

## Pope prays for victims of Haiti quake; archbishop's body found



A boy sits amid the rubble of a destroyed school in Port-au-Prince Jan. 13 after a massive earthquake struck Haiti. Catholic Relief Services was preparing for thousands and thousands of dead and injured people in the wake of the most devastating quake to strike Haiti in two centuries. (CNS photo/Carlos Barria, Reuters)

## White House rally is a first for the March for Life

By Chaz Muth  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — When organizers of the 37th annual March for Life began planning this year's event, they wanted to ensure President Barack Obama heard their pro-life message.

So, they are gathering about 3,000 activists to sing, pray, and reiterate their plea to end legal abortion in the U.S. right across the street from his home — the White House — in Lafayette Park the evening before the Jan. 22 march marking the anniversary of the 1973 decision legalizing abortion in the United States.

Participants also will be carrying flashlights in lieu of lit candles, which are not allowed in the park.

It's the first time in the history of the march that organizers have scheduled a White House vigil the evening before the main event, even though Obama is not the only U.S. president in the past 37 years who supports keeping abortion legal.

Nellie Gray, president of the March for Life Education & Defense Fund — the group that organizes the march — said the motive behind adding the White House venue this year was to make their presence known to the president. She noted that her group didn't do this when President Bill Clinton was in office because the main event was

SEE MARCH, P. 14

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI prayed for victims of a massive earthquake in Haiti and urged the international community to provide generous assistance to the stricken population of the

Caribbean nation.

The victims included Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot of Port-au-Prince.

"The lifeless body of Archbishop Joseph Miot of Port-au-Prince was found this morning under the rubble of the archbishops'

residence," *L'Osservatore Romano* said in a Page 1 story Jan. 13.

Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio in Haiti, told the Vatican missionary news agency Fides: "Port-au-Prince is completely devastated. The cathedral and the

archbishop's residence, all the big churches, all the seminaries are reduced to rubble."

Pope Benedict made his appeal at the end of his general audience Jan. 13, some 12 hours after a magnitude 7 earthquake

SEE CARITAS, P. 21

Feb. 6, St. Bartholomew Church, Immigration 101:

## Committee to offer training to help immigrants over hurdles to citizenship

By Juan Guajardo  
Editorial Assistant

The Immigration Steering Committee will hold its first introductory meeting Saturday, Feb. 6 at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth.

The meeting titled "A Journey of Hope; Welcoming the Stranger: A Call for Action," will present Catholic Social Teaching on the

topic, give information on the current state of the immigration debate, and orient parishes on how they can prepare to serve the needs of the immigrant community. An overview of what can be expected from a congressional immigration reform package will also be presented.

Deacon Len Sanchez, diocesan director of Community and Pasto-

ral Services, said all parishes are welcome. Dcn. Len's experience with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 convinced him that parishes should be prepared to assist immigrants in the case of another reform.

After the enactment of the 1986 bill, Dcn. Len noticed a disturbing trend. He learned im-

SEE IMMIGRATION, P. 15

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington Dec.

15. Gutierrez helped unveil legislation called the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act. (CNS photo/Rafael Crisostomo, EL PREGONERO)





# Bishop Vann, U.S. Bishops ask all Catholics to help assure our principles embodied in health care reform

Dear Friends in the  
Diocese of Fort Worth,

I am writing this short column as I am on retreat with the priests of our Diocese this week.



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

I have authorized our diocesan Communication Office to notify our parishes about the current status of health care reform legislation and the efforts of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who have been working with other Catholic agencies as well to make sure that our voice is brought to these sometimes difficult negotiations regarding 1) Abortion funding, 2) Conscience protection, 3) Immig-

*This is not a matter of "politics" but rather exercising our duty as Catholic citizens in light of our moral and faith-based principles to ensure the inclusion of the most foundational right of all in our legislation: the right to life for all human persons from the moment of conception to that of natural death.*

**Bishop Kevin Vann**  
Diocese of Fort Worth

rants and 4) Affordability.

The bulletin inserts which you will see this weekend and prayer intentions which can be used are being sent out to all of the parishes around

our country to once again ask your help and involvement in articulating our convictions in these days of final negotiation.

Please be sure to continue to study the latest developments which can be found on the USCCB Web site and then to contact, either by phone, letter or e-mail our senators and representatives in this matter. The study of these bills by the staff at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a letter of Jan. 8, concludes that while the conference is studying the Casey/Nelson language carefully to see if it can be improved and brought into line with the Stupak amendment, "the House version best upholds our principles on abortion funding, immigrants, and affordability."

This is not a matter of "politics" but rather exercising our duty as Catholic citizens in light of our moral and faith-based principles to ensure the inclusion of the most foundational right of all in our legislation: the right to life for all human persons from the moment of conception to that of natural death. Genuine health care, above all things, should protect and defend this fundamental right. As Pope John Paul II

teaches us:

*"Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights — for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture — is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination."*

— *The Role of the Laity in the Life and Mission of the Church*, 38

We will soon be coming up on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*. I will be present at the Saturday, Jan. 16 Mass and March at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Dallas. I would also encourage you to follow the annual Vigil Mass and March for Life Rally in Washington D.C. as well, as we endeavor to build in our nation a true culture of life.

God bless you always.

Bishop Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD  
Diocese of Fort Worth

**Editor's Note:** Bishop Vann has asked that the information from the bulletin insert distributed in parishes across the United States by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops be published in this issue of the NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC.

## United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

### URGENT: USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

#### Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!

**Protect Conscience**

**Ensure Affordable Health Coverage**

**Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance**

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.

- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.

- These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

**ACTION:** Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to [www.usccb.org/](http://www.usccb.org/).

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.

Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) & [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

#### MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

#### MESSAGE—SENATE:

"I am deeply disappointed that the Senate health care bill fails to maintain the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

**WHEN:** Votes in the House and Senate on the final bill are expected in January.

**Act today! Thank You!**

Updated 1/7/10

## Diocesan

## Young adult Justice Rocks conference to be held Jan. 23

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent

On Saturday, Jan. 23 the Service and Justice Team of the Young Adult Council will host "Justice Rocks," a social justice conference for young adults. The day-long bilingual event will take place at St. Vincent de Paul Church, at 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington beginning at 11 a.m. and will include group breakout sessions, exhibition booths for community service organizations, and an evening concert.

"This event is about Catholic Social Teaching," said organizer Brittany Caldwell of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth. "The Service and Justice Team of the Young Adult Ministry has done a number of service projects, but we really wanted to tie in those efforts with justice issues. That's one of the goals of our team."

The conference will feature keynote addresses from Ralph McCloud, director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Heather Reynolds, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Fort Worth. Major talks of "Justice Rocks" will be in English, but simultaneous translation with headsets will be available. Two of the breakout sessions will be in Spanish.

Austin-based folksinger/songwriter Grace Pettis will perform a concert from 8 to 9 p.m., followed by Christian band Soundwave from 9 to 10 p.m. Tejano band,



Juntos con Cristo will be playing in another room from 8 to 10 p.m.

"Justice Rocks' promises to be a great day of faith and fellowship," said Kevin Prevou, director of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries for the Diocese of Fort Worth. "Hopefully, people will come away with a better idea of why the Church puts so much focus on social justice."

Prevou added that the Young Adult Council has been meeting for two years, and its purpose is to be the vehicle to help Young Adult Ministries grow in the diocese.

"At the heart of YAM was to figure out an organizational model to facilitate that plan. At present very few parishes have ministry programs geared specifically to young adults," Prevou said. "Our desire is to bring together young adults from the various parishes throughout the diocese by offering programs designed to engage young adult Catholics."

All adults between the ages of 18 and 35 are invited to attend "Justice Rocks." Registration is \$35 and includes lunch, dinner, the conference, and concert. Participants may register online at [www.fwyam.org/justicerocks](http://www.fwyam.org/justicerocks) or by contacting the office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries at (817) 560-2452, ext. 261.

*Responding  
to God's Call*

## 2010 — A great destiny ahead for religious vocations

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

We begin a fresh new year in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ ready to conquer, with his Spirit, new challenges that the overwhelming majority say cannot be done. But I ask you, why not? All things are possible for God (Mark 10:27).

With almost 200 dioceses in the U.S., only a handful have growing religious communities, male or female, but some are expanding quickly. For example, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, better known as the Nashville Dominican Sisters, are the largest growing women's community of sisters in the U.S. with more than 230 sisters and 60 percent of them under the age of 40. Since 1996 they have spread each year to new missions and dioceses and are now active in 12 dioceses throughout the U.S. With God's grace, this community has bounced back. Then, with God's grace, why can't we do likewise? I am convinced that we have hundreds of young single men and women in North Texas who would, without a doubt, consider the religious life if they understood their calling from God and what is at stake. The Vocations Office is here to help!

So, why don't we jump aboard the ship of Christ that is destined to overpower and renew the U.S.? It's high time for us to allow Christ to reclaim us as a diocese, as a community, as families, and as individuals so that we are open to his glorious will for our lives, over and above our

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations, is shown walking out of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster following his ordination to the priesthood in May 2002. Even then, he appeared to be inviting people to ask if they were being called to a vocation.

*If we are to cooperate in God's desire to turn our country and our Church back in the right direction, it must come from a heartfelt love for Christ and his Church, an inner will to live for the Lord.*

self-centered will, that has time and again led us on an empty ship separated from God. *John 3:19* states, "And this is the verdict, that light came into the world, but the people preferred the darkness to light, because their works were evil." "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light (*John 3:21*)." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life (*John 3:16*)."

Yes, God has a divine plan for each of us, a plan that binds us so closely together that we are to become not only one family but one body in Christ so that "if one part suffers, all parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy (*1 Corinthians 12:26-27*)." If we are going to set our sails back toward Christ, then we need to work as one body in our diocese, praying, sacrificing, and working tirelessly to save souls and to draw our children to the wellspring of grace in the life of Christ. In *Jeremiah 29:11-13*, we hear, "I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you look for me, you will find me, yes, when you seek me with all your heart."

If we are to cooperate in God's desire to turn our country and our Church back in the right direction, it must come from a heartfelt love for Christ and his Church, an inner will to live for the Lord.

This is where the Vocations Office needs your help. We need to know who are the single young men and women in our parishes and from among our families who seem to have this same inner drive

to serve the Lord with all their might as future leaders of the Church. The Vocations Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth exists for this purpose: to help young single men and women listen to the Lord, to grow in understanding and knowledge of their calling from God. The Vocations Office exists to be a resource center, to help answer vocational questions, and to help young people have a support group as they discern their calling of fulfillment, discerning between the religious life, the single life, and the married life.

Thus, it is vital to the rebuilding of our Church that the Vocations Office knows who, from within our diocese, is discerning the religious life. (Yes, teenagers too, so that they can at least get their feet wet and know the long, yet fulfilling, process of discerning God's will for their lives.) The Church cannot support those discerning the religious life when it doesn't know who they are. We need your help! The Vocations Office is casting its nets far and wide, ready to assist both single men and single women who are discerning the religious life. Contact the Vocations Office if you know of someone discerning the religious life.

While we will need their contact information, please make sure ahead of time that the person discerning would be open to having the Vocations Office contact them. We are discrete and hold all things in confidence. Now then, let's set sail with Christ for a great new year!

*Father Kyle Walterscheid is the director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth. He can be reached by e-mail at [kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org](mailto:kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org).*

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Publisher:

Bishop Kevin W. Vann

Editor: Jeff Hensley

Associate Editor: Tony Gutiérrez

Editorial Assistant: Juan Guajardo

Administrative Assistant: Judy Russeau

Editorial Office: 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108, (817) 560-3300; FAX (817) 244-8839.

Circulation Office: Rita Garber, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108, (817) 560-3300.

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The appearance of advertising in these pages does not imply endorsement of businesses, services, or products. Readers must exercise prudence in responding to advertising in all media.



## Marriage Encounter weekend to be held Feb. 12-14

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Feb. 12-14 at the Catholic Renewal Center of North Texas, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

A marriage encounter is a weekend program for married couples led by married couples designed to help couples deepen their relationship. Marriage Encounter is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of marriage vows, and strengthening the couple's faith.

"Marriage is a journey. You continue to grow together and make new discoveries along the way," say event organizers. "A Marriage Encounter weekend is a unique way for married couples to deepen their relationship. Whether you've been married one year or 50 (yes 50!), Marriage Encounter can put a breath of fresh air into your marriage."

Reservations are required with a \$60 non-refundable deposit, and space is limited. The balance of \$175 per couple is due at the program. In case of financial needs, scholarship funds are available. A partial deposit is still required. For more information, visit [www.ntexasme.org](http://www.ntexasme.org) or to make a reservation, call Kathy and Terry Telger (817) 294-2749 or e-mail [mereregistration@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mereregistration@sbcglobal.net).

## Regional NCCW convention planned for Feb. 26-27 in Lubbock

The San Antonio Province of National Council of Catholic Women will hold its convention Feb. 26-27 at St. John Neumann Church, 5802 22nd St. in Lubbock.

This year's convention, hosted by the Lubbock Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, will focus on "Leadership Training" with featured speakers Karen Painter, NCCW Region II vice president, Loraine Hilscher, former NCCW parliamentarian, Alexander Sandoval, pastoral associate at Good Shepherd Parish in Garland and Sister Theresa Khirallah, SSND, Dallas DCCW moderator. The program will also include a workshop for treasurers, including new NCCW procedures.

The cost for all programs is \$50 and includes dinner Friday night, continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Hotel accommodations are available at Hawthorn Suites at a special room rate of \$74. Guests must call the hotel direct at (806) 792-3600 or the Central Reservations line at (800) 527-1133 and ask to reserve a room under the DCCW Regional Conference Block. Reservations must be made by Feb. 12.

For more information about registering for the conference, call Margie Medlin at (972) 239-9747.

## Super Bowl Women's Retreat to focus on dreams

A Super Bowl Women's Retreat will be held Friday evening, Feb. 5 through noon Sunday, Feb. 7 at the Catholic Renewal Center. This year's theme will be "Dreams — Parables of the Soul."

Sister Margarita Armendariz, a spiritual director and retreat leader from the Dioceses of El Paso and Las Cruces, New Mexico, will lead the retreat. Cost is \$110, and includes two nights of lodging and meals. For reservations, call (817) 429-2920, by Jan. 29.

## St. Peter plans events for Catholic Schools Week

St. Peter the Apostle School, 1201 S. Cherry Ln., White Settlement will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with several special events beginning Sunday, Jan. 31. Families from throughout the diocese are invited. Festivities will begin with a burrito breakfast, sponsored by the St. Peter School Men's Club, following the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses.

The school will hold an open house Wednesday, Feb. 3, starting at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include refreshments and school tours, as well as a chance to view students' work and meet teachers.

"Muffins with Mom" Feb. 2, and "Donuts for Dad" Feb. 4 will allow the students to bring their parents in for breakfast before class. The breakfasts will start around 7:45 a.m.

For more information, call the school office at (817) 246-2032.

## Holy Spirit sisters invite women to vocations weekend Feb. 26-28

The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate ask, "Have you ever wondered what life in a convent is like and how the sisters live, work, and spread the Gospel?"

In an effort to increase vocations to the religious life and to the community, the sisters will host a "Come and See" weekend Feb. 26-28 at their Motherhouse, 300 Yucca St., San Antonio.

The sisters live and work among the people to whom they have ministered since their founding in 1893. These ministries are in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Mexico, and Zambia, Africa.

Women, ages 18-45 will have the opportunity to experience life in a convent setting. During the weekend guests will participate in community prayer, small-group sharing, discernment themes, personal reflections, Emmaus Walk, recreation, and other activities with the sisters.

Registration for the "Come and See" weekend is available on-line at [www.shsp.org](http://www.shsp.org), under "What's New?" or by contacting Sister Gabriel Hession, SHSp, at (210) 533-5149 or [sghession@hotmail.com](mailto:sghession@hotmail.com).



**KJZT JUNIOR DIVISION FOOD DRIVE, ABBOTT** — *The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas — KJZT Junior Division Society 104 from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbott recently helped sponsor a food collection for the Food For Families Food Drive. The Juniors decorated boxes for the collection and, with the support of the CCD program at the parish, collected more than 445 lbs. of food. Students from the different classes competed with each other to bring the most food per student. The Juniors wish to thank all the students and parishioners for their help during the drive. (PHOTO BY JAMES BEZDEK, JUNIOR DIVISION REPORTER)*

## NTC publication deadlines

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published.

Submit items to [jrusseau@fwdioc.org](mailto:jrusseau@fwdioc.org). Items for the Jan. 29 issue must be received by noon on Jan. 20. Items for the Feb. 12 issue must be received by noon on Feb. 3.

## St. Patrick adult choir seeks volunteer singers

The St. Patrick Cathedral Adult Choir is searching for volunteers for the 2010 Cathedral Choir presentations. Rehearsals are from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth. The 2010 schedule will be provided to those interested.

For more information contact Cynthia Cardenas, choir president, at [ccards6@att.net](mailto:ccards6@att.net), or call (682) 465-5248 or Vivian Rentowski, choir director/organist, at [rentows@aol.com](mailto:rentows@aol.com).

## Suicide Survivors program begins in Feb.

Suicide Survivors is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. A new group will begin in February. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours for eight weeks. Group meetings are facilitated by a mental health professional and a trained survivor. There is no charge for this service. For more information, call (817) 698-9955 or e-mail [suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org](mailto:suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org).

## Holy Family to celebrate Christian Unity prayer week Jan. 21

Holy Family Church and the Tarrant Area Community of Churches will celebrate the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" with dinner, prayer, and song Thursday, Jan. 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The celebration will be held at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in Fort Worth.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 737-6768.

## Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics meets Jan. 28 at CRC

The next regular meeting of The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry With Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383, Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370, or Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601.

## OLV to host first alumni Mass & dinner

Our Lady of Victory School in Fort Worth will host its first Alumni Mass and Dinner Feb. 6.

