

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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First Texas summit on Catholic schools aims at keeping Catholic schools viable and accessible



Clockwise from upper left:

• Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston, delivers opening remarks to summit participants Thursday evening, Feb. 26.

• Fr. Stephen Jasso, pastor of All Saints Parish, makes a point.

• Msgr. Charles King (at right), pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish and School takes part in a discussion group on Saturday.

• James Leito III, a member of the diocesan Schools Advisory Group speaks to his small discussion group.



Story and photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen Correspondent

FORTWORTH—Ensuring the viability and accessibility of Texas Catholic schools was the focus of the first statewide Catholic school education summit held Feb. 26-28 in the American Airlines Training and Conference Center.

Convened at the request of the bishops of Texas, the landmark gathering brought together 121 superintendents, principals, school board members, and church leaders from every diocese in the state to address and prioritize key issues impacting the long-term sustainability of Catholic schools in the third millennium. Eleven bishops also participated in the discussions.

Hosted by the Texas Catholic Conference (TCC), the summit focused on four major areas of concern:

- Catholic identity
- Attracting, retaining, and serving Hispanic families and students
- Responding to and serving of students with special needs and their families
- School finances

In a keynote address opening the three-day meeting, Cardinal

SEE FINANCES, P. 25

Physicians take legal, educational steps to defend conscience rights

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — To combat what they see as threats to the conscience rights of health care professionals who oppose abortion, the Catholic Medical Association and other organizations are taking both legal and educational steps.

The Philadelphia-based Catholic Medical Association, which has some 1,100 members nationwide, has joined with the Christian Medical Association and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists in an effort to intervene legally against lawsuits filed by the attorneys general of eight states, Planned Parenthood of America and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.

The suits seek to overturn a Department of Health and Human Services regulation that codifies several existing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or other moral objections.

On Feb. 27, the Obama administration announced it was reviewing a proposal to rescind the regulation, which took effect two days before the inauguration of President Barack Obama. After

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the review by the Office of Management and Budget, the proposal is to be published in the Federal Register, opening a 30-day period for public comment.

Without the regulation, members of the groups taking steps to keep it in place would be subject to "the imminent threat of being forced ... to perform abortions, assist in abortions, train for abortions and refer individuals for

SEE HEALTH, P. 12

USCCB launches pro-life e-mail campaign to augment congressional postcard efforts

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has announced that it has launched an e-mail campaign urging Congress to maintain widely-supported pro-life policies and to oppose the federal funding and promotion of abortion. The e-mail campaign, according to a USCCB release, augments the massive national postcard campaign launched in dioceses throughout the country in late January. Both efforts are being coordinated through the USCCB's partner organization, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA).

The current campaign is unprecedented in scope, exceeding those sponsored by the U.S. Catholic bishops in the past.

Since 1993, the USCCB reports, NCHLA has coordinated national postcard campaigns equipping citizens to express their pro-life

views clearly and respectfully to Congress. The current campaign is unprecedented in scope, exceeding those sponsored by the U.S. Catholic bishops in the past.

Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, explained in a USCCB press release that through the campaign, "Tens of millions of cards have been distributed in parishes, schools, non-Catholic churches, and civic organizations across the country. The e-mail campaign will give even more citizens the chance to

SEE BISHOPS, P. 12



Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee arrives for a news conference at Cathedral High School in New York Feb. 23. Pope Benedict XVI has named him to succeed Cardinal Edward M. Egan, right, as archbishop of New York. Archbishop Dolan will be installed April 15 at St. Patrick's Cathedral. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz) See story p. 16.

Lent calls us to turn to prayer in every aspect of our lives

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

In Pope Benedict XVI's Lenten Message for this year, which I reflected upon in my last column, he began by mentioning the three traditional penitential practices of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. While the Holy Father concentrated his message on the important subject of fasting, I would also like to take a moment to look at prayer in the light of the Pauline Year, which we are still celebrating.

We cannot live as faithful followers of Christ without prayer. Prayer is an essential part of the life of our Diocese, of each parish, every home, and every member of the Body of Christ. St. Alphonsus Ligouri, in his Novena to the Holy Spirit, tells us, "He who loves God loves prayer."

Lent calls us to look at our prayer lives and evaluate the quality of our dialogue of love with God. If anyone should think they are in need of some help in this area, then this is an opportunity to ask the priest, deacon, or religious in your parish for some help in this regard.

As I select various passages from Scripture for this reflection, I invite you to spend some time in *Lectio Divina* using one or more of the scriptural quotes. Take your Bible, or your *Catechism*, and find a quiet place where you can spend some time with the Lord in prayer.

What is prayer? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, when responding to the question, begins by reminding us that prayer, the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of something good from God, is a gift from God granted to those who have laid the foundation of a humble heart. On this foundation God will build an edifice of prayer by sending us our interior Master of Christian



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

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Prayer, the Holy Spirit. St Paul tells us as much in *Romans 8:26*,

...the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

Paragraph 2672 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, when speaking of the Holy Spirit, who permeates our whole being and teaches us how to pray, also reminds us that the Holy Spirit...

...is the artisan of the living tradition of prayer. To be sure, there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. It is in the communion of the Holy Spirit that Christian prayer is prayer in the Church.

St Paul also guides us through the various forms or types of prayer which should be a regular part of our lives. Here are some examples of St Paul's prayerful heart:

PRAISE

As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.
Romans 14:11

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him.
Romans 15:11

SORROW FOR ONE'S SINS

I rejoice now, not because you were saddened, but because you were saddened into repentance; for you were saddened in a godly way, so that you did not suffer loss in anything because of us. For godly sorrow produces a salutary repentance without regret, but worldly sorrow produces death.
2 Corinthians 7:9-10

with boldness the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains, so that I may have the courage to speak as I must.
Ephesians 6:18-20

First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.
1 Timothy 2:1-4

As I end my reflection I offer you one final quote from St. Paul on prayer. I would like these words from Scripture be my words today.

And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.
Philippians 1:9-11

May Our Lady of Sorrows guide us to a deeper dialogue of love with her Son, our crucified Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you always,
+ Kevin W. Vann
+ Bishop Kevin W. Vann

THANKSGIVING

First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is heralded throughout the world.
Romans 1:8

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.
1 Corinthians 11:23-24

SUPPLICATION

With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones and also for me, that speech may be given me to open my mouth, to make known

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Advocates promote Catholic teaching on charity and justice at state Capitol

Maria Huemmer
Texas Catholic Conference

AUSTIN — Over 400 people from around the state attended the Texas Catholic Conference Charity and Justice Advocacy Day at the state Capitol Feb. 17. Donning blue T-shirts that read "One Catholic Voice — Life, Charity, Justice," volunteers from around the state made visits to legislative offices to address the immigration, health and human services, and criminal justice public policy priorities of the Bishops of Texas.

"This is my first step in being politically involved, and it's been a really exciting experience," said 18-year-old Rebecca Lowery, a volunteer from the Diocese of Dallas. "I didn't really know what to expect. I had reviewed the bills and really wanted to speak about them. I wasn't sure if I would get the chance and I did. I would definitely encourage greater involvement."

The day began with Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Austin. "We do not go forward today promoting our message of charity and justice, but rather that of God," said Bishop Gregory Aymond of Austin. The message we bring to our lawmakers, he said, is "that human life is sacred, that it shares in the dignity of God, that no one is a stranger. We stand for the rights of the immigrants; we stand for the rights of the poor and the lonely, and for those who do not have medical care. No one is a stranger. And we stand strongly for the rights of all people, even criminals. They too, have the right to life and to conversion."

"And so as we go forth today, as we walk in and out of those offices and meet individually with different people, we represent our sisters and brothers in the state. But more importantly, we represent the values of Jesus. His charity, and his justice."

After Mass, advocates were recognized in the Texas House of Representatives and Senate. Brownsville Bishop Raymundo Peña said the opening prayer in the Senate.

"We ask your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the Common Good. We lift up all of our elected leaders and public servants... bestow upon our senators dedication and commitment to achieve liberty and justice for all residents of Texas and especially the most vulnerable in our midst," prayed Bishop Peña.

After the prayer, Senator

Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville) recognized Bishop Peña, as well as Catholic Charities Directors Linda McKamie from Corpus Christi; Sister Norma Pimental, MJ, from Brownsville; and Steve Saldaña from San Antonio, for the work that Catholic Charities does in Texas.

"Catholic Charities is present in more than 20 locations in Texas and provides a variety of social support services benefiting more than 400,000 individuals in 2008," said Lucio. Lucio also recognized the importance of Catholic criminal justice ministry, stating "criminal justice ministers serve as chaplains in jails and prisons throughout the state, working to rehabilitate the convicted."

After recognition in the chambers, volunteers grabbed a quick lunch at the capitol cafeteria and commenced their legislative visits. During the visits, volunteer groups talked with legislators or their staff about the legislative priorities of the Texas bishops. Specific talking points included access to education and healthcare for immigrants, access to healthcare for all children in Texas, and legislation that would end the death penalty and support criminal justice programs that aided in rehabilitation and reintegration of those re-entering society. Several volunteers were able to provide personal stories of how these issues affected those in their communities.

"This is the first time that I organized Advocacy Day for our diocese," said Ginny Smith, parish social ministry coordinator of Catholic Charities Southeast Texas in the Diocese of Beaumont. "Everything turned out perfectly. It was a great experience."

Texas Catholic Conference Associate Director Jennifer Allmon echoed that sentiment. "Teams of advocates organized by their dioceses met with every single office in the Capitol to bring the message of charity and justice and share the stories of clients impacted by policy."

Participation in grassroots advocacy is an important component of the U.S. Bishops' *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*. The Charity and Justice Advocacy Day is one of two advocacy days the conference hosts. The second advocacy day, Life and Family Life Day, will be held March 31, and will focus on the Texas Bishops' life and education public policy priorities.

*Responding
to God's Call*

A Holy Hour with God Prepares us to be Christ to others

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

What if we were to give an hour to God each day, a Holy Hour of prayer? Have you ever been around someone who you know has a devout prayer life? What would a single person, a married couple, a family, a parish, or a diocese look like that prayed an hour each day?

Yes, I have chosen to come back to this topic of a daily Holy Hour of prayer because this is too important of a topic for discussion to leave behind. One of the readings from Ash Wednesday included a passage from St. Paul who stated, "We are ambassadors for Christ, God as it were appealing through us" (2 *Corinthians* 5:20). We quickly and yet unconsciously come to the conclusion that an ambassador from the United States (or any other ambassador) is a person of great importance, representing the United States government as its official representative (messenger) to other countries. Yet, are not these words of St. Paul striking. You have been designated as an ambassador of Christ, far greater than any U.S. ambassador!

And here lies the Christian problem. Christ placed

his faith in us as he entrusted each of us to live the Christian life, to be his ambassadors to the world. As a whole, as Christ's ambassadors (Christianity), we have not been representing him well, and over recent decades his light has been dimmed significantly by the prince of darkness. So how can we reverse this trend? How can we have others see the gift of Christ? In essence, St. Paul is saying that God has chosen to reveal Christ to the world through us!

You may think yourself a good Christian; you may even be on some important committee in the parish or community, but I ask you who is guiding your thoughts and decisions? If not God, then who? I tell you that you are doing more harm than good if you are not a person of deep prayer.

Rather, to bring God's Spirit into this world, you must first start with yourself. An hour of prayer with Christ each day will make you the spiritual person God has intended you to be.

So, why a full hour of prayer each day? Our life is completely dependent on Jesus, yet we often, strangely enough, live our lives as if Jesus is only a back-up net if we fall. No, this is not the Christian life, not even close! The Christian life is centered on the hour of our redemption, the last days of Jesus' life.

At the Last Supper he gave us his Body and Blood in the Eucharist as an everlasting memorial to be observed for all Christianity. Thus, Christianity is to be a eucharistic community reflecting on the suffering and sacrifice Jesus incurred for our salvation, the suffering he accepted to wipe away our sins so that we may be united with him until the end of time.

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.



It is in the agony of the garden that we see the greatest need for us to pray with our Lord. Jesus was tempted in every way by Satan not to forgive us our sins, not to accept the mockery, the scourging, the crowning of thorns, and the cross of Calvary. Here Jesus sweated profusely, even shedding drops of blood in his hour of agony. Are we worth the price it cost?

The fall of Adam and Eve, and thus all humanity, in one garden was restored to grace by Christ in another garden. It is here in the garden that Jesus had led Peter, James, and John to pray with him. Jesus had prayed a short distance away and returned an hour later saying to Peter, "Are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Are we asleep as Jesus suffers for humanity? Can we not keep company with Christ for one hour a day? What are we doing to remain with Christ so that he can be revealed to others through us? Are any of our sufferings as great as Christ's? What complaint do we really have since he suffers with us and for us?

What would happen to your life, if you began to pray an hour a day with Christ? What if all Christianity prayed likewise? Would we not see the surge of Christianity as never before? The world would no longer be a place of violence but a place of peace. The future depends on you — an ambassador of Christ.

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

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 March 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 Bishop 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.

Volunteers invited to sing at cathedral

Choir members from all parishes in the diocese have been invited to join the St. Patrick Cathedral Adult Choir in singing *Mozart's Requiem* at the cathedral's Palm Sunday Mass, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. The choir will sing with organ, strings, and other instruments, and with guest soloists Diana Ellis from McMurry University in Abilene and Gregory Church from Howard Payne University in Brownwood.

Volunteers must be available to attend the dress rehearsal on April 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. and are also invited to attend regular choir rehearsals each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cynthia Cardenas at ccards@att.net or call (682) 465-5248 for more information.

St. Patrick Cathedral is located at 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet Mar. 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 March 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.

Cartoonist to teach how to de-stress at St. Philip Mar. 23, 24

National speaker, author, and cartoonist Jason Kotecki has been invited to St. Philip the Apostle Church in Lewisville to teach participants how to "stress less" and "have more fun" during a Lenten Mission Monday, March 23, and Tuesday, March 24.

Kotecki previously spoke at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington and Holy Family Church in Fort Worth in February.

Both evenings begin with a dinner from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., followed by a program from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided for those younger than 5 years old.

To RSVP for dinner, contact Susan Sandles by phone (972) 219-5838 or by e-mail at susans@stphilipcc.org. To RSVP for childcare, e-mail suem@stphilipcc.org.

Daughters of St. Ann sponsor lecture for March 26

The Daughters of St. Ann are hosting a Lenten lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at St. Ann Church at 100 SW Alsbury Blvd. in Burleson. The topic is "Thank God for Purgatory!" presented by Father Mel Bessellieu, pastor of St. Ann. Refreshments will follow in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend. For additional information, call the church office at (817) 295-5621.

Fr. Bristow presents four-part series

Father David Bristow of St. Mary of the Assumption Church will present a four-part Lenten talk series, "The Virtue of Virtue" every Wednesday evening in March at St. Mary of the Assumption located at 509 W. Magnolia Ave. in Fort Worth.

The series began on March 4, and continues March 11, 18, and 25, with Mass at 7 p.m., followed by the talk and ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

For more information, call the parish office at (817) 923-1911.

St. Mary of the Assumption will also hold a "Service of Tenebrae" Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7, at 7 p.m., a prayer service recalling Christ's crucifixion.

Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness," according to event organizers. "Candles are extinguished so only the Christ candle remains lit, and as he dies, it is hidden. Darkness covers the whole land."

The prayer service is made up of hymns and selections from the Gospels of Matthew and John, and "The Sacrifice," a poem by 17th-century poet George Herbert.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate, located at 301 Yucca St. in San Antonio, enjoyed a very profitable "Come and See" weekend Jan. 16-18. Ten young ladies joined the sisters for prayers, liturgy, Office of the Hours, meals, and recreation.

The weekend focused on the foundation and the beginnings of the Holy Spirit Sisters in San Antonio, discerning God's call, the religious vows, community living, and ministry.

Individual SHSp Sisters shared their call to religious life, and later, during the Emmaus Walk, the participants shared their own story with their companion Sister.

Pictured from left to right in the back row are: Sister Genevieve Cunningham, SHSp, Peggy Clendenon, Alexis Aikins, Lou Lou Garza, Christina Aldape, Alicia Millan, Desirae Trevino, and Sister Gabriel Hession, SHSp; and in the front row are: Stella Benavides, Jennie Ruiz, Gabriella Garcia, and Cynthia Lucio.

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers of Tarrant County announce Lenten Speaker Series at SEAS 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 speaker Steve Kellmeyer.

Steve Kellmeyer, a noted author from Grapevine, 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 Fish Fry and Stations of the Cross.

Kellmeyer will be discussing Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Topics remaining include "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.

The 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.

Carmelite Auxiliary to host Irish-themed fundraiser

The Auxiliary to the Discalced 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 Col 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.

Ulster Project to host Dinner Dance Mar. 14

Ulster Project of Arlington will hold a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance Saturday, March 14 from 6 p.m. to midnight at Elks Lodge 2114 at 601 W. Pioneer Pkwy. in Arlington.

Ulster Project is a program designed to promote peace between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland by bringing Irish youth to the United States to witness and participate in peaceful relationships between Catholics, and Protestant youth in the U.S.

The cost is \$25 per person in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, contact Arlene Smith at (817) 478-4382.

YOUTH 2000 Retreat to be held at Nolan Apr. 17-19

The 2009 YOUTH 2000 Retreat led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal of the Bronx, will be held Friday, April 17 to Sunday April 19 at Nolan Catholic High School at 4501 Bridge St. in Fort Worth.

This eucharistic-centered retreat is for and by all youth and young adults between the ages of 13 and 30.

"This is a unique experience that you won't forget!" say event organizers. "The talks are inspiring and will help you to grow in your faith!"

The deadline for early registration of \$40 per person is Wednesday, April 1. Housing will not be provided.

All minors must be accompanied by an adult, and all adults must have had the Safe Environment training of their diocese.

For more information, call (817) 558-9805, or visit the Web site for the event at www.fwdiocyouthretreat.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 March 20 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, March 11. Items for the April 10 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 1.

St. Francis Tea and Auction scheduled March 29

St. Francis of Assisi Church's Mothers with Young Children will host their annual Tea and Auction Charity Event from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 29 at the parish Family Life Center at 861 Wildwood Ln. in Grapevine.

Admission is free and tea, sandwiches, refreshments, and sweets will be provided. Silent and live auctions will be held, in addition to door prizes being given. Only payment by cash or check will be accepted for auction items.

All proceeds will benefit adopted Christmas families, St. Francis Outreach, Children's Discovery Center Preschool, The Youth Scholarship Fund, and Catholic Charities.

For more information, contact Claudia Halman, Nancy Smith, Mary Beth Soucy, or Lori Spisak at myc@sfatx.org.

Subiaco Academy invites prospective students to visit

Subiaco Academy is a Catholic college preparatory, boarding, and day school for young men located in Arkansas with a 100 percent college acceptance rate. The academy is hosting a Discovery Weekend and an Open House Sunday for prospective students and their parents, March 13-15. The weekend is open to seventh- through 10th-graders and all accommodations, including overnight stays are free of charge.

Students visiting will have an opportunity to experience dorm life and class orientation with teachers, mingle with current students, and take the placement exam. Activities for parents include classroom visits and information sessions with administration and faculty members. There will also be campus tours and a school carnival with entertainment for everyone. Families have the option of visiting for the weekend or on Sunday only.

Established in 1887 by the Benedictine priests and brothers of Subiaco Abbey, the academy offers a challenging college preparatory curriculum for young men in grades eight through 12, emphasizing honors and advanced placement courses.

Students are also encouraged to develop their abilities in art, music, and drama. Athletic teams in football, basketball, track and field, baseball, tennis, soccer, cross country, and golf compete with other schools statewide. Subiaco's program stresses the development of a strong mind and body as well as spiritual growth.

Subiaco Academy is located in western Arkansas approximately 45 miles east of Fort Smith.

For more information about the Discovery Weekend or to reserve a place, please contact the admission office at 1 (800) 364-7824 or email admissions@subi.org.

Support group for mothers who have lost unborn children offered

Families who have lost a child because of miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion are invited to join a Mothers' Group offering support, sharing, and healing Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Church's pastoral center at 3717 Stadium Dr. in Fort Worth. Pastoral care professionals will facilitate the group, and confidentiality is assured. For more information, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383 or by e-mail acurran@standrewcc.org. Childcare is provided if reservations are made at least 48 hours in advance by phone at (817) 924-6581. There will be a \$5 fee per child.

Northwest Deanery holds monthly Youth Mass



The monthly Northwest Deanery Youth Mass was held Sunday, Jan. 18 at Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Vernon.

Father Oren Key, SJ, pastor of Holy Family, (pictured second from left in red jacket) celebrated the Mass, and Deacon Arturo Casias (pictured kneeling on far left in black shirt) gave the homily about vocations.

