has employed the input of people trained in applied behavior analysis therapy and specialists, such as Wainscott, who work with children with autism.

“These children have been chosen by God in order to share in the Passion of Christ,” Unkefer said. “We are called to help and serve others. The purest love is given without hesitation and without expecting anything in return.”

One day, the Floreses and Unkefers and others hope to have a Catholic school for special-needs children in the diocese.

But that’s for another day.

“Jesus’ love was pure love,” Rose Unkefer said, “Children with special needs are pure love also. They give pure love and they give us the opportunity to demonstrate pure love.”

Changing Bolivian society one student at a time

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Father Robert Thames didn't just open a school in Cabezas, Bolivia, eight years ago. He gave hundreds of needy youngsters a portal out of poverty.

But the diocesan priest with a missionary heart never expected to spend a chunk of his adult life tending to young souls in South America. As a younger man, he wanted to work in Southeast Asia.

"I liked ministering to the Cambodian refugees in Breckenridge (Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish), so I felt called to go to Southeast Asia," explains the 74-year-old who began his missionary outreach as a Maryknoll associate.

His plans changed after the Maryknoll president returned from a mission trip to Bolivia.

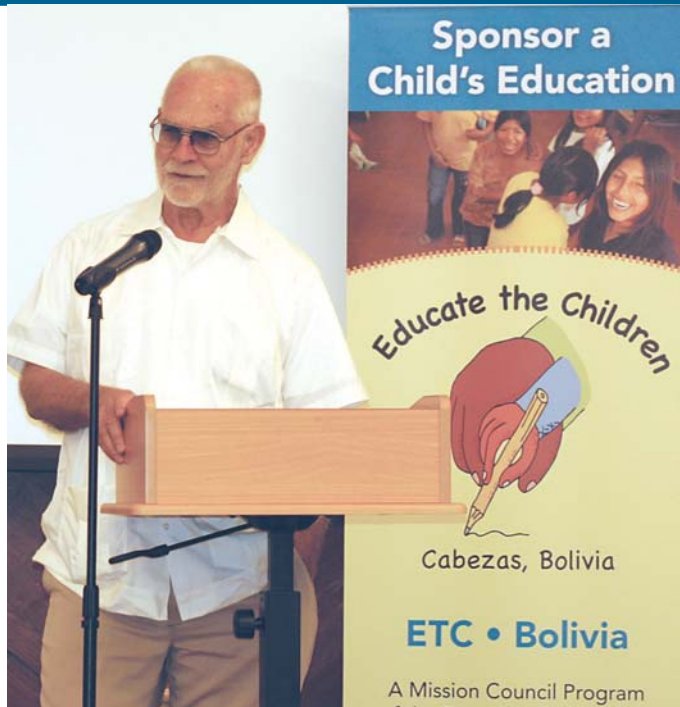
"He asked me if I spoke Spanish," Fr. Thames says, recounting the fateful question. "I said 'yes' and my plans changed."

Dressed in a red plaid flannel shirt and carrying a multi-colored woven bag crafted by one of his Bolivian parishioners, the soft spoken priest talked

about his thriving school and the students it serves during one of his infrequent visits to Fort Worth. Every two years the native of Wise County returns to Texas to raise funds for Nuestra Senora del Carmen in Cabezas. He also meets with benefactors who sponsor a child's schooling through Educate the Children Bolivia — a Diocesan Mission Council program. Thanks to the generosity of North Texas Catholics, many of the school's 450 sixth- through 12th-graders from impoverished villages are given the opportunity for an education.

A Nov. 10 dinner and silent auction at St. Bartholomew Church hosted by the Mission Council netted \$8,500 for Educate the Children.

Started in February 2004, the Nuestra Senora Del Carmen School has grown to include adult education courses and technical training for older students. Since



Father Bob Thames is a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth who has spent 40 years serving the poor in Mexico and Bolivia. (NTC / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

its inception, 350 students have completed the curriculum with more than 70 graduates pursuing university educations.

"The youngsters learn a trade and then go home and teach their parents about agriculture or caring for farm animals," says Alicia Ruggieri, an Educate the Children sponsor who visited Cabezas last year. "One little girl I met learned to sew and would make clothes for her younger siblings."

The St. Joseph parishioner attended the school's graduation ceremony and was impressed by the grateful hugs she received from students.

"It was an amazing moment for me," she adds. "I've never seen so many graduates cry so much and be so appreciative. Education is something we take for granted in this country."

Today, the school's wide-

reaching vocational and academic programs serve 1,000 people and are used as models for rural education in Bolivia. It's a lifetime achievement for the grey-haired priest who spent 40 years serving the poor in Mexico and Bolivia. But his mission work came at a price — his health.

Fr. Thames still remembers the rigors of his first assignment.

"I really drove myself," he said, recalling life in a high altitude region of Bolivia. "Everything was on foot in those days. There was no fuel and very little transportation."

Traveling between his residence and outlying villages 13,000 to 15,000 feet above sea level exhausted him. After three and a half years he left the remote post and returned to the U.S.

"That really bothered me because I fell in love with the people



These little fired-clay, bell-like figurines are really strung onto a wooden bar to form a ceramic set of wind chimes. The whimsical chimes were one of the items up for bid in the silent auction at the Educate the Children-Bolivia Dinner. (NTC / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

there," he confessed. "People in the rural areas are extremely generous. They are poor and struggle to eat, but whatever they have they will give you."

Fr. Thames returned to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Breckenridge but quickly asked for reassignment. After years of living a simple life in Bolivia, he could not adjust to fast-paced American society.

"I realized after a short time I could not stay in this country. Everything was so different," he admits.

As soon as a Spanish-speaking replacement was found for the parish, Fr. Thames assumed a new post in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. From 1986 until 1997, he managed fast-growing parishes.

"It was going well until I had my first heart attack," remembers the missionary who recovered easily from his first bout with heart disease.

A second heart attack in 1995 almost killed him. During three days spent in the intensive care unit of a Mexican hospital, friends did not know if he would live or die.

After leaving the hospital, he told the local bishop in Mexico

the burden of overseeing a large parish was affecting his health.

"He insisted I stay, so I decided to go back to Bolivia. I just didn't tell him that," he confided with a sheepish grin.

After a brief stay in Trinidad, Bolivia, Fr. Thames relocated to the Santa Cruz Archdiocese where he became pastor of another burgeoning parish, Corpus Christi Church. What started as a congregation of 350, soon grew to 1,000. He enlarged the church twice.

Fr. Thames was the lone priest tending to the needs of 48,000 people at the main church, outlying communities, and three schools.

"Once again it was killing me," he says, remembering the workload a team of three priests would later assume.

When a rural parish became available, the Texas native jumped at the opportunity. Trading his urban lodging for an adobe hut, Fr. Thames became pastor of a parish that covers 45 towns.

"When I got to Cabezas with my lay team and a group of sisters

project possible.

"I wanted stability for the youngsters, so we opened our high school for grade six up to graduation the next year," he said.

Located on land that once housed a pig farm, the school has a 30-year contract with the property owner. Dormitories provide shelter for children who live too far away from the school to commute. Many youngsters are abandoned or come from single-parent homes.

"They stay with us all year long and we feed them," explains the visionary founder who tries to

Thames hopes to keep the successful school operating after he's gone. Well past the age most priests retire, the missionary forged an alliance with the Guarani Indians and the Campesinos — the local agricultural labor union — to ensure the school's viability.

"We're forming a council that will direct the school and be responsible for fundraising," he explains. "We're a parish school well-known for helping the poorest students. That will continue and our principles will be maintained."

