

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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POPE GIVES BLESSING — Pope Benedict XVI blesses pilgrims from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25 during his Christmas Day blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world). In a long Christmas message to Christians in the Middle East, Pope Benedict prayed that despite their enormous suffering they would stay in the region and work for peace. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

World needs a savior despite modern advances, pope says

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating Christmas at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said the world still needs a savior, despite technological advances that make humanity consider itself the "self-sufficient master of its own destiny."

At midnight Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said the birth of Christ should focus attention on all the suffering and abused children in contemporary society.

Later, in a Christmas Day blessing "urbi et orbi" — to the city of Rome and the world — he said recent developments like space travel, genetic engineering, and the Internet only accentuate man's need for spiritual salvation.

"In this postmodern age, perhaps he needs a savior all

the more, since the society in which he lives has become more complex and the threats to his personal and moral integrity have become more insidious," the pope said.

The Mass and blessing, broadcast around the world, were the public highlights of the pope's Christmas, but the 79-year-old pontiff also marked the festivities in quieter gatherings with friends and colleagues.

An old friend drove down from Germany with three small Christmas trees — which were decorated and placed in the papal apartment — and several batches of Bavarian cookies. A separate gift of venison meat arrived from Germany in time for Christmas dinner.

On Christmas Eve, as a crowd
SEE NEED FOR..., P. 13

Vatican officials say they found St. Paul's tomb in Roman basilica

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After years of archaeological work, Vatican officials announced that they have identified the tomb of St. Paul beneath the Rome basilica dedicated to the apostle.

Authorities said Dec. 11 that a roughly cut marble sarcophagus was found beneath a historic inscription that reads: "Paul Apostle Martyr." The tomb lies several feet below the main altar of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Only one end of the sarcophagus has been opened to view, and the rest is buried beneath building material. If Pope Benedict XVI gives permission, the experts may attempt to open the sarcophagus and find out whether the saint's relics are inside.

"We can be certain that this is the tomb of St. Paul," Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of the basilica, told a Vatican press conference.

"No one ever had any doubt

that the basilica was built on the site of the tomb. Now we can see it through a small window [that] we have created," the cardinal said.

He said Vatican experts attempted to X-ray the tomb to view the contents, but it did not work because of the thick marble walls of the sarcophagus.

An "internal exploration" of the sarcophagus would pose technical problems but probably will be attempted, the cardinal said. He said it was certain that

SEE SARCOPHAGUS..., P. 9

Vatican booklet cites 'spiritual ecumenism' as route to unity

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every time Christians of different communities pray together, witness to the Gospel, and help people in need, they are promoting Christian unity, said the Vatican's top ecumenist.

Joint prayer and Bible study, attendance at a major event of another denomination, and working together for justice and

peace are the components of "spiritual ecumenism" suggested by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The cardinal is the author of "A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism," a booklet published in English late in 2006; the Italian edition will be released at the Vatican in time for the Jan. 18-25 Week of
SEE BOOKLET ENCOURAGES..., P. 9

President Ford was 'healing presence for the nation,' says USCCB president

By Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his brief, unelected tenure in the nation's highest office, President Gerald R. Ford restored integrity and character to the White House and brought a measure of healing to a country badly wounded and divided by the Watergate scandal.

Ford, who had a bout with pneumonia last January and two heart treatments in August, died Dec. 26 at his home in Rancho Mirage, California. He was 93.

In a Dec. 27 statement, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called Ford "a

great and good man who served his country with distinction."

"As a healing presence for the nation at a time when it was much needed, President Ford earned his country's lasting gratitude," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Washington. "We pray for the repose of the soul of our 38th president and express our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family."

During his 30-month presidency, South Vietnam fell to the communist forces of the North, high Nixon administration officials were found guilty of Watergate crimes, a blue-ribbon

commission found the CIA was engaged in illegal activities, the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, the United States took in more than 140,000 South Vietnamese refugees, and the country celebrated its bicentennial.

He contributed to better relations between Israel and Egypt, increased U.S. food aid abroad, and reached a new nuclear arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union. With the nation facing energy shortages in the wake of the 1973 gas crisis, he negotiated a fine line between high inflation

SEE PRESIDENT..., P. 21



PRESIDENT MOURNED — Former first lady Betty Ford pauses by the casket of her late husband, former U.S. President Gerald R. Ford, during a service in the U.S. Capitol rotunda in Washington Dec. 30. (CNS photo/Rick McKay, pool via Reuters)

Pilgrimage

Bishop Kevin Vann and a number of the local members of the papal order, the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, traveled to the Holy Land and Rome Nov. 5-17 as part of a tour sponsored by the Southwestern Lieutenancy of the order. The pictures on this page were taken in Israel and Rome in the course of the pilgrimage.



Bishop Vann prays beside the Sea of Galilee (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS AND KAREN HULL)



In the garb of the order for their audience with the Coadjutor Bishop to the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, many on the tour pose outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Bishop Vann and members of the pilgrimage pray along the Via Dolorosa.




Above: Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop Vann in St. Peter's Square.

Right: At the papal audience in St. Peter's Square, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and Fort Worth physician, Dr. Chris Hull reaches out to exchange hats with Pope Benedict. A longstanding tradition allows the exchange of hats with the pope.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE OF L'OBSERVATORE ROMANO, COPYRIGHT © 2006)

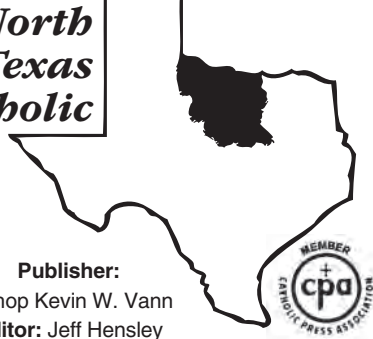



Bishop Vann and members of the Southwestern Lieutenancy pilgrimage make their way down the narrow streets of Old Jerusalem along the Via Dolorosa, or Way of the Cross, the path Jesus took to his crucifixion. They were in the company of Franciscans from around the world, including some associated with the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



15 Years in a Row

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Diocesan

HOPE is served at Catholic Charities luncheon

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer, Correspondent

For its fifth annual Creating Hope for the Community Luncheon, Catholic Charities provided a festive, pre-holiday meal. However, the local charitable organization served more than a traditional menu — what they placed on the table were large portions of vision, resolution, compassion, and, as the theme proclaimed, hope.

The community-building fundraiser, Nov. 29 at Will Rogers Memorial Complex in Fort Worth, was attended by about 600 people, who, through the testimony of recipients, learned about the agency's works and mission. In turn, the guests pledged some \$600,000 in donations. At the first such luncheon, in 2002, just 200 people attended, pledging \$350,000.

Catholic Charities in Fort Worth began on St. Patrick's Day, 1910, at St. Patrick Cathedral, according to Trish Reeves Ritter, chair of the board of directors. "The Ladies Aid Society wanted to help women, children, and the poor," Ritter said, "and when you look at our 26 programs now, we still help the poor, children, and women. We have been faithful to that mission for 97 years."

The organization has branched out, however, in ways the founders might not have predicted, and into areas today's local Catholics may not even know about. Operating from eight different Fort Worth locations, Catholic Charities provides counseling, child abuse prevention and intervention, immigration assistance, disaster relief, housing for the elderly, healthy family assistance, and more.

Ritter noted the Healthy Start Initiative has, for six consecutive years, been 100 percent effective in preventing transmission of the HIV virus from mothers to their unborn children. This success rate brings the agency's count to 89 women who have delivered 91 HIV-free babies.

Catholic Charities also takes part in an infant mortality task

force, Ritter explained, where 10 to 12 agencies meet monthly to discuss the issue. "There are three or four zip codes in this diocese where the infant mortality rate is higher than in Third World countries," she said. "That's horrible."

With an operating budget of some \$2 million, last year Catholic Charities served more than 73,000 individuals and families, said Heather Reynolds, Catholic Charities president, whose remarks opened the Creating Hope Luncheon program.

"To put this number in perspective, think about the size of the Dallas Cowboys stadium," she said. "With the 73,000 we served, we could fill every seat in the stadium and still need an additional 10,000 seats."

But it is the people not served who haunt the staff, Reynolds said; it is the people they cannot serve.

She told stories of clients, describing one she had encountered five years earlier, who had been so badly beaten by his father that he permanently shook because of the trauma his body had undergone. "I remember after meeting him that day," said Reynolds, "[that] I had to leave the office for a few minutes, and I remember sitting in my car and just crying."

She also told of 8-year-old, Sam, who arrived at the shelter "so badly neglected by his drug-addicted mother that the staff had to give him seven baths, just to try to get rid of the smell that lingered because of the filth that he had lived in."

Another example was Saiad, a mother from the Congo, who, when war broke out there, had seen her husband murdered and her sister kidnapped. "She came to the United States with her three children and four

nieces and nephews.

"Despite the tragedy she had encountered and the nervousness she had to feel starting her life completely over," Reynolds said, "she arrived in Fort Worth and hit the ground running. She is now employed, has her own home, and her children are doing well in school. We greet families at the airport when they arrive, to help them learn English, help them find a job, and basically, help them be Americans just like you and I."

But it is the individuals not served that Catholic Charities staff regrets, Reynolds explained.


"Even though we sheltered over 250 children, I am terrified because we have 3,500 children in this community who are being abused, and there aren't enough safe places for them to go," she said. "And even though Catholic Charities

helped Saiad, "I am concerned because we turned away 10,000 families who needed us."

The yearly luncheon is intended to be an educational tool for the Catholic community to realize the mission this agency assumes. Also intended to teach the community is a program called "Catholic Charities 101," a small, monthly luncheon and tour. It is hoped, Ritter said, that these vehicles will bring even more people to the table, either to donate money or volunteer time.

At this year's fall luncheon, Heather Reynolds told Catholic Charities' story, effectively conveying the desire and urgency of their cause. She had determination — and emotion — in her voice.

"If not us, then who?" she said, asking for help from the community. "And if not now, then when?"



Above: Heather Reynolds, president of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Worth, tells of the success stories and the challenges that the organization encounters on a daily basis.

Above: Benjamin Seba, a native of Rwanda, tells the assembly that "it is so hard to start over in a new country with nothing but your life." He offered his thanks to Catholic Charities for helping him when he came to the United States in March 2005. He is still trying to bring his family to this country.

Above: Sara Ramirez (left) and Kathy Lock prepare their donations to Catholic Charities. Approximately \$600,000 was pledged at the this year's luncheon.

Left: Trish Reeves Ritter, chair of Catholic Charities' board of directors, explains the history of the local charitable organization, which began as a Ladies Aid Society in 1910.

Annual Catholic Schools Banquet to be held Jan. 27

The 20th annual diocesan Catholic Schools Banquet will be held Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Fort Worth Convention Center, 1111 Houston Street in downtown Fort Worth. Dr. John Staud, director of pastoral formation and administration for the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) at the University of Notre Dame, will give the keynote address.

Each year at the event, the Diocese of Fort Worth honors outstanding men and women from the Catholic schools in the diocese for their commitment to sustaining and enhancing the mission of Catholic Schools.

The evening includes a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person. Proceeds from the banquet will benefit the Bishop's Scholars Fund, a new diocesan tuition assistance program.

Everyone is invited to the celebration to show their support and commitment to Catholic schools. For more information or to secure reservations, call the Catholic Schools Office at (817) 560-3300 ext. 280.

NFP classes to be offered at several locations

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning. The group finds Natural Family Planning to be safe, healthy, and effective, and indicates that many couples who use NFP "grow in love and respect for one another as they learn to appreciate God's design for marriage."

New NFP classes are scheduled at the following times and locations: Jan. 14, 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 714 N. Main, Muenster, contact Gary and Mary Endres at (940) 759-4810; Jan. 19, 7 p.m., St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 S. Cherry Lane, White Settlement, contact Bill and Mary Kouba at (817) 370-9193; Jan. 28, 3:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 1501 9th Street, Wichita Falls, contact Charles and Renée Gartland at (940) 855-2235; and Jan. 28, 6 p.m., at Mary Immaculate Church, 14032 Dennis Lane, Farmers Branch, contact Scott and Amy Rustand at (817) 581-6266. Because the class consists of four meetings at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a class starting at least four months before their wedding.

For more information on Natural Family Planning, contact the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-3300 ext. 304.

Ecumenical Sunday to be observed in Lewisville Jan. 21

Parishioners at St. Philip Church in Lewisville will join members of five other churches in the Flower Mound and Lewisville area in observing the seventh annual Ecumenical Sunday. The event, to be held Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 907 W. Main Street in Lewisville, is the local celebration of an international event that was originally known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The speaker for the evening prayer service will be the Rev. Randy Lee of Grace Presbytery, who will address the gathering with the program theme, "Open our ears, loosen our tongues."

In addition to St. Philip Church, other participating faith communities include First Presbyterian Church, Round Grove Church of Christ, and First Methodist Church, all of Lewisville; participating churches from the Flower Mound area include Trinity Presbyterian Church and Flower Mound United Methodist Church.

All are welcome to attend. A collection will be taken up for Christian Community Action. For more information, call Kathleen Easler at (817) 430-2454.

'Masterpiece Mysteries' series to reveal Catholic symbols in artwork

"Do you know how to read the secret codes hidden in the masterpieces of medieval and Renaissance art?" ask organizers of a new series to be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane in Grapevine. All are invited to attend "Masterpiece Mysteries," an examination from a Catholic perspective of major works of art, to be held in the parish hall from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on consecutive Sundays, beginning Jan. 14, and continuing on Jan. 21, 28, and Feb. 4 and 11. The sessions will be repeated on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Jan. 17, and continuing on Jan. 24 and 31, and Feb. 7 and 14.

"Discover how Catholic artists like Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo, and others visually embedded Catholic doctrine in their artwork," states a parish press release. "We will spend four weeks studying the art work, then a final week studying [Pope] John Paul II's *Letter to Artists*."

Participants are asked to bring a Bible. To reserve free childcare, call Carol at (817) 481-2685. For more information, call Steve Kellmeyer at (817) 481-2685 or e-mail to skellmeyer@sfrancisgrapevine.org.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



ESSAY CONTEST WINNER — In an essay contest open to 10,000 students, the judges of The Performing Arts Fort Worth's Children's Education Program competition gave top honors to Blaise Paulo, a fifth grader at St. John the Apostle School in North Richland Hills. In her composition, she explained what fifth graders could do to ensure that U.S. citizens will continue to enjoy the freedom, democracy, and equality espoused by President Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address. Paulo reminded the readers, "I am only one fifth grader, and what I do will not have much impact on the country, but I can do small things that may later inspire bigger things." Some things that she suggests can make a difference include setting a good example and encouraging others to do the same; eliminating injustices; making decisions based on what is right; and helping the less fortunate. As winner of the contest, Paulo and a chaperone will receive a two-day trip to Washington, D.C.

Beginning Experience offers help to those grieving loss of spouse

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The next weekend session will be offered Jan. 19-21 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, next to Nolan Catholic High School.

The program is designed to help those grieving the loss of a spouse to put closure on the past and to create a new beginning in the present. The ministry, although rooted in the Catholic tradition, is open to people of all faiths.

For more information or to register, call the Catholic Renewal Center at metro (817) 429-2920 or visit online at www.beginningexperience.org.

Seminar on annulment process to be offered Feb. 6 in Colleyville

Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Arlington, will lead an interactive session entitled "Til Death Do Us Part? Marriage: A Sacramental Sign of God's Faithful Love" Feb. 6 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church, 1000 Tinker Road in Colleyville.

Catholics who have divorced and wish to remarry, as well as those taking part in the RCIA process, often have questions about a decree of invalidity and what it means for them

Plan now to celebrate World Marriage Day Feb. 11

World Marriage Day is celebrated nationally on the second Sunday in February. This year it falls on Feb. 11.

"With all of the things to be celebrated, let's not forget the one thing we should all cherish — marriage," states a press release from the diocesan Family Life Office.

Now is the time to gather a committee to plan this day of celebration, encourages Deacon Dick Stojak, diocesan director of Family Life. "The Family Life Office has a package of ideas and suggestions for making your World Marriage Day the best ever," he says.

For a copy of the material, call (817) 560-2452 ext. 256. Materials are also available online at wmd.wmme.org.

Annual Respect Life Mass to be celebrated Jan. 19

All are invited to participate in the annual Respect Life Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth, Friday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. The diocesan liturgy, held each January, will mark the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

"Your presence and participation in prayer and worship will be an important sign of support to the efforts of many people who serve diligently to protect the most vulnerable — the unborn, the disabled, the chronically ill, and the elderly," said Deacon Richard Stojak, director of the diocesan Family Life Office, in urging attendance at the Jan. 19 liturgy.

For more information, call the Family Life Office at (817) 560-3300.

Service to be offered Jan. 26 in memory of babies dying before birth

St. Andrew Church's family life office will offer a memorial service for babies who have died before birth, to be held Friday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at the parish, located at 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. All who have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion are invited to participate in the service.

Anaming ceremony will take place prior to the service in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. Those who would like to participate in the ceremony of naming their unborn baby are asked to include this information when calling to RSVP for the memorial service.

A reception will be held in the parish hall following the service. All who plan to attend any part of the evening are asked to call (817) 927-5383. For more information, contact Joan Solomons at (817) 923-8570, or contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383 or via e-mail to acurran@standrewcc.org.

CART services to be discontinued at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish

CART services for the deaf and hearing impaired, which had been offered at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington, have been discontinued at that location effective Jan. 1. "The Deaf Ministry Program appreciates all that the parish has done to help welcome the deaf community of the Diocese of Fort Worth," says Mary Cinatl, program director.

CART Services will still be available at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine for the monthly deaf community Mass, celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

The Deaf Ministry Program is in need of a Catholic court reporter who might be willing to work with the ministry by providing CART services. Anyone who might be able to assist is encouraged to contact Mary Cinatl at (817) 284-3019.

Gathering with missionary priest Fr. Bob Thames set for Jan. 24

"Scripture, Mission, and You," an evening of prayer and reflection led by Father Bob Thames, a missionary priest from the Diocese of Fort Worth, will be held Jan. 24. The gathering will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center (CRC), located at 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

Fr. Thames has served as a missionary in Mexico and Bolivia for over 25 years. He has founded and sponsored schools and has worked in impoverished parishes.

"Fr. Thames is a simple, prophetic priest who lives the Gospel of Jesus through his wonderful witness and example," said Ralph McCloud, director of the diocesan office of Peace and Justice, which is sponsoring the event. "Fr. Thames also invites and challenges others to live their baptism through a deeper understanding of mission."

A simple meal will be offered as part of the evening. Participants are asked to bring a Bible. For more information, contact Josie Castillo at (817) 560-2452 ext. 255, or via e-mail to jcastillo@fwdioc.org.

St. Maria Goretti Parish to present 'H3: Holy Happy Hour' Jan. 16

St. Maria Goretti Church of Arlington is presenting a monthly series entitled "H3: Holy Happy Hour," an opportunity to learn and to discuss contemporary issues with the truths of Catholicism in an informal setting. The next "happy hour" will be held Tuesday, Jan. 16, at J. Gilligan's Restaurant, located at 400 E. Abram St. in Arlington. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD, who will give a presentation entitled "But There is No Room in my Blackberry for Prayer." The program will offer ideas about how to be a spiritual and prayerful person in the midst of our busy lives and culture.

