

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Pro-life marchers turn Obama's call for change into a call for an end to abortion



Participants in the annual March for Life make their way up Constitution Avenue on the way to the Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 22. It was the 36th annual March for Life marking the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision that legalized abortion. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and his vocal support of abortion came under fire from members of Congress, clergy, and pro-life activists during the opening rally of the 36th annual March for Life.

For nearly two hours Jan. 22, a crowd estimated at 100,000 listened to three dozen speakers pledge to fight efforts to expand the availability of abortion and to oppose any increases in federal funding for agencies that perform abortions.

The crowd's disdain for Obama's views on abortion offered a sharp contrast to the exuberance that nearly 2 million people showered on the 44th president at his inauguration on the very same grounds 48 hours earlier.

Speakers took an almost defiant stand against the new president in pledging to reverse the 1970s era Supreme Court decisions of *Roe vs. Wade* and *Doe vs. Bolton* that recognized abortion as a constitutional right and overturned state laws against

SEE MARCH, P. 12

Poll shows disapproval of Obama's Mexico City policy reversal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although a majority of Americans support many of President Barack Obama's early actions in office, only about a third back his decision to allow funding for overseas family planning groups that provide abortions, according to a new poll by USA Today/Gallup.

The results of the survey conducted Jan. 30-Feb. 1 show that "this is no time to divide our

nation with policies that offend the pro-life values of most Americans," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities, in a Feb. 3 statement.

Asked about seven actions taken by Obama as president, the majority said they approved of his moves to:

— Name special envoys for the Middle East and for Afghanistan

and Pakistan (76 percent).

— Tighten ethics rules for administration officials (76 percent).

— Limit interrogation techniques used on prisoners (74 percent).

— Institute higher fuel efficiency standards (74 percent).

— Make it easier for workers to sue for pay discrimination (66 percent).

But only 44 percent said they

supported Obama's decision to order that the Guantanamo Bay prison be closed and only 35 percent were in favor of his decision to reverse the Mexico City policy, a ban on federal funding of abortion-providing groups abroad that was first instituted by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

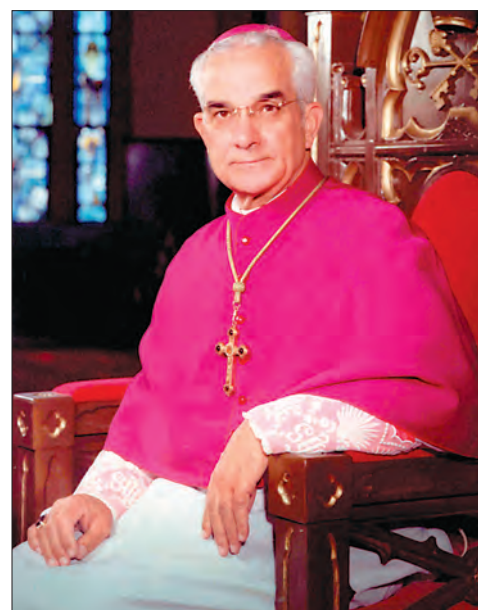
Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life

Activities, called the reversal "very disappointing."

"Most Americans seem to agree" with the cardinal, McQuade said. "An administration that wants to reduce abortions should not divert U.S. funds to groups that perform and promote abortion."

The margin of error for the poll by USA Today/Gallup was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Bishop Tschoepe, former bishop of Dallas, dies at 93



Bishop Thomas Ambrose Tschoepe, the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Dallas, died Saturday, Jan. 24, at St. Joseph Retirement Center in Oak Cliff, at the age of 93. A vigil service and Mass was held Jan. 28 at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in downtown Dallas with Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas presiding. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 29 in the cathedral, with Bishop Farrell presiding and Bishop Kevin Vann concelebrating. Entombment was at the Crypt of the Bishops at the Main Altar at Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Retired Bishop Thomas Tschoepe of Dallas, pictured in an undated photo. The fifth bishop of Dallas served from 1969 to 1990. (CNS photo/courtesy TEXAS CATHOLIC)

Born Dec. 17, 1915 in the Denton County town of Pilot Point, one of eight children born to Louis Tschoepe and Catherine Sloan Tschoepe, the former bishop attended St. Thomas School in Pilot Point and studied for 12 years at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. He was ordained there by Archbishop John T. McNicholas on May 30, 1943, and returned to Texas to celebrate his first Mass at his home parish of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Pilot Point.

After ordination, the young priest served in numerous parishes throughout the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth, and after becoming a monsignor, also served as rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral and vicar general of the diocese beginning in 1962. On March

SEE BISHOP, P. 7



Women pray during Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles last year. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 this year, marks the first day of the season of Lent for Christians worldwide. (CNS photo/Victor Aleman, Vida Nueva)

Parish leaders gather for diocese's final

Ministry Formation Day

Story and photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

When more than 500 people from throughout North Texas came together Jan. 10 for a day-long seminar, they were attending the last of the twice-annual Ministry Formation Days to be presented in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Beginning in October, the diocese will partner with the University of Dallas School of Ministry, and the Diocese of Dallas, for a combined ministry day at the Dallas Convention Center.

"The advantage to joining with the other diocese and the university," said Joe Rodriguez, diocesan coordinator of council development, and organizer of the yearly ministry conference, "is that it will be at the convention center and will have a much larger turnout and nationally known speakers."

This year's attendees came to Nolan Catholic High School from 44 parishes, and represented Eng-

lish, Vietnamese, and a burgeoning number of Spanish-speaking participants. Filling a full half of Nolan's big arena, the multilingual community seemed to create a living representation of the day's theme, "Encountering The Living Word."

The diocesan ministers were welcomed to breakfast, a display of religious materials and gift items, and a packed agenda of presentations and workshops. Throughout the day they would be encouraged to immerse themselves in the word of God, take it outside and project it to everyone they encountered.

In his reflections at the morning's opening prayer service, Bishop Kevin Vann remarked on the day's Gospel, from the first chapter of John, which the bishop reminded the assembly was once referred to as "The Last Gospel," because it was proclaimed at the end of Mass.

"It was as if it was to remind us," he explained, "that having heard the word of God in Mass, we were now to take it out of the place where we worship, take it out into the community, into the world in which we live, so that those whom we meet, those who come our way, will have an encounter with the living God."

Ministry Formation Day, once known as "Cuerpo de Cristo" has been a twice-annual gathering, and was formerly scheduled on

three dates and locations throughout the diocese each year.

At alternating times, breakout sessions took place in Nolan's classrooms, where attendees could cut and paste, listen, discuss, create, and simply grow. Both parish volunteers and employees took part in the event, which offered education and religion credits to qualified participants.

"I thought the day was good," said Marla Tatum, from Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville, who has worked on this event for many years. "We put a lot of time and effort into it and tried to use local talent — teachers, directors of religious education, and other ministers."

Tatum applauded fellow committee members, co-coordinators Linda Beckley and Joe Rodriguez, Jo-Lee Bunsic, Monica Frazier, Mary Krivanek, Cathy Martin, Lucas Pollice, and Sisters Yolanda Cruz, SSMN; Elvira Mata, MCDP; and Juliana Tran, CSFN.

Keynote speaker this year was Father John Robert Skeldon, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Wichita Falls, and an instructor for the Biblical School at the University of Dallas in Irving. In his back-to-back hour-long addresses, Fr. Skeldon interwove the conversion of St. Paul the Apostle and his scriptural writings, with selected poetry, stories, and even songs.

His talk was in three parts: Paul's calling, vocation, and conversion experience; grace working in his life and in the life of the church; and his mission.

"It was the mission of Christ to save Paul," Fr. Skeldon said, "so Paul sees as his mission to preach the grace of Christ, so that others can thus be called, so that they can realize that they too have a vocation to respond to. This is the circle:

vocation — grace — mission and how they flow into each other."

Fr. Skeldon explained what brought about Paul's conversion was grace. "It is through this participation in the life of God — grace," he said, "that Paul uses his whole life. His experience on the road to Damascus is the template through which he writes, he preaches, he teaches, he does everything that he does. Even though he thinks that it came late to him, it did come."

Summarizing, Fr. Skeldon explained, "Paul's vocation happens because of the grace of God working in his life, and Paul actually focusing on what that grace is doing in him and with him. It is making him more like Christ, or as he says, it is making him into Christ for the sake of his mission."

One participant, Wanda Styrsky, who teaches fourth-graders at Holy Family School, took a mission home with her after the all-day seminar.

She learned rosary-making from Mary Moody and Susan Overcash, in a breakout session on service projects for children.



Fr. John Robert Skeldon, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Wichita Falls, offered the English and Spanish keynote presentations at this year's Ministry Formation Day at Nolan.

As a result, Styrsky purchased supplies, and took the skill to her classroom, where her students spend free time creating rosaries to send to Fort Worth's sister diocese in Juticalpa, Honduras.

"We're going to take the idea of 'holiness,'" Styrsky said, "and create the symbol of rosaries around the same table. Since Jan. 10, we have already finished more than 70 rosaries."



ABOVE: Fr. Carmen Mele, OP, diocesan director of Adult Catechesis for the Hispanic community, leads a workshop in the Spanish language on the baptismal call to grow in faith.



A young participant in the workshop enjoys learning to create new craft projects.

ABOVE: Nicole Thomas Woodard, a catechetical leader from Houston, offered a well-attended workshop entitled "Catholic Classroom Crafts in Under 20 Minutes."



Bishop Kevin Vann, leads the opening prayer at the event.



Sr. St. John Begnaud, SSMN, invites a participant from the workshop, "Why a Year of St. Paul?" to the front of the room at the formation day.



More than 500 participants came together Jan. 10 for the last Ministry Formation Day to be sponsored solely by the Diocese of Fort Worth. The diocese will collaborate with the Diocese of Dallas and the University of Dallas School of Ministry to co-sponsor similar formation opportunities in the future.

Bishop Aymond says Mass for 81st Legislative session

By Maria Huemmer
Texas Catholic Conference

AUSTIN — Despite the plummeting temperature and frigid wind, many made their way to St. Mary Cathedral in Austin on Tuesday, Jan. 27, to celebrate an evening Mass marking the opening of the 81st Legislative Session. Bishop Gregory Aymond of the Diocese of Austin, and the Texas Catholic Conference hosted the Mass. Bishop Aymond offered the Mass for the intentions of the legislators as well as for a successful legislative session.

"The Legislative Mass is an opportunity for all of us, legislators, staff, and those who follow the Texas legislature, to gather together and pray," said Andrew Rivas, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference. "We are not only a community of people working together; we are also a community of faith working together to fulfill God's call to love and care for one another."

State Senators Steve Ogden (R-Bryan) and Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) served as lectors for the Mass, while State Representatives Dora Olivo (D-Missouri City) and Bill Callegari (R-Houston) served as gift bearers.

"We gather here today to thank you for your public service," said Bishop Aymond during his homily. "We gather here today to pray for you and to pray with you, that God will continue to enlighten you and use you, your voice, and your actions, as a prophetic one in the session."

Bishop Aymond also stressed the importance of being in dialogue with God in prayer, listening to God and asking for God's guidance.

"For those who serve as legislators, the question you have to go to God with is 'God what do you want? ... What is your dream for the state of Texas in this 81st Session?'"

After the Mass, participants were welcomed to Bishop's Hall for a reception. There, they had an opportunity to pick up a legislative agenda from the Texas Catholic Conference which outlined the Texas Bishops' public policy priorities, and meet conference staff.

On Jan. 13, the first day of the legislative session, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, delivered the invocation for the new session, praying for the light of God's "divine wisdom" to "direct the deliberations of this legislature and shine forth in all its proceedings and laws framed for our rule and governance," asking for a special blessing upon the members of the House of Representatives, the speaker, the governor, judges, and all other elected civil officials.

Following the prayer, the legislature passed a resolution formally congratulating Cardinal DiNardo for his elevation to the College of Cardinals and welcoming him to the state Capitol.

For more information on the Texas Catholic Conference, visit www.TXcatholic.org.

*Responding
to God's Call*

The Lenten Vocation Awareness Program for Single Men and Women

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Everyone has a vocation from God. Upon reflection and prayer, the message seems to become more and more evident. For those who are single, it might just be the religious life. This is the message of the new promotional posters, cards, and advertisements that the Vocation Office will be promoting for this year and beyond. We need your help, but first let us look at the meaning of our vocation from God.

Yes, God created us with the purpose to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world and the next. If this is part of our basic understanding as Christians, then our vocation is simply determining "how" we are called by God to know Him, love Him, and serve Him. Jesus makes the "how" clearer to us: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34-38), or as we see from the calling of the four fishermen, Simon, Andrew, James, and John to Christ, "When they brought their boats to the shore, they

left everything and followed him" (Luke 5:1-11). Both of these examples require a commitment to Jesus, to God, to leave everything behind to devote one's life to the Lord.

Yet, this commitment to our Lord is not to be a blind commitment, a blind faith; rather it is a faith that is built on inquiry, prayer, investigation, and prudence. A mature faith in Jesus as the Christ will go through many tests until we are absolutely convinced that Jesus is truly the Son of God, our Savior.

Thus, we see that Jesus tested the twelve repeatedly to determine if they were ready to be true disciples with a lifetime commitment. Peter responds, "Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God," yet, even then one would betray our Lord (John 6:22-71).

Thus, if our calling from Jesus is to give our lives over to Him, to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world and the next, then the real goal of every Christian is the same.

Yet, even after we have come to believe in Christ and have committed our life to the Lord, we need to again enter into a stage of inquiry, prayer, investigation, and prudence, not only to build up our faith (to know Him), but to come to a mature decision as to how God desires us to love and serve Him. We can do this as committed singles, as married couples, or as religious men and women.

Early in life, already in high school and into young adult life, we ought to discern which is our vocational calling from God and encourage others to do likewise. Each of these three options are closely related because they have the same ultimate purpose, yet, to truly know which specific

path God is calling us to, we must enter a stage of inquiry and prayer over a long period of time. The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth has just the program.

We need your help to encourage single men and women in your parish to consider attending the fourth annual Lenten Vocation Awareness Program at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth to be held every Monday night in Lent starting March 2.

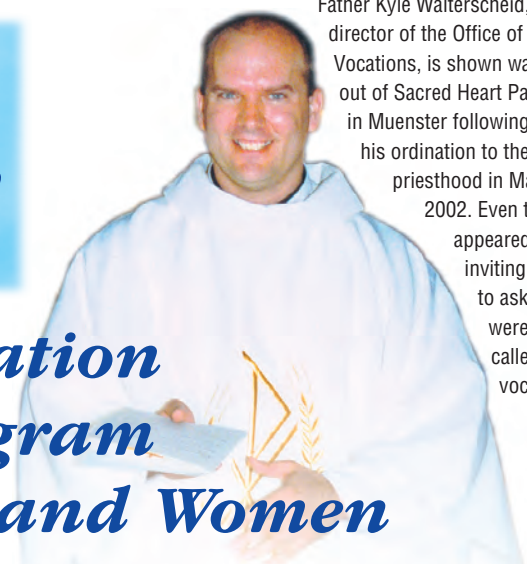
In the past three years we have run a men's only Lenten discernment program in which a total of 64 men have taken part. Ten men have entered the seminary or religious life for further discernment, with another six ready to do so. Eight have chosen to enter into marriage, and many have found fulfillment (love and happiness) in the single life as committed Catholics serving in many capacities and various needs in the Church.

Our program has changed each year to reach out to more singles who are discerning. I am glad to announce that we are now ready to have women come join us on the same evening, led by sisters. And this program is now available for high school students, sophomores and up.

Again, we need your help to spread the message of the availability of this program to singles and encourage them to come. "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Matthew 9:37). Thus, let us pray together and then spread the message! More information is available on the back inside cover of this edition.

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.

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.



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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.

Educate the Children Gala Feb. 13

Bishop Kevin Vann will be the guest speaker at the Fifth Anniversary Gala for Friends of Educate the Children 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13 at the Tarrant County College Northeast Campus at 828 Harwood Rd., in Hurst.

The Gala will include a dinner and a silent auction. Father Robert Thames of Cabezas, Bolivia, will be the honoree.

For more information contact Hilda Flores at (817) 560-3300 ext. 112 or hflores@fwdioc.org.

Marriage Encounter weekend to be held Feb. 13-15

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Feb. 13-15 at the Catholic Renewal Center of North Texas, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

Marriage Encounter is a weekend marriage enrichment program for married couples designed to help them 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.

"One year or fifty! No matter how long you've been married, a Marriage Encounter Weekend is a great way to breathe new life into your relationship. And it's just for the two of you (no group sharing)," say program organizers.

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 (817) 451-6005 or e-mail mereregistration@sbcglobal.net.