With a small army of industrious alumni exemplifying the value of education, Fr. Thames knows he's changing Bolivian society one student at a time. An increase in the number of high schools in the region is just one way Nuestra Senora del Carmen has impacted people's attitude toward higher education.

"When our graduates began to branch out and became productive members of the community, people saw the benefit, and the number of kids going to school increased greatly," he adds.

The small, rural school Fr. Thames started eight years ago gives the children of impoverished village families hope for a better life. Special education teachers, clothing manufacturers, a veterinarian, doctors and nurses, are among the school graduates.

"What we're doing is making a difference," he insists. "The support we get from the bishop and sponsors in the Diocese of Fort Worth is key. People interested in doing good things for others makes this school work."



Rosalie Kulhanek of St. Theresa Parish in Olney hosts a display offering background on the work of Educate the Children-Bolivia. Photos of students who may be sponsored are part of the display. (NTC / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

in December 2002, the first thing I did was ask the people what they needed,' the missionary recalls. "Everyone told me they needed a school because most of the villages offered only a fourth or fifth grade education."

When sending youngsters from outlying areas to public schools didn't work out because of teacher strikes, Fr. Thames decided to build his own campus. A recently added highway and electricity made the construction

enroll the poorest, most vulnerable children.

Textbooks aren't supplied by the government.

"If you can't afford them, you're really handicapped, so we furnish the books," he continued. "We also give them school supplies, meals, and lodging. And if they need clothes or medical attention, and the family can't afford it, we give them that too."

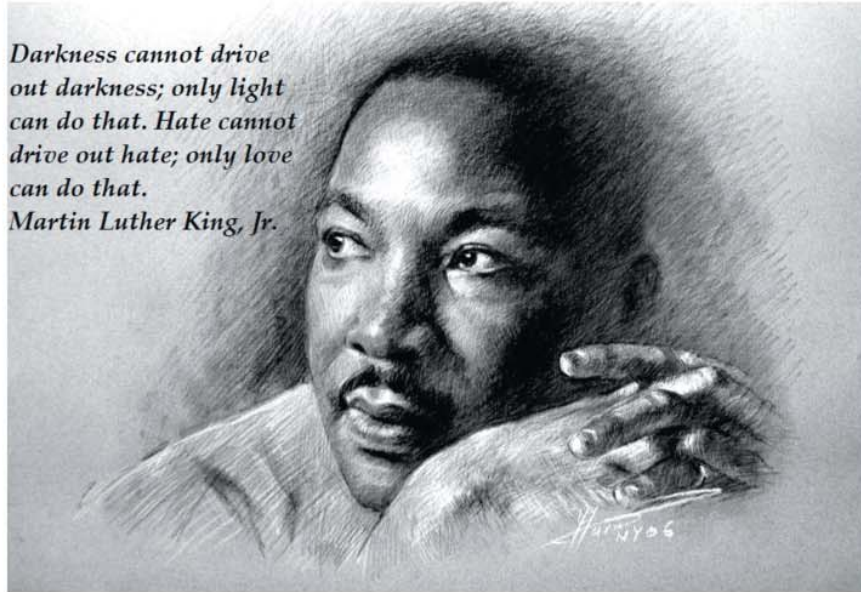
Having won the respect of the Bolivian government, Fr.

DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

PLEASE JOIN US

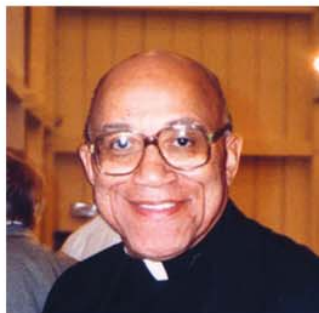
*27th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr.
Memorial Mass*

*Darkness cannot drive
out darkness; only light
can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate; only love
can do that.
Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**Saturday, January 19, 2013
St. Joseph Catholic Church
1927 S.W. Green Oaks Blvd
Arlington, Texas 76017
Phone: (817) 472-5181
Time: 5:30 p.m.**

**Reception will follow after mass in the
Community Center.**



Fr. George H. Clements Homilist

Statement regarding settlement of claims against the diocese and the Claretian Missionaries–USA regarding Rev. William Paiz, CMF

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is adapted from a press release sent by the Diocese of Fort Worth to local media prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Diocese of Fort Worth and the Claretian Missionaries–

USA reached a settlement agreement Tuesday through mediation of a claim brought against the Diocese and the Claretian Order by a person who claims abuse by Rev. William Paiz, CMF.

Bishop Kevin Vann, in a statement shared with the victim, stated that he is deeply sorry and angered for any sexual abuse the victim endured and suffered by Paiz. The Bishop informed the victim that he

prays that healing and reconciliation can be achieved for the individual and his family.

Bishop Vann stressed that the Diocese of Fort Worth will address any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible.

The Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to ensuring that diocesan policies are adhered to so the diocese, its parishes, schools, and other entities can prevent future tragedy such as that which has befallen the victims of abuse.

The Diocese has been and is committed to being in compliance with the requirements of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* adopted by the Bishops of the United States in 2002.

The diocese, in accordance with its policies, has actively sought victims of abuse in parishes where Rev. Paiz was assigned. He is a member of the Claretian Missionaries–Western Province, now known as the Claretian Missionaries–USA. His assignments in the Diocese of Fort Worth were: All Saints Parish, Fort Worth: 1975-1983; St. George Parish, Fort Worth: 1983-1986; and Nolan Catholic High School: 1983-1986.

The Diocese of Fort Worth asks that anyone who has either witnessed or has suffered sexual abuse by anyone who serves in the Church to come forward so that the individual and the Church can continue the healing process. To report abuse to the civil authorities, call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at 1-800-252-5400. To report abuse to the Diocese of Fort Worth call Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, at (817) 560-2452, ext. 201 or e-mail her at jllocke@fwdioc.org. Persons also can call the sexual abuse hotline, (817) 560-2452, ext. 900, or call the Diocesan Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 and ask for Rev. Msgr. Stephen Berg.

**EXODUS
20:13
THOU SHALT
NOT KILL**

**JOIN BISHOP FARRELL
WITH THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE OF FAITH**

**FOR
PRAYERFUL
REMEMBRANCE OF
40 YEARS IN THE DESERT
OF ABORTION
AND TO
MARCH AND RALLY IN
CELEBRATION OF THE
PROMISE OF LIFE!**

**JANUARY
19, 2013**

**ROE MEMORIAL EVENTS
ROSARY, MASS,
DALLAS MARCH FOR LIFE
AND RALLY**

SCHEDULE

7:45 AM ROE MEMORIAL ROSARY
outside the Routh Street abortion
center, 4321 N. Central Expy.
Dallas (buses available from
Cathedral beginning at 7:30 a.m.)

10:00 AM ROE MEMORIAL MASS
at the Cathedral Shrine of the
Virgin of Guadalupe, 2215 Ross
Ave. at Pearl St. Dallas

**12:00 PM DALLAS MARCH FOR LIFE
AND RALLY**
March from Cathedral Plaza to
Rally outside the Earle Cabell
Federal Courthouse where *Roe v.
Wade* was first filed in 1970

Exodus from 40 Years of Abortion

WWW.PROLIFEDALLAS.ORG/ROE

Catholic Pro-Life Committee • Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas
972-267-LIFE (5433) • cplc@prolifedallas.org

January 6, Epiphany of the Lord. Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel) Matthew 2:1-12

By Jeff Hensley

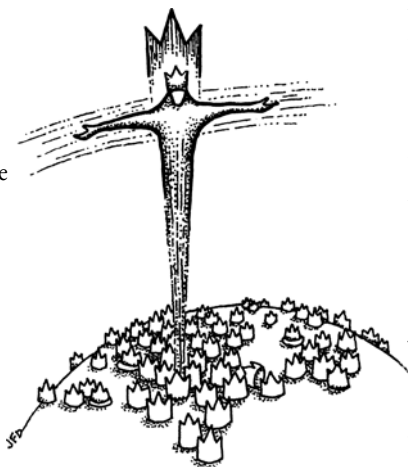
We pretty much take for granted the world as we've been given it. We somehow unconsciously believe that what came before us pretty much had to turn out the way it did.