Fr. Sanchez, a priest of the Discalced Carmelites of the Province of St. Therese, serves as director of the Mt. Carmel Center in Dallas. He is a retreat leader with expertise in the writings of St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

For information, contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 274-0643 or e-mail to lpollice@smgparish.org.

Catholic homeschooling meeting to be held Jan. 25

Parents who are interested in Catholic homeschooling for their children are invited to attend an information meeting sponsored by Catholics Teaching at Home (CATH), a homeschool group for Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The meeting will be held in a private home in southwest Arlington Friday, Jan. 26, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For directions and more information, contact Lisa Wynne at (817) 483-8362, or via e-mail to monalisa3773@yahoo.com.

Official Assignments

The following assignment has been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father Anh Tran has been assigned as the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Grapevine, effective May 1.

People and Events

St. Maria Goretti Church to host 'Theology of the Body' seminar

St. Maria Goretti Adult Faith Formation will present a five-week seminar on the "Theology of the Body," Pope John Paul II's teaching on human sexuality. The series will be held on five consecutive Fridays, beginning Jan. 19 and concluding Feb. 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the cafetorium at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington.

The seminar will begin with a dynamic presentation by the Theology of the Body Evangelization Team (TOBET) from the Diocese of Dallas. The four remaining sessions will include viewing of a DVD series by writer and speaker Christopher West, with questions and discussion to follow each presentation.

Pizza and drinks will be served each evening after 6:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 7 p.m. Cost will be \$5 per person for the study guides and \$5 per person each week for pizza and drinks. Childcare will be provided.

Registration is required prior to Jan. 17. For more information or to register, contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 274-0643 ext. 226, or e-mail to lpollice@smgparish.org.

St. Joseph's singles group to host Sweet-heart Dance Feb. 10

A Sweetheart Dance, benefiting the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics - Region 10, will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, at St. Joseph Church, 1927 S.W. Green Oaks Blvd. in Arlington. Apotluck dinner will begin at 7 p.m. with dancing to DJ music following at 8 p.m.

The St. Joseph Parish singles group, who is hosting the event, invites both singles and couples to attend. For more information, call Greg Mills at (817) 731-4666; Vince Chairez at (817) 896-5726; or Sylvia Salinas at (817) 845-2718.

For more details about the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics (NACSDC), visit online at www.nacsd.org.

Support group offers help for grieving divorced, widowed, and separated

Starting a New Life, a structured, confidential support group sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office, is available to those grieving the loss of a spouse through death or divorce. New sessions will begin Monday, Jan. 22, during which participants, supported by peers, will work through the stages of grief and pain that accompany the loss of a spouse. The sessions will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

All faiths are welcome. For information, contact Helen Engle at (817) 261-9706 or e-mail to hengle@sbcglobal.net; or Kevin Gamble at (817) 626-9382. More information may also be found on the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

'Sensible Scripture Study' to begin March 11 in Grapevine

"Would you like to get more out of Mass? Would you like to know where Catholic doctrine is found in the Bible?" ask organizers of "Sensible Scripture Study" at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine. A four-week course, designed to give participants specific techniques for reading and understanding Scripture, will be held March 11 through April 4 in the parish hall, located at 861 Wildwood Lane in Grapevine.

The sessions will be held from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on consecutive Sundays, beginning March 11 and continuing on March 18 and 25, and April 1. The sessions will be repeated on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 14, and continuing on March 21 and 28, and April 4.

Program materials encourage all to attend, saying, "Watch Mass come alive as you apply the same techniques to the liturgy!"

To reserve childcare, call Carol at (817) 481-2685. For more information, call Steve Kellmeyer at (817) 481-2685 or e-mail to skellmeyer@stfrancisgrapevine.org.

IRPS to host dinner for clergy Feb. 8

The Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies (IRPS) at the University of Dallas (UD) will host its fourth annual Clergy Dinner, a celebration of the ministry of ordained priests in the Fort Worth, Dallas, and Tyler dioceses, Thursday, Feb. 8. The event will be held at the Haggard University Center, located on the UD campus at 1845 East Northgate Drive in Irving.

Father Jerome Walsh, who serves as the Tschoepe Chair of Homiletics at IRPS, will give a presentation entitled "Making (the) Sense of the Text," which will explore literary approaches to interpreting biblical text and how such an approach enriches preaching and understanding of Scripture. His presentation will be preceded by a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.

Fr. Walsh was ordained in 1969 and is a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan. An author and professor with expertise in literary analysis of the narrative and poetry of the Hebrew Bible, Fr. Walsh holds graduate degrees in philosophy and theology, a licentiate in sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, and a doctorate in ancient Near Eastern studies from the University of Michigan.

The annual event is free of charge and open to ordained clergy only in the local dioceses. Reservations may be made by calling (972) 265-5811 or by e-mailing irps@udallas.edu.

For more information about IRPS, visit www.udallas.edu/irps.

Local Knights to sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship

Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1 are invited to participate in the 2007 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship to be held Saturday, Jan. 27, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Forestwood Middle School, located at 2810 Morriss Road in Flower Mound. The competition is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9884 of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Lewisville.

Youth residing in Lewisville, Flower Mound, Highland Village, Copper Canyon, Double Oak, or Lake Dallas may participate in this competition free of charge. Contestants will compete in their respective age divisions.

The championship is an annual event. Winners progress through local, district, regional, and state levels; in 2006, nearly 179,000 youth participated in over 3,000 competitions across the country.

All contestants at the local competition are recognized for their participation, and trophies will be presented to the first, second, and third place winners in each age group. Entry forms will be available at the competition site; participants may register at any time between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and must furnish proof of age and written parental consent. Basketballs will be furnished at the event. For more information, contact Tom Kupper at (972) 436-3945.



BISHOP VISITS RHINELAND — Bishop Kevin Vann visited St. Joseph Parish in Rhineland, celebrating the Saturday evening Mass Dec. 9. The liturgy was followed by a covered dish supper, where some of the youth of the parish gathered around the bishop for a photo opportunity. Earlier in the week, 46 of the parish youth presented their annual Christmas play, "A Timeless Christmas," helping the Rhineland Catholic community to focus on the true reason for the Christmas season. (Photo provided by Janet Dillard)

Mother-Daughter Tea planned for Feb. 25 at Catholic Center

A Mother-Daughter Tea, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Family Life, will be held Sunday, Feb. 25, from noon until 4 p.m. at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth.

Young women, ages 10 to 13, are invited to attend with their mother, grandmother, or other special woman in their lives to spend an afternoon sharing experiences of being female. Discussion from a faith-based perspective will concentrate on the physical, emotional, and psychological changes that occur in young women during the adolescent years and will address many relationship issues faced by teens today.

A light lunch, tea, and desserts will be served. The cost is \$12.50 per person. For more information or to make a reservation, call Nancy Novak at (817) 656-9633 or Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096. Space is limited.

Dr. Toni Craven to explore Book of Psalms in four-part series

Dr. Toni Craven, who is the I. Wiley and Elizabeth Briscoe Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, will present a four-week series on the Psalms at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive in South Fort Worth. The sessions will be held on consecutive Thursday evenings, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22, in the parish hall from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The series will focus upon the shape of the Book of Psalms and the range of the prayers. "The whole of life is meant for public and personal worship — celebration and joy, grief and loss, lament and praise," say program materials. "Come, bring your memories of the Psalms and learn some more."

All are invited to attend. To reserve childcare, call (817) 924-6581 at least 48 hours prior to each session. To register for the series, call the pastoral center at (817) 927-5383, or e-mail to acurran@standrewcc.org.

Subiaco to host Discovery Sunday for prospective students Feb. 4

Subiaco Academy, a Catholic college preparatory boarding and day school for young men in grades 9-12, will host a Discovery Sunday for prospective students and their parents Sunday, Feb. 4, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The event will feature guided tours of the campus and facilities, conferences with members of the administration and faculty, and the opportunity to take the academy's preliminary placement exam.

Established in 1887 by the Benedictine priests and brothers of Subiaco Abbey, the academy, located in Northwest Arkansas near Fort Smith, offers a challenging program in academics, the arts, athletics, and various activities. The school's diverse student population, representing various states from California to Connecticut, includes international students from countries such as China, Germany, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Anyone interested in learning more about the possibilities and potential to be found at Subiaco is invited to come and enjoy the Discovery Sunday activities at no cost. For more information, contact the admission office at (800) 364-7824; e-mail to admissions@subi.org; or visit online at www.subi.org.

Seymour's Czech community to lead Polka Mass in Arlington, Jan. 28

The Czech Community of Sacred Heart Church, Seymour, along with Sacred Heart pastor Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, will bring a Polka Mass to Arlington Jan. 28. The Sacred Heart Czech Choir and musicians will lead the music at the 12:30 p.m. Mass at their sister parish, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington.

Following each Mass, Bohemian sausage and kolaches will be available for purchase. For more information, contact St. Vincent de Paul Church at (817) 478-8206.

Dr. Sandra Kennedy to speak on 'What is a Catechist?' Feb. 1

Dr. Sandra Kennedy will offer a presentation entitled "What is a Catechist?" at Good Shepherd Church, 1000 Tinker Road in Colleyville, Thursday, Feb. 1, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Kennedy is a national consultant for William H. Sadler, Inc., a publisher of religious education materials. Kennedy holds a doctorate in education and religion from Columbia University in New York.

All catechists, directors of religious education, and others with an interest in religious education are invited to attend the free presentation. Ginny Phoenix and Mary Kelly, coordinators of religious education at Good Shepherd, encourage all to attend, saying, "Dr. Kennedy's presentation is dynamic, humorous, and full of practical suggestions."

For more information, contact Mary Kelly or Ginny Phoenix at (817) 421-1387.

Msgr. David Benz to give homily at diocesan MLK Jr. Mass, Jan. 13

Msgr. David Benz, a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, will serve as the guest homilist at the 22nd annual diocesan Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Mass, to be celebrated Saturday, Jan. 13, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth. A reception will follow.

Msgr. Benz, a native of Pennsylvania, was ordained in 1975. He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force until 1993, when he retired from military service. He is currently the pastor of St. Philomena Parish, in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

For more information, contact Ralph McCloud at (817) 560-2452 ext. 305, or e-mail to rmcloud@fwdioc.org.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING — Children from St. George School in Northeast Fort Worth lead Christmas carols at the Haltom City tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 2. The school choir was invited to share the joy of the season through song at both the lighting ceremony and a Stockyards Christmas event in Fort Worth.



FLAG FOOTBALL FUN — Young adults from throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth gathered Dec. 2 for fellowship and friendly competition, participating in the first annual Flag Football for Charity Tournament. The event raised \$891.54, benefiting Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Worth. (Photo by Chris Kastner)

Catholic Scouts encouraged to take part in 2007 Ad Altare Dei Tour

The Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Fort Worth has announced that a unique opportunity will be made available for Catholic Scouts within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The 2007 Ad Altare Dei Tour, beginning July 26 and concluding Aug. 1, will combine the opportunity to work on Catholic Scouting religious awards with a pilgrimage to religious shrines in northwest Texas and in New Mexico.

Tour highlights will include a farewell Mass celebrated July 26 by Bishop Kevin Vann at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth; an overnight stay in Amarillo, on the way to New Mexico and on the return trip home; visits to sites within the state of New Mexico, including Loretto Chapel, San Miguel Mission, and St. Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe; the Capulin Volcano National Monument; Indian cliff dwellings at Bandelier National Monument; and time spent at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

John Ryan, vice-chairman of the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, proposed the tour as a way of encouraging scouts to work toward achieving religious awards.

"[The trip is] a great opportunity for our young Scouts to



At a Catholic Scouting dinner Dec. 21, Bishop Kevin Vann (center) met with some of the Scouts and Scouters who have chosen to participate in the 2007 Ad Altare Dei Tour, July 26 through Aug. 1. While on tour to areas of religious significance in northwest Texas and in New Mexico, the Scouts will have the opportunity to work on their Catholic Scouting religious awards.

meet inspirational religious men, [to] work on a religious award, and [to have] the experience of being a part of something that's never been done before," wrote Ryan in a press release about the tour. Ryan noted that tour leaders hope that the group will meet with Archbishop Michael Sheehan of Santa Fe while in New Mexico, and they have already made plans to meet with Amarillo Bishop John Yanta while attending Mass at Amarillo's St. Lawrence Cathedral, and with Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger of Evansville, Indiana, while the group is at Philmont Scout Ranch.

To participate, Scouts must be Catholic, must have completed sixth grade, and must have been an active member of a troop for at least six months prior to beginning work on the Ad Altare Dei religious award.

The cost for the trip is \$200; limited scholarship opportunities are available. For more information about the tour, contact John Ryan via e-mail to thetexaswebguy@yahoo.com. Further information is available online at www.bsaccs.org. Scholarship sponsorship is sought from interested individuals, businesses, or groups.

Young Serrans banquet set for Jan. 27

All are invited to attend the Young Serra Community (YSC) of Dallas 2007 Award Presentation and Banquet, to be held Jan. 27 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The banquet will be hosted at the parish hall at All Saints Church, 5231 Meadowcreek Drive in Dallas. Entertainment for the event will

be provided by DJ Brian Kidd.

The YSC is dedicated to spiritual growth and fellowship within its membership and to supporting vocations in the church. The YSC also works to foster openness to religious vocations within Catholic youth.

The banquet cost is \$30 per

person, or \$40 per person after the Jan. 13 reservation deadline. Semi-formal attire is requested. Guests are permitted to bring their own wine.

For more information, contact Lauren Hampson at (972) 238-0601 or by e-mail to L_Hampson16@yahoo.com.

Deacon Richard Arndt, longtime member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, dies at age 79

Deacon Richard "Dick" D. Arndt, 79, died Dec. 20 in Wichita Falls, after a lengthy battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) disease. The funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 23 at his longtime parish home, Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Church in Wichita Falls. Father John Swistovich, pastor, presided at the liturgy with the assistance of Deacon Larry Bills. Interment was at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Wichita Falls.

Deacon Arndt, a native of Emporia, Kansas, was born June 4, 1927, to Alphonsus and Clara Wentworth Arndt. The oldest of three children, Deacon Arndt would later recall that he moved 17 times in his first 18 years of life. His father, an auto mechanic, would buy older homes, where his family would reside while Alphonsus made the necessary repairs in order to sell the house at a profit.

Having graduated in 1945 from Cathedral High School in Wichita, Kansas, Deacon Arndt joined the Army Air Corps the same year, and was stationed in France and Germany. Upon his discharge in 1947, he attended Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, before completing undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Oregon and New York University, respectively.

The young man married his former high school classmate, Lucille Betzen, Jan. 19, 1953, and worked as a retail buyer in Dallas before moving his young family to Wichita Falls in 1959. The Arndts quickly became involved in the then-recently-established Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, and Deacon Arndt served as a founding member and early leader of the parish's first finance committee, parish council, and liturgy committee.

An early participant in the diocesan Lay Ministry Training Program, Deacon Arndt also became involved as an advocate for the Tribunal, a role that he maintained until recent years. He participated in the diocese's first four-year training program for permanent deacons, beginning in 1986, and was ordained to the diaconate Aug. 19, 1989. After serving as City Purchasing Agent in Wichita Falls for seven years, he retired in June of 1989 in order to serve OLQP full time by offering marriage preparation classes and by presiding at



Deacon Richard Arndt

funerals, baptisms, Communion services, and weddings; working with RCIA candidates; conducting Scripture studies; and enjoying what he later called "a warm and enthusiastic reception" from the parish community, a grateful response offered to both Deacon Arndt and his wife.

Calling Deacon Arndt "a pillar of our parish," Sister Ginny Vissing, SSMN, a longtime fellow staff member at OLQP, fondly reflected on the deacon's close relationship with his wife, Lucille. "They worked together and were a great example, always," said Sr. Ginny, adding that the deacon "had so many attributes. He was very intelligent, and always ready to learn; he had great dignity, and a great sense of humor."

Dr. Stephen Arndt, Deacon Arndt's oldest son, also recalled his father in a loving eulogy, offered at the funeral Mass. "Even in the hardest of financial times, he provided a Catholic education for his children and tithed a full 10 percent of his income to the church," said Dr. Arndt. "My father was a good man. He was not born a saint, but, I believe, by the grace of God he became a saint. I am proud to have had him as my father, and I pray that I may do as well as he. I pray that we may all do as well as he."

Survivors include Lucille, Deacon Arndt's wife of nearly 54 years; his four children, Dr. Stephen Arndt, Dr. Mary Hagan, Richard Arndt, and Anne Yarmchuk, and their spouses; six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and his sister, Marion Whisman. Memorial gifts may be made to the Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Building Fund, 4040 York Street, Wichita Falls 76309.

Diocesan

Mary King, former business manager for Diocese of Fort Worth, dies at age 85

Mary Nina King, former business manager for the Diocese of Fort Worth, died Dec. 22 in Fort Worth. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth Dec. 28, with Msgr. Charles King, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Denton, presiding.

Mary King was born Feb. 1, 1921, in Franklin, Pennsylvania. She moved to Fort Worth in 1952, and was a charter member of St. Andrew Church, where she served on staff from 1953 until 1981, first as parish secretary, and then, after Msgr. King's arrival as pastor in 1969, as business manager for the parish.

She served as an advisor to Bishop John J. Cassata after his ordination as first bishop for the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1969, assisting him as he worked to establish 12 new parishes in the diocese from 1969 until his retirement in 1980. Named business manager for the diocese by Bishop Joseph Delaney shortly after his 1981 ordination, King was later named director of Parish Services. She is remembered for her pivotal role in the design and building of the central administrative offices of the Diocese of Fort Worth, known as The Catholic Center, which was completed in 1985.

After her retirement in 1995,



Mary Nina King

King continued to serve the diocese as a volunteer.

A member of the Edgecliff Village City Council since 2000, she became the mayor of Edgecliff Village in 2004.

Harvey Leach, with whom King worked at the diocese, recalled her as a "fiery lady; indefatigable... bubbling with excitement and new ideas, all focused on her love of her church." Noting that he had the "privilege" of being King's supervisor from 1985 to 1994, Leach praised her work ethic, as well as her unfailing compassion, saying, "Mary never gave up."

In his homily at her funeral liturgy, Msgr. King compared Mary King to St. Catherine of Siena,

who served as a trusted advisor to bishops of her time. "Mary was largely responsible for developing the very comprehensive diocesan insurance program that we have today," said Msgr. King. "She did extensive research; she went out and got bids and put a tremendous amount of effort into that. This was just one of her many, many projects."

Calling King "very strong, very honest and open," Msgr. King recalled King's gifts of insight and perception, which she used to assist in the growth of the diocese. "She was very much a church woman, and she dearly loved the church," said Msgr. King. "That, too, reminded me very much of Catherine of Siena."

She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Paul King.