The school is looking for alumni who are not on its mailing list and would like to be included. Those interested should send their contact information to Rachael Garnett, development director, 3320 Hemphill St., Fort Worth, TX, 76110 or email [olv.alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:olv.alumni@yahoo.com).

## UD seminar to discuss identity of a Catholic university

The University of Dallas School of Ministry will host its annual Seminar Series panel discussion Monday, Feb. 1. This year, the panel will discuss the identity of a Catholic university, with a focus on the commencement address given to UD 2009 graduates by Bishop Kevin Farrell. The discussion will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation, located at 3966 McKinney Ave., Dallas, on the UD campus. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will be held afterward. For more information, visit the event's Web site at [www.udallas.edu/academics/ministry/somevents/sompanels](http://www.udallas.edu/academics/ministry/somevents/sompanels).

## Marriage preparation classes start new schedule in January

Classes for Pre Cana, Cana II, and Today... Tomorrow... Forever, will no longer be held on Sundays. Pre Cana classes will be offered one Saturday a month during odd months at the Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, and for two evenings a month during even months at the Catholic Center, 800 W. Loop 820 S. Both evenings are required. Cana II and TTF classes will also be changed to Saturdays, and will be held at either Montserrat or the Catholic Center. Dates and times will vary from month to month, and participants should consult the Family Life Office's calendar at its Web site, [www.fwdioc.org/ministries/familylife](http://www.fwdioc.org/ministries/familylife). For more information, contact Family Life Coordinator Diane Schwind at (817) 560-2452, ext. 304.

## IWBS Sisters to host 'Come and See' weekend Feb. 27-28

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are hosting "Come and See" weekends for single Catholic women up to 50 years of age Jan. 23-24, and Feb. 27-28, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. For those interested in learning more about the life of a sister or in discerning a call to the consecrated life, call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com), or visit the Web site at [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org) for more information about the sisters.

## Diocesan Singles Council plans Singles Mass Jan. 30

A Diocesan Singles Mass will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30, at St. Joseph Church, 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington. All single and single-again Catholics are invited to join in worship, fellowship, food, and dancing. Attendees are encouraged to bring a friend, a potluck item for dinner, and/or nonperishable items for the church pantry. To volunteer with the Diocesan Singles Council, including Mass ministries, call Rosalie (940) 564-0092.

## National Catholic Youth Choir seeks members

The National Catholic Youth Choir is seeking high school singers for the 2010 season. Participants will have an opportunity to meet new people from across the country, go on a multi-state tour with the choir, and strengthen their faith, according to press materials.

Membership in the choir is open to Catholics entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades, and will be trained at St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota. The camp and tour will be held June 15-29. The cost to participate is \$900, though scholarships are available.

Application and audition materials are due March 8, and can be found at the choir's Web site at [www.catholicyouthchoir.org](http://www.catholicyouthchoir.org). For more information, contact Dorothy Kantor by e-mail at [dkantor@csbsju.edu](mailto:dkantor@csbsju.edu), or by phone at (320) 363-3154.

## CATH home-school group invites parents to info meeting

Parents interested in learning about Catholic homeschooling are invited to an information meeting held in Arlington Friday, Jan. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Parents can learn different philosophies of homeschooling, Catholic curriculums available, and the legalities of homeschooling. Experienced homeschoolers will be available to answer questions and show materials.

The presentation is sponsored by Catholics Teaching at Home. CATH is a homeschool group for Catholics in the Fort Worth Diocese.

Reservations are required to ensure enough materials are available. To RSVP, contact Joyce Yokell at (817) 292-6629 or [yokell@charter.net](mailto:yokell@charter.net) by Jan. 20.

## Courage group meets twice monthly

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for Catholics striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality, meets the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month.

For more information, e-mail to [CourageDFW@Catholic.org](mailto:CourageDFW@Catholic.org) or call (972) 938-5433.



**Diocesan**

# St. Paul Church programs offer healing for those dealing with divorce and loss of loved ones

St. Paul the Apostle Church, located at 5508 Black Oak Ln. in Fort Worth, will offer a new Divorce Care Series and Grief Share Series, and announces the addition of two companion series, Divorce Care for Kids (DC4K) and Grief Share for Kids (GS4K) to run with them.

The Grief Share Series began Jan. 11 and is held every Monday through April 5. The Divorce Care Series began Jan. 14 and is held every Thursday through April 15 (with the exception of Holy Thursday, April 1). Both programs are held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and participants can still register.

The programs are distributed by Church Initiative. Facilitators and helpers in the programs have first-hand experience in their respective programs, have been trained, and have attended

"Keeping children Safe." DC4K and GS4K are geared towards children between five and 12 years of age, and the adult series are for individuals 13 and older. Each of the sessions has appropriate content for the age group.

The purpose of the Divorce Care Series is to help participants realize that it is possible to recover from separation and divorce, organizers say.

Deacon Ron Aziere, pastoral assistant, emphasizes, "The help generated through this seminar, has no boundaries. We have helped persons divorced for over 15 years to recover, and in one case the couple reconciled a broken marriage."

The purpose of the Grief Share Series is to help participants understand that it is possible to recover from grief, organizers

say. "We have helped persons who have lost loved ones for more than 25 years," Dcn. Aziere adds. "God's healing presence is visible by the end of the series."

Although the programs are Scripture-based, they are not Bible studies, Dcn. Aziere says. Professionals in pastoral care, entertainment, psychological, and social services will be featured in the seminars, giving their personal and professional input to help the participants focus on the job of healing.

Both programs are free, though pre-registration is preferred. For more information, contact the church at (817) 738-9925 and leave a name and number. A team member will return calls to answer questions and/or enroll participants into the programs.

## Sacred Heart youth make pillows and blankets for pregnancy center



The ninth grade religious formation class at Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls began a service project in the fall and recently finished pillows and blankets for the mothers attending the parent classes at the Pregnancy Help Center in Wichita Falls. Fleece and stuffing was donated by the parish. Donna Ross and Lorraine Wise are the catechists.

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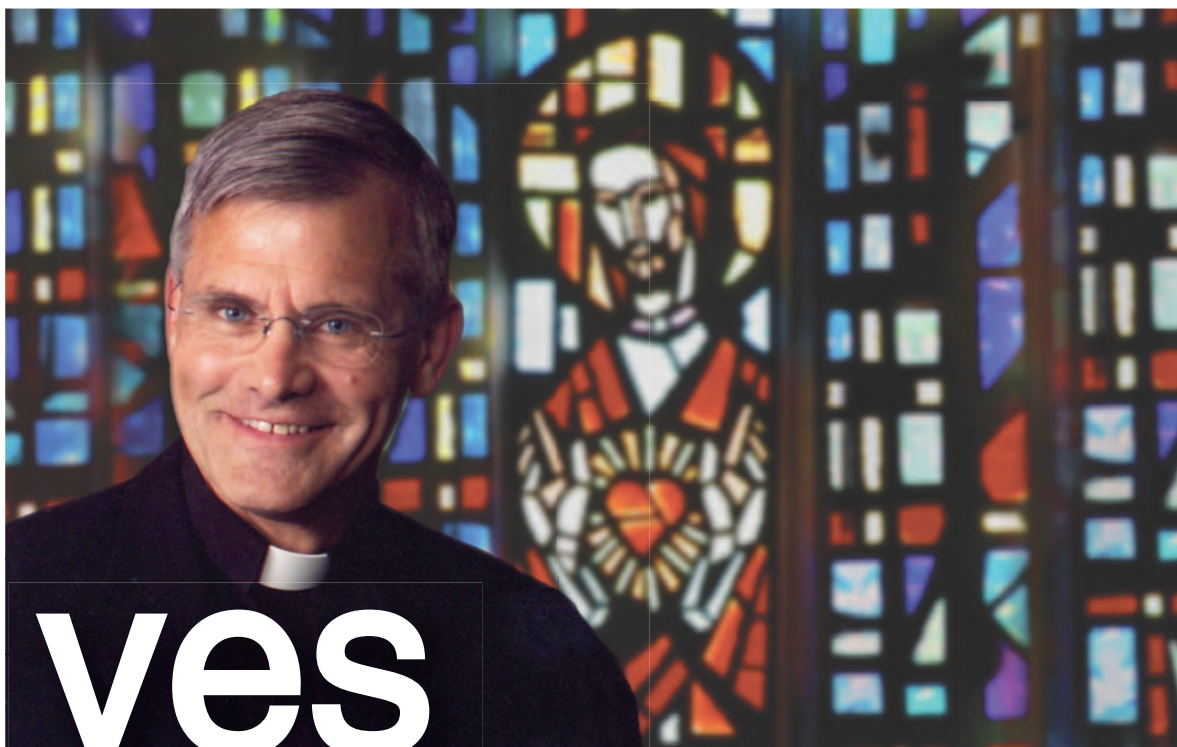
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# St. Rita School students celebrate parish centennial history through Christmas program

By Nicki Prevou  
Correspondent  
Photos by Donna Rykaert

Eight year-old Rose Behan, a second-grader in Mrs. Cruse's class at St. Rita School in Fort Worth, shyly nods when asked if she learned a great deal about the history of her parish while preparing for "A Journey Through the Decades," a Christmas program presented at St. Rita's parish center on Dec. 16. The program, offered by St. Rita students, was one of several ways this vibrant, multi-cultural parish community — located at 5550 E. Lancaster Ave. in East Fort Worth — has chosen to celebrate its centennial anniversary.

"It was fun," Rose says, softly. "I liked decorating our class Christmas tree with popcorn and fruit, just like they did back in 1910."

The year 1910, as St. Rita's school children learned, marked the first full year of life for their parish. Student speakers, musicians, and singers — ranging in ages six to 13 — told the story of their faith community through historical narrative, a slide show of historic photographs, songs, and dance. The musical selections represented the span of the 10 decades that have passed since Miss Mollie Farrell, a single dressmaker residing in what was then the small town of Handley, successfully urged Bishop Edward Dunne to establish a Catholic church for the farm families who were unable to travel by horse and wagon to St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown

*Oh God, for one hundred years, You have blessed our church, St. Rita.*

*We give thanks to you for the countless parishioners whose faith and vision have allowed us to become a caring and loving community.*

— From the 100th anniversary prayer said weekly during Sunday Masses

Fort Worth.

"Mollie Farrell was the best friend St. Rita's has ever had," sixth-grader Rosalba Gonzalez told the standing-room-only audience in the opening portion of the program, explaining that Bishop Dunne named the little mission church, originally located on Erie Street a block south of Lancaster, "St. Rita," the patron saint of impossible ventures, in reference to the fact that Miss Farrell had stubbornly refused to give up on what the bishop at first called an "impossible" dream.

As the schoolchildren — representing Vietnamese, Hispanic, Indian, African American, and Western European cultures — arrayed in hobbleskirts, military uniforms, saddle shoes, and tie-dye shirts, sang Christmas songs from the past 100 years, their admiring parents, teachers, and friends — many of whom are longtime St. Rita parishioners — enjoyed viewing the photographs of parish buildings, landmarks, and celebrations. Memories of milestones

such as the 1942 establishment of the still-active St. Vincent de Paul Society, the building of the school and convent in 1954, the 1958 move from the original church site to the current location, the 1969 construction of the parish rectory, and the groundbreaking for the present church in 1974 were creatively shared with the appreciative audience.

Special attention was paid, during the musical stroll down memory lane, to the religious orders that collaborated with diocesan priests and lay parish staff members and volunteers in offering religious education and prayerful leadership through the years, including the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, the Felician Sisters, and Vincentian priests. Father Paul Kahan, the current pastor, is a member of the missionary religious order known as the Society of the Divine Word.

The Dec. 16 program was greatly appreciated by those who support the parish and school, says St. Rita School Principal Kathleen



Fourth-graders at St. Rita School, dressed in ethnic costumes, sang Christmas carols in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese at the Dec. 16 school celebration of St. Rita Church's centennial anniversary.

Krick. "The musical provided our community with an opportunity to reflect on the core of who we are, where we came from, and where we are going," she says. "The students gained a greater appreciation of the efforts of the many people who worked to form our community, especially Miss Mollie Farrell. The musical was certainly a celebration of everything that is St. Rita!"

Mary Pastusek, director of music for both the parish and school, called the long weeks of work to prepare the production "extremely rewarding" for her and for her many volunteer leaders. "This show was particularly important to me because I have spent all of my life since birth at St. Rita's," she explains. "I so wanted to capture some of that history. We have so much in this



Tristan Cihak, a 5th grade student at St. Rita School, spoke to the audience at the program about life in the parish community during the 1940's, when several members of the parish served their country during World War II.

community to celebrate — the wonderful accomplishments of our organizations, our choirs, our church, and school staff members — and this was a fun and creative way of accomplishing that goal."

## WHY CATHOLIC? interim workshops to take place Jan. 22-29

Karen and Bill Brookman are looking for more *Why Catholic?* faith-sharing books. They are the coordinators of the adult catechetical and evangelization program at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller. The program has been so successful there, as in most parishes, that more parishioners are ready to participate when it restarts the first week of Lent.

Actually, *Why Catholic?* enthusiasts do not have to wait until Ash Wednesday. From Jan. 22-29, RENEW presenters, Sister Pat Thomas, OP, and Father Alejandro López-Cardinale, will be giving faith formation workshops throughout the diocese. The workshops will explore two prominent themes of this year's program: Scripture and Tradition.

The interim workshops are one of the three annual series of events in which the RENEW International

staff comes to the diocese to assist in the implementation of *Why Catholic?* Sr. Thomas and Fr. López-Cardinale will return in April for end-of-year retreats with participants and then in September for training with *Why Catholic?* small community leaders before the new *Why Catholic?* year begins.

A survey that *Why Catholic?* diocesan coordinator, Father Carmen Mele, OP, completed after the first six faith-sharing sessions revealed that at least 7,898 people took part in 51 parishes and two university Catholic ministry centers using three languages. Actually, Fr. Mele says, the number of participants likely approached 10,000 since a few large parishes did not complete the survey and RENEW reported that it had sold more than twice as many faith-sharing books in Spanish than the number of Spanish-speak-



*Why Catholic?* is funded by the All Things Possible Campaign.

ing participants reported by the parishes.

*Why Catholic?* is the adult catechetical and evangelization program that Bishop Kevin Vann has made available to every parish in the diocese. It is a special initiative, started during the diocese's 40th anniversary year, to enhance the understanding and the living

DAY	DATE	TIME	PARISH	CITY
Friday	Jan. 22	7 p.m.	St. Matthew	Arlington
Saturday	Jan. 23	10 a.m.	St. Stephen	Weatherford
Saturday	Jan. 23	2:30 p.m.	Inmac Conc	Denton
Sunday	Jan. 24	4 p.m.	St. Peter	Fort Worth
Monday	Jan. 25	7 p.m.	St. Francis	Grapevine
Tuesday	Jan. 26	7 p.m.	St. Frances	Granbury
Wednesday	Jan. 27	7 p.m.	OLG	Wichita Falls
Thursday	Jan. 28	7 p.m.	OLG	Fort Worth
Friday	Jan. 29	7 p.m.	OMM	Hillsboro

of the faith so that Catholics might spread the faith to others. The major part of *Why Catholic?* funding comes from the diocesan *All Things Possible* campaign.

Fr. Mele says that the door is always open for parishes which did not begin *Why Catholic?* with the rest of the diocese in October of last year. One of the advantages of this program, he said, is its open-

endedness. By that, he means that a parish can find its own rhythm in implementing the program. If it chooses to cover two parts of the four-part program in one year, he says, it may do so. Or, he adds, if it wishes to change the order of parts, which are meant to summarize the contents of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the parish can also do that.



## Diocesan

# Celebration to honor SSMN Western Province March 6

By Nicki Prevou  
Correspondent

"A Celebration of Gratitude," a one-hour event designed to honor and assist the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 6, at Nolan Catholic High School, at 4501 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will make opening remarks at the program, which will include brief presentations from other community leaders. Lunch will be provided; there is no admission fee. Participants are asked to register between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

Hundreds of local Catholics are expected to gather in order to visit with the sisters and to pay tribute to the services of education and pastoral ministry provided by the religious congregation — founded in Namur, Belgium — since their arrival in Texas in 1873.

"There is no way to repay the debt of gratitude that is owed to these strong, visionary women," said retired Fort Worth businessman John Unsworth, a member of the congregation's development

board. "And yet, at this point in time, their needs for assistance with medical care and housing expenses are urgent. The March 6 event is an opportunity for their many friends and supporters to gather and to pledge their ongoing financial and emotional support to the congregation."

A strategic financial plan, sponsored by the Amon G. Carter Foundation in 2006, revealed the religious order's dire financial straits, said Unsworth, noting that the congregation is currently operating at a deficit of over \$200,000 per year. "At this time, there are 42 Sisters of St. Mary in the Fort Worth, Dallas, and Wichita Falls areas within North Texas, of whom only 10 are still able to be employed full time," said Unsworth. "There is only one sister under the age of 60, and of the remaining sisters, 17 are over the age of 70, with most in their 80s, and a few in their 90s. As more sisters require special health care, the numbers of those who are able to provide this care and monetary aid to the congregation are rapidly declining."

*"There is no way to repay the debt of gratitude that is owed to these strong, visionary women. And yet, at this point in time, their needs for assistance with medical care and housing expenses are urgent. The March 6 event is an opportunity for their many friends and supporters to gather and to pledge their ongoing financial and emotional support to the congregation."*

— Fort Worth businessman John Unsworth  
congregation development board member

Adjacent to St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth is the three-story, French Empire building known as St. Ignatius Academy, established by the Sisters of St. Mary in 1889 as a boarding school for young ladies. Our Lady of Victory Academy, the first racially integrated school in the Fort Worth area, and also a boarding school, was established as a high school for older girls. OLV Academy was built south of downtown in 1910, in an area that was at the time on the edge of Fort Worth. While the OLV Academy building, designed by the Fort Worth architectural firm

Sanguinet and Staats, was sold in 1992, the neighboring elementary school, Our Lady of Victory School at 3320 Hemphill Street, is celebrating its 100th anniversary in April of this year. The sisters' residence, Our Lady of Victory Center, on the same property, adjacent to Our Lady of Victory School, is the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Mary's Western Province of the United States.