But if we were to see the future, what will develop would seem anything but inevitable. When I was growing up in Fort Worth as a Presbyterian active in my faith, I could never have foreseen marrying a Catholic, embracing the Catholic faith, and then editing a Catholic newspaper.

How much more unlikely was

"May all kings bow before him, all nations serve him."

— Psalm 72:11



it that David, in Psalm 72, wrote as though speaking to God, of a king who would come to, "govern your people with justice" and "rule

from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.?"

When I was 12, the Mass was celebrated in Latin. Who could have predicted that the highest form of Catholic worship would in a few years be celebrated in all the languages of the world? When David was writing, he was ruler of a Middle Eastern kingdom, a practitioner of a religion shared almost solely by his countrymen.

The prophet Isaiah makes equally unlikely statements about tribute — gold and frankincense — coming to Jerusalem. That this tribute would be brought on the backs of camels might have seemed a possibility, but brought by learned men from the East?

Those are the predictions made

in the Old Testament readings for this Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' presentation to the world, represented by the Wise Men.

The Gospel of Epiphany bears out Isaiah's words, which seemed so unlikely to be fulfilled at the time they were uttered. The kingdom David spoke of came not by way of conquest — the fear that motivated Herod to seek to destroy this king to be born in Bethlehem — but by way of the third gift the Wise Men brought: myrrh, a bitter, aromatic herb used in burial preparation.

The babe's dominion would come by laying down his life for those He would rule. He would spread his Father's kingdom by taking dominion in our hearts.

QUESTIONS:

What dreams for doing good exist in your heart, although they seem unlikely to be fulfilled but for the grace of God?

January 13, The Baptism of the Lord. Cycle C.

Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
- 2) Acts 10:34-38
Gospel) Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

By Jean Denton

This weekend as we celebrate Jesus' baptism, we remember it as the moment when he embraces his humanity, figuratively getting into the pool with us. We also remember our own baptism when we get into the pool with him to be immersed in his life.

In our Catholic sacramental life, baptism and confirmation are similarly two parts of a whole.

Baptism with water initially marks us as belonging to Christ. But, as the baptizer John promises, a baptism of "fire" will become the empowering experience of

"A bruised reed he shall not break, a smoldering wick he shall not quench until he establishes justice on the earth."

— Isaiah 42:3-4



Jesus in which love, compassion, and justice become actions we take through the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 42 describes a prefigured Christ bearing the Spirit of God in his mission to bring about justice. He will do this not by words or self-promotion, but by acts to end suffering and oppression. He won't give up until the work is accom-

plished, the reading says.

Anyone who has been involved in social justice ministry knows it is a hard, frustrating grind. Speeches, essays, or pledges don't get justice done. Only the Spirit of Christ among people has the power to make it happen.

Some years ago, I interviewed a locally respected activist who had returned to social ministry after temporarily disappearing from the scene. When Ray Higgins was first out of college, he told me, he got into political activism and the social justice movement in a big way, including missions to Central America, the Sanctuary Movement, Habitat for Humanity and community organizing.

After a decade, he burned out. The work had become an

end in itself. "There wasn't much spirituality involved in what I was doing," he admitted.

He spent two years getting back into the pool with Jesus, reestablishing relationships with family, friends and with God. He soon realized that passion for his work had to come through Jesus. When he returned to ministry, he said, "I don't live for my work anymore. It has to live in me."

Then Christ got into the pool with Ray: He was nurtured by the "small miracles" performed by friends and neighborhood leaders sharing the work. "Now I gauge the ministry by asking, 'What do I live for, and who do I love?'"

The "fire" of Christ's life is what strengthens and sustains us for his mission.

QUESTIONS:

When have you wanted to walk away from God's call to ministry? How did you rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit?

**January 20, Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time.**

Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3, 7-10
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel) John 2:1-11

By Jeff Hedglen

In 1995, I received a call asking if I would be willing to coordinate a diocesan youth conference. The position of diocesan director of youth ministry had been vacant for two years and so it had been awhile since the youth of the diocese had gathered. My first reaction to the invitation was NO WAY! But a voice inside me said, “You are the longest tenured youth minister in the diocese; it is time to step up to the plate.”

So I agreed to lead the team

“Do whatever he tells you.”

— John 2:5



that would undertake this endeavor. I was overwhelmed by the enormity of the task. I had never even been a part of a team that planned an event of this scale, let alone been the team leader. Up to this point, I had been content to stay in my comfortable role as a

parish youth minister. So this was a real stretch for me.

I sometimes wonder if Jesus was having a similar feeling at the wedding at Cana when his mother in effect urged him out of his comfortable existence as a son, friend and carpenter and propelled him into the limelight.

His response, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come,” reminds me of my reluctance to leave my comfort zone to run a large retreat. This is not to say that Jesus was unwilling to begin his public ministry, it’s just that I find comfort in knowing that, like me, he was comfortable in his current

role, yet rose to the occasion that the Lord presented Him.

Though I was nervous, the youth conference went off without a hitch, and in a very real way my ministry was never again the same. When I look back, I am amazed at the kinds of events I have been involved in planning. I would never have thought that “little ole me” could be a part of something making such a big impact on the lives of young people. It just goes to show the power of an invitation coupled with a blind faith “yes” that is infused with the power of the words of Mary at the wedding at Cana: “Do whatever he tells you.”

QUESTIONS:

When have you been called out of your comfort zone? Have you ever been the person calling someone else to stretch their limits?

**January 27, Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time.**

Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19:8-10, 15
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Gospel) Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

By Sharon K. Perkins

As a regular contributor to “Word to Life” I’m occasionally curious about who reads these columns and where they live. When I first began contributing, it was for the *North Texas Catholic* in 1995, and it was pretty easy to figure out: Readers of the print publication lived in the diocese, and I encountered many of them at diocesan and parish functions. Then the Internet happened.

With a few mouse clicks the other day, I was astonished to discover that we have readers from New Mexico and Maryland to the

“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region.”

— Luke 4:14



Ukraine and South Korea!

We have entered an age of digital communication and social media in which the Good News of Jesus Christ can be transmitted almost instantly to even the remotest parts of the globe.

I recently learned of a mission-

ary priest in Togo, West Africa, a modern-day circuit rider who visits rural villages in a pickup truck bearing an inflatable screen, DVD player, and projector powered by a small generator. Entire villages turn out to watch Christian films in French. The visual presentation of the Gospel has been so inspiring that the priest baptized 150 catechumens last Easter alone.

Pope Benedict XVI has called the entire church to observe a Year of Faith, charging Catholics to seek reconversion to a deeper relationship with Jesus and to boldly share his Gospel.

For some, it means reopening and walking anew through the door of our Baptism, in much the same fashion that Nehemiah reintroduced the Torah to his own

people returning from Babylonian exile. He was effective with only a scroll, a raised wooden platform, and the force of God’s Spirit.

In a first-century Galilean synagogue, Jesus unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah to proclaim his fulfillment of God’s promises. The tools were primitive, but the Spirit’s power caused extensive and immeasurable effects.

