

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

Vol. 26 No. 2

January 29, 2010



March for Life participants make their way up past the Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 22. The annual anti-abortion demonstration marks the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion across the nation. (CNS photo/Peter Lockley)

Youths taking an active role in pro-life movement

By Laura Wright and Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Drove of pro-life youths from across the country lined up outside the Verizon Center to get inside the annual Youth Rally and Mass for Life sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington Jan. 22, forming a crowd of 17,400 people.

This year the event at the Washington sports arena was more in demand than ever — about 10,000 tickets to the event were snapped up in just 45 minutes when they were made available through online ticketing in mid-November, said Christa Lopiccio, executive director of the archdiocesan Department of Life Issues. “The youth are on fire for pro-life,” she said at the time.

Fifteen alternate gathering sites near the Verizon Center were set up to accommodate 8,000 more pilgrims, she said.

Youths brought banners and signs, but most of all their faith and enthusiasm to the Verizon Center. Hundreds of seminarians and religious also joined the throng.

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl
SEE YOUTH, P. 12

Capital campaign helping parishes upgrade facilities

By Juan Guajardo
Editorial Assistant

Tucked into a corner of Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville is the Eucharistic Chapel, an intimate space where parishioners can meditate and pray in front of the Eucharist. It's a beautiful room, but there's one problem: It's too small.

“Our parish is growing very fast,” said Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, pastor of Good Shepherd. “We've gained about 500 families in two-and-a-half years.”

That growth prompted Fr. Eldredge and the staff at Good Shepherd to form a committee to address the space issues at the church. What resulted was a plan to build a daily chapel that would seat 130 people and ease overcrowding for the 2,658 families attending the parish. Construction of the chapel is expected to cost between \$500,000 and \$700,000, Fr. Eldredge said.

But just coming off paying a large parish debt, parishioners wanted to avoid getting into debt again. That's where the diocesan campaign, *All Things Possible*, came into play.

The *All Things Possible* campaign was initiated in 2009 with the goal of raising \$40 million for diocesan needs. The money from the 4-year campaign will support everything from local parish needs to the priest pension fund, Catholic school



scholarships, and various other ministries and services. In addition, parishes are finding that going over their pledges significantly benefits them thanks to the 75/25 split — until a parish reaches its goal, it receives 25 cents of every dollar raised and the diocese receives 75 cents. After a parish reaches its goal, 75 cents of every dollar goes to the parish for its own projects and uses, and the diocese gets the remaining 25 percent of parishioners' donations to the campaign.

“It's a real advantage to us, we want to give to the diocese, because the diocese has many, many needs, so we're very happy to try and help the diocese,” Fr. Eldredge said. “In the meantime, they're also very good about trying to help us. I think

SEE CAMPAIGN, P. 2

Bishop Carmody retires; Austin administrator to succeed him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Edmond Carmody of Corpus Christi, and named Monsignor W. Michael Mulvey, administrator of the Diocese of Austin, to succeed him.

The changes were announced in Washington Jan. 18 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Carmody, a 76-year-old native of Ireland, has been a bishop since 1988 and head of the Corpus Christi Diocese since 2000. Bishop-designate Mulvey, 60, has administered the Austin Dio-

ces since Bishop Gregory M. Aymond left in August to become archbishop of New Orleans.

Bishop-designate Mulvey will be ordained to the episcopacy and installed as bishop of Corpus Christi March 25 at Corpus Christi Cathedral.

At a Jan. 18 press conference in Corpus Christi, Bishop-designate Mulvey spoke in Spanish and English, with special greetings for the priests, deacons, seminarians, and young people of the diocese.

“No person can work in isolation and much less a bishop,” he told the priests. “Your collaboration will be



Bishop-designate Mulvey

essential to me in announcing God's love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The bishop-designate told young people that they are “essential to the vitality of

SEE MULVEY, P. 2

Pope names Galveston-Houston auxiliary to head Austin Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Galveston-Houston, 52, to be bishop of Austin, succeeding Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, who was named archbishop of New Orleans last June.

The appointment was announced in Washington Jan. 26 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

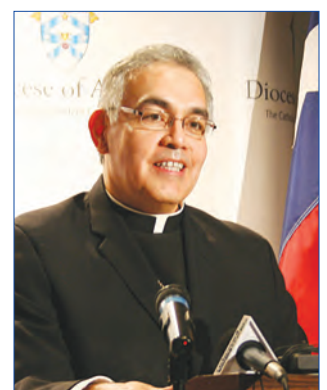
Bishop Vasquez has been an auxiliary for Galveston-Houston since 2002.

His installation is set for March 8 at St. William Church in Round Rock, which is just north of Austin.

The eldest of six children, Joe S. Vasquez was born in Stamford, Texas, July 9, 1957. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas, in 1984, and in 2001, he was named auxiliary bishop of Galveston-Houston and ordained early the following year. He was the first priest of the Diocese of San Angelo to be named a bishop. He is one of 27 active Hispanic Catholic bishops in the U.S.

He chose as his episcopal motto “Sigueme,” Spanish for “Follow me,” in reference to Jesus' words to Peter in the Gospel of St. John.

In 2005 he tended to the pastoral needs of Gulf



Bishop Vasquez

Coast residents who fled to the Houston area after Hurricane Katrina.

Since 2006 Bishop Vasquez has been archdiocesan vicar general and

SEE VASQUEZ, P. 2

All Things Possible campaign enters second phase

As the *All Things Possible* campaign prepares to enter its second major block of receptions, (160 of them, currently scheduled for 51 parishes), it goes forward with great momentum.

With only a third of the parishes of the diocese having had the chance to participate in the \$40 million campaign, contributions and pledges are already edging toward the halfway point of \$20 million, and eight of the first 25 parishes to take part in the campaign have gone over their goals for the campaign. The remaining parishes are still receiving gifts toward their goals.

Money raised by the campaign is already allowing parishes to begin projects that will be made possible in part by using their share of *All Things Possible* funds (See adjacent article).

Cassata High School recently received a \$500,000 grant which will be combined with \$500,000 from the *All Things Possible* case to allow extensive renovation of the school's historic building. The renovations will bring it into the 21st century, with complete wiring for

computer use, adding an elevator, so that the building will be handicap accessible, and other improvements that will add both functionality and years of service to the former Laner High School building.

For the second phase of the campaign, Bishop Kevin Vann has assembled a campaign cabinet which he will chair along with *All Things Possible* co-chairs Don and Debbie Phifer. This campaign leadership team will include pastors who have been successful in meeting and exceeding campaign goals in their own parishes. They will share what they have learned, along with parish chair people who have played a role in those successes. Also included on the team will be some employees of the Catholic Center, the Catholic schools, and some retired priests.

This group will help with leadership gifts for the campaign and in speaking to and enlisting the support of many of the various apostolates who serve the church, including among others, the Knights of Columbus, Serra Clubs, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and the Knights and Ladies of

the Holy Sepulchre.

In a phone interview Thursday evening, Campaign Co-chair Don Phifer said he has been pleased with the very positive response he's heard from parishioners and people he's met at the parish receptions. "We've had a tremendous response," he said, adding that the strength of the positive response has been even more than he expected. Phifer said, "I've been delighted to find how encouraged they are; excited about doing things for technology, the seminarians, priest retirement, the Catholic schools." The campaign doesn't just address one area of need, but addresses needs across the board, Phifer said.

He pointed out the wisdom of the initial 75/25 split until parishes reach their goals, then moving to the 25 percent for the diocese and 75 percent for the parish after they hit goal. "That's the beauty of this whole campaign," he said. "People want to do something for the diocese, but also, they're happy to see benefit coming to their own parishes."

Co-chair Debbie Phifer said she too has been happy with the very positive reaction people had to the campaign in the receptions she and Don had attended. And too, she said, she was especially happy to have the opportunity to give back for all the local Church has done for herself and her family.

Parish receptions are informational gatherings that provide an opportunity to learn about the campaign and ask for those in attendance to act as ambassadors for the *All Things Possible* campaign. The receptions emphasize the personal nature of giving. Each person attending will receive campaign information, hear more about the case itself, and then be given an opportunity to ask questions. Every registered family in the Diocese of Fort Worth has been or will be sent an invitation to attend one of these gatherings held at their parish.

Anyone who finds they have misplaced their invitation or have not yet received one, are invited to check their parish bulletins or contact their parish office to find out when their parish will be hosting its receptions for *All Things Possible*.

PARISHES CURRENTLY OVER GOAL:

Good Shepherd Parish,
Colleyville
Holy Family Parish,
Fort Worth
Holy Rosary Parish,
Cisco
Holy Trinity Mission Parish,
Azle
Sacred Heart Parish,
Wichita Falls
St. Francis Xavier Parish,
Eastland
St. John Parish,
Strawn
St. Rita Parish,
Ranger

A list of all scheduled receptions is also available on the diocesan Web site at fwdioc.org.

The first reception in the second group of parishes is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Wichita Falls and parish receptions will run through the middle of April.

Campaign...

FROM PAGE 1

it's beneficial to all of us, not only the diocese but our parish as well."

With Good Shepherd having surpassed its goal of more than \$1.9 million by more than \$620,000, the 75/25 split rule went into effect. As a result, the parish will receive 75 percent of each dollar that surpassed the parish goal of \$1.9 million, in addition to 25 percent of each dollar leading up to the \$1.9 million mark.

Fr. Eldredge says the money from the campaign should help the parish complete the building of the daily chapel without incurring any debt. The project is scheduled to begin no later than 2011, and could potentially be built at the same time as two other parish-funded projects, a music rehearsal hall and administrative offices, Fr. Eldredge said.

The daily chapel will feature

stained glass windows and a bell tower. It will also connect to the Eucharistic chapel and the main church, and will be directly accessible from the outside. As a result, there will no longer be a need to heat or cool the 1,500 person-capacity main church during the week, Fr. Eldredge explained.

Furthermore, the chapel will help the spiritual life of parishioners.

"Right now, we have more people who want to be part of adoration on a daily basis, but our chapel is too small, our Eucharistic chapel, so that will help that," Fr. Eldredge said. The daily chapel will be used for daily Mass, Rosaries, adoration, Stations of the Cross, and quiet prayer, he added.

The *All Things Possible* campaign is benefitting other parishes as well. Sacred Heart parish in Wichita Falls went over its campaign goal too,

and the returns will be used for a number of improvements to the parish, said Father Hoa Nguyen, pastor of Sacred Heart.

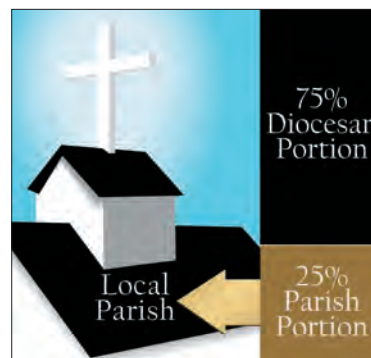
"The economy is in a bad state right now," Fr. Nguyen said. "Being able to meet the goal is very hard."

He said it was impressive for the parish to pass the pledge of \$766,000 by more than \$33,000. The parishioners recognized the needs of the diocese and sacrificed to be able to contribute, Fr. Nguyen said.

Sacred Heart, like Good Shepherd, had also recently finished paying off a large debt.

With the guidance of the pastor and the contributions of parishioners, the almost \$1.5 million debt was paid off in 2008, making the fact that the parish went over goal even more significant, Pastoral Assistant David Bindel said.

"The parishioners have their hearts in the right place," Bindel said. "[Parishioners] wondered if it was possible, but just like the



bishop said, all things with God are possible. We set out to achieve our goal and succeeded, then exceeded it."

Parish money and proceeds from *All Things Possible* will go toward much-needed fixes like establishing a youth center, fixing an elevator, renovating offices and church grounds, and updating the air conditioning and heating units.

The same generous attitude helped Holy Family Parish in Fort Worth surpass its *All Things Possible* campaign goal of approxi-

mately \$1.3 million by more than \$270,000.

The money from the campaign will go toward the parish reserve fund, Fr. Pemberton said. The money in that fund will then be used for improvements like construction at Holy Family School, updating the air conditioning system, and renovating the church.

"It shows how many of my parishioners here understand that we at Holy Family belong to a much larger church family, which is the diocese," Fr. Pemberton said of the campaign success. "We have an obligation and a responsibility for the nurturing and strengthening of the diocese as it moves into the future, to do all we can to build the kingdom of God here in North Texas," he said, alluding to the need to bring the Gospel to the more than 600,000 Catholics of our diocese. "Many of my people see this as an opportunity to help spread the Gospel far beyond our own walls"

Mulvey...

FROM PAGE 1

the Church" and said he looked forward "to sitting down with you and your pastors to reinforce our commitment to you and your faith."

Born Aug. 23, 1949, in Houston, William Michael Mulvey is the second of six children; he has 12 nieces and nephews.

One of 359 priests ordained by

Pope Paul VI in 1975 in St. Peter's Square, he was ordained for the Diocese of Austin.

Bishop-designate Mulvey chose as his episcopal motto, "Your attitude must be that of Christ," from *Philippians 2:5*. He said it has been a philosophy he has strived to live by throughout his life and priesthood.

"It reflects service," he said. "To serve you must be empty of self."

Bishop Carmody, the second of 13 children, was born in Moyvane,

County Kerry, Ireland, and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio on June 8, 1957. Pope John Paul II appointed him auxiliary bishop of San Antonio in 1988. Bishop Carmody led the Diocese of Tyler from 1992-2000, before becoming bishop of Corpus Christi.

Since coming to Corpus Christi, Bishop Carmody has been concerned with three major issues of the city — school dropouts, diabetes, and the homeless.

Vasquez...

FROM PAGE 1

chancellor. He also has served as episcopal vicar for Hispanics and archdiocesan liaison for youths during his years in Galveston-Houston.

Bishop Vasquez is the first Mexican-American to lead the Austin Diocese, which he said is a heartwarming sign from Rome.

"This tells me that Rome is

mindful of the growing Hispanic population in this state," he said. "I am very proud of my Hispanic heritage, and I hope to encourage other men, especially young Mexican-American men, to consider a vocation to the priesthood."

The Austin Diocese covers about 19,500 square miles. It has a total population of 2.6 million people; Catholics number about 459,000, or 18 percent of the population.

Contributing to this story was Shelley Metcalf in Austin.

Eighth president of University of Dallas to assume office March 1

IRVING (CNS) — Thomas W. Keefe, vice president of advancement at St. Louis University since 2005, has been named the eighth president of the University of Dallas. He is scheduled to assume the presidency March 1.

O.D. Cruse, chairman of the university's board of trustees, said Keefe was chosen because of his "background and his enthusiastic endorsement of our Catholic identity, our values, vision, and mission." The Catholic, coeducational, liberal arts university has more than 3,000 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs.

"I am honored to have been selected as president of the University of Dallas," said Keefe. "The University has long been recognized as one of the best Catholic universities in the nation; known for its high academic

standards and unique programs. I am looking forward to working with the Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni in achieving the University's goals and strategic initiatives as we build on the strong relationships and reputation we have as well as foster new relationships in the Dallas-Fort Worth community and across the nation."

Keefe, who holds a law degree from the University of Kansas College of Law and a bachelor's degree from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, is a nationally recognized expert and speaker in the field of donor cultivation, having had a direct involvement or leadership role in generating more than \$500 million in gifts and grants for the institutions he has served.

St. Louis University is a Jesuit institution with more than 13,000 students.

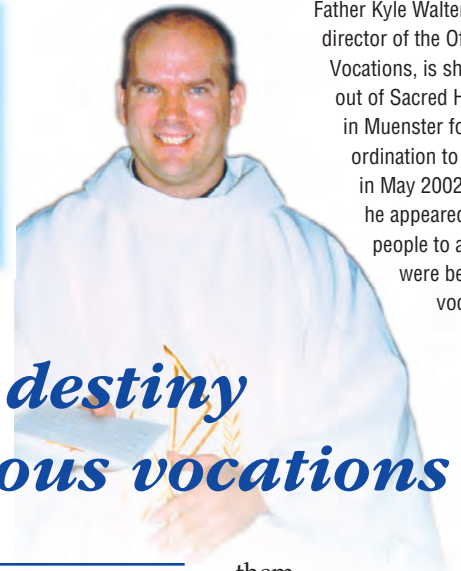
OLV alumni invited to 100th anniversary events Feb. 6

OLV is calling out to Our Lady of Victory School alumni to help them celebrate the school's 100th anniversary 6. "We're celebrating 100 Years," says Rachael Garnett, OLV development director, as she extends the school's invitation to join other former students of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur's historic school for its First Alumni Mass and Dinner, Feb. 6. The

gathering begins with 4:30 p.m. Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia on Fort Worth's near South Side, followed at 6 p.m. with dinner at OLV.

Contact Rachael Garnett, OLV development director, for more information by e-mail at rgarnett@olvfw.com or by phone at (817) 924-5123.

*Responding
to God's Call*



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.

2010 — A great destiny ahead for religious vocations II

For those from our diocese discerning the possibility of religious life, it is vital for them to be well-connected to their parish and the Vocations Office, as well as prepared spiritually for the journey toward God that lies ahead of them.

Any official step toward the religious life requires the young person discerning to speak with a priest, brother, sister, deacon, or lay person who has some official capacity in the church, such as pastor, pastoral administrator, youth minister, director of religious education, or campus minister. Why? Because, a spiritual journey toward Christ and his Church requires spiritual leaders to get to know you and for you to get to know them. We are all part of the universal Church, and while it is a lifetime of learning, we need to learn about the Church both from the catechetical standpoint, as well as a relational one.

We all need the help of one another and, most especially, we need the help of those who have already made that journey of faith ahead of us. When one confides in a leader of the church to say they sense a calling from God to the religious life, it usually takes one to three years for that same person to be prepared to take the next step, to be ready to enter a religious community.

Why so long? For one reason, a calling is not tangible; it is not something touched with one's hand, but rather sensed as a calling in one's spirit and soul. Secondly, an

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diocesan Vocations
Director....*

authentic calling has a sense of persistence in which it just doesn't seem to go away. It is not uncommon for single men and women older than 40 to say that they have had a sense of this calling since childhood or their teenage years.

One example of a false calling, which often occurs, happens when single people convert or revert to the Catholic Church. Feeling joyful upon entering the Church, they are open to active service in their community and often want to enter the religious life. But more times than not, this is a calling attached to their conversion, which is separate from a calling to religious life. For that reason, among others, the Catholic Church in the U.S. requires a convert to be Catholic for a minimum of two years before being accepted in a religious community.

Now, eventually, and sooner better than later, someone considering the religious life needs to contact his or her local diocesan Vocations Director (that's me for Fort Worth) and ask: What is the next step of discernment? The first thing I try to do for them is to listen to them and to record the steps they have already taken. Then I can begin to journey with them through the rest of the steps they need to follow in order to make a well-rounded discernment as to the direction God is calling

them.

As we come upon Lent, I invite everyone who is single and open to the religious life, all those who believe that God may be calling them to consider the religious life, from throughout our diocese to come to the weekly Lenten Discernment Program that will be held every Monday night at St. Patrick Cathedral from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for men and on every Tuesday night from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for women. The program is designed so that by the end of the six-week period, one is able, ready, and spiritually equipped to take the next step forward in their discernment toward religious life, or they may well be able to begin to see that religious life is not for them. Either way, we are grateful for these young single men and women to consider the religious life. We believe that the Lord will be able to speak to them more clearly through this program as they come together in Eucharistic Adoration, as well as sharing their faith, fears, doubts, and questions with like-minded people who have proven to be a great support group.

