

## Pledges pass 75 percent of goal at \$30.5 million All Things Possible Campaign continues to build momentum



With many parishes still preparing for upcoming pledge weekend events, the *All Things Possible* campaign for the Diocese of Fort Worth has already raised \$30.5 million dollars in pledges from a total of 9,384 households, according to campaign staff. The amount represents over 75 percent of the total goal of \$40 million dollars for the campaign.

"These exciting figures are a reflection of the enthusiasm and high levels of commitment that we have seen throughout the diocese at our parish receptions and other campaign events," said Don Phifer, general chairperson of the campaign. "We are seeing a tremendous response to our early spring pledge weekend efforts, with several of our rural and urban parishes quickly exceeding their goal."

This early success will lead to greater support of both diocesan projects and individual parish needs. Twenty-five percent of the funds a parish raises, up to their goal amount, is retained by the

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**T**hese exciting figures are a reflection of the enthusiasm and high levels of commitment that we have seen throughout the diocese at our parish receptions and other campaign events.'

— Don Phifer, general chairperson of the campaign.



In this file photo from 2007, Catholic author George Weigel speaks at the Atlanta Archdiocese's 12th annual Eucharistic Congress, at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta. (CNS photo/Michael Alexander, GEORGIA BULLETIN)

## Weigel says battle over nature, dignity of life part of U.S. culture war

By Ann Carey  
Catholic News Service  
NOTRE DAME, Ind. — The United States is currently engaged in a "great culture war" that involves "a battle over the nature and dignity of the human person," author and scholar George Weigel told participants at a pro-life conference organized by University of Notre Dame students.

On one side are those who say everything in the human condition is "plastic, malleable, changeable, improvable," he said.

On the other side are those who say moral truths are built into the world and into human beings that they can know by reason and which teach them how to live as individuals and

citizens, he said.

Weigel, who is a biographer of Pope John Paul II, delivered an address titled "Pro-life Catholics in President Obama's America" on the second day of the annual Notre Dame Right to Life Collegiate Conference April 9-10.

Other speakers were Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Bishops; Joan Lewis, Rome bureau chief for the Eternal Word Television Network; and Maureen Condic, associate professor of neurobiology and anatomy at the University of Utah's medical school and senior fellow at the Westchester Institute for Ethics & the Human Person.

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## New Missal will bring changes in words spoken at Mass, but diocese will ease the transition, prepare priests, ministers, and all Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Catholic dioceses across the United States and other English-speaking countries prepare to implement the changes that will come with the new translation of the English Roman Missal, the Diocese of Fort Worth plans to ease the transition for local Catholics, as well.

Deacon Don Warner, diocesan director of the Office of Worship, said that the Liturgical Institute from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois will offer a one-day workshop locally for clergy and parish liturgy directors on Oct. 2.

The time and location for this workshop will be announced at a later date. In addition to this workshop, the diocesan Office of Worship will offer workshops on the implementation of the new translation at the deanery level around the diocese. Participants in the deanery level workshops can then offer them in their parishes.

The new missal will not be used until it receives *recognitio* from the Holy See and new

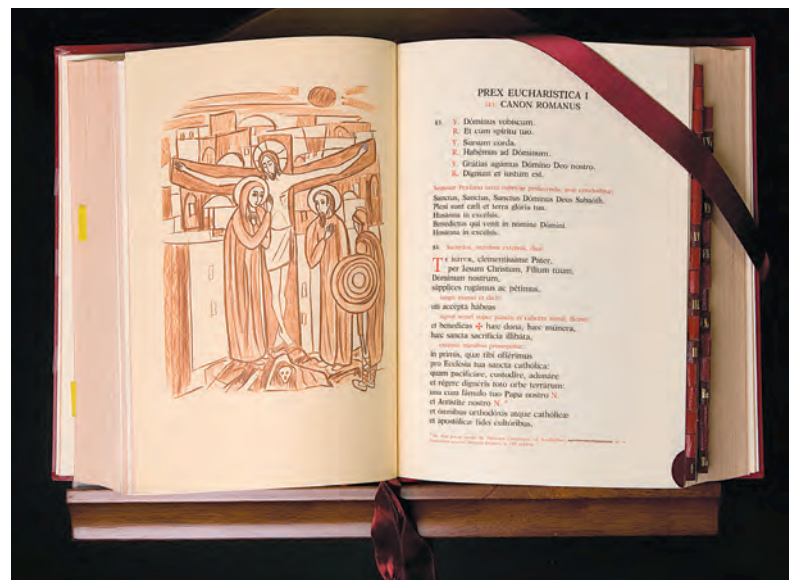
liturgical books are published. It is anticipated that *recognitio* will be given sometime this summer, and new liturgical books will be published by Advent 2011.

Dcn. Warner said the intent of the workshops is to help people have an understanding of the changes and the new language of the prayers.

"I think right now, the reception is mixed ... primarily because people haven't seen

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These are pages from the Latin version of the new Roman Missal issued by Pope John Paul II in 2002. The new English translation of the missal is awaiting final approval by the Vatican. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



# Recent coverage has distorted and left out much of the pope and the Church's response to sexual abuse crisis

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**A**s you may have been aware, there has been a lot of media



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

coverage regarding tragic sexual abuse cases that have unfortunately taken place in the Catholic Church over the past 40 years.

The recent coverage has been centered around some abuse cases that have surfaced in Europe that have supposedly implicated Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. I know from having spoken to some people here and elsewhere that this is a serious issue that is on the mind of many Catholics these days. As the Shepherd of the Diocese of Fort Worth, I would like to take this time to address this troubling issue.

First, we as members of the Church must acknowledge that the sin of sexual abuse by priests is a tragic and deeply troubling reality that has happened in the Church. We cannot ever minimize the immense harm that has been done by some priests that have not only deeply wounded the victims of abuse, but has caused grave scandal in the Church and throughout the world.

As Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, I have sat with the victims of abuse by priests. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I have seen the devastating and long-lasting damage that victims of sexual abuse by a priest and their families endure. I am always moved to express my deep sorrow for any sexual abuse the victims may have endured and suffered at the hands of a priest. I am moved at these moments to pray that healing and reconciliation can be achieved in their lives. One of my major concerns in all of this coverage is that it opens old wounds in individuals who have been sexually abused in the past and results in further suffering.

We as the Body of Christ must do all that we can to prevent this

*The Holy Father has been one of the most outspoken leaders within the Church against sexual abuse by priests, dating back to when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and served as the Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He assisted greatly in establishing legislation within the Church to help Bishops deal with priests who have abused children.*

kind of abuse from happening by anyone who is involved in or is in ministry within the Catholic Church. This is why our Diocese, over the past seven years, has focused an enormous amount of resources and time developing our Keeping Children Safe program to help those who are volunteers or in any type of ministry in the Church to be aware of the signs and evidence of abuse, so that children and young people can be protected from sexual abuse of any kind. This must be and will continue to be a major priority in the life and mission of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

At the same time, we as Catholics must see this sad chapter in our Church as an occasion to once again reaffirm the goodness of the Church and to be a positive witness to all through our own good witness and by being faithful to the Lord's call to holiness and charity. We must see this tragedy as a means of purification and take seriously the call to continuing conversion and the refusal to be mastered by sin in every aspect of our lives and vocations. During this Easter season, we do this at every Sunday Mass when we renew our baptismal vows and promise with the help of God's grace to reject Satan and sin and to live our lives with great faith, hope, and love.

Without diminishing the gravity and suffering of victims, the avalanche of news stories of late leaves an impression that the sexual abuse of children by priests is a growing problem. The sexual abuse cases that are the central focus of articles occurred decades ago. The Catholic Bishops of the United States have worked diligently to not only understand the reasons behind the sexual abuse cases, but also to see that this does not and cannot conti-

nue. In the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* adopted in a Dallas meeting in 2002, U.S. bishops said "we have acknowledged our mistakes and our roles in that suffering, and we apologize and take responsibility again for too often failing victims and the Catholic people in the past. From the depths of our hearts, we bishops express great sorrow and profound regret for what the Catholic people have endured." In addition, an annual audit conducted by outside experts on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, categorically documents that the problem of sexual abuse of children by priests is not expanding. Rather, the assertive actions of the Catholic Bishops of the United States show that we have made great strides in prevention through vigorous screening of each and every priest, employee, and volunteer of a diocese.

Finally, recent news reports that suggest that Pope Benedict XVI is implicated in allowing or tolerating sexual abuse by priests, are skewed and selectively reported. The Holy Father has been one of the most outspoken leaders within the Church against sexual abuse by priests, dating back to when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and served as the Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He assisted greatly in establishing legislation within the Church to help Bishops deal with priests who have abused children. For example, Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who was the president of the USCCB when the sexual abuse cases surfaced in 2002, stated in a recent interview that Cardinal Ratzinger was a very strong supporter of strong action against any form of sexual abuse. He states:

"In the course of my three years as president [of the United States

Conference of Catholic Bishops], I made 13 different trips to Rome, and I almost always had a private meeting with Cardinal Ratzinger. H[is] was, without a doubt, the most supportive voice at the table, and [he] always seemed to possess the greatest comprehension of the seriousness and the significance of reacting and responding with a strong action."

Since becoming pope, Benedict has greatly reached out to and met with victims of sexual abuse including those here in the United States during his visit in 2007. Recently, he addressed the bishops of Ireland in a strongly worded statement:

*The wounds caused by such acts run deep, and it is an urgent task to rebuild confidence and trust where these have been damaged. In your continuing efforts to deal effectively with this problem, it is important to establish the truth of what happened in the past, to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent it from occurring again, to ensure that the principles of justice are fully respected and, above all, to bring healing to the victims and to all those affected by these egregious crimes.*

The Holy Father has charged every Catholic Bishop with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of our young people and to deal swiftly with each and every credible allegation. Pope Benedict not only admonishes Bishops to maintain a safe environment, but also to address past transgressions by priests with minors, most of which occurred many, many years ago.

Indeed, these days are troubling for us as Catholics, but we must move forward, acknowledging the mistakes and sins of the past, make amends, and move forward with a firm conviction to more fully and vibrantly live our Catholic Faith so that we may be a positive and effective witness to the world and culture around us.

In conclusion, I ask that you please keep in prayer all of the victims of sexual abuse by anyone, that they may experience the healing presence of Christ in their lives. I also ask, especially during this Year of the Priest, that you pray for all of our priests and seminarians that the Lord will continue to strengthen them in his grace that they may all be faithful and servants to the Body of Christ and clearly be the light of Christ to us all.

*+ Kevin W. Vann*

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

## Vocations / International

### Pope: God's loving plan greater than life's tragedies

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Do not fear life's storms and disasters because God's loving plan is greater than any tragedy, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In speaking about his recent trip to Malta, the pope also recalled his emotional meeting April 18 with eight men who suffered abuse as minors by clergy.

"I wanted to meet with some people — victims of abuse by some members of clergy," the pope told some 15,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for his general audience April 21.

"I shared in their suffering and, with emotion, I prayed with them, assuring action on behalf of the Church," he said.

The pope traveled to Malta April 17-18 to commemorate the 1,950th anniversary of St. Paul's shipwreck on the island, which heralded in the beginnings of Christianity in Malta.

Ever since St. Paul's arrival, Malta has held fast to its Catholic roots, and the pope praised the Mediterranean nation for being faithful to the Gospel for the past two millennia.

It is not always easy for a country to draw inspiration from the Gospel that will help them address complicated, modern-day challenges, he said.

However, the people of Malta have "a Christian vision of life" when they respond to new challenges — for example, he said, the country has staunchly main-

tained its respect for the unborn and the sanctity of marriage by not allowing the legalization of abortion or divorce.

He recalled his meeting with young people April 18, which was "a moment of deep and intense dialogue."

After the youths presented their hopes, doubts, and worries, the pope offered St. Paul as an example of a youth who experienced "a radical transformation after his encounter with the risen Christ," he said.

Young people around the world are called to discover the beauty of God's love and the mystery of Christ's cross, and to be victorious over the trials and tribulations in their own lives, said the pope.

He said the message he brought to Malta was that people should "not be afraid of the storms of life, even less its shipwrecks, because God's loving plan is even greater than storms and shipwrecks."

He also reminded people of the problem of immigration in Malta, which must deal with large numbers of people who often are fleeing poverty, violence, and persecution.

The humanitarian, political, and legal problems caused by a large influx of immigrants on a tiny island "do not have easy solutions," he said. But solutions must be "sought with perseverance and tenacity" while working together with international organizations and initiatives, he said.

*Responding  
to God's Call*

*Our local college kids need interaction and support to help them*

### *Keep and grow in faith*

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

**O**ur Catholic students at our local colleges and universities need much more support than they are getting from their Church. You and I must do more! Their need of the Church is not in the form of money, rather, I believe their need is to have a sense that they are welcomed, supported, and important in the eyes of the Church.

A good example of mutual support of Catholic students and local parishes that I noticed while I was a campus chaplain in Denton is the relationship the University of North Texas campus ministry has with the two local parishes — Immaculate Conception and St. Mark's. About five years ago, several of the male students involved in the "C" — the Catholic Campus Center — decided to join up with the Knights of Columbus council at St. Mark's as they encountered needs at the center beyond their own resources. They were in dire hope the Knights could help.

They were not disappointed! Yes, at first there were many needs financially to update and repair this, that, or the other, but more importantly, the Knights began to see the real needs of the students that went beyond building repairs and became more involved with these students in helping provide spiritual fatherhood and positive Catholic role models. Today, 50 UNT male students have joined up with

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

*If we don't support them, they will find a group of people that will, and it may not even be Christian! If, on the other hand, we demonstrate our great desire to support them, give them a place they can call home, let them grow in their faith through the sharing of our faith, then we will have a new generation of Catholics that will live the faith greater than our grandparents.*

the Knights of Columbus and now have their own council on campus with great support at their wings from both local parish KC councils in Denton.

The same thing has now started this semester at UNT and Texas Woman's University for the Catholic women students with the support of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Keep up the good work! There is much more to do! We need to replicate this all over our diocese. I hear the Catholic students at the University of Texas at Arlington are also forming an alliance with the local Knights of Columbus. Way to go!

Another dynamic between UNT Catholic students and the local parishes of Denton is the tremendous help that the Catholic students give to the parishes in the form of ministry, with music ministry and youth ministry being most notable.

This trend is also part of the Catholic Campus Ministry at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls where the Catholic students regularly organize and lead confirmation retreats for area high-schoolers. Imagine how encouraged high school teenagers become when Catholic college students are helping lead their youth group. What? You mean, I can be Catholic and proud of it? You mean, college students are proud to be Catholic? It is easy to see how incredibly infectious all this can be. The high school students are more fulfilled and excited about their faith when they constantly hear live testimonies of the faith journeys and struggles

given by their peers that they look up to — the Catholic college students who volunteer their time in youth ministry.

We have many local colleges where the Catholic students have no place to call home, no local Newman Center where they can drop by for a few hours between classes to gather, study, pray, play, or eat. We owe it to them to see to it that they know their Catholic Church cares for them and is supporting their vocation to remain Catholic!

The biggest concern I hear is about whether the next generation of Catholics will carry on the faith. I think you and I know the answer to that. If we don't support them, they will find a group of people that will, and it may not even be Christian! If, on the other hand, we demonstrate our great desire to support them, give them a place they can call home, let them grow in their faith through the sharing of our faith, then we will have a new generation of Catholics that will live the faith greater than our grandparents.

We heard a few weeks ago in the Sunday Gospel, Jesus appeared to the apostles and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, now I send you." What better way to show Jesus how much we appreciate his sacrifice than by giving our life over to his will and saying, "Here I am Lord, send me to help out college kids!"

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

North  
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Publisher:

Bishop Kevin W. Vann

Editor: Jeff Hensley

Associate Editor: Tony Gutiérrez

Editorial Assistant: Juan Guajardo

Administrative Assistant: Judy Russeau

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

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

## Film 'You Shall Believe...' will be presented at San Mateo

"You Shall Believe..." a documentary film on the Eucharist will be presented at San Mateo Mission in English and Spanish. The English presentation will be offered Sunday, May 2 and Sunday, May 23, and the Spanish presentation will be offered Sunday, May 16. All sessions will begin at 5 p.m. Discussion time with Australian journalists Ron Tesoriero and Mike Willesee will follow the film.

Mike, a senior investigative journalist, and Ron, a lawyer, have been researching claimed supernatural events in the Catholic Church for a number of years. Their work became the basis for the making of the television program broadcast internationally on the Fox network in 1999, "Signs from God. Science Tests Faith." They are currently researching "the blood of Christ" through science and through history. What they have to say will touch the hearts and minds of all that hear them, according to program materials.

For more information and to make a reservation, visit the Web site at [www.youshallbelieve.com](http://www.youshallbelieve.com). San Mateo Mission is located at 3316 Lovell Ave., Fort Worth.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend to be offered in June

Worldwide Marriage Encounter will host a Marriage Encounter weekend June 11-13. "Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together — a time to share their feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys, and frustrations — and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person they have chosen to live with for the rest of their life," according to promotional material. The emphasis of Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. It's not a retreat, marriage clinic, or group sensitivity. It's an approach aimed at revitalizing marriage.

To learn more about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, visit the Web site [www.dfwme.org](http://www.dfwme.org). To register for a weekend, call Angelo and Shanna Nasche at (972) 317-2400 or e-mail [register@dfwme.org](mailto:register@dfwme.org).

## Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth 2009/10 directory

The 2009/10 Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth directory is currently available for purchase. The cost for each directory is \$15. Send a check, payable to *North Texas Catholic*, to Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108, along with mailing address.

For more information, contact Judy Russeau at (817) 560-2452 ext. 308.

## Natural Family Planning class to be offered at two locations

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

To register for a course starting May 23 at 2 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Drive, North Richland Hills, contact Andrew and Samantha Mudd at (817) 284-5117. To register for a course starting May 23 at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 Ninth St., Wichita Falls, contact Jacob and Lauren Morath at (940) 544-2515. Visit [www.ccldfw.org](http://www.ccldfw.org) for more class dates and information.

## Eagle Classic Golf Tournament will be held May 14

The eighth annual Eagle Classic Golf Tournament benefiting St. John the Apostle School will be held Friday, May 14, at Iron Horse Golf Course, 6200 Skylark Circle in North Richland Hills. Check-in time for the tournament will be 11:30 a.m. and tee-off time will be 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$100 per player and includes golf cart, goodie bag, bucket of balls, banquet, and awards ceremony. Sponsorship levels are also available. Non-players are invited to attend the dinner and awards ceremony for \$10 per person.

Participants may register online at [www.stjs.org/golf.htm](http://www.stjs.org/golf.htm) or by contacting Sandra Gonzalez at [golf@stjs.org](mailto:golf@stjs.org) or (817) 235-6552.

## Annual Vocation Awareness Program will be held June 25-27

The 2010 Vocation Awareness Program will be held June 25-27 at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Dr., Irving. The weekend is open to all individuals who are Catholic, 18 to 40 years of age, and have an interest in learning about the ministry as a priest, brother, or sister.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 105 or [kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org](mailto:kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org), or visit <http://www.vapinfo.org>.

# People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth

## NTC publication deadlines

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

Submit items to [jrusseau@fwdioc.org](mailto:jrusseau@fwdioc.org). Items for the May 7 issue must be received by noon on April 28. Items for the May 21 issue must be received by noon on May 12.