Benedictines invite high-school girls for vocations weekend

The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, invite all high school-aged girls to attend "Discover the Treasure of the Hills High School Visiting Weekend," a vocations weekend Feb. 27 to March 1.

"Did you ever wonder what it is like to live in a monastery? Have you ever wished you could get an inside view of a nun's life?" asks Sister Michelle Sinkhorn, OSB, director of Vocation Ministries.

During the weekend, Sr. Sinkhorn says, girls will have the opportunity to spend time with the sisters and learn about religious life, in addition to getting to know other high school-aged girls.

For more information, call Sr. Sinkhorn at (800) 734-9999, ext. 2830, or visit the sisters' Web site at www.thedome.org to register online.

Lubbock Knights to host 'Our Lady in Scripture' conference

The Lubbock Diocese Knights of Columbus will sponsor the 2009 Biblical Studies Conference, "Our Lady in Scripture," Feb. 14-15 in the Lubbock City Bank Auditorium.

Featured speakers at the event include Catholic theologians and Scripture scholars Scott Hahn, Brant Pitre, and Michael Barber. Spanish translation services are available by advance reservation. A gala dinner with Lubbock Bishop Placido Rodriguez and conference speakers will be held Friday, Feb. 13. Dinner tickets are available for \$70 per person.

For information about hotel accommodations, tickets and the conference schedule, call (806) 698-6400, (806) 239-0804, or (806) 438-5253. Tickets are available at \$20 per person.

Knights of Peter Claver plan Mardi Gras dance Feb. 21

The Knights of Peter Claver Council 89 of Our Mother of Mercy Church in Fort Worth will hold their 19th Annual "Mardi Gras & Zydeco Dance" from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Meadowbrook Lions Club, 6013 Craig St. in Fort Worth.

Donations are \$20 per person and admission includes authentic Louisiana gumbo and red beans and rice.

Call (817) 253-0806, (817) 534-7652, or see any Knight at Our Mother of Mercy Church at 1007 East Terrell Ave. for more information about this event.

Proceeds from the event go toward funding the many charitable activities sponsored throughout the year.

Patriotic Rosary rescheduled for Feb. 16

The Patriotic Rosary originally planned for Jan. 27 was canceled because of inclement weather and has been rescheduled for 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16 at St. Patrick Cathedral at 1206 Throckmorton St. in Fort Worth.

"We must pray for wisdom and courage for our president and government officials, and that they will act according to the revealed will of God and the foundational principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States," say event organizers. "The new leaders of our nation are in need of prayers for wisdom, courage, and God's guidance as they face the difficulties and trials ahead."

The Patriotic Rosary is in the framework of traditional prayers, accompanied by spiritual reflections of America's forefathers.

For information call the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center at (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



ST. PETER DUKE SCHOLARS — Seven students from St. Peter the Apostle School in White Settlement earned the recognition of Duke Scholar by placing in the 95th percentile in the nation or higher on standardized testing, school officials said. The Duke University Talent Identification Program identifies and recognizes academically talented students and provides programs to support their optimum educational potential, according to a program release. The students are now eligible to take the college-level ACT or SAT entrance exam this spring. St. Peter students recognized include in the front row from left to right Teresa McGee, Megan Uriegas-Stevens, and Sydney Jongewaard, and in the back row from left to right Jose Torres, Molly Gribble, Morgan Sims, and Chase Yandell.

Courage group affirms Church teaching on homosexuality

Courage D/FW, a ministry that affirms the Church's teaching on homosexuality, meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month, and the next meeting will be Feb. 13.

Courage was created in 1980 in New York City at the request of the late Cardinal Terence Cooke and now has chapters throughout the United States and in eight other countries.

Courage is not a "change" ministry, and does not focus on any attempt to change one's "orientation." The focus is helping members, whether single or married, to live lives of interior and exterior chastity, which means living according to the

teachings of the Church regarding sexual love as outlined in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Courage D/FW was started in 1999 with the approval of Bishops Joseph Delaney of Fort Worth and Bishop Charles Grahmann of Dallas. Its spiritual adviser is Monsignor Mark Seitz of St. Rita Church in Dallas. The group's meetings include prayer, discussion of relevant topics, learning how to deepen spiritual lives, sharing struggles and successes, and occasional guest speakers, and fellowship.

For more information, contact (972) 938-LIFE (5433) or e-mail couragedfw@catholic.org.

Lay Carmelites invite others to join prayer gathering

"Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and Mary?" ask the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (Lay Carmelites). The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of this deeper relationship to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship.

Those interested in participating are asked to gather at 2 p.m. Feb. 22 in the chapel of The College of St. Thomas More, 3017 Lubbock in Fort Worth. Formation will take place in the college library from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

Carmelite Auxiliary to host Irish-themed fundraiser

The Auxiliary to the Disalced Carmelite Nuns in Arlington will hold its annual "A Divine Affair" fundraiser, a St. Patrick's Day celebration to support the nuns, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Hilton Arlington's Grand Ballroom.

A short auction before lunch will include an exquisite petit point needlework done entirely by the Carmelite Nuns for this year's fundraiser. The Colonel Ceathar Irish Dancers will also perform.

Tickets are \$40 per person. For more information, contact Evelyn Breaux at (817) 738-8636 or Aileen Neil at (817) 923-9301.

Rachel Ministries announces plans to expand services in Spanish

Rachel Ministries is excited to announce plans to expand its outreach to include programs and services in Spanish. Rachel Ministries, a compassionate, faith-based abortion recovery ministry offers a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath. The expanded outreach program is in the beginning stages, and is currently seeking volunteers who can read and speak Spanish to help build the Spanish program.

The ministry is also seeking Spanish-speaking licensed counselors to volunteer during the Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats. The retreat team, which includes a priest, a licensed counselor, and several helpers, provides the confidential support required to work through the spiritual, psychological, and emotional pain of abortion, and experience the healing love and mercy of our Lord.

There are also opportunities for volunteers to be included on the referral list. Training will be provided to all volunteers.

Anyone who is bilingual and has a compassionate heart to help those hurting after an abortion is asked to contact Betsy Kopor at (817) 923-4757 or by e-mail to forgiven@racheltx.org.

NTC deadlines for submission

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. 20 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Items for the March 6 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet Feb. 26

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, other Sexual Minorities and Their Families regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next regular meeting will be Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

Magnificat breakfast to feature Catholic author Feb. 21

Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women that draws participation from throughout the North Texas region, will sponsor a women's breakfast with praise and eucharistic devotion from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the DFW Hilton Lakes Conference Center and Hotel, located at 1800 Highway 26 East in Grapevine.

The opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and to meet with prayer teams will be available after the keynote presentation.

Author Patricia Treece will serve as keynote speaker for the event. Treece is described in press materials as a Catholic convert, author, and authority on modern-day saints. "The mission of my work is simply to share God's friends, the saints, with our human family because to know God's friends, the saints, is to come closer to God," Treece writes in describing her work as a writer and speaker.

Treece's first book, *A Man for Others*, was released in 1982, and chronicles the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Treece's latest publication, *Meet John XXIII: Joyful Pope and Father to All*, is based on Treece's interviews with the pope's private secretary, a retired archbishop who made the pope's letters and other personal documents available to Treece. Treece's other works have included biographies of Padre Pio and St. Therese of Lisieux.

For more information or to purchase admission at \$18 per ticket to the breakfast, call Nancy Ferri at (817) 498-7980 by Tuesday, Feb. 17, or obtain tickets at local Catholic bookstores, including Keepsakes in Arlington, Little Angels in Coppell, Catholic Arts and Gifts in Farmer's Branch, and St. Anthony's Bookstore in Fort Worth.

St. Augustine Men's Purity Group meets at three locations

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 at three locations within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The group offers meetings at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller, in Room 213; at the Padre Pio House, 1301 Paxton Ave. in Arlington; and at Immaculate Conception Parish, 2255 North Bonnie Brae St. in Denton. Those men interested in attending one of the upcoming sessions are asked to consult the group's Web site, www.sampg.com, for specific meeting dates and times.

For more information, e-mail to Mark at seamspurity@yahoo.com or call the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office at (817) 431-3857.



**EVERYONE HAS A VOCATION FROM GOD.
UPON REFLECTION, THE MESSAGE IS EVERYWHERE.**

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SINGLE, IT JUST MIGHT BE THE RELIGIOUS LIFE.

Consider attending the Lenten Vocational Discernment Program at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Monday nights.
For more information, please see the Lenten Vocation Discernment advertisement on the inside back page of the NTC.

**THE
CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
FORT WORTH**

Translator of *Theology of the Body* audiences, featured speaker at University of Dallas lecture Feb. 20

Michael Waldstein will be the featured speaker for the University of Dallas's third annual John Paul II Theology Lecture Feb. 20. Waldstein, an internationally renowned theologian and translator of John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, will discuss "Three Kinds of Personalism — Kant, Scheler, and Pope John Paul II: Philosophical Underpinnings of The Theology of the Body," at 7:30 p.m. in Lynch Auditorium, located on the university's campus at 1845 E. Northgate Dr. in Irving.

"Dr. Waldstein is one of the foremost Catholic theologians in America," said Christopher Malloy, associate professor of theology at the University of Dallas. "He exemplifies the good scribe that works from the best of 'what is new and what is old' so that theology can move forward fruitfully. Illustrating this virtue, his exposition of the philosophical underpinnings of John Paul's

Theology of the Body — which is progressive and traditional at once — is lucid and brilliant. We are thrilled to have him as our featured speaker for the annual John Paul II lecture."

Waldstein is the Max Seckler professor of theology at Ave Maria University. He previously served as founding president of the International Theological Institute in Gaming, Austria, and was the St. Francis of Assisi professor of *New Testament* there. He is a member of the Pontifical Council for the Family and is a distinguished fellow of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

His published works include his definitive translation of John Paul II's *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*, and "The Common Good in St. Thomas and John Paul II" and "Dietrich von Hildebrand and St. Thomas Aquinas on Goodness and Happiness," both published

in *Nova et Vetera*, a magazine published by the Aquinas Center of Ave Maria University. He holds a bachelor's degree from Thomas Aquinas College in California, a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Dallas, licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and a doctorate in *New Testament* from Harvard Divinity School.

Previous John Paul II Lectures have featured Cardinal Francis Arinze and Dr. Russell Hittinger. The event is free and open to the public.

The University of Dallas is a Catholic, co-educational, liberal arts university with more than 3,000 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs through the Constantin College of Liberal Arts, the College of Business, the Graduate School of Management, the Braniff Graduate School of Liberal Arts, and the School of Ministry.

TOBET co-founder to give intro to theology at St. Rita Feb. 21

Monica Ashour, a co-founding member of the local Theology of the Body Evangelization Team (TOBET) will present "A Time Bomb Set to Go Off in the 21st Century: The Theology of the Body" on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the St. Rita Parish Center in Fort Worth.

The talk is for those 17 or older. Pizza, salad, and other snacks will be served at 6 p.m., followed by the talk from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Theology of the Body is Pope John Paul II's "integrated vision of the human person — body, soul, and spirit. The Theology of the Body promotes the Pope's revolutionary and life-transforming message of hope that counteracts societal trends. It encourages a true reverence for the gift of our sexuality and challenges us to live in a way worthy of our great dignity as human persons. His theology is not only for young adults and

married couples, but for all ages and vocations since it sums up the true meaning of the human person," say members of the St. Rita Respects Life group.

Ashour holds a master's degree from the University of Dallas in theological studies and in humanities. She has traveled throughout the United States, giving talks about the Theology of the Body.

As an author of a curriculum on the Theology of the Body for religious education and Catholic schools, she seeks to spread the Gospel in the light of the Holy Father's profound understanding of the dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Free childcare is available. Tickets are an extra dollar at the door. For more information, call the church office at (817) 451-9395.

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers of Tarrant County announce Lenten Speaker Series at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church at 2016 Willis Ln. in Keller will sponsor their annual Lenten Speaker Series this year with guest speakers Steve Kellmeyer and Tim Staples.

Steve Kellmeyer will present six talks during each of the Fridays of the Lenten season (except Good Friday) beginning on Feb. 27. The talks will be at 8 p.m. following the parish fish fry and Stations of the Cross.

Kellmeyer will be discussing Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. Topics will include "The First Family" on Feb. 27, "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do" on March 6, "Flesh and Blood" on March 13, "Why Does God Allow Suffering?" on March 20, "Being the Best Spouse, Being the Best Parent" on March 27, and "Celibacy" on April 3.

Steve Kellmeyer is the director of Adult Formation at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine and is a noted author. For more information on his books, visit www.bridegroompress.com.

In addition, Tim Staples, a well-known speaker from Catholic Answers will speak



Steve Kellmeyer



Tim Staples

Saturday, Feb. 28. The program is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. following the 9 a.m. Mass. A box lunch is available for \$5.

Staples will discuss "Repentance, Reconciliation, and Redemption." An opportunity to receive the sacrament of rec-

onciliation will be offered during the event.

Both events will be free, but offerings will be accepted. For more information, contact Frank Laux at (817) 939-8594 or visit the group's Web site at www.sjcktc.org.



Ethan Dobbs, a member of Boy Scout Troop 32 which is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 759, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Ethan, son of Don and Brenda Dobbs, is a freshman at Keller High School and is a parishioner of Good Shepherd Church in Colleyville. For his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, Ethan led more than 30 scouts in staining and painting the parish office entryway at Good Shepherd. As a Boy Scout, Ethan has earned fifty-two merit badges, the *Ad Altare Dei* Religious award, and has been the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader as well as the Chaplain's Aide for Troop 32. He also served on the staff of the 2007 *Ad Altare Dei* Tour and attended summer camp in Alaska. Ethan has offered his thanks to all of the scouts and adults who helped with his project and helped him throughout his scouting journey.



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Bishop Thomas Tschoepe served the Diocese of Dallas as bishop for 21 years

FROM PAGE 1

9, 1966, he was ordained bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo. On Oct. 29, 1969, he was installed as bishop of the Diocese of Dallas, succeeding Bishop Thomas K. Gorman. Bishop John J. Cassata had been installed eight days earlier in St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth as the first bishop of the newly-formed Diocese of Fort Worth.

An Aug. 30, 1969 issue of the *Texas Catholic*, then the diocesan newspaper for the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth, announced the appointments of the two new bishops. "The retirement of Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas-Fort Worth has precipitated the split of the present diocese into the Diocese of Dallas and the Diocese of Fort Worth with the appointment of a new bishop for each," noted the front page article. "The series of changes made by Pope Paul VI was announced Aug. 27 (1969) in Washington by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, apostolic delegate to the United States."

Bishop Tschoepe, known for his simple lifestyle and friendly, approachable manner, established ministries devoted to pastoral planning, youth, family life, and to deaf members in the Catholic

community. He served as grand chancellor of the University of Dallas and also founded the Catholic Community Appeal annual fundraising campaign and the Diocesan Archives Museum. Nineteen parishes within the Diocese of Dallas were founded during his tenure, as well as several new Catholic schools. He was proud of the fact that, during his years as bishop, he ordained more than 100 priests, said Father Tim Gollob, a longtime associate of the bishop's.

He announced his retirement on July 14, 1990, exactly 100 years after Pope Leo XIII created the Diocese of Dallas. He went on to serve as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Waxahachie before moving to the retirement center several years ago.

The later years of the bishop's life were impacted by lawsuits brought against the Diocese of Dallas after his retirement. Victims of sexual abuse by priests of the diocese sued and obtained settlements in 1997 that cost the diocese more than \$45 million and exposed the suffering of families whose lives were shattered by the effects of the abuse.

Bishop Tschoepe was, himself, extremely pastoral and kind, said his family and friends. "He

was always there for our family, whatever we needed," recalled his niece, Lillian Tschoepe Fallon, who, with her husband Edward, lives in Pilot Point on the property owned by Bishop Tschoepe's father. "He [presided at] the marriage of many of his nieces and nephews and baptized so many of the babies that were born into the family. He loved to come out to the farm and help out with harvesting the peanuts, the cotton, or the hay, whatever season it was."

Monsignor Leon Duesman, pastor of St. Ann Church in Coppell, a nephew of the bishop, was close to his uncle and said that he has happy memories of holidays spent with the bishop on the family farm in Pilot Point. Lengthy games of dominoes are a part of those treasured memories, added Msgr. Duesman.

"He was always a very humble, holy man, who loved the Lord, and loved the church, and was very genuine in every way," he said. "From a family point of view, to us, he was always just Bishop Tom."

The bishop is survived by three sisters: Vera Duesman and Clara Simmel of Pilot Point, and Bertha Holley of McKinney, and by several nieces and nephews, including Msgr. Duesman of St. Ann's and Monsignor Jerome Duesman, pastor of Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Irving. He was preceded in death by his parents and by siblings Nettie Ross, Paul Tschoepe, John Tschoepe, and George Tschoepe.