Although most in the group will consist of adults, we also welcome high school teenagers who are 15 years old or older, with parental permission, and who are more mature than their years. Parents are welcome to be present in the adjoining room. Anyone is welcome to call or e-mail me for more information or to meet with me formally.

We need your help! Please, get the word out about how great this opportunity is and how important the Lenten Discernment Program is for anyone discerning the religious life.

Father Kyle Walterscheid is the director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth. He can be reached by e-mail to kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.

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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.

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 or to make a reservation, call Kathy and Terry Telger (817) 294-2749 or e-mail mereregistration@sbcglobal.net.

End of life workshop to be offered at St. Maria Goretti

All are invited to attend an end of life workshop at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Dr., Arlington. The workshop, sponsored by the Fort Worth Knights of Columbus and the Respect Life Ministry of St. Maria Goretti, will be presented by Father Tom Kennedy Feb. 20 at 9 a.m.

Following the presentation using the National Catholic Bioethics Center's (NCBC) "A Catholic Guide to End of Life Decisions" participants will have the opportunity to fill out the Advance Medical Directive and Health Proxy. Attendees will receive their own copy of *A Will to Live* by Archbishop José Gomez and the NCBC's guide with Health Proxy and Advanced Medical Directive forms.

For more information and to reserve materials, call (817) 637-9381. Light refreshments will be provided.

Prayer and Sidewalk Counseling training session to be offered Feb. 6

A Prayer and Sidewalk Counseling training session will be offered Saturday, Feb. 6 at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 South Cherry Lane in White Settlement. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. by Father E. James Hart, chancellor and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Fort Worth. Following the Mass Father Michael Kmitek, CFR will present "Angels and Demons at the

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 suicide-survivors@myfumc.org.

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 weekend is available on-line at www.shsp.org, under "What's New?" or by contacting Sister Gabriel Hession, SHSp, at (210) 533-5149 or shession@hotmail.com.

Patriotic Rosary to be held at St. Patrick's Feb. 9

A Patriotic Rosary prayer service will be held Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7-8 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton, Fort Worth. All are invited to join in the prayer of intercession for priests, church, and nation. For more information call the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center: (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805.

Abortion Center: Approaching one - Confronting the other," and Chuck Pelletier will present "Why Sidewalk Counseling? How do you do it?" The commissioning of Sidewalk Counselors and closing prayer will end the program.

Reservations are requested by e-mailing Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org. For more information, call (817) 560-3300 ext. 257.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



PLEDGE RUN FOR HAITI — The Holy Family School eighth grade class spearheaded a pledge run to raise money for the devastated victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Students were encouraged to run for a period of time and record their results. Run minutes will be compensated by donors who agreed to sponsor them. Students who participated ran or walked during school recess, during running club, or on their own at home. The monies donated to this cause will be sent to Catholic Relief Services, an agency already at work in Haiti.

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. Items for the Feb. 12 issue must be received by noon on Feb. 3. Items for the Feb. 26 issue must be received by noon on Feb. 17.

DCCW third quarterly meeting to be held Feb. 18

The Women of St. Andrew Parish will host the third quarterly meeting of the Central East Deanery of the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Catholic Renewal Center. The meeting will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

Judy Locke, associate director of Permanent Deacon Formation for the Diocese of Fort Worth and Victim Assistance Coordinator for the diocese, will present "Living the Year in Jesus Christ." Mass will be celebrated by Father Ivor Koch followed by lunch and the annual fundraiser auction. Attendees are asked to donate a wrapped gift or gifts (white elephant, \$10 value) for the auction. "Join us in the fun and bring a few friends from your parish or community," urge event organizers.

The cost for the event is \$10 and reservation deadline is Feb. 15. For more information or a reservation, call Connie Soto at (817) 838-8302. The Catholic Renewal Center is located at 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth.

Deaf Ministry to hold Lenten retreat Feb. 19-20

The Deaf Ministry will hold a Lenten retreat Feb. 19-20 at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Rd., Bedford. "Journey From Lent to Easter: Jesus' and Ours" will be presented by Sister Maureen Langton. Sr. Maureen is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Louis, Missouri, and has worked with the deaf for 41 years as a teacher, counselor, and coordinator.

The cost for the retreat will be \$15 and registration deadline is Feb. 5. For more information, contact Mary Cinatl at (817) 284-3019 or mcinatl@fwdioc.org.

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 or call (972) 938-5433.

Mother / Daughter Tea to be held March 28

The Spring Mother/Daughter Tea will be held Sunday afternoon, March 28, from noon to 4 p.m. The location of the tea has been changed to The Knights of Columbus Hall in Keller. All young ladies, ages 10 to 13, their mothers, grandmothers, or any other special woman in their lives are invited to enjoy and celebrate the gifts of being female.

"Join us for an afternoon in a tea house complete with tea pots and cups, a delicious lunch, and dessert. Other women will be your hostesses and speakers as we share our life experiences and the satisfaction of being female, as well as the special gifts and qualities we have received from our Creator to function in this role. This session will explain, from a faith-based perspective, the physical, emotional, and psychological changes that occur in becoming a woman," states Kathy Stojak, coordinator of the program. "It is our hope that by sharing this afternoon, both mothers and daughters will better appreciate themselves and each other because of who they are as women; and come to know the respect needed for their role in God's plan for creation."

There is a \$12.50 per person fee. Reservations can be made by calling Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096. Due to limited space, reservations are being accepted on a first-call basis. The Knights of Columbus Hall is located in Keller at 1907 Whitley Rd.

Founder of Veronica Ministries to speak at Magnificat Feb. 20

Anne Costa, author, motivational speaker, and founder of the New York-based Veronica Ministries, will give her personal testimony during Magnificat's winter prayer breakfast Saturday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. The breakfast, sponsored by the Grapevine chapter in North Texas, will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at 785 State Hwy. 121 in Lewisville. Magnificat is a national, charismatic ministry to Catholic women.

Costa, a licensed master social worker, overcame a series of personal tragedies to rediscover her Catholic faith and help others in their own spiritual journey through the lay apostolate Veronica Ministries. Her speech for the Magnificat breakfast is entitled "Living for the Love of It."

Tickets for the breakfast are \$18, and can be purchased through Feb. 16 at the following Catholic bookstores: Keepsakes Catholic Books and Gifts, Lakewood Center, Arlington; Little Angels Catholic Store, 600 E. Sandy Lake Rd., Coppell; Catholic Art and Gifts, 2761 Valwood Pkwy., Farmers Branch; St. Anthony's Bookstore, 3121 McCart Ave., Fort Worth; and Divine Mercy Catholic Book Store and Gifts, 262 S. Interstate 35E, Denton. Tickets can also be purchased by contacting Nancy Ferri at (817) 498-7980.

Natural Family Planning classes to begin in February

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the symptothermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding.

To register for a course starting Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart School Library, 153 E. Sixth Street, Muenster, contact Scott and Vickie Green at (940) 759-4475. To register for a course starting Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, contact Scott and Amy Rustand at (817) 581-6266. Visit www.cclfdw.org for more class dates and information.

Leon Suprenant to speak on the Media and the New Evangelization Feb. 10

Nationally known Catholic author and lecturer Leon Suprenant will offer a presentation entitled "New Media for a New Evangelization" Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Drive in Arlington. Suprenant will first discuss the New Evangelization as envisioned by Pope John Paul II and how lay Catholics are called to advance this evangelization of Christ through holiness and their call to mission. The focus of discussion will then shift to how the Church can use the new media to advance a call to evangelization and how to best reach the modern culture through this modern means of communication and information.

Sponsored by the Pope John Paul II Institute Catechetical School, this presentation will be especially helpful to those who are involved in parish ministry. There is no charge for the presentation and all are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 560-3300 ext. 260 or at lpollice@fwdioc.org.

A Day of Communio to be held April 15

A Day of *Communio* (formerly known as the Ministerium) will be held Thursday, April 15 at St. Bartholomew Parish, 3601 Alta Mesa Blvd., Fort Worth. This program is designed to provide an opportunity for cooperation of ordained and lay ministers of the Church. Clergy, religious, deacons, parish staff, and campus ministers are invited to attend.

The keynote speaker for this event will be Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities, USA. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with prayer and end at 3:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. for those who wish to attend.

For more information, contact Joe Rodriguez at (817) 560-3300 ext. 115.

Diocesan

Cathedral will break ground for new parish center this spring

St. Patrick Cathedral Parish dedicates new Religious Education Center

"Celebrating our Past, Building Our Future" — was a campaign phrase with special meaning to several hundred members of downtown Fort Worth's St. Patrick Cathedral as they gathered on the afternoon of Jan. 10. Cathedral parishioners, led by St. Patrick's rector, Father Richard Flores, were enthusiastic participants in the ribbon cutting and blessing of the cathedral's spacious new Religious Education Center, located across the street from the cathedral at 1308 Throckmorton St.

The theme of the cathedral's campaign to renovate existing facilities, while building an innovative new parish center, alludes to the historic legacy of the cathedral, whose cornerstone was laid on Oct. 14, 1888. "And yet, this is also such an exciting time for the cathedral community, as we look ahead and see so many wonderful things happening," said Patty Bransford, director of children's religious education for St. Patrick.

"St. Ignatius Academy first opened its doors in 1884, and after the school closed (in 1956) the building was used for religious education classes," explained parishioner Carla Gonzales, the cathedral's coordinator of adult religious formation. "The St. Ignatius building is over 100 years old, and a lot of repairs are needed for safety reasons. We held our last classes there in December. There are so many memories tied up in St. Ignatius, but now there are new memories to be formed, as well."

Those new memories will be shared by the 1,300 families currently registered as members of the cathedral, with more than 400 children, ages 6 to 18, attending religious education classes on Sunday morning. The new site was previously occupied by an engineering firm, but now boasts 12 classrooms and two temporary offices for cathedral staff members.

"We hold weekly Sunday morning classes from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for all ages, and classes for children in grades kindergarten through sixth from 10:45 a.m. to noon," explained Bransford, noting that additional Confirmation classes are held once each month for high school students.

"This spring, we will be breaking ground on our new parish center, which will include a kitchen and a second floor for all of the permanent parish staff offices," she added. The parish center, which will be located at the southwest corner of 12th and Throckmorton streets, will have the capacity to seat 450 people at



Cathedral Rector Fr. Richard Flores prepares to cut the ribbon and bless the new St. Patrick Religious Education Center, assisted by Sacristan Michael Fronk.

RIGHT: Dennis Richardson and Kristin Patterson prepare for teaching in the new Religious Education Center

RIGHT: Patty Bransford, director of Children's Formation and Fr. Richard Flores discuss final details before the blessing of the Religious Education Center.

Photos by St. Patrick parishioners Carla Gonzales and Josette Avina.

tables or 750 in chairs. Plans are also being made by parish leaders for the eventual renovation and use of the now-vacant St. Ignatius Academy building.

"There's such enthusiasm here in the cathedral community, as we plan for new programs and we see

the growth that is coming," said Bransford. "We have great leadership, and we are so thankful to Father Flores for working to make it all happen. The new [religious education] center is wonderful. The opening was a great way to start the new year."

Contributing to this article was Carla Gonzales



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St. Joseph Covenant Keepers Lenten speaker series to feature Aubert and Kellmeyer

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers will once again offer a Lenten speaker series on the Friday evenings of Lent, except for Good Friday. The series of talks, featuring apologist Chris Aubert, and author Steve Kellmeyer, is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. each Friday beginning Feb. 12 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller. The talks will begin after the parish fish fry and Stations of the Cross. There is no charge for the presentations, however a freewill offering will be taken.



Chris Aubert

Weeks one, two, and three will be presented by Chris Aubert, nationally known Catholic evangelist and apologist who focuses on pro-life issues. His topics will include Feb. 12, "Church Teaching and the Pro-Life Movement"; Feb. 19, "Apologetics 101- How to Evangelize our Friends"; and Feb. 26, "The Eucharist — Al-

mighty God or a Cracker".



Steve Kellmeyer

Steve Kellmeyer, noted author and frequent speaker on Catholic radio, will present weeks four, five, and six. Kellmeyer's topics are March 12, "The Passion of Jesus Christ"; March 19, "The Crucifixion and Death of Christ"; and March 27, "The Resurrection and Ascension" For more information on his books, please visit www.bridegroompress.com "This is a great opportunity to learn more about Catholic Church history, Catholic Church teachings on love and marriage, and to grow in your love for Christ and His Church," write event organizers in their promotional materials.

For more information, contact Frank Laux at (817) 939-8594 or visit the St. Joseph Covenant Keepers Web site at www.sjcktc.org.

Catholic musician John Michael Talbot to minister at St. Francis, Grapevine, Feb. 20

World-renowned Catholic Christian singer John Michael Talbot will be performing at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine Saturday, Feb. 20, 7-9 p.m. Talbot is the founder and minister general of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity at Little Portion

Hermitage in Arkansas. He is touring to raise funds for the rebuilding and maintenance of Little Portion Monastery, destroyed by a fire in May of 2008. A "love offering" will be requested. For more information contact the St. Francis office at (817) 481-2685.

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Tony Abadie joins diocese's Family Life staff as coordinator of Natural Family Planning

By Michele Baker
Correspondent

Although his office hours at the Catholic Center are limited to one day a week, Tony Abadie spends a great deal of his time outside of the office teaching Natural Family Planning to couples throughout the diocese.

"My wife, Marianne, and I have taught about 100 couples since we became instructors two and a half years ago," said Abadie. "It's something I'm very passionate about."

Yet Abadie is the first to admit that his ministry to couples in this very intimate part of their lives was something he had to arrive at on his journey of faith.

"When we first got married, Marianne and I used regular

contraception," Abadie explains. "Because nobody had told us any better when we went through our marriage preparation."

About a year after the couple married, while a visiting a friend, Marianne learned that using the pill for birth control was against Church teaching. Marianne went home and told Abadie that she would no longer use it. Abadie reluctantly agreed. The couple began using other natural methods of contraception and seeking methods in line with Church teaching. Several years passed before they eventually learned about and started using the Billings method of Natural Family Planning.

"We have two children," said Abadie. "Guerin, who is five years old and his little brother,



Tony Abadie

Sebastian, who is four. Ironically, it wasn't until after the birth of our second son that Marianne and I

learned about NFP."

"I did not exactly have it together as a Catholic back then," said Abadie. "But NFP totally changed my life. It gave me chastity — which is something everybody needs no matter their vocation. And when I saw that, I got excited about it. So we became teachers. I call this my penance because when we teach I basically just tell everybody my sins," Abadie laughs.

While Tony and Marianne live on the border between the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses and actually attend Mass at St. Ann Church in Coppell, Abadie is pleased that Fort Worth has the diocesan infrastructure to provide instruction and resources for NFP. He is also quick to point out that

within the Diocese of Fort Worth, any gaps in the instruction of engaged couples about the Church's teaching on contraception have been filled.

"All of the programs that we have now are good," Abadie said.

When not teaching classes or working in the diocesan offices, Tony Abadie works as the general manager of a restaurant, but he truly believes that the NFP program that changed his life and faith walk is his special calling.

"I never knew what my spiritual gifts were," said Abadie. "Honestly, I'm still unsure about that, but it seems that God gave me this. I've never been able to reach people except in this type of ministry."

Private collection of relics to be exhibited Feb. 27-28

Dallas archivist Steve Landregan, to give presentation 10 a.m. Feb. 27

By Nicki Prevou
Correspondent
Photos courtesy of
Carl McGowan

Carl McGowan has always yearned for the stories, the traditions, and the cherished mementos that are passed down through most extended families.

An only child, the Dallas-area artist and sculptor notes that at this point in his life, his mother is his only living relative. "Having come from a very small family, the concept of the communion of saints is extremely meaningful to me," he says. "The stories of the saints, of the holy men and women who have come before us, who are truly our spiritual ancestors, sparked my interest in holy relics. I began collecting about seven years ago, and I now have over 250 items that I'm eager to share with others who want to learn about this very beautiful aspect of our Catholic faith."

McGowan, a member of Holy Trinity Church, will display his private collection of relics from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27 and Sunday, Feb. 28 at the church, located at 3826 Gilbert Ave. in Dallas. The exhibit will include an educational presentation on saints, the canonization process, and the various classifications of relics, led by Steve Landregan, historian and archivist for the Diocese of Dallas. The presentation will begin on Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. in Holy Trinity's parish center.

Most of the relics in McGowan's collection, obtained mainly from



Holy Cup of Valencia (Domed Glass), Holy Nail (Temple Reliquary), Veil of Veronica (Framed), Holy Family (Gold Traditional Italian Reliquary), Staff of St. Joseph (Gold Putti Reliquary) and True Cross Relics (Large Cross Reliquary).

"Having come from a very small family, the concept of the communion of saints is extremely meaningful to me," he says. "The stories of the saints, of the holy men and women who have come before us, who are truly our spiritual ancestors, sparked my interest in holy relics..."

— Carl McGowan

churches, monasteries, and convents throughout the U.S., the Holy Land, and Europe, are considered first- or second-class

to Christ. There are many references in Scripture and within the *Catechism* that tell us about the importance of keeping our loved ones' stories alive by keeping something with us that was a part of them. Through these treasures, the Church has yet another creative way of keeping our spiritual ancestors close to us."

For more information about the display and presentation the weekend of Feb. 27-28, contact Holy Trinity Church at (214) 526-8555.

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Diocesan

Catholic Charities USA gives first 'Keep the Dream Alive' awards

Catholic Charities USA, joined by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, celebrated the 2010 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday by sponsoring the first national "Keep the Dream Alive" award. Awards were given to four prominent Catholic leaders during a Mass held Monday, Jan. 18 at St. Aloysius Church in Washington, D.C.

Ralph McCloud, director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and a longtime member of Our Mother of Mercy Church in Fort Worth, received the award from Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. Arturo Chavez, Ph.D, president of the Mexican American Catholic College and Cultural Center (MACC) in San Antonio, and Allison Boisvert, social justice minister for the Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, also received the award.

Edward Orzieski, president of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, presented Father Raymond Kemp, STL, a Fellow at the Woodstock



Former director of Social Justice Ministries for the Diocese of Fort Worth and now director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, a department of the USCCB in Washington, D.C., Ralph McCloud poses with the "Keep the Dream Alive award", flanked by Bishop Martin Holley of the Archdiocese of Washington, and Fr. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. Catholic Charities USA and the Archdiocese of Washington jointly gave the awards to McCloud, Arturo Chavez of MACC, and two other recipients.

Theological Center at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., with the "Faith Does Justice" award at the Mass. Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley, of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., presided at the liturgy.

McCloud, a Fort Worth native, served as the division director of Pastoral and Community Services for the Diocese of Fort Worth until his appointment to the CCHD office in 2007.

He is the former President of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators, a

member of the Board of Trustees for the National Black Catholic Congress.

He served as the City of Fort Worth's liaison to the Texas Attorney General in 1998 and 1999. He was appointed to the National League of Cities Human Development Steering Committee from 1998 to 2003.