## St. Paul the Apostle Parish to host Divorce Care series

St. Paul the Apostle Parish, 5508 Black Oak Ln., Fort Worth, is offering a Divorce Care Series with the addition of a companion series Divorce Care for Kids (DC4K) to run with it. The series, distributed by Church Initiative, will begin Thursday April 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will be held every Thursday evening through July 22. Facilitators and helpers in both programs have been through the divorce process themselves, have been trained in the program, and have attended the "Keeping Children Safe" program. The content for each session is age appropriate. DC4K is geared to children five-12 years of age, and the adult series is geared for those age 13 and older.

Deacon Ron Aziere emphasizes, "Although this program is a scripture-based program, it is not a Bible study. The series offers personal and professional input from professionals in pastoral care, entertainment, psychology, and social services to help the participant focus on the job of healing."

There is no cost for this series. Pre-registration is preferred. Call the parish office at (817) 738-9925, leave a name and number; a team member will return the call.

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

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller; at 1301 Paxton Ave. (Padre Pio House) in Arlington; and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton at 2255 Bonnie Brae St.

For additional information, visit the Web site at [www.sampg.com](http://www.sampg.com), or e-mail to Mark at [seamspurity@yahoo.com](mailto:seamspurity@yahoo.com).

## Fr. Hector Medina to speak at Magnificat breakfast May 22

Father Hector Medina, a composer and the pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Arlington, will be the keynote speaker during Magnificat's Spring prayer breakfast Saturday, May 22. In addition to the talk, this gathering will focus on the feast of Pentecost. The breakfast, sponsored by the Grapevine chapter in North Texas, will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Hwy. 121, Lewisville.

Fr. Medina was ordained a priest on June 23, 1984, has served in a number of parishes in the Fort Worth area, and is a composer with four songs published by Oregon Catholic Press, *Canto de Despedida*, *Aleluya*, *Al Paraiso*, and *Bajo la Sombra*. Fr. Medina studied Canon Law at Catholic University of America and has worked with the Marriage Tribunal office for the Diocese of Fort Worth. The topic of his speech for the breakfast will be "Our Relationship With Jesus." The breakfast will also offer periods of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and confession.

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

For additional information on the Grapevine chapter of Magnificat, look under the events calendar and resources section of the Fort Worth diocesan Web site, at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

Upcoming speakers include Robert Abel, author of *The Catholic Warrior*. He will be the featured guest at a special breakfast open to men on Sept. 18.

## Engaged Encounter to be offered at CRC May 14-16

The next Engaged Encounter weekend will be offered May 14-16 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4305 Bridge St., Fort Worth. The weekend retreat is designed to help couples examine the life long commitment they are making to one another and to better understand the rich meaning of Christian marriage.

The weekend is presented by a team of married couples and a chaplain. It lasts from Friday evening to around noon on Sunday. Throughout the weekend, the presenting team will give a series of talks. There will be time following each talk for personal reflection. Each couple will also have an opportunity to share ideas, dreams, feelings, and hopes with each other.

To register, contact Jeri Edmunds at (817) 346-9320. Registration forms are available online at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) under Family Life, Engaged Encounter.

## Diocesan Singles Retreat to be held in May

The Diocesan Singles Retreat will be held May 7, 8, and 9 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. The retreat "Walking with Jesus" will begin Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Saturday will include a day of sharing and interactive sessions.

The weekend is designed to "build your spirit and energy, welcoming God into your current life," according to promotional materials. There will be a break Saturday evening for those not wishing to stay for Sunday.

The cost of the weekend retreat is \$70 if paid in advance by April 22 and \$80 after. Participants are asked to bring linens for a twin bed, a Bible, note pad, walking shoes, and snacks to share. Financial assistance is available if needed. For more information, contact Susan at (817) 346-8023.

## St. John Parish to offer weekly summer camp

St. John the Apostle Parish will offer a weekly summer camp June 1 to Aug. 27 for children ages one through eighth grade. The camp will be available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration may be made for the entire summer or specific weeks. In addition, a summer Parents Day Out program will be offered from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays only or Tuesdays and Thursdays for children ages one through five years. Registrations are also being accepted for the fall sessions.

St. John's is located at 7341 Glenview Dr. in North Richland Hills. For more information call (817) 595-2654.

## St. Ann Parish to hold Spring festival May 2

St. Ann Parish, 100 S.W. Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, will hold its annual Spring festival Sunday, May 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. The parking lot of St. Ann Church will be transformed into a festival for all ages with booths featuring Mexican, and Cajun foods, as well as barbecue. There will be other carnival food available and homemade pastries in the Pastry Shoppe. Games and events for the children will be available all afternoon, including favorites for the smaller children, such as duck ponds, grab bags, and a mini train ride. Two auctions will be operating throughout the day, one indoor and one in the parking lot.

Entertainment will start at noon in the Pavilion with the Trotter-Anderson Band featuring Justin Wilson on the steel guitar. Other performers will include HEB ballroom dancers, Frances Lee Studio dancers, followed by Studio C Dancers. A choral performance rounds out the talent with Lucy Carlton and members of the St. Ann choir.

All are invited and remote parking will be available at Taylor Elementary, 400 N.E. Alsbury Blvd. and at Crestmont Baptist Church, 640 N.W. Tarrant Ave., with transportation to and from the parking lot at posted hours. All proceeds will benefit the building fund for new facilities at St. Ann. Tickets are available on site. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 295-5621.

## Silent weekend retreat to be offered at Montserrat May 13-16

All are invited to attend the Contemplative Outreach's annual Four-Day Silent retreat to be held May 13-16 at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, 600 North Shady Shore, Dallas. Father William Fickel, SSS from Cleveland will be the retreat leader.

This retreat is designed for those interested in deepening their spiritual practice in an atmosphere of silence, solitude, and community. Registration form and details are available online at [www.CellOfPeace.com](http://www.CellOfPeace.com) or e-mail, to [CPDallas@CellOfPeace.com](mailto:CPDallas@CellOfPeace.com), or call (972) 722-6029. Registration deadline is April 30.

## Nolan's Big Band Jazz Dance Revue to be held May 1

The Nolan Catholic High School Jazz Band invites all to its annual Big Band Jazz Dance Revue Saturday, May 1 from 7 to 10 p.m. The event will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. Admission is \$10 per person. Appetizers will be available and drinks will be sold for \$1. For more information, contact Mike Alonso at (214) 435-0022.

## Diocesan

Despite having to move indoors because of rain, the Good Friday Stations of the Cross liturgy at St. Patrick Cathedral allowed North Texas Catholics to reverently meditate on the

# Passion of our Lord

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

Rain showers poured in downtown Fort Worth on Good Friday, April 2, setting an appropriate tone to remember the Passion of the Lord. The weather forced the annual Stations of the Cross liturgy to be moved from its scheduled site on Lancaster Avenue to St. Patrick Cathedral.

The annual Good Friday observance, led by Bishop Kevin Vann, is traditionally held outdoors in downtown Fort Worth as a public witness to the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

"The angels are crying," explained Knight of Columbus Vic Stevens to a local parishioner when the liturgy was moved inside. Although the rain forced a change in plans, it took nothing away from the solemnity and significance of the worship service.

Angelina Corso of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller was looking forward to experiencing the Stations of the Cross in an outdoor setting but was not disappointed by the turn of events.

"It's especially important for young people," said the college student who plans to attend Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. "We have so much suffering and trials, and being here is the biggest comfort in the world," she said. "Christ died for us and He knows what we feel. If we lose ourselves and gain comfort from Him, it will be a rewarding experience."

Using a version of the Stations of the Cross introduced by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991, Bishop Vann led the gathering in prayer. Designed to encourage deeper reflection, the adaptation features a short reading from Gospel narratives by Mark, Luke, and John, a brief



**LEFT:** Bishop Kevin Vann leads the diocesan Stations of the Cross liturgy at St. Patrick Cathedral. The liturgy, which is normally held in downtown Fort Worth was moved inside because of the rain.

**BELOW:** Lori Shaefer (FAR LEFT) and her friend, Jamie Lewis, brought their children (LEFT TO RIGHT) Claire Lewis, Sam Shaefer, Cade Lewis, and Campbell Shaefer, to participate in the annual liturgy.

reflection, and a prayer response from selected Psalms.

At the start of the service, Bishop Vann asked the congregation to remember the late pontiff.

"Today is the fifth anniversary of his death," he explained. "As we remember that, we should give thanks for the tremendous impact of his ministry as bishop of Rome and shepherding the universal church for 27 years."

As the bishop processed down the aisles of the cathedral stopping at each carved image of Christ's suffering affixed to the walls, members of the Knights of Columbus General Worth Assembly also held up hand-drawn artwork of the Passion reserved for the outdoor service.

Among the worshippers at the Stations of the Cross was Jamie Lewis who brought her children and a non-Catholic friend, Lori Schaefer, to the morning service. Both mothers had their children excused from public school classes, so

they could observe Good Friday properly.

"They've never done anything like this, so I wanted them to experience it," said Lewis, a St. Andrew parishioner. "I want them to hear the story of Jesus' suffering and focus on that instead of schoolwork. That's really all that matters."

Lewis, who was raised Catholic and remembers attending Stations of the Cross devotions as a child, appreciates the biblical approach offered by the updated version.

"I like all the Scripture references and the reflections. It really drives the message home," she added. "It ties into our lives and we can see ourselves in the story."

Schaefer, who belongs to a Bible church, said the story of the Passion unites Christians regardless of denomination.

"The service just followed the Bible and that's God's word," she said. "It's all true. It doesn't matter what denomination you are. We all belong to the family of God."



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Diocesan

# Serra Club announces annual poster contest winners

**W**inners in the Serra Club 2010 Poster Contest were honored at an awards ceremony Sunday, April 11 at the diocesan Catholic Center in Fort Worth.

Representing parish religious education programs and Catholic schools from across the diocese, students in grades one through eight created art works expressing the theme of this year's contest, "The Year for Priests." Monsignor Joe Schumacher, former vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth, presented the awards to the young artists, standing in for Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid in congratulating the students and their parents.

"We suggested to the parish catechists and the Catholic schoolteachers

that they share the passage from Hebrews 5:6 with the children," explained Deacon Lynn Sowers, the director of the contest. "That passage proclaims, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.' We invited the contest participants to reflect upon that passage and upon the character of the priest Melchizedek, who appears in both the Old Testament and the New Testament in Scripture. We were pleased that we had an excellent response to this year's contest, with several participants at each grade level."

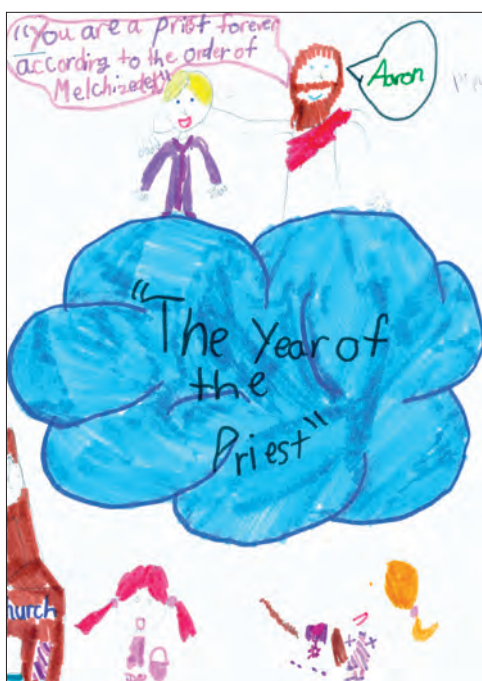
The first place winner for each grade level received a \$50 prize; second and third place winners received a hand-crafted religious pendant, created by local artist Janet Rodriguez of Hart Street Pottery and donated by Thompson's Harveson and Cole Funeral Home in Fort Worth.

"The Serra Club devotes its efforts to promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life," said Dcn. Sowers. "We sponsor this contest each year in the hope that seeds will be planted in the formative years of these young students."

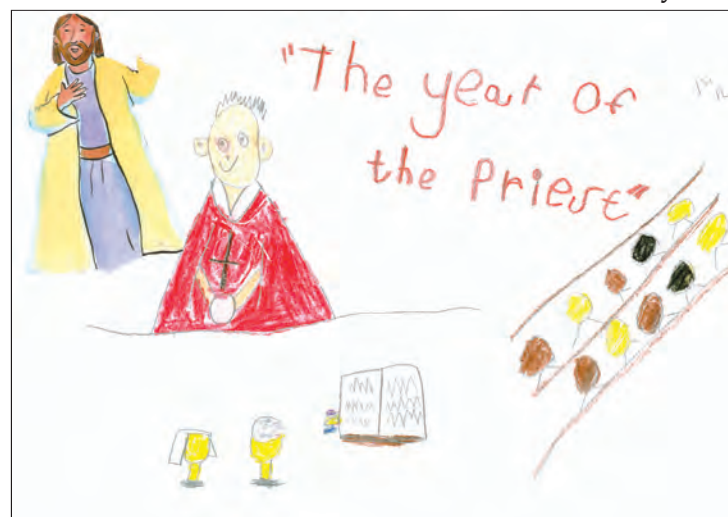
Members of the Serra Club of Fort Worth, a chapter of the International Serra Club, work to support and encourage the call to the ordained priesthood and religious life. For more information about the USA Council of Serra International, visit the Web site at [www.serraus.org](http://www.serraus.org). For more information about the Fort Worth chapter's annual poster contest, contact Deacon Lynn Sowers at St. Peter Church in White Settlement at (817) 246-3622.



Msgr. Joe Schumacher poses with the Serra poster contest winners at the Catholic Center, April 11.



MacKenzie Wolf — 2nd grade  
St. Mary's, Windthorst



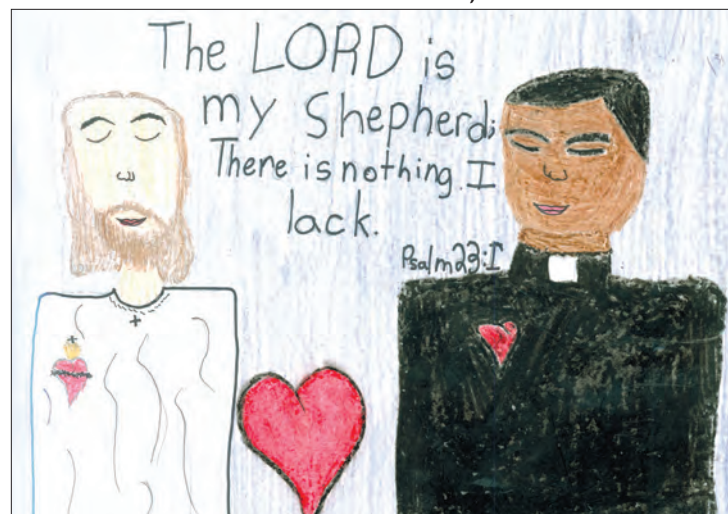
Ricardo Aleman, Jr. — 1st grade  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Keller



Elizabeth Weinzapfel — 7th grade  
Sacred Heart, Muenster



Thy Hoang — 8th grade  
Christ the King, Fort Worth



Olivia Johnson — 5th grade  
Immaculate Conception, Denton



Grant Schroeder — 6th grade  
Holy Rosary, Arlington



Julia Plocica — 4th grade  
Holy Family, Fort Worth



Desere Shirinian — 3rd grade  
Holy Family, Fort Worth

## Diocesan

# Sister Mary Rose Lopresto, SSMN, 1927-2010

Sister Mary Rose Lopresto, a Sister of St. Mary of Namur, died at Our Lady of Victory Center in Fort Worth March 31, after a brief illness. A vigil service was held Easter Sunday at Our Lady of Victory Center, and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 5 at OLV. Interment was at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Sr. Mary Rose, the daughter of Anthony S. Lopresto and Ann Josephine DeCaro Lopresto, was born in Dallas July 7, 1927. A member of St. Edward Church in Dallas, she entered the congregation Feb. 3, 1946. She earned an undergraduate degree in art from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio in 1959 and a Master of Arts degree in painting from Texas Woman's University in 1976.

Sister Mary Rose taught in Catholic elementary schools of the Sisters of St. Mary in Beaumont,

Fort Worth, Arlington, Dickinson, Dallas, and Denison, as well as in Porterville, California. Her teaching ministry within the Diocese of Fort Worth included time at St. Ignatius Academy, Fort Worth; Our Lady of Victory School, Fort Worth; and St. Maria Goretti School in Arlington. Following her years of classroom teaching, she taught adult art lessons and literacy courses in Dallas.

Sr. Mary Rose returned to Dallas in 1996 to care for her mother and sister, and the three women were active members of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, where they attended daily Mass and were also involved in Scripture study, prayer groups, and book study groups.

"Sister was the most gracious, humble person, with so many talents and gifts but tremendous humility, as well," recalled her close

friend Kim Campese, administrative assistant to St. Thomas pastor Father John LiBone. With a deep devotion to the Divine Mercy of Jesus, and her gentle spirit, "Sister was an example to us all," said Campese. "She lived very simply and was absolutely unattached to any material possessions, although she dearly loved her dog Sunday, and, later, after Sunday died, her little dog Souci. She made a tremendous impression upon the people of the parish, many of whom traveled to Fort Worth for her funeral. She will be very much missed."

Sr. Mary Rose is survived by a cousin, Jimmie Louise Ham of Dallas; the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur; and many friends in Dallas. Memorial gifts in her honor may be sent to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, 909 W. Shaw St., Fort Worth, Texas, 76110.



Sr. Mary Rose is pictured with her dog, Sunday. (Photo courtesy of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur)

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### Diocesan Deaf Community volunteers at St. John Outreach Center for Lenten service project



Members of the Deaf Community gathered at St. John the Apostle's Outreach Center on March 27 to help prepare items to be given to clients in need of food and other outreach services. This activity was part of the Deaf Community's commitment to pray, fast, and help others during the Lenten Season. Colleen Cargile, director of the Center, gave the volunteers a tour of the department, helping them to better understand exactly what the department does to help those in need in the community as well as those in their sister community in Patzun, Guatemala.

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# St. Mary parishioners process live Stations of the Cross up Hemphill Street on Good Friday

Story and Photos by  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

A long, grieving procession of the faithful walked solemnly up Hemphill Street in Fort Worth at midday on Good Friday.

Serious-faced guards cracked their whips, women mourned, and passers-by received a realistic rendition of what it might have been like to walk with Jesus through his Passion.

"It was not just an act," said Father David Bristow, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption, "it was a re-presentation. The people were not acting; they were reliving the Passion of Our Lord. It reminds me of the re-presentation of the Seder meal — it is not just reenacting something, it is re-presenting it. And it is similar to re-presenting the Lord in the Eucharist every Sunday. That's as real as it gets."

St. Mary's Way of the Cross has been a long-standing annual custom at the parish, according to Fr. Bristow, with the past five years' events planned and chaired by parishioner Lupita Gonzalez. For years the Passion and death have been produced only in Spanish, but this year the narrative was bilingual. Martha Galvan read the story over a loudspeaker from the truck that led the procession, and Francisco Lopez led the singing.

"It reduces me to tears every year," Fr. Bristow said. "What really touches me is the condemnation. The cynical, self-serving condemnation of an innocent man, for the purposes of those who have power over him."

Approximately 150 people participated in this year's walk, which began at the original Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish building, on Fort Worth's South

Side, and ended three miles later in a vacant lot on the St. Mary property. There, Jesus, portrayed by Hermelino Sanchez, and two others, played by Jose Luis Gonzalez and Osvando Perez, hung on wooden crosses until Jesus' death.

When the three were on the crosses, Deacon Hector Salva spoke to the crowds, in English and Spanish, on the subject of

forgiveness.

The procession and crucifixion concluded after three hours, at which time Jesus' body was taken down and gently carried off by six of the guards who formerly had flogged him.

"I feel sad and I cry at the crucifixion," Lupe Gonzalez said. "I remember Jesus died for us."