Vatican orders study of women religious institutes in United States

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican has initiated an apostolic visitation of institutes for women religious in the United States to find out why the numbers of their members have decreased during the past 40 years and to look at the quality of life in the communities.

The announcement was made Jan. 30 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington by Sister Eva-Maria Ackerman, a member of the American province of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George.

She will assist Mother Mary Clare Millea, who is superior general of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an international religious institute that has its headquarters in Rome.

Cardinal Franc Rode, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, appointed Mother Clare as the apostolic visitor.

The cardinal sent letters detailing the task to both the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the two major organizations representing heads of women's religious orders in the U.S.

It is too early to know how many volunteers will be enlisted to visit nearly 400 Catholic institutes for women religious in the U.S., how much it will cost or who will pay for the study, Sister Eva-Maria said during the press conference at the national shrine.

"We hope to discover and share the vibrancy and purpose that continue to accomplish so much, as well as to understand the obstacles and challenges that inhibit these individuals and institutions, thus limiting their growth and/or redirecting their resources and outreach," she said.

The study — which is expected to be completed by 2011 — is in no way connected to the apostolic visitation of more than 200 U.S. seminaries and formation houses in 2005 and 2006, which was ordered in response to the sexual abuse crisis that hit the U.S. church, Sister Eva-Maria said.

Once the study is concluded, a "comprehensive and confidential" report will be given to Cardinal Rode, but its findings are not expected to be made public, Sister Eva-Maria said.

"First, Mother Clare will solicit voluntary input from the superiors general through inviting them to make personal visits with her in Rome or in the United States," she said. "During the second stage, the major superiors in the United States will be asked for information such as statistics, activities, and community practices. Selected on-site visits will be made during the third stage."

Catholic women religious have been involved in education, health care, and a variety of pastoral and social services in the U.S. since before the nation was founded in 1776, said Mother Clare in a prepared statement released at the press conference.

"I am truly humbled and a bit overwhelmed," she said of her assignment. "While I have visited each of the communities and missions in my own congregation, the thought of gathering facts and findings about nearly 400 institutes across the United States can be daunting in scope."

A Web site, www.apostolicvisitation.org, has been launched to provide basic information about the project.

"I know that the object of this visitation is to encourage and strengthen apostolic communities of women religious, for the simple reason that these communities are integral to the entire life of the Catholic Church, in the United States and beyond," Mother Clare said.

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Hispanic Vocations retreat offers young people the chance to think through, to pray, and to

DISCERN

Story and photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen Correspondent

As a little girl growing up with two younger brothers, Nayeli Reyes had flash card moments when she pictured herself in a nun's habit.

But the Pilot Point resident didn't seriously consider a vocation to religious life until years later.

"I went to a youth retreat and they touched on the subject," the 21-year-old says, remembering how prayer and reflection rekindled her childhood thoughts about becoming a sister. "So I've been thinking

more about it."

Reyes was one of 20 men and women who gathered Jan. 24 in the Catholic Renewal Center for a Hispanic Vocation Awareness Retreat. Sponsored by the Vocations Office, the weekend of liturgies, spiritual talks, and panel discussions is conducted entirely in Spanish.

Reyes is bilingual but saw the program as an opportunity to ask questions and gather information in a familiar way.

"I laugh and go out like any normal girl, so my mother keeps asking me if I'm sure about this," says the young woman, who attends a community college and would like a career in nursing. "That's why I'm here. To see what God wants me to do."

Spanish-speaking Catholics like Reyes who are single, show an interest in the mission of the Church, and are considering a call to religious life are invited to attend the annual retreat, says Father Kyle Walterscheid, diocesan director of Voca-

tion. "There are a lot of Hispanics who may speak English, but they prefer Spanish, especially when it comes to their spiritual life. If you grew up speaking Spanish, you're more comfortable talking to someone in your native language," he explains.

Half of the Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth are Hispanic, and approximately half of that demographic is Spanish-speaking. "We're reaching out to a large portion of the population that would be missed otherwise and not included in the Church," Fr. Walterscheid adds. "It's helped a lot of Hispanics through discernment."

And the weekend's impact can't be measured merely by the number of participants who eventually enter religious life. "It helps the future of the Church," the vocations director continues. "People walk

out of here honoring the Church more, have a greater appreciation of their roots and the faith that's been passed on to them. It makes them better lay members."

Heartfelt talks given by representatives from religious communities invigorate retreat participants.

"They become more active in their local church, so it's a win-win for the diocese," Fr. Walterscheid says.

Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, who helped organized the retreat, said the audience of discerning men and women were very focused and participated in panel discussions and other activities wholeheartedly. A surprise visit from Bishop Kevin Vann lifted the participants' spirits even more. The bishop had returned home hours earlier

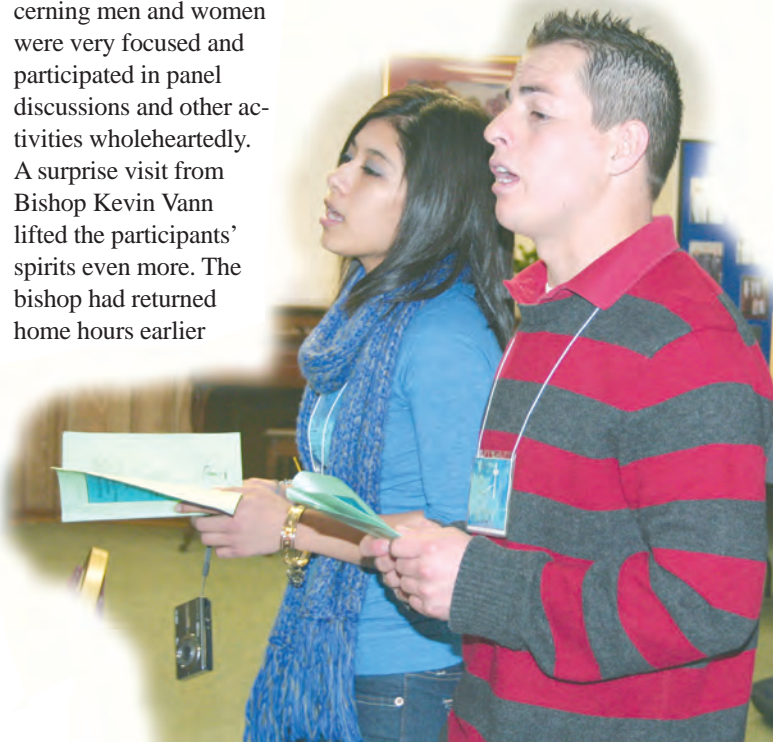
after participating in the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

"They were delighted," Sr. Cruz says, explaining that the bishop ate dinner with the small assembly of young people and attended Saturday evening vespers with them. "When I introduced him, all I saw were smiling faces."

Many retreat participants assured organizers they will continue the discernment process. Follow-up meetings are planned once a month at different locations in the diocese.



Joining Fr. Kyle Walterscheid in leading the Hispanic Vocations retreat were (left to right) Sisters Diana Rodriguez, HCG; Ines Diaz, SSMN; Merys Jimenez, HCG; and Flor Barreto, HFIC.



Two young adult retreatants sing at one of the weekend's liturgies.



ABOVE: Margarito Soto, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton who served as a musician during the weekend's prayer services and liturgies, looks over materials offered by the Vocations Office at the retreat.



Father Domingo Romero, OFM, speaks with young men at one of the retreat weekend's panel discussions.



ABOVE: Father Kyle Walterscheid joins Fr. Domingo Romero in speaking with a group of men about the path to priesthood.

RIGHT: Sisters (left to right) Sylvia Garcia, MCDP, Nancy Sullivan, DC; and Merys Jimenez, HGC share insights with women who are currently discerning their own possible vocations to religious life.



Sisters Yolanda Cruz, SSMN (far right), and Ines Diaz, SSMN (center, with scarf), lead a panel discussion for women during the retreat weekend.

Diocesan

St. Andrew School to build new kindergarten building

Story and photos by
Kristin Zschiesche

Tidy displays of lined writing paper cover the walls. Some are mounted on colorful construction paper. Others attached with clips, hang on string draped across the room, clothesline style. Carefully written sentences reveal the impressive spelling, grammar, and handwriting skills of kindergarteners.

The displays, along with child-size tables and chairs, cubbies, artwork, books, school supplies, and related gear are spending their last school year in the crowded space that has housed three of St. Andrew School's four kindergarten classes for the last 15 years.

When classes resume for the 2009-10 academic year in September, students and teachers will say goodbye to an open-concept floor plan where 50 children in three classes share a space divided only

by the rows of cubbies where coats, backpacks, and lunch boxes are stored. Next fall, the school will open the doors of a 5,983-square-foot building where the learning environment of kindergarteners will improve in private, dedicated classrooms.

In a ceremony on Jan. 25, Bishop Kevin Vann and diocesan officials joined staff of St. Andrew's, along with architect and construction company representatives to break ground on the \$800,000 building immediately behind the current school. An orange dozer served as the backdrop while a group of students and parents were surrounded by a sea of teachers wearing yellow hardhats.

"The work we begin today will enliven our faith and make us grateful," said Bishop Vann. "If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor. Whenever we look to the interests of our own neighbor or the community and serve them, we are, in a sense, God's own co-workers."

The project is fully funded and is slated for completion by Aug. 1. An anonymous donor contributed \$200,000, and a \$50,000 gift came from the Archie and Viola Meinerz Family Foundation. St. Andrew's is funding the balance from savings accumulated after years of fundraising.

The new, four-class building will feature a central gathering area with two classrooms on each side. Each set of classrooms will

be divided by an adjoining bathroom. Teachers won't miss the open concept of current classrooms. The configuration works, but is crowded, fairly noisy, and lacks storage. Class size will increase from about 425 to 720 square feet per class.

"We have extremely bright kids," said Sharon Kinsey who has worked at St. Andrew's for eight of her 33 years as a teacher. "Our new environment will be even more conducive for learning, testing, and two-way interaction. It will enable us to teach them even more."

The former three-class kindergarten space will be converted into a combined faculty workroom and lunchroom, an added benefit for teachers. The school's fourth kindergarten class, currently located in the preschool building, will be dedicated to the three- and four-year-old preschool program next year.

"We're looking toward the future," said Clarice Peninger, St. Andrew's principal. "We strive to keep our plant updated all the time and can do so due to the generosity of our parents and the community."

Paul M. Dennehy of Dennehy Architects designed the building, and the construction contractor is F.P.I. Builders, Inc.

St. Andrew School serves 705 students in three-year-old preschool through eighth grade. Established in 1954, the school strives to help families pass on faith and knowledge to the youngest generation of Catholic Christians.

"If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor. Whenever we look to the interests of our own neighbor or the community and serve them, we are, in a sense, God's own co-workers."

— Bishop Kevin Vann



Father Tom Stabile, TOR, (left), pastor of St. Andrew's and Bishop Kevin Vann (right), flank St. Andrew's kindergarten teachers (from left) Sharon Kinsey, Consuelo Araujo, Pat Cooper, and Linda Loughry. The four are thrilled to begin construction and anticipate having dedicated, individual classrooms when school begins in the fall.



Clarice Peninger, the principal of St. Andrew School for the last 24 years, is all smiles as she breaks ground on the school's much-needed kindergarten building.



Bishop Kevin Vann breaks ground, turning a shovel of soil to begin construction on St. Andrew School's 5,983-square-foot, \$800,000 kindergarten building.



Faculty of St. Andrew School wear yellow hardhats as the school prepares to break ground on its new kindergarten building.



St. Andrew's teachers talk with next year's prospective students and parents in a current kindergarten classroom.

Viewpoints

Catholic Social Teaching calls for reflection, judgment and action

Editor's Note: This is the first of five columns between now and Easter dedicated to a deeper knowledge and understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. This column will serve as an introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, and the following columns will address the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching as designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

By Lucas Pollice

Catholic Social Teaching has developed from the 2,000 year teaching tradition of the Church, but has been more explicitly developed over the past 110 years by the Papal Magisterium. The first social encyclical *Rerum Novarum* by Pope Leo XIII in 1891 primarily addressed the rights of workers during the peak of the industrial revolution. The popes of the 20th century have continued to draw from the richness of sacred Scripture and sacred Tradition to expound upon the Church's social teachings and apply them to the present-day economic and societal issues faced by modern society.

Catholic Social Teaching does not provide many black and white doctrinal statements. Its entire foundation is based upon the dignity of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God.

As developed by the modern popes, these teachings provide guidelines and criteria to be used in the varying times, circumstances, and situations in which the dignity of the human person may be threatened or diminished.

There are many ways to approach and deal with issues such as the role of the state, care for the poor, the welfare system, immigration, just economic systems, etc. Thus, in her social teaching, the Church is not so much articulating doctrine, but providing principles for reflection and criteria for judgment to help bring about true justice and peace in these often difficult social issues.

These guidelines are to be used so that true social justice and peace may be established by a proper ordering of the state, the family, and the rights of persons.

THE THREE ELEMENTS OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Many Catholics of good will can often disagree on how certain social issues should be addressed or solved when it comes to social issues that do not involve an intrinsic evil such as abortion or other direct killing of innocent human life.

This reasonable debate is possible within Catholic Social Teaching because there are few issues and social situations that have clear black and white solutions, but require "prudential judgment" on how best to address each issue.

There are many ways to approach and deal with issues such as the role of the state, care for the poor, the welfare system, immigration, just economic systems, etc.

Thus, in her social teaching, the Church is not so much articulating doctrine, but providing principles for reflection and criteria for judgment to help bring about true justice and peace in these often difficult social issues.

Catholic Social Teaching is made up of three central elements: principles for reflection, criteria for judgment, and guidelines for action.

1. Principles for reflection: Catholic Social Teaching provides many principles for reflection that can be used across many different times, places, cultures, and circumstances. These principles are based firmly on the dignity of the human person and the dignity of the family as the basic and vital cell of society. While they are founded on this objective good, they may change and develop as new situations and issues are encountered.

They may also continue to develop as the Church's social teaching develops. Uniform guidelines often do not

work because societies are so different from one another, and the social, economic, and cultural landscape is continuously developing and changing, and therefore the Church provides these principles. A Catholic can then use them and apply them to any given situation to help promote the dignity of the human person and find ways to help best bring about true justice and peace.

2. Criteria for judgment: The criteria for judgment acts as a medium between the highly authoritative but necessarily general principles for reflection and the specific and concrete social issue. These criteria allow a Catholic to best apply the principles given by the Church to a specific social concern.

They can be applied more specifically to a certain issue at a certain time, or can merely be more specific criteria that apply to an ongoing social concern.

Again, these are usually not concrete black and white teachings, but criteria given that can bring the principles for reflection closer and help make them more applicable to a particular issue or circumstance.

3. Guidelines for action: Guidelines for action are made using the above principles and criteria and are based upon the guidance of the Church and the knowledge, circumstances, and intricacies of a social issue in a specific time and place.

A properly informed conscience is indispensable in making guidelines for action. There are frequently legitimate differences among Catholics on how to approach a specific issue, and reasoned debate can be a healthy way of coming to the best possible solution.

As has been said, within Catholic Social Teaching, there may be a wide variety of solutions to a specific issue based upon the principles and criteria present within Church teaching.

A more simple way of approaching these elements is the method of "see,

judge, act." First, there arises a social issue that needs to be addressed. We look to the basic principles of Catholic social teachings to see what concerns or issues need to be considered. Then we judge to see the best way to apply or act upon these principles concerning the specific issue at hand. The final act is then to develop specific guidelines or a plan of action on how the issue is going to be addressed and resolved.

By using these basic elements, a Catholic should be able to apply sound principles of teaching to develop effective plans of action to bring about justice and peace in even difficult social issues.

SEVEN KEY THEMES IN CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Catholic Social Teaching addresses numerous social issues that can arise in any given place or time. It is impossible to begin to list all of the specific issues that have been or may be addressed by the Church in her teaching, but the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has developed seven key themes that are at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching. These seven themes are:

- The Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- The Poor and the Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
- Solidarity, and
- Care for God's Creation

Over the next several issues before Easter, we will be reflecting upon each one of these issues and how they call us to act as followers of Christ.

It is my hope that as we prepare for and enter into the season of Lent, these reflections upon Catholic Social Teaching will help us to better understand our role in culture and society and how we as Catholics can truly become a people of life, justice, and peace.



Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCIA for the diocese. Lucas holds a degree in theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and has a master's degree in theological studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He is an adjunct professor of theology with the Cardinal Newman Institute in Fort Worth. Lucas and his wife, Mary, have five children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, Christian, and Julia.

This is the Time for Fervent Prayer

By Susan E. Wills

If ever there were a time for fervent prayer for an end to legal abortion and conversion of hearts, this is it!