Survivors include King's sons, Jack and his wife, Mary Ann, and Tim, and his wife, Lani; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and their families; and her sister, Georgine Rohrer. Memorial gifts in her honor may be made to the Nolan Catholic High School Scholarship Fund, 4501 Bridge Street, Fort Worth 76103; or to St. George School Scholarship Fund, 3508 Maurice Avenue, Fort Worth 76111.



NOLAN SWIM TEAM — Holding their trophy aloft, members of the Nolan Catholic High School Girls Swim Team — (l. to r.) sophomore Katie Meili, freshman Lizzy Osterman, senior captain Justine Bartos, and senior Katy Johnson — react to their third-place overall victory at the 4A Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association swim meet held in Frisco Nov. 18. Approximately 30 high schools competed in the event, including power-house swim teams such as McKinney, Highland Park, and Bishop Lynch. The Nolan swim team's placement was considered an "upset win" by the team members.

Life Revival Youth Rally to be held Jan. 12-13 at St. John's

The Youth Ministry of St. John the Apostle Church will host its annual Life Revival Youth Rally Jan. 12-13 at the church, located at 7341 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills. The doors will open at 6 p.m. on Friday evening, and the rally will conclude at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday. The theme for the two-day event is "Life Revolution! It's More Than You Know. It's Deeper Than You Think. It's Now!"

Tarek Saab, a contestant from NBC's television program "The Apprentice," will speak at the event. Other speakers will include Father Bernard Murphy, CFR, and other members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal; Carol Everett, a former abortion clinic owner; and Anthony Meyers, a youth pastor from the Potter's House in Dallas.

Live music will be featured,

including The Remnant Band, Daniel diSilva of the Crispin Band, the Joe Languell Band, John Flynn of the John Flynn Band, Jessica Volcansek of Entertaining Angels, and the teen "Landmark Band."

Mass will be celebrated Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. with Bishop Kevin Vann presiding.

All high school teens and their parents are welcome to attend the rally, which is geared toward helping youth understand the dignity of every human life, including their own. Admission is free. Food, drinks, T-shirts, CDs, and more will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact Suzette Chaires by e-mail to schaires@sjanrh.com or call (817) 284-4811 ext. 209, or e-mail to Sue Laux, Youth For Life, at laux4life@yahoo.com.

Msgr. Larry Droll Scholarship Fund for Catholic laity now accepting applications

Catholics who wish to serve the church in a professional capacity may seek funding for further education through the Msgr. Larry J. Droll Scholarship Fund for Catholic laity. The scholarship, established in 2002, is administered by Catholic Life Insurance, a fraternal insurance agency based in San Antonio. The fund is designed to assist Catholic lay men and women in pursuing graduate degrees in order to qualify for professional positions in parish and diocesan ministries.

Scholarship applicants must be enrolled in Catholic graduate schools of theology or religious

studies, and must have already completed an undergraduate degree. Applicants must be practicing Catholics and must reside in one of the states in which Catholic Life operates: Texas, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, or Mississippi. Scholarship funds are paid directly to the school where the student is enrolled.

The scholarship fund is named for Msgr. Larry J. Droll, vicar general of the Diocese of San Angelo and spiritual advisor to Catholic Life Insurance.

"Today many dedicated Catholics, who are not ordained clergy or women religious, serve

parishes as parish coordinators or administrators, as pastoral associates, directors of religious education, youth ministers, liturgists, and many other roles," said Msgr. Droll. "This scholarship can help provide the funds to earn the advanced educational degree in theology or religious studies that is often required for these positions."

Students may attend any Catholic graduate school in one of the states in which Catholic Life operates, or applicants may also be enrolled in an extension program or in The Catholic University of America School of Canon Law.

To obtain an application, call Catholic Life Insurance at (210) 828-9921 or 1 (800) 292-2548 ext. 141. Applicants may also download an application online at www.cliu.com. The deadline to apply is Feb. 15.



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Cardinal Newman Institute to offer series on 'Catholic Theological Tradition'

"Catholic Theological Tradition," a 10-session course on the growth and development of Catholic doctrine in the first 1,000 years of the church, will be offered Saturday mornings, beginning Jan. 13 and concluding March 31. Each class will be held from 9:45 a.m. until noon in the conference room at St. Mary the Virgin Church, located at 1408 N. Davis Drive in Arlington. Dr. Paul Menge will be the course instructor.

Presented by The Cardinal

Newman Institute, this course is the second series within a six-course sequence leading to a certificate in theological studies. The certificate will be issued jointly with the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth.

No previous studies are required. The cost for the entire 10-session course is \$200. For more information or to register, call (817) 277-4859; e-mail to smatuszak@juno.com; or visit the College of St. Thomas More Web site at www.cstm.edu.

Diocesan / National



STATE SOCCER CHAMPS — Flower Mound residents Cole Hanson (left), 10, and Brandon Austin, 11, display their prizes — trophies, commemorative soccer balls, and embroidered caps — following first-place wins in their respective age categories at the second annual Knights of Columbus National Soccer Challenge, held in San Antonio Nov. 18. The boys had advanced to the state level after winning the local challenge conducted by Lewisville Knights of Columbus Council #9884 of St. Philip the Apostle Church. National winners will be determined by comparing total scores among the winners of all 50 states and will be announced after the first of the year.

Educational grant assistance available to those in active ministry in diocese

Deadline for applications is Jan. 16

Persons actively involved in ministry within the Diocese of Fort Worth for two years or longer and planning study programs that are in service of that ministry are invited to apply to the diocese for educational grant assistance.

Made available through the generosity of the people of the diocese, a sum of \$20,000 is allotted for distribution again this year. Applications must be submitted to Dr. Dan Luby, director of the Division of Christian Formation at The Catholic Center, and must be received or post-marked no later than Jan. 16.

Applicants will be asked to specify their intended course of study, its place and cost, and any other financial aid they expect to obtain. The pastor's (or supervisor's) signature is required, as is information that will help

establish financial need.

The applications will be processed through the Division of Christian Formation by the Committee on Continuing Education Grant Disbursement. Determinations of aid will be made by late February. At that time, successful applicants will receive a "Letter of Intent" indicating subsequent steps of the process. That letter must be returned by April 1, and

checks will be sent out between May 1 and May 15.

To receive an application, contact The Catholic Center by phone at (817) 560-3300 ext. 254, or by e-mail to bquast@fwdioc.org. Forms also can be downloaded from the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org, by clicking on "Ministry Preparation," and then choosing "Continuing Education Grants."

MARCH 2007 SPRING-BREAK SPECIALS

CHINA - Beijing, Xian (Terracotta Warriors), Shanghai - \$1,999 per person - March 9 - 18, 2007 (3 meals daily)
ITALY - Rome, Florence, Assisi, Papal Audience, Basilicas of Rome March 10-18, 2007 \$1,899 or 1 night extra - S. Giovanni Rotondo (St. Padre Pio) - March 10-19, 2007 - \$1,999 per person
 Prices - per person double, breakfast/dinner daily + airfare from DFW

+++++

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EWTN to air pro-life events in January

Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), available on many local cable and satellite services, has announced that it will provide extensive live coverage of the 34th annual March for Life rally in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco's "Walk for Life West Coast."

Other special pro-life programs will be aired on EWTN throughout the month of January "to celebrate life and to fight the culture of death," according to an EWTN press release. Jan. 22 marks the tragic anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*, when abortion became legal in the United States, resulting in the deaths of more than 47 million unborn babies.

EWTN will provide coverage of the "Walk for Life West Coast" from San Francisco Jan. 20 at 1:30 p.m. and will rebroadcast the day's events Jan. 20 at 8 p.m., Jan. 22 at 5 p.m., and Jan. 25 at 1 p.m.

Then EWTN will travel to the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., for the Vigil Mass for Life and the Annual Mass for Life, followed by live coverage of the Rally for Life and the 34th annual March for Life. The Washington coverage will be aired Jan. 22 at 11 a.m. and encores Jan. 22 at 10 p.m., Jan. 23 at 9 a.m., and Jan. 27 at 1 p.m.

For more information on EWTN's pro-life coverage, visit the EWTN Web site at www.ewtn.com.

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11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. \$2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visits to Padua, Ravenna, Siena.

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, \$2750 pp. Includes 3 nites each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nites Santiago de Compostela, 1 nite each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr That Son from WV.

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International

Sarcophagus of St. Paul discovered at Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls

FROM PAGE 1

the tomb had remained sealed since it was placed there in the fourth century.

"The Basilica of St. John Lateran says they have the heads of Sts. Peter and Paul. I don't know how they can, since this tomb has never been opened," the cardinal said.

Giorgio Filippi, the Vatican archaeologist who carried out the studies on the tomb area, said that, archaeologically speaking, it did not matter whether relics of St. Paul were discovered inside the sarcophagus or not. He said

positive identification of the tomb was made using historical and scientific methods, independent of the presence of relics.

Experts believe the marble sarcophagus was put in place during the reconstruction of the basilica in 390. The church was remodeled several times afterward and almost completely destroyed by fire in 1823.

One of the more important archaeological finds, Filippi said, was that the sarcophagus had a funnel-shaped hole in the top — later closed with mortar — through which the faithful

could stick pieces of cloth to make secondary relics.

He said that was a significant sign that the tomb was revered from the beginning as that of St. Paul of Tarsus.

Tradition holds that St. Paul was martyred by beheading in the first century and that his body was buried in a cemetery along the Via Ostiense, where the basilica was built.

Filippi began studying the basilica in 1993, and in 2002 he made the first close examination that led to the lid of the sarcophagus.



ST. PAUL'S TOMB
— Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, shows a photo of the tomb of St. Paul during a Vatican press conference Dec. 11. He announced that church officials have identified the tomb of St. Paul beneath the Rome basilica. (CNS photo/Daniele Colarieti, Catholic Press Photo)

Pope, Greek Orthodox primate pledge to work toward full communion

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—After centuries of allowing themselves to grow apart, Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox must seek forgiveness and learn to work together for the good of the world, said Pope Benedict XVI and Orthodox Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens and all Greece.

The pope formally welcomed the primate of the Orthodox Church of Greece to the Vatican Dec. 14, solemnly signing with him a commitment to preaching the Gospel together and to working for full communion.

"We want to live more intensely our mission of giving an apostolic witness, of transmitting the faith to those who are near

and those who are far," said the joint declaration, written in Greek and in French on a large piece of parchment.

In their speeches to each other and in their declaration, the pope and the archbishop acknowledged how far apart their communities had grown over the centuries and how difficult their relations were, even as late as the 1990s.

Pope Benedict said Catholics and Orthodox should have learned from what the New Testament describes as the situation of the early church in the Greek city of Corinth, which knew "the difficulties and serious temptations of division."

"In effect, a real danger appears where persons want to

identify themselves with one group or another," rather than with Christ, the pope said.

Through increased contacts and formal dialogue, the pope said, Catholics and Orthodox have come to value each other's spiritual, liturgical, and theological traditions and to see them as gifts from God.

Pope Benedict and Archbishop Christodoulos vowed to use the newly rediscovered fraternity of their churches to ensure the future of Christianity in Europe and to address a host of modern challenges facing society.

The archbishop told the pope that "in our role as spiritual fathers of the pious members of our churches" the two of them must raise an alarm about "all that threatens the values and structures of European civilization deeply impregnated by the Christian faith."

The "progressive de-Christianization of Europe," attempts to exclude faith-based speech from the public arena, "religious fanaticism," and attacks on human life, including research on embryos, call for religious leadership and moral guidance, Archbishop Christodoulos said.

In their joint declaration, the pope and archbishop also



Orthodox Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens and all Greece signs a joint declaration with Pope Benedict XVI during a meeting at the Vatican Dec. 14. The joint declaration pledged their commitment to preaching the Gospel together and working for full communion. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

pledged to work for peace in the world.

"We believe religions have a role to play in spreading peace throughout the world and that they must by no means sow intolerance and violence," the declaration said.

"As Christian religious leaders, we ask all religious leaders together to continue to pursue and strengthen interreligious dialogue and to work to create a society of peace and brotherhood. This is one of the missions of religion," they said.

Archbishop Christodoulos

also thanked Pope Benedict for deciding to give a very important relic to the Greek church: links from the chain venerated as that which bound St. Paul during his imprisonment in Rome. The Vatican said church documents from as early as the middle of the third century spoke of the chains kept at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the site of St. Paul's burial.

The gift to Archbishop Christodoulos consisted of two of the remaining nine links, each of which is about two and a half inches long.

Booklet encourages praying for Christian unity

FROM PAGE 1

Prayer for Christian Unity.

In fact, participating in ecumenical prayer services and discussions during the Christian unity week is encouraged throughout the booklet.

In the introduction, Cardinal Kasper said the booklet was the result of a discussion by members of the pontifical council focusing on the need for prayer and conversion in the search for Christian unity.

Council members also felt Catholics could benefit from prac-

tical suggestions for preparing spiritually for the gift of restored unity, the introduction said.

Even attending another's eucharistic celebration and feeling the sorrow of not being able to share the sacrament can contribute to ecumenism, the booklet said. "The way toward reconciliation and communion unfolds when Christians feel the painful wound of division in their hearts, in their minds, and in their prayers," it said.

The booklet focuses on what bishops, priests, religious, and

laity can do to promote closer relationships with their fellow Christians while the official theological dialogues continue to deal with issues that keep the Christian community divided.

Prayer should be Christians' first response, it said.

"It is significant that Jesus did not primarily express his desire for unity in a teaching or in a commandment to his disciples, but in a prayer to his father," it said.

"Since unity is a gift, it is fitting that Christians pray for it together," the cardinal wrote.

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Viewpoints

Like the Magi of old, CFCFA sponsors travel afar

By Sue Stanton

In the end, it felt like a journey similar to what the Magi had undertaken.

After 30 hours of travel to the East, including an eight-hour layover in Mumbai (once known in the British days as Bombay), I finally arrived at the destination, Calcutta, the first leg of a journey to meet the sponsored children of remote northeastern India.

The sponsors I journeyed with from the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, headquartered in Kansas City, had come seeking the child of their prayer lives with a single purpose: to see with their own eyes just what the financial treasure they had bestowed on a little child had been able to obtain for them.

Unlike my doubting Thomas self, these folks came with pure believing hearts, representing a cross section of professions from around the United States, such as a retired Army colonel and his wife from Vermont, several retired registered nurses, a speech pathologist, a travel agent from Chicago, a lawyer, and a mother who took her sixth-grade son out of school so that he could meet his peer.

Each brought an array of gifts for their child and any other child they might happen to meet along the way. Soccer balls, stickers, pens, combs, band aids, toothbrushes, vitamins — the list of small incidental items we take for granted enjoy a greater meaning when given to a child

Can we really believe that it is possible for us to change the world one person at a time?

half a world away who has never heard of vitamins and whose growth is tragically stunted for lack of them.

I trusted my years of travel to the West Bank, where poverty and cruelty subsist hand in hand, to prepare me for what I was about to witness, but it had accomplished little. There was no amount of life experience to prepare our little group for entering the tribal region. There was nothing to soften the blow. A tsunami wave of shock and horror at the sight of unrelenting human hardship and struggle threatened to sweep us away, leaving behind anger at the sight of the world's untouchable class, the world's poorest people.

Driving on roads crowded with buses, cars, cows, and dogs, with potholes as large as swimming pools, it was difficult to grasp the plight of the human beings we saw beside us walking, dragging, pushing, shoving, heaving forward anything that had a wheel attached to it. One sponsor whispered to me, "This is like the Middle Ages." So many carts with simple

wooden wheels were beside us now, wheels that lacked even a rusty piece of metal to give it some longevity, passed by our bus leaving one with a cold sober idea that longevity, anything and anyone's longevity, is of little significance in a world of wet mud and gray terrain.

Surviving a torturous cab ride with an expert Indian driver, our group of sponsors arrived at their long-sought destination, Bhagalpur, a city famous for its silk production. But it wasn't the silk that lifted the battered spirits of these intrepid Americans. Rather it was the smiles of their sponsored children who greeted each of them over successive days with hearty welcomes, showering them with flowers placed lovingly around their necks, anointing their faces and foreheads with bright colors as they would do to a family member, and in some instances, washing the feet of their most highly honored guests. Gifts were exchanged, songs sung, hands held, and tears shed, all because of the simple gift of a visit from the Magi, American Magi.

Struggling to push aside my own feelings, I attempted to seek a reasoned perspective from the group's youngest sponsor, sixth grader Brendan Quigley. Did he think it had been worth all the effort to come and see his sponsored child for just a few hours? I mean, after all, besides the donation every month that goes to giving the sponsored child literally a new life — clothes, education, and access to medical care — what more can be gained by coming all this way?

Brandon told me he planned to do a class project about his trip, and he

thought that might prove to be just as much work as all the travel was. I agreed, it was a great idea, and the whole class would benefit from his personal story. Who knows? He might just inspire others to sponsor kids as well.

But when I asked what he had found the most fascinating in India, his reply forced me to take a broader view. "It's the traffic," he replied, "They go so fast, and at first, you think they won't make it, but then they do."

Thinking on this I began to wonder about the desire that drove the Magi to make their journey to Bethlehem. When they arrived at the stable, after coming such a long way, did they take one look at Jesus and ask themselves if this little one would make it? Did they think their gifts of treasure to this one child would be ultimately worth the effort? Did they wonder if the gifts they gave could benefit the future?

Can we really believe that it is possible for us to change the world one person at a time?

Long ago three Persian men took a journey to visit an impoverished family. They stayed only a brief time, gave the treasure they had, and left knowing they had changed the world.

And if you were to ask that question of any of the American Magi I traveled with to India, your answer most likely would be, it already has.

Sue Stanton is a member of St. Cecilia Church in Ames, Iowa, and author of GREAT WOMEN OF FAITH: INSPIRATION FOR ACTION. This article was originally published in THE WITNESS, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

By Bob Zyskowski

LET'S BE CATHOLIC.

You and me.

Let's do what Catholics do. Or are supposed to do.

Let's see Jesus in other people — even that person who sometimes annoys the devil out of us.

Let's be joyful, and let's fill others with joy, too.

Let's go to Mass every week.

Let's care for those who are hungry and for those who are homeless, and then go a step further and join with others to end hunger and homelessness.

Let's insist that no one in our country will ever have to go without medical care or prescription drugs because they can't afford them.

Let's neither brag about our giving nor gripe about paying taxes.

Let's do stuff at our parishes. When the call goes out for help at something that sounds like we could do, let's volunteer.

On the job, let's amaze people whose lives touch ours because we are so darned easy to work with.

Let's comfort those who mourn.

When we get the choice between conflict and compromise, let's choose the latter.

Let's be the kindest people in the building, the nicest neighbors.

Let's get a reputation for doing things for others without expecting anything in return.

Let's just be still at times and have a conversation with God — and let's listen — let's let God do most of the talking.

Let's be the friends others call when they need help because they always know we will imitate the Good Samaritan.

When we have an occasion to really give somebody a piece of our mind, let's be merciful instead.

Let's "invite" our children, grandchildren, neighbors, co-workers, to activities at our parish — the spiritual programs as well as the social ones.

Let's remember to say grace before every meal — even at restaurants.

Let's vote for candidates to elected office who most nearly reflect Catholic values.

Let's say a prayer every morning when we wake and every night as we get into bed.