Organizing the Way of the Cross is only part of what Lupe

Gonzalez does for the parish.

She also is active in all three prayer groups who participate in the Good Friday event. She is president of Un Pueblo de Dios, who worked on the procession, vice president of the Guadalupanas, who prepared food for the entire crowd for after the play, and she participates in the parish's Ultreya group, whose members helped with traffic and distributed water to people in the crowds.

Sara Drummond, a friend of Lupe Gonzalez, attended the Way of the Cross, although she is neither a parishioner nor a Catholic. She said the event was meaningful because, "We have no idea how the image of us walking on Hemphill must have affected people. It was a way to witness and to stand up for Jesus."

"Even the children and teens giving out water to strangers," Drummond said, "how many times has Jesus told us to do that? I hope the teens know what a great witness they were."

The man who played Jesus has done so for five years, and wishes to endure the pain, to carry the cross, to be beaten with the ropes Lupe Gonzalez said. He and his wife pray for a month before Good Friday, and before the service begins they go to a quiet place together and pray some more.

"I pray too," Lupe said, "and ask the people to pray for me and for Fr. David. This is a big, big responsibility. Many work on it, and Jesus is the principal reason. He is the pinnacle of our lives."



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP** • Hermelino Sanchez, portraying Jesus, carries the cross through South Fort Worth. • Parishioner Juan Jose Vasquez portrays a soldier kneeling after piercing Jesus in the side. • A group of St. Mary parishioners portray the weeping women of Jerusalem. • A crowd follows the Stations of the Cross up Hemphill Street, culminating at St. Mary of the Assumption.

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## Diocesan

### New principal named at St. Andrew School

Charles Llewellyn has been named principal of St. Andrew School in Fort Worth. He succeeds Janet Camarillo, who has served as interim principal since October.

Llewellyn earned an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Texas at Arlington and a graduate degree in education from Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

Since 2006, he has served as assistant principal at Hillwood Middle School in the Keller ISD.

Prior to that, he taught social studies at Haltom High School in the Birdville ISD.

A native of Fort Worth and a graduate of St. Rita School in Fort Worth, Llewellyn is active as a volunteer at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. He participates in youth and young adult ministries, in the parish Men's Club, and in the *Why Catholic?* adult religious education program. He will begin his service at St. Andrew School July 1.



Charles Llewellyn

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Parish Name	Parish Location	Latin America Jan 2009	Latin America Jan 2010
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Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	61.00	40.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	1,245.65	1,337.55
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	3,078.96	4,104.84
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,623.27	3,035.90
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,881.00	1,632.50
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	377.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	576.00	900.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	171.00	925.26
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,575.00	1,896.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	920.00	672.00
St. Michael	Bedford	2,266.00	1,877.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	130.00	90.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	297.31	365.94
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	529.62	536.42
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	435.19	280.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,391.00	1,330.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	2,444.62	3,284.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	112.75	57.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	1,011.01	0.00
Holy Angels	Clifton	0.00	128.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	3,264.50	4,361.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	1,137.61	1,332.29
Sacred Heart	Comanche	180.00	423.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	64.00	59.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	795.38	922.37
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	50.00	190.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	729.00	1,122.00
St. Mark	Denton	2,382.57	2,488.46
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St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	81.00	117.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
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Christ the King	Fort Worth	0.00	695.00
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Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	0.00	486.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,017.44	1,396.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	1,318.00	1,699.13
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,791.50	3,118.00
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San Mateo	Fort Worth	729.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	3,951.85	2,334.00
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St. Paul	Fort Worth	1,038.10	1,066.45
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St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,917.00	4,082.25
Santa Rosa	Knox City	114.00	164.33
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Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	0.00	17.00
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St. Theresa	Oney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	150.50	173.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	767.45	772.65
St. Mary	Quanah	132.00	162.00
St. Rita	Ranger	79.00	75.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	332.00	427.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	59.00	88.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	82.00	160.00
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St. John	Strawn	119.00	57.00
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St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,645.00	2,086.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	528.00	572.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	1,182.35	1,637.09
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	716.31	600.37
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	758.00	699.00
St. Mary	Windhorst	629.26	501.25

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# Carmelite Auxiliary luncheon and fashion show raises \$20,000 for Carmelite Sisters



Story and Photos by  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

Supporters who attended the Carmelite Auxiliary's 25th Annual Divine Affair Luncheon were in for a double-header.

They watched a fashion show, where members, children, and even grandchildren were models. But they also saw a fashion show of hats, worn by master of ceremonies Chris Hull, DO, whose vast collection of headgear is legendary in Fort Worth, and in his sports medicine office.

**LEFT:** Ann Palagi and her daughter Giselle walk down the runway during the Carmelite Auxiliary's luncheon and fashion show. Ann's mother, Sheila is a long-time member of the auxiliary and supporter of the Carmelites.

*"We are a vital part of their [the Carmelite Sisters] support, and they rely on us and pray for us. And we need all the prayers!"*

**— Karen Hull  
Carmelite Auxiliary  
president-elect**

This year Dr. Hull wore an assortment of hats of religious significance, and as he began the auction he said, "The bishop has done this in years past and he couldn't be here today. He asked me to wear his hat. So I am wearing the miter of the office of bishop, cardinal, and pope.

"This is a special miter that was made for me and I added the symbol of Mary to the front," Dr. Hull said, indicating the fleur de lis embroidery. "Of course it is also the symbol of the New Orleans Saints."

This year's fashion show/auction played to a crowd of about 105, said Karen Hull, Carmelite Auxiliary president-elect, who will be inducted into the office of president this spring. The event, she said, would provide a check for \$20,000 to be presented to the nuns.

Thanks to a group of members who expanded the organization's database, Karen said, a much larger mailing was sent out this spring, bringing in higher "angel donations" for the year.

The nuns receive no support from outside their small community, Karen said, except for donations, and sales of the products, such as stationary and cards, they produce in the convent. "I think our role with them in the community is very important.

"We are a vital part of their support, and they rely on us and pray for us. And we need all the prayers!"

"The men and women in the auxiliary think this is the best cause," Karen Hull said, "and are very inspired by these women who go into the cloister to pray for us.

"Keeping their community in our community is essential."



Dr. Chris Hull served as master of ceremonies for the luncheon. Dr. Hull is known for his large collection of hats, such as a bishop's miter made specially for him (above).



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## is it I, Lord?

If you're single, Catholic, 18 to 40 and have an interest in learning about the ministry as a priest, brother or sister, join other men and women seeking similar answers at the 2010 Vocation Awareness Program. The event will be held at Holy Trinity Seminary, June 25 - 27. Pre-registration required.

For questions contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, Director of Vocations, Fort Worth Diocese at 817-560-3300, ext. 105, or email [kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org](mailto:kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org). Apply online or for additional information visit <http://www.vapinfo.org>.

Sponsored by the Serra Clubs and Diocesan Vocation Offices of Dallas Fort Worth.

## Diocesan



Organizers expected 400 women, but instead received more than 1,400 at the first Congress for Women March 13.

## Diocese-wide retreat brings 1,400 women closer to Christ

Story and Photos by  
Juan Guajardo  
Editorial Assistant

**W**hen Father Valdemar González stepped into Nolan Catholic High School, he was quite surprised.

The audience at the day-long retreat wasn't the largest that Fr. González, a visiting priest from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, had seen. But it did leave him impressed.

Fr. González and retreat leaders were expecting 400 women, but approximately 1,400 women attended the first Congress for Women held on March 13 in Nolan's Hartnett Arena.

"God attracted a lot of women, and in the end, they will bring their men, their husbands. And so it goes ..." Fr. González said. "It is a chain reaction."

The Spanish-language retreat focused heavily on forgiveness and healing, coming to better understand Christ's love and mercy, and opening one's heart to God. Several talks, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, a healing ceremony, testimonies by laywomen, praise and prayer, and a 'forgiveness' service inviting women to let go of their past grievances and sorrows, made up the Saturday retreat.

Fr. González kicked off the first talk of the retreat, focusing on Jesus' power to heal hearts. He referred to a personal experience, recalling his days as a frustrated young seminarian ready to leave his studies and the seminary.

"Do you know what I was missing?" Fr. González asked the crowd. "Well, an encounter with the Lord, and I thought I already knew him."

He told how during his last year of study, he was invited to a charismatic retreat in Mexico by

Father Rafael Delgado, a priest at his seminary.

He reluctantly attended the week-long retreat as the only seminarian among 500 priests. But he kept that fact to himself and spent the week closing himself to the retreat.

Near the end of the week, Fr. González started crying during Eucharistic Adoration, and he fell to his knees, grief overwhelming him, feeling "broken-hearted." So he said to Jesus in the Eucharist, "I already said I was leaving, but if you want me to become a priest, at this very moment — I don't know how you're going to do it — come and tell me you love me, and that you want me to become a priest."

A few moments later, a priest he had never met came up to him, knelt beside him, spoke to him in tongues, and then said, "Jesus wants you to become a priest. He loves you." Fr. González's sadness left, and he began praising God. But the next day he couldn't believe what had happened, and he started making up excuses and explanations for the incident.

"God cannot be like this," he remembered thinking. "How can God be like this; how can God respond so quickly, if God is over there?" Fr. González pointed toward the sky.

But he learned otherwise during the Mass concluding the retreat. During the consecration, he again said to God, "If You really want this, come tell me here." At that moment, "the nuns began to fall. One fell right next to me and said, 'Lord, You have manifested Yourself to us today so that those who do not believe will believe, so that their faith will grow, their hope, their love,'" he recalled.

Fr. González went on to become a charismatic priest evangelizing in some of the poorest parts of Mexico and occasionally at retreats in the U.S.

"God wants to heal your heart, always," he told the audience

of women. "Jesus said, 'Come to me the tired, the weary, the overwhelmed, and I will bring you rest.' The Lord has healed my heart, and the Lord keeps on healing it. Always, when you let God heal you, God will restore you ...."

Father Ángel Infante, of All Saints Church, gave the second talk, referring to Jesus' visit with the Samaritan woman who previously had five husbands and was living with yet another man.

"Six men is the reflection of the insatiable thirst in the life of this woman," Fr. Infante explained. "How many things have you tried in your life, trying to find your fill? And in all reality, nothing has fulfilled you, not even your husband. Not that he's a bad man. No. A finite person cannot fill humanity's desire for such an immense love.

"Who, then, is the seventh man?" he asked, as 1,400 women replied, "Jesus."

Fr. Infante continued, "The Lord is the Seventh Man for all of us because He is the great love for whom we wait .... Today we realize the joy that this Seventh Man offers — his life on the altar to feed us," Fr. Infante said, as hundreds of amens rose from the crowd.

Retreat-goer Isabel Castañeda enjoyed the Saturday retreat.

"It is something incredible, marvelous," said Castañeda, who found it beneficial to her sister and herself. "Here even a dead person comes back to life; the only thing we need to bring in our purse is faith, hope, and love for Christ. What made me feel better is that the Holy Spirit touched my sister; this is what most filled me ...."

Andrés Aranda, delegate for the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office, said the women-only retreat and the men's retreat which took place in January, will continue, thanks to their having drawn so many participants and their effectiveness in reaching the



Fr. Ángel Infante, TOR, holds up the Eucharist during the Holy Hour of adoration.



Retreat-goers laugh at one of Fr. González's jokes during his presentation.



Fr. Valdemar González gives a talk on Jesus' desire to heal one's heart. Invited as a speaker, he traveled from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico to help lead the retreat.

hearts of those in attendance.

"We are very happy because we know that the people want to be evangelized; they want to experience Jesus, but we have to supply the means with which to do this," Aranda said. "The numbers are good, and the people leave very happy."

Fr. Infante was also happy with the success of the retreat, adding

that the large turnout meant more people would benefit.

"The experience of God in a retreat is one more sign that He is in our lives ... He not only leaves one sign, He leaves many more signs throughout our lives," said the priest, who just began leading charismatic retreats about a year ago. "We have to take all the signs that He gives us."

# Viewpoints

## Some say religion damages us but the Cross of Christ heals

By David Mills

**I**n the very first line of the book, the author declares: "Religion has wrought untold misery in human affairs." This was the opening of a prestigious lecture recently given at Yale University by one of the world's most famous literary critics. You can imagine the learned audience nodding in approval.

It's the sort of line the Christian passes over with a shrug — an unfortunate truth, and one unbelievers trot out all the time, but one you can't contest. It's a cultural platitude up there with "Cholesterol is bad for you" and "Don't drink and drive." It forms the conversations we have when something religious comes up, especially when someone religious has done something bad and made the evening news.

As a result, as religious people we begin any discussion of religion at a disadvantage. It's as if you've applied for a job at the zoo but had to admit that your family was famous for eating en-

dangered species, and that your brother had just roasted a California condor and your aunt is the famous author of *Fifty Ways to Prepare Mountain Gorilla*. You may throw open your refrigerator and show the people from the zoo your tofu and bean sprouts, but they'll still wonder whether you can be trusted. Unless you cut your family out of your life completely, you'll be guilty by association.

The usual Christian response is to say that some religions are worse than others, or that religions are no worse than any other type of belief, or that religions fail when people fail to live up to their teachings. Your brother may eat California condors, but you're a vegetarian.

The responses are mostly true, but they look too much like excuses. As a Christian, you are still held responsible in some way for the Crusades (always described in the most prejudicial ways possible), the Salem witch trials, German Christians who supported the Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, the massacre of the cult members in Jonestown, and that hateful group of Baptists who disrupt military funerals. You're a vegetarian, but your brother eats California condors.

And now, to add to the burden, Christians are blamed for the sins of other religions, under the category of "fundamentalism." This seems to mean any belief that we have been given a word from outside the world that tells us how to live in this world, because (supposedly) people who think they know what God wants will force others to do what

*The Christian will want to ask whether it's dangerously "fundamentalist" to believe that God wants us to love others as he loved us, and to give up our lives for them as Jesus gave his life for us.*

they say and hurt them if they don't. The same impulse drives the suicide bomber and the people saying the Nicene Creed at Mass.

The Christian will want to ask whether it's dangerously "fundamentalist" to believe that God wants us to love others as He loved us, and to give up our lives for them as Jesus gave his life for us. Christians might point out that this is a "fundamental" upon which hospitals and soup kitchens have been built. No "fundamentalism" about the love of God

demonstrated on the Cross, no hospitals and soup kitchens.

The real problem with "Religion has wrought untold misery" is that we can't speak about "religion" in any useful way. Many scholars question whether religion as such actually exists, or whether "religion" is just a word carelessly used to cover a great diversity of systems of belief and practice that don't have much to do with each other, besides a belief in some sort of higher power. (I am indebted for this insight to David Bentley Hart's very helpful book *Atheist Delusions*.)

What exactly, for example, does the Islamic terrorist have in common with Mother Theresa of Calcutta? Does calling them both "religious" tell us anything at all useful? Can we generalize from these two examples to say anything of value about religion and the various religions as a whole?

Not much, is the answer to all three questions. The secular idea of "religion" is more than a little unfair. It's more or less the same as holding you responsible for the murderer who lives six blocks away because you both live in the same town, or have the same ethnic heritage, or both have two legs and two arms. You'd expect more evidence of a real connection before being sentenced to jail for his crime.

*David Mills, author of DISCOVERING MARY, is now the deputy editor of FIRST THINGS. David can be reached at CatholicSense@gmail.com.*

## Holding on to God first requires letting go

By Mary Morrell

*"We find by losing. We hold fast by letting go. We become something new by ceasing to be something old."*  
— Frederic Buechner

### "Let go!"

My father's voice seemed to reverberate against the ice laden branches that graced the gully where I sat, frozen to a fallen tree trunk. That would be frozen, literally, since my snowsuit had bonded to the gnarled bark as afternoon turned to early evening.

After a day of sledding, my cousin, Lynn, and I had little success climbing up the now icy trails out of the gully where we had played. Somehow I maneuvered to the tree trunk, holding on for dear life to the bushes next to me while Lynn tried a different route up the snow covered hill.

After what seemed like a lifetime, I finally heard voices at the top of the rim.

Looking up I saw our fathers, having a knee-slapping good laugh at my expense. But I was still happy to see them. After all, a laughing rescuer is better than no rescuer.

My father dropped a rope to within inches of me and told me to grab on.

"I can't!"

"Why not?"

"There's a big hole down here. I'll slide in!"

In spite of my father's assurances that I wouldn't disappear into a huge hole in the ground, I resisted his instructions.

Finally, he resorted to using my name, a well-known tactic among parents.

"Mary! Let go of that branch and trust me!"

So I did, one finger at a time, and grabbed on to the rope. As he pulled I heard the tearing of my snowsuit and realized any security I had in being frozen to my spot was now in the hands of my father. A few minutes later, I was safe on level ground and laughing along with

everyone else.

It was the first of my lessons in the importance of letting go, and of the role fear has in keeping us frozen where we stand — or sit.

The spiritual life is a journey often impeded by the things to which we cling. Our culture of competition pressures us, and our children, to acquire and accomplish beyond a healthy point. Fearful of falling behind, or being different, we cling to the world's way of doing things.

Jesus shows us that it can, and should, be different. Perfect love casts out fear, offering hope instead, if we can just open our hands long enough to surrender everything to God.

"Hope," wrote Thomas Merton, "is proportionate to detachment. It brings our souls into the state of the most perfect detachment. In doing so, it restores all values by setting them in the right order. Hope empties our hands in order that we may work with them. It shows us that we have something to work for,

and teaches us how to work for it."

I often think of how hopeless Mary Magdalene must have felt when she went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. But then, he calls her name: "Mary!"

She responds, "Rabboni!" reaching out to touch her beloved teacher. But Jesus tells her, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to God, my Father."

When I was younger, I wondered at how Jesus could be so insensitive. Mary, who loves Him so much, who is now filled with hope at his appearance, wants nothing more than to touch Him. But Jesus stops her. Today I understand; it wouldn't serve Mary, or any of us, to hold on to Jesus while He was still on earth. It is the ascended Christ to whom we must cling, the Christ whom we receive in open hands with every Eucharist. *Mary Morrell and her husband are the parents of six adult sons. They live in Colonia, New Jersey, where Mary works as a freelance writer.*

# People as pollution?

## view shows need for respect for human life

By Mary McCluskey

**P**esticides, oil spills, litter — everyone agrees that these pollute the environment. But what about ... babies?

Environmental groups have long argued that population growth causes a host of environmental problems, but many of these groups have traditionally avoided the controversial promotion of birth control as a solution. Recently, though, a brazen new group of environmentalists has become more vocal in their promotion of birth control as the most efficient and cost effective means of reversing the degradation of the earth's resources, the pollution of our water and air, and even global "warming." People are seen as the threats to the environment instead of stewards of creation.

A writer for Canada's *Financial Post* has been hailed for her candor in calling for a "planetary law, such as China's one-child policy, [as] the only way to reverse the disastrous global birthrate" and "prevent the destruction of the world's other species, vegetation, resources, oceans, arable land, water supplies, and atmosphere."

Earlier this year, the London School of Economics published a paper noting that, by breathing, human beings emit on average 2.3 pounds of carbon dioxide every day. The authors claim that the most efficient way to reduce global warming is to make "family planning" even more widely available in the developing world. In population control circles, family planning can mean forced contraception, coercive sterilization, and even coerced abortions.