For the first time since 1994, all branches of the federal government are firmly controlled by abortion supporters. The abortion industry is pushing hard to make its anti-child agenda come true. They want free contraception and free abortion for everyone through insurance and taxpayer funding, abortion available wherever medical procedures are done, with no regulations (like informed consent or parental involvement), and no rights of conscience for healthcare professionals who object to killing innocent children.

We cannot hope to defeat this agenda on our own, so we must intensify our private and communal prayer.

Since 2002, the bishops of the United States have called for the *Roe vs. Wade* anniversary to be observed as a "particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life."

Catholics have responded: In the Archdiocese of Boston, for example, 188 parishes conducted Holy Hours for Life on Jan. 22!

Countless Masses across the country were offered for the intention "that our new president will govern wisely and work to protect the lives and dignity of all human beings, including those not yet born."

Washington, D.C. was transformed for 24 hours from a seat of partisanship and power politics to a living font of prayer.

Observances at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception began with an Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance & Intercession for all those affected by abortion. The deeply moving program of first-person testimonies, homily reflections on God's mercy, Adoration, and

Although the National Shrine is the largest Catholic church in the U.S., pilgrims gathering for the Jan. 21 Vigil Mass for Life have long exceeded its seating (and standing!) capacity, spilling into side chapels, stairwells, and lower level. Two "overflow" Masses were held this year on nearby campuses to accommodate an additional 1,000 pilgrims.

Mass was developed by the Sisters of Life and Lumina, a post-abortion ministry.

Although the National Shrine is the largest Catholic church in the U.S., pilgrims gathering for the Jan. 21 Vigil Mass for Life have long exceeded its seating (and standing!) capacity, spilling into side chapels, stairwells, and lower level. Two "overflow" Masses were held this year on nearby campuses to accommodate an additional 1,000 pilgrims. The sanctuary itself was proportionately crowded. Over 40 bishops, more than 400 priests, and scores of deacons assisted the principal celebrant, Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia and chairman of the Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. About 350 seminarians joined them in the sanctuary.

Throughout the night, pilgrims continued prayer in the Basilica's Crypt Church — the National Rosary for Life, Night Prayer (Byzantine Rite), Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Hours hosted by seminarians from various dioceses and orders.

By 7:00 a.m., the Great Upper Church was again packed to overflowing with young

Catholics who'd just arrived in Washington after spending the night (and longer) on buses. Arlington, Virginia Bishop Paul Loverde's eloquent homily exhorted them to be the generation that brings about the end of abortion in America.

Across town, the 20,000-seat Verizon Center reached maximum capacity early in the morning. Six satellite locations in downtown churches accommodated the overflow. The Verizon Center rally and Mass featured a special blessing this year. Between the Christian rock bands, Rosary, testimonies, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, delivered an apostolic blessing and words of gratitude and encouragement from Pope Benedict XVI.

All in all, it was fitting preparation for the challenges ahead. May we persevere in prayer!



Susan Wills is assistant director of education and outreach for 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.

Sometimes life is like a candy machine, with confusing buttons and

Surprising Results

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Accidentally locking your keys in the trunk of the car is a little like a Butterfinger. And not just because it is your personal butter fingers that cause the disaster in the first place.

From a positive perspective (my therapy of choice), locking your keys in the trunk is a truly harmonious function. In no other case would you be able to coordinate hands and forearms, flexors and extensors, not to mention opposable thumbs, to pull down the trunk lid at the precise moment your other hand fumbles the key ring to a ledge inside the trunk, suddenly hidden, inaccessible, and "OH NO! MY KEYS!"

It happens in an instant. No such thing as a save.

And it is exactly like a candy machine.

Forrest Gump said "Life is like a box of chocolates — you never know what you're gonna get," and he was half right. At least with a box of chocolates, however, you can break open some, and decide if you want a cherry cordial or a caramel.

But pushing the wrong button on a candy machine is a different story. Trust me. Just last week, I ate a Butterfinger. I'm still amazed I wasted my calories on it.

It was a funny sensation, though, and it made me think.

The candy machine down our hallway has buttons like an old pay phone. There are nine letters: A,B,C,D,E,F,G, H, and J. Below that bank of buttons are ten more: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, and 0.

Each candy cubicle is marked with a number and a letter, but there are labels printed both above and below each selection, so at first glance it is hard to tell whether D2 applies to the Twix or the Snickers, and whether one or the other costs 70 or 55 cents.

Mystifying. Perhaps it is not as difficult as being president and making cabinet selections, but it is an occasionally troublesome choice to be sure.

So, during a workday afternoon when I was slowly starving, I made a candy-data-entry mistake on that machine, and it caused me to miss out on a peanut M&M snack, which at least had the redeeming feature of protein in the peanuts.

Instead, I ended up eating a Butterfinger. Okay, a Butterfinger Crunch. Turns out that variety is made with wafers and buttercream, instead of the original orangey hard peanut confection, but still, it wasn't what I wanted to do with my last 70 cents, which I had spent a good five minutes fumbling through my desk for.

Pushing the wrong button on a candy machine is not exactly a bad decision, nor is inexplicably dropping

SEE HAMER, P. 22



ABOVE: Students from Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, carry the March for Life banner in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Jan. 22. It was the 36th annual March for Life marking the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion. (CNS photo/Bob Rollers)

With a unified voice, marchers chant

'Yes we can overturn Roe!'

Pope tells young people to continue to defend human life at all stages

**By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although he was not physically present, Pope Benedict XVI's greeting added to the excitement of the more than 20,000 young people at a youth rally and Mass for life Jan. 22 at the Verizon Center sports arena in Washington.

Young people came from across the United States and from throughout the Washington area. The rally and Mass, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, precedes the annual March for Life, which marks the date of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

When Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, the main celebrant for the Mass, introduced the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the crowd responded with a long standing ovation that cascaded through the arena as the pope's representative smiled and waved.

Nine months earlier, Pope Benedict had celebrated his first Mass as pope in the United States, just across town at Nationals Park.

Archbishop Sambi read the message from the pope to the Verizon crowd. The pontiff said he was "deeply grateful to all who take part in this outstanding annual witness to the Gospel of life, and to the many others who support them by fasting and prayer."

Pope Benedict noted that during his April 2008 visit to the United States he urged young people "to promote a culture of life by defending the unchanging moral truths which safeguard the dignity and rights of every man, woman, and child in our world

— including the most defenseless of our brothers and sisters, the unborn child in the mother's womb."

His Jan. 22 message noted that "no Christian can shirk the moral duty of affirming the sacredness of God's gift of life at every stage of its development and working to ensure that this fundamental human right receives due legal protection."

Archbishop Wuerl, holding his shepherd's staff, smiled as he processed to the altar and looked up at the capacity crowd filling the arena where the Washington Capitals hockey team and Washington Wizards basketball team play their home games.

"Together, we bear witness to the Gospel of Life ... as we renew our commitment to proclaim the value and the dignity of all human life," Archbishop Wuerl said in greeting the crowd.

He mentioned by name the nearly 50 archbishops and bishops attending the Mass, and as he did, the corresponding sections of the congregation cheered their bishops from the sections where they were sitting.

The concelebrants included Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston; Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien; and Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Virginia.

About 350 priests also concelebrated the Mass, joined by about 60 deacons, and hundreds of seminarians and women religious sitting in

the arena. The two-hour rally before the Mass included Catholic rock music performed by singer Steve Angrisano from Colorado; the Who Do You Say I Am band from Cleveland; Puerto Rican singer Jessica Marie Tous; and Matt Maher and his band.

Youths offered testimony during the rally and later led the crowd in praying the luminous mysteries added to the rosary by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

Delivering the homily for the Mass was Father Robert Walsh, assistant vocations director for the Washington Archdiocese. He told the young people: "You've received Jesus. Don't keep him to yourself. Bring him to others you meet. Ideas will not change laws as much as the love of Christ will."

"In the last few days, we've seen amazing things in Washington, D.C. This is a historic time," he said. "Today the White House is not the most powerful building in Washington, D.C. It is right here. ... It's not because of us, it's because of him. ... Jesus says to us today, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' Show that to others, so they too may find their way."

After Communion, Archbishop Wuerl asked the priests, seminarians, and women religious to stand, one group after the other, and the crowd greeted each one with a standing ovation. He also asked young people who are considering a vocation to stand up.

"God continues to call young men to the priesthood, and young women to religious life," Archbishop Wuerl said, asking the youths and

young adults in the crowd to prayerfully consider God's call for them.

As crowds left the arena to join the March for Life, a local pastor who had accompanied his parishioners on a bus to the rally from suburban Maryland, said the witness of the young people at the rally inspired him.

"It's great to see we're raising a prophetic generation who will stand up for life," said Monsignor Paul Dudziak, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland. "It gives you great hope for the Church, to see all these young people so enthusiastic, standing up for the sacredness of life."

Father Greg Shaffer, parochial vicar of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, said the rally "juices (him) up every year." It is a witness "for life not just in the womb, but in all of its stages" and is "fruitful" for vocations and "holiness," he told the *Catholic Standard*, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese.

Dana Bulik, a student at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, Maryland, said students from her school left at 6 a.m. to ensure they got into the Verizon Center for the event.

Bulik said she enjoyed the energy and singing at the rally. "Life is a gift from God" and it shows God's love for us, she said.

Contributing to this story were Laura Jamison and Meredith Black.



Members of the Sisters of Life cheer at the beginning of a pro-life youth Mass at the Verizon Center in Washington Jan. 22. Young people from across the nation packed the arena for the events held in advance of the annual March for Life. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Smeritz)

Thousands pack national shrine to pray, launch March for Life 2009

**By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With thousands of pro-life marchers packed into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21 for a special Mass that launched an all-night vigil, Rita Richardson of Fredericksburg, Virginia, couldn't see the altar.

The 32-year-old parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Spotsylvania, Virginia, stood quietly by a row of candles facing the back of the basilica, closed her eyes and listened as the sounds of the organ reverberated throughout the enormous basilica.

Though she had attended the March for Life rally in Washington each Jan. 22 for many years to commemorate the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalizing abortion, it was the first time she had joined the all-night vigil at the basilica, beginning with a 7 p.m. Mass the evening before the main event.

Richardson wasn't anguished over her lack of a view of the altar or the large television monitors that allowed some spectators to see the principal celebrant, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"I'm here with thousands of others who believe we must work to end abortion," she said. "I'm happy we have this kind of crowd, because this is where we need to gather to be nourished by Our Lord, so we have the strength we'll need to go out to the march and take action."

Joining Cardinal Rigali at the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life were Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago, Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, and William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore. Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington called the event a resourceful assembly.



(Left to right) Cardinals William Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, and Francis George of Chicago concelebrate Mass during 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. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiehock)

saying the *Roe* decision stands for the broad principle that "government should not intrude on our most private family matters."

The president reiterated his position that he is "committed to protecting a woman's right to choose" and called for both sides to work toward common ground to prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the need for abortion, and support women and families in the choices they make.

More than two dozen Republican members of Congress also were on hand, speaking a total of 45 minutes about their plans to introduce legislation to limit funding to agencies performing abortions, overturn *Roe vs. Wade* or to fund programs that support pregnant women, giving them a better chance of carrying their children to term.

Several of the elected officials called abortion a civil rights issue, drew parallels with slavery and urged the crowd to maintain their courageous stance opposing abortion.

Rev. Luke J. Robinson of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Frederick,

Maryland, an African-American, recalled the celebration during the week leading up to the March for Life, including the Jan. 19 holiday marking the 80th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Obama's inauguration Jan. 20.

He said having Obama as president marks a partial fulfillment of Rev. King's dream of equality for all and a more just society. As the jubilation of the week subsided, Rev. Quinn called for a change in the nation's abortion policies and urged Obama to be that agent of change.

"I am praying that God's hand will lead him in righteousness and justice," he said. "Today, Thursday, Jan. 22, we come here to deal with some unfinished business as it relates to the dream. We need change now more than ever."

"We are calling on the president of change to be an agent of change as it relates to the lives of more than 1 million children who will be slaughtered in his first year as president of the United States by a horrible injustice called abortion," he said.

Former Rep. Bob Dornan of California delivered a caustic assessment of Obama's comments from his inaugural address. Paraphrasing the president's

speech, Dornan said, "We will not apologize for our way of life — I add our love of life — nor will we waiver in its defense. And for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror — the terror of abortion — and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken. You cannot outlast us and we will defeat you."

"I add we will defeat you," Dornan said, the pitch of his gravelly voice rising, "and defeat the culture of death, or we will perish as a nation."

Near the rally's end Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia introduced to loud applause 23 Catholic prelates representing both the Latin and Eastern rites, including Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, D.C.

"All of the Catholic bishops are in solidarity with this wonderful group," he said.

In his closing prayer, Auxiliary Bishop Barry C. Knestout of Washington prayed for world peace, a solution to the economic crisis gripping the globe, and the continued commitment of the marchers as well as policymakers and elected officials so that they work to support all life.



U.S. Rep. Mary Fallin (R-Oklahoma) addresses the March for Life in Washington Jan. 22. She spoke about her decision to carry through with an unplanned pregnancy while holding public office. (CNS photo/Leslie E. Kossloff)

Katherine Hiney, 9, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, listens to speakers during the March for Life rally on the National Mall in Washington Jan. 22. (CNS photo/Leslie E. Kossloff)



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abortion.

Rarely mentioning Obama by name and referring to him repeatedly as "Mr. President," Nellie Gray, president of the March for Life Fund which annually sponsors the march, invited the nation's first African-American leader to discuss "important changes" in his stance "and we want to discuss that today."

To become a president of all people, as he has pledged, Gray urged the president to take steps to end legal abortion during his presidency.

"Mr. President, you are a great orator, and we appreciate the great words ... but you must also be a great doer of the deeds to overturn the illicit *Roe vs. Wade* and fulfill your responsibility to make right and proper changes as president of the United States and president of all the people," she said.

Obama issued a statement Jan. 22



ABOVE: Many Orthodox Christians and clergy were represented at the march. **RIGHT:** Angelina Esteban, a parishioner at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Church in Royal Oaks, Michigan, holds a sign during the March for Life rally on the National Mall Jan. 22 in Washington. (CNS photos/Bob Roller)



NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Bishops say economic stimulus must help vulnerable families, the poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Poor families and vulnerable workers should be central priorities in any economic recovery legislation Congress adopts, said the U.S. bishops. “Low-income families and individuals are experiencing the greatest hardship and have the least capacity to cope in this time of economic crisis,” Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, said in a Jan. 28 letter to the House and Senate. This segment of the population also is more likely to quickly “use these new resources” provided in any stimulus package “to purchase the essentials of life and to help move our economy forward,” he said. Bishop Murphy wrote the letter on behalf of the bishops as chairman of their Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. A copy of it was released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office of Media Relations. “Economic policies that assist and protect ‘the least among us’ are the right thing to do morally. I believe they are also very effective economically,” he said. “We urge Congress to act quickly and wisely with a constant attention to addressing the human impact and moral dimensions of this recession,” he said. The House Jan. 28 approved an \$819 billion economic recovery package with a 244-188 vote. The Senate began debate on its version Feb. 2. Its bill provides somewhat similar spending outlays.

Rabbi Klenicki, Catholic-Jewish relations expert, dies at 78

MONROE TOWNSHIP, N.J. (CNS) — Rabbi Leon Klenicki, a longtime Jewish voice on Catholic-Jewish relations, died Jan. 25 at his home in Monroe Township. He was 78 years old. No cause of death was immediately reported. “The two of us were united (in) a fraternal bond that is deep and abiding,” said Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, who is the U.S. bishops’ moderator of Catholic-Jewish affairs. He made the comments in a Jan. 26 letter to Rabbi Klenicki’s widow, Myra. A copy of the letter was made available to Catholic News Service Jan. 27. “Leon was a pioneer in the promotion of a vision of Catholic-Jewish relations that drew inspiration from the Second Vatican Council and the vital streams of contemporary Jewish thought,” Cardinal Keeler added. “One can only look back on Leon’s career with gratitude to God for the paths that he opened up for so many religious leaders committed to reversing centuries of estrangement between their own faith community and other traditions,” he said. Rabbi Klenicki had spent 28 years working on interfaith matters for the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith.

Brain death raises questions, from Minnesota to Washington to the Vatican

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Don’t talk to Raleane “Rae” Kupferschmidt about brain death. The 66-year-old woman from Lake Elmo, Minnesota, was declared brain dead nearly a year ago after a massive cerebral hemorrhage. She was removed from a ventilator, following her wishes, and her family took her home to die. But when Kupferschmidt began responding to family members, they rushed her back to the hospital, where she regained what her husband called “98 percent” of her earlier vigor. In late September she experienced another health crisis and went into a coma. Although doctors were not as hasty to term it brain death this time, they offered little hope of her survival — a prediction she defied again in October. “I keep thinking that (God) saved me a second time, so I could inspire people and let them know they shouldn’t give up, even when things look hopeless,” she told the Stillwater (Minnesota) *Gazette* in a Jan. 13 interview. Coincidentally, the newspaper’s interview with Kupferschmidt took place the day after the President’s Council on Bioethics issued “Controversies in the Determination of Death,” a 144-page white paper on what the council prefers to call total brain failure.

