

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Pope Benedict XVI addresses the city of Rome and the world:

Humanity must use weapons of truth, mercy to end conflict



By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Christ's resurrection is not a myth or fairy tale; it is the one and only event that has destroyed the root of evil and can fill the emptiness in people's hearts, Pope Benedict XVI said in his Easter message.

But Christ still wants humanity to help affirm his victory by using his weapons of justice, truth, mercy and love to end the suffering in Africa, build peace in the Holy Land, and combat hunger and poverty worldwide, he said April 12 in his message *urbi et orbi* (to the city and the world).

"Africa suffers disproportionately from the cruel and unending conflicts, often forgotten, that are causing so much bloodshed and destruction in several of her nations," and increasing numbers of

SEE POPE'S, P. 12

Pope Benedict XVI delivers his Easter blessing *urbi et orbi* (to the city of Rome and the world) April 12 overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. He said he would carry a message of reconciliation when travels to the Holy Land May 8 for a weeklong visit. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

Cardinal George issues clarification on comments about Obama and Notre Dame

CHICAGO (CNS) — Although the University of Notre Dame is not controlled by the U.S. Catholic hierarchy, "in Catholicism, no person or institution is totally independent," Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said.

"Any institution that calls itself Catholic needs to anticipate in some fashion the impact their decisions make on others who are part of the church," the cardinal said

in a statement posted in mid-April on the Web site of his archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic New World*.

The statement was issued to clarify earlier remarks by Cardinal George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, on Notre Dame's decision to invite President Barack Obama to address its commencement May 17 and to confer an honorary degree on him.

The cardinal said the invitation "has embarrassed some of those who were also invited to be part of the commencement ceremonies," including Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, who has said he will not attend.

The university, run by the Congregation of Holy Cross, has drawn strong criticism for its decision, primarily because Obama's stands on abortion and

embryonic stem-cell research conflict with Catholic teaching.

"The reason for the strong reaction lies in the growing dismay among many, after years of discussion and organizing, over their inability to stop the killing each day of about 4,000 unborn babies," Cardinal George said in the statement.

"The indications now that the present administration intends to solidify the right to abortion as a permanent civil rights law, without possible qualification of any sort, add to that dismay and increase frustration," he added. "Abortion is a society-

SEE CARDINAL, P.12

More than 2,000 see Archbishop Dolan installed in New York's St. Patrick Cathedral

By Beth Griffin
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York overflowed with people, music, incense, and good will for the April 15 installation of Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan as the 10th archbishop of New York.

More than 2,000 guests in the cathedral listened to two church choirs and a brass ensemble and watched on television monitors as Archbishop Dolan, waiting outside on 50th Street, waved, pointed, grinned, and called out to many of the 1,000 robed clergy and laity who moved into place ahead of him in the 45-minute

opening procession.

His entrance through the main doors of the cathedral on Fifth Avenue was greeted with echoing applause.

The Mass of installation was attended by 12 cardinals and more than 115 archbishops and bishops, including Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann. Some 800 priests in white chasubles participated from a sea of folding chairs arrayed on three sides of the high altar.

The congregation included Archbishop Dolan's mother, Shirley, and other family members; New York Gov. David Paterson; New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg;

SEE NEW YORK'S, P.14



Bishop Kevin Vann and other liturgical ministers process to the beginning point for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross in downtown Fort Worth, near St. Patrick Cathedral. This year, for the first time, the annual observation took place along Fort Worth's grand boulevard, Lancaster Ave. See story p. 9. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

Couples find healing and courage to open up at

Retrouvaille Weekend

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Judy and David* were barely speaking to each other when they arrived at the Retrouvaille weekend in January of 2007. Married for 15 years, they were active members of their Catholic parish. David had a good job, Judy ran a home business, and they enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle. They were both deeply committed to their two young sons.

"We looked like we had it all," recalls Judy. "No one knew that we had spent a miserable Christmas break with the boys, trying to prepare them for the fact that we were planning to start divorce proceedings as soon as the holidays were over."

A friend from their church learned Judy's secret: unbeknownst to David, she had amassed nearly \$150,000 in credit card debt. Compulsive spending and several setbacks in her business had resulted in a mountain of unpaid bills. When David finally learned the truth, he immediately contacted a divorce attorney. Judy, who had endured years of resentment over his detached approach to their marriage, agreed that it was time to part ways.

"Our friend from church urged us to make one last effort," says David. "She begged us to sign up for an upcoming Retrouvaille weekend. We didn't want to do it, but we figured we needed to prove to ourselves and to our kids that we had given the marriage every chance."

At the end of the intense weekend program — held at a local hotel and led by a Catholic priest and three married couples — Judy and David had decided to fully recommit to their relationship. "Together, we went to confession, and we pledged to the priest, to the group, and to ourselves that we would pursue counseling, resolve our financial difficulties, and stay together," says Judy. "During the weekend, the presenting couples tell you what they went through and how they learned to live out their marriage as the sacrament that it is. Then you are given topics to discuss with your spouse, just the two of you. We realized that we really wanted to save our family."

"Retrouvaille works because it gets couples to open up with honesty to one another in the presence of God. They've been feeling so alone, and during a weekend they look around and see people who are so similar to them, and that community factor helps a great deal."

— Father Jim Miller
Retrouvaille chaplain

The word "Retrouvaille" (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i) is a French word meaning "rediscovery." While it is a ministry sponsored by the Catholic Church, couples of all faiths are welcome to attend a weekend in order to hear personal testimonies offered by other couples, to learn practical tools for managing conflict, and to receive spiritual help.

"Retrouvaille is a weekend experience combined with a series of six one-afternoon sessions," explains Brenda Hughes, who, with her husband Paul, serves on the local Retrouvaille board of directors. The Arlington couple attended their first Retrouvaille weekend in 1996, "and during that weekend, Paul tore up our divorce papers," says Brenda. "We were already separated, and we had four children ranging in age from 3 to 9 years of age. Thanks to our Retrouvaille weekend and the skills and techniques we learned, our marriage was saved, and our lives have been wonderfully changed."

Couples who wish to continue meeting after the six post-weekend sessions are able to participate in regular "Continuing Our Retrouvaille Experience" (CORE) meetings, which offer further support. Marie Pate and her husband Bob, longtime parishioners at St. Rita Church in Fort Worth, were instrumental in bringing the Retrouvaille ministry to the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1984. Bob died in 2001, but Marie continues to serve as a volunteer on the weekends, which are held four times each year and are sponsored by the diocesan Family Life office.

"I'll never forget our first [Retrouvaille] weekend, all those years ago," says Pate. "The Holy Spirit was there, in the midst of all those hurting couples. It was so powerful. Bob and I realized that other couples could learn from our mistakes and our victories. Every time there is a divorce, there is a ripple effect in our society that has no end," adds Pate. "There's not a lot of support out there for marriages, but Retrouvaille definitely saves families from crumbling."

Father Jim Miller and Father Joe Pemberton have been involved for many years as Retrouvaille chaplains in

the Diocese of Fort Worth and in other dioceses all over the country. Fr. Miller served as a presenting priest during the first weekend, held 25 years ago this November at a hotel in downtown Fort Worth, he says.

"I've witnessed a lot of miracles through all these years of being on [Retrouvaille] weekends," he reflects. "Retrouvaille works because it gets couples to open up with honesty to one another in the presence of God. They've been feeling so alone, and during a weekend they look around and see people who are so similar to them, and that community factor helps a great deal. This ministry offers support and encouragement to people who are hurting."

*Names are changed to protect privacy. All participating couples are assured of complete confidentiality.

The next Retrouvaille weekend will be offered July 17-19 in Fort Worth; Bishop Kevin Vann will attend. The deposit for the weekend is \$75; scholarship assistance is available for those who are unable to pay additional fees. For more information about Retrouvaille, visit www.retrouvaille.org or call (817) 462-8953.



The cross in the Retrouvaille ministry logo represents the church and the community of believers who help one another, according to the ministry's Web site, www.retrouvaille.org. The life preserver is a circle, a ring, representing God as the never-ending Alpha and Omega. The ring is also a symbol of matrimony, the unbroken bond of unity and love, which is the ideal for all married couples. The attached lifeline is the very essence of the Retrouvaille program.



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Publisher:
Bishop Kevin W. Vann
Editor: Jeff Hensley
Associate Editor: Tony Gutiérrez
Editorial Assistant: Nicki Prevou
Administrative Assistant: Judy Russeau

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Capitol Comments:

Adult stem cells are the ethical future of stem-cell treatment and research

We've heard a lot about stem-cell research in the last few weeks, and the research is the topic of several bills in the State Legislature.

In fact, funding for stem-cell research was one of several issues that over 400 Catholic advocates discussed at the Capitol during our Life and Family Life Advocacy day. While there seems to be a lot of controversy over the issue of stem-cell research, a careful look shows that there is a clear, ethical future of stem-cell research through the use of adult stem cells.

If you were a budding researcher and you were given the opportunity to work in a field that has produced cures, treatments, and has saved thousands of lives, or a field that has, since its inception over twenty years ago, been unable to produce a single cure, which field would you choose? If you were footing the bill, which field would you fund?

The answer is simple: support research that has proven to be successful — adult stem-cell research.

There are two types of stem-cell research, adult and embryonic. Adult stem cells can be obtained from adults, children, and even the placenta and umbilical cord without any damage to the donor. Embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, are derived from the human embryo. In the process of obtaining these embryonic stem cells, the young human life is killed. Therefore, any form of embryonic stem-cell research, regardless of the source of the embryo, is both unethical and immoral as it denies a young human his or her most basic right — the right to life.

Adult stem cells, on the other hand, can be obtained without harm to the donor and without any ethical problem, and these have already demonstrated great medical promise. Thousands of lives have been saved by adult stem cells — most often in the form of "bone marrow transplants" for leukemia and other conditions. Today, adult stem

cells are being used to help people with Parkinson's disease, many kinds of cancer, spinal cord injury, sickle-cell anemia, heart damage, corneal damage, and dozens of other conditions.

Years ago it was said that stem cells from embryos would be the most useful because they are so fast-growing and versatile, able to make virtually any kind of cell. But those advantages become disadvantages when these cells make tumors, creating a condition worse than the disease. Embryonic stem cells have never treated a human patient, and animal trials suggest that they are too genetically unstable and too likely to form lethal tumors to be used for treatment any time soon.

Supporters disappointed at failures using embryonic stem cells sometimes try to defend the lack of treatment or cures from embryonic stem-cell research by claiming that there is a federal ban on this type of research. This is a false claim because embryonic stem-cell research is fully allowed in the United States — there is no federal law (and almost no state law) against it.

State funding for the Texas Cord Blood Bank is an excellent example of how state dollars for adult stem-cell research are curing people now. The Texas Cord Blood Bank is a division of the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center in San Antonio. The Texas Legislature created the nonprofit program in 2001 to establish a statewide cord blood bank. Cord blood donations from this bank have saved lives.

The Texas Legislature has several bills that would restrict state funding and university research to adult stem-cell research. Budget provisions requiring that state funding support this ethically and morally responsible research is simply another way of ensuring that Texas continues to fund ethically and morally responsible adult stem-cell research — research that is producing cures and treatments.

For more information, visit www.TXcatholic.org.



Andrew Rivas is the executive director for the Texas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the bishops of Texas, based in Austin.

*Responding
to God's Call*

The Resurrection of Jesus is made visible in our times

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Alleluia, brothers and sisters! The news that Jesus rose from the dead is such big news for Catholics and likeminded Christians that we can't simply celebrate joyfully Easter Sunday and forget about his resurrection on Monday. Catholics call this time Easter Season. For 50 days we celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

In contrast, it was startling to see this year that several prominent newspapers did not even write one single article nor even acknowledge on Easter Sunday the great celebration and belief for all Christians that Jesus rose from the dead! (In comparison, our NTC paper had 14 articles about Easter; so get your news here!) Jesus is the everlasting news and is the center of human history, but this relativistic world does not want to hear it because if it did, it might have to consider it as true, and it can't stand the truth. Thanks be to God, several organizations throughout the country paid for full-page ads to honor the death and resurrection of Jesus and to proclaim our salvation in his name.

Even so, Christ is being made visible in the everyday lives of Christians in this Easter Season. First, as Catholics, we had the incredible scene and testimony to the risen Lord in thousands of churches

throughout the Church on the Easter Vigil. They joined more than two million people throughout the world who became Catholic Christians that same holy night. Alleluia!

Then there was a second testimony to the Christian faith. Churches were packed full on Easter Sunday; standing room only at most churches in our diocese. Obviously, many of these folks are not regularly attending Sunday worship, in communion with the rest of the Church, but their faith that Jesus rose from the dead is still alive and strong. In response to this reality, it was wonderful to see the recent results of a very large, year-long, campaign called "Catholics Coming Home" by the Diocese of Phoenix. Using prime-time TV, they placed commercials to reach out to Catholics who have left the regular practice of their faith. Using the Web site "Catholicscomehome.org" they have had more than 92,000 Catholics return home to their Catholic roots. In the process, the Catholic Church listened and acknowledged their reasons for leaving while at the same time they let them see the Church through a new lens of faith and freedom, hope and healing, love and life in the resurrection of Christ.