"The sisters co-founded the University of Dallas and Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas, Notre Dame High School in Wichita Falls, and Nolan Catholic High School and Cassata High



School in Fort Worth," said development board member and Texas Christian University professor Dr. Toni Craven. "These women are aging and diminishing in numbers, but they are still a vibrant presence in our community. They are inspiring models of what it means to live fully and generously. We are hoping that those who benefited from their ministry will respond in kind."

For more information about the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur or the luncheon, call the provincial office at (817) 923-8393, e-mail to [ssmn137@gmail.com](mailto:ssmn137@gmail.com), or visit the sisters' Web site at [www.ssmnwestern.com](http://www.ssmnwestern.com).

# DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS OUTSIDE THE ABORTION MILL

Fr. Michael Kmiotek, CFR

There will be a short break after Mass for refreshments in the Parish hall. Fr. Michael's talk will be in the Church after the break.

Prayer and Sidewalk Counseling Seminar  
February 6, 2010  
8:00 A.M till 12:00 Noon  
St. Peter the Apostle Church  
1201 S. Cherry Lane, White Settlement

Start with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass  
8:00 a.m.  
Celebrated by Fr. E. James Hart  
Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia,  
Diocese of Fort Worth

Chuck Pelletier will speak after Fr. Michael on the topic: "Why Sidewalk Counseling? How do you do it?"

Followed by Commissioning of Sidewalk Counselors and closing prayer. This seminar is for those who intend to pray at abortion centers on a regular basis. This seminar is not appropriate for those under 18 years of age, no child care will be available during the seminar.

RSVP to Catholic Respect Life Office: [cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org](mailto:cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org)



# Catholic artist John Michael Talbot to perform at St. Francis, other parishes in region

World-renowned Catholic Christian singer John Michael Talbot will be ministering and performing at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine Saturday, Feb. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m.

John Michael Talbot is the founder and minister general of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity at Little Portion Hermitage in Arkansas. The Brothers and Sisters of Charity is an integrated monastic community that includes celibate brothers and sisters, families, and singles.

Talbot was one of the pioneering artists of what has become known as Contemporary Christian Music. He has received awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the Gospel Music Association, Mercy Corps, and recently, he received the Mother Teresa award. He is the most successful Catholic music recording artist, with 52 albums and sales of at least four million records worldwide.

"I think of Christ as the conductor of an orchestra," he says. "The faithful are the players following

his direction and the notes on the charts."

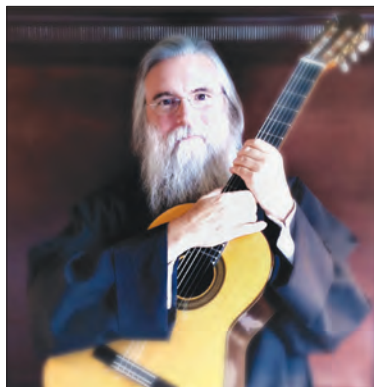
During the 1960s he performed with the rock group Mason Proffit, and opened for groups such as The Byrds, Pink Floyd, and The Grateful Dead, but he determined that he wanted more than the rock star life and studied religions of the world. Finally, it was Catholicism that spoke to his heart, he said.

"I saw a life in Christ filled with harmony and peace," he said. He asked God what was he supposed to do and heard the Lord respond, "Play your music and I will open and shut the doors."

Talbot is currently touring to raise funds for the rebuilding and maintenance of Little Portion Monastery, which was destroyed by a fire in May of 2008. A "love offering" will be requested. Any checks should be made out to Little Portion.

His newest album, *Concert Songs*, is the 52nd album in his 35 years in music ministry.

For more information contact the St. Francis office at (817) 481-2685.



John Michael Talbot

Talbot will also perform at parishes near the diocese, including Mary Immaculate Church in Farmers Branch on Friday, Feb. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. and again for a three-evening series Monday through Wednesday, Feb. 22-24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each night; St. Ann Church in Coppell Thursday, Feb. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m.; St. Patrick Church in Denison Saturday, Feb. 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and St. Jerome Church in Waco for a three-evening series from Sunday through Tuesday, Feb. 28-March 2. For information on these concerts, contact the host parishes.

## Special Collection:

# Priest Care Fund

Parish Name	Parish Location	Priest Care August 2008	Priest Care August 2009
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	358.00	192.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	0.00	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	1,384.75	1,636.00
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	6,365.43	6,813.91
St. Joseph	Arlington	3,233.29	2,816.06
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	7,861.00	5,851.50
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	439.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	906.25	627.48
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	2,127.00	1,593.00
Vietnamese Martyrs Community	Arlington	2,494.00	1,276.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	1,669.00	1,120.00
St. Michael	Bedford	3,814.00	3,306.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	10.00	0.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	670.14	0.00
St. John the Baptist	Bridgeport	652.55	493.00
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	372.00	410.00
St. Ann	Burleson	2,170.00	1,500.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	2,742.90	1,512.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	0.00	86.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	772.46	838.68
Holy Angels	Clifton	89.00	115.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	3,126.00	2,840.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	591.75	0.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	242.75	0.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	0.00	17.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	45.00	96.25
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	1,031.34	575.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	2,787.80	1,202.05
St. Mark	Denton	3,463.10	3,550.98
St. Mary	Dublin	639.00	555.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	63.00	87.56
St. Paul	Electra	56.00	40.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,092.25	1,946.93
Christ the King	Fort Worth	0.00	1,400.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	5,422.00	5,473.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,181.28	1,373.58
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	216.26	632.50
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,959.00	2,454.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	81.00	0.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	8,554.35	8,065.69
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	9,713.28	10,210.00
St. George	Fort Worth	1,749.00	427.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,465.00	1,518.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	0.00	309.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	1,118.30	1,222.05
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,134.05	1,167.22
St. Rita	Fort Worth	193.00	0.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	2,509.72	1,770.23
St. Mary	Gainesville	430.00	592.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	302.00	222.25
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	752.77	930.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	3,024.00	1,802.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	2,947.00	4,210.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	75.00	0.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	0.00	513.20
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	45.00	20.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	0.00	58.68
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	6,039.00	6,294.81
Santa Rosa	Knox City	100.00	0.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	3,169.52	3,202.63
St. Peter	Lindsay	2,057.77	2,023.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	2,395.12	3,095.50
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	150.00	40.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	833.85	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	0.00	51.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	2,229.00	1,771.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	66.00	94.05
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	196.51	10.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	0.00	991.00
St. Mary	Quanah	88.50	192.00
St. Rita	Ranger	94.00	185.10
St. Joseph	Rhineland	1,384.00	289.50
St. Boniface	Scotland	221.00	136.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	420.00	147.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	0.00	387.00
St. John	Strawn	194.00	25.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	361.00	354.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	2,099.00	2,833.50
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	260.00	747.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	1,546.09	759.42
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	1,396.00	1,811.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,549.00	1,716.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	792.40	904.80

123,782.53 113,528.11

Prepared by the Accounting Dept for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth  
Please forward all questions and comments to Debbie Lankford

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## Diocesan

# Diocesan parishes celebrate feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Room at St. George dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe

More than 1,000 people attended a two-day celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. George Church in Fort Worth. Festivities began with a vigil from 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 to 5 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. The Dec. 12 feastday celebration began with the singing of *Las Mañanitas* to Our Lady, and ended Saturday evening with a re-enactment of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Matachines dancing, followed by a procession and 7:30 p.m. Mass inside the church.

After Mass, Father Thu Nguyen, pastor of St. George, blessed and dedicated a recently renovated room inside the church that features a panoramic, hand-painted mural of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe at dawn in the mountains of Mexico. The mural depicts Juan Diego on his knees adoring Our Lady surrounded by a circle of cherubs and roses. In his tilma is a cluster of roses spilling onto the ground near his hat.

At the entrance of the room is an oversized frame which captures Our Lady's words to Juan Diego



Fr. Thu Nguyen and artist Anita Allen (left) look at the mural of St. Juan Diego she painted in St. George's room dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. (Photo by Tim Boyd)

in English and Spanish. Hanging above the frame is a cross that was touched to the missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe when it was in Texas in November.

The three-month project was completed by Anita Allen at the request of Fr. Thu, who wanted to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, and the church's Hispanic culture in a special way. The room was primarily unused in its former state but now

gathers frequent adorers who stop in to light a candle and spend a few minutes alone with Our Lady of Guadalupe. The new room was planned and decorated with the assistance of the Guadalupanas, a Catholic women's group that honors the Blessed Mother.

Churchgoers proceeded outdoors to enjoy the festivities, including Mariachis, Matachines' dancing, and an array of Mexican pastries and food.

## Rhineland, Knox City Catholics honor Our Lady together



Father Charles Gorantla, HGN, (center) sacramental minister for St. Joseph Parish in Rhineland and Santa Rosa Parish in Knox City, and Matachines from the two parishes pose in front of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph Church in Rhineland held its second annual "Matachines Danza" in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, 2009. Parishioners from Santa Rosa Church in Knox City joined in the festivities. Father Charles Gorantla, HGN, serves as sacramental minister for both parishes.

The celebration started at 5

a.m. with dances, *Las Mañanitas* and a Rosary. Many gathered for a daylong menu of matachines dancing, Folklorico dancers, and Mexican food.

The day ended with a musical procession to the church and a Mass at 5 p.m. A dinner reception, more dances, and a skit portraying the Virgin appearing to Juan Diego followed the Mass.

## Pregnant mothers, unborn children blessed at Loreto House



Monsignor Charles King blesses Viri Garcia (left, in black), a pregnant mother, along with her unborn child, and Loreto House Executive Director Lori Bollig (far left, in blue) during the feast day of Loreto House celebration held Dec. 10 at the Loreto House pregnancy help center in Denton. For half the day, local priests blessed pregnant mothers. The feast day is also celebrated in Loreto, Italy in remembrance of the overnight translation of the Holy House from a region of Croatia to Loreto, Italy. According to tradition, the house was moved by angels (according to catholicculture.org and newadvent.org).

## Catholics Respect Life Office announces events to coincide with Roe anniversary

The Catholics Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth wishes to announce several events to coincide with the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

In addition to a Respect Life Mass held at St. Patrick Cathedral Jan. 9, and a March for Life in Dallas Jan. 16 from the Cathedral Plaza to the Earle Cabell Federal Courthouse, where *Roe v. Wade* was first filed in 1970, there will also be a Roe Memorial Mass at St. Michael Church in Bedford Friday, Jan. 22, and a Hike for Life in Weatherford Saturday, Jan. 23.

Father Tom Kennedy, associate pastor of St. Michael, will preside over the Jan. 22 liturgy of the Holy Innocents at 7 p.m. in memorial of the Supreme Court decision. There will be a tolling of the bells and placing a rose on the altar for each year since the *Roe v. Wade* decision became law on Jan. 22, 1973.

St. Stephen Church in Weatherford will host a Hike for Life Jan. 23. All proceeds will go to local crisis pregnancy center, The

Grace House. Registration will be from 1:30 to 2 p.m., followed by a beginning ceremony at 2 p.m., and a kickoff at 2:30 p.m. Participants are asked to meet at St. Stephen Church, located at 1802 Bethel Rd. in Weatherford.

People of all faiths and beliefs are encouraged to join in the hike,

a peaceful way to defend life, organizers say. Posters and signs are encouraged, though participants are discouraged from displaying graphic images.

For more information, to register, or to donate, visit the hike's Web site at [www.hikeforlifetexas.com](http://www.hikeforlifetexas.com).



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# Viewpoints

## Jesus reveals himself and calls us to live in his image through his public ministry

By Lucas Pollice

**H**appy New Year! As we anticipate the beginning of the next six sessions of *Why Catholic?* during the holy season of Lent, we continue to go deeper with *Why Catholic?* with the topic The Public Life of Jesus.

While we know little of his childhood and youth, all four of the Gospels resume the story of the life of Christ at the beginning of his public ministry, which is marked by his baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. It is during these years of ministry that Jesus communicates both the revelation of the Father, as well as reveals and teaches what it means to be, and to live, as the image and likeness of God.

### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Many ask the question, why did Jesus need to be baptized? After all, He had no sin. That is a very good question. But what we discover is that Jesus' baptism in the Jordan is one of the more crucial events in his life. It marks the beginning of his public ministry, but it also had much deeper meaning.

First, Jesus' baptism is a powerful revelation of his identity and mission as the Son of God. In a sense, it is his commissioning by the Father, revealing that He is truly the "anointed one" who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Second, it was the will of the Father that baptism become the ordinary and necessary way in which we are literally and totally cleansed of sin and filled with God's grace. Although Jesus was free of sin and not in need of baptism, his acceptance of the Father's will elevated baptism to the level of a sacrament. Like Christ, when we come up out of the waters of baptism, we are also anointed with the Holy Spirit, and the Father looks down upon his new son or daughter in Christ with whom He is very pleased. So while Christ's baptism was not necessary, it does inaugurate his public ministry and also establishes the sacrament of baptism through which we are cleansed of sin, filled with God's grace and love, and become his sons and daughters.

### JESUS BATTLES AND DESTROYS THE KINGDOM OF SATAN

Immediately after his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert where He prays and fasts for 40 days. This is the time in which Jesus

*We see Him performing numerous exorcisms, commanding the evil spirits to be quiet and leave. Satan has no power or authority against God, and Jesus continues to establish the Kingdom of God throughout his ministry by freeing his sons and daughters from slavery to Satan's power. However, these powerful exorcisms are only a small foretaste of the ultimate victory over Satan, sin, and death that will be accomplished through the cross and Resurrection.*

prepares Himself spiritually for his work and mission that is yet to come. But after this time of prayer and fasting is over, Jesus is confronted and tempted by Satan. This is where the battle between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan begins. Satan comes to tempt the New Adam just as he came to tempt the first Adam. However, the circumstances are a little different.

When Satan came to tempt Adam, he was in a paradise in which he enjoyed an abundance of pleasure and joy. He was lacking nothing. However, Jesus is tempted by Satan in a desert after not eating for 40 days. Jesus is hungry and tired. Satan tempted Adam once, and through Eve's influence, he fell into sin. Jesus is not tempted once by the devil, but three times! However, Jesus resists all three of the temptations perfectly, thus reversing the sin and disobedience of Adam.

While the temptation in the desert is the time that we most powerfully see Jesus battling and overcoming the Kingdom of Satan, Jesus continues to battle the powers of evil and evil spirits throughout his public ministry. We see Him performing numerous exorcisms, commanding the evil spirits to be quiet and leave. Satan has no power or authority against God, and Jesus continues to establish the Kingdom of God throughout his ministry by freeing his sons and daughters from slavery to Satan's power. However, these powerful exorcisms are only a small foretaste of the ultimate victory over Satan, sin, and death that will be accomplished through the cross and Resurrection.

### THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

The miracles of Jesus also play a very important role in his life and ministry. They signal the arrival of the Messiah and his Kingdom. The miracles are mighty works and signs of God that accompany the words and teachings of Jesus. They are an important aspect of the mission and the identity of Christ and show that He was truly sent into the world by the Father. For those who witness Jesus' power, the miracles offer proof and reveal his identity as the Mes-

siah and Son of God.

The miracles of Jesus have two purposes, both of which are to invite belief in Him as the Son of God, and to strengthen the belief of those who have already begun to follow Him. The first purpose is to reveal Jesus' divinity, that He is truly "God with us." These miracles are largely miracles in which Jesus is able to manipulate or change nature, an ability only God would have. Examples are: the calming of the storm (*Mark 4:35-41*), the multiplication of the loaves and fish (*Matthew 14:13-21*), and the changing of water into wine (*John 2:1-11*).

We also see miracles that not only clearly reveal Jesus as divine, but also have a second purpose: to restore and heal humanity and to defeat Satan's kingdom. These would include the numerous miracles of healing such as: the healing of the paralytic (*Luke 5:18-25*), the healing of the man born blind (*John 9:1-41*), and blind Bartimaeus (*Mark 10:46-52*), the many miracles of exorcism, and above all the miracles of resurrection from the dead, in the case of Jairus' daughter (*Mark 5:35-42*), and Jesus' good friend Lazarus (*John 11:1-44*).

### JESUS AS THE NEW MOSES

One of the more powerful images of Jesus in all the Gospels is the one portrayed by Matthew in chapters five through seven of his Gospel. These chapters are traditionally called the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew begins chapter five with Jesus going up the mountain. Then we have Him giving a long teaching on the law. However, Jesus' teaching is based on the Mosaic Law, but he also expands it greatly and calls the children of Israel to a new and more radical way of love and living out the covenant with God. Then Matthew begins chapter eight with Jesus coming down from the mountain. What is significant here is Matthew is presenting Jesus as the New Moses who has come as the Messiah not to abolish the Mosaic Law, but to fulfill it and to establish the law of the Kingdom of the Messiah.

How is Jesus the New Moses? We have to go back to the book of Exodus in the Old Testament. When the Israelites

came to the foot of Mount Sinai, God called Moses to the top of Mount Sinai where he spent 40 days there before God. Then Moses came down the mountain with the Ten Commandments, which became the foundation of the Mosaic Law. In Matthew's Gospel, we have Jesus, the New Moses, going up the mountain teaching and presenting the New Law of the Everlasting Covenant to the people of Israel.

### JESUS ESTABLISHES HIS CHURCH

Finally, we clearly see in Jesus' public ministry that He sets forth to establish a visible, institutional Church which will be, until the end of time, the visible manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth. Christ did not leave us a book of instruction, or merely a set of teachings, but He established a Church founded upon the 12 apostles who would faithfully hand on to each and every generation the fullness of all that Christ is and has revealed to us.