Describing himself as "overwhelmed and honored" to receive

the prestigious national award, McCloud noted, "In so many ways, Catholic Charities USA keeps the dream alive for many, day in and day out. CCUSA allows the often elusive dreams of food, clothing, shelter and self-sufficiency to become a reality daily throughout the United States. To receive an award that is connected to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is of course an

awe-inspiring experience."

Prior to his leadership at MACC, Arturo Chávez served in ministry to incarcerated youth and developed pastoral care and community after-care programs. As a community organizer and activist, he founded a nonprofit organization for youth and families called JOVEN in San Antonio and has co-authored a curriculum for Latino youth leadership formation called Respeto.

"As we celebrate [Catholic Charities USA's] centennial year by renewing our commitment to reduce poverty in America, we join the nation in honoring the Rev. Dr. King as a great champion of the struggle to reduce poverty," said Fr. Snyder. "We will present this award annually to national figures who inspire the nation to keep the dream alive by their life work of reducing poverty in America."

For more information about the awards and the award winners, visit the Catholic Charities USA Web site at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/keepthedreamalive.

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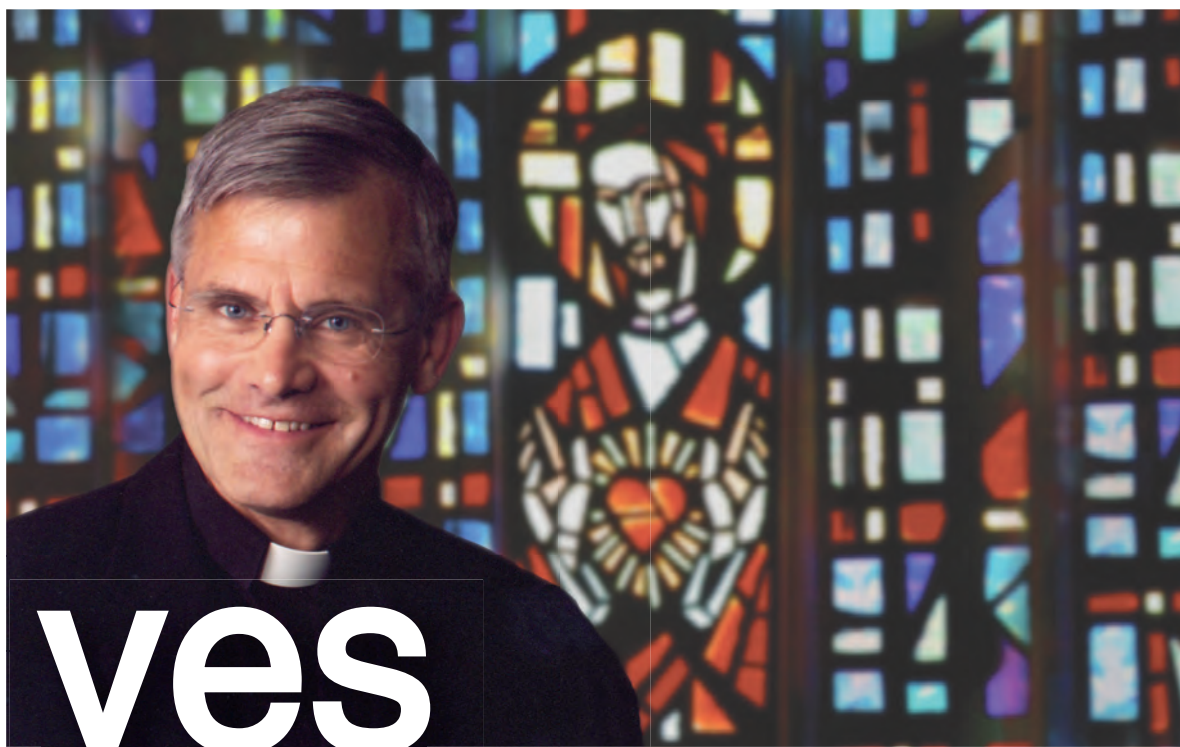
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Bishop asks pro-life supporters to continue their work

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Temperatures hovered near freezing and the Dallas Cowboys were battling the Philadelphia Eagles in a playoff game, but that didn't keep Gimarie and Abelino Menchaca from bringing their children to the Respect Life Mass, celebrated Jan. 9 in St. Patrick Cathedral. Attending the annual liturgy, which commemorates the innocent lives lost to abortion, has become a ritual for the young family.

"We want to teach them abortion is wrong," the young mother said, as her youngsters Abelino Jr. 7, Ariana, 6, Diego, 4, Natalia, 2, and Mario, 5 months, took in the cathedral's surroundings. "Going to this Mass and participating in the ceremonies is one way they can learn to appreciate life."

Gimarie Menchaca, a Gabriel Project coordinator at St. Ann Church in Burleson who counsels Spanish-speaking women, was joined by more than 200 other pro-life volunteers and supporters at the Mass concelebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann and several other priests in the diocese. During the Mass, the bishop blessed the pro-life workers with holy water and asked them to be mindful of God's glory and grace, "which strengthens us to live and pro-



Gimarie and Abelino Menchaca hand their children candles representative of the lives lost to abortion. The couple braved near freezing weather to bring (left to right) 5-month-old Mario, Ariana, 6, Diego, 4, Abelino Jr., 7, and Natalia, 2, to the Respect Life Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral.

claim the Gospel of Life."

To offer a visual representation of the number of abortions performed in the country since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized the procedure in 1973, pro-life workers and their families carried lit, red votive candles up the center aisle of the cathedral and placed them in front of the altar. Rachel Ministries Coordinator Betsy Kopor presented the Book of Innocents, which lists the names of babies lost to abortion in the diocese. Mothers suffering from unresolved grief, memori-

alize their aborted children by inscribing their names in the book during Rachel's Vineyard retreats. The registry, started in 2002, contains hundreds of names.

"It's a comforting thing for our mothers who have come to the retreat," Kopor says, referring to the weekends designed to promote healing after abortion. "They see the book going up to the altar, and they know the diocese is publicly recognizing their babies."

The Mass coincided with the feast of the baptism of the Lord

—one of several "Epiphany" feast days on the Church calendar that teach and offer pro-life workers insight into their ministry, Bishop Vann said in his homily. Other revelations of God are shown at the wedding feast at Cana and the Magi's visit to Bethlehem.

The Wise Men's journey to see the newborn Christ Child sheds light on the importance of pre-born life, the bishop said, adding, "We're created in the image and likeness of God, so the glory of God is shown and sanctified. We have to commit ourselves to that again and again. We must safeguard and promote that."

And like those Christmas travelers who followed a star in darkness, the faithful must keep their eyes fixed on Christ.

"Certainly, to all of us involved in respect life work, we can seem to be surrounded by darkness at times," he added. "But like the Magi, we keep going. Like the Magi, we must keep our eyes on Christ and let his light show us the way, so we can see the glory of God in an unborn child."

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan underscores the importance of our own baptism and the role faith plays in our commitment to respect life, the bishop said. "So it's not just another job or task that we can become discouraged with, but find inspiration in the life of

the Church and the celebration of the sacraments."

The Wedding Feast of Cana is significant to pro-life work in two ways, the bishop said. It gives us the image of Mary — Jesus' first disciple — and it shows that the glory of God can be found in the most mundane things in life.

"The Wedding Feast at Cana was a celebration of family. How do we in our pro-life work and ministry show and live the glory of God by strengthening our families?" he asked. "And how do we, by our own life's commitment, encourage sacramental life in families, so they can find the grace of God?"

Each of the epiphanies teaches pro-life workers not to walk in darkness, discouragement, or fear.

"But always walk in the light of Christ which is always stronger than any of them," he added.

Mass organizers were pleased with the turnout and the increasing number of parishioners willing to become actively involved in pro-life work.

"I'm thrilled that so many people came out on a cold, Saturday evening to pray for an end to abortion," said Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of the diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office. "It was particularly wonderful to see so many young people."

MLK and Haiti remind us of importance of faith, prayer

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Every Jan. 15, people gather to look back on the legacy of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during a Mass sponsored by the diocesan office of Peace and Justice Ministries.

But what participants will remember most about this year's event is one woman's impassioned plea for prayer.

When St. Matthew parishioner Kathy Ezeh agreed to lead the congregation in the Prayer of the Faithful, she had no idea that days later a devastating earthquake in Haiti would shake the lives of her extended family. Standing behind the lectern inside St. Patrick Cathedral, the liturgical minister asked worshippers to pray to end injustice, discrimination, and violence, before adding her own personal intention. In a voice breathless with emotion, Ezeh implored her listeners to say one Hail Mary for the families of her daughter-in-law and brother-in-law who live in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

"We haven't heard from anyone there since it happened," she said, referring to the Jan. 12

quake that killed an estimated 200,000 and destroyed most of the capital city's infrastructure. "Please, when you go home tonight, say one Hail Mary for my family members and the people in Haiti."

Bishop Kevin Vann, who concelebrated the Mass with several other priests, immediately asked the crowd of 200 to recite the Marian prayer together.

"I didn't mean to get so emotional, but my family needs prayer," Ezeh said the next day from her home in Arlington. "From what we can tell, the situation in Haiti is not good and getting worse. All we can do is wait by the phone and watch the news footage on TV."

Father Chester Smith, SVD, from the Diocese of Indianapolis, also referred to the Haitian earthquake in his homily. Invited to speak at the 24th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Mass, he asked the assembly to rely on faith when dealing with life's personal giants like joblessness, failure, and sickness as well as larger tragedies like the destruction in Haiti.

"You have a secret weapon and that secret weapon is God," he

told the congregation, which included members of the St. Anne's Altar Society from Our Mother of Mercy Church and the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary of Peter Claver Council and Court 89. "We, like Dr. King, have a covenant with Jesus, and that covenant doesn't depend on your ability, skin color, or what language you speak. All we have to do is believe and receive Him."

Don't let life's problems intimidate or defeat you, he advised.

"If you want your dream to come true like Martin Luther King, you have to look beyond the present circumstances and believe that God has more in store for you," Fr. Smith continued. "Don't let adversity keep you from moving forward toward godliness and holiness. Don't allow your dream to be taken from you."

When Dr. King started his ministry, he didn't have the power to save the world or the country, Fr. Smith continued. But he had the faith to dream a nation that embraced civil rights.

"Martin Luther King didn't want to create a Christian nation," the speaker explained. "He used his Christian beliefs to create a



During his homily, Father Chester Smith, SVD, told participants to rely on faith during hard times. Fr. Smith concelebrated the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Mass with Bishop Vann and several other priests.

just nation."

Eastlyn White and her grandmother Louise Porter, members of Our Mother of Mercy, attend the Martin Luther King Jr. Mass together each year as a sign of respect for the man who once asked Americans not to, "judge people by the color of their skin but the content of their character."

"It's very important to keep

the dream alive," White said. "Attending Mass is an appropriate way to do that."

Her 91-year-old grandmother nodded in agreement.

"We've come this far by faith. Sometimes, faith is all we have," Porter reasoned. "It gets us through the rough times, and times are certainly rough right now."

Diocesan

St. Mary parishioners grateful for donated altar, renovations

Story and Photos by
Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

On Jan. 10, parishioners of St. Mary Church in Henrietta, a pioneer church founded by German immigrants in 1874, began a new chapter by celebrating renovations to their sanctuary that now includes a restored altar with a heritage of its own. It is the altar that once adorned the Bethania Hospital Chapel in nearby Wichita Falls.

Bishop Kevin Vann celebrated Mass that Sunday along with Father Steve Berg, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Worth and former pastor of St. Mary; Father Richard Collins, current pastor of St. Mary; and Father John Robert Skeldon, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Wichita Falls.

During his homily, Bishop Vann used the analogy that in this celebration, not only did they have to turn a page in the Gospel to read about Jesus' baptism, but they were also turning a page in the lives of everyone in the Church including St. Mary parishioners with their newly renovated church.

"As a page turns into a new Church season (Ordinary Time), Christ goes with us, and we go forth strengthened and renewed," he said.

Bishop Vann also compared this time to turning a page in an appointment book, and their appointment that evening in the Mass was with Jesus Christ.

The bishop said the parishioners were meeting with Jesus in a number of ways that night—in his word through the Gospel, in the Eucharist, and as they dedicated their new back altar.

"It's not just a table — it signifies Jesus Christ himself," he said.

Bishop Vann said the altar also shows a tradition of faith through the Sisters of the Holy



The altar now at St. Mary's Parish in Henrietta was donated by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. The ornate altar was in use for many years in the chapel of Bethania Hospital, which was run under the sponsorship of the sisters.

Family of Nazareth and the many other people who prayed before it when it was in the Bethania Hospital Chapel.

"As a family in the parish here and in the diocese, our strength comes from being together," he said.

Fr. Berg, who was pastor of St. Mary in Henrietta from 2002 until 2008, said that about the time parishioners were putting together a list of what they wanted to renovate, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth made an announcement that they would be leaving what was formerly known as Bethania Hospital in Wichita Falls. Fr. Berg said the sisters wanted their statues to go to Catholic churches, and some of the parishioners asked the sisters for some of the statues.

"We were very close with Fr. Berg and the Henrietta parish," said Sister Irene Asztemborska, CSFN. "It's a beautiful altar, and

we were grateful to give it to them," she said. Sr. Irene was at Bethania a total of 13 years and is now at the sisters' convent in Tyler.

Fr. Berg said he couldn't believe the transformation when he walked into St. Mary Church for the Mass.

"It just filled me with such emotion — these people have waited so long for basic things — a roof and a bathroom," Fr. Berg said.

Hank Bullinger, whose family heritage goes back more than 100 years at St. Mary and is a member of the church's finance committee, said a large part of the renovations to the church were deferred maintenance, including putting on a new roof and fixing drainage problems. In addition, a new handicap-accessible bathroom, central heat and air conditioning, and new carpet were installed, and the interior of

the church was re-painted.

Glen and Starlett Borgman, who also have deep roots at St. Mary, said that parishioners had dinners, garage sales, bake sales, and raffles to help pay for renovations to the church, and they had to do the renovations in stages.

"We love our parish. We've always worked together very well. We've worked very hard to make this parish what it is," Starlett Borgman said.

At the end of Mass, Fr. Collins thanked the parishioners for their help in making the renovations possible, and said he was also grateful to the Diocese of Fort Worth and Bishop Vann's leadership and guidance in planning the financing of it.

"Over a year and a half ago, we were half a million dollars short in doing this. Thank you, Bishop Vann and God, for finding the means to do this in phases, so we



Father Ivor Koch, Fr. Aidan Donlon, SAC, and Fr. Severius Blank celebrate a Mass in Wichita Falls' Bethania Hospital, where the altar, now at St. Mary's, was in place for many years.

could move forward," he said.

Cayce Wendeborn, who was the general contractor on the project along with her husband Kurt, said her favorite part of the project was restoring the altar. She worked on it 12 hours a day for a week. The biggest part of the restoration was putting several broken pieces back together with plaster, including a tip of an angel wing, the upper cornice, and the upper corner of the alcove, and putting together the two main pieces that had been cut in two when the altar was moved years before.

"There were 10 of us who brought in the altar that day," said Fr. Collins, "and we were praying that it wouldn't break — especially after we put Jesus, Mary, and Joseph up there. We were all standing here praying. It looks really beautiful."

Fr. Berg said the altar is also special because of the thousands of people who prayed before it while it was at the hospital.

"You just can't imagine how many prayers have been answered or how many tears have been shed in front of that altar," he said.

St. Mary's Parish, at 105 S. Barrett St., Henrietta, will now celebrate its regular weekly Mass at 9 a.m. every Sunday in front of that same altar.



St. Mary parishioners came together to raise money for much-needed church renovations, which included new carpets, a new bathroom, and a new roof.



Bishop Kevin Vann (left) concelebrated Mass with Fr. Richard Collins (center right), pastor of St. Mary's, and Fr. Steve Berg (far right), who was pastor of St. Mary's from 2002 until 2008.



Parishioners attend Mass concelebrated by Bishop Vann. A re-painted interior was one of several improvements made at St. Mary's. Parish bake sales and raffles helped fund the work.

Viewpoints

Spiking the myth of the tolerant pagans

By David Mills

The problem with God, some people think, is that there's only one of him. Belief in just one God makes the people who claim him as their own impose a one-size-fits-all religion on everyone, whether or not it fits them.

That was the basic idea of the quote from Dan Brown we looked at last time [not run in the NTC]. He thought it would just be so sweet if believers of every sort could hold hands and declare their belief in a god, and which god doesn't matter.

You may hear that from critics of Christianity, but you might also hear a more sophisticated version, claiming to offer historical evidence that believing in the one true God of Christianity hurts people. This is the idea that the ancient pagans didn't fight over religion because everyone had his own god to worship, and that Christianity brought religious discord into the world by banishing the gods and establishing its own God as the only one allowed.

About five years ago, for example, a book called *God Against the Gods* proposed this idea, and it became a bestseller. The writer claimed that "The

In the ancient Roman world, you could follow any god you wanted, as long as that god kept his head down and didn't pretend to be much of a god.

core value of paganism was religious tolerance — a man or woman in ancient Rome was at liberty to offer worship to whatever god or goddess seemed most likely to grant a prayerful request."

The pagan world was like a giant buffet, at which each person could find exactly what he wanted, and so everyone was happy and got along with everyone else. Vegans with their tofu chattered merrily to meat-eaters with their ribeyes, the people who ate only free range eggs traded recipes with the people who ate eggs from factory farms.

When Christianity took over, the world it created was like a school cafeteria run by a fanatical bully who makes everyone eat only what *he* likes. The vegetarians have to eat hamburgers, the diabetics have to eat ice cream, the lactose-intolerant have to drink their milk, and everyone has to eat the inedible mystery meat. And they have to pretend

to like it, or else.

In this case, who wouldn't want paganism? But life in the pagan world wasn't really so tolerant. This sophisticated argument depends on a rosy vision of the good old pagan days, which is even less accurate than grandmother's memories of the good old days when children always did what they were told.

The world of the pagan gods was a constant and often bitter contest for power and supremacy (scholars call it an agon). The Greeks and Trojans suffered the 10 brutal bloody years of the Trojan War because three vain goddesses argued over who was better looking, and forced some poor sap from Troy to decide between them. The two he didn't choose let his people have it, and dragged in the poor Greeks to do it.

Only the most powerful gods could keep order, and they couldn't do it very well. In Homer's *Iliad*, which tells the story of the Trojan War, Zeus keeps trying to satisfy all the contradictory demands of the different gods (some were pro-Greek, some pro-Trojan). He did, mostly, but only by causing yet more suffering for the Greeks and Trojans.

If this is the way the gods are, people naturally reasoned, this is the way the world is. The world is essentially chaotic and always just inches from breakdown. Only force applied by the strongest — brutally, without mercy — can keep it in order.

So, actually, the pagan world was like a giant buffet ... in North Korea. You could eat what you want, but the armed guards stationed around the room have been ordered to drag you out and tor-

ture you, or just shoot you, if you even look like you might start trouble. You only have a choice because the choice doesn't matter.

In the ancient Roman world, you could follow any god you wanted, as long as that god kept his head down and didn't pretend to be much of a god. And you had to live under a brutal government that might do almost anything to you if it thought it needed to, because it believed in gods who couldn't get along.