STATISTICIANS AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY have calculated that "the carbon legacy and greenhouse gas impact of an extra child is almost 20 times more important than some of the other environmen-

**A** writer for Canada's *Financial Post* has been hailed for her candor in calling for a "planetary law, such as China's one-child policy, [as] the only way to reverse the disastrous global birthrate" and "prevent the destruction of the world's other species, vegetation, resources, oceans, arable land, water supplies, and atmosphere."

tally sensitive practices people might employ their entire lives — things like driving a [fuel-efficient] car, recycling, or using energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs." They urge Americans to take into account the global impact of an "extra child," which they calculate to be five times higher than the impact of a child born in China because of Americans' longer life spans and higher standard of living. Compounding the problem in their eyes, the "extra" American child — whom you should think twice about having — is likely to beget more than one future emitter of carbon dioxide (otherwise known as grandchildren).

WHEN ECONOMISTS AND STATISTICIANS recommend eliminating people to save the earth in which people dwell, they reveal their disturbing priorities and muddled thinking. Happily, Catholic social and moral teaching provides a clear vision to follow. Pope Benedict discussed this in his *Message for the World Day of Peace* (January 1, 2010):

"Our duties toward the environment flow from our duties toward the person, considered both individually and in relation to others" (no. 12).

Ecological responsibility

must,

"safeguard an authentic 'human ecology' and thus forcefully reaffirm the inviolability of human life at every stage and in every condition, the dignity of the person and the unique mission of the family, where one is trained in love of neighbour and respect for nature" (no. 12).

The Holy Father therefore advocates,

"the adoption of a model of development based on the centrality of the human person, on the promotion and sharing of the common good, on responsibility, on a realization of our need for a changed life-style, and on prudence ..." (no. 9)

As we seek solutions to environmental concerns, let's remember that we must never eliminate human problems by eliminating human beings.



Mary McCluskey is Special Projects Coordinator at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).



Bernadette Kleissler and her daughters Margaret, 3, and Elizabeth, 6 months, parishioners at St. Mary of Victories Church in St. Louis, enjoy a spring day at a park in St. Louis April 9. All mothers are honored in special ways on Mother's Day, which is May 9 this year. (CNS photo/Lisa A. Johnston)

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

**T**here won't be any Mother's Day presents this year. In fact there's a good chance I'm going to be kicked out of the club.

What's the maternal version of, say, a lawyer being dis-barred? Is it dis-carpooled? For grandmothers, is it dis-rocking-chaired?

I missed the mark on mothering yesterday, when a car hit my daughter, and I didn't even ask how she was.

My daughter's call came about 3 p.m., a busy time at my office, when I'd just finished a long series of conversations. So I answered the phone with this: "I'll call you back." There was no "What's new?" no "Hi to the kids," not even a cursory, "Everything ok??"

It was a full-blown neglectful-mother response, and now, reliving it, I realize it also falls into the shoddy-grandmother category.

"I knew you were busy, Mom," Meredith said later. (She called back to inform me of the event, before her siblings tweeted it or posted it on Facebook. She is a quick thinker, even while bruised.)

"I got side-swiped," she said. "More like body-swiped. I was parked along the curb after school, and when I walked around to my door, a car brushed me into the side of my car.

"It was probably a college student," Meredith said, "driving too fast and too near the side of the street." (I almost heard my daughter use the words "young whippersnapper," I swear.)

"Her side-view mirror broke when it hit me."

Now, my mothering status would have been infinitely worse then, if I had said, "Ooh! Seven years bad luck." But even as a bad mother, I'm not that bad a mother.

Instead, I tried to relate: "I got hit by a car once in France. But the streets in Provence are so small, there wasn't even room enough to fall."

"Well this was a perfectly wide street," Meredith ignored me, "and the driver, that little whippersnapper, (there it was), told me I had jumped into the street!"

"I'm almost 37," Meredith declared, "I don't do that anymore!"

"The bad part is, I started thinking, 'DID I jump into the street?'"

"You were delirious, dear," I said, "you were shaken

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Dignitaries cut the ribbon for the new Catholic Charities Fischer Family Campus, including (from left to right) Charles and Jill Fischer, who donated the project's initial \$3 million, Catholic Charities President Heather Reynolds, Rosie and Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, and Bishop Kevin Vann.

# Catholic Charities celebrates a Build



Bishop Kevin Vann has a joyful conversation with Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief and his wife, Rosie.

## Fort Worth community leaders gather to dedicate and open new Catholic Charities building

Catholic Charities' big dream had begun on a windy March day in 2008, with hard hat-clad Holy Family School children planting "flags of hope" around the perimeter of where a new Catholic Charities building one day would stand.

But on that windy March day the Building Hope effort had just begun; the perimeter was imagination; and the building project itself was nothing more than hope.

So, 25 months later, the joy could not have been more complete than it was when the imaginary perimeter had been replaced with the Fischer Family Campus, and where the children once stood were supporters and donors who had, in fact, completed the building — with hope.

"This is the culmination of a huge dream, and a lot of prayer and great vision, of how to better serve the people of Fort Worth," Catholic Charities Board Chair Cathy Hirt said, at the grand opening ceremony. "Our capacity to grow has doubled. And even though we are not happy to know there are so many in our community who need our help, it is great news that we will have the capacity to help them."

"There is a psalm that is common to all our faith traditions," Bishop Kevin Vann said to the crowd of more than 500 people, as he began the prayers, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad."

Special guests, gathered in front of the 84,000-square-foot facility, included Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, and his wife Rosie, who had served as the project's honorary chairpersons. Also present were Fort Worth councilmen Joel Burns, Zim Zimmerman, Carter Burdette, and Sal Espino; also Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, along with county commissioners Roy C. Brooks, and Marti Van-Ravenswaay; and school board member Juan Rangel.

"Rosie and I were here when the first dirt was turned," Mayor Moncrief reminisced, of the fall 2008 groundbreaking "the first time I've ever turned it in a tractor that big!" Both he and Bishop Vann smiled at the reference to their groundbreaking adventure—one driving an orange excavator, and one in a yellow front loader.

"But I knew everything was going to be all right," the mayor said, "because we had the good Lord on our side."

The Fort Worth Diocese donated four acres of land for the new structure, and they added a \$1 million gift to be used to endow the building for long-term sustainability. But the Catholic community and the Fort Worth community as a whole, joined together to complete the \$17 million project at 249 Thornhill Dr., near Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

"It's the Catholic Charities way!" Heather Reynolds, president and CEO said, in her remarks at the ribbon cutting.

"Caring for others is the bedrock of any successful community," Mayor Moncrief said in his own address, "It is indeed the Fort Worth way, it is also the Catholic Charities way—we have no pride of authorship. We are mighty proud to have been the partners



**ABOVE:** Ray Ramirez, director of business operations, gives a tour of the new building.

**RIGHT:** Sisters Mary Michael (left) and Roberta Hesse, SSMN, look at the pictures on the wall in the hallways.

of Catholic Charities."

The family of Charles and Jill Fischer gave the project's first \$3 million donation, and "The Building Hope campaign was an easy one for us to support," Kenny Fischer said, on behalf of his parents and siblings. "Providing for the hope of individuals and those of the families, being able to provide hope, vision, treat them with dignity and respect—it was a very easy project to support.

"Each of you played an amazing role in this campus," Reynolds told the crowd, who applauded, showing their support for her and for the program, "and it seemed like whenever asked, you only knew one word and that word was 'yes.' The need for this campus is great." When the journey started in late 2005, she said, "We were serving 77,000 people. Last year we served over 111,000 people. We've gone from 24 programs to 34 programs."

"Because of you, Catholic Charities had one of its best days on Monday, March 29, because we opened the doors of our brand new facilities to the clients — the

real reason all of us are here," she recalled, as she saw people streaming into the building in order to receive service.

"I was brought to tears with that."

County Judge Glen Whitley presented a proclamation for the opening of Catholic Charities.

"We were asked to come up with names for seven rooms that are housing some of the people in this facility," Judge Whitley said. "The court thought long and hard about this," he said, "and we chose to use words that would hopefully instill something into the folks who would be living in those rooms. The names that came up were the words hope, peace, joy, faith, confidence, patience, and respect.

"And I think that when the people started out 100 years ago they certainly hoped that the institution would develop into what we're here celebrating today. That it would always show respect to the folks and the people we serve; that they would have the patience to deal with the problems along the way. Faith—there was no question

that faith was always a part of this. Peace — hopefully being able to provide the people with peace at the moment when they really need it in their lives."

Among the dedication day prayers was the passage from the Gospel of Matthew: "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?" He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'"

"As we reflect on these words of the Lord Himself," Bishop Vann said, "we realize they are more than just words but an obligation of faith, of discipleship, to make known his love to those most in need. The faith while it is in our heads must also be in our hearts and lives, be part of who we are ... every day that God gives us to serve Him.

"Thank you to all who have made this possible," the bishop said, "because making this possible makes the Gospel come alive for all who come here, and makes the presence of God a reality."

century of service by completing the project to build a new home:

# Building Hope

Stories and Photos by Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

## Catholic Charities workers move into their new home

“**B**uilding Hope” had been completed and the Catholic Charities staff felt it. Finally, they realized, they had the facilities to better meet the burgeoning needs of the community. And they could do this under one roof.

During the March 24 and 25 move-in to their new home, the agency radiated energy and expectation, with little reminder of typical moving day chaos. Departments created order in their specific nooks, which had been situated and furnished creatively, practically, and conveniently, and occupants seemed intent on arranging the building to benefit clients, who would begin arriving the following week.

Even in the newness of it all, Catholic Charities staff maintained the constant vision that is the signature of their organization: The people they will help — now better than ever.

“We designed it so all the client flow is on the first floor,” said Ray Ramirez, director of business and facilities. “This is the heavy traffic area, and the second floor is for those who go out to the homes themselves and do the home visits, and for administration.”

Catholic Charities serves the needs of more than 111,000 people

in 28 counties. They offer 34 different community services, such as working to assist and resettle refugees, provide housing and pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly and disabled, and financial assistance (including training to better handle their finances) for the working poor. They have programs to reduce infant mortality, prevent the spread of HIV to newborns, and provide for parent education to help prevent child abuse. They recruit, train, and certify foster families, help families secure healthcare, and provide shelter for abused and neglected children.

“Central intake is located on this floor,” said Amy Borg, from refugee services, “so that if a brand new client comes in, they can see what the client’s needs are, and get them enrolled in programs. If they are current clients, likely they are being served by one of the programs on the first floor, so it’s easy access.”

A circular desk sits near the building’s front entrance, and, “We have greeters — kind of like Wal-Mart,” said Sarah Ramirez, vice president of development and public relations, “to greet people at the door so they feel welcomed and engaged.”

“If a family comes in and says, ‘I don’t know what I need, but here’s my situation,’ our central intake can say, ‘We’ve got this at Catholic Charities; here’s how we can help you.’”

“Or if we don’t offer those services,” Ramirez explained, “central intake won’t let the client go — we don’t just turn them away. They will make the phone



**ABOVE:** John Reynolds, Heather Reynolds’ husband (left), hangs artwork in one of the offices, helped by Bob Lengren.

**RIGHT:** Father Luke Robertson, TOR, (right) who works as part of Catholic Charities’ SOS street team, moves boxes into the new building, along with Ed Mahan, project manager of HOMES.

call to the appropriate place, get the name of the person the client should see, so that they’re directly connected to them, they can get to that place, and say, ‘I’m here to see so and so.’”

The new facility was designed practically, but the environment is also creative and sensitive. Art was selected to convey certain emotions, such as in the financial assistance offices, Ramirez explained, “We always say ‘it’s about a hand up, not a hand out,’ so all the art is pictures with hands.

In refugee services, she said, the artwork is drawn from varied cultures; in the counseling areas, the art design is whimsical, light and airy. In the St. Joseph Health Care Trust section, where they manage diocesan funds that provide medical services for individuals who can’t afford them, “The art is playful — kids playing in water, trampolines,” Ramirez said. The art always connects, somehow, with the services provided in each particular area, she said.

Former Catholic Charities facilities are represented in the building as well, with the St. Teresa statue in the garden, and the chapel altar, Stations of the Cross and stained glass all having come from the original St. Teresa’s Home.

Catholic Charities provides chapel service every Wednesday, Ramirez said. Because of the diverse nature of the organization’s employees, preachers of different faiths are invited to do inspirational talks at these services.



**ABOVE:** The Catholic Charities welcome sign says “Welcome” in multiple languages. Catholic Charities provides services in more than 70 languages.



Catholic Charities CEO Heather Reynolds talks on the phone during the move-in March 24.

Helping with the move-in were volunteers Ramirez said, “Who just have a feel for the mission.

“Theoretically our concept of volunteers and donors is that we want the mission of Catholic Charities to be like a child in your family. You’re not gonna let children do without, and when they call on you for help you’re going to respond immediately — and that’s what we do!”

Helping with move-in day were Catholic Charities board members, among them Jill Fischer, who, with her husband Charles, of the Harbison-Fischer Manufacturing Company, had given the initial \$3 million contribution to the \$17 million project. Mrs. Fischer, at the groundbreaking 18 months ago, had said the construction marked “the beginning of the realization of all our collective dreams.”

On move-in day she and fellow board member Shirley Matzinger

pitched in wherever needed, and at midday provided box lunches for personnel.

“The new building is such a morale-building thing,” Matzinger said. “And I think it’s important for the staff to know we appreciate what they do.” Matzinger has been on the board six years and Fischer is in her fourth year.

“I was part of the big fundraiser,” Matzinger remembered. “It was exciting. We look back now and it’s gone by so fast!” She was referring to the campaign to build the new Fischer Family Campus and the move from the Burchill Road location, formerly the most comprehensive of Catholic Charities’ offices. She described that complex of buildings as something of a maze, with workers and programs scattered here and there.

“And now, to have it all under one roof — it’s like a miracle really. It’s like a miracle.”



The altar of the chapel in the new building is pictured above. The chapel is built in a way to allow multiple faith traditions to worship there.

## Nine parishes have surpassed their goals

FROM PAGE 1

individual parish. Additionally, 75 percent of all funds a parish raises beyond their goal amount is likewise retained for the parish to use for their own needs. These funds can be used for specific items identified by parish leadership.

"Some parishes are using campaign proceeds for physical plant projects and maintenance, and others are starting their own endowed trusts for the future needs of their parish," said Meegan Wright, executive director for the campaign. "Every parish in this diocese will benefit from this effort, and it is exciting to see the momentum building. It truly shows that the parishes and their families are taking ownership of the campaign."

Parishes now exceeding their campaign goal include:

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Decatur
- St. John the Baptizer, Bridgeport
- St. Mary, Jacksboro
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, Wichita Falls
- Santa Rosa, Knox City
- St. Mary of the Assumption, Megargel
- St. Matthew, Arlington
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Fort Worth
- St. Mary's, Gainesville

*"In our early meetings, I explained the campaign and we prayed over it. They convinced me that with continued prayer, and by taking the plan and making some adaptations for our own needs, we could make our goal."*

—Pastor, St. Matthew Parish, Arlington

Father Sojan George, HGN, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Decatur; St. John the Baptizer, Bridgeport; and St. Mary, Jacksboro said, "I was confident we would do well because we have met our goal for Sharing in Ministry the past few years, but I was surprised and impressed by the generosity

of our families and that all three parishes hit goal during our first pledge weekend."

Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Arlington attributed the success of *All Things Possible* in St. Matthew's to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the strength of the campaign volunteers. "In our early meetings," he said, "I explained the campaign and we prayed over it. They convinced me that with continued prayer, and by taking the plan and making some adaptations for our own needs, we could make our goal."

"After we were all convinced," Fr. Medina continued, "we brought in our organizations and groups to take charge of each element of the plan, and those groups then brought in all the parishioners who had signed up as volunteers."

"By involving so many in every aspect of the campaign, the message of the campaign made its way to everyone in the parish, and we saw an incredible response!"

For more information about the *ALL THINGS POSSIBLE* campaign, visit the diocesan website at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) or contact the campaign office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 170, or via e-mail to Executive Director Meegan Wright at [MWGIG@aol.com](mailto:MWGIG@aol.com).

## Weigel says presidential insertion into Church discussion historic

FROM PAGE 1

It was in the context of the culture war he described that Weigel talked about President Barack Obama's graduation address at Notre Dame last year.

He said there have been "passionate debates" within various religious communities over doctrine, identity and boundaries for centuries.

"Yet never in 227 years of these arguments, never has a president of the United States, in the exercise of his public office, and speaking as president, intervened in any such a dispute in order to secure political advantage, until that is, May 2009 here at Notre Dame," Weigel said.

Obama's appearance on campus ignited a national debate on the university's status as a Catholic institution. Critics said his support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research made him an inappropriate choice to be commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, stood by his decision to invite Obama. Afterward he said he hoped the president's visit would "lead to broader engagement on issues of importance to the country and of deep significance to Catholics."

In his speech Obama urged those bitterly divided over abortion and other issues to adopt an approach of mutual respect and dialogue.

Weigel said Obama had suggested in his speech that good Catholics were those who agreed with a so-called common-ground approach to life issues and implied that those who questioned that approach were bad Catholics.

Inserting Obama and his office into any Christian community's debate over the definition of its identity and boundaries, Weigel said, is a serious breach of constitutional proprieties and a genuine threat to everyone's religious freedom.

Weigel called for building a compelling Catholic public pro-life presence in "Obama's America."

He urged his listeners to do that by, among other things, calling for a new appreciation of the dignity of human life; building alliances with people of various faiths who share Catholics' pro-life views; and acknowledging the shameful behavior of some priests and bishops regarding child sexual abuse but also promoting the fact that the Catholic Church is now the country's safest environment for

*Inserting Obama and his office into any Christian community's debate over the definition of its identity and boundaries, Weigel said, is a serious breach of constitutional proprieties and a genuine threat to everyone's religious freedom.*

—George Weigel

children and young people.

In her remarks April 10, Condic said science does not address some questions considered fundamental to the abortion debate, such as the rights of the mother versus the rights of the developing embryo/fetus.

But science answers definitively when life begins, she said, using a series of slides to demonstrate that it starts at fertilization.

Condic noted that the accepted scientific definition of death is when the brain ceases organismal function and it's irreversible. She said she finds it puzzling, then, that some people do not accept that life begins with fertilization, where there is "clear evidence for organismal behavior and function."

Lewis thanked the students for being "pro-life heroes and heroines," for not finding an excuse to sit on the sidelines and for being the voice of the defenseless.

"Rejoice in the fact that God is using you to make this difference," said Lewis, who also spoke April 10. "Take pride that men and women are out there, who you may never know, who now have a child because of something you did or said or maybe because you prayed."

In a dinner address April 9, Cardinal George said Pope Benedict XVI did not use the term "right to life" in his social encyclical, but the document reflects the gift of human life and the protection of life both in good law and in a good economy.

To achieve that good law and good economy, he said, the pope ties justice — what governs the exchange of goods — to love.

"That's what the pope was trying to do in his letter *Caritas in Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*), to say that a complete separation of love and justice means that we'll have a society that not only doesn't support life, but in fact kills it," Cardinal George said.

## Workshops will ease Missal transition

FROM PAGE 1

the new translation," said Dcn. Warner. "Any time there is a change in the way we pray as a Church, people have a hard time with that. I think people will find the language of the new translation to be very prayerful in that it is a more poetic language which addresses God, rather than being everyday spoken language."

The new translation is a translation of the Latin text of the Mass parts and will include changes in the responses and prayers of the people, and Eucharistic prayers of the priests. Dcn. Warner noted one example of the changes is the congregation's response to "The peace of the Lord be with you."

"The response ... in Spanish, French, German, Italian is, 'And with your spirit,' and now the English will be, 'And with your spirit.'"

According to an announcement at the Vatican in late January, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments is pulling together the final version of the English translation of the missal. Because bishops' conferences

approved the Roman Missal in sections over a period of years, a congregation official said, a final review and minor edits were needed to ensure consistency.