Jesus begins the work of establishing his Church when He immediately calls the 12 apostles at the beginning of his public ministry to accompany Him throughout his ministry so that He may teach, train, and prepare them in a unique way to carry on his mission and work through the Church. Christ also appointed Peter to serve, not only as the head of the body of the apostles, but also as the "Rock" of his Church. He gave the Apostle Peter the authority to teach and govern the Church in a special way as the head of the Church. Thus, Peter's successors and the successors of the apostles, since the very beginning, have been the visible head of the Church, tending and caring for Christ's sheep until the Shepherd returns at the end of time. Christ does not just leave for us his example for a way of life, but He leaves a visible, living, tangible Church which will guide us as we follow Christ, Himself.

As we move from the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas toward the beginning of the penitential season of Lent, may we, like Mary, continue to ponder within our hearts the words and deeds of Christ so that we may be his instruments and witnesses of love, justice, and peace.



*Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCIA for the diocese. Lucas holds a degree in theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and has a master's degree in theological studies*

*from the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He is an adjunct professor of theology with the Cardinal Newman Institute in Fort Worth. Lucas and his wife, Mary, have five children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, Christian, and Julia.*



# Using Health Reform to promote abortions

By Susan E. Wills

Given an historic opportunity to expand access to affordable health care, Congressional leadership is at risk of undermining whatever good they could have accomplished.

If abortion provisions in the recently passed Senate bill make it into the final “melded” bill, health care reform could die in the House or, surviving, could usher in the most massive expansion of the abortion license since *Roe v. Wade*.

Efforts to improve access to health care do not have to end in a choice between promoting a pro-abortion agenda and no reform. As of this writing, there’s still hope that Congressional leadership will embrace the “abortion neutral” approach they claimed to support throughout 2009. This means maintaining the status quo with respect to abortion funding, i.e., retaining the longstanding policy of the Hyde Amendment and other statutes that bar federal funds from being used to pay for elective abortions or health plans that include them.

The House bill, the “Affordable Health Care for America Act” (H.R. 3962), meets that commitment thanks to the Stupak Amendment, which was supported by a bipartisan majority of House members (240-194).

Regrettably, the Senate rejected an amendment by Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE) very similar to the Stupak Amendment. Instead, under the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (Senate substitute for H.R. 3590), the government would help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. Supporters say they have segregated funds covering elective abortions from the

If abortion provisions in the recently passed Senate bill make it into the final “melded” bill, health care reform could die in the House or, surviving, could usher in the most massive expansion of the abortion license since *Roe v. Wade*.

general federal subsidy, but the end result is that many purchasers of federally subsidized plans will be forced to make two premium payments every month, the second solely to pay for other people’s abortions!

During floor debate, pro-choice Senators cited two main reasons for rejecting the Nelson Amendment. Neither argument holds water.

They claimed that the Nelson Amendment was not “abortion neutral,” but instead imposed new and completely unacceptable restrictions on abortion coverage. This is ludicrous. The Nelson Amendment is essentially identical to the relevant passages of the Hyde Amendment and the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). Only five days after rejecting the supposedly “restrictive” Nelson Amendment, the Senate readily passed an unrelated bill, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which contains both these abortion funding prohibitions, in language virtually identical to Nelson’s.

The second argument offered to justify federal abortion funding is that abortion is a “legal right” and, for that reason alone, should be covered with government assistance. The U.S. Supreme Court settled this point in *Harris v. McRae* (1980). In finding the Hyde

Amendment constitutional, the Court recognized that abortion is “inherently different” from all other medical procedures and stated that the legal right to procure an abortion does not require the government to pay for it.

That’s just common sense. Americans have a legal “right” to do all sorts of things, without being able to expect the government to pay for their habits. As an adult, I can legally buy a case of wine and a carton of cigarettes. I can even undergo liposuction or other elective, cosmetic surgery. But I’ve no right to insist that the government supply me with alcohol and tobacco, much less subsidize my extreme makeover.

Visit [www.usccb.org/health-care](http://www.usccb.org/health-care) for a detailed analysis of the current health care bills. Through this website, you can let your Senators and Representative know that if the final bill funds elective abortions and health plans that promote them, it should be rejected.



Susan Wills is assistant director for education and outreach, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).



Wordless signs are pretty much wasted on me, but sometimes the realities we face are signs in and of themselves,

## WORDLESS SIGNS FROM GOD

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Creativity in signage doesn’t work for me.

If the names on restroom doors are titled in other languages — for example, written to match the ethnicity of the food a restaurant serves — I have to ponder. I understand “Mesdames et Messieurs,” and “Señoras y Señors,” but if the doors have signs that are literary references, miniature marionettes, or small velvet paintings, I have to seek someone in management and request clarification.

If only restaurants’ themes, menus, and the signs on their doors coincided with the language I studied in high school! But few restaurants serve food prepared in classical Latin style.

Whatever language you studied in high school, you should be able to understand the signs contemporary culture now provides. We have communications in sign-speak that guide us, with simple illustrations, through everything from traffic and recreation to safety, hospitality, and meteorology.

I am not good at these signs either. I translate them slower than I ever did classical Latin. And who wouldn’t? There are hundreds of communicative symbols designed without the use of words.

Among them is a highway sign with an upward pointing thumb covered by a diagonal line that symbolizes “No.” When I see that sign I see the “thumbs up,” not the “do not.” Does it mean, “no hitchhiking?” Or is it a ban on compliments?

A bright yellow French horn on blue background with a red diagonal line means what? No horn-honking? Or no horn-practicing? This is significant if you are traveling with a high school orchestra.

Content, they say, is more important than the artistic rendering of the message. The point is to communicate with everyone, everywhere.

So, if universal signs are designed for understanding, why can’t I open elevator doors? The sign for doing that is a black vertical line with two triangular shapes. There are two buttons, with different arrangements for each.

When I’m on the elevator and someone runs toward the door, shouting, “Hold it,” I am immobilized, figuring out which button to push.

It seems the two angles pointing inward would mean “close,” but the sides are parallel and far apart, so to me it looks open! Conversely when the angles are pointing outward, that should mean “open.” But the sides of the two triangles are touching, and parallel. Why doesn’t that mean, “close?”

This is too much pressure on the person in the eleva-

SEE HAMER, P. 22



## Through essay contest and lock-in, students learn the importance of Defending Life

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

According to an essay on abortion authored by Daniel Pruitt, there's never a good reason to terminate a pregnancy, but when the life at stake belongs to a handicapped child the act is especially cruel.

The teenager wrote down his thoughts with an insight and perspective far beyond his 17 years. Born with cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease, he's grown up hearing the argument that abortion is better than giving birth to a child with a mental or physical disability like his. The active, high school athlete has a different viewpoint.

"People think the quality of life won't be normal," says Pruitt, whose essay earned him a ticket to the March for Life set for Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C. "But take me for example. I look normal. I'm happy. Being born with a health problem doesn't have to be such an awful thing."

The Cistercian Preparatory School junior was one of 22 students who participated in the Youth for Life Essay contest. This year, enough money was raised to offer a scholarship for every teen submitting an entry to attend the national pro-life rally in the nation's capital.

The top five essays were written by Madelyn Schwind of Lady Margaret Roper School and Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church in Lewisville; Christine

Aubert of Our Lady of Grace High School in Roanoke and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller; Pruitt, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine; Brandon Golhofer of Our Lady of Grace and St. Elizabeth and Michael Assini of Our Lady of Grace and St. Elizabeth.

The topic for the essay contest was announced at the 10th annual Lock-In for Life sponsored by Youth for Life Dec. 4-5 at St. Andrew School. More than 140 middle and high school students gathered for the event, which included Mass, celebrated by Father Gerald Gordon, TOR, several pro-life speakers, a concert, and late-night basketball games.

The 12-hour stretch of presentations and activities is intense but effective, says Sue Laux, director of Youth for Life, an extension of the diocese's Catholics Respect Life Office.

"It strengthens young people to know there are others who share their interests, even if those interests are counter-cultural," she explains.

Adding elements of fun, like music and sports, while delivering a pro-life message, encourages participation. Most teens who come to events like the Lock-In are already concerned about life issues. The goal is to reinforce their beliefs and give them the information needed to promote a culture of life with their peer group.

"One young woman I know always considered herself pro-life, but the Lock-In strengthened her resolve," Laux continued. "She told me most of her peers don't think a lot about abortion, fetal development, how abortions are performed, or how it damages the mother. Now she has a better understanding of the issue and she'll be able to share that with her friends."

Adeline Arth, a sophomore at Carroll High School in Southlake, says most teens would probably say abortion is "OK," but it's a topic not brought up on campus.

"It's one of those discussions no one wants to have because it's too controver-



Stephanie Schwartz and Cari Fulgham pray during the 10th Annual Lock-In for Life held at St. Andrew School. More than 140 middle and high school students attended the 12-hour event which included a Mass and pro-life speakers. (All photos courtesy of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Youth Ministry)

sial," explains the 16-year-old who attends St. Elizabeth Parish.

The first-time Lock-In for Life participant says the all-night event was tiring but worthwhile.

"It was a great faith experience," Arth adds. "I learned a lot and feel I'm more ready to stand up for life."

Proceeds from the Lock-In provided airfare scholarships for essay winners to attend the March for Life. Additional funds were raised from tamale sales and donations from the Knights of Columbus and from individuals. The pilgrimage will include Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, evening prayers with Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, and visits to the Pope John

Paul II Cultural Center and Washington's Holocaust Memorial Museum, just off the Capitol mall.

Pruitt, who is looking forward to the pro-life rally on the steps of the Capitol, will have to make the trip with his medications, inhalers, and other medical equipment he needs to treat his disease. His struggles are something he doesn't mind sharing with classmates and other friends. Instead of being a liability, he says, in some ways cystic fibrosis has enhanced his life.

"I don't take things for granted like my friends do," says the high school cross-country runner who also plays baseball. "I appreciate even the little things in life. I've learned those are the things that matter most."



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioners (L-R) Brian West, youth ministry coordinator Gabe Gutierrez, and Ricky Diaz led songs of praise and worship at the lock-in on Saturday morning. The Lock-In helps teens have a better understanding of the life issues, says Sue Laux, director of Youth for Life.



Sue Laux, director of the diocesan ministry, Youth for Life, introduced the Friday evening keynote speaker, Maria Graham. The lock-in experience included Mass, several pro-life speakers, sports activities, prayer and music. The event lasted from Friday evening to Saturday morning.



## Diocesan

# Deacon Amado Vallejo looks forward to growing in holiness

Story and Photos by  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

Amado Vallejo Garcia was ordained to the diaconate on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States of America, and Bishop Kevin Vann called that a fitting day, "since, by the Lord's providence and guidance, you are here to become part of our local Church in the United States."

"You are called to minister here to us, and with us, indeed as a missionary," Bishop Vann said to the seminarian who had emigrated from Mexico a year-and-a-half ago. "That means new culture, new surroundings, new language, all of which are challenges which you have had to undertake and embrace," the bishop added during his homily at the Dec. 8 ordination liturgy, at Denton's Immaculate Conception Parish.

"Yet the words of Gabriel to Mary, 'Be not afraid,' and her response, 'May it be done to me according to your word,' should be the conversation at the start of each day with the Lord," Bishop Vann said.

Deacon Amado's ordination liturgy was distinguished by traditional touches from Oaxaca,

including the elaborate procession of the lectionary, under a velvet, fringed canopy, carried by youth from the parish's confirmation class. There were also young people in native attire participating in the offertory procession.

"Before my ordination I felt a lot of support from ICC friends," Dcn. Amado said of his ordination day. "Many people were there, so it was amazing, the community was coming to share this special moment in my life, but also in their lives. In that moment I was very sure God was closing my vocational journey as a seminarian. It is a new beginning, I said to myself, now this is the moment like a newborn."

When they arrived in Denton, and began serving at Immaculate Conception, then-seminarians Amado Garcia and Alfredo Barba also started the process of enculturation, enrolling in intensive English classes at the University of North Texas.

Dcn. Amado, the fifth in a family of eight children, received some influence on his vocation from an older brother who is in a religious order, teaching in a university in Mexico, now-Father Alfredo said.

"Amado, you once told me you wished to be a saint," Bishop

Vann addressed the new deacon during the ordination homily. "As a deacon, and later on as a priest, God willing, you will be able to grow in that holiness through the ministry of word and sacrament. Most importantly, your response to that desire will have an impact on the quest for holiness for all who come your way."

"The peak of this celebration was the imposition of the bishop's hands on my head," Dcn. Amado said. "This is the only way, from the apostles, you can receive the same Spirit they received from Christ. Bishop Vann was pushing his hands strongly on my head, so I couldn't avoid the tears, thinking he really wanted to communicate this amazing grace."

The day before Dcn. Amado's ordination to the diaconate, his friend Fr. Alfredo returned from Mexico City where he had celebrated Masses in his hometown of Tlaxcala.

When he arrived, mid-afternoon Dec. 7, the two friends spent the day together to prepare him for the ordination.

"I felt very happy and nervous before receiving this sacrament," Dcn. Amado said. "Even when I was preparing everything inside and outside of me. I had many times where I kept myself quiet;



Monsignor Charles King vests Deacon Amado Vallejo during his ordination.

indeed, I was repeating some words like 'God has called me because of his grace and love.' I did that repetition in order to focus my attention on this event for which I was waiting a long time."

Fr. Alfredo had not celebrated Mass in Mexico on the day before the ordination. So he and Amado celebrated Mass together that night at 10 p.m. in the main sanctuary of ICC.

"Nobody was there — just he and I," the young priest said, "and we took the readings of the day — of the Immaculate Conception."



Bishop Vann congratulates Dcn. Amado, as Dcn. Popo Gonzalez watches.

# Deacon Fernando Preciado ordained as missionary to North Texas

Story and Photos by  
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

When Martin Muñoz began dating his future wife, her brother had one request.

"He asked me not to marry her until he became a priest and could perform the ceremony," the Holy Name parishioner remembers. "We didn't want to wait that long."

Fernando Preciado Villegas couldn't officiate at his sister, Maria's nuptials, but he will have the opportunity to marry her children.

The native of Zacatecas, Mexico, was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann during a Dec. 3 Mass in St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury. His ordination to the priesthood is expected to take place in late spring.

Deacon Preciado came to the Diocese of Fort Worth from a religious community in Mexico where he completed his religious studies. He has received intensive tutoring in English since August.

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations, explained that Preciado's having relatives in the diocese and his call to diocesan priesthood influenced his move



Dcn. Fernando Preciado performs his duties alongside Dcn. Jim Fuller (left) and Dcn. Len Sanchez (right) at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury.

to Texas.

Members of Preciados' family — including his brother Francisco Preciado Villegas and sister and brother-in-law Maria and Martin Muñoz and their three children — traveled to the Granbury parish to witness the ceremony.

Bishop Vann told the crowded church assembly that, like the season of Advent, an ordination is a time of joy and anticipation.

"As you begin this new part of your life, you begin it with a new Church year," he said, addressing the deacon candidate in his homily. "This evening, pray to always have that joy in

serving the Lord, and the grace to be able to anticipate and pray for all of the people to whom you will minister. As Isaiah says, 'trust always in the Lord,' because that is where you will find the strength for your ministry."

Referencing a letter from the apostle Peter read during the liturgy of the word, the bishop advised Preciado to perform his new duties with care and devotion while always remembering to pray.

"As you preach and baptize, assist at marriages and assist at the altar, do it with patience and above all with love — even at



Dcn. Fernando greets parishioners before his ordination ceremony.

the most inconvenient times," he added.

The ordination ceremony took place on the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, a Jesuit missionary who worked in the Far East. It was a fitting coincidence, the bishop said.

"Because Fernando, you are now a missionary to us here in North Texas," he continued. "Like St. Francis Xavier, all of the baptisms you perform and all of the sacramental and liturgical ministries, must be a sign of the love which the Lord speaks of today."

After making a commitment to celibacy and promising to obey church teachings and the bishop, Preciado prostrated himself on the floor in a gesture of humility

and Bishop Vann conferred the sacrament of Holy Orders. The new deacon was then vested in the stole and dalmatic by St. Frances pastor Father Juan Rivero and Deacon Jim Fuller.

Dcn. Preciado is currently assisting Fr. Rivero at St. Frances and neighboring parishes Our Lady of Guadalupe in Morgan, Holy Angels in Clifton, and St. Rose of Lima in Glen Rose. St. Frances parishioners gave the deacon a gold and white dalmatic. Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioners made his alb.

A former missionary who worked in Peru and with the Nahuatl-speaking community in Mexico City, the new deacon came to visit relatives in September 2008 and decided to relocate here after meeting Bishop Vann.

"People need God in their lives and after coming to the U.S. I saw the need for priests," he told the *North Texas Catholic*. "Today, more than ever, we are like lost sheep. We need guidance and support in our lives."

Maria Muñoz, the deacon's sister, says her family is looking forward to having a priest in the family.

"It's a happy, proud moment," she said. "I think it's making our family closer."



## March for life adds White House demonstration; Gray says they'll bring their own light

FROM PAGE 1

closer to his Pennsylvania Avenue residence during those years.

The March for Life used to begin on the Ellipse, located between the White House and the Washington Monument, but starting in 2006, because of construction, the starting point for the event was changed to a spot on the National Mall not visible from the president's home.

During the years President George W. Bush was in office, no special White House rally was organized because he already supported the pro-life position.

"President Bush was also very nice to us and would invite us in for breakfast before the march," Gray said. "President Obama hasn't extended us any such invitation."

A White House official contacted for this story was not able to say if the president would be at the White House during the flashlight rally, or if the White House had any comment about the scheduled vigil.