That world wasn't really a peaceful world of religious tolerance. As the early Christians found, when they brought to that world the good news of a God who was love, and the state saw how this undermined its claims to control. That's the reason it sent Christians to the lions.

Editor's note: We're introducing a new columnist this issue, David Mills. David writes from just outside Pittsburgh where he lives with his wife of 26 years and two of their four children. He writes in a gracious, intelligent style, with just a touch of humor, somewhat reminiscent of C.S. Lewis, and G.K. Chesterton, two among the writers, he says he is well acquainted with. David, a former Episcopalian, and his family became Catholic in 2001 while he was teaching at an Episcopal seminary. Among his books are KNOWING THE REAL JESUS (Servant, 2001), DISCOVERING MARY (Servant, 2009), and he is currently finishing DISCOVERING THE CHURCH (Servant). He was editor of the award-winning ecumenical magazine TOUCHSTONE from 2003 to 2008, and has been published in COLUMBIA, THIS ROCK, NEW OXFORD REVIEW, OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, and NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER.

Sometimes we have to get out of our own way

By Mary Morrell

It is indispensable that, within the Christian people, every ministry and charism be directed to full communion; and it is the duty of the Bishop and priests to promote this communion in harmony with every other Church vocation and service.

—Pope Benedict XVI

During the past 15 years I have written about dozens of topics on things my father taught me when I was growing up, and continues to teach me now that I am an adult.

Recently, remembering the advice of a good friend who said many people appreciate bulleted lists for easy reading, I decided to create a list of two-word phrases capturing the essence of the many lessons I learned from

my dad. Since many publishers are interested in an author's ideas for marketing, I considered that such short phrases would serve as great bumper stickers.

Heading the list was the phrase "Do Good." I went to a great Internet site that I have used before, where a customer can design their own bumper stickers, and within a few weeks I had a small supply of magnetic bumper stickers and the satisfaction of knowing I had created my own traveling work of art.

A more challenging result is that I now also have a constant reminder on the back of my car to "Do Good," a print version of my conscience following me like a shadow.

So, with those two words prominent in my mind for the last month or so, our pastor's homily this past Sunday resonat-

ed strongly with me, reminding me of the many ways we either do good, or do harm, to the life of our parish. High at the top of that list is our willingness, or refusal, to build community.

Community is essential to a people who profess belief in the Trinity; who profess belief in a Savior born within the communion of love that is family. As individuals, and as a people, we were born to be in community; our baptism makes us members of one Body of Christ, and every member of the community has a responsibility for the health of the Body.

Community is nourished by something as ancient and ordinary as hospitality — a smile, a welcome, a pleasant voice on the phone, clean and orderly gathering places, personal presence during times of need, fellowship, and simple

respect for people. But even the best attempt at hospitality is not enough to nurture healthy community if we are not truly walking the talk of our faith, especially those of us who are leaders in the Church, whether we lead in a parish, school, diocese, service organization, or simply in our families.

Too often, when we accept the role of leader, our human inclination toward pride takes over and humility flies out the window. And there is nothing more damaging to community than arrogance, because it pigeon-holes people into a hierarchy of importance, with "me" on top, and everyone else somewhere on the ladder going down.

If we forget the "servant" part of servant leadership, putting what we want before all else, we erect obstacles to forming community, and have, our-

selves, become obstacles to the sacramentality of the Church.

In his book, *The Apostles*, Pope Benedict XVI writes about Peter, who serves as an example for all leaders, saying that Peter had strong expectations of what he wanted in terms of a powerful Messiah, and when Jesus presented himself as a servant of God who would dash Peter's expectations to the ground, Peter responded with great arrogance. Pope Benedict writes, "Peter, impulsive as he was, did not hesitate to take Jesus aside and rebuke him. Jesus' answer demolished all his false expectations, calling him to conversion and to follow him. 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men.' It is not for you to show me the way; I take my own way and you should follow me. Peter thus learned what following Jesus truly means."

"Follow me." There is no advice more difficult, or more effective, for Christian leadership.

Nothing Like it

since Roe v. Wade

By Tom Grenchik

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.

The bishops have stated clearly that health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country. But that is, in fact, what's happening.

On Nov. 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 or plans that cover abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants. On Dec. 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 for abortion, and there is no way to opt out. 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 must be part of a just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed. The bishops continue to be attacked for trying to "derail health care over abortion," but who is it that is

HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ABOUT SAVING LIVES, NOT DESTROYING THEM.

Abortion is not health care because killing is not healing.

For over 30 years, the Hyde Amendment and other longstanding and widely supported laws have prevented federal funding of elective abortions.

Yet health care reform bills advancing in Congress violate this policy.

Americans would be forced to subsidize abortions through their taxes and health insurance premiums.

We need genuine health care reform — reform that helps save lives, not destroy them.

Tell Congress:
"Remove Abortion Funding and Mandates from Needed Health Care Reform!"

Visit www.usccb.org/action to send your e-mails today.

For more information on the U.S. bishops' advocacy for authentic Health Care Reform, visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.

really forcing the abortion issue on health care reform?

Thirty-seven years ago, the Supreme Court wrongly decreed that abortion was the law of the land. Now Congress wants to force us to pay for it. This could be the most radical expansion of abortion in our country since *Roe v. Wade*, and conscience protections are being trampled in the process.

Catholics, and all people of good will, need to make their voices heard, insisting that health care reform protect the lives, dignity, consciences, and health of all, and not advance a radical abortion agenda in our country. Parishes across the country are distributing bulletin inserts from the U.S. Bishops' Conference asking you to please contact your congressional representatives immediately and urge them to address these moral issues. The insert includes a Web address www.usccb.org/action that allows you to send an e-mail message to Congress with a click of a button, or you can 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 and www.senate.gov.

The message to Congress is simple: "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."

Abortion is not health care. True health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.

To learn more about the bishops' advocacy for authentic health care reform, visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.



Tom Grenchik is executive director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Go to www.usccb.org/prolife to learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities.

When it's the latest news on the latest happenings or commentary on the day's events you're seeking, sometimes only



the Informer

will do!

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Today I had a visit from The Informer, and afterward I felt enriched, happier, wiser. And ready. Ready for anything.

The Informer is three years old.

It was in my house this morning where my granddaughter Emma Grace planted her pink-boots a foot apart and went immediately into a shotgun delivery of the day's news. She informed me her dance leotard had valentines on it, that it came from under the Christmas tree, along with a movie titled, "Monsters 'Bersus' Aliens," (her brother Sam received one called "Dawn of the Dinosaurs," and Natalie's was "Up.")

As she ran through her information, Emma swayed like a parent does in Mass when quieting a fussy baby, but she had a bounce in her sway, as though she were a recording artist keeping time with hip-hop rhythm, or a cheerleader doing a line-dance. She used her arms like a politician on the stump, bobbed her head and rolled her eyes like a 13-year-old, but without the attitude.

The Informer said, "My mommy is taking me to dance class, and then we'll have a little rest, and in the afternoon," she concluded happily, "we'll vacuum."

"Mommy and I have a Vacuuming Club," Emma Grace said.

Emma's broadcast news always makes me feel good, because she is happy while delivering it, even when the bulletin points are just so-so. "The repair man came to our house today," she draws her shoulders up, holds out both hands, casting her eyes to the heavens, as if to say, "Well, what can you do??" Then she asks for a cookie.

In the marketplace, Emma informs the grocery clerk, "We're having a birthday party for Aunt Julie." The hairdresser gets to hear how Emma caught her finger in her toy chest that morning.

And at the home of family friends, Emma points to their electric mixer, noting, "My mom doesn't have a green one." The Informer furrows her brow and puckers her lips slightly at that observation. Then she brightens and says, definitively, "But she has a white one with a red stripe."

Emma even tells us about things the others can plainly see or hear by themselves. Walking into the mall with both Mommy and Grammie, she might convey messages from one to the other: "Mommy, Grammie said this is fun." Or "Grammie, Mommy said I can have a treat."

I don't know if Emma states facts to make them come true,

SEE HAMER, P. 22

March for Life

Pro-lifers march in Dallas where *Roe v. Wade* began

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

It was a near-perfect juxtaposition of events Jan. 16 at the annual Dallas March for Life, when Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell compared Haiti's catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake with the decision the United States Supreme Court made 37 years earlier, legalizing abortion.

"For four days we have all watched the catastrophic scenes of devastation and the horrific scenes of human suffering and death as a result of the earthquake in Haiti," he said. "And as these scenes cross our television screens, it can't but move our hearts and compel us to do whatever we can to alleviate this human tragedy."

"What compels us to reach out and help in these situations," the bishop said, during his homily at the Memorial Mass for Victims of Abortion, "is our belief in the precious gift of human life. The tragedy in Haiti is also a pro-life tragedy."

The 2010 memorial Mass took place at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Dallas, and was concelebrated by Bishop Farrell, Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, Father Edward Robinson, OP, and priests of the Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas. It was part of an annual commemoration marking the *Roe v. Wade* case, originally filed in Dallas in 1970, resulting in the 1973 Supreme Court decision which overturned all state laws restricting or outlawing abortion in the United States.

Some 3,000 people participated in the 10 a.m. liturgy, filling the main sanctuary, with overflow into the parish's Grand Salon, and the plaza outside. After Mass, 7,000 people walked on the sidewalks through downtown, sometimes stopping traffic, praying all the way to the Earle Cabell Federal Courthouse, where *Roe v. Wade* was originally filed.

At the Mass, Bishop Farrell had somberly stated, "The occasion of our yearly coming together in humble prayer and serene and peaceful witness to the value of human life is sadly linked to that extreme moment in the history of our city, because this journey began in Dallas, and this journey ended on the 22nd of January, 1973, with that ill-advised and misguided decision of *Roe v. Wade*. Thirty-seven years later we are here today in prayer."



Area youth lead the March for Life in downtown Dallas Jan. 16, followed by Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell and other clergy.

At 7:30 that morning 500 people had begun the day riding shuttles from the cathedral to Dallas's Routh Street abortion center. There, they prayed the Rosary and made a Jericho Walk, circling the abortion center seven times, said Karen Garnett, executive director of the Diocese of Dallas Catholic Pro-Life Committee, and organizer of the day's events.

"Speaking with people before the Mass, I learned four mothers chose life at that abortion center," Garnett said, "that same day!"

Representatives from the Diocese of Fort Worth also participated in the March for Life, which was co-sponsored by Dallas's Respect Life Ministry and Pro-Life Committee. Father Michael Kmiotek, CFR, and Father Louis Marie Leonelli, CFR, both from Sacred Heart of Jesus Friary near downtown Fort Worth, rented a bus to take a small group to Dallas for the events of the day, said Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of Catholics Respect Life in Fort Worth.

Presenting the offertory gifts were St. Maria Goretti parishioner and diocesan director of Adult Catechesis Lucas Pollice, and his wife Mary. Their children, Cecilia, 13, Nicholas, 10, Timothy, 8, Christian, 5, and Julia, 16 months, prayed and marched with their parents.

"Our 13-year-old is already active," Pollice said. "She started a pro-life group with her friends at St. Maria Goretti, and they had been raising money to go to



Marchers from throughout the North Texas area go through downtown Dallas toward the courthouse where *Roe v. Wade* was first filed in 1970.

the march in Washington, D.C., But they were Duke University Scholars and had to stay here to take a test, so they are using the money they raised to help the pro-life cause."

"Above all, the greatest thing I see in our pro-life movement is the fact that it is brimming with the vibrancy of young people," Bishop Farrell said. "They, my dear friends, are the future. Much certainly has been accomplished, but the march goes on. We cannot become discouraged. We cannot give up until every child in the womb has the legally protected right to be born."

During the Memorial Mass there was a traditional procession of roses, where a rose was presented from a person who was born each year since the *Roe v. Wade* decision. John McAnally, also from St. Maria Goretti in Arlington, brought up a rose. He is a co-founder of the Web site

Conceptionislife.com.

"Our commitment to this struggle is an essential part of who we are," Bishop Farrell said, "not as Catholics, but as human beings. We continue to struggle to rectify this injustice, not because it is a Christian thing to do, but because it is a human thing to do."

"We really wanted to go to the march," Pollice said, "and show our support for the culture of life. And it was good for the kids to see it is our duty as citizens to stand up for what we believe."

Concluding his homily, Bishop Farrell had reminded the assembly, that Jesus changed the world with 12 apostles. "How many of us are here today, how many of us march across this nation during this week, how many people are pro-life? How many people live a culture of life? We will succeed because Jesus, my dear friends, is in our hearts."

Across the country
37th anniversary

**Remember
the Law**

Cardinal DiNardo at shrine vigil

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, presided at the vigil Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception the night before the March for Life. He was joined by Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago, Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, and William W. Baum and Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishops of Washington.

In his homily, Cardinal DiNardo welcomed the thousands of Catholics from across the country who made the trip to Washington for the annual vigil and march marking the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion.

The cardinal said he was particularly grateful for the presence of thousands of young people, whom he called "a sure mark of infectious joy, the sign of life."

He recalled the martyrdom of a youthful St. Agnes — Jan. 21 is the feast day of the Roman saint — saying her witness to faith as a child can be an inspiration for all Catholics in the continuing campaign to protect life.

"St. Agnes was so small that the chains intended to bind her hands and wrists slid off," he said. "Unfortunately, in our culture we have grown into the chains that bind us and hold us fast in a grip of deadly attitudes about human life, about the human person, especially in the moments of his or her beautiful but fragile beginnings and in those vulnerable times of old age and illness."

The cardinal offered his views on the current health care reform legislation before Congress. He said the House and Senate versions of reform fail to uphold the dignity of people and freedom of conscience.

He said that while the House version of the bill reaffirmed the long-standing

March for Life

...try, people commemorated the anniversary of ROE v. WADE to

Remember Lives Lost

DiNardo urges thousands
to embrace life



Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, addresses the crowd, along with other bishops, during the annual March for Life rally on the National Mall in Washington Jan. 22. It was the 37th March for Life marking the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion. (CNS photo/Leslie E. Kossoff-Nordby)

policy against using federal funds for health plans covering elective abortions, the Senate stripped that provision from its bill.

"That (Senate) bill is also less successful in making health care affordable for all who are poor or vulnerable, especially immigrants," he said. "Neither bill has sufficient conscience protections at this point.

"Our response must be clear and articulate to Congress on the essential criteria for genuine health care reform. Abortion is not health care. Health care is about saving and preserving lives, not destroying lives. As our president before Congress recently said, everyone should be cared for and no one should be deliberately killed," he said.

Cardinal DiNardo urged the thousands in the basilica to embrace life willingly and earnestly, as did the saints who span the centuries.

He said the actions to influence lawmakers on abortion — lobbying, public marches, writing letters — are important. But so, he said, is prayer and embracing Jesus on the cross.



Four-year-old Rose Dorss gets a lift up for a better view of the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21. The Dorss family of Front Royal, Va., were among the hundreds of people attending the vigil, which is held each year prior to the March for Life. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Youth...

FROM PAGE 1

of Washington was the principal celebrant of the Mass. Concelebrants included Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States; and more than 30 bishops and more than 250 priests.

Prior to the Mass, Archbishop Sambi read a message to the participants from Pope Benedict XVI, who said their "generosity, idealism, and concern inspire youth to raise their voices in defense of the unborn." He urged them to embrace "a culture of life grounded in the unchanging truth of who we are as God's children" and to "rise to this urgent moral challenge and witness to the sacredness of God's gift of life."

In welcoming the youths, Archbishop Wuerl said, "We gather together to pray God's blessing on our efforts to promote the value and dignity of all human life." He also prayed that God would "fill the hearts of all with the fire of your love ... (and) secure justice and equality for every human being."

Archbishop Wuerl praised "the huge number of young people who recognize the dignity of all life" and assured them that that "your bishops encourage you in living the Gospel of life."

Father Lawrence Swink, a young priest who is associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Bowie, Maryland, delivered the homily. He shaped his remarks around what he called the "three P's" — protect life, remain pure, and pray.

Fr. Swink, the oldest of 10 children, spoke about his family's 10-passenger van that was covered in pro-life bumper stickers. His father, a doctor, drove the van to the hospital where he worked. Father Swink occasionally ac-



Allie Levitas of St. John Vianney Church in Prince Frederick, Md., cheers during a rally for life and youth Mass at the Verizon Center in Washington Jan. 22. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

companied his dad, and one time he noticed they had pulled in between two expensive cars — a Mercedes and a BMW. He asked his dad, "Don't you feel like a geek driving this thing?"

Father Swink said his dad frowned and replied, "If I didn't have you and your brothers and sisters, I wouldn't be driving that car ... but you know, I wouldn't trade any of you for a Mercedes or a BMW."

Looking at the packed-to-the rafters Verizon Center, the priest lamented that since 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe* decision legalized abortion, "there would be 2,500 such stadiums filled with babies who have been aborted."

"Have faith in God, because God has a plan for all life. All life is precious. All life is worth living," he said.

He called it "stinking thinking" to believe "the myths that contraception and safe sex are the solution to abortion."

Father Swink added that it is "not enough" to be pro-life and to just have the "goofy bumper stickers."

"We are called to live it, we are called to be saints," he said. "We are going to pray, we are going to march and we are going

to win."

Madeline Guay, a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, Maryland, who has Down syndrome, was featured in a video shown on a giant screen at the rally. Guay said she has a "life just like yours," and that she enjoys hanging out with friends, connecting with people on Facebook and playing the piano. Ninety percent of pregnant women whose children are diagnosed with Down syndrome decide not to carry their pregnancy to term, the film noted.

The Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington — whose apostolate is to take care of the elderly poor — came to the rally to show their support for life, said Sister Camille Hampton.

"We uphold the dignity of life, especially at the end, and we care about the treatment of the elderly. Our congregation is devoted to the witness to life," she told the *Catholic Standard*, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese.

For Stephen Smith, an eighth-grade student at St. Andrew Apostle School in Silver Spring, Maryland, attending the rally and Mass "is what Catholicism is all about."

"We're here to practice our religion and to show we support our faith when it teaches that abortion is wrong," Smith said. "We're putting our faith into action, and that is what Catholicism is all about."

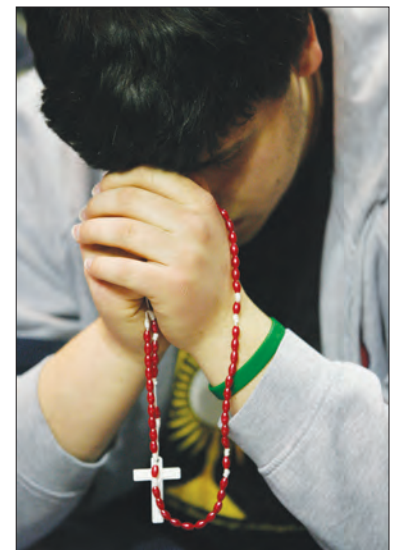
Nelly Argueta and Xiomara Gonzalez, teenage parishioners from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Takoma Park, Maryland, were among the 45 members of their parish youth group to attend the rally and Mass.

"I'm here to support life," Argueta said, explaining why she was at the Verizon Center more than three hours before the start of the Mass.

Gonzalez said the presence of so many young people "will show people that we support life, and we are living what we believe."



Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore gives Communion to a young man at a youth Mass during rally for life at the Verizon Center in Washington Jan. 22. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



Paul Hegele of Holly Family Church in Dale City, Va., prays the rosary during a youth Mass and rally for life at the Verizon Center in Washington Jan. 22. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Bishops to Congress: Set aside partisanship for genuine health reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three leading U.S. bishops called on members of Congress Jan. 26 to “set aside partisan divisions and special-interest pressures” to achieve genuine health reform. “The health care debate, with all its political and ideological conflict, seems to have lost its central moral focus and policy priority, which is to ensure that affordable, quality, life-giving care is available to all,” said a letter signed by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Bishops William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, and John C. Wester of Salt Lake City. The three chair the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees on Pro-Life Activities, on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and on Migration, respectively. Although the letter did not refer specifically to the Jan. 19 election of Republican Scott Brown of Massachusetts to the U.S. Senate, the bishops said, “Although political contexts have changed, the moral and policy failure that leaves tens of millions of our sisters and brothers without access to health care still remains.”

New York’s Archbishop Dolan hosts rabbis on day of pope’s synagogue visit

NEW YORK (CNS) — As Pope Benedict XVI visited Rome’s main synagogue Jan. 17, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York hosted a kosher buffet luncheon for 14 Jewish leaders at his residence. Archbishop Dolan said, “You can never exaggerate the importance of hospitality.” Describing the invitation to Catholic News Service, he said, “Hospitality is a high virtue for my Jewish brothers and sisters. Hospitality is a big virtue for Christians... Jewish Scripture tells us that Abraham entertained God without knowing it because he was so gracious to guests,” the archbishop continued, “so I figured, look, the chief rabbi of Rome, Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, is offering hospitality to the bishop of Rome, the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, so darn it, why don’t I offer hospitality to my Jewish colleagues?” Father James Massa, executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, called the pope’s visit to Rome’s synagogue “a historic moment in Catholic-Jewish relations.”

At funeral Mass Bishop Pelotte credited for making ‘mark in history’

GALLUP, New Mexico (CNS) — Hundreds of priests, religious and laity gathered Jan. 14 at Sacred Heart Cathedral for the funeral Mass of retired Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, who died Jan. 7 at age 64. When he was named a bishop in 1986, the appointment was remarkable for his youth — he was 40 years old — and for the fact he was the first American Indian to be named a Catholic bishop in the United States. He was a member of the Abenaki tribe from Maine. “History was being made,” said homilist Msgr. Leo Gomez. The priest noted the challenges inherited by Bishop Pelotte and said he met them with both verve and vision. Bishop Pelotte, who was coadjutor of Gallup for four years and became head of the diocese in 1990, “was well prepared through the Second Vatican Council to accept the responsibility and leadership of our missionary diocese,” said Msgr. Gomez, a retired Gallup diocesan priest. “And he did a wonderful job.” The late bishop worked tirelessly to evangelize the different tribes in his diocese and lobbied for them on a national level. He also worked to incorporate their customs and prayer life into the faith. He developed training programs for American Indian deacons and lay ministers, chaired the Western Health Foundation, which led to the expansion of Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital, and fought to keep a local homeless shelter open. Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who is also an American Indian, said that by appointing Bishop Pelotte, Pope John Paul II “was recognizing the Indian community in United States... We hope that the occasion of his death will be a moment for all of us Native people to remember that the church loves us and that we will produce vocations to the religious life, to sisters and brothers, to the diaconate and the diocesan priesthood so that the work that Bishop Pelotte symbolizes and has begun will continue in the church today,” he said.

Catholic students from Brownsville get a taste of homelessness

By Rose Ybarra

The Valley Catholic

BROWNSVILLE (CNS) — It’s been said that a good way to get to know someone is to walk a mile in his shoes.

With that in mind, several students from the Catholic campus ministry program of the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College spent a day much like a homeless person might by escaping the elements in cardboard boxes and asking strangers for money.

The students camped out on campus grounds and approached passers-by for donations. They received mixed reactions from the people walking by but said the overall responses were negative.

“People just passed by and ignored us, some people were rude but most people just walked by and said, ‘No thank you,’” said 20-year-old student Lupita Capistran. “We felt rejected.”

When it began to rain heavily, the students refused to leave their cardboard-box camp, pointing out that the homeless often have to endure adverse weather conditions.

“My feet are soaked,” said 24-year-old student Misael Martinez. “It’s not a very pleasant feeling, and the homeless feel this way every time it rains.”

The students intended to spend a full 24 hours camping out but were unable to get clearance to do so from campus officials.

Although the day was full of glitches, there were many positives.

Some passers-by were im-



Misael Martinez, a student from the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, and Sister Sharon Horace, a Daughter of Charity, take refuge in cardboard boxes to escape a rainy day in late November as part of a social justice project about homelessness. (CNS photo/The Valley Catholic)

pressed and asked a lot of questions. Some people showed compassion and donated money. The students raised a total of \$190.98.

A proposal was sent to the student government requesting it match the funds raised. The Knights of Columbus donated another \$100 to the cause.

The money was used to purchase food for the homeless of Brownsville. “Bags of hope” containing food, letters of encouragement, and prayer cards were handed out at a local park where many homeless people sleep at night.

The student exercise, held in late December, was part of an ongoing social justice project. Throughout the semester the students have conducted research on homelessness and poverty.

Hilda Escandon, who leads the campus ministry program at

University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, described the homeless experience as “humbling.”

“Most of the people that walked by wouldn’t even make eye contact with us,” she told *The Valley Catholic*, newspaper of the Brownsville Diocese.

For Escandon, the goal of the project was to raise awareness among students and the community about the issues that affect people every day.

Even though the students endured poor weather conditions, they said feeling homeless was even harder to take.

“As time passed, we felt our spirits sinking,” Martinez said.

“We put ourselves in their shoes and we got a little taste of what their lives are like,” Capistran said. “I can’t imagine feeling like that every day.”

U.S. military chaplains study post-traumatic syndrome

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — A group of Catholic military chaplains meeting at the Vatican spent a full day studying how to provide pastoral and spiritual care to people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, brought 40 U.S. Catholic chaplains, who are on active military duty, to the Vatican Jan. 19-21 to discuss what’s going on in the archdiocese, learn more about responding to post-traumatic stress disorder, and discuss preparations for using the new Mass translations.

Archbishop Broglio said sessions of the annual archdiocesan priests’ convocation are always scheduled in five different cities around the world; this year, one

was held at the Vatican. Unless he is deployed with troops on a military mission, each chaplain is expected to attend one of the sessions, the archbishop said.

Archbishop Broglio said that even though the entire 2008 convocation was dedicated to post-traumatic stress disorder, it is such “a major problem for men and women in the armed services and for our own chaplains, who are deployed multiple times,” that he decided an entire day should be dedicated to the topic again.

The key speaker at the Rome meeting was Jesuit Father Richard Curry, founder and artistic director of the National Theatre Workshop of the Handicapped and founder of the Writers’ Program for Wounded Warriors. The program helps veterans write dramatic monologues in order to tell their stories and help begin the healing process.

“He is doing tremendous work,” the archbishop said, and has been “immensely successful” in using drama as therapy for members of the military recovering from the trauma of combat.

Archbishop Broglio said his archdiocese is responsible for the pastoral care of about 1.5 million Catholics in the military around the world and in Veterans Affairs hospitals.

With 285 active duty chaplains for the military and about 150 chaplains working in the hospitals, “we are terribly undermanned,” he said.

“Our people come from another diocese and return to another diocese” once their military service is over, he said, “so they are only ours for a time.”

Anytime one of those dioceses would like to pitch in by lending a priest, the archbishop said he’s ready to talk.

Amid cathedral rubble, Haitians celebrate church leaders' funerals

By Catholic News Service

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Amid the rubble of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Haitians celebrated the lives of the archbishop and vicar general of Port-au-Prince, both of whom were killed in the country's earthquake.

Church officials — including some from the United States — joined Haitians Jan. 23 for the funerals of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, who died when the impact of the Jan. 12 quake hurled him from a balcony, and Monsignor Charles Benoit, the vicar general whose body was pulled from the cathedral debris.

They were among more than 150,000 Haitians killed in the magnitude 7 quake; U.N. officials have said the final death toll might never be known.

Archbishop Louis Kebreau of Cap-Haitien, president of the Haitian bishops' conference, celebrated the funeral Mass, and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Lafontant of Port-au-Prince delivered the homily.

Haiti President Rene Preval was among those in attendance.

New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, who represented the U.S. bishops at the Mass, read a message on behalf of Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, U.S. bishops' conference president. Cardinal George's message to the Haitians was contained in a letter addressed to Archbishop Kebreau.

"The Church in the United States stands with you," he said.

"In our prayer, we recall that Jesus, too, wept before the tomb of one whom he loved," said the cardinal's message. "With you, we recall in trust that he is the resurrection and the life, offering himself to us and calling us to himself, even in our darkest hour."

"In the United States, our televisions, computers, and newspapers have been filled with images of your unspeakable pain, suffering and loss," he told them. "Each hour we see the faces of the widows and orphans and all of those who have lost family and friends and all of their life's possessions."

He said the U.S. church was committed to "doing everything we can so that you may rebuild



A man reaches out to touch a casket as the bodies of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot and Msgr. Charles Benoit are taken from their funeral to a burial site in Port-au-Prince, Jan. 23. Hundreds of people gathered at the ruins of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption to mourn the Port-au-Prince archbishop, the archdiocese's vicar general and other victims killed in the catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake. (CNS photo/Paul Jeffrey)

and renew and begin again your lives of faith and family and service to Haiti."

Archbishop Dolan, who also serves as chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, was accompanied by Msgr. David Malloy, general secretary of the U.S. bishops' conference.

Back in New York Jan. 25, Archbishop Dolan described the funeral to Catholic News Service as "a therapeutic and holy occasion to grieve."

"There was a longing for the community to express sorrow," he said.

Archbishop Dolan said that while standing in front of the devastated cathedral he noticed the crucifix that stood at the front of the building appeared to be untouched.

"It brought me to tears, this crucifix, rising tall in this darkness ... rising from this cosmic 'why' groaning from the Haitian people. It was a very powerful symbol," he said.

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Florida, and Oblate Father Andrew Small, director of the U.S. bishops' Church in Latin America office, also attended.

Bishop Wenski told Catholic News Service Jan. 25 that Bishop Lafontant, in his homily, told the hundreds gathered that the funeral was not only for the deceased clergy, but that it represented funerals for the thousands of other people who died in the disaster and had not had a proper funeral.

"He said this was not the wrath of God, but it does call us to responsibility to build a new



A young man sits in rubble at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption during the funeral of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot and Msgr. Charles Benoit in Port-au-Prince. (CNS photo/Sara A. Fajardo, Catholic Relief Services)

Haiti in which people will have hope and prosperity," Bishop Wenski said.

Archbishop Miot's body was one of the first recovered after the earthquake. Archbishop Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to Haiti, asked that it be taken to the coastal city of St. Marc because there was no electricity in Port-au-Prince. Local clergy asked that the archbishop's funeral be at the cathedral.

A statement from Caritas, the church's network of charitable aid agencies, said when Msgr. Benoit's body was found, his hands were around a reliquary with a host inside.

The archbishop and the vicar general were buried in Lilavois Cemetery in the Haitian capital.

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Britain's House of Lords backs church arguments on Equality Bill

LONDON (CNS) — Britain's House of Lords rejected government proposals that the Catholic bishops said could have forced the church to accept women, sexually active gays and transsexuals into the priesthood. Members voted 216-178 in favor of an Equality Bill amendment to protect the existing rights of churches to insist that clergy and high-profile lay employees live consistent with Christian moral teaching. Two attempts by the government to reverse the vote later were defeated during the Jan. 25 debate. The successful amendment deleted a paragraph that said an exemption would apply solely to those people who spent most of their working time in leading worship and teaching doctrine. Catholic, Anglican, and evangelical church leaders said the paragraph would narrow the definition of a ministry so radically that no clergy would be able to qualify for an exemption. They said priests spent the majority of their time involved in pastoral work, private prayer and study, administration and building maintenance. The Catholic bishops said the bill meant the churches could be sued by anyone who was turned away as a candidate for the priesthood on grounds of gender or sexual lifestyle — and that they would be powerless to stop priests from entering into legally recognized same-sex unions, leading promiscuous lifestyles or having sex-change operations. The government has not yet said if it intends to challenge the amendment when the bill returns to the House of Commons later this year.

Remembering Holocaust, pope prays for respect for all people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Pope Benedict XVI prayed that honoring the memory of the 6 million Jews who died in the Nazi death camps would lead everyone to greater respect for each human being. "Deeply moved, we remember the innumerable victims of the blind racial and religious hatred, who suffered deportation, prison, and death in those repugnant and inhuman places," he said Jan. 27 at the end of his weekly general audience. Reading his prepared remarks in both German and Italian, the pope told the estimated 5,000 people at the general audience that Jan. 27 marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp at Oswiecim, Poland, and the rescue of "the few survivors." "That event and the testimony of the survivors revealed to the world the heinous crimes of an unheard-of cruelty that were committed in the extermination camps created by Nazi Germany," he said. Holocaust Remembrance Day, he said, is a time to "remember all the victims of those crimes, especially the planned annihilation of the Jews, and to honor those who, risking their own lives, protected the persecuted, opposing the homicidal madness."

Australian woman tells of cure that advanced Blessed MacKillop's cause

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — Kathleen Evans, 66, of Windale, whose identity had been closely guarded, spoke at the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel in Sydney Jan. 11 about the events that led to the second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Mary MacKillop, who will be canonized in Rome this year on a date not yet confirmed. Evans told how she had smoked since age 16 but stopped in 1990. Three years later, she was diagnosed with cancer — a particularly aggressive tumor in her right lung that quickly spread to her glands. Within a few months another tumor was found on her brain. She was told it was inoperable and that chemotherapy and radiation were considered pointless. "Besides, the odds were just not worth it," she said. "I was only given a couple of months at the most to live, so I said thanks but no thanks. All I had left was prayer. I was a great believer in prayer." A friend gave her a picture of Mother MacKillop with a piece of her clothing attached with some prayer cards from the St. Joseph Sisters, so Evans, her family, and her parish all began praying. Within two weeks she was able to attend a retreat. Ten months later, she was told there was no sign of the cancer, just some scarring where the tumors had been; and though doctors heavily scrutinized her medical records, she has no doubt about what saved her.

Scripture Readings



February 7, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Sharon K. Perkins

I've never been in the presence of royalty, but I recall watching the television coverage some years ago of the marriage of Prince Charles of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer. The royal entourage alone was impressive, as was the sight of thousands of subjects lining the parade route for hours, waiting to catch a glimpse of the bridal party. By the time the carriage appeared, excitement was at a fever pitch. Although the parade came and went relatively quickly, no doubt the spectators excitedly recounted the experience to their family and friends for months afterward, as if their very presence at the parade imbued them with some share of the royal couple's celebrity.

The prophet Isaiah in today's reading recounts a similar but far more extraordinary experience. In an ecstatic vision, he finds himself in the presence of the Lord of hosts, surrounded by a heavenly entourage of seraphim crying out in praise. Isaiah is so awed by the sight that he immediately feels overcome by his own sinful

"For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received...."

— 1 Corinthians 15:3a



inadequacy. But with one angelic touch of an ember to his lips, he is not only purged of his sin but empowered to offer himself as a divine messenger — a mission that has had tremendous and lasting importance for God's people to this day.

In today's Gospel, Peter's lack of faith and his experience of Jesus' authority to overcome that failing are equally overwhelming — so much so that he, with his partners James and John, leaves everything to follow Jesus. St. Paul, the former persecutor, recognizes himself as undeserving of forgiveness, but "by the effective grace of God" he leaves behind his old life to preach the saving word of the Gospel of Christ to everyone within

earshot. We, the disciples of Jesus today, are the beneficiaries of their Spirit-filled response.

It's one thing to stand around the office water cooler and recount one's brush with celebrity. It is quite another to share one's faith in Christ with courage and enthusiasm. (Pope John Paul II called this impulse in our age the "new evangelization.") Yet we — touched by the embers of his holiness and empowered by the Holy Spirit — are given numerous opportunities to do so in the course of each day, whether to strangers whose names we will never know or to members of our own families. It is the legacy of the prophets and the apostles — and it is our sacred calling.

QUESTIONS:

What keeps you from being a courageous and enthusiastic evangelizer? How can you seek the divine ember of God's touch to overcome this obstacle?

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Christians must pray for unity as they tackle new problems, pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICANCITY — The search for Christian unity "is not a linear process," because as churches resolve their past differences, differing approaches to new questions create new difficulties, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience Jan. 20 — in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — the pope said the unity that Jesus wants for his disciples will require human effort and conversion, but ultimately it will be a gift of God for which people must pray.

Discussing the ecumenical landscape, the pope said, "we must be aware, on the one hand, of how much real progress has been made in Christian collaboration and fraternity over the past 50 years, but at the same time, we know that ecumenical work is not a linear process. Old problems, born in the context of another age, lose their weight, while in our own context new problems and difficulties are born."

Pope Benedict did not list the new problems, but in the past he



has noted how the approach of different Christian communities to modern moral and social sensi-

tivities has created new divisions, for instance when they have led some churches to ordain women

requires Christians who know and experience the love of God through Jesus and are prepared

Pope Benedict XVI leads an ecumenical prayer service in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 25.

The pope, who was joined at the service by representatives of Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran churches, called for Christians to end their divisions and proclaim the Gospel with one voice.

(CNS photo/Daniele Colarieti, Catholic Press Photo)

or to recognize homosexual unions.

The new divisions, he said, call on all Christians "to be always ready for a process of purification, through which the Lord will make us ready to be united."

Christians will never be able to give a united witness to the world until each of them is united to Christ, he said.

Ecumenism does require intellectual effort and theological dialogue, but even more it

to share the Gospel with the world, he said.

The commitment to dialogue, despite new problems and tensions, is a sign of Christians' intense desire for unity, he said, but it is not enough.

A new, united church constructed with human hands and minds, the pope said, "would be something human, while we want the church of God, made by God. God will create unity when he wills, when we are prepared."

Pope Benedict asked God to listen to all Christians, who plead especially intensely for unity during the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer.

Participating in the audience were members of the Continuation Committee of Ecumenism in the 21st Century, a body convoked by the World Council of Churches and made up of representatives of 15 Christian communities, including the Catholic Church. The committee is working to help the ecumenical movement evaluate its past achievements and identify paths forward in the search for unity.

Scripture Readings



February 14, Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Gospel) Luke 6:17, 20-26

By Jeff Hensley

My wife Susan and I wandered away from our church affiliations during our college years. We began reconnecting with God and the church after serving for a year with Volunteers in Service to America. Through the grace of God and the witness of our rural neighbors we were reintroduced to the value of faith.

On our return, we started attending church, irregularly at first, then committing to regular attendance at Mass. Next came attending charismatic prayer meetings and involvement in the Catholic charismatic renewal. The combination brought us to a lively and active faith.