This is also the time of the year that the Christian community is filled with Easter joy as tens of thousands of children receive their first holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. Parents join their children and their community in this great joyful moment in the life of the Christian community. Everything that our children will need to live holy and blessed lives is contained in the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life.

Meanwhile, the resurrection of Jesus is made visible through our many teenagers who



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.

of people joined the Church on the Easter Vigil. They joined more than two million people throughout the world who became Catholic Christians that same holy night. Alleluia!

Our Easter joy stretches its wings to celebrate the life of engaged couples as the season for weddings in the Church begins. In this way the newly married couples are celebrating their new bond of unity with one another with the explicit blessings of Christ and his Church. In this way, the whole Church celebrates with them as they receive the necessary grace through the sacrament of holy matrimony to sustain a holy and graceful, joyful and fruitful marriage.

This Easter season we have also celebrated the diaconal ordination of Alfredo Barba for the Diocese of Fort Worth on April 18 at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton where he has been serving for the past year.

Alfredo makes God's love ever present with his joy to serve others. God willing, he will be ordained as a diocesan priest for us later this fall. Also we are very blessed with the upcoming joyful priestly ordination of John Pacheco on Saturday, May 23 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. It is a must for Catholics to experience, in their lifetime, the incredible joy and outpouring of the Holy Spirit at an ordination. So make it a point, if at all possible, to bless yourself, your family, and your church by coming to this most blessed Easter event.

In all these ways and more, the resurrection of Jesus is made visible to a new generation of disciples, as Jesus shall be with us until the end of time (*Matthew 28:20*). Alleluia!

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

Spring English Cursillo Week-ends

The Cursillo Center has announced the spring English Cursillo weekend dates. In their announcement they ask, "Have you heard about Cursillo or has someone asked you to consider attending a Cursillo Weekend?"

A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ. "Cursillo can help open us up to a deeper relationship with Christ and presents a method of Christian living so we can make a difference for Christ in the world around us," Cursillo organizers say.

A Cursillo weekend for men will be held May 21-24, and a Cursillo weekend for women will take place June 11-14. Both weekends will be presented in English and held at the Cursillo Center, 2221 NW 26th St. in Fort Worth. Deadline for the men's retreat is May 18; the women's retreat deadline is June 8.

Following a Cursillo experience, participants are encouraged to gather in small groups on a regular basis to share with others, to pray, and to offer one another encouragement.

For more information call Susan Urbanek at (817) 423-4095 or e-mail to qtpikitty@sbcglobal.net.

Regional St. Vincent de Paul Society to meet in Fort Worth May 15-16

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Central Region will have its annual meeting May 15-16 at the South Radisson Hotel in Fort Worth. The registration fee is \$100. Registration forms are available online at www.svdpfw.org. The registration form may be mailed to Thomas Loughran at 7917 Crouse Drive, Fort Worth, TX, 76137. For more information call (817) 975-3253. Registration will also be available at the door.

Nolan Catholic Jazz Band to perform big band concert for dance May 2

The Nolan Catholic High School Jazz Band will be performing on May 2 from 7 to 10 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, located at 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington. Tickets for the concert and dance will be sold at the door for \$10 per person. All proceeds will support the Nolan Catholic Jazz Band.

"Come enjoy an evening of live jazz band entertainment and dance the night away," say event organizers.

Refreshments will be available. For more information, visit the NCHS web site at www.nolan-catholic.org.

Courage group affirms Church teaching on homosexuality

Courage D/FW, a ministry that affirms the Church's teaching on homosexuality, meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month, and the next meeting will be March 27.

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

Courage is not a "change" ministry, and does not focus on any attempt to change one's "orientation." The focus is helping members, whether single or married, to live lives of interior and exterior chastity, which means living according to the teachings of the Church regarding sexual love as outlined in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

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

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

St. Andrew School plans retirement Mass and reception for principal

St. Andrew School will hold a special retirement Mass at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17 in the church and a reception immediately following in the school gym for Clarice Peninger, St. Andrew's principal for the last 24 years. All past students, alumni, parents, faculty, and friends are cordially invited to attend the celebration for Peninger. The nursery will be open for small children. To RSVP for the nursery, call (817) 924-6581 by May 14. For more information, contact Rose Hall, St. Andrew development director, at (817) 292-4355.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet May 28

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, other sexual minorities, and their families and friends regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next regular meeting will be May 28 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to come for prayer and sharing. For more information, contact Fr. Murphy at (817) 927-5383, Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601, or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



Catholic school students will advance to the Private School Interscholastic Association (PSIA) State Class A Academic Meet May 2 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School will have 38 entries at the state level after taking its eighth consecutive academic championship this spring as they captured the District 1A PSIA title.



Fifty students from St. Rita School participated at the district competition of the PSIA, placing fourth overall. Thirty students placed in 54 events. Students prepared by meeting with instructors during lunch and after school, as well as working on their own. Twelve students qualified for 17 state events and eight students are first alternates for the state meet in May.

The purpose of the PSIA academic program is to use competition to further develop students' higher order thinking skills.

Mariology expert to speak in diocese

Monsignor Carl Morris from the Archdiocese of Saint Louis will give a talk entitled: "The Blessed Virgin Mary: Pillar of Faith and Model of Truth" at St. Patrick Cathedral located at 1206 Throckmorton St. in Fort Worth on Tuesday, April 28, beginning with Mass at 7 p.m.

He will also speak at St. Maria Goretti Church located at 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington on Wednesday, April 29.

Msgr. Morris was born in 1965 and has been a priest in St. Louis since 1996. He is the director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate for the archdiocese.

For more information, contact the Queen of Peace Center at (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805. For information about the presentation at St. Maria Goretti, contact Cindy Alford at (817) 274-0643 ext 223.

Catholic historian to speak on Cardinal Newman's legacy

Dr. Patrick Foley will present a lecture entitled "John Henry Newman: Following in His Footsteps" from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at St. Mary the Virgin Church's parish hall at 1408 N. Davis Dr. in Arlington. The event is sponsored by the Cardinal Newman Institute of Fort Worth, a catechetical and theological institute for lay people, and is postponed from the previous date of May 15.

Foley, a noted Catholic historian and editor emeritus of *Catholic Southwest*, a historical journal, is a member of Holy Trinity Church in Azle. Hospitality begins at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

All lectures are free, though offerings will be accepted. For more information, visit the institute's Web site at www.cardinalnewmaninstitute.org.

FertilityCare Center offers training for NFP teachers

The FertilityCare Center of North Texas will offer an informational luncheon May 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for individuals interested in teaching a natural form of family planning and women's health maintenance.

"This is a great opportunity to learn more about what is involved in becoming a FertilityCare practitioner, instructing women and couples in a moral family planning method, as well as an essential tool in infertility and gynecological health evaluation," say event organizers. "Whether you already use Creighton Model FertilityCare or another form of natural family planning, or you are just interested in learning more, this is a great way to discern this amazing ministry and no commitment is necessary."

The luncheon will be held at St. Maria Goretti Church, located at 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington RSVP to Mandy Cox at fccont@att.net or at (817) 685-0756. The cost is \$6. For more information, visit www.fwcreighton.com.

Passionist priest to lead St. Paul Mission

St. Paul the Apostle Church, in the River Oaks area of Fort Worth, will host a parish mission April 26-28, with Passionist Father Cedric Pisegna, CP, giving talks at 7 p.m.

Father Tom Wigginton, pastor of St. Paul, says that Fr. Pisegna is an "excellent retreat master and in the previous retreats has received a great response from people of all ages. He includes much humor in his talks and is down to earth."

Fr. Pisegna has been giving retreats for the last 19 years. The parish mission will start on Sunday night with the topic "Happiness;" Monday night, the theme is "Change is Possible;" and Tuesday night's theme is "The Holy Spirit and Passion."

St. Paul the Apostle is located at 5508 Black Oak Ln. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact the church office at (817) 738-9925.

NTC deadlines for submission

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

Items for the May 8 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 29. Items for the May 22 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, May 13.

Children of God's Delight to host seminar at St. Paul

The Children of God's Delight Christian Community will host a "Born of the Spirit" seminar May 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church located at 5508 Black Oak Ln. in Fort Worth. The cost for the seminar is \$10, and scholarships are available. For more information or to reserve a seat for the seminar, contact Natasha Childress at (817) 312-5421 or nateeter@yahoo.com, or Stephanie Ayala at (817) 239-1297 or sayala3@sbcglobal.net, or attend "Information Night" 7 p.m. May 20 at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Silent retreat at Montserrat to be held May 14-17

Contemplative Outreach of Dallas's annual Four-Day Silent retreat will be held May 14-17 at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House located at 600 N. Shady Shores in Lake Dallas.

The annual retreat is for those interested in deepening their spiritual practice in an atmosphere of silence, solitude and community. Father Justin Langille, an experienced retreat director from San Diego, will return again as retreat leader.

Registration form and details are available at www.CellofPeace.com or by e-mail at CPDallas@CellofPeace.com or call, (972) 722-6029. Registration deadline is May 1.

St. John invites potential students to kindergarten and pre-k 'Round Up'

St. John the Apostle School, Tarrant County's only 2008 nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School, will host a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten "Round Up" on Saturday, May 2 from 9 to 11 a.m. This is open for all families who wish to learn more about the programs for the 2009-2010 school year.

Children who will be between ages 4 and 6 by Aug. 1 will be able to experience pre-kindergarten or kindergarten while parents focus on the curriculum and benefits of the program.

Siblings between the ages 1 and 3 are welcome to stay in the St. John Child Care at no cost. Reservations for childcare are required.

This free event will begin in the St. John School office located at 7421 Glenview Dr. in North Richland Hills. The office entrance is located on Frawley Street, off Glenview Drive.

For more information, call Linda Wheeler, admissions director, at (817) 284-2228 or visit the Web site at www.stjs.org. Childcare reservations for children ages 1 to 3 must be made by Friday, April 24, to assure availability.

Diocesan

St. Mary of the Assumption plans parish anniversary celebration May 10

St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Ave. in Fort Worth, is celebrating its 100th anniversary with various concerts and festivities throughout the year of 2009. On Sunday, May 10, Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate the official centennial Masses at 10 a.m. in English and at noon in Spanish. Receptions will follow each liturgy. All priests who have served at the parish throughout the years have been invited to attend the

celebration.

A centennial chalice, designed and made in Spain, was blessed by Bishop Vann in a Mass celebrated Jan. 1 of this year. The chalice is being used at each Mass during 2009, and, after Dec. 31, will be used only for special occasions. Father David Bristow serves as priest in charge of the parish community.

For more information about the May 10 celebration, contact the church office at (817) 923-1911.



Rachel Ministries sponsors conference to train those involved in abortion recovery

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Offering hope and healing to women who have suffered trauma after an abortion is the focus of Pregnancy Loss & Unresolved Grief — an abortion recovery conference set for Friday, May 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

Hosted by Rachel Ministries of North Texas, the program is designed to give therapists, clergy, counselors, and others involved in abortion recovery the tools needed to help people deal with grief and loss. Theresa Burke, a licensed professional counselor and founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministry, will conduct the workshop along with her husband Kevin Burke. Both are published authors and internationally recognized experts in post-abortion trauma and healing.

Cost of the conference is \$85. Those attending will earn 6.5 continuing education credits.

Organizers say therapists who attend the conference will gain insight into recognizing and treating the symptoms of post-abortion syndrome. Despite reports to the contrary, 80 percent of women who terminate a pregnancy develop emotional and psychological problems, says Steve Kopor, a licensed professional counselor who serves as the clinical director for Rachel Ministries.

"Of those, approximately 20 percent have symptoms serious enough to be classified as post-traumatic stress disorder," he adds.

Problems can range from sleep disturbances and intrusive thoughts to eating disorders, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and marriage or family problems.

"Some women may avoid going places like parks for fear of seeing kids or babies," the counselor says. And the psychological distress can manifest itself in physical symptoms, like sweating and a faster heartbeat.

While ignored by many mental health professionals, abortion-related issues are becoming more and more prevalent in patients seeking help.

"Our therapists in the Fort Worth Diocese have a clear concern for their clients, and this conference will prepare them with the knowledge and skills they need to diagnose and treat post-abortion trauma," Kopor explains.

The conference will also explore issues relevant to the clergy's role in post-abortion ministry and the importance of connecting the post-abortive person to a larger support system.

The presence of clergy at the retreat serves as a conduit for individuals estranged from their faith. Women and men



troubled by abortion trauma often feel unworthy and create a wedge between themselves and the Church.

"This is a way to connect people with God and show how much the Church loves and cares for them," says Father Tom Kennedy, chaplain for Rachel's Vineyard retreats in the diocese.

To register for the conference, visit www.racheltx.org and follow the link to "2009 Conference" or call (817) 923-4757.

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Pastoral music expert Joanne Werner to lead OCP reading session in Bedford May 2

Nationally-recognized Catholic music authority Joanne Werner will lead an Oregon Catholic Press reading session at St. Michael Church located at 3713 Harwood Rd. in Bedford. The two-hour workshop will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 2.