The purpose of the Masses is to help Catholic youth in the area get to know each other, according to Father Kyle Walterscheid, diocesan director of vocations (pictured immediately to right of Fr. Key).

At the monthly Masses, the

host youth group fills lay minister positions and provides refreshments for a reception afterwards.

Also in attendance were: Deacon Jim Novak, a pastoral administrator for four parishes in the deanery (pictured on far left in green shirt and tie); Father Ray McDaniel, associate pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls and vocations liaison for the deanery (pictured between Dcn. Novak and Fr. Key); and several youth ministers, including host youth minister Bryan Webb (seated in the front row in the middle) among other youth ministers.

Introductory workshop for Centering Prayer planned

Sandy Guancial and Wilma Yarrington of Contemplative Outreach in Dallas will present an introductory workshop on Centering Prayer at St. Andrew Church at 3717 Stadium Dr. in Fort Worth on Saturday, April 4.

"This 'Prayer of the Heart' dates to the desert fathers and mothers of the fourth century. It is an introduction to contemplative life as practiced in monasteries and convents to this day, but one designed by Trappist monks for the use of the laity as well," according to event organizers quoted in a press release.

"The Trappists' intention was to renew the Christian contemplative tradition. To that end, they established Contemplative Outreach."

The workshop at St. Andrew will take place in the chapel from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with registration at 8:45 a.m. Participants can pre-register at www.cellofpeace.com. All are welcome and a \$15 offering is suggested.

The workshop will consist of talks by Guancial and Yarrington on the roots of Centering Prayer and the Christian contemplative

tradition, two breaks, and a guided experience of the prayer.

"Centering Prayer is an act of resting in the presence of God, sitting in quiet and letting God speak to us in the depths of our hearts in his original language, silence," organizers add.

Guancial has been practicing the prayer for more than 20 years. She has facilitated numerous retreats, is a certified spiritual director, an oblate of the Order of St. Benedict, and the coordinator of Contemplative Outreach-Dallas. Yarrington is a longtime practitioner of Centering Prayer and has conducted numerous workshops with Guancial on the practice.

Refreshments will be provided at the event at St. Andrew's.

For information about the workshop and about Contemplative Outreach in Fort Worth, contact Tom Uhler at tomuhler@yahoo.com or (817) 874-2894, or Guancial at [cellofpeace.com](http://www.cellofpeace.com). For more information about this and other events in the Fort Worth area, visit the Contemplative Outreach-Fort Worth Web site at www.cpfortworth.org.

Catholic Schools Office to hold teacher job fair

The Office of Catholic Schools will hold a "Teacher Job Fair" Saturday, March 28, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Nolan Catholic High School located at 4501 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. Prospective teachers (from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade) will have the opportunity to visit with principals and representatives from the diocesan schools, according to a press release from the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Application and benefits information for the coming school year will be available. For more information, contact the Catholic Schools Office at (817) 560-3300 ext. 280, or visit the Web site: www.fwdioc.org.

Respect Life Office sponsors pro-life civic action advocacy training

Catholics Respect Life and the Diocese of Fort Worth Respect Life Office will sponsor a "Catholic Civic Action Training" from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21 in the St. Maria Center of St. Maria Goretti Church located at 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington.

According to a press release on the event, the training is for those who feel called to help the pro-life movement with public policy issues or are looking to be more proactive in the "defense of human life and dignity as part of your Lenten self-offering," says Respect Life Director Chanacee Ruth-Killgore. "You don't have to have political savvy or even a background in politics or political issues, only a willingness to get involved."

The training will educate and prepare "Citizen Volunteers" to pray for and monitor the activities, votes, and statements of elected officials, to keep in contact with them via e-mail, letters, and phone calls, and to visit them in person for the purpose of enacting pro-life legislation.

The morning will include guest speakers Andrew Rivas, the executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the bishops of Texas; Maria Huemmer, the conference's public relations and outreach coordinator; and Joe Pojman, president of the Austin-based Texas Alliance for Life.

As executive director, Rivas represents the bishops of Texas before the state's governing bodies, including the legislature, the Texas delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the various state agencies. Huemmer is responsible

for creating and implementing communication strategies for the conference. In addition to maintaining the conference's Web presence, Huemmer creates policy resources and assists with legislative and event planning. Pojman has provided expert testimony before the Texas House of Representatives on life issues. The three will discuss bills that have been introduced in the Texas Legislature this year and how "we, as citizens, can get involved and make a difference," writes Ruth-Killgore.

Training is free, and advanced registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, Director of Respect Life, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257 or cruthkillgore@fwdioc.org.

According to organizers, this training will also help prepare participants for the Texas Catholic Conference's annual "Life and Family Life Advocacy Day" at the Capitol in Austin Tuesday, March 31. The day will provide an opportunity for participants to meet other pro-life advocates and meet with their legislative representatives about issues important to the pro-life movement. Advocacy Day organizers advise participants to bring a sack lunch, walking shoes, and a "willingness to defend life." Round-trip transportation to Austin will be provided. Those going to Austin will meet at 6 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral at 1206 Throckmorton St. in Fort Worth and return by 6:30 p.m.

To RSVP for the trip, no later than Wednesday, March 25, contact Ruth-Killgore or Jeff Williams at (817) 763-5483 or 40dayforlifefortworth@gmail.com.

TCC Credit Union opens Fort Worth office

Texas Catholic Community Credit Union, serving the Texas Catholic Community for 40 years, has announced that it has opened an office in South Fort Worth.

The new office, located in Suite 416 in the office tower behind La Gran Plaza Mall, is open for the convenience of all members but particularly those in the Fort Worth area who will no longer have to travel to Dallas to conduct business in person.

The location near the intersection of Seminary Dr. and Interstate 35 is one block north

of where TCC will soon begin construction of a permanent building to be open late 2009 or early 2010.

TCC Credit Union provides members with full consumer financial services including savings accounts, checking accounts with no monthly service charges or recurring fees, MasterCard® debit cards, high-rate certificates of deposit, low-rate vehicle loans, among others. Businesses located within the La Gran Plaza and elsewhere in the area are invited to open low-cost checking ac-

counts with TCCCU, eliminating costly bank fees.

Also available for churches and schools are no-charge operating accounts with Loomis Armored service provided, also at no cost to the church or school. The Guaranteed Tuition Loan Program used by eight schools in the diocese is also available.

To contact the new office, call 1 (800) 256-0779, ext. 140, for Karen Williams, or ext. 141 for Yanet Reyes (Spanish). For more information on TCC Credit Union visit the Web site at www.tcccu.org.

Lewisville and Flower Mound churches take turns hosting ecumenical services

The annual Lenten Prayer Service series of the Lewisville and Flower Mound Ecumenical Network will be held every Thursday during Lent, except for Spring Break, this year.

All are invited to attend these prayer services, which begin at 7 p.m. in each host church. A supper will be served at 6 p.m. in each church's community room. Reservations are requested by Monday of each week for the Thursday suppers. Call the host church to make reservations.

Themes for this year's programs are taken from major events in the Passion of Christ. The first week was held at First Presbyterian Church in Lewis-

ville.

First Christian Church at 880 Fox Ave. in Lewisville will host March 12 with the Rev. Don Bohlcke speaking on the trial before Pilate. The church phone number is (972) 436-2120.

The fourth week will be held March 26 at Flower Mound United Methodist Church at 3950 Bruton Orand with the Rev. Carol Sparks speaking on Christ carrying the cross. The church phone number is (972) 355-2711.

Round Grove United Church of Christ at 249 East Round Grove Rd. in Lewisville will host April 2 with the Rev. Byron Wells speaking about the

Crucifixion. The church phone number is (972) 315-2777.

Members of the Network include from Lewisville: St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, First Presbyterian Church, Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, First Christian Church, West Side Baptist Church, and Round Grove United Church of Christ; and from Flower Mound: Trinity Presbyterian Church, and Flower Mound United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact Kathleen Easler, Ecumenical Network coordinator at (817) 430-2454 or by e-mail at kathleeneasler@tx.rr.com.

UTA Catholic Community to host diocese-wide art contest

The University Catholic Community at the University of Texas at Arlington is sponsoring a juried art competition entitled *Amor Vitae: Love of Life!* on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 at Artspace 111 in downtown Fort Worth.

The show is open to high school juniors and seniors and undergraduate college students throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Artists are asked to depict work that reflects Catholic Social Teaching to respect all forms of life including, but not limited to, abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and contraception.

Entries should not exceed 24 inches by 36 inches in size and should be mounted with wire for hanging. A limit of three pieces per artist is allowed. Entries can be in all mediums and multi-dimensional. There is a \$5 entry fee for each piece submitted. Artists will also be permitted to offer their work for sale with a 25 percent commission collected by the UCC to support pro-life initiatives in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

There will be one first-place winner with a cash prize of \$100 and one second-place winner with a \$50 cash prize in each of the following categories: 1) high school juniors and seniors; 2) university freshman and sophomores; 3) university juniors and seniors.

To receive an application, call

the UCC at (817) 460-1155 or download it from the Web site at www.utacatholics.org.

Deadline to submit work will be Monday, April 20. Artwork, application forms and money can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 12 to 6 p.m. at the UCC, located at 1010 Bengé Dr. in

Arlington, or at the Catholic Campus Center for the University of North Texas, located at 1303 Eagle Dr. in Denton Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Lisa Campbell at the UCC at (817) 460-1155 or by e-mail at lcampbell@fwdioc.org.

St. John parishioner's grandchildren help with postcard campaign



Parishioners from St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills signed more than 2,000 postcards from the "Postcard Campaign to stop FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act)," sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the diocese's Respect Life Office. "The priests and various church organizations were instrumental in making our voices heard," said Sylvia Atto, an active member of the parish's pro-life ministry. Atto said the ministry's director suggested she involve her grandchildren (from left to right) Katherine, William, Elizabeth, and Joseph Atto to help by placing stamps on the cards.

Guadalupe Radio Network
CATHOLIC RADIO
 for your soul
 KATH 910 AM / KJON 850 AM
 English Spanish

Keepsakes Catholic
 Gifts & Books
 "New Address"
 2304 W. Park, Row #20
 Arlington, TX
 (817) 275-3727 (23 Years)

Help for Homeschoolers:
The Lady Margaret Roper Program
 at the College of St. Thomas More
 will have an **OPEN HOUSE**
 on March 19th, 2009 from 5 to 8 pm.
 3006 Merida, Fort Worth 76109
 Grades 8-12; Questions: 817-230-9093

Donate That Vehicle!
 Toll Free 1-888-317-7837
 Have title in hand when you call

- Tax Deductible
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Society of St. Vincent dePaul Vehicle Donation Program
 Proceeds benefit needy throughout North Texas

TRIDENTINE MASS
 LATIN INDULT MASS
 5:30 P.M. SUNDAYS
ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH
 509 W. MAGNOLIA, FORT WORTH
 HIGH MASS SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS
 LOW MASS FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS

Join Your Catholic Chaplain Father Aaron Kriss
 Holland America Line
French Canada & Nova Scotia Northeast Cruise & Tour
 Enjoy early fall in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
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Join other Catholics and your Spiritual Director, Father Aaron Kriss, as he hosts his eighth YMT vacation. Father Kriss is pastor of Holy Martyrs Roman Catholic Church in Tarentum, Pennsylvania, part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Travel with other Roman Catholics on this 15-Day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Northeast Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Northeast vacation. **Mass will be celebrated daily aboard ship and some days on tour.** Your group will spend one night in Boston with a city tour before boarding your 5-star ship the *ms Maasdam*. Ports include Bar Harbor, Maine; Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia; and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Cruise into the mouth of the St. Lawrence River to Saguenay Fjord with 1,500 foot-high cliffs. Your final ports include Quebec City and Montreal. In Montreal, meet your local escort for a city tour of the "Paris of the Americas." Your motor coach tour will continue through the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains, Hyde Park, Philadelphia, and New York City, with included city tours. *Prices start at only \$2398 (per person, double occupancy) including taxes and port charges, the motor coach tour with sightseeing, seven nights in hotels, and the seven day deluxe cruise. Airfare is extra. Friends and family are welcome. Call our friendly travel consultants for all the details.

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YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300
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Diocesan / State / National

Texas Catholics join others in Washington to promote Catholic Social Teaching Feb. 22-25



During Lobby Day for the Social Ministry Gathering 2009, members of the Texas delegation, including Martín Peña (far left in back row), director of Social Outreach and Pastoral Care for St. Michael Church in Bedford; Deacon Len Sanchez (second from left in back row) diocesan director of Community and Pastoral Services; and Elizabeth Chanoine, Christian Connection Coordinator for St. Michael; stop for a photo in front of the capitol on their way to a meeting with Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas). (Photo by Jim Stipe/Catholic Relief Services)

By Maria Huemmer
Texas Catholic Conference

Catholic leaders from across the country traveled to Washington, D.C. to urge members of Congress to put the poor and vulnerable first Feb. 22-25.

Several hundred Catholic delegates went to Capitol Hill as part of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering to advocate for concrete policies that protect human life and dignity and pursue justice and peace worldwide.

Members of the Texas delegation from the Diocese of Fort Worth included Deacon Len Sanchez, diocesan director of Community and Pastoral Services; Martín Peña, director of Social Outreach and Pastoral Care for St. Michael Church in Bedford; and Elizabeth Chanoine, Christian Connection Coordinator for St. Michael.

House and Senate offices from over 30 states heard from their own Catholic constituencies about support for life and

dignity of the human person. Many states were fully represented in the office visits: The group from Texas visited all 32 Congresspersons' offices and both Senators' offices.

Participants spent several days participating in issue briefings and strategy sessions before being sent off to urge their members of Congress to take action on four key domestic and international areas: health care that protects the lives and the dignity of all; putting the poor first in climate change legislation; increasing and reforming international aid; and promoting freedom to travel to Cuba.

Texas Catholics are invited to participate locally in the Life and Family Life Advocacy day in Austin on March 31. For more information, contact the Chanacee Ruth-Kilgore, diocesan director of Respect Life at (817) 560-3300, ext. 257, or by e-mail at cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org.

24th ANNUAL

Join Bishop Kevin Vann, other clergy and fellow laity in prayer.

GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL FOR LIFE

April 10
2009
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

"We may not save their lives, and should they die (as usually happens, God forgive us) we can lift up our hearts to God Almighty on their behalf. It will be the only human love they will know on this Earth!"

(Excerpted from a letter by Joan Andrews Bell)

"Can you not pray with me one hour?"

Matthew 26:40

In reparation for All sins of abortion;

In thanksgiving for All the graces God gives to those who battle abortion;

In humble supplication for All the mothers and babies hurt by abortion;

In petition for the end of All abortions.

Planned Parenthood Abortion Center

April 10 1:00pm - 2:30pm

301 S. Henderson Ft. Worth, TX

For more information call (817)738-1086



From I-30 take exit 13B/S.Henderson

Diocesan

Old St. Mary Church building donated to Dublin historical society

Father Philip McNamara, SAC, has announced on behalf of St. Mary Church, Dublin that the original St. Mary Church's white clapboard building located at 304 N. Grafton St. in Dublin, will be donated to the Dublin Historic Society, with the requirement that it be conserved.

The building was first used as Dublin's first Methodist church, built in 1884 by the Rev. Hilliard Bonaparte Smith. By 1900, the community outgrew the building, and it was sold to the Presbyterian Community, which in turn sold the building to the Catholic Community in 1916.

Prior to 1916, Catholics in Dublin celebrated Mass in the home of the Courtney family, who had built benches in its house to provide seating for other families. Missionary priests from Brownwood would visit once or twice monthly to celebrate Mass.

In 1920, Bishop Joseph Lynch of the Diocese of Dallas dedicated the church building to St. Mary and arranged for priests in Brownwood to celebrate

Mass each Sunday in the new church.

From the 1920s to the 1950s, St. Mary served Catholics from Stephenville, Hico, Hamilton, DeLeon, and Comanche, and students from Tarleton State University who would travel the 12 miles to Dublin in a bus every week. In 1954, the Pallottine Fathers from St. Stephen Church in Weatherford were charged with serving St. Mary, and later, the newly-established St. Brendan Church in Stephenville in 1960.

The parishes maintained a close relationship with each other, and in 2002, St. Mary, with about 110 families, and St. Brendan, with about 200 families, merged to form one community celebrating Mass in the the new St. Mary Church building at 12286 S. Hwy 377, at the corner of Greens Creek Rd. in Dublin, about five miles south of Stephenville. The St. Brendan building at 1444 W. Washington St. in Stephenville is still being used for a Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. and a 7 p.m. Sunday Mass for Tarleton State University students.



ABOVE: The old St. Mary Church in Dublin will be donated to the Dublin historical society.



The new church building was erected in 2002 when the parish merged with St. Brendan Church in Stephenville.



Forty-one students from St. Andrew School in Fort Worth 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. Students include Jack Bellomy, Henry Butz, Caroline

Carpenter, Caroline Carter, Nathan Cottrell, Hannah Fowler, Claire Gegenheimer, Isabel Gibbons, Mason Green, Lindsay Grosvenor, Katherine Hoffman, Ashley Holliday, Abigail Jackson, Emily Jackson, Courtney Kimmel, Krista Madrid, Charles Matar, Kai Matthews, Stephanie Mengis, Ryan Menn, Giselle Miller, Christine Mullarkey, Brennan Murnane, Anthony Nguyen, Andrew Nowak, Anne O'Riordan, Taylor Perez, Samuel Perkins, Patrick Petrie, Rachael Prior, Jacob Puente, Maggie Puente, Fausto Rivera, Jason Rubalcaba, Adam Sanchez, Danielle Sia, Alexis Taylor, Madison Wempe, Myra Westerfield, Elizabeth Wilkinson, and Emily Wilkinson.

Theology on Tap offered at Los Vaqueros each Tuesday in March

Photos by Chris Kastner

Theology on Tap (TOT), a popular religious education opportunity for young adults ages 21 through 39, will be offered on consecutive Tuesday evenings during March. According to the event's organizers, the four-part series offers dynamic speakers and engaging discussions on topical theological issues in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

"A great effort is made to ensure that topics are both timely and applicable to today's young adults," said Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. "Each evening begins with a few minutes to mingle with fellow young adults from parishes in all parts of the diocese, prior to the speaker taking the stage," explained Prevou. "After the presentation, each speaker has the opportunity to answer

the audience's questions on the night's topic."

Each TOT session is held at 7 p.m. at Los Vaqueros Restaurant, located at 2629 N. Main St. in the Stockyards District near downtown Fort Worth. Jeff Hedglen, director of youth and young adult ministry at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth, began the series on March 3 by speaking on the topic, "Lent and Penance: More Than Meets the Eye."

Speakers for of March also include Art Canales on March 10. Canales is president of the non-profit organization Cornerstone Financial Education, Inc., and also serves as an associate adjunct professor of theology at St. Edward University in Austin. He will speak on the topic, "Financial Stewardship: It's All About Discipleship."

Alice Curran, director of the office of Family Life and Adult

Formation at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, will speak on March 17. Her topic is "How Putting Your Faith in Action Will Animate Your Faith."

Sister Gabriela Martinez, SSMN, director of Hispanic Ministry and Adult Formation at St. Joseph Church in Arlington, will offer the final presentation March 24, "Triduum, the Three Fantastic Days of Our Faith."

For more information about TOT during the month of March, contact TOT team leader Anthony Flores at meskin24@gmail.com or Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-2452 ext. 261 or via e-mail at kprevou@fwdioc.org.



ABOVE: A group of young adults listen attentively to the speaker at the first TOT.



Jeff Hedglen, director of youth and young adult ministry at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth, began the series on March 3 by speaking on the topic, "Lent and Penance: More Than Meets the Eye."

Diocesan

Area Catholics work with Habitat to help homeowner move into his

New Home

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

With a small gathering of guests in Broderick Walker's living room, Bishop Kevin Vann prayed simple words to dedicate Trinity Habitat for Humanity's newest house.

"Lord, be close to your servants who move into this home and we ask for your blessing," Bishop Vann prayed, Feb. 28, with the new owner, family, friends, and workers. "Be their shelter when they are at home, their companion when they are away, and their welcome guest when they return. And at last receive them," he concluded, "into the dwelling place you have prepared for them in your Father's house, where you live forever and ever."

The bishop presented his words, engraved on a wooden wall plaque, to the brand new hom-



New homeowner Broderick Walker (left) stands next to Karen Darrick (right), development officer for Trinity Habitat for Humanity.

owner, who was in attendance with his mother, siblings, and other close family members.