At the same time, my wife was entering into her career teaching poor children. In those first years she taught reading to mostly poor black children who lived in housing projects near downtown Fort Worth. For the last 20-plus years, she has taught English as a Second Language

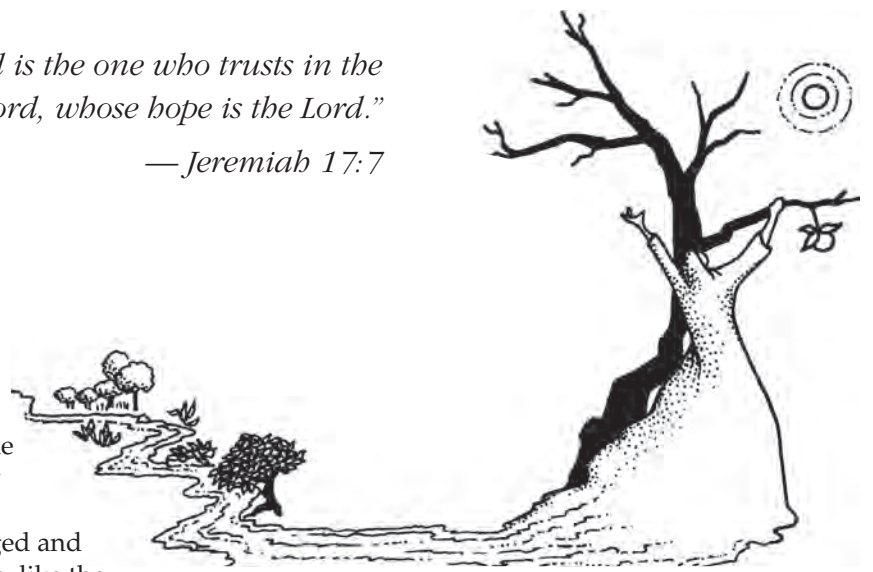
to high school students from every corner of the world while also providing a classroom home for them as they adjust to a new culture.

In working with disadvantaged and immigrant students, she became, like the Scripture in Jeremiah describes, one who trusted in the Lord and found her hope in the Lord, and we always found God faithful to his promise — the promise, as Jeremiah put it in today's readings, that those who do trust in him will not become distressed in the year of drought, but still will be able to bear fruit.

When Susan had cancer surgery in December of 2008, a woman who had taught with her decades earlier "happened to be" tutoring in her classroom. The woman was a master teacher, so when my wife was unable to stand for very long

QUESTIONS:

Have you seen God blessing the giving that others have done with goodness in their own lives? How might God be calling you to invest your love in the lives of others?



"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord."

— Jeremiah 17:7

at a time, much less take full charge of teaching her classes, her "tutor" rose to the occasion. She was, quite literally, a "Godsend," fruit of my wife's diligence in following God in her vocation to serve and love the poor.

This outworking of God's economy, in which we give to others in one form and it comes back to us in another, shows us that when Jesus says in the beatitudes, "Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh," he doesn't mean only after reaching heaven. God's principles begin to work in the here and now as well.

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This Lent, make a plan to make God **smile with joy**

By Jeff Hedglen

You may have heard it said that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. Of course this is meant to say that whatever plans we have probably are not what God has in mind for us at that point in time. While this is very likely true a lot of the time, I know a way that you can make plans that will make God smile.

Every year the season of Lent sneaks up on us. We are finally recovered from the holidays, and the Super Bowl is over, and we are settling into a few weeks with not too much big happening, except waiting for the Girl Scout cookies to arrive. Next thing you know, it's Ash Wednesday and you have no idea what you are giving up for Lent.

Well, this year you don't have that excuse. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17, so that gives us all a good couple of weeks to figure out what we will do for this important season in the Church calendar.

I have a two-part suggestion. Every year somewhere between

The RCIA programs around our diocese are very often gems yet to be discovered by people who attend Mass each week.... When a person becomes a Catholic, they are not only received into the Church through ancient and beautiful rituals, they are also joining a faith community that, while being 2,000 years old, is still vibrant and vital today.

800 and 1,000 people join the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Fort Worth through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). That means that right now there are a whole lot of people who have been taking classes since September to become Catholic, and receive baptism, the Eucharist, and confirmation.

They need our support. It is not an easy thing to convert to Catholicism. It not only takes a lot of time and effort, there is a lot of stuff to learn. Sacraments,

Scripture, history, prayers, Mass, creed, Trinity, and many other such subjects are taught along with the calisthenics of when to sit, stand, and kneel at Mass.

So the first part of my suggestion is simply to pray for these people. This could take the form of a daily prayer for all people in RCIA this year. Or, if you want to take it an extra step, get a list of people preparing for the sacrament at your parish and pray for them by name every day. A fringe benefit of these prayers is

that when you attend the Easter Vigil, you will see the people you have been praying for be welcomed into the Church.

The second part of the suggestion is a little more involved. When was the last time you went to a class to learn more about your faith? For some Catholics the last time they studied the Eucharist was when they were preparing for their first Communion at age seven.

RCIA classes in most parishes are open to anyone who wants to attend. You do not have to be seeking initiation into the Church. The only thing you need is an open mind and a willingness to learn. So my suggestion is to find out when your parish offers RCIA classes and attend each week during Lent.

If you want to go all in on this suggestion, see if one of the people preparing to come into the Church at the Easter Vigil needs a sponsor. You can make a real difference in the life of a soon-to-be Catholic by offering your support in this way.

The RCIA programs around our diocese are very often gems yet to be discovered by people

who attend Mass each week. But that is not the only reason to be involved. When a person becomes a Catholic, they are not only received into the Church through ancient and beautiful rituals, they are also joining a faith community that, while being 2,000 years old, is still vibrant and vital today.

Being involved with the RCIA program helps these Catechumens and Candidates meet the people they will be worshipping God alongside for years to come. We are, after all, the Catholic Church, not the Catholic individuals. Community is at the core of how we encounter God.

Lent is still weeks away, so you have some time to decide what you will do to observe the season. Please consider becoming a part of the RCIA program in your parish. I can just about guarantee that if God laughs at this plan, it will be with joy.

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.

The Passion, death and resurrection of Christ make Him the answer to sin and the source of eternal life

By Lucas Pollice

Our next *Why Catholic?* topic is the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. The Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ is known as the Paschal mystery through which Jesus frees us from the slavery of sin and destroys the power of sin and death forever.

A deeper look at the Paschal Mystery of Christ reveals his great love for us and the eternal glory for which each of us are destined through the grace of Christ.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

The Passion of Christ begins immediately following the celebration of the Last Supper when Jesus enters into his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is the paradigm event in his life and mission. The agony in the garden defines everything that He is and came to do. Jesus faces accepting the will of the Father, knowing that it will result in His torture and cruel death on the cross, a fate which awaits Him only hours away. The sin of all of humanity, past, present, and future, stares Jesus in the face. He falls to the ground in such agony that He begins to sweat blood. Here we see the real love of Jesus. He says yes to the Father and yes to us. For us He says yes to the cruel beatings He will receive after He is arrested. For us He says yes to the unimaginable scourging at the pillar. For us He says yes to being nailed to the cross. For us He says yes to having his heart pierced with a spear. To all of this He says yes out of merciful love for us. Jesus' yes in the Garden of Gethsemane is why the cross becomes the instrument of salvation. Without Jesus willing it, without Him loving us through it all, it would have meant nothing. The agony in the garden reveals to us that God's love is greater than sin, greater than torture and death, greater than cruelty and hatred. By accepting the will of the Father, Jesus, the New Adam, reverses the disobedience of Adam and becomes the very source of eternal life for us all.

THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST

As we saw in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus offers Himself as the definitive and eternal sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.

The sin of all of humanity, past, present, and future, stares Jesus in the face. He falls to the ground in such agony that He begins to sweat blood. Here we see the real love of Jesus. He says yes to the Father and yes to us. For us He says yes to the cruel beatings He will receive after He is arrested. For us He says yes to the unimaginable scourging at the pillar. For us He says yes to being nailed to the cross. For us He says yes to having his heart pierced with a spear. To all of this He says yes out of merciful love for us. Jesus' yes in the Garden of Gethsemane is why the cross becomes the instrument of salvation.

(CNS photo/Nancy Wiehce)

But why did Jesus have to sacrifice Himself and die? That is a very good question that needs closer examination. The sin of Adam and Eve caused a great division, a vast chasm between humanity and God. Almost immediately in the Old Testament there develops the understanding of the need for sacrifice or atonement for sin. That is, something that is very good, a perfect calf or lamb, or even the best fruits of harvest ought to be sacrificed to God as a way of making up for, or satisfying, for our sins.

This continued throughout the history of Israel and is most clearly seen in the Passover sacrifice, and the Yom Kippur, or sin offering, sacrifice. However, as great and wonderful as these sacrifices were, they did not even come close to atoning for the great sin of humanity.

This is where the merciful plan of the Father comes into play. The Father sends his only Son into the world as a human person, the Person of Jesus Christ. Now Jesus is both fully human, but is also God, the second person of the Trinity. Suddenly, there is a wonderful answer to the problem of sin. Jesus as God has the power to heal the massive wound of sin that separates humanity from God. But Jesus as a human person, as a man, but also a man *without sin*, can Himself become the perfect sacrifice for the expiation of the sins of humanity. Thus, Jesus has to offer Himself as the sacrifice, as the one who takes upon Himself the punishment for sin, so that all of us who live in sin may be freed from it. Jesus is the only answer to sin! So in the end, the one who has no sin becomes sin so that through his sacrifice sin and death can be destroyed forever.

Therefore, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the one sacrifice that truly can and does atone for sin. It fulfills and surpasses all other sacrifices. In fact, all of the sacrifices in the Old Testament both foreshadow and prepare us for the sacrifice of Christ.

JESUS' DESCENT INTO HELL

In the Apostle's Creed, we state that Jesus descended into hell before rising from the dead on the third day. What does this mean? First, the word "hell" used is not the place of eternal damnation, but rather it is from the Greek word "Hades" meaning the place of the dead. Jesus' descent to this place of the dead has a two-fold meaning.

First, Christ's descent to the dead means that Jesus suffers death in the same way we all suffer death. Jesus died a truly human death so that He may destroy death forever. Had He not truly died, He would not have been able to redeem death. He suffered physical death that is the destruction of his body and the separation of his body and soul. Christ also in an even more profound way suffered spiritual death in a very human way, that is, the separation from the Father, which is the eternal and ultimate consequence of sin. This spiritual suffering can be seen on the cross when Christ exclaims, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (*Matthew 27:46*) Out of love for us, Christ totally experienced death so that death may be redeemed and destroyed forever.

Second, Christ's descent into hell is also the first-fruits of the redemption in Christ. He descends to the place of the dead, where the just souls of those who died before the redemption are awaiting the coming of Christ, and frees them from death and takes them into Paradise. Jesus' descent to the dead is the culmination of his messianic ministry and shows the immediate power of the redemption for all humanity, past, present, and future. No one can escape the mercy and love of Christ!

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

The Resurrection of Christ is the very cornerstone of our faith. For as St. Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty too, your faith. ... and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins" (*1 Corinthians 15:14; 18*).

The Resurrection fulfills and confirms Christ's entire mission, words, and actions; for He came to free us from sin and death and forever establish the Kingdom of God.

The Resurrection is not just simply Christ being resuscitated from the dead. It goes far beyond that. Jesus brought some back to life such as Jairus' daughter and Lazarus, but they were brought back to ordinary earthly life and would someday die again. The Resurrection of Christ is a resurrection to a new creation, a new way of being. The resurrected Christ truly had a human body, for He ate and drank in front of the disciples, and Thomas placed his fingers in the nail marks in his hands.

But it is a human body and a human nature filled with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, and not bound by space and time. The resurrected Christ is the full fruit of a humanity freed from the power of sin and death and transformed by the grace of the Father. Through the Resurrection of Christ we truly become glorified sons and daughters of the Father, living forever in his life and love.

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

The Ascension of Christ is the completion of the earthly mission of Jesus and his entrance into heavenly glory. It brings an end to the saving mission of Jesus and completes the Paschal mystery. The Ascension is a profound manifestation of Christ as the King of Kings and the eternal High Priest of heaven. Jesus forever sits at the right hand of God as our glorious mediator and way to the Father. Christ who was sent by the Father returns to Him with the fruits of his redemption and becomes the instrument of grace and life flowing from the Father.

Christ also becomes for us the way into the life of the Trinity. It is through Christ that we have access to the Father in and with the power of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension proclaims forever that the human race will never again be separated from the Father. We now joyfully await the second coming of Christ, when all things will be brought under his feet and the Kingdom of Christ will be complete, and with all the angels and saints in heaven we can joyfully proclaim, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory, and blessing" (*Revelation 5:12*).



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.



Participantes de la *Marcha por la vida* desfilan delante del edificio de la Corte Suprema de Justicia en Washington, el 22 de enero. La manifestación anual contra el aborto señala la decisión de la Corte Suprema — en 1973 — que legalizó el aborto en toda la nación. (foto CNS/ Peter Lockley)

Dice un arzobispo: ‘No podemos dejar de poner en alerta a otros del ‘error’ del acto de aborto

Por Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—De igual manera que San Pablo y el profeta del *Antiguo Testamento*, Ezequiel, en su propio tiempo aconsejaron, “no podemos dejar de poner en alerta a nuestros hermanos y hermanas cuando se haya cometido un error fundamental”, dijo el arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio de la *Diócesis de servicios militares de los Estados Unidos*.

“Fuéramos responsables por

tal error, si no enseñáramos la verdad efectiva en el amor”, dijo el arzobispo Broglio en su homilía del 22 de enero de su misa matinal, en la que se clausuraba una vigilia nocturna llevada a cabo en la *Basilica del santuario nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción*, antes de que se iniciara la *Marcha por la vida* anual, en la que se protesta la práctica del aborto — amparada por la ley — entre otros asuntos relacionados con la vida.

“En el privilegio de haber sido

llamados, de haber recibido la vocación cristiana, se incluye el deber de trabajar de manera efectiva en defensa de los que no se pueden defender”, dijo.

El arzobispo Broglio fue el principal celebrante de la misa concelebrada por 40 ministros.

“Con mucha frecuencia hemos sido acusados, en discusiones sobre asuntos de la vida, de imponer nuestras creencias sobre otros o de tratar de promover la

VEA BROGLIO, P. 21

Grupos eclesiales luchan para distribuir ayuda; hospitales dominicanos se desbordan

Por David Agren
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (CNS)—Una monja mexicana que opera un centro médico en Puerto Príncipe dijo que bastante ayuda está llegando a la capital haitiana, pero no le está llegando a muchos de los que fueron heridos y dejados desamparados por el terremoto del 12 de enero.

Mientras tanto las autoridades eclesiales de la República Dominicana dijeron que los haitianos estaban huyendo, cruzando la frontera para tratamiento médico.

La hermana mexicana Bertha López, madre superiora y fundadora de las *Misioneras de Cristo Resucitado*, con base en Guadalajara, dijo en un informe del 17 de enero, distribuido por *Caritas*: “El aeropuerto está lleno de tiendas (y provisiones) procedente de todos los países, pero la ayuda no ha llegado”.

El 18 de enero ella dijo a *Caritas* en México que poco había cambiado desde que escribió su informe.

La hermana López dijo que a su clínica y a las oficinas de *Caritas* en Haití “se les está acabando los recursos”, tales como provisiones médicas, lo que ella dijo está llevando a muertes y a situaciones extremas, la realización de amputaciones sin anestésicos.

“Quizás nos estamos desesperando porque, debido a la falta

de tratamiento, las personas podrían convertirse en amputados y terminar muriendo”, ella dijo. Su clínica, localizada fuera de la severamente dañada catedral de Puerto Príncipe, estaba siendo operada conjuntamente con trabajadores cubanos.

Un pequeño avión cargado con provisiones médicas, junto con dos cirujanos de *Caritas*, del estado mexicano de Quintana Roo, llegó el 18 de enero para reaprovisionar la clínica de la hermana López. Omar Cortés, empleado de comunicaciones eclesiales, habló con la hermana López ese mismo día y dijo que los embotellamientos en el aeropuerto permitían que solamente una fracción de las provisiones fueran entregadas a la clínica improvisada.

La hermana López emitió un llamado urgente para agua, alimento y provisiones médicas, tales como jeringas, suturas, y antibióticos.

Ella viajó hasta Haití el 14 de enero en un jet privado donado por un dueño de hotel de Cancún, junto con un equipo de rescatadores, los “Topos”, famosos por cavar entre escombros, y padre José Sandoval Tajonar, director regional de *Caritas* para América Latina y el Caribe.

Desde entonces otros dos grupos de rescatadores y cirujanos de la zona de Cancún han llegado

VEA HAITÍ, P. 21

JORNADA FAMILIAR

Un retiro para toda clase de parejas, en el *Centro de Cursillos* de Fort Worth, 2221 NW 26th St., Fort Worth, Texas, 76164.

Feb. 5, viernes, desde las 7 p.m. a Feb. 7, domingo, 6 p.m.

Un fin de semana de retiro para crecer en el amor en su pareja y en su familia. Formamos el equipo un sacerdote y parejas preparadas. Candidatos traen sábanas, cobija, funda de almohada, toalla y artículos para uso personal. Depósito, con la inscripción, es \$40.00. No es reembolsable. Para más información: Leo y María Miramontes 817-637-6762; Ramiro y Silvia Lozana 817-921-3412; O al *Centro* 817-624-9411. Le esperamos.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

- Llamar al número de emergencia para el abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900

- o llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canciller/moderador de la curia, el 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.

Introducción a la Reforma Migratoria: Feligresía invitada a una reunión sobre servicios para inmigrantes

Por Juan Guajardo
Asistente Editorial

El *Comité de inmigración* celebrará su primera reunión introductoria el sábado, 6 de febrero, en la *Iglesia de St. Bartholomew* en Fort Worth.

La reunión, titulada *Un Viaje de Esperanza—acogiendo al inmigrante: Una llamada a la acción*, presentará material pedagógico sobre una doctrina social católica, además de ofrecer información sobre el estado actual del debate sobre la inmigración, y orientará a las parroquias en la preparación para responder a las necesidades de la comunidad inmigrante. Una descripción de qué se puede esperar de un proyecto de ley del congreso, acerca de reformas sobre la inmigración, también será presentada.

El Diácono Len Sánchez, direc-

tor diocesano de *Servicios comunitarios y pastorales*, dijo que todas las parroquias serán bienvenidas. La experiencia del Diácono Len con el *Acta de reforma y control de inmigración de 1986* lo convenció de que las parroquias deben prepararse para asistir a inmigrantes en el caso de otra reforma.

Después de la promulgación del proyecto de ley de 1986, el Diácono Len notó una tendencia preocupante. Aprendió que los inmigrantes tenían especial dificultad en la preparación de los documentos requeridos, debido a su limitada capacidad de leer y escribir en inglés. También aprendió que el público se aprovechaba a menudo de estos inmigrantes.

Es por eso que a finales del 2008, cuando la reforma migratoria llegó

a los titulares de noticias después de convertirse tema clave en la campaña presidencial, y después de una reunión con el Obispo Kevin Vann, él y otros líderes diocesanos se unieron con católicos de la diócesis y de *Caridades Católicas* para formar el *Comité de inmigración*. Su propósito: proveerle a las parroquias la información y preparación necesarias, en caso de la aprobación de otra reforma migratoria.