For Christians, evangelization — the relational, compassionate, and truthful sharing of the love of Jesus Christ with those in our sphere of influence — is not an option. We have communication tools that Nehemiah could never have imagined. But more importantly, we are given the same Spirit of the living God. What are we waiting for?

QUESTIONS:

What obstacles prevent you from evangelizing? Who in your sphere of influence is God asking you to share the good news of the Gospel with?

February 3, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 71:1-6, 15, 17
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

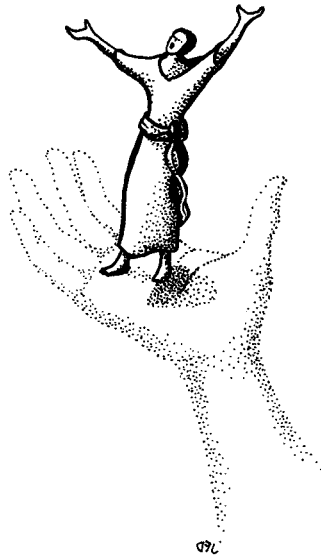
Jeff Hensley

“Be not afraid” was one of the by-words of Pope John Paul II. The same words, or their equivalent, were uttered by Jesus many times in the Gospels.

Today’s Gospel from Luke demonstrates that God is truly in charge of our destinies, giving us valid reason to be without fear when we are obedient to him. Jesus speaks an unpleasant truth to a group gathered in the synagogue because they began to question his

“...Prepare yourself; stand up and tell them all that I command you.”

— Jeremiah 1:17a



authority. As a result, the crowd rushed him and drove him to the edge of a hill to hurl him from

it, “But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away,” Luke tells us.

In the Old Testament reading, Jeremiah reports the Lord telling him that he had appointed him “a prophet to the nations” before he was even born. Then Jeremiah recounts God’s command to him, rendered in some translations as “gird up your loins,” another form of “be not afraid,” as he tells him to stand firm in delivering his challenging words to the people of Judah.

It is at first puzzling that the New Testament reading is Paul’s memorable commentary on the value of love, I Corinthians 13. But love is the balance to our need

to speak out when God calls on us to do so. We must speak God’s truth, but we must do it in love. A full reading of the book of Jeremiah will reveal his love for God’s people, and we know that all that Jesus did came from love of his Father and all of humanity.

Today, many would try to silence Catholics faithful to the Church’s call to protect all human life, to protect the sanctity of marriage, to defend the immigrant and the stranger, to stand with the poor and to stand for religious liberty. What words would God use to encourage us to stand firm — in love — and to speak up for these essential principles? What else but, “Be not afraid?”

QUESTION:

Where are you compelled to take a stand for godly principles and for the good of others?

February 10, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm 138:1-5, 7-8
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel) Luke 5:1-11

By Jean Denton

This Sunday’s Scripture in which the prophet Isaiah remembers his initial response to God’s call, reminds me of a turning point for me some 25 years ago when I first understood what it means to be a fully responsible adult.

By that, I mean being responsible not only for myself and my immediate family, but also taking my share of responsibility for my community.

My young daughter excitedly brought home a flyer inviting interested parents to an information-

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’”

— Isaiah 6:8



al meeting about Girl Scouts. Although I hadn’t been a stellar scout myself, I knew Libby would gain a lot from the program. I went to the meeting and happily completed her membership form. All I needed was to hear what day and time her Brownie troop would meet.

Instead, the woman leading the meeting asked, “Which of you parents would like to take on the leadership of this new troop?” I was indignant: What a sneaky way this was to get volunteers.

But as she continued to explain the workings of an organization that passes on life skills and human values to the community’s young people, I asked myself, “Whose job did you think this would be?”

Like Isaiah, I initially questioned whether I was up to the task. After all, I could barely organize myself much less a regular program for children. But I couldn’t deny that it was needed, and I cared about it.

It may not have been a call to ministry, but the moment was an

invitation to engage in my community and offer whatever I had.

I took the bait and was a troop leader for several years. Subsequently, I also was a Cub Scout den mother, coached several youth baseball teams, PTA leader, parish catechist, and youth minister.

I was blessed through every concern, frustration, anxiety, success, and failure. Mostly, I was blessed by every interpersonal relationship. Many last to this day.

That’s the Gospel. When Jesus called his first disciples, He instructed them in casting their fishing nets to show how He would help them fulfill the necessary tasks. Their efforts, he promised, would bring people into their life with Him.

QUESTIONS:

How have you been called, lately, to leadership in sharing Jesus’ life and message? How has Christ shown you He will provide what you need?

February 17, First Sunday of Lent. Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm 91:1-2, 10-15
- 2) Romans 10:8-13
Gospel) Luke 4:1-13

By Jeff Hedglen

I recently spent some time at White Sands National Monument. It is a wonder to behold. I've been to the beach a number of times, so sand was not new to me, but to see so much sand — and white — in the middle of New Mexico was simply awe-inspiring.

At one point, I decided to take a walk in to the dunes to find a spot where I could no longer see any tourists or cars. I headed off in search of solitude. A while later, I made it to a place free of footprints and all sights and sounds of other people. I did a slow 360-degree turn and just took in the scenery. Again, it was breathtaking — and

"Jesus ... was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil."

— Luke 4:1-2

a little unsettling.

Had I not checked my compass prior to heading off, I am sure I would have never found my way back to the car. Additionally, I became acutely aware of how few sips I had left in my water bottle, not to mention the fact that I had no food. The starkness of the topography was just as strong an im-

age as the beauty that shrouded it.

Though this was only a half-day journey in a small desert environment, the reality of the power and solitude of the desert has stayed with me. In no way can I imagine spending 40 days there with no food or water and having only the devil as my companion. Yet, this is exactly the scene Scripture offers us as we begin our

QUESTIONS:

What will you be giving up or doing extra for Lent this year? How do you plan to overcome the temptation to "cheat" on your obligation?



Lenten journey this year.

We may not experience as profound a fast as Jesus did in his desert time, but we are called into our own desert this Lent all the same. Maybe the starkness will come in the form of food or another beloved aspect of life offered up. Or maybe our journey will include offering more prayer or service to the poor. Whatever the case, we are all bound to face some temptation along the way.

When the devil comes calling, instead of relaxing and giving in, let's redouble our efforts, dig our feet in the sand, and look past the starkness to the beauty of our desert. For we walk in the footsteps of one who conquered not only temptation, but also the devil himself.

February 24, Second Sunday of Lent.

- 1) Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalm 27:1, 7-9, 13-14
- 2) Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel) Luke 9:28b-36

By Sharon Perkins

This Lent, the church is right in the middle of the "Year of Faith," a time to seek to know Jesus in a more intimate and fruitful way. It's been a good time to revisit some of my spiritual practices, including keeping a spiritual journal.

Over the years, I've stashed away enough notebooks from retreats and notations in daily devotional books to give me several hours of reading material. My annual Lenten review of journal entries has given me a couple of revelations: 1) the fear of change — even change for the better —

"Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord."

— Psalm 27:14



seems to be a recurrent theme, and 2) over time, much of the transformation I feared has indeed occurred, sometimes in ways so gradual, subtle, and unexpected that I missed them at the time.

In today's readings, Abram has received a wonderful promise of descendants as numerous as the stars that God asks him to count, "if he can," in broad daylight. The

bonus promise of land is ratified in a covenant ceremony that Abram is content to watch until God envelopes him in a "deep, terrifying darkness." In the Gospel, Peter, James, and John see the Lord transfigured before their eyes — altogether a good thing until the same cloud surrounds them and they become frightened.