"Bishop Vann touched that kid," said Ann Marie Brannon, a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner and Habitat for Humanity devotee. "I had met Broderick as a worker," she explained, noting she had not immediately realized Walker was to be the recipient of the building. "I would harass him if he came late with the water. I thought he was the nicest kid."

"Owning the home is a pretty big step for a young adult," Brannon said, of the man who will live in the house with his Uncle Gary Randle. "Broderick has had a tough, tough life, and when the bishop handed him that plaque, and Broderick looked into his eyes, I think he realized that God was there for him."

Brannon started working

LEFT: Bishop Kevin Vann prepares to bless the house while Deacon Len Sanchez (left), diocesan director of Community and Pastoral Services holds the prayer book.



New homeowner Broderick Walker and his family look at a plaque given to him by Bishop Kevin Vann during the house blessing.

for Trinity Habitat for Humanity in 2007 and has helped organize the ongoing effort at her parish, where groups of workers volunteer on builds one Saturday each month.

"At SEAS we take 25 people out each time, and at least one-fourth of them are first-timers. It's amazing to me. All kinds of people — all kinds of languages."

Fort Worth's Habitat was founded in 1989 as an affiliate of the international organization, and has grown to a volunteer corps of thousands, according to the group's Web site www.habitat.org. Today the chapter, in 2006 re-named Trinity Habitat for Humanity, ranks among the top 20 U.S. Habitat affiliates in home production.

This was Fort Worth's first all-Catholic build.

Broderick Walker's 1,700-square-foot home has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a cozy living room, tiled kitchen, and a front porch surrounded by neat landscaping. The grass and shrubs were installed by Holy Family School children on the project's last build day, Feb 7, according to Eddie Monroe, who serves on Holy Family's Peace and Justice Committee, and helped mobilize the building effort.

With Deacon Len Sanchez, diocesan director of Community and Pastoral Services, as well as pastors from the 12 participating parishes, Monroe gathered volunteers and helped raise funds for this Habitat project, which was part of their 2008 Building on Faith celebration. Monroe, a software engineer at Lockheed, worked part-time coordinating

the build and also spent days as part of the crew.

"We had the first meeting a year ago and I rejected the idea," Dcn. Sanchez laughed, speaking to the gathering at the home dedication. "It was overwhelming, and we moved the project back a few months. I brought the idea to the bishop, who was very generous with his time and efforts."

"You always hear when you are doing something for somebody, you're not giving something, you're getting something back," said Monroe, whose wife Suanne also worked on the build. "When people go out to work on these houses, they talk about what they are going to do, but when they come back, they are talking about what they got out of it."

Luan Ibarra was Habitat organizer at St. Andrew Parish, where she said they raised more money than their \$5,000 share of the \$54,000 cost to build a home. The parish also had more volunteers than they had requested, including 26 who showed up early the first day of the build. "It was lots of fun," Ibarra said, "with such a large group of people who are not builders. It was a surprise to me!"

She commended the Knights of Columbus for providing the

whole building crew with box lunches. "Even though it was the day before the St. Andrew's Fall Festival, the KCs and their ladies prepared lunch, delivered it to the site, served us, and took away the remainder."

"I think everyone who worked together found a bond. When you left — even tired and sunburned — you felt so good. There was a feeling of elation."

Anne Marie Brannon said her first time volunteering with Habitat was in September 2007 when she would cut plywood for the roof with the foreman's help.

"They would call down the measurements, and I was cutting, and I remember thinking, 'Wow! I am doing this.' We worked until 6 p.m. I was hooked that day!" she said.

"God doesn't want us to sit around," she laughed. "When my kids were grown, I had spare time, and I was asking God for some way I could give back. I looked at different things, like soup kitchens, that didn't fit with my work schedule, and then I tried Habitat. At the end of the day I was so hot and so tired, and I felt so good. I could hear God saying, 'Can you hear me now?'"

"I truly believe that when anyone gets involved with a build, and sees all the people," Brannon said, "they realize God is there."



Volunteers work to build the house in the Fall.



Walker's completed house.

Viewpoints

The family is the basic unit in society and must be respected by the state

By Lucas Pollice

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of five columns until Easter addressing the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

The second theme of Catholic Social Teaching is the *Call to Family, Community, and Participation*. Human beings by their nature are social beings. Thus, man and woman are called to live in community, and the basic and vital cell of all communities and society itself is the family. Catholic Social Teaching has always recognized the family as the foundation of all society and vigorously defends its rights and dignity.

The Church also recognizes that how communities and governments are formed and operate are of great importance and consequence. She continuously upholds that the goal and purpose of all communities is to support and enhance the dignity of the human person and the family.

THE DIGNITY OF THE FAMILY

Catholic Social Teaching recognizes the importance of the family as the foundation for all communities and the "vital cell of society." In fact, the family surpasses all other societies in the community or state and serves as the model and the basic foundation for all of society. Because of this, there must be a priority within the state and society of fostering stable marriages where children are welcomed and educated. The family wage is also an important way of supporting and encouraging strong and stable families.

Society must also oppose any social conditions that degrade or minimize the role and basic structure of the family and protect the natural institution of marriage as between one man and one woman. Catholic Social Teaching recognizes that if the family is degraded and its rights and structure are not defended and allowed to flourish, society as a

whole will suffer and decline.

Pope Benedict XVI forcefully defends the rights and dignity of the family and its importance and role within culture and society:

Consequently, whoever, even unknowingly, circumvents the institution of the family undermines peace in the entire community, national and international, since he weakens what is in effect the primary agency of peace. This point merits special reflection: everything that serves to weaken the family based on the marriage of a man and a woman, everything that directly or indirectly stands in the way of its openness to the responsible acceptance of a new life, everything that obstructs its right to be primarily responsible for the education of its children, constitutes an objective obstacle on the road to peace. The family needs to have a home, employment and a just recognition of the domestic activity of parents, the possibility of schooling for children, and basic healthcare for all. When society and public policy are not committed to assisting the family in these areas, they deprive themselves of an essential resource in the service of peace. The social communications media, in particular, because of their educational potential, have a special responsibility for promoting respect for the family, making clear its expectations and rights, and presenting all its beauty.

Message for World Day of Peace, January 1, 2008, 5

THE ROLE OF THE STATE

Catholic Social Teaching also provides principles and guidelines for the proper role of the state in social and economic affairs. The Church's teaching affirms that the basic role of the state is to help secure the common good and promote the dignity of the human person and basic human rights. It recognizes that the state is necessary to accomplish tasks that are proper to the government such as national defense, interstate cooperation, treaties with other nations, the criminal justice system, etc. However, it also warns against a state becoming too large, solving all problems, or taking upon itself the functions and duties of smaller institutions such as faith-based groups, charities, local communities, and the family. Within Catholic Social Teaching this is called the *principle of subsidiarity* and is a very important and fundamental principle in Catholic Social Teaching. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states:

Excessive intervention by the state can threaten personal freedom and initiative. The teaching of the Church has elaborated the principle of SUBSIDIAR-

ITY, according to which "a community of a higher order should not interfere in the internal life of a community of a lower order, depriving the latter of its functions, but rather should support it in case of need and help to co-ordinate its activity with the activities of the rest of society, always with a view to the common good. (1883)

The Church also opposes any type of collectivism (communism) and also any forms of unchecked capitalism. Both of these types of economic systems degrade the dignity and rights of the human person and the social nature of man. Communism exalts the role of the state to the point of removing basic human rights and freedoms, and the right to private property. Extreme and unchecked capitalism exalts radical individualism and can destroy basic social institutions such as the family and cause one to view human persons as objects and only a means to an economic end. While the Church does not support any one specific economic system, it does caution against these extremes and strongly supports and encourages the principle of subsidiarity in both the role of the state and within basic economic systems.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

All, whenever possible, are called to participate in the public square. This is a fundamental part of our responsibility as Christian citizens in society. Some are called to direct and active participation in political life through public service. All of us, however, should be involved in the public square through the right and duty to vote. It is our duty to call on those entrusted with political and governmental responsibility to protect the dignity of the human person and the family, promote the common good, and ensure justice for all.

All participation in the public square and political life should be based upon a proper formation of conscience. It should bring to bear the basic message of the Gospel as well as our moral convictions based on the natural law and the teachings of Christ and the Church. The United States bishops in their document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (November 2007) urgently call all Catholics to this kind of participation in the public square:

Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the

weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world. (14)

Contrary to popular belief, participation in the political arena, whether through holding public office or exercising the right and privilege to vote, calls us not to abandon our moral convictions, but all the more to be a moral voice in the public square vigorously defending and promoting the dignity of the human person. Issues such as the right to life, adequate living conditions, just wages, healthcare, and care and concern for the poor are not just Catholic issues, but are the basic moral foundations and rights upon which our society and any just society is built.

Catholics must be willing to be living witnesses to the truth about the human person and powerful instruments of true justice and peace, first through living our own lives in witness to Christ, but also through our voices, votes, and participation in the public square. As Pope John Paul II powerfully proclaimed:

Catholics of America! Always be guided by the truth; by the truth about God who created and redeemed us, and by the truth about the human person, made in the image and likeness of God and destined for a glorious fulfillment in the kingdom to come. Always be convincing witnesses to the truth. Stir into a flame the gift of God bestowed upon you in baptism. Light your nation; light the world with the power of that flame!

Homily at Camden Yards, Baltimore, Maryland, 1995



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.

What's left out of IVF?

Human Dignity

By Mary E. McClusky

The story of Nadya Suleman's recent delivery of octuplets has released a firestorm of opinions about responsible motherhood and the complications of in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Suleman already had six young children at home when she had six more embryos implanted at a fertility clinic. The result — eight babies (some from twinning) and a flurry of media interviews questioning her choices. Some criticize her for indulging her desire for more children despite being unmarried, on disability, and living with her mother. Others criticize the doctor for allowing so many embryos to be implanted. No one is getting it quite right.

As Catholics, how do we affirm and support the desire for children, yet reject the wrongs inherent in some assisted reproductive technologies?

It helps to understand that these situations are a direct result of our increasing view of human life as a commodity, rather than a gift. Did Nadya Suleman truly act out of selflessness for her children, or was she too blinded by her own desire for a large family to consider that her future children deserve two parents and the greater safety of a natural pregnancy?

The modern fertility industry perpetuates the idea that children are a right, instead of a gift, and guarantee "success rates" for infertile couples. Many today want children on their terms, shutting God and natural law out of the process.

Courts are increasingly intolerant of doctors who refuse to perform these procedures. The California state Supreme Court ruled last year in *Benitez vs. North Coast Women's Care Medical Group* that a physician's right to refuse to perform artificial

Critics argue that the Church says "no" to modern science and rejects the opportunities presented by new technology.

To the contrary, the Church welcomes the incredible power and potential of medicine to assist, not replace, the natural human act of procreation. To distinguish between the two, there is an ongoing need for firm ethical guidelines.

insemination for two lesbians can be trumped by an anti-discrimination law.

Critics argue that the Church says "no" to modern science and rejects the opportunities presented by new technology.

To the contrary, the Church welcomes the incredible power and potential of medicine to assist, not replace, the natural human act of procreation. To distinguish between the two, there is an ongoing need for firm ethical guidelines.

In December 2008 the Vatican released its formal instruction, *Dignitas Personae: On Certain Bioethical Questions*, as a follow up to the twenty-year-old *Donum Vitae*. The document teaches that we can say "yes" to present and future medical interventions that assist the natural God-given function of human procreation while also respecting the intimate bond between husband and wife.

Scientific developments "are certainly positive and worthy of support when they serve to overcome or correct pathologies and succeed in re-establishing the normal functioning of human procreation."

Couples should be supported in their desire for children, but also gently reminded that even the tiniest embryo has equal human dignity. He or she deserves to be brought into this world through a sexual act of total and committed love between married parents. In vitro fertilization fails that test.

In the face of increasing dangers to human lives manipulated by the fertility industry, we should spread the Church's "yes" to authentic love and life. By promoting moral means that support the bodily and spiritual integrity of all persons, we witness to the truth that even the tiniest human life has dignity and is made in God's image.

To read *Dignitas Personae*, go to: usccb.org/comm/Dignitaspersonae.



Mary McClusky is Special Projects Coordinator at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to www.usccb.org/prolife.



Sometimes we don't see our blessedness until it shows up on the end of

a Vacuum Cleaner Brush

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

There's no more carpet in my home, so my daughter Julie — the Queen of Clean, the Princess of Pristine — offered to take the vacuum cleaner off my hands.

It would become a reserve unit for her, an appliance lying in wait — a sleeper sweeper, if you will. Ready for emergency use, my vacuum cleaner would perform like a stealth cleaning crew, as a backup in Julie's already immaculate home.

Clearly there are philosophical discrepancies between myself and my daughter, because in my house, the only faithful backups I need are my computer's external hard drives. They are the Great Guards of Mom's Macs.

Apparently I am the Duchess of Digital, not the Destructor of Dust.

So far I have resisted Julie's offer to adopt my Hoover, because I might need it to vacuum the furniture, or reach under the bed, searching for dust bunnies.

It's a very good thing I've held my ground — and my vacuum cleaner — because that's how, when Lent was just beginning, I found Easter.

I was cleaning the den, using the vacuum's long-handled tool to dust under the sofa, when the attachment snagged a bookmark on the floor, hidden in the corner. It was invisible to passers-by, and equally obscured to couch potatoes, who plop down on my sofa to watch basketball or figure skating.

If I were going to be classified as a sofa-sitting root vegetable of some kind, I would not be a potato. I would choose to be a couch carrot. In a perfect world I would be a couch carrot who sits crocheting, near a candle, eating candy.

Anyway, my vacuum cleaner was able to reach under the couch — potatoes and all — and retrieve the hidden bookmark. The card had blocked the opening in the vacuum hose, so nothing else was being sucked in. It stuck to the brush attachment's bristles, affixed by a vacuum strong enough to hold, well, a 6-inch piece of laminated card stock.

And there, next to the bookmark and a whole glob of bunnies (the dust variety, not the hopping ones), was an entanglement of Easter basket grass. "Hmm, look at that," I thought. The last time I had seen Easter basket grass was about a year ago, before our late March Easter holiday, before my youngest grandbaby turned two, before I received a completely new titanium knee.

"Lots of things happened last year," I said to the grass. "And you were here for all of it."

SEE HAMER, P. 26

180 House members ask that 'pro-life riders be included in any legislation reported out of the Appropriations Committee'

House failure to consider abortion-related amendments draws protest

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A Catholic congressman is protesting a decision of the House leadership to block consideration of two abortion-related amendments to the \$410 billion omnibus spending bill for fiscal 2009.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., had sought to bar the use of taxpayer money to fund organizations that promote or perform abortion in other countries or organizations that support or participate in the management of forced sterilizations and forced abortion programs.

The House Rules Committee voted Feb. 24 to restrict debate on the bill funding 12 federal agencies to one hour for and one hour against and to prohibit any amendments. The legislation passed the House Feb. 25 by a 398-24 vote.

Smith, co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, said in a statement that surveys have shown most Americans do not want their tax dollars going to promote or provide abortions overseas.

"Why not let the American people be heard on this issue?"

The U.N. agency has been the "chief apologist, as well as population-control program trainer, facilitator, and funder" of China's one-family, one-child policy, which "relies on pervasive, coerced abortion, involuntary sterilization, ruinous fines ..., imprisonment, and job loss or demotion to achieve its quotas," Smith added. "This bill gives them \$50 million and a slap on the wrist."

— Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus

he asked.

Smith's first amendment would have restored the so-called Mexico City policy, first established in 1984 but rescinded by President Barack Obama during his first week in office.

"The pro-abortion organizations who will divvy up the \$545 million pot of U.S. taxpayer grant money contained in today's omnibus bill have made it abundantly clear that they will aggressively promote, lobby, litigate, and perform abortion on demand in developing countries," Smith said. "My amendment would have prevented them from pushing abortions as a method of family planning."

His second amendment would have reinstated the Kemp/Kasten amendment, usually part of the State/Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which prohibits U.S. funding of organizations that promote coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization overseas, including the United Nations Population Fund.

"The U.N. Population Fund has actively supported, co-managed, and whitewashed the most pervasive crimes against women in human history," said Smith, former

chairman of the House committee dealing with human rights.

The U.N. agency has been the "chief apologist, as well as population-control program trainer, facilitator, and funder" of China's one-family, one-child policy, which "relies on pervasive, coerced abortion, involuntary sterilization, ruinous fines ..., imprisonment, and job loss or demotion to achieve its quotas," Smith added. "This bill gives them \$50 million and a slap on the wrist."

Meanwhile, Smith was among more than 180 House members who signed a Feb. 25 letter to the House leadership asking that "pro-life riders be included in any legislation reported out of the Appropriations Committee."

In addition to the Mexico City policy and the Kemp/Kasten amendment, these include the Hyde amendment banning any federal funding of abortion; the Dickey/Wicker amendment barring federal funding of research involving the creation or destruction of human embryos; and the Hyde/Weldon amendment guaranteeing the conscience rights of physicians and nurses who choose not to participate in abortions and hospitals that do

not offer them.

"We believe that failure to include all of the current policies with regard to the right to life will mark a radical departure from a policy a majority of Americans support," said the letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi; Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee; and Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., chairwoman of the Rules Committee.

"If this Congress intends to rescind these riders, at a minimum the American people deserve a full debate with an up-or-down vote," the House members added.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, also has urged Congress to retain all the pro-life riders to appropriations bills, saying in a Feb. 5 letter, "At a time when more Americans than ever may require life-affirming assistance from the government for their basic needs, efforts to force Americans to subsidize the denial and destruction of life would be especially tragic."

Although the majority of signers of the House letter were Republicans, nearly two dozen Democrats also signed it.

Health care workers' conscience rights placed at risk by HHS's threat to rescind regulations

FROM PAGE 1

abortions despite their religious, moral and ethical objections to the practice of abortion," said court papers filed with the U.S. District Court in Hartford, Connecticut.

Attorneys from the Alliance Defense Fund and the Center for Law & Religious Freedom filed the motions on behalf of the three pro-life organizations.

"Physicians must defend their right to practice medicine in accordance with their conscience," said John Brehany, executive director of the Catholic Medical Association. "It's a very important principle that every physician should support."

Without conscience protections, for example, physicians or other health care professionals could be subject to government conscription to participate in the executions of death-row prisoners if the state could not find volunteers to do so, Brehany said.

The current lawsuits support the "notion that a court can demand (health care professionals)

perform actions they believe to be evil," he added. "That's getting lost in the heated rhetoric" surrounding the abortion issue, he said.

The motions to intervene filed by Matthew S. Bowman of the Washington-based Alliance Defense Fund and M. Casey Mattox of the Center for Law & Religious Freedom in Springfield, Virginia, argue that pro-life medical professionals could be "forced to relocate to jurisdictions that respect their rights or to leave the profession altogether," if there were no laws protecting their conscience rights.

The motions also criticize the "plaintiffs' baseless allegations that medical professionals exercising their conscience place women at risk of serious injury and even death by failing to render necessary services during medical emergencies."

The three pro-life groups "should be permitted to intervene to respond to these allegations and fully develop the factual record

concerning the exercise of conscience by medical professionals," the motions add.

"I'm confident that the court will allow these doctors to intervene because they are the ones who will be forced" to perform or refer or train for abortions, said Bowman. "It's a direct attack on the only existing protections" for pro-life health professionals, he added.

"When they try to strike down a regulation that implements laws in place for 30 years," Bowman said, "it affects every pro-life health professional."

But in addition to the legal actions, Brehany hopes members of the Catholic Medical Association will get involved personally in defending conscience rights by making the case before their local medical societies, through letters to the editor, and in peer-to-peer contacts.

The association is preparing materials to help its members make its case in the various forums.

People need to know that even if the HHS regulation were to be overturned, "there are still laws that protect conscience rights," Brehany said. "We need to continue to defend and respect and explain the reasoning behind them."

Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said conscience protection is "not something that Catholics are the only ones calling for."

"It is a matter of basic human and civil rights," she added. "You don't have to be religious to be against involvement with abortion."

McQuade noted that the Hippocratic oath, through which physicians pledge to "do no harm," originally included a promise to "offer no abortifacient."

"It's not therapeutic; it's not, properly speaking, medicine," she said. "Those who are faithful to the letter and the spirit of the Hippocratic oath don't perform abortions."

Bishops launch e-mail campaign

FROM PAGE 1

participate."

In the news release McQuade goes on to explain that the e-mails urge a constituent's senators and representative to "please oppose FOCA or any similar measure" and "retain existing laws against funding and promotion of abortion." She says they also state: "It is especially important that Congress retain these laws in the various appropriations bills, e.g., the Hyde Amendment in the Labor/Health and Human Services appropriations bill."