“Una de las promesas que el partido democrático hizo fue que [Obama] iba a intentar de aprobar una reforma migratoria”, dijo el Diácono Sánchez. “Formamos un equipo de trabajo para establecer grupos dentro de la comunidad que ayudarían en esta tarea. Así

VEA COMITÉ, P. 20

Semana de migración trae impulso legislativo, oraciones, caminata a Washington



El padre Don Nevins, párroco de la Iglesia Santa Inés de la Bohemia (Saint Agnes of Bohemia), en Chicago, muestra una de las tarjetas de inmigración que serán distribuidas por las parroquias—en toda la arquidiócesis—durante una conferencia de prensa en la Catedral del Santo Nombre (Holy Name Cathedral), en Chicago el 8 de enero. En el evento, llevado a cabo durante la Semana nacional de migración, participantes expresaron solidaridad con los inmigrantes, prometiendo individualmente rezar y ayunar durante los próximos tres meses. (foto CNS/Karen Callaway, Catholic New World)

Por Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mientras la iglesia católica observaba la *Semana nacional de la migración*, del 3 al 9 de enero, el apoyo a esfuerzos legislativos tomó la vanguardia, entre otras medidas, para atraer atención a las preocupaciones de los migrantes y refugiados.

En teleconferencia el 6 de enero, el obispo John C. Wester de Salt Lake City, director de los obispos del *Comité sobre migración*, describió las medidas que se están tomando, incluyendo un nuevo sitio web, una alerta nacional y una campaña de tarjetas postales previamente anunciada para animar a los miembros del Congreso a apoyar una reforma abarcadora.

“El público estadounidense, incluyendo los católicos y otras comunidades de fe, quiere una solución humanitaria y abarcadora a los problemas que acosan nuestro sistema de inmigración y ellos quieren que el Congreso se dirija a este asunto”, dijo el obispo Wester.

El obispo Howard J. Hubbard de Albany, Nueva York, director del *Comité sobre política internacional*, dijo que los obispos también quieren que la legislación considere las causas radicales de la migración y ayude a facilitar que las personas tengan una vida decente en sus

propios países.

“La primera proposición de los obispos estadounidenses con respecto a la inmigración es que los migrantes tienen el derecho a no emigrar, es decir, poder encontrar trabajo en sus propios países de origen, de modo que puedan sustentar sus familias en dignidad”, dijo. “La migración debe ser impulsada por la elección, no por la necesidad”.

También en la teleconferencia, la hermana Rita Mary Harwood, de *Notre Dame*, que dirige la *Oficina de vida parroquial y desarrollo* en la diócesis de Cleveland, dijo que la iglesia de Ohio distribuirá casi 300,000 postales que serán enviadas al Congreso.

Dijo que ve en Ohio muchos paralelos entre los migrantes de generaciones pasadas y los de hoy día, y tiene la esperanza que recordarle al público esas semejanzas abrirá corazones, de modo que la gente apoye la reforma de inmigración.

La hermana Mary Beth Hamm, coordinadora de justicia de las *Hermanas de San José* en Philadelphia, dijo que cerciorarse que el público escuche las historias de inmigrantes individuales es la clave de lo que su orden está haciendo para apoyar la reforma de inmigración.

“Uno no puede odiar a la persona cuya historia conoce”, explicó.

En otras partes en todo el país, pequeños y grandes grupos católicos, interreligiosos y no religiosos realizaron eventos relacionados con la inmigración. Estos fueron desde conferencias de prensa, simples servicios de oración y eventos educativos hasta una caminata desde Miami hasta Washington, realizada por cuatro estudiantes, que tienen la esperanza de atraer atención a las situaciones que ellos y otros enfrentan.

Los cuatro actuales o ex estudiantes de la universidad comunitaria *Miami-Dade* planeaban caminar hasta Washington para atraer atención al problema de estudiantes que están en los Estados Unidos ilegalmente, pero no por falta propia, traídos al país cuando eran jóvenes por sus padres.

Sin estado legal, en muchos estados se les prohíbe pagar tarifas de matrícula más bajas—establecidas solamente para residentes de estado—haciendo imposible que muchos inmigrantes asistan a la universidad. La legislación que abriría un camino hacia la legalización y la ciudadanía estadounidense para una gran multitud de tales estudiantes ha tenido durante mucho tiempo amplio apoyo público y del Congreso, pero esfuerzos para aprobar dicho proyecto de ley han sido repetidamente engavetados.

Comité...

DE LA PÁGINA 19

como la Sagrada Familia fue una familia inmigrante, también todos nosotros somos inmigrantes. Debemos darnos la bienvenida unos a otros”.

Los presentadores incluirán al Padre Carmen Mele, OP, director diocesano de la *Catequesis de adultos*, Padre Stephen Jasso, TOR, párroco de la *Iglesia de Todos los Santos* en Fort Worth, Diácono Sánchez, y representantes de *Caridades Católicas*. Expertos en inmigración también estarán a mano para dar información sobre la recopilación y elabora-

ción de los documentos requeridos para obtener ciudadanía.

El Diácono Sánchez espera que cada parroquia envíe a dos o tres feligreses a la reunión, puesto que los orientarán en lo necesario para formar un pequeño grupo de apoyo en sus propias parroquias y ocuparse de los efectos de una posible reforma migratoria. Esos grupos parroquiales recibirán información y el entrenamiento adecuado para ayudar a los inmigrantes que buscan asistencia.

“Ciertamente somos llamados para ayudarnos unos a otros e ir al socorro de los demás”, dijo el Diácono Sánchez. “Este es una de las maneras que podríamos hacer-

lo. Algunos dan ropa, visitan los presos, o visitan los enfermos en hospitales; esta es una ampliación de nuestro mandato a ayudar”.

Con la recesión y la reforma de salud convirtiéndose en el foco de la administración de Obama, poca atención se ha prestado a la reforma migratoria. En diciembre, Representante Luís Gutiérrez, demócrata de Illinois, introdujo un proyecto de ley para la reforma migratoria llamado en inglés *Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 (CIR ASAP)*. El proyecto de ley daría a millones de inmigrantes indocumentados un camino hacia la ciudadanía si cum-

plieran ciertos requisitos, entre ellos pagar una multa de \$500 y el aprendizaje de inglés, pero el Presidente Obama se ha mantenido silencioso sobre el proyecto de ley. No obstante, dice el Diácono Len, hay una posibilidad de la reforma migratoria después de terminar con la reforma de salud.

“Queremos estar listos”, el Diácono Sánchez dijo. “El efecto sobre las parroquias será enorme”.

La *Conferencia de obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos* ha insistido en la aprobación de una reforma migratoria para este año. El 6 de enero la *Conferencia católica de obispos* puso en marcha una campaña de correspondencia a

escala nacional y un nuevo sitio web (justiceforimmigrants.org) para incitar a los legisladores y para educar a las parroquias sobre la reforma migratoria.

El número de inmigrantes que entran al país sin autorización ha seguido creciendo durante los últimos años, alcanzando un estimado de 11.9 millones, según un informe del 2008 del *Pew Hispanic Center*. Casi el 76 por ciento de los inmigrantes son hispanos, según el informe.

Para información adicional, o para inscribirse, favor de contactar a Patricia Gonzáles al (817) 560-2452, extensión 254. Se invitan a todas las parroquias.

El papa dice que los jóvenes eviten un sentido trivial del amor y del sexo

Por Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Los jóvenes necesitan ayuda para que eviten un estilo de vida en donde las relaciones y la sexualidad se vean trivializadas, dijo el papa Benedicto XVI.

“La iglesia pide la colaboración de todos, y en particular de los que trabajan en escuelas, para que transmitan un sentido elevado del amor y de la sexualidad humana”, dijo el papa, el 14 de enero, en un discurso dirigido a funcionarios de la ciudad y provincia de Roma y la región del *Lacio* en Italia.

Los jóvenes de hoy buscan



El papa Benedicto XVI bendice una oveja mientras celebra la *Fiesta de Santa Inés (Feast of Saint Agnes)* en la *Basílica de Santa Inés* en Roma, el 21 de enero. (foto CNS/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

respuestas que expliquen la condición humana y el futuro de la humanidad, como también “respuestas que les demuestren cómo fundamentar su vida sobre

valores atemporales”, dijo.

El cristianismo ofrece “una visión más elevada de la humanidad” y la iglesia puede contribuir mucho con la tarea urgente de

enseñarles a los jóvenes los temas de las relaciones y la sexualidad, dijo.

“Es necesario evitar que los adolescentes y jóvenes se expongan a formas de vida que promuevan la trivialización de estas fundamentales dimensiones de la existencia humana”; esto es, las dimensiones de la sexualidad humana y el amor, dijo.

El papa dijo que cuando la iglesia dice *no* ante ciertas conductas y estilos de vida, “en realidad dice *sí* ante la vida, ante el amor vivido en la verdad de darse recíprocamente, y ante el amor que está abierto a la vida

y no está encerrado en un punto de vista narcisista por parte de la pareja”.

La iglesia “está convencida de que solamente estas decisiones pueden contribuir a un estilo de vida en el que la felicidad sea un bien compartido”, dijo.

Un sentido sano del amor, la familia fundamentada en el matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer, y el respeto por la vida, desde su concepción hasta su fin natural, son parte de la promoción de la iglesia de una forma auténtica de verdad que conduce a una verdadera libertad y crecimiento humano, dijo.

América

Mujer rescatada de escombros de catedral siete días después de terremoto haitiano

Por David Agren

Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (CNS) — Los equipos de búsqueda y rescate de Caritas milagrosamente encontraron y sacaron a una mujer de 69 años de edad de los escombros de la severamente dañada *Catedral Nuestra Señora de la Asunción*, donde ella había estado agarrada a la vida durante siete días.

Anna Zizi fue sacada por equipos expertos de México y Sudáfrica que trabajaron durante dos horas para extraerla. Funcionarios de Caritas dijeron que sufrió lesiones a sus caderas y posiblemente una pierna quebrada, pero que “no estaba críticamente herida”.

Zizi dijo a sus rescatadores “les amo”, después de ser sacada de los escombros el 19 de enero.

El rescatador mexicano Gabriel Romero Vega dijo que perros entrenados “señalaron que alguien estaba vivo en el edificio derrumbado”, y que Zizi había estado cantando para atraer la atención de otros.

“Fue sorpresa gigantesca”, dijo Romero a *Catholic News Service* al regresar a casa en Cancún el 20 de enero. “Es algo que considero ser un milagro.”

“La alegría era abrumadora, más que lo que uno pueda imaginar”, añadió.

Otros entre las 40 personas que trabajaron para sacar a Zizi de los escombros hicieron eco de ese sentir.

“Fue como ser testigo de un pequeño milagro”, dijo la traductora de Caritas Ruth Schoffl, de Austria. “Después de una semana de búsqueda escuchamos esta voz. Yo pude hablar con ella, traduciendo para el equipo de rescate”.

A h m e d Ham, líder sudamericano del equipo de socorro, llamó el rescate “lo mejor que hemos experimentado en el equipo”.

Monseñor Charles Benoit, vicario general arquidiocesano, no estaba entre los encontrados vivos. Su cuerpo fue encontrado “con sus manos alrededor de un relicario con una hostia dentro”, dijo Caritas en una declaración.

Alejandro de Hoyos, de Caritas en el estado mexicano de Quintana



Miembros de un equipo mexicano de búsqueda y rescate el 19 de enero sacan viva a Anna Zizi de escombros en Puerto Príncipe, Haití, después del terremoto del 12 de enero. Ella fue rescatada de la colapsada rectoría de la *Catedral Nuestra Señora de la Asunción*. Varios de los rescatadores estaban en lágrimas mientras halaban la mujer liberándola de toneladas de escombros. (Foto CNS/Paul Jeffrey)

Roo, que patrocinó los rescatadores mexicanos, dijo que Zizi era la quinta persona en ser rescatada del lugar de la catedral durante los días siguientes al terremoto.

El milagro de encontrar a Zizi viva marcó uno de los pocos momentos brillantes desde que un terremoto de magnitud 7 aplanó gran parte de Puerto Príncipe el 12 de enero. Los esfuerzos de socorro habían sido obstaculizados por daños a la infraestructura, prob-

lemas de seguridad y escasez de provisiones críticas, así como por una réplica sísmica de magnitud 6.1 el 20 de enero, de la cual los informes de los medios dicen que causó aun más pánico en la capital haitiana.

Romero y su equipo mexicano, conocidos localmente como *Los topos*, estuvieron entre la primera ola de rescatadores extranjeros en llegar a Puerto Príncipe el 14 de enero.

Haití...

DE LA PÁGINA 19 a Haití.

El padre jesuita Regino Martínez, director del grupo jesuita de ayuda a inmigrantes *Solidaridad frente a la riza*, de Dajabón, República Dominicana, después del terremoto pasó varios días en Puerto Príncipe para evaluar la situación.

Las autoridades dominicanas han reabierto la frontera las 24 horas del día, después que había sido cerrada inicialmente horas después del terremoto, y padre Martínez dijo que muchos de los haitianos heridos estaban cruzando en busca de tratamiento médico.

Más al sur, Wilma Duval Orozco, directora de Caritas en la dominicana *Diócesis de San Juan de la Maguana*, dijo que los hospitales cercanos a la frontera se desbordaban, y la escasez de combustible, alimento y medicamento era común. Ella añadió que muchos haitianos que trabajan como braceros de construcción y granjas en República Dominicana no podían conseguir información sobre sus seres queridos en su patria.

Los esfuerzos por una reforma del sistema de salud deben continuar, dice presidente de obispos

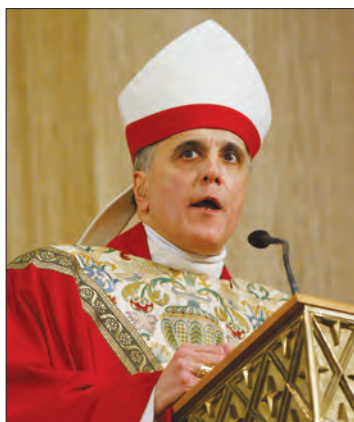
Por Nancy Frazier O'Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Con el destino de los proyectos de ley de reforma sobre el sistema de salud ahora en duda, el siguiente obstáculo es convencer a los miembros del Congreso de no abandonar por entero los esfuerzos para una reforma del sistema de salud, dijo el cardenal Daniel N. DiNardo de Galveston-Houston, el 22 de enero.

El cardenal dijo que hablaba en su capacidad tanto de presidente del *Comité de actividades en favor de la vida* de los *Obispos de los Estados Unidos*, como también de cabeza de una arquidiócesis que “tiene el más alto número de personas que carecen de seguro de salud en el país”.

“Necesitamos la reforma del sistema de salud”, dijo durante una reunión informativa ante los medios católicos de difusión en las oficinas centrales de la *Conferencia de obispos católicos de Estados Unidos*



El cardenal Daniel N. DiNardo, de Galveston-Houston, director del *Comité de actividades pro-vida* de los obispos de los Estados Unidos, da la homilía durante la primera misa de la *Vigilia nacional de oración por la vida* en la *Basilica del santuario nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción*, en Washington, el 21 de enero del 2010. La vigilia antecede a la *Marcha por la vida*, una manifestación celebrada cada año para protestar contra el aborto y la decisión de la *Corte Suprema*, en 1973, legalizando el aborto en toda la nación. (foto CNS/Nancy Wiechec)

en Washington. “Estamos preocupados de que pueda no haber” un impulso continuado en el Congreso “para permitir que más personas sean aseguradas”, añadió.

El cardenal DiNardo dirigió la palabra poco antes de que se llevara a cabo la *Marcha por la vida*, que señaló el 37º aniversario de la decisión de la *Corte Suprema* sobre la legalización del aborto, en el caso conocido como *Roe versus Wade*. El día anterior, la cabeza de la *Cámara de diputados*, Nancy Pelosi, había di-

cho que no había suficientes votos en la *Cámara* para que se aprobara la versión del *Senado* sobre la legislación del sistema de salud.

Con la elección del 13 de enero del republicano Scott Brown, en Massachusetts, que vino a ocupar el lugar en el *Senado* dejado vacante por la muerte del demócrata Ted Kennedy, los demócratas perdieron la súper mayoría de 60 curules; la aprobación de cualquier enmienda al proyecto de ley de reforma del sistema de salud estaría ahora en duda.

Broglia...

DE LA PÁGINA 19 producción de legislación en la que se reflejen nuestras convicciones religiosas solamente”, dijo el arzobispo Broglia. “Creemos que el derecho a la vida está inscrito en la conciencia de la humanidad. No es meramente un asunto católico, sino humano”.

El arzobispo Broglia hizo notar que la *Marcha por la vida* — en la que tomarían parte más tarde ese mismo día muchas de las personas que asistían a la misa en el santuario — era la 37ª marcha anual.

“Durante 37 años hemos dirigido hombres y mujeres de nuestro tiempo a que reconozcan la dignidad de la persona humana. Recuerdo marchar con algunas personas de la parroquia en donde yo era coadjutor hace 32 años. Hemos sido fieles para con este compromiso, pero hay más que hacer”, dijo.

“Debemos buscar la mejor manera de ganar el corazón de los que nos escuchan. Eso quizá signifique que nuestra confrontación va a ser clara, pero no directa. Nuestras palabras siempre deben estar llenas de caridad. Debemos tratar de persuadir a las

personas que tienen el poder y a las personas que transitan por las calles de que nadie tiene el poder de arrebatárselo a nadie la vida que ha sido dada por el Señor”.

El arzobispo hizo notar que “los primeros cristianos empezaron a hacer preguntas, a acercarse, y finalmente a conocer al Señor, que cambió la vida de cada uno. Esta es nuestra misión propia: el llamado a todos y cada uno de nosotros de dar testimonio de Cristo. Por esta razón nos llamamos cristianos”.

Cerca del final de la misa, el arzobispo Broglia tenía un mensaje para los muchos jóvenes que estaban presentes.

“Ustedes siempre pueden aprender algo de los quienes van de-lante de ustedes”, dijo, añadiendo que el primer nuncio, bajo cuya dirección estuvo él cuando pertenecía al cuerpo diplomático del Vaticano, le dijo una vez que, poniendo atención en otras personas, “uno siempre puede aprender a hacer algo o aprender a no hacerlo”.

“Todos ustedes tienen la posibilidad de hacer de este mundo algo mejor”, dijo el arzobispo Broglia. “Saquen ustedes fuerza de los sacramentos y de la Gracia de Dios, para hacer de este mundo un mejor lugar”.

Hike...

FROM PAGE 24

The hike helped to not only raise awareness about the pro-life movement and present a stand against abortion in a town of almost 26,000, but to also raise more than \$6,700 for a local crisis pregnancy center.

"I think it is significant because [the youth] have reflected on it, and they realize that life is special and not to be taken for granted," Father John Casey, SAC, pastor of St. Stephen said. "Just having them sharing that with their friends and talking about it is significant, because the opposite, that life doesn't count, that it doesn't matter, has serious consequences for everybody."

The idea for a pro-life Hike came after Houle took a group of teens to a youth leadership retreat in July. After the retreat, the teens went back to St. Stephen and formed different groups dealing with areas like music, liturgy, and sports, for other parish youth to participate in. 17-year-old Amy Gibson took the reins for the newly formed pro-life group, The Voice. Within the first few meetings, the teens in the group decided they should do a pro-life march to raise awareness and take a stand.