Vatican: Pope ‘strongly rejects’ bishop’s Holocaust statements

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican said a traditionalist bishop who has minimized the full extent of the Holocaust must disavow his positions before he will be accepted into full communion with the church.

A Vatican statement Feb. 4 said Pope Benedict XVI did not know about the controversial statements by British-born Bishop Richard Williamson when he lifted the excommunication of him and three other traditionalist bishops ordained illicitly in 1988.

“The positions of Bishop Williamson on the Holocaust are absolutely unacceptable and are strongly rejected by the Holy Father,” the statement said.

In order to function as a bishop, Bishop Williamson must distance himself from his previous statements in “an absolutely unequivocal and public manner,” the Vatican said.

In a statement meant to deflect the increasing public outcry over the papal decree lifting the excommunication, the Vatican said the decree did not change the juridical status of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X, which still has no canonical recognition in the Catholic Church.

The society was founded by French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who also incurred automatic excommunication when he ordained the four bishops against papal orders. The society has not accepted the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and its concepts of religious freedom and ecumenism.

The statement from the Secretariat of State said the society would have to recognize the teachings of Vatican II and of post-conciliar popes to be in full communion.

It said the four bishops at present do not have a canonical function in the church and “do not licitly exercise a ministry in the church.”

The Vatican has emphasized that even after the removal of the excommunications remaining problems need to be resolved before full communion can be established with the society’s leadership and members.

The Secretariat of State statement — like a statement the previous day from the Vatican press spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi — reiterated the German-born pope’s remarks at his Jan. 28 audience, in which he recalled the suffering of Jews during World War II and said



Concentration camp survivors walk out of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp gate that bears the infamous phrase “Arbeit Macht Frei,” which means “work sets you free,” in Oswiecim, Poland, Jan. 27. Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated internationally Jan. 27, the anniversary of the date of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945. Pope Benedict XVI rejected the statements minimizing the Holocaust made by traditionalist Bishop Richard Williamson which aired on Swedish television. (CNS photo/Peter Andrews, Reuters)

the Holocaust should stand as a “warning to everyone against forgetting, denying, or minimizing” evil.

Fr. Lombardi said the pope’s words at the general audience were “unequivocal.”

The spokesman said the pope had spoken about the horror of the Holocaust in his 2005 visit to a German synagogue and in his 2006 visit to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. He said the papal statement at the Jan. 28 audience “could not have been clearer, and from the context it is apparent that it referred to the positions of Bishop Williamson and to all similar positions.

“On the same occasion, the pope also clearly expressed the reason for removing the excommunication, which has nothing to do with legitimizing positions denying the Holocaust — positions which were clearly condemned by the pope,” the spokesman said.

Fr. Lombardi’s statement was released by the Vatican press office late the same day that German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the pope and the Vatican needed to make clear there could be no denial of the Holocaust.

At a news conference in Berlin Feb. 3, Merkel said she normally did not comment on church matters “but we are talking about fundamental questions.”

“This is not just a matter, in my opinion, for the Christian,

Catholic, and Jewish communities in Germany, but the pope and the Vatican should clarify unambiguously that there can be no denial” of the Holocaust, she said.

On Jan. 21, the same day the pope lifted the excommunication, a Swedish television station aired a November interview with Bishop Williamson in which he repeated his position that the Holocaust had been exaggerated.

The papal decree lifting the excommunication was made public Jan. 24 and Jewish groups — especially in Germany, the U.S. and Israel — expressed shock that the Vatican would lift the excommunication against Bishop Williamson even after his comments had been televised.

German Cardinal Walter Kasper, who coordinates the Vatican’s dialogue with the Jews, said the controversy was fueled in part by a lack of communication within the Vatican and by “management errors in the Curia.”

Cardinal Kasper said he has been following the unfolding controversy “with great concern.”

He said the pope “wanted to open the discussion because he wanted unity inside and outside” the church. But the cardinal said he “would have also liked to see more communication in advance.”

Vatican launches channel on YouTube to feature coverage of pope, Vatican events on Internet

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican launched a video channel on YouTube that will feature news coverage of Pope Benedict XVI and major Vatican events.

It marked the start of the Vatican's strategic vision of working "to be present wherever people are," said Archbishop Claudio Celli, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

The Vatican officially unveiled the new channel Jan. 23 during a press conference that presented Pope Benedict's message for World Communications Day, which was dedicated to new media technology.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Jan. 25, the pope said he hopes the YouTube channel "will enrich a wide range of people — including those who have yet to find a response to their spiritual yearning — through the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ."

The new Vatican initiative will make information and news about the Vatican more readily accessible on the Internet, the pope said at the end of his midday Angelus address.

The wise use of online networking technology can help people form new communities "in ways that promote the search for truth, the good, and the beautiful, transcending geographical boundaries and ethnic divisions," he said.

The Vatican channel is the result of a new partnership the Vatican Television Center and Vatican Radio forged with the Internet giant Google and its video-sharing Web site, YouTube.

The Vatican's television and radio operations had been collaborating for the past year and a half to produce short news videos that are aired on the Vatican Radio Web site.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, head of the Vatican's television and radio offices, said during the Jan. 23 press conference it only seemed natural to start offering the news clips "not only to a prevalently Catholic audience, but to a much larger, practically global audience."

He said it was important to offer these services to people who are looking for the pronouncements and position of "a high-level moral authority like the pope and, in general, the Catholic



This is the home page of the Vatican's YouTube video news channel which features news clips of Pope Benedict XVI and major Vatican events. The channel, www.youtube.com/vatican, was unveiled Jan. 23. (CNS)

Church" concerning the major burning issues and problems in the world today.

"Therefore, choosing YouTube as an appropriate platform for establishing a presence on the Web" made sense, he said, especially given that so much information on the pope and the Vatican was already appearing in fragmented, out-of-context forms and scattered over multiple venues.

By creating its own channel on YouTube — which boasts 70 million viewers a month — the Vatican is seeking to give people the opportunity to access information about the pope and the Vatican from a regular and trustworthy source, said Fr. Lombardi.

He said Pope Benedict "was personally informed about the project and sees it as a positive step" forward for the church.

The Vatican's ad-free YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/vatican, each day will offer one to three short video news clips of the pope or major Vatican events with audio commentary in English, Italian, Spanish, and German.

The footage is produced daily by the Vatican Television Center, which works with Vatican Radio to produce the audio commentary.

Viewers will be able to leave comments, distribute the videos by e-mailing or messaging the links, and share the videos with friends on various social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook, as well as submit the Vatican video links to news

aggregator sites like Digg.

Unlike many videos available on YouTube, which viewers can rate according to YouTube's one-to-five-star grading system, the Vatican videos cannot be rated or embedded onto external Web sites or blogs. The Vatican channel's home page, however, can be embedded elsewhere.

Just a few hours after its launch, the Vatican channel recorded more than 12,000 views and enrolled more than 500 free subscribers who will receive regular updates of new Vatican video uploads.

Henrique de Castro, a managing director for Google, said the company was honored the Vatican chose to use YouTube to communicate with people around the world.

He said in a written press release that YouTube was pleased its online users "will have access to the words of the pope on some of the most important issues facing the world today."

More people search on Google for "God," for example, than for many famous world figures and celebrities, he noted in written remarks.

Fr. Lombardi said the YouTube initiative was only the beginning of a long journey utilizing some of the possibilities today's digital media and platforms offer.

He said the Vatican hopes to expand the kind of video coverage it offers to include high-definition broadcasts and events without dubbed commentary, but in the original language and with "natural sound."

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Christian refugees probably will not return to Iraq, bishops say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite signs of a new season of hope on the horizon in Iraq, the vast majority of Iraqi Christian refugees will probably not return to their homeland, said two U.S.-based Chaldean Catholic bishops. "No one in the United States will go back to Iraq or the Middle East because the future for children, (opportunities for) education and life are better here," said Chaldean Bishop Ibrahim N. Ibrahim. Also, experience has shown that once people have overcome the initial difficulties of adapting to a new culture, "no one will convince them to change it again" and rip up those freshly laid roots, said Chaldean Bishop Sarhad Y. Jammo. Bishop Jammo heads the Eparchy of St. Peter the Apostle of San Diego, California, and has under his care Chaldean Catholics in the western U.S., while Bishop Ibrahim heads the Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle of Detroit, the diocese for Chaldean Catholics in the eastern United States. The two Iraqi-born bishops spoke to Catholic News Service Jan. 28-29 while they were in Rome for their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses.

Pope's Africa trip to include encounters with bishops, youths, disabled

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On his first trip to Africa, Pope Benedict XVI will meet with the continent's bishops, visit a church-run center for the disabled in Cameroon and address young people in a stadium in Angola, the Vatican said. The trip March 17-23 will focus on preparations for the Synod of Bishops for Africa, to be held in Rome in October. The pope's schedule, published Jan. 26, calls for him to release the synod's working document when he celebrates Mass and meets with synod planners March 19. The pope's program calls for encounters with political leaders, representatives of other Christian churches, and Muslims in Cameroon, the first leg of his visit. In Angola, where the pope will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the country's evangelization, he plans to talk to regional bishops, celebrate Mass for pastoral workers, and meet with Catholic movements engaged in women's promotion.

Vatican asks better health care for children with Hansen's disease

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Children, especially those suffering from Hansen's disease, have a right to adequate health care, said Mexican Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan in a statement for World Leprosy Day. "Children run the risk of seeing their futures mortgaged by the negative consequences of their illness," said Cardinal Lozano, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry. The cardinal's statement was released Jan. 22 at the Vatican. Marking World Leprosy Day at the Vatican Jan. 25, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged the international community to assist those with Hansen's disease and their families. "I assure them of my prayers and renew my encouragement to those who struggle with them for their complete healing and reintegration into society," Pope Benedict said during his midday Angelus address. In his statement Cardinal Lozano focused on the needs of children with Hansen's disease and cited statistics from the World Health Organization, which in 2007 said there were more than 250,000 new cases of Hansen's, with 12 percent involving children.

Editor's Note: *These numbers are all the more distressing because Hansen's disease is curable when treated with antibiotics that cost about \$150 per person.*



February 15, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 10:31 to 11:1
Gospel) Mark 1:40-45

By Sharon K. Perkins

"I'm hiding, I'm hiding, and no one knows where; for all they can see is my toes and my hair" — so goes a children's poem by Dorothy Keeley Aldis that many a young student of the 1960s memorized and probably still recalls. The rhyme is a humorous, tongue-in-cheek account by a child who thinks he's hiding from his parents; the audible description of their search makes it obvious to the reader that they know where he is all along but decide to play his game for a while.

There are other kinds of "hiding" that people do, not for fun, but out of guilt and shame. The Genesis story of Adam and Eve, hiding from God in the primordial garden, is an insightful observation of this tendency of human beings to cover up their wrongdoing. The urge to conceal is strong, whether one is a child hiding the pieces of her mother's treasured vase broken during forbidden horseplay, or an adult politician hiding

past misconduct in order to get elected. Most of the time, however, the transgressor becomes isolated in his or her guilt and what is hidden eventually comes to light, willingly or not.

In both the first reading and the Gospel, the disease of leprosy — and the means for dealing with it — are used as metaphors for sin, its capacity to isolate the sinner, and the importance of "coming clean." The rituals prescribed by Moses are simply a means for the sufferer and the larger community to publicly acknowledge both the disease and the cure, so that nothing remains hidden.

Jesus' interaction with the leper in the Gospel adds yet another, welcome dimension to the problem of human sin, guilt, and isolation. Moved by compassion, he touches and heals the man, indicating that in the reign of God, the consequences of sin and suffering are not only brought to light but restored to health. And when that healing does take place, Jesus instructs the once-isolated leper to give public thanks to God

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not."

— Psalm 32:5

and to return to his restored place in the larger community.

In a few short days, Christians will enter the penitential season of Lent, an opportunity to come out of hiding: a time to put aside the games of self-deception, to seek God's compassion and mercy, and to celebrate our healing with one another — perhaps through the sacrament of reconciliation. It's the perfect time to "come clean."



QUESTIONS:

What sinful tendencies and actions have you gotten in the habit of hiding from yourself and others? How can the approaching season of Lent become a time of healing and restoration for you?

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Pope says Christians must work, pray, convert for Christian unity

VATICANCITY (CNS) — Full Christian unity will be a gift from God, but it is something Christians themselves must work for, pray for, and experience personal conversion in order to receive, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Dedicating his weekly general audience Jan. 21 to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said God wants Christians to be one, but that can happen only through deeper unity with Christ.

The theme of the 2009 week of prayer was "That they may become one in your hand," a quote from the Book of Ezekiel in which God tells the prophet to take two sticks, representing his divided people, and join them together.

"The hand of the prophet that puts the two sticks together becomes like the very hand of God who will gather and unite his people and, finally, all of humanity," the pope said.

"We can apply the prophet's words to Christians in the sense of an exhortation to pray, to work, to do everything possible so the unity of Christ's disciples will be accomplished, so that our hands will become instruments of the



unifying hand of God," Pope Benedict said.

The divisions Ezekiel tried to heal were caused by different groups going their own way and "taking on customs foreign to divine law," he said.

The prophet made it clear to the people that the restoration of their unity could occur only through their conversion and return to the ways of the Lord, the pope said.

"The vision of Ezekiel is eloquent for the entire ecumenical

Pope Benedict XVI greets Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Kirill before their meeting at the Vatican in this Dec. 7, 2007, file photo. Metropolitan Kirill, who was in charge of the church's ecumenical relations for the past 20 years, was elected Jan. 27 as the new patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

movement because it highlights the absolute necessity of an authentic, interior renewal in all the members of the people of God, a renewal only the Lord can accomplish, but to which we all must be open," the pope said, because like the ancient Israelites "we, too, have picked up customs far from the word of God."

Pope Benedict prayed that the week of prayer would "stimulate all of us toward a sincere conversion, an increasingly docile listening to the word of God, and a faith that is always deeper."

The week of prayer, he said, also is an opportunity to thank God for the progress made in ecumenical relations over the past year, particularly for the three personal meetings he had with Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople

and for meetings with leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Pope Benedict also said, "I shared the pain of the Patriarchate of Moscow for the death of our beloved brother in Christ, His Holiness Patriarch Alexy." The pope said he would remain in a communion of prayer with the Russian Orthodox, who at that time were preparing to elect a new patriarch.

Looking at relations with the churches of the West, Pope Benedict said the Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant churches continue to discuss how they can witness better to their unity in Christ before "a world that is increasingly divided and facing many cultural, social, economic, and ethical challenges."

The pope asked people to pray with him that the ecumenical movement would intensify, that the day would come soon when Christians would be united.

"The desire that lives in our hearts is the hastening of the day of full unity, when all the disciples of the one Lord can finally celebrate together the Eucharist, the divine sacrifice for the life and salvation of the world."