St. Paul tells us that in our "citizenship is in heaven," our bodies will be changed to conform with Christ's glorified body — also a good thing (the effects of aging make it look better all the time!). But preparation for heavenly citizenship already has begun on the inside, and cooperating with that kind of change is often

painful and even terrifying.

In my typical result-oriented fashion, I welcome the personal transformation that God promises because I anticipate the magnificent outcome. What I don't welcome is the intricate and hidden process by which God takes me there.

I get discouraged when I don't see the stars of progress in broad daylight. But it's in times of darkness, when anxiety and inertia threaten to overwhelm me, when I "wait for the Lord," that God is working out the transformation, and the stars become visible with the eyes of faith. With the transfigured Lord Jesus ever before me as "my light and my salvation," whom — or what — should I fear?

QUESTIONS:

What sorts of personal changes do you fear the most? How have you been able to see, over time, the ways in which the power of God has worked change in you?



El obispo Vann, rodeado por el clero, obispos, y una multitud de fieles en el Centro de Bren, UC Irvine, el 10 de diciembre. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



El obispo Vann, sentado frente al arzobispo Viganò, escucha al nuncio papal leer el Mandato Apostólico del Vaticano, nombrándolo Obispo de Orange. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



El arzobispo Viganò lee el Mandato Apostólico nombrando al obispo Vann Obispo de Orange. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Bailarín azteca sopla un cuerno de botuto – concha de caracol – anunciando el inicio de la ceremonia. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Danzantes vietnamitas en la procesión de entrada. (NTC / Kathy Cribari Hamer)

El canciller de Orange, Shirl Giacomo, muestra el Mandato Apostólico a la asamblea, después de haberlo visto y mostrado al Colegio de consultores para su inspección. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



El obispo Vann fue instalado como el cuarto obispo de Orange en una ceremonia universal cargada de ritual y tradición

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Corresponsal

Una entusiasta multitud de más de 4.000 personas llenaron el Centro de Eventos Bren de la Universidad de California – Irvine el 10 de diciembre, para presenciar la instalación de Kevin W. Vann como el cuarto obispo de la *Diócesis de Orange*, en una ceremonia cargada de ritual y tradición.

El obispo Vann, al frente de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* por siete años, ahora dirige una diócesis con una de las poblaciones de más rápido crecimiento de católicos en los Estados Unidos. Hay 1,3 millones de católicos en la *Diócesis de Orange*, lo que la hace la diócesis número 10 en población del país. También es étnicamente diversa, con gran parte del crecimiento atribuido a la afluencia de inmigrantes latinoamericanos y asiáti-

cos. La *Diócesis de Orange* tiene la población más grande de vietnamitas viviendo fuera de Vietnam.

Para reflejar un espíritu de inclusión, elementos de las culturas azteca, hispana y vietnamita fueron incorporados a la misa solemne celebrada por el obispo Vann en la arena convertida en un espacio para la ceremonia de adoración. Vistiendo tocados ceremoniales adornados, un grupo de danza Azteca de Ontario, California, cargó cazuelas humeantes de incienso, al son de cuernos hechos de botutos — conchas de caracol — anunciando el inicio de la procesión.

Cassandra Ramos, de catorce años, se sintió honrada de ser parte de la celebración: “Queremos apoyar al obispo y a nuestra religión”, dijo la artista, complacida al saber que el nuevo obispo tenía una especial afinidad con la Virgen de Guadalupe. Ocho rosas

rojas sobre su escudo de armas honran a la Virgen — patrona de México, de la *Diócesis de Orange*, y de todo el continente americano. “Estoy emocionada al ver que comparte nuestra devoción. ¡Oramos y compartimos nuestros problemas con la Virgen de Guadalupe!”

Después de la entrada de la *Orden ecuestre del Santo Sepulcro de Jerusalén*, incluyendo miembros de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*, un contingente de niñas vietnamitas en vestidos *Au Dai* llevó el conjunto de 50 obispos y más de 150 sacerdotes al auditorio.

Entre los invitados figuraban: el cardenal Roger Mahony, arzobispo emérito de Los Ángeles; José Gómez, arzobispo metropolitano de Los Ángeles; y Monseñor Carlo María Viganò, nuncio apostólico. Los sacerdotes de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* presentes en la cele-

bración incluyeron al recién nombrado administrador diocesano, el mons. Stephen Berg; el mons. Michael Olson, rector del *Seminario de la Santísima Trinidad*; el mons. Juan Rivero, ex vicario diocesano para sacerdotes; y el padre Dan Kelly, canciller diocesano. También asistieron el padre Isaac Orozco, director diocesano de vocaciones; el padre Jonathan Wallis, director diocesano de catequesis; al igual que un número de sacerdotes parroquiales, representando la diversidad étnica de la diócesis. Finalmente, entre la multitud había religiosas y laicos de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*, incluyendo representantes de las *Hermanas de Santa María de Namur* y el vice-canciller Peter Flynn.

“Gracias por su generosidad en responder el llamado a servir”, dijo el arzobispo Viganò antes de leer el mandato apostólico de la



El arzobispo Gómez y el arzobispo Viganò llevan al obispo Vann a la cátedra (silla del obispo), que significa que él ha tomado su lugar como el Ordinario de la Diócesis de Orange. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



El obispo Vann, sentado en la cátedra, recibe el aplauso de la asamblea, después de haber sido instalado como el Ordinario de la diócesis. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



El obispo Vann celebra la Eucaristía por primera vez como obispo de Orange (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)

Santa Sede nombrando al Obispo Vann a la *Diócesis de Orange*. “Estamos seguros que con el ejemplo del Buen Pastor y la intercesión de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, patrona de la diócesis, podrá responder a los desafíos de la nueva evangelización”.

El obispo Vann luego fue conducido a la cátedra (silla episcopal) por los arzobispos Gómez y Viganò. El público estalló en aplausos cuando el obispo Vann se sentó en la silla, que simboliza su nuevo papel como *Ordinario de la Diócesis de Orange*. Los representantes de las religiones judía y musulmana, y de muchas denominaciones cristianas, órdenes religiosas católicas, apostolados laicos y consejos parroquiales, fueron presentados entonces al recién instalado líder católico.

Muchos católicos que no hablan inglés ahora llaman al sur de California su hogar, y el obispo reconoció su presencia al comenzar la homilía con una bienvenida en español, vietnamita y coreano. Lo que siguió les dio a los oyentes una idea de su personalidad extrovertida, su amor a la familia, y el aprecio por su crianza en el medio oeste de los Estados Unidos — cualidades que la comunidad de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* había llegado a admirar.

Después de agradecer a su predecesor, el obispo Tod D. Brown, por su amistad y apoyo

durante el proceso de transición, el celebrante envió un mensaje personal a su padre, William Vann, quien no pudo asistir a la ceremonia por motivos de salud. Su padre, con 87 años de edad, vio la ceremonia en vivo en su computadora, desde su casa en Springfield, Illinois. La madre del obispo Vann, Theresa, falleció en junio de este año.

“Este es un momento para decirte gracias, papá, porque siempre nos estabas enseñando a hacer lo correcto”, agregó. “Gracias por todo lo que me enseñaste a mí y a mis hermanos; porque lo que soy yo ahora, papá, es en gran medida gracias a ti”.

Reflexionando sobre su crianza en Springfield, Illinois, el obispo recordó ser un aficionado de los *Cardenales de San Luis*, pero luego mostró su lealtad a su nuevo hogar luciendo una gorra nueva de béisbol: los *Ángeles de California*.