The youth took the idea to Houle, who began making calls to find out how to start a local march. A week afterward, she met Tom Clark, president of Hike for Life, at a diocesan

conference, and Clark agreed to help them set up the first hike in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Hikes for Life are annual 5 or 10K fundraising marches held in several North Texas cities. The profits from the Hikes go toward crisis pregnancy centers chosen by the hikers. Hike For Life, Inc., a non-profit organization started by the Knights of Columbus, sponsors the events. The hikers aren't just raising money though, Clark said. Rather, the hike is often a "seed" that leads them to become more involved in other pro-life activities.

"They're doing something physical; they're using their bodies, every step is a prayer, so as they're hiking, they're enjoying life," said Clark, who is also state pro-life chairman for the Knights of Columbus. "They may be praying; they may be silently reflecting; they may be chatting with their friends: It's all about celebrating life and allowing people to know that life is a gift."

Usually, the hikes are held in the fall, but the youth wanted this hike to be held in January, on the same weekend as the national March for Life in Washington, D.C.

A lot of work went into setting it up for that date, Houle said. The teens had to raise funds and spread the word about the hike, aside from meeting every Sunday to plan. Some of the teens went to businesses, asking for donations and permission to post flyers. Other youth spread flyers in neighbor-

ing towns, including Springtown, Aledo, and Hudson Oaks. Some teens even spoke after Masses one weekend, inviting parishioners to support the effort.

"About the only thing that's gotten in their way is the fact that they don't all have the ability to drive," Houle said.

James McCreery, 17, also a member of The Voice, said a lot of time was donated for the hike, but he felt that "somebody has to speak up," so posting flyers with Gibson after school wasn't a chore for him.

The success of the hike encouraged youth to plan a 40-day prayer vigil outside the Parker County Courthouse in downtown Weatherford. The nightly vigil, held to pray for an end to abortion and those suffering from abortion, is scheduled to start on Ash Wednesday, Houle added.

The money raised from the Hike will go towards Grace House Ministries, a Christian crisis pregnancy center started 15 years ago by three women.

"We're just so grateful that a church was willing to take a stand and do something about what they believe in," said Susie Hackleman, executive director of Grace House Ministries. "Oftentimes, whether you're an evangelical Christian or a Catholic, you may say you're pro-life, but saying and doing are two different things. They're living out what they believe and I'm grateful that they want to do that."

Hackleman sees hundreds,



ABOVE: Gabriella Reyes (in pink) and her mother hike back to St. Stephen during the Hike for Life. Almost 150 showed up for the first Hike for Life ever staged in Weatherford. The event was put on by St. Stephen's youth pro-life group, The Voice.



ABOVE: (L-R) Amy Gibson, James McCreery, Thomas Tyre, Brooke Allen, Marcy Houle, and Bryce Allen were among the teens that were instrumental in setting up the Hike For Life sponsored and organized by St. Stephen's youth pro-life group, The Voice.

perhaps thousands, of young women — often in their teens — come to Grace House each year. Many of them come to The Options Clinic, the medical branch of Grace House, thinking that abortion is the solution. But several women, actually almost nine out of 10, leave wanting to keep their baby, thanks to the free sonograms and pregnancy information offered at the clinic.

Grace House has its hands full, being the only crisis pregnancy center of its kind in Parker County. The services it provides to the roughly 160 women coming in each month

are free. The mission of the center, Hackleman says, is simply "to empower individuals to make life-affirming choices." But that mission is expensive too.

"They're providing an opportunity for us to be in this place," Hackleman said of the youth's effort.

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11

but when she says them, I know they will.

Whenever I interview seminarians, before their ordinations, they are as effusive as Emma, showing joy that is explosive. They are fresh from intensive study of all things of God, and the freshness, the amazing-ness of it, bursts from them. When that happens, I wish to experience it too.

So I come from those conversations with renewed zest to polish

my own relationship with God, my brotherhood with his Son.

I imagine that to be like the sense of renewal a married couple might feel attending weddings of family or friends, when the stated vows, the expressed love, and the promise of an imagined life remind them of what they once felt and believed their own lives would be like.

Life, of course, can be like anything we choose it to be. It's in the deciding, the implementing, and the living in love, wrapped with prayer.

During the past few weeks we

have all been reminded of how we live life, what we do with it, and how we revere it.

When an earthquake devastated Haiti Jan. 12, a potential 200,000 people perished. They had no idea this would happen to them; they were unprepared, unaware and unwilling. Parents and children met their deaths that day and the world mourned.

The Haiti catastrophe ironically coincided with the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court case that overturned restrictions on abortion in the United States. The two events had the result of

causing thousands of children's deaths in one case, millions in the other. Sudden unintended consequences in one event; ongoing intended consequences in the other.

During a Dallas Diocese memorial marking the 37th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, "the two Kevins" — Bishop Kevin Farrell, of Dallas, and our Bishop Kevin Vann — celebrated mass.

As I listened to Bishop Farrell's homily that day, I was jolted by the connection he made between pro-life and Haiti, where, "Mothers, knowing that their children were left inside crumbling buildings, went in, only to lose their lives, trying to defend or to rescue loved ones."

"It is a part of each and every human being, no matter what our faith commitment may be," he said. "To defend human life is a part of nature."

What struck me about Bishop Farrell's words that day was his confidence that prayer would prevail and renew a culture of life in America.

He was steadfast, with faith

like I see in our seminarians before they are ordained. He was as confident of the fight for life as my granddaughter Emma — The Informer — is sure her words will meet willing ears, sure her mother will play "vacuuming" with her; sure her grandmother will give her a baggie of cookies.

I felt renewed in spirit when Bishop Farrell confidently announced: "If Jesus is in our hearts, who can defeat us? We will never give up and we will win."

I believed him.

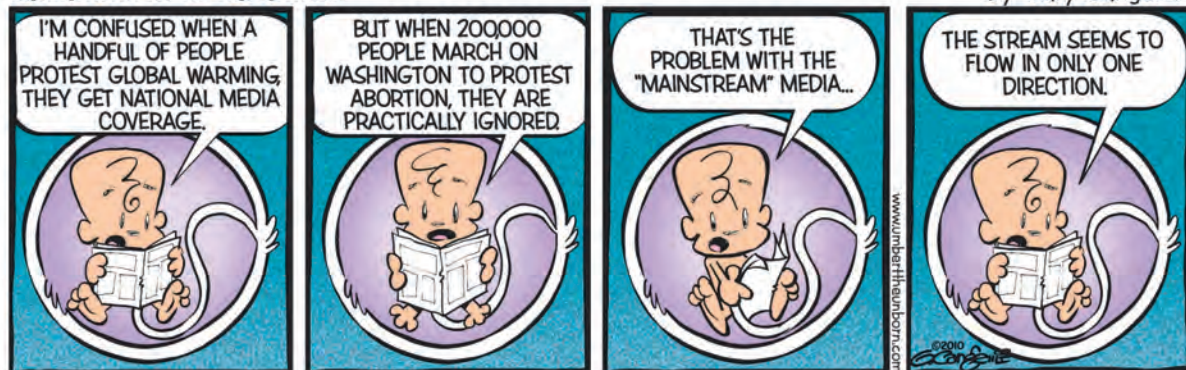
Of course, bishops are not The Real Informers in my own life.

Emma is.



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

LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers will sponsor a Lenten speaker series at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller. The series will begin at 8 p.m. Feb. 12 with guest speaker Chris Aubert. Aubert is a nationally known Catholic evangelist and apologist focusing on Pro-Life issues. He has been featured on numerous Catholic radio and TV outlets. The schedule for Aubert's talks will be as follows: Feb. 12 — "Church Teaching and the Pro-Life Movement"; Feb. 19 — "Apologetics 101, How to Evangelize Our Friends"; Feb. 26 — "The Eucharist, Almighty God or A Cracker." The series will continue with Steve Kellmeyer speaking March 12, 19, and 26. Kellmeyer is a noted author and frequent speaker on Catholic radio. Kellmeyer's topics will be "The Passion of Jesus Christ"; "The Crucifixion and Death of Christ"; "The Resurrection and Ascension." For more information on the Lenten speaker series, contact Frank Laux at (817) 939-8594.

END OF LIFE WORKSHOP

All are invited to attend an end of life workshop using the National Catholic Bioethics Center's (NCBC) "A Catholic Guide to End of Life Decisions" at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Dr., Arlington. The workshop, sponsored by the Fort Worth Knights of Columbus and the Respect Life Ministry of St. Maria Goretti, will be presented by Father Tom Kennedy Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. Following the presentation participants will have the opportunity to fill out the Advance Medical Directive and Health Proxy. Attendees will receive their own copy of *A Will to Live* by Archbishop José Gomez and the NCBC's guide with Health Proxy and Advanced Medical Directive forms. For more information and to reserve materials, call (817) 637-9381. Light refreshments will be provided.

DCCW MEETING

The Women of St. Andrew Parish will host the third quarterly meeting of the Central East Deanery of the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Catholic Renewal Center located at 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. The day will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Judy Locke, associate director of Permanent Deacon Formation for the Diocese of Fort Worth and Victim Assistance Coordinator for the diocese, will present "Living the Year in Jesus Christ." Mass will be celebrated by Father Ivor Koch prior to lunch. The cost for the event is \$10 and attendees are asked to donate a wrapped gift or gifts (white elephant, \$10 value) for the annual fundraising auction. Reservation deadline is Feb. 15. For more information or a reservation, call Connie Soto at (817) 838-8302.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

A Patriotic Rosary prayer service will be held Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 7-8 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton, Fort Worth. All are invited to join in the prayer of intercession for priests, church, and nation. For more information call the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center at (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805.

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.

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, or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com.

To Report Misconduct

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

- Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jl Locke@fwdioc.org
- Or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 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

NEW MEDIA EVANGELIZATION

Nationally known Catholic author and lecturer Leon Suprenant will offer a presentation entitled "New Media for a New Evangelization" Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Drive in Arlington. Suprenant will first discuss the New Evangelization as envisioned by Pope John Paul II and how lay Catholics are called to advance this evangelization of Christ through holiness and their call to mission. The focus of discussion will then shift to how the Church can use the new media to advance a call to evangelization and how to best reach the modern culture through this modern means of communication and information. Sponsored by the Pope John Paul II Institute Catechetical School, this presentation will be especially helpful to those who are involved in parish ministry. There is no charge for the presentation and all are invited to attend. For more information, contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 560-3300 ext. 260 or at lpollice@fwdioc.org.

SIDEWALK COUNSELING

A Prayer and Sidewalk Counseling training session will be offered Saturday, Feb. 6 at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 South Cherry Lane, White Settlement. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. by Father E. James Hart, chancellor and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Fort Worth. Following the Mass Father Michael Kmíotek, CFR will present "Angels and Demons at the Abortion Center: Approaching One — Confronting the Other," and Chuck Pelletier will present "Why Sidewalk Counseling? How do you do it?" Commissioning of Sidewalk Counselors and closing prayer will end the program. RSVP requested by e-mailing Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org. For more information, call (817) 560-3300 ext. 257.

DEAF LENTEN RETREAT

The Deaf Ministry will hold a Lenten retreat Feb. 19-20 at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Rd., Bedford. "Journey from Lent to Easter: Jesus' and Ours" will be presented by Sister Maureen Langton. Sr. Maureen is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Louis, Missouri, and has worked with the deaf for 41 years as a teacher, counselor, and coordinator. The cost for the retreat will be \$15 and registration deadline is Feb. 5. For more information, contact Mary Cinatl at (817) 284-3019 or mcinatl@fwdioc.org.

'DAY OF COMMUNIO'

A Day of *Communio* (formerly known as the Ministerium) will be held Thursday, April 15 at St. Bartholomew Parish, 3601 Alta Mesa Blvd., Fort Worth. This program is designed to provide an opportunity for cooperation of ordained and lay ministers of the Church. Clergy, religious, deacons, parish staff, and campus ministers are invited to attend. The keynote speaker for this event is Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities, USA. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with prayer and end at 3:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. for those who wish to attend. For more information, contact Joe Rodriguez at (817) 560-3300 ext. 115.

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.

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.

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 Feb. 12 issue must be received by noon on Feb. 3. Items for the Feb. 26 issue must be received by noon on Feb. 17. Send information to jrusseau@fwdioc.org.

SHSP 'COME AND SEE'

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 of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate 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 reflection, Emmaus Walk, recreation, and other activities with the sisters. Registration for the "Come and See" weekend is available on-line at www.shsp.org, under "What's New?" or by contacting Sister Gabriel Hession SHSp at (210) 533-5149 or sghesion@hotmail.com.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding. To register for a course starting Feb. 7 at 1 p.m. at Sacred Heart School Library, 153 E. Sixth Street, Muenster, contact Scott and Vickie Green at (940) 759-4475. To register for a course starting Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, contact Scott and Amy Rustand at (817) 581-6266. Visit www.ccldfw.org for more class dates and information.

SAN MATEO LENTEN DINNER

The Guadalupanas Society of San Mateo Church, 2930 Pulido St. Fort Worth, will host an all day Lenten dinner Friday, Feb. 19. Enchiladas, tostadas, rice, beans, and salad will be served in the hall from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information and take-out orders, call Rachel at (817) 994-6228.

MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST

Anne Costa, author, motivational speaker, and founder of the New York-based Veronica Ministries, will give her personal testimony entitled "Living for the Love of It" during Magnificat's winter prayer breakfast Saturday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon. The breakfast, sponsored by the Grapevine chapter in North Texas, will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at 785 State Hwy. 121 in Lewisville. Magnificat is a national, charismatic ministry to Catholic women. Tickets for the Magnificat breakfast are \$18, and can be purchased through Feb. 16 at the following Catholic bookstores: Keepsakes Catholic Books and Gifts, Lakewood Center, Arlington; Little Angels Catholic Store, 600 E. Sandy Lake Rd., Coppell; Catholic Art and Gifts, 2761 Valwood Pkwy., Farmers Branch; St. Anthony's Bookstore, 3121 McCart Ave., Fort Worth; and Divine Mercy Catholic Book Store and Gifts, 262 S. Interstate 35E, Denton. Tickets can also be purchased by contacting Nanci Ferri at (817) 498-7980. The breakfast will also include periods of prayer and Eucharistic Adoration and time for confession. For further information on the Grapevine chapter of Magnificat, look under the events calendar and resources section of the Fort Worth diocesan Web site, at www.fwdioc.org.

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.

SAN MATEO BREAKFAST

San Mateo Church, 2930 Pulido St., Fort Worth, will host a breakfast, sponsored by the Guadalupanas Society, Sunday, Feb. 21. Menudo, burritos, napales, and more will be served in the church hall from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Rachel at (817) 994-6228.

MOTHER / DAUGHTER TEA

The Spring Mother/Daughter Tea will be held Sunday afternoon, March 28 from noon to 4 p.m. The location of the Tea has been changed to The Knights of Columbus Hall in Keller. All young ladies, ages 10 to 13, their mothers, grandmothers, or any other special woman in their lives are invited to enjoy and celebrate the gifts of being female. "Join us for an afternoon in a tea house complete with tea pots and cups, a delicious lunch, and dessert. Other women will be your hostesses and speakers as we share our life experiences and the satisfaction of being female, as well as the special gifts and qualities we have received from our Creator to function in this role. This session will explain the physical, emotional, and psychological changes that occur in becoming a woman from a faith-based perspective," states Kathy Stojak, coordinator of the program. There is a \$12.50 per person fee. Reservations can be made by calling Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096. Due to limited space, reservations are being accepted on a first-call basis. The Knights of Columbus Hall is located in Keller at 1907 Whitley Rd.

SSMN ANNIVERSARY

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be celebrating 137 years of service this year. Friends of Sisters of St. Mary of Namur are making plans to celebrate the sisters' years of service at events scheduled for Saturday, March 6, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth and Saturday, April 24, at Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas. All are invited to join in celebrating with the sisters. For more information, visit the Web site at www.ssmnwestern.com or e-mail ssmn137@gmail.com.

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 at ccards6@att.net, or call (822) 465-5248, or Vivian Rentowski at rentows@aol.com.

Classified Section

MUSIC DIRECTOR

St. George Church in Fort Worth is seeking a bilingual liturgical music director/coordinator. Responsibilities include coordinate, rehearse, plan liturgy, and provide music for liturgical worship with the existing choirs. Applicant must be able to communicate in both English and Spanish, be familiar with current Catholic liturgical music, have the ability to play instruments, have Life Teen musical background, and be knowledgeable with vocal skill. Send a résumé to St. George Catholic Church, Attn: Father Thu Nguyen, 825 Karnes St., Fort Worth, TX 76111 or e-mail to tnguyen@charterinternet.com.

CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. Andrew 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 résumé, two letters of reference, and job application to: Music Search Team, St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76109, e-mail to calves@standrewcc.org, or Fax (817) 927-8507.

ST. JOSEPH LITANTY

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.

IN-HOME ASSISTANCE

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Good Newsmakers



ABOVE: Fr. John Casey (left) speaks with Charity Roberts and her brothers, Aaron (center) and Nathaniel (right). The youth came from Church of God in Lakeside to participate in the Hike for Life

LEFT: (L-R) Amy Gibson, James McCreery, Thomas Tyre, Brooke Allen, Marcy Houle and Bryce Allen lead hikers down Main Street in Weatherford. The teens were instrumental in setting up the hike. Almost 150 showed up for the first ever Hike for Life in Weatherford. The event was put on by St. Stephen's youth pro-life group, The Voice.

St. Stephen teens initiate Hike for Life in Weatherford to help others LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH

Story and Photos by Juan Guajardo / Editorial Assistant

Clouds loomed overhead and rain fell steadily as people bundled in raincoats, with umbrellas in hand, gathered to publicly spread a message that was the idea of a most unlikely group — a handful of teenagers.

Despite the cold, blustery day, the rain stopped just in time for those 10 teens from St. Stephen Church to lead almost 150 marchers down Main Street, an arterial road in the heart of Weatherford, in the town's first ever Hike For Life.

"I always get so touched because these are 15- and 16-year-olds that are leading us, that are leading the way for us to realize that it is our job to stand up for those who have no voice,"

said Jeanette Houle, director of Religious Education and youth minister at St. Stephen, during the ceremony before the hike.

People of all ages participated. Youth from St. Paul Church in Fort Worth and teens from the Church of God in Lakeside joined St. Stephen parishioners in the 5K hike. Along the way, several cars slowed down to honk and flash thumbs-up signs at the hikers.

SEE HIKE P. 22



Alex Bogdanoff (right) took part in the 5k Hike on Saturday. A steady rain stopped just before the hike began.



RIGHT: Fr. John Casey, pastor of St. Stephen, walks alongside parishioners Bob Kreipe (left) and Terri Gibson. Gibson's daughter, Amy (not show), and about ten other teens helped put on the hike.

LEFT: Hikers march down Main Street Saturday, Jan. 23. Almost 150 showed up for the first ever Hike for Life in Weatherford.



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Inside... This issue of the NTC

St. Patrick Cathedral recently dedicated a new religious education building and parishioners are excited about the new possibilities it offers. See what they have to say about it. **5**

The altar from the Bethania Hospital Chapel in Wichita Falls has a new home — St. Mary Church in Henrietta. Take a look at how parishioners have welcomed this priceless gift from the Holy Family sisters. **9**

The NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC has a new columnist. David Mills writes with a style similar to Lewis and Chester-ton. Check out what he has to say about the myth of pagan tolerance. **10**