Additionally, 22 workshops intended for clergy and diocesan leaders will take place in each of the nation's 15 regions between April and November. They are sponsored by the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, in cooperation with the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

Each seminar will be staffed by either Monsignor Anthony Sherman, executive director of the Divine Worship Secretariat, or Father Richard Hilgartner, associate director. Topics to be covered include the historical and theological context of the new missal; the role of the priest celebrant in both proclaiming and singing the texts; the impact of change on both priests and lay people; and suggested strategies for implementing the

missal locally.

The dates and locations for nearby workshops are: Sept. 7-8, Oklahoma City; Oct. 4-5, Alexandria, Louisiana; and Oct. 28-29, San Antonio. The workshops will run from 2 to 6 p.m. the first day and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second day.

Further details about the seminars and a complete listing of workshop dates and locations throughout the country are available at the website of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, [www.fdlc.org](http://www.fdlc.org). Currently, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has the new translations of the Roman Missal on its website at [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal).

"I think once people become familiar with the new language, they'll see its beauty," Dcn. Warner said. "Changes such as these are consistent with the ongoing work and tradition of the Church throughout history; it's not something that is new in our time."

NTC Associate Editor Tony Gutiérrez contributed to this article.



## National / Diocesan

## Reported cases of priest sexual abuse continue to decline

By Patricia Zapor  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Reported cases of child sexual abuse in U.S. dioceses and religious institutes declined between the 2008 and 2009 audits to evaluate how church institutions are complying with the U.S. bishops' 2002 *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

The 2009 annual report also showed that costs to dioceses and religious orders for lawsuits and other allegation-related expenses also decreased. In addition, it reported on how dioceses and religious orders are complying with provisions calling for education about sexual abuse for children and all who work with them, and for handling all allegations of sexual abuse, among other obligations included in the charter.

According to the 2009 report released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops March 23, a total of 513 victims came forward with 513 credible allegations against 346 people who were under the authority of dioceses or religious

*Among the allegations reported by dioceses, six involved children who were under the age of 18 in 2009. The remaining 392 cases involved adults who alleged they were abused when they were minors. Among religious orders, none of the new allegations involved people who were under 18 in 2009.*

orders. That represents a decline from 2008 in all three figures of between 33 and 36 percent. The vast majority of those allegations

related to incidents dating back decades, the report said.

The U.S. bishops adopted the charter in response to a wave of reports of sexual abuse of minors involving church personnel and criticism of how the church had handled allegations of abuse in the past.

In 2004, the combined number of reported allegations of abuse for religious orders and dioceses was 1,092 allegations against 756 people by 1,083 victims, figures which have generally declined each year since then.

Data collected by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University found 398 new credible allegations of abuse were reported by dioceses and eparchies in 2009; the allegations were made by 398 victims against 286 individuals. In reports from religious orders, there were 115 people who made 115 allegations involving 60 priests or brothers.

Among the allegations reported by dioceses, six involved children who were under the age

of 18 in 2009. The remaining 392 cases involved adults who alleged they were abused when they were minors. Among religious orders, none of the new allegations involved people who were under 18 in 2009.

Costs to dioceses and religious orders declined by a total of \$316 million, with the vast majority of that from a \$310 million decrease in the amount paid out in legal settlements between 2008 and 2009. Religious institutes reported a \$44 million overall drop in costs, including \$42 million less in legal settlements. Dioceses and eparchies paid out \$272 million less than in the previous year, including \$269 million less for settlements.

As in previous years, a few dioceses and eparchies declined to be audited. They included: the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, and the eparchies of St. Peter the Apostle in El Cajon, California, for Chaldeans; Newton for Melkites in Massachusetts, Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics in the U.S. and Canada;

St. Josaphat of Parma, Ohio, for Ukrainians; and Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark, New Jersey, for Syriac Catholics. The report said they declined for "various reasons."

On most provisions of the charter, only a few dioceses were cited during the year for failing to comply with aspects of the procedures it sets out. In nearly all cases, the report said, those problems were corrected by the time the annual report was completed.

Data for the survey of allegations and costs was collected by CARA between December 2009 and February 2010. CARA received responses from 193 of the 195 dioceses and eparchies and from 159 of the 219 religious institutes.

The two dioceses that did not respond to the CARA survey were Lincoln and Gallup, New Mexico. Gallup participated in the audit with no problems, but the CARA section of the report said the diocese was unable to get its material together by the deadline for the survey.

## Church has made real progress in protecting children and young adults since implementation of Charter

**Editor's Note:** The following list of the efforts, programs, structures, and accomplishments flowing from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' passage of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* at its meeting in Dallas in 2002 was compiled by the USCCB's Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, headed by Teresa Kettelkamp.

What the Church is now doing to protect children and reach out to victims is serving as a guide for many others, both here in the U.S. and in other countries.

### Here are the quick facts nationwide as verified by the audits:

- Safe environment training is taking place in every diocese.
- Background checks are conducted on Church personnel who have contact with children.
- We have trained more than 2 million clergy, educators, employees, and volunteers in parishes in how to create safe environments and prevent child sexual abuse.
- We have prepared more than 5.5 million children to recognize abuse and protect themselves.
- We have run criminal record checks on more than 1,600,000 volunteers and employees; 167,000 educators; 53,000 clerics; and 6,000 candidates for ordination.
- Dioceses have codes of conduct.
- Victim Assistance Coordinators and Safe Environment Coordinators are in every diocese.
- Dioceses/eparchies have Healing Masses, retreats for victim/survivors, and other reconciliation events.
- Counseling assistance is provided to victims.
- Bishops are meeting with survivors/victims.
- The Church maintains a Zero Tolerance policy on abusers which means that if there is a credible accusation against a priest or deacon, they are out of public ministry forever, regardless of how long ago the offense occurred.
- Dioceses/eparchies require intensive background screening as well as psychological testing for those wishing to enter the seminary.
- Audits of dioceses have been conducted every year for the past seven years.
- Diocesan Review Boards exist in every diocese and there is increased lay involvement.
- Dioceses are cooperating with public authorities on allegations.
- A National Review Board has been established that is composed of lay experts.
- The Church issues a national public report annually which is shared with the Holy See.



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



April 9, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to announce again that the Diocese of Fort Worth has passed the annual Safe Environment audit for the year ending June 30, 2009. Our success is due to the commitment which so many in our Diocese have made to uphold the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

Even though we thank God for his many blessings, and continue to ask His blessing on all of our future ministry and endeavors, we must remain vigilant in our promotion of a culture of safety wherever and whenever we minister. This means everyone: Clergy, Religious, Lay Ministers and volunteers must continue working together to ensure that backgrounds and references are checked, the Code of Conduct is embraced and followed, and that training policies are kept current on a three year cycle. Our children and young people are worth it and the life of the church is ever stronger for it.

Thank you again for your commitment to our local church.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Kevin W. Vann*

Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD  
Bishop of Fort Worth

KVW/caw

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax (817) 244-8839 • www.fwdioc.org

## NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

### PBS documentary shows resilience of Vietnamese-American Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, many people, despite their own best efforts, threw their hands up in the air out of desperation and fled the New Orleans they loved. But the close-knit Vietnamese-American community in the Crescent City hung together and hung tough, despite the city's effort to erect a trash-mountain landfill next to their neighborhood. The story will be told Tuesday, May 25, 10-11 p.m. EDT, as part of PBS' "Independent Lens" series under the title "A Village Called Versailles" (Check local listings). The hourlong documentary features Father Vien The Nguyen, the strong-willed pastor of Mary Queen of Vietnam Parish in New Orleans, in a neighborhood not far from the city's Lower Ninth Ward, which sustained significant damage and became an emblem of the inability of government at all levels to restore the city's well-being after levees broke following Katrina.

### Trials will leave priesthood, Church stronger, priest-psychologist says

HOUSTON (CNS) — The U.S. priesthood and the Catholic Church itself will emerge from today's crises stronger than ever, according to a priest-psychologist. Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, an expert in treating psychological and spiritual difficulties, especially among priests, spoke April 13 at the annual convention in Houston of the National Federation of Priests' Councils. Although a look at newspapers and blogs gives the impression that the priesthood "is dispirited, discouraged, and disintegrating," Msgr. Rossetti said two studies he conducted of 4,000 priests between 2002 and 2010 show that "priests like being priests; they find great satisfaction in their lives." "Rather than disintegrating under the pressure and stress of our day, it appears to me that our priests are becoming stronger," he said. "As the public negativity rises and the chorus of naysayers crescendos, I believe our priests and Church are actually the better for it," he added. "Truly, the more the Church suffers, the stronger it becomes." Msgr. Rossetti, now a clinical associate professor of pastoral studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, was accepting the NFPC's Touchstone Award, presented annually to a priest "whose service in the Gospel of Jesus Christ exemplifies the purpose and goals of the federation."

### Catholic Charities affiliates aid in job creation, placement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA and its many U.S. diocesan-based affiliates have long been known as social service providers. But they've also been part of the job-creation movement, even in the midst of tough economic times, and even for some of the hardest-to-place job seekers. Catholic Charities leaders detailed some of their initiatives at the Capitol during an April 20 congressional briefing on job creation and innovative workforce policies. In Cleveland, Catholic Charities conducts job training for felons. In Chicago, a food-service program instituted by the Catholic Charities affiliate there has an 85 percent job-retention rate, impressive given the turnover in the food-service industry. In Baltimore, Catholic Charities expanded a feeding program into a multi-point service program that each year pulls hundreds of poor Baltimoreans out of the ranks of the jobless. Still, more could be done with congressional action, said Father Larry Snyder, president and chief executive of Catholic Charities USA. "The (economic) recovery must be an inclusive recovery, and we are here today to discuss the absolute necessity of job creation and job stability as the foundation that must exist in order for this to happen," he said.



Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association, delivers remarks during the opening of the NCEA's annual convention and expo April 6 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The three-day event drew more than 8,000 Catholic educators and supporters from the local region, from around the country, and around the world. (CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, *The Catholic Spirit*)

## Sessions on marketing, religious education among NCEA highlights

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — The annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association April 6-8 in Minneapolis featured keynote speakers and workshops tailored to address different Catholic school interests including marketing, administration, and religious education for the 8,500 Catholic educators, administrators, and leaders in attendance.

Mary Bray, principal at St. Joseph School in Prescott, Wisconsin, said that she attended the convention for the opportunity to be in solidarity with other Catholic educators and to be on "the cutting edge" of education, both in technology and curriculum.

St. Joseph, which has kindergarten through sixth grade, has 177 students and seven teachers. All the teachers attended, Bray said.

"It's a great place for our teachers to hear national speakers and gain access to info they don't get in our tiny school," she told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Derrick Gordon, a physical education instructor at St. Ignatius Loyola School in New York, said he hopes to share what he learned at the convention with his colleagues and students especially on the topic of bullying and harassment, addressed by several presenters during the convention.

Gordon does not see bullying as a current issue in his 500-plus-student school, but by learning more about it, he believes he could easily recognize and address its signs before it grew into a problem, he said.

Dominican Sister Joan Sorge, from St. Agnes in Springfield, Illinois, attended the convention to receive a distinguished principal award during an April 6 banquet.

She said attending the convention gives her a feeling of unity in faith and work among educators.

"There's a spirit here that's positive, and amidst some of the difficulties of the Church, it's a light that shows in the darkness. That light will penetrate the spirit and help us carry that forward," she said.

Archdiocesan superintendent of schools Marty Frauenheim welcomed the crowd at the Minneapolis Convention Center, urging them to allow the three-day convention "to rekindle in you great pride as an American Catholic and to reaffirm for you your own ministry."

NCEA president Karen Ristau is no stranger to the Twin Cities. Earlier in her career she was a faculty member and director and chair of programs in education leadership at the University of St. Thomas, where she established, along with another colleague, the university's first doctoral program in educational leadership.

She joked with educators that people who came to Minnesota needed a special spirit to survive. She added that the "special spirit of NCEA is the Holy Spirit" and said the association was "created to do big things, far beyond

surviving."

Ristau said one of those big things on her agenda is an issue in the news recently — bullying in schools.

Jesuit Father James Martin, one of the keynote speakers, brought down the house in his general session presentation, "Laughing with the Saints: Joy, Humor, and Laughter in the Spiritual Life."

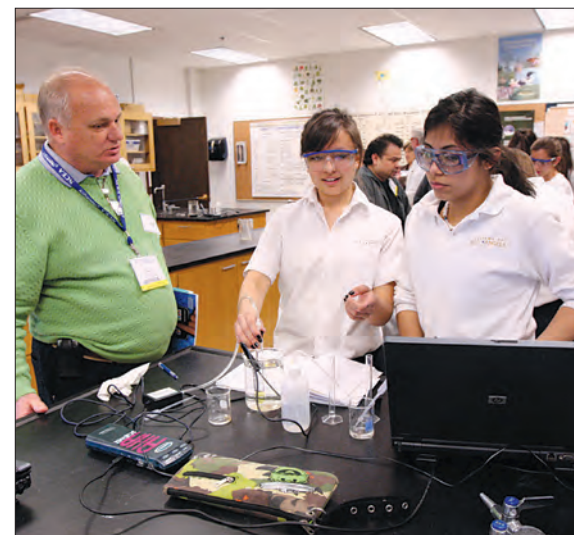
He told the convention participants that the Church has plenty of funny expressions. "We install an archbishop — install, like a dishwasher or refrigerator."

He also noted that when Archbishop Timothy Dolan was installed as the archbishop of New York, a reporter asked him, "What do you condemn?" The archbishop, showing his own sense of humor, replied: "Instant mashed potatoes and light beer."

During several convention workshops audiences filled every seat, sat down on the floor and stood in the doorways. Convention attendees came from across the United States and from the Netherlands, Nicaragua, New Zealand, and Japan, among other countries.

Bob Zyskowski contributed to this story.

Tony Stephens, of St. Pius X High School in Atlanta, watches Mary Streiff and Kiara Perez of the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, Minnesota, work on a lab assignment April 8. Stephens and others from the NCEA Convention observed the school's use of laptops in the classroom. (CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, *The Catholic Spirit*)



INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSBRIEFS

An interior view of the destroyed Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption is seen in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in early February. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Rubble is seen inside the destroyed Sacred Heart Church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in early February. A team of engineers joined Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Florida, on a trip to assess damage to churches in the Caribbean nation and to determine which ones to rebuild as community centers. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

## Engineers begin assessing ways to rebuild destroyed Haitian parishes

By Dennis Sadowski  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Traveling along the dusty roads in the mountains southwest of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, Maryland engineer Larry Newman tried to imagine what the future might hold for thousands of Haitians left homeless by January's massive earthquake.

Newman's focus was on helping Haitians regain a sense of belonging and comfort. With guidance from the Haitian Catholic bishops' conference, the way to do that, it was suggested, was through their parishes. The question remained: How?

"The whole idea is to re-establish the church as community down here," Newman told Catholic News Service by phone April 8 as he traveled from Port-au-Prince to the coastal community of Jacmel to the south as part of a weeklong trip to assess local needs. "The bishops are trying to guide us in terms of where they think the church needs to rebuild."

Newman, president of Spatial Systems Associates Inc., in Columbia, Maryland, was among a group of representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, including Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Florida, Catholic Relief Services and the Haitian bishops' conference traveling throughout the earthquake-ravaged region of the Caribbean nation.

The entourage was in Haiti the week of April 5 and visited several parish sites identified as key locales in Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Jacmel and the nearby mountain villages near the epicenter of the magnitude 7 quake southwest

of the capital. In each case, little of a church or school remained standing, but a significant parish community remained where local priests continue their ministry and celebrate Mass regularly under tarps or in the open.

The visit was arranged by the Haiti Advisory Group of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America. The advisory group has been working since shortly after the earthquake on ways to best meet the needs of the Church and the Haitian people.

"Part of our visit is to get an on-the-ground impression of the challenges of the Church and rebuilding its infrastructure," Bishop Wenski explained to CNS in an interview from Haiti April 8. "We hope that this fact-gathering mission will enable us to more strategically place our very limited resources."

Those resources include \$60 million raised in special collections in U.S. parishes since January. While the amount sounds significant, it's far short of the amount the Haitian Church needs to rebuild the large numbers of churches, parish centers, chapels, and church-run schools severely damaged or destroyed by the quake, said Oblate Father Andrew Small, director of the Collection for the Church in Latin America for the U.S. bishops.

To get some rebuilding under way, the advisory group drafted a proposal that concludes that parishes are centers of community life, Fr. Small explained. The proposal was prepared in cooperation with the Haitian bishops' conference and Archbishop

Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to Haiti.

While not a formal reconstruction plan, the document offers a basic framework through which the U.S. and Haitian churches can begin to address the massive reconstruction needs of parishes in the earthquake zone.

The idea is to get several key parishes up and running as quickly as possible and to get schools functioning so young people can begin to experience some normalcy in their lives and where people can gather in a safe place in weather emergencies, the document said.

"This is about gaining momentum focused on church communities which have been battered and decimated and also imperiled as far as the living of the faith is concerned," Fr. Small told CNS.

The proposal also calls for each construction project to be similar in design so each parish or chapel site can be completed quickly and without massive reengineering.

Haitians would be hired under the "cash for work" concept to build the structures in each community.

For Newman, who has worked for several years with CRS, to digitally map its project sites, the destruction caused by the earthquake was beyond comparison with anything he has ever seen.

"A lot of (the destruction) we're seeing down here is a result of the construction techniques that have been used over the years in the absence of building codes," he said. "One of the things the Church wants to make sure is what gets rebuilt is rebuilt to international standards."

### New bishop ordained in northern China, first on mainland since 2007

HOHHOT, China (CNS) — Bishop Paul Meng Qinglu, 47, ordained bishop of Hohhot April 18, became the first bishop ordained in mainland China since December 2007. Bishop Meng told the Asian church news agency UCA News April 19 that since the diocese had no bishop for five years, the priests had become used to managing their parishes in their own way. "I will strive to bring diocesan management back on the right track so that pastoral and evangelistic work will be gradually enhanced," he said. The bishop received a papal mandate and the approval of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China for his ordination, UCA News reported. As is the tradition in China, diocesan leaders elected him as their candidate for bishop in June 2005, a month after his predecessor, Bishop John Baptist Wang Xixian, died at age 79. He said he had endured pressure and difficulties during the five years he has been preparing for his episcopal ministry.

### Mexican bishops' conference acknowledges priests under threat

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Mexican bishops' conference acknowledged that priests have suffered threats of violence, kidnapping, and extortion from Mexico's narcotics-trafficking cartels. The conference also confirmed that a growing number of priests — mostly serving in remote and mountainous areas rife with illegal drug trade activities — have been transferred to other parishes, assigned other types of work, or even moved to other parts of the country because of threats. Other priests, meanwhile, have been forced to raise up to \$800 to make weekly extortion payments. "We have personally felt the variety of problems that affect our homeland, such as the overflowing wave of violence and insecurity that has been ongoing for years and have claimed numerous victims — many of them innocent," the bishops said in an April 14 statement. "Many priests live their ministries in a heroic way, amid the fear of threats, poverty, violence, extortion, and aggressions," they said. The statement was read by three prelates — Auxiliary Bishop Jose Trinidad Gonzalez of Guadalajara, Auxiliary Bishop Rene Rodriguez of Texcoco, and Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel of San Cristobal de las Casas — as the bishops ended their spring planning session in suburban Mexico City. The violence overflowing parts of Mexico has claimed at least 22,700 lives — a figure recently revised upward by the federal government — since President Felipe Calderon took office in December 2006 and sent the army and federal police to crack down on the cartels.