“Vi el arco a la entrada de St. Louis cuando se estaba construyendo”, dijo el obispo Vann, en referencia al monumento de St. Louis a orillas del río Mississippi. “Yo no sabía entonces que el tributo simbólico al Oeste se convertiría en una puerta de enlace en mi propia vida — primero al sudoeste, donde la gente me recibiría calurosamente en Fort Worth, y ahora aquí en el occidente con todos ustedes”.

Después de la Misa de insta-

lación y un servicio de Vísperas la tarde anterior, el nuevo obispo fue celebrado con espectáculos conmovedores: un grupo coreano de tambores, una banda de mariachis, el coro de una escuela secundaria, y unos grupos parroquiales musicales. Tantas personas asistieron a la liturgia del 9 de diciembre en el interior del *Arboretum* en la futura *Catedral de Cristo*, que las regulaciones del departamento de bomberos obligaron a mucha gente a quedarse al aire libre. El baile y el canto festivo continuaron en el patio.

“La danza es la forma en que adoramos. Estamos aquí para apoyar al nuevo obispo”, dijo Javier Javalos, entusiasmado, mientras sus compañeros bailaban al ritmo de un tambor. “Estoy muy feliz de estar aquí y muy emocionado”.



A LA IZQUIERDA: El obispo Vann en el Servicio de oración el día antes de su instalación, venerando la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)

A LA DERECHA: Un grupo entusiasmado de mariachis da una serenata en las afueras del *Arboretum*, donde se celebró el servicio de Vísperas. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)



Las gracias se redoblan en la recepción de despedida en Fort Worth

Por Jerry Circelli
Corresponsal

Más de 200 personas de toda la diócesis se dirigieron a *Nolan Catholic High School* en Fort Worth el domingo 25 de noviembre para asistir al primero de tres servicios de Vísperas y recepciones de despedida al obispo Kevin W. Vann. Después de siete años al servicio de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*, el obispo Vann iba a ser instalado como obispo de la *Diócesis de Orange*, California, el 10 de diciembre.

Los feligreses vinieron a acompañar al obispo, a quien han llegado a admirar a lo largo de los últimos años, para mostrar su agradecimiento.

“Estoy agradecido a todos ustedes”, dijo el obispo a los asistentes durante el servicio de Vísperas, hablando en inglés y en español. “Cuando llegué aquí, no tenía mucha confianza. Sentía nostalgia y toda clase de cosas...”

“Pero rápidamente, gracias a todos ustedes, he aprendido: después de muchas experiencias, buenas, difíciles, ¡aprendí el significado de ser un pastor!”

El obispo Vann ha tenido muchos logros durante su comisión, todos bien documentados. Sin embargo, no hizo referencia a ninguno de ellos, y se limitó a decir: “Doy gracias a todos ustedes por su paciencia y por lo que me han enseñado. Nadie puede hacer todas estas cosas aislado. Se necesita que todos trabajemos juntos. Y por eso, siempre doy gracias a Dios”.

El obispo dijo que iba a usar

el mismo modelo que aprendió durante su experiencia en la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* mientras comienza sus funciones en la *Diócesis de Orange*. Ese modelo, comentó, consiste en trabajar juntos como una familia con los fieles, los clérigos religiosos, las parroquias, la comunidad, para llevar a cabo la obra de Dios.

Tras las palabras del obispo y las Vísperas, la reunión continuó en una zona de recepción cercana. Allí, las personas hicieron fila para agradecer al obispo Vann, para expresar su gratitud por su influencia positiva en la diócesis y sus vidas.

Marty y Deanna Martínez, de Fort Worth, se encontraban entre los que esperaban para hablar con el obispo. Ellos conocieron al obispo Vann desde que llegó a Fort Worth a través de su trabajo con el *Club Serra* local y a través de diversos proyectos para voluntarios. Él comentó que el obispo siempre ha hecho todo lo posible para servir a los católicos locales. Cuando Marty y su esposa recientemente renovaron sus votos matrimoniales luego de 50 años, estaban eufóricos cuando el obispo Vann aceptó celebrar la Misa.

Scott France, diácono en la *Iglesia del Santo Redentor (Holy Redeemer)* en Aledo, también sabe de primera mano que el obispo Vann se esfuerza al máximo para conectarse con su pueblo. “Está en las parroquias, visible, y siempre frente a nosotros”, dijo France.

“Él es nuestro guía, nuestra columna de fe”, dijo la feligresa Esperanza Barrigan, de la *Iglesia del*



El obispo Vann conversa con una larga fila de fieles en la recepción de *Nolan Catholic High School* después de la oración de Vísperas. (NTC / Donna Ryckaert)

Santo Nombre (Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church). Su esposo, Rafael, agregó: “Él nos motiva a estar firmes en nuestra fe... Está orgulloso de su fe”. Su hija, María, estudiante de *Nolan High School*, lo resumió: “Cuando ves la fe en acción, la ves en el obispo Vann”. Byanka Peffers, de la *Iglesia de San Juan Apóstol* en North Richland Hills, estuvo de acuerdo. “Él es agradable y fácil de conocer”, dijo. “Se relaciona muy bien con la gente: tiene ese don”.

Entre los simpatizantes más jóvenes que asistieron había un grupo de la *iglesia Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*, en Keller. Conocieron al obispo Vann por las actividades del grupo juvenil, y los servicios de monaguillos durante las misas especiales.

“Llegamos a conocer bien al obispo, y a compartir ratos con él”, dijo Cris Díaz. “¡Es genial con niños y adolescentes!”

“Simplemente: es súper humilde”, agregó Mark Artiles.

Después de dos horas de saludar a admiradores de todas las edades, el obispo Vann miró a su alrededor, como queriendo grabar una imagen mental de la gratitud y cercanía que acababa de presenciar.

Uno de los mejores regalos que lleva consigo, dijo, es la confianza: “Tengo la confianza que no creo que tuve cuando llegué aquí. La *Diócesis de Orange* se parece mucho a Fort Worth: tiene los mismos grupos étnicos, pero el doble de población católica, en un área más pequeña. Mi experiencia en Fort Worth me ha dado la confianza para trabajar y orar con feligreses de una diversidad de culturas. Haber crecido en el centro de Illinois, ciertamente, no me dio eso”, dijo el obispo.

Resumiendo siete años en la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*, el obispo Vann comentó: “Yo sólo traté de ser el obispo y el pastor que el Señor quería que fuera. Y el Señor me ha bendecido con toda esta gente y más”.

Católicos de la zona de Denton ofrecen alegre despedida

Cientos de personas de la comunidad católica de Denton y otras partes del *Decanato del Norte* llegaron a la *Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción* el Miércoles 28 de noviembre, para agradecerle al obispo Kevin Vann su servicio a la diócesis en los últi-

mos siete años, y desearle lo mejor en su nuevo cargo como obispo de la *Diócesis de Orange*, California.

En su homilía bilingüe, el obispo Vann reconoció la comunidad que había sido tan bien servida por el difunto Monseñor Charles

King, quien había sido pastor de la *Inmaculada Concepción* y decano del *Decanato del Norte* antes de su fallecimiento en 2011. El obispo contó anécdotas de cómo él y el monseñor King—quien había sido un muy cercano amigo—se escap-

aban de vez en cuando a los casinos de Oklahoma, causando mucha risa a la congregación.

