



# NEWSMAGAZINE North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

Vol. 28 No. 3

March 2012

## *Msgr. Steenson installed as the first Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter*



Photos by Donna Ryckaert

Cardinal Donald Wuerl hands Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson the document erecting the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter at the Mass of Institution for the Ordinariate and the installation of Msgr. Steenson as its first Ordinary.

### **Msgr. Steenson will lead all communities of former Anglicans within the Ordinariate**

**By John Henry  
Correspondent**

HOUSTON — The installation of Monsignor Jeffrey N. Steenson, PA, as leader of the Personal Ordinariate of the United States was marked by a gathering of priests, bishops, cardinals, and hundreds of Anglo-Catholics, many of whom are members of Catholic communities of former Anglicans, and many others who are poised to make the commitment to come into full communion with the Universal Church.

The High Mass of Institution of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston marked the most significant measure of reunification of the Church of England — with which the Episcopal Church USA is in communion — and the Roman Catholic Church since Henry VIII severed ties 477 years ago.

**SEE PERSONAL, P. 26**



***Monsignor Steenson and Bishop Vann pose with colleagues on journey to Catholic priesthood***

Former Anglican priests from the Diocese of Fort Worth currently in various stages of their personal journeys toward becoming Catholic priests, pose with the bishop of their diocese, Bishop Vann, and the Ordinary under whom many hope to serve, Msgr. Steenson. Several of them served with then Anglican Fr. Steenson in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. **From Left:** Joshua Whitfield, Timothy Perkins, Louis Tobola, Msgr. Steenson, Bishop Vann, Christopher Stainbrook, Chuck Hough III, and Chuck Hough IV.



# Our Shepherd Speaks

## The HHS Mandate is a direct threat to our religious freedom in the United States

### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The gift of liberty, especially the gift to live our faith fully and freely is one of the unique and priceless gifts of living in the United States. Our Founding Fathers, in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, listed as the first of all the inalienable rights owed to the human person the right to freedom of religion. This wisdom of our Founding Fathers, however, although unique in the establishment of a government for the people by the people, was nothing new. The right to freedom of religion and the freedom of conscience was a right long expressed and upheld in the Catholic Tradition and was a right that was fought for, even to the death, by many Catholics throughout the centuries.

One saint that comes immediately to mind is St. Thomas Becket, the 12th century Archbishop of Canterbury who was martyred by King Henry II for standing up to the attempts of the crown to interfere with the inherent rights and privileges of the Church and for the right to freedom of religion and conscience for all the English Catholics of his day. Even Chris Matthews on MSNBC's Hardball, in reaction to the recent HHS mandate, recalled the story of St. Thomas Becket and St. Thomas More as instances of the state interfering with religious freedom. "I guess I grew up watching movies like 'Becket' and 'A Man for All Seasons' and seeing the church and state go to war with each other and being told stories from the Old Testament about the Maccabees, about people, families being told you got to eat pork... It gets to that interesting point for me, which is frightening, when the state tells the church what to do."

In our modern times, the Church has also had much to say about the right to freedom of religion and conscience, especially in a time where religious freedom and conscience is often trampled upon in many areas of the world. In response to this, the Second Vatican Council issued a decree *Dignitatis Humanae* on religious freedom. In this decree, the Council states:

*This Vatican Council declares that the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits. The council further declares that the right to religious freedom has its foundation*



Bishop Kevin Vann

*in the very dignity of the human person as this dignity is known through the revealed word of God and by reason itself. This right of the human person to religious freedom is to be recognized in the constitutional law whereby society is governed and thus it is to become a civil right. (2)*

This gift and right to religious freedom has been a right that has been cherished throughout our country's history. It is precisely because of this right and its protection under law, that our country has been able to prosper, and it is also the reason that the Catholic Church has so flourished in our country over the last 236 years. However, this right to religious liberty and the right to our freedom of conscience can never be taken for granted. Recently, there have been ever steadily growing in our country, many serious threats to our freedom of religion and our freedom of conscience.

This all came to a head at the end of January when the Department of Health and Human Services mandated that all health insurance coverage include "preventive health benefits" that include contraception, sterilization, and even some abortion causing drugs such as the morning after pill. This time around, the Obama Administration is not including any conscience protection clause that would allow religious institutions, including Catholic institutions, to opt out of such coverage. This is a blatant and direct attack upon the freedom of conscience of millions of Catholics and others who hold that these "benefits" are intrinsically immoral, and therefore a denial of our freedom of religion and free practice thereof as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution. This cannot stand! We must act to see that this unjust and immoral mandate is repealed!

Unfortunately, although the most blatant, it is not the first instance of an increasingly hostile stance toward religious freedom in our country. In fact, the concerns about religious freedom and the growing attack on religious and moral beliefs, especially those of Roman Catholics, moved Bishop William Lori of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut to testify back in October before the House Judiciary Committee on the increasing threats to freedom of religion and conscience in the United States, which particularly affects those who live and uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church. As a part his testimony, Bishop Lori stated:

*The United States stands strongly for the principle that these rights of freedom are also rights of equality — that government should not impose any special civil disadvantages or otherwise discriminate against its citizens based on religion. And although it may not have always lived up to this or other religious freedom principles in practice, our country's unique capacity for self-correction has always provided avenues to repair to these principles that have made it a great nation.*

*Regrettably, now is the time for such self-correction and repair. In the recent past, the Bishops of the United States have watched with increasing alarm as this great national legacy of religious liberty, so profoundly in harmony with our own teachings, has been subject to ever more frequent assault and ever more rapid erosion.... I am here today to call to your attention grave threats to religious liberty that have emerged even since June — grim validations of the Bishops' recognition of the need for urgent and concerted action in this area. I focus on these because most of them arise under federal law, and so may well be the subject of corrective action by Congress.*

Among some of the threats to religious freedom and conscience, Bishop Lori listed:

1. *In August, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandated certain preventive services, including contraceptives and abortifacients to be included in all private health care insurance plans without adequate conscience protections. (And now that has been changed to no conscience protections at all!)*

2. *In May, HHS added a new requirement to its cooperative agreements and government contracts for services to victims of human trafficking and to refugees who are unaccompanied minors, so that otherwise highly qualified service providers, such as*

*USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services, will be barred from participation in the program because they cannot in conscience provide the "full range" of reproductive services—namely, abortion and contraception.*

3. *The State Department's U.S. Agency for International Development is increasingly requiring contractors, such as Catholic Relief Services, to provide comprehensive HIV prevention activities (including condom distribution), as well as full integration of its programs with reproductive health activities (including provision of artificial contraception) in a range of international relief and development programs. This is limiting the work that Catholic organizations such as CRS can do.*

4. *The Federal Department of Justice has ratcheted up its attack on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) by mischaracterizing it as an act of bigotry. If the label of "bigot" sticks to our Church and many other churches, especially in court, under the Constitution—because of their teaching on marriage, the result will be church-state conflicts for many years to come.*

5. *At the state level, religious liberty protections associated with the redefinition of marriage have fallen far short of what is necessary. In New York, county clerks face legal action for refusing to participate in same-sex unions, and in Illinois, Catholic Charities has been driven out of the adoption and foster care business, because it recognizes the unique value of man-woman marriage for the well-being of children.*

These are serious threats to religious freedom and freedom of conscience not only for Catholics, but they undermine one of the most fundamental and inalienable human rights that has been the cornerstone of our nation since its very beginnings. Therefore, we as Catholics must be aware of these important issues and exercise our right to participate in the public square to ensure that our religious freedom and freedom of conscience are protected and defended. This is not just a Catholic issue, but an issue that affects the common good and our very society and country.

In addition to testifying before Congress regarding the threat to religious liberty, Bishop Lori also announced at the U.S. Bishops' Meeting in November the formation of the new Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty at the USCCB. The focus of the committee is to highlight and promote religious freedom, especially as expressed in *Dignitatis Humanae*. Bishop Lori explained that the first task of the committee will be to address the "erosion of our



# CONTENTS

## Features

- 7** *Papal honors are to be bestowed on five for their service to the Church*  
By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
- 7** *Blessed John Paul II, our first 'University parish' coming in July*  
By North Texas Catholic Staff
- 10-11** *Southwest Liturgical Conference draws more than 1,200 for 50th*  
By John Henry & Michele Baker
- 17-20** *From Fort Worth, to Dallas, to D.C., we marked Roe v. Wade's anniversary*  
By John, Joan, Crystal, Juan, and Julie

March 2012

## Departments

- 4-5** **Briefly**
- 13** **Catechesis**
- 14-15** **Voices**
- 16** **Features**
- 30-31** **Word to Life**
- 32-34** **Spanish**
- 35** **Calendar**

## Lent draws us into the desert

With all the hubbub of daily life distracting us, maybe the desert's the only place we'll be able to hear the voice of God at its clearest. A good dose of silence can help us turn to prayer, turn to God and the things of God.

We build up strength when we turn to prayer, and living in troubled times and times of great change, we need the strength that comes from walking more closely with our Lord. For more details on the Conscience objections the Church has to the new HHS healthcare regulations, see the Bishop's column opposite this page; Lucas Pollice's column on **Page 13** and additional coverage on **Pages 22-23**.

The Respect Life package on **Pages 17-20** captures a lot of what went on here and elsewhere around the *Roe v. Wade* anniversary date. And on **Page 9**, you can read about a new Catholic Charities collaborative program that links Tarrant County physicians and medical services with those without the ability to pay.

And, as always, you can find out what's going on behind the scenes at the **Bishop's Blog** at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org). And catch us on Facebook: "North Texas Catholic Newspaper" or at [fwdioc.org/NTC](http://fwdioc.org/NTC) for fresh news.

Jeff Hensley, Editor

religious liberties in the United States," particularly in instances in which religious freedom is "deemed a second-class right, subordinate to so-called 'rights' of abortion and same-sex 'marriage,' which are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights." The formation of this new committee is further evidence of the growing concern in the Church regarding the increasing threats to religious liberty in our culture and society.

What are we to do about all of this? The first thing we must do is pray. These issues are the result of a society that is increasingly drifting away from God and therefore is becoming increasingly separated from faith and basic moral principles. The solution to these problems is ultimately going to come through the conversion of hearts back to God and to the realization of the dignity of each and every human person. This ongoing conversion starts with each one of us and will only come about through serious prayer for the conversion of hearts.

The next thing that we need to do is make our voices known loud and clear in the public square. As Catholics, we need to let our elected representatives know that we strongly oppose this HHS mandate and demand its repeal. To find out how to contact

your local representatives, please go to the Diocesan website [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) where you will find on the home page how to contact your representatives in Congress. We must also stay informed and up to date on these issues and other developments so that we can respond to them quickly and appropriately.

Thirdly, we must be willing, as Roman Catholics, to not be afraid to be witnesses to the truth about Christ and the dignity of the human person, and to bring our Catholic faith and convictions to the public square. These issues that face our country are not just Catholic issues, but serious issues that gravely undermine and subvert the common good. The First Amendment of the Constitution did not intend to separate religion and politics — rather it protects and guarantees our freedom to bring our faith, values, and convictions to the public square in order to protect and defend the common good!

Therefore, we cannot be afraid to make our voices known and to witness to the truth of the Gospel and the dignity of the human person. This is the calling we received at our Baptism and which was strengthened at our Confirmation. This is the calling we receive at the end of every Mass when we are instructed to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

As Blessed Pope John Paul II, in one of his visits to this great country of ours, urges us:

*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" that has been bestowed upon you in baptism. Light your nation - light the world - with the power of that flame! Amen.*

— Homily in Orioles Park at Camden Yards, October 8, 1995

+ Kevin W. Vann



+ BISHOP KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD  
DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

# NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC

**PUBLISHER:** Bishop Kevin W. Vann

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:** Pat Svacina

**EDITOR:** Jeff Hensley

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** Tony Gutiérrez

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** Judy Russeau

**WEB DESIGNER:** Chris Kastner

**CIRCULATION:** Rita Garber

**REGULAR COLUMNISTS:**

Denise Bossert  
Jean Denton  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Jeff Hedglen  
Jeff Hensley  
David Mills  
Mary Regina Morrell  
Sharon K. Perkins  
Lucas Pollice  
Father John Rausch  
Father Kyle Walterscheid

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Michele Baker  
Crystal Brown  
Jenara Kocks Burgess  
Juan Guajardo  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
John Henry  
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Mike McGee  
Wendy Pandolfo  
Donna Ryckaert  
Kristin Zschiesche

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

**NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC** (USPS 751-370) (ISSN 0899-7020) is published monthly, by the Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas. For those who are not registered parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Worth, subscription rates are \$20 for one year, \$40 for two years, \$60 for three years. Periodical postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to North Texas Catholic, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

Deadline for information for the North Texas Catholic is noon of the Wednesday two weeks before the paper is published. The NTC is published the third Friday of each month with the date of the following month as the date of issue.

To access current news and information, find us at [www.fwdioc.org/ntc](http://www.fwdioc.org/ntc)

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



19 Years in a Row

## Pope creates 22 new cardinals, including three from US, Canada



U.S. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan congratulates U.S. Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien after they receive their red hats from Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 18. The pope created 22 new cardinals from 13 countries during the consistory. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI created 22 new cardinals from 13 countries — including three from the United States and Canada — placing red hats on their heads and calling them to lives of even greater love and service to the church.

The churchmen who joined the College of Cardinals Feb. 18 included Cardinals Timothy M. Dolan of New York; Edwin F. O'Brien, grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and former archbishop of Baltimore; and Thomas C. Collins of Toronto.

In their first official act in their new role, the new cardinals were asked to join their peers in giving the pope their opinion, in writing, on the canonization of seven new saints, including Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, an American Indian, and Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai, Hawaii.

The pope announced at the consistory that the canonization ceremony would be celebrated Oct. 21 at the Vatican.

Cardinal Dolan spoke of the consultation on the canonization of Blessed Kateri, who was born in what is now New York state, and Mother Marianne, who served there before going to Hawaii.

"As grateful as I am for being a cardinal," he told reporters later, "I really want to be a saint. I mean that, but I have a long way to go."

St. Peter's Basilica was filled to overflowing for the ceremony, and several thousand people sat in a sunny St. Peter's Square watching on large video screens. Choirs from New York and from several Italian dioceses provided music for the service.

At the end of the ceremony, the College of Cardinals had 213 members, 125 of whom were under the age of 80 and, therefore, eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

The consistory took the form of a prayer service. After the Gospel reading, in what the Vatican described as an allocution, not a homily, the pope told the cardinals that love and service, not an air of greatness, are to mark their lives as cardinals.

"Dominion and service, egoism and altruism, possession and gift, self-interest and gratuitousness: These profoundly contrasting approaches confront each other in every age and place," Pope Benedict said, but the

cardinals must model their lives on that of Jesus, loving others to the point of giving up his life for them.

Cardinal O'Brien told reporters afterward that the ceremony and the pope's remarks underlined that becoming a cardinal "is not a reward, it brings on greater responsibilities — something the pope experiences every day."

He said that when he knelt before the pope, "I thanked him; I said I'd serve him completely with my whole heart."

Cardinal Dolan, who delivered the main address on evangelization at a meeting of the College of Cardinals the day before, said that when he knelt before the pope, the pope thanked him again for his presentation. "I said thank you, for this, I'm the one who is grateful," he said. "The Gospel and the homily were very sobering," he said, because they recalled the words of Jesus that "we're not in it for the prestige, we're not in it for the honor, we're not in it for the glory. We're in it to serve."

In all things, Pope Benedict had told them, "the new cardinals are entrusted with the service of love: love for God, love for his church, an absolute and unconditional love for his brothers and sisters, even unto shedding their blood, if necessary," a fact underlined by the red color of the biretta — a three-cornered hat — and the red cardinal's robes.

"He is servant inasmuch as he welcomes within himself the fate of the suffering and sin of all humanity. His service is realized in total faithfulness and complete responsibility toward mankind," the pope said.

"The free acceptance of his violent death becomes the price of freedom for many," he told the new cardinals, praying that "Christ's total gift of self on the cross" would be "the foundation, stimulus and strength" of their faith and that it would be reflected in their love and charity toward others.

The Bible reading at the service was taken from the Gospel of Mark and recounted how the disciples were tempted by the idea of honor, but Jesus told them that greatness means becoming the servant of all.

"Serving God and others, self-giving: This is the logic which authentic faith imparts and develops in our daily lives and which is not the type of power and glory which belongs to this world," the pope told them.

# Briefly

## Church, National, & International

### Muñoz-Visoso to head USCCB cultural diversity secretariat

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Maria del Mar Muñoz-Visoso, assistant director of media relations at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops since 2007, has been named executive director of the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.

The appointment is effective Feb. 27. She succeeds Jesuit Father Allan Deck, first executive director of the secretariat, which was created in 2008 to coordinate the bishops' outreach to African-Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Native Americans and migrants, refugees, and travelers.

A native of Spain, Muñoz-Visoso held a variety of posts in the Archdiocese of Denver from 1996 to 2007. In 2003, she co-founded Centro Juan Diego, a community center and pastoral institute for the Hispanic community in northern Colorado, where she served as executive director until 2007. In that post she worked closely with then-Denver Auxiliary Bishop Jose H. Gomez, now archbishop of Los Angeles.

At the USCCB, Muñoz-Visoso has been collaborating with various offices and agencies, including cultural diversity, Migration and Refugee Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Catholic Relief Services, National Collections and Divine Worship.

She writes a monthly English/Spanish column on Latinos called *Entre Amigos*, serves as a liaison for English and Spanish media, and oversees Spanish-language social media at the USCCB.

Calling Muñoz-Visoso "a highly respected leader in the bishops' conference, in Hispanic ministry and in Catholic communications," Msgr. Ronny Jenkins, USCCB general secretary, said: "The experience, expertise, and energy she brings to the cultural diversity secretariat will greatly enhance the bishops' vision for this area and will be a gift to the faithful of the communities served by that office."

Muñoz-Visoso earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from *Centro Escuela Universitaria San Pablo* in Valencia, Spain, in 1994 and a master's degree in theological studies from Madonna University in Livonia, Mich., in 2005.

From 1996 to 1998, she served as Spanish-language communications officer for the archbishop of Denver and founded *El Pueblo Católico*, the Denver Archdiocese's first official Spanish-language publication.

She served as archdiocesan director



Maria del Mar Muñoz-Visoso, assistant director of media relations at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops since 2007, has been named executive director of the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church. The appointment is effective Feb. 27. She succeeds Jesuit Father Allan Deck, first executive director of the secretariat, which was created in 2008. She is pictured in a 2010 photo. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

of Hispanic ministry from 1998 to 2004, working with the USCCB and other local and national organizations in defense of immigrant rights and in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

In 2010, Muñoz-Visoso received the Benemerenti Medal from Pope Benedict XVI at the request of Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, now archbishop of Philadelphia. One of the highest honors the pope can bestow on an individual, the medal is given in gratitude for "sustained and exemplary service to the Catholic faith."

In 2011, she represented the USCCB Department of Communications at a conference on the church and digital culture in Santiago, Chile, sponsored by the Pontifical Council on Social Communications and the Latin American bishops' council, known as CELAM.

Muñoz-Visoso and her husband, Rafael, have three young children and are parishioners at St. Camillus Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md.

She also serves on the board of St. Francis International School in the Archdiocese of Washington, which brings together families of mixed income from more than 50 different nationalities.

### N.J. Gov. Christie vetoes same-sex marriage bill, wants issue on ballot

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie Feb. 17 made good on his pledge to veto a bill legalizing same-sex marriage passed by the state Legislature but at the same time said he might name an ombudsman to make sure the state's current law recognizing civil unions is respected. The state Assembly passed the bill Feb. 16 with a 42-33 vote. The state Senate approved it 24-16 Feb. 13. When the bill reached his desk and he vetoed it, Christie said in a statement that "same-sex couples in a civil union deserve the very same rights and benefits enjoyed by married couples — as well as the strict enforcement of those rights and benefits. Discrimination should not be tolerated and any complaint alleging a violation of a citizen's right should be investigated and, if appropriate, remedied," the Republican governor said, suggesting an ombudsman be appointed. As the same-sex marriage measure moved through the Legislature,

Christie, a Catholic, said legalizing marriage for same-sex couples should be put on the November ballot for voters to decide the issue. In testimony at a Jan. 24 hearing, the executive director of the New Jersey Catholic Conference urged state lawmakers "to continue to recognize marriage as a union between one man and one woman. This is critical as marriage is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society." Said Patrick Brannigan, executive director of the conference, which is the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops: "Marriage as a union of one man and one woman has its roots not only in human tradition and history, but also in natural law, which transcends all man-made law. Marriage is a natural institution. New Jersey, like other states, has from the beginning recognized marriage, honored it, and sought to support and protect it."

### Pope: Vocations are born from self-offering of God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Love of God nurtures love of neighbor, especially in people with vocations to the priesthood or religious life, said Pope Benedict XVI in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The papal message for the 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be observed April 29, was released Feb. 13 at the Vatican.

"The profound truth of our existence is thus contained in this surprising mystery: Every creature, and in particular every human person, is the fruit of God's thought and an act of his love, a love that is boundless, faithful, and everlasting," Pope Benedict wrote.

"It is in this soil of self-offering and openness to the love of God, and as the fruit of that love, that all vocations are born and grow. By drawing from this wellspring through prayer, constant recourse to God's word and to the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, it

becomes possible to live a life of love for our neighbors, in whom we come to perceive the face of Christ the Lord," the pope wrote.

Pope Benedict wrote that love of both God and other people "must be lived with a particular intensity and purity of heart by those who have decided to set out on the path of vocation discernment towards the ministerial priesthood and the consecrated life."

Calling on the church to "create the conditions that will permit many young people to say 'yes' in generous response to God's loving call," the pope recommended "Scripture, prayer, and the Eucharist" as the most valuable means "enabling us to grasp the beauty of a life spent fully in service of the kingdom."

Quoting his predecessor, Blessed John Paul II, Pope Benedict called families the "primary and most excellent seedbed of vocations to a life of consecration to the kingdom of God."

### Forgotten massacre under way in Sudanese border region, says bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Sudanese bishop said the world has forgotten people in his diocese, where thousands of people have sought shelter from a government bombing campaign and aid agencies cannot gain access.

"There is an ongoing forgotten massacre on the Nuba Mountains" where "people are dying of starvation and bombings," said Bishop Macram Max Gassis of El Obeid, Sudan.

Bishop Gassis' diocese straddles a border area of Sudan and South Sudan, and members of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North fought with the South for independence. For months, the Sudanese government has been fighting the SPLM-North in Sudan's South Kordofan state.

Bishop Gassis told Fides, the Vatican missionary news agency, in mid-February that "even the church has had its victims."

However, he told Fides, none of the priests, religious and medical personnel has abandoned the people, despite the constant

bombardment and seeing the "mangled bodies of civilians, especially children."

Sudan has allowed only a limited amount of aid into the area, and on Feb. 14 the U.N. Security Council, expressing "deep and growing alarm with the rising levels of malnutrition and food insecurity," called on the government to let it send aid workers to South Kordofan and other states along the Sudan-South Sudan border.

Bishop Gassis expressed concern over increasing tensions between the neighboring countries. He said South Sudan does not want war, but Sudanese President Omar Bashir "tries to solve problems with new wars."

Sudan accuses South Sudan of backing the SPLM-North in its efforts to overthrow the Sudanese government.

Bishop Gassis also noted that South Sudan has closed off its oil supplies to the North. South Sudan produces 350,000 barrels of oil per day, but the only pipeline to market runs through Sudan. The countries are negotiating about oil in Ethiopia.



## Nolan alumni and supporters attend first Mass at Cowboys Stadium during school's annual Mardi Gras fundraiser



Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / North Texas Catholic

Father Richard Villa, SM, president of Nolan Catholic High School, delivers the homily for a Mass held at Cowboys Stadium in conjunction with the school's annual Mardi Gras fundraiser.

### By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen Correspondent

The Nolan Vikings made history at Cowboys Stadium Feb. 11 and it had nothing to do with football.

Several hundred supporters of Nolan Catholic High School arrived early for the annual Mardi Gras fundraiser to attend the first Mass ever held in the state-of-the-art sports venue.

The landmark home of the Dallas Cowboys football team was chosen for the occasion as another way of highlighting the school's golden jubilee.

"As Nolan Catholic celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Mardi Gras committee integrated many golden touches — like this venue — into the evening," said Father Richard Villa, SM, school president, who celebrated the afternoon Mass in a large stadium suite.

The Marianist Brothers, together with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, opened Tarrant County's largest Catholic secondary school in 1961. Built on property donated by the Amon Carter Foundation, the venture combined Our Lady of Victory Academy for girls with Laneri High School for boys. For a short time, the campus was known as Our Lady of Victory but was renamed Msgr. Robert M. Nolan Catholic High School in 1963 by the Bishop of Dallas-Fort Worth Thomas K. Gorman. Today it is officially known as Nolan Catholic High School.

"The Sisters are so gratified to witness Nolan Catholic's growth," remarked Sister Joan Markey, SSMN.

She credits a tenacious faculty and staff for overcoming challenges during the school's first 50 years.

"They made the changes necessary to continue the tradition of learning and community that made it a driving force since the first day."

During his homily, Fr. Villa reminded worshippers their participation in the Mass and fundraiser affects the lives of Nolan students.

"It touches our faculty, the life of the Church, and the life of our mission," the school president continued. "Your generosity has touched the lives of thousands of people who have entered the building."

This year's jubilee celebration attracted an overflow crowd of alumni, according to Kathryn Rhadigan.

Television personalities John Rhadigan and Karen Borta served as emcees for the event, attended by more than 600 people. Among the guests

were Fort Worth Police Chief Jeffrey Halstead, Fire Chief Rudy Jackson, and City Councilman Danny Scarth.

In addition to dinner, participants enjoyed silent and live auctions. Proceeds from the evening directly benefit students through campus improvements, enhanced academic programs, technology upgrades, and tuition assistance.

Amy Petrie, a 1987 Nolan graduate, says current students, like her son, Patrick, enjoy the same quality education she experienced with a few changes.

"The academics have always been challenging, but now there's a variety of courses," says the former Viking cheerleader. "The technology and sports programs have also grown."

She chose to educate children at her alma mater because it's a Catholic institution with a small community atmosphere.

"You really get to know your classmates," Petrie continued. "My son has a lot of classmates whose parents were my classmates, so it's nice to see that."

Rising tuition costs are a harsh reality in today's economy, but tight school budgets have challenged Catholic education for 25 years, said Jim Leito, an alumnus from 1975, whose children also attended Nolan.

"I believe educating Catholic youngsters in the diocese is the responsibility of all Catholics — not just the parents with kids in school," Leito asserted. "The challenge is to get all Catholics to support Catholic education and give that opportunity to kids who might otherwise not be able to afford it."

Bishop Kevin Vann, who led the gathering in prayer before dinner, called Nolan's 50-year history "vibrant" and said the school breeds leaders.

"So many adults I've met who are leaders in their parish or the city are graduates," he explained. "Nolan creates leaders who are men and women of faith."

When people talk about the financial sacrifice families often make to provide youngsters with a Catholic education, the bishop thinks of his own parents who budgeted to send six children to Catholic elementary and high schools.

"It's a sacrifice for the future," he added. "And it's a sacrifice that has blessings in return."

# Briefly

## Local & State

### Father Stephan Brown challenges congregation to be 'drum majors' for service at 26th annual MLK Mass



Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / North Texas Catholic

Father Stephan Brown, SVD, served as the guest homilist for the 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Mass Jan. 21 at St. Patrick Cathedral.

### By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen Correspondent

If you asked most people to characterize the late Martin Luther King, Jr., the word that comes to mind is "dreamer." The civil rights leader — who worked to end racial inequality and discrimination — is perhaps best known for his "I Have A Dream" speech delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington.

But Father Stephan Brown, SVD, offered another description of the visionary leader as he spoke to worshippers attending the 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Mass held Jan. 21 at St. Patrick Cathedral. Dr. King wasn't just a dreamer, preached the guest homilist who concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Kevin Vann. He was a drum major who called others to greatness.

"Using decisiveness, diligence, and determination, he called others to greatness so they too might be drum majors for justice, peace, and righteousness," Fr. Brown said. "Today is an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves not simply to dream but to serve and speak words of hope for the future as we walk together as God's people."

The Cleveland native, who is assistant to the president for ministry at St. Leo University in Florida, used Dr. King's Feb. 4, 1968 "drum major instinct" address to convey his message before the Fort Worth audience. In the speech, Martin Luther King encouraged his followers to seek greatness through service and love rather than the innate need to be praised or recognized.