Scripture Readings

Word
to
Life

February 22, Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25
Psalm 41:2-5, 13-14
- 2) 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
Gospel) Mark 2:1-12

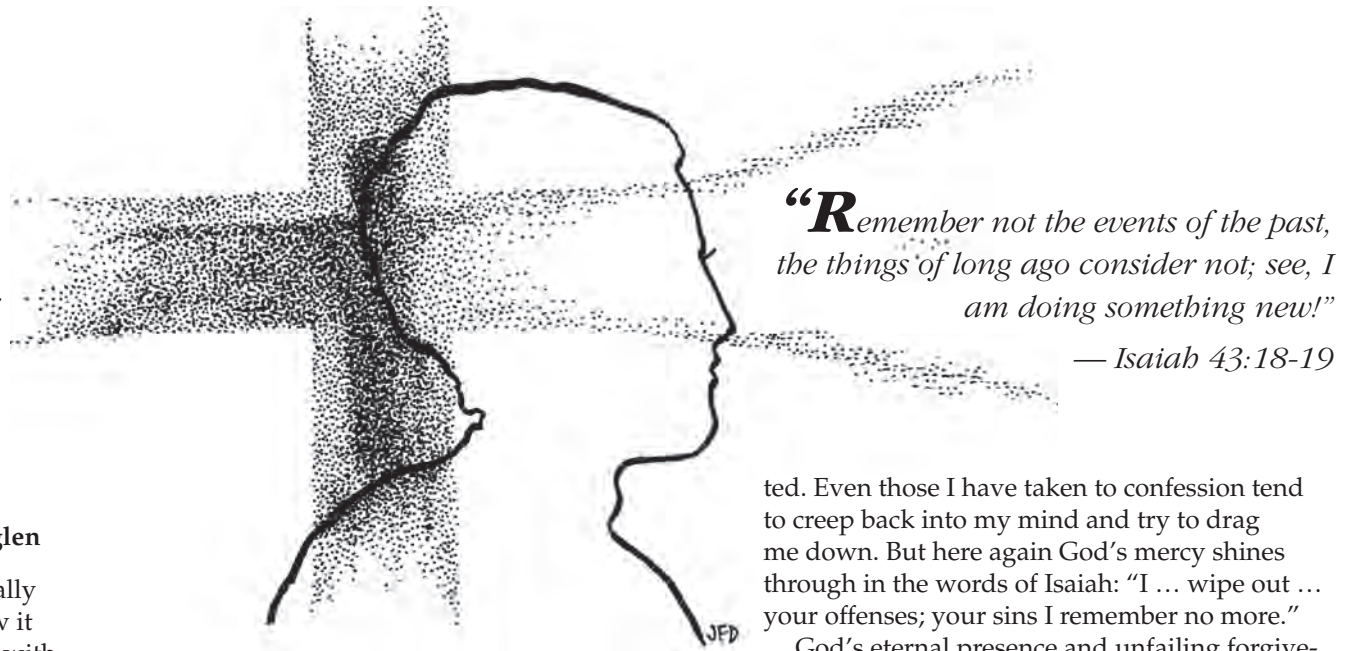
By Jeff Hedglen

The past has such an allure for us, especially as we get older. We love to tell stories of how it was "back in the day." Whenever we gather with old friends, we tell and retell the same stories as though they had happened just last week.

For some, the past is so much a part of their lives that they seem to constantly relive it, be it the glory days of high school and college, their home town, or even the physical shape they once had.

For others, the history they carry with them is a burden. These people sometimes wallow in the past. The hard and painful times tend to hold on as though affixed to the soul with super glue.

We are, for sure, a product of our previous experiences. But we do not have to be defined by them. In this weekend's first reading, God says through the prophet Isaiah: "Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!"



“Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!”

— Isaiah 43:18-19

God is all about the here and now. Even the name God reveals to us in Exodus is "I am who am," not "I was" or "I will be" but I AM. This shows us that God is eternally present, and he is calling us to meet him where he is.

For me and a lot of people I know, one aspect of the past that continues to nag, pull and, at times, bring guilt, is the sins I have commit-

ted. Even those I have taken to confession tend to creep back into my mind and try to drag me down. But here again God's mercy shines through in the words of Isaiah: "I ... wipe out ... your offenses; your sins I remember no more."

God's eternal presence and unfailing forgiveness can give us the strength we need to leave the past behind. It's not that God is saying we are to deny our past, or even forget it, but that we must avoid allowing the days behind us to dictate the ones before us. If we hold too tight to yesterday, we might miss what God is doing right now, and if God is doing it, it is sure to be a good thing.

QUESTIONS:

What "new thing" is God doing in your life these days? What things from the past are hard for you to let go of? In what ways do you see God as being eternally present?

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Each of us, following **Jesus**, is meant for **Greatness**

By Jeff Hedglen

I was just reading a friend's blog. He was writing about greatness and how he longed for it. It was not that he was seeking to find shallow fame, but a life that was lived beyond the mundane existence of work, eat, sleep, repeat.

This brought to mind the night of May 1, 1991. On this night I saw greatness. It was at Arlington Stadium and the night of Nolan Ryan's seventh no-hitter. On a fluke, a friend and I decided to go to the game. We had no idea who was pitching. From the sixth inning on, the quaint old ballpark in Arlington was electric. As each pitch zipped in and each out was recorded, we all silently hoped we were going to be a part of something great. And of course we were.

Greatness comes in many forms. We often think about it in terms of sports figures, television and movie personalities, and heroes of various types. There are awards given for the "best" in so many categories, and there are list upon list ranking who is number

I will never be the next Mother

Theresa, Padre Pio, or St. Francis; they

already did a pretty good job of being

themselves. God needs me to be me. If

I spend all my time trying to be other

great people, I will miss the opportunity

to achieve my own greatness.

one at just about everything.

When we compare ourselves to these lists, people, and awards we can often think we will never be great. But greatness has another measure, and it starts with who you were created to be.

On a retreat many years ago, the priest giving the reflections said that we all are called to strive to be like Jesus. I had heard that before, but he put a new twist on it. He said we were not called to imitate Jesus in performing miracles like walking on water

and rising from the dead, rather we are to imitate him by being the best we can be at who we were created to be.

When we were created, God had a plan for who we would be and who we would become. Jesus completely fulfilled his Father's plan for him; we are to follow in these footsteps. Greatness comes in fulfilling God's plan for our individual lives.

I will never be the next Mother Theresa, Padre Pio, or St. Francis; they already did a pretty good job

of being themselves. God needs me to be me. If I spend all my time trying to be other great people, I will miss the opportunity to achieve my own greatness.

Granted, the greatness most of us will achieve will never make the evening news, but that's OK because greatness is measured by more than public recognition.

Take for instance the life of Father Bob Wilson. For those who knew him, he is remembered as a great priest, a great man of God, a great friend, and a great leader, just to name a few. But outside of Catholic circles and the Diocese of Fort Worth, his life and passing went virtually unnoticed. Does this diminish his greatness? Not to the people whose lives he touched.

As another example, take the life of my blogger friend. He has yet to reach 30 years, and most of his life is ahead of him, but he dreams of greatness, longs to make a difference in the world, and deeply desires to have a life of meaning and purpose.

His story might end with his greatest achievement being a world-altering invention, but it

might also come in the form of raising God-fearing and God-loving children, loving a wife for 70 years, and being a blessing to everyone he meets. Either way his life will go down in the book of life as greatness, if he does so in the context of a life of unabashedly seeking to do the will of God.

This idea of being great really does not mean achieving notoriety. It is embodied in these words from Mother Theresa, "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."

Each step on the road to greatness begins with surrender to the possibilities held in the imagination of a limitless God. We just have to have the courage to desire more, the openness to see more, and the commitment to do what it takes to be more. Greatness awaits us all, are we waiting for it?

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.

América



Acompañando al padre Walterscheid como parte del liderazgo del retiro hispano sobre vocaciones se encuentran (desde la izquierda hacia la derecha) la hermana Diana Rodríguez, HCG; Inés Díaz, SSMN; Merys Jiménez, HCG; and Flor Barreto, HFIC.



El padre Domingo Romero, OFM, habla con los jóvenes durante una de las discusiones de mesa redonda.



Dos jóvenes, participantes del retiro, cantan en una de las liturgias del fin de semana.

Retiro hispano sobre vocaciones ofrece a jóvenes oportunidad de pensar, orar y

DISCERNIR

Historia y fotos por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen traducido por Ana M. Fores

Creciendo con dos hermanos menores, Nayeli Reyes tenía momentos en que se veía, repentinamente, vestida de monja.

Sin embargo, la residente de *Pilot Point* no consideró seriamente una vocación religiosa hasta años después.

“Una vez fui a un retiro para jóvenes y me hablaron del tema”, cuenta la joven de veintidós años, recordando cómo la oración y la reflexión le revivió esos pensamientos de la niñez, cuando pensaba en volverse monja. “Así que estoy meditando, cada vez más, sobre el asunto”.

Reyes era una entre veinte hombres y mujeres con el propósito de reunirse el 24 de enero en el *Centro católico de renovación* para un retiro hispano sobre vocaciones espirituales. Patrocinado por la oficina de vocaciones, el fin de semana — dedicado a liturgias, charlas espirituales y discusiones de mesa redonda — fue conducido completamente en español.

Aunque Reyes es bilingüe, vio

el programa como una oportunidad para preguntar y conseguir información en un ambiente más familiar.

“Merío y salgo como cualquier muchacha normal; por eso siempre me pregunta mi mamá si estoy segura de mis intenciones”, explica la joven, quien asiste a una universidad local y quiere ser enfermera. “Por eso estoy aquí. Quiero ver lo que Dios quiere de mí”.

Católicos hispanos como Reyes — personas solteras que tienen interés en la misión de la iglesia y están considerando la vida religiosa — están invitados al retiro anual, dice el padre Kyle Walterscheid, director diocesano de vocaciones.

“Hay muchos hispanos que hablan inglés; sin embargo, prefieren el español, especialmente cuando se trata de su vida espiritual. Si has crecido hablando español, te sientes más a gusto hablando con otros en tu idioma natal”, explica.

La mitad de los católicos de la diócesis de Fort Worth son hispanos, y aproximadamente la mitad de esa demografía habla español.

“Estamos intentando alcanzar una gran mayoría de la población que no podríamos incluir de otra manera, quienes estuvieran aislados de la iglesia si no fuera por programas así”, agrega el padre Walterscheid. “Este discernimiento ha ayudado a muchos hispanos”.

Y el impacto de este fin de semana no se puede medir solamente con el número de participantes que eventualmente entran a la vida religiosa.

“Ayuda al futuro de la iglesia”, continúa el director de vocaciones. “Los feligreses salen de aquí honrando más a la iglesia, con una apreciación aún más grande de sus raíces y la fe que se les ha entregado. Esto los convierte en mejores laicos”.

Charlas emotivas y con mucho corazón, dadas por representantes de comunidades religiosas, vigorizan a los participantes de estos retiros.

“Se involucran más en su iglesia local, así que de cualquier manera es un triunfo para la diócesis”, dice el padre Walterscheid.

Le hermana Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, quien ayudó a organizar

el retiro, dijo que el grupo de exigentes jóvenes estaba muy enfocado en las discusiones y participaba en mesas redondas y otras actividades con entusiasmo. Una visita sorpresa del obispo Kevin Vann de Fort Worth animó aún más el espíritu del grupo. El obispo había regresado algunas horas antes, después de participar en la *Marcha para la vida* en Washington, D.C.

“Estaban encantados”, dijo la hermana Yolanda, explicando

A la derecha: Margarito Soto, un feligrés de la iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción en Denton, quien participó como músico durante el fin de semana, revisa los materiales ofrecidos por la oficina de vocaciones durante el retiro.

Abajo: (De izquierda a derecha) Las hermanas Sylvia García, MCDP; Nancy Sullivan, DC; y Merys Jiménez, HGC, comparten sus inspiraciones con mujeres que están buscando posibles vocaciones a la vida religiosa.

que el obispo había compartido la cena con el pequeño grupo de jóvenes y luego observado la víspera del sábado en la tarde con todos. “Cuando lo presenté, solamente distinguí caras sonrientes”.

Muchos de los participantes del retiro aseguraron a los organizadores que continuarían el proceso de discernimiento. Reuniones de seguimiento están planeadas una vez al mes en diferentes lugares de la diócesis.



Abajo: El padre Walterscheid se reúne con el padre Domingo Romero para hablar con un grupo de hombres sobre el camino hacia el sacerdocio.

Abajo, a la derecha: Las hermanas Yolanda Cruz, SSMN (a la extrema derecha) e Inés Díaz, SSMN (en el centro, vestida con bufanda), guían una discusión de mesa redonda para las mujeres durante el retiro de fin de semana.



En marcha, manifestantes que se pronuncian a favor de la vida convierten el llamado de Obama al cambio en una petición para poner fin al aborto

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El presidente Barack Obama y su apoyo verbal a la práctica del aborto se criticaron por parte de miembros del Congreso, clérigos y personas activas en la defensa de la vida durante el inicio de la manifestación de la 36ª *Marcha anual en defensa para la vida*.

Durante cerca de dos horas, el 22 de enero, una multitud que se calculó llegaba a las 100,000 personas escuchó a tres docenas de oradores que prometieron luchar contra los esfuerzos de ensanchar la disponibilidad de la práctica del aborto, y de oponerse a cualquier aumento del uso de fondos federales por las agencias que llevan a cabo los abortos.

El desdén del público por los puntos de vista de Obama sobre el aborto ofreció un agudo contraste con el entusiasmo mostrado por cerca de 2 millones de personas a favor del 44º presidente el día de toma de posesión en los mismos terrenos, 48 horas antes.

Los oradores tomaron casi una postura de desafío en contra del nuevo presidente, prometiendo (trabajar para) anular la decisión de la Suprema Corte del año 1973 en el caso de *Roe versus Wade*, y *Doe*

versus *Bolton*, mediante la cual se reconoció el aborto como derecho constitucional y nulificó las leyes estatales en contra del aborto.

Nellie Gray, presidenta del fondo de la *Marcha anual en defensa para la vida* y que auspicia el evento, invitó a Obama a una discusión sobre “los cambios importantes” en su postura.

Para llegar a ser presidente de toda la gente, Gray instó a Obama a tomar los pasos necesarios para terminar con el aborto legalizado.

Obama publicó el 22 de enero una declaración diciendo que la decisión tomada en el caso *Roe* sostiene el amplio principio de que “el gobierno no debe inmiscuirse en los asuntos más privados de la familia”.

El presidente reiteró su postura de que está “comprometido a proteger el derecho de la mujer a decidir” e hizo un llamado a ambas partes para que trabajen por el interés mutuo a fin de evitar embarazos no intencionales, reducir la necesidad del aborto, y apoyar a las mujeres y a las familias en las decisiones que tomen.

Más de dos docenas de miembros republicanos del Congreso estaban presentes en la mani-



Estudiantes de Christendom College en Front Royal, Virginia, llevan la pancarta Defensa de la vida frente de la corte suprema de los Estados Unidos en Washington, el 22 de enero. Era la 36ª marcha anual en Defensa de la vida, marcando la decisión de la corte suprema de *Roe vs. Wade* en 1973 que legalizó el aborto. (CNS Photo/Bob Roller)

festación, y hablaron por un total de 45 minutos acerca de sus planes para presentar un proyecto de ley mediante el cual se limitaría el acceso a fondos a las agencias que llevan a cabo abortos; planes

para que se anule la ley de *Roe*; o subvencionar programas que den apoyo a las mujeres encinta, dándoles una mejor oportunidad de dar a luz en tiempo debido.

Varios de los funcionarios

elegidos le llamaron al aborto un asunto de derechos civiles; señalaron paralelos con la esclavitud; e instaron al público a mantener su postura en su oposición a la práctica del aborto.

Galileo merece honor y gratitud por parte de la Iglesia Católica, dice el Vaticano

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Galileo Galilei, que fue condenado por el *Santo oficio de la iglesia católica*, era un genio y un hombre de fe que merece el aprecio y la gratitud de la iglesia, dijo el Vaticano.

El astrónomo del siglo XVII fue “un creyente que trató, dentro del contexto de su época, de reconciliar los resultados de su investigación científica con los principios de la fe cristiana”, se dijo en una declaración escrita, dada a conocer por el Vaticano el 29 de enero.

“Por esto, Galileo merece todo nuestro aprecio y nuestra gratitud”, se decía.

Galileo fue el primer científico que estudió el cosmos utilizando un telescopio, lo que abrió completamente nuevas fronteras al descubrimiento y forzó a la humanidad a “volver a leer el libro de la naturaleza bajo una luz completamente nueva”, se guía.

La declaración fue dada a conocer durante una rueda de prensa en el Vaticano, en donde se detallaron un número de iniciativas auspiciadas por las dependencias del Vaticano, durante este año, que es el *Año internacional de la*



Retrato de Galileo Galilei, de 1635, por el pintor holandés Justus Sustermans en la galería de arte del palacio Pitti, en Florencia, Italia. (CNS Photo/Marco Bucco, Reuters)

astronomía.

En la celebración internacional se conmemora el 400º aniversario de los primeros descubrimientos de Galileo en los que usó un telescopio a fin de estudiar la bóveda celeste de la noche.

Galileo, científico italiano, fue condenado por sospecha de herejía en 1633 por sostener que la tierra daba vueltas alrededor del sol. Fue “rehabilitado” en 1992 por una comisión especial del Vaticano, establecida por el Papa Juan Pablo II.

El Papa critica el negar que sí existió el holocausto y reafirma la solidaridad con los judíos

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI renovó “completa e indiscutible solidaridad” con los judíos del mundo y criticó toda ignorancia, falta de aceptación de que sí sucedió y también la disminución de su significado del asesinato brutal de millones de judíos durante el holocausto.

Los comentarios del Papa se dieron a conocer el 28 de enero, un día después del cual el rabino principal de Israel pospuso indefinidamente una reunión en el Vaticano, señalada para marzo próximo, en protesta contra la excomunión perdonada de un obispo tradicionalista que había disminuido la severidad y extensión del holocausto.

En un discurso dado un día después del *Día internacional del recuerdo del holocausto*, el Papa Benedicto dijo que esperaba que “la memoria del Holocausto persuadiera a la humanidad a reflexionar sobre la fuerza impredecible del mal cuando conquista el corazón humano”.