El obispo Vann también reconoció el impacto que la Comunidad ACTS había tenido en la diócesis en general, y el *Decanato del Norte*

El Obispo Vann y los feligreses de la parte noroeste de la diócesis ofrecen su apreciación

Por **Jacqueline Burkepile**
Corresponsal

Los feligreses católicos del noroeste de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* se reunieron el lunes 26 de noviembre para un servicio de Vísperas y una recepción de despedida en honor del obispo Kevin Vann en la *Iglesia Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz (Our Lady Queen of Peace Church)*, en Wichita Falls. La noche comenzó con la *Liturgia de las horas*, seguida de una recepción sencilla con galletas, pastel y ponche para los asistentes que querían decirle su último adiós al obispo.

El ambiente estaba cargado de emoción, mientras muchos expresaban a un mismo tiempo su gratitud, tristeza y orgullo por la designación del obispo Vann como obispo de la *Diócesis de Orange*, California.

James Phillips, un feligrés de *San Judas Tadeo* en Burkburnett, participó en la procesión de Vísperas como un *Caballero de Colón* en la *Guardia de honor del cuarto grado*. Dijo que el obispo Vann era su amigo y un gran pastor de la diócesis.

“No puedes parar a un buen hombre. Era obvio que encontraría cosas más grandes y mejores”, dijo Phillips. “Realmente nos ayudó en *St. Jude*. Hicimos una renovación aquí, y nos ayudó económicamente, y siempre nos ha enviado un sacerdote. Así que estábamos muy contentos con él; nos dará tristeza cuando se vaya”.

Ruddy Nan, un feligrés del *Sagrado Corazón* en Wichita Falls, así como otros que asistieron a la

recepción, dijo que el obispo Vann tiene una habilidad increíble para recordar nombres. “Ha sido muy bueno tenerlo aquí visitando la parroquia, y que te reconozca personalmente”, dijo Ruddy.

Margarita Luna, una feligresa de *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* en Wichita Falls y asociada pastoral de la *Parroquia Santa María* en Henrietta, también dijo que el obispo Vann siempre la ha llamado por su nombre desde que se conocieron durante su primer año en la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*. Él se acordó de ella desde que ella le preguntó cuál era su comida hispana favorita.

“Él me llama por mi nombre cada vez que me ve en cualquier lugar: ¡Margarita!” dijo Luna. “Eso se siente bien — que un obispo con tantos feligreses y parroquias como tiene me pueda identificar por mi nombre en su rebaño”.

Víctor Kocks, feligrés y presidente del comité de finanzas del *Sagrado Corazón* en Wichita Falls, dijo: “Ha hecho grandes cosas para nuestra diócesis. Fue todo un shock [enterarse de su nueva posición]. Estamos tristes porque se marcha, pero sé que va a hacer un gran trabajo en cualquier lugar que vaya”. Agregó Kocks que muchos de los programas del *Sagrado Corazón* son financiados por la diócesis. Dijo que los programas para los seminaristas, los matrimonios, y los jóvenes han sido posibles gracias al obispo Vann. “Todas estas cosas afectan grandemente a la parroquia”, dijo Kocks.

El padre Sojan George, pastor

en particular. Desde el primer retiro de ACTS en Denton en 2004, el programa ha crecido para servir a ocho parroquias de la diócesis, incluyendo cinco en el *Decanato del Norte*, ofreciendo retiros en español e inglés para hombres, mujeres y adolescentes.

Dennis Pettit, un feligrés de *San Marcos*, co-director de un retiro al

cual el Obispo Vann había asistido en 2008, dijo que el obispo le había cambiado la percepción que tenía del clero como inaccesible.

“Se las arregló para cerrar esa brecha entre ser líder de una iglesia local, y el chico que tocaba a la gente de manera personal, y yo nunca había visto eso antes en un obispo”, dijo Pettit. Hablando de un

Daniel y Karen Gagne y su hija, Alessandra, le dicen adiós al obispo Vann el 26 de noviembre.



El veterano ex gerente de negocios de OLQP, John Spyra, comparte recuerdos con el obispo Vann.



Fotos por Juan Guajardo

de *Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz (Our Lady Queen of Peace)*, encabezó la organización del evento. Dijo que el obispo era un buen amigo y no se sorprendió al escuchar la noticia de su partida. “Esto es algo que todos imaginábamos sucedería algún día”, comentó. “Cada vez que una arquidiócesis se abría, había un rumor de que se iba, pero no esperábamos que fuera a Orange County”.

El padre Richard Kirkham, pastor de la *Parroquia de San Judas Tadeo* en Burkburnett, fue ordenado sacerdote en la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* el año pasado. Dijo que está triste que el obispo se vaya, pero orgulloso de su nuevo nombramiento. Explicó que el obispo Vann fue un gran apoyo para él a través de los años.

“El me ha influido con sus palabras de afirmación, desde mi

formación en el seminario hasta mi formación como sacerdote”, dijo el padre Kirkham. “Siempre me sentí respetado y apoyado por él, y que realmente se preocupaba de lo que compartía con él”.

El obispo Vann dijo en su homilía bilingüe el lunes que estaba agradecido por los últimos siete años como obispo de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*.

“Vamos siempre hacia adelante con confianza en lo que el Señor ha hecho por nosotros”, expresó el obispo Vann. “No podemos mirar atrás: debemos mirar hacia el futuro”. Mientras hablaba de mirar hacia el porvenir, dijo: “Yo sé que puedo hacer esto con confianza, con alegría, sobre todo, con fe, ya que los tengo a todos ustedes, los feligreses de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*”.

viernes por la mañana, cuando él y algunos otros de Denton fueron a misa a la *Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center* en Fort Worth, Pettit recordó que el obispo Vann después invitó al grupo a desayunar. “Allí estábamos, desayunando con el obispo, y fue simplemente increíble que este hombre pudiera llegar a un grupo de personas y relacionarse tan

bien con ellos”.

El obispo Vann también reconoció a la creciente comunidad de *Blessed John Paul II Parish*, que se estableció el 1° de julio de este año como la primera parroquia universitaria de la diócesis, sirviendo a *University of North Texas* y *Texas Woman's University*. El feligrés Dr.

CONTINUADO

Mons. Berg es seleccionado como el Administrador de la Diócesis de Fort Worth

El Monseñor Stephen J. Berg, ex Vicario General de la diócesis, fue seleccionado como el Administrador Diocesano por el *Colegio de consultores de la diócesis*, lo que fue confirmado por el Arzobispo Carlo Viganò, Nuncio Apostólico a los Estados Unidos, el 13 de diciembre.

“Me complace aceptar esta posición provisional de servicio. Espero con la gracia de Dios poder servir al pueblo de la diócesis durante este tiempo de transición,” dijo el Monseñor Berg.

De acuerdo al *Derecho canónico*, un administrador diocesano provisionalmente mantiene las funciones de la diócesis hasta que un nuevo obispo es nombrado e instalado. Un administrador deberá cuidar de “mantener el estatus quo de la diócesis”.

Mons. Berg nació el 3 de marzo, 1951 en Miles City, Montana, y después de una carrera como comerciante, entró al *Seminario de la asunción* en 1993, y fue ordenado al sacerdocio para la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* el 15 de mayo, 1999 por su tío, el Obispo Joseph Charron.

Sirvió como vicario parroquial de la *Iglesia de San Miguel* en Bedford del 1999-2001, y en la *Parroquia de San Juan el Apóstol* en North Richland Hills del 2001-2002. Luego sirvió como el *Párroco de la Iglesia de*



Monseñor Stephen J. Berg

Santa María en Henrietta, en *San Jerónimo* en Bowie, en *San William* en Montague, y en *San José* en Nocona hasta el 2008, cuando fue nombrado el vicario general para la diócesis y párroco de la *Iglesia de San Pedro el Apóstol* en White Settlement.