Werner currently serves as chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM), after eight years on the NPM as director of the Music Ministries Board. She is a faculty member for NPM's Cantor Express and has given workshops and presentations

to cantors throughout the country.

"A reading session isn't just about learning new music," says Shannon McNerney, OCP's Executive Manager of Events. "This is a master class for musicians. Our clinicians highlight the spiritual dimension of the music that participants will carry with them long after they leave."

The \$25 registration fee (\$20 for members of the NPM) includes time with the presenter, 25 octavos, discounted merchandise, a question and answer period with the clinician and other benefits. Werner

will teach 15 of the octavos in detail.

OCP, a not-for-profit publisher of liturgical music and worship resources based in Portland, Oregon, has been in operation for more than 80 years. Worship programs produced by OCP are used in two-thirds of Catholic churches in the United States and are distributed worldwide. For more information on OCP, visit OCP.org/about.

For more information on OCP reading sessions or to register for this reading session, e-mail events@ocp.org, or call 1 (800) 548-8749.

Cassata High School hosts annual *Noche de Gracias*

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

The 12th annual celebration of *Noche de Gracias*, a "night of thanks" fundraising event benefiting Cassata High School in Fort Worth, will be held Tuesday, April 28 at Joe T. Garcia's restaurant, located at 2201 N. Commerce St. in Fort Worth. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7:30 p.m. Joe T. Garcia's owners, Jody and Lanny Lancarte, will host the event as longtime supporters of the high school.

Cassata High School, founded in 1975 with the name "Cassata Learning Center," offers small class sizes, a self-paced curriculum, and personalized instruction designed to meet the needs of students seeking an alternative to a traditional high school. The school was named for Bishop John Cassata, the first bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"This unique educational institution serves far beyond the Catholic community," Cassata president Sal Espino, said, noting that the school welcomes students of all faiths

and backgrounds. "[We] have a track record of educating at-risk students," said Espino, noting that more than 3,500 students have graduated from the school since 1975. "Last year 68 students graduated and are continuing their education at colleges, trade, or technical schools, are gainfully employed, or have enlisted in the military," added Espino.

Espino described the fundraising event as "an evening of feasting, entertainment, and prize awards in recognition of [our] non-traditional high school, frequently referred to as the 'high school of hope.'"

Prizes to be won during the evening will include luxury dinners, hotel accommodations, and tickets to an evening at Bass Hall in downtown Fort Worth.

Tables for 10 for corporations or private parties are available at prices ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. To reserve a table, purchase individual tickets, or for more information, call the school's development office at (817) 926-1745 or e-mail to sflood@cassatahs.org.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs Commission invites Islamic cleric to speak May 3

The Fort Worth Diocesan Interfaith and Ecumenical Affairs Commission will hold its semi-annual assembly on Sunday, May 3 at St. Bartholomew Church, 3601 Altamesa Blvd., starting at 2:30 p.m. The commission has announced that its guest speaker for this assembly will be Ahmad Azzaare, the resident imam of the Islamic Association of Tarrant County in the Arlington Heights area of Fort Worth.

Born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1969, Azzaare graduated from Ain Shams Medical School in Cairo in 1994. He practiced medicine during his residency as an infectious disease and emergency physician at Helwan Governmental Hospital in the governorate of Helwan for seven years.

Azzaare memorized the entire *Quran* by the time he was 13 and started the duties of an imam and teaching Arabic by the

time he was 16. He studied Islamic jurisprudence, the *Seerah*, or life, of the Prophet Muhammad, and the *Tafseer* and *Tajweed* schools of thought for *Quran* interpretation at Al-Qiraa'at Institute, affiliated with Al-Azhar Islamic University in Cairo for two years. He also studied the science of *Hadeeth* and its terminology at the International Institute for the Sciences of Quran & Hadeeth (IISQH) in Cairo for two years.

From 1997 to 2001, the Egyptian government sponsored Azzaare to travel to different countries to preach Islam and lead *Taraaweeh* night prayer. He moved to the U.S. in 2002 to work as a resident full-time imam at the Islamic Center of Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska. He moved to Fort Worth to take his current position in 2007.

The assembly will be open to visitors from parishes throughout the diocese and is intended

to help open better lines of communication with Islamic groups and Muslims throughout the diocese, organizers say.

Following his presentation, Azzaare will answer questions from those present at the assembly.

Each parish in the diocese is asked to appoint a representative from the parish to serve as the pastor's representative in ecumenical and interfaith activities and these representatives serve as the Parish Interfaith and Ecumenical Representative to the diocesan assembly. The commission seeks to have these representatives bring back ideas from other parishes to help in their efforts to initiate or become involved in activities beyond the parish community.

For more information, contact Monsignor Charles King, director of the diocesan Interfaith and Ecumenical Affairs Commission, at (940) 565-1770.

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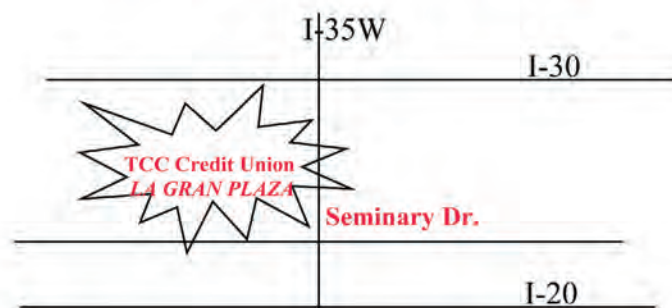
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Regional

Mena Catholics come together to celebrate Easter despite devastation from tornado

By Tara Little
Associate Editor
Arkansas Catholic
Photos courtesy of
Arkansas Catholic

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) —

Deacon Larry Hatch was giving his homily at Mass, April 9 when the first tornado siren went off in Mena around 7:20 p.m.

Parishioners at St. Agnes Church were anxious but stayed calm even when the second siren sounded during the washing of the feet.

Just before pastor Father Norbert Rappold began the Eucharistic Prayer, a parishioner ran into the church and yelled, "Everybody get down; get down now. It's coming and it's a big one."

Everyone hurried down into the church's basement. A makeshift altar was set up on a card table, and the Mass continued by flashlight because the electricity had gone out.

It only took 10 seconds, but a tornado with winds of up to 165 mph killed three people, injured several others, and destroyed or damaged hundreds of homes and businesses. A week later Mena residents were still trying to pick up the pieces.

According to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, storms damaged 11 counties on Holy Thursday. But Mena, a small Ouachita Mountain town of 5,600 people near the Oklahoma state line, was the hardest hit.

In the basement of St. Agnes, the storm hit just before the prayers of consecration. Fr. Rappold reported hearing a sound like a freight train, and the window at the west end of the basement blew in. Everyone ducked as a second window on the south side blew in, knocking some to the ground with the force of the wind.

The wind "peppered us with broken glass and twigs, grass and debris," Dcn. Hatch later told the *Arkansas Catholic*, newspaper of the Little Rock Diocese. Dcn. Hatch was originally ordained to serve in the Diocese of Fort Worth and served in St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington in the 1990s.



LEFT: Deacon Larry Hatch of St. Agnes Church in Mena, Ark., was ordained in the Diocese of Fort Worth, where he served at St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington in the 1990s.



RIGHT: Little Rock Bishop Anthony Taylor was born in Fort Worth.

Until they were sure the storm was over, and assured the basement was the safest place to be, Fr. Rappold decided to finish the Mass.

"We all stayed down in the basement until we got the all clear," said Dcn. Hatch, who said that despite the danger of breaking glass, parishioners only received minor cuts and scratches.

When parishioners Gary and Renita Thomas managed to get back to their house, they didn't even recognize it. They bought it three years ago as their retirement place when they moved from Kansas City, Kansas.

It was a total loss. Devastated and shocked, the couple collapsed on the ground.

"We thanked God for sparing us. We thanked God we weren't home. We thanked God we were in church, in the safety of the church basement," Gary Thomas told the *Arkansas Catholic* April 13, choking on his tears.

After seeing their home, the couple worried the church wouldn't be able to have Good Friday and Easter services as planned.

Renita Thomas was set to join the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. In addition the couple had learned a week before that after a two-year wait, her annulments from two previous marriages had been granted. That meant the couple's marriage could be validated in the church.

Gary Thomas said he asked Fr. Rappold what was going to happen, and he responded, "Well, you guys are going to get married."

After spending an emotional day clearing debris and covering roof holes, the Catholic community left their worries behind to attend the Good Friday service. Afterward Fr. Rappold presided the Thomas' marriage.

The next day, the pastor said he got permission from Little Rock Bishop Anthony B. Taylor to move the Easter Vigil to 5 p.m. because of the dusk-to-



Plastic covers the damaged St. Agnes parish hall roof. St. Agnes Church, though structurally sound, was hit hard by the Mena tornado April 9. The worst damage came from a large oak tree that fell between the church and rectory, knocking part of the eaves away, exposing a gap between the roof and ceiling of the church. The storm also blew off several roof tiles, damaged a stained glass window, bell tower louvers and bent a metal cross on the roof.

daylight curfew in Mena. Still without electricity, generators were used to power the furnace.

Fr. Rappold said people came in their work clothes; he wore overalls under his vestments, ending his workday only 30 minutes before Mass, his face still reddened from the sun.

During the Easter Vigil he baptized nine and confirmed 17 others, including Renita Thomas.

"We took Communion together for the first time as a couple. It was wonderful ... it really was," Gary Thomas said tearfully.

On Easter Sunday, Little Rock Bishop Anthony Taylor, who was born in Fort Worth, celebrated the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Agnes, while more than 2 inches of rain fell outside. Fr. Rappold told the parishioners to take the rain as a sign from God that He wanted them to rest that day after the work they'd put in the last few days.

In his homily, Bishop Taylor related the tornado's destruction to Judas's betrayal of Jesus on Holy Thursday, then compared the community coming together as Christ's body after the storm to his resurrection.

"Take courage," the bishop told the parishioners. "You will look back on this day as your finest hour," when the community united to help each other.

Later, he said he told parishioners during the Mass that they had the "spiritual resources to draw on to move forward" and that this was a time "to reach out to those who are suffering to bring them hope."

* *NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC Associate Editor Tony Gutiérrez contributed to this article.*



St. Agnes pastor Father Norbert Rappold, dressed in work clothes, talks on his cell phone outside the parish hall during relief efforts following the tornado that hit the community April 9.



Interfaith volunteers unload food and other supplies April 14 at the One-Day Disaster Assistance Center at the parish hall, sponsored by Catholic Charities of Arkansas. Several groups, including Baptist Cooperative, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Adventist Relief, the Salvation Army, AmeriCorps, Arkansas Rice Depot, and American Red Cross, helped storm victims.

Diocesan

At annual Fifth Grade Vocation Day, Catholic school students told to be Open to God's Will

Story and photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

On March 25, Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation — the day God called Mary to be the mother of his Son. This year, organizers of the diocesan Fifth Grade Vocation Day used the Marian feast day to remind youngsters that God has a special plan for them too.

"We are going to hear, in today's Gospel, 'may it be done unto me according to your word,'" said Father Kyle Walterscheid, diocesan director of Vocations, citing the Scripture passage to an assembly of 10 and 11-year-olds gathered inside the parish hall at Holy Family Church. "And that's the way we



Fr. Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations for the diocese, reminds more than 500 fifth graders that God has a special plan for each of them.

should be toward God. Whatever he wills for us, we want to follow, so our life will be happy, fulfilled, and blessed."

More than 500 fifth graders took part in the day-long vocation program which began with a Mass concelebrated by Father Stephen Berg, vicar general of the diocese, and Fr. Walterscheid. The day continued with informal talks by priests, seminarians, and nuns. By meeting adults who have answered the call to religious life, the diocesan Vocations Office hopes the young participants will better understand the value and importance of service to the Church.

Vocation awareness is particularly important in the fifth grade because it is the first of three pivotal times in a young person's life. Researchers consider age 11, the third year of high school, and the third year of college as important decision-making periods.

Standing in for Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, who was in Washington, D.C. for a meeting, Fr. Berg talked to the youngsters about his own journey to the priesthood. He

grew up the oldest of 10 children and experienced his first thoughts about becoming a priest in the fifth grade.

"But my call wasn't very clear and I wasn't listening very well," the speaker said, reflecting on his days as a student at Sacred Heart School in Miles City, Montana.

"So I didn't tune into it (the priesthood) until later in life. I had to figure a few things out." Fr. Berg told his young listeners that God is calling them too, and it's a process that starts at the very beginning of life.

"God is always calling us to holiness and he never gives up," he continued. "Through baptism and now as Catholic students, you're hearing something a little clearer every day and every year as long as you are willing — like Mary — to hear the word of God."

People are called to holiness in different ways, Fr. Berg pointed out. Some marry and become fathers and mothers. Others may work for the Church. Having grown up surrounded by children, he always envisioned raising a family of his own someday. Giving up that dream was a struggle.

"But look at me today. I'm the pastor of a parish and I've got a school," he said. "I've got more 'family' than my family. God helped me look at people as being all of my brothers and sisters, and now, in a sense, I'm a father to many more than I originally planned."

The vocation call works by making people consider things they hadn't before, he explained.

"The seed has been planted and God is already calling you for some reason," he told the fifth-graders. "Listen to him."