Tens of thousands from all over the U.S. travel each year to the nation's capital for the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

The same day the Supreme Court ruled on the *Roe* case, it also handed down the companion decision *Doe v. Bolton*. Together, *Roe* and *Doe* defined abortion as a constitutional right and overturned most state laws banning it.

Billed as a mini-rally because the permit limits the gathering



Nellie Gray addresses the 2009 March for Life rally on the National Mall in Washington Jan. 22. This year's rally and march will be the 37th since the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion across the nation. Gray is a founder of the annual event. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

to 3,000 demonstrators, Gray said the White House flashlight vigil was included in this year's agenda more as a practical move, than as a personal point directed at Obama.

However, she said his actions on abortion and related issues since becoming president have been offensive to pro-life activists, and that she was personally offended when he was invited to speak at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and given an honorary degree from the Catholic institution.

Gray also said she was not moved by the president's Notre Dame speech in which he called for common ground on abortion. She said his goal of reducing the number of abortions performed in the U.S. is not adequate—a point

she said she was detailing in a letter to him that was scheduled to be mailed before the Jan. 21 rally across from the White House.

"There is no common ground between killing babies and not killing babies," she told Catholic News Service. "Therefore, the message that we have, is he must stop the intentional killing of children and that he must lead the way."

Gray noted that participants are bringing the flashlights for the vigil because the National Park Service has forbidden them to hold lit candles, because the agency doesn't want the wax drippings on the grass at Lafayette Park.

"But, we still needed light, so that people can see each other and so they can be seen," she said. "We need the light, and the president needs to see the light."



People pray around a cross during the European Meeting of Young Christians in Poznan, Poland. (CNS photo/Kacper Pempel, Reuters)

## Pope urges young Europeans to deepen their trust in God

POZNAN, Poland (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has urged young Europeans to mark the new year by deepening their trust in God so they can "head boldly toward the future and its many challenges."

"The pope trusts you to go and meet men and women who have lost the sense of God, who seek uncertainly for him, sometimes without realizing it. They need to encounter true witnesses," the pope said in a message to 30,000 young European Christians attending a five-day meeting in Poznan. The meeting was organized by the French-based ecumenical monastic community of Taizé.

He prayed that God would inspire their words and actions so they would give others hope.

In a message to the Dec. 29-Jan. 2 meeting, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople told the young people not to fear secularization, economic instabil-

ity, and other world crises.

"After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Europe no longer recognizes the place for Christianity that history had dedicated to it," the patriarch said. "It is as if Christianity were being expelled from the history of Europe."

"We wish to recall here that the identity of Europe is primarily Christian and cannot be considered without this legacy," he said.

During the meeting, the young people were housed at 150 Catholic parishes in the dioceses of Poznan and Gniezno.

The German prior of the Taizé community, Brother Alois Leser, urged participants to show solidarity with persecuted Christians in China. He also called on them to work for "great changes" in social structures and ways of thinking, as well as for greater justice in the world's economic and financial systems.

## Postal Service to produce Mother Teresa stamp in 2010



2010

The U.S. Postal Service will honor Mother Teresa with a stamp in 2010. She was awarded honorary U.S. citizenship in 1996, by the U.S. Congress and President Bill Clinton. Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta will be among the subjects depicted on U.S. stamps debuting in 2010, the U.S. Postal Service announced Dec. 30.

The 44-cent stamp, bearing a portrait of Mother Teresa painted by artist Thomas Blackshear II of Colorado Springs, Colorado, will go on sale on what would have been her 100th birthday, Aug. 26.

"Her humility and compassion, as well as her respect for the innate worth and dignity of humankind, inspired people of all ages and backgrounds to work on behalf of the world's poorest populations," said the Postal Service news release on its 2010 commemorative stamp program.

The release also noted that Mother Teresa received honorary U.S. citizenship in 1996 from the U.S. Congress and President Bill Clinton. Only five other people

have been made honorary U.S. citizens — Winston Churchill, Raoul Wallenberg, William Penn, and Hannah Callowhill Penn and the Marquis de Lafayette — and all but Hannah Callowhill Penn also have appeared on U.S. postage stamps.

Mother Teresa also received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997 for her "outstanding and enduring contributions through humanitarian and charitable activities," the release said.

Born Aug. 26, 1910, in what is now the Republic of Macedonia, Mother Teresa went to India at the age of 18 and founded the Missionaries of Charity there. She died in Calcutta Sept. 5, 1997, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

Other stamps to be issued during the next year will honor actress Katharine Hepburn; "distinguished sailors" William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John

McCloy, and Doris Miller; cartoonist Bill Mauldin; 10 abstract expressionist artists; "cowboys of the silver screen" William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Gene Autry, and Roy Rogers; entertainer Kate Smith; and filmmaker Oscar Micheaux.

U.S. postage stamps in 2010 also will depict the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, the Chinese lunar new year, the Mackinac Bridge in Michigan, the Bixby Creek Bridge in California, the Negro Baseball League, and characters from the "Sunday funnies" — Archie, Beetle Bailey, Dennis the Menace, Garfield, and Calvin and Hobbes.

In 2010, the Postal Service will issue the first stamp designed especially for oversized or odd-sized greeting cards. The 64-cent stamp will depict a monarch butterfly, and an illustration of a generic butterfly will appear on cards or envelopes requiring the additional postage.



## Diocesan / National / International

### Immigration Steering Committee to prepare parishes to help immigrants

FROM PAGE 1

migrants were especially having difficulty preparing the required documents due to limited English reading and writing abilities. He also learned that people were often taking advantage of these immigrants.

So in late 2008, when immigration reform made headlines after becoming a key issue in the presidential campaign, and after meeting with Bishop Kevin Vann, he and other diocesan leaders partnered with Catholics from the diocese and Catholic Charities to form the Immigration Steering Committee. Its purpose: to provide parishes with the information and preparation needed in the case of another major reform.

"One of the promises that the Democratic Party made was that

*"We want to be ready. The effect on parishes is going to be tremendous."*

—Deacon Len Sanchez  
director of Community  
and Pastoral Services

[Obama] was going to try and pass an immigration reform act," Dcn. Sanchez said. "We formed a task force, so we could form groups within the community to help in this venture. Just as the Holy Family was an immigrant family, so we all are immigrants. We should welcome each other."

Presenters will include Father Carmen Mele, OP, diocesan director of Hispanic Adult Catechesis, Father Stephen Jasso, TOR, pastor of All Saints Church in Fort Worth, Dcn. Sanchez, and representatives from Catholic Charities. Immigration experts will also be on hand to give out information on gathering and preparing documents required for obtaining citizenship.

Dcn. Sanchez hopes that each parish will send two or three parishioners to the meeting since they will be oriented on what they will need to form a small support group at their own parish to deal with the effects of a possible immigration reform. Those parish groups will be given information and training to adequately assist immigrants seeking help.

"We are certainly called to help each other and to come to the aid of

others," Dcn. Sanchez said. "This is one of the ways we could do it. Some [people] give clothing, visit with prisoners, or visit hospitals, this is an extension of our call."

With the recession and health care reform becoming the focus of the Obama Administration, little attention has been given to immigration reform. In December, Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 (CIR ASAP). The bill would give millions of undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship if they met certain requirements, among them things like paying a \$500 fine and learning English, but President Obama has remained silent on the bill. Still, Dcn. Len says there is a possibility for reform after healthcare is dealt with.

"We want to be ready," Dcn. Sanchez said. "The effect on parishes is going to be tremendous."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has pushed for immigration reform to be enacted this year. On Jan. 6, the USCCB launched a nationwide postcard campaign and a new website (justiceforimmigrants.org) to push lawmakers and educate parishes about immigration reform.

The number of unauthorized immigrants has continued to grow steadily for the past several years, reaching an estimated 11.9 million according to a Pew Hispanic Center 2008 report. Almost 76 percent of immigrants are Hispanic according to the report.

For additional information, or to register, please contact Patricia Gonzales at (817) 560-2452, ext. 254. All parishes are invited.

## House kicks off push to move comprehensive immigration bill

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In a packed House hearing room Dec. 15, nearly two dozen members of Congress, flanked by dozens of kids wearing T-shirts reading "Future Voter" opened the push for a new comprehensive immigration reform bill.

The legislation—called Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009, or CIR ASAP—was unveiled before a roomful of advocates from churches, community groups and others with interests in fixing the current immigration system.

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., who has shepherded the process of drafting the bill, said the bill would carry the name of Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Ryan Dwyer, immigration policy adviser for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, outlined for Catholic News Service some of the differences between the new legislation and previous immigration reform bills:

—New standards for immigrant detention.

—No "touchback" provision,

which in previous bills would have required undocumented immigrants to return to their home countries to apply for legalization in the U.S.

—The end of a program that gave local law enforcement agencies the authority to enforce federal immigration laws.

—A prohibition on creating a national identification card.

—Provisions allowing spouses and minor children to continue with their applications for naturalization or status adjustment even after the death of the family member that is a U.S. citizen or

legal resident.

The bill also calls for a new independent federal commission on immigration and labor markets. This commission would be charged with setting levels of immigration based on employment needs.

A 12-page summary of the bill, which had not yet been formally introduced, includes points on border security, detention standards and employer verification in its enforcement sections.

Once the bill is introduced, it will be submitted to a committee for markup, then moved on to the

House floor for consideration. Neither step was expected until after the Christmas recess.

A new postcard campaign in early 2010 will urge Congress to take up as its next priority comprehensive immigration reform that would reunite families, regularize the status of an estimated 12 million people in this country illegally, and restore due process protections for immigrants.

"We want to increase Catholic grass-roots support for immigration reform, but we also want to show members of Congress a strong Catholic voice and strong Catholic numbers in support of immigration reform," Antonio Cube, national manager of the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants project, told reporters in November, when the campaign was announced.

## Pope lauds North American College on its 150th anniversary

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI marked the 150th anniversary of the Pontifical North American College, and said the seminary deserves thanks for "training generations of worthy preachers of the Gospel and ministers of the sacraments."

The pope met at the Vatican Jan. 9 with the institution's students, superiors, faculty, and alumni. The college, the U.S. national seminary in Rome, was concluding a reunion and other events to commemorate the anniversary of its founding in 1859.

The pope said he was confident the college would continue

to produce "wise and generous pastors capable of transmitting the Catholic faith in its integrity, bringing Christ's infinite mercy to the weak and the lost, and enabling America's Catholics to be a leaven of the Gospel in the social, political, and cultural life of their nation."

Repeating a point he made during his visit in 2008 to the United States, the pope said the church in America is "called to cultivate an intellectual culture which is genuinely Catholic, confident in the profound harmony of faith and reason, and prepared to bring the richness of faith's vision to bear on the pressing issues which affect the future of American society."

He said the Pontifical North American College was "uniquely prepared to help meet this perennial challenge."

"In the century and a half since its foundation, the college has offered its students an exceptional experience of the universality of the church, the breadth of her intellectual and spiritual tradition, and the urgency of her mandate to bring Christ's saving truth to the men and women of every time and place," he said.

Pope Pius IX inaugurated the college on Dec. 8, 1859, having donated the site on Via dell'Umiltà in downtown Rome. In 1953, the college moved to a larger new facility on the Janiculum Hill, not far from the Vatican.

## Pope meets, forgives Christmas Eve attacker

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As a sign of his forgiveness, Pope Benedict XVI met with the woman responsible for knocking him down during a Christmas Eve Mass, a papal spokesman said.

The pope met with Susanna Maiolo after leading his weekly general audience Jan. 13 in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, Father Federico Lombardi said in a written statement.

In a private room of the audience hall, the pope held a brief meeting with Maiolo and members of her family in order to "demonstrate his forgiveness," to see how she was doing and to "wish her good health," the statement said.

Maiolo told the pope she was sorry for the Christmas Eve incident, the Vatican said.

Maiolo, 25, jumped a security barrier at the start of the Dec. 24 liturgy as Pope Benedict processed into St. Peter's Basilica. As Vatican guards tackled her, she was able to grab the pope's vestments, causing him to lose his balance and tumble to the floor.

She was taken for mandatory psychiatric evaluation to a hospital in Subiaco outside of Rome and released Jan. 9. Father Lombardi said Jan. 13 that the legal proceeding against Maiolo, being carried out by the Vatican's judicial system, would continue until it came to a conclusion.



## Scripture Readings



January 24, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Jean Denton

For the third time in a year, a small group of medical students from Vanderbilt University held a public meeting in a remote, impoverished Appalachian coal mining town to explain the services they could provide, free of charge, if invited to run a weeklong health fair in the community.

For the third time, the university program director asked if the local residents were interested. Everyone had listened intently, but, for the third time, they responded with silence.

In two previous meetings they had also remained silent when asked about their health care situation, but the persistent director asked one more time: Could the medical students provide some needed services here in Lee County, Virginia?

Silence again. Then one woman, a mother and wife who had lived there her whole life, stood and said in a soft, steady voice, "I think if we'd had just one doctor here in town, it would've

saved a lot of lives in the accident at the mine (that happened a few years earlier)." One could've heard a pin drop as she sat down.

"Then it was like a flood as one by one people began telling their personal stories about the lack of health care," explained the religious sister who was at those meetings nearly 40 years ago and later told me the story.

So they held a health fair. Soon the community formed a health council, eventually establishing a network of clinics that today serves low-income people of the entire region.

This week's Scriptures show how powerfully God's word enlivens his spirit in the hearts of his people. As Israel began returning from captivity, Ezra was sent to teach the new generation. He rose to proclaim God's covenant and laws, and the power of his words brought all present to their knees.

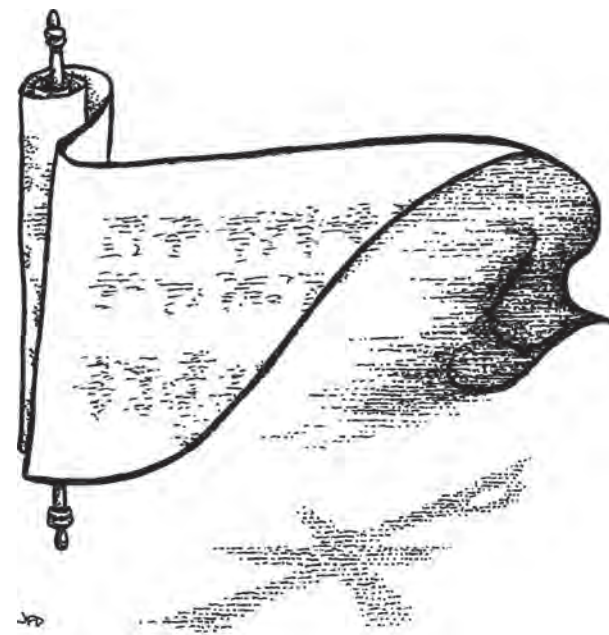
The Gospel reveals the covenant fulfilled in Jesus: good news for the poor, sight for the blind, freedom for the oppressed. Jesus stood, proclaimed the truth, and his spirit transformed those to whom he came.

Centuries later in Appalachia, when one woman finally spoke, everyone in the room knew the truth was out. A spirit of courage was unleashed as they gave it voice and were emboldened to act on it for the sake of their entire community. The truth again set the captives free.

### QUESTIONS:

When was a time recently when the word of God inspired the Spirit in you? How can you act this week to help free someone who is oppressed?

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**"He stood up to read ... and found the passage where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.'"**

— Luke 4:16b, 18a

## Church teachings reflect harmony of God's plan, says pope

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Taken all together, the teachings of the Catholic faith are "a marvelous symphony that sings of God and his love," Pope Benedict XVI said.

In a world where people tend to pick and choose what to believe, what to study, and what to specialize in, the church must help people see how all of its teachings about the Trinity, creation, redemption, the sacraments, and morality reflect "the harmony of God's plan of salvation," the pope said Dec. 30 at his weekly general audience.

Before expressing his hope that friendship with Jesus would accompany each of his visitors throughout 2010, Pope Benedict delivered another installment in his series of audience talks about Christian theologians and philosophers of the Middle Ages.

Focusing on the work of Peter Lombard, who was born in Italy and died in 1160 as bishop of Paris, the pope emphasized the importance of systematic presentations of the Christian faith. Lombard's famous work,



Pope Benedict XVI touches the face of a child during a Dec. 27 visit to a soup kitchen and language school run by the Sant'Egidio Community in Rome. (CNS/courtesy of Sant'Egidio Community)

*The Sentences*, like the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, demonstrates how individual church teachings are linked to one another and must be taken together if one is to have a full understanding of the faith, he said.

Pope Benedict said Peter Lombard is still remembered for providing "the definitive definition"

of a sacrament as "an outward sign and cause of grace."

The sacraments are not simply rituals or symbols of God's action in people's lives, but "they really have the power to communicate divine grace," the pope said.

"The sacraments are the great treasure of the church," he said. The celebration of the sacraments

"is always a surprising event; they touch our lives. Christ, through visible signs, comes to meet us. He purifies us, transforms us, and makes us participants in his divine friendship."

Pope Benedict said Peter Lombard raised questions that could interest modern readers, including why God created Eve

from the rib of Adam instead of from his head or his feet.

He said the 12th-century theologian explained that God formed woman not as "one who would dominate man, nor one who would be his slave, but one who would be a companion."

The pope encouraged Catholics to read *The Sentences*, but even more to study the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, which is a modern systematic presentation of Christian faith.



## Scripture Readings



January 31, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Jeff Hedglen

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous...” These words from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, in this week’s readings have to be some of the most loved and remembered words in the Bible. They certainly are the most definitive Scripture on what real love is. This New Testament passage is used to set the tone for weddings every Saturday across the globe because it is the standard for how we should look at one another and how we should treat one another.