"To guard against the erosion of current pro-life measures — and to keep abortion from becoming a federal entitlement — our voice is needed now more than ever," McQuade explained.

For more information on the USCCB's pro-life e-mail campaign visit: www.usccb.org/postcard.

Global food crisis called 'ticking time bomb'

WASHINGTON—The global food crisis was called a "ticking time bomb" at a Feb. 24 forum during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

Although prices for cereal grains have dropped since their spike last spring, the crisis has not gone away, according to Rajul Pandya-Lorch, chief of staff at the International Food Policy Research Institute and the head of the institute's initiative, Vision 2020 for Food.

Instead, she said, the food crisis has been overshadowed by the global financial crisis.

The spike in prices was brought about by unregulated speculation in food commodities, Pandya-Lorch said.

While regulations ordinarily limit purchases of cereal grains to 11 million bushels, the U.S. financial houses Morgan Stanley and American International Group, better known as AIG, used loopholes to buy more than 2 billion bushels of grain, keeping it off the market and sending prices soaring. Rice more than tripled in price, and wheat and corn doubled, she said.

Another driver in food price hikes was the use of food for biofuels. Cereal grain use last year was up 5 percent for food, Pandya-Lorch said, but up 38 percent for energy.

The price spikes whipsawed producers and consumers alike. Because the price of oil also had



Children walk past sacks of rice for sale in a market in Manila, Philippines, June 6, 2008. As food prices continued to climb around the globe — a 150 percent hike for rice alone from January to March — world leaders pledged in Rome in early June, 2008 to take steps to ward off what many were calling a crisis. Though prices have dropped since that spike, food security experts told Social Ministry Gathering participants Feb. 24, the food crisis continues. (CNS photo/John Javellana, Reuters)

spiked, producers found it harder to maintain leases on equipment in order to do more planting and take advantage of the higher prices, Pandya-Lorch said, and poor consumers, especially in developing countries, found themselves spending 50 percent to 70 percent of their income on food.

Yet cheap food is not an automatic solution to the food crisis, she said. "People think low food prices are good for the poor in the

developing world. They're not," Pandya-Lorch declared.

Low prices lead to a flood of cheap imported food from high-yield agricultural nations, creating a disincentive for local farmers to grow their own crops since they cannot compete on price.

A new dynamic in last year's food price upheavals was a shortage caused by growing demand, according to Pandya-Lorch. Past shortages have been

primarily caused by insufficient production.

Even so, the rate of increased yields is declining to about 1 percent to 2 percent a year, she noted. In the early 1990s, the rate of increase had been 1.5 percent to 3 percent, and in the early 1980s the rate of increase had been 3 percent to 5 percent, depending on the type of grain.

The use of grain as animal feed also removes food from the mar-

ketplace. It takes 2 pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of chicken, she said, but 6 pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of beef.

Steve Hilbert, an African affairs policy adviser for the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace, called for calmer markets and the closing of regulatory loopholes.

"We have to say you can't treat food commodities as you would copper," Hilbert said.

The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which drew 550 participants, was co-sponsored by 18 agencies, including five agencies of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, Migration and Refugee Services, and the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

Other co-sponsors were the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Catholic Health Association, Catholic Relief Services, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, JustFaith, the Ladies of Charity, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, the National Council of Catholic Women, the National Pastoral Life Center, the Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

USCCB, CRS seek 1 million Catholics for global poverty initiative

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Catholics across a broad spectrum of the church are being mobilized in a renewed effort to fight global poverty.

Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are seeking 1 million Catholics during the next two years to join an initiative designed to show that the difficulties Americans are facing during the current financial crisis are intricately intertwined with the plight of the poor around the world.

The effort, Catholics Confront Global Poverty, is tied to Pope Benedict XVI's World Peace Day message of Jan. 1 in which he called for humanity to work toward greater human dignity through the promotion of peace and international aid that promotes human development, said Stephen Colecchi, director of the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace.

The effort, Catholics Confront Global Poverty, is tied to Pope Benedict XVI's World Peace Day message of Jan. 1 in which he called for humanity to work toward greater human dignity through the promotion of peace and international aid that promotes human development.

—Stephen Colecchi
Office of International
Justice and Peace

"Our future is linked to theirs. Our security is linked to theirs. Our prosperity is linked to theirs," Colecchi told a nationwide web-cast Feb. 11.

Colecchi joined Bill O'Keefe, senior director in the advocacy department at CRS, in launching the initiative during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington Feb. 23.

Both agencies have worked side by side in a global anti-poverty campaign in recent years, but see new opportunities in which policy initiatives that promote human development are welcomed by the incoming administration of President Barack Obama and members of the 111th Congress.

"We want to respond to the call of the Holy Father and respond to our brothers and sisters around the world who as a result of the global economic meltdown are suffering," O'Keefe said.

The effort also will work with Catholic Charities USA's ongoing campaign to reduce domestic

poverty to demonstrate the connection between the needs of poor Americans and poor people around the world.

O'Keefe warned that the progress that has been made since 1990 to raise an estimated 400 million people out of extreme poverty — defined as living on less than \$1.25 per day — can reverse quickly as the global financial crisis deepens, food shortages mount, and climate change intensifies.

The initiative will focus on grassroots efforts at parishes, schools, universities, and diocesan social action offices to get people involved. It will rely in large part on the Internet to link people together through an improved global poverty Web site, which will include opportunities for social networking, prayer, advocacy through messages to elected officials, podcasts, and Web-based seminars.

"We need to start with our base and use the language of our faith that motivates people," Colecchi said.

The revamped Website — with access points at www.usccb.org/globalpoverty and www.crs.org/globalpoverty — was up and running after the Feb. 23 announcement in Washington, where more than 500 Catholics engaged in social justice work gathered.

The two organizations have identified seven areas where changes in worldwide policy and government practices can begin to make an immediate difference for the world's poorest people: debt relief for poor countries, the work of industries that fail to provide adequate compensation to countries for the resources they use, American foreign assistance, peace, global climate change, migration, and international trade practices.

"We have to help our Catholic people understand that placing the needs of the people at home over the needs of the people of the world is a false choice," Colecchi said. "It's not either-or. It's both-and."

Gala honors Father Robert Thames for his continued effort to

Educate the Children

at Nuestra Señora Del Carmen School in Cabezas, Bolivia

By Michele Baker
Correspondent
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

Some were volunteers; others sponsor families. One couple chose to make the event their Valentine's Day celebration, and another couple came to find out how their parish community could get involved.

Whether active with the cause, or simply attending because a friend extended an invitation, nearly 250 people participated in the Fifth Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction benefiting Educate the Children, on Friday, Feb. 13 on the campus of Tarrant County College in Hurst.

The elegant evening featured chamber music by students from the University of Dallas, festive

seasonal decorations and a slide show of scenes from Cabezas, Bolivia. Father Robert Thames, founder of Educate the Children and the guest of honor for the evening, seemed to especially enjoy the performance by the Asociación Boliviana en Dallas, a locally based dance troupe. The evening ended with Fr. Thames receiving a check for \$5,500 to continue his groundbreaking work in rural Bolivia.

"These days we're desperate to hear good news," said Ralph McCloud, national director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development who served as master of ceremonies for the event. "—not just what happened five years ago with the school Father Thames established, but the good news of 2,000 years ago on which our faith, our lives are based. Father is bringing that good news to Cabezas, Bolivia along with those who sponsor children for this worthy program." McCloud is also the former director of Community and Pastoral Services for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

A program of the diocese's Mission Council, Educate the Children began with Father Bob Thames, a diocesan priest who has devoted several years of his ministry to the

people of Cabezas. Five years ago, with the help of numerous volunteers and sponsors, he opened Nuestra Señora Del Carmen, a school for children in first through 12th grades. Through Educate the Children, sponsors are able to assist in paying the tuition of children who attend the school.

"When we started in February, 2004 we had two dorms and 12 classrooms," Fr. Thames said. "We had room for 150 students and twice that many showed up." Now the school boasts four dormitories, 16 classrooms, a computer lab, and a broad-based curriculum designed to teach practical skills in everything from small business administration and carpentry to beekeeping and animal husbandry. Over 900 young people have benefited from the school, which has graduated 105 students with high school diplomas of whom 61 have continued their education at the university level. Those who give time, financial support, and administrative support for the program continue to be encouraged by those numbers.

"Many years ago, I saw a documentary on TV about a young man who wanted to be an engineer," said Maria Santana, a fund-

raising volunteer. "He worked in the mines to save money. With Educate the Children, I know that this is a chance young ones have to get educated. So often we take that for granted here in the U.S."

Renan Milla, a McKinney-based electrical engineer who volunteered his time and talent through Engineers Without Borders to set up the computer lab at the school in Cabezas, echoes the need for opportunities. "I'm from Central America — Honduras — so I know what it's like to want an education and not have the means to get it. I went there just to help out."

Yet, with all the growth and needs being met through Educate the Children, Fr. Thames has not lost sight of the core of his work in Cabezas. In his remarks at the end of the evening, he reminded those gathered that, "Mission is not the work of a person. It is the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is in the

spirit of gratitude that we are used by that Spirit."

So when all was said and done, the real joy of the evening came down to matters of faith. Guest speaker, Bishop Kevin Vann, summed it up well when he said, "Whenever we study our faith, the whole concept of mission tends to be an abstract idea. When I went to Bolivia, it became far more than an abstract idea. I got to experience how hopes and dreams became a lived reality in the school. Mission must never be just a word in a book but a part of the fiber of our faith."

To learn more about Educate the Children or the Mission Council of the Diocese of Fort Worth, see the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.



Members of Asociación Boliviana en Dallas, a local dance troupe, perform during the gala as part of the evening's entertainment.



Renan Milla, an electrical engineer who volunteered with Engineers Without Borders to set up a computer lab at the school in Cabezas, talks with Fr. Thames.



Father Bob Thames shakes hands with Bishop Kevin Vann.



Sergio DeLeon, and his daughter, Alena place a bid for the silent auction.

"Father Thames invited me down, and I want to, by my presence, see and support his work, and priestly ministry."

— Bishop Kevin Vann in a Sept. 14, 2007 article in the NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC by Chris Kastner, diocesan Web coordinator

Here's how you can help...

EDUCATE THE CHILDREN

A MISSION COUNCIL PROGRAM OF THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

We all know how important learning to read and write is to a child's self-esteem. Even more importantly, education is essential for third-world countries to become self-sustaining societies. Fort Worth diocesan priest Father Robert Thames has worked in the mission fields of Mexico and Bolivia for almost all of his 40+ years as a priest. Currently in Bolivia, he has developed a substantial program of pastoral care, medical clinics, and buildings — churches, clinics and schools. Also, with some of the funding coming from individuals in the Diocese of Fort Worth, he has built a school in Cabezas, his rural parish, which opened in February 2004.

STUDENTS NEED YOUR HELP

About 500 children attend the school (grades 6 – 12) coming from remote areas and very poor families. Your sponsorship of \$300 per year provides three meals a day and lodging for 21 days a month. The money pays for school tuition, a reference library with textbooks and school supplies such as notebooks, pens, etc. Teachers, the principal, the secretary, and utilities such as electricity and water are also supported through your pledge. As a sponsor, you will have the joy of knowing you are helping to give a child the chance for a better life. You will be sent a picture and biography of your sponsored child with annual letters from your child after that. Your family is encouraged to correspond with your sponsored child. What a wonderful opportunity

for your children to connect with another culture as well as learn early the teachings of our faith about justice and charity. If the call of Christ is leading you to a personal and caring relationship with a child, contact us at Educate the Children or complete the attached sponsorship pledge and drop it in a Sunday collection or mail it. If you have questions please call the Mission Outreach Office at 817-560-2452 x 112.

Educate The Children
Diocese of Fort Worth
800 W. Loop 820 South
Fort Worth, TX 76108
Educate-the-children@fwdioc.org

One of the children whose schooling is provided by Educate the Children works on letter recognition.



(From left to right) Rose Tolfa and Educate the Children's first Chairwoman Amy Zeder speak with Father Robert Thames, who works in Cabezas, Bolivia with ETC.



Margaret and Jack Gariota look at a display during the banquet.



Bishop Vann poses with the Limosnero family, who was a platinum sponsor for the gala with a \$1,000 donation.



Volunteers Carlos Escorcía (left), and Karla Badillo (right) pose with Mission Outreach Coordinator, Hilda Flores (center).

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ E-Mail _____

City, State and Zip Code _____ Parish _____

Payment enclosed Annual \$300 gift First Monthly \$25 gift Child Number _____ **B-ETC-** _____
Office Use Only

Credit Card Payment: Visa MasterCard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Check Attached Number _____ Name on the Account _____

Automatic Bank Withdrawal Routing Number _____ Account Number _____

Make checks payable to "Educate the Children" Please send my communications in Spanish

This is a one time donation \$ _____ We do not wish to sponsor a child at this time.

Archbishop Dolan, newly appointed to head Archdiocese of New York, an expert at church workings but prefers 'the folks'

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Like his predecessor, Cardinal Edward M. Egan, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan is very familiar with the workings of the church in Rome.

The new head of the New York Archdiocese served for seven years as rector of the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. national seminary in Rome, and was a student there himself in the 1970s. In addition, he was assigned for two years to the staff of the apostolic nunciature, or Vatican embassy, in Washington.

But Archbishop Dolan, who turned 59 Feb. 6, described himself in a 2002 interview as "a sort of fish-fry and bingo guy" who preferred being "in the field ... on the front lines ... with the folks" to carrying out the administrative duties of an archbishop.

A church historian, he also tends to take the long view in regard to any crisis facing the church.

After the French Revolution in the 18th century, the church was "in shambles," he noted in the same interview. "Many people thought the visible church, as we know it, could never survive. And of course it did."

Some might say the same of the U.S. church today, Archbishop Dolan added. But "we're still



Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, newly appointed as archbishop of New York, greets seminarian Ransford Clarke at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York, Feb. 24. Pope Benedict XVI named the 59-year-old archbishop to succeed Cardinal Edward M. Egan as head of the nation's second largest archdiocese. (CNS photo/Chris Sheridan, CATHOLIC NEW YORK)

in the postconciliar period, the period after the Second Vatican Council, which was an epic event in the life of the church. We're still in that — from the point of view of history, 35 years is like a drop in the bucket."

A native of St. Louis, Timothy Michael Dolan is the oldest of five children born to Shirley Radcliffe Dolan and the late Robert Dolan. His seminary education began at the high school level at St. Louis Preparatory Seminary South in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, and continued at Cardinal Glennon College in St. Louis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in

philosophy.

He did his theological studies at the North American College and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome and was ordained a priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese June 19, 1976.

After serving as associate pastor at Immacolata Parish in Richmond Heights, Missouri, he was sent to Washington for advanced studies.

He earned master's and doctoral degrees in church history from The Catholic University of America. His doctoral thesis was on the life and ministry of Archbishop Edwin Vincent O'Hara,

founder of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference and the Catholic Biblical Association and a leading figure in the development of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

During other parish assignments in the St. Louis Archdiocese, then-Father Dolan also served as liaison to Archbishop John L. May in the restructuring of the college and theology programs of the archdiocesan seminary system.

Beginning in 1987, he worked for five years as secretary at the nunciature in Washington. He returned to St. Louis in 1992 as

vice rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, also serving as director of spiritual formation and professor of church history.

While working as rector of North American College from 1994 to 2001, then-Msgr. Dolan was a visiting professor of church history at the Pontifical Gregorian University and a faculty member in the department of ecumenical theology at St. Thomas Aquinas.

On June 19, 2001, the silver anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, he was named an auxiliary bishop of St. Louis. He was ordained a bishop Aug. 15.

A little more than a year later, he was named archbishop of Milwaukee June 25, 2002, and was installed Aug. 28. He succeeded Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, whose resignation was accepted by Pope John Paul II following the disclosure of a financial settlement of a sexual harassment suit brought against him.

Archbishop Dolan is the author of *Priests for the Third Millennium*, published by Our Sunday Visitor Books. A collection of conferences given to U.S. seminarians in Rome, it discusses the joys and challenges priests are facing today.

Archbishop Dolan's move to the New York Archdiocese will more than triple the number of Catholics under his pastoral care — from about 700,000 in Milwaukee to 2.5 million in New York.

Catholic tradition of almsgiving gets special emphasis during Lent

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Almsgiving is a practice in generosity expected from all Catholics, but the focus of it is even stronger during the season of Lent.

Mary Schultz of Exeter, New Hampshire, told Catholic News Service she began to give a portion of her allowance to charitable causes from the time she was 10, and her parents increased her weekly fee for chores from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday so that she could donate even more money during Lent.

"I was told by my parents, my teachers and the priest at our church that it was even more important to give to the needy during Lent, because we were honoring the fact that Jesus sacrificed so much for us," said the 38-year-old mother of two young children.

"That has stayed with me all of these years, and I think it's an important virtue and a way of celebrating our Catholicism," she said. "I'm teaching these same values to my children."

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* says almsgiving implies a material service rendered to the poor for Christ's sake.

Promoting almsgiving in the current economic climate, however, creates a challenge, but the need for charitable giving couldn't be greater this Lenten season, said Father William A. Moorby, pastor of Blessed Trinity and St. Patrick's churches in Owego, New York.

"Lent is a time for self-sacrifice and to be more aware of the poverty that exists in the world, so I'm hoping our parishioners will remember that during this year of economic turmoil, when so many people are in need," Father Moorby said.

"It's a lesson to our young people as well about compassion. It's not just about almsgiving, but it's educational and helps them develop spiritually during those 40 days of Lent," he said.

To drive that point home, both his parishes in the Diocese of Rochester, New York, participate in Operation Rice Bowl, Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Ser-

vices' annual Lenten program.

Now in its 34th year, Operation Rice Bowl allows Catholics in the U.S. to focus on almsgiving, self-sacrifice and people living in poverty all over the world, said Ken Hackett, president of Catholic Relief Services and a parishioner of St. Louis Church in Clarksville, Maryland.

"Each Lent, Catholic families, parishes, and schools use symbolic rice bowls during the 40 days of Lent as the focal point for their prayer, fasting, and learning," Hackett said about Operation Rice Bowl.

"Participants fast in solidarity with those who hunger and make the small sacrifice of preparing simple, meatless recipes from developing countries each week, putting the money they would have spent on a big meal into the rice bowls," he explained. "That money goes to support CRS' mission to fight global hunger."

In 2008, Catholics raised more than \$7 million through Operation Rice Bowl, 75 percent of which was used to address hunger in 40

countries, he said.

The remaining 25 percent was given to U.S. dioceses to support programs — like parish food pantries — that help feed Americans affected by rising food prices, Hackett said.

"We've seen the need for that 25 percent arise in our community in the past year," Father Moorby said. "I'm hoping our parishioners recognize that this year when they participate in the program. It's not only almsgiving for people in foreign lands. It's going to help their neighbors in need too."

According to Creighton University's Online Ministries program, "Praying Lent 2009," practicing generosity is an important element of the 40-day season.

"Almsgiving has always been an important part of Lent," said the Web site of the university in Omaha, Nebraska, especially when it is mixed with the self-sacrifice that is prescribed for Catholics on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays leading up to Holy Saturday.

"It is important to give our-

selves the experience of fasting from being ungenerous," the site said. "Generosity is not simply giving my excess clothes to a place where poor people might purchase them. It's not even writing a 'generous' check at the time a collection is taken up for a cause that benefits the poor. These are wonderful practices. Generosity is an attitude. It is a sense that no matter how much I have, all that I have is a gift and given to me to be shared."

Schultz, who attends St. Michael's Church in Exeter, said she stresses almsgiving to her children during Lent, because self-sacrifice is something they need to practice in order to incorporate it into their lives throughout the year.

"My hope is they will come to realize that material wealth isn't as important as making the world a better and safer place for everyone," she said. "I want my children to be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem, and the season of Lent is a great opportunity for them to learn those lessons."

Speakers at Social Ministry Gathering suggest ways to join pro-life, social justice efforts

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a Feb. 25 workshop during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, speakers asked for a show of hands from those who worked in pro-life ministries for their diocese or parish. A majority of workshop participants raised their hands.

Next came a request for a show of hands of how many worked in social justice ministries for their parish or diocese. Again, a majority of participants raised their hands.

The group was asked a third question: How many were responsible for both pro-life and social justice ministries? Another majority of hands, nearly as many who responded the first two times, went up.

It seemed, then, that most of those at the workshop, "Promoting Human Life and Dignity: Working Together for Families at Risk," were already integrating their pro-life and social justice efforts.

But they recognized shortcom-

Noting the need to support a pregnant woman throughout her pregnancy, McQuade said, "You just can't say, 'Go to town, girl, you can choose life now.'" What they need help with, she said, ranges from big things, like getting a high school diploma, to seemingly little things, like transportation to prenatal appointments.

ings in their work and ministry that they wanted the U.S. bishops to address.