A team of vocation leaders who spoke to the students included Sisters Mary Paul Haase, CSFN; Martha Ruiz, HCG; Yolanda Cruz, SSMN; Fathers Richard



ABOVE: The Very Rev. Stephen Berg, vicar general of the diocese, speaks with the children during a lively question and answer session following the Mass.

BELOW: Sr. Mary Paul Haase, CSFN, talks with a group of girls during the day-long vocation program, held at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth.



Flores and Tom Kennedy; and seminarians Keith Hathaway and Michael Greco. The diocese currently has 26 men studying for the priesthood.

"On the feast of the Annunciation, we celebrate Mary saying yes to God," Michael Greco said, addressing boys in a small group session. "The point of this vocation day is to help you say yes to God in your life."

Greco, now a third year student at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, said he began thinking seriously about becoming a priest in college. During that initial discernment he prayed, went to Mass, and started learning more about the faith.

"The key is to remain open to God," Hathaway ad-

vised. "He is calling each one of you. If you follow him, you will be happy. It's a long process. We don't expect you to have it figured all out today."

Jonathan King from Our Lady of Victory School enjoyed listening to the different speakers, especially Fr. Kennedy. The fifth-grader first met the priest when he visited the school to say Mass.

"I really felt a connection," King said. "He lived in Egypt and worked in the oil fields before becoming a priest. His life story was very interesting."

The youngster was impressed that Fr. Kennedy gave up money and a career to serve the Church.

"He told us that as a priest, there's something new to do every day," the student recalled, adding, "and you never stop learning."



Christina Mendez, principal of All Saints School in Fort Worth, shares a hymnal with a student during the liturgy.



Missy Korzekwa, coordinator of the music department at Nolan Catholic High School, joined by two students from Holy Family School, leads the congregation in song.



Wichita Falls' Notre Dame School students gather with other Catholic school students to listen to a vocation talk given by young seminarians.



Students from Holy Family School share their musical talents with the congregation during the annual Fifth Grade Vocation Day Mass.

Diocesan



ABOVE: Bishop Vann, joined by other liturgical ministers, processes to the first Station on Lancaster Avenue.

RIGHT, FROM TOP: • A crowd of approximately 200 gathered on Good Friday to join in an outdoor Stations of the Cross in downtown Fort Worth. • Father Michael Kmiotek, CFR, speaks with a member of the Knights of Columbus prior to the beginning of prayer at 10 a.m. A Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus was posted at each of the stations, holding a sign that depicted an image of the station and its number. • Worshippers kneel reverently during one of the stations. • Bishop Vann leads the crowd in praying the Stations as they were written by Pope John Paul II in 1991. • Montserrat Tresidder prays alongside her aunt, Martha DeGuevara, a parishioner at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth.



Pilgrims gather in downtown Fort Worth to meditate and remember the...

Way of the Cross

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Calling the event “a great public display of our faith,” Bishop Kevin Vann led approximately 200 people in the Stations of the Cross during on outdoor service offered Good Friday, April 10, in downtown Fort Worth.

A small procession from St. Patrick Cathedral began the traditional Lenten observance, which took place on a lawn adjacent to Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth’s new downtown grand boulevard. Organized by the diocesan Office of Peace and Justice, the liturgy used a version of the Stations of the Cross written by Pope John Paul II

in 1991. The rendition includes Gospel readings and prayers to help worshippers reflect more deeply on Christ’s passion. Artistic drawings identifying each of the 14 Stations, were held aloft by members of the Knights of Columbus from the third Texas district.

Victor Taylor rarely skips class at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, but the pre-med student from Houston just couldn’t pass up the opportunity to attend the special Good Friday service.

“I’ve been going to the Stations of the Cross every week, so this is part of my Lenten observance,” said the Our Mother of Mercy parishioner. “I found out about it at church and wanted the experience. I’ve only gone to an outside event like this once before, in Houston.”

Although the diocese has conducted an outdoor Good Friday liturgy for years, Sydney McGyver learned about the gathering for the first time in her church bulletin.

“Anytime we can follow the Way of the Cross and remember what Christ did — how he loved and suffered for us — it’s

a wonderful thing,” explained the St. Patrick parishioner. “This is what our Catholic faith is all about.”

Deacon Len Sanchez, director of Community and Pastoral Services, coordinated the event and said both he and the bishop were pleased with the turnout and the assistance provided by the city of Fort Worth. Previously held adjacent to the Tarrant County Courthouse, this year’s Stations of the Cross moved to a new location close to St. Patrick Cathedral.

“We’re overwhelmed by the number of people who came and the number of parishes represented,” Sanchez said after the ceremony. “It was a great response to our call to follow Christ and emulate his life.”

Now that the Good Friday event has moved near the cathedral, Dcn. Sanchez hopes it will draw an even bigger crowd next year.

“The booklets we used are very profound, and the passages are something everyone — both old and young — can relate to,” he added. “It’s a wonderful day in the life of the Church to be able to do this on Good Friday.”

Viewpoints

Social teaching calls us to solidarity with each other and respect for God's creation

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

By Lucas Pollice

We conclude our overview of Catholic Social Teaching with the last two themes: Solidarity and Care for God's Creation.

SOLIDARITY

The principle of solidarity, especially articulated by Pope John Paul II, brings to bear that the unity of the human family goes far beyond simply cultural, racial, and economic lines. It is the plan and vision of the Father to bring about the kingdom of justice and peace and the complete unity of the human race in and through Jesus Christ. As Pope John Paul states:

Solidarity is undoubtedly a Christian virtue. It seeks to go beyond itself to total gratuity, forgiveness, and reconciliation. It leads to a new vision of the unity of humankind, a reflection of God's triune intimate life....

— *Encyclical Letter On the Social Teaching of the Church*, 40

The principle of solidarity is built around three essential elements, which are indispensable in achieving true solidarity and unity in the human family.

Human solidarity: Human solidarity calls us to find unity and justice wherever there may be conflicts, injustice, or inequality in order to achieve a true unity within the human family. Thus, human solidarity is the responsibility of all people, and no one is exempt from this important calling. Pope Benedict XVI beautifully summarizes the universal call to human solidarity:

The family community, in order to prosper, needs the generous consent of all its members. This realization also needs to become a shared conviction on the part of all those called to form the common human family. We need to say our own "yes" to this vocation, which God has inscribed in our very nature. We do not live alongside one another purely by chance; all of us are progressing along a common path as men and women, and thus as brothers and sisters. Consequently, it is essential that we should all be committed to living our lives in an attitude of responsibility before God, acknowledging him as the

Above all, Catholic Social Teaching calls us, through our baptism in Christ, to continue to be his instruments in reaching out to the poor, the vulnerable, and the outcast of society and to build up a true kingdom of justice and peace.

deepest source of our own existence and that of others. By going back to this supreme principle, we are able to perceive the unconditional worth of each human being, and thus to lay the premises for building a humanity at peace. Without this transcendent foundation society is a mere aggregation of neighbours, not a community of brothers and sisters called to form one great family.

— *Message for World Day of Peace*, January 1, 2008, 6

Peace: Solidarity also calls upon governments and nations to find solutions to conflicts and tensions through peaceful means. As we have seen the Church does not teach that war is always intrinsically evil, but must be avoided by all means possible and used only as a last resort. The Church also teaches that peace is not simply the absence of war, but is achieved only when justice and equality among all men and women, communities and nations is truly achieved. As Pope Paul VI once famously said: "If you want peace, then work for justice." True peace will only be present if justice is established through a true effort to achieve human solidarity.

Conversion of heart: As Pope John Paul II said, solidarity is an eminently Christian virtue, and solidarity, justice, and peace can only truly be achieved through the conversion of hearts. Catholic social teaching calls each of us to a radical conversion of heart, away from sin and toward God. This calls us to a deeper love of God and neighbor, to the point that we see each person as another self, respecting the rights, dignity, and needs of others. True human solidarity, and thus true peace and justice, can only take place through the conversion of heart and the grace of Jesus Christ.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

The final theme of Catholic Social Teaching is Care for God's Creation. Environmental concerns have become ever greater in recent years as we face such issues as pollution, waning natural resources, and potential climate change. Catholic social teaching approaches these issues with concern and prudence and calls communities and nations to do their best to care for and preserve the natural environment.

However, ecology and concern for the environment must be considered within

the whole of Catholic Social Teaching. Some minimize human life and dignity and put it on a par with the rest of creation. This is a fundamental and critical error that has crept into environmental circles in modern times that must be opposed and corrected. It must always be held that the human person is the pinnacle of God's creation and that creation was created out of love for humanity and is at the service of the human family. The fact that only human beings are created in the image and likeness of God sets man and woman far above the rest of creation in order and dignity. Environmental concerns and actions can never be at the expense of human dignity.

Human dignity must also be at the heart of how natural resources are used and distributed. In many cases, the poor and the underprivileged are not given equal access to the world's resources. Countries rich with natural resources must ensure that they are not consuming an inordinate amount of them at the expense of poorer or third world countries. The dignity of the human person demands just and resourceful use and management of natural resources.

With that in mind, it was because of our human dignity that God entrusted creation to the human family and called us to be accountable for how we care for his work of creation. Catholic Social Teaching calls for there to be true and balanced collaboration between scientists, governments, and international bodies to see that environmental concerns are addressed justly and adequately while respecting the legitimate needs of the human family. It is also important that the environment be preserved and respected when harvesting and using the many natural resources that are used in our society today. Pope Benedict XVI summarizes these fundamental points of Catholic Social Teaching concerning the care and concern for the environment:

We need to care for the environment: it has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion. Human beings, obviously, are of supreme worth vis-à-vis creation as a whole. Respecting the environment does not mean considering material or animal nature more important than man. Rather, it means not selfishly considering nature to be at the complete disposal of our own interests, for future generations

also have the right to reap its benefits and to exhibit toward nature the same responsible freedom that we claim for ourselves. Nor must we overlook the poor, who are excluded in many cases from the goods of creation destined for all. Humanity today is rightly concerned about the ecological balance of tomorrow. It is important for assessments in this regard to be carried out prudently, in dialogue with experts and people of wisdom, uninhibited by ideological pressure to draw hasty conclusions, and above all with the aim of reaching agreement on a model of sustainable development capable of ensuring the well-being of all, while respecting environmental balances. If the protection of the environment involves costs, they should be justly distributed, taking due account of the different levels of development of various countries and the need for solidarity with future generations. Prudence does not mean failing to accept responsibilities and postponing decisions; it means being committed to making joint decisions after pondering responsibly the road to be taken, decisions aimed at strengthening that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and toward whom we are journeying.

— *Message for World Day of Peace*, January 1, 2008, 7

In conclusion, these seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching are not meant to be an exhaustive presentation of the social teaching tradition of the Church, but serve as an introduction to the main themes and issues that continue to affect us in our modern culture today.

Above all, Catholic Social Teaching calls us, through our baptism in Christ, to continue to be his instruments in reaching out to the poor, the vulnerable, and the outcast of society and to build up a true kingdom of justice and peace. All of us are called to pay particular attention to the pressing issues of justice in our culture. We are called to be a leaven in the world always promoting and enhancing the dignity of the human person and to bring the light of Christ to bear on these important social concerns of our time.



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.

Maybe what you do is soul shaping

By Roy Petitfils

Chaim Potok, the renowned Jewish novelist, knew at a very young age that he wanted to be a writer. It wasn't until after he was already in college that his mother sat him down and said, "Chaim, I know you want to be a writer, but I have a better idea. Why don't you be a brain surgeon? You'll keep a lot of people from dying, and you'll make a lot of money."

"No, Mamma," he said, "I want to be a writer."

As mothers often do, she persisted. When he returned home from college one summer she tried again, "Chaim, I know you want to be a writer, but listen to your mamma, be a brain surgeon. You'll keep a lot of people from dying, and you'll make a lot of money." Again, Chaim replied, "I want to be a writer."

She wouldn't drop it, and broached the subject yet again. "Chaim, I know you want to be a writer, but you're wasting your time! Be a brain surgeon. You'll keep a lot of people from dying and you'll make a lot of money." This time, Chaim exploded, "I don't want to keep people from dying. I want to show them how to live!"

Like many of you, there are lots of other things I could do with my time. There are other career paths I could have chosen that would pay more money. There are times when

I cringe when someone asks me "What do you do?" Often I say, somewhat sheepishly, "I'm a teacher." Response, "Oh, that's nice." This doesn't just happen to teachers. It happens when someone decides to become a youth minister. It happens when a young man or woman considers a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. It happens when volunteers commit their evenings, weekends, and holidays in order to "hang out with kids." It happens when parents decide to make sacrifices in their career (or even refrain from even having a career), so that they may be more available to influence the lives of their children.

So perhaps this will help. Next time someone asks you what you do, before you respond, stop. Consider for a moment that what you do is much broader and deeper than your "title" conveys. Consider that what you really do is show others how to live.

When you take the time to show one young person how to live, when you give of yourself to help shape the soul of one kid, you are sculpting a desperately needed image of God in our world.

You don't just teach. You're not just a volunteer. You are not just a youth minister. You are certainly not just a parent.

You are a soul shaper.