### Vatican offers online summary of clerical sex abuse procedures

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has placed online a summary of its procedures for handling sex abuse allegations against priests, in order to illustrate the Church's commitment to protecting children and punishing offenders. The online "introductory guide" lists the investigative steps, trial options and possible penalties for clerical sex abuse of minors, including dismissal from the priesthood. It underlines the local bishop's responsibility to follow civil law in reporting such crimes to the appropriate authorities. "This is to help the public understand how we facilitate, how we proceed. This is transparency, transparency of the Vatican. We have nothing to hide," Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, said April 10. The Guide to Understanding Basic CDF Procedures Concerning Sexual Abuse Allegations is available in English at: [www.vatican.va/resources/resources\\_guide-cdf-procedures\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/resources/resources_guide-cdf-procedures_en.html).

## Scripture Readings



May 2, Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Acts 14:21-27  
Psalm 145:8-13
- 2) Revelation 21:1-5a  
Gospel) John 13:31-33a, 34-35

By Sharon K. Perkins

It was one of those weeks that seemed to bring one challenge after another. First, I learned that a co-worker upon whom I depended a great deal was giving two weeks' notice, with no apparent replacement. Then I sustained an injury that led me to the emergency room and weeks of painful recuperation. The front brakes on my car unexpectedly needed replacing. Word came that a friend from our former parish community was fighting for his life in intensive care. A beloved nephew in the Marines was deployed overseas on a potentially dangerous mission.

Most people endure hardships of varying degrees — it's part of the human condition. Often the relentlessness of life's challenges makes them seem overwhelming. Circumstances of discomfort, inconvenience, anxiety, and uncertainty don't always bring out our best behavior. Poverty, disease, war, and extreme human misery lead

many to question if God even exists. Paradoxically, even as Christians celebrate Jesus' Easter victory over the cross and the grave, the "death, mourning, wailing and pain," as described in Revelation, know no season for human beings who continue to experience the "old order."

Nevertheless, even in hardship we are given a foretaste of the "new order." The psalmist describes the reign of God as a "kingdom for all ages" and a dominion that "endures through all generations" — meaning that what has been promised is already here. God already dwells with the human race. The heavenly Jerusalem is already being prepared. Jesus is already making "all things new."

How does this transformation, this newness, come about? Jesus made it clear to his disciples prior to his passion and death: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." It is a command of great simplicity that nevertheless entails great difficulty. The good news is this: The same love that led Jesus to the cross and raised him from the dead is given to each of us in abundance when we but ask for it — and once received and shared, it is a love that changes



*"It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."*

— Acts 14:22

everything, reshaping the human experiences of suffering into the substance out of which the kingdom of God is formed.

### QUESTIONS:

What sorts of hardships are you enduring right now? How can you bring the love of Christ into your sufferings so that they are transformed?

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## Priests called to make the Gospel visible in their lives, says pope

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — In a world where many people are confused about right and wrong and even about the meaning of life, priests are called to guide them to Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

With just two months left in the Year for Priests, the pope began a series of audience talks about the priesthood April 14, saying that over the coming weeks he would look specifically at the priest's mission to teach, sanctify, and govern.

Speaking on behalf of the groups present at the audience, Vatican officials wished the pope a happy birthday in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Polish, and Italian. The pope was to celebrate his 83rd birthday April 16.

Although the international media was still running stories about clerical sex abuse, the pope did not mention the scandal in his audience talk, but rather spoke about how priests are called to identify so completely with Christ that their words, actions, and lives fully represent Christ on earth.

The teaching mission of a priest



Pope Benedict XVI prays inside St. Paul's Grotto in Rabat, outside Valletta, Malta, April 17. It is believed that St. Paul lived at the grotto site during the three months he and his companions were shipwrecked on the island. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano/Catholic Press Photo)

priest's own, he said.

In preparing homilies, teaching religious education classes, counseling people, "and especially through that unwritten book that is his life, the priest must teach — not with the presumption of one who tries to impose his own truth, but with the humble certainty of one who has encountered the truth, been seized and transformed by it," the pope said.

is especially important today because "we are living amid great confusion about the fundamental choices in life," about the meaning of life and about what is good and what is bad, he said.

Like Jesus who taught the crowds that followed him and gave them direction, the pope said, priests today are called to

help people find their way toward goodness, joy, and eternal life.

The priest's task is "to make present amid the confusion and disorientation of our age the light of the word of God, the light that is Christ himself," he said.

"The priest does not teach his own ideas" and "he does not speak on his own" or try to gather

a circle of admirers around him, but he proclaims the word of God, the pope said.

At the same time, the pope said, "he is not a spokesman who simply reads a text that is not his own."

A priest must identify so closely with Christ that the Lord's teaching and values become the

## Scripture Readings



May 9, Sixth Sunday of Easter.  
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Acts 15:1-2, 22-29  
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
- 2) Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23  
Gospel) John 14:23-29

By Jeff Hensley

Frank was a postman and a faithful cradle Catholic. When he came into contact with the Catholic charismatic renewal in the late 1970s, he had a rather dramatic renewal of his faith and a deepening of his personal relationship with God. Having just gone through a difficult divorce, he ended up raising a family of teens and preteens mostly by himself.

Amid all this turmoil, Frank delivered the mail and continued to seek God's assistance as he experienced more of his presence in his daily life. Frank asked me once if I ever felt God's loving presence so strongly that it seemed as though He were right there with me, showing his love by embracing me and holding me in his arms.

The question didn't seem strange because I had known such moments myself, sometimes in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament or sometimes simply by being in church, surrounded by other

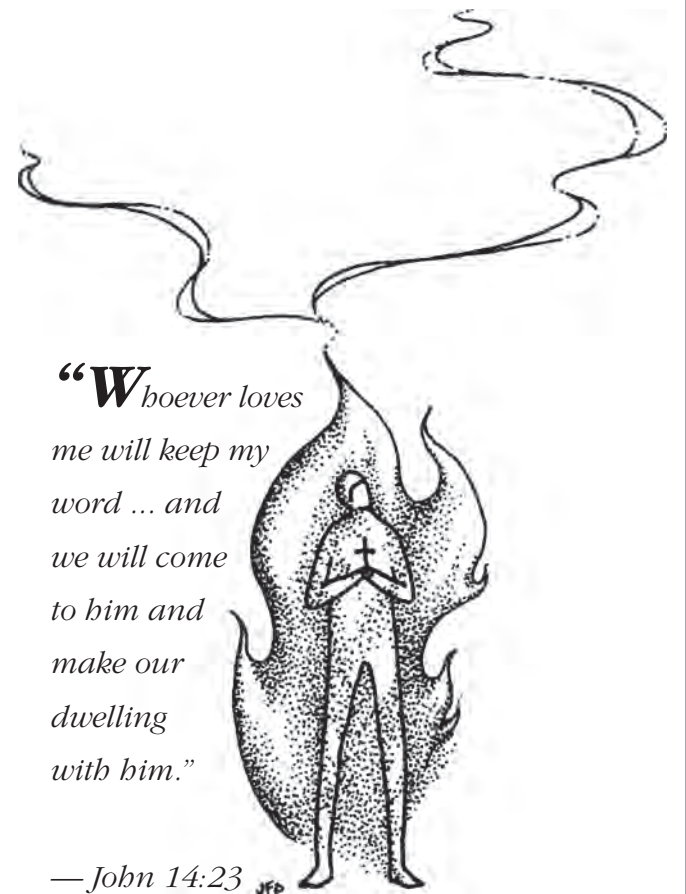
Catholics, many of whom I knew well because of involvement in my parish.

In the passage from Revelation today, John describes his vision of the holy city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. Although his image is of a physical city, he explains there was no temple, "for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb."

I suspect that the moments of joyful unity with God that Frank experienced are foretastes of a time when we will have God's presence with us continuously, foretastes of the joy of heaven.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus offers his disciples another promise of God's presence with us: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and the Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." Then He gives them the gift of his peace.

Having said this, it would be wrong to conclude that the absence of these momentary feelings of God's presence means God is absent from us. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta experienced an extraordinarily long period without them, even as she was obedient to God's call to serve the poorest of the poor. How much greater must be the reward of those like her when they come into God's loving presence on their arrival in heaven.



"Whoever loves me will keep my word ... and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."

— John 14:23 JFB

### QUESTIONS:

Have you experienced God's presence as you prayed, worshipped or served the needs of others? Have you sometimes contemplated the joy of heaven and being in God's presence?

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## The abundant life **Jesus** promised is an **Adventure**

By Jeff Hedglen

"Saddle up your horses/ we've got a trail to blaze/ through the wild blue yonder of God's amazing grace ... this is The Great Adventure." These lyrics are from a song called "The Great Adventure" by Steven Curtis Chapman. The song is about how living the Christian life is not a normal existence, but a great adventure.

I know a lot of people whose pursuit of the faith is a lot like this song suggests. They have had the opportunity to journey to far off places like Africa, Russia, Honduras, and Bolivia for mission excursions. I also know people who have toured the Vatican and walked the Bible lands of Israel and modern day Turkey.

But for most of the people I know, the great adventure of being a disciple is a lot less glamorous, but no less adventurous. For myself, the quest for daily quiet times of meditation and prayer seems harder to achieve than climbing Mount

A life of heartfelt, no holding back, full-on pursuit of God, is anything but boring.



Everest. My friends and family can attest to the fact that, the "holy grail" of trying to get their kids out of bed for Mass, much less get them to the point of desiring to attend, is an adventure worthy of another sequel in the Indiana Jones saga. Additionally those of us who know young adults know that they are more likely to "get down" to modern music at a local club than get down on their knees to participate in the great sacraments of the Church, and talking to them about this will only get you a look that would vote you off the island on any season of "Survivor".

So the adventure is out there

to be had. Like most adventures, it is filled with a mixture of difficulty and delight. A life of heartfelt, no holding back, full-on pursuit of God, is anything but boring. In fact, you might say it is a life of abundance, which is just the message Jesus is sharing with us in John's Gospel when He lets us know that He did not come so our lives would be mundane. He says: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

For God it is not enough that we just get by. Jesus came so that the daily struggle would not define us. In the light of this Easter season, we are reminded

that we possess resurrection power. We just heard a story at Mass of disciples who were beaten for spreading the Good News. When they were released "They left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name" (Acts 5:41). They found joy in the midst of their suffering. This is the true nature of the abundance Jesus came into our world to give us.

The real adventure, the real abundance, is much closer than we might think. Sure we can travel the world and walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the saints, but this is not a requirement to experience all that Jesus has for us. I have seen enough documentaries of missionary activity in developing countries to know that abundance has less to do with material possessions than it has to do with internal peace and joy.

To truly experience the abundance Jesus desires for us, we must embody the message of the first beatitude — "Blessed are the poor in

spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). I remember always having a problem with this beatitude. It seems to say that we are blessed if we are poor in spirit. I always thought being rich in spirit would be better. Then I learned that a more direct translation of this verse says: "Blessed are the *Anawim*, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The word *Anawim* is an ancient term used to refer to the widow, the orphan, and the extremely poor. In biblical times these people were totally dependent on others for their wellbeing. Thus Jesus is saying, blessed are those who are totally and utterly dependent on Me. For when we measure our lives based on our connection to Jesus, we experience not only abundance and adventure, but the Kingdom itself.

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at [jeff@stbartsfw.org](mailto:jeff@stbartsfw.org).

# An act of love, purgatory prepares souls for heaven

By Lucas Pollice

**A**s we saw in the last article, God does not desire to merely “cover up” or “forget” our sins, but rather wishes to completely heal, cleanse, and purify our souls from the very last speck of sin and corruption.

Thus, those who die in friendship with Christ but are still imperfectly purified (are still wounded or disfigured by already forgiven sin) undergo a final purification in purgatory to prepare their soul for entrance into heaven. Purgatory is the great final act of God’s love and mercy!

## PURGATORY: WHO NEEDS IT?

The Book of Revelation clearly shows that nothing unclean can enter heaven. “Nothing unclean will enter (heaven), nor anyone who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (*Revelation 21:27*). In other words, a soul with even the tiniest speck of sin or corruption would be unworthy of heaven and being in the presence of God. Thus, there are three possible things that can happen to a soul at the moment of death or what we call the *particular judgment*:

1. A soul who has fully cooperated with God’s grace on earth and is in the perfect state of grace and is completely detached from sin and the effects of sin is worthy of heaven and will go straight into paradise.
2. A soul in the state of unrepentant mortal sin is completely deprived of all sanctifying grace and is spiritually dead (*1 John 5:16-17; James 1:14-15*). A soul in this state would go directly to hell, or the place of eternal separation from God.
3. However, many souls die in the state of grace, or in friendship with God, but are still wounded by venial sin (a sin that diminishes grace but does not destroy it). While this soul is not yet worthy of heaven, it is spiritually alive and needs final purification for entrance into heavenly glory. This soul will go to purgatory, or the place of final purification, for a time until it is completely purified of all sin and corruption and then enter into heaven to be with the blessed for all eternity.

Purification in purgatory may also be needed for mortal sins that are forgiven through sacramental confession, but the temporal punishment of the sin may still remain. For example, a drug addict may repent and confess using drugs, and is forgiven his sin and restored to the state of grace. However, the temporal effects of that sin remain: the soul and the will

remain distorted, the desire for drugs remains, etc. While the soul is in friendship with God, it remains in need of purification. In other words, through forgiveness of sin, God may free someone from eternal punishment of sin (damnation) and restore grace at the moment they repent (sacramental confession), but the residual effects, or temporal punishment of past or present sins, remain and need to be expiated.

While no suffering is enjoyable, all of us at some point in our life will subject ourselves to suffering to obtain a certain goal. For example, if one desires to lose weight, one may subject oneself to a variety of sufferings such as less or no food, food that tastes bad, painful and difficult exercise, etc. Yet one wills it and perseveres in it because they desire to be thin.

Now, let’s think how a soul in purgatory thinks. In purgatory you are able to see sin for what it truly is and what it has done to you, others, and God. You know where you could be (hell), if it were not for God’s gift of mercy and salvation. The best part is that you see where you are going (heaven), and want to get there very badly. You are going to want to rid yourself of horrible and disgusting sin. You are praising God for his love and mercy while you suffer. Yes, it may hurt and not be fun, but you are being healed and prepared for heavenly glory!

## WHERE IS PURGATORY IN THE BIBLE?

While you will never find the word “purgatory” in the Bible, there are many implicit references to it that make it clear that purgatory has always been a part of the Christian Tradition:

**Matthew 12:32:** “And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.” Here Jesus is implying that some sins can be forgiven even in the next world. If there were only heaven and hell, this would be impossible. Those in heaven do not need forgiveness, while those in hell cannot be forgiven.

**1 Peter 4:6:** “For this is why the gospel was preached *even to the dead* that, though condemned in the flesh in human estimation, they might live in the spirit in the estimation of God.” Here Peter speaks of the Gospel being preached to the dead in order that they might live. Again it supports the possibility of salvation after death in purgatory.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15:** Paul speaks of “the Day (which is the Day of Judgment) which will make its appearance with fire, and fire will test the quality of each man’s work.” It goes on to say that “He himself will be saved, but only as one passing through fire.”

**2 Maccabees 12:44-46:** This is probably the clearest reference to purgatory in the Scriptures: “For if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,

*In purgatory you are able to see sin for what it truly is and what it has done to you, others, and God ... you see where you are going (heaven), and want to get there very badly.*

*You are praising God for his love and mercy while you suffer. Yes, it may hurt and not be fun, but you are being healed and prepared for heavenly glory!*

it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.” If purification after death was not possible in purgatory, then why would there be offerings of atonement after death? The idea of purification of sin after death was a part of the Jewish tradition even before the coming of Christ.

## PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

As members of the Church, we belong to the Mystical Body of Christ. However, the Church does not just exist on earth, but also exists in heaven and purgatory. Since we belong to the same family, mysteriously and intimately united in the Holy Spirit, we all remain in relationship with one another even though we may be in different states. When we die, we remain the same person, with the same relationships with others and the Church.

God in his loving plan allows that each of us, as members of the Church, can merit or obtain graces for others by offering our prayers and daily sufferings for those who are in need of grace. “In my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church” (*Colossians 1:24*). St. Paul is not saying here that Christ’s sufferings were somehow insufficient or incomplete, but that Christ wills that we assist in obtaining and applying the graces of the Redemption for others through our prayers and sufferings.

Thus, the members of the Church in purgatory (the Church Suffering) are aided through grace obtained by the prayers and sufferings of the members of the Church on earth (the Church Militant) and the intercessory prayers of the saints in heaven (the Church Triumphant).

Therefore, everyday sufferings and disappointments can become for those of us on earth a moment of grace and merit

for not only ourselves but also for others who are suffering on earth and also for the souls suffering in purgatory. This is the beauty of intercessory prayer and redemptive suffering. Our sufferings can be for us a means to holiness and a powerful aid for others to overcome sin and grow closer to Christ by uniting our suffering with his suffering. It is a powerful opportunity to grow in virtue and love for others. Or else we can squander these “hidden” moments of grace that are given to us each and every day.

Consequently, by uniting our sufferings to Christ’s sufferings with love, our suffering also becomes salvific, for we share in the redemption of Christ; we are co-redeemers. Co-redeemer does not mean equal to Christ, but rather with Christ. He allows us to and expects us to participate in his redemptive suffering by uniting our sufferings to his in order to obtain graces for ourselves and others. Remember, we share in every aspect of the mission of Christ, even in his redemptive suffering. He has willed that we participate with Him by sharing in his redemptive suffering of the cross. It in no way diminishes his perfect, full, and everlasting sacrifice, we simply share in it and become powerful instruments of Christ’s grace and mercy!



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

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

(CNS photo/Karoly Arvai, Reuters)

# Cobertura reciente ha distorsionado y omitido mucho sobre la respuesta del papa y la Iglesia hacia la crisis de abuso sexual

**Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,**

Como probablemente ya se han enterado, ha habido mucha cobertura en los medios de comunicación con respecto a los trágicos casos de abuso sexual que desafortunadamente han ocurrido en la Iglesia Católica durante los últimos 40 años.

La cobertura reciente se ha centrado alrededor de algunos casos de abuso que han surgido en Europa, que supuestamente han implicado a Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, ahora el Papa Benedicto XVI. Sé por mis conversaciones con algunas personas aquí, y en otros lugares, que esto es un asunto muy serio que actualmente está en la mente de muchos católicos. Como pastor de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*, quisiera tomar un momento para tratar este tema tan preocupante.

Primero, nosotros como miembros de la Iglesia debemos reconocer que el pecado de los abusos sexuales, por parte de los sacerdotes, es una trágica y profundamente preocupante realidad que ha sucedido en la Iglesia. Nunca podremos minimizar el inmenso daño que ha sido infligido por algunos sacerdotes, que no sólo han herido profundamente a las víctimas del abuso, sino que también han provocado un grave escándalo en la Iglesia y en el mundo entero.

Como obispo de la *Diócesis católica de Fort Worth*, me he sentado con víctimas de abuso por sacerdotes. Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, he visto el daño devastador y duradero que han tenido que soportar los familiares y víctimas del abuso sexual por un sacerdote. Siempre me conmueve y expreso mi profundo dolor por cualquier abuso sexual que las víctimas tuvieron que soportar a manos de un sacerdote. En esos momentos me conmueve y comienzo a orar para que todos alcancen la sanación y la reconciliación en sus vidas. Una de mis principales preocupaciones durante toda esta cobertura reciente es que se vuelvan a abrir viejas heridas en individuos que han sido abusados sexualmente en el pasado, y ahora resulte en sufrimiento adicional.