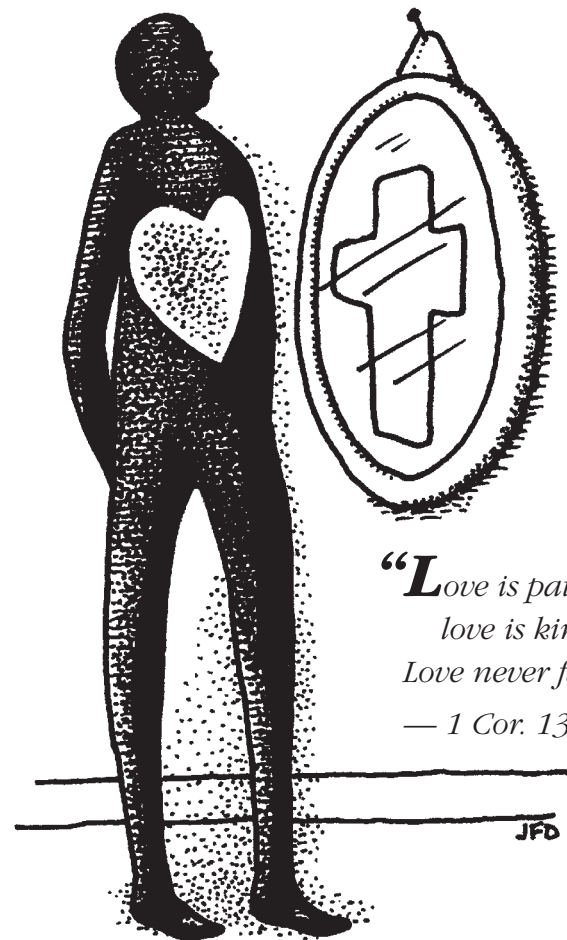
But the meaning of this Scripture changed for me one day during a retreat. Instead of being an altruistic measuring stick for love of others, it became a mirror to my soul. The retreat master asked us to read the Scripture, replacing the word “love” with our own name. In so doing, the famous text became:

“Jeff is patient, Jeff is kind. He is not jealous, he is not pompous, Jeff is not inflated, he is not rude, he does not seek his own interests, he is not quick-tempered, Jeff does not brood over injury, does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Jeff bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Jeff never fails.”

Wow, these beautiful words from St. Paul had just become evidence that could indict me on numerous violations of the law of love. In truth, more times than I care to admit. I am not patient or kind. Too often, I am jealous, pompous, rude, inflated, and quick-tempered. I lose faith, fail to hope, and quit. And I certainly fail much of the time.

The retreat master asked us not to get too down on ourselves; rather we were to use this as fodder for self-reflection, growth, and the sacrament of reconciliation. Since that day I have often used this passage for my examination of conscience before the sacrament.

It is often said that people will rise to the expectations you set for them. Based on this passage from Scripture, God must really think we are capable of greatness. We may never live these words to perfection, but the one who is their perfect incarnation is offering us the challenge to at least attempt to never fail.



“Love is patient,  
love is kind....  
Love never fails.”  
— 1 Cor. 13:4, 8

### QUESTIONS:

Have you ever thought of 1 Corinthians 13 in this way? How does this view of the passage impact you? What are some ways you can strive to love like this?

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## Why not resolve to **Invest in Your Relationships?**

By Jeff Hedglen

Last year at this time I decided that in 2009 I was going to spend more time with my dad. He lives a mere 45 minutes away, but we seem to rarely see each other. My unspoken resolution was to have lunch with him at least once a month. Well, as the new year turned, I realized that we had lunched together a grand total of three times. The last time we met, it had been so long since we had seen each other that he pulled out a list of things he wanted to discuss with me. I vow before all of you that 2010 will be better!

Relationships are an integral part of our human experience. Family is what we are born into; friends walk with us through life; and we share most of our waking hours with coworkers or fellow students. These human connections are not things to take lightly; rather they are treasures to be guarded.

My relationship with my dad has had some ups and downs over the years, but these days

I resolve to not regret time missed with my dad. I encourage you to resolve something similar with a relationship in your life. It is not an accident that loving each other is the second commandment according to Jesus.

we get along great and can even have conversations about faith and politics and stay friends. The days of misunderstandings and “if onlys” are in the past (I hope).

Dad often e-mails me wondering what I am up to. He always says his best days are days he sees one of his kids. He loves me and is proud of me; he even says these things out loud, a feat rarely seen in a man from his generation. All the things that would normally keep a son from his father are absent. The only obstacle between me and a

lunch with dad is my schedule.

So this week I went into my boss’s office and let him know that once a month I will be taking a half-day vacation to visit with my dad. He thought it was a great idea. I have the vacation time, so I might as well use it.

It is so easy to let relationships fade or slowly end up in disarray. Whether it is scheduling conflicts, a past hurt, physical distance, or ideological differences, relationships can quickly move from vital to strained or even dissolve altogether. The only real way

to stop this from happening is to make a conscious decision to work on the relationship.

A friend of mine has had the same best friend since childhood. After high school they made a pact: They would not let a month go by without them sharing a meal together. Now, for most of this time they have lived almost five hours apart, but very few months have gone by that they have not met and spent time together. Sometimes they would spend a weekend together, but there have been months when the best they could manage was to meet half way for a burger and fries.

I used to kind of joke with him about how extreme that was, but then my dad pulled that list out of his pen-filled shirt pocket, and I realized that my friend was onto something I had lost sight of.

It is my guess that pretty much everyone has some person in their lives they have either lost touch with, are on not so good terms with, or wish they would spend more time with. This is a perfect time of

year to make a plan to change these relationships.

Very few people, on their deathbed, lament the money they could have made or the trips they could have taken or the things they could have owned. Rather it is the relationships they wasted, the years of conversations not shared, the hugs not given, and the love neither given nor received, that are regretted.

I resolve to not regret time missed with my dad. I encourage you to resolve something similar with a relationship in your life. It is not an accident that loving each other is the second commandment according to Jesus. He is a son and a friend, and he knows that time spent connecting with others is like tasting eternity.

Happy New Year and renewed relationships!  
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](mailto:jeff@stbartsfw.org).







**Nota de la redacción:** El obispo Vann ha pedido que la información en el inserto del boletín distribuido en las parroquias de todo el país por la conferencia de los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos sea publicada en este número de NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC.

## United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

### URGENTE: VOLANTE DE USCCB PARA BOLETINES EN TODA LA NACIÓN

#### ¡Detenga el financiamiento de abortos en la reforma del sistema de salud!

**Proteja la conciencia**

**Garantice una cobertura asequible**

**Permita a los inmigrantes adquirir seguros de salud privados**

Como promotores durante largo tiempo de la reforma del sistema de salud, los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos continúan sosteniendo, desde el punto de vista moral, que una verdadera reforma debe proteger la vida, la dignidad, la conciencia y la salud de todos, especialmente de los pobres y vulnerables. La reforma del sistema de salud no deberá avanzar una agenda que promueva el aborto en nuestro país.

- El 7 de noviembre, la *Cámara de representantes* aprobó una importante reforma del sistema de salud que reafirma la política esencial, de amplio respaldo desde hace mucho tiempo, de rehusar fondos federales para abortos electivos; el proyecto incluye medidas positivas en cuanto a la accesibilidad y sobre los inmigrantes.
- El 24 de diciembre, el *Senado* rechazó esta política y aprobó una versión del proyecto que autorizaría fondos federales para ayudar a subsidiar y promover planes de salud que cubran abortos electivos. Quienes adquieran esos planes tendrán que pagar por los abortos de otros, mediante un aporte separado destinado solamente para financiar esos procedimientos.
- En otro contexto, ambos proyectos carecen de adecuada protección de la conciencia para los prestadores de cuidado de salud, planes o empleadores.
- Ahora ambos proyectos deberán combinarse en uno solo sobre cual la *Cámara* y el *Senado* votarán: disposiciones contra el financiamiento del aborto y a favor de la protección de la conciencia; accesibilidad — incluyendo a los inmigrantes — debe formar parte de un proyecto de reforma de salud justo; de lo contrario, el proyecto final debe rechazarse.

**ACCIÓN:** Contacte a su representante y senadores hoy, por e-mail, teléfono o FAX.

- Para enviar un correo electrónico instantáneo con un mensaje ya preparado al Congreso, vaya a [www.usccb.org/action](http://www.usccb.org/action).
- Llame a la central del *Capitolio*: 202-224-3121, o a las oficinas locales de su congresista. La información de contacto se halla en el sitio web de los miembros del Congreso en [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) y [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

#### MENSAJE—CÁMARA:

“Me complace que el proyecto de reforma de salud aprobado por la *Cámara* mantenga la política contra el financiamiento federal del aborto que se ha venido respaldando por mucho tiempo. Le pido que trabaje a favor de mantener estas disposiciones esenciales contra el financiamiento de abortos, por incluir plena protección de conciencia y garantizar que los servicios de salud sean accesibles y asequibles para todos. Le exhorto que — a menos que se reúnan estos criterios — se oponga al proyecto final”.

#### MENSAJE—SENADO:

“Estoy profundamente decepcionado que el proyecto de reforma de salud aprobado por el *Senado* no mantuviera la política aceptada por mucho tiempo contra el financiamiento federal del aborto ni incluyera adecuada protección de conciencia. Le pido que apoye disposiciones esenciales contra el financiamiento de abortos, similares a esas contenidas en el proyecto aprobado por la *Cámara*. Incluya la plena protección de conciencia y garantice que los servicios de salud sean accesibles y asequibles para todos. Le exhorto que, a menos que se reúnan estos criterios, se oponga al proyecto final”.

¿CUÁNDO?: La votación sobre el proyecto final en la *Cámara* y en el *Senado* se espera para enero.

**¡Actúe hoy! ¡Gracias!**

## ¿Por qué ser católico? – talleres interinos del 22 al 29 de enero

Karen y Bill Brookman están buscando más folletos del programa *¿Por qué ser católico?*. Son los coordinadores del programa catequético y de evangelización de adultos en la parroquia del *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*, en Keller. El programa ha sido exitoso allí, como en la mayoría de las parroquias, y más parroquianos están listos para participar cuando recomience la primera semana de Cuaresma.

Realmente los entusiastas de *¿Por qué ser católico?* no tienen que esperar hasta el *Miércoles de ceniza*. A partir del 22 de enero hasta el 29 de enero, los presentadores de *RENOVAR*, la hermana Pat Thomas, O.P., y el padre Alejandro López-Cardinale, darán talleres de formación en la fe, situados en la diócesis. Los talleres explorarán dos temas prominentes del programa relativo a este año: escritura y tradición.

Los talleres interinos son uno de las tres series anuales de eventos en los cuales personal de *Renovar internacional* vienen a la diócesis para asistir en la implementación de *¿Por qué ser católico?* La hermana Thomas y el padre López-Cardinale volverán en abril para los retiros de fin de año con los participantes, y de nuevo en septiembre, para entrenar a los dirigentes de pequeñas comunidades con *¿Por qué ser católico?*, antes del comienzo del nuevo año de *¿Por qué ser católico?*.

Un estudio de *¿Por qué ser católico?*, preparado por el coordinador diocesano, el padre Carmen Mele, O.P. — hecho después de las primeras seis sesiones de compartir sobre la fe — reveló que por lo menos 7,898 personas participaron en 51 parroquias y dos centros universitarios de ministerio católico, usando tres idiomas. En realidad, nos dice el Padre Mele, el número de participantes se acercó probablemente a 10,000, puesto que algunas parroquias grandes no terminaron el estudio, y *RENOVAR* divulgó que había vendido más del doble de la cantidad de folletos para



*¿Por qué ser católico?* se está siendo financiado por la campaña de *Todo es posible*

compartir la fe en español, que el número de participantes de habla hispana reportados por las parroquias.

*¿Por qué ser católico?* es el programa catequético y de evangelización para adultos que el Obispo Kevin Vann ha puesto a disposición de cada parroquia en la diócesis. Es una iniciativa especial, comenzada durante el cuadragésimo aniversario de la diócesis, para realzar la comprensión y la vida de fe, de modo que los católicos puedan compartir su fe con otras personas. La mayor parte de la subvención de *¿Por qué ser católico?* — la financiación — viene de la campaña diocesana *Todo Es Posible*.

El Padre Mele dice que la puerta está siempre abierta para las parroquias que no comenzaron *¿Por qué ser católico?* con el resto de la diócesis en octubre del año pasado. Una de las ventajas de este programa, dijo el padre, es que es un programa flexible que permite que una parroquia pueda encontrar su propio ritmo en la ejecución del programa. Si la parroquia así lo desea, puede elegir cubrir dos porciones del programa de cuatro partes en un año. O, agrega él, si desea cambiar el orden de las partes — que busca resumir el contenido del *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* — la parroquia también puede hacer eso.

## Profundización de fe en español

DÍA	FECHA	HORA	HORA	CIUDAD
Viernes	22 de enero	7 p.m.	St. Matthew	Arlington
Sábado	23 de enero	10 a.m.	St. Stephen	Weatherford
Sábado	23 de enero	2:30 p.m.	Inmac Conc	Denton
Domingo	24 de enero	4 p.m.	St. Peter	Fort Worth
Lunes	25 de enero	7 p.m.	St. Francis	Grapevine
Martes	26 de enero	7 p.m.	St. Frances	Granbury
Miércoles	27 de enero	7 p.m.	OLG	Wichita Falls
Jueves	28 de enero	7 p.m.	OLG	Fort Worth
Viernes	29 de enero	7 p.m.	OMM	Hillsboro



# Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José expande sus servicios a través de la diócesis

Por Nicki Prevou  
Correspondente

La mujer que se acercó recientemente a Jackie Gordon, del personal de *Caridades católicas*, tuvo una historia muy triste, recordó Gordon. La madre soltera de un pequeño niño había sido la víctima de un fuego en su casa, y fue quemada sobre la mayor parte de su cuerpo. Había pasado largos meses lejos de su hija durante su hospitalización, y luchaba por volver a una vida normal y productiva.

“Un oído fue destruido totalmente”, dijo Gordon, un facilitador para el Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José — un fondo monetario administrado por *Caridades católicas* en la Diócesis de Fort Worth. “Aunque ella podía conseguir la ayuda de Medicaid para pagar sus cirugías — e incluso la prótesis para su oído — no tenía como pagar por los imanes que eran necesarios para atar el oído prostético al lado de su cara”.

Como el costo total de los dispositivos necesarios era menos de \$1.000, el Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José podía pagar por los imanes, así ayudando a disminuir el trauma de una situación de tanto estrés, explicó Gordon. “Este es el propósito del fideicomiso”, agregó. “No sólo fuimos capaces de resolver la necesidad inmediata, sino también ofrecimos consejería para la niña y para la mamá. La mamá sabía que realmente nos importaba su situación y la de su familia”.

El Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud, establecido después del cierre del Hospital de San José en Fort Worth en 1995, tiene una misión simple y profundamente importante, según Lori Kennedy, quien sirve como la coordinadora del programa del fideicomiso para *Caridades católicas*.

“El fideicomiso existe para promover una comunidad más sana, aumentar el acceso al cuidado y, en las oportunidades cada vez mayores, promover la educación sobre la salud”, dijo Kennedy. “Servimos la comunidad ofreciendo información y cuidado preventivo, y cerciorándonos de que los que no tengan seguro médico — o aquellos cuyo seguro médico sea insuficiente — puedan encontrar un hogar médico para su cuidado continuo”.

El fideicomiso tradicionalmente ha servido a varios “socios”, o sea, comunidades parroquiales dentro del condado de Tarrant, explicó Kennedy, “comunidades con niveles de ingresos inferiores y, tradicionalmente, esas vecindades con mayores necesidades.

“**H**ay una historia increíble de las HERMANAS DE LA CARIDAD DEL VERBO ENCARNADO que vienen a Texas — como profesionales de la salud — y establecen hospitales, trabajando para responder a las necesidades más básicas dentro de dichas comunidades. Al ofrecer ayuda a éstos con necesidad en cada esquina de nuestra diócesis, honramos la entrega, visión y trabajo arduo de esas mujeres extraordinarias”.

— Pedro Flynn,  
DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO DEL  
FIDEICOMISO CATÓLICO DEL  
NORTE DE TEXAS

Hemos tenido gran éxito en el ofrecimiento de servicios de educación en la salud y servicios de cuidado primario dentro de esas vecindades, pero ahora estamos en este punto muy emocionante donde los miembros de la junta del fideicomiso han determinado que el alcance del fideicomiso puede ser ampliado. El fideicomiso puede ahora ofrecer servicios — no solo dentro de esas comunidades parroquiales socios en el área de Fort Worth — pero también dentro de los 28 condados de la Diócesis de Fort Worth. Eso es en verdad un enorme logro”.

La expansión de servicios del fideicomiso es, de hecho, un acontecimiento que honra el legado de los primeros proveedores de asistencia médica del Norte de Texas, afirmaba Pedro Flynn, director de *Servicios financieros y administrativos* para la Diócesis de Fort Worth y director ejecutivo del Fideicomiso católico del norte de Texas. “El fideicomiso, financiado por generosos benefactores hace muchos años, siempre fue pensado como apoyo para el trabajo del Hospital de San José en el condado de Tarrant y sus alrededores”, explica

## Elegibilidad para el Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José

Clientes potenciales deben tener necesidad de cuidado médico que no ha sido realizado y que esté dentro del alcance de los servicios ofrecidos por el Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José, incluyendo necesidades tales como ayudas auditivas, cuidado dental, consejería, ayuda con recetas, mercancía médica, lentes, y exámenes de diagnóstico.

- Clientes potenciales deben vivir dentro de uno de los veintiocho condados servidos por la Diócesis de Fort Worth.

- Clientes potenciales deben tener ingresos domésticos en 300 por ciento del nivel de pobreza o debajo de el, y no tener seguro médico que cubra el servicio de cuidado de salud solicitado.

- Circunstancias individuales pueden ser consideradas al determinar la elegibilidad para servicios. Si un cliente potencial tiene cobertura de

cuidado médico, debe demostrar que la necesidad médica no es cubierta por su programa de cuidado médico y que el costo del cuidado crearía una dificultad financiera indebida para el individuo o la familia.