The difference you make cannot be measured in a bank statement, on a transcript, a resume, or even in a collection basket.

When you take the time to show one young person how to live, when you give of yourself to help shape the soul of one kid, you are sculpting a desperately needed image of God in our world.

Roy Petitfils and his wife Mindi and their son Max live in Lafayette, Louisiana, where he is a counselor at St. Cecilia School and is in private practice at Pax Renewal Center for Individual, Marriage, and Family Therapy. Roy is an author and speaker who seeks to motivate and inspire adults, parents, teachers, and ministers in their ministries with young people. He recently published a collection of his columns in book form: GOD WEARS RUNNING SHOES.

Our memories may retain items that are insignificant or amusing, but some of them are

EARTH SHAKING

and life-changing

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

When I ask my daughter Julie what she remembers most about high school, she can answer in 28 words: "Barcellona, Black, Brazil, Chapman, Corder, Dichek, Grabele, Gilliam, Hamer, Holliday, Johnson, Korosh, Landen, Madison, MacCaan, Minyard, Ngyuen, Oslick, Pense, Rayment, Rosas, Schleck, Sinclair, Thompson, Veda, Watkins and Wright."

The daily roll call from her freshman homeroom.

Julie, now a teacher herself, memorized the class list during the first semester of her high school freshman year, and whenever I want a quick laugh, I ask her to recite it. You have to be there to appreciate the full effect — and humor — of her magnificent memorization, because she stops, theatrically, after "Pense," and, with a dramatic right-handed motion, turns imaginary-page-one to imaginary-page-two, continuing with "Rayment." Her freshman homeroom teacher, who provided the unintentional model for her performance, would be proud, I know.

Andrew's reminiscences usually involve events that are hilarious, if only in retrospect. Recently my comedic son related a story about his senior talent show. "I wanted to do a Ben Folds song with a big cover band," he said, "and I wanted to borrow the grand piano from the auditorium."

"First I asked permission, Mom, like you always told me to do." (He's an obedient son.) "But no one said okay, so I did it anyway." (We're not related.)

"During lunch I went to the auditorium, got the piano, and wheeled it out the building door, but I forgot there was a small step down at the exit. I rolled over it, but at the gym door there was a small step up, and I couldn't manage that." (Climbing up stairs can be tricky — for bad knees and also entrance into heaven, but I digress.)

Andrew couldn't finish moving the massive piano over the gym threshold until he remembered his best friend John had come to school with a wooden table he built to hold his electronic sound equipment during the talent show. Andrew borrowed the table, removed a board, and used it as a ramp to roll the piano into the gym. In the process he broke the board, loosened the piano pedals, and had to beg the band teacher to fix them.

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Pope emphasizes Resurrection's hope, despite history

FROM PAGE 1

Africans fall prey to hunger, poverty, and disease, the pope said in the message broadcast from St. Peter's Square to millions of people worldwide.

He said when he visits the Holy Land May 8-15 he will "emphatically repeat the same message" of reconciliation and peace he brought to Africa during his March 17-23 visit to Cameroon and Angola.

While reconciliation is difficult, he said, it is an indispensable "precondition for a future of overall security and peaceful coexistence and it can only be achieved through renewed, persevering, and sincere efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Pope Benedict read his message and gave his solemn blessing after celebrating Easter morning Mass in St. Peter's Square, which Vatican Radio said was attended by about 100,000 people.

A sea of flowering trees and shrubs, and other colorful blooms, donated by companies in the Netherlands, decorated the steps and central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

The pope, who turns 82 April 16, stumbled briefly as he climbed the dais where the papal throne sat in the central balcony.

He offered Easter greetings in 63 different languages and gave special encouragement to those struck by the April 6 earthquake and string of aftershocks in Italy's L'Aquila province.

During the April 11 Easter Vigil, Pope Benedict baptized and confirmed one woman and two men from Italy, a woman from China and Heidi Sierras, a 29-year-old mother of four from

St. Joseph Church in Modesto, California.

The pope used a small golden shell to pour the holy water over each catechumen's head. The newly baptized, wearing laced white shawls, had a brief personal exchange with the pope when they brought the offertory gifts to the altar.

During the evening ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope asked that the fragile flame and delicate light of God's word and his love, which God has lit in every Christian, may not be snuffed out "amid the confusions of this age... but will become ever stronger and brighter, so that we, with him, can be the people of the day, bright stars lighting up our time."

The next morning, after celebrating the Easter Mass, the pope urged Christians to spread the hope the world so desperately needs.

"At a time of world food shortage, of financial turmoil, of old and new forms of poverty, of disturbing climate change, of violence and deprivation which force many to leave their homelands in search of a less precarious form of existence, of the ever present threat of terrorism (and) of growing fears over the future, it is urgent to rediscover grounds for hope," he said in his Easter message.

Christ's resurrection "is neither a myth nor a dream, it is not a vision or a utopia, it is not a fairy tale, but is a singular and unrepeatable event" that brings light to the dark regions of the world, he said.

The "sense of emptiness, which tends to intoxicate humanity, has been overcome by the light

A candlelit Good Friday Way of the Cross led by Pope Benedict XVI makes its way through the Colosseum in Rome April 10. (CNS photo/Alessia Pierdomenico, Reuters)



and the hope that emanate from the Resurrection," he said.

But while the resurrected Christ vanquished death, "there still remain very many, in fact, too many signs of its former dominion," said the pope.

Christ wants today's men and women to help him "affirm his victory using his own weapons: the weapons of justice and truth, mercy, forgiveness, and love," and spread the kind of hope that inspires courage to do good even when it costs dearly, he said.

The earthquake in central Italy was never far from the pope's mind during Holy Week and Easter services.

At the end of the candlelit Way of the Cross at Rome's Colosseum April 10, Pope Benedict again asked for prayers for those affected by the earthquake.

"Let us pray that in this dark night, the star of hope — the light of the risen Lord — will appear also to them," he said.

The meditations for the rite

were written by Indian Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil of Guwahati and focused on the way Jesus confronted violence and adversity with serenity and strength, and sought to prompt a change of heart through non-violent persuasion.

Under an awning on a hill overlooking the Colosseum, the pope knelt through the entire service while women and men from Italy and India, as well as two Franciscan friars from the Holy Land, were among those who carried the black wooden cross.

After the 14th station, Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the papal vicar for Rome, handed the cross to the pope who stood and held it aloft.

"We have relived the tragic event of a man unique in the history of all times, who changed the world not by killing others but by letting himself be killed as he hung from a cross," Pope Benedict said at the end of the ceremony.

Pope Benedict left the Vatican Easter afternoon for the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Reciting the *Regina Coeli* prayer with hundreds of visitors gathered in the courtyard of the villa April 13, the pope said Christians rejoice because "the resurrection of the Lord assures us that, despite all the dark moments in history, the divine plan of salvation certainly will be fulfilled. This is why Easter really is our hope."

"We who have risen with Christ through baptism must now follow him faithfully with holiness of life, walking toward the eternal Easter, sustained by the awareness that the difficulties, struggles, trials, and sufferings of our existence — including death — can no longer separate us from him and his love," the pope said.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.

Attendees say NCEA convention helps them serve their students better

ANAHEIM, Calif. (CNS) — Darlene Kring, who works at a Catholic high school in Anaheim, said she wished "more people understood what's offered in Catholic schools."

"Students gain such spiritual awareness and faith in God that they can accomplish so much," she told *The Tidings*, the newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, in an interview during the National Catholic Educational Association's annual convention in Anaheim April 14-16.

"It is harder for them to get influenced negatively" in a Catholic school, "because they are being educated in a spiritual environment," said Kring, an assistant in academics and administration at

Cornelia Connelly High School.

She was among the educational leaders, teachers, and administrators from California and around the nation and from several foreign countries who hoped to increase their knowledge to better carry out the spiritual formation of students in their schools.

"I am here to gain more knowledge of Catholic education," said Kring, a member of Anaheim Christian Church.

Australians Paul Fenson and his wife, Catherine, learned about the event through some of their colleagues who had attended the convention in previous years. They felt they needed to take some time off from their busy

teaching lives and fly to sunny Southern California, about 7,500 miles away from their homeland, to exchange experiences with U.S. colleagues.

The convention was held April 14-16 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

Eileen McCay, 10th-grade teacher at Servite High School in Anaheim, told *The Tidings* she agreed with points Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, made in his keynote speech April 14. In a talk titled "You Matter Much," he told the educators they are important to the church's future.

"This is a profession where you need to have the passion to serve young people," McCay said.

"Bishop Kicanas shared that he knew from eighth grade that he wanted to be a priest, and I knew from seventh grade I wanted to be a Catholic school teacher," said McCay, who has been a teacher for 22 years.

She said she felt joy for what she does every day. "We need to have a sense of purpose," she added.

Her comments echoed the NCEA's mission statement: "Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the National Catholic Educational Association is a professional membership organization that provides leadership, direction, and service to fulfill the evangelizing, catechizing, and teaching mission of the church."

president's views are well known as are his reasons for them; he is not himself the issue here."

Cardinal George said "those who were upset about the invitation should let their opinions be known to the university, not to him or other bishops, since the bishops do not control or manage the university."

"Catholics sometimes seem to think that if they complain to bishops, their own responsibilities cease," the statement added.

George...

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dividing issue."

The statement said Cardinal George has not urged Notre Dame to "disinvite" the president.

"He said that both the president and his office should be respected and that the university could not and should not rescind an invitation to the president of the United States," it said. "The

International

As the order celebrates its 800th anniversary, pope says St. Francis offers model of conversion for modern times



Pope Benedict XVI offers a blessing during an audience with Franciscan friars and members of Franciscan lay groups at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, April 18, the last day of their four-day meeting, April 15-18, celebrating the 800th anniversary of St. Francis receiving papal approval for the order. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, Reuters)

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — At first glance, the scholarly Pope Benedict XVI — sometimes dubbed “the pope of reason” — might seem an unlikely devotee of St. Francis of Assisi, the mystic friar of simple faith.

Yet the German pope has found in St. Francis something that goes beyond the saint's popular image as the patron of peace, the environment, and animals. For him, St. Francis offers a model of radical conversion to Christ.

An earlier pontiff, Pope Innocent III, approved the founding of St. Francis' religious order 800 years ago, and in mid-April Franciscans from all over the world converged on the Italian hill town of Assisi to celebrate the anniversary.

Assisi has gained a reputation as a place for spiritual seekers of every stripe, and its interreligious gatherings in recent years have drawn criticism from some conservative quarters of the church.

Pope Benedict, however, has lauded the “spirit of Assisi” and its emphasis on dialogue and interfaith bridge-building.

At the same time, he has encouraged Franciscans to highlight the fact that St. Francis' spiritual path began with a life-changing encounter with Christ. Today's pilgrims need to understand that connection, he said.

“It's not enough that they admire Francis: Through him they should be able to encounter Christ,” the pope said during a visit to Assisi in 2007.

It's instructive to see how Pope Benedict views the life of St. Francis. During the same visit, the pope described the young Francis

as a “king of partying” who grew disillusioned with the clothes, music, and relatively easy life afforded him by his economic status in the 13th century.

In his first 25 years, the pope said, Francis was mainly out for fun and entertainment in life. He was vain and placed much emphasis on image.

The pope's portrait of the young Francis was not a flattering one: a self-absorbed man who wandered the towns of central Italy looking for material pleasure. Then a change came, as tradition recounts, triggered by small encounters with the poor and the sick.

The pope compared Francis' conversion to that of St. Paul. Although Francis' journey was more gradual, he said, it was just as intense as St. Paul being knocked off his horse and blinded by the light of Christ.

Francis began to have visions and to withdraw in prayerful solitude. He told friends he was about to be married — to a bride called “Lady Poverty.” He encountered a leper on the road

and, after first drawing away in disgust, went toward him and embraced him. He came to Rome, prayed at the tomb of St. Peter, and gave away all his money.

His conversion is sometimes pinpointed to the moment when, praying before a crucifix, he heard God's voice telling him to “repair my house.” He then wandered the hills trying to rebuild churches, but this was far from an idyllic lifestyle: Francis was mocked as a madman, pelted with stones, locked up at times by his angry father, and often went hungry and cold.

It was in 1208 that Francis clearly understood his vocation, while listening to the Gospel account of Christ's instructions to his disciples: to renounce all material things and to roam the land, calling people to penance and peace. He experienced these words of Scripture as a personal calling.

By now, ridicule among the local people was turning to respect, and Francis began to attract followers. He wrote the first “rule,” a collection of Gospel principles on which his order would be

founded; the exact form of that text is unknown today, but it was approved orally by Pope Innocent III in 1209—despite reported resistance by the Roman Curia to such a radical mode of religious life.

This year's commemoration in Assisi marks the approval of the first rule of St. Francis, and it will no doubt be followed by others in a kind of “rolling anniversary” of Franciscan milestones, including Francis' death in 1226. He was canonized only two years after he died, and has become the patron saint of Italy, of the Italian lay movement Catholic Action and many other groups, as well as of animals and the environment.

For Pope Benedict, St. Francis is relevant today not only because of his eco-friendly image. The key to his vocation was the figure of Christ, the pope said, and if seen strictly through the lens of social activism the saint suffers a “type of mutilation.”