Los judíos fueron “inocentes víctimas de un odio racista, ciego y antireligioso”, terminó diciendo en su audiencia general.

El Papa recordó sus muchas

visitas a Auschwitz, describiendo el lugar como “uno de los campos de concentración en donde millones de judíos fueron brutalmente sacrificados” por los nazis.

“Que el holocausto sea un aviso para todos a fin de no olvidar, de no negar o de disminuir” lo que les pasó a millones de judíos, “pues la violencia que se ejerce en contra de solamente un ser humano es violencia que se ejecuta en contra de todos”, dijo.

“Que la violencia nunca más vuelva a humillar la dignidad del ser humano”, dijo.

El holocausto debe servir de importante lección para las viejas y nuevas generaciones, enseñándoles que “solamente el arduo camino de escuchar y dialogar, de amar y perdonar, conduce a los pueblos del mundo — a las culturas y religiones — a la meta deseada de fraternidad y paz en la verdad”, dijo el Papa.

El obispo de origen británico Richard Williamson, de la tradicionalista *Sociedad de San Pío X*, ha proclamado que los informes sobre el holocausto fueron exagerados, y que ningún judío murió en las cámaras de gas de los nazis.

Y repitió su postura en una

entrevista por un canal de televisión sueca, grabada el pasado noviembre, pero que salió al aire el 21 de enero, el mismo día en el que el Papa Benedicto les perdonó la excomunión a él y a otros tres obispos. Ellos habían sido ordenados en contra de las órdenes papales en 1988, a mano del finado arzobispo francés Marcel Lefebvre. El Vaticano hizo público el decreto el 24 de enero.

Algunos grupos de judíos expresaron disgusto debido a que, después de los comentarios televisados del obispo Williamson, todavía hubiera el Vaticano perdonado la excomunión. El rabino principal de Israel pospuso la reunión, fijada del 2 al 4 de marzo en Roma, con la *Comisión pontificia de relaciones religiosas con los judíos*.

El rabino David Rosen, miembro de la delegación del rabino principal, dijo en el canal de televisión israelita *IBA News* que la reunión con el Vaticano había sido pospuesta indefinidamente, “hasta que llegue una respuesta del Vaticano lo suficientemente satisfactoria para permitirnos reanudar nuestras relaciones como antes”.

Pastores necesitan ser padres fuertes, amantes de los hijos de Dios, dice el Papa en su audiencia general

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — El Papa Benedicto XVI oró para que los cristianos trataran a toda la gente con amor como miembros de la familia de Dios y que los pastores de la comunidad cristiana fueran padres fuertes pero tiernos.

“Los cristianos ya no son extranjeros o huéspedes, sino ciudadanos compañeros de los santos y de los miembros de la familia del hogar de Dios”, dijo el papa el 28 de enero en su audiencia general semanal.

La comunidad cristiana está también abierta a todos, ya que toda la gente es capaz de saber la verdad del amor y el mensaje de la salvación de Dios, dijo.

Con un estimado de 4,000 personas reunidas dentro del salón Paulo VI, el Papa Benedicto continuó su audiencia hablando de la vida y enseñanza de San Pablo, enfocándose en sus cartas a Timoteo y Tito, también conocidas como las epístolas pastorales.

Aunque la comunidad cristiana todavía era bastante pequeña

en los tiempos en que las epístolas pastorales fueron escritas, su universalidad fue enfatizada fuertemente, dijo el Papa.

El cristianismo es “una fe viva, abierta a todos, y da testimonio del amor de Dios por toda la gente”, dijo.

Por lo tanto, los cristianos han de “difamar a nadie; ser pacíficos, considerados; ejercer toda las amabilidades hacia todos”, dijo, citando la carta de San Pablo a Tito.

Las cartas “presentan la iglesia en términos muy humanos — como el hogar de Dios — una familia en la cual el obispo actúa con la autoridad de un padre”, dijo.

En su primera carta a Timoteo, San Pablo enumera rasgos y calidades detallados necesarios para tomar el puesto de obispo. Estos incluyen cosas tales como ser templado; autodisciplinado; hospitalario; capaz de enseñar, apacible; de buena reputación entre los no-cristianos; y paternales, dijo el Papa.

Él oró para que los obispos y sacerdotes de la iglesia crecientemente adquieran más



EL PAPA MIRA CACHORRO DE LEÓN DURANTE AUDIENCIA GENERAL — El papa Benedicto XVI mira un cachorro de león sostenido por un amaestrador de leones del circo Medrano durante su audiencia general en el salón Paulo VI en el Vaticano el 28 de enero. (Foto CNS/Alessia Giuliani, Foto Catholic Press)

sentimientos paternales por sus rebaños y sean “padres cariñosos y fuertes, que edifican la casa de Dios, la comunidad cristiana y

la iglesia”. El Papa también pidió que los fieles cristianos crecientemente demuestren una actitud cariñosa

hacia otra gente en la sociedad y traten a todos como miembros de la familia de Dios.

El Vaticano lanza canal de noticias por YouTube

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Vaticano lanzó un canal por YouTube por el que se presentarán noticias del Papa Benedicto XVI y de eventos mayores del Vaticano.

Con esto se señala la visión estratégica del Vaticano de trabajar “para estar presente en donde quiera que la gente esté”, dijo el arzobispo Claudio Celli, presidente del Consejo pontificio de comunicación social.

El Vaticano dio a conocer la noticia del nuevo canal el 23 de enero, durante una rueda de prensa en la que se presentó el mensaje del Papa Benedicto para el Día mundial de las comunicaciones. Esta conferencia se dedicó a la tecnología del nuevo medio de difusión.

El canal del Vaticano es el resultado de una nueva asociación entre el Centro de televisión del Vaticano y Radio vaticana establecido con el gigante de Internet Google y su sitio web, en el que se comparte el video, conocido como YouTube.

El canal de YouTube del Vaticano, libre de anuncios, será www.youtube.com/vatican; en él se ofrecerán de uno a tres resúmenes de noticias del Papa en video corto o de eventos mayores del Vaticano, con audio en inglés, italiano, español y alemán.

Los videntes podrán dejar sus comentarios, distribuir los videos por correo electrónico o mensaje de enlaces, y podrán compartir los videos con amistades o en



El canal de video de noticias YouTube del Vaticano ofrece noticias del Papa y eventos mayores del Vaticano en video corto. Este canal, www.youtube.com/vatican, se lanzó el 23 de enero. (CNS)

varios sitios de la red en donde la gente participa abiertamente, como en MySpace y Facebook. También podrán enviar los enlaces de video del Vaticano a sitios dedicados a condensar las noticias, como el llamado Digg.

Pero a diferencia de los otros videos que aparecen en YouTube, los cuales los videntes pueden clasificar de acuerdo con el sistema de una a cinco estrellas de YouTube, los videos del Vaticano no pueden ser clasificados ni injertos en sitios externos de la red u en otros sitios conocidos en inglés como “blogs”. Sin embargo, la página principal del canal del Vaticano sí se puede colocar en otro sitio.

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National

Embryonic stem-cell trials said to ignore adult and cord blood cell successes

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Reports touting recent approval of human clinical trials of a treatment for spinal-cord injuries using embryonic stem cells ignore the “great strides” already being made using adult stem cells, according to leaders of the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

“News stories are playing up the potential of the use of embryonic stem cells, as they have been for nearly a decade, despite the

“Stem-cell research is the only scientific discipline where the paradigm for success is a procedure that does not work, and where other avenues that have proven successful are found wanting because they fail to live up to that defective standard.”

— National Catholic Bioethics Center

lack of significant progress,” said an unsigned commentary posted Jan. 26 on the Web site of the Phila-

delphia-based bioethics center. But adult stem cells “are already in extensive clinical use,”

the commentary added.

Geron Corp. in Menlo Park, California, announced Jan. 23 that the Food and Drug Administration had approved human clinical tests in paralyzed patients with acute spinal cord injury, using a stem-cell treatment developed from destroyed human embryos.

The stem-cell line used to develop the treatment came from embryos that had already been destroyed before former President George W. Bush’s 2001 announcement barring federal funding of

any stem-cell research involving embryos destroyed after the date of Bush’s decision.

Dr. Thomas Okarma, president and CEO of Geron, said the FDA approval “marks the beginning of what is potentially a new chapter in medical therapeutics—one that reaches beyond pills to a new level of healing: the restoration of organ and tissue function achieved by the injection of healthy replacement cells.”

The clinical trials, expected to begin this summer, would involve eight to 10 patients with “documented evidence of functionally complete spinal cord injury” who would receive injections between seven and 14 days after the injury. Up to seven U.S. medical centers were expected to participate in the trials.

After the injections, patients would be measured for any improvement in bowel or bladder function, return of sensation or leg movement.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center commentary said embryonic stem cells “are not genetic matches for the patients in whom they are injected,” thus requiring the use of dangerous anti-rejection drugs.

“Few are reporting that cells with the same properties and potential as the embryonic are now available through the process of ‘differentiation,’” the commentary added, referring to the creation of induced pluripotent stem cells from cells taken directly from the patient.

The so-called IPS cells could be used to regenerate heart tissue or brain cells, and even to treat spinal injuries.

Despite the problems with rejection and the progress shown with IPS cells, “scientists continue to claim that embryonic stem cells are the ‘gold standard’ in the field of regenerative medicine,” the bioethics center commentary said.

“Stem-cell research is the only scientific discipline where the paradigm for success is a procedure that does not work, and where other avenues that have proven successful are found wanting because they fail to live up to that defective standard,” it added.

Some observers said it was significant that FDA approval for Geron’s trials came three days into the administration of President Barack Obama, who has said he would overturn Bush’s ban on federal funding of stem-cell research involving the destruction of new embryos.

But the approval was coincidental, according to officials at the FDA and Geron.



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Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

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Father Donlon was much loved by those he served

FROM PAGE 24
their religious faith was most in need of strengthening.

"He was such a dedicated and wonderful priest, so admired and respected by so many, including me," said Bishop Vann. "He was very much loved, and he will be missed." Fr. Donlon's dedication and pastoral skills are legendary throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth, agreed Father Karl Schilken, pastor of St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, who first met Fr. Donlon in 1979 when Fr. Schilken began serving — prior to his own 1980 ordination — in the parishes in Henrietta, Bowie, Montague, and Nocona.

"He came here from a foreign land and served faithfully his entire priestly life," said Fr. Schilken in a written tribute to Fr. Donlon. "Countless thousands of people were consoled by his presence in Wichita Falls. He heard thousands

of confessions and never failed to visit the sick and celebrate the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. He celebrated daily Mass at the hospital and helped in whatever parish needed help at the moment."

"He taught me to respect each day as it came," said Pat Saulsbury, who worked for 15 years with Fr. Donlon in pastoral care at the hospital and considered him a close, personal friend. "He also taught me to laugh in the face of adversity. Working in pastoral care, you see some really difficult things sometimes. He could always bring in the light side. I was so glad I got the opportunity to work with him and get to know him better. He was one of a kind. We all loved him a lot," said Saulsbury.

Fr. Donlon's determination to find humor in any situation did indeed give comfort, said Joann Riddle, a parishioner at Sacred

Heart and a nurse at Bethania Hospital who met the easygoing priest when he first arrived at the hospital in 1975. "My house was in a tornado. Fr. Donlon came over and blessed the house afterwards; later on, my house flooded. I told him not to come bless my house again! He always wanted me to tell people that story. He just had a good sense of humor," said Riddle.

Rose Marie Fidelie, a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Peace, reflected that many members of her family received care from Fr. Donlon through the years. "He came to visit everyone in my family whenever they were hospitalized. He was always there," said Fidelie. "A few years ago, I had a brain hemorrhage. I was in intensive care a couple of days, and I remember that feeling of comfort [from Fr. Donlon's visits]." She added, "He knew that he might not heal the

people physically, but he could bring comfort or hold your hand to give you spiritual comfort when you were afraid or didn't know what would happen next."

Another form of ministry to which the beloved priest was dedicated was his role as chaplain of the Wichita Falls Knights of Columbus Council 1473. Fr. Donlon, a Fourth Degree Knight, and a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre since 1994, served as the council's chaplain for 29 years.

"There was no better Knight of Columbus [than Fr. Donlon]," said Mike Brown, a longtime friend of Fr. Donlon's and a trustee for Council 1473, which has hosted the successful "Fr. Donlon Vocation Dinner" each year since 1992.

"He dedicated his life in later years to helping bring young men into the priesthood with his vocation dinner. We've raised \$1,250,000 in the last 17 years," said

Brown, explaining that 18 years ago, Fr. Donlon told members of the Knights council of the need to support vocations to religious life by assisting seminarians with the cost of their education. "And he knew we should start it back then because it [the cost of education] was only going to get more and more expensive, and it has," said Brown.

Fr. Donlon was predeceased by his parents and by his brother, Father Kevin Donlon. He is survived by his two brothers, Father Brendan Donlon, and Father Angus Donlon, both of Birmingham, England. His family suggests that memorial contributions in his honor be sent to: Fr. Donlon's Vocation Dinner, Knights of Columbus Council 1473, P.O. Box 1232, Wichita Falls, Texas, 76307.

Jenara Kocks Burgess, North Texas Catholic correspondent, contributed to this article.

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11
your keys behind a rapidly descending trunk lid. But it is an unexpected turn of events that catches you open-mouthed and questioning. Disappointed, angry even, at yourself. Or others.

Life is like that sometimes. Recently the husband of nationally known Catholic writer, Amy Welborn, died suddenly, leaving a young family. Amy's reaction, according to her Facebook posting, was of incredulity, even confusion.

After his death, she wrote, "It is impossible for me to go through my day without thinking of how I will tell Michael about the happenings of the day. Even this. It is absurd."

She added: "I saw him, and he looked like he was sleeping. I now understand so many things. Things I wish I were still blissfully unaware of. Like how when you are first confronted with this, you do indeed expect the person to simply sit up and assure you that this is all OK, that he is fine."

Her thoughts were the perfect description of an event that is so senseless, and grabs you in the midst of other actions, such that it is almost like a fantasy, or certainly the crossing of reality and a bad nightmare.

Immediately after the death of my marriage, I remember thinking the one person whom I would tell of that dreadful event was the same person who was involved in it. Sometimes our way is devastatingly changed by a sudden turn — smaller than a turn, more like a twitch — that you will never understand.

Mary Ellen Byrnes, a constant figure and very bright light in the Fort Worth diocesan scene, died in late January. She left behind a mother, brothers and sisters, a husband and four sons, and also the Nolan Catholic High School community, colleagues, friends, hundreds of students, and a myriad of athletic teams she loved to support. According to her obituary, she had spent 24 years in service to Nolan, and thus to the diocese.

Nolan's athletic director, Steve Prud'homme, spoke at

her vigil service and Rosary, where people overflowed the largest rooms in the funeral home. He said there were so many people that if Mary Ellen had been present, she would have organized a fundraiser.

At her funeral in the school arena, students sang and played musical instruments, and athletes came garbed in their team jerseys. The school closed early, to accommodate the Mass of Christian Burial, attended by hundreds of people who loved her, and a week earlier had never dreamed they had seen her for the last time.

I am always reminding myself of the importance of each moment, the appreciation of every red-ribbon occasion in our lives. I also know that the small moments are as important as the grand ones, even more so, if we pay attention.

I was not paying careful attention when I fumbled, and my car keys fell into the trunk. I was not paying attention when I pushed the wrong buttons, thus buying the wrong candy bar, and ate a Butterfinger that I didn't even like.

And even though I know

better, I do not always pay attention to the moments that are fine, worthwhile, and fleeting. I do not always take advantage of those quickly-passing instants that are — poof — gone.

It is our challenge, I believe, maybe even our mission, to use those moments, to realize that our time is too precious not to share like Mary Ellen shared hers. It is a shame — a disaster — to encounter moments that can be treasures, and instead watch them disappear, like car keys that suddenly are too far away to catch.

Life isn't like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates, because

you can always break open a chocolate and eat just the ones you like.

If life were like that, it would be easy. It would, in fact, be heaven.