Let's be known as the most humble person everybody knows.

Let's apply Jesus' directive to welcome the stranger to those who come to our com-

munity — and our country — in search of freedom and a better life.

Let's say the rosary at least once a week.

When Lent comes around, let's get ashes on Ash Wednesday morning and allow them to mark us as Catholic all day.

Let's decide upon a Lenten sacrifice or action and let's keep that commitment.

Let's make time to go to the Stations of the Cross so we can walk the Lenten journey more closely with Jesus in his suffering.

Let's not eat meat on Fridays during Lent.

Let's try our best to live out the Beatitudes.

Let's take advantage of opportunities to grow in our faith, to learn more about this God we say claim to believe in.

Let's re-memorize the "Memorare" and pray it every day.

Let's see if we can repeat the Ten Commandments, and, if we can't, let's re-learn them.

Let's take advantage of the cleansing wonder of the sacrament of reconciliation.

When the parish pledge drive comes around, let's think not only of all the bills

our parishes have to pay, but let's reflect on all that you and I have been blessed with by God, and increase what we were thinking about giving this year.

Let's visit with some elderly folks.

Let's not find fault in others.

Let's trust in God's plan for each of us.

Let's listen to our conscience.

Let's be the ones who stand up for and protect life at every stage.

Let's not value money and things, but instead let's value being respected.

Let's befriend someone — or a group of people — who no one else seems to want to even live near.

Let's love our spouses.

Let's honor our parents.

Let's cherish our children — and everybody else's children, too.

Let's forgive those who have hurt us.

Let's use our pro-creative abilities the way God intended them to be used.

Let's not gossip.

Let's love the Lord our God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind, and let's love our neighbor as ourselves.

Let's tell other people why we are Catholic.

Bob Zyskowski is associate publisher of THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Let's be Catholic

The impact of one little life

By Tom Grenchik

Just a few days before Christmas a tragic event occurred at a local Catholic pro-life agency.

This program is strategically located next door to one of the busiest abortion centers in the region. A young mother, on the third day of her late-term abortion procedure, was lying in pain on the hallway floor, outside the abortion facility's locked door. Having been in tremendous pain throughout the night, she arrived too early for the final part of her "procedure."

When the religious sisters and staff arrived to work at the pro-life agency that morning, they immediately offered her help, and she asked to use their bathroom. Then in agonizing pain, she delivered her 19-week-old baby, dead.

This mother will never be the same. The sisters and staff members who held her and prayed with her, will never be the same. The nurse who ran from another physician's office to assist her, will never be the same. The rescue squad workers who had to console her and pick up and swaddle her dead child, will never be the same. The pro-life agency staff member who accompanied her in the ambulance, with her dead child, will never be the same. The hospital staff who received her, will never be the same. And the homicide police who were called to investigate the death, will never be the same.

The policemen, after conferring with headquarters, had to report back that no "death" occurred, only a "legal" abortion. They quietly voiced their opinion that while the abortion may have been legal, it was still not moral. The young mother revealed that she had no idea that it would have been like this. No one told her. She is now overwhelmed with how selfish this was, and how hopeless she feels. She confided that, had her boyfriend insisted that she not have the abortion, she never would have. She wanted

The innocence of this child affected everyone involved that day. And the sufferings of this child must now compel each of us to redouble our efforts to end the hopelessness that allows abortion to continue.

him to stop her. Her boyfriend admitted that he never wanted her to have the abortion, but he was afraid to interfere with her decision. These parents will never be the same.

This is the tragedy of abortion and this is the impact of one little life. Variations of this tragedy, more or less hidden, occur over 1.3 million times every year. Each has impact on countless lives beyond those of the child and his or her parents. In his World Day of Peace message for Jan. 1, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI states: "I invoke peace upon children, who by their innocence enrich humanity with goodness and hope, and by their sufferings compel us to work for justice and peace." The innocence of this child affected everyone involved that day. And the sufferings of this child must now compel each of us to redouble our efforts to end the hopelessness that allows abortion to continue. As we begin this new year, let us remember that this little life, without a name and without a grave, was meant by God to make a difference — so are we.



Tom Grenchik, is the newly installed executive director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He succeeds Gail Quinn who retired from the post in August. Grenchik is the founding director of the Pro-Life office of the Archdiocese of Washington, charged with promoting a greater respect for all human life, including such issues as end of life issues, reproductive technologies, stem-cell research, cloning, abortion, contraception, youth outreach, pornography, crisis pregnancy assistance, maternity housing, post-abortion counseling, health care, assisted suicide, and capital punishment. In his service to the Archdiocese of Washington and through his staff, Grenchik launched such initiatives as the Annual Rally for Life and Youth Mass, which now draws over 20,000 young people to Washington each year; the first statewide Catholic prayer vigil outside of a prison before a scheduled execution; and the Birthing and Care program which provides prenatal care to more than 1,200 mothers each year.



By Kathy Cribari Hamer

I always thought if I ever lost my job, it would be caused by incompetence of some kind.

Not knowing how to create a yearbook index. Photographing an ordination with the lens cap on. Dropping the laptop into a cement mixer. That kind of thing.

Now it turns out I'll probably get the "pink slip" because of sports. It will say: Fired for Faking Fantasy Football.

I guess dropping my laptop into a cement mixer might seem outrageous, at first reading, except in the context that on the TCU campus there is a lot of construction going on, as we watch the progress of our Vision in Action campaign. In fact there is so much construction outside my building, it has covered every place our cars used to park, taken away our beloved Frog Fountain (just on sabbatical — not gone permanently) and even obstructed the view of Amon Carter Stadium.

Not that I could ever see the stadium, even though my office is located in the student center across the street. I don't have a windowed, corner office. In fact my office is in the basement, where bricks and sticks and stones and, yes, cement, block my own, personal, vision in action.

There is a Web-cam on the construction site, however, with constant video that shows, as I write this, there are three, huge backhoes digging big holes, but just one cement mixer turning. Sounds like my laptop is less likely to be encased in concrete than to return to dust.

It's immaterial, anyway. Cement mixer or not, I'm probably doomed. Fired for Faking Fantasy Football.

Last month some people in our department sent out an e-mail about playing an on-line college bowl fantasy game. They challenged everyone to compete — no money involved. So I did.

But the funniest thing happened. I won.

Except it really wasn't me who won, Lord. And for that, I can't "Mea Culpa" enough. It was my brilliant and loveable son-in-law, Dustin. I forwarded the college bowl e-mail to him with a quickly typed note: "Hi! I don't know anything about this. Want to play for me?" I think I attached a smiley face.

I always thought it would be great to share the talents, judgment, intelligence, of another person, and in my world there is no one better than Dustin. He knows practically everything, or, as in the case of picking fantasy football teams, he has his own formula.

Actually, I have a formula too. It is simple: Call Dustin.

See HAMER, p. 22

Msgr. King marks his 50th anniversary of ordination with fellow jubilarians of diocese

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER

Left: Msgr. King addresses the congregation at his anniversary Mass Dec. 2.

Below: Msgr. King's nephew, Bill Kayser presents his uncle with a framed family photo.

Right: Wearing golden stoles, eight 50-year jubilarians surround the altar at a jubilee Mass Dec. 13.

Below: Msgr. King greets guests at his anniversary reception at Immaculate Conception Parish Dec. 2.

It was a snapshot of history, taken from the pew, through the lens of the faithful.

Concelebrating Mass, praying the Eucharistic Prayer were an assembly of diocesan clergy, with eight of them, all jubilarians, wearing gold stoles to signify 50 years in the priesthood. The president, Bishop Kevin Vann, wore a similar stole, fashioned in silver, commemorating his own 25-year anniversary.

The stoles were gifts from Msgr. Charles King, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Denton, and custom-made by parishioner Sue Burt. The stoles were embroidered with each priest's name and ordination date.

The jubilarians had been invited to celebrate together Dec. 13 at Immaculate Conception, where Msgr. King was marking the week of his own ordination, Dec. 16, 1957.

"It was Monsignor's idea to host the jubilee," said Mary Wolfle, his secretary for 19 years. "He wanted to celebrate all of their vocations, not just his own." The reception and dinner after the Mass were provided by Immaculate Conception's Home and School Association. "It was fitting," Wolfle said, "because this is Msgr. King, who loves Catholic education!"

The gathering of notable priests was an awesome sight in itself, but the reality of their combined history seemed remarkable. These were men who had impacted the lives of thousands of families, in dozens of parishes, and helped with the formation of enough adults and children to populate a city.

Ordained in 1956-1958, the priests included Father Jack Vessels, SJ; Msgr. King; Father Lambert Leykam, OFM; Father Walter McCauley, SJ; Father Ronald Scheible, OSA; Father Leo Schloemer, Glenmary Home Missioners; Msgr. Joseph Schumacher; and Father Robert Wilson. Not present for the Mass was Father Severius Blank, who had traveled to Holland to be with his family.

Standing together praying the words of consecration, the jubilarians represented a touchstone to nearly every person in the diocese.

Msgr. King was homilist for

the Mass, and traced the history of events in the world and the church, starting at the beginning of his years as a priest, when, he said, "The war of wars was over ... there was the Communist threat in North Korea ... but the Catholic Church in the United States was powerful, strong, a bastion of stability."

He told of how priests were held in high esteem, thought of as true representatives of Christ. "If you wanted to help people, to do something for people, what better way was there to do that than as a priest?"

In seminaries they taught dogma and spiritual theology, and some modern seminaries were teaching in English. In Europe, Americans were considered stupid, he said, because they did not understand and speak the mother tongue — Latin.

"The question," he said, "was 'Would there ever be another council of the church?' The answer was 'Why would we ever need one?'"

"In 1958, Pope Pius XII died and the cracks in the foundation began to appear.... John XXIII was elected, and then big changes came."

Concluding, he asked, "What else has changed? We're older! We've made mistakes — sometimes big ones. The church, like us, is still there — she has replicated herself, and after 2,000 years is still the church. God has covered us."

"The opportunity to do something for God and to help people is still there — Jesus Christ is still the Good Shepherd."

Msgr. King enjoyed two other celebrations of his own anniversary — one Mass Dec. 2, celebrated by Bishop Vann, with guests and friends invited from all his former parishes, and another jubilee Mass Dec. 16, with the Immaculate Conception community. Msgr. King's sister, Mary Kayser, along with her husband, Don, and son, Bill, were present

for the Dec. 2 celebration.

All three events were planned by Wolfle, who said it was "a real joy" for her to plan the celebrations, "because God knows he deserves it. It was wonderful just seeing how many people were there.... The high moment for me was his pleasure at seeing everyone."

In his homily at the Dec. 2 Mass, Bishop Vann called it an occasion to celebrate Msgr. King's life, and thank him for the years of ministry he brought to North Texas. The bishop also thanked Msgr. King's father, Charles Bernard Sr., who died in 1980, and his mother, Jean Leahy King, who died in 1992, on behalf of all the people whom Msgr. King had served, "for helping the broken-hearted... helping so many come to the Lord... and finding a place for ministry in the Body of Christ."

"And thank you," the bishop said to Msgr. King, "for your work in formation, including me, for forming me into a Texan — no easy feat."

The bishop closed by reciting

the song lyrics, "May you live, may you live, may you live." The Latin words of the song, sung at alumni meetings, Msgr. King said, are "Ad multos anos, vivas, vivas!"

Reflecting on his 50 years in the priesthood, Msgr. King noted his work in ecumenism, which went back to 1963 when he was asked to speak at a potluck dinner which included people from his parish, Dallas' St. Pius X, and St. Stephen United Methodist in Mesquite. That led to "Living Room Dialogues," and the "Cattle Country Clerics," an interfaith organization founded in 1972 and still active today.

He is proud of his work in the Interfaith Disaster Relief Organization, which helped distribute funds after the 1979 Wichita Falls Tornado; the Tarrant Area Community of Churches; and Allied Communities of Tarrant. He is currently chair of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission.

About retirement, Msgr. King said he would never quit "while he is having so much fun," and

about the jubilee celebrations, he said "I was wowed by the number of people, and disappointed that I couldn't visit individually with each one of them."

"I guess a big joy for me was that about when we were having these celebrations, a lot of scandals were coming out, and people were able to see, 'We do have some priests who are making it,'" he said.

"I like to think that the celebrations came at a very good time, because we gave people cause for hope. Is the church going to make it? It was encouraging that so many people have made it. That is not to say that all of us were perfect — far from it. But we made it."

"I'm still having fun. Why quit while you're having fun? Folks have been very forgiving and supportive. I would hope most of my work has been helpful," Msgr. King concluded. "This is all the Lord's work."

"Lord, if I'm not making it, you've got to make up for whatever I'm not making."

Immaculate Conception Parish builds Habitat home in honor of Msgr. King's 50th jubilee

By Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

He said that he became a priest because he wanted to help people, but after 50 years, it turned out what he really wanted to do was build a Habitat for Humanity house.

"I had always wanted to do this," said Msgr. Charles King, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination Dec. 16. "I had first heard about these at the Rotary Club, where I talked with another

member about building one as a parish project...." But at the time, the project never got off the ground.

This time it did.

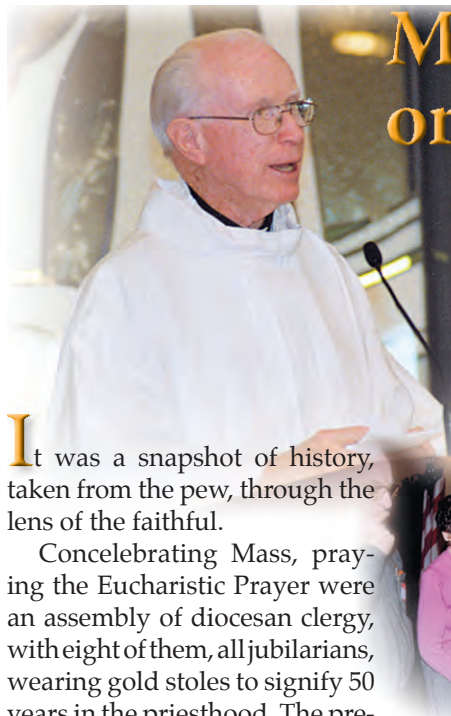
More than 40 parish volunteers began what they called "an amazing labor of love" Sept. 9, 2006. The home, on Uland Street, was the 69th Habitat for Humanity home built in Denton County. More than 300 people helped build the home for the Luna family — Estella, Constan- cio, and 4-year-old Karen. The

Luna family put in 250 hours on other Habitat homes to qualify for one for themselves.

"People got out there every week," said Msgr. King, who made frequent visits of support and "worked a little bit, too."

"It was mostly parishioners, but other groups as well — fraternities and sororities from the University of North Texas, and Starbucks of Denton. There were donations of materials and contractor employees who

SEE STORY, NEXT PAGE



Above: At the Dec. 2 jubilee Mass, (l. to r.) Msgr. Charles King, Bishop Kevin Vann, Msgr. Thomas Weinzapfel, and Father James Flynn pray the Eucharistic Prayer.

Msgr. King's dream of building Habitat for Humanity home is realized

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
came together and worked as a team."

"We had gathered the invitation list for [Msgr. King's] anniversary Mass, and we thought it would be a good idea to ask for donations to the Habitat project," said Mary Wolfe, Msgr. King's secretary at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, and before that at St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills. "[Msgr. King] was hesitant at first, but we ended up doing it and were given about \$55,000 for the house. Much of the money came from people in his former parishes," she said.

"He wanted to do this," she added. "This was very important to him."

Dedication of the home was the day after Msgr. King's Dec. 2 anniversary Mass and reception. A crowd of parishioners gathered to celebrate and enjoy a meal. There were prayers and

a sprinkling of holy water, and there was a happy family, with a little girl playing in her new backyard.

Msgr. King said he became a priest because he wanted to help people. At the dedication of his Habitat for Humanity home, owned by the Luna family, it appeared he had done just that.

Clockwise from top, left:

- A Habitat for Humanity home — part of an Immaculate Conception Parish project in celebration of Msgr. Charles King's 50th anniversary — was recently completed.

- Msgr. King raises his hand in blessing as the new Habitat for Humanity home is dedicated. Deacon Emilio "Popo" González (right) assisted in the rite of blessing.

- Msgr. King greets members of the Luna family — Constancio, Estella, and 4-year-old Karen — who are proud to call this new house their home.

(Photos by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Need for Christianity's saving message is evident, says pope

FROM PAGE 1

gathered for the unveiling of the Vatican's own larger-than-life Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square, the pope made his way to the packed basilica for midnight Mass.

Young children from five continents brought flowers to a statue of the baby Jesus in front of the altar, a moment that highlighted the liturgy's international atmosphere.

In a sermon, the pope said the meaning of Christmas was quite simple: God "makes himself small for us."

"This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby — defenseless and in need of our help," he said.

"In this way God teaches us to love the little ones. In this way he teaches us to love the weak. In this way he teaches us respect for children," he said.

The pope said Christmas should draw people's attention to all children who suffer and are abused in the world, "the born and the unborn," particularly those who are hungry, unloved, forced to beg, or "placed as soldiers in a violent world."

He emphasized that the sign of Christmas — a newborn baby lying in a manger — corresponds with the essentially straightforward message brought by Jesus: to love God and love one's neighbor.

"This is everything — the whole faith is contained in this one act of love which embraces God and humanity," he said.

He said this core message has sometimes been turned into



Pope Benedict XVI blesses pilgrims from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25 during his Christmas Day blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and the world). (CNS photo/Alessia Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us," he said in English.

Speaking from the central, outside balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the pope asked

something long and complex, especially by Scripture experts who "became entangled in details and in particular problems, almost to the extent of losing an overall perspective."

In the season of giving at Christmas, the pope encouraged people to reflect the spirit of Jesus' selfless love.

"When you give gifts for Christmas, do not give only to those who will give to you in return, but give to those who receive from no one and who cannot give you anything back," he said.

At noon the next day, in an event broadcast to some 60 countries, the pope offered his blessing and pronounced Christmas greetings in 62 languages, including Chinese, Arabic, and Latin.

"May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where

whether the idea of a savior still has meaning "for a humanity that has reached the moon and Mars and is prepared to conquer the universe; for a humanity which knows no limits in its pursuit of nature's secrets and which has succeeded even in deciphering the marvelous codes of the human genome?"

"Is a savior needed by a humanity which has invented interactive communication, which navigates in the virtual ocean of the Internet; and, thanks to the most advanced modern communications technologies, has now made the earth, our great common home, a global village?" he asked.

Yet despite these advances, he said, the need for Christianity's saving message is also evident: Many people continue to die of hunger, disease, and poverty, even in an age of unbridled con-

sumerism; some are enslaved and exploited; and some are victims of racial or religious hatred and discrimination.

"Others see their own bodies and those of their dear ones, particularly their children, maimed by weaponry, by terrorism, and by all sorts of violence, at a time when everyone invokes and acclaims progress, solidarity, and peace for all," he said.

The pope said the catalogue of suffering includes those misled by "facile prophets of happiness," who struggle with relationships, loneliness, alcohol, and drugs, and who "choose death in the belief that they are celebrating life."