That St. Francis suffered the stigmata — the wounds of Christ — was an eloquent sign of this, he said. “He fell in love with Christ. The wounds of the crucified one wounded his heart before leav-

ing their marks on his body on Mount La Verna. He could truly say with Paul: ‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me,’” the pope said.

It wouldn't be surprising to see the figure of St. Francis appear in Pope Benedict's upcoming social encyclical, which is expected to treat the questions of charity and the Christian response to economic injustice. As the pope has said, St. Francis's radical rejection of material comfort was part of his “quest for Christ in the faces of the poor.”

Franciscan friars participate in a two-hour penitential procession from the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels to the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi, April 17. (CNS photo/Carol Glatz)



Franciscans gather for Mass at the Portiuncula, the chapel where St. Francis founded his order, inside the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, April 15. (CNS photo/Emanuela De Meo, Catholic Press Photo)



Franciscans walk outside the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, Italy, April 15. (CNS photo/Emanuela De Meo, Catholic Press Photo)



NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Vatican orders 'doctrinal assessment' of group representing U.S. nuns

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has ordered a "doctrinal assessment" of the "activities and initiatives" of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Maryland-based association whose members represent about 95 percent of the 67,000 women religious in the United States. Sister Annmarie Sanders, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who is LCWR director of communications, confirmed the investigation in a brief statement released to Catholic News Service April 15. "At this time, LCWR knows neither the process nor timeline for completion of this assessment," the statement said. "As more information is made available to LCWR, the conference will take the appropriate steps for its participation in the assessment." Bishop Leonard P. Blair of Toledo, Ohio, a member of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine, is to conduct the assessment at the direction of Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the doctrinal congregation. The assessment by Bishop Blair is separate from an apostolic visitation of U.S. institutes of women religious that will look into the quality of life in the communities and why their membership has decreased during the past 40 years.

Pastoral leadership project gets \$1 million Lilly renewal grant

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project has received a \$1 million renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment for a new set of research initiatives focused on parish leadership. Issues to be addressed in the research include diversity, both multicultural and generational; ministry in linked parishes; and lay ecclesial ministry. Over the past five years the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project has conducted a series of research symposiums and surveys on such topics as the best practices of pastoral leaders; pastoring multiple parishes; the next generation of pastoral leaders; human resources; and diversity in Catholic parishes. The project is an initiative of the Washington-based National Association for Lay Ministry with the Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development in New York City; the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, based in Cincinnati; the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association, with offices in Washington and the Chicago area; and the National Federation of Priests' Councils, which is in Chicago.

Catholics generally optimistic about church, Zogby poll finds

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholics are generally optimistic about their church, according to the 2009 Le Moyne-Zogby Contemporary Catholic Trends survey released April 9. Close to three-fourths of those responding said they were at least somewhat optimistic about the church's future: 36 percent said they were very optimistic and 37 percent were somewhat optimistic. Those Catholics who identified themselves as progressive were more likely to be pessimistic; even so, on this issue they were a minority within their group. Four percent were very pessimistic about the church's future and 36 percent were somewhat pessimistic. By contrast, those who identified themselves as "orthodox" Catholics were much more optimistic. Only 6 percent of that group said they were somewhat pessimistic, and just 1 percent very pessimistic. The Contemporary Catholic Trends survey polled 767 Catholics out of 3,812 randomly sampled members of the Zogby Interactive Panel Feb. 23-25. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. The survey is a joint effort between the Zogby International polling firm and Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, a Catholic college that is the alma mater of Zogby founder and president John Zogby.

New York extends warm welcome to new Archbishop Timothy Dolan



Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan watches the procession outside St. Patrick's Cathedral at the start of his Mass of installation in New York April 15. At left is Cardinal Edward M. Egan, whose resignation as New York archbishop was accepted by the pope in February. Archbishop Dolan became the 10th archbishop of New York. (CNS photo/pool)

FROM PAGE 1

U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand; dozens of political and union leaders; and representatives of each of the 373 parishes of the archdiocese.

In his last act as administrator of the archdiocese, Cardinal Edward M. Egan, newly retired archbishop of New York, recalled the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to St. Patrick's one year ago, with many of the same people in attendance. The *apostolic nuncio*, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, said the day was "a new start with a new shepherd."

The Gospel, intoned by a deacon, was Luke's description of Jesus meeting the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

In his homily, Archbishop Dolan said contemporary Christians should turn to Jesus and "recognize him again in his word, in the 'breaking of the bread,' and in his church. Let him 'turn us around' as he did those two disciples, turned them around because, simply put, they were going the wrong way."

He said no one really knows where the village of Emmaus was, so Christians hoping to retrace Jesus' steps can do so by making every journey in life a "walk down the road to Emmaus."

Archbishop Dolan invited his "new friends in this great archdiocese" to join their new pastor on an "adventure in fidelity" along familiar New York thoroughfares to "witness a real 'miracle on 34th Street' and turn that into the road to Emmaus."

The homily was greeted with enthusiastic applause eight times, including two standing ovations, the longest in response to his observation, "The Resurrection goes on, as his church continues to embrace and protect the dignity of every human person, the sanctity of human life, from the tiny baby in the

womb to the last moment of natural passing into eternal life."

He said the church is a "loving mother who has a zest for life and serves life everywhere, but can become a protective 'mamma bear' when the life of her innocent, helpless cubs is threatened."

Archbishop Dolan called the priests of the New York Archdiocese "the apple of my eye" and said they "mean everything to me. Without you, I can't do anything."

At a press conference earlier in the day, Archbishop Dolan said, "I need to be to my priests what I want them to be to their people." He said it is important to dispel the caricature of religious life as a "very dour, sacrificial life" and reveal it as "one of the most freeing, liberating, joyful styles of life you can lead."

The installation Mass reflected the ethnic diversity of the 2.5 million Catholics in the 10 counties making up what Archbishop Dolan called "these extraordinary acres of the Lord's vineyard of the church we call the Archdiocese of New York."

The epistle was read in Spanish; Archbishop Dolan pledged himself to Spanish-speakers in their language during his homily, and the prayer of the faithful was offered in seven languages, ranging from Gaelic to Igbo, spoken in Nigeria.

As part of the official installation ceremony, the archbishop was greeted by two dozen representatives of ethnic groups, as well as representatives of other Christian faiths and non-Christian faith traditions.

In his homily, Archbishop Dolan cited the welcome given by the archdiocese to generations of immigrants, "who came and still come to this country through this city with little or nothing of



Archbishop Dolan greets a representative of one of New York's ethnic groups during his installation Mass April 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Archbishop Dolan raises the Book of the Gospels during his installation Mass April 15. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

earthly value, but tenaciously clung to that 'pearl of great price,' their faith, to find in the church here the spiritual counterpart of Lady Liberty, holy mother church, who welcomed them, embraced them, settled them in, taught their children, and kept that faith alive."

Archbishop Dolan drew laughter and applause when he said he was glad his mother was there. "I was concerned this morning when she found out there was a sale at Macy's," he said.

Two hours after he entered the cathedral, Archbishop Dolan made the rounds of the sanctuary before the concelebrants recessed and then made his way down the aisle to applause, "working the crowd" like a seasoned New York leader.

Health care workers urge Obama not to rescind conscience rights



Dr. John Bruchalski, founder of the Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax, Virginia, is flanked by other medical professionals as he speaks concerning conscience protection during a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington April 8. Medical professionals gathered to oppose the Obama administration possibly rescinding the conscience protection rule for medical professionals. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Dr. John T. Bruchalski would rather close the doors of his highly successful Fairfax, Virginia, medical practice than violate his conscience, if he is forced to offer services that violate the basic tenets of his Catholic faith.

A pro-life obstetrician and gynecologist whose Tepeyac Family Center delivered 629 babies in 2008, Bruchalski is concerned that a Department of Health and Human Services proposal to rescind a conscience protection regulation for health care workers would force him to perform abortions or, at the very least, refer patients to physicians who offer the procedure.

Bruchalski told Catholic News Service he wants no part of that.

The rule, which took effect two days before President Barack Obama took office, codifies three longtime federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or moral objections.

"From our perspective the heart of social justice is the Gospel of life," Bruchalski said in an interview following an April 8 press conference hosted by Freedom2Care at the National Press Club.

"At the heart of freedom is the right of conscience, a properly formed conscience. If conscience becomes truncated or coerced or undercut, then every other right that we have as citizens becomes hollow," he continued.

"We have to be obedient to our conscience, which is telling me to love God and love my neighbor. As Peter said, where else can I go?" he said. "I must be an active, alive Catholic physician and that will help health care and the nation at large, because

I bring a perspective that ought to be heard. If they silence that, they're silencing Catholics from being physicians."

Bruchalski was not alone in his sentiments. He joined 40 other doctors, anesthesiologists, physician assistants, pharmacists, and nurses — all dressed in white coats or operating-room scrubs — who packed the press conference to address their concerns a day before a month-long public comment period on the HHS plan ends.

Freedom2Care, a coalition of 36 secular and medical organizations dedicated to protecting conscience rights, and the Susan B. Anthony List, which promotes and represents pro-life women in politics, are spearheading a campaign that has led to 36,000 comments being filed against the proposal.

A similar effort by the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, an arm of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has filed another 35,000 comments, according to Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

Dr. David Stevens, CEO of the Christian Medical Association, told reporters that the group had sent Obama a letter detailing its concerns about the proposal as the press conference started. The letter said thousands of health care professionals "would be put at a crossroads in their careers" should the conscience rule be rescinded.

Among the 37 signers of the letter were Dr. Louis C. Breschi, president of the Catholic Medical Association; Brian Burch, executive director of CatholicVote.org; Terese S. Collet, professor of law and director of the University of St. Thomas School of Law ProLife Center; and Austin Ruse, president of C-Fam, a Catholic family

and human rights organization.

The rights of conscience are guaranteed in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and rescinding those rights would send the country down a perilous road, Stevens said.

"When the state demands we surrender our conscience, it becomes totalitarian and dangerous," he said. "As Hippocrates knew and some have forgotten, the moral integrity of health care professionals is the patient's best protection, especially in a health care system increasingly driven by cost."

Stevens also raised concern that a concerted effort by some organizations "to cleanse health care" of people who want to maintain conscience rights would force hospitals to close and push hundreds of thousands of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists out of work.

Already, he said, many health care professionals are discriminated against for their desire not to participate in procedures they find objectionable.

"This issue isn't just about abortion," he said. "Right of conscience will become increasingly important with other health care issues looming ahead: euthanasia, genetic engineering, human cloning, and more."

Freedom2Care also released the results of a poll that showed 87 percent of U.S. adults surveyed believe it is important to ensure that health care professionals are not forced to participate in procedures to which they morally object. By 57 percent to 38 percent, adults oppose regulations that require medical professionals to perform or provide services to which they morally object.

Respondents also said they supported a conscience regulation, 63 percent to 28 percent.

The poll of 800 adults was conducted by The Polling Co. for the Christian Medical Association.

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Knights Templar may have secretly held shroud, Vatican expert says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican researcher has found evidence that the Knights Templar, the medieval crusading order, held secret custody of the Shroud of Turin during the 13th and 14th centuries. The shroud, which bears the image of a man and is believed by many to have been the burial cloth of Jesus, was probably used in a secret Templar ritual to underline Christ's humanity in the face of popular heresies of the time, the expert said. The researcher, Barbara Frale, made the comments in an article published April 5 by the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. The article anticipated evidence the author presents in an upcoming book on the Templars and the shroud. Frale, who works in the Vatican Secret Archives, said documents that came to light during research on the 14th-century trial of the Templars contained a description of a Templar initiation ceremony. The document recounts how a Templar leader, after guiding a young initiate into a hidden room, "showed him a long linen cloth that bore the impressed figure of a man, and ordered him to worship it, kissing the feet three times," Frale said.

New Mexico's decision to abolish death penalty marked at Rome's Colosseum

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For making what he described as "the most difficult decision in my political life," Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico was given a front-row seat at a papal audience and was to see Rome's Colosseum lit up in honor of his state. Greeting Pope Benedict XVI April 15, Richardson asked him to bless the silver olive branch given to him by the Community of Sant'Egidio in recognition of his decision March 18 to sign a bill abolishing the death penalty in New Mexico. Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe said he introduced the governor to Pope Benedict, saying, "Holy Father, this is our governor and he just repealed the death penalty." The archbishop added, "And the pope nodded very happily in agreement." The Rome-based lay Community of Sant'Egidio, which is active in a worldwide campaign to eliminate capital executions, hosted the governor's visit. Richardson, a Democrat and a Catholic, had been a supporter of the death penalty; he also supports legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research, which the church opposes. Archbishop Sheehan told Catholic News Service, "We were able to help him understand our opposition to the death penalty, and he did indeed change his view and signed the law. One thing at a time."