En el 2010 concluyó su servicio como párroco de la *Iglesia de San Pedro*, y el Mons. Berg asumió el cargo diocesano como moderador de la curia, permaneciendo como el vicario general.

El dijo, “Agradezco la confianza del *Colegio de consultores* y pido las oraciones y el apoyo de todos los sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos y fieles laicos durante este tiempo de transición”.

Un grupo de jóvenes da una serenata al obispo Vann, luego del servicio de Vísperas en Denton.



Foto por Wendy Pandolfo

Mike Sayler, asesor académico para los *Caballeros de Colón* de UNT, reconoció el impacto que el apoyo del obispo ha tenido en el crecimiento espiritual de los estudiantes.

El obispo Vann agradeció a la comunidad hispana por su fuerte presencia espiritual y la devoción a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que él comparte. Después del servicio de Vísperas, un grupo de danzantes de Guadalupe realizó un baile especial para el obispo, en el portal de la

iglesia, para darle las gracias por su servicio y despacharlo.

“Por el poco tiempo que estubo con nosotros, demostró ser un gran obispo. Estaba preocupado por su pueblo, y era bilingüe”, dijo el diácono Popo González de la *Inmaculada Concepción*, haciendo referencia al obispo cuando predicaba en español si principalmente hispanoparlantes eran parte de la congregación. “El encuentra a la gente donde sea, y eso lo hace muy especial”.

Le invitamos a unirse al Reverendo Monseñor Stephen Berg, el Administrador Diocesano de Fort Worth, para la

Misa Anual de Respeto a la Vida

en la Catedral de San Patricio

1206 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102

La Misa se celebrará a las 7:00 PM

el

Miércoles 23 de enero de 2013



Juntos vamos a orar por el fin del aborto, la eutanasia y todas las ofensas a la santidad y dignidad de la vida humana.

Tendremos una procesión con velas para conmemorar casi 54 millones de muertes que han ocurrido como resultado de la decisión de *Roe vs Wade* que legalizó el aborto.

Habrà una recepción ligera después en el Salón Parroquial

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

Si usted o alguien que conozca es víctima de conducta sexual inapropiada por parte de cualquier persona que trabaje para la iglesia, sea voluntario, empleado, o miembro del clero, puede reportarlo de las siguientes maneras:

- llamar a Judy Locke, Coordinadora de asistencia para víctimas, al número (817) 560-2452, Ext. 201, o, mandarle correo electrónico a jlocke@fwdioc.org
- llamar al número de emergencia para el abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900
- o llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canciller/moderador de la curia, el monseñor Stephen Berg.

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

Llamar al Ministerio de familias de Texas Servicios de protección (Servicios de protección de niños) al número:(800) 252-5400.

Empty Bowls feed the poor as well as souls of volunteers



Photo courtesy of Hart Street Pottery

A team of friends gathered to volunteer at the 10th Annual Empty Bowls Event, held in Fort Worth on Feb. 17, 2012. Pictured from left to right are Joy Krebs, Leah Leach, Amy Helling, Janet Rodriguez, Mary Casselman, and Carol Hill. Krebs, Helling, and Rodriguez are parishioners at St. Rita Church in Fort Worth; Casselman is a parishioner at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 52

artists, glass artists, wood turners, china painters, fabric artists... all eagerly work to create bowls that will turn into food for our hungry neighbors."

Amy Helling, a fellow St. Rita parishioner, says that she has known Janet for more than 25 years, and has been deeply involved in the Empty Bowls effort for about five of those years. A part-time medical technician who often uses vacation days to work on bowls at Janet's studio, Amy proclaims that she is "totally hooked" on both the work of creating the bowls, and the experience of being a part of the supportive, exuberant community that has evolved.

"It's so much fun. It's truly wonderful to see this movement grow, and it's all because of Janet and the way she brings people together," muses Amy. "Last year, we brought

over half of all the bowls that were donated. And that includes a lot of bowls, beautiful ones, done by people that thought they had no artistic ability whatsoever."

Mary Casselman, a parishioner at Most Blessed Sacrament (MBS) Church in North Arlington, first became involved in painting bowls in 2007 when her daughter, Jesse, coordinated a bowl painting event at MBS as part of her service requirement for the Girl Scout Gold Award.

"Janet helped us every step of the way," Mary recalls. "And that's when I started coming regularly to participate at the studio myself. I would have never dreamed that I could do this, to be a part of something wonderful like [Empty Bowls]. So now, thanks to Janet, many, many people — including me — are receiving the gift of offering service, and, at the same time, a wonderful reward of friendship and laughter."

For more information about involvement in Empty Bowls work with Janet, visit www.HartStreetPottery.com, or call (817) 429-7222. Painting is done in the studio the second Thursday of every month, and the Wednesday evening before that from 5 to 9 p.m. Bisque bowls and glaze are provided; donations of \$4 per bowl are requested to offset expenses.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend Empty Bowls 2013, Thursday, March 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the West Room of the Amon G. Carter Exhibit Hall at Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth. The event offers the approximately 2,000 in attendance an opportunity to sample outstanding soups and desserts offered by some of Fort Worth's finest chefs, and to obtain an original keepsake selected from 2,500 bowls created by North Texas artisans. For more information, visit www.taafb.org.

GOOD NEWSMAKER

Empty Bowls feed the poor as well as souls of volunteers

Janet Rodriguez leads volunteer program in making bowls that benefit Tarrant Area Food Bank

By Nicki Prevou / Correspondent

ASK FORT WORTH ARTIST JANET RODRIGUEZ ABOUT THE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR SHE HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED, and she is characteristically modest about her achievements. “I’m a very blessed person with a lot of amazing and generous family members and friends,” she says. “Thankfully, that has translated into a tremendous amount of support for a cause that is very, very important to me.”

That cause — the work of feeding hungry people through support of the Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) — has led Janet, a longtime parishioner at St. Rita Church in Fort Worth, to make her studio, Hart Street Pottery in Fort Worth, the bustling hub of an energetic, ever-growing volunteer movement. More than 120 professional and amateur artists gather regularly at the studio throughout the year to create original bowls of all shapes and sizes, which are used at the Food Bank’s annual Empty Bowls fundraising event, now in its 11th year.

Janet’s pivotal role in the tremendous success of the event, which now raises more than \$250,000 annually, led food bank officials to nominate her for the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Fort Worth Metro Chapter’s prestigious Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award. Much to her



Photo courtesy of Hart Street Pottery

Janet Rodriguez shows off some of the pottery she has made for the Empty Bowls project benefitting the Tarrant Area Food Bank. The Association of Fundraising Professionals Fort Worth Metro Chapter recently awarded Rodriguez the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award at the group’s 32nd Annual National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony, Nov. 7.

astonishment, she was selected at the organization’s 32nd Annual National Philanthropy Day

Awards Ceremony, Nov. 7 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Fort Worth.

“Janet’s dedication to Empty Bowls translates very directly into nutritious, life-sustaining food for hungry people,” explains Andrea Helms, director of communications for the TAFB. “Each dollar we receive allows us to provide about five meals. The income from Empty Bowls is equivalent to about 1.25 million meals, a huge contribution to our efforts.”

When presented with her award, Janet was quick to draw attention to the unflagging enthusiasm and efforts of the family members and friends who join her in creating, storing, and transporting the bowls, and in volunteering each year at the event. “I am accepting this award on behalf of the many, many people who have worked to make Empty Bowls a success, year after year,” she told the assembled group of approximately 500 fundraising professionals, fellow honorees, and guests. “Ceramic

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