All this adds up to a "heart-rending cry for help," he said. It illustrates that despite humanity's material progress, it always needs a savior to help choose between good and evil.

The pope then turned his attention to areas of conflict throughout the world:

— He made an "appeal to all those who hold in their hands the fate of Iraq, that there will be an end to the brutal violence that has brought so much bloodshed to the country, and that every one of its inhabitants will be safe to lead a normal life."

— He said he was deeply apprehensive about the continuing crisis in the Middle East, but expressed hope at recent signs of a resumption of dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. In a separate Christmas message to Middle East Catholics, he also said he wanted to visit the Holy Land as soon as circumstances permitted such a pilgrimage.

— He lamented the destruction and uncertainty in Lebanon, where a war last summer left many victims, but said he was confident that a democratic Lebanon would survive.

— He urged an end to civil strife in Sri Lanka, and prayed that fratricidal conflicts in Darfur and other African areas would cease.

The pope then explained why Christmas should stimulate the church in its evangelizing mission. The belief that "our Savior is born for all" must be proclaimed in word and deed by Christians everywhere, he said.

The church evangelizes with passionate enthusiasm, with joy, and with full respect for all cultural and religious traditions, he said.

He ended his talk with a direct appeal to the millions watching and listening around the world to "open your hearts" to Christ as the savior of the world.

On Dec. 26, the pope recalled the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, and prayed for Catholics who are persecuted today because they show fidelity to the Vatican "without accepting compromises, sometimes at the price of serious consequences."

The pope appeared to be referring to China, where a government-approved Catholic association rejects Vatican ties, and where underground Catholics loyal to Rome have been the targets of discrimination.

"The entire church admires this example and prays so that they have the strength to persevere," the pope said.

Cardinal Keeler of Baltimore condemns 'revisionist history' of Holocaust

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore condemned "revisionist history" of the Holocaust, the systematic efforts by Nazis during World War II to do away with Jews also known as the Shoah, a Hebrew word meaning devastation or catastrophe.

The cardinal took particular exception to a Dec. 11-12 conference in Iran during which speakers "sought to diminish the scope of the Holocaust."

Speakers at the conference in Tehran included David Duke, former U.S. leader of the Ku Klux Klan, and several authors who have been sued or arrested in Europe for denying the Nazis' mass murder of European Jews. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has in the past denied the Holocaust ever happened.

"The Catholic bishops of the United States stand in solidarity with the universal church in condemning 'revisionist history' that seeks to minimize the horror of the Holocaust," said Cardinal Keeler in a Dec. 14 statement, "We Must Remember the Shoah." Cardinal Keeler is episcopal moderator for Catholic-Jewish relations for the U.S. bishops. The statement was released in Washington.

Helen Osman named USCCB secretary of communications



Helen Osman, communications director for the Diocese of Austin, editor of its diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*, and current president of the Catholic Press Association, has been named secretary for communications of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, effective Aug. 1. "Helen Osman has done outstanding communications work in Austin and in her many duties with the CPA," said Msgr. David J. Malloy, USCCB general secretary. "She has great vision about the constantly developing use of all forms of media in the apostolate of the church. I am confident she will provide extraordinary leadership to the communications ministry of the conference." She is pictured during the CPA board meeting in Brooklyn, New York, in late November. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



Donn Weinberg (left), vice president of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, speaks with Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore after the announcement of a \$3.5 million grant at the Catholic Center in Baltimore Dec. 14. The Jewish foundation donated \$500,000 in 2006 and \$1 million for the next three years to benefit at-risk students in kindergarten to 12th grade at 20 Catholic schools. (CNS photo/Owen Sweeney III, CATHOLIC REVIEW)

Here referred to a 2001 document of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs entitled "Catholic Teaching on the Shoah." It "stated two major reasons why grappling with the history and significance of the Shoah should be part of the central curriculum of Catholic education," he said.

"First, the Holocaust was not a random act of mass murder but 'a war against the Jews as the people of God, the first witness to God's revelation and the eternal bearers of that witness through all the centuries,'" the cardinal said. "Second, future generations need to be ever vigilant so that 'the spoiled seeds of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism [will] never again be allowed to take root in the human heart.'"

The Vatican issued its own statement Dec. 12 on the Iranian government-sponsored conference, which was entitled "Re-

view of the Holocaust: Global Vision."

"The past century witnessed the attempt to exterminate the Jewish people with the consequent killing of millions of Jews of all ages and social categories simply for the fact that they belonged to that people. The Shoah (the Holocaust) was an enormous tragedy, before which one cannot remain indifferent," the Vatican said.

"The memory of those terrible facts must remain a warning for consciences with the aim of eliminating conflicts, respecting the legitimate rights of all peoples, and calling for peace and truth in justice," the Vatican added.

"Let us take this occasion," Cardinal Keeler said, "to renew our commitment both to remember the great irruption of evil into human history that was the Shoah and to use that memory to fight the evils that led to it."

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Pope welcomes new year, urges respect for dignity, human rights

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Welcoming in the new year at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said a world suffering from wars and terrorism can find peace only through respect for human dignity and human rights. The pope celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 1, which the church marks as World Peace Day, and quoted from his peace day message that was sent to governments around the globe. The theme of the message this year was "The Human Person, the Heart of Peace." In order for peace agreements to last, the pope said, they must be based on respect for the dignity of the human being created by God. This dignity is the foundation of peace and cannot be viewed as something subject to popular opinion or negotiations between parties, he said. He urged the international community to make greater efforts to ensure that "in the name of God a world is built in which essential human rights are respected by all." Every Christian has a special vocation as a peacemaker, he said.

Florida bishops challenge Catholics to act on behalf of farmworkers

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (CNS) — Challenging Catholics and all people of good will to "see where love is needed and act accordingly," Florida's bishops urged consideration of how everything from consumer decisions to government policies affect the state's most vulnerable workers. The bishops' new pastoral letter, entitled "Honoring the Dignity of Work: A Call for Solidarity With Florida's Farmworkers and Other Vulnerable Workers," calls for specific actions by individual Catholics and families, parishes, Catholic institutions, government agencies, and others. "This is an appropriate time to call attention to the human dignity of people from many backgrounds and nations — particularly people from Mexico and Central America, but also Haitians, African-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Vietnamese, and others — who have come to Florida to work in agriculture, our second-largest industry," said Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee at a Dec. 11 press conference in Tallahassee. The document — a publication of the Florida Catholic Conference, the bishops' lobbying arm — was written in response to situations affecting farmworkers identified at an October 2005 Farmworker Forum.

Bay State bishops laud Legislature's approval of marriage amendment

BOSTON (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Massachusetts thanked state legislators Jan. 2 "for living up to their oath of office" by voting on a constitutional marriage amendment initiative before ending their legislative session. On the last day in its 2005-06 session, a reluctant Legislature narrowly approved the initiative, which would amend the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriages. Then it voted to reconsider. Then it voted again — also narrowly — to approve the measure. The state's bishops, strong advocates of the initiative, said, "Today the constitutional rights of the citizens of the commonwealth have been upheld. The democratic process and the right of the people to have their voices heard were affirmed." If the 2007-08 Legislature gives the amendment its second approval this year, it would appear on the November 2008 ballot.

Xavier University president receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Norman Francis, the president of Xavier University in New Orleans for 39 years, was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, during a Dec. 15 White House ceremony. During the presentation in the East Room, where Francis sat on the stage alongside nine other medal recipients, the longtime president of the nation's only historically black Catholic university was praised for being "a man of deep intellect and compassion and character." In his remarks, President George W. Bush described Francis as the longest-serving university president in the United States and someone who has dedicated his life to education. He noted that Francis, who received his undergraduate degree at Xavier, was the first African-American to graduate from the Loyola University College of Law, also in New Orleans. Bush remarked that, after Hurricane Katrina's damage to the Xavier campus, "Francis vowed the university would overcome and reopen its doors by January — and he kept that pledge." He also noted that Francis continues to help the people of his state as chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority formed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

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New Parish Hall is testimony to abiding faith of Vernon Catholic community

Story and Photos by
Mary E. Manley
Correspondent

On a bright Sunday morning, Dec. 10, Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Vernon brimmed with some 300 people who took part in a landmark Mass preceding the dedication of a new parish hall. Bishop Kevin Vann presided at the Mass, with Holy Family of Nazareth pastor Father Oren Key, SJ, concelebrating, and Deacons Art Casias and Len Sanchez assisting.

The bilingual Mass began with Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus representatives from Vernon, Wichita Falls, Burkburnett, and Iowa Park leading the way for celebrants, liturgy participants, and several young parishioners. Religious education students brought up multicolored roses to a side altar dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In his homily, Bishop Vann spoke of the lasting relevance of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which was to be celebrated only two days later, Dec. 12. The feast commemorates the appearance of Mary to St. Juan Diego in 1531. The miracles that took place led to an openness among Mexico's indigenous people in accepting Jesus as the son of God.

Bishop Vann also spoke of the connection of the Advent Sunday's Gospel message of St. John the Baptist preparing the way for repentance, forgiveness, and conversion in a challenging, often-dark world, not unlike the current culture. He emphasized that the Messiah's light prevails in the pre-Christmas season of hope, anticipation, and fresh beginnings. And tying this message to the reason why they were assembled that morning, the bishop said that the new parish hall itself gave testimony to the community's faith.

After the homily, Fr. Key, who had enthusiastically welcomed the bishop earlier, introduced the presentation of a monetary gift to the bishop from the parish pastoral council.

Bilingual music was provided by the English choir, comprised of Veritas, the youth praise band, along with adult choir members; and Coro Guadalupe, the Spanish praise group. During the rousing recessional, the choir loft organ accompanied the community in singing "Lift High the Cross."



Above: Bishop Kevin Vann blesses the halls of the new church facility with holy water as parishioners watch.

Below: Coro Guadalupe, the Spanish praise group, combined their talents with the English choir to provide bilingual music for the liturgy.



Above: Father Oren Key, SJ, (left) pastor of Holy Family of Nazareth Parish in Vernon, and Deacon Art Casias (center), listen to Bishop Vann during the blessing rite for the new parish hall.

Following Mass, participants were encouraged to proceed to the new parish hall, a 6,000-square-foot building that can serve up to 300 people. Awaiting them was a large and varied feast prepared on-site by volunteers in its spacious kitchen. The eager crowd gathered to witness Bishop Vann dedicate and bless the hall and kitchen.

Earlier at the Mass, Bishop Vann had reflected that he was gratified to be present for the "great accomplishment of bringing living stones together" — as symbolized in these facilities — through God's grace, skillful planning, hard work, and the love of the parish.

Bishop Vann also blessed the connected hall, which had been built four decades earlier. It now serves as the new religious education building.

Soon after the dedication and blessings, the bishop mingled with those present. A special highlight occurred when he shared his musical talents on the piano, playing, among other tunes, a classic duet, "Heart and Soul," with a young parishioner.

Among those attending were Holy Family building committee representatives, headed by co-chairs Louis Kajs and Howard Frerich, along with Fr.

Key and Deacon Casias. Other members included David Littenken, Miguel Haro, Travis Taylor, Gary Tatyrek, Pat Matus, and Johnny and Hazel Kajs. Doug Matthews has served as finance committee head, with the \$350,000 project funded by donations from congregation members.

Holy Family of Nazareth Parish was established in Vernon by Bishop Thomas F. Brennan, first Dallas prelate, in 1891. The church was comprised of parishioners from all of Wilbarger County, including the towns of Tolbert, Oklaunion, and Harold. Later, Quanah and Crowell mission churches were created as well. The original church edifice was built in 1907, with the first resident pastor appointed in 1928. In 1937, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth came to Vernon to operate a small hospital. They remained until 1965.

Fr. Key is among several pastoral leaders through the decades who have nurtured a Catholic presence in the area. For more than 20 years, Fr. Key has been serving three Catholic communities in Vernon, Quanah, and Crowell. The pastor said that he has seen many positive developments in these communities as he has conducted regular Masses and

offered other services — all of which have involved extensive driving. In addition, he has made himself regularly available to the area's two state hospitals and its youth correctional facility.

In spite of an often-demanding schedule, the octogenarian said that, "I can only thank God for the many blessings I have received." As a strong devotee of Our Lady, he also expressed appreciation for her assistance.

Hazel Kajs, a 32-year parishioner, said the Kajs family helped build the present Holy Family Church in 1950. Her devotion was similar to that expressed by elder parishioner Madelyn Matus, whose late husband helped build the church 56 years ago. Matus is now matriarch of two generations. Both women have seen the positive results of an evolving, active parish community, which is about half Anglo and half Hispanic, with a small number of Filipino members.

During interviews with

parishioners, the names of Deacon Casias and his wife Margaret; Sherri Lawrence, longtime volunteer music coordinator; and Bryan Webb, the church's first official youth minister, were mentioned as among those who have helped enliven the parish through their support of various multicultural and multigenerational programs and events. Parishioners listed such community-building events as being the Cultural Fiesta, ACTS retreats, religious education, Bible studies, weekly fellowship meals, and youth rosary nights.

Webb says the parish's youth ministry involves a core group of 40 to 60 regular youth, demonstrating a "very successful rural youth ministry." Webb sees the parish, overall, as one "in the process of revival." He credits "a lot of people who have been helpful and open to new ideas and to change in our parish. Our 'Holy Family of Nazareth' name is truly symbolic of a community living out our faith."

Scripture Readings



January 21, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Sharon K. Perkins

An acquaintance and I were discussing the relative merits of parishes in our part of the city. We compared music ministries, hospitality, size of the assembly, and other characteristics. Ultimately, though, he decided that for Sunday Mass he liked "parish X" the best "because the pastor there gives the shortest homilies."

He certainly wouldn't have liked the Liturgy of the Word described in this week's first reading. Ezra was leading the people of Israel in a celebration of covenant renewal with Yahweh, which required the reading of the entire Law so that those who had not been present with Moses at Sinai could commit to it anew. But "from daybreak to midday?" With children? I can't fathom all of those people sitting still that long, much less "listening attentively." And yet they acknowledged God's covenant love for them, re-

sponded with tears, worship, and joyful feasting, considering the day as holy, as time well spent.

The Gospel gives us another Liturgy of the Word, this time in a synagogue in Galilee. It was on a "Sabbath," the day they were commanded to set aside for the Lord. From the scroll of Isaiah, Jesus read aloud a prophetic promise of incredibly good news — prisoners set free, sight restored, oppression ceasing. Then he claimed that this promise had already been fulfilled in their hearing. Not your ordinary Sabbath service in the local synagogue!

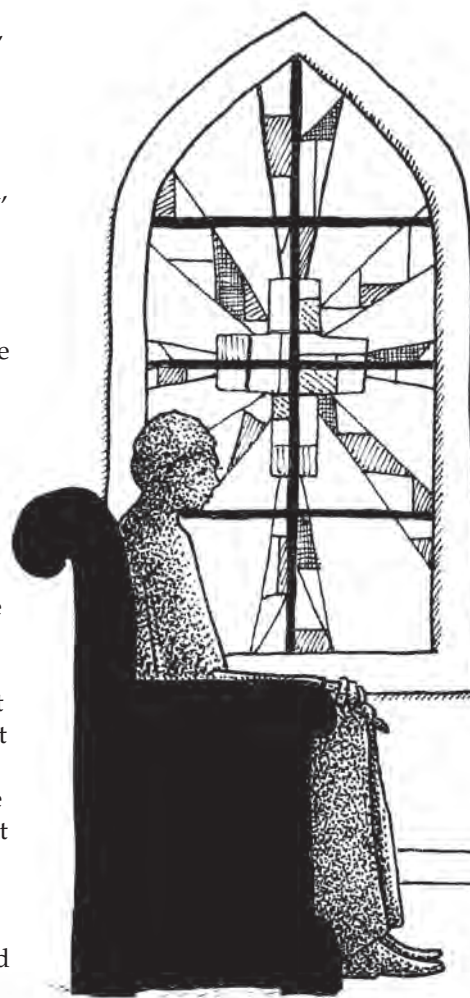
But the truth is, every Sabbath celebration, every "Lord's Day," is extraordinary, whether the homily is long or short, the music sublime or simply tolerable. It's extraordinary because it is the opportunity for us to reflect as a people on the great things our God has done for us. It is a time to renew our covenant relationship with the Lord who committed himself to us at creation, at Sinai, at Calvary — and who commits himself to us anew in every eucharistic celebration. While it is tempting to check our watches and think about how many obligations we have that day, it is important to remember that even God rested on the seventh day of creation. The third commandment is to "keep holy the Lord's day." God did not ordain a Sabbath for his benefit, but for ours.

In our hectic, demanding lives, let us remember that Sabbath, the day devoted to the Lord and to our relationship with him, is time well spent.

QUESTIONS:

How have you ignored the Lord's command to observe the Sabbath? What is one small change you can make to keep the Lord's day holy?

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"Today is
holy to
the Lord
your
God."

—
Nehemiah
8:9b

Pope says secret to living full life is opening up to baby Jesus

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The secret to living a life full of peace, joy, and love lies in opening up one's heart to the baby Jesus, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Everyone discovers in the baby of Bethlehem [that he or she] is freely loved by God" and sees "God's infinite goodness," the pope said in his first general audience of 2007.

With his birth, Jesus "abundantly spread among all people the gifts of goodness, mercy, and love," the pope said.

"Only the baby that lies in the crib holds the true secret of life," the pope said. The Christ Child wants everyone to welcome him and "make room for him in our homes, our cities, and our society," the pope added.

Wishing some 9,000 pilgrims packed into the Paul VI Hall a "happy New Year," the pope dedicated his weekly catechesis to the First Letter of St. John the Apostle.

God's love for humanity is so great, he said, that not only did God send his only Son to redeem the sins of mankind, he also has called people to be his own children.



Pope Benedict XVI blesses young pilgrims at the end of Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 1. The pontiff marked World Peace Day by quoting from his peace day message in his homily. He said every Christian has a special duty as a peacemaker. (CNS photo/Dario Pignatelli, Reuters)

"We are not just creatures [of God], we are his children" who all belong to one and the same family, the pope said.

God's only son became man "to gather all peoples as one

family, one people" and to "reveal to us the true face of God" who through Christ's birth is no longer faraway or invisible, the pope said. "God loves us" and is among us, inviting everyone to

draw ever closer to him.

But despite the joyous message of Christmas, "the mystery of evil" still tries to block out "the splendor of divine light," he said.

People still refuse Christ's

message in many different ways, ranging from "outright rejection to indifference, from scientific atheism to presenting a modernized or postmodernized Jesus," he said.

The pope said Jesus wasn't just a "wise teacher" stripped of all divinity or just an untouchable God or heroic character from some fairy-tale legend, but is both "true God and true man."

Jesus tirelessly proclaims the Gospel message to everyone and challenges people to open their hearts to him, giving them "the power to become children of God," the pope said.

People cannot remain indifferent to Christ's invitation — even faithful Christians who must constantly renew their commitment to Christ and sincerely welcome him every day into their hearts — he said.

By opening one's arms to Jesus, not only does one become a beacon "of light and hope" and joy for others, but doing so also helps the faithful along life's long, arduous journey, said the pope.

Jesus "took on our poor and fragile flesh" in order to be able to walk together with humanity so "that difficult path becomes one of joy."

Scripture Readings



January 28, 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 to 13:13
Gospel) Luke 4: 21-30

By Jeff Hensley

If we know or have known anyone of a prophetic turn of either personality or calling, we can guess why this week's Scriptures have been clustered as they have. Putting together the Old and New Testament descriptions of the prophet and his or her relationship to God with Paul's exaltation of the gift of love is no mistake.

The book of Jeremiah is one of the few books of the Bible I've read from first chapter to last in one or two sittings. When you do it that way, what emerges from Jeremiah's heroic efforts and his trials and persecutions is the great love he had for the people of Israel. His primary motivation was not truth with a capital T, but love with a capital L.

But the psalm, the Jeremiah reading, and the Luke passage all make clear that when the prophet is obedient, speaking God's word to his people while knowing it likely will cause their anger, God himself will protect the prophet.

The call to obedient speaking forth is implicit, but God's protection is explicit. In Luke, when Jesus offers a message that is ill-received, God's literal protection of his life is described, not just promised.

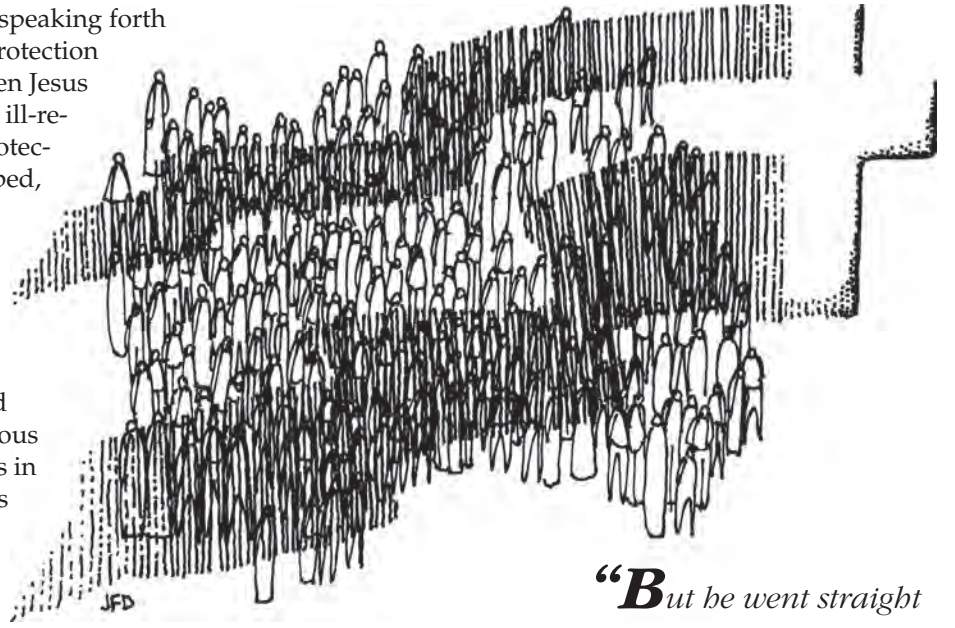
My dad will turn 91 the last day of this month, the Lord willing. During much of his working life he was a church, civic, and business leader. In various organizations as well as in his church and business life, it was sometimes necessary for him to "speak truth to power." Sometimes, though not always, there were consequences: lost jobs, rejection by others. But always, God was faithful. My dad never fell into irredeemable circumstances in any area of his life.

Now, in his latter years, he is proving the truth of the excellence of the gift of love.

With his active and working years behind him and my mom gone, he finds meaning and purpose in offering appreciation and love to others

whose lives come into contact with his own. And because he is still active, caring for himself, that includes quite a number of folks.

"There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love."



"But he went straight through their midst and walked away."

— Luke 4:30b

QUESTIONS:

In what way can we prepare our hearts and our lives to be able to hear God's words and apply them, first of all to ourselves? How has God used you to speak his word to others?

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Finding quiet time in a Noisy World

with a little help from your bad German

By Jeff Hedglen

One of the fringe benefits to marrying a woman from Germany is that most of our vacations are to Europe.

This was the case over the Christmas holidays. Germany is a beautiful country with hills, valleys, real winter, snow and even sunshine once in a while. Juxtaposed to these wonderful changes from the Texas topography is the silence that sometimes drives me crazy.

It is not the Germans who are silent, it is me. The sad fact is that after 12 years of marriage I am still not fluent in German. As a result I often find myself in a room full of lively conversation, alone with my own thoughts. As frustrating as this can be it is also strangely refreshing. While preparing for the trip, I found myself kind of

In this New Year my resolution is to look for ways to be quiet.

excited about the opportunity to be unreachable via phone, e-mail, or even by the people sitting across from me at the dinner table.

Over the years the family and I have developed our own unique language, formed by my horrible German, their halting English, our flailing hand signals, and my wife's patient translations. One way or another we are able to communicate, but often I like to just sit back and take it all in. I also take a lot of time to myself to give everyone a break from the linguistic gymnastics.

It is in these times alone that I realize my normal life in Fort Worth does not include enough time for silence. A typical pattern immerses on these trips

to Germany. Initially the silent times are uncomfortable, and I look for distraction via one of the many books I brought along. Then as the trip goes on, the books do not open as much, and the silence becomes a comfort. Next thing I know the trip is coming to a close, and I begin to dread the noise that awaits back home.

In the past I have tried to convince myself that silence is not all that necessary. Yet, the truth of our need for it always breaks through, often in the words of Scripture. Genesis tells us that even God takes a day off (*Genesis 2:2*). Isaiah says: "By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies" (*Isaiah 30:15*). And Jesus was al-

ways going off to a quiet place to pray (*Matthew 14:23*).

The saints too call us to silence. This is intensified when we remember that most of them lived before electricity. They did not have an endless array of modern devices blaring at them. When the sun set life really slowed down. There were no iPod ear buds lulling them to sleep. It was just silence and the music of creation. I can imagine that their "noisy" times might seem rather quiet to me. This being true, their idea of silence might render my eardrums useless.

In this New Year my resolution is to look for ways to be quiet. Maybe I'll spend a day with the radio off in my car, or have an evening with no TV. Perhaps I'll forgo the paper in the morning for some quiet time with a cat on my lap. Maybe my wife and I will take some walks and agree to not speak and just enjoy being together. I might even occasionally wander over to the chapel on Fridays to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

I find that when I make a blanket statement as a resolution, like: "This year I will turn the TV off early every night and sit quietly for 15 minutes," my good intentions will take me through the first week. But then there is that one night, where I fudge a bit, and before I know it I am back to falling asleep in front of the TV with that silent sleep the only quiet time I've found.

There are so many opportunities to find silence each day; I'm going to shoot for a variety and see what happens. It is my hope that the experience of finding silence in the midst of a crowd in a foreign land will translate into quiet times during a busy day in a place called home.

Join me for some alone time in 2007.

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at jeff@stbartsfw.org.

Algunas agencias tratan de ayudar a familias separadas por redadas de inmigración

Por Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Algunos inmigrantes cuyas familias fueron separadas en las redadas de inmigración llevadas a cabo el 12 de diciembre en plantas procesadoras de carne, en seis estados del país, están recibiendo ayuda de programas católicos de servicio social en por lo menos tres diócesis.

Entretanto, grupos de derechos de inmigrantes y grupos latinos se contaban entre las organizaciones que publicaron declaraciones en las que censuraban las redadas.

El obispo Bernard J. Harrington de Winona, Minn., le pidió a la gente de su diócesis que aliviaran algo del peso con el que se quedaron las familias después de las más grandes redadas de inmigración en la historia de los Estados Unidos, que duraron todo el día, y que incluyeron una planta de Swift & Co. en Worthington, Minn. Agentes de inmigración arrestaron a 1,282 personas en seis plantas de Swift en Minnesota, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Texas y Utah.

“Las familias han sido separadas, los niños han quedado sin padres y los hogares se han quedado sin la persona que sostiene a la familia”, dijo el obispo Harrington en una declaración del 21 de diciembre. “Las familias que han perdido a la persona que

“Las familias han sido separadas, los niños han quedado sin padres y los hogares se han quedado sin la persona que sostiene a la familia”.

— El obispo Harrington Bernard J. Harrington, Winona, Minnesota

les trae de comer se tienen que enfrentar ahora a un invierno de incertidumbre sin tener ninguna idea de cuánto tiempo las personas aprehendidas permanecerán detenidas”.

El obispo dijo que la gente de la diócesis podría aliviar algo de la carga con donaciones de alimentos, medicinas y dinero para cuentas de electricidad y renta. Y les pidió a las parroquias, a personas individuales y a negocios que añadieran dinero a los \$10,000 con que la diócesis contribuía.

La Oficina de Respeto a la Vida de la diócesis de Amarillo, Texas, reunió rápidamente un envío de artículos para bebé destinado a las familias de Cactus, Texas, que fueron afectadas por los arrestos en la planta Swift del lugar. Un número menor a 300 personas fue arrestado en la pequeña población del “Panhandle” texano.

El obispo John W. Yanta y cerca de 15 sacerdotes de la diócesis visitaron Cactus el 14 de diciembre. Y entre otras preguntas que tenían, una destacó: “¿Por qué hacen esto en la festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe?”

“Una impresionante cantidad de personas se encuentra terriblemente consternada por eso y disgustada de que las autoridades hayan escogido el día más sagrado de la cultura mexicana para llevar a cabo las redadas”, informó el “West Texas Catholic”, citando esas palabras atribuidas al obispo Yanta.

En Denver, Caridades Católicas pidió ofrecimientos monetarios para ayudar a una cantidad calculada en 700 a 1,000 personas que fueron afectadas por los arrestos en la planta de Greeley, Colo.

“Las redadas llevadas a cabo la festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en la planta procesadora de carne Swift & Co. en Greeley ... pudieron haber sido legales y un acto de aplicación de

la ley, pero no enteramente ‘justo’. Por lo menos no para las esposas, ni los niños ni otros miembros de las familias”, se decía en una declaración de James Mauck, presidente y jefe ejecutivo de Caridades Católicas de Denver.

“Sin que medie ninguna actividad ilegal ni falta de su parte, se enfrentan a un futuro incierto”, dijo. “¿Cómo van a pagar su comida, su renta y cómo se van a mantener sin la debida calefacción? Los inviernos en Colorado del norte puede ser muy crudos”.

El señor Mauck dijo que tardarían meses antes de que las familias afectadas adquirieran alguna estabilidad después de que los jefes de familia que llevaban de comer a la familia han sido deportados.

Cuatro organizaciones en pro de hispanos enviaron una carta dirigida al presidente George W. Bush, el 20 de diciembre, en la que le pedían que se estudiase un nuevo punto de vista por parte de la administración en sus acciones de aplicación de la ley, y que se utilizaran tácticas que minimizaran el daño a las familias y a las comunidades.

“Mediante estas redadas se han separado a las familias, se han cerrado fábricas y se ha disminuido la economía de regiones enteras”, se decía en la carta avalada por la

“League of United Latin American Citizens” (Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos), la “Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund” (Defensa Legal Mexicanoamericana y Fundación de Educación), la “National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund” (Fondo de Educación de la Asociación Nacional de Latinos Electos y Funcionarios Elegidos) y el “National Council of La Raza” (Consejo Nacional de La Raza).

“Y sin embargo, las redadas no han reducido en forma significativa la cifra de la población de inmigrantes sin documentación, y no han exterminado a patrones sin escrúpulos que les dan trabajo y explotan a los trabajadores inmigrantes”, se decía en la carta.

Se hacía notar que la empresa Swift & Co. había estado intentando obedecer las leyes sobre la manera de contratar a inmigrantes, pero que el programa piloto básico de la agencia de Coacción de Inmigración y Aduana que la compañía utilizó no era el adecuado.

Los grupos demostraron su preocupación de que se haya utilizado la apariencia personal racial para interrogaciones, y que las autoridades les hayan impedido a los familiares, clérigos y representantes legales que hablaran con los que habían sido detenidos.

El Papa lamenta muertes por enfermedades curables, ve derecho a tratamiento

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Los enfermos incurables y terminales tienen derecho a tratamiento médico y a ayuda espiritual para aliviar su sufrimiento y ayudarles a morir con dignidad, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

En su mensaje anual para el Día Mundial de los Enfermos el Papa también denigró el hecho que demasiada gente pobre y gente en naciones subdesarrolladas están muriendo de enfermedades que son curables.

“La iglesia desea apoyar al enfermo incurable y terminal haciendo un llamado a políticas sociales justas que puedan ayudar a eliminar las causas de muchas enfermedades y pidiendo un cuidado mejorado para lo moribundos y para aquellos para los cuales no hay remedio médico disponible”, dijo el Papa en el mensaje publicado el 13 de diciembre.

El Día Mundial de los Enfermos es celebrado el 11 de febrero, la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes. En el 2007 la conferencia y la Misa principal anuales patrocinadas por



Una mujer recibe los Santos Oleos durante la Misa especial por el Día Mundial de los enfermos en Port Jefferson, New York, el 11 de febrero, 2006.

(CNS foto Gregory A. Shemitz, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC)

el Vaticano para la observancia serán llevadas a cabo en Seúl, Corea del sur.

El Papa Benedicto dijo que el mundo necesita hacer más “para promover políticas que creen condiciones donde los seres humanos puedan soportar hasta en-

fermedades incurables y la muerte de una manera dignificada”.

Además, dijo él, más estructuras deben ser establecidas para asegurar que los moribundos tengan medicamentos para el dolor, ayuda humana y acompañamiento espiritual mientras terminan sus

vidas terrenales.

Escribiéndole directamente a aquellos que sufren enfermedades incurables y terminales, el Papa dijo: “Les animo a contemplar los sufrimientos del Cristo crucificado y, en unión con él, recurrir al Padre con completa confianza de que toda la vida, y sus vidas en par-

ticular, están en sus manos”.

El papa dijo que los profesionales del cuidado médico y los capellanes católicos desean ayudarles a los enfermos y “estar a su lado ayudándole en su momento de necesidad y haciendo así presente la propia misericordia cariñosa de Cristo por los que sufren”.

Empezando Una Vida Nueva Programa para Separados, Divorciados y Viudos

“Empezando Una Vida Nueva” un programa para personas que están pasando por el dolor de una separación, un divorcio, o muerte de su cónyuge. El grupo se reúne una vez por semana por diez semanas y su propósito es de compartir destrezas de superación que otras personas han aprendido, encontrar nuevos amigos/as que cami-

narán con usted hacia el futuro, perdonar, adquirir aceptación y más.... “Empezando Una Vida Nueva” comenzará el lunes, 15 de Enero, 2007 a las 7 p.m. en la Iglesia de Todos los Santos (en el salón nuevo), 214 N.W. 20th St. en Fort Worth. Si desea registrarse o quiere más información favor de hablar con Carmen Zacarías al 682-472-8517.



El ataúd del ex presidente estadounidense Gerald R. Ford es llevado pasando el presidente George W. Bush, centro, y la primera dama Laura Bush y los ex presidentes George H. W. Bush, izquierda, Bill Clinton, centro arriba, y Jimmy Carter, segundo desde la derecha, durante el funeral de estado de Ford en la Catedral Nacional en Washington el 2 de enero. (Foto CNS/Jim Bourg, Reuters)



Helen Osman, directora de comunicaciones para la Diócesis de Austin, Texas, editora de su periódico, *The Catholic Spirit*, y presidenta actual de la Asociación de Prensa Católica, ha sido nombrada secretaria para comunicaciones de la Conferencia Estadounidense de Obispos Católicos, efectivo el 1 de agosto. (Foto CNS/Nancy Wiechec)



Unas personas deambulan por un lado de la catedral católica de Córdoba, España, el 29 de diciembre. Algunos musulmanes españoles recientemente apelaron al Papa Benedicto XVI para que se les permitiera ejercer su culto en la catedral, lugar que fue una mezquita en tiempos medievales. (Foto CNS/Bruno Rascao, Reuters)

La hermana Victoria Leano de las Misioneras Dominicanas del Rosario muestra un tejido hecho por una persona del programa de rehabilitación de la oficina de salud mental de la arquidiócesis de Ayacucho, Perú. En la oficina de salud mental se atiende a peruanos que se han visto afectados por décadas de violencia política. (Foto CNS/Barbara Fraser)



Mensaje papal de paz enfatiza derechos humanos aun cuando terrorismo azota

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Los derechos humanos básicos deben ser respetados aun cuando enfrentamos potencialmente un ataque terrorista o en medio de la guerra, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI en su mensaje para el Día Mundial de la Paz 2007.

“La paz está basada en el respeto por los derechos de todos”, dijo el Papa en su mensaje para la conmemoración del 1 de enero.

El mensaje, “La persona humana, el corazón de la paz”, fue enviado a los jefes de estado de todo el mundo y emitido el 12 de diciembre en conferencia de prensa en el Vaticano.

El mensaje del Papa incluyó oraciones por la paz para países destazados por la guerra tales como El Líbano, preocupación especial por las víctimas infantiles de la violencia, condenación de la continua proliferación nuclear y preocupación por el potencial de conflictos violentos por los recursos de energía.

La base de cualquier esperanza de paz, dijo el Papa, es un reconocimiento de que cada persona humana es creada a imagen y semejanza de Dios y, por lo tanto, está dotada con una dignidad y con derechos que no pueden ser usurpados por nadie.

La mayoría de los países de todo el mundo han adoptado los principios de la ley humanitaria internacional, reconociendo que ésta aplica en situaciones de conflicto así como en tiempos de paz, dijo él.

“Desdichadamente, no hablan-

do de casos pasados, ésta no ha sido implementada consistentemente en ciertas situaciones recientes de guerra”, dijo él.

Citando específicamente la guerra de julio en El Líbano entre las milicias de Hezbolá e Israel, el Papa Benedicto dijo que el deber de proteger, ayudar y evitar involucrar la población civil “fue en gran parte ignorado”.

“La situación en El Líbano que desgarró el corazón y la nueva forma de conflicto, especialmente desde que la amenaza terrorista desató totalmente nuevas formas de violencia, exigen que la comunidad internacional reafirme la ley humanitaria internacional y la aplique a todas las situaciones actuales de conflictos armados”, dijo el Papa.

Aunque reconociendo las dificultades presentadas por la amenaza del terrorismo, el Papa Benedicto dijo que los países deben realizar “una reflexión profunda sobre los límites éticos que restringen el uso de métodos modernos para garantizar la seguridad interna”.

El cardenal Renato Martino, presidente del Consejo Pontificio Para Justicia y Paz, dijo a reporteros en el Vaticano el 12 de diciembre que la lucha global contra el terrorismo puede ser vista como “la Cuarta Guerra Mundial. La Guerra Fría fue la tercera”.

Él continuó: “Pero esta guerra no tiene los parámetros de las guerras que experimentamos en la historia. Esto debe empujar a los países a preguntar ‘¿qué debemos hacer?’ y a desarrollar regula-

ciones” que provean seguridad mientras garantizan el respeto por los derechos humanos.

El Papa Benedicto en su mensaje también hizo un llamado a “una visión de la persona no manchada por prejuicios ideológicos ni culturales ni por intereses políticos ni económicos que puedan inculcar odio y violencia”.