Eastern meditation: Pope's Way of the Cross adopts an Asian viewpoint

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — This year's meditation for Pope Benedict XVI's Good Friday Way of the Cross had a distinctly Asian perspective, referring to Hindu scriptures, an Indian poet, and Mahatma Gandhi. But the linchpin of this Eastern reflection is the passion of Jesus Christ. In that sense, it reflects Pope Benedict's view of Christianity's relationship with the non-Christian world — that the Gospel enlightens and fulfills the beliefs of other faiths. Indian Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil of Guwahati wrote the meditation on the 14 stations, which were read as the pope led the candlelit *Via Crucis* at Rome's Colosseum. The pope chose Archbishop Menamparampil, a 72-year-old Salesian, after hearing him deliver an impressive talk at last year's Synod of Bishops on Scripture. The archbishop took it as a sign of the pope's interest in Asia. "His Holiness regards very highly the identity of Asia, the cradle of civilization. Moreover, our Holy Father has a prophetic vision for Asia, a continent very much cherished by him and his pontificate," he said. The immediate assumption among many Vatican observers was that the choice of an Indian would serve to highlight religious freedom issues in the wake of anti-Christian violence in parts of India.



May 3, Fourth Sunday of Easter.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Acts 4:8-12
Psalm 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29
- 2) 1 John 3:1-2
Gospel) John 10:11-18

By Jean Denton

Mary was not just a hired hand. True, she had been employed by my friend Barbara and her siblings to care for their enfeebled father, Scott, in his last years of life. But caring for the elderly man was more than a job to Mary — not because of any stipulation in her contract, not because she set high standards. It was simply because of who she was, and who he was to her.

Barbara told me Mary seemed to know what her father wanted or needed before he said so. Indeed, she cooked, cleaned, and helped him shave and dress. But she also attended to more than his physical needs. She knew what foods he liked and prepared them to please him. She knew how to arrange his things to make him comfortable and happy.

She also learned about Scott's past life, his family, and what interested him. They talked all

day long. She recognized how he felt and helped him deal with his deepest concerns. In short, her greatest interest was him.

Barbara said that when she came to visit and Mary took time off, she was never gone as long as expected. She preferred to be there to care for Scott. In fact, the only time she spent a night away was when her own granddaughter was sick and needed her.

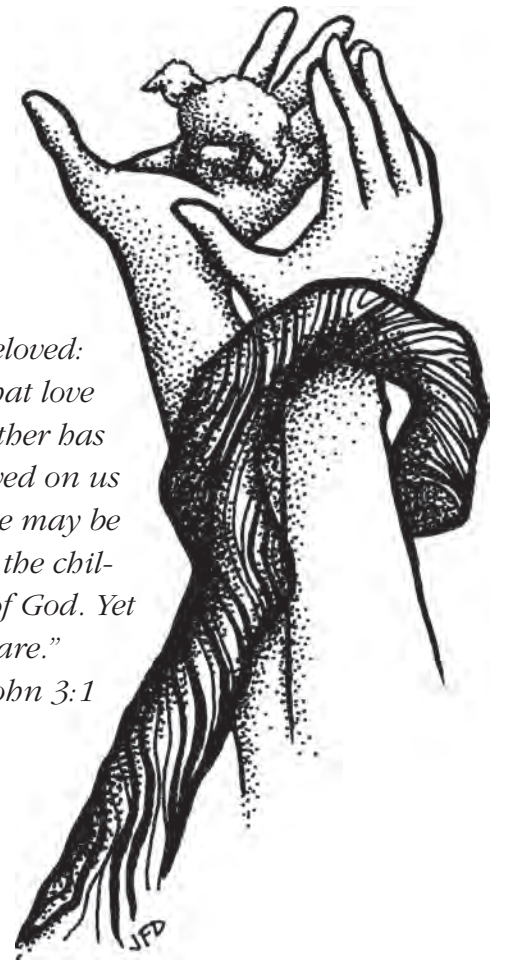
For his part, although he loved his children, Scott was most at ease when Mary was nearby. Their relationship of mutual caring was gratifying to Barbara and her brothers and sisters.

When Scott died, Mary came to the funeral. Afterward she sat with the family and shared stories about him with his children and grandchildren. She grieved with them.

For Scott and his loved ones, Mary was like the good shepherd described in this weekend's Gospel. He has true concern for each member of his flock, and they know he has their best interests at heart. He prefers to be with them. Because they know they have his unselfish love, they trust and prefer his care.

Far beyond the interests of a normal hired caregiver, Mary chose to give herself over fully to concern for Scott. Likewise, Jesus the good shepherd reminds us that he freely chooses to give his life for our sake.

“Beloved:
See what love
the Father has
bestowed on us
that we may be
called the chil-
dren of God. Yet
so we are.”
— 1 John 3:1



QUESTIONS:

Whose life and concerns do you care for as much as your own? How does this help you understand and trust Jesus as your good shepherd?

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Pope gets early birthday celebration with song at general audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pilgrims from all over the world treated Pope Benedict XVI to an early birthday celebration during his April 15 weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Before the pope gave a summary of his catechesis in English, audience members broke into a spontaneous rendition of “Happy Birthday, dear Benedict” followed by an encore with musical accompaniment by a Bavarian band present in the square. The pope smiled widely, waved, and stood in appreciation.

Smaller groups of pilgrims also sang birthday greetings in their native languages at different moments during the audience. The pope was to celebrate his 82nd birthday April 16 and to mark the fourth anniversary of his election as pope April 19.

Pope Benedict arrived at the Vatican by helicopter from Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, and returned to the papal villa by helicopter after the audience.

St. Peter's Square was still decorated with some of the tulips, daffodils, pansies, and flowering trees that were set up for the pope's Easter morning



Mass April 12.

The pope used his weekly general audience to underline the importance of celebrating the 50-day Easter season.

This festive, joyous period celebrates Christ's definitive triumph over evil and death, the pope told the estimated 30,000 people in the square.

“To proclaim the resurrection

of Jesus of Nazareth as a real, historic event, attested to by many authoritative witnesses, is so fundamental to our faith and our Christian testimony,” he said.

It's important to strongly assert the veracity of this historical event, he said, because today “there is no lack of people who try to negate the historicity (of

Christ's resurrection), reducing the Gospel account to a myth or a vision of the apostles, and spreading old and worn-out theories as new and scientific.”

Jesus' resurrection was not simply a coming back to life like, for example, Lazarus being raised from the dead, said the pope.

Jesus' resurrection marks “an

Pope Benedict XVI leaves at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 15. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters)

entrance into a new dimension of life meant to transform every human being, all of history, and the whole cosmos,” he said.

“It illuminates our entire earthly pilgrimage, including the human enigma of pain and death,” he said.

“Faith in the crucified and risen Christ lies at the heart of the whole Gospel message and is the central nucleus of our belief,” said Pope Benedict.

Jesus is gloriously alive “because he conquered the power of death and brought humanity to be in communion with God,” he said.

While the Resurrection is celebrated every Sunday all year long, Catholics should focus on its meaning and rejoice over it more intensely in the days immediately following Easter, the pope said.

He asked the faithful to bathe in the brilliant light of the resurrected Christ and to recognize that this joy is something that must be shared.

“We cannot keep this truth that changes everyone's life just for ourselves: We have to be witnesses of divine love,” he said.

Scripture Readings



May 10, Fifth Sunday of Easter.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 22:26-28, 30-32
- 2) 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel) John 15:1-8

By Sharon K. Perkins

When our 16-year-old daughter first earned her driver's license, it was an occasion of great rejoicing on her part and more than a little anxiety on ours.

As we watched her drive away by herself, we realized that she would fully exercise her newfound independence out of the range of our immediate supervision. We had to trust that she was going where she said she would, in the company of persons she knew we would approve of.

When an incident in her senior year of high school tested those boundaries, it took several weeks of responsible behavior for her to prove she was trustworthy enough to regain driving privileges. Even then, I had to gradually renew my faith in her integrity, that her future words would be consistent with her actions.

Building, maintaining, and sometimes regaining trust applies to other kinds of relationships

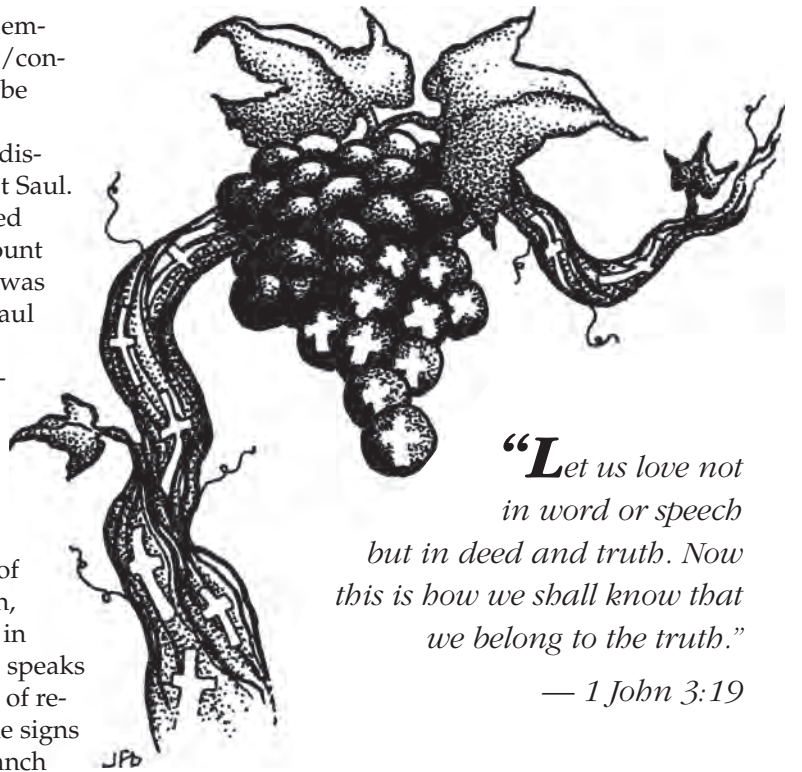
as well — husband/wife, employer/employee, friend/friend, public servant/constituent — and it is human nature to be cautious once that trust is violated.

In the first reading, the Jerusalem disciples had plenty of reason to distrust Saul. After all, he had fanatically persecuted other followers of Jesus, and the account of his conversion, while compelling, was not immediately reassuring. But as Saul "spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord," even to the point of endangering his own life, they were gradually convinced of the truth of his story and the depth of his conviction.

The necessity of visible proof of one's faith in Christ leads the writer of John's epistle to admonish: "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." In the Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the importance of remaining in him and producing visible signs of his love in the same way that a branch attached to a vine bears much fruit.

Historically, the behaviors of some who have called themselves "Christians" have given humankind many reasons to doubt the validity of their message. Only by fully uniting ourselves

with Christ can we love with integrity — thereby regaining the trust of a world that desperately needs to see the evidence and know the truth of God's love.



"Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth."

— 1 John 3:19

QUESTIONS:

In what way have your actions been inconsistent with your profession of faith? What would help you grow in your integrity as a follower of Christ?

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Easter: 50 days to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection

By Jeff Hedglen

I had the pleasure of attending an old-fashioned Easter picnic this year. In defiance of every weather forecaster, we spent the day outside with sunshine and blue skies.

There was everything from Easter egg hunts for the kids to adults playing washers. The spread of food went from a glorious ham all the way to a bunny shaped cake. The mix of people spanned generations and stretched the standard lines of friends and family. One emotion tied it all together — joy.

Everywhere I looked I saw joy. From the look on the face of a child with a new-found prize from the bushes, to the shouts from washers in the hole. The conversation groups always seemed engaged and full of laughter. The youngest member of the party was my eight-month old goddaughter, and each wardrobe change brought fresh smiles. It was a party fit for the occasion.

This is especially true in

Though Easter Sunday has passed, we are still in the midst of the season of all seasons Easter is a 50-day celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It is seven weeks of reveling in the knowledge that death is no more the end.

light of the celebrations that preceded the picnic. Easter weekend services filled with all the smells, lights, and sounds of the full regalia of our faith: darkness and light, baptisms and litanies, bread and wine, death and life. All of these culminate in the glorious cry: Jesus is risen, Alleluia!

Easter is about a lot of things, but this year the experience and pursuit of joy stands out to me. As Holy Week was gearing up, I had a conversation with a young woman who is going through a separation from her husband. These are very hard times, and her faith

is being stretched thin at times. She sometimes finds herself barely holding on.

The task before her at the moment was to find a new place to live. She had been looking at lots of places and was about to sign a lease on an apartment. She knew she was settling, but it was in her price range, and it was good enough. The morning she was to sign the paperwork, while in prayer, she heard a simple phrase: "Follow the joy."

In that moment she knew that she needed to keep looking; the current place did not bring joy. Later that day she

found the perfect place. A place that was not settling. It was, in fact, more than she had hoped for, and it was in the same price range.

This is Easter in motion. This is the power of the resurrected Christ in real life. Jesus says to us all: Follow the joy! I bring the joy. I am the joy!

This simple phrase has not reconciled the relationship and has not stopped the pain and struggle of the situation, but it brings her hope and strength for the way. This is not unlike the frightened followers of Jesus, huddled in a room, waiting and wondering what to do now that Jesus has died and his body could not be found. Did the priests or Romans steal the body, or did He really rise as He had said he would do?

With these questions swimming in their heads, He appears to them through locked doors, breathes on them and gives them peace. He continued to appear to them, make them breakfast, walk with them to Emmaus, break bread with them, and all along I think He

was simply saying follow Me, and joy will be yours.

Though Easter Sunday has passed, we are still in the midst of the season of all seasons. It is often overlooked, but Easter is the longest part of the liturgical calendar. Easter is a 50-day celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It is seven weeks of reveling in the knowledge that death is no more the end.

It actually goes on even longer than 50 days. Easter is forever present to us. Every Mass we celebrate the whole mystery of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Every day when the sun comes up, we receive new mercies. Every time we are at a crossroads in our lives, we are empowered to live the Easter message and follow the joy — all the way to Jesus.

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.

Según el Papa, San Francisco ofrece una lección de conversión para los tiempos modernos

Por John Thavis
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — A primera vista, el erudito Papa Benedicto XVI — a veces llamado “el Papa de la razón” — podría parecer un devoto poco probable de San Francisco de Asís, el místico fraile de fe sencilla.

Y sin embargo, el Papa ha encontrado en San Francisco algo que va más allá de la imagen popular del santo como patrono de la paz, del medio ambiente y de los animales. Para el Papa, San Francisco ofrece un modelo de conversión radical hacia Cristo.

Un pontífice anterior, el Papa Inocencio III, aprobó la fundación de la orden religiosa de San Francisco hace 800 años; y a mediados de abril, franciscanos de todo el mundo se reunieron en la población montañosa italiana de Asís para celebrar el aniversario.

El Papa Benedicto ha elogiado “el espíritu de Asís” y su énfasis en el diálogo y en la edificación de puentes entre diversos credos.

Al mismo tiempo, ha animado a los franciscanos a que enfatizen el hecho de que el camino espiritual de San Francisco empezó con un encuentro con Cristo, que le cambió su vida. Los peregrinos de hoy necesitan entender esa relación, dijo.

“No es suficiente que admiren a San Francisco: Por medio de él deben ser capaces de encontrar a Cristo”, dijo el Papa durante una visita a Asís en el año 2007.

Es muy instructivo ver cómo el Papa Benedicto contempla la vida de San Francisco. Durante la misma visita, el Papa describió

a San Francisco cuando era joven como “el rey de las fiestas” que llegó a sentirse desilusionado con la ropa, la música y la vida relativamente fácil que estaba a su alcance por su situación económica en el siglo XIII.

Durante sus primeros 25 años de vida, dijo el Papa, Francisco se dedicaba a las diversiones y entretenimientos. Era vano y le daba mucha importancia a su imagen.

El retrato que el Papa hizo del joven Francisco no era muy halagador: Francisco era un hombre absorto en su propio ego que rondaba las poblaciones de la Italia central buscando placer material. Pero hubo un cambio, como cuenta la tradición; cambio causado por pequeños encuentros con los pobres y los enfermos.

Fue en 1208 cuando Francisco entendió claramente su vocación, mientras escuchaba el relato del Evangelio de las instrucciones de Cristo a sus discípulos de renunciar a todas las cosas materiales y de recorrer la tierra, llamando a la gente a penitencia y paz. Y sintió esas palabras de las Sagradas Escrituras como su llamado personal.

Para entonces, el ridículo entre la gente de la localidad se empezaba a convertir en respeto, y Francisco comenzó a atraer seguidores. Escribió su primera “regla”, colección de principios extraídos del Evangelio, sobre los cuales la orden sería fundada. La forma exacta de ese texto nos es desconocida, pero fue aprobado en forma oral por el Papa Inocencio III en 1209, a pesar de la resistencia atribuida a la Curia

Romana, en contra de tan radical forma de vida religiosa.

La conmemoración de este año en Asís señala la aprobación de la primera regla de San Francisco, y sin duda será seguida por otras conmemoraciones como “aniversario rodante” de los hitos franciscanos, incluyendo la muerte de Francisco en el año 1226, y su canonización solamente dos años después de muerto. San Francisco llegó a ser el santo patrono de Italia, del movimiento cristiano de *Acción católica* y de muchos otros grupos, como también de los animales y del medio ambiente.

Para el Papa Benedicto, San Francisco es importante no sólo por su imagen amiga de la tierra, sino también porque la clave de su vocación fue la figura de Cristo; y si solamente se le ve a través del lente de un activismo social, el santo sufre “una especie de mutilación”.

El hecho de que San Francisco sufrió en su cuerpo las huellas sobrenaturales de las heridas de Cristo fue una elocuente señal de esto, dijo el Papa.

Monjes franciscanos se reúnen para la celebración de la Santa Misa en la Porziuncola, la capilla donde San Francisco fundó su orden, dentro de la basílica de Santa María de los Ángeles en Asís, el 15 de abril. (CNS foto/Emanuela De Meo, Catholic Press Foto)

El Papa Benedicto XVI celebra una audiencia con monjes franciscanos y miembros de grupos laicos seguidores de San Francisco en Castel Gandolfo, Italia, el 18 de abril. (CNS foto/L'OSSEVATORE ROMANO, Reuters)



Un Rosario cuelga del hábito de un Franciscano durante la liturgia del llamado Capítulo de las Esterillas en Asís, Italia, el 15 de abril. (CNS photo/Emanuela De Meo, Catholic Press Foto)



Monjes franciscanos caminan en las afueras de la basílica de Santa María de los Ángeles en Asís, Italia, el 15 de abril. Miembros de las congregaciones franciscanas asistieron al llamado Capítulo de las Esterillas. Este año marca el 800 aniversario de la aprobación papal de la Regla Franciscana. (CNS foto/Emanuela De Meo, Catholic Press Foto)



Mientras la Casa Blanca se mueve hacia debate de inmigración, activistas se preparan

Por Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Mientras la Casa Blanca daba la señal que el presidente Barack Obama se está preparando para saltar a la batalla sobre las leyes y la política de inmigración, los activistas se preparaban para el lanzamiento el 1° de mayo de un impulso para introducir una legislación abarcadora a través en el Congreso este año.

El *New York Times* del 9 de abril citó a Cecilia Muñoz, directora de la Casa Blanca para asuntos intergubernamentales, diciendo que Obama hablaría sobre la inmigración en mayo, en cumplimiento de su promesa electoral de atender el asunto durante su primer año en el cargo.

Ese mismo día el secretario de prensa de la Casa Blanca, Roberto Gibbs, dijo que el presidente no espera que la reforma de inmigración sea terminada este año, pero que "es algo que el presidente está comprometido a atender".

Ese mensaje fue bienvenido por el cardenal Roger M. Mahony, de Los Ángeles, y por organizaciones que han estado impulsando durante años un enfoque abarcador en cuanto a una amplia gama de problemas relacionados con la inmigración.

"Legalizar a los trabajadores indocumentados mejoraría los salarios y las condiciones de trabajo para todos los trabajadores y aumentaría los ingresos fiscales para los gobiernos locales, estatales y federal necesitados de dinero".

— Un informe del Centro de política de inmigración

Es un "imperativo moral que se ha debido cumplir hace mucho tiempo, puesto que un sistema averiado continúa socavando la dignidad humana de nuestros hermanos y hermanas", dijo el cardenal Mahony en una declaración del 9 de abril.

Él fue una de muchas personas que recientemente han vinculado la reforma del sistema de inmigración con la recuperación económica, diciendo que ésta ayudaría a "poner nuestro trabajo y nuestras necesidades económicas sobre una base firme para el futuro".

"Según nos recuperamos de la crisis económica nacional es

importante que nos preparemos para los años venideros y aseguremos que todos los trabajadores sean parte del sistema, pagando impuestos y trabajando dentro de la ley", dijo.

El *Centro de política de inmigración* dijo en un informe emitido el 13 de abril que "legalizar a los trabajadores indocumentados mejoraría los salarios y las condiciones de trabajo para todos los trabajadores y aumentaría los ingresos fiscales para los gobiernos locales, estatales y federal necesitados de dinero".

El informe citó datos de la *Oficina del congreso para presupuesto* y del *Comité conjunto sobre impuestos* que estiman que los fracasados proyectos de ley de reforma abarcadora de inmigración del 2006 y el 2007 habrían más que cubierto sus propios gastos, generando \$66,000 millones y \$48,000 millones, respectivamente, en nuevos recaudos provenientes de impuestos sobre ingresos y nóminas, así como de honorarios administrativos.

Activistas de todo Estados Unidos están organizando concentraciones y marchas en ciudades de todo el país para el 1° de mayo con la intención de atraer partidarios de la reforma abarcadora y activarlos en el cabildeo ante el Congreso.



PEREGRINOS MONTAN CABALLOS EN PROCESIÓN TRADICIONAL DE CABALGATA EN CHILE — Peregrinos vistiendo ropa tradicional "cuasimodista" montan sus caballos durante la procesión de Cuasimodo el domingo después de la Pascua en Santiago, Chile, el 19 de abril. Desde épocas coloniales la gente del campo ha acompañado a sus sacerdotes parroquiales a darle la Comunión a aquellos que no pueden ir a la iglesia en la Pascua. (Foto CNS/Iván Alvarado, Reuters)



CUBANOS DAN BIENVENIDA EN AEROPUERTO DE LA HABANA A PARIENTES QUE LLEGAN DE ESTADOS UNIDOS — Cubanos dan la bienvenida en el aeropuerto José Martí de La Habana a parientes que llegan de Estados Unidos el 13 de abril. El presidente Barack Obama el 13 de abril relajó las regulaciones sobre los viajes familiares y las transferencias de dinero a Cuba. (Foto CNS/Enrique De La Osa, Reuters)

El Papa celebra su cumpleaños en forma callada, en compañía de su hermano en la villa papal

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Benedicto XVI celebró su cumpleaños en forma callada, en compañía de su hermano en la villa papal de Castel Gandolfo.

El Papa, que cumplió 82 años el 16 de abril, tuvo una "celebración familiar" muy informal, que incluyó la visita de un grupo pequeño de altos funcionarios del Vaticano, dijo a los periodistas

el vocero del Vaticano, el padre jesuita Federico Lombardi.

Los funcionarios, incluyendo al secretario de estado, cardenal Tarcisio Bertone, visitaron al Papa en la mañana de ese día para presentarle sus parabienes de cumpleaños.

El Papa, después, tuvo una comida privada con su hermano, monseñor Georg Ratzinger, que cumplió 85 años este año, dijo el

padre Lombardi.

El vocero del Vaticano dijo que el Papa recibió del gobierno y dirigentes de la iglesia muchas cartas de feliz cumpleaños e incluso "algunos dulces".

El presidente italiano, Giorgio Napolitano, que envió un mensaje especial escrito con ocasión del cumpleaños del Papa, y del cuarto aniversario de su elección al papado, el 19 de abril, le agradeció al Papa Benedicto su apoyo a los damnificados del terremoto del 6 de abril, en la parte central de Italia.

El presidente le agradeció sus palabras y acciones, las cuales, dijo, "sirvieron de consuelo para toda la nación y nos dieron ánimo para aceptar el mensaje de esperanza que viene con la celebración de la Pascua de Resurrección".

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.

Obispos católicos de Venezuela dicen que democracia del país está fracasando

CARACAS, Venezuela (CNS) — El sistema democrático de Venezuela está en peligro de colapsar, dijo la conferencia episcopal venezolana en su mensaje anual de Pascua.

El alto crimen, la polarización política, la concentración del poder en manos del presidente y la deterioración del estado de derecho amenazan la democracia del país, dijeron los obispos en el mensaje del 6 de abril.

Describiendo las ascendentes tasas de asesinatos y secuestros en el país, los obispos dijeron que la violencia viola "los derechos fundamentales de los ciudadanos".

Los obispos hicieron un lla-

mado a las autoridades venezolanas a cumplir su deberes con conciencia libre, honradez y respeto por la dignidad humana. También pidieron a los venezolanos practicar el respeto mutuo, la solidaridad y la tolerancia.

Los obispos de Venezuela durante mucho tiempo han criticado las políticas del presidente socialista Hugo Chávez de Venezuela, quien ha llamado elitista al liderazgo eclesial.

Organizaciones internacionales de los derechos humanos también han criticado al gobierno venezolano por supuestamente reprimir a los opositores políticos de Chávez.

Arzobispo Dolan, nuevo arzobispo de Nueva York, dice que su estilo podría ser diferente, pero no la sustancia del trabajo

NUEVA YORK — El arzobispo Timothy J. Dolan predijo que su estilo como arzobispo de Nueva York será diferente al de sus predecesores, pero que la sustancia será la misma.

“El ‘qué’ no cambiará, pero el ‘cómo’ podría”, dijo.

“Nuestra meta es cambiar nuestras vidas para estar en conformidad con Jesús y su iglesia y no es cambiar las enseñanzas de Jesús ni de la iglesia para que estén en conformidad con lo que queremos”, dijo.

El arzobispo Dolan habló en una conferencia de prensa matutina en la escuela secundaria Catedral en el Centro Católico de Nueva York el 15 de abril, antes de su instalación esa tarde como el 10º arzobispo de Nueva York.

El arzobispo Dolan, quien dirigió la Arquidiócesis de Milwaukee durante casi siete años antes de su nombramiento a Nueva York, reconoció que “el



El arzobispo Timothy Dolan presencia la procesión en las afueras de la catedral de San Patricio