John Carr, executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, established the linkages at the workshop's start. "Without life, we can't have dignity," he said. "Without dignity, our life isn't truly human."

Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communi-

cations for the bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, detailed her efforts as a young volunteer working at a pro-life pregnancy center in South Bend, Indiana.

Noting the need to support a pregnant woman throughout her pregnancy, McQuade said, "You just can't say, 'Go to town, girl, you can choose life now.'" What they need help with, she said, ranges from big things, like getting a high school diploma, to seemingly little things, like transportation to

prenatal appointments.

While at the center, "my appreciation for people who were working on all these issues skyrocketed," McQuade said.

She listed the "four pillars" of the bishops' pastoral plan for pro-life activities: public information and education, public policy, pastoral care, and prayer. "If building a culture of life is weak in one of those four areas, it won't have the strength it needs," she said.

Participants then voiced dozens of suggestions for the bishops' Task Force on Human Life and Dignity to consider when they meet later this year.

Among them were:

—Creating diocesan advisory boards to acquire a consistent voice on life issues.

—Halting criticism of social justice ministries that are trying to do good. One example cited was criticism of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for its past ties with the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN. Last year CCHD cut off grant fund-

ing to ACORN, citing ACORN's financial irregularities.

—Working together instead of fighting for scarce dollars, an effort one participant called "co-branding."

—Coordinating legislative advocacy.

—Changing diocesan personnel policies that offer little in the way of paid maternity leave and charge high sums for family members to be part of an employee's insurance coverage.

One participant called for the creation of a "Catholic Party" to challenge the Democrats and Republicans.

Saying he was "sick of talking about working together," Carr exhorted people to really work together instead.

"Hold up the consistent life ethic, but don't use it as a weapon," he added. "If you use it as a test, test yourself first."

The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which drew 550 participants, was co-sponsored by 18 agencies, including five agencies of the USCCB.

Diocese announces settlement of abuse claims involving three deceased priests

Editor's Note: The following press release was issued by the Diocese of Fort Worth, March 3:

Statement of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Regarding Settlement of Claims Against the Diocese Involving James Reilly, James Hanlon and Gerard Scholl

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Wednesday reached a settlement agreement through mediation of claims brought against the Diocese by five persons who were allegedly abused by James Reilly, a priest of the Diocese, now deceased, and in one of the cases there was also alleged abuse by James Hanlon and Gerard Scholl, also priests of the Diocese, now deceased. The Diocese disclosed that the five cases settled for \$775,000 the majority of which was covered by its insurance company. Bishop Kevin Vann, in addressing the individuals, said he is deeply sorry for any sexual abuse the victims may have endured and suffered by Reilly, Hanlon and Scholl. He further stated that such actions are a sin and a crime. The Bishop told victims that he prays that healing and reconciliation can be achieved in their lives. Bishop Vann stresses that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will ad-

dress any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible "As the pastor of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, I am committed to ensuring that the Diocese's policies are adhered to so we can prevent future tragedy such as that which has befallen the victims of abuse," he said. The Diocese has been and is committed to being in compliance with the Charter's requirements in every audit conducted since their passage in 2002. The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth asks that anyone who has either witnessed or has suffered sexual abuse by anyone who serves the Church to come forward so that the individual and the Church can continue the healing process. To report abuse to the civil authorities, call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at 1-800-252-5400. To report abuse to the Diocese of Fort Worth call Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 817-560-2452, ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org. Persons also can call the sexual abuse hotline, 817-560-2452, ext. 900. Or call The Catholic Center 817-560-2452, ext. 102 and ask for the Chancellor, Father E. James Hart.

Pope warns of new forms of genetic discrimination

VATICAN CITY—Pope Benedict XVI praised modern discoveries in the field of genetics, but warned of new and subtle efforts to discriminate against people with genetic defects or illnesses.

"Any discrimination carried out by any power against persons, populations, or ethnic groups on the basis of real or presumed genetic factors is an attack against all humanity," the pope said.

He made the remarks in a speech Feb. 21 to participants of an international conference sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life on the topic "The New Frontiers of Genetics and the Risk of Eugenics."

The pope said genetic research had taken giant steps in recent years, opening new horizons for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and giving new hope to many people. But he said the advances were sometimes accompanied by a tendency to reduce human beings to their genetic makeup.

"Man will always be greater than all that which makes up his body; in fact, he possesses the power of thought, which is always directed toward the truth about himself and about the world," he said.

"Every human being, there-

The pope said the risk of eugenics, which aims to improve the human species by selective breeding, is no longer found in the racist ideologies of state regimes, but rather in a new mentality that tends to value human life for its capacity for work, efficiency, and physical beauty.

fore, is much more than the singular combination of genetic information that is transmitted to him by parents," he said.

The pope said the risk of eugenics, which aims to improve the human species by selective breeding, is no longer found in the racist ideologies of state regimes, but rather in a new mentality that tends to value human life for its capacity for work, efficiency, and

physical beauty.

When a genetic defect or illness appears, from the moment of conception onward, the person's life is often judged as "not worthy of being lived," he said.

The pope said it should be forcefully affirmed that every person has equal dignity by virtue of being alive, and that his "biological, psychic, and cultural development, or state of health can never become a discriminatory element."

He said society should focus on building a "culture of acceptance and love" marked by solidarity with those who suffer and the removal of barriers that are often erected against the disabled or the sick. In no case should human life be selected or suppressed on the basis of an abstract ideal of physical health or perfection, he said.

The pope said it was especially important that these principles be applied to life at its earliest stages.

"If man is reduced to an object of experimental manipulation from the first stages of his development, it means that medical biotechnology is surrendering to the will of the strongest," he said. Trust in science must not make people forget the primacy of ethics when human life is involved, he said.

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

State funding cuts hit Catholic Charities programs; more expected

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Kathy Toepel is wondering these days about where the safety of senior citizens in rural eastern California lies on the priority list of the state's public officials. Toepel fretted that the recent elimination of nearly \$100,000 in state funds — some 48 percent of her budget — has nearly devastated the senior citizen ombudsman program she oversees for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Stockton, California. "Our state wiped out our funding," Toepel told Catholic News Service. The cut, part of the \$500 million Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger slashed from state spending in October to meet a budget shortfall, is small in comparison to others across the state. However, it's making a huge difference in the way Toepel and her staff are able to go about their jobs. Toepel is not alone. Catholic Charities and other programs operated by faith-based agencies across the country are seeing reductions in funding for contracted work as well as from private sources. A January survey of Catholic Charities agencies showed that about 20 percent of agencies had cut basic needs programs while 16 percent of agencies were forced to reduce housing assistance.

Organization to distribute \$1 million in grants to retired religious

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Support Our Aging Religious, a national organization working to help U.S. religious congregations finance the retirement of their elderly and infirm members, will distribute \$1 million in grants to 58 religious congregations this year. Grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000 are awarded to congregations in need in 24 states and Puerto Rico. The funds are used to help with basic building repairs and safety features needed in the care of the elderly and infirm religious. Funds are primarily used for installing fire alarms and security systems or for replacing boilers, elevators, and windows, and renovating rooms for handicapped accessibility. Board members who reviewed the 2009 grant applications said they noticed more requests for help with basic needs. A February news release from SOAR noted that although the grants distributed this year are helpful in the short run, the needs of retired religious continue to escalate, in particular because of the recent loss of returns on investments.

Denver Archbishop Chaput warns against seeing US president as messiah

TORONTO (CNS) — Americans elected U.S. President Barack Obama to fix the economy, not to change American society and culture, said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver. Americans, including Catholics, "gave nobody a mandate to retool American culture on the issues of marriage and the family, sexuality, bioethics, religion in public life, and abortion," said Archbishop Chaput. "That retooling could easily happen ... but only if Catholics and other religious believers allow it." Saying he spoke as "an American, a Catholic and a bishop — though not necessarily in that order," Archbishop Chaput addressed Catholics' responsibility to live out their faith in public life. He spoke Feb. 23 on the campus of the University of Toronto. Noting the strengths and intelligence of Obama, Archbishop Chaput said Catholics — however enamored by the president's gifts — must be honest with themselves about some of his policies, including his pro-choice stance. American Catholics need to remember that political leaders "draw their authority from God" as public servants and are not "messiahs."

Pittsburgh's Bishop Zubik urges Catholics to face economic crisis together in Christ

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh has called on the Catholic community to face the nation's current economic crisis together in Christ.

"When I think of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, I think of a church sharing, reaching out to serve those who are in need," the bishop said in the second pastoral letter he has issued as head of the diocese.

The letter is titled "The Church Sharing!" Dated for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, it was released Feb. 18.

Bishop Zubik recalled the generous compassion and faithfulness of the people of Pittsburgh during the Great Depression and reminded Catholics of a local tragedy that united citizens in 1931. A fire that broke out in a home for the needy elderly operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor. The death toll was 49, and another 175 were injured.

All but eight bodies of those who died were claimed by their relatives. Pittsburgh Bishop Hugh Boyle presided at a funeral Mass for the eight at St. Paul Cathedral, which drew one of the "largest crowds ever to gather at the cathedral," Bishop Zubik said.

"The people of the city filled every pew. They spilled out onto the sidewalks and streets," he said. There were Catholics and Protestants, Christians and non-Christians, believers and nonbelievers, he said.

"It was if the city itself was coming to terms with its grief over the fire and, perhaps even more so, to come to terms with the Depression itself," Bishop Zubik said.

After the funeral, he said, Bishop Boyle made a radio appeal for \$300,000 to help the Little Sisters of the Poor rebuild the home. In three months, "people contributed that, and more," he added.

Bishop Zubik expressed hope for this same type of outpouring of concern and charitable giving during the current economic crisis. He urged people to rely on each other until "economic experts will better understand" what caused the financial problems and "will devise long-term solutions."

"This is not the time to struggle alone," he said. "This is a communal challenge we face together, not alone."

In his first pastoral letter, "The Church Alive!" the bishop en-



In this CNS file picture, Bishop David Zubik, then outgoing bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin, kneels to greet Dorothy Bostedt, with her nephew, Fr. John Bergstadt, following a farewell Mass Sept. 16 in Green Bay. Bishop Zubik was installed as bishop of Pittsburgh 12 days later. (CNS photo/Sam Lucero, Catholic Herald)

"It was if the city itself was coming to terms with its grief over the fire and, perhaps even more so, to come to terms with the Depression itself,"

— Bishop David Zubik, Pittsburgh in his second pastoral letter released Ash Wednesday

couraged faith and growth within the church of Pittsburgh.

In his second letter, Bishop Zubik said, he never anticipated such "hard times" when he became bishop a year and a half ago, and that he wrote this letter to emphasize how collaborative faith and determination will rebuild and restore communities within the diocese.

He said the economic crisis is a time to reflect on the "old state of things," marked by "a world of exaggerated individualism and consumerism gone wild."

Bishop Zubik said he saw the crisis as an opportunity to move

away from secular ideals and for people to turn their lives back to Christ and a reliance on their neighbors.

"When we meet Christ in the other, he gently opens the hands of the recipients to receiving help and by so doing increases their own dignity, not diminishing it," Bishop Zubik said.

"To say we are in this together is to recognize our understanding of what the church is, what it means to be church, and what it means to say that sharing is a divine activity, the action of Jesus himself continued in his body, the church," he added.

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSBRIEFS

Vatican says recent apologies from traditionalist bishop aren't enough

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said Bishop Richard Williamson's statement of regret for denying the extent of the Holocaust does not meet the Vatican's demand that he publicly recant his position.

"The declaration of the bishop does not seem to respect the conditions established in the note of the Secretariat of State of Feb. 4, 2009, where it says that he 'must distance himself in an absolutely unequivocal and public way from his positions regarding the Shoah,'" Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said Feb. 27.

The Vatican had said Bishop Williamson would not be allowed to function as a bishop in the church unless he disavowed his remarks about the Holocaust and publicly apologized. He is one of four traditionalist bishops whose excommunication was lifted in January by Pope Benedict XVI.

On Feb. 26, Bishop Williamson released a statement in London saying his superior, Bishop Bernard Fellay, and the pope "have requested that I reconsider the remarks I made on Swedish television four months ago because their consequences have been so heavy."

"Observing these consequences I can truthfully say that I regret having made such remarks, and that if I had known beforehand the

full harm and hurt to which they would give rise, especially to the church, but also to survivors and relatives of victims of injustice under the Third Reich, I would not have made them," he said.

Bishop Williamson said that in an interview broadcast in January by Swedish television he had offered "only the opinion ... of a nonhistorian, an opinion formed 20 years ago on the basis of evidence then available and rarely expressed in public since."

"However, the events of recent weeks and the advice of senior members of the Society of St. Pius X have persuaded me of my responsibility for much distress caused. To all souls that took honest scandal from what I said, before God I apologize," he said. "As the Holy Father has said, every act of unjust violence against one man hurts all mankind."

The Feb. 26 statement was the second public apology to the pope from the British-born bishop. In a letter posted on his blog Jan. 30, the bishop apologized to Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos for "having caused to yourself and to the Holy Father so much unnecessary distress and problems." Cardinal Castrillon heads the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*, which oversees the reconciliation of traditionalist Catholics with the church.

Bishop Williamson left Argen-

tina Feb. 24 after the government told him he must leave or face expulsion. Argentina's Interior Ministry said Feb. 19 that Bishop Williamson "has concealed the true motive for his stay in the country" because he said he was an employee of a nongovernmental group when he was serving as rector of the seminary of the Society of St. Pius X in La Reja for the past five years. The bishop was removed as head of the seminary in early February.

The Argentine government also said Bishop Williamson's remarks that the Holocaust was exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers insulted and offended Argentine society and the Jewish community.

An Argentine news station showed the bishop, wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap, shaking his fist at a reporter as he left Buenos Aires.

Upon his arrival in London, Bishop Williamson was escorted by police to a waiting car. Although the bishop and police were surrounded by journalists with cameras and microphones, the bishop made no comment.

Bishop Williamson and the three other traditionalist bishops were ordained against papal orders in 1988 by the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, founder of the Society of St. Pius X.

Traditionalist order not ready to accept Vatican II, says superior, Bishop Fellay

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The head of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X said his order is not ready to accept the Second Vatican Council, which the Vatican has set as a condition for full reintegration in the church.

Bishop Bernard Fellay, superior general of the Swiss-based society, said Vatican II has brought "only losses" among Catholic priests and the faithful. He made the remarks in an interview with the Swiss newspaper *Le Courrier* published Feb. 26.

Pope Benedict XVI recently lifted the excommunications of Bishop Fellay and three other bishops, who were ordained against papal orders in 1988, as a step toward dialogue and reconciliation. The Vatican later said the society would have to recognize the teachings of Vati-

can II and of post-conciliar popes to be in full communion.

In the interview, Bishop Fellay was asked if the society was ready to meet the condition of accepting the council.

"No. The Vatican has recognized the need for preliminary discussions in order to take up fundamental questions that arise precisely from the Second Vatican Council. To make recognition of the council a preliminary condition is to put the cart before the horse," Bishop Fellay responded.

He added that he expected the church to critically review Vatican II, because "its results are pure losses."

"The fruits of the council have been to empty seminaries, novitiates, and churches. Thousands of priests have abandoned the priesthood and millions of faithful have ceased to practice

the faith or have turned to the sects. The religious belief of the faithful has been distorted. Truly, these are peculiar fruits," he said.

Asked about his society's long-standing opposition to the ecumenical and interreligious dialogue initiated by Vatican II, Bishop Fellay said such dialogue was too superficial and had led to "great confusion." He said any dialogue with other Christian churches or other religions should make it clear that the Catholic Church is "the sole possessor" of the fundamental unity that leads to the truth.

He said any discussions about the society's status in the church would depend on whether positive results come out of the "doctrinal discussions" with the Vatican. No timetable has been announced for these talks.

Papal trip to Holy Land takes shape

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's planned trip to the Holy Land was slowly taking shape in February, and the tentative schedule included a number of important pastoral and interreligious events. The proposed itinerary would take the pope to Jordan May 8-11, for a visit to the new King Hussein Mosque in Amman, meetings with



Mount Nebo. (CNS photo/courtesy of Jordan Tourism Board of North America)

Jordanian officials, a Mass for Catholics in a soccer stadium, a stop at Jesus' baptism site at the Jordan River, and a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo, where Moses once looked out at

the Promised Land. The pope would travel from Jordan to Israel May 11 and visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem the same day. Over the next three and a half days, he would visit the Western Wall, sacred to Jews; meet with Jewish and Muslim leaders; hold talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders; visit a Palestinian refugee camp; and celebrate Mass in Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Jerusalem. Before returning to Rome May 15, the tentative schedule calls for the pope to hold a brief ecumenical encounter and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. There was talk of a papal stop in war-devastated Gaza, but Vatican sources said there were no firm plans for such an event; instead, a delegation of Gaza residents was expected to attend one of the papal Masses.

Since '94, Africa has seen tremendous changes, but some issues remain

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The African continent and the Catholic Church there have undergone tremendous changes since the 1994 Synod of Bishops for Africa, yet poverty, justice, and reconciliation remain major issues for this October's synod. The 1994 synod "opened with the tremendous tragedy of Rwanda and ended with the miracle of Nelson Mandela's inauguration as president of South Africa," said Jesuit Father Peter Henriot, director of the Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection in Zambia's capital, Lusaka. This October's special Synod of Bishops for Africa will focus on "service, peace, and reconciliation and look at the challenges we need to pay attention to," he said. Pope Benedict XVI is scheduled to present the synod's working document March 19 in Cameroon, on a trip that also includes a visit to Angola. Bishops planning the October synod have emphasized the need to find concrete ways to apply the results of their 1994 meeting "to an Africa thirsting for reconciliation and seeking justice and peace."

Catholic-Muslim dialogue members urge improved teaching for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Textbooks used in Catholic and Muslim schools and in predominantly Catholic or Muslim nations should be reviewed and revised to ensure a respectful, accurate portrayal of the history and beliefs of the other community, said members of a Catholic-Muslim dialogue. The annual dialogue between Vatican representatives and representatives of al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt — a leading Muslim institution — was held at the Vatican Feb. 24-25 and focused on the role of religions in teaching peace. Both Christianity and Islam consider peace to be a gift from God that requires human cooperation, said the final statement from the meeting. Religious leaders must work to ensure that "a culture of peace" permeates all their activities, particularly their educational efforts, said the statement. "Scholastic books should be revised in order not to contain material which may offend the religious sentiments of other believers" in the way their doctrines, moral teachings, and history are presented, the leaders said.



March 15, Third Sunday of Lent.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19:8-11
- 2) 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel) John 2:13-25

By Sharon K. Perkins

After the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta in 2003, it was revealed that her private correspondence chronicled years of intense feelings of abandonment by God, coinciding with the period of her heroic ministry among India's poorest. In 2008, the publication of Dorothy Day's personal journals corrected previous misconceptions about her relationship with her daughter Tamar during the early years of the Catholic Worker movement.

In both instances, the candidly private reflections of these publicly holy yet transparently "real" women exposed complex dimensions of their humanity and offered us more profound insights into what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

I recently resumed the discipline of keeping a spiritual journal as an aid to prayer, and I am often struck by my entries' stark truthfulness about both the encouraging and more disheart-

"But Jesus ... did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well."

— John 2:25

ening aspects of my relationship with God. The beauty of writing for my eyes only is that I can articulate my hidden issues, ignoble motivations, and deeply buried struggles and aspirations — things that God already knows but which I keep masked from public view and my own view as well. My journal helps me "keep it real."

On the surface, today's readings deal with activities in the public sphere: Israel is given prohibitions regarding idolatry, stealing, killing, and coveting; Jerusalem merchants are buying and selling in the temple precincts; and eyewitnesses of Jesus' signs are quick to believe in his name and follow him. But all have an underlying private dimension, and as the psalmist reminds us, the "law of the Lord" is first directed toward the conversion of the human heart before it is ever to have consequences for human conduct.

QUESTIONS:

What are some aspects of my private life that are inconsistent with what I publicly profess as a follower of Jesus? What can I do this Lent to "keep it real" and be more honest with myself and with God?



Many of the spiritual practices associated with Lent are external and public — penance services, charitable works, and "giving up" certain vices. The Lenten practice most vital to our continuing conversion, however, is scrutinizing and bringing to light the inconsistencies between our private and our public selves.

For Catholic catechumens preparing for baptism, this is ritualized in the "scrutinies" on certain Sundays of Lent. For the baptized, it's "examining one's conscience." But simply put, the practices of Lent give us opportunities to unmask our true selves, "keep it real" and invite Jesus into that personal reality which is already known to God.

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God will forgive, bless those who seek conversion, says pope

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME — If people act on God's call to conversion, he will forgive them everything and bless them, Pope Benedict XVI said just before receiving ashes and distributing ashes to mark the beginning of Lent.

"As we prepare to receive the ashes on our foreheads as a sign of conversion and repentance, let us open our hearts to the life-giving action of the word of God," the pope told people gathered in Rome's Basilica of St. Sabina Feb. 25.

The evening Mass was preceded by a penitential procession from the nearby Church of St. Anselm.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said the readings chosen by the church for Ash Wednesday are meant to give guidance to Christians for the 40 days of Lent and to provide them with encouragement to follow the Lenten journey of conversion with courage.

The call to conversion is loud and clear in each part of the Ash Wednesday Mass from the opening prayer to the readings and



Pope Benedict XVI uses holy water during an evening Ash Wednesday Mass at the Basilica of St. Sabina in Rome Feb. 25. (CNS photo/Vincenzo Pinto, Reuters)

hymns, he said.

"The promise of God is clear: If we listen to his invitation to convert, God will make his mercy triumph, and his friends will be filled with innumerable blessings," the pope said.

The Gospel reading from Matthew, he said, puts Christians on guard against "ostentation and hypocrisy, superficiality and self-satisfaction, reaffirming the need to nourish an uprightness of heart."

At the same time, the Gospel

explains that the way to grow in the purity of heart is to cultivate a closer relationship with God the Father, he said.

Pope Benedict said that during the year of St. Paul, marking the 2,000th anniversary of the apostle's birth, he wanted to focus in a special way on Paul's writings and conversion story.

"Paul experienced in an extraordinary way the power of the grace of God," which is also the grace of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he said.

Catholics do not pretend during Lent that they do not already know that Jesus rose from the dead, the pope said, but as they prepare for Easter they are "already enlightened by the brightness of the paschal mystery" of Jesus' death and resurrection.

A Christian's Lenten journey of conversion must be, like St. Paul's, a call from the risen Christ to change, to accept the forgiveness won by Jesus on the cross, and to dedicate one's life to fol-

lowing him, the pope said.

St. Paul's call to refuse to allow sin to reign in one's life is an affirmation that while salvation is a free gift of God, an individual must take the step of accepting that gift, he said.

"On the one hand, this affirms the victory of Christ over sin once and for all with his death and resurrection," he said, and on the other hand, Christians are exhorted to not let sin re-enter their lives.

"So that Christ may reign fully in him, the baptized person must faithfully follow his teachings; he must never let down his guard so as to ensure the adversary cannot win back any territory," Pope Benedict said.

The Lenten emphasis on prayer, almsgiving, and fasting highlights the three most effective defenses against evil, he said.

The pope prayed that a more frequent reading of the Bible, more intense prayer, and "an austere and penitential style of life will be a stimulus to conversion and sincere love toward our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest and neediest."

Scripture Readings



March 22, Fourth Sunday of Lent.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Psalm 137:1-6
- 2) Ephesians 2:4-10
Gospel) John 3:14-21

By Jeff Hedglen

The coffee is brewed, hot chocolate is marshmallowy and the sweets are scrumptious. It is once again time for Paradox Café, an event where the youth group at our parish sips coffee and ponders the big ideas of our faith.

Tonight's topic centers on this question: Is faith a gift from God, or is it a human act? Of course, as with most paradoxes, the answer is "both." But we take our time getting to that conclusion.

First we talk about how faith is a gift from God. The youth say things such as we cannot make faith or invent it, so it has to come from somewhere. We do not earn it, so it must be a gift.

After a while the conversation turns to faith being something that we do. The youth use the example of a Christmas present. The gift becomes truly yours only after you do something — open it. As the evening comes to a close, we all agree that faith is both a gift we receive from a loving

God and an action we take.

We see this truth come to life in this Sunday's readings. St. Paul says to the Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God." Here it is clear that faith is something given. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that "everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." To believe is an action that we take of our own free will.

In the next verse, the whole formula is wrapped up in a nice neat package. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." God gives and we believe, gift and action united to bring about faith.

We are in the middle of Lent looking ahead to Easter. Our Lenten fasts and activities are things we do to increase the faith that we have been given. By taking action on our faith, we walk with Jesus through the desert to the cross and into the resurrection where faith and action merge into one, and we are completely one with the triune God.

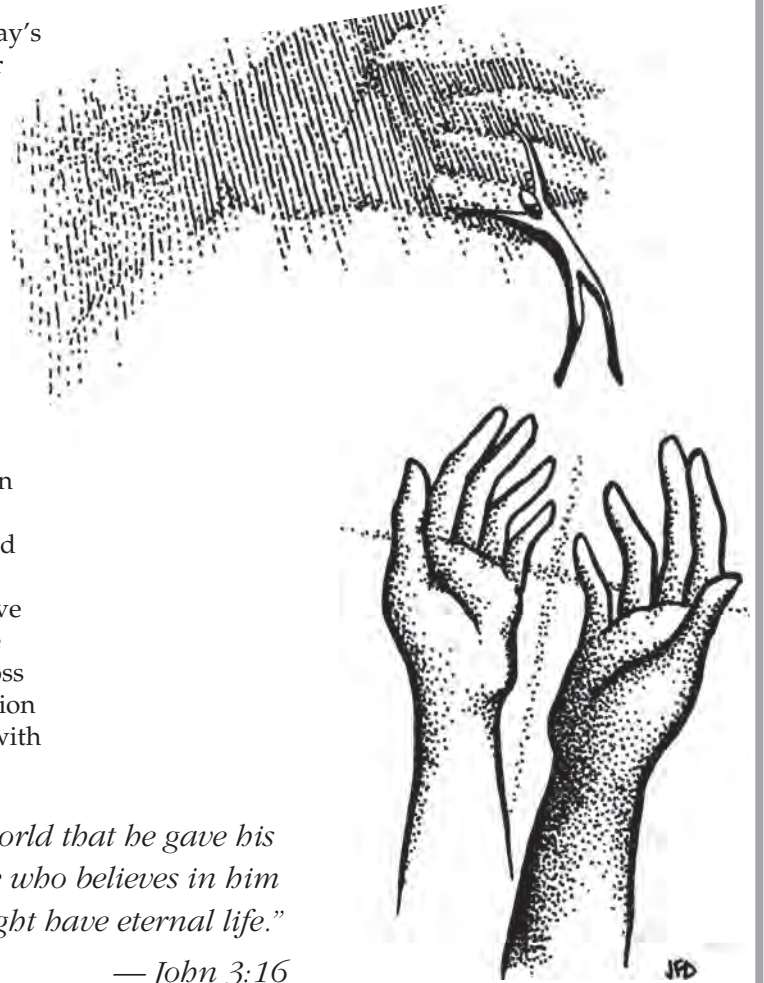
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

— John 3:16

QUESTIONS:

How would you explain faith as a gift from God? What actions have you taken to receive and/or increase your faith?

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Though we can dread it, it really is **Reconciling**

By Jeff Hedglen

Recently I was teaching a first Communion class for students ranging from 7th to 12th graders. It is such a pleasure to see these students, who have had a wide variety of exposure to the Catholic faith, discover new things, memorize important things, and get confused looks on their faces at some of the deeper things of our faith.

This particular day as the class was coming to a close I mentioned that next week we would be talking about and practicing for their first reconciliation. Almost in unison a look of terror flashed across their faces.

I could just about see the whole scene play out in each of their minds' eye and what they were seeing was not good. Try as I might, I could not dissuade them from believing that this sacrament was a torture method held over from the Dark Ages. They left very skeptical about the next week. It was now my job to help them

By the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, we now have a way back to God, back to life. The Church offers the sacrament of reconciliation as a way for us to have access to this sin-washing work of Christ.

see this sacrament as a blessing, not the sacramental induced suffering they walked away dreading.

The thought of going to confession can get the best of us to cringe at least a little bit. No matter how many times I teach about the grace we receive and the weight that is lifted after a good, heartfelt confession, I too can get a bit apprehensive as I prepare for this sacrament.

There is definitely something powerful about saying out loud the worst of the worst of our actions, even the not so bad ones are hard to get out sometimes. Safe and secure in

our thoughts, they are manageably terrible. We are sorry for them and even deeply desire to never do them again, but we would gladly say 1,000 Our Fathers if we could just silently pass a note under the screen in the confessional.

The look of terror on the faces of those youth at the prospect of going to reconciliation for the first time is one of my favorite parts of teaching that class. I remember that look when I watch them walk away from the priest at the parish penance service. They invariably have a look that is a combination of grace-infused

relief, proud accomplishment, and a smile that says they just encountered Jesus.

When it comes right down to it, that is what all the sacraments are about, coming into direct contact with Jesus. This sacrament in particular puts us in touch with the same Jesus who said to a paralyzed man who had just been lowered through a roof by some friends, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

I have always found that story curious. A man who cannot walk is brought to Jesus for healing, and Jesus' first response is to forgive his sins. He eventually heals the paralysis too, but only after forgiving him.

I suppose Jesus is demonstrating how our sin restricts our movement in a deeper way. I think he is saying that physical paralysis is one thing, but sin keeps you from moving to me, and that is the problem I want to address first.

We are in the midst of a season of deep and quiet reflection on the central mysteries of our faith, one of which being that Jesus' death and resurrection frees

us from the death caused by sin.

God is life and sin separates us from this source of life; as a result we cease to have life as God intended. By the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, we now have a way back to God, back to life. The Church offers the sacrament of reconciliation as a way for us to have access to this sin-washing work of Christ.

Most parishes have a reconciliation service some time before Easter. I encourage all reading this to make it to confession. If it has been a few (or a lot) of years since your last one, I encourage you to think of those kids who will be making their first one this year. Just like them, you too can experience the whiplash of fear turning to freedom with the words "I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" Amen!
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.

La Cuaresma requiere que nos volvamos a la oración en todas las facetas de nuestras vidas, y el apóstol Pablo nos instruye en la escuela de la oración

Estimados hermanos y hermanas en el Señor,

El Papa Benedicto XVI en su mensaje cuaresmal para este año, sobre la cual reflexioné en mi pasada columna, comenzó mencionando las tres prácticas penitenciales tradicionales de la oración, la limosna y el ayuno.

Mientras que el Santo Padre concentró su mensaje en el importante tema del ayuno, también quisiera tomar un momento para reflexionar sobre la oración, teniendo en cuenta el año Paulino que todavía estamos celebrando.

No podemos vivir como seguidores fieles de Cristo sin la oración. La oración es parte esencial de la vida de nuestra diócesis, de cada parroquia, de cada hogar, y de cada miembro del Cuerpo de Cristo. San Alfonso María de Liguori, en su novena al Espíritu Santo, nos dice, "Él que ama a Dios ama la oración".

La Cuaresma nos invita a mirar nuestras vidas de oración para evaluar la calidad de nuestro diálogo del amor con Dios. Si cualquier persona piensa que está necesitando un poco de ayuda en esta área, esto es una buena oportunidad de pedirle al sacerdote, al diácono, o a una de las religiosas en su parroquia por un poco de ayuda en este respecto.

He seleccionado varios pasos de la



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann

No podemos vivir como seguidores fieles de Cristo sin la oración. La oración es parte esencial de la vida de nuestra diócesis, de cada parroquia, de cada hogar, y de cada miembro del Cuerpo de Cristo.

escritura para esta reflexión y le invito a que pase un poco de tiempo en *lectio divina*, que es meditación y oración con la Biblia, usando uno o más de las citas bíblicas. Tome su Biblia, o su catecismo, y encuentre un lugar apartado donde pueda pasar una hora con el Señor en oración.

¿Qué es la oración? El *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, al responder a la pregunta, comienza recordándonos que la oración, la elevación del alma a Dios o la petición a Dios de bienes convenientes, es un don de Dios concedido a los que han puesto la base de un corazón humilde. Sobre esta base Dios construirá un edificio de oración, enviándonos nuestro maestro interior de la oración cristiana, el Espíritu Santo. San Pablo nos dice esto en *Romanos 8:26*:

... el Espíritu viene en nuestra ayuda. No sabemos cómo pedir ni qué pedir, pero el Espíritu lo pide por nosotros, con gemidos inefables.

El párrafo 2672 del *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, al hablarnos del Espíritu Santo, que impregna por completo nuestro ser y nos enseña cómo orar, también nos recuerda que el Espíritu Santo...

Es el artífice de la tradición viva de la oración. Ciertamente hay tantos caminos en la oración como orantes, pero es el mismo Espíritu el quien actúa en todos y con todos. En la comunión en el Espíritu Santo la oración cristiana es oración en la Iglesia.

San Pablo también nos dirige, a través de varias formas de oración

que deben ser parte regular de nuestras vidas. Aquí están algunos ejemplos del corazón orante de San Pablo:

ALABANZA

Romanos 14:11: "... porque está escrito: Juro que toda rodilla se doblará ante mí y toda lengua dará gloria a Dios, dice el Señor".

Romanos 15:11: "¡Alaben al Señor todas las naciones; glorifiquenlo todos los pueblos!"

DOLOR POR NUESTROS PECADOS

2 Corintios 7:9-10: "...ahora me regocijo, no porque ustedes se hayan puesto tristes, sino porque esa tristeza fue motivo de arrepentimiento. Ustedes, en efecto, han experimentado la tristeza que proviene de Dios, de manera que nosotros no les hemos hecho ningún daño. Esa tristeza produce un arrepentimiento que lleva a la salvación y no se debe lamentar; en cambio, la tristeza del mundo produce la muerte".

ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS

Romanos 1:8: "En primer lugar, doy gracias a mi Dios por medio de Jesucristo, a causa de todos ustedes, porque su fe es alabada en el mundo entero".

1 Corintios 11:23-24: "Lo que yo recibí del Señor, y a mi vez les he transmitido, es lo siguiente: El Señor Jesús, la noche en que fue entregado, tomó el pan, dio gracias, lo partió y dijo: «Esto es mi Cuerpo, que se

entrega por ustedes. Hagan esto en memoria mía»".

SÚPLICA

Efesios 6:18-20: "Eleven constantemente toda clase de oraciones y súplicas, animados por el Espíritu. Dedicúense con perseverancia incansable a interceder por todos los hermanos, y también por mí, a fin de que encuentre palabras adecuadas para anunciar resueltamente el misterio del Evangelio, del cual yo soy embajador en medio de mis cadenas. ¡Así podré hablar libremente de Él, como debo hacerlo!"

1 Timoteo 2:1-4: "Ante todo, te recomiendo que se hagan peticiones, oraciones, súplicas y acciones de gracias por todos los hombres, por los soberanos y por todas las autoridades, para que podamos disfrutar de paz y de tranquilidad, y llevar una vida piadosa y digna. Esto es bueno y agradable a Dios, nuestro Salvador, porque Él quiere que todos se salven y lleguen al conocimiento de la verdad".

Al terminar mi reflexión quisiera ofrecerles una última cita de San Pablo sobre la oración. Quisiera que estas palabras de la Sagrada Escritura sean mis palabras hoy para ustedes.

Filipenses 1:9-11: "Y en mi oración pido que el amor de ustedes crezca cada vez más en el conocimiento y en la plena comprensión, a fin de que puedan discernir lo que es mejor. Así serán encontrados puros e irreprochables en el día de Cristo, llenos del fruto de justicia que proviene de Jesucristo, para la gloria y alabanza de Dios".

Que Nuestra Señora de los Dolores nos dirija a un diálogo más profundo de amor con su hijo Jesucristo, nuestro Señor crucificado.

Dios los bendiga siempre,

+ Kevin W. Vann

+Monseñor Kevin W. Vann
Obispo de Fort Worth

Asistentes a cumbre ven crisis económica como oportunidad para voluntarios

NUEVA YORK (CNS) — La actual crisis económica es una oportunidad para que voluntarios de todos los sectores del público estadounidense trabajen juntos para ayudar a sus vecinos en necesidad y hasta para plantar la semilla para un movimiento nacional.

Esa fue la opinión de los participantes en "Una nación de vecinos ayudando a vecinos: Cumbre sobre voluntarios como respuesta a la crisis económica",

patrocinada por los *Caballeros de Colón* y la *Universidad Fairfield* el 27 de febrero en Nueva York.

"La población está sufriendo más y hay menos dólares para ayudar a aquellos que están en necesidad", dijo Carl A. Anderson, caballero supremo de los *Caballeros de Colón*.

"Las dotaciones caritativas han recibido un golpe aplastante, pero todavía hay 24 horas en un día y siete días en una semana", añadió,

por lo que las personas podrían ofrecer su tiempo como voluntarios aunque no puedan hacer contribuciones financieras.

"Ser voluntario edifica la solidaridad con la gente que usted está ayudando y contribuye a una sociedad más humanitaria", dijo.

La cumbre atrajo a 185 participantes provenientes de más de 115 organizaciones, representando grupos gubernamentales, corporativos, seculares, católicos y

otros grupos religiosos de todo los Estados Unidos.

El padre jesuita Richard Ryscavage, director del *Centro para la fe y la vida pública* de la *Universidad Fairfield* en Connecticut, operada por jesuitas, dijo a *Catholic News Service* que las organizaciones sin fines de lucro son bien conocidas ni apreciadas por el gobierno.

"La gente no sabe que los servicios sociales católicos le quitan una enorme carga al gobierno y que

muchos programas gubernamentales dependen de estos. Washington no entiende esto", dijo.

"Queremos que se escuchen las voces de las organizaciones sin fines de lucro" mientras el Congreso considera renovar la *Ley de servicio comunitario nacional* de 1990, dijo. Esa legislación estableció la *Corporación para servicios nacionales y comunitarios para apoyar y fomentar el servicio voluntario y comunitario*.

Dios perdonará, bendecirá a aquellos que busquen conversión, dice el Papa

Por Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROMA — Si las personas actúan siguiendo el llamado de Dios a la conversión, él les perdonará todo y los bendecirá, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI justo antes de recibir las cenizas y distribuir cenizas para marcar el comienzo de la Cuaresma.

“Según nos preparamos para recibir las cenizas en nuestras frentes como señal de conversión y arrepentimiento, abramos nuestros corazones en la acción que da vida de la palabra de Dios”, dijo el Papa a la gente reunida en la Basílica de Santa Sabina, en Roma, el 25 de febrero.

La Misa nocturna fue precedida por una procesión penitencial desde la cercana iglesia San Anselmo.

En su homilía, el Papa Benedicto dijo que las lecturas escogidas por la iglesia para el *Miércoles de ceniza* tienen la intención de guiar a los cristianos durante los 40 días de Cuaresma y proveerles estímulo para seguir con valentía el viaje de conversión de Cuaresma.

El llamado a la conversión es alto y claro en cada parte de la Misa del *Miércoles de ceniza*, desde



El Papa Benedicto XVI llega a celebrar la misa del *Miércoles de ceniza* al atardecer en la basílica de Santa Sabina en Roma, el 25 de febrero. (CNS foto/Vincenzo Pinto, Reuters)

la oración de apertura hasta las lecturas y los himnos, dijo.

“La promesa de Dios es clara: si escuchamos su invitación de convertirnos, Dios hará que su misericordia triunfe y sus amigos serán colmados con innumerables bendiciones”, dijo el Papa.

La lectura del Evangelio de Mateo, dijo, pone a los cristianos

en guardia contra la “ostentación y la hipocresía, la superficialidad y la autosatisfacción, reafirmando la necesidad de alimentar una rectitud de corazón”.

A su vez, el Evangelio explica que la manera de crecer en pureza de corazón es cultivando una relación más estrecha con Dios el Padre, dijo.

Tradición católica de dar limosna recibe énfasis especial durante Cuaresma

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dar limosna es una práctica de generosidad esperada de todos los católicos, pero el enfoque de ésta es aun más fuerte durante la temporada de Cuaresma. Mary Schultz, de Exeter, New Hampshire, dijo a *Catholic News Service* que ella comenzó a dar una porción de su mesada a causas caritativas desde el tiempo en que tenía 10 años de edad y que sus padres aumentaban su honorario semanal por las tareas desde el *Miércoles de ceniza* hasta el *Viernes santo*, de modo que ella pudiera donar aun más dinero durante la Cuaresma.

“A mí me decían mis padres, mis maestros y el sacerdote de nuestra iglesia que era aun más importante darle al necesitado durante la Cuaresma porque estábamos honrando el hecho que Jesús sacrificó tanto por nosotros”, dijo la madre de dos niños, de 38 años de edad.

“Eso ha permanecido en mí todos estos años y creo que es una virtud importante y una manera de celebrar nuestro catolicismo”, dijo. “Estoy enseñando estos mismos valores a mis hijos”.

La *Enciclopedia Católica* dice

que dar limosna implica un servicio material dado a los pobres a nombre de Cristo.

Promover el dar limosna en el clima económico actual, sin embargo, crea un reto, pero la necesidad de dar caritativamente no podría ser mayor durante esta temporada de Cuaresma, dijo padre William A. Moorby, pastor de las iglesias *Blessed Trinity* y *St. Patrick* en Owego, Nueva York.

“La Cuaresma es una época de autosacrificio y de estar más concientes de la pobreza que existe en el mundo, así que tengo la esperanza que nuestros feligreses recuerden eso durante este año de tumulto económico, cuando tantas personas están en necesidad”, dijo el padre Moorby.

“Es una lección para nuestros jóvenes también sobre la compasión. No es sólo sobre dar limosna, sino que es educativa y les ayuda a desarrollarse espiritualmente durante esos 40 días de Cuaresma”, dijo.

Para enfatizar ese punto, ambas de sus parroquias en la Diócesis de Rochester, Nueva York, participan en *Operación plato de arroz*, programa anual de Cu-

aresma de *Catholic Relief Services* (CRS), basado en Baltimore.

Ahora en su 34º año, *Operación plato de arroz* permite que los católicos de los Estados Unidos se enfoquen en dar limosna, en el autosacrificio y en la gente que vive en la pobreza en todo el mundo, dijo Ken Hackett, presidente de *Catholic Relief Services* y feligrés de la iglesia St. Louis en Clarksville, Maryland.

“Los participantes ayunan en solidaridad con los que tienen hambre y hacen el pequeño sacrificio de preparar cada semana recetas simples, sin carne, provenientes de países en vías de desarrollo, poniendo en los platos de arroz el dinero que habrían gastado en una comida grande”, explicó. “Ese dinero va a apoyar la misión de CRS para luchar contra el hambre global”.

En el 2008 los católicos recaudaron más de \$7 millones mediante la *Operación plato de arroz*, con el 75 por ciento atendiendo el hambre en 40 países y el 25 por ciento apoyando programas diocesanos estadounidenses tales como las alacenas parroquiales de alimento, dijo Hackett.

Médicos toman medidas legales, educativas para defender derechos de conciencia

Por Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Para combatir lo que ellos ven como amenazas contra los derechos de conciencia de los profesionales de los servicios médicos que oponen el aborto, a la *Asociación médica católica* y otras organizaciones están tomando ambas—medidas legales y medidas educativas.

La *Asociación médica católica*, basada en Philadelphia, la cual tiene unos 1,100 miembros en toda la nación, se ha unido con la *Asociación médica cristiana* y con la *Asociación americana de obstetras y ginecólogos pro vida* en un esfuerzo de intervenir legalmente contra demandas judiciales presentadas por los procuradores generales de ocho estados, por *Planned Parenthood of America* y por la *Asociación nacional de planificación familiar y salud reproductiva*.

Las demandas intentan derogar una regulación del *Departamento de salud y servicios humanos* que codifica varios estatutos federales existentes que prohíben la discriminación contra los profesionales de la salud que declinan participar en abortos o en otros procedimientos médicos debido a sus objeciones religiosas u otras morales.

Sin la regulación, que entró

en vigor dos días antes de la instalación del presidente Barack Obama, los miembros de los tres grupos estarían sujetos “a la amenaza inminente de ser obligados ... a realizar abortos, a ayudar en abortos, a entrenarse para abortos y a referir a individuos para abortos a pesar de sus objeciones religiosas, morales y éticas a la práctica del aborto”, dicen los papeles legales radicados en el *Tribunal de distrito de Estados Unidos* en Hartford, Connecticut.

Abogados del *Fondo de defensa alianza* y del *Centro para ley y libertad religiosa* presentaron las peticiones a nombre de las tres organizaciones pro vida.

“Los médicos deben defender su derecho a practicar la medicina de acuerdo con su conciencia”, dijo John Brehany, director ejecutivo de la *Asociación médica católica*. “Es un principio muy importante que todo médico debe apoyar”.

Sin las protecciones de conciencia, por ejemplo, los médicos u otros profesionales de los servicios médicos podrían estar sujetos al reclutamiento obligatorio para participar en las ejecuciones de prisioneros de la galera de muerte, si el estado no puede encontrar voluntarios para hacerlo, dijo Brehany.



Armina Guardado ora durante una liturgia de *Miércoles de ceniza* en el *Centro católico español* en Washington el 25 de febrero. El centro, que es operado por *Caridades católicas* de la Arquidiócesis de Washington, provee servicios médicos, dentales, de inmigración, legales, educativos y sociales a una población principalmente hispana. (Foto CNS/Bob Roller)

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

Recortes en fondos del estado afectan programas de Caridades Católicas, y se esperan más recortes

Por Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Kathy Toepel se pregunta estos días en dónde está la seguridad de los ciudadanos de edad en la parte este de California, dentro de la lista de prioridades de los funcionarios públicos del estado.

Toepel está preocupada de que la reciente eliminación de casi \$100,000 en fondos del estado, cerca del 48 por ciento de su presupuesto, ha casi devastado el programa de protección pública de los ciudadanos de avanzada edad que ella dirige en *Caridades católicas*, en la diócesis de Stockton, California.

“Nuestro estado ha borrado nuestros fondos económicos”, Toepel le dijo al *Catholic News Service* (CNS, *Servicio católicos de noticias*).

El recorte, parte de los \$500 millones que el gobernador Arnold Schwarzenegger redujo radicalmente de los gastos del estado en octubre para compensar un déficit en el presupuesto, es pequeño en comparación con otros en todo el estado. Sin embargo, es causa de una gran diferencia en la forma en la que Toepel y su equipo administrativo pueden realizar su respectivo trabajo.

El futuro del programa y de otros que *Caridades católicas* maneja en los seis condados de la diócesis de Stockton es incierto,

mientras la legislatura de California se prepara para votar en un compromiso con el presupuesto, hecho a “martillazos” en unas pláticas de “maratón”, a mediados de febrero, en las que se cerró el proyectado déficit de cuarenta y dos mil millones de dólares. Se esperan recortes en numerosos programas.

“Me doy cuenta de que en la industria todos nos sentimos exhaustos”, dijo Toepel. “Estamos en esta ocupación porque nos preocupamos, no por el pago. ¿Cuánto más se espera de nosotros? ¿Cuánto podremos aguantar sin que nuestra salud falle y sin experimentar pérdida de nuestra claridad mental?”

Toepel no está sola. *Caridades católicas* y otros programas dirigidos por agencias religiosas en todo el país han visto reducciones de fondos para trabajo contratado, como también de fuentes particulares. En una encuesta hecha en enero, de agencias de *Caridades católicas*, se demostraba que cerca de un 20 por ciento de las agencias han suspendido programas de necesidades básicas, mientras que el 16 por ciento de las agencias se vieron forzadas a reducir la asistencia de vivienda.

En las agencias que han suspendido programas, se ha despedido a un 56 por ciento del personal administrativo.



El arzobispo de Milwaukee, Timothy M. Dolan, recientemente nombrado arzobispo de Nueva York, saluda al seminarista Ransford Clarke en el seminario St. Joseph en Yonkers, Nueva York, el 24 de febrero. El Papa Benedicto XVI nombró al arzobispo de 59 años de edad como sucesor del cardenal Edward M. Egan. Será director de la segunda arquidiócesis más grande de la nación. (Foto CNS/Chris Sheridan, CATHOLIC NEW YORK)

El apoyo a agricultores locales puede fomentar la economía, dice el Papa

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El apoyo a agricultores locales y trabajadores agrícolas “puede fomentar la economía extendida y brindar mayor seguridad de alimentos para todos”, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

“La asistencia dada a personas que se dedican a los cultivos sirve para fomentar la economía y contribuye al desarrollo en general de la nación en particular”, dijo.

El Papa hizo sus comentarios en una audiencia del 20 de febrero, día en el que se celebraba el 30º aniversario de la agencia del Fondo internacional para desarrollo de la agricultura, conocido por sus siglas

en inglés, IFAD, dependencia de las Naciones Unidas que tiene sus oficinas principales en Roma.

El Papa alabó el trabajo de la agencia, diciendo que era “particularmente crucial en los tiempos actuales, en vista del efecto dañino de la seguridad de alimentos derivado de la actual inestabilidad en los precios de productos de agricultura”.

A la agricultura se le debe dar un papel más prominente en la economía de las naciones y más respeto en la sociedad, dijo.

Con demasiada frecuencia se les niega a los trabajadores agrícolas la oportunidad de que

contribuyan al bien de la sociedad “cuando su trabajo se explota con codicia y los productos agrícolas se desvían y se dirigen a mercados distantes, con poco o ningún beneficio para la comunidad local misma”, dijo.

Una nación (que se precie de ser) humana entiende que se debe apreciar y apoyar el sector agrícola, dijo.

“Si el sector agrícola se apoya con propiedad y se le dota del equipo (necesario), tiene la capacidad de sacar a una nación de la pobreza y de instalar las bases para una prosperidad creciente”, añadió.

A la crisis mundial de alimentos se le llamó ‘bomba de tiempo’

Por Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A la crisis mundial de alimentos se le llamó “bomba de tiempo” en el foro del 24 de febrero durante la *Reunión anual de ministerio social católico* que se llevó a cabo en Washington.

Aunque el precio de cereales ha bajado desde su alza de la primavera pasada, la crisis no se ha terminado, de acuerdo con Rajul Pandya-Lorch, presidenta de personal administrativo del *Instituto internacional de investigaciones de acción política de alimentos*, y jefa de la iniciativa del instituto conocido como *Visión 2020 para alimentos*.

En lugar de eso, la crisis de comida se ha visto oscurecida por la crisis financiera mundial.

El alza de precios fue efecto de la especulación sin reglamentos sobre mercancías alimenticias, dijo Pandya-Lorch.

A pesar de que los reglamentos generalmente limitan la compra de granos de cereal a 11 millones de “bushels” (correspondiente a

seiscientos cuarenta mil, trescientos ochenta y siete millones de litros), las casas financieras de EEUU — Morgan Stanley y *American International Group*, conocidas mejor por sus siglas en inglés AIG — utilizan evasiones a la ley para comprar más de lo que en inglés se denomina 2 billones de “bushels” de granos, manteniéndolos fuera de mercado y causando que los precios se disparen. El arroz se triplicó en precio y el trigo y el maíz duplicaron su precio, dijo.

Otra causa del alza de precio de alimentos fue el uso de alimentos para producir combustibles derivados directamente de productos biológicos. El grano de cereal que se usó el año pasado fue el 5 por ciento para comida, dijo Pandya-Lorch, pero hasta un 38 por ciento para producir combustibles.

El alza de precios hizo que tanto productores como consumidores sufrieran pérdidas. Debido a que el precio del petróleo también sufrió alza, a los productores les

Las casas financieras de EEUU — Morgan Stanley y AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP, conocidas mejor por sus siglas en inglés AIG — utilizan evasiones a la ley para comprar más de lo que en inglés se denomina 2 billones de “bushels” de granos, manteniéndolos fuera de mercado y causando que los precios se disparen. El arroz se triplicó en precio y el trigo y el maíz duplicaron su precio.

—Rajul Pandya-Lorch

fue difícil mantener contratos de renta de equipo para plantar más y aprovechar los precios más altos, dijo Pandya-Lorch; y los consumidores pobres, especialmente en

países en desarrollo, se vieron forzados a gastar de un 50 a un 70 por ciento de sus ingresos para comprar comida.

Sin embargo, los alimentos baratos no son la solución automática para la crisis de comida, dijo. “La gente cree que precios bajos de comida son buenos para los pobres en los países en desarrollo. No lo son”, declaró Pandya-Lorch.

Los precios bajos llevan a una inundación de comida barata importada proveniente de las naciones que cuentan con agricultura de altos rendimientos, lo que les crea falta de incentivos a los agricultores locales para que cultiven sus propios plantíos, pues no pueden competir con los precios.

Una nueva dinámica en el trastorno del precio de alimentos del año pasado fue la carestía debida a una demanda creciente, de acuerdo con Pandya-Lorch. Las carestías en el pasado se han debido principalmente a una

producción insuficiente.

A pesar de eso, la tasa de cosechas en aumento ha bajado de 1 a 2 por ciento, hizo notar. A principios de la década del 1990, la tasa de aumento había sido de un 1.5 a un 3 por ciento; y a principios de la década del 1980, la tasa de aumento había sido de un 3 a un 5 por ciento, dependiendo del tipo de grano.

El uso de granos para alimento de animales también quita comida del mercado. Se lleva 2 libras de grano para producir 1 libra de carne de pollo, dijo; pero se llevan 6 libras de grano para producir 1 libra de carne roja.

Steve Hilbert, consejero de política de acción para asuntos de África, de la *Oficina internacional de justicia y paz*, de los obispos de los Estados Unidos, hizo un llamado para mercados más calmados y el cierre de evasiones contra la ley.

“Tenemos que afirmar que uno no puede tratar las mercancías de comida como lo haríamos con el cobre”, dijo Hilbert.

Finances, Hispanics, and special needs kids among summit topics

FROM PAGE 1

Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston said the summit promised to develop a concerted plan and list of priorities that would help the Texas church respond to the U.S. Catholic bishops' 2005 statement, "Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium."

"People are always asking me what are the hopeful signs in the Catholic Church in the United States," he told the audience, during a kick-off dinner. "I tell them one of the hopeful signs I see is that we're still committed to Catholic schools and Catholic education."

The future of the church depends on the formation of its young people, he said. "We indeed look to the young ones and believe they are worth the effort and the toil to see they are formed," the cardinal added.

Following a day of workshop sessions designed to identify initiatives that would strengthen the ministry and affordability of Catholic schools, summit participants gathered to report findings and vote on priorities. The group agreed strongly that faith formation of principals, faculty, staff, and parents are integral to maintaining the school system's Catholic identity.

They also felt that the clergy plays a major role in recruiting Catholic school students.

"They should do that for all children, but there should be special emphasis to invite the Hispanic children from their communities to be part of Catholic schools," said Rene Gonzalez, superintendent of Corpus Christi Catholic schools who served as the facilitator for the workshop on attracting Hispanic students.

Educating faculty and staff about the Hispanic culture could also have an impact on recruitment. Hispanic families are sensitive to what Gonzalez called "the welcoming factor."

"We take in how people talk to us, how they look, and their tone of voice very seriously," he explained. "So if a person walks in, and they are treated in a very cold manner, they won't come back."

Better professional development could remedy any misconceptions and educate people about the relevant cultural differences. "There are many teachers who may not understand Hispanic culture," Gonzalez said, before offering an example. "When a Hispanic child is talking to an adult, he may look down. That is not disrespect. That is to show respect."

With Hispanic Catholics a growing force in the U.S. and

With Hispanic Catholics a growing force in the U.S. and Texas population, many summit participants believe more effort should be made to include them in Catholic education.

Texas population, many summit participants believe more effort should be made to include them in Catholic education.

"Many of these children are not educated in their faith and have parents who did not finish elementary school," said Father Stephen Jasso, TOR, pastor of the predominantly Hispanic All Saints Parish on the North Side of Fort Worth. "We have a great challenge to education them well."

Immigrants are a blessing to the country and a divine gift to the church, he said, adding, "We must take good care of the gift they give to us. They need a welcoming attitude from us and the church."

Money is an important factor in meeting that need. His parish school educates 90 children on a budget of \$600,000. At the same time, the parish spends \$80,000 on the 850 youngsters enrolled in its religious education program.

"This is a very serious moment for us," Fr. Jasso told the crowd. "We have to make sure our money is well spent and we get all the children we can into our Catholic schools."

Fr. Jasso said it's sometimes difficult to justify the expense of a Catholic school, but he knows they are a vital ministry of the church.

"Why did the church grow in this country?" he asked rhetorically. "Because of the Catholic schools. This summit is so important because it has a real mission. We're here today because God and the Holy Spirit brought us together. There's a need for Catholic education in the state of Texas."

Being inclusive also means reaching out to youngsters with learning or behavioral disabilities.

"In the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston we like to refer to meeting special needs as meeting the unique needs of special learners," explained School Superintendent Sister Kevina Keating, CCVI.

The lifelong educator admitted that Catholic schools have not always served students with disabilities adequately.

"This is an opportunity to realize that we have grown and are aware of the needs of all different people," she added. "Hopefully, we're becoming more inclusive in many ways."

A two-year member of the diocesan Schools Advisory Council in the Diocese of Fort Worth, James Leito III, felt the summit was valuable despite the struggles that come with doing something for the first time.

"I like the issues we've discussed, and they've been pretty much on point," he said. "The real challenge will be creating a sense of urgency so these issues can be resolved. Focusing on one critical area might deliver the best short-term result. "And I think that should be formation," Leito added, referring to the discussion about educating teachers. Finances will follow easily, if you have that priority right, he said.

Sister Dawn Achs, SSND, assistant superintendent of schools in the Diocese of Dallas, said the summit provided administrators with a lot of information in a short period of time.

"A lot of what we've discussed will come down to finances," she said. "How we're able to follow through on any of these initiatives will depend on the monies that are available."

The faltering economy may enhance that challenge, but the former elementary school principal said funding has always been an issue in Catholic education.

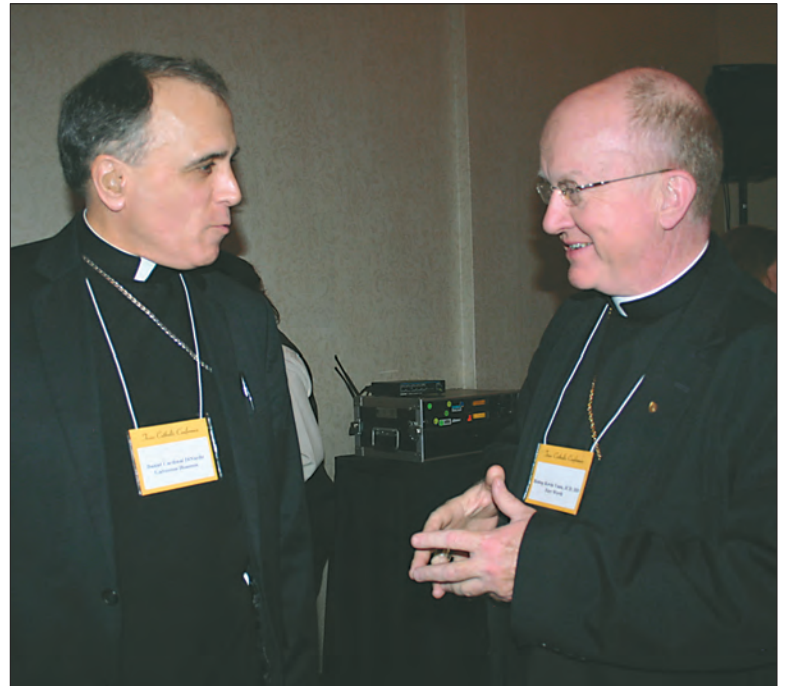
"We've always tried to figure out how to meet the needs of the students and provide in-service for the teachers," Sr. Dawn said. "Even when the economy was good, we still struggled."

Organizers will post results from the summit on the TCC Web site later this spring, according to Don Miller, superintendent of schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth and a member of the event's steering committee. School superintendents who planned the summit are scheduled to meet March 30-31 to review notes and set a course of action.

"We will report back to the bishops about the outcome and make recommendations and suggestions," he added.

Miller said the summit exceeded expectations.

"We were hoping for a good turnout, and that's what we got — a committed group of advocates," the superintendent enthused. "We're pleased by the results. Now the challenge is to move forward."



LEFT TO RIGHT: Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston, who gave welcoming remarks for the Texas Catholic schools summit, visits with Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Feb. 26, after the opening dinner and presentation at the the American Airlines Training and Conference Center in Fort Worth.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Presenters Daniel Curtin, executive director of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education a department of the NCEA, that serves, among others, superintendents of Catholic school systems; Texas Catholic Conference Executive Director Andrew Rivas; and summit steering committee member and host Diocese of Fort Worth Catholic Schools Superintendent Don Miller.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dallas Catholic Schools Superintendent Sister Gloria Cain, SSND and a conference participant visit between topical discussions on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Her art has been described as 'wonderful, luminiscent, gentle'

FROM PAGE 28

"I was in so much pain, and I felt so isolated, I was living away from my family in that hospital, and very much alone. And then one night I prayed so hard as I lay there in bed. I said in my prayer, 'I know You can heal me.' And the next morning, I sat up in my bed. I went home that afternoon." Her experience left her with a sense of responsibility, she reflects. "I knew I had to do something, to give back, to express my gratitude."

While active in her family's Methodist church, Pattie's sensitive, beauty-loving nature came to embrace the rituals, smells, and visual delights of the church she enjoyed attending with her best friend, a Catholic. "I was drawn to the Catholic faith from a very early age," she recalls. "There was always something in the music, the prayers, and the serenity

that drew me in." She eventually converted to Catholicism, but "it took such a long time to get to that point," she says with a laugh. Along the way, she worked as a greeting card designer and a children's religious book illustrator, working for the most part from her kitchen table after her son and daughter were in bed and later, during their hours at school.

"My husband attended the seminary, and later became a Methodist minister," she explains. "So I was a pastor's wife, living with our family in a parsonage, working with women's Bible study groups, raising our children, and volunteering at their schools." While living in Fall River, Massachusetts, Pattie became involved as a volunteer in a Catholic hospice facility administered by Dominican sisters. Sitting in the hospice's small chapel, Pattie, then in her early thirties,

The artist is shown here working in her home studio. Pattie and her husband have lived in North Texas since 2007 and attend Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington.



again felt the pull toward the Catholic faith. "I felt the richness, the joy, that those women experienced," she says. "I loved the liturgical seasons that they observed. I knew that I wanted that, too."

Voraciously reading about the lives of the saints and mystics, Pattie also became drawn to create sacred pieces of art, inspired by a Russian iconographer whom she met when her family moved to Syracuse, New York. "Gregory Melnick's artwork is marvelous," she wrote, in a summary of her own work with icons. "I felt I had a new mission, a new purpose. My art became visual ministry. I worked up several

pieces and relied on Gregory to give me an honest critique. He gave me encouragement and counsel, and my work with icons and sacred art began."

Sustained by her practices of attending daily Mass, regular neighborhood prayer meetings, and surrounded by Catholic friends, Pattie finally knew that it was time to embrace what she already thought of as her own Catholic identity, and, in 1999, she was confirmed at St. Daniel Church in Syracuse. Her husband, having left his work in ministry in order to practice law, gave her his blessing. "He has been so supportive of my journey of faith, just as he has supported my life as an artist," says Pattie.

Having now painted icons in churches in New York, Alabama, Mexico, and Texas, Pattie finds the deepest satisfaction in bringing images of hope and healing to those who are suffering, because, as she notes again, she, too, has known pain.

"I am a sponsor for a ministry in San Antonio known as 'Feed My Sheep,'" she says.

"Each month volunteers take food, clothing, and medicines to Piedras Negras.... A tornado hit the community two years ago and destroyed the Catholic church. I was inspired to paint an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe to give the people hope in the midst of terrible destruction. It was a great joy to be an instrument in God's restoration to a hurting and hopeless village. Our Lady brought smiles and a mother's love to the hurting villagers."

Patricia Mattozzi, who has been lauded for what reviewers call her "wonderful, luminiscent, and gentle" illustrations, smiles her joyous smile when receiving compliments for her work, her "visual ministry." "It's the Holy Spirit," she says, simply. "I offer each day, and each piece of art to the Lord. We can have our plans, but ultimately, everything I have done has been for Him."

To view more of Patricia Mattozzi's artwork, go to www.pattiemattozzi.com. For more information contact her by e-mail at patticiamattozzi@aol.com

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11

My friend Mary, who went to the same Catholic high school as I, still lives in Colorado, where she is my official documenter of all things back home.

Mary sent me the obituary notice when our bishop, Charles Buswell, passed away last summer, shortly after the death of our favorite teacher Sister Margaret Elizabeth.

"Bishop Buswell was the most amazing man. HU-MAN," she wrote, poignantly. "Now he's gone and so is Sr. Maggie Liz. "I have to find new heroes."

But Mary already has a pretty good hero in her beloved granddaughter, Susie, who was born in 2006 with damage to the chromosome designated as 18p. "It breaks my children's hearts that Susie has this problem," she wrote, then. "At first they didn't want to hear what the doctors were saying.

"As she grows it's obvious she has special needs and is a very special child. But she was born into the right family ... we'll love her and love her and love her."

Later, Mary wrote, "When I'm unloading the dishwasher I bend over and stand up bend over and stand up, Susie thinks we are playing peek-a-boo and starts cackling out loud... Oh, she loves to play.... She still lacks strength in her lower body, so her crawling may be delayed. She is sitting up like the queen of the prom though."

Recently Mary attended an

organ recital at a nearby university, and the music brought her such emotion that she wrote me a note when she got home.

"I'm crazy about organ music," she wrote. "ANYWAY as I sat there listening and watching, it occurred to me there were quite a few people who played our parish's pipe organ, an amazing instrument. I wondered if they appreciated that time in their life, to play such an instrument.

"Then I started thinking about all of us who have had special opportunities we didn't always appreciate. To be at home with my kids until they were in junior high was pretty unusual. They loved that I could do that.

"And I have the most amazing sisters," Mary said. "How lucky can one person be? My mom and dad really loved me; I see children today who are not blessed that way. I knew my parents loved me, but didn't realize the magnificence of it."

Mary shared her awakening with me: the greatness of the parish pipe organ, the love of sisters, and the care of parents became so large in her mind and heart, that the bliss overflowed, and to have her send it to me was a privilege I never expected.

She sketched enormous joys we all have, even though sometimes we keep them hidden from our sight, like dust under the furniture. When we pull them out of our sometimes darkness, they have the ability to brighten our vision and color

our lives with hope and faith.

I have not given Julie my vacuum cleaner, even though all my floors are carpetless. If not for the vacuum cleaner I wouldn't have swept under the couch to find the dust bunnies, and more importantly, the Easter grass, a constant sign of Christ's presence.

Mary and I both went through epiphanies. She discovered blessings, while listening to music. I found Easter grass while cleaning our Lenten home.

"You were always here in my home, grass," I said. "And you were always here in my life, Lord," I remembered.

Yesterday Mary wrote me another note: "Susie is talking more and more these days," she said. "She is the sweetest little girl. At Children's Hospital we were working with a neurologist on the results of an MRI they had done on her.

"The doctor bent over to check her knee flex, so he was right in front of her face," my friend described, "and SUSIE PLANTED A BIG JUICY KISS on his cheek.

"How lucky am I?"

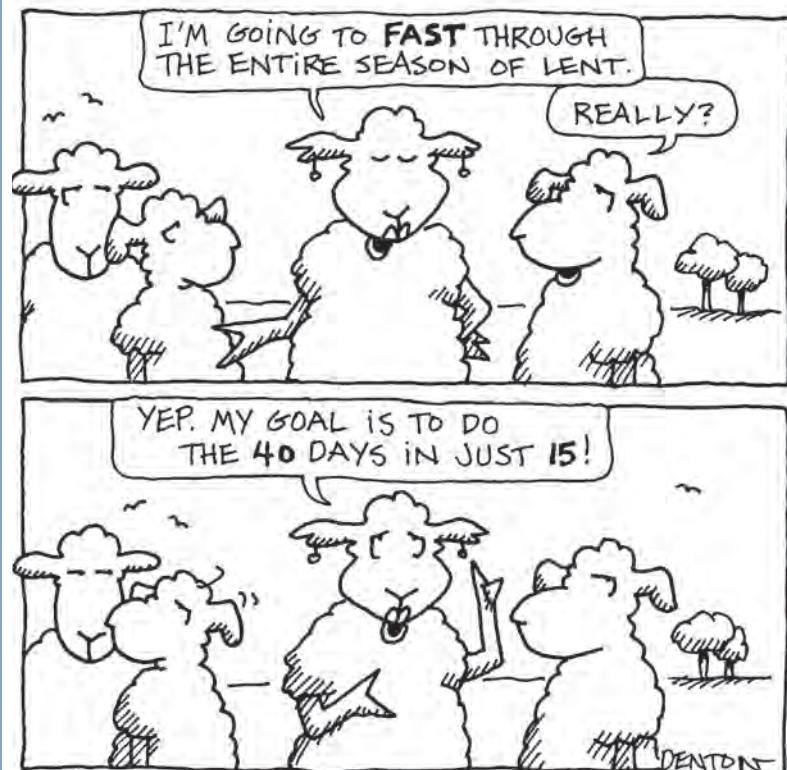


Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. Last May, her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada at the Catholic Media Convention in Toronto. In 2005,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

The FLOCK

By Jean Denton

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Calendar

UTA CATHOLIC ART SHOW

The University Catholic Community at the University of Texas at Arlington is sponsoring a juried art competition entitled *Amor Vitae: Love of Life!* on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 at Artspace 111 in downtown Fort Worth. The show is open to high school juniors and seniors and undergraduate college students throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. Artists are asked to depict work that reflects Catholic Social Teaching to respect all forms of life. To receive an application, call the UCC at (817) 460-1155 or download it from the Web site at www.utacatholic.org. Deadline to submit work will be Monday, April 20. Artwork, application forms, and money can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 12 to 6 p.m. at the UCC, located at 1010 Benge Dr. in Arlington, or at the Catholic Campus Center for the University of North Texas, located at 1303 Eagle Dr. in Denton from Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call Lisa Campbell at the UCC or e-mail her at lcampbell@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.

YOUTH 2000

The 2009 YOUTH 2000 Retreat led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal of the Bronx, will be held Friday, April 17 to Sunday April 19 at Nolan Catholic High School at 4501 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. This retreat is for and by all youth and young adults between the ages of 13 and 30. The deadline for early registration of \$40 per person is Wednesday, April 1. Housing will not be provided. All minors must be accompanied by an adult, and all adults must have had the Safe Environment training of their diocese. For more information, call (817) 558-9805, or visit the Web site for the event at www.fwdiocyouthretreat.org.

MOZART REQUIEM CHOIR

Choir members from all parishes in the diocese have been invited to join the St. Patrick Cathedral Adult Choir in singing *Mozart's Requiem* at the cathedral's Palm Sunday Mass, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. Volunteers must be available to attend the dress rehearsal on April 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. and are also invited to attend regular choir rehearsals each Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Cynthia Cardenas at ccards@att.net or call (682) 465-5248 for more information. St. Patrick Cathedral is located at 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth.

MOMS' SUPPORT GROUP

Families who have lost a child because of miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion are invited to join a Mothers' Group offering support, sharing, and healing Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Church's pastoral center at 3717 Stadium Dr. in Fort Worth. Pastoral care professionals will facilitate the group, and confidentiality is assured. For more information, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383 or by e-mail at acurran@standrewcc.org. Childcare is provided if reservations are made at least 48 hours in advance by phone at (817) 924-6581. There will be a \$5 fee per child.

ST. FRANCIS TEA

St. Francis of Assisi Church's Mothers with Young Children will host their annual Tea and Auction Charity Event from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 29 at the parish Family Life Center at 861 Wildwood Ln. in Grapevine. Admission is free, and tea, sandwiches, refreshments, and sweets will be provided. Silent and live auctions will be held, in addition to door prizes being given. Only payment by cash or check will be accepted for auction items. All proceeds will benefit adopted Christmas families, St. Francis Outreach, Children's Discovery Center Preschool, The Youth Scholarship Fund, and Catholic Charities. For more information, contact Claudia Halman, Nancy Smith, Mary Beth Soucy, or Lori Spisak at myc@sfatx.org.

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

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.

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 March 20 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, March 11. Items for the April 10 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 1.

ULSTER PROJECT

Ulster Project of Arlington will hold a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance Saturday, March 14 from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. at Elks Lodge 2114 at 601 W. Pioneer Pkwy. in Arlington. The cost is \$25 per person in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, contact Arlene Smith at (817) 478-4382.

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

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 March 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.

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. March 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.

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.

CENTERING PRAYER

This half-day workshop will be held in St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr. in Fort Worth in the chapel Saturday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with registration at 8:45 a.m. The presenters will be Sandy Guancial and Wilma Yarrington of Contemplative Outreach in Dallas. This "Prayer of the Heart" dates to the desert fathers and mothers of the fourth century. It is an introduction to contemplative life as practiced in monasteries and convents to this day, but one designed by Trappist monks for the use of the laity. A \$15 offering is suggested. Participants can pre-register at www.cellofpeace.com. For more information, contact Tom Uhler at tomuhler@yahoo.com, or (817) 874-2894, or Sandy Guancial at [cellofpeace.com](http://www.cellofpeace.com). For more information about this and other events in the Fort Worth area, visit the Contemplative Outreach-Fort Worth Web site at <http://www.cpfortworth.org>. For groups that meet regularly and would like to be added to the list on the Web site, contact Tom Uhler.

FOUR-PART LECTURE SERIES

Father David Bristow of St. Mary of the Assumption Church will present a four-part Lenten talk series, "The Virtue of Virtue" every Wednesday evening in March at St. Mary located at 509 W. Magnolia Ave. in Fort Worth. The series began on March 4, and continues March 11, 18, and 25, with Mass at 7 p.m., followed by the talk and ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 923-1911.

CIVIL ACTION TRAINING

Catholics Respect Life and the Diocese of Fort Worth Respect Life Office will sponsor a "Catholic Civic Action Training" from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21 in the St. Maria Center of St. Maria Goretti Church located at 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington. The training will educate and prepare "Citizen Volunteers" to pray for and monitor the activities, votes, and statements of elected officials, to keep in contact with them via e-mail, letters, and phone calls, and to visit them in person for the purpose of enacting pro-life legislation. The morning will include guest speakers Andrew Rivas, the executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Bishops of Texas; Maria Huemmer, the conference's public relations and outreach coordinator; and Joe Pojman, president of the Austin-based Texas Alliance for Life. Training is free, and advanced registration is required. For more information or to register contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, Director of Respect Life, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257 or cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org.

LENTE MISSION

National speaker, author, and cartoonist Jason Kotecki will speak at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Lewisville to teach participants how to "stress less" and "have more fun" during a Lenten Mission Monday, March 23, and Tuesday, March 24 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. both nights for dinner, followed by a program from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided for those younger than five-years-old. To RSVP for dinner, contact Susan Sandles by phone (972) 219-5838at or e-mail at susans@stphilipcc.org. To RSVP for childcare, e-mail suem@stphilipcc.org.

LENTE 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.

DAUGHTERS OF ST. ANN

The Daughters of St. Ann are hosting a Lenten lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at St. Ann Church at 100 SW Alsbury Blvd. in Burleson. The topic is "Thank God for Purgatory!" presented by Father Mel Bessellieu, pastor of St. Ann. Refreshments will follow in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend. For additional information, call the church office at (817) 295-5621.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap (TOT), a popular religious education opportunity for young adults ages 21 through 39, will be offered on consecutive Tuesday evenings during March. According to the event's organizers, the four-part series offers dynamic speakers and engaging discussions on topical theological issues in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. Each TOT session is held at 7 p.m. at Los Vaqueros Restaurant, located at 2629 N. Main St. in the Stockyards District near downtown Fort Worth. For more information about TOT during the month of March, contact TOT team leader Anthony Flores at meskin24@gmail.com or Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-2452 ext. 261 or via e-mail at kprevou@fwdioc.org.

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.

Classified Section

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, résumé, salary requirements and three current/verifiable references to: Search Committee Liturgy and Music, 352 Cascata Drive, Frisco, TX 75034.

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Little Apostles Nursery School at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Lewisville has an opening for a Preschool Director; 12-month position, 30 hours/week with benefits. Little Apostles is a state-licensed preschool serving children 6 weeks to not yet in kindergarten with an average enrollment of 140 students. Will manage all aspects of preschool including curriculum, staff development, business planning, finances, and communication, and will supervise 35+ employees. Current director will assist with transition. Job description at www.stphilipcc.org, Job Board page. Resumes and cover letter to office@stphilipcc.org; deadline 4/15/09. No phone calls please.

FITNESS COACHES

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

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

COME JOIN US ON OUR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

June 9-18, 2009 with Fr. Raphael Eagle, TOR. Celebrate daily Mass and see Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, and much more for only \$3075 (air, hotel & meals provided). Call Charles Gappa 682-552-1875 or 817-294-1013 agappa@charter.net

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 résumé to Holy Family Church; Attn: Diane Kain, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth 76107 or e-mail to dkain@hollyfamilyfw.org. For more information, call (817) 737-6768 ext. 104

SPANISH MUSIC DIRECTOR

Musician needed to coordinate and direct a newly forming Spanish choir for one liturgy per weekend at St. Michael Catholic Church in Bedford. Qualifications for this position include: knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy, proficiency in voice and keyboard, experience in directing choirs and training cantors. Job description is available upon request. Please send resume to jwerner@smcchurch.org.

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.

ADVERTISE IN THE
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Good Newsmaker

A lifetime of gratitude to God is reflected in Patricia Mattozzi's

Visual Ministry

Story by Nicki Prevou
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

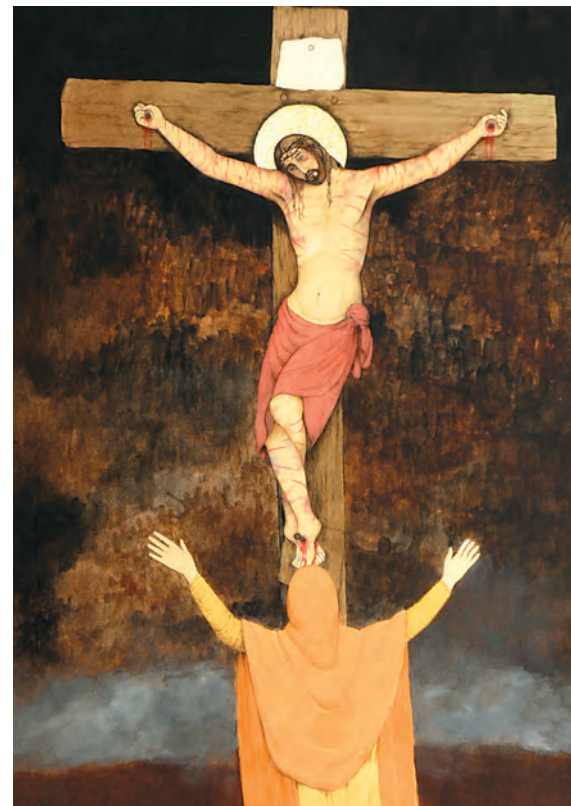
Patricia Mattozzi exudes an almost ethereal spirit of joy and serenity, her empathetic smile conveying an appealing blend of mid-life purpose and childlike wonder.

As a young child, "Pattie" lived in a world of loneliness, fear, and isolation — then, having experienced what she calls a "truly miraculous healing" — went on to become a wife, mother, award-winning artist, hospice volunteer, and minister to the imprisoned.

"When you have suffered, you notice others who suffer," she says. "When you have a religious faith, you know that you can help people in pain by sharing what you have learned about God."

Having lived in eight different states during their 40 years of married life, Pattie and her attorney husband, Richard, moved again in June of 2007, when Richard's work brought them to Arlington. Pattie immediately found a church home — Most Blessed Sacrament Church in North Arlington — and, just as quickly, began serving as a eucharistic minister in the parish and at local hospitals.

A leader for the past 14 years in various prison ministry outreach programs in Virginia, San Antonio, and Waco, Pattie also quickly became involved in a spiritual formation program at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) Carswell in Fort



Worth, a prison for women. She is there each Thursday morning and every other Tuesday evening, serving as a mentor, teaching in a re-entry program to prepare prisoners prior to their release, and quietly sharing her own story of personal transformation and evolution as a creator of religious art.

That story includes her bout with polio as a young child living in Florida, an experience that kept her confined to a hospital bed for more than a year. "My recovery at the age of five was truly a miracle," she says.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT:

- Artist Patricia Mattozzi with several of her pieces of sacred art and children's books she has illustrated. Included is her book, *The Jesus Garden: An Easter Legend*, which received the 2005 Silver Angel Award for Excellence in Media.
- Pattie's depiction of Mary at the foot of the cross, currently on display in a Lenten exhibit at a local Methodist church.
- This sacramental image of Jesus is similar to one Pattie created for the chapel at St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington.
- This image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is done in gold leaf, acrylic paint, and designer's gouache, an opaque water color.
- Pattie donated a framed portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Sacred Heart Church in Piedras Negras as a sign of encouragement after a tornado devastated the community two years ago.

LEFT: One of the artist's many original images of the crucified Christ.

MAILING LABEL: Please enclose label with address change or inquiries concerning mail delivery of your paper. Thank you.

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Bishop Vann blessed the home built as the first all-Catholic Habitat for Humanity build Feb. 28 with Habitat volunteers and the new homeowner and his family there to take part.

9

Father Robert Thames, our priest in mission in Bolivia, was the guest of honor when supporters of Educate the Children came together to celebrate their Fifth Anniversary Gala.

14-15

Vatican says apologies from traditionalist bishop for Holocaust-denying remarks are inadequate; traditionalists say Vatican II brought "only losses," refuse to accept it and papal teachings since.

19