Y él le pidió a los miembros de las comunidades religiosas y a sus líderes renovar su compromiso con dialogar y con denunciar los “conceptos de Dios que fomentan la intolerancia y el recurrir a la violencia contra otros”.

“La guerra a nombre de Dios nunca es aceptable”, dijo el Papa.

En todo el documento el Papa Benedicto hizo un llamado a un reconocimiento universal de que los derechos humanos básicos son dados por Dios o naturales; cuando un individuo o una sociedad decide que puede determinar quién gozará de cuáles derechos, ambas, la dignidad humana y la paz, son amenazadas, dijo él.

El Papa también condenó como violación de la dignidad humana, y como amenaza contra la paz, las situaciones en las cuales los individuos no están en libertad de practicar su fe religiosa, sea porque un régimen nacional le impone una religión a sus residentes o debido a que una “denigración cultural sistemática de las creencias religiosas” anima a la gente a ocultar su fe o limita su capacidad de expresar en público sus creencias religiosas.

El premio Keller de Maryknoll otorgado a la conferencia episcopal mexicana

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — Maryknoll ha otorgado el Premio Keller 2006 a la Conferencia Episcopal Mexicana por sus esfuerzos de difundir la fe en otros países.

Maryknoll, movimiento misionero cuyas oficinas centrales se localizan en Estados Unidos, está formado por sacerdotes, hermanos, hermanas, misioneros laicos y laicos asociados; fue fundado por el padre James G. Keller, quien también empezó el movimiento mundial de los Cristóferos.

Con el Premio Keller, establecido en 2000, centenario del natalicio del padre Keller, se honra a individuos o grupos que ejemplificando el espíritu de testimonio del Evangelio del padre Keller, se ponen al servicio del pobre y la edificación de la iglesia.

El premio del 2006 fue el prime-

ro que se haya otorgado fuera de los Estados Unidos.

Al anunciarlo, el vocero de Maryknoll hizo referencia al apoyo de la Conferencia Episcopal Mexicana para el establecimiento de un seminario de misiones extranjeras en México y la creación de una sociedad de misiones extranjeras.

Los Misioneros de Guadalupe, mexicanos, fundados con la ayuda del obispo de Maryknoll Alonso M. Escalante, es en cierto sentido el “Maryknoll de México”, dijo el padre John Barth, superior general auxiliar de Maryknoll.

“Siempre ha sido parte de la visión de la misión de la Sociedad de (Maryknoll) no sólo la ayuda para la edificación y establecimiento de iglesias locales en el mundo”, dijo el padre Barth; “sino una parte de las actividades es la de ayudar a

las iglesias locales a que establezcan su propia sociedad de envío de misiones extranjeras”.

El obispo Escalante, mexicanoamericano, fue misionero de Maryknoll en China antes de la Segunda Guerra Mundial; y después de eso ejerció su apostolado en Bolivia, en donde dirigió el Vicariato Apostólico de Pando de 1943 a 1960. En 1949 ayudó a los obispos mexicanos a la formación de los Misioneros de Guadalupe y fue nombrado el primer superior general de la sociedad.

Maryknoll hizo entrega del Premio Keller 2006 al obispo Florencio Olvera Ochoa de Cuernavaca, presidente de la comisión misionera del episcopado mexicano, en una ceremonia del 5 de diciembre llevada a cabo en las oficinas centrales de Maryknoll.

Los obispos de Florida estimulan a los católicos a que actúen a favor de los trabajadores agrícolas

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — Con estímulo para los católicos y toda la gente de buena voluntad a fin de que “se vea en dónde se necesita el amor y se actúe acordemente”, los obispos de Florida exhortaron a que se considere cómo todas las cosas, desde decisiones del consumidor hasta acciones políticas del gobierno tienen efecto sobre los trabajadores más vulnerables del estado.

En la nueva carta pastoral de los obispos, titulada “Honra a la Dignidad del Trabajo: Un Llamado a la Solidaridad con los Trabajadores Agrícolas de Florida y Otros Trabajadores Vulnerables”, se hace una moción hacia acciones específicas que pueden poner en práctica los católicos personalmente y su familia respectiva, las parroquias, las instituciones católicas, las agencias de gobierno y otras entidades.

“Este es un momento adecuado para llamar la atención hacia la dignidad humana de personas que tienen diferentes antecedentes y pertenecen a diferentes países; especialmente personas de México y Centroamérica, pero también haitianos, afroamericanos, puertorriqueños, vietnamitas y otros, que han

“El trabajo es bueno y necesario para la dignidad humana. El trabajo existe para la persona humana. La persona no existe para el trabajo”

— El Papa Juan Pablo II

venido a Florida a trabajar en la agricultura, nuestra segunda más grande industria”, dijo el obispo John H. Ricard de Pensacola-Tallahassee en una rueda de prensa del 11 de diciembre en Tallahassee.

El documento, publicación de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Florida, que es el medio de cabildeo de los obispos, fue escrito como respuesta ante situaciones que afectan a los trabajadores agrícolas y que fueron identificadas en el Foro del Trabajador Agrícola del mes de octubre del año 2005. Al foro de discusión pública asistieron unos 50 expertos del estado y del país y compartieron su respectiva perspectiva sobre la agricultura

y el trabajo agrícola.

“Fue una verdadera reunión de compañeros. El comisionado de agricultura y representantes de los trabajadores agrícolas no solamente se conocieron, sino que se sentaron a la mesa juntos. El foro proporcionó la base para un respeto y dignidad mutuos” dijo Nancy Powers, coordinadora del Proyecto de Solidaridad con los Trabajadores Agrícolas que depende de la Conferencia Católica.

Aludiendo a una cita del papa Juan Pablo II, en el primer párrafo del documento se decía: “El trabajo es bueno y necesario para la dignidad humana. El trabajo existe para la persona humana. La persona no existe para el trabajo”.

Y seguía colocando los asuntos dentro del marco de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia Católica.

En la tradición católica, los cuatro principios de justicia son: la dignidad dada por Dios a cada persona humana, el bien común, la subsidiencia (principio por el que se enuncia que las cosas deben ser hechas a un nivel el más simple, más descentralizado y más local posible) y solidaridad.

Si se dejaran guiar por estos principios, se dice en la carta pastoral, los habitantes de la Florida no tolerarían el estado de cosas reinante. “Entraríamos en acción en situaciones en las cuales, como lo dijo Juan Pablo II, ‘estemos en posición de evitar, eliminar o al menos limitar ciertos males sociales’”.

La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de la Florida publicó su primer documento sobre trabajadores agrícolas en 1977. En el nuevo documento se dice que se han logrado avances significativos en las tres décadas que han transcurrido; “sin embargo, los problemas de pobreza y falta de poder descritos en ese documento continúan siendo familiares”.

Y haciendo un llamado para que el gobierno intervenga, en la

carta pastoral se aboga por fondos para habitación de inmigrantes, reglamentos más estrictos sobre seguridad en el lugar de trabajo, aplicación de las leyes de trabajo existentes, entrenamiento para patronos y trabajadores sobre derechos laborales y seguridad en el lugar de trabajo, compensación extendida a través de los juzgados por violaciones de salario y seguridad, reglamentos más estrictos para subcontratistas, y ajustes que permitan que los trabajadores de temporada califiquen para compensación por falta de empleo.

Durante la rueda de prensa, Michael McCarron, director ejecutivo de la Conferencia Católica de Florida, dijo: “Los obispos de la Florida han estado involucrados desde hace mucho tiempo en la defensa de los trabajadores agrícolas, remontándose a su primer informe mayor de 1977 sobre las condiciones en las que laboran los trabajadores agrícolas”.

Sheila Hopkins, adjunta de la conferencia para asuntos sociales, añadió: “Trabajamos para asegurar que en las prioridades legislativas se incluyan medidas de vivienda segura y asequible, justos salarios y acceso al cuidado de salud y educación”.

Burritos para el alma: Estudiante convierte en ministerio ganancias de competencia

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Algunos estudiantes universitarios apenas saben cómo se alimentarán a sí mismos durante el año, ni imaginarse a otros 800. El estudiante Joe Melendrez, de la Universidad de Dayton, está usando comidas que él se ganó en una competencia local del restaurante Chipotle para propagar la misión católica de su escuela de liderar mediante el servicio.

Melendrez se ganó recientemente tres burritos diarios durante un año, además de cuatro fiestas de 20 burritos cada una.

El aspirante a rapero cristiano develó su oda a Chipotle y luego emitió una invitación abierta de cena para hablar sobre la fe, la vida, el trabajo de servicio, la solidaridad con los pobres y la igualdad, todos siendo partes del espinazo de la misión de la universidad operada por los marianistas.

“Tengo una responsabilidad de compartir esto”, dijo Melendrez, quien realizó una de las fiestas de burritos para los desam-

parados de la zona. “Tú vives la misión marianista enfocando tus esfuerzos en el bienestar de otros y trabajando para solucionar problemas en la comunidad”.

Melendrez, quien ya ha compartido una comida con por lo menos 80 personas, tenía compromisos hasta finales del 2006.

“Me he reunido con gente de todos los credos — cristianos, judíos, agnósticos”, dijo él. “Esto ha sido gratificante, ya que puedo aprender y entender mejor sus historias y creencias personales”.

“Su generosidad y entusiasmo para compartir su fe son grandes”, dijo el padre marianista Chris Wittmann, director del ministerio del recinto en la universidad. “Su iniciativa y creatividad son muy encomiables”.

Cuando termine el año del burrito, Melendrez continuará trabajando en su música. Él dijo que está ansioso por viajar a las escuelas secundarias católicas por toda la nación después que se gradúe en dos años.



Joe Melendrez, codirector de Movimiento Marianista para la asociación gubernamental estudiantil de la Universidad de Dayton reza, en un restaurante cerca del campo universitario de Ohio, durante un almuerzo para dialogar sobre la fe. Melendrez está usando sus ganancias en un concurso local en Chipotle — tres burritos al día durante un año y, además, 20 burrito fiestas — para extender su misión católica de ser líder sirviendo. (CNS photo/Larry Burgess, University of Dayton)

President Ford's pardon of President Nixon seen as healing act

FROM PAGE 1
and recession.

He liked to describe himself as "a moderate in domestic affairs, a conservative in fiscal affairs, and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs."

In his 1979 autobiography, *A Time to Heal*, he said he regarded healing the country after Watergate as his greatest accomplishment.

The single most important act in that effort, taken a month after he was sworn in, was to pardon his disgraced predecessor, Richard M. Nixon, of any crimes he may have committed in the Watergate cover-up. It was an action that provoked far wider and deeper anger than he had expected, but it prevented a lengthy trial that almost surely would have mired the nation in deeper divisions and bitterness.

He said he pardoned Nixon for the nation's sake, not Nixon's.

The first president to take office after the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions requiring states to allow abortion virtually on demand, Ford favored a constitutional amendment that would restore to the states the right to regulate abortions. The U.S. Catholic bishops opposed his approach, arguing that an

amendment prohibiting abortion on the federal level was needed so that all states would have to ban the practice.

Ford, who was Episcopalian, won some favor from Catholic officials because of his support of federal aid to parochial schools, his increase of U.S. food aid in the face of widespread famine in 1975, his welcoming of Vietnamese refugees, his support for immigration reform that made family reunification easier, and his efforts at detente with the Soviet Union.

But the bishops opposed his domestic policies of reducing the food stamp program and other areas of social welfare. He was criticized by religious leaders for vetoing a public works program that would have created 600,000 new jobs and for supporting covert CIA operations that involved using missionaries as information sources — a policy seen as undermining missionary activity.

Against arguments from church leaders that in vetoing several social welfare bills he was not sensitive to the needs of the poor and unemployed, he said in a 1976 interview, "If I approved every bill that Congress enacted, we would impose the cruelest tax

of all on all our people, which is inflation."

In fact, he lowered the rate of inflation from about 9 percent at the start of his term to less than 6 percent by the end; under his successor, President Jimmy Carter, inflation zoomed into double digits, peaking at 13.5 percent in 1980 and contributing significantly to a long-term rise in conservative influence in U.S. politics.

In a speech at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, held in Philadelphia in 1976, Ford expressed concern about the "growing irreverence for life" in the United States.

A month later, in a letter to a delegation of U.S. bishops that was released following an hourlong meeting with them in the White House, he spelled out his convictions on a number of issues of concern to the bishops, including abortion.

"Abortion on demand is wrong," he said, adding that every state should have a constitutional right to control abortion and expressing his belief that such laws need to "recognize and provide for exceptional cases."

After the Vietnam War ended, he established a Clemency Board that included two nationally known priests — the Notre Dame University president, Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, and the U.S. bishops' secretary for social development and world peace, Msgr. Francis Lally — to deal on a case-by-case basis with Vietnam War opponents who had resisted the draft or deserted the military for reasons of conscience.

He met with Catholic leaders on several occasions to discuss issues the country faced, including abortion, domestic health and welfare policies, Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees, immigration law reform, and issues of



The casket containing the body of former U.S. President Gerald R. Ford is carried into the U.S. Capitol in Washington Dec. 30 to lie in state in the Capitol's rotunda. (CNS photo/Chuck Kennedy, pool via Reuters)

humanitarian aid and human rights in U.S. foreign policy.

In 1975, during a trip to Europe, he met with Pope Paul VI.

In August 1975, as thousands of refugees from Indochina were pouring into the country, he visited the resettlement offices of the U.S. Catholic Conference (now U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, to pay tribute to the contributions of the USCC, which was then resettling well over half the refugees.

He nearly doubled funding for the U.S. Food for Peace Program and in a 1975 speech at Notre Dame warned against letting inflation and economic problems at home lead to withdrawal from U.S. responsibilities toward poorer nations. "There is no safety for any nation in a hungry, ill-educated, and desperate world," he said.

Gerald Rudolph Ford was born July 14, 1913, in Omaha,

Nebraska, and was named Leslie King Jr. When he was 2, his mother divorced her abusive husband and moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. There she met and married Gerald R. Ford, who adopted Leslie and gave him his own name. The future president did not learn until he was 17 that his stepfather was not his biological father.

Ford graduated from the University of Michigan in 1935 and Yale Law School in 1941. He served in the Navy, 1942-46, and joined a law firm in Grand Rapids following his military service. In 1948 he was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served for the next 25 years, the last eight as Republican minority leader.

In October 1973, when Nixon's vice president, Spiro T. Agnew, resigned after pleading no contest to tax fraud charges, Ford became the first U.S. vice president chosen under the 25th Amendment's provisions for filling a vacancy in that post by presidential nomination and congressional confirmation. Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle had urged Nixon to nominate Ford because of his personal integrity and reputation for bipartisanship.

When Nixon resigned the following year, Ford became the first man to achieve the presidency without election to national office.

Carter narrowly beat Ford in the 1976 presidential race. In his inaugural address Carter paid tribute to his predecessor, thanking him "for all he has done to heal our land."

Upon his return to private life, Ford and his wife, Betty, moved to Rancho Mirage. He is survived by her and their four children, Michael, Jack, Steven, and Susan, and their families.



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The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Church in Latin America uses the collection funds to support its pastoral grants program in twenty-two countries and to support the work of the Department of Social Development and World Peace on behalf of the Church in Latin America.

Several pastoral grants were used to

- Establish a catechesis program within vocational schools in El Alto, Bolivia
- Provide Bible studies to lay leaders in Santa Ana, El Salvador
- Develop a catechist training program in Saint Lucia, West Indies
- Provide formation for permanent deacons in Tacuarembó, Uruguay
- Support a newly created parish in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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The Vogels honor their family members through their gifts to Catholic schools

From page 24

school morning began in church where his classmates gathered to hear Mass said in Latin. The rest of the day was spent at the blackboard working math problems or learning other lessons.

"Sister Simeon made and gave me a maroon-colored rosary which I still have in my collection of over 150 rosaries," Vogel says, recalling the kindness of his teachers. "And Sister Edwina became a wonderful friend. I kept in contact with her until she went to heaven about 10 years ago."

Along with the personal relationships forged, Catholic schools gave Vogel a strong academic foundation. The Bs and Cs he struggled to earn in elementary school easily became As and

The Vogels never expected recognition for their altruism but are looking forward to the event as a celebration of everything they cherish in life — their children, their Christian faith, and Catholic education. Knowing their legacy will touch the lives of future generations is the reward they most covet.

Bs in the public high school.

"I went to Catholic school, and I know how I turned out. I'm getting blessed all the time," he points out. "Now I feel the need to give something back."

Entrusted with family holdings bequeathed to them by childless siblings, the Vogels used the inheritance to set up

three endowment funds. Interest from the investment provides scholarship money for students attending Immaculate Conception School in Denton, Sacred Heart School in Muenster, and Our Lady of Grace High School a private school in the Catholic tradition. "Raising seven children requires a lot of resources.

We never had a lot of frills but there was never a time when we couldn't buy a new pair of shoes when needed," says Vogel, who farmed before working his way up to the post of chief accountant for the Katy Railroad. "Money for charitable endeavors came later in life."

Both Ruth and Bill Vogel were the youngest members of their families, and, over the years, they cared for older brothers and sisters who had no one else to look after them.

"We now feel we owe it to those family members to use their money for good causes and to perpetuate the Vogel name on their behalf," he explains. "Trying to provide Catholic school guidance seems a logical and worthwhile endeavor they would be proud of."

One member of the couple's large, extended family sees firsthand the fruits of their philanthropy. Chad Riley, the principal at Sacred Heart School in Muenster, is married to one of the Vogel's granddaughters, Caryn. The family's endowment fund is one of several programs that pro-

vides tuition assistance to needy students at the Pre-K through 12th grade school. Selected as a Blue Ribbon campus by the U.S. Department of Education, Sacred Heart's secondary level was named one of the top 50 Catholic high schools in the country.

"The scholarship money gives families who are struggling financially the opportunity to give their children a Catholic education," explains Riley, a second-year principal. "It gives me a sense of pride to know I'm connected to a family committed to promoting the ideals of Catholic education."

Riley and other members of the Vogel clan will watch as the family patriarch and his wife are honored for their generosity and dedication to others at the 20th annual Catholic School banquet Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Fort Worth Convention Center. The Vogels never expected recognition for their altruism but are looking forward to the event as a celebration of everything they cherish in life — their children, their Christian faith, and Catholic education. Knowing their legacy will touch the lives of future generations is the reward they most covet.

"We believe it's important that all Catholic children have the opportunity to gain from a Christian environment and education. That's why we started three Catholic school endowment funds!" Vogel declared. "The scholarships they will provide will grow and grow and be there forever!"

Hamer...

From page 11

He was smiling, I'm sure, as he registered, made all my choices, and watched me move to the top-rank. He's probably laughing now, enjoying my unlikely — and uncomfortable — victory.

It's strange to succeed at something you know nothing about. How do you accept the congratulations? "Uh thank you ... uh uh." Do you talk about it like a figure skater after a program, analyzing her Olympic performance? "Looks like I was pretty confident in TCU over Northern Illinois, but not so much in Texas over Iowa. Oh yeah, and I also fell out of my triple toe loop."

Winning this fantasy football challenge has all the potential for being as embarrassing as it was when my sophomore biology teacher said, "Miss Cribari, explain to the class what is meant by a first and 10." I remember clearly, at that moment, I would have felt better about being asked "What are the first five steps in dissecting a rat?" In fact, I would have been happy to dissect the rat.

Winning is typically not as easy as this was for me, with

Dustin as my coach. If only we could spend our lives in ideal circumstances, making correct choices and even projecting a high degree of confidence in them; if only we could regulate our own efforts and everybody else's, like I can oversee the building in progress in front of my office at TCU.

Would our lives be easier then? More successful? No. Nothing is ever quite that certain.

Every choice we make has the potential for success — a smooth-sailing, resounding "yes" in our lives — or failure — a potentially painful bad decision, with a dissonant, reverberating "no."

When I got in the college bowl fantasy football game, I was too uninformed to play on my own, but smart enough to enlist a great coach. Now that I have won, though, will my colleagues suppose that I might in fact know something about football? Might they surmise that I will be playing this game again next year?

Or worst of all, will I be: Fired for Faking Fantasy Football?

My son Andrew loves to play video games, especially the sports ones, and he has figured out the importance of good coaching and good

recruitment. As in fantasy football, his record will depend on the choices he makes.

The first thing Andrew does is create a big, muscular, fast, strong player, who always wears the name "Hamer" on his jersey. He looks like Andrew, but the advantage is that he is computerized, and a controller makes the player's moves — better than they would be if Andrew were doing the moves himself.

It is, I'm sure, exhilarating when he visualizes himself as the winner.

To ensure success, Andrew does one other thing, in fun, that we all need to do, in fact. It is an action that cannot have a bad result. It does not have the potential to end poorly.

Andrew gives another player the name "Jesus." And Andrew always places Jesus on his own team.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. Her column is syndicated in a number of the best Catholic diocesan newspapers across the U.S. In May of 2005, her column received the first place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada.

Umbert the Unborn

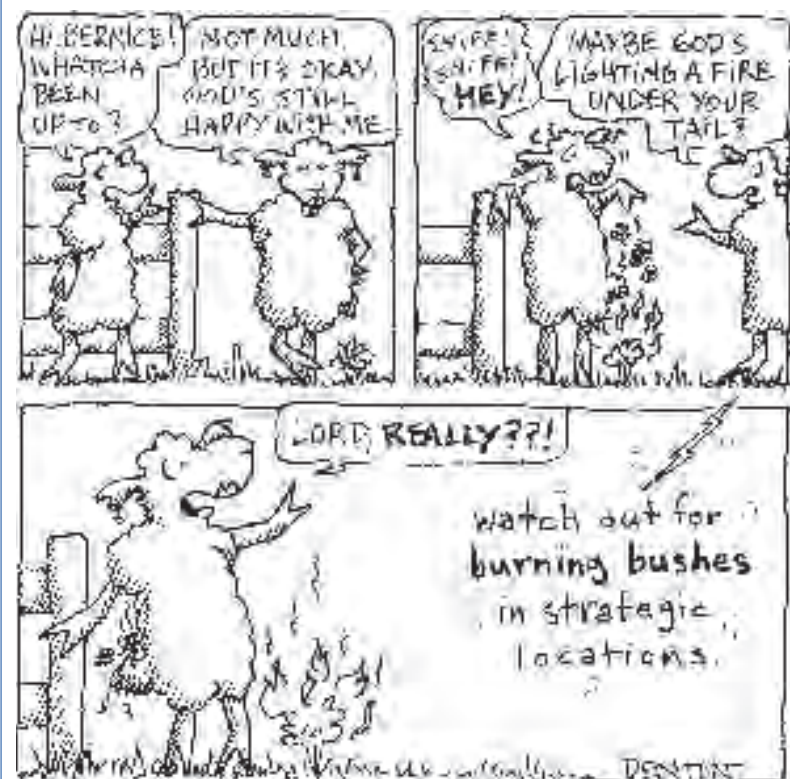


by Gary Cangemi

The FLOCK

By Jean Denton

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Calendar

RESPECT LIFE MASS

All are invited to attend the annual Respect Life Mass Jan 19, marking the 34th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. The Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-3300.

SCHOOLS BANQUET

Each year the Diocese of Fort Worth honors outstanding men and women from the Catholic schools in the diocese for their commitment to sustaining and enhancing the mission of Catholic schools. They will be honored at the 20th annual Catholic Schools Banquet scheduled for Jan. 27 at the Fort Worth Convention Center, 1111 Houston Street in downtown Fort Worth. Tickets are priced at \$75 per person. Proceeds will benefit the Bishop's Scholars Fund, a new diocesan tuition assistance program. Everyone is invited to the celebration to show their support and commitment to Catholic schools. For more information or to secure reservations, contact the Diocese of Fort Worth at (817) 560-3300 ext. 280.

RETRouvaille WEEKEND

Retrouvaille is a special program for married couples struggling in their relationships. The next weekend program, sponsored by the Family Life Office of Diocese of Fort Worth, will be held Jan. 19-21. For information or to register, call (800) 470-2230 or visit the Web site at www.retrouvaille.org. All conversations will be kept confidential.

GRIEF SUPPORT

Starting a New Life is a ministry group that offers grief support for separated, divorced, and widowed individuals. The confidential support group was created to help persons work through the stages of grief and pain that accompany the loss of a spouse through death or divorce. The next session will be held Jan. 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact Helen Engle at (817) 261-9706 or by e-mail to hengle@sbcglobal.net, or Kevin Gamble at (817) 626-9382. Information is also available online at www.fwdioc.org.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

World Marriage Day is celebrated nationally on the second Sunday in February. This year it falls on Feb. 11. Now is the time to gather a committee to plan this day of celebration, encourages Deacon Dick Stojak, diocesan director of Family Life. Information packets containing ideas for planning a World Marriage Day program are available through the diocesan Family Life Office. For a copy of the materials, call (817) 560-2452 ext. 256. Materials are also available online at wmd.wmwe.org.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS / LESBIANS

The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will offer an evening of prayer and conversation for lesbian/gay persons, their families, and friends Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. For additional information, contact Father Warren Murphy at (817) 927-5383, Deacon Richard Griego at (817) 421-1387, or Dottie and Hank Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

COURAGE D/FW

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for those striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality, meets every second and fourth Friday evening. For information, e-mail to CourageDFW@Catholic.org or call (972) 938-5433.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S GROUP

St. Augustine's Men's Purity Group, a ministry for men who struggle with sexual impurity issues on the Internet and other sources, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, and Sundays at 7 p.m., at 1301 Paxton (Padre Pio House) in Arlington. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.sampg.org, or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com.

To Report Misconduct

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct by anyone who serves the church, you may

- Call **Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator**, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jl Locke@fwdioc.org
- Or call the **Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call **The Catholic Center** at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olson.

To Report Abuse

Call the **Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services)**
1 (800) 252-5400

LIFE AFTER LOSS

A free six-week seminar for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one will be held at Harris Methodist Hospital, in the HMFV Chaplain's Office Library, located on the first floor of the Harris Tower on 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth. The program, sponsored by the Department of Pastoral Care and the American Cancer Society, will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each Monday evening, Jan. 15 through Feb. 19. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call Dora Saul at (817) 250-2092.

Would the following person call
Meg Hogan
at (817) 560-3300 ext. 200.

Edwin Derrell Bode, Jr.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The weekend retreat provides an environment and tools to help participants put closure on the past, and to create a new beginning in the present. The next BE weekend will be held Jan. 19-21 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. For more information, call metro (972) 601-4091 or e-mail to the Dallas/Fort Worth BE team at dfwbe@hotmail.com.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

According to The Couple to Couple League, Natural Family Planning is safe, healthy, and effective. CCL offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of NFP. Since the class consists of four meetings at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a class starting at least four months before their wedding. For more information or to register for a class starting Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 714 N. Main, Muenster, contact Gary and Mary Endres at (940) 759-4810. To register for a class starting Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 S. Cherry Lane, White Settlement, contact Bill and Mary Kouba at (817) 370-9193. To register for a class starting Jan. 28 at 3:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 9th St., Wichita Falls, contact Charles and Renée Gartland at (940) 855-2235.

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ANNULMENT PROCESS

Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew Church, Arlington, will lead an interactive session entitled "Til Death Do Us Part? Marriage: A Sacramental Sign of God's Faithful Love" Feb. 6 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church, 1000 Tinker Road, Colleyville, in Rooms 2 and 3. Catholics who have divorced and wish to remarry, as well as those taking part in the RCIA process, often have questions about a decree of invalidity and what it means for them and for the children of a marriage that is declared "invalid." This is an opportunity to explore the answers to questions pertaining to the sacrament of marriage and to learn about the possibilities for healing within the annulment process. All are invited to attend and to bring a friend. Childcare is available if requested prior to Jan. 26. To arrange for childcare or for more information, call the church office at (817) 421-1387.

MOTHER - DAUGHTER TEA

A Mother-Daughter Tea, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Family Life, will be held Feb. 25, from noon until 4 p.m. at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth. Young women, ages 10 to 13, are invited to attend with their mother, grandmother, or other special woman in their lives to spend an afternoon sharing experiences of being female. Discussion from a faith-based perspective will concentrate on the physical, emotional, and psychological changes that occur in young women during the adolescent years and will address many relationship issues faced by teens today. A light lunch, tea, and desserts will be served. The cost is \$12.50 per person. For more information or to make a reservation, call Nancy Novak at (817) 656-9633 or Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096.

POLKA MASS

The Czech community, along with Father Richard Eldridge, TOR, from Sacred Heart Parish in Seymour will celebrate with friends in the Metroplex Jan. 28 at a special 12:30 p.m. Sunday Polka Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. Bohemian sausage and kolaches will be sold following each Mass. For additional information, call Sacred Heart Parish at (940) 889-5252.

KNIGHTS FREE THROW

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1 and residing in Lewisville, Flower Mound, Highland Village, Copper Canyon, Double Oak, or Lake Dallas are invited to participate in the local level of the 2007 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, conducted by Council #9884 of St. Philip the Apostle Church. The local competition will be held Jan. 27 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Forestwood Middle School located at 2810 Morriss Road, Flower Mound. Contestants will compete in respective age divisions. First place winners will advance to the Knights of Columbus District Championship to be held in February. International champions are announced by the Knights of Columbus international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. Entry forms will be available at the competition site on Saturday. Contestants can register at any time between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. For additional information, contact Tom Kupper at (972) 436-3945.

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MISSIONARY REFLECTION

Father Robert Thames, a Missionary priest from the Diocese of Fort Worth, will share an evening of prayer and reflection Jan. 24 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. Fr. Thames has been a missionary in Mexico and Bolivia for over 25 years and has founded and funded schools and worked in impoverished parishes in Mexico and Central America. Fr. Thames is a simple, prophetic priest who lives the Gospel of Jesus through his witness and example. He invites and challenges others to live their baptism through a deeper understanding of mission. Participants are asked to bring a Bible. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Josie Castillo at (817) 560-2452 ext. 255 or by e-mail to jcastillo@fwdioc.org

CATECHIST PRESENTATION

Dr. Sandra Kennedy will offer a presentation entitled "What is a Catechist?" at Good Shepherd Church, 1000 Tinker Road in Colleyville, Feb. 1, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All catechists, directors of religious education, and others with an interest in religious education are invited to attend the free presentation. For more information, contact Mary Kelly or Ginny Phoenix at (817) 421-1387.

HOMESCHOOLING MEETING

Parents interested in Catholic home schooling for their children are invited to an information meeting sponsored by Catholics Teaching at Home (CATH). CATH is a home school group for Catholics in the Fort Worth Diocese. The meeting will be held in Arlington Jan. 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, contact Lisa Wynne at (817) 483-8362 or by e-mail to monalisa3773@yahoo.com.

SUBIACO OPEN HOUSE

Subiaco Academy, an all-boys Catholic boarding and day school in western Arkansas, will host a free Discovery Sunday for parents and prospective students Feb. 4 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Those visiting will have an opportunity to meet members of the administration and faculty, and have a guided tour of the campus. Interested students can also take the preliminary placement exam. Established in 1887 by the Benedictine Monks of Subiaco Abbey in Subiaco, Arkansas, the academy offers a college prep program for grades 9-12 that challenges young men academically, as well as in the arts, athletics, and other activities. For additional information, contact the Subiaco admission office at (800) 364-7824, e-mail to admissions@subi.org, or visit the Web site at www.subi.org.

'MASTERPIECE MYSTERIES'

All are invited to attend "Masterpiece Mysteries," an examination from a Catholic perspective of major works of art, to be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane, Grapevine. The five-week seminar will be held in the parish hall from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on consecutive Sundays, beginning Jan. 1, and continuing on Jan. 21, 28, and Feb. 4 and 11. The sessions will be repeated on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Jan. 17, and continuing on Jan. 24 and 31, and Feb. 7 and 14. "Discover how Catholic artists like Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo, and others visually embedded Catholic doctrine in their artwork," states a parish press release. Participants are asked to bring a Bible. To reserve free childcare, call Carol at (817) 481-2685. For more information, call Steve Kellmeyer at (817) 481-2685 or e-mail to skellmeyer@stfrancisgrapevine.org.

Classified Section

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Gabriel Catholic Community in McKinney is a young parish of 2,000 plus families seeking a spirit-filled servant leader to coordinate its developed, yet quickly growing, youth ministry's vision of "Get It, Live It, Pass It." Primary roles include overseeing the vision of middle and high school comprehensive programming, directing the high school youth nights, and collaborating with others to provide a unified, nourishing environment, giving attention to empowering adult and youth volunteer leadership. Candidate should demonstrate strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills. Bachelor's degree, previous experience required; youth ministry certificate preferred. Details may be found at www.stgabriel.org. If interested, submit a résumé to Mike Seibold, 110 St. Gabriel Way, McKinney 75071 or by e-mail to mseibold@stgabriel.org.

HR DIRECTOR

The Diocese of Fort Worth is seeking a director of Human Resources. This position has responsibility for policy development and implementation for the parishes and schools of the diocese. Qualified applicants will be practicing Catholics and have a minimum of three years experience in human resource administration with specific training in human relations, conflict management, compensation, and federal and Texas law. MA or equivalent is required along with an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church and principles of just treatment. For a required application, contact Steve Landon at 800 W. Loop 820 South, Fort Worth 76108, (817) 560-3300 or e-mail to slandon@fwdioc.org. Applications will be accepted until Jan. 31.

HOME CAREGIVERS

Visiting Angels, a non-medical home-care service, is seeking experienced caregivers for on-call positions, PT to live-in. Great supplemental income. Call (817) 224-9701.

ACCOMPANIST

An accompanist experienced at three-manual pipe organ is needed for four weekend Masses at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth. Responsibilities include rehearsals with two choirs weekly, Holy Day Masses, availability for parish funerals, weddings, and major parish celebrations throughout the year preferred. Applicant must be familiar with post-Vatican II Catholic liturgy. Send résumés to Holy Family Church; Attn: Diane Kain, 6150 Pershing Avenue, Fort Worth 76107 or call (817) 737-6768 ext. 104, to apply.

FAITH AND FORMATION

Vibrant, family-centered parish is seeking a coordinator of Children's Faith Formation. Applicant must be fluent in English and Spanish, have a degree in theology, ministry, or related field. An experienced and energetic Catholic lay minister who can recruit and manage volunteers, train catechists, is organized and detail-oriented will be an ideal candidate. This 35-hour per week position begins immediately. Interested applicants may send résumé to: Search Committee, 2330 Cheyenne St., Irving 75062.

ASSISTED LIVING ATTENDANTS

Catholic assisted living facility in South Arlington seeks professional, pro-life, experienced attendants to join our team providing care for elderly women. Position requires a compassionate and dedicated person eager to serve and to grow in knowledge of geriatric health issues. Good salary and flexible hours for the right person. For more information, contact Carol/Linda at (817) 548-7211.

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Good Newsmakers

This year's Catholic School Banquet honorees seek to give to others in a circle of blessings

by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Ask Bill Vogel about his selection as this year's Catholic School banquet diocesan honoree, and the 82-year-old beams with the youthful enthusiasm of a schoolboy.

"This award gives me that same warm fuzzy feeling that I used to get when my parents or Sister Edwina said, 'Bill, you did good!'" explains Vogel referring to the nun who taught him in the 7th and 8th grades at St. Patrick Elementary School in Parsons, Kansas. "My wife, Ruth, and I are very grateful that events such as this steer attention to the importance of education — particularly the combination of education and religion. Children are the future of the world."

And as the parents of seven children, 23 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren, nothing is more important to Ruth and Bill Vogel than family, faith, and the future of both.

"As our family grew, we realized it was important that our children not only do their reading and writing, but also learn that religion was not just a bunch of dates and rules to be learned," he says. "It's a way of life and the key to the salvation of their souls."

It was an ideology heeded by the couple's offspring. Eldest son, Gary, is an ordained deacon in the Diocese of Dallas. Daughter, Mary Vogel, taught at Immaculate Conception School in Denton and is now choir director at St. Thomas Church in Pilot Point. Her sister, Susan Vogel, is also a choir director at St. Mary's Church in Sherman. Nancy Kirk



This photo of the Vogel clan, taken at the couple's 60th anniversary celebration in June, went out with Bill and Ruth's 2006 Christmas cards. With Bill and Ruth Vogel, front and center, surrounded by their seven children, the text tells us of the growth of the family to include a legacy of 23 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

is a religious education teacher at Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls. Teri Reeves is a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church. Joseph Vogel attends St. Louis Church in Austin, and Jacqueline Bresnahan is a member at St. Ann Church in Coppell.

Like their father, all of the Vogel children attended Catholic elementary school, first in Kansas and then in Texas. The family moved to the Lone Star State in 1957, eventually settling across the street from the old Immaculate Conception Church in Denton.

"We always lived close to the church," says Ruth Vogel, who converted to Catholicism shortly before marrying her husband. "We wanted our children to be able to walk back and forth to the parish school, but we also liked to make short solo visits to church for quiet prayer."

Ensuring their youngsters could easily receive a Catholic education was a priority for transplanted Midwesterners. Looking back on his own schooling, Bill Vogel still treasures the years spent under the tutelage of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Each

SEE THE VOGELS, P. 22



Above: Bill and Ruth Vogel make a joyful noise to the Lord March 13 at The Catholic Center in Fort Worth as they take part in Mass before the diocese's first Legacy Dinner. The Mass and dinner honored those who have made planned gifts to support the ministries of the diocese. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



Left: The newly wedded Vogels emerge from the church following their wedding June 15, 1946.



Right: The Vogels show one of the rosaries they gave each of their children on the occasion of their 60th anniversary. The photo was taken at the reception following the diocese's first Mass honoring those married 50 years or more at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, Oct. 15 of last year. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Bishop Vann and many local Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome in November. See some of the pictures. **2**

Msgr. Charles B. King celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination in December, and he turned it into an event honoring other jubilarians and an occasion to build a Habitat for Humanity home. **12**

When Sue Stanton journeyed to India with a group of CFCA sponsors, it seemed she was traveling with Magi in search of a special child, in this case a child they had sponsored. **10**

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