"Martin reminds each one of us that we can be great. The 'drum major instinct' can be transformed and changed not for self righteousness in the negative sense, but for service," Fr.

Brown insisted. "Forty-four years after his death, he continues to be a drum major. He continues to be a dreamer. The message is still there."

Engaging his listeners as he walked down the cathedral's main aisle, the speaker told congregants the world is torn by misunderstanding, hatred, greed, racism, and materialism. People are divided by race, language, and culture.

He thanked the cross-section of parishioners who planned the MLK celebration for transcending those barriers.

"You stand as a witness to the culture of the world that speaks of division, and you demonstrate unity; that speaks of exclusion, and you demonstrate welcome," Fr. Brown observed. "You are decisive, diligent, and determined because you stand as drum majors for justice with your intent to serve."

Hosted by organizers from Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Fort Worth, and St. Maria Goretti, St. Matthew, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Joseph Parishes in Arlington, the Mass was punctuated with rousing gospel hymns and solos performed by an inter-parish choir. The Knights of St. Peter Claver Council 89 and Ladies Auxiliary from Our Mother of Mercy led a procession to the altar. With one male choir member from the African choir from St. Joseph Church in Arlington wearing loose fitting African clothing and gele head wraps, the choral group stepped rhythmically, as they carried baskets of fruit and gifts of bread and wine up the aisle during the offertory. (Gele wraps are made of a paper-like material [gele] used in West Africa and other parts of Africa as headpieces).

**See more at:** [www.fwdioc.org/ntc/Pages/MLKMass2012.aspx](http://www.fwdioc.org/ntc/Pages/MLKMass2012.aspx)

## The Law of Fast and Abstinence in the Diocese of Fort Worth

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has determined that the following practices shall prevail in the United States: Fast and Abstinence are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all those who have celebrated their 18th birthday until one has celebrated his/her 59th birthday. Abstinence from meat is to be observed on the Fridays of Lent by all who have celebrated their 14th birthday.

The Church recognizes that there are chronically or seriously ill individuals who cannot fast or abstain. The Church still calls for these individuals to participate in acts of penance and works of charity. These can be performed throughout the week; however, it is especially appropriate that these acts be performed on Fridays in place of the Friday fast.

No one can be dispensed from the necessity of doing penance. Catholics are strongly urged to practice voluntary acts of mortification and works of charity. The bishops of the United States have urged Catholics to consider abstaining from meat on Fridays "as a tangible sign of our need and desire to do penance for the cause of peace."

## Galveston-Houston's vicar general named auxiliary bishop of archdiocese

HOUSTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Monsignor George A. Sheltz, who is vicar general, chancellor, and moderator of the curia of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, as an auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese.

The appointment was announced in Washington Feb. 21 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop-designate Sheltz's episcopal ordination will be in late April at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston.

"His serene demeanor in every administrative and pastoral situation signifies a man who is strong in his faith in the Lord and in the Church," Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said in a statement.

Named to his current archdiocesan posts in 2010, Bishop-designate Sheltz, 65, was a parish priest and pastor for 36 years before those appointments, the cardinal noted. "(He) has been a calm and kind shepherd to so many of our Catholic faithful at churches across the archdiocese."

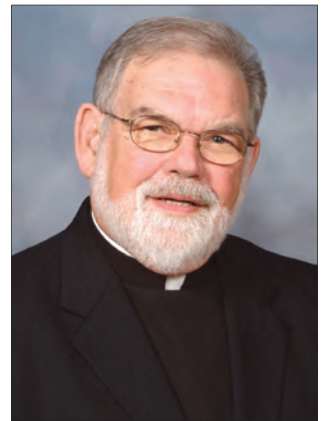
"I look forward to working with you as my chief collaborator in this growing, diverse archdiocese. May God bless you and guide you as you love and lead the Church with the heart of Christ," Cardinal DiNardo said.

Bishop-designate Sheltz said in a statement that he was "moved and humbled" that the pope "has chosen me to serve in this capacity, in a place that has always been my home."

He thanked Cardinal DiNardo for naming him to his leadership positions in the archdiocese two years ago. He paid tribute to now-retired Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto, "whose life as a pastor has inspired me," and to retired Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, his pastor when he was a young priest.

The bishop-designate also thanked the Basilian Fathers, who were his high school teachers and "so instrumental in encouraging my vocation to the priesthood."

He said he was sad that his late parents, George, Sr., and Margaret



CNS photo / Courtesy Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
Msgr. Sheltz is pictured in an undated photo.

Sheltz, and his late brother, Father Anton Sheltz, were not "with us on this joyous day. But I take comfort in knowing that my sister, Mary Margaret, and I continue to feel their love and support."

"I look forward to continuing to work with the priests, deacons, religious women and men, and lay faithful in this great Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. You are the face of the living Christ, and together we must work to make the person of Jesus known to youth, to our families, to the poor, to the sick and the suffering."

George Arthur Sheltz was born and raised in Houston, the second-oldest child in a family of two sons and one daughter. He attended Annunciation Catholic School, St. Thomas High School, the University of St. Thomas, and St. Mary's Seminary — all located in the Bayou City, as Houston is popularly known. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in theology, and was ordained for the archdiocese in 1971.

During his 36 years of parish work, he was assigned to a number of Catholic churches around the archdiocese. In 1980, he was founding pastor of Christ the Redeemer Parish in Houston.

In 2007, he was named director of clergy formation and chaplaincy services for the archdiocese. Since 2010, as vicar general and chancellor, he has overseen the administrative operations of the largest diocese in Texas and the 12th largest in the U.S.



# In Memory

## Deacon 'Butch' Amos, former director of Permanent Deacons, dies at 91

By Jenara Kocks Burgess  
Correspondent



Photo courtesy of Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home

Deacon Amos

Deacon Clarence Albert "Butch" Amos, 91, the most senior ordained Catholic Deacon of the Diocese of Fort Worth and a retired U.S. Air Force major, died Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Retired diocesan employee Ann Healey remembers Dcn. Amos, former diocesan director of Permanent Deacons, as being instrumental in its formation of permanent deacons. "Butch Amos was very supportive to me, as I set up the Office of Permanent Deacon Formation in the diocese in 1984," said Ann Healey, who retired in 2010 after 26 years of service as the diocese's director of Permanent Deacon formation program. "This was [our] first office for the formation of permanent deacons, and Butch was so effective in helping 'spread the word' to pastors and parishes that the Diocese of Fort Worth would now be forming its own permanent deacons," she said.

A vigil service was observed Monday, Jan. 30, at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Sacred Heart Church in Fredonia, Kansas.

In eulogies given by two of his seven children at both the vigil service and Mass, Danny and Pat Amos described their father as a family man who had a big personality and booming voice but was also humble.

"All of his children were influenced by his desire and actions to help others," said Pat Amos in the eulogy he titled, "Our Love for Dad and Lessons Learned." "He (Dcn. Amos) was a blessed man of faith."

Dcn. Amos was born May 4, 1920, in Fredonia, Kansas. He had attended the University of Kansas, Tarrant County Junior College, and Oklahoma City College of Law, and also served in the United States Air Force for 23 years before retiring as a major.

During high school, Dcn. Amos set a record for running the quarter mile that he held

for 27 years, Danny Amos said in his eulogy. Despite being recruited by two bigger schools, he chose Kansas University because the track coach was chosen to be the next Olympic track coach. Danny Amos said his dad had one of the fastest times in the half mile but his dad quit college and joined the Army Air Corps, now called the Air Force, after the Olympics were cancelled in 1940 due to World War II having begun in Europe.

"Many, many years later, while in his 80s, Dad won the Cowtown 5K for his age bracket three years in a row, and that's why I'm proud of my dad," Danny Amos said.

Danny Amos said his dad always put his family before himself. Dcn. Amos turned down a promotion and retired from the military in 1962 so he wouldn't have to move his children after more than eight years in Fort Worth, took a job working the night shift at General Dynamics (now Lockheed Martin) when a better advertising job fell through, but was later moved to the accounting department at

General Dynamics.

He later got the sales position he wanted at Louis Bull Advertising Company in Fort Worth, which is where he worked until he became the director of Permanent Deacons for the Fort Worth Diocese, Danny Amos said.

Dcn. Amos was a part of the first permanent deacon class in the diocese, formed in conjunction with candidates from the Diocese of Dallas. He was ordained to the diaconate on June 3, 1978, by then-Bishop John Cassata at St. Patrick Cathedral.

As a deacon, he had served at St. Paul Parish in Fort Worth from 1978-1984, and at St. Peter Parish in White Settlement from 1984-1986, before taking on the role as director of Permanent Deacons from 1986-1991.

Deacon Joseph Milligan, a member of Holy Family Church in Fort Worth who worked as a deacon there for 22 years, 10 of which he served as diocesan director of Permanent Deacons, said he met Dcn. Amos during his deacon formation classes in the late 1980s. Dcn. Milligan and Healey both remembered that Dcn. Amos and his wife Betty attended all the weekend classes at Sid Richardson Scout Ranch.

"His perspective on the needs of the Church and his sense of humor were invaluable resources," Healey said. "After the program began, Butch and Betty, as a deacon couple, faithfully made themselves available during formation weekends to talk with and encourage the candidates and their wives. They provided a wonderful role model for the blending of marriage and diaconal ministry," she said.

Dcn. Milligan said he became director of Permanent Deacons after Dcn. Amos retired in May 1991.

"Butch was very much a mentor for me," Dcn. Milligan said. "Whenever Butch indicated that he had recommended me to take his place at the diocese, I was taken aback because I had only been ordained a short period.

I said I would do it as long as I could have his phone number. Butch continued to be there for me throughout the years," he said.

Dcn. Milligan said he also remembered that Dcn. Amos was a humble man with a great sense of humor.

"Butch had a listening ear, and he was able to empathize and be there for other people. Butch was very honest and direct. He was always very pastoral in his ministry. He helped people feel good about themselves," he said.

In addition to parish ministry, Dcn. Amos also served as a volunteer chaplain at DFW Airport, diocesan Scouting chaplain, and as associate chaplain for Knights of Columbus Council 4191 in Fort Worth.

In addition to serving on committees and boards and performing dozens of baptisms and weddings, Dcn. Amos also officiated more than 625 funerals as the "on call" Catholic Chaplain to the local funeral homes, hospitals, and nursing homes, Danny Amos said.

"He was nicknamed 'Burying Butch' by the deacons in the area," he said.

Pat Amos said in his eulogy that he and his siblings learned many life lessons from his dad while growing up in their large family including being humble; to love, respect and be loyal to your spouse; provide for and protect your children from financial anxiety; have a sense of humor; spread joy through song; be a top shelf good Samaritan; and how to die in faith and peace.

Dcn. Amos is preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth. He is survived by his daughter, Terilee Steelman and husband, Dr. Ronald Steelman, of North Carolina; sons, Stephen and wife, Sharon, of Wimberly; Patrick and wife, Nancy of Plano; Daniel and wife, Jana, of Plano; Michael and wife, Judy, of Fort Worth; Christopher and wife, Gail, of Aledo; and Peter and wife, Betsy, of Georgia; fourteen grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

## Sister Margaret Rose Fee, SSMN, lifelong educator, dies at 90

By Jenara Kocks Burgess  
Correspondent

Sister Margaret Rose Fee, 90, a sister of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur who faithfully served the Diocese of Fort Worth as an educator and principal, died Dec. 10, 2011, at Our Lady of Victory Convent.

A vigil service was held at our Lady of Victory Center at 7 p.m. Dec. 12, 2011, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m., Dec. 13, 2011, with Father John Hennessey presiding. The burial was at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Margaret Rose Fee was born on April 13, 1921, in Waco to the late Joseph E. and Catherine McEnrue Fee. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy of Waco in 1939.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in 1939. Sr. Margaret

Rose made her final profession on August 15, 1948. She celebrated her jubilee of 70 years of religious life in 2009 at the OLV Center in Fort Worth.

Sr. Margaret Rose graduated from Our Lady of Victory College in 1946 and received a master's degree in education from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1960. She was an educator serving in schools in Texas and California.

In 1942, Sr. Margaret Rose taught school at St. Mary's School in Fort Worth. She taught at St. Edward in Dallas from 1943-48 and at Resurrection School in Houston from 1948-49. She was principal at St. Alice School in Fort Worth from 1949-53, served at St. Xavier in Denison from 1953-55, and one year each at St. James School in Dallas and Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Dallas.

Sr. Margaret Rose was principal at Sacred Heart School in Hollister, California, from



Photo courtesy of Sisters of St. Mary of Namur Western Province

Sister Margaret Rose Fee, SSMN

1957-58 and from 1977-85. Sister was principal of Our Lady of Victory School in Fort Worth from 1963-68; again from 1970-75; and again

from 1986-87. She spent three years from 1975-77 in Canada teaching fifth through eighth grades. From 1985-86, she served at Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls, and then went to St. Maria Goretti School in Arlington from 1987-89. In 1991, she took care of her ill brother Father Paul Fee and worked one year in Schulenburg, Texas.

Linda Martinez Petry, who was a student at OLV School in Fort Worth when Sr. Margaret Rose was principal there, said she remembers her as a formidable principal for whom education was serious but rewarding work and to whom each student was important.

She is survived by nieces and nephews: Alice Gray of Canyon Lake, California; Joe Fee of Oklahoma City; Cathy Burton of Wills Point, Texas; Theresa Gonsalves of La Palma, California; Paul Fee of Burbank, California; Chris Bonura and Greg Bonura of Beaumont; Mary Miller and Mike Bonura of Vidor, Texas.



# Pope names five dedicated diocesan priests as monsignori

By **Joan Kurkowski-Gillen**  
Correspondent

Five priests from the Diocese of Fort Worth will receive the papal honor of monsignor at a solemn vespers service set for Tuesday, March 27 at St. Patrick Cathedral. Pope Benedict XVI conferred the title of "Prelate of Honor" on Fathers Stephen J. Berg and Raymund Mullan. Bestowed with the title "Chaplain to His Holiness" are Fathers E. James Hart, Juan Rivero and Publius Xuereb.

Bishop Kevin Vann made the announcement Feb. 14 during a luncheon at the diocesan Catholic Center. "Monsignor" is an ecclesiastical title of honor conferred upon a diocesan priest by the pope at the request of the priest's bishop. It establishes the priest as a member of the papal household but does not add to his authority.

During the luncheon, Bishop Vann praised the honorees for their dedication to ministry and leadership in serving the Catholics of North Texas.

"This week the Holy Father recognized some of our priests for their priestly ministry and service," he said. "Let us thank them for all of their years of dedicated ministry. This recognition also honors the parish communities and families these priests have served."

Bishop Vann commended Msgr. Berg, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, for earning the respect of his peers and managing difficult responsibilities. In addition to his diocesan duties, the Montana native also provides spiritual direction for the Priestly Formation program at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ordained in 1999, the new monsignor served as parochial vicar at St. Michael and St. John the Apostle parishes and was pastor of four rural parishes — St. Mary, Henrietta; St. Jerome, Bowie; St. William, Montague; and St. Joseph, Nocona — in the Northwest deanery. From 2008 to 2010 he was pastor of St. Peter the Apostle in White Settlement.

"I feel really humble and grateful," Msgr. Berg said, reacting to the announcement. "I appreciate working for Bishop Vann and the diocese."

After hearing the news, the former horticulturalist who worked in management with Sunbelt Nurseries before he entered seminary, called his mother, Jeanne, in Montana, then his nine brothers and sisters.

"They were very pleased," he admitted. "But it was something I didn't expect."

Msgr. Raymund Mullan was also surprised to be honored with the title of monsignor.

"Being a rural pastor as long as I have, nothing could have surprised me more," he confessed.

Since 1991, the native of South Africa has served the faith communities of St. Mary in Graham and St. Theresa in Olney. He also worked for a short time as parochial vicar at St. John the Apostle and Immaculate Conception Churches. Bishop Vann cited the monsignor's leadership skills and ability to handle matters with "charity, patience, and kindness," in his nomination.

Ordained in the Diocese of Praetoria in 1966, he worked as a military chaplain in South Africa before moving to Texas. As a new arrival, the priest remembers praying for guidance as he began his ministry. Shepherding small, rural communities was a perfect fit.

"I love it out here. You get to know everybody," he explained. "You don't have the human resources and there's a lot of traveling between parishes, but you make wonderful friends and the families are kind and generous."

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Pastor Msgr. E. James Hart has the distinction of being one of the few married monsignors in the Catholic Church. Ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth in 1991, he's a priest of the Pastoral Provision who began his ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth in 1996. Prior to his current assignment in Keller, he was parochial vicar of St. Michael, Bedford and St. Peter the Apostle, White Settlement.

"He's distinguished himself since becoming a Catholic priest and was an excellent diocesan administrator in my early tenure as bishop," the bishop said, noting Msgr. Hart's former responsibilities as Chancellor/Moderator of the Curia. "Now he is leader of the largest diocesan parish and is ably guiding it."

The pastor shared news of the announcement with his wife, Ladorne, and sibling Sister Edith Mary.

"It's an honor. I was quite overwhelmed by the bishop's generosity," Msgr. Hart said. "I'm blessed. The Diocese of Fort Worth has been very good to me."

Cited for overall dedication and helping the bishop develop a spiritual training program for priests was Msgr. Juan Rivero, pastor of Granbury's St. Frances Cabrini Church since 2000. The native of Mexico City also serves as Vicar for Priests in the diocese.

Ordained in Rome in 1972, the new monsignor was incardinated into the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1985 and worked as associate pastor of St. Bartholomew, Fort Worth and pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fort Worth; St. Jude, Mansfield;



**Msgr. Stephen J. Berg**



**Msgr. E. James Hart**



**Msgr. Raymund Mullan**



**Msgr. Juan Rivero**



**Msgr. Publius Xuereb**

and Immaculate Conception, Denton. He was director of the Cursillo Movement in the diocese from 1982 to 1984. Since the announcement was made, many members of his large parish have contacted the pastor to offer congratulations.

"I'm getting phone calls and text messages. They are very happy for me," he added. "But my life will go on the same way. This doesn't change things."

Feb. 14, 2012 was an auspicious day for Msgr. Publius Xuereb, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo. The announcement that he would become a monsignor came on the anniversary of his mother's death.

"I know my mother had something to do with it. The timing could not have been better," said Msgr. Xuereb.

Ordained in 1968, the native of the Mediterranean nation of Malta came to the Diocese of Fort Worth from his homeland a year later and served as assistant pastor or pastor at 11 different parishes including Our Lady Queen of Peace in Wichita Falls, St. Thomas Aquinas in Pilot Point, and Holy Cross in The Colony. The long-time diocesan priest was praised by Bishop Vann for his willingness to accept challenging assignments, and for his managerial skills and sense of humor.

"I owe this honor to every parish family and church I've been at during the past 43 years," he explained. "Above all, I'm grateful to Bishop Vann who I strongly support, respect, love, and honor."

## Diocese to establish parish to serve University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University

**Fr. Walterscheid appointed first pastor,  
Fr. Orozco appointed new Vocations director**

By *North Texas Catholic Staff*

Bishop Kevin Vann has announced the establishment of Blessed John Paul II Parish to serve the Catholic communities at the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University in Denton, effective July 1. Diocesan Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid will serve as the first pastor of the new parish, the first university-based parish in the diocese, and Bishop Vann's priest-secretary Father Isaac Orozco will become the diocese's Vocations director.

Pointing out that UNT has the largest Catholic student population of any university in the diocese, the bishop said the creation of the new university parish, "named after the late Pontiff, demonstrates the commitment of the Diocese of Fort Worth to young Catholics," said Bishop Vann in an e-mail. "The idea of a 'University Parish' may be new for our Diocese, but is not new in the United States. At the University of Illinois, St. John's Parish has for years been a focal point for the spiritual and faith lives of young Catholics. The same is true here in Texas with St. Mary's at College Station. Both of these parishes have been places where many vocations to the priesthood and religious life have been nourished."

The bishop also pointed out that "with the appointment of Fr.



**Fr. Kyle Walterscheid**



**Fr. Isaac Orozco**

Kyle Walterscheid as the pastor of the new parish, his experience as Vocation director of these past six years" can be put to good use on the campus of UNT.

The new parish is a continuation of the foundation laid by Marianist priests including the late Father Bob Lewandowski, who served as campus chaplain from 1990 until his death in 2003, and Father Eugene Sweeney, who, as pastor of St. Mark Church in Denton, assisted in building up the UNT Campus Ministry.

"I'm really excited for the students at UNT and TWU to have the sacraments more readily available to them," said Luisa Martini, current director of Catholic Campus Ministry for the schools. "We're also excited about this becoming Blessed John Paul II, because he had such a love for youth and campus ministry."

Blessed John Paul II Parish will become the first new parish in the diocese since 2003. Fr. Walterscheid said that the parish

would not only serve the students, but also faculty and staff of the university, as well as offering a "transitional ministry" for alumni and other young adults in the area.

"We've had college students help out at local parishes and youth ministries, and they've been able to inspire the local teens. In the same way, we want to help young adults who are post-college ... bring their faith back to the university level, so our college students can continue to be inspired in their faith."

Fr. Walterscheid also welcomed Fr. Orozco, who has unofficially assisted the Vocations Office, as his replacement.

"He has many abilities to reach out in areas I was limited in, especially in that he's fully bilingual, and he's going to be able to go through the discernment process with young Hispanic men," Fr. Walterscheid said. "I think he's the right person at the right time: He's a very inspirational young priest, and he's inspired young men and women to live out their faith."

Meanwhile, Fr. Orozco is already making plans to help the Vocations Office grow.

"Over the next year and a half I hope to visit every parish, Catholic school, and youth group to introduce myself, get to know everybody, and to gather names of discerners," Fr. Orozco said in an e-mail. "I hope to create a new interactive vocations website and provide resources for individuals, families, schools, and parishes to aid people in nurturing priestly vocations. Along the way I hope to inspire as many people as possible to thirst for holiness."



# Bishop anoints faithful at annual Mass for the World Day of the Sick

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

In 1858, a poor, asthmatic girl by the name of Bernadette Soubirous was gathering firewood near a cave outside Lourdes, France, when she saw the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first of 18 apparitions. During one of the visions, the lady, dressed in a white robe and blue sash, asked the 14-year old to scrape the ground and wash herself. The task produced a muddy spring of water that grew more clean and clear as it bubbled above the earth.

Today the site is visited by more than five million sick and disabled people a year. They come to honor Our Lady of Lourdes and seek her intercession as they bathe themselves in the healing waters.

The World Day of Prayer for the Sick, instituted in 1992 by Pope John Paul II, is held each year on the Feb. 11 feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes as a reminder of the redeeming value of pain and suffering. This year, the occasion was observed in the

Diocese of Fort Worth Feb. 8 at St. Patrick Cathedral with a Mass and Anointing of the Sick. More than 100 people, seeking physical, emotional, or spiritual healing, lined the main aisle of the sanctuary to have their foreheads and hands anointed with blessed oil by Bishop Kevin Vann and Father Joe Pemberton, rector at St. Patrick. Caregivers of the afflicted were also remembered with prayer.

During his homily, Bishop Vann encouraged worshipers to learn more about the story of Lourdes and recommended reading, *The Song of Bernadette*, by Franz Werfel. Fleeing the Nazis, the Jewish author found refuge in the pilgrimage town and vowed to “sing the song” of St. Bernadette if he survived World War II. After safely arriving in the United States, he wrote the book that later became a screenplay for an Academy Award winning movie.

“In the preface, Werfel wrote the events of Lourdes are not of centuries ago,” the bishop said, quoting the 1942 novel. “The light



Bishop Kevin Vann offers the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to members of the congregation at the Feb. 8 diocesan Mass commemorating the World Day of the Sick.

of the modern era still beats upon it.”

It’s the story of a young girl who becomes a vessel of grace and, in her own way, shows the world the healing power of Jesus Christ through his mother.

“I’ve been to Lourdes. I’ve seen the evidence of healing there,” Bishop Vann continued. “Not necessarily physical healing but emotional, spiritual, and damage of

years past replaced by the healing love of God.”

The light of faith can come to us through sickness and suffering, he said.

“So this evening, we surrender ourselves to the love of God. Together we pray that through our suffering, we may know the presence of Jesus Christ. As we stand closer to the cross — like Mary, the Mother of God who

showed her face at Lourdes — may we learn to trust and know nothing is impossible with God.”

Worshipers came to the evening Mass for a variety of reasons. Some prayed for loved ones scheduled for surgery. Others asked for strength to cope with illnesses like cancer and glaucoma. Jeany Cooper, a sonographer who cares for pregnant women and their babies, attended the evening service for people too weak or infirm to leave their homes.

“So many who are ill are unable to attend Mass, so I’m coming for them,” she explained. “I think we all need help, especially those people who can’t get out.”

For Barbara Gosnell the prayers were personal. Diagnosed with her fifth bout of cancer, she found out about the healing Mass through a friend.

“I think my faith has brought me this far, and I need to take it with me on my next journey,” said the Holy Redeemer parishioner who is beginning chemotherapy. “The spirituality of this experience helped me.”

## Diocese encourages parish use of *A Biblical Walk through The Mass* program during Lent

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent

As Lent approaches, parishes and individuals are looking for opportunities to enter more deeply into the mystery of the season. The Office of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth, recognizing this most important of desires, is encouraging parishes to present *A Biblical Walk through The Mass*, a new adult faith formation program available through Ascension Press.

“We spent 18 months preparing for the new translation of the *Roman Missal*, which was great,” said Lucas Pollice, director of Catechesis for the diocese. “This program provides an opportunity to build on that.”

Pollice describes the program as “a Bible study on the Mass,” pointing out that the scriptural basis for the Mass is overwhelming, and the new translation illumines this aspect more fully.

“For example,” Pollice said, “during the consecration now the priest refers to Christ’s blood being ‘poured out’ rather than ‘shed.’ This takes us back to the

sacrifices in the Old Testament and our Jewish roots. The Mass is full of references like this.”

*A Biblical Walk through the Mass* is based around five sessions and comes pre-packaged, making it easy to use whether being executed by a parish director of religious education or a non-staff volunteer. The program consists of a Three-DVD set containing the teaching sessions, student workbook, learner’s guide, and relevant source material.

“Programs like this are especially relevant for celebrating the Year of Faith which Pope Benedict XVI has declared,” Pollice said. “Now is the perfect time to catechize Catholics on both the new translation and the Mass itself, explaining why it is at the very heart and center of the Church and our lives as Catholics.”

Parishes interested in purchasing the program are eligible for a discount. For more information visit [guidetothemass.com](http://guidetothemass.com) or contact Lucas Pollice, director of Catechesis at (817) 560-3300, ext.260, or by e-mail at [lpollice@fwdioc.org](mailto:lpollice@fwdioc.org).



## Lenten Vocation Awareness St. Patrick Cathedral

These gatherings are designed to help young men and women discern the purpose of their lives and calling from God. We will take a comparative look at the single, married and religious life.

For more information, please go to:

[www.fwdioc.org/vocations](http://www.fwdioc.org/vocations)

or call 817-560-3300 ext. 105

First sessions on February 27 & 28<sup>th</sup> and last sessions on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ages 15 (with parental consent) – 35 years

**What:** Vocation Awareness for Single Men & Women

**When:** Monday Nights in Lent for Men  
Tuesday Nights in Lent for Women

**Where:** St. Patrick’s Cathedral  
1206 Throckmorton St.  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

**Time:** 6pm-9pm w/Free Evening Meal and Social

**Sponsors:** The Serrans of the Diocese of Fort Worth

Email: [vocations@fwdioc.org](mailto:vocations@fwdioc.org)

There is no cost to attend.

No RSVP Required



# Catholic Charities launches new program to provide medical care to low-income families

By North Texas Catholic Staff

Dr. John Richardson, a beloved pediatrician, active within the Fort Worth medical community for over 50 years, fondly recalls a time when Catholic physicians worked together to provide medical care for low-income patients. "Years ago, in the 1960s, about 15 of us called ourselves the St. Luke's Physicians' Guild, and we made sure that people received help where it was needed," he explained, at a recent gathering sponsored by the Tarrant County Medical Society. "Later, after *Roe v. Wade*, we all got involved in other projects in an effort to help to prevent abortions and to assist children."

Richardson, a longtime parishioner at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, then served as the pediatrician for the Edna Gladney Home (now known as the Gladney Center for Adoption) for 29 years, caring for more than 9,000 newborn infants.