- El Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José no restringe servicios en vista de afiliación religiosa, raza, etnicidad, género, o incapacidad.

Clientes potenciales deben proporcionar los siguientes documentos para determinar elegibilidad:

- Identificación con fotografía (se permiten excepciones).

- Últimos dos talonarios de su cheque de trabajo para comprobar sueldo; carta de elegibilidad de estampillas/cupones de alimentos; TANF — o de la Administración de seguro social de todos los miembros del hogar que

reciben ingresos. Ingresos deben estar en o por debajo del 300 por ciento del nivel de pobreza federal (para las normas, compruebe en [www.poverityguidelines.org](http://www.poverityguidelines.org)).

- Verificación de domicilio (por ejemplo, contrato de arrendamiento, comprobante de pago de electricidad, agua, gas o teléfono residencial, documento de contribución sobre la propiedad).

- Si el cliente potencial tiene seguro médico debe someter prueba de que el seguro médico no cubrirá el servicio de cuidado médico solicitado.

El alcance de los servicios proporcionados por el Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José excluye ciertos servicios que serían contrarios a la doctrina social y moral católica, tales como abortos, contraceptivos artificiales, ligaduras tubáricas y vasectomías.

Flynn. “Hay una historia increíble de las Hermanas de la caridad del Verbo Encarnado que vienen a Texas — como profesionales de la salud — y establecen los hospitales, trabajando para responder a las necesidades más básicas dentro de dichas comunidades. Al ofrecer ayuda a éstos con necesidad en cada esquina de nuestra diócesis”, dijo Pedro Flynn, “honramos la entrega, visión, y trabajo arduo de esas mujeres extraordinarias”.

Mientras tanto, los individuos elegibles que viven en los condados de Tarrant, Denton, Wise, Jack, Cooke, Wichita, Clay, Montague, Archer, Baylor, Wilbarger, Foard, Hardeman, Knox, Bosque, Hill, Johnson, Hood, Somervell, Erath, Comanche, Palo Pinto, Parker, Eastland, Stephens, Throckmorton, y Schackelford pueden ahora recibir servicios del fideicomiso, incluyendo consejería, mamografías y otras pruebas, exámenes de visión, cuidado dental, ayuda con prescripciones y ayudas auditivas.

“Hay tanta gente en las comunidades que han perdido sus trabajos, y han perdido la esperanza, debido a la economía”,

dijo Kennedy. “Nuestro trabajo es no sólo dar ayuda, sino también compartir la esperanza. Algunas agencias no pueden proporcionar cuidado personal ni atención individual. Hay muchos servicios que no podemos proporcionar — por ejemplo, no podemos cubrir los costos de hospitalizaciones o de cirugía — pero sí ofrecemos ayuda con servicios de cuidado primario, y ofrecemos atención individual y ayuda personal, también”.

Otra novedad es la habilidad del fideicomiso de ofrecer una nueva tarjeta de descuentos para prescripciones médicas a todos los clientes elegibles, Kennedy

agregó. “Esta tarjeta permitirá que los clientes puedan ir a la mayoría de las farmacias y que reciban un descuento significativo”. Los que no tienen seguro médico pueden utilizar la tarjeta y recibir un descuento de un 10 a un 40 por ciento en sus prescripciones.

Para más información sobre el fideicomiso y los servicios disponibles, llame a *Caridades católicas* al (817) 920-7733.

Residentes del decanato del noroeste pueden contactar a Stella Centeno, del equipo de trabajo de *Caridades católicas*, en su oficina en la Iglesia Sagrada Familia en Vernon, al (940) 552-0347.

### Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

Si usted o alguien que conozca es víctima de conducta sexual inapropiada por parte de cualquier persona que trabaje para la iglesia, sea voluntario, empleado, o miembro del clero, puede reportarlo de las siguientes maneras:

- Llamar a Judy Locke, Coordinadora de asistencia para víctimas, al número (817) 560-2452, Ext. 201, o, mandarle correo electrónico a [jlocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org)

- Llamar al número de emergencia para el abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900
- o llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canciller/moderador de la curia, el padre James Hart

### Mecanismo para reportar abuso

Llamar al Ministerio de familias de Texas, Servicios de protección (Servicios de protección de niños) al número: (800) 252-5400.



## International

# Caritas moves to respond to Haiti's catastrophic earthquake

FROM PAGE 1

struck Haiti, toppling buildings and causing widespread destruction. The number of casualties was not immediately known, but local officials called it a major catastrophe.

Pope Benedict said he wanted to highlight the dramatic situation in Haiti following the "devastating earthquake, which resulted in serious loss of human life, a great number of homeless and missing, and enormous material damage."

"I appeal to the generosity of everyone, so that our brothers and sisters receive our concrete solidarity and the effective support of the international community in this moment of need and suffering," he said.

He said the Catholic Church's charity organizations would immediately move into action to assist those most in need.

"Invite everyone to join in my prayer to the Lord for the victims of this catastrophe and for those who are mourning their loss. I assure my spiritual closeness to people who have lost their homes and to all those affected in various ways by this calamity, imploring from God consolation and relief of their suffering," he said.

Archbishop Auza said he had toured the capital on the morning after the earthquake and found the country's ministry buildings, schools, and supermarkets de-

stroyed. He said the headquarters of the U.N. stabilization force in Port-au-Prince had completely collapsed, reportedly trapping hundreds in the debris.

"I found priests and nuns on the street, who no longer have homes. The rector of the seminary survived, and so did the dean, but the seminarians are under the rubble. Everywhere there are cries coming from under the rubble," he said.

He said a study institute for men and women religious had collapsed, with many students inside as they attended a conference. The nunciature withstood the quake, and there were no injuries there, he said.

"We cannot enter or stay inside for very long because the earth continues to tremble. So we're camped out in the garden," he said.

Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican-based umbrella organization for Catholic charities, said it was mobilizing to provide immediate assistance to Haiti. On Jan. 13 it had already assembled an emergency relief team to fly to Haiti to assist Caritas members already working in the country. It said there had not yet been contact with the Haitian Caritas office.

Caritas Internationalis humanitarian director Alistair Dutton was leading the emergency relief team, Caritas said in a statement.

"There is a strong Caritas presence in Haiti. We already know that Caritas staff will be providing support to survivors of the earthquake, such as food, shelter, and comfort through churches and parish networks," Dutton said.

"A priority for Caritas will be to assess the damage and our local capacity to provide aid to survivors of the quake. Caritas runs more than 200 hospitals and medical centers in Haiti. It is experienced and prepared to respond to humanitarian disasters there as a result of the frequent hurricanes," he said.

"Communication with our staff on the ground is difficult, but we are piecing together a picture of desperate need. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Conflict, recent natural disasters, and poverty have left Haitians with weak infrastructure. Working in that environment will be difficult," he said.

In its statement, Caritas said the cathedral in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince was badly damaged.

Caritas also said the U.S.-based Catholic Relief Services had been in communication with its staff in Haiti. The local CRS office was still standing and CRS staff present at the time of the quake were safe, it said. CRS staff described the quake as "a major hit ... a direct hit."



The cathedral of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is seen in a 1995 file photo. Several of the capital's key structures, including the cathedral, were destroyed in the magnitude 7.3 earthquake that struck the Caribbean nation Jan. 12. (CNS photo/Giancarlo Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)



Injured people rest outside the destroyed cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 13. The cathedral, presidential palace, schools, hospitals, and hillside shanties collapsed in the disaster. (CNS photo/Eduardo Muñoz, Reuters)

## Bishop says Nazareth Christians joyful about find of Jesus-era house

By Judith Sudilovsky  
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM — Auxiliary Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo of Jerusalem said the Christian community in Nazareth was joyful at the recent discovery of the remains of a first-century dwelling.

"This belongs to the time of Jesus and we can now see how (people lived)," said Bishop Marcuzzo, noting that the dwelling had remained largely intact throughout the ages. "The ruins ... were not destroyed during history. There were lots of (wars and battles) which destroyed buildings but that house was kept safe. Why? We don't know why, but certainly there is a reason why that house was kept safe."

As the first dwelling from the period to be discovered in Nazareth, the remains are of "utmost importance" and reveal new information about how people lived during Jesus' lifetime, said Yardena Alexandre, excavation director at the Israel Antiquities Authority. She said several tombs

from that time period had been found in earlier digs but, until this house, no evidence of a human settlement had been uncovered.

The structure was found next to the Basilica of the Annunciation, where the floor of a former convent was being removed in a salvage excavation conducted by the antiquities authority to prepare for the construction of the International Marian Center of Nazareth. The Association Mary of Nazareth said it would incorporate the archaeological remains inside its planned center.

Nazareth is where Mary received the revelation from the angel Gabriel that she would conceive a child. Jesus spent the majority of his life in Nazareth, preaching throughout the Galilee region.

According to written sources archaeologists know that in the first century Nazareth was a small village, located in a valley, said Alexandre.

"The discovery ... reveals for the very first time a house from the Jewish village of Nazareth and thereby sheds light on the

Franciscan Father Jacques Icaram looks over the excavation site of an ancient house in Nazareth, Israel, Dec. 21. The remains of a house from the time of Jesus have been found at the site located near the Church of the Annunciation. (CNS photo/Gil Cohen Magen, Reuters)



way of life at the time of Jesus. The building that we found is small and modest and it is most likely typical of the dwellings in Nazareth in that period," said Alexandre.

She told the Associated Press it could be concluded that, as a child, Jesus may have played near and around the structure and that,

as an adult, he may have been familiar with the building.

The uncovered building consists of two rooms and a courtyard with a rock-hewn cistern used to gather rainwater. A few artifacts — mainly fragments of pottery vessels from the first and second centuries — were recovered from inside the building.

The modern Basilica of the Annunciation, consecrated in 1969, was constructed above Crusader- and Byzantine-era churches. A cave in the middle of these churches was already ascribed as the house of Jesus' family, although no archaeological evidence exists to prove the claim.



## Diocesan / International

### Leitos...

FROM PAGE 24 helps identify financial aid candidates.

"Our mission is to fulfill Stephen's wishes to help kids with cancer and others who want a Catholic education," says Jim Leito, the 1975 winner of Nolan's Chaminade Award. "Once students get into Catholic school, the foundation helps them stay there. We work to get the extra \$1,000 or \$500 needed to get them over the financial hump. We're filling a niche that no one else is doing."

The Leitos were instrumental in starting the foundation and have remained tireless workers since then, according to Jim Breen. "Along with many others, it's been their vision, determination, expertise, and knowledge that have enabled Stephen's foundation to help over 500 children in our diocese," he explained. "Over

the past 20 years, they have taken on the most demanding volunteer roles at both Nolan and St. Andrew's. I can't think of a couple more deserving of the Diocesan Leadership Award."

Asked to remember watershed moments from their own Catholic education, the Leitos draw from an abundance of classroom experiences. Both members of the student council in high school, the Leitos recall the quiet leadership of the group's moderator, Brother John Rohe.

Calling the advisor a "guiding force," Carol says he taught the fledgling student government leaders how to think.

"He kept an eye on us, but had a good way of letting us make our own decisions," Jim agrees. "He was a good mentor."

Joe Kuban was another teacher with lasting influence. Better known for his ecology classes, the Nolan instructor, who died last year, taught

anatomy and physiology in the early days of his career. Carol says Kuban's course factored into her decision to become a physical therapist.

"He was one of the best teachers I ever had," she says, with enthusiasm. "I went into a medical field and his class had something to do with that because I found it so interesting."

Through the years, the Leitos maintained friendships with former teachers and classmates, and those connections have enriched their lives. Blessed with successful careers and an accomplished family, the couple credits a strong academic foundation, imbued with faith, for much of their good fortune. They feel that "giving back," so others have the same chance in life, is the best way to express gratitude.

"I firmly believe that each person has a responsibility to leave a place better than they found it," Jim explains.

Nolan has better campus

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



### DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

facilities and programs than when he and his wife were students there in the 1970s.

"That's because someone gave his or her time, talent, and treasure to make Nolan what it

is today," he adds. "That goes for any school. It's important to give back so the next generation has the same opportunity. I'm just thankful somebody did that for our kids."

### Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11 tor, who is holding parcels and perhaps a Grande Cinnamon Dolce Latte, and suddenly has an intense decision to make in milliseconds.

I don't need that kind of stress.

Last week in Phoenix, I filmed the Fiesta Bowl football game for the TCU Yearbook. It was a huge challenge, and overwhelming to walk into a stadium that held three-fourths the number of people who live in my childhood hometown. I stood with cable TV's elite videographers, whose camera lenses' diameters were larger than my mother's cast iron frying pan.

It was the experience of a lifetime, and not as difficult as I thought it would be.

The difficult part was before the game, starting the rental car, a 2009 model with a global positioning system, an elusive trunk release button, and no key. A keyless car. Well, it had a key, and a place to insert it,

but no way to turn it.

The keyless car's keyless key fob had four different buttons to lock and unlock things and set off alarms. The buttons were identified with — yes — pictures. I understood none of them.

It took 10 minutes for me to figure out how to open the trunk, and an additional 10 to start the car — only after phoning the 800 number and admitting I was stuck in the garage.

"It's keyless," they said. "Don't even try to turn anything. Just insert the keyless key into the keyless keyhole — well, you really don't have to put it in the hole. The keyless key just has to be inside the car. Then push the button on the dashboard."

"Do you mean the button with a picture of a key?" "Yes."

How can things that make life easy be so hard? And how can actions described with a simple drawing be so difficult to understand?

I am not a lover of clever signage, or of improving things

that already worked. The only thing wrong with keys was losing them, wasn't it? Maybe instead of keyless keys, they should make talking keys.

"Where are you?" we might ask. "I am behind the door marked with a velvet painting of a car," would come the response.

When I went to the bowl game I saw signs I didn't expect. A Fox Sports cameraman helped me adjust my fisheye lens, then came back to see if it worked. "Stand here," he suggested. "This would make a great shot."

A serious-faced security guard quietly cautioned, "If you are standing behind the goal posts, you need to be on your knees." He enforced the rules, then smiled and winked.

And there was a family from the opposing team who, with their children and small grandchildren traveled to the game to support their team, as they have for decades. They do this solely for the joy of being part of a family — their own, and their extended one, the university.

I sat on the airport shuttle next to this family, thinking, "If our team had to lose, I am glad you were the ones who got to win."

In our journey through this playing field and back to God's, maybe the signs we should look for are not signs at all. Maybe they are people.

Maybe the way to learn something is not the way you are used to, but the way you are forced to.

And sometimes, when our lives give us directions that are printed in other languages, there is only one way to under-

stand: faith.

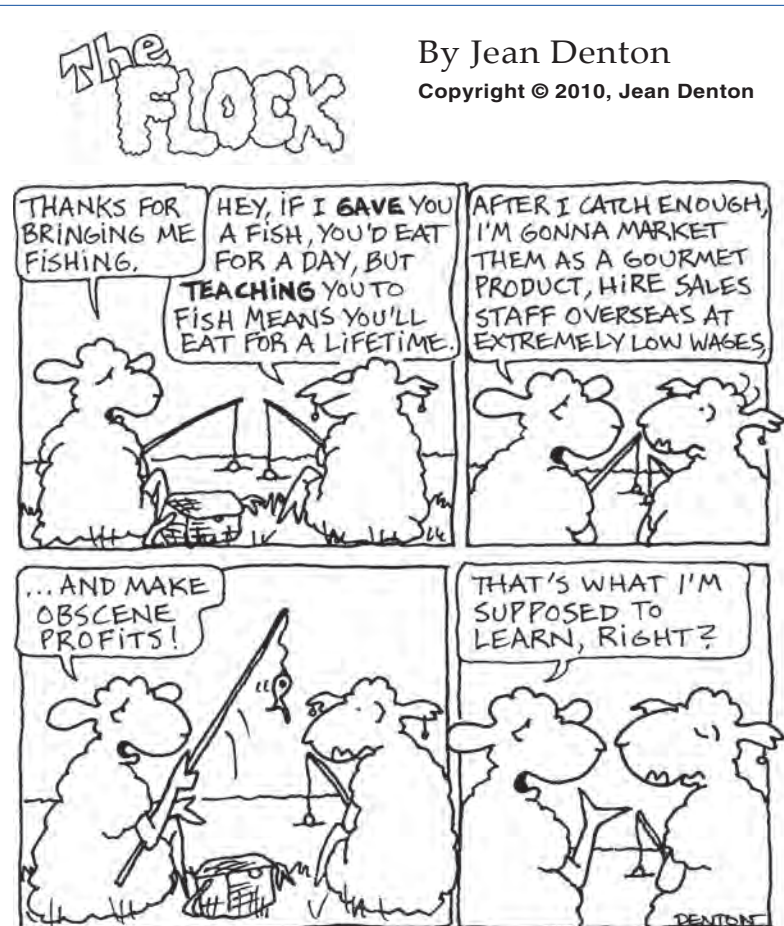
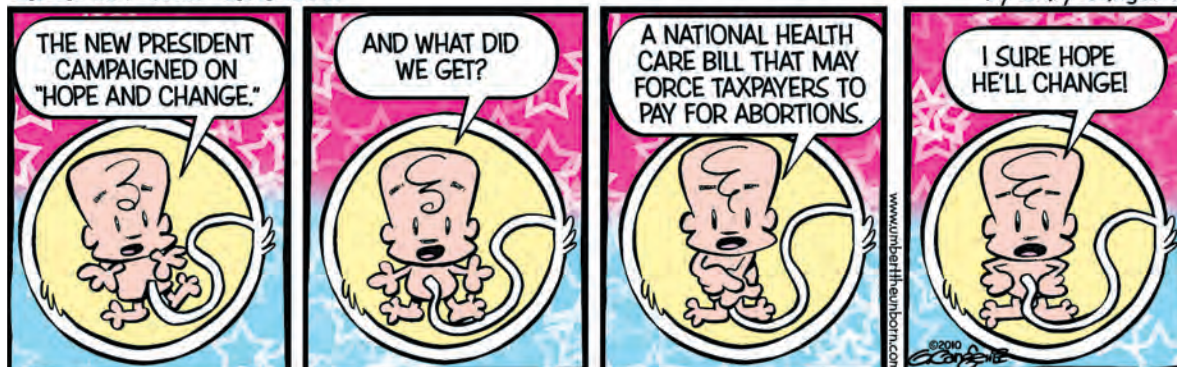
It's universal communication. And keyless. And you just have to hold it in your heart.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. In May,

2009 her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association for the second time in two years at the Catholic Media Convention in Anaheim. In 2005, Kathy's column was recognized with the first place award in the same category.