Nosotros, como el *Cuerpo de Cristo*, debemos hacer todo lo que podamos para evitar que suceda esta clase de abuso por

*El Santo Padre ha sido uno de los más vocales líderes dentro de la Iglesia contra abusos sexuales por los sacerdotes, desde que era Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger y servía como Prefecto para la CONGREGACIÓN PARA LA DOCTRINA DE LA FE. Asistió extensamente en el establecimiento de legislación dentro de la Iglesia para ayudar a los obispos en tratar con sacerdotes que han abusado de niños.*



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann

cualquier persona que esté envuelta en, o sea parte de un ministerio dentro de la Iglesia Católica. Es por esto que en nuestra diócesis, durante los últimos siete años, hemos dedicado una enorme cantidad de recursos y tiempo desarrollando nuestro Programa de ambiente seguro para los niños para ayudar a los voluntarios, o los que estén en cualquier tipo de ministerio en la Iglesia, a estar conscientes de los signos y evidencias de abuso, para así poder proteger a niños y jóvenes contra abusos sexuales de cualquier clase. Esto debe ser y continuará siendo una prioridad importante en la vida y misión de la *Diócesis de Fort Worth*.

Al mismo tiempo, nosotros como católicos debemos ver este triste capítulo en nuestra Iglesia como una ocasión para reafirmar de nuevo la bondad de la Iglesia, y para ser testigos positivos para todos, a través de nuestro propio buen testimonio, y siendo fieles a la llamada del Señor a la santidad y caridad. Debemos ver esta tragedia como medio para la purificación, y tomar en serio la llamada a la continua conversión, y rechazar el ser esclavizado por el pecado en todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas y vocaciones. Durante esta época de Pascua, hacemos esto en cada Misa dominical cuando renovamos nuestros votos bautismales y nos comprometemos con la ayuda de la gracia de Dios a rechazar a Satanás y al pecado, y vivir nuestras vidas con gran fe, esperanza y amor.

Sin disminuir la gravedad y el sufrimiento de las víctimas, la avalancha de noticias recientes deja una impresión de que el abuso sexual de niños, por parte de sacerdotes, es un problema cada vez mayor. Los casos de abuso sexual que son el foco central de artículos ocurrieron hace varias décadas. Los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos han trabajado diligentemente en no sólo entender las razones detrás de los casos de abuso sexual, sino también en asegurarse de que no vuelva a ocurrir, por que no puede volver a ocurrir. En *Los estatutos para larotección de niños*

y Jóvenes adoptados en una reunión de Dallas en el 2002, los *Obispos de los Estados Unidos* dijeron que "hemos reconocido nuestros errores y la parte que nos toca en ese sufrimiento; pedimos perdón y asumimos la responsabilidad nuevamente, por haber fallado con frecuencia a las víctimas y al pueblo católico en el pasado. Desde lo más hondo de nuestro corazón, nosotros, los obispos, expresamos nuestro profundo pesar y tristeza por lo que el pueblo católico ha padecido". Además, una auditoria anual conducida por expertos externos, a nombre de la *Conferencia de obispos de los Estados Unidos*, categóricamente documenta que el problema de los abusos sexuales de niños, por parte de los sacerdotes, no se está expandiendo. A lo contrario, las acciones asertivas de los *Obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos* demuestran que hemos progresado a grandes pasos en la prevención a través de la investigación vigorosa de cada sacerdote, empleado, y voluntario de una diócesis.

Finalmente, reportajes recientes, distorsionados y discriminatorios, sugieren que el Papa Benedicto XVI está implicado en el permitir o tolerar abuso sexual por parte de sacerdotes. El Santo Padre ha sido uno de los más vocales líderes dentro de la Iglesia contra abusos sexuales por los sacerdotes, desde que era Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger y servía como Prefecto para la *Congregación para la doctrina de la fe*. Él asistió extensamente en el establecimiento de legislación dentro de la Iglesia para ayudar a los obispos en tratar con sacerdotes que han abusado de niños. Por ejemplo, el Arzobispo Wilton Gregory, quien fue presidente de la *Conferencia de obispos* cuando los casos de abuso sexual emergieron en el 2003, indicó en una entrevista reciente que el cardenal Ratzinger fue un muy fuerte partidario de acción determinada contra cualquier forma de abuso sexual.

Dijo:

"En el curso de mis tres años como presidente [de la *Conferencia católica*

de Obispos de los Estados Unidos], hice 13 distintos viajes a Roma, y tuve casi siempre una reunión privada con el cardenal Ratzinger. Fue, sin duda, la voz de más apoyo en la mesa, y siempre parecía poseer la comprensión más grande de la seriedad, y lo significativo de reaccionar y responder con una acción fuerte".

Desde el comienzo de su pontificado, Benedicto ha salido decididamente a encontrarse con las víctimas de los abusos sexuales, incluyendo aquellos que están aquí en los Estados Unidos durante su visita en 2007. Recientemente, ofreció un discurso con palabras muy fuertes a los obispos en Irlanda, en la cual indicó:

"Las heridas causadas por estos actos son profundas, y es urgente reconstruir la confianza donde ha sido dañada. En vuestros continuos esfuerzos por afrontar de modo eficaz este problema, es importante establecer la verdad de lo sucedido en el pasado, dar todos los pasos necesarios para evitar que se repita, garantizar que se respeten plenamente los principios de justicia y, sobre todo, curar a las víctimas y a todos los afectados por esos crímenes abominables".

El Santo Padre ha encargado a cada obispo católico con la responsabilidad de asegurar la seguridad de nuestros jóvenes y de ocuparnos rápidamente de cada alegación creíble. El Papa Benedicto no sólo amonesta a los obispos en mantener un ambiente seguro, sino que también nos ocupemos de las transgresiones pasadas de los sacerdotes con los menores de edad, la mayoría de las cuales han ocurrieron hace muchos años.

De hecho, estos días son preocupantes para nosotros los católicos, pero debemos movernos hacia delante, reconociendo los errores y los pecados del pasado, compensar por esas faltas, y movernos hacia delante con una convicción más firme y vibrante de vivir nuestra fe católica, de modo que podamos ser testigos positivos y eficaces para el mundo y la cultura que nos rodea.

En conclusión, les pido a todos ustedes que por favor mantengan en sus oraciones a todas las víctimas del abuso sexual por cualquier persona, que ellos puedan experimentar la presencia sanadora de Cristo en sus vidas. También pido, especialmente durante este *Año del sacerdote*, que oren por todos nuestros sacerdotes y seminaristas, que el Señor continúe fortaleciéndolos con su gracia y que puedan todos ser fieles y servidores del *Cuerpo de Cristo* y que claramente sean la luz de Cristo para todos nosotros.

+ Kevin W. Vann

+ Monseñor Kevin W. Vann  
Obispo de Fort Worth



Organizadores esperaban 400 mujeres, pero recibieron más de 1,400 en el primer congreso anual de mujeres, marzo 13.

## Retiro diocesano acerca más de 1,400 mujeres a Cristo

Por Juan Guajardo  
Asistente Editorial

Cuando el padre Valdemar González entró al colegio *Nolan Catholic*, se sorprendió.

El público en el retiro de un día no era el más grande que el padre González, un sacerdote visitante de Nuevo Laredo, había visto. Pero sí lo impresionó.

El padre González y los directores del retiro esperaban 400 mujeres; sin embargo, aproximadamente 1400 mujeres asistieron al primer congreso anual de mujeres, en el Auditorio *Nolan Hartnett*, el 13 de marzo.

“Dios atrajo a muchas mujeres y, al final de cuentas, luego ellas van a traer a sus compañeros, a sus esposos, y por ahí nos vamos”, dijo el padre González. “Es una cadena de conversión”.

El retiro se enfocó fuertemente en el perdón y la sanación, comprendiendo mejor el amor y la compasión de Jesucristo, y abriendo el corazón a Dios. El retiro del sábado consistió de varias pláticas, adoración Eucarística, una misa, una ceremonia de sanación, testimonios de mujeres laicas, alabanza y oración, y un servicio de perdón que invitó a las mujeres de olvidar sus quejas y sus dolores.

El padre González inauguró la primera plática del retiro, centrando su mensaje en el poder de Jesús de curar las dolencias de todo corazón. Se refirió a una experiencia personal, recordando sus días como un joven seminarista frustrado, a punto de abandonar sus estudios en el seminario.

“¿Saben qué me faltaba?” el padre González le preguntó a la multitud. “Pues el encuentro con el Señor! Y yo pensé que ya lo conocía”.

Contó cuando, en su último año de estudios, fue invitado a un retiro carismático en México, dado por el padre Rafael Delgado, un sacerdote en su seminario.

De mala gana fue al retiro de una semana como el único semi-

narista entre 500 sacerdotes— algo que no le contó a nadie. Pasó toda la semana resistiéndose al concepto del retiro.

Al final de la semana, el padre González comenzó a llorar durante la adoración Eucarística, y cayó de rodillas, abatiéndolo un dolor abrumador, y sintiéndose “herido de corazón”. Poreso le dijo a Jesús en la Eucaristía: “yo ya dije que me voy, pero si me quieres de sacerdote, en este momento — yo no se cómo le vas a hacer — ven y dime que me amas, y que quieres que yo sea sacerdote”.

Después de unos momentos, un sacerdote que nunca había visto se acercó, se arrodilló a su lado, habló en muchas lenguas, y luego le dijo: “Jesús quiere que tu seas sacerdote. Él te ama”. La tristeza que sentía el padre González se evaporó, y comenzó a exaltar al Señor.

Sin embargo, el día siguiente no podía creer lo ocurrido, y comenzó a crear excusas y explicaciones para el incidente.

“Dios no puede ser así”, recuerda haber pensado. “¿Cómo puede ser Dios así? ¿cómo puede Dios responder tan rápido, si Él está allá?” El padre González apuntó hacia el cielo.

Pero comprendió la otra verdad durante la Misa que concluyó el retiro. Durante la consagración, de nuevo le exclamó a Dios: “Si realmente quieres esto, dímelo aquí”. En ese momento, “se empiezan a caer todas las monjas. Una se cae al lado mío y dice, “Señor, Tú te has manifestado hoy con nosotros para que crea el que no cree, para que aumente su fe, su esperanza, su amor”, el padre contó.

El padre González llegó a hacerse padre carismático, evangelizando en las áreas más pobres de México, y ocasionalmente participando en retiros en los Estados Unidos.

“Dios quiere sanar tu corazón, siempre”, le contó a la audiencia de mujeres. “Dice Jesús, “Vengan a mí los fatigados, los cansados, los agobiados, y yo les daré alivio”. El Señor sanó mi corazón, y el Señor lo sigue sanando. Siempre

que te dejes sanar por Dios, Dios te sanará. [Pero] a la fuerza, ni los zapatos entran”.

El padre Ángel Infante, de la iglesia *Todos los santos (All Saints Church)*, dio la segunda plática, refiriéndose a la visita de Jesús a la mujer samaritana, quien había tenido cinco maridos y que en ese entonces estaba viviendo con otro hombre.

“Seis hombres es el reflejo de la sed inquietante en la vida de la mujer”, explicó el padre Infante. “¿Cuántas cosas has probado en tu vida, tratando de encontrar esa santidad en tu vida? Y realmente nada te ha llenado, ni tu esposo. No es que sea malo. No. Una persona finita no puede cubrir la necesidad del ser humano por un amor inmenso.

“¿Quién es el Séptimo Hombre entonces?” preguntó, mientras que 1400 mujeres contestaban, “Jesús”.

El padre Infante continuó, “El Señor es el Séptimo Hombre para todos porque Él es el amor tan grande que estamos esperando... Hoy tenemos la dicha que ese Séptimo Hombre ofrece su vida en el altar para alimentarnos”, dijo el padre Infante, mientras centenas de voces exclamando ‘Amén’ se escuchaban en la multitud.

Isabel Castañeda, una participante, disfrutó el retiro del sábado.

“Es algo increíble; es algo maravilloso”, comentó Castañeda, quien lo encontró beneficioso tanto para su hermana como para ella. “Aquí se revive hasta a un muerto; lo único que tenemos que traer en la bolsa es la fe, la esperanza y amor a Cristo. Lo que me hizo sentir mejor fue que a mi hermana la tocó el Espíritu Santo; es lo que más me llenó a mí”.

Andrés Aranda, delegado de la *Oficina diocesana del ministerio hispano*, explicó que los retiros para mujeres, y el retiro para hombres que tomó lugar en enero, continuarán, gracias a la gran participación, y a su resultado en tocar los corazones de quienes estuvieron presentes.



Padre Ángel Infante levanta la Eucaristía durante la adoración en la Hora Santa.



Participantes se ríen de uno de los chistes del Pr. González durante su plática.



Pr. Valdemar González da una plática sobre el poder de Jesús en sanar corazones. Invitado como presentador, el Pr. González viajó desde Nuevo Laredo, México.

“Estamos muy contentos porque sabemos que la gente quiere ser evangelizada, quiere una experiencia con Jesús, pero tenemos que darles los medios”, dijo Aranda. “Son buenos números y la gente sale muy contenta”.

El padre Infante también estaba contento con el éxito del retiro, añadiendo que tantos asistentes quería decir que muchos más se

beneficiarían.

“La experiencia de Dios en un retiro es una huella más de Él en nuestras vidas... Él no solo deja una huella, Él deja muchas huellas a lo largo de nuestras vidas”, comentó el sacerdote, quien acaba de comenzar, hace un año, a liderar retiros carismáticos. “Hay que tomar todas las huellas que Él nos da”.



# Arzobispo Gómez de San Antonio nombrado coadjutor de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI ha nombrado al arzobispo José H. Gómez de San Antonio como arzobispo coadjutor de Los Ángeles.

El nombramiento fue anunciado en Washington, el 6 de abril, por el arzobispo Pietro Sambi, nuncio apostólico ante los Estados Unidos.

El cardenal Roger M. Mahony actualmente dirige la arquidiócesis. Como coadjutor, el arzobispo Gómez, de 58 años de edad, se convierte automáticamente en director de la arquidiócesis al momento de la jubilación o muerte del cardenal Mahony.

El cardenal cumplirá en febrero los 75 años, edad a la cual la ley canónica requiere que los obispos entreguen al papa su renuncia.

El arzobispo Gómez es actualmente el prelado de

mayor grado entre los 27 obispos católicos hispanos activos en los Estados Unidos. Cuando tome su lugar como sucesor del cardenal Mahony, se convertirá en el primer arzobispo hispano de Los Ángeles, la arquidiócesis más grande de la nación.

“Estoy muy agradecido al Santo Padre por darme esta oportunidad de servirle a la Iglesia con un mentor y líder como el cardenal Roger Mahony”, dijo el arzobispo Gómez en una declaración.

Una Misa de recepción para el arzobispo Gómez será celebrada en Los Ángeles el 26 de mayo.

El arzobispo, uno de los 22 obispos *Opus Dei* en todo el mundo, fue instalado para dirigir la arquidiócesis de San Antonio en febrero del 2005. Antes de eso había sido obispo auxiliar en Denver durante unos tres años.



El arzobispo José H. Gómez de San Antonio se dirige a los medios de comunicación en una conferencia de prensa en la catedral *Our Lady of the Angels*, en Los Ángeles, el 6 de abril. Al nombrar al arzobispo Gómez coadjutor de Los Ángeles, el Papa Benedicto XVI ha elegido un sucesor del cardenal Roger M. Mahony, a la izquierda. (Foto CNS/Tim Rue)

El arzobispo Gómez es director electo del *Comité sobre migración* de los obispos estadounidenses. También es director del *Subcomité sobre la Iglesia en América Latina*, del *Comité ad hoc de la Biblia en español* y del *Comité sobre doctrina*.

José Horacio Gómez nació el 26 de diciembre de 1951 en Monterrey, México. Asistió a la *Universidad Nacional de México*, donde obtuvo licenciatura en contabilidad. En la universidad, se unió a *Opus Dei*, institución dedicada en ayudar a las personas a convertir su trabajo y actividades diarias en ocasiones para acercarse a Dios.

El arzobispo Gómez estudió teología en Roma y en la *Universidad de Navarra* en España, donde obtuvo licenciatura en teología y doctorado en teología moral. Fue ordenado sacerdote de *Opus Dei* el 15 de agosto de 1978 en Torreciudad, España.

Después de la ordenación siguió su trabajo pastoral con estudiantes de la escuela secundaria y la universidad en España y en México. En 1987 fue enviado a lo que entonces era la *Diócesis de Galveston-Houston* para ministrar para el *Opus Dei* en varias capacidades en Texas. Se hizo ciudadano estadounidense en 1995.

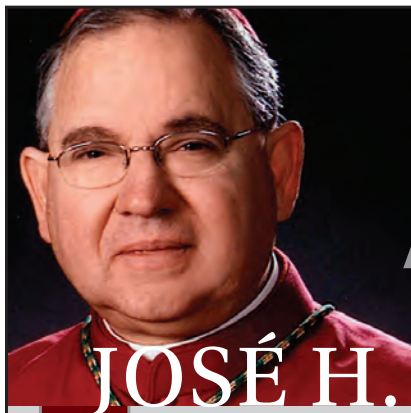
El cardenal Mahony ha sido arzobispo de Los Ángeles durante casi 25 años. Nombrado en julio de 1985, fue instalado en septiembre de ese año. Fue elevado al *Colegio de cardenales* en junio de 1991.

Durante su ocupación del puesto, el cardenal ha sido un líder nacional abogando para que el Congreso de los Estados Unidos apruebe la reforma abarcadora de inmigración. Ha servido como

director del comité de doctrina de los obispos y actualmente es consultor para los comités de culto divino, migración y actividades pro vida.

Nacido en Hollywood, California, el cardenal Mahony

es el primer nativo angelino y el tercer arzobispo de Los Ángeles en ser elevado a cardenal. De 1980 a 1985 fue obispo de Stockton, California, y anterior a eso fue obispo auxiliar de la *Diócesis de Fresno*, California.



“Vayamos con plena confianza al Trono de la Gracia.” Heb 4,16  
Lema episcopal

## JOSÉ H. GÓMEZ

- 1951** Nació el 26 de diciembre en Monterrey, México.
- 1978** Ordenado sacerdote de la Prelatura del Opus Dei el 15 de agosto.
- 1980** Obtuvo doctorado en teología de la Universidad de Navarra, España.
- 1987** Trabajó como sacerdote parroquial en Texas hasta 1999.
- 1995** Elegido presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos, luego se convirtió en director ejecutivo.
- 2001** Nombrado obispo auxiliar de Denver, donde sirvió como rector de la catedral, moderador de la curia y vicario general.
- 2003** Presidente del Comité Ad Hoc para la Biblia en lengua española de la Iglesia en América.
- 2004** Nombrado arzobispo de San Antonio, instalado en el 2005.
- 2005** Nombrado uno de los 25 hispanos más influyentes de EE.UU. por la revista Time.
- 2007** Unificó a líderes hispanos y obispos para la creación de la Asociación Católica de Líderes Latinos.
- 2008** Elegido consultor de la Comisión Pontificia para América Latina. Se convierte en presidente del Comité para la Diversidad Cultural de los Obispos de EE.UU.
- 2009** Elegido presidente del Comité sobre Migración de los Obispos de EE.UU.
- 2010** Nombrado arzobispo coadjutor de Los Ángeles.

## El Espíritu Santo y la Eucaristía

Un día de retiro en español para celebrar la fiesta del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo, en el *Centro de Cursillos* de Fort Worth, 2221 NW 26th St., junio 6, domingo, de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m..