Through the years, Richardson, who retired from his private medical practice in 2007, continued to dream of a revitalized network of physicians with an outreach to the underserved, he says. "I realized that we needed a coordinator who had access to internists, surgeons, family practice doctors, and other services. We knew about the format for an established program called "Project Access" already in place in Dallas, Austin, and El Paso. That, to me, was a real plus that we could use this format as an example."

Thanks, in part, to Richardson's tireless advocacy, Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) became one of the



Photo by Tarrant County Medical Society

Catholic Charities Fort Worth CEO Heather Reynolds (RIGHT) is pictured with Dr. John Richardson, who spearheaded the effort to provide medical service to low-income families.

founding partners of Project Access Tarrant County (PATC), a collaborative effort sponsored by the Tarrant County Medical Society. Through the services of over 200 participating physicians, 14 hospitals, numerous charitable clinics and radiology, laboratory, and anesthesia service providers, PATC offers health care services for low-income, uninsured residents of Tarrant County. Since PATC's official beginnings in September 2011, 32 patients have received medical care through the network, with more than 100 scheduled to receive additional services.

Heather Reynolds, president and CEO of CCFW, singled Dr. Richardson out for special thanks at the Jan. 31 event marking the

launch of PATC. "Project Access has been a dream for us for many years," Reynolds told a gathering of PATC volunteer physicians and partnering organization representatives at the event, held at the Tarrant County Academy of Medicine in west Fort Worth. "Dr. John Richardson has been telling us for a very long time that we have to do this. And while we at Catholic Charities do not know how to fix a hernia or repair a detached retina or address those kinds of medical issues, we do know poverty. We know that families facing untreated medical issues can easily slide deeper and deeper into poverty. This project is, to us, the epitome of effective collaboration."

Dr. Richardson modestly deflects the praise given to him for his years of efforts to jumpstart the healthcare initiative, saying the entire medical society pitched in. In particular, he thanked Peter Flynn and the St. Joseph Health Care Trust, a ministry of Catholic Charities.

"I'm real pleased that it all came to fruition," he says. "I could never have individually recruited all of the physicians and partners that are now part of this network. It's exciting to see how this effort is growing."

For more information about PATC, call (817) 632-7531 or visit [www.tcms.org/PATC.aspx](http://www.tcms.org/PATC.aspx).



## Catholic Charities Spotlight: Project Access Tarrant County



Photo by Tarrant County Medical Society

Jonathan Taussig, his wife Hannah, and their children, were among the first families to be served by Catholic Charities' PATC program.

Jonathan Taussig, 35, a husband and father of four young children, dreaded the winter months. He knew that each year, when the temperatures dropped, his wife, Hannah, would become severely ill with untreated tonsillitis, and the family's life would become "chaos," he says. When Taussig, himself, suffered two hernias and became unable to work at his usual job as a furniture mover, the young family found themselves in desperate need of help.

"I grew up in a home, and my wife did as well, where if you had a medical need, it just got met. I went to college, I got a job, and I had great benefits," says Taussig. "You hear on the news about insurance problems, and it was hard for me to connect. Now we're in a situation where we don't have insurance, but we make too much to qualify for government [Medicaid assistance]. My wife would get sick, I was in pain, and it was all really overwhelming."

Within the past month, however, thanks to a new initiative, Project Access Tarrant County (PATC), Taussig and his wife received the medical care they needed. Their tonsillectomy and hernia operations were provided, free of charge, through a network of physician volunteers and medical partners. PATC was founded by Catholic Charities Fort Worth, the Tarrant County Medical Society, the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, and the Amon G. Carter Foundation, and began to enroll patients for services in September 2011.

Dr. David Capper, a PATC

physician volunteer and medical director of the community health clinic of Beautiful Feet Ministries in Fort Worth, says that participating doctors, hospitals, and providers of pathology, radiology, anesthesia, and laboratory services are "thrilled" to have the opportunity to participate in such an "exciting" effort to provide care to low-income clients.

"We are not here because medicine is a business, but we are here because we care about folks, and we care about those who are the least among us," says Capper. "How many of us physicians continue to see our patients even when they lose their insurance? We still see them, we give them a discount, or we don't send them a bill. We scramble to put medications together for them to walk out the door with. What this project is doing is making all those efforts all the more efficient. When someone leaves your office, and they need something bigger than what you can give, this project allows this to be collectively provided for them."

"To now be a part of this larger project, with these great community participants, the providers, and to see the buy-in of heart, that's what we're all about. Government doesn't do this... people do," said Capper. As long as we're committed, as a medical community, to care for these needs, people will be provided for."

For more information about PATC, call (817) 632-7531 or visit [www.tcms.org/PATC.aspx](http://www.tcms.org/PATC.aspx).

### Casa, Inc. and Nuestro Hogar, Inc. provides Affordable Independent Living for Seniors (62+)

- Efficiencies, One and Two Bedroom apartments
- Income Based Rent
- Wheelchair accessible apartments
- Emergency pull-cords in bedroom and bathroom
- Grab Bars in bathroom
- Handrails lining hallways
- On-Site Laundry, Library & Computer Access
- Night and weekend security officers
- 24-hour emergency maintenance service
- Pets Welcome (under 20 lbs, one per apartment)
- On-Site Social Service Coordinator



### Call For Details!

#### Casa, Inc.

3201 Sondra Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107  
817-332-7276

Relay Texas TTY line - 711

#### Nuestro Hogar, Inc.

709 Magnolia Street  
Arlington, Texas 76012  
817-261-0608

Relay Texas TTY line - 711

Housing Properties are managed for HUD by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.

[www.ccdofw.org](http://www.ccdofw.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 [jlocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org)  
• Or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline (817) 560-2452 ext. 900

• Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 102 and ask for the moderator of the curia, Father Stephen J. Berg

### To Report Abuse

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



# Cardinal Wuerl ties liturgy to New Evangelization at Southwest Liturgical Conference in Dallas

By John Henry  
Correspondent

Photos by Michael McGee

DALLAS — New Evangelization calls on Catholics everywhere to renew their faith, grow confident in it, and then to share it, especially with those who have drifted away in an “extraordinarily secular world,” a leading American Catholic prelate said in an address Jan. 24 at the annual Southwest Liturgical Conference at the downtown Sheraton.

“It is our task to once again fan into flame those embers of faith that are part of the lives of people who have drifted away,” said Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, D.C., and Relator General for the Vatican Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.

“Helping this generation realize that God continues to speak to them today is the immediate and essential mission of the Church,” which Cardinal Wuerl said, “never ceases announcing the gifts of God.” The New Evangelization is a central theme of the pontificate of Benedict XVI, who has emphasized the need for “regions of ancient Christian tradition to rediscover the beauty of faith.”

Pope Benedict in June 2010 established a new Vatican office for the New Evangelization, giving formal structure to what had been addressed for years by Pope Paul VI and at great length by Pope John Paul II.

Cardinal Wuerl said during a recent meeting with Pope Benedict, the pontiff “spoke again ... and again ... and again of the New Evangelization.”

Nowhere, perhaps, is the need for the New Evangelization more glaring than in your community and even parts of your own family,



More than 1,200 conference-goers listened to Cardinal Donald Wuerl's opening keynote address on liturgy and the New Evangelization.



Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, D.C., author of multiple catechisms, addresses the conference Jan. 24.

Cardinal Wuerl told conferees in the keynote address the opening night of the conference, which ran from Jan. 24-27.

“You and I know there are generations who simply don't know the faith,” Cardinal Wuerl said.

“Our voice must be clear and enthusiastic. It also must be transmitted in the modes and where our people are, like the palms of people's hands.”

Ultimately, though, sharing the faith “can take a thousand forms,” including inviting a fellow parishioner who has fallen away, back to church.

The Southwest Liturgical Conference celebrated its 50th year of its Study Week last month in Dallas. The Conference, started during the Second Vatican Council, and is the oldest continuous regional liturgical conference in the

U.S. It includes 27 dioceses from a seven-state region.

According to their own self description of the conference, liturgists from a seven-state region gather at a different place each year to study and celebrate the “ritual nature of the tradition of our Catholic faith.”

The Diocese of Dallas was the first to host the event, in 1963.

Cardinal Wuerl, a nationally known figure in catechetical and teaching ministry, has written extensively over the years, including authoring the best-selling catechisms, *The Teaching of Christ* and *The Catholic Way*. Three of his books, *The Mass*, *The Gift of Blessed John Paul II*, and *Seek First the Kingdom*, were all published last year.

Catholic professionals, teachers, and politicians, Cardinal



Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta answers questions from conference-goers following an address on the beauty of the liturgy.

Wuerl said, echoing Benedict, should never lose sight of the call to use one's talents and experiences in the service of the faith, and engage “contemporary society at every level.”

“Isn't that what we're asked to do today? Transform the world in which we live and the culture in which we live.”

There are three elements to the New Evangelization, Cardinal Wuerl said.

The first is the renewal of our faith. “We can't begin to share something we don't know, love, and appreciate,” Cardinal Wuerl said.

The second element is the confidence that follows in knowing the faith, that what the Gospel announces is true.

Finally, after the renewal and restored confidence is the need to share it with others.

“And they're all over the place,” Cardinal Wuerl said. “People who should be with us but aren't. I run into them all the time.”

The greatest obstacle is a secularism that has reached a crisis point.

Cardinal Wuerl relayed an experience he had with a man on an airplane who was traveling — reluctantly — to the First Holy Communion of his nephew, and the man's mother told him that she “wanted to see me there.”

“I said, ‘Well, that's a happy occasion,’” Wuerl said he told the man.

“Maybe for you,” the man said in reply. “It was very clear he had no idea what Eucharist was or holy communion,” Cardinal Wuerl said. The man, however, was interested in talking.

“The more we talked, the more questions he had,” Cardinal Wuerl said. “When we landed, he said thanks for talking about ‘this communion thing.’”

Secularism has become the “sole voice of the public order.” The voice that “says to us the horizon of life is basically right here, right now. It's nice if you have religious thoughts, but they shouldn't impact anybody but you.”

“It's an arrogant claim that brushes aside our history,” Wuerl said. “But, we know there is another way.”

Jesus offered a different, fuller way, as enunciated on the Sermon on the Mount.

*Blessed are those who are poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they which hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

“We should see in one another the presence of Christ,” Cardinal Wuerl said. “We have a different way, Christ's way.”





In his breakout session, "Giving Voice to the Roman Missal," Jerry Galipeau, explains that liturgy is more than the work of the people; it is the work of God.



In her workshop "Connecting the Disconnected," Vallimar Jansen engages her audience by having them stand up and have an interactive experience.



Vallimar Jansen, a singer and composer from Oregon Catholic Press, claps during her presentation.

## Southwest Liturgical Conference draws more than 1,200

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent  
Photos by Michael McGee

More than 1,200 people attended the Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week in Dallas, January 24-27.

"The energy in the exhibition space was absolutely incredible!" said Father George Monaghan, Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Rockwall and a member of the Core Committee for this year's event.

Indeed it was.

The lower level of the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Dallas buzzed with voices, music, color, and movement. More than 100 exhibitors had their wares on display: candle makers, church architects, pew makers, stained-glass artists, sculptors, music publishers with CDs and songbooks, hymnals.

Fr. Monaghan, who took on the enormous task of contracting and organizing exhibitors this year, was understandably excited about the turnout. Clearly a "people person," Fr. Monaghan especially enjoyed the camaraderie and diversity of the gathering.

"I was trying to get people to see various ways of doing things in the arts. We had a variety of artists, artisans, architects," he said. "But the fun part for me was meeting the exhibitors, giving them an opportunity to show their work, and seeing people get excited about it."

Certainly excitement pervaded the atmosphere this year as organizers celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Conference. Formed in 1962 just as the Second Vatican Council was convening, the Southwest Liturgical Conference (or SWLC) is comprised of twenty-seven dioceses from Arizona, Colorado, New

Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. The annual Study Week is the longest running liturgical assembly of its kind in the United States. This year's theme, "Liturgy: History and Reform," was the same used for the first study week that took place in Dallas in June of 1963, and in light of the adoption of the new *Roman Missal*, the subject maintained just as vital a relevance today as it did then.

"Each of us sees only a small span of what is a long journey," said Monsignor Richard Hilgartner, executive director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat of Divine Worship. "I would posit that the liturgy was alive and well in the first century Church just as they are today."

Taking the liturgist's mantra from *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* ("... full, conscious, active participation. . .") as a jumping off point for his keynote entitled, "A Flame Divided But Undimmed," Msgr. Hilgartner gave an engaging discussion on the challenges of creating effective ministry from his viewpoint as a priest and liturgical scholar.



Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville, poses with presenter Vallimar Jansen (middle) and Barbara Maxwell, Good Shepherd director of Evangelization.

"Some priests have said that using the new missal is work," he continued. "Well, duh! Liturgy is the work of the people!"

While such moments of levity and true vernacular speech peppered his delivery — he is, after all, a self-described tech savvy Generation X-er — Msgr. Hilgartner never failed to communicate the gravity of his subject.

"Liturgy is our participation in the Paschal Mystery," he said. "In *Sacramentum Caritatis*, Pope Benedict

reminds us that participation must first be conscious and that consciousness is internal, but sometimes liturgists take

the internal for granted because we can only control the externals."

So many of the beautiful externals found expression during the four-day study week. Workshops on lector training, cantor training, RCIA preparation, chant, "Keeping the Day Holy," "Preaching the Roman Missal," the role of liturgical music, and even the use of technology in parish settings, showed the breadth of the vibrant faith being passed on and shared by the participants.

In his breakout session, "Giving Voice to the Roman Missal," Jerry Galipeau, associate publisher for World Library Publications was able to distill the spirit of the conference most effectively when he said, "Liturgy is more than the work of the people; it is the work of God."

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE**  
offer hope for those in need




1-888-317-SVDP  
www.svdpcf.org

Free towing! Tax deductible!

Donate your vehicle to St. Vincent de Paul and support our mission of lending a helping hand to those in need. Have your vehicle title in hand when you call. Your donated vehicle DOES make a difference in North Texas!



**TRIDENTINE MASS** 

LATIN 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

**LEARN ROSARY MAKING**  
LEWIS & COMPANY

Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer.

rosaryparts.com  
(800) 342 - 2400



**Alaska Cruise**  
plus a YMT Pacific Northwest Vacation

**15 Days** Depart July 16, 2012 from **\$2398\***

Daily Mass aboard Holland America Line ms **Oosterdam**. Includes a seven-day deluxe cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with YMT. Fly into Salt Lake City for one night; enjoy a city tour of the highlights before taking a scenic drive to Jackson Hole, WY. See Grand Teton National Park and spend two days in Yellowstone National Park before heading to Butte, MT. Travel through Montana's "Big Sky Country" and through northern Idaho; see Lake Coeur d'Alene; Spokane; Grand Coulee Dam; and Seattle, Washington. Next, travel by ship through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Tracey Arm; Juneau; Sitka; Ketchikan; and spectacular Victoria, BC on Vancouver Island! Spend one more night in Seattle, with an included city tour, then depart for home. Price includes the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, motor coach sightseeing and baggage handling. Your YMT Chaplain/Priest is Fr. Walter Grabowski who is pastor of Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Eden, New York. This will be his 6th trip as a YMT Chaplain. \*Price per person, double occupancy, includes taxes. Airfare is extra.

**YMT**™  
vacations  
It's time to travel

For details, itinerary, reservations & letter from YMT's chaplain with his phone number call 7 days a week:  
**1-800-736-7300**



# RCIA Diocesan Formation Day challenges instructors to always be catechists

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent  
Photos by Juan Guajardo

More than 175 formation directors, catechists, and RCIA volunteers participated in the annual Diocesan Formation Day for RCIA and RCIA Adapted for Children which was offered Jan. 28 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton.

"You are always being a catechist. Every time you profess your faith publicly, you are being watched," said keynote speaker Patty Norris. "If many are called but few are chosen, we are the few who are chosen."

Norris, a thirty-year veteran catechist with an international reputation, gave an address entitled, "Witness to Holiness: The Spirituality of the RCIA Team." In her lively presentation, Norris exhorted RCIA team members to be living examples of the faith they are leading the catechumens and candidates to profess.

"The mission of the Church is not just for today. Our mission is to help people get into heaven," Norris continued. "Loving people with the charity that we receive in baptism, means that we love people with the



Patty Norris gives a keynote talk on how being a witness to the love of Christ is crucial for RCIA catechists. She is one of the directors for the Association for Catechumenal Ministry (ACM).

love of Christ."

So began an engaging day of instruction and fellowship. Building on the theme of *Matthew 5:48*, "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," workshops presented in both English and Spanish encompassed a wide array of topics from teaching prayer and salvation history to training sponsors and discernment.

"We must recognize the scope of the work to be done, but we must not be fearful because God will give us the strength to do it," said Bernadette Hamilton in her breakout session, "Spiritual Encouragement for Children and

Families in the RCIC." Hamilton who is the mother of seven children, teaches RCIC, that is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller. She, too, emphasized the importance of the spiritual health of the catechist, highlighting various tools for growth on the part of the teachers as well as those receiving instruction.

"I constantly tell the children that this is not a one-year thing. We continue to learn throughout our lives. Therefore, we must continue to educate ourselves as well," said Hamilton.

Still, there was just as much

education about the process of teaching as the spirituality of the teacher.

"Just like you don't go into a second grade classroom and teach trigonometry, you must lay down a foundation for Church teaching," explained Lucas Pollice in his session, "Love and Life: Sexual Morality I." In addition to giving a solid teaching on marriage, Pollice, director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth, practiced what he preached, showing the bold courage necessary to impart Church teaching on a thorny subject. "These things must be taught," he said. "We can't be

afraid to teach it. We must be enthusiastic about it, setting the pastoral foundation that this is Good News."

Bringing the notion of Good News and teaching together, Father Carmen Mele, OP, who celebrated Mass that afternoon, noted the significance of holding the Formation Day on the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"Thomas Aquinas was one of the greatest catechists in the history of the Church," he said. "Our role, like his, is to bring Jesus to those we teach, not in a rudimentary way but in the way in which we live our lives."



Bernadette Hamilton talks about strategies to encourage children in RCIC classes.



Fr. Alfredo Barba talks to RCIA catechists about teaching prayer in RCIA. He taught a Spanish-language session.

## Institute of Pastoral Theology looking for new students for second class next year

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent

As the first year of the Ave Maria University Institute for Pastoral Theology (IPT) program moves towards completion this May, Lucas Pollice, director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth, has announced that program directors are looking to offer another schedule of Year One classes in the diocese in the fall of 2012.

"We've had a great response to the program this year," Pollice said. "It has attracted a wide range of people, from parish Directors of Religious Education to people who volunteer in their parishes and want a deeper knowledge of their faith."

The MTS degree offered by Ave Maria University's IPT requires 36 credit hours of coursework centered on the fundamental principles of theology, spirituality, and pastoral practice. Designed for students whose access to graduate level study in theology is limited by job, family, or distance, courses are offered in an intensive weekend format. Classes meet Friday evening through Sunday afternoon one weekend per month, August through May, and the degree can be completed in three years.

Unique among the adult formation programs offered within the diocese in that it culminates in a master's degree, the IPT gives students the opportunity to complete a post graduate degree and provides a rigorous course of study that is faithful to the Magisterium.

"I wanted instruction that was authoritative and reliable," said Mark Connolly, a first year student in the Fort Worth cohort. "This is not some abstract 'theology under glass' program. This is hands dirty, real world, confront our basic beliefs and test them in a crucible and burn off the dross theology. . . It's work. No doubt about it."

Connolly has 20 years of experience in Human Resources and currently works for a manufacturing technology company. He describes himself as a "frustrated philosopher" but while the IPT would necessarily be attractive to those seeking to work for the Church, Connolly says that his primary attraction to the program came from wanting to have a deeper understanding of his faith.

"I get asked questions at church, and I don't want to lead people astray," he said. "Very specifically, I want an orthodox framework to work within to help all my independent

reading and study have a firm grounding."

The firm grounding of the IPT comes from the integrity of its founder. And while the program has its base at Ave Maria University's Florida campus, a key player in its development has close ties to the Metroplex. Douglas Bushman, former Director of the Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies (IRPS) at the University of Dallas, is Director of the IPT. His work at UD along with a growing national reputation for spiritual formation scholarship led to his being invited to establish a program for Ave Maria College in Michigan. When Ave Maria University was established in 2004, the IPT migrated to southern Florida. Mr. Bushman continues his work as director of the IPT's MTS degree.

As the Church prepares to celebrate the "Year of Faith," a well-formed laity remains a key component. Bishop Vann in a letter about the IPT said, "We need to be strengthened doctrinally and spiritually, especially in our modern-day culture (in which) ... handing on the Faith is a much more difficult challenge, requiring adequate and diligent formation."

### IPT Information Session / Open Class

Ave Maria University's Institute for Pastoral Theology is offering three opportunities for prospective students to "come and see." Lecture and Information Sessions presented by IPT Associate Director Timothy P. Herrman, Ph.D., S.T.L., will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1 at St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington and Thursday, March 29, at the diocesan Catholic Center. Dr. Herrman will give an address entitled "Recollection and the Challenge of Vatican II." Prospective students are also invited to sit in on a weekend of classes March 2-4 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller. These offer excellent opportunities to get a taste of the IPT program while reflecting on the Second Vatican Council as the Church prepares to celebrate the Year of Faith, which begins Oct. 11, 2012.

For additional information or to reserve a seat for these free events, contact Ave Maria University at (866) 866-1100 or email [IPT@avemaria.edu](mailto:IPT@avemaria.edu).

### INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TOURS - 2012

**-HOLYLAND** - Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem - Nov. 7-15 - \$1,899\*  
**-MEDJUGORJE & N. ITALY - MARCH 9-19, 2012 - \$1,899\***  
 -Milan, Turin, Verona, Padua, Venice, Medjugorje, Zadar, Dubrovnik.  
**Rome Ext. - 3 nights** - via Assisi, Rome with Papal Audience - \$649\*

+++++  
**AFFORDABLE ITALY - 6 NIGHTS - MARCH 16 - 22 - \$1,199\***  
 Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi & Rome + Papal Audience.  
**Prices - per person dbl. occ., air from DFW, breakfast/dinner daily, first class hotels + private facilities, escort, own coach + driver.**  
 \*Air taxes/fuel surcharges are EXTRA- at final payment.  
 Land prices included are subject to currency rate changes.  
**Call Michael/Sue Menof at GOLDEN WORLD TOURS**  
**Tel: 972-934-9635 to request all details/terms/registration.**





# Catechesis

## Religious Freedom and the HHS Mandate

By Lucas Pollice

The unfortunate decision of the Department of Health and Human Services to mandate that all health insurance plans include contraception, sterilization, and even some abortion causing drugs is a malicious attack on the freedom of conscience of millions of Catholics and others who hold that these kinds of medical practices, far from being “preventive medicine,” are in fact intrinsically immoral. This decision to treat fertility and the ability of a man and woman to come together in total lifelong and life-giving love as co-creators with God in the creation of new human life as a *preventable disease* is another striking example of how the prophetic message of Pope Paul VI in *Humanae Vitae* in 1968 was absolutely right. He states:

*Finally, careful consideration should be given to the danger of this power passing into the hands of those public authorities who care little for the precepts of the moral law. Who will blame a government which in its attempt to resolve the problems affecting an entire country resorts to the same measures as are regarded as lawful by married people in the solution of a particular family difficulty? Who will prevent public authorities from favoring those contraceptive methods which they consider more effective? Should they regard this as necessary, they may even impose their use on everyone. It could well happen, therefore, that when people, either individually or in family or social life, experience the inherent difficulties of the divine law and are determined to avoid them, they may give into the hands of public authorities the power to intervene in the most personal and intimate responsibility of husband and wife. (17, emphasis mine)*

The Church from her beginning has always stood for the life and dignity of the human person, and the dignity of the sexual union between man and woman as the very foundation of marriage, family, and society itself. Pope Paul VI made yet another stand in 1968 in the face of the sexual revolution and warned of the dire consequences for human society if the truth about the human person and human sexuality is not upheld and respected. Now we find ourselves in a day and age when the government mandates that fertility is a preventable disease, when the state, not God, tries to define what a marriage is, and when the largest religious denomination in the United States, Roman Catholics, are no longer protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution to follow their consciences in a matter of grave moral consequence.

The HHS mandate not only calls all Catholics and people of good will to action, but it also calls us to once again rediscover the truth about conscience and our serious responsibility to form and follow our consciences.

Our conscience is at the heart of our human dignity as being created in the image

and likeness of God. It is the voice of God in our souls always calling us to the truth and to fullness of human life. Conscience is a judgment of reason, enlightened by the Holy Spirit that enjoins us to do what is good, to avoid what is evil, and recognize the divine plan written in our heart. It judges an action that has taken place, is in the process of being performed, or is going to take place. Each of us has the duty and responsibility to act in accordance with our conscience. The dignity of the human person demands that each person is always free to act in accordance with their conscience and can never be forced or coerced to do otherwise. This is a fundamental and God given right of each and every person. As Vatican II teaches in *Dignitatis Humanae*:

*This Vatican Council declares that the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such ways that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits. The council further declares that the right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person as this dignity is known through the revealed word of God and by reason itself. This right of the human person to religious freedom is to be recognized in the constitutional law whereby society is governed and thus it is to become a civil right. (2)*

While we are always to follow our conscience, our consciences are not just how we “feel” about any particular moral question or teaching of the Church. It is not just doing whatever we feel is right. Our consciences are not the source of truth, but a gift of our reason that allows us to conform our minds, hearts, and lives to the truth about God and about the human person that God has revealed to us through Christ and the Church. Therefore, we have the serious responsibility of also forming our consciences according to the truth that God has revealed. We act in good and true conscience

when we both follow our conscience and it is truly formed according to the teachings of Christ and the Church.

We act in good conscience when we follow it, but we must always strive to have it well informed. If we act in good conscience and our conscience is true, then we have made a good moral decision. Sometimes our conscience is true, but we act against it, or we act in bad conscience. This is what happens when we sin.

But there are other times in which we follow our conscience, or act in good conscience, but our conscience is in error, and is not formed correctly according to God’s law. This would be a false conscience. When we act in good conscience but it is false, that is called erroneous judgment.

Having a false conscience many times



comes from the fact that we simply may not have known something was wrong, or may have misunderstood or were not properly informed of the teachings of the Church. We may have had ignorance of the moral law.

This ignorance is invincible when it is not our fault; when we have not deliberately ignored the duty to form our conscience. However, our ignorance is vincible when we do not take seriously the responsibility of forming our conscience or when we deliberately ignore or dissent against the moral law. Vincible ignorance is a grave sin and seriously undermines the moral life.

Therefore, our conscience must be formed and moral judgment be enlightened. The education of one’s conscience is the responsibility of all and is a life-long task. It requires interiority, to enter one’s heart to recognize the voice of the Creator. The Word of God, authentically found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition as authoritatively interpreted and taught by the Magisterium, is the light of our path, and our conscience should always be formed in accordance to God’s revealed law. One can’t just say “just follow your conscience.” We have the serious responsibility to see that the conscience that we are following is conformed to the teachings of Christ and the Church. Many people today have used the excuse of “just follow your conscience” to dissent from various Church teachings. The result of such a fallacy is

to reduce one’s conscience to simply what one feels about a certain doctrine or moral action which then makes each individual’s conscience the source of truth instead of the unchanging law of God. This false view of conscience has become the source of the moral relativism that is unfortunately prevalent in our modern culture.

Consequently, it must be clearly stated that conscience is not the source of truth but rather the witness, in the very depths of our soul, of a truth that is beyond us, that is unchanging and eternal. Christ has given us the gift of the Catholic Church and the Magisterium to always be that sure light of truth that guides the faithful through the many storms and dark nights that have visited us all throughout human history. As Blessed Pope John Paul II teaches:

*Christians have a great help for the formation of conscience in the Church and her Magisterium. As the Council affirms: “In forming their consciences the Christian faithful must give careful attention to the sacred and certain teaching of the Church. For the Catholic Church is by the will of Christ the teacher of truth. Her charge is to announce and teach authentically that truth which is Christ, and at the same time with her authority to declare and confirm the principles of the moral order which derive from human nature itself.” It follows that the authority of the Church, when she pronounces on moral questions, in no way undermines the freedom of conscience of Christians. This is so not only because freedom of conscience is never freedom “from” the truth but always and only freedom “in” the truth, but also because the Magisterium does not bring to the Christian conscience truths which are extraneous to it; rather it brings to light the truths which it ought already to possess, developing them from the starting point of the primordial act of faith. The Church puts herself always and only at the service of conscience, helping it to avoid being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine proposed by human deceit (cf. Eph 4:14), and helping it not to swerve from the truth about the good of man, but rather, especially in more difficult questions, to attain the truth with certainty and to abide in it. (Veritatis Splendor, 64)*

Therefore, in light of the HHS mandate, I encourage all Catholics to not only exercise our right and duty to participate in the public square and demand that this mandate be repealed, but to also take some time to rediscover the Church’s wise and unchanging teachings concerning marriage and sexual morality. There you will discover that the Church is the one institution who is truly defending and promoting the dignity of every woman and man and of our calling to live a truly human life: “For I came that they might have life and have it abundantly” (*John 10:10*).



# VOICES of the CHURCH

opinions, stories, wisdom, and personal voice

## Made in God's image freedom is our birthright

By Anne McGuire

**'H**ow do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Many are familiar with the beginning of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's famous poem, but there is a lesser known line which relates perfectly to the current crisis of the recent HHS mandate: "I love thee freely, as men strive for Right." In this line, Browning recognized the inseparable relationship between love and authentic freedom. For all the discussions today about freedom, do we really understand its foundation? We need to, because the right of individuals and institutions to act according to their religious beliefs and moral convictions is in danger, and the threat strikes at the heart of what it means to be human.

Every human heart aches for love that will penetrate every corner of our existence and give meaning to our lives. We search for fulfillment, yet whatever we turn to often falls short. This infinite desire reveals that only infinite love can satisfy our longing. As C.S. Lewis said, "If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."

We can then conclude that we were created by someone who could fulfill these desires, who loves us infinitely, and who is constantly inviting us to respond to his love. When we respond to this love with our "yes," we respond freely because without freedom, there can be no love. This freedom, however, is far more rich and vibrant than the mere ability to choose between good and evil, as Msgr. Luigi Giussani noted in his book, *The Religious Sense*: "Freedom, for the human being, is the possibility, the capacity, the responsibility to be fulfilled ... [it] is the experience of the truth of ourselves."

Because we are made in the image and likeness of God, decisions we make that bring us closer to Him, enable us to become more fully ourselves and more fully human. It is only in our relationship with love himself, one which permeates our lives and transforms us and our daily actions, that we find fulfillment and satisfaction. Thus, as Abraham Lincoln allegedly stated, "freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought." Yet even this basic principle is now being ignored by the federal government.

God gives man freedom. The Declaration of Independence recognized this fundamental truth: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men ... are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable

**B**ecause we are made in the image and likeness of God, decisions we make that bring us closer to Him, enable us to become more fully ourselves and more fully human.

Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

The government does not bestow these rights, but has the obligation to protect them.

The Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment acknowledges this same right: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" (*emphasis added*).

In the 1963 case of *School District of Abington Township v. Schempp*, the Supreme Court stated that "the Free Exercise Clause ... withdraws from legislative power, state and federal, the exertion of any restraint on the free exercise of religion. Its purpose is to secure religious liberty in the individual by prohibiting any invasions thereof by civil authority" (*emphasis added*). This free exercise of religion acknowledges the freedom to respond to God's love with our "yes," thereby acting in accord with our human nature.

Yet, despite the fact that "the right of man to religious freedom has its foundation in the dignity of the person," as identified in *Dignitatis Humanae*, the very government that is charged with protecting this right is now claiming the illegitimate authority to force people to act in violation of their consciences. In failing to acknowledge the right to choose good, the government fails to acknowledge the right to love. In failing to acknowledge the right to love, it fails to acknowledge what it means to be human.

Anne McGuire is a staff assistant for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops' pro-life activities, please visit [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).

## The New Atheists think forming children as Christians, abusive

By David Mills

**T**he so-called "New Atheists" talk about religion in the same simple-minded, my-way-or-the-highway style that religious people supposedly use. So says the English intellectual Frank Furedi, who as far as I can tell is an atheist himself, though he prefers the term "humanist."

Writing for the English website Spiked!, he mentions Richard Dawkins' famous idea that "religions abuse the minds of children," while the parents who try to pass on their religious beliefs to their children "damage minds too young to understand what is happening to them." You may think you're telling your children the best news imaginable, but Dawkins thinks you're basically slapping them around.

Fair enough from his point of view, we might say. But then we'd have to say that from our point of view the atheist parents who rob their children of the knowledge of God are damaging minds too young to understand what is happening to them. Dawkins' kind of argument doesn't get anyone very far. It's really just a form of abuse itself. You don't argue with someone you think is mistaken, you accuse him of hurting small children.

Yet Dawkins and his peers like Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens are the kind of writers the television talk shows, the news magazines, and the top websites feature. When religion is the subject, they're the talking heads brought in.

It's not always been like this. The atheists of the past were more relaxed about their disbelief in God, Furedi writes, and disbelieved in God as part of believing in something else they cared about more. "Most atheists defined themselves through an assertive identity, whether they called themselves democrats, liberals, socialists, anarchists, fascists, communists, freethinkers, or rationalists. For most serious atheists, their disbelief in god was a relatively insignificant part of their self-identity."

These things were often substitutes for religion. A man who didn't believe in Heaven believed very passionately in the Communist revolution and the wonderful new world it would create. "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need," as Karl Marx famously put it. The man who thought Christian beliefs didn't make any sense whatsoever was absolutely sure that reason would help man make a better world.

These people were Communists or Rationalists first, atheists second. They first wanted to make something, not tear something down. Not believing in God was

**F**or some reason, many of the people who try to drive God out of the universe wind up thinking very little of the people who are left.

part of believing in the better world they wanted to help create.

Today's "New Atheists," however, are atheists first and last. The New Atheism, Furedi writes, "takes itself very seriously indeed. With their zealous denunciation of religion, the so-called New Atheists often resemble medieval moral crusaders. They argue that the influence of religion should be fought wherever it rears its ugly head. Although they demand that religion should be countered by rational arguments, their own claims often verge on the irrational and hysterical."

And he, remember, is writing as someone who basically agrees with them. Then he goes on: "It was inevitable that sooner or later the New Atheist crusade would mutate into a quasi-religion. . . . In all but name the New Atheism has transformed itself not only into a secular religion but into an intensely intolerant and dogmatic secular religion."

And that, he insists, is a very bad thing. He ends his article this way: "The most powerful threat to the realization of the human potential today comes, not from religion, but from the moral disorientation of Western secular culture."

Though an atheist, he has a high view of who man is and what he can do — almost as high as someone who believes that man was created in God's image and that when man messed up God became man. He's distressed that secular movements now often "promote the idea that human beings are powerless, vulnerable, and victims of their circumstances. . . . All the old religious sins have been recast in a secular, medical form. People are no longer condemned for lust but rather are treated for sex addiction. Gluttony has been reinvented as obesity. And envy and avarice have been rebranded as illnesses brought about by our 'addictive consumer society'."

Though Furedi doesn't say this, I think it follows from what he does say that the problem with the "New Atheists" is that the first point of their new religion is that God doesn't exist. For some reason, many of the people who try to drive God out of the universe wind up thinking very little of the people who are left.

David Mills is the executive editor of *FIRST THINGS*. He can be reached at [catholicisense@gmail.com](mailto:catholicisense@gmail.com).



# VOICES of the CHURCH

opinions, stories, wisdom, and personal voice

## If I was going to have followers, even on Pinterest, then I needed to share my loves...

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

**B**ig Kate was firm in her conviction that if I were a good student during the first six weeks of school, I could “slide” for the rest of the year. She was sometimes right. I did slide once, but it was off the risers during a senior year choir performance.

Big Kate also said I should live a good life, and people would respect and follow my example. That was trickier than the sliding thing. I hadn’t understood sliding anyway, especially in high school where there were no playgrounds or physical education classes.

Apparently Pueblo Catholic High School assumed our focus on spiritual exercises reduced the need for physical ones. They were wrong at least once – when my lack of physical prowess permitted me to fall off those risers.

They were right, however, because they graduated classes of students who would forever live by the strength they gleaned from Catholic education, where Jesus Christ became their best friend.

Because of Big Kate and PCH, I have always tried to be good, as instructed, and to be a living example to others. A leader. So far I had never noticed that it was working.

Until recently. I learned 35 people are following me. On Pinterest.

Pinterest is a website that defines itself as “a virtual pinboard to organize and share the things you love.”

It’s an online bulletin board, where people can digitally pin their favorite things on digital corkboard to show their digital friends. (Pinterest provides the digital push-pins.)

What collections you find there!

In “Home Décor” there are bedrooms with vaulted ceilings; two-story tree-houses; and stacked, teacup-shaped bookcases. In “Food and Drink” there are pepper weenies with smoked bacon and Vidalia onions; *coq au vin*; and sandwich cake. And in “Kids” there are knitted, football-shaped bunting; bunk beds crafted like log cabins; and The French edition of Dr. Seuss’s *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*.

The content is remarkable, and so was this:

A half-hour after joining this previously unknown social website, I learned I was being followed by Amber, Christina, Kent, Mallory, Mary, Stephanie, Justin, Rachel, (and four others).

That’s how my e-mail indicates it is finished listing names. It prints: (and others). My e-mail is lazy.

Anyway, that day my e-mail began stacking messages stating I had a brand-new leadership role in a strange, but interesting

**I** felt obligated to do something quickly for my followers, of whom none, I am relieved to say, was named Peter, John, Andrew, James, or Thomas. So I got started.

world. That information was stimulating, pride-inducing, and warm-fuzzy feeling. People were following me?

I felt like I was sitting at the cafeteria table with all the popular girls, or had just received a bid to my first-choice sorority.

But it was also funny. I had absolutely no digital pinboards nor pins. None at all. My membership was an empty page — I mean an empty wall. What were they following?

“Well, big Kate, I don’t seem to be really good, like you asked, but people are following me. Does this mean I will slide for the rest of my life?”

Big Kate did not reply.

I felt obligated to do something quickly for my followers, of whom none, I am relieved to say, was named Peter, John, Andrew, James, or Thomas. So I got started.

Some of it was easy. I found a way to clean an old, stained cookie sheet, so I took that method from someone else’s board and re-pinned it to mine. I re-pinned a recipe for croissants that contained childrens’ printed Thanksgiving messages.

I found a homemade valentine drawn from handprints, so I quickly re-pinned that, and then I found the word “Love” written with this text: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Best of all I found a black-and-white photograph of a man at the bedside of his hospitalized wife, holding her hand. The two were laughing heartily at a private joke. We will never know what the joke was; we can only hope to know what their love and friendship felt like.

But how would I show the things I, myself, loved? Where would my personal Pinterest cork board come from? The things I loved most would likely never have appeared in an online publication, nor could I repin them off the collections of others.

They would be in my heart only, just as I had found that other heart created out of

the words from *John 3:16*.

So I began designing my own pinning possibilities.

For my recipe board, I made a pictorial depiction of the steps in baking Big Kate’s potica. I love making the bread of nuts and dates. And I love the children who help.

On my squeaky clean board, I pinned an image of two baby grandsons cleaning up their toys — that scene was dear and would indeed be rare, as Noah and Charles grew up.

I found a living portrait of love, with big-girl sister Natalie, happily holding her baby cousin Charles. “He ain’t heavy.”

If I was going to have Pinterest boards, I decided, they would have to be laden with things I truly love, more than I love chocolate chip ice cream.

The “things” I loved, would have to be contained amid the simple adornments of the “people” I loved.

Would my Pinterest board followers receive enlightenment or inspiration from those items? Or would they follow me only for cross-stitch ideas or recipes I swapped from others?

Who knew??

But if I were ever going to live the life — not cyber-life — God foresaw for me, I vowed it would be as someone who could, in spite of unworthiness, manage to have at least a small entourage. I prayed to live as someone who deserved to be followed — at least by one other person.

If 35 did choose to come along, however, and if they were watching, I prayed to live a life God wanted them to see.

<https://pinterest.com/mkcranberry/>

*Kathy Cribari Hamer and her husband are members of St. Andrew Parish near TCU in Southwest Fort Worth. In May 2009 her column received the second place award for best family life column from the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada for the second time in two years. In 2005, Kathy’s column received the first place award in the same category.*

## Msgr. Steenson reveals a heart for God’s people

By Jeff Hensley  
Editor, *North Texas Catholic*

**B**y the time I saw Father Jeffrey Steenson in the flesh, only an hour or two before he became Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson and the first Ordinary of the U.S. Ordinariate for Anglicans coming into Union with the Universal Church, I already knew a little about him.

His former associate when he was the rector of St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, had been Father E. James Hart, who was later ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1996. In 2005 Fr. Hart was named Chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Worth, and became my supervisor.

Fr. Hart (soon to be Monsignor Hart) had spoken with warmth of his friend Fr. Steenson’s fine qualities, particularly of his brilliance.

Plus, the *NTC* had done a good deal of research, so we could describe his background and prior experience.

But I was genuinely impressed when, in a news interview before his installation as Ordinary, he was asked how he felt about becoming a part of history. His reply, in effect, was that if he thought about his soon to come installation as historic, he wouldn’t be able to do it.

Said in a jocular manner, as he stood between Cardinal Donald Wuerl and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, his comment generated relaxed laughter from the cardinals as well as the press.

Throughout the following installation Mass, at which the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter was officially instituted, and he was elevated to the position of Ordinary, with the title of Monsignor, Msgr Steenson demonstrated the same good humor and humility, an attitude he maintained throughout the extended time of receiving well wishers in the Archdiocese of Houston’s pastoral center, laughing with and listening to, those who wanted a moment with him, to wish him well.

But I was even more deeply impressed when two days later I had a chance to look at all of the pictures our two photographers had taken of him as he offered the Body of Christ to those who came to him at the Installation Mass. He was totally and compassionately engaged with each person, connecting with each one.

He holds a new, exalted position, like a bishop, but without the title, but functionally, like a bishop, he will serve those he shepherds with a heart filled with the love of God. May God bless him, and the Church through him.



# Features

## Lenten practices call us into the desert with Jesus

By Jeff Hedglen

Another Lenten journey is upon us, another opportunity to grow in faith through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial. I realize that when phrased that way it might not be as enticing as say, "Let's all meet at Red Lobster, since we're not eating meat this Friday," but the season of Lent more self-denial than seafood feast.

Over the years I have known plenty of people who have taken their Lenten observances seriously. I know one person who regularly gives up everything from the cow, so that is no beef, milk, and other milk products. Another friend once gave up his cell phone, though it made it harder for folks to get in touch with him, he found it very freeing. I've known many people who have given up meat for all of Lent, not just Fridays.

In addition to fasting from food and other conveniences, many people do extra spiritual practices as a way to draw closer to Jesus. Many of my friends do things like make one extra daily Mass, or spend an hour in adoration, or commit to a set amount of time to pray or read Scripture. And many of the people I know choose to observe Lent by serving the community at a food bank or nursing home, or just look for a random act of kindness to do each day.

My personal strategy each year is to do something that challenges me spiritually and something else that focuses on others. In the past I have done things like pray the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet before I listen to the radio in my car each day; get up early for our parish's Wednesday men's prayer time at 6 a.m., or post a prayer from one of the Saints on my Facebook page.

The specific practice that a person chooses to do during Lent may not be as important as the reason for doing it. The whole idea behind our prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving,

and self-denial is to journey with Jesus in the desert. The gospels tell us that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying just before he began his public ministry. Lent is our time to join him in our own spiritual desert.

In a very real way whatever we do to observe Lent is a way for us to experience just a little of what Jesus did in his desert time when he fasted, prayed, and resisted temptation. As we fast from food or material things and deepen our prayer life, we are sure to encounter some temptation to veer from our commitments. I know for myself, it seems like everywhere I go during Lent I see other people enjoying the very thing I am giving up in sacrifice. Plus, there never seems to be enough time to do whatever I have decided to do extra.

I realize that these little temptations are not quite on par with the Devil offering Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, but in a similar way they invite me to resist and stay true to what I have offered to Jesus.

**My personal strategy each year is to do something that challenges me spiritually and something that focuses on others**

The temptations of Jesus reveal to us a Savior who is not content with mediocrity. He had nothing to prove to his Father, but He knew the value of self-sacrifice and that the reward for staying the course in the face of temptation was more than

an "atta-boy." Jesus, the God-man, embraced self-denial as a spiritual discipline and thus leads us by example to the fruits of desert times.

Lent is our own opportunity to flee mediocrity and to prepare for our own ministry, whether that is to our family, our community or our church. But most importantly our prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial are ways for us to encounter Jesus on a deeper level. They are ways for us to put into action the message we hear as ashes are applied to our forehead: Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

Jesus, may we all receive the grace we need to have a solemn and powerful observance of Lent. May our efforts deepen our connection with You and help us shine brighter as your light to the world.



(CNS photo/Paul Haring) Jacob Monson, 21, a student at the Rome program of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., carries snow to augment a "popeman" he created with fellow students Feb. 11 after snowfall in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. Snow is rare in Rome.



(CNS photo/Victor Aleman, Voa Nueva) A couple kiss after renewing their wedding vows at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles Feb. 12. Married couples from throughout Southern California who are celebrating 25, 50, 60 — or more — years of marriage during 2012 renewed their wedding vows the Sunday before Valentine's Day, at the World Marriage Day Masses.



(CNS photo/Paul Haring) New U.S. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan greets Joseph and Marian Liberatore and their children, Grace, 10, and Joseph, 8, during a reception in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Feb. 18. The New York archbishop was among 22 prelates inducted into the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI during a consistory earlier that day.

## Cross-Words

By Mark Simeroth

Across & Down:

1. Book after Nehemiah
2. Deliver an address
3. A butcher, a \_\_\_\_\_, a
- candle-stick maker
4. Bits and pieces
5. Abrupt

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

### Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



### The FLOCK by Jean Denton

www.sheepdotcom.com





# Respect Life

At all stages

## Dallas March for Life draws thousands to mark 39 years since Roe v. Wade

By John Henry / Correspondent  
Photos by Juan Guajardo

DALLAS — Thousands packed the campus of the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe for Mass on a brisk Saturday and later joined hands in demonstration in a march through downtown to the courthouse where the famed case that eventually legalized abortion began.

The message: Say yes to a culture of life by demanding that the rights of the unborn, granted only through the grace of God, be reinstated through the end of legal abortion.

The ecumenical Dallas March for Life attracted an overflow Cathedral crowd at the Mass jointly celebrated by Bishops Kevin Vann of Fort Worth and Kevin Farrell of Dallas, and Auxiliary Bishops Douglas Deshotel and Mark Seitz of the Diocese of Dallas. The march, which followed the Mass carried the crowd of several thousand, carrying banners and placards, pushing strollers and simply walking from the Cathedral to the Earl Cabbell Federal Courthouse where *Roe v. Wade* was first filed in 1970.

“We are here to pray to an end to abortion, a killing of the innocents and the healing of the victims, the women, who are hurt for a lifetime at this horrible sin,” said Father Jason Cargo of the Diocese of Dallas, homilist at the Jan. 21 Mass.

“We are here to pray to end the affront to the human person throughout all of our society.”

Sunday, Jan. 22, marked the 39th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade*, which made legal the procedure of abortion. Since that day, more than 52 million babies have been aborted in the United States alone.

In marking the occasion, President Barack Obama said, “I remain committed to protecting a woman’s right to choose and this fundamental constitutional right.”

The Catholic Church since its earliest days in the first century has condemned abortion.

In 1995, Pope John Paul II affirmed the the Church’s teaching on abortion by declaring that it is “unchanged and unchangeable. ... By the authority which Christ conferred upon Peter and his successors I declare that direct abortion, that is, abortion willed as an end or as a means, always constitutes a grave moral disorder, since it is the deliberate killing of an innocent human being.

“This doctrine is based upon the natural law and upon the written word of God, is transmitted by the Church’s tradition, and taught by the ordinary and

universal Magisterium. No circumstance, no purpose, no law whatsoever can ever make licit an act which is intrinsically illicit, since it is contrary to the law of God which is written in every human heart, knowable by reason itself, and proclaimed by the Church.”

In his homily, Fr. Cargo reiterated that embracing a culture of life includes saying no to contraceptives and a respect for the dignity of every human being.

God is the author, Fr. Cargo said, and the dignity of each of us is manifested through being one with God. This fact makes us sacred, he said.

“We are here to say that every action, every choice we make should be one for the culture of life,” said Fr. Cargo, who said he is haunted by not doing anything to convince a college fraternity brother and his girlfriend to not have an abortion 15 years ago.

“Many of us are quick to say every person has the right to life, but then we go out and kill the good name of another by the slander of gossip. Many of us say [we are pro-life], but we woefully sit and listen to family friends and say we must use contraception, or I can only have two children to live the way I want to live.”

Fr. Cargo implored congregants to, “say yes to life, say yes to being Catholic.”

Bishop Farrell welcomed the throngs — a diverse crowd of young and elderly and every age in between — who came from every part of North Texas and thanked those who stood outside in the cold to participate in the Mass through closed-circuit television. He said, though, it was a “sacrifice we should all be willing to make to save human life” to mark the commemoration of “the fatal and tragic day some 39 years ago.”

“I felt it was time that I actually did something about it and not stand by the side and just say what I believe,” said Christina Hunziker, 30 of Hurst who was on hand for her second march. Her friend, Mark Kelly, 35, of Coppell was making his first appearance to the annual event.



Thousands of pro-lifers march to the rally site. The Catholic Pro-Life Committee and Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas hosted the 2012 Roe Memorial Rosary, Mass, March for Life & Rally to mark the 39th anniversary of the *ROE v. WADE* decision. The Roe Memorial Mass had the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe filled beyond capacity, overflowing into the plaza. The ecumenical March for Life gathered an estimated 8,000 people from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, and from several other Christian churches, including First Baptist Church, where a praise and worship service was held prior to the march.



J.C. Ball and his daughter, Emma Ball, 3, from Fort Worth, take part in the march.

Hunziker and Kelly said they believed *Roe v. Wade* isn’t the only barrier to promoting a culture of life but that a massive media infrastructure from Hollywood to local newsrooms are imposing obstacles. Both said they believed *Roe* would be overturned.

The march is hard to ignore.

“I know this makes people more aware. People [see us] and stop and look. I don’t think people want to hear the truth. It’s easier for people to ignore.”

Bishop Farrell, like every year, said he is hopeful a Mass and demonstration won’t be necessary next year. After all, he reminded, “the chosen people were only condemned to 39 years in the desert.”

God, alone, Bishop Farrell said in the opening Mass, “has the power to impart the breath of life. ... Grant, we pray, that we whom You have made the stewards of creation may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life.”



Ramona Trevino (center), prays during the memorial Mass; she was a rally speaker and was a former abortion clinic manager who quit and joined the pro-life cause in a big way.



(From left to right) Dallas Auxiliary Bishops Mark Seitz, J. Douglas Deshotel, Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, and Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell march on Ross Avenue.



Vanessa Sambrano (left) and Sol Godinez (right) march to the rally site with thousands of other pro-lifers.



# Bishop challenges Catholics to proclaim the Gospel of Life in the public square at annual Respect Life Mass

Respect

At all

**Story and Photos by  
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent**

Andrew Laffiteau was surprised when organizers of the annual Respect Life Mass approached him inside St. Patrick Cathedral to ask if he would participate in a procession planned for the Jan. 20 liturgy. Initially apprehensive, the 22-year-old's attitude changed when he learned that each of the 52 red votive candles carried up to the altar by worshippers represented one million babies lost to abortion in the United States during the past 39 years.

"I'm proud to carry one of these candles," Laffiteau said, glancing down at the information provided in a Mass program. "Each one symbolizes lives lost to this world. But they also represent the joyful aspect of 52 million lives sent up to God."

The St. Bartholomew parishioner was part of a large gathering of 400 pro-life volunteers and supporters who turned out for the service which coincides annually with the U.S. Supreme Court's Jan. 22, 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. Celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann, this year's Mass included prayers for "Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" from the new *Roman Missal*. The prayers were designed specifically for the Church in the United States.

During the procession, Betsy Kopor, coordinator of Rachel Ministries, placed the Book of Innocents in front of the glowing tiers of votives. The ledger contained the names of children lost to abortion in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"We honor them at this Mass, too," Kopor said, explaining how women receiving post abortion help at a Rachel's Vineyard retreat name their babies during a memorial service.

Father Joe Pemberton, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, and several other priests from the diocese joined Bishop Vann on the altar.

"We remember our prayer this evening that acknowledges God alone has the power

to impart the breath of life, and that gift of life is formed in our mother's womb," the bishop told the congregation. "We pray as well that moment-to-moment, day-to-day we may remain faithful to the sacred trust of safeguarding the dignity of every human life."

During his homily, Bishop Vann also referenced the Obama administration's decision to deny Church-related institutions a "conscience clause" exemption regarding contraceptive coverage in their employee health care plans. The announcement from Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius came earlier in the day and is considered an assault on religious freedom by U.S. Catholic bishops.

"Even as we hear the discouraging news about no change in the HHS regulations regarding the protection of conscience, we gather as a people of faith, strength, and conviction," the bishop said. "Never give in to the negative spirit of anger and discouragement, but, rather, walk by faith."

He encouraged his listeners to work, live, preach, and proclaim the Gospel of life in the public square, so religious freedom and conscience is never limited and "that Caesar may never sit where God sits."

The bishop said one of the prayers in the new English translation of the *Roman Missal* ends the Mass with the words, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

"That is what we do this evening," Bishop Vann continued. "We go forth glorifying God by the commitment we have to live the Gospel of Life with courage and love."

Sponsored by the Diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office, the Mass was one of several local events marking Sanctity of Life month. Pro-life supporters from Fort Worth also turned out for the 2012 Roe Memorial Mass, march and rally held Jan. 21 in Dallas, the 3rd annual Hike for Life organized by the youth of St. Stephen Church in Weatherford, and parish-sponsored respect life Masses. Thirty Youth for Life teens from the diocese and their chaperones joined the estimated crowd of 300,000 in Washington,



Participants in the 2012 Respect Life Mass process into St. Patrick Cathedral carrying candles, each representing one million unborn children killed since *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion in the United States.

D.C., for the annual March for Life.

Chanacee Ruth-Killgore called the record-breaking attendance at the diocesan Respect Life Mass and the growing involvement of parishioners in pro-life activities "heartening." The director of Catholics Respect Life is particularly impressed with the tenacity and enthusiasm demonstrated by teens and young adults. Recent Gallup polls suggest more young people — especially those in the 18 to 34-age bracket — identify themselves as anti-abortion.

"It's wonderful to see how they are affecting society and are willing to stand up and be a voice," Ruth-Killgore said enthusiastically. "This generation of young people grew up with the science of sonograms, so there's no question this (fetus) is a human being to them. That's key."

Despite positive advances made in protecting life, the advocate admits there's more work to do.

"I want to encourage people to pray for an end to abortion and all offenses to the sanctity and dignity of life," she added.

Kevin and Michele Vina of Boyd brought their six children to the Mass because, "we need



Two young children place candles on a pyramid in front of the altar. Candles were carried by individuals who have been born since 1973, when abortion was legalized in the U.S.

to respect life any way we can, show support for our bishop, and be a part of the Culture of Life."

The couple, who are expecting twins in April, say pro-life values are part of the fabric of their family.

"Promoting life is important," Kevin Vina said. "There's a lot working against us. We have to do anything we can to be on the winning side."

## Annual Memorial Mass for the Unborn comforts families coping with miscarriages

**Story and Photo by Crystal Brown  
Correspondent**

No matter the amount of time — days or decades — the loss of a child leaves a family feeling empty. Once a year these families gather together to lean on one another for strength and healing through the Family Memorial Service for the Unborn at St. Andrew Parish.

"It is through death that God comes to us in the sacraments of life. It is through death that we return to Him forever," Father M. Gerald Gordon, TOR, said during his homily.

The memorial was started at the parish near Texas Christian University more than 10 years ago after several women who had experienced miscarriages approached Alice Curran to see if there was something the church could offer families in their situation. The result was the memorial and naming ceremony that has grown in attendance and attracts families outside St. Andrew Parish.

This year's memorial on Jan. 27 included readings from *Psalms 139* and *2 Corinthians 1* along with the naming ceremony

prior to the memorial.

Fr. Gordon said naming the lost child is part of the healing experience, but is often a hard step for families to make.

"Even in the memorial service some come up and just put 'Baby' and the family name [in the book]," Fr. Gordon said. "Those who do name the child, say that that's the first full experience of letting go."

For some the process of letting go of a child who never had a chance to grow up can take decades and include anger with God along with a difficult spiritual struggle.

"There are some people here tonight, who it has been 35 or more years before [they name the child]," Fr. Gordon said. "Some of it is because when they first lost their baby it was an embarrassment; they were looked down upon. And now they realize that's not the situation at all. Then when they see some of their neighbors have had the same experience, it's a bonding."

"They came because they need to know that somehow it wasn't their fault. They did everything they could to give life to this child."



Father Gerald Gordon, TOR, prays over a couple during the naming ceremony prior to the Memorial Mass for the Unborn held annually at St. Andrew Parish.



# T-shirts, balloons and banners proclaim pro-life crowd's convictions at National March for Life



(CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Young people walk with a banner at the start of the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 23.

By Julie Asher  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—Mark Hosbein stood on the corner of a busy Washington intersection under the steady rain Jan. 23 with a small duffle bag at his feet and a simple message for passers-by: “Please consider spiritually adopting an unborn baby who is in danger of abortion.”

Handing a reporter one of his brochures, Hosbein said as president of Hearts For Life, he is following the lead of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who promoted the idea of spiritual adoptions for the unborn years ago.

People who commit to such an adoption agree to pray once a day for a year for an unborn child, he explained. “Our belief is God will save the life of the baby. It’s a simple and powerful devotion.”

Hosbein, a member of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis, said in the past five or six years, his organization has passed out 100,000 of his brochures.

He was among several people giving signs and literature to pro-lifers as they walked toward the March for Life rally on the National Mall near the Smithsonian Castle. From the castle, the Washington Monument in one direction and the Capitol in the other were shrouded in fog and barely visible.

The weather in Washington was uncooperative, with intermittent rain and temperatures hovering in the high 30s.

But as in most years when the weather was bad, the tens of thousands of pro-lifers, a majority of them high school and college age, were undeterred. Donning rain gear and holding umbrellas, they descended on the nation’s capital to mark the 39th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. The Supreme Court handed down the decision Jan. 22, 1973.

As they streamed toward the rally site from various points, rallygoers carried signs that declared their pro-life views. Among the messages were: “Adoption is an option”; “Every time a baby is aborted, love is denied”; “Praying for a culture of life”; “If it’s not a baby, you’re not pregnant”; and “Abortion survivor: Daughter of rape.”

One woman wrote her message in bold black letters on the back of her yellow rain poncho: “God is pro-life: Thou shalt not kill.” One group carried yellow balloons that simply said, “Life.”

Earlier in the morning, gathered at a Washington hotel before the March for Life activities got under way, young members of a Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas court in Framingham, Massachusetts, talked to Catholic News Service about why they were there.

“Abortion is something we shouldn’t do,” said Tiffany Andino, 14. “If you have the guts

to do things that get you pregnant, you should have the guts to keep the child. Bringing new life into the world is a very big thing. My mom always taught me if you break the rules you pay the consequences. ... I don’t agree with abortion and I want it to stop.”

Valerie Valdivia, 12, said she was participating to send “a message to people not to kill a creature of God.” Fourteen-year-old Natalia Mendez echoed Valerie’s remarks, adding that everyone needs “to cherish and love” God’s creation.

Joanne Tomassi, Catholic Daughters’ national regent, told CNS, “It’s important for the juniors, these young women, to get involved as early as possible in the pro-life fight ... but we need people from all groups, all ethnic groups, economic groups, men, women, and children (involved). Abortion affects everybody.”

Near the rally site stood Erin Connelly from the Syracuse, New York, area, who was wearing a handmade sandwich board that declared: “Save the baby humans!” A member of St. Patrick Parish in Chittenango, Connelly said it was her second rally and march.

She said she was inspired for the day ahead by the Mass celebrated that morning by Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

She said she doesn’t know about other communities but in her community back home, there is a lot of respect for life.

A group of young people from the Diocese of Victoria, Texas, stood near the speakers’ platform. They were all wearing yellow hooded sweatshirts with this message on the back: “Death Roe Survivor.” The slogan and lettering were created by 16-year-old Ted Wenske, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Moulton, Texas.

He was there, he said, “because life from the moment of conception to death is sacred. Life should always be treated with respect.”

Boston University junior Brad Agostinelli of Rochester, New York, said he has grown in his Catholic faith over the past couple of years and his conviction that abortion is wrong has only grown stronger.

Heather Wilson, 28, a member of a nondenominational Christian church in Pennsylvania, held a sign that said, “Stop

unborn pain.”

She told CNS, “I’m here to put my feet in the direction of what my heart believes.”

More than an hour before the rally kicked off, thousands of pro-life marchers, the majority of them high school and college-age youths from across the country, began to fill in the space around the speakers’ platform under overcast skies.

The temperature hovered in the high 30s. Intermittent rain forced marchers to put on ponchos and assorted rain gear and pull out their umbrellas. The wet weather left the National Mall a soggy and muddy patch, which marchers slogged through after the rally as they headed to Constitution Avenue, past the Capitol and up to the Supreme Court.

The rally opened with the national anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a joint Catholic-Orthodox prayer delivered by Metropolitan Jonah of All America and Canada, and former bishop of the Orthodox Diocese of the South, based in Fort Worth. Religious leaders on the platform included Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Many other Catholic bishops were in attendance but stood with the contingents from their dioceses.

Nellie Gray, now 86, kicked off the speeches. She is the founder and president of the March for Life Education & Defense Fund, the group that organizes the march.

She told the crowd that their consistency in showing up in such great numbers each year “shows we love our country and love our preborn children. We also love the abortionists we’re trying to educate.”

She called for *Roe* to be overturned “without any exception” and urged unity “on the life principles” she and her organization have espoused since the *Roe* decision.

Just as the Nuremberg trials after World War II “taught us genocide is a crime against humanity,” the federal government must understand that abortion is “a crime against humanity,” said Gray.



**ABOVE:** Young people hold signs while standing in mud during the annual March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 23. (CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER) • **LEFT:** People pack the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 22 for the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life. (CNS PHOTO/GREGORY L. TRACY, THE PILOT) • **RIGHT:** Cameron Walton, 15, of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller prays the Rosary at the Verizon Center in Washington Jan. 23. (CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERMITZ)







Members of the Diocese of Fort Worth's Youth for Life program and their chaperones pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet outside a Planned Parenthood facility in Washington, D.C.

## Participating in National March for Life strengthens youths' convictions

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent  
Photos Courtesy of Joe Jordan

*"This trip was absolutely amazing! It really made me realize how much people need our help, prayers, and witness. I would like to make a difference in this world, and I have been asking God how. On this trip, He answered me."*

That comment, made by a Youth for Life teen, captures the impact participating in the National March for Life can have on a young person. Youth for Life, a ministry of the Diocese of Fort Worth's Catholics Respect Life Office, sent 30 members and their chaperones to Washington, D.C., this year to join 400,000 other pro-life supporters for the Jan. 23 march which started on the National Mall and finished in front of the Supreme Court. The demonstration is held each year to mark the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion in the U.S. throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

The four-day pilgrimage included Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and meetings with North Texas Congressmen Michael Burgess, Kenny Marchant, and Bill Flores, all representing portions of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann joined the group for evening prayer at the Basilica.

Winter temperatures and a light drizzle falling on the crowd didn't dampen the enthusiasm of first-time participant Erin Cummings. The Nolan Catholic High School sophomore became involved in pro-life activities after watching her mom, Jackie, work for the cause.

"Hearing women talk about their abortions really hit home for us," said Cummings, referring to the post-march rally on the steps of the Supreme Court. "They described how abortion not only affected them, but the entire nation."

The speakers also shared how the Catholic Church helped them heal from the emotional and psychological trauma of their decisions.

"Going on this trip helped shape my views," explained the 15-year-old, who sometimes comes across peers who think abortion isn't wrong. "I'm able to present the positive side of the issue. If I'm not



Bishop Kevin Vann poses with Catholics from the Fort Worth Diocese in a side chapel in the basement of the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Jan. 22. Bishop Vann led the group in Night Prayer following a Vigil Mass earlier that evening.

able to turn their opinion around, at least I make them think."

For 16-year-old Suzy Myers, the March for Life was a repeat experience. She attended the gathering last year with older sister, Jenny, and felt this year's demonstration was larger.

Teens and young adults comprised the majority of the crowd, but there were also baby strollers and children walking with parents.

"I think it shows the youth of this country are aware of what's going on and want their voices heard," she explained.

Each evening, the group's 12 adult leaders — which included a priest, a brother, and two seminarians — spent time explaining the day's activities in the context of faith.

"That helped my faith grow and I now understand the issue more," Myers added.

Visiting with local legislators in the Capitol impressed 16-year-old Harrison Lewis. The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner queried the congressmen about current pro-life legislation and their voting records.

"It was promising to see people in Congress who are so pro-life and advocate for the pro-life movement," he said. "They explained that a lot of legislation dies in the Senate."

Another high point for the high school sophomore was attending Sunday Mass in the ational Basilica on the eve of the March.

"Seeing so many bishops, priests,

and seminarians in one place was breathtaking," Lewis said with enthusiasm. "It strengthened my resolve to take more of an active stance and not be passive."

In addition to the Youth for Life contingent, the Diocese of Fort Worth was represented at the March by teens from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth, Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster, and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Pilot Point.

Each year, members of the Youth for Life group who want to attend the March submit a Culture of Life essay that expresses their thoughts and opinions. Winners of the essay contest receive a plane ticket to the event but must cover the cost of lodging and other expenses. Money for the airfare comes from fund raising and private donations.

As coordinator of Youth for Life, Sue Laux has organized six trips to Washington, D.C. She said the experience of walking down Constitution Avenue along with throngs of other pro-life advocates leaves a lasting impression on young minds that remains with them into adulthood.

"It makes them feel part of something big, [and] strengthens their pro-life resolve and love for the Church," Laux said.

Many former Youth for Life members are now in college, and she sees them in Washington marching with other groups.

"I know what they learn from us sticks," she added.



Catholics from Fort Worth carry a banner with a Texas flag as they march down Constitution Avenue for the annual National March for Life.



Representative Michael Burgess from Tarrant and Denton Counties answers questions from members of Youth for Life.



Meagan Wynn from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Decatur, and Kaki Horan from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller hold a Students for Life sign at the march.



High-schoolers from Youth for Life pray Night Prayer together in their hotel Jan. 21.



# There are no secular subjects in Catholic schools, speaker tells educators at 25th annual Celebrating Catholic Schools Banquet

Story and Photos by Crystal Brown  
Correspondent

The silver lining on the 25th annual Celebrating Catholic Schools banquet came at the end of the evening when former banquet organizer and Diocesan Leadership Award winner Tessa Ross gave her thanks.

“As some of you know, Catholic schools have been a big part of my life,” Ross told the audience of educators and Catholic school supporters, “as a student, as a teacher, as a parent, as a member of the Catholic Schools Office, and I am grateful for the blessings that Catholic schools have been in my life.



All of the banquet's honorees, including Tessa Ross (middle in gold), pose for a photo at the end of the banquet.

“The values of faith, family, and service are values I first learned through my parents’ example, and as a student in Catholic schools these values were nurtured, developed, and supported.”

Superintendent Don Miller presented the award to Ross as he commented on her dedication.

“I think all of us know that at virtually every institution and community there are certain special people who just get things done,” Miller said. “These are the people who don’t care who gets the credit. They are absolutely committed to the mission of the institution. For these rare people, a job is never just a job. It’s a calling. To serve all, involve all, make all see things a little clearer, and make every experience better and more positive for everyone. When I arrived in the Diocese of Fort Worth eight years ago, it took me about a week to figure out one of those special people was my colleague in the Catholic Schools Office.

“... I know that due to the providence of God, her own deep faith, and her commitment to the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth, that brought this woman into our lives and into our careers; because we knew you, Tessa Ross, we have all been changed for good.

A couple of dozen other Catholic school educators and supporters were also honored at the banquet for their attention to Catholic school values and accomplishments as praised by Miller.

“For 25 years around this time the Diocese of Fort Worth

has come together to celebrate our Catholic schools,” Miller said. “We rejoice in the accomplishments of the moment. We recognize the leaders and heroes who have made those accomplishments possible. We acknowledge always the teachers, the administrators, the staff members who make it all work. And we constantly marvel at the miracle and mystery of life as the young people we all cherish grow and mature in grace and age and wisdom.”

Prior to the awards ceremony keynote speaker Dr. Michael Caruso, executive director of the Department of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (CACE), a department of the NCEA, discussed the changing atmosphere Catholic children are educated in these days, with rapidly evolving technology constantly changing the classroom environment.

“Despite our iPhones, our iPads, our Nooks, our Kindles, we really are still pilgrims on a journey,” he said. “Many of the methods may be different, but the mission remains constant.”

He expounded on the topic of social media and online educational tools as a positive in a new era of education, if they are embraced in the appropriate way. To use the technology, and not let it use us.

“Many of us believe these technologies and innovations have the potential to deepen and expand the Catholic identity of our schools and expand our ability to meet the varied needs of learners,” Caruso said.

“As Bishop Vann so aptly states ‘There are no secular subjects in a Catholic school.’ As Catholic education increases its use of social media and connects with online education, it is vitally important for the Catholic identity of our schools;



Students from Holy Rosary School's String Program perform during the banquet.

it is vitally important we do everything to ensure our online practices, our activities, our courses, our programs — that appear to be secular at first glance — become Christ-centered when adopted by our Catholic schools.”

The evening’s honorees included: Professor Buddy Strittmatter, benefactor of All Saints; Sister Mary Venard Fulbright, SSMN, co-founder of Cassata High School; Holy Family kindergarten teacher Denise Pulido; Anthony Cocchiara, facilities maintenance from Holy Rosary; Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, Father Anh Tran, Monsignor Philip Johnson, and Father John Swistovich for their support of Holy Trinity; parent volunteers and school nurse Joe and Robin Davis for Immaculate Conception; Nolan Catholic assistant principal of academic affairs Benedict V. Reyes; Notre Dame volunteer and former teacher Sister Ginny Vissing, SSMN; Our Lady of Victory volunteers Gabriel and Nelda Ramirez; Our Mother of Mercy volunteer Larry Martinez; Sacred Heart volunteers Duane and Mary Lin Knabe; St. Andrew teacher Galine Baker; Tammy Pellegrini from the staff at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; St. George parent Auna Sawicki; St. John the Apostle volunteer Barbara Krueger; Theresa Dickerson from the staff at St. Maria Goretti; St. Mary’s parent Rudy Hess; Business Manager Sylvia Mendez for St. Peter the Apostle; and St. Rita volunteer Clyde Hymel.



Keynote speaker Dr. Michael Caruso, executive director of the Department of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (CACE), a department of the NCEA, discussed the changing atmosphere Catholic children are educated in these days, with rapidly evolving technology constantly changing the classroom environment.



# Obama's revised HHS mandate won't solve problems, says USCCB president

ROME (CNS)—Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York said Feb. 13 that President Barack Obama's proposed revision to the contraceptive mandate in the health reform law did nothing to change the U.S. bishops' opposition to what they regard as an unconstitutional infringement on religious liberty.

"We bishops are pastors, we're not politicians, and you can't compromise on principle," said Cardinal Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "And the goal posts haven't moved and I don't think there's a 50-yard line compromise here," he added.

"We're in the business of reconciliation, so it's not that we hold fast, that we're stubborn ideologues, no. But we don't see much sign of any compromise," he said.

"What (Obama) offered was next to nothing. There's no change, for instance, in these terribly restrictive mandates and this grossly restrictive definition of what constitutes a religious entity," he said. "The principle wasn't touched at all."

Obama's proposed revision of the Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate left intact the restrictive definition of a religious entity and would shift the costs of contraceptives from the policyholders to the insurers, thus failing to ensure that Catholic individuals and institutions would not have to pay for services that they consider immoral, Cardinal Dolan said.

For one thing, the cardinal said, many dioceses and Catholic institutions are self-insuring. Moreover, Catholics with policies in the com-

pliant insurance companies would be subsidizing others' contraception coverage. He also objected that individual Catholic employers would not enjoy exemption under Obama's proposal.

"My brother-in-law, who's a committed Catholic, runs a butcher shop. Is he going to have to pay for services that he as a convinced Catholic considers to be morally objectionable?" he asked.

Cardinal Dolan said he emailed Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who heads the Catholic Health Association, on Feb. 10 to tell her that he was "disappointed that she had acted unilaterally, not in concert with the bishops."

"She's in a bind," the cardinal said of Sister Carol. "When she's talking to (HHS Secretary Kathleen) Sebelius and the president of the United States, in some ways, these are people who are signing the checks for a good chunk of stuff that goes on in Catholic hospitals. It's tough for her to stand firm. Understandably, she's trying to make sure that anything possible, any compromise possible, that would allow the magnificent work of Catholic health care to continue, she's probably going to be innately more open to than we would."

In a Feb. 10 statement, Sister Carol praised what she called "a resolution ... that protects the religious liberty and conscience rights of Catholic institutions."

Cardinal Dolan said Obama called him the morning of his announcement to tell him about the proposal.

"What we're probably going to have to do now is be more vigorous

than ever in judicial and legislative remedies, because apparently we're not getting much consolation from the executive branch of the government," he said.

The cardinal said the bishops are "very, very enthusiastic" about the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, introduced by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb., which he said would produce an "ironclad law simply saying that no administrative decrees of the federal government can ever violate the conscience of a religious believer individually or religious institutions."

"It's a shame, you'd think that's so clear in the Constitution that that wouldn't have to be legislatively guaranteed, but we now know that it's not," he added.

Cardinal Dolan also said that some "very prominent attorneys," some of them non-Catholic and even nonreligious, had already volunteered to represent the bishops.

"We've got people who aren't Catholic, who may not even be religious, who have said, 'We want to help you on this one.' We've got very prominent attorneys who are very interested in religious freedom who say, 'Count on us to take these things as high as you can.' And we're going to."

He said the bishops draw hope for that fight from the Supreme Court's recent unanimous ruling in *Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC*, a case regarding the ministerial exception.

"You'd think that (the Obama administration) would be able to read the tea leaves, that these things are going to be overthrown," the cardinal said.

## Statement from Bishop Kevin Vann

I along with my brother bishops in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) continue to urge Catholics and other people of goodwill to contact their elected officials to protest the violation of religious liberty mandated by President Obama and his Administration.

While we were hopeful the President was going to propose a meaningful compromise, we now know it basically left unchanged the original mandate that will force all Catholic institutions such as schools, hospitals and charities to violate their faith tenets by forcing them to provide insurance coverage that includes contraceptives and abortifacients.

This goes far beyond the issue of contraception and is first and foremost an issue of religious freedom. Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth are urged to use the list below to contact their legislators and speak out against this unjust ruling.

We hope to work with the Administration to guarantee that Americans' consciences and our religious freedom are not harmed by these regulations.

### Members of Congress representing the Fort Worth Diocese are:

- Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
- Senator John Cornyn
- District 6  
Congressman Joe Barton
- District 12  
Congresswoman Kay Granger
- District 13  
Congressman Mac Thornberry
- District 17  
Congressman Bill Flores
- District 19  
Congressman Neugebauer
- District 26  
Congressman Michael Burgess
- District 31  
Congressman John Carter

Please go to the Diocese's web site, [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) to links for help you find how you can contact your representative.

# Right to conscience protection must be enacted into law, says Bishop Lori

## By Dennis Sadowski Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON -- Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the ongoing debate over a federal mandate requiring employers, including most religious entities, to provide no-cost contraception and sterilization coverage demonstrates the need that a religious right to conscience protection be enacted into federal law.

"Our religious freedom is too precious to be protected only by regulations," Bishop Lori said in a Feb. 13 phone interview with Catholic News Service. "It needs legislative protection."

"More legislators, I think, are looking at it. There's more bipartisan support for it. There should be a lot of pressure exerted on Congress to pass it and for the president to sign it," he said.

Among the bills under consideration is the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act, introduced by U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb.

On Feb. 10 President Barack Obama announced a revision to the contraceptive mandate that allows religious employers not to offer such services to their employees but would compel insurance companies to do so. The change came after three weeks of intensive criticism that the contraception mandate would require most religious institutions to pay for cover-

age they find morally objectionable.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius first announced the contraception mandate and the religious exemption Jan. 20.

Catholic and other religious leaders have objected that the exemption is written so narrowly that institutions such as hospitals, schools and social service agencies would not qualify. Questions also have been raised over how the revision announced by Obama will pertain to self-insured parties, like many dioceses and Catholic organizations, and whether it could still force entities morally opposed to contraception to pay for such services.

Bishop Lori also suggested that Obama administration officials

would have better understood the concerns religious organizations have about the revision had they tried to talk with the Catholic bishops, evangelicals, and Orthodox church leaders who objected to the mandate.

"That certainly did not happen," he said.

Only after the original rule regarding contraception and sterilization coverage was revised and ready to be announced Feb. 10 did the White House contact Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, according to the bishop.

Such a meeting would have allowed the bishops "to bring it home that our ministries of charity, health

care and education flow from what we believe and how we worship and how we are to live," Bishop Lori told CNS.

"These are not side businesses that the church runs," he said. "They flow from our discipleship. Therefore I do not think the government should be intruding in these things."

An administration official told CNS in an e-mail Feb. 13 the White House planned to convene a series of meetings over the coming weeks "with faith-based organizations, insurers and other interested parties to develop policies that respect religious liberty and ensure access to preventive services for women enrolled in self-insured group health plans sponsored by religious organizations."



# Cardinal urges Senate to pass bill protecting conscience in health care

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities called on members of the U.S. Senate Feb. 15 to solve conscience protection problems with the federal health reform law by passing the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act.

By resolving a "needless dispute," Congress and the Obama administration "could return to the most pressing of all the real problems — the fact that many millions of Americans still lack basic coverage for health care," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

In a three-page letter to senators, Cardinal DiNardo said the legislation — which now has 37 sponsors in the Senate — might come up for a vote soon, "either as a free-standing bill or an amendment."

Calling the bill "needed, reasonable, and carefully crafted," he said it "simply ensures that new requirements" under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act "are not used to take away a freedom of conscience that Americans have enjoyed under federal law until now."

The bishops "saw the need for



Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, has called on members of the U.S. Senate Feb. 15 to solve conscience protection problems with the federal health care reform law by passing the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act. (CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiehch)

this legislation," the cardinal said, when Congress passed health care reform and "authorized new lists of federally mandated benefits for all health plans without including language to preserve rights of conscience."

The cardinal rejected the final rule announced Feb. 10 by President Barack Obama that would allow organizations with religious objections to the Department of Health and Human Services' requirement that all health insurance plans cover contraceptives and sterilization to decline to cover them, but then compel the insurers to provide contraceptives free of charge to women they insure.

Under that plan, religious em-

ployers will be required to "include the same objectionable coverage as purely secular employers do — but the decision to do so will simply be taken away from them, as the coverage will be inserted into their plan directly by the insurer over their objections," he said.

The objecting employers will still pay for the coverage, he added, because it "will be integrated into their overall health plan and subsidized with the premiums paid by employer and employee for that plan."

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius first announced the contraception requirement along with a religious exemption Jan. 20. Catholic and other religious leaders say the exemption is

written so narrowly that institutions such as hospitals, schools, and social service agencies like Catholic Charities would not qualify.

Since Obama announced his final rule, questions have been raised over how it will pertain to self-insured parties, like many dioceses and Catholic organizations.

Cardinal DiNardo called the contraception requirement "a radical departure from current law, under which a health plan that excludes contraception can be sold even to federal employees if the carrier has any religious objections to such coverage."

"In short, we are back to square one — except that the rule so many hoped would change to accommodate Americans' right of conscience is no longer subject to change, except by legislation," he said.

The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act stipulates that the list of mandated benefits under the health reform law will not forbid those who provide, sponsor, or purchase health coverage from negotiating a health plan that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.

The cardinal also offered rebuttals to some misinterpretations about what the proposed law would and

would not do:

— No "stakeholder in the health coverage enterprise" would be required to provide or accept the negotiated plan. "But if all involved find an accommodation acceptable and workable, why would the federal government not allow it — as it always has in the past?" he asked.

— It does not overturn other existing state or federal laws, including present state contraceptive mandates.

— It would not "provide any support for discriminatory decisions to withhold basic coverage from some while giving it to others," such as a decision to deny life-saving care to people with AIDS or the virus that causes it.

— It would not "allow anyone to deny coverage for high-cost treatments, using morality and religion as a pretext."

Cardinal DiNardo said the Catholic Church, "driven precisely by its faith, is eager to work with Congress and the administration to address (the) grave problem" of the lack of basic health care for millions.

"Let us begin the task by respecting each other's values that call so many of us to work for life-affirming health care for all in the first place," he added

## Faithful Citizenship gives Catholics a chance to seek the common good

By Dennis Sadowski  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Despite all the headlines lately, concern over the contraceptive mandate and the related issue of religious freedom is not the only thing on the minds of the U.S. bishops.

This being an election year, the bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development has undertaken an intensive effort to bring the quadrennial document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* to as many Catholics as possible.

The bishops want people in the pews to better understand their political responsibility not just at the polls come November but also as they consider any number of social issues locally or nationally on any given day.

The department's staff has established a website — [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) — with numerous resources, prayer guides, teaching tools and school activities in English and Spanish.

The document was discussed during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in the nation's capital Feb. 12-15 as much if not more than the religious liberty implications of the controversial rules governing the implementation of health care reform. The gathering's theme—*Faithful Citizenship: Protecting Human Life*

and Dignity, *Promoting the Common Good* — reflected the focus of daily programs.

*Faithful Citizenship* traditionally has been released a year before a presidential election as a teaching document on the role of faith and conscience in political life. This time around the bishops reissued their 2007 document but added a new introductory note explaining that the document reflects their teaching and their guidance for Catholics as they exercise their rights and duties under American democracy.

Many social ministers were eager to engage Catholics in their parishes back home with the document. They carried with them new ideas and helpful tips from strategy sessions on the gathering's final day. Above all, they said they wanted to make the document better known in their diocese.

Opening the gathering, John Carr, executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, told the 450 attendees the document is rooted in the church's social and moral teaching and is meant to help Catholics discern their response to important political issues.

"What *Faithful Citizenship* does is give us different questions to ask. It's not are you better off than you were four years ago? (It's) are we

better off? Are the unborn protected? Are the poor left to die? Is religious freedom protected? It's questions of life and death and war and peace. It's not just the economy, stupid, even in this moment of economic distress. It's about who moves ahead and who gets left behind," he said in his 45-minute address.

"What *Faithful Citizenship* does is ask us to look at politics from the bottom up," he said. "How do policies, how do these leaders, how do these choices affect the people with no voice: unborn children, immigrants who have no hope, the poorest people on earth who have no place at the Senate Finance Committee and those who are left behind in this economy?"

Carr challenged Catholic Republican and Democrat leaders to embrace the full realm of Catholic teaching on the issues confronting the country if they truly identified with the church.

He also cautioned the delegates to be aware of attempts by individuals across the political spectrum to use the document to support their own views or to disavow it altogether for forming their conscience.

Carr's comments resonated throughout the gathering as delegates began considering how to carry the

document to the pews. Several delegates told CNS they felt it was vitally important for Catholics to present a unified voice and to debate issues peacefully.

"I'd like to see it go where there's less antagonism, where people can find the common good," said Jack Knapp, a leader of the JustFaith program at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Coal Valley, Ill. "To me a vehicle like this so people can recognize the common good is a good thing."

In California, dioceses already have begun raising awareness about the November election by joining a statewide campaign to place initiatives on the ballot that would end the death penalty and require parental or guardian notification when a minor seeks an abortion.

Linda Batton, director of social ministries in the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., said parishes were set to conclude signature drives on both measures in parishes the weekend of Feb. 18-19. The effort also offered diocesan social action offices the opportunity to begin planning how to bring *Faithful Citizenship* to parishioners, she said.

"We have to see ourselves as bridge builders," Batton told Catholic News Service. "I think our role in the works we do in ministry is to be carriers of hope in the middle

of a devastating situation with the economy, people losing their homes, people being so overburdened with their own problems that it's hard for them to see beyond their needs."

For Debi Haug, director of community life and outreach at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, Ind., Carr's message hit home. The key, she said, is getting the message of *Faithful Citizenship* into people's hands.

"What John Carr said, it's not just to be a faithful citizen at election time. We're supposed to be a faithful citizen throughout our life," she said.

"By really understanding that they are supposed to be a faithful citizen, that it's not just politics. It's about their faith and it's about others and it's about the poor and it's about having a voice for the other," she said.

The document already is forming the basis of a stronger advocacy push by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, said Sheila K. Gilbert, the organization's national president.

"We have an absolute commitment to ending poverty," she said. The organization is looking to tap the stories of the poor people that local parish councils serve to help mainstream Catholics understand "there are policies, there are procedures, and there are laws that are really holding people in poverty," she explained.



# Young Adult

## NEWS

### Diocesan Young Adult Ministry restructured to be more parish-centric

Story and Photos by  
**Juan Guajardo**  
Correspondent

They prayed, they brainstormed, they discussed, they planned, they shared, they networked, and they laughed — that sums up the scene at the first-ever Young Adult Ministry Round-Up that took place Feb. 4 at the University Catholic Community campus center at the University of Texas at Arlington, where more than 30 young adults from 10 parishes and two campus ministries took part in a new way of doing young adult ministry in the diocese.

As they sat around long tables in groups of five or six, writing down potential ideas on poster-sized sheets, the young adults excitedly listed events like dinner and Bible study, Catholic apologetics, a Catholic art show, a live Way of the Cross, a praise and worship concert, a Holy Hour followed by a Happy Hour, a Run for Life, a relationships retreat, a variety of sporting activities, and even a Catholic hip-hop concert.

Appropriately named, the Round-Up, the new leadership model being used for diocesan young adult ministry, encourages groups of young adults from as many parishes and campus ministries as possible to gather twice-a-year to do a little faith formation and to put their heads together to create a calendar of young adult-related events that will help them grow in faith over the upcoming year.

So how does the Round-Up work? At each Round-Up, representatives from parish young adult ministry groups bring a list of events they'd like to host, or events they would like to see in the coming year. Each group then shares their events with all the other young adults in attendance. After all the events or ideas are presented, the groups evaluate them to see if those events meet their needs. Then they narrow down the list and flesh out a diocesan young adult calendar as each parish group signs up to host one or two events per year. Young adults that don't belong to a young adult ministry can also take part and host an event by teaming up with young adults from other parishes without an active ministry.

"For instance, the St. Bartholomew's Gethsemane group may decide to take on the sports activity for the year, and basically their one job will be to coordinate that sporting event," explained Jeff Hedglen, associate director of diocesan Young Adult Ministry. "Maybe it's

a soccer tournament or a football tournament or something like that. They will be in charge of creating the flyers and doing all the advertising and buying all the stuff that's needed to make it happen and getting the referees.... The St. Bartholomew's Gethsemane group will in essence host that diocesan event."

Call it thinking outside the box, call it a good idea, or call it both because the Round-Up approach won over many young adults at that first meeting.

"I think this idea is great," said Jennifer Romaszewski, a young adult from St. Francis of Assisi in Grapevine. "I'm confident it'll only strengthen young adult ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth."

That it's proving popular should come as no surprise because the idea for a Round-Up was thought up by the young adults themselves during a series of meetings last year with diocesan Director of Young Adult Ministry, Kevin Prevou, in response to the loss of some annual diocesan young adult events and a shrinking young adult council — the leadership model used for the previous four years.

Under the council model, a handful of young adults interested in developing events would sign up to be on the council. As members of the council's various committees (service and justice, athletics, retreats, etc.) they would meet monthly and coordinate diocesan-level events throughout the length of their one-year terms.

"What we found in the last few years is that that council method doesn't work really well with the young adults because they're a transient group. Their jobs often change, or they join the council when they're single and they're starting out in their jobs, but 18 months later they're now in a relationship with somebody, and they've gotten a couple of promotions at work, and their time just doesn't work to continue to make the council meetings," Hedglen said. "So having consistency on the council became a little bit of a difficulty."

The exception is Theology on Tap, a once-a-month speaker series and social outing for young adults, which will continue to have a standing committee because of how well that program is working, Prevou said.

In contrast to the council model, the Round-Up model focuses on networking parish young adult ministry groups and encourages taking parish young adult ministry events and opening those events up to young adults from all over the diocese.



LEFT: Araceli Solis (right), of St. Ann in Burleson, and Sarah Santos (left), of St. Michael in Bedford, write down events and the dates for those events on poster sheets. • BELOW: Fr. Kyle Walterscheid and Jessica Morgan, of St. Patrick's young adult group, discuss events and dates for those events during the Round-Up.



That means a format that gives young adults a greater variety of events that better suits their ever-busy lives, said Adrienne Lothery, a young adult who participated in the meetings last year where the idea for the Round-Up was thought up.

"It spreads the workload out to each young adult group at each parish for one event," explained Lothery, who along with her husband, coordinates the young adult group at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. "And I think it's a lot easier to get people to commit to one event per year to help organize and host as opposed to asking someone to serve on a council on a full-year basis and then plan every event for that entire year."

The Round-Up approach gives young adults the flexibility to choose what event to host, when to host it, and even if they want to commit themselves to sponsoring it again the next year — all while having communication with young adults from other parishes and logistical and organizational support (like help with online registration, payments, hiring of speakers, and permissions) from the diocesan Young Adult office. Young adult groups hosting an event will also have coordination and publicity support from three young adults in standing six-month leadership positions.

As the Round-Up wound down on Saturday, Sarah Santos, 23, a participant and a newly-chosen Round-Up co-chair, looked over at the wall covered with poster sheets filled with the dozens of events the young adults came up with and committed to during the meeting.

"I think it hits a lot of people's needs," said the St. Michael's parishioner of the calendar of events, which listed a handful of young adult activities per month. "If you kind of broke it down, it's like the social aspect, athletics, and then retreats or

that spiritual edge. I think it hit all of those for the most part."

While the Round-Up is still in its infancy and could give way to the council model again in the future, or morph into yet another model, it shows signs of promise, not least of which is the excitement the young adults showed for carrying it out and the ease with which they met the goals of the USCCB pastoral plan for young adult ministry, "Sons and Daughters of the Light," Prevou said.

"I think you could feel it in the room. People were energized, and they

could see great possibilities for inviting more people to the event they were putting a lot of time into," Prevou explained. "So in a sense we're totally honoring the work of young adults in parishes, and when they do a lot of work, they want to see [their events] be effective; they want to see them be successful. So by us networking like this I think they just feel like they're going to be able to be more successful in their events, and I think that made them feel good. And it makes me feel good as someone who's really trying to help young adult ministry to grow."

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGES

*Is this the year that you walk  
in the footsteps of Jesus and Apostles?*

<b>Easter in the Holy Land</b> March 29 - April 9, 2012 • \$3,487
<b>France</b> May 7-16, 2012 • \$3,480
<b>Greece and Turkey</b> May 19-30, 2012 • \$3,755
<b>Holy Land and Mt. Sinai</b> June 3-14, 2012 • \$3,285 July 4-15, 2012 • \$3,910
<b>Ireland, Eucharistic Congress</b> Led by Father Jeremy Harrington, OFM and Father Garret Edmunds, OFM June 9-19, 2012 • \$3,290
<b>Italy</b> June 18-27, 2012 • \$3,585
<b>Eastern Europe</b> July 16-26, 2012 • \$3,698
<b>Holy Land</b> October 15-24, 2012 • \$3,595 November 3-11, 2012 • \$3,350

JOIN FATHER DAVID WATHEN, OFM,  
AN EXPERIENCED PILGRIMAGE LEADER  
— CALL 1-800-566-7499 —

**HOLY LAND FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGES**  
Bringing pilgrims to the Holy Land for over 100 years  
www.HolyLandPilgrimages.org



# Former youth minister and Camp Fort Worth coordinator takes on new role as associate director of Young Adult Ministry and as UTA campus minister

By **Juan Guajardo**  
Correspondent

On any given Wednesday afternoon at the University of Texas at Arlington's University Catholic Community (UCC), you can hear music and praise floating out of the small one-story building and into the center's parking lot. Walk inside, and you'll find Jeff Hedglen playing his acoustic guitar with a small group of students in the music ministry, rehearsing for the Sunday evening Mass celebrated on the UTA campus.

Hedglen, the new campus minister at UTA and new associate director of Young Adult Ministry for the diocese, has already been welcomed warmly by the 40 students who regularly come to the UCC Catholic Center. And for good reason — not only did Hedglen already know many of them, thanks to his heavy involvement in diocesan young adult and youth events, his Gethsemane program, and his friendly, outgoing demeanor — but he also brings years of experience and a passion for reaching out to young adults.

"One of the realities of a youth minister is you spend six years working with junior high and high school students, helping them grow in their faith, and then you send them out into the young adult world where there often isn't a whole lot specifically directed toward that age group," said Hedglen, who was previously the director of youth and young adult ministry at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth. "And so the prospect of being able to reach out to college students and beef up the ministry and outreach we have for young adults in the diocese really made a lot of sense," he said. It was important to him to be able to give "all those soon-to-be young adults opportunities to grow in faith," and to reach out to the current young adults now, "so they'll stay connected to their Catholic faith and grow in their Catholic faith."

But Hedglen realized that need to serve young adults much earlier. He recalled how he joined St. Bartholomew's young adult Bible study soon after graduating from high school and attended it throughout his young adult years,



Photo by Juan Guajardo / North Texas Catholic  
Jeff Hedglen, pictured here in the UTA Catholic Center's worship space, is the new associate director of Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Worth and the campus minister for the University Catholic Community at UTA.

making several close friends there and going into church-related professions alongside several of them.

"So it shows me that when you invest in young adults, it really benefits the Church long-term, especially at the parish level," Hedglen said.

He began investing in young adults when he began his ministry

work at St. Bartholomew's at 21, taking charge of the young adult Bible study there. A few years ago he started a weekly program called Gethsemane which caters to young adults between the ages of 18-25 and brings them together to participate in praise and worship and then discuss a faith-related topic. So when Kevin Prevou, diocesan director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, approached him with the opportunity of being able to serve young adults throughout the diocese, Hedglen, being no stranger to young adult ministry, accepted.

"Leaving behind what I had been doing [at St. Bartholomew's] was tough," Hedglen said, but he said "the knowledge that I would be able to reach out to the young adult community," was comforting. "I remember looking back on my time in my 20s; it was a really rough time in my life," he explained. "And I was trying to figure out who I was and who I was going to be." Officially he was an adult, but he didn't "feel like an adult. All those kinds of feelings I remember very, very well. So the ability to help young adults navigate that part of their lives was really appealing to me."

Born in California, Hedglen, his parents, and five siblings moved to Michigan when he was five. At 16, they moved once again as his father looked for a job. They settled in Texas, and Hedglen's desire to serve his Church was sparked during his time at St. Bartholomew's. There he experienced a life-changing moment when he saw Jesus in the eyes of a priest during a retreat. He also noticed that his non-Catholic friends were having a blast attending churches with legacies of successful youth ministry — something St. Bart's didn't really have when Hedglen was a teen. From then on, Hedglen wanted to start a legacy in ministry and help students grow closer to Christ.

He went on to earn an associate's degree at Tarrant County College,

a bachelor's in sociology at UTA, and a master's in theology at the University of Dallas. While directing a successful youth ministry at St. Bartholomew's for the past 25 years and a strong young adult ministry, Hedglen has also coordinated Camp Fort Worth since 1998, been involved in the annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference, coordinated the Theology on Tap (TOT) team, been a regular speaker at TOT, written a regular column for the *North Texas Catholic*, been involved in various diocesan committees, and been an adjunct professor at the School of Ministry at UD.

Prevou says bringing Hedglen on board is a "huge gain for the diocese."

"I think Jeff just has a great eye for what the needs are of the groups he's ministering to," Prevou said. "And I think he pays attention, and he listens. And when you do that, I think you're able to develop some things to meet needs." He said that listening and paying attention to needs results in the creation of events, camps, and other programming targeted to specifically meet those needs.

Already, Hedglen looks forward to tackling several projects. He is working to beef up the campus ministry at UTA by helping the students host their first Awakening retreat. He hopes to add a weekly Bible study or a Theology of the Body study, and service opportunities. He also hopes to open the UCC Catholic Center up to young adult Catholics not just from UTA, but also from parishes throughout the Arlington area.

As for the diocesan scope of Young Adult Ministry, Hedglen plans to coordinate the second annual Emerging Conference and to expand it to young adults from outside the diocese. He also plans to continue Camp Fort Worth, Gethsemane, and he is looking into setting up a young adult mission trip.



**TCC**  
**Credit Union**

TEXAS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



**Auto Loans-New & Used**  
**Préstamos de Auto-Nuevos y Usados**

**Rates as Low as**  
**Interes tan bajo como**

**3.99 APR\***

**Aceptamos TIN y Matricula Consular**

**4312 Town Center Drive**  
**(South of La Gran Plaza, in front of Catholic Charities)**

**Fort Worth, TX 76115**

**1-800-256-0779**

**[www.tcccu.org](http://www.tcccu.org)**

**\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate**  
**Federally insured by NCUA**  
**Equal Housing Lender**

**Take The**  
**Next Step**

**Are you looking for a second career or want an opportunity to unleash your entrepreneurial spirit? Act now!**

An exciting and fulfilling sales career representing Catholic Life Insurance may be the opportunity for you. General Lines license required.

**CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE**

For more information call:

**Dawn Fanfelle, Recruiting Director, 210-828-9921 x168**

Home Office: San Antonio, TX RC 2/12



# Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter



NTC Photo / Donna Ryckaert

Galveston-Houston Archbishop Cardinal Daniel DiNardo welcomes all to the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in the heart of downtown Houston



NTC Photo / Donna Ryckaert

## Personal Ordinariate marks progress toward unity after 477 years of separation

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, D.C., and overseer of the implementation of *Anglicanorum Coetibus* in the United States, as a delegate of Pope Benedict XVI, presented Father Steenson with the symbols of his new office, the crozier and mitre.

Cardinal Wuerl, representing the Holy Father, also conferred the title of monsignor and protonotary apostolic on Fr. Steenson, 59.

"It's a great joy for me personally," said Msgr. Steenson, who in addition to his new duties will continue as a faculty member of St. Mary's Seminary in Houston helping in the formation of the 60 or so former Anglican priests studying for Holy Orders in the Ordinariate.

"I think all my life in a way has been preparing for the opportunity to be a part of this return."

The Mass of Installation was the culmination of a process started by Benedict as a response to large numbers of American Anglicans and Episcopalians who asked for the Church to find a way for their return in the wake of a number of controversial decisions within the Anglican Church.

"In recent times the Holy Spirit has moved groups of Anglicans to petition repeatedly and insistently to be received into full Catholic communion individually as well as corporately," wrote Benedict XVI in the prelude to *Anglicanorum Coetibus*.

"The Apostolic See has responded favorably to such petitions. Indeed, the successor of Peter, mandated by the Lord Jesus to guarantee the unity of the episcopate and to preside over and safeguard the universal communion of all the Churches, could not fail to make available the means necessary to bring this holy desire to realization."

The document expressly reads that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is the "authoritative expres-

sion" of the Catholic faith professed by members of the Ordinariate, which acts as a diocese.

The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter was established for the United States on Jan. 1. It is a path for groups or communities of Anglicans to come into the Church.

Msgr. Steenson cannot hold the title of bishop because he is married. He also cannot ordain priests, but otherwise in his new role, he will function as a bishop and will be a voting member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

It is the second such diocese-like, canonical structure created under the provisions of Benedict's *Anglicanorum Coetibus* in 2009. The first was the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham for England and Wales last year. A third and possibly a fourth are being considered for Canada and Australia.

Our Lady of Walsingham Church in Houston will serve as the principle church of the United States Ordinariate.

Under *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, Anglican Use churches, such as Our Lady of Walsingham, will be able to hold on to many of their liturgical and pastoral traditions.

"These are brothers and sisters returning home," Msgr. Steenson said in his first homily as Ordinary. "The first principle of the Ordinariate is Christian unity. ... So many people during the 477 years that Anglicans have been separated from Rome have prayed fervently and made great sacrifices for this day to come."

Msgr. Steenson, a former Episcopalian bishop who was educated at Harvard Divinity School and at Oxford, was ordained a Catholic priest under the Pastoral Provision in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in 2009.

Worshippers celebrated Msgr. Steenson's installation using the Anglican Use Mass and the *Book of Divine Worship*.

"One of the reasons that the Holy Father was so supportive and, not to

say insistent, that this whole process move along with some alacrity is because the Anglican tradition has a richness in music, liturgy, a richness in how it approaches many, many of the pastoral practices of the Church," said Cardinal Wuerl of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

"What we're witnessing is an enriching of an already very, very rich Universal Church."

So far, more than 100 former Anglican priests have applied to become Catholic priests through the U.S. Ordinariate. Another 1,400 individuals from 22 communities also are seeking to enter the Ordinariate, officials have said.

St. Peter the Rock in the Diocese of Fort Worth and St. Luke's in Bladensburg, Maryland, inquired about joining the Ordinariate in the fall.

St. Peter the Rock is following the trend of being on the cutting edge of reunification in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

St. Mary the Virgin Parish in Arlington was the first Episcopal Church to transfer corporately into the Roman Catholic Church through the guidelines of Pope John Paul II's Pastoral Provision under the leadership of Bishop Joseph P. Delaney in 1994.

Father Allan Hawkins continues to serve as pastor at St. Mary the Virgin. He said the importance of unity is spelled out in the Gospel. "If there is one thing that is clear in the Gospel, it is that."

St. Mary the Virgin's decision proved to be part of a bigger catalyst.

The Pastoral Provision was created in 1980 by Pope John Paul II, as a means for individual Anglican priests to convert and become Catholic priests. Individuals have always had the option through formation processes such as the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

"This is a journey of faith that has a long history in Fort Worth," said Bishop Kevin W. Vann of the Diocese of Fort Worth who is the Ecclesiastical Delegate for the Pastoral Provision in



NTC Photo / Donna Ryckaert

**TOP:** Washington D.C. Archbishop Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Ecclesiastical Delegate for the Implementation of *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, presents the letter instituting the Ordinariate and installing Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson as the first Ordinary for the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter to Dr. Margaret Chalmers, the Chancellor of the Ordinariate.

**BOTTOM:** The assembly gathered in the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston.

the U.S. In that role, he will oversee the application, screening, and formation process for Anglican priests wishing to become Catholic priests. Bishop Vann is the third bishop to hold that position in the U.S. church. The first Ecclesiastical Delegate of the Pastoral Provision was Cardinal Bernard Law, former archbishop of Boston. Bishop Vann follows Archbishop John Myers of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey. (Visit [www.pastoralprovision.org](http://www.pastoralprovision.org) for more details.)

Through the Pastoral Provision, more than 100 Anglican priests have come into the Roman Catholic Church since 1983.

"With all our hearts, let us thank Pope Benedict XVI for this beautiful gift, the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, and let us pray that it may further the goal of Catholic unity," Msgr. Steenson said.

A busload of former Anglicans from the Diocese of Fort Worth who entered the Church in September as well as many who are currently going through formation, preparing to come into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter, arrived early for the Mass on Sunday. They braved the four-plus hour drive and some chilly temperatures.

Though every Catholic is welcome to the Ordinariate, it is "not principally for those baptized Catholic," Msgr. Steenson said at a news conference last month. "It's principally for those coming from the Anglican tradition who desire full communion with the Catholic Church."

Next for aspiring members of the Ordinariate is an application process. Many details are still being worked out. (Visit [www.usordinariate.org](http://www.usordinariate.org) for a description of the process.)

For parishes such as St. Mary the Virgin, members will likely have to decide if they wish to remain in the Diocese of Fort Worth or join the Ordinariate.

Whatever choices arise, with the creation of the Ordinariate, the emphasis remains on communion and the reunion of Anglicans with the Catholic Church. "It's the culmination of a lot of prayer and a long time coming," said Jennifer Tashenberg, formerly of Fort Worth but now a Houston resident. "I believe in one holy and apostolic Church. I think the word 'one' means something."

Tashenberg's mother, Linda Pitman of Fort Worth, said, "I feel like I've been on a journey and am arriving at my destination. I'm finally arriving."





NTC Photo / Juan Guajardo

Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson, newly installed Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, consecrates the Eucharist, surrounded by priests of the Pastoral Provision in the U.S., including Fr. Alan Hawkins, pastor of St. Mary the Virgin, Anglican Use Parish in Arlington, third from the right.



NTC Photo / Donna Ryckaert



NTC Photo / Juan Guajardo



NTC Photo / Donna Ryckaert



NTC Photo / Juan Guajardo



NTC Photo / Donna Ryckaert

**CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER RIGHT:** Six of the eight Bishops present process in at the beginning of the installation Mass. From Left, Bp. Michael Mulvey, Corpus Christi; Bp. Kevin Vann, Fort Worth; Bp. Kevin Farrell, Dallas; Bp. Robert McManus, Worcester, Mass., Aux. Bp. Oscar Cantu, San Antonio; and Aux. Bp. Emeritus Vincent Rizzotto, Galveston-Houston. Not pictured are Abp. Michael Sheehan, Santa Fe, N.M. and Abp. Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza, Galveston-Houston ♦ Msgr. Steenson receives sustained applause when installed as Ordinary by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, D.C. ♦ Many of the families and individuals from the Diocese of Fort Worth who came down for the Installation Mass, pose with Msgr. Steenson at the reception following the Mass ♦ A young woman prays as she prepares for the Mass ♦ At the beginning of the Mass, Msgr. Steenson receives an embrace from his wife of 38 years, as his grandchildren wait to greet him.

## Interviews with a few of those preparing to enter the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter

By Juan Guajardo  
Correspondent

*Alison and Rick Coons are members of St. Peter the Rock, an Anglo-Catholic ordinariate community in formation in Arlington. They came to the installation of Monsignor Steenson with four others from their group and with the group from St. Timothy Episcopal, under Christopher Stainbrook's leadership. Some people from Chuck Hough's community in Cleburne also came with the group. Stainbrook and Hough are former Anglican priests of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. The Arlington community participates in Mass at St. Maria Goretti Parish in the interim before formal Ordinariate church communities are formed.*

### WHAT LED YOU TO WANT TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

**Alison Coons:** "We had been told in our local Episcopal church of the Holy Father's invitation to Anglicans to start the process with the document *Anglicanorum coetibus*, and so we started praying and thinking about our search for truth and where would we find truth and where would we find the true authority of the Church. As we prayed about it, the Lord led us to see that our truth didn't just go back to the

sixteenth century when the Anglican church was formed, when it broke away. That authority went all the way back to the original Church that Jesus established with the apostles. So when we came to that decision we felt like the Catholic Church was the one true Church, with the fullness of Christ's Church; we wanted to leave the former church and be a part of that, become a part of the Catholic Church."

### WHAT ARE OTHER EPISCOPALIANS OR ANGLICANS SAYING ABOUT THE INSTITUTION OF THE ORDINARIATE - IS THERE A FEELING OF EXCITEMENT?

**Alison Coons:** "Very excited, the group from St. Timothy's is going to be doing the RCIA training. We have the group in north Fort Worth and Keller; they're almost done with their RCIA formation, and I believe they'll be received at Easter. Some of the [Anglican] people are not interested; some people are still praying, and in that decision process that we were in several years ago, and some people are ready to come on board. More people are involved than I originally thought there would be, so that's very exciting."

### WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP FOR YOU?

**Alison Coons:** "We're to write that [letter of intent] this week, and I believe [former Anglican priest, Father Timothy] Perkins will

be sending them all in one group. After that I guess we'll be ordinariate Catholics, I don't know if we'll call ourselves Anglican Catholics, or just ordinariate, but it doesn't matter because we're Catholics and that's all that matters."

*Pam Mandeville lives in Houston, and just started attending Our Lady of Walsingham — an Anglican Use Catholic Church in Houston — after she read about then Fr. Steenson on the Internet.*

**Pam Mandeville:** "It's perfect because I'm an Episcopalian who's becoming Catholic."

"On October 15, 2010, I was visiting my parents in San Antonio, and I was at a Mexican restaurant where I met the archbishop of San Antonio, Archbishop Gustavo [Garcia-Siller]... The impression he made was so huge. I felt this love around him and devotion, and something I had never felt before.... Ever since, I've been on this journey. My whole life changed, I started watching EWTN, and going to Mass, and reading books about the saints, so I feel like I'm in the right place at the right time...."

"I'm very excited to be here because I just feel like this is a moment in history where what

was split apart is coming back together and I have a strong sense of that."

### DO YOU LIKE THAT WHILE YOU'RE BECOMING CATHOLIC, YOU'LL STILL KEEP REMNANTS OF YOUR ANGLICAN TRADITIONS DURING MASS?

"Oh yes. It's wonderful. When I first went to [Our Lady of Walsingham Anglican Use Parish] I recognized the service because it was like I grew up with it.... and yet there's something else deeper because of the Catholic faith too. It's like it felt more whole... to me. It's like the wounds that broke the back of the church once upon a time are now healing."

*Thomas Kennedy, Michael Lofton, JC Gaspard, Jonathan Hyde drove 400 miles, from Monroe, Louisiana to attend the Mass of installation.*

**Thomas Kennedy:** "We're with the personal ordinariate community [in formation] of Monroe, Louisiana. We just founded the community back in October. There are about 30 individuals involved. We have current Catholics who used to be Episcopalian; we have Catholics who are sympathetic with the ordinariate; we have people from different various Protestant backgrounds, such as Baptists and Presbyterians coming in through

the sacraments of initiation.

### WHAT DREW YOU TO COME ATTEND TODAY?

**Michael Lofton:** "I'm a former Presbyterian, but I was visiting an Anglican church, and I began to become interested in the Catholic Church, but I still really appreciated the Anglican patrimony, so when I heard about the Anglican use [parishes], that was something that really interested me."

### IS YOUR WHOLE GROUP HOPING TO JOIN THE ORDINARIATE?

**Michael Lofton:** "We are. We have several that are receiving Confirmation this Easter with a local Latin Rite parish. And then several of us are going to write the letter and request permission to enter the ordinariate."

### WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

**Michael Lofton:** "The papacy, without a doubt because when I look at the Protestant Church there really isn't one visible point of unity in it. All the different Protestant churches are doing their own thing. They look very divided, but when I looked at the Catholic Church there was something about it that made it visibly one. I noticed that was the papacy...."



# Deriek Iglesias...

FROM PAGE 36

but he made history.

"Deriek became the first person in the world to achieve Squire of the Body of Christ," said Chuck Schnapp. A member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Andrew Kim Council 9930 in Harker Heights, a community just east of Killeen, Schnapp helped establish the Squires group in his area. He credits Iglesias with not only stepping up to become a charter member to get the Squires off the ground, but to take the lead as Chief Squire for the first three years.

Advancing through five stages of accomplishments in the Squires is no small feat, Schnapp explained. It required Iglesias to complete 96 activities, including a major service project for his church. Iglesias chose religious vocations for his task. As part of that project, Iglesias, then age 18, organized and emceed a priestly vocations event that included dinner for 200 Squires, students, and parents, followed by a retreat, sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as discussions with clergy and a vocations director. The next day, attendees enjoyed breakfast served by the Knights.

The volume of work and dedication involved in this and similar projects leading to the Squire of the Body of Christ achievement is seen in only the most elite Squires. Schnapp likened Squire of the Body of Christ for a youth in the Catholic Church to an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. "It's pretty big deal."

And as if his experiences in his Texas community weren't enough, Iglesias and two of

his fellow Squires were also selected by church leaders to travel to Israel to assist the Legionaries of Christ in conducting a summer youth camp in Jerusalem. Iglesias and his fellow Squires helped youngsters in need to have fun; they taught them about football and other sports, while serving as role models for attending church and practicing a religious life.

"We were sort of like their big brothers," said Iglesias.

The Squires also rolled up their sleeves to paint, clean, and assist with general maintenance at the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center. Pope John Paul II entrusted the Legionaries of Christ with overseeing this pilgrimage center in the heart of Jerusalem. It includes a chapel, guest rooms, a restaurant, exhibit halls, meeting rooms, and other facilities. Seminars, spiritual guidance, and other services are also offered at the center.

Iglesias was honored to be a part of helping the Legionaries carry out their mission and saw it as one small way of giving back what this Catholic religious congregation gave to him during his stay. Several of the Legionaries took Iglesias around the Holy Land for experiences he and his fellow Squires would never forget.

"We got to not only read the Scriptures, but *live* the Scriptures," said Iglesias. We visited Holy places mentioned in the Bible."

"We even renewed our baptismal vows at the source of the Jordan River."

Now a Third Degree Knight, Iglesias counts his years with the Squires as some of the most formative in his life.

Iglesias faced some of his most challenging decisions, however, as he moved toward his high school graduation in 2008. At that time, he had to make a hard choice on the direction he would



**LEFT:** Known as "Mr. TSU," it's hard not to recognize Deriek Iglesias. His image flies high on campus banners and appears on the university's promotional materials. Fellow students respect his dedication to helping his school and the local community, and his involvement in the Catholic Campus Ministry has helped the local group expand its outreach.

nursing in the Texan Battalion Senior Army ROTC program at Tarleton State. With a major in nursing and minors in psychology and military science, Iglesias combines studies with practical experience, serving as a student nurse at area military post hospitals. He plans to graduate in December 2013 and be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Nurse Officer in the U.S. Army.

Iglesias' mission in the Army Nurse Corps is clear in his mind, and has been for quite some time. "I read something once that said nurses provide care that meets the needs of patients spiritually, mentally, and physically. That's been a nice motto for me to go by."

As far as where he would like to serve, Iglesias will let God and country decide that.

"I'll go wherever I'm needed," said Iglesias, recognizing that sometimes a soldier's life requires him to live and work in dangerous areas.

"I honestly believe the Lord put me here for so many years, and He can call me back whenever He needs me. But until then, I am going to enjoy life to the fullest, live every moment, and take advantage of every minute He gives me."

Iglesias often thinks back to that jump out of the C-130 and the lessons he learned from it. "At the time, I thought 'Why am I doing this? I am jumping out of a perfectly fine airplane.' But looking back, my training taught me so much. Then I put my trust in God and had faith. And it all worked out. That's how I live my life."

take for his future studies. While he seriously considered the priesthood, Iglesias looked to another area, nursing, where he felt he could help others.

"I care for people a lot," Iglesias said, "and I thought about how I could help people in a different capacity. That's when nursing popped into my mind. I saw it as a way I could help and care for people, and pass God's love on in a physical manner."

As has been the case throughout his life, when Iglesias sets his mind on something and puts his faith in God, it usually works out.

An accomplished ROTC student in high school, Iglesias earned a full scholarship to study



**UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS**  
*The Catholic University for Independent Thinkers*

## Our Great Catholic University

**1 campus in Rome** where the majority of our sophomores spend a semester

**36 Fulbright Scholars** in our 56-year history

**60 National Merit Scholars; 22** in the 2011 freshman class

**90% of pre-law graduates** and **85% of pre-med students** are accepted into professional schools



[udallas.edu/admiss](http://udallas.edu/admiss)

Irving, Texas ■ Rome, Italy ■ 1-800-628-6999





# Deriek Iglesias and other students live their Catholic faith on Tarleton State University campus through Catholic Campus Ministry

Story and Photo by Jerry Circelli  
Correspondent

Ian Troub, a junior communications major at Tarleton State University (TSU) in Stephenville, recalled feeling “empty inside” before joining the Catholic Campus Ministry at the college. After high school and being away from his family in Copperas Cove, near Killeen, Troub said he “fell off the wagon” when it came to attending Mass on a regular basis. That was until he met Deriek Iglesias, a popular and respected student known as “Mr. TSU” around campus. Iglesias invited him to attend Mass at St. Brendan Parish just down the road from the university and enjoy a free dinner sponsored by the local Knights of Columbus.



Catholic Campus Ministry members, from left, Ian Troub, Stefani Lombard, Melanie Morales, and Deriek Iglesias. They are part of a group of about 30 active members who attend St. Brendan Catholic Church in Stephenville and are active in serving their church and community.

“I enjoyed the food, the friends, and I started going back to church more regularly,” Troub said. “I instantly felt better about myself.

“I found that going to church helps me re-center myself and have some hope in the world again. You hear a lot of horrible things people do to each other. It was just good to go back to my faith and be around people who believe the same way I do.”

The Catholic Campus Ministry group meets every Sunday evening for Mass, dinner sponsored by the Knights, discussion, and fellowship. “It gives me something to look forward to every week,” Troub said.

Likewise, sophomore Stefani Lombard of Granbury has enjoyed the fellowship at TSU’s Catholic Campus Ministry and came by her acquaintance with the personable Iglesias in a different way.

“My friends and I were working out in the gym and wanted to get in better shape for our volleyball team. We were using the weights, and it wasn’t really going that well. Deriek was in the gym and saw us. He pulled us aside and helped us create our own workout program. He helped us get on the right track.”

And that track also took on the path of several service projects to help their local community through Catholic Campus Ministry and TSU outreach programs. From painting houses and doing yard chores for senior citizens to helping with blood drives and counseling students, the two worked alongside other Catholic students to offer their services.

With approximately 30 members

in the growing Catholic Campus Ministry at TSU, Lombard said what the group lacks in numbers, it makes up for in the leadership positions the members hold on campus.

TSU Sophomore Melanie Morales of Mesquite is another member of the Catholic Campus Ministry who attends Mass at St. Brendan’s and enjoys the bond she shares with fellow Catholic students

One event Iglesias, Troub, Lombard, Morales and fellow students look forward to in spring and fall each year is the “Change for Life” fundraiser for the Cross Timbers Pregnancy Care Center in Stephenville. The center conducts education about abstinence and assists pregnant women by explaining choices other than abortion. It also offers maternity and baby clothing for mothers in need.

During the center’s “Change for Life” fundraiser, the TSU Catholic Campus Ministry members collect money from students on campus. Donors drop their coins or dollars in baby bottles.

The sight of the TSU Catholics standing in front of the library on campus with baby bottles in hand makes their friends and other students quite curious.

“It’s probably the time our group really gets noticed on campus,” said Iglesias. “People just sort of stop and say, ‘What are you doing and why are you doing it?’”

It’s the perfect time, said Iglesias, to not only collect needed funding to assist pregnant mothers and fight against abortion, but to connect with others who feel the same way about

protecting unborn babies.

Leah Howard, executive director of the Cross Timbers Pregnancy Care Center, said the work of the Catholic Campus Ministry students has truly been a lifesaver.

“They have been such a blessing to us,” Howard said. “We are so grateful to these students for all that they do. They are strong-minded men and women who have a voice, and they’re speaking for those unborn babies who don’t have a voice yet.”

How hard was it to get the Catholic collegians involved?

“They pursued us,” said Howard. “They came to us, and they wanted to buy their own supplies. These are really remarkable people.”

Howard said the students are perfect examples of the values that the Catholic Church instills in its youth. “They are very life-minded.”

The pregnancy center has put money raised by the students and greater community to good use. Last year, the organization purchased a 3D ultrasound machine and can now give an expectant mother a look at the life she is carrying inside her womb. The results, Howard said, are nothing short of miraculous. When mothers see the images, she said, “95 percent of the time, they choose life.”

The TSU students say it is not hard for them to discuss their beliefs with their peers, especially when it comes to protecting the unborn. Even when it may not always be politically correct to voice their convictions, they said they are driven to do the right thing, because that’s what the Church teaches them to do.

Iglesias expressed it best: “One thing I like about being Catholic is that we never move with the trend. The Church will always stand up for what is right. I firmly believe that.

“Our church is 2,000 years old and Jesus started it. There are some times when you are going to be persecuted for what you believe. But at the end of the day, I can say I stood for what is right and what I believe in. And society can’t change that. For us, if something’s wrong, it’s wrong.”

“We have a great group in the Catholic Campus Ministry,” said Laurie Gaiser, Catholic Campus Ministry advisor. “I am so happy that they are carrying on their faith in college.” Gaiser is also director of the TSU Office of School Relations and Welcome Center.

“And something I really admire about them is the way they support each other. They are very active and they do so many good things. We’re really proud of these students.”

## Casa Brendan and Casa II, Inc. provides Affordable Independent Living for Seniors (62+)

### Amenities for Casa Brendan and Casa II, Inc.

Efficiencies and One Bedroom Apartments  
Income Based Rent  
Tile Throughout  
Utility Allowances  
Cable Ready – Discounted  
Emergency Pull Cord Systems  
Individual Central Heating and Air Conditioning  
24 hour emergency maintenance  
Night and Weekend Courtesy Patrol

### Facilities include:

Community Room  
Library  
Landscaped grounds  
Wheelchair Accessible Units  
2 Laundry Facilities  
Domestic Pet Friendly (one per unit under 25 lbs)



## Call For Details!

### Casa Brendan/Casa II, Inc. Apartments

1300 Hyman St.  
Stephenville, Texas 76401  
254-965-6964  
Relay Texas TTY line – 711

Housing Properties are managed for HUD by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.

[www.ccdofw.org](http://www.ccdofw.org)



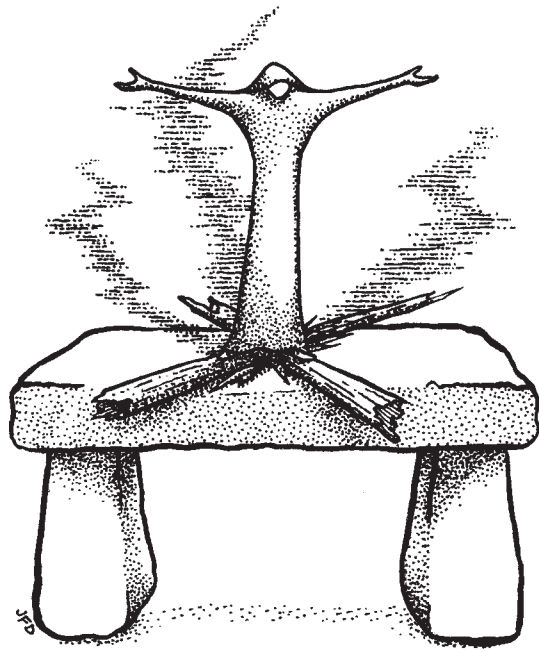


# Word = Life

## Readings Reflections

**“I** will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky.”

— Genesis 22:17a



### March 4, Second Sunday of Lent.

#### Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
Psalm 116:10, 15-19
- 2) Romans 8:31b-34  
Gospel) Mark 9:2-10

By Jeff Hensley

Unlike Abraham, who offered his son Isaac on an altar to God out of obedience with no sense of what this sacrifice of his only son meant, we know that it is a foreshadowing of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

This week's readings speak a great deal about God's faithfulness, with an implied message that we, like Abraham, should not be afraid to offer God anything that may glorify him, help others, bring the Gospel message to others or simply enfold the Gospel as evidence of God's goodness.

Several years ago, a friend of mine in the Catholic press sacrificed her position as a staff writer for an excellent Catholic newspaper to become a member of the L'Arche community in Clinton, Iowa.

The level of commitment required of Kathy to live in community with a group of developmentally delayed adults in a farm setting, sharing their life to help them prosper as independent individuals, seemed at the time (and still does) to be an example of total self-sacrifice.

Kathy was in a place in her life where she had the freedom to make such a commitment, and she took the plunge.

I can't help but believe that the years she spent in this service will cause her to be blessed throughout eternity.

But just as I can't doubt that God is for Kathy, I also can't doubt that if we each use our time here in service to others, where God has placed us, He will bless us similarly.

As Paul puts it in the much-loved passage from *Romans 8* in this week's readings, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all..."

It's a rhetorical question, of course. God is for us. We must be for others.

### QUESTIONS:

How can I demonstrate God's love to my family, in my work, and in my service of others?

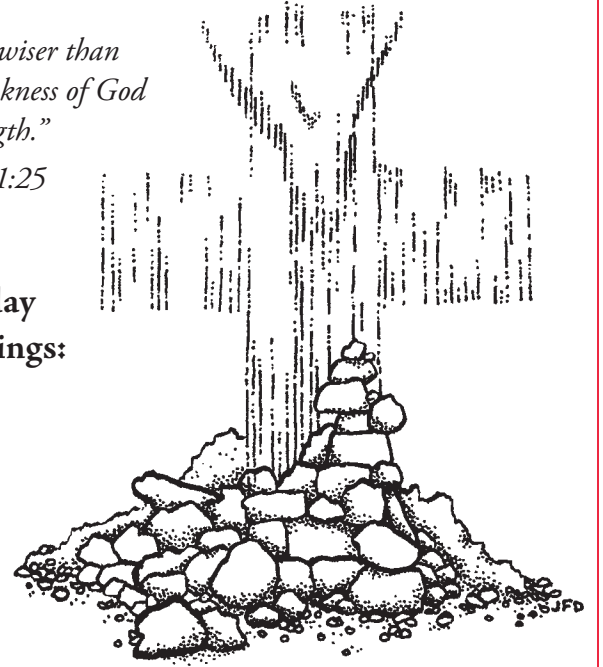
**“T**he foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

— 1 Corinthians 1:25

### March 11, 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 Jean Denton



Right there in front of me, my adult children were getting an enormous kick out of reminiscing about times in their childhood when, "Mom would yell and her little voice would get all squeaky and shaky."

My response: "It got results, though." Their response: (thunderous laughter) "Well, we felt so sorry for you!"

Gosh.

I admit I'm soft-spoken, easy-going and nonconfrontational. Not one for yelling. I tended to discipline our children, once they reached the age of reason, by concentrating on the do's over the don'ts. Obviously, with mixed results.

The fact is, even the mildest-mannered parent sometimes has to put her foot down.

So it went in the ultimate parent-child relationship between God and his people. This loving Father gave his children life, land, family, and food. He told them they must love and worship him and take care of each other. But they didn't.

He had to put his foot down. He laid down the law with the Ten Commandments. Besides those about showing God respect, most of the rules were of the proscriptive kind: Don't kill, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie. They were the kind of rules you make for very young children — for their protection.

Thousands of years later — talk about slow to anger! — people continued to ignore God's laws and he sent his Son with a very loving sort of behavior modification by example. Kindness, patient explanation, mercy, healing, tolerance by him were met with more oppositional attitude. Jesus also put his foot down.

That's the incident in this weekend's Gospel, when Jesus drives the moneychangers from the temple, because they were defiling his Father's house. It was hardly a temper tantrum. He made a whip, which suggests a certain amount of premeditation. The point: He needed to get results.

Even the gentlest loving God will give up everything, including his sweet disposition, to discipline his children in order to get results — for our ultimate good and protection.

Jesus explained, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." His message was that selfish, sinful human behavior, however attractive and seemingly strong in the moment, will never prevail against God's reign in a life of justice, peace, and love.

### QUESTIONS:

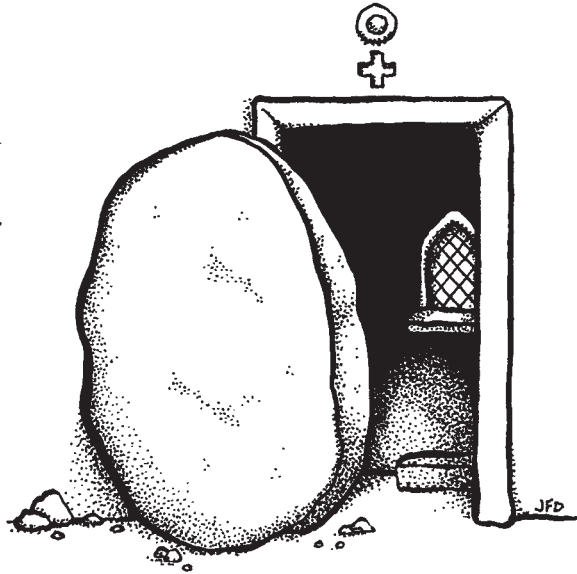
When, recently, have you ignored Jesus' call to follow his commandments or his ways? What has been the result? How have you experienced God's discipline?



# Word = Life

## Readings Reflections

**“God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ.”**  
— Ephesians 2:4-5



**March 18, 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**

**F**or many years I taught a class at church for teens who had been baptized but had missed the other sacraments. One aspect of the class that I liked most was the huge variety of families that found themselves in need of returning to the sacraments. The stories of how these families ended up at our church were often inspiring and heart-wrenching.

A challenge for the class was that many students had spotty religious education, so big concepts such as the Trinity and the Incarnation could be tough for them to even begin to understand, let alone embrace with an act of faith. I remember the struggles when it was time for them to make their first reconciliation. The look of sheer horror on their faces when they found out what they were required to do was priceless.

Of course, we would go over the theology of the sacrament and even would do some role-playing to get the young people comfortable with the process, but as the big day approached, the nerves got pretty frazzled. Every year there was at least one person completely terrified of saying all his or her sins out loud. But a lot of counseling and encouraging ensued, and the next thing you knew they were off to the confessional.

Then came one of the best moments of the entire year: the looks on their faces when they emerged from that encounter with the grace of God, followed by the bubbling over of emotions of relief and joy.

It was exactly these kinds of moments that caused the Father to send his Son to earth. As St. Paul in this Sunday's second reading succinctly put it, "God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ."

This is why each of us, when we go to the sacrament of reconciliation, experiences the lifting of a weight, a freeing in our soul. Our sin is already paid for; all we need to do is repent and ask Jesus for forgiveness. God is indeed rich in mercy, a mercy he freely gives, longs to give, and in a very real way is dying to give.

### QUESTIONS:

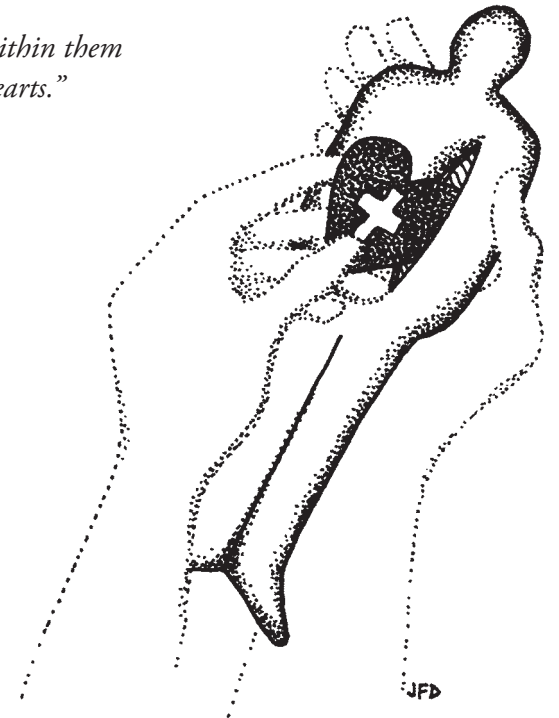
What do you remember about your first reconciliation? What has your experience of the sacrament been like since then?

**“I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts.”**  
— Jeremiah 31:33

**March 25, Fifth Sunday of Lent.**  
**Cycle B. Readings:**

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15
- 2) Hebrews 5:7-9  
Gospel) John 12:20-33

**By Sharon K. Perkins**



**W**hen my youngest daughter was about 8 years old, I arranged a birthday party for her and her friends at a popular store that caters to girls that age by enabling them to choose and construct their own stuffed bears. After selecting an empty outer "shell," the girls would excitedly watch while a machine stuffed the toy.

Then came the highlight: when each child would take a red satin heart, pronounce a wish on it and ceremoniously insert it into the bear, making it uniquely hers. Once the bear was stitched closed, it was lovingly given an air "bath" and dressed in a carefully chosen outfit. The entire process — a clever marketing strategy — was designed to create a special bond between the stuffed bear and its "creator." Of course, this all came at a price for unsuspecting parents!

In today's readings, the prophet Jeremiah proclaims a promise of hope from the Lord to his people who have been alienated and exiled both physically and spiritually. The covenantal bond that they had made with their Creator and marked with tablets of stone had been broken through their unfaithfulness, but not completely destroyed.

A new kind of covenant, one of forgiveness and mercy, would be written on their hearts. As the psalmist describes it, the compassion of God renews the heart of the repentant sinner and creates for him or her a "clean heart."

But this, too, comes at a price much dearer than we can even imagine. The Gospel reminds us that the forgiveness of sin and the renewal of hearts prophesied by Jeremiah are won for us through the sacrificial love of our Creator who took on human flesh and offered it freely in death. But when we in turn freely accept this gift and die to ourselves, we not only preserve our lives but we bear much fruit.

Lent summons us back from the self-centered, empty shells of our lives to a renewed covenantal bond with our Creator who promises mercy and forgiveness. It calls us to the renewal of our baptismal bath and the clothing of new life in Christ, who has placed his loving heart into each one of us who belong to him.

### QUESTIONS:

In what way has sin and unfaithfulness made you broken, empty, and far from the Lord? What words of Christ are being spoken to your renewed heart?



# Nuestro Pastor Habla

## El mandato de HHS es una directa amenaza a nuestra libertad religiosa en los Estados Unidos

### Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

**E**l don de la libertad, especialmente el don de vivir nuestra fe plena y libremente, es uno de los dones únicos de vivir en los Estados Unidos, teniendo valor incalculable. Nuestros padres fundadores, en la *Carta de derechos de la constitución (Declaration of Independence)*, enumeraron como el primero de todos los derechos inalienables, debido a la persona humana, el derecho a la libertad religiosa. Esta sabiduría de nuestros padres fundadores, sin embargo, si bien es única en el establecimiento de un gobierno para el pueblo por el pueblo, no es nada nuevo. El derecho a la libertad de religión y libertad de conciencia es un derecho expresado desde hace tiempo, y sostenido en la tradición católica, y es un derecho que ha sido defendido, incluso hasta la muerte, por muchos católicos a lo largo de los siglos.

Un santo que viene inmediatamente a la mente es San Tomás Becket, arzobispo de Canterbury del siglo 12, martirizado por el Rey Enrique II al enfrentarse contra los intentos de la corona por interferir con los derechos inherentes y los privilegios de la Iglesia, y por el derecho a la libertad de religión y de conciencia para todos los católicos ingleses de su época. Incluso Chris Matthews de *Hardball* de MSNBC, en reacción al reciente mandato del HHS (siglas en inglés del *Departamento de salud y servicios humanos de los EE.UU.*), recordó las historias de los santos Tomás Becket y Tomás Moro como ejemplos de la interferencia del estado contra la libertad religiosa. “Creo que crecí viendo películas como *Becket* y *A Man for All Seasons*; al ver a la Iglesia y al estado enfrascarse en una guerra abierta, y escuchar historias del Antiguo Testamento acerca de los Macabeos, sobre personas y familias a quienes le dicen que tienen que comer carne de cerdo... Se llega a ese punto interesante para mí, lo cual es alarmante, cuando el estado le dice a la Iglesia lo que debe hacer”.

En nuestros tiempos modernos, la Iglesia también ha tenido mucho que decir sobre el derecho a la libertad religiosa y de conciencia, especialmente en un momento en que a menudo la libertad religiosa y de conciencia es pisoteada en muchas partes del mundo. En respuesta a esto, el *Concilio Vaticano II* promulgó un decreto, *Dignitatis humanae*, sobre la libertad religiosa. En este decreto, el Consejo indica:

*Este CONCILIO VATICANO declara que la persona humana tiene derecho a la libertad religiosa. Esta libertad consiste en que todos los hombres han de estar inmunes de coacción, tanto por parte de individuos como de grupos sociales y de cualquier potestad humana, y esto de tal manera que, en materia religiosa, ni se obligue a nadie a obrar contra su*



**Monseñor Kevin Vann**

*conciencia, ni se le impida que actúe conforme a ella en privado y en público, sólo o asociado con otros, dentro de los límites debidos. Declara, además, que el derecho a la libertad religiosa está realmente fundado en la dignidad misma de la persona humana, tal como se la conoce por la palabra revelada de Dios y por la misma razón natural. Este derecho de la persona humana a la libertad religiosa ha de ser reconocido en el ordenamiento jurídico de la sociedad, de tal manera que llegue a convertirse en un derecho civil.*

— *Dignitatis humanae* #2

Este don y derecho a la libertad religiosa ha sido apreciado a través de toda la historia de nuestro país. Es precisamente debido a este derecho, y su protección bajo la ley, que nuestro país ha sido capaz de prosperar, y también es la razón por la que la Iglesia Católica también ha florecido en nuestro país en los últimos 236 años. Sin embargo, este derecho a la libertad religiosa, y el derecho a la libertad de conciencia, nunca pueden darse por sentado. Recientemente, han estado en constante crecimiento en nuestro país muchas graves amenazas a la libertad religiosa y a nuestra libertad de conciencia.

Todo esto llegó a su punto culminante a finales de enero, cuando el *Departamento de salud y servicios humanos* ordenó que toda cobertura de seguro de salud tuviera que incluir “beneficios preventivos para la salud” comprendiendo anti-conceptivos, esterilizaciones, e incluso algunos medicamentos abortivos, como la píldora del día después. En esta ocasión, el gobierno de Obama no añade cláusulas de protección de conciencia que permita a las instituciones religiosas—incluidas las instituciones católicas—el optar por no participar en dicha cobertura. Este es un flagrante y directo ataque a la libertad de conciencia de millones de católicos y otros que sostienen que estos “beneficios” son intrínsecamente inmorales, y por tanto, una negación de nuestra libertad de religión y de la práctica

libre de la misma, como lo garantiza la primera enmienda de la Constitución. ¡Esto no puede prevalecer! ¡Debemos actuar para hacer que este mandato injusto e inhumano quede derogado!

Por desgracia, aunque esta sea la más flagrante actitud hostil, no es la primera instancia de una postura cada vez más incompatible hacia la libertad religiosa en nuestro país. De hecho, las preocupaciones sobre la libertad religiosa y el creciente ataque a las creencias religiosas y morales—especialmente a las de los católicos romanos—movieron al Obispo William Lori de la *Diócesis de Bridgeport*, Connecticut, a ofrecer una declaración en octubre ante el Comité judicial de la cámara de representantes del Congreso, sobre las crecientes amenazas a la libertad religiosa y de conciencia en los Estados Unidos, que afectan especialmente a aquellos que viven y defienden las enseñanzas de la Iglesia Católica. Como parte de su testimonio, el Obispo Lori dijo:

*Los Estados Unidos guarda firmemente el principio de que estos derechos de libertad son también derechos de igualdad, sobre los cuales el gobierno no debe imponer ningunas desventajas civiles especiales, o discriminar contra sus ciudadanos por causa de la religión. Y aunque puede ser que no siempre ha estado a la altura de éste u otros principios de libertad religiosa en la práctica, la capacidad única de nuestro país para la auto-corrección siempre ha proporcionado vías para reparar violaciones a estos principios, lo cual ha hecho de los Estados Unidos una gran nación.*

*Lamentablemente, ahora es el momento para tal auto-corrección y reparación. En el pasado reciente, los obispos de los Estados Unidos ya han visto, con creciente alarma, que el gran legado nacional de la libertad religiosa—tan profundamente en armonía con nuestras propias enseñanzas—ha sido objeto de asaltos cada vez más frecuentes, y una erosión cada vez más rápida. Estoy aquí hoy para llamarles la atención sobre las graves amenazas a la libertad religiosa que han surgido, incluso desde junio—sombrias validaciones del reconocimiento de los obispos a la necesidad de una acción urgente y concertada en este campo. Me concentro en ellas—ya que la mayoría surge bajo la ley federal—por lo que bien puedan ser objeto de una acción correctiva por parte del Congreso.*

Entre algunas de las amenazas a la libertad religiosa y de conciencia, el Obispo Lori enumeró las siguientes:

1. En agosto, el *DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD Y SERVICIOS HUMANOS (HHS)* impuso la obligación de incluir ciertos servicios preventivos — comprendiendo anti-conceptivos y abortivos — en todos los planes de seguros médicos privados, sin la protección de conciencia adecuada. ¡Y ahora que se ha cambiado a ningunas

*protecciones de conciencia en todos!*

2. En mayo, el *HHS* agregó el requisito de ofrecer la “gama completa” de servicios a sus acuerdos de cooperación con terceros y a los contratos gubernamentales para los servicios a víctimas de tráfico humano y a refugiados menores no acompañados por un adulto. Esta nueva regla implica que los proveedores de servicios de otro modo altamente calificados—como la *OFICINA DE SERVICIOS PARA INMIGRANTES Y REFUGIADOS DE LA CONFERENCIA DE OBISPOS CATÓLICOS DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS*—serán excluidos en la participación del programa porque no pueden, en conciencia, proporcionar la “gama completa” de los servicios de reproducción, que incluiría el aborto y los anticonceptivos.

3. La agencia del *DEPARTAMENTO DE ESTADO DE EE.UU.* para el desarrollo internacional le está exigiendo cada vez más a los contratistas, como *CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)*, que brinden una amplia gama de servicios de prevención del SIDA (incluyendo la distribución de preservativos), así como la plena integración de sus programas con los servicios de salud reproductiva (incluida la provisión de anticonceptivos), en programas de ayuda y desarrollo internacional. Esto está limitando el trabajo que las organizaciones católicas como la *CRS* pueden llevar a cabo.

4. El *Departamento de justicia federal* ha aumentado su ataque a la *LEY DE DEFENSA DEL MATRIMONIO (DOMA)*, al tergiversar el contenido de esta ley y presentarla como un acto de prejuicio e intolerancia. Si la etiqueta de “prejuiciados e intolerantes” se pega a nuestra Iglesia y a muchas otras iglesias—especialmente en corte, bajo la Constitución, por su enseñanza sobre el matrimonio—el resultado será un conflicto entre Iglesia y Estado durante muchos años por venir.

5. A nivel estatal, la protección de la libertad religiosa asociada a la redefinición del matrimonio está muy por debajo de lo que es necesario. En Nueva York, los funcionarios del condado se enfrentan a acciones legales por negarse a participar en actos de uniones del mismo sexo, y en Illinois, *CARIDADES CATÓLICAS* ha sido expulsada de los servicios de adopción y de hogares de crianza, ya que reconoce el valor único del matrimonio entre hombre y mujer para el bienestar de los niños.

Estas son las graves amenazas a la libertad religiosa y la libertad de conciencia, no sólo para los católicos; estas tratan de socavar uno de los derechos humanos más fundamentales e inalienables, que ha sido la piedra angular de nuestra nación desde sus inicios. Por lo tanto, nosotros, como católicos, debemos estar conscientes de estos temas tan importantes, y ejercer nuestro derecho a participar en la plaza pública para asegurar que nuestra libertad religiosa y la libertad de conciencia estén pro-

CONTINUADA A LA DERECHA



# El Cardenal DiNardo urge al Senado a aprobar ley de salud protegiendo la conciencia

Por Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Servicio católico de noticias  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON – El presidente del comité de obispos americanos sobre actividades a favor de la vida, este 15 de febrero, hizo un llamado a los miembros del senado americano a resolver problemas de protección de conciencia de la *Ley federal de reforma del sistema de salud*, pasando el *Acta de respeto a los derechos de conciencia*.

Al resolver una “disputa innecesaria”, el congreso y la administración del presidente Barack Obama “podría retornar al más urgente de los problemas reales – el hecho que muchos millones de americanos todavía carecen de cobertura básica de salud”, expresó el cardenal de Galveston-Houston, Daniel N. DiNardo.

En una carta de tres páginas a los senadores, el cardenal DiNardo mencionó que la legislación – ahora patrocinada por 37 senadores – puede llegar a votación pronto, “en forma de ley independiente o enmienda”.

Llamando la ley “necesaria, razonable, y cuidadosamente escrita”, DiNardo expresó que “simplemente asegura que nuevos requerimientos” bajo el *Acta de protección al paciente y cuidado médico asequible* “no son utilizados para coartar la libertad de conciencia de la que hasta ahora disfrutaban los americanos bajo las leyes federales”.

Los obispos “vieron la necesidad

de legislación”, dijo el cardenal, cuando el congreso aprobó la *Ley federal de reforma del sistema de salud* y “autorizó nuevas listas de beneficios federales obligatorios para todos los planes de salud sin incluir lenguaje para preservar derechos de conciencia”.

El cardenal rechazó la resolución final del presidente Barack Obama, anunciada el 10 de febrero, que permitiría a organizaciones con objeciones de carácter religioso al requerimiento del *Departamento de salud y servicios humanos* que todos los planes de salud cubran anticonceptivos y esterilización, no cubrir tales rubros, pero obligar a los seguros de salud a proveer anticonceptivos gratis a mujeres aseguradas.

Bajo el plan, empleadores religiosos estarán obligados a “incluir la misma cobertura censurable que los empleadores puramente seculares incluyen – pero la decisión de hacerlo así simplemente les será quitada, ya que la cobertura en cuestión será incluida directamente por la aseguradora a pesar de sus objeciones”, dijo DiNardo.

Los empleadores religiosos seguirán teniendo que pagar por la cobertura censurable, añadió DiNardo, porque “estará integrada en todo plan de salud que ofrecen a sus empleados, y subsidiado con las primas pagadas por empleador y empleado”.

La secretaria de *Salud y servicios humanos*, Kathleen Sebelius, anunció por primera vez el requerimiento de cobertura de anticonceptivos, al mismo tiempo que la excepción religiosa,



(CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiehchec)

La primera enmienda a la Constitución de los Estados Unidos se encuentra grabada en una pared fuera del Newseum en Washington. La cláusula de libre establecimiento previene la formación de una religión nacional. Igualmente prohíbe la persecución religiosa y discriminación por parte del gobierno.

el 20 de enero. Líderes católicos y de otras religiones dicen que la excepción está escrita de una manera tan estrecha que instituciones como hospitales, escuelas y agencias de servicio social no calificarían.

Desde que el presidente Barack Obama anunció su resolución final, han surgido interrogantes en torno a su aplicación a organizaciones auto-aseguradas, como muchas diócesis y organizaciones católicas.

El cardenal DiNardo llamó el requerimiento de anticonceptivos “una desviación radical de la ley actual, bajo la cual un plan de salud que excluye anticonceptivos puede ser vendido hasta a empleados federales si la aseguradora censura por motivos religiosos tal cobertura”.

“En pocas palabras, regresamos al comienzo – excepto que la resolución del presidente Barack Obama, que muchos esperaban cambiaría la ley para complacer los derechos de conciencia de americanos que objetan la ley por motivos religiosos, no puede cambiarse sino por la vía legislativa”.

El *Acta de respeto a los derechos de conciencia* estipula que la lista de beneficios obligatorios bajo la Ley federal de reforma del sistema de salud pública no prohibirá aquellos proveedores, patrocinadores, o compradores de seguros de salud el negociar cobertura consistente con sus creencias religiosas y convicciones morales.

El cardenal también refutó

mis-interpretaciones de lo que la ley actual haría o no:

Ningún “partido en la empresa de cobertura de salud” sería obligado a aceptar el plan negociado. “¿Pero si todos los partidos encuentran un compromiso aceptable y factible, por qué no lo permitiría el gobierno federal, como ha sido hasta ahora?” preguntó.

No anula otras leyes existentes a nivel federal o estatal, incluyendo obligaciones estatales en torno a anticonceptivos.

No “proveería soporte alguno a decisiones discriminatorias, negando cobertura a unos a diferencia de otros”, como la decisión de negar atención de socorro a víctimas del SIDA o el virus VIH que causa la SIDA—“virus de inmunodeficiencia humana”.

No “permitiría a nadie el negar cobertura de tratamientos de alto costo, utilizando la moral y/o la religión como pretexto”.

El cardenal DiNardo expresó que la iglesia católica, “motivada precisamente por su fe, está dispuesta a trabajar con el congreso y la administración del presidente Barack Obama para resolver el grave problema” de la carencia de cobertura de salud para millones de habitantes de este país.

“Permítannos comenzar esta tarea respetando los valores de cada uno, que llaman a tantos de nosotros a luchar por cuidados de salud para todos que afirmen la vida”, añadió.

tegidas y defendidas. Esto no es sólo un problema católico, sino un tema que afecta al bien común y nuestra propia sociedad y el país.

Además de testificar ante el Congreso sobre la amenaza a la libertad religiosa, el Obispo Lori también anunció en la reunión de los *Obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos* en noviembre, la formación del nuevo *Comité especial para la libertad religiosa* en la USCCB. El objetivo del comité es destacar y promover la libertad religiosa, especialmente en lo que se expresa en *Dignitatis humanae*. El Obispo Lori explicó que la primera tarea del comité será la de abordar la “erosión de nuestras libertades religiosas en los Estados Unidos”, en particular en los casos en que “la libertad religiosa se considere un derecho de segunda clase, subordinada a los llamados ‘derechos’ del aborto y el ‘matrimonio del mismo sexo’, que en ninguna parte se mencionan en la Constitución o en la *Carta*

*de derechos*”. La formación de este nuevo comité es una prueba más de la creciente preocupación en la Iglesia con respecto a las crecientes amenazas a la libertad religiosa en nuestra cultura y la sociedad.

¿Qué vamos a hacer con todo esto? Lo primero que debemos hacer es orar. Estas cuestiones son el resultado de una sociedad que está cada vez más a la deriva, lejos de Dios y por lo tanto, está cada vez más separada de la fe y de los principios morales básicos. La solución a estos problemas, en última instancia, va a venir a través de la conversión de los corazones a Dios, y el reconocimiento de la dignidad de cada persona humana. Esta continua transformación se inicia con cada uno de nosotros, y sólo vendrá a través de la seria oración por la conversión de los corazones.

Lo siguiente que tenemos que realizar es que nuestras voces se hagan oír de manera fuerte y clara en la plaza pública. Como católicos, tenemos que dejarle saber a nuestros representantes

electos que nos oponemos firmemente a este mandato del HHS y exigimos su derogación. Para averiguar cómo ponerse en contacto con sus representantes locales, por favor vayan a la página diocesana [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org), donde se encuentra la página principal que explica cómo ponerse en contacto con sus representantes en el Congreso. También hay que mantenerse informado y actualizado sobre estos temas y otros desarrollos, para que podamos responder a ellos rápida y apropiadamente.

En tercer lugar, debemos estar dispuestos, como católicos romanos, a no tener miedo de ser testigos de la verdad de Cristo y la dignidad de la persona humana, y llevar nuestra fe católica y nuestras convicciones a la plaza pública. Estos problemas que enfrenta nuestro país no son sólo temas católicos, sino son problemas graves que socavan gravemente y subvierten el bien común. ¡La primera enmienda de la Constitución no tenía la intención de separar la religión y la

política, sino de proteger y garantizar la libertad de llevar nuestra fe, valores y convicciones a la plaza pública, con el fin de proteger y defender el bien común!

Por lo tanto, no podemos tener miedo que nuestras voces sean escuchadas en dar testimonio de la verdad del Evangelio y la dignidad de la persona humana. Este es el llamado que hemos recibido en nuestro bautismo y que se fortaleció en nuestra confirmación. Este es el llamado que recibimos al final de cada Misa, cuando se nos ha encomendado, “Vayan en paz, glorificando al Señor con su vida”. Como el Beato Papa Juan Pablo II, en una de sus visitas a este gran país nuestro, nos urgió:

*¡Católicos de América! Guiense siempre por la verdad - la verdad sobre Dios que nos creó y redimió, y la verdad sobre la persona humana, hecha a imagen y semejanza de Dios y destinada a un glorioso*

*cumplimiento en el Reino que vendrá. Sean siempre testigos convincentes de la verdad.*

*Reaviven la llama del don de Dios, que se les ha otorgado en el bautismo. ¡Enciende a tu país - Enciende al mundo - con el poder de esa llama! Amén.*

—Homilía en el Parque de los Orioles en Camden Yards, 8 de octubre 1995

*+ Kevin W. Vann*

+ OBISPO KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD  
DIOCESIS DE FORT WORTH





## Declaración del Obispo Kevin Vann

dada el 15 de febrero

Yo, junto con mis hermanos obispos de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB), sigo instando a los católicos y a todas las personas de buena voluntad a comunicarse con sus respectivos oficiales electos para protestar la violación de libertad religiosa ordenada por el Presidente Obama y su administración.

Si bien teníamos la esperanza de que el Presidente propondría una solución de compromiso significativo, sabemos que, al contrario, dejó sin cambiar el mandato original que obliga a las instituciones católicas—tales como los colegios, hospitales y caridades—a violar sus principios de fe al forzarlos a ofrecer una cobertura de seguro de salud que incluya anticonceptivos y abortivos.

Esto va mucho más allá del tema de la anticoncepción y es, ante todo, una cuestión de libertad religiosa. Se insta a los católicos de la Diócesis de Fort Worth a usar la lista que se ofrece a continuación para comunicarse con

sus legisladores y protestar contra este dictamen injusto.

Esperamos trabajar con la Administración para garantizar que las conciencias de los norteamericanos y nuestra libertad religiosa no sean perjudicadas por este mandato.

Los miembros del Congreso que representan la Diócesis de Fort Worth son:

- La Senadora Kay Bailey Hutchison
- El Senador John Cornyn
- El Congresista Joe Barton del Distrito 6
- La Congresista Kay Granger del Distrito 12
- El Congresista Mac Thornberry del Distrito 13
- El Congresista Bill Flores del Distrito 17
- El Congresista Neugebauer del Distrito 19
- El Congresista Michael Burgess del Distrito 26
- El Congresista John Carter del Distrito 31

Por favor, vayan al sitio web de la Diócesis de Fort Worth, [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org), para encontrar los enlaces que les ayudarán a ponerse en contacto con sus representantes.



## Dos arzobispos estadounidenses están entre los 23 cardenales nombrados en consistorio de Roma, el 18 de febrero

El arzobispo cardenal de Baltimore, Edwin F. O'Brien, gran maestro de la Orden ecuestre del sepulcro sagrado de Jerusalén, sonríe durante una recepción en la Pontificia universidad de Norte América en Roma, después de recibir su capelo rojo de manos del Papa Benedicto XVI el 18 de febrero. El papa nombró 22 cardenales de 13 países — incluyendo dos de los Estados Unidos, el Cardenal O'Brien y el Cardenal Timothy Dolan, al igual que uno de Canadá, el Cardenal Thomas Collins, arzobispo de Toronto. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



El nuevo cardenal estadounidense, Timothy M. Dolan, saluda a Joseph y Marian Liberatore y sus hijos, Grace, 10, y Joseph, 8, durante una recepción en el Salón Pablo VI en el Vaticano, el 18 de febrero. El arzobispo de Nueva York fue uno de los 22 preladados promovidos al Colegio de cardenales por el Papa Benedicto XVI durante un consistorio que tuvo lugar unas horas antes en el mismo día. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

# Caridades Católicas lanza un nuevo programa que proveerá asistencia médica a familias de bajo recurso

El Dr. John Richardson, un querido pediatra, activo entre la comunidad médica de Fort Worth por más de 50 años, recuerda con cariño un tiempo cuando médicos católicos trabajaban juntos para proveer de cuidados médicos a pacientes de pocos recursos. “Hace años, en la década de los 60, alrededor de 15 de nosotros nos llamábamos el *Gremio de médicos de St. Luke's*, y nos asegurábamos que la gente recibiera ayuda donde era necesario”, explicó el doctor, en una reunión reciente patrocinada por la *Sociedad médica del condado de Tarrant*. “Luego, después de *Roe v. Wade*, nos involucramos en otros proyectos, en un esfuerzo por ayudar a prevenir abortos y asistir a niños”.

El Dr. Richardson, un veterano feligrés de la *Iglesia de San Andrés* en Fort Worth, sirvió entonces como el pediatra para la *Casa Edna Gladney* (ahora conocida como el *Centro de adopciones Gladney*) por 29 años, ayudando a más de 9.000 bebés recién nacidos.

Por todos estos años, el doctor



Dr. John Richardson, uno de los socios fundadores del *Proyecto acceso del condado de Tarrant* (PATC), posa con la presidenta y CEO de *Caridades Católicas*, Heather Reynolds, después de anunciar la inauguración del PATC, que conecta médicos voluntarios con pacientes de bajos recursos que necesitan asistencia médica y no la pueden pagar.

Richardson, quien se retiró de su práctica privada de medicina en el 2007, continuó soñando con una red revitalizada de médicos ayudando a los más necesitados, dice él. “Me cuenta que necesitábamos un coordinador que tuviera acceso a internistas, cirujanos, doctores de familia, y otros servicios. Sabíamos del formato de un programa establecido llamado *Proyec-*

*to acceso*, existente en Dallas, Austin y El Paso. Para mí, la existencia de ese precedente era un ejemplo magnífico para crearlo en Fort Worth”.

Gracias, en parte, a la dedicación constante del Dr. Richardson, *Catholic Charities of Fort Worth* (CCFW) se convirtió en uno de los socios fundadores del *Proyecto acceso del condado de Tarrant* (PATC, por

sus siglas en inglés), un esfuerzo colaborativo patrocinado por la *Sociedad médica de Tarrant County*. A través de los servicios de más de 200 médicos participantes, 14 hospitales, numerosas clínicas de caridad y proveedores de servicios de radiología, laboratorio, y anestesia, PATC ofrece servicios de cuidados médicos para residentes de Tarrant County de bajos recursos y/o sin seguro médico. Desde el inicio oficial de PATC en setiembre del 2011, 32 pacientes han recibido servicios a través de esta red, con más de 100 pautados para recibir servicios adicionales.

Heather Reynolds, presidente de CCFW, agradeció particularmente al Dr. Richardson en el evento del 31 de enero, marcando el aniversario de PATC. “El *Proyecto acceso* ha sido un sueño para nosotros por muchos años,” le dijo Reynolds a un grupo de médicos voluntarios y organizaciones participando en PATC, en el evento llevado a cabo en la *Academia de medicina del condado de Tarrant*, al oeste de Fort Worth. “El Dr. Richardson ha estado recordándonos por un largo

tiempo que tenemos que hacer esto. Y mientras nosotros, en *Catholic Charities*, no sabemos cómo curar una hernia o reparar una retina separada, o resolver otros tipos de problemas médicos, nosotros conocemos la pobreza. Sabemos que familias que tienen problemas médicos no tratados fácilmente pueden caer aún más profundamente en la pobreza. Este proyecto es, para nosotros, la epítome de colaboración efectiva”.

El Dr. Richardson modestamente descarta los elogios que ha recibido por sus tesoreros años de esfuerzo en crear esta iniciativa de salud pública. “Estoy realmente satisfecho de ver que esta iniciativa ha tomado forma en el PATC”, dice. “Yo nunca habría podido reclutar individualmente todos los médicos y socios que ahora son parte de esta red. Es apasionante ver cómo está creciendo este esfuerzo”.

Para mayor información sobre PATC, favor de llamar al 817-632-7531 o visitar [www.tcms.org/PATC.aspx](http://www.tcms.org/PATC.aspx)

## Retiro en El viñedo de Raquel planeado entre el 16 a 18 de Marzo

El *Viñedo de Raquel* para la sanación del aborto *Ministerios de Raquel* ofrecerá su retiro en español para la sanación después del aborto el fin de semana del 16-18 de marzo. Este retiro está diseñado para aquellas personas que están lidiando con sentimientos

de amargura, culpabilidad y dolor después del aborto, para que encuentren esperanza y sanación. Vengan y experimenten la misericordia, el perdón y la sanación del amor de Dios, en compañía de otras personas que entienden sus sentimientos. Para

más información, por favor llamen a nuestra línea confidencial en español al 817-886-4760, ó pueden enviar un email a [misericordia@racheltx.org](mailto:misericordia@racheltx.org). Su confidencialidad será estrictamente respetada.

### Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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



# Events Calendar

Around the Diocese and region

## March Dates

2

### LENTEN FISH DINNERS

5 to 7 p.m. each Friday during Lent - St. John the Apostle Family Life Center, 7421, Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills. For information, contact Manny Pasillas at (817) 319-0356 or visit the Knights of Columbus website at [www.kofc8512.org](http://www.kofc8512.org).

### AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND SHARING WITH THE SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF NAMUR

4:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Our Lady of Victory Center, 909 West Shaw, Fort Worth. For information, contact Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN at (817) 923-3091 or [sycruz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sycruz@sbcglobal.net)

3

### CAREGIVER WORKSHOP - 'A DAY OF RENEWAL AND SUPPORT'

8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. - Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing, Fort Worth. There is no charge and lunch will be provided. For information and to register, contact Mary Pacheco at [mpacheco@holymfamilyfw.org](mailto:mpacheco@holymfamilyfw.org) or (817) 737-6768.

### CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

10 a.m. - A monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and those struggling with addiction and seeking recovery. Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth. For information, contact Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 431-5369.

### COME AND SEE VOCATION RETREAT WITH SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 1815 Egyptian Way, Grand Prairie. For information and to register, contact Sr. Mary Paul Haase at (972) 642-5191.

3-4

### MAKING THE MOST OUT OF LENT WITH DR. MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO

7 p.m. both evenings - St. Peter Church, 424 Main St., Lindsay. For information, call (940) 668-7609.

4

### STEPHEN BREEN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION SPIRIT GAMES

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Jim Breen at (817) 846-6887.

16-18

### SPANISH RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT WEEKEND

The retreat weekend will be held in Spanish. For information, contact the Spanish helpline at (817) 886-4760 or e-mail [misericordia@racheltx.org](mailto:misericordia@racheltx.org).

17

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION FOR FATHER JOHN SOSTRICH

5 p.m. Mass - St. John Church, 126 Hickory St., Strawn; reception to follow at the parish rectory. For information, contact Val Loftin at (254) 442-3047.

23-25

### 'COME AND SEE' WEEKEND WITH SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MARY IMMACULATE

Friday - Sunday - SHSp Motherhouse, 301 Yucca St., San Antonio. For information, contact Sister Gabriel Hession at (210) 533-5149, (817) 360-9316 (cell), [sghession@hotmail.com](mailto:sghession@hotmail.com), or visit the website at [www.shsp.org](http://www.shsp.org).

24

### AUXILIARY TO THE DISCALCED CARMELITE NUNS: 'DIVINE AFFAIR'

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - The Colonial Country Club, 3735 Country Club Circle, Fort Worth. For information and to make a reservation, contact Nancy Dalton at (817) 763-5586.

31

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TEACHER JOB FAIR

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For information, contact the Catholic Schools office at (817) 560-3300 ext. 253, or visit the diocesan website at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

## April Dates

6

### 27TH ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY ROSARY VIGIL FOR LIFE

1 to 2:30 p.m. - Planned Parenthood, 301 South Henderson, Fort Worth. For information, contact Chuck Pelletier at (817) 738-1086 or [mubcare@gmail.com](mailto:mubcare@gmail.com), or Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at (817) 560-2452 ext. 257 or [cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org](mailto:cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org).

12

### DIVORCE AND BEYOND

7 to 9 p.m. - St. Andrew Parish, 3312 Dryden Rd., Fort Worth. For information and to register for this eight-week program, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383 or e-mail [acurran@standrewcc.org](mailto:acurran@standrewcc.org).

13-15

### YOUTH 2000 RETREAT

6 p.m. Friday to 12:30 p.m. Sunday - Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For information, visit the diocesan website at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) and click on Youth Ministry, or contact Josie Castillo at (817) 560-2452 ext. 255 or by e-mail at [jcastillo@fwdioc.org](mailto:jcastillo@fwdioc.org).

15-18

### DIVINE MERCY MISSION WITH FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, CMF

Sunday through Wednesday, 7 p.m. each night - St. Paul the Apostle Church, 5508 Black Oak Ln., River Oaks. For information, call (817) 738-9925.

28

### COME AND SEE VOCATION RETREAT WITH SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, 1815 Egyptian Way, Grand Prairie. For information and to register, contact Sister Mary Paul Haase at (972) 642-5191.

## Official Assignments

### List of Clergy Appointments, by Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD

Rev. Isaac Orozco is appointed vocation director for the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective July 1.

Rev. Kyle Walterscheid is appointed as pastor of the new parish of Blessed John Paul II at the University of North Texas, Denton, effective July 1.

### PAPAL HONORS

*Pope Benedict XVI has conferred the title of "Chaplain to His Holiness" on the following priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth:*

Rev. Msgr. James Hart, parochial administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Keller and Episcopal Vicar for Special Projects.

Rev. Msgr. Juan Rivero, pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Granbury and St. Rose of Lima Parish in Glen Rose and Episcopal Vicar for Priests.

Rev. Msgr. Publius Xeureb, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Aledo.

*Pope Benedict XVI has conferred the title of "Prelate of Honor" on the following priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth:*

Rev. Msgr. Raymund Mullan, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Graham, and St. Teresa Parish, Olney, and administrator of Sacred Heart Parish, Breckenridge, and Jesus of Nazareth Parish, Albany.

Rev. Msgr. Stephen J. Berg, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

## Classifieds

### Catholic School President

Holy Trinity Catholic School ([www.htcs.org](http://www.htcs.org)), PK4-8, Fort Worth, is searching for an energetic and visionary president to lead and inspire into the future. This challenging position, new to this elementary school, requires a confident, experienced, and faith-filled leader who is a strategic thinker and planner, a successful fundraiser, and has exceptional communication and interpersonal skills. A successful candidate will understand and embrace the president-principal model of elementary school administration and be attentive to the Catholic identity and character of the school. Candidate must be a member in good standing of the Catholic faith. Additionally, he/she must demonstrate expertise in financial management, experience in institutional advancement, including marketing, public relations, and fundraising, and possess exceptional organizational skills. Applicants must also exhibit a strong business background, hold an academic degree, and demonstrate successful experience in areas closely related to the position. A masters degree is preferred. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. Preferred starting date is July 1. Interested and qualified candidates are asked to submit electronically (1) a letter of introduction, addressing the requirements/skills listed above; (2) résumé; (3) the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of five professional references; and (4) a statement addressing the value of today's Catholic elementary school, including its unique Catholic identity, to: Holy Trinity Catholic School Search, Catholic School Management, Inc., Attn: Jennifer C. Kensel, at [office@catholicsschoolmgmt.com](mailto:office@catholicsschoolmgmt.com).

### Catholic Charities Foster Parents

Catholic Charities Fort Worth is hiring foster parents for up to six foreign refugee teens. To qualify, you must not have any dependents and be willing to live at the Catholic Charities home. Visit <http://goo.gl/kpqqL> for more information.

### General Construction Services

General construction work/repairs inside and out including topsoil, sand, gravel, washed materials, driveways, concrete, backhoe, and tractor services. Custom mowing lots and acres. Call (817) 732-4083.



## Good Newsmaker

# Proud to serve God and country

*Catholic faith drives exemplary Tarleton State ROTC student Deriek Iglesias to achieve high calling*

**Story and Photos by Jerry Circelli / Correspondent**



Please enclose label with address change or inquiries concerning mail delivery of your North Texas Catholic. Thank you.

**ABOVE:** Cadet Second Lieutenant Deriek Iglesias is a Tarleton State University ROTC student committed to serving his country and living up to his Catholic heritage.

**T**hird in line to leap from the thundering hulk of a C-130 transport plane at 1,300 feet is not a comfortable place to be for a young college student with a fear of heights. But that's where Deriek Iglesias found himself last summer.

A devout Catholic and a committed U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) student at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Iglesias had all the religious background and technical training he needed to make this leap of faith. "I made the sign of the cross when we took off, said a prayer, and did what I was trained to do," Iglesias recalled.

The result was his first successful jump during U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Iglesias would repeat the feat four more times over the next few days to overcome his fear, complete his airborne training, and discover yet another way to appreciate life.

"It was really exhilarating and a real adrenaline rush. After the first jump, I couldn't wait to do it again."

Iglesias can now wear the coveted U.S. Army Parachutist Badge proudly on his uniform. It complements his other military accomplishments, including a Ranger Challenge patch for meeting rigorous physical tests and excelling at Army field competitions. Also on his uniform is the Leadership Excellence patch, symbolizing the responsibilities Iglesias has taken on as a Cadet Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army ROTC program. Several other decorations to his uniform symbolize his dedication to serving his country.

One patch that doesn't appear on Iglesias' uniform, but manifests itself in the form of moral and spiritual conviction, is that of being an active Roman Catholic.

"I am living my life as a Catholic," said the 22-year-old Iglesias. "Through all my experiences, I learn to have a great appreciation for life. I want to do God's work and make Him smile. I want to make my heavenly Father proud that I am living his values."

Iglesias embarked on his Catholic journey at an early age while living with his family in Hawaii. "My parents took me to church, and I had a strong desire to be a part of what was

happening on the altar," Iglesias recalled. "I was just drawn to it." So, at age 6, the youngster asked the Catholic priest at his parish if he could serve as an altar boy. "I was young, but they made an exception for me," Iglesias said of his first calling to serve the Church. "They even made me a custom cassock."

The son of a military father, Iglesias would move with his family to other states, but always kept his faith and maintained a passion to serve the Church.

One of Iglesias' biggest accomplishments came in his hometown of Killeen during his high school years, when he was involved in the Columbian Squires — the official youth organization of the Knights of Columbus. The Columbian Squires promotes the Catholic faith, service to others, and provides leadership training and moral guidance to young men between the ages of 10 and 18. To mark accomplishments along the way, the Squires organization offers an advancement program with five levels of achievement, culminating in the highest honor — Squire of the Body of Christ.

Not only did Iglesias progress through all five achievement levels with the Squires, excelling at serving his parish and community,

**SEE DERIEK IGLESIAS, P. 28**