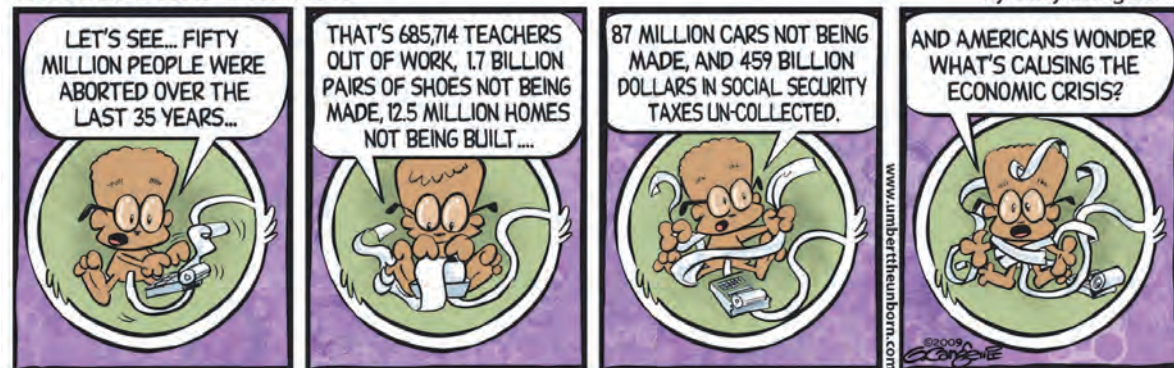
Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. In May, her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada at the Catholic Media Convention in Toronto. In 2005, Kathy's column was recognized with the first place award in the same category.

The FLOCK

By Jean Denton
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Umbert the Unborn



Calendar

EDUCATE THE CHILDREN

Bishop Kevin Vann will be the guest speaker at the Fifth Anniversary Gala for Friends of Educate the Children 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13 at the Tarrant County College Northeast Campus at 828 Harwood Rd., in Hurst. The Gala will include a dinner and a silent auction. For more information contact Hilda Flores at (817) 560-3300 ext. 112 or hflores@fwdioc.org.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Feb. 13-15 at the Catholic Renewal Center of North Texas, 4503 Bridge St. in East Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter is a weekend marriage enrichment program for married couples designed to help them 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 (817) 451-6005 or e-mail mereregistration@sbcglobal.net.

LAY CARMELITES

The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of a deeper relationship with Christ to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. Those interested in participating are asked to gather at 2 p.m. Feb. 22 in the chapel of The College of St. Thomas More, 3017 Lubbock St. in Fort Worth. Formation will take place in the college library from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER

The Knights of Peter Claver Council 89 of Our Mother of Mercy Church in Fort Worth will hold their 19th Annual "Mardi Gras & Zydeco Dance" from 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Meadowbrook Lions Club, 6013 Craig St. in Fort Worth. Donations are \$20 per person and admission includes authentic Louisiana gumbo and red beans and rice. Call (817) 253-0806, (817) 534-7652, or see any Knight at Our Mother of Mercy Church at 1007 East Terrell Ave. for more information about this event. Proceeds from the event go towards funding the many charitable activities sponsored throughout the year.

MONICA ASHOUR

Monica Ashour, a co-founding member of the local Theology of the Body Evangelization Team (TOBET) will present "A Time Bomb Set to Go Off in the 21st Century: The Theology of the Body" on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the St. Rita Parish Center in Fort Worth. The talk is for those 17 or older. Pizza, salad, and other snacks will be served at 6 p.m., followed by the talk from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Free childcare is available. Tickets are an extra dollar at the door. For more information, call the church office at (817) 451-9395.

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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

SCRIPTURE CONFERENCE

The Lubbock Diocese Knights of Columbus will sponsor the 2009 Biblical Studies Conference, "Our Lady in Scripture," Feb. 14-15 in the Lubbock City Bank Auditorium. Featured speakers at the event include Catholic theologians and Scripture scholars Scott Hahn, Brant Pitre, and Michael Barber. Spanish translation services are available by advance reservation. A gala dinner with Lubbock Bishop Placido Rodriguez and conference speakers will be held Friday, Feb. 13. Dinner tickets are available for \$70 per person. For information about hotel accommodations, tickets and the conference schedule, call (806) 698-6400, (806) 239-0804, or (806) 438-5253. Tickets are available at \$20 per person.

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women that draws participation from throughout the North Texas region, will sponsor a women's breakfast with praise and eucharistic devotion from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 21 at the DFW Hilton Lakes Conference Center and Hotel, located at 1800 Highway 26 East in Grapevine. The opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and to meet with prayer teams will be available after the keynote presentation. Author Patricia Treece will serve as keynote speaker for the event. For more information or to purchase admission at \$18 per ticket to the breakfast, call Nancy Ferri at (817) 498-7980 by Tuesday, Feb. 17, or obtain tickets at local Catholic bookstores, including Keepsakes in Arlington, Little Angels in Coppell, Catholic Arts and Gifts in Farmer's Branch, and St. Anthony's Bookstore in Fort Worth.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, other Sexual Minorities and Their Families regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next regular meeting will be Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

St. Patrick Cathedral at 1206 Throckmorton St. in Fort Worth will host a Patriotic Rosary from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16 to pray for wisdom, courage, and God's guidance for the new leaders of the United States as they face the difficulties and trials ahead. For information call the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center at (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805.

OSB VOCATIONS WEEKEND

The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, invite all high school-aged girls to attend "Discover the Treasure of the Hills High School Visiting Weekend," a vocations weekend Feb. 27 to March 1. For more information, call Sr. Sinkhorn at (800) 734-9999, ext. 2830, or visit the sisters' Web site at www.thedome.org to register online.

RACHEL MINISTRIES

Rachel Ministries, a program that offers a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath, is expanding its outreach to include programs and services in Spanish. The expanded outreach program is currently seeking volunteers who can read and speak Spanish to help build the Spanish program. The ministry is also seeking Spanish-speaking licensed counselors to volunteer during the Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats. There are also opportunities for volunteers to be included on the referral list. Training will be provided to all volunteers. Anyone who is bilingual and is interested in this ministry is asked to contact Betsy Kopor at (817) 923-4757 or by e-mail to forgiven@racheltx.org.

NTC DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION

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. 20 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Items for the March 6 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

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. The next meeting will be Saturday, March 7. 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.

A DIVINE AFFAIR

The Carmelite Auxiliary will host "A Divine Affair" auction, luncheon, and Irish dance performance from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Hilton Arlington's Grand Ballroom. For more information, contact Evelyn Breaux at (817) 738-8636 or Aileen Neil at (817) 923-9301.

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.

DEAF MINISTRY

The Deaf Ministry Program is in need of a court reporter to help with CART (Computer Assisted Real-Time Translation) services. The Deaf Community celebrates a special Deaf Community Mass on the first Sunday of each month at 1:45 p.m. at San Mateo Church near downtown Fort Worth. The ministry would like to provide CART services for deaf persons who do not sign so they can read the simultaneous transcriptions and be a part of the special liturgy. To help with this service, contact Mary Cinatl, director of the Deaf Ministry Program, at (817) 284-3019 (Voice and TDD) or mcinatl@fwdioc.org.

COURAGE GROUP

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

LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers of Tarrant County will sponsor their annual Lenten Speaker Series at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church at 2016 Willis Ln. in Keller this year with guest speakers Steve Kellmeyer and Tim Staples. Kellmeyer, the director of Adult Formation at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine and a noted author, will present six talks during each of the Fridays of the Lenten season (except Good Friday) beginning on Feb. 27. The talks will be at 8 p.m. following the parish fish fry and Stations of the Cross. Staples, a well-known speaker from Catholic Answers will speak Saturday, Feb. 28. The program is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. following the 9 a.m. Mass. A box lunch is available for \$5. Both events will be free, but offerings will be accepted. For more information, contact Frank Laux at (817) 939-8594 or visit the group's Web site at www.sjcktc.org.

LENTEN VOCATION

AWARENESS PROGRAM

All single men and women ages 18 to 50 are invited to attend the Lenten Vocation Awareness Program held every Monday night from 6 to 9 p.m. throughout Lent at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. High school sophomores and older are welcome too. Women will be led by the sisters, and men will be led by priests. "Single men and women — Is God calling you to the religious life, the married life, or to be committed to the Church as you are? Come and see," says Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid. This program includes prayer, eucharistic adoration, reflection, presentations, discussion, and a free dinner. The first gathering will be on Monday, March 2. For more information contact Fr. Walterscheid at kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org or at (817) 560 3300, ext. 105, or visit the Religious Vocations page on the diocesan Web site www.fwdioc.org.

Classified Section

ACCOMPANIST

Accompanist with experience at three-manual pipe organ needed for three weekend Masses at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth. Responsibilities include rehearsals with up to two choirs weekly, holy day Masses; availability for parish funerals, weddings, and major parish celebrations throughout the year is preferred. Applicant must be familiar with post-Vatican II Catholic liturgy. Send a resumé to Holy Family Church; Attn: Diane Kain, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth 76107 or e-mail to dkain@holymfamilyfw.org. For more information, call (817) 737-6768 ext. 104

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Large Vatican II parish with five weekend Masses is looking for an energetic, engaging person to coordinate liturgical celebrations with style and reverence. Responsibilities will include training and scheduling ministers, planning weddings, funerals, and sacramental rituals. The coordinator will also be responsible for all liturgical articles and vestments. This is a full-time position with weekends and offers competitive salary and benefits. Send a cover letter and resumé to LC Search, St. Philip the Apostle Church, 1897 W. Main St., Lewisville 75067; office@stphilipcc.org; fax (972) 219-5429. No phone calls. Job description may be viewed at www.stphilipcc.org/job_board.htm.

LITURGICAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

St. Patrick Cathedral seeks a full-time Director of Liturgical Music and Organist to assist the Rector by assuming responsibility for the musical life of the parish. The successful candidate will provide organ music for all 5 weekend Masses, Holy Days, and occasional diocesan events; will direct and rehearse the Adult choir and develop other ensembles; supervise and train Cantors; select hymns and find imaginative ways to broaden the musical and liturgical efforts of the Cathedral taking advantage of its location at the heart of downtown. Applicants must possess degrees in organ, choral or sacred music, strong organ and conducting skills, complete knowledge of Catholic liturgical traditions, and should be practicing Catholics living in full accord with the teachings of the Church. For a complete job description, compensation information and application procedure, please see the Cathedral website, www.stpatrickcathedral.org.

FITNESS COACHES

Looking for 20 fitness coaches for revolutionary new home based business. For info call 817-249-3371.

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Holy Family Church in Ft. Worth is seeking a director for the Contemporary Music Group which presents music for the 9:15 a.m. Mass and various special celebrations throughout the year. Candidates should have a working knowledge of Catholic liturgy and music, experience in directing, and enthusiasm to work with volunteers. Call Diane Kain at 817-737-6768, x104 for more information.

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wichita Falls seeks a full-time Pastoral Assistant to assist the Pastor in meeting the temporal and pastoral needs of this active 1,300-family parish. Principal duties will include administrative and facilities management as well as serving as staff liaison to all parish ministries and committees. Qualifications include a Master's degree in Theology or other related field, or its equivalent in education and experience; prior experience in ministry; practicing Roman Catholic. For a full job description and application procedure, please visit www.sacred-heartwf.org. Applications are accepted immediately.

LITURGY AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

A North Dallas Suburban Parish in transitional growth is seeking a full-time director of liturgy and music to lead the assembly in worship and song as a member of our pastoral team. A collaborative person is needed to initiate and grow a comprehensive liturgical music ministry; to guide parish liturgical ministries, plan and accompany weekend liturgies, holy days, weddings, funerals, special liturgical celebrations, direct and rehearse choir and cantors and interface with existing Spanish Choir. Requires close collaboration with staff and parishioners. Needs strong piano and conducting skills, good vocal skills, knowledge of Catholic liturgy and must be a practicing Catholic with a degree in liturgy or music, or equivalent years of experience. Salary and diocesan benefits commensurate with education or experience. Send letter, resumé, salary requirements and three current/verifiable references to: Search Committee Liturgy and Music, 352 Cascata Drive, Frisco, TX 75034.

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Good Newsmaker

Former chaplain of United Regional Health Care System, formerly Bethania Hospital, and renowned fundraiser in support of vocations in the diocese

Pallottine Father Aidan Donlon dies at age 79

Father Aidan Donlon, SAC 1929-2009

Father Aidan Anthony Donlon, a Pallottine priest and beloved spiritual leader for more than 53 years, died Saturday, Jan. 24 in Wichita Falls at the age of 79.

A Rosary service was held Jan. 29 at Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls. Bishop Kevin Vann presided at the funeral Mass, held Jan. 30 at Sacred Heart. Father Hoa Nguyen, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, who served as homilist at the liturgy, and Father John Switovich, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls, concelebrated at the Mass, and were joined on the altar by priests and deacons from the Diocese of Fort Worth. Interment was at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Born June 2, 1929, in Tipperary, Roscrea County, Ireland, Fr. Donlon was the son of James Joseph Donlon, a lawyer, and Mary Evelyn Donlon, a teacher. Fr. Donlon entered the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (SAC), also known as the Pallottine Fathers religious order, in 1948 and attended the Pallottine Seminary of Ireland, where he received his undergraduate degree in philosophy; after completing graduate work in theology in Argentina, he was ordained in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Aug. 14, 1955. He later told friends that he had dreamed of being a priest since the age of 10, when he was an altar server at his parish in Ireland.

After coming to the United States in 1956, the young priest served in parishes in the Texas dioceses of Abilene, Lubbock, and San Angelo, before a new assignment



Above: Fr. Donlon, pictured in 2005 on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, in the historic Bethania Chapel, located at the United Regional Health Care System Hospital (URHCS), in Wichita Falls.

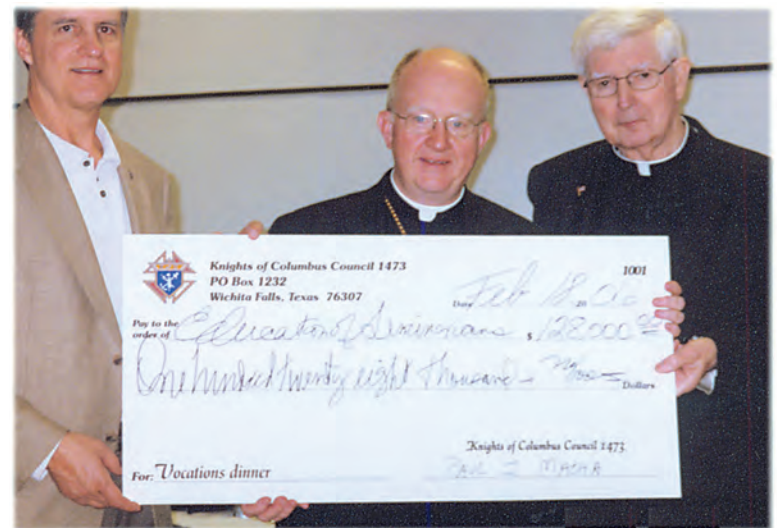
Top Right: Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth religious order worked closely with Fr. Donlon for several years as they provided pastoral care to hospital patients and their families. Shown here, from left to right, are Sisters Geraldine da Silva, Ancilla Sojka, Irene Asztemborska, and Miriam Stepniowska. The sisters joined Fr. Donlon in marking his 50th anniversary of priesthood at a celebration Aug. 12, 2005 hosted by members of the administrative and pastoral care staff at United Regional Health Care System's 11th Street Campus in Wichita Falls.

Center Right: Paul Macha, Grand Knight of Council 1473 (left), presented Bishop Kevin Vann (center) and Fr. Donlon with a large cardboard display check in the amount of \$128,000 at the 15th annual Father Donlon Vocation Dinner, held in February of 2006. The dinner, now in its 18th year, has raised over \$1,250,000 in funds to assist seminarians.

Bottom Right: Father Aidan Donlon (second from right), is shown with his three brothers, all of whom became Catholic priests. Pictured with him are (left to right) Kevin Donlon, Angus Donlon, and Brendan Donlon.

took him to the Diocese of Reno, Nevada. In 1974, he began work as a hospital chaplain in Muskegon, Michigan, in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, and was then assigned in August of 1975 to serve as chaplain and head of pastoral care at

Bethania Hospital, now known as United Regional Health Care, in Wichita Falls, where he resided for the rest of his life. He retired from active ministry Sept. 22, 2006, but continued to assist at Mass at Sacred Heart and at several other



parishes within the Northwest Deanery of the diocese, while also bringing the Eucharist to nursing home residents.

Known for his endearing combination of an Irish brogue, combined with a soft Texas drawl,

Fr. Donlon, according to his many close friends, particularly cherished his years of hospital ministry because of the opportunity to minister to patients and families during challenging times when
SEE FATHER, P.21

Inside... This issue of the NTC

More than 500 ministers from 44 parishes serving English-, Spanish-, and Vietnamese-speaking Catholics made the last diocesan Ministry Formation Day, a day of "Encountering the Living Word." **2**

Twenty Hispanic young men and women gave a late January weekend to listening to speakers, interacting with men and women religious, and seeking to discern God's calling for them. **8&18**

OK, the Vatican was slow to give up their electric typewriters and turn them in for computers, but give a look. They're posting daily news about the pope and Vatican events on YouTube. **15**

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