### Umbert the Unborn





# Calendar

## RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

Rachel Ministries will hold a weekend retreat Jan. 22-24 for healing following an abortion. This program helps those who struggle with grief, guilt, and pain following an abortion to find hope and healing. The retreats are open to all who feel the pain of post-abortion trauma. Come and experience the mercy, forgiveness and healing love of God on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat. For more information or registration, call the Rachel Ministries confidential help line at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail [forgiven@racheltx.org](mailto:forgiven@racheltx.org).

## SUICIDE SURVIVORS

Suicide Survivors is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. A new group will begin in February. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours for eight weeks. Group meetings are facilitated by a mental health professional and a trained survivor. There is no charge for this service. For more information, call (817) 698-9955 or e-mail [suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org](mailto:suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org).

## CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLING

Parents interested in learning about Catholic homeschooling are invited to an information meeting held in Arlington Friday, Jan. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. The presentation is sponsored by Catholics Teaching at Home. CATH is a homeschool group for Catholics in the Fort Worth Diocese. Reservations are required to ensure enough materials are available. To RSVP, contact Joyce Yokell at (817) 292-6629 or [yokell@charter.net](mailto:yokell@charter.net) by Jan. 20.

## GABRIEL PROJECT

Gabriel Project is a national and diocesan, parish-based ministry reaching out to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Gabriel Project volunteers, Gabriel Angels, are those trained to help women in their time of need, proclaiming the Angel Gabriel's message of good news that God is with them. Become a trained Angel by attending training two Saturdays in a row and an Angel Commissioning Mass at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Rd, Bedford. The first training will be held Jan. 30 and the second will be held Feb. 6. The Commissioning Mass will be celebrated at the end of the second day. For more information, contact Mary Stroupe at (940) 464-3224.

## IWBS SISTERS

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are hosting "Come and See" weekends for single Catholic women up to 50 years of age on Jan. 23-24, and on Feb. 27-28, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. For those interested in learning more about the life of a sister or in discerning a call to the consecrated life, call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com), or visit the Web site at [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org) for more information about the sisters.

## REGIONAL NCCW CONVENTION

The San Antonio Province of National Council of Catholic Women will hold its convention Feb. 26-27 at St. John Neumann Church, 5802 22nd St. in Lubbock. The cost for all programs is \$50 and includes dinner Friday night, continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Hotel accommodations are available at Hawthorn Suites at a special room rate of \$74. Guests must call the hotel direct at (806) 792-3600 or the Central Reservations line at (800) 527-1133 and ask to reserve a room under the DCCW Regional Conference Block. Reservations must be made by Feb. 12. For more information about registering for the conference, call Margie Medlin at (972) 239-9747.

## CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. Calix meetings focus on enhancing spiritual growth through sharing Eucharist, discussion, and fellowship. For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105.

## 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 [jlocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org)
- Or call the **Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 102 and ask for the chancellor/moderator of the curia, Father James Hart

## To Report Abuse

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

## PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

St. Michael will be offering training for new extraordinary ministers of holy Communion to the Homebound, Hospitalized, and Nursing Homes residents. A training day is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 30 from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. The training will focus on the importance of Pastoral care to the sick, elderly, and homebound. Participants will learn basic skills and deepen their spirituality on suffering and hope, organizers say. The training will overview diocesan and parish requirements. The cost for the training is \$12 to cover material expenses. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Martin Peña at (817) 283-8746 or [mpena@smcchurch.org](mailto:mpena@smcchurch.org).

## UD SEMINAR

The University of Dallas School of Ministry will host its annual Seminar Series panel discussion Monday, Feb. 1. This year, the panel will discuss the identity of a Catholic university, with a focus on the commencement address given to UD 2009 graduates by Bishop Kevin Farrell. The discussion will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation, located at 3966 McKinney Ave., Dallas, on the UD campus. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will be held afterward. For more information, visit the event's Web site at [www.udallas.edu/academics/ministry/somevents/sompanels](http://www.udallas.edu/academics/ministry/somevents/sompanels).

## MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

The Vocations office sponsors a Men's Monthly Discernment the second Monday of each month for single men ages 16 to 50 and a Women's Monthly Discernment the third Monday of each month for single women ages 16 to 50. The groups meet at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., to pray together, share their vocational call, listen to God, break open the Word, and to share a meal together. For more information, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations at (817) 560-3300 ext.110 or [kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org](mailto:kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org).

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

A Super Bowl Women's Retreat will be held Friday evening, Feb. 5 through noon on Sunday, Feb. 7 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. This year's theme will be "Dreams — Parables of the Soul." Sister Margarita Armendariz, a spiritual director and retreat leader from the Dioceses of El Paso and Las Cruces, New Mexico, will lead the retreat. Cost is \$110, and includes two nights of lodging and meals. For reservations, call (817) 429-2920, by Jan. 29.

## RESPECT LIFE HOLY HOUR

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth sponsors a Holy Hour from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral on the third Monday of each month. The hour begins with a rosary and is followed by Eucharistic Adoration. All are invited to come and pray for an end to abortion and all offenses to the sanctity and dignity of human life. For more information, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of Respect Life for the Diocese of Fort Worth, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257

## CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER

Holy Family Church and the Tarrant Area Community of Churches will celebrate the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" with dinner, prayer, and song Thursday, Jan. 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The celebration will be held at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 737-6768.

## DIOCESAN SINGLES MASS

A Diocesan Singles Mass will be held 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30, at St. Joseph Church, 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington. All single and single-again Catholics are invited to join in worship, fellowship, food, and dancing. Attendees are encouraged to bring a friend, a potluck item for dinner, and/or nonperishable items for the church pantry. To volunteer with the Diocesan Singles Council, including Mass ministries, call Rosalie (940) 564-0092.

## NTC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the Jan. 29 issue must be received by noon on Jan. 20. Items for the Feb. 12 issue must be received by noon on Feb. 3. Send information to [jrusseau@fwdioc.org](mailto:jrusseau@fwdioc.org).

## MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The next regular meeting of The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry With Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383, Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370, or Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601.

## UNBORN BABY MEMORIAL

St. Andrew Adult Faith Formation and Outreach Ministries will offer a Memorial Service for Unborn Babies Friday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Church. All families who have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion, are invited to attend this memorial service. A Naming Ceremony will take place prior to the service in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. Those wishing to take part in the Naming Ceremony are asked to indicate their intention when making a reservation. A reception will follow in the Pastoral Center. To make a reservation or for more information, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383. Childcare will be provided with reservations made at least 48 hours in advance. For childcare reservations, call (817) 924-6581. The cost for childcare is \$5 per child. St. Andrew Parish is located at 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth.

## DISCERNMENT AT OLV

Single women, ages 18 to 45 are invited to come for an evening of prayer, supper, and sharing, hosted by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, the first Friday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Center, 909 W. Shaw St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, at (817) 923-3091 or [sycruz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sycruz@sbcglobal.net).

## ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller; at 1301 Paxton Ave. (Padre Pio House) in Arlington; and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton at 2255 Bonnie Brae St. For additional information, visit the Web site at [www.sampg.com](http://www.sampg.com), or e-mail to Mark at [seamspurity@yahoo.com](mailto:seamspurity@yahoo.com).

## ECUMENICAL SUNDAY

The annual Ecumenical Sunday celebration will be January 24, at 3 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation. The theme of this year's observance is "You are Witnesses of these things (*Luke 24-48*)." This is the 10th annual observance of the international prayer service in the Lewisville/Flower Mound area. Internationally, the day is organized jointly by the Pontifical Council on Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches. Locally, it is sponsored by the Lewisville/Flower Mound Ecumenical Network, which includes 10 local churches. All are welcome to attend the program. For more information, contact network representative Kathleen Easler at (817) 907-1737.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Feb. 12-14 at the Catholic Renewal Center of North Texas, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. A Marriage Encounter is a weekend program for married couples led by married couples designed to help couples deepen their relationship. Marriage Encounter is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of marriage vows, and strengthening the couple's faith. Reservations are required with a \$60 non-refundable deposit, and space is limited. The balance of \$175 per couple is due at the program. In case of financial needs, scholarship funds are available. A partial deposit is still required. For more information, visit [www.ntexasme.org](http://www.ntexasme.org) or to make a reservation, call Kathy and Terry Telger (817) 294-2749 or e-mail [mereregistration@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mereregistration@sbcglobal.net).

## OLV ALUMNI MASS

Our Lady of Victory School in Fort Worth will host its first Alumni Mass and Dinner Saturday, Feb. 6. The school is looking for alumni who are not on its mailing list and would like to be included. Those interested should send their contact information to Rachael Garnett, development director, 3320 Hemphill St., Fort Worth, TX, 76110 or email [olv.alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:olv.alumni@yahoo.com).

## COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for Catholics striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality, meets the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month. For more information, e-mail to [CourageDFW@Catholic.org](mailto:CourageDFW@Catholic.org) or call (972) 938-5433.

# Classified Section

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

Topsoil, sand, gravel, washed materials, driveways, concrete, backhoe, and tractor services. Custom mowing lots and acres. Call (817) 732-4083.

## DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Notre Dame Catholic School is accepting applications for a full-time Development Director beginning Spring-Summer 2010. Applicant must have experience in marketing, fundraising, and working with volunteers. Please submit resume and application, to Principal Cindy Huckabee @ 2821 Lansing Blvd. Wichita Falls TX 76309 or [cindy.huckabee@notredamecatholic.org](mailto:cindy.huckabee@notredamecatholic.org).

## PARISH SECRETARY

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church is currently seeking a full-time parish secretary. Qualifications include: college degree, associates or higher; experienced in Microsoft Office-Outlook, Word, Power Point, Excel; experience with business correspondence; excellent grammar skills; practicing Catholic. Contact the church office at (972) 436-7617 to schedule an interview, or send resumé and salary requirements by Fax to (972) 221-3430 or e-mail to [ladyoflb@verizon.net](mailto:ladyoflb@verizon.net).

## ST. PETER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

St. Peter the Apostle School in White Settlement will celebrate Catholic Schools Week with several special events beginning Sunday, Jan. 31. Families from throughout the diocese are invited. Festivities will begin with a burrito breakfast, sponsored by the St. Peter School Men's Club, following the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses. The school will hold an open house Wednesday, Feb. 3, starting at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include refreshments and school tours, as well as a chance to view students' work and meet teachers. "Muffins with Mom" Feb. 2, and "Donuts for Dad" Feb. 4 will allow the students to bring their parents in for breakfast before class. The breakfasts will start around 7:45 a.m. For more information, call the school office at (817) 246-2032.

## ST. PATRICK CHOIR

The St. Patrick Cathedral Adult Choir is searching for volunteers for the 2010 Cathedral Choir presentations. Rehearsals are from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth. The 2010 schedule will be provided to those interested. For more information contact Cynthia Cardenas, choir president, at [ccards6@att.net](mailto:ccards6@att.net), or call (682) 465-5248 or Vivian Rentowski, choir director/organist, at [rentows@aol.com](mailto:rentows@aol.com).

## NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CHOIR

The National Catholic Youth Choir is seeking high school singers for the 2010 season. Membership in the choir is open to Catholics entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades, and will be trained at St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota. The camp and tour will be held June 15-29. The cost to participate is \$900, though scholarships are available. Application and audition materials are due March 8, and can be found at the choir's Web site at [www.catholicyouthchoir.org](http://www.catholicyouthchoir.org). For more information, contact Dorothy Kantor by e-mail at [dkantor@csbsju.edu](mailto:dkantor@csbsju.edu), or by phone at (320) 363-3154.

## ST. GEORGE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Organizers for the St. George School reunion are searching for all alumni who have ever attended St. George School. All are invited to the Homecoming scheduled for March 7. In order to get information out, organizers need to update the alumni directory. All alumni are asked to contact the school at (817) 222-1221 or [principalsg@charter.net](mailto:principalsg@charter.net).

## ST. JOSEPH LITANY

To request a copy of the prayer card and litany to St. Joseph, send \$1 to St. Joseph Litany, PO Box 54642, Hurst, TX 76054.

## PART-TIME MUSIC POSITION

Saint Andrew Catholic Church is seeking candidates for the part-time position of Contemporary Choir Director/accompanist for the 5 p.m. Mass on Sundays. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy and music degree preferred. Job description and application available on request. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume, 2 letters of reference and job application to: Music Search Team, Saint Andrew Catholic Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth, TX, 76109, email: [calves@standrewcc.org](mailto:calves@standrewcc.org), Fax 817-927-8507.

## ADVERTISE

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**NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC**  
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## Good Newsmakers

*Jim and Carol Leito attended Catholic school and sent their children to Catholic school as well; they've spent the last 20 years working to help other families obtain an*

# Education based on Faith

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

**D**ecisions about educating youngsters can cause considerable angst for parents. That wasn't the case with Jim and Carol Leito.

The St. Andrew parishioners, who graduated from Nolan Catholic High School and parochial elementary schools, knew exactly what they wanted for children James, Chris, and Kelly.

"We never even discussed where they would go to school. We just knew," says Jim, who enrolled the children at his alma mater, St. Andrew's.

His wife, Carol, spent her grade school days at St. Maria Goretti in Arlington.

"We felt the Catholic education in our lives laid the foundation for who we are as people," she explains. "We wanted to give our kids the same faith-based education."

They've spent the past 20 years trying to give other families the same opportunity. For their gifts of time and talent which have helped make schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth competitive and affordable, the couple will receive the Diocesan Leadership Award at the 23rd annual Catholic Schools Celebration on Jan. 30 in the Fort Worth Convention Center ballroom.

"Jim and Carol Leito have been sources of positive energy and support to our Catholic schools at all levels throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth," said Don Miller, superintendent of schools. "The faith and commitment the Leitos have demonstrated is a legacy that continues to pay dividends to our Church, their parish, and our Catholic schools."

The couple's resume of Catholic school involvement is impressive.

For many years, Jim Leito helped St. Andrew and Nolan evaluate policies and map out future development plans as a member of each school's finance committee and school board, and as a part of the NCHS board of directors. He currently provides similar leader-



*Jim and Carol Leito (center) pose with their children Chris (far left), Kelly (second from left), and James (far right) during Nolan football game Oct. 19. The couple was inducted into the Nolan Catholic High School Half of Fame during the halftime program that evening.*

ship on the Diocesan School Advisory Council.

While her youngsters were in elementary school, Carol Leito coached boys' and girls' basketball, softball, and soccer.

Together the Texas Tech graduates chaired the St. Andrew Fall Festival, and organized auctions, raffles, and other projects raising thousands of dollars for tuition assistance, new technology, and other needed school improvements. In 2005, the Leitos were the first husband and wife team tapped to oversee Mardi Gras — Nolan's major fundraiser which brought in \$185,000 that year.

"It took a lot of time but we enjoyed it," Carol says, recalling the effort it took to pull together dozens of volunteers and donations. "It was a way for us to contribute back and meet Nolan parents from other areas in the diocese."

The only downside of the experience was the anxiety and pressure that comes with raising money for a worthy cause.

"You're always nervous that you're not going to be as successful as you want to be," she adds. "People are

depending on you to raise a certain amount of money and you want to be able to follow through."

Each Leito brings different skills to fundraising. Jim, a partner in the accounting firm Hartman, Leito, and Bolt, describes his wife as a "people person" who easily cajoles others into helping out.

"She's the one who really holds it all together with the volunteers and makes them feel part of the whole thing," he says. "I just work behind the scenes trying to get things organized."

Their successful collaborations help generate the extra revenue needed to keep tuition costs down. The Leitos empathize with parents who struggle to send their children to Catholic schools.

"It's a sacrifice for them, and any way you can find to help a family afford a Catholic school education, we want to be a part of that," Carol adds. "Now, more than ever, faith is important in life. Catholic schools offer a faith-based education. You can't put a price tag on it."

Although their own children are now young adults, the Leitos continue to support Catholic school students through the Stephen Breen Memorial

### 23rd Annual Celebration of Catholic Schools

Saturday, Jan. 30  
Fort Worth Convention  
Center Ballroom  
Social Hour 6 p.m.  
Dinner 7 p.m.

\$75 per person  
RSVP with Tessy Ross at  
(817) 560-2452, ext. 280  
or visit [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) by  
Jan. 22

Foundation. Jim and Kathy Breen started the foundation to honor their son, a 15-year-old Nolan sophomore, who died in 2004 from a rare bone cancer.

Since its inception, the foundation has contributed \$300,000 in tuition assistance to more than 225 families in the diocese. Jim Leito serves on the organization's board of directors and

SEE LEITOS, P. 22

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## Inside... This issue of the NTC

St. Rita Parish recently celebrated its 100 years of history. Take a look at how students from the school celebrated their sponsor parish's history with tributes to its past generations and many cultures. **6**

Deacons Amado Vallejo and Fernando Preciado came from Mexico to serve the Church in Fort Worth on their way to the priesthood. Join them on their journey of faith. **13**

Fideicomiso del cuidado de salud San José expande sus servicios a través de la diócesis. Clientes potenciales deben vivir dentro de uno de los veintiocho condados servidos por la diócesis. **20**