Venga con sus amistades a alabar al Señor por su amor en la Eucaristía, y quédense con nosotros por amor. Será un día que podrá cambiar su vida y su amor a Jesús en la Eucaristía. No hace falta reserva previa. Matrícula a la puerta desde las 7:30 a.m. el mismo día. Donación a la puerta \$25. Para más información, sírvase



llamar a Martha Galvan: (817) 770-6522, o a el *Centro de Cursillos*: (817) 624-9411. Jesús le espera en junio 6, domingo.

### Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

### Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

# Rosary...

FROM PAGE 28

Although the threat of bad weather earlier in the day kept participation at the Rosary Vigil slightly down this year, the Pelletiers were pleased by the turnout. But the pro-life workers say they also need people outside the abortion clinics and at the crisis pregnancy center at other times of the year.

"We need their presence. The young mother we're helping proves that," Pat Pelletier points out. "Being there physically lets these women know they are not alone. We can tell them we've been doing this a long time and can take care of them."

The plight of troubled, expectant mothers is never far from the thoughts of Tracie and Dan Huber who bring their children to the Rosary Vigil every year. The Easter weekend



activity is a tradition for the family who belong to St. Peter the Apostle Parish.

"We want them to grow up knowing it's OK and cool to be out in public praying the Rosary for a good thing," the father of seven explained.

Huber believes the experience will make his children better Christians, students, and

people. He encourages other parents to guide their youngsters in a similar way.

"I'd advise everyone to bring their children at least once. If they don't come to the big Good Friday event, at least come once during the week to pray outside the clinic," he suggested. "It will give the kids a real clear view of what's good and what's not."

**LEFT:** Genni Pereira shows three of her four children, (LEFT TO RIGHT) Ryan, 3, Brenna, 5, and Kileigh, 7, how to pray a Rosary. Her fourth child, Erin, is sitting in the stroller.



**RIGHT:** Four-year-old Adam Salvanda kisses the crucifix on a rosary held by his mother, Catherine, at the Rosary Vigil for Life held annually on Good Friday.

# Hamer...

FROM PAGE 13

up." (Okay, a little late for maternal concern, but I had answered the phone when she called the second time, hadn't I? Doesn't 'close' count in mothering like it does in horseshoes??)

Everybody at school — teachers, parents, even her children, checked on Meredith's wellbeing. "A friend called last night and said she had stopped and talked to me after it happened — I don't remember that part.

"I am enjoying one thing," Meredith said. "I like being the super woman cars crash into and then wither in my wake."

"Who wouldn't like being that person!" I agreed. Unfortunately I had been the person who is a worthless excuse for a mother.

Some of us never fail at the job God entrusted to us when he gave us children. My friend Debbie has a son Danny, who has always been a gift to her, but one day I got a vivid image of the gift she is to him.

We were having dinner at

their family's home, celebrating birthdays, and visiting with Debbie's daughter Sarah, and her then fiancé, my son John. The large family group was gathered around the table; conversations and interactions were lively and unpredictable.

It was the kind of chaos that is by no means unwelcome, because it is a sure sign to God that more than a few of us are gathered there, each one beckoning Him into our midst, where He belongs, always.

Some of us are closer to God than others, among them Danny. Danny has cerebral palsy, and still lives his life with such intensity, curiosity, and vibrance that he becomes, to observers, a being we should emulate all days and in all things.

When both our families were Nolan Catholic High School families, I would watch Danny with his mother and father, Bill, at football games. Every time, Bill would lift his son from his wheel chair and carry him in his arms to the bleachers, so Danny could easily see his younger sister Sarah, dancing on the field during halftime.

The action showed a degree

of love not everyone is privileged to observe, much less to enjoy.

I saw that love again, between Danny and Debbie, that night at their home during dinner. Debbie's son swallowed wrong and began to choke.

She walked calmly to the end of the table, where Danny sat, and I was next to him, in the envied position of having a perfect sight of what happened next.

Debbie knelt on the floor in front of him, took his hands in hers, and gazed into his eyes. "Look at me," she said to Dan, who had become agitated and was making his swallowing situation worse.

"Look at me," she said, and then, tenderly, with the demeanor of a mother who has done this before, and always with love, Debbie repeated, "Say Momma. Say Momma. Say Momma."

She did not say, "Be calm, Dan." She did not say, "Focus." She did not say, "Breathe, Danny!"

Debbie said, "Say Momma, say Momma," and Danny did. With those words, the anxiety was gone, replaced with confidence and faith that when

Mom's there, all is well. He stopped struggling, and swallowed his food.

I never experience a Mother's Day, now, when the memory of that moment does not enrich me.

I am pretty sure my daughter Meredith will forgive me for not answering when she called, "Momma." Fortunately she had somebody else taking care of her at that moment, patting her arm: four-year-old Emma.

Later that evening, Emma asked, "Are you okay after a car hit you?"

Meredith answered, "Yes. Thanks for taking care of me!"

Emma was quietly thinking, then asked carefully: "You are

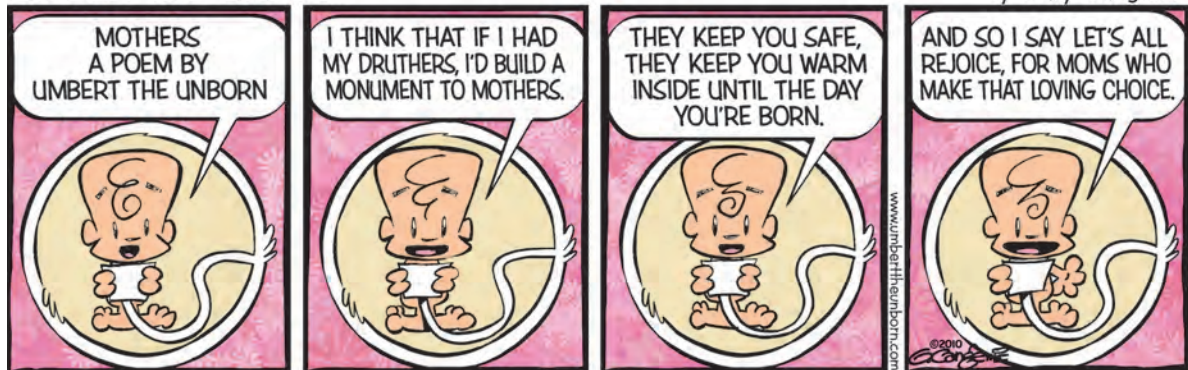
still the mom, though, right?" Meredith smiled. "Absolutely."

To Meredith and Debbie: Happy Momma's Day.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. In May 2009 her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association for the second time in two years at the Catholic Media Convention in Anaheim. In 2005, Kathy's column was recognized with the first place award in the same category.

# Umbert the Unborn



# Calendar

## DIVORCE CARE SERIES

St. Paul the Apostle Parish, 5508 Black Oak Ln., Fort Worth, is offering a Divorce Care Series with the addition of a companion series Divorce Care for Kids (DC4K) to run with it. The next series, distributed by Church Initiative, will begin Thursday April 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will be held every Thursday evening through July 22. Facilitators and helpers in both programs have been through the divorce process themselves, have been trained in the program, and have attended the "Keeping Children Safe" program. The content of each session is age appropriate. DC4K is geared to children five-12 years of age, and the adult series is geared for age 13 and older. There is no cost for this program. Pre-registration is preferred. Call the parish office at (817) 738-9925, leave a name and number; a team member will return the call.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter will host a Marriage Encounter weekend June 11-13. Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together. The emphasis of Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life to concentrate on each other. To learn more about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, visit the Web site at [www.dfwme.org](http://www.dfwme.org). To register for the weekend, call Angelo and Shanna Nasche at (972) 317-2400 or e-mail [register@dfwme.org](mailto:register@dfwme.org).

## SILENT RETREAT WEEKEND

All are invited to attend the Contemplative Outreach's annual Four-Day Silent Retreat May 13-16 at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, 600 North Shady Shore, Dallas. Father William Fickel, SSS, from Cleveland will be the retreat leader. This retreat is designed for those interested in deepening their spiritual practice in an atmosphere of silence, solitude, and community. Registration form and details are available online at [www.CellOfPeace.com](http://www.CellOfPeace.com) or e-mail, to [CPDallas@CellOfPeace.com](mailto:CPDallas@CellOfPeace.com), or call (972) 722-6029. Registration deadline is April 30.

## ST. JOHN SUMMER CAMP

St. John the Apostle Parish will offer a weekly summer camp June 1 to Aug. 27 for children ages one through eighth grade. The camp will be available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration may be made for the entire summer or specific weeks. In addition, a summer Parents Day Out program will be offered from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays only or Tuesdays and Thursdays for children ages one through five years. Registrations are also being accepted for the fall sessions. St. John's is located at 7341 Glenview Dr. in North Richland Hills. For more information call (817) 595-2654.

## LAY CARMELITE

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

## COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

## ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

## To Report Misconduct

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

- Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201

- or e-mail her at [jlocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org)

- Or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline (817) 560-2452 ext. 900

- Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 102 and ask for the chancellor/moderator of the curia, Father James Hart

## To Report Abuse

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

## VOCATION AWARENESS

The 2010 Vocation Awareness Program will be held June 25-27 at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Dr., Irving. The weekend is open to all individuals who are Catholic, 18 to 40 years of age, and have an interest in learning about the ministry as a priest, brother, or sister. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 105 or [kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org](mailto:kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org), or visit <http://www.vapinfo.org>.

## MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST

Father Hector Medina, a composer and pastor of St. Matthew Parish in Arlington, will be the keynote speaker during Magnificat's Spring prayer breakfast Saturday, May 22. In addition to the talk, this gathering will focus on the feast of Pentecost. The breakfast, sponsored by the Grapevine chapter in North Texas, will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Hwy. 121, Lewisville. Fr. Medina was ordained a priest on June 23, 1984, has served in a number of parishes in the Fort Worth area, and is a composer with four songs published by Oregon Catholic Press, *Canto de Despedida*, *Aleluya*, *Al Paraíso*, and *Bajo la Sombra*. Fr. Medina studied Canon Law at Catholic University of America and has worked with the Marriage Tribunal office for the Diocese of Fort Worth. The topic of his speech will be "Our Relationship with Jesus." Tickets for the Magnificat breakfast are \$18, and can be purchased through May 18 at the following Catholic bookstores: Keepsakes Catholic Books and Gifts, Lakewood Center, Arlington; Little Angels Catholic Store, 600 E. Sandy Lake Rd., Coppell; Catholic Art and Gifts, 2761 Valwood Pkwy., Farmers Branch; St. Anthony's Bookstore, 3121 McCart Ave., Fort Worth; and Divine Mercy Catholic Book Store and Gifts, 262 S. Interstate 35 E., Denton. Tickets can also be purchased by contacting Nanci Ferri at (817) 498-7980. The breakfast will also offer periods of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and confession. For additional information on the Grapevine chapter of Magnificat, look under the events calendar and resources section of the Fort Worth diocesan Web site, at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org). Upcoming speakers include Robert Abel, author of *The Catholic Warrior*. He will be the featured guest at a special breakfast open to men on Sept. 18.

## MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities and Their Families regularly meets the fourth Thursday of the month for prayer and conversation at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held May 27. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

## CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

## MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

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

## DISCERNMENT AT OLV

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

## NTC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the May 7 issue must be received by noon on April 28. Items for the May 21 issue must be received by noon on May 12. Send information to [jrusseau@fwdioc.org](mailto:jrusseau@fwdioc.org).

## ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

The next Engaged Encounter weekend will be offered May 14-16 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4305 Bridge St., Fort Worth. The weekend retreat is designed to help couples examine the life long commitment they are making to one another and to better understand the rich meaning of Christian marriage. The weekend is presented by a team of married couples and a chaplain. It lasts from Friday evening to around noon on Sunday. Throughout the weekend, the presenting team will give a series of talks. An opportunity will be given following each talk for personal reflection. Couples will also have the chance to share ideas, dreams, feelings, and hopes with each other. To register, contact Jeri Edmunds at (817) 346-9320. Registration forms are available online at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) under Family Life, Engaged Encounter.

## DIOCESAN SINGLES RETREAT

The Diocesan Singles Retreat will be held May 7, 8, and 9 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. The retreat "Walking with Jesus" will begin Friday night at 7:30 p.m. Saturday will include a day of sharing and interactive sessions. Participants are asked to bring linens for a twin bed, a Bible, note pad, walking shoes, and snacks to share. There will be a break Saturday evening for those not wishing to stay for Sunday. The cost of the weekend retreat is \$80. Financial assistance is available if needed. For more information, contact Susan at (817) 346-8023.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

The eighth annual Eagle Classic Golf Tournament benefiting St. John the Apostle School will be held Friday, May 14 at Iron Horse Golf Course, 6200 Skylark Circle in North Richland Hills. Check-in time will be at 11:30 a.m. and tee-off time will be 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$100 per player and includes golf cart, goodie bag, bucket of balls, banquet and awards ceremony. Sponsorship levels are also available. Non-players are invited to attend the dinner and awards ceremony for \$10 per person. Participants may register online at [www.stjts.org/golf.htm](http://www.stjts.org/golf.htm) or by contacting Sandra Gonzalez at [golf@stjts.org](mailto:golf@stjts.org) or (817) 235-6552.

## 'YOU SHALL BELIEVE...'

"You Shall Believe..." a documentary film on the Eucharist will be presented at San Mateo Mission in English and Spanish. The English presentation will be offered Sunday, May 2 and Sunday, May 23, and the Spanish presentation will be offered Sunday, May 16. All sessions will begin at 5 p.m. Discussion time with Australian journalists Ron Tesorero and Mike Willesee will follow the film. Mike, a senior investigative Journalist, and Ron, a lawyer, have been researching claimed supernatural events in the Catholic Church for a number of years. Their work became the basis for the making of the television program broadcast internationally on the Fox network in 1999, "Signs from God. Science Tests Faith." They are currently researching "the blood of Christ" through science and through history. What they have to say will touch the hearts and minds of all that hear them, according to program materials. For more information and to make a reservation, visit the Web site at [www.youshallbelieve.com](http://www.youshallbelieve.com). San Mateo Mission is located at 3316 Lovell Ave., Fort Worth.

## BIG BAND JAZZ DANCE

The Nolan Catholic High School Jazz Band invites all to its annual Big Band Jazz Dance Revue Saturday, May 1 from 7 to 10 p.m. The event will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. Admission is \$10 per person. Appetizers will be available and drinks will be sold for \$1. For more information, contact Mike Alonso at (214) 435-0022.

## GARAGE SALE

The Parent Action Team will host a garage sale in the St. Ignatius building, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, May 15-16 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Useable and clean items — furniture, clothes, home accessories — will be accepted during the week of May 10-14. Anyone wishing to donate items is asked to contact Patty at St. Patrick Cathedral at (817) 338-4441. The proceeds from the garage sale will benefit the Religious Formation department.

## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH 2009/10 DIRECTORY

The 2009/10 Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth directory is currently available for purchase. The cost for each directory is \$15. Send a check, payable to *North Texas Catholic*, to Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108, along with mailing address. For more information, contact Judy Russeau at (817) 560-2452 ext. 308.

# Classified Section

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Vernon is looking for a coordinator of Youth Ministry to effectively lead an active and thriving youth ministry in one of the friendliest towns in Texas. A group of talented young people and a dedicated team of adult volunteers are already in place and eager to find a coordinator that will continue the growth of this well-formed and successful ministry in the Northwest Deanery of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Qualifications are an active, Catholic faith life, a bachelor's degree in ministry, theology, education or related field, and experience in working with youth and young adults, as well as parish staff and volunteers. Applicants should be well versed in comprehensive youth ministry as laid out in the RTV. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with education and experience. Resumes can be sent to Father Jack McKone, Holy Family of Nazareth Church, 2200 Roberts St., Vernon, TX 76384; or e-mail to [pastor@hfvernon.org](mailto:pastor@hfvernon.org).

## PRINCIPAL

St. Mary School in Gainesville is seeking a strong academic and spiritual principal to lead its elementary school (PK-8; 170 students). The position is available for the 2010-11 school year. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have a master's degree, 18 hours in administration, and three years experience in a Catholic School. Administrative experience is preferred. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, references, and a request for an application to Catholic Schools Office, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919 or call (817) 560-3300 ext. 253.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

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.

ADVERTISE IN THE  
**NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC**

## Good Newsmakers

North Texas Catholics gather outside the Henderson Street Planned Parenthood facility in Fort Worth on Good Friday and hold a Rosary Vigil to pray for

# Conversions to Life

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

**M**ichelle Easley and her son, Eric, share a bond that makes their involvement in the annual Good Friday Vigil for Life especially poignant. Both mother and son are adopted.

"We come every year to pray for our birth mothers," explained Michelle who adopted her child, a nine-year-old Holy Trinity fifth grader, as an infant. "We're grateful people prayed for them and they chose life."

A native of Fredericksburg, a heavily Catholic community, the vigil participant said 16 of her 32 first cousins are also adopted.

"I grew up in a nest where adoption was very accepted," Easley added. "We're here to help save these babies, save



**ABOVE:** A man kneels in prayer during the Rosary Vigil held outside of a Planned Parenthood facility in downtown Fort Worth.

**LEFT:** Father Steve Berg, vicar general for the diocese, leads one of the mysteries during the Rosary for Life.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** A young couple brings their son to the prayer service to be a public witness to life.

**BOTTOM CENTER:** Pro-lifers from throughout the North Texas area line Henderson Street to pray for an end to abortion.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine youth member Barbara Pruitt prays during the Rosary Vigil.

souls, and promote Catholic teaching."

More than 500 people with similar intentions lined the street outside a Fort Worth abortion clinic on April 2, Good Friday, to pray for the unborn and publicly give witness to the belief that all life is precious. Sponsored by Catholics United for

Life and Mother and Unborn Baby Care for the past 25 years, the event brings together clergy and parishioners from across the diocese for the recitation of the Rosary.

"We're here today to pray in reparation for the sins of abortion, for our own sins of neglect, and to heal those who have had abortions," announced organizer Chuck Pelletier who used a

public address system to reach the throng of supporters. "We also pray for all those involved in the abortion industry."

During the 90-minute prayer service, a Wichita Falls doctor who travels to Fort Worth to perform abortions drove out of the clinic's parking lot. As a steady stream of patients and other clinic personnel exited the building, vigil participants re-

mained prayerful and focused.

Pelletier, his wife, Pat, a few of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and dedicated volunteers are a familiar group of sentries outside local abortion clinics. Every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and alternate Saturdays, they offer sidewalk counseling to women arriving to terminate a pregnancy. It's a ministry of presence that is sometimes rewarded with a saved life.

One more unborn life will have a birthday because a handful of counselors were ready to help a distraught mother of three facing a crisis pregnancy. Financially strapped and in the throes of a divorce, a young woman in her mid-20s thought abortion was her only alternative.

"She wanted to be helped but couldn't see any way out of the situation," explains Pat Pelletier, recalling how the expectant mother drove into the clinic's parking lot, spotted the volunteers, and walked toward them. "Without their gentle offers of help that day, she would not have found a way out."

Volunteers at Mother and Unborn Baby Care are now providing monetary assistance and emotional support to the struggling mom.

SEE ROSARY, P. 26



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## Inside... This issue of the NTC

Bishop Kevin Vann addresses concerns regarding the history of child sex abuse in the Church and offers insights into what the Church is doing proactively to prevent these abuses in the future. Read what he has to say. **2**

As part of its centennial celebrations, Catholic Charities dedicated and moved into its new location, the Fischer Family Campus located in South Fort Worth. Check it out. **14-15**

Allegations of sexual abuse within the American Church have decreased dramatically in the last seven years, according to an independent auditor. Take a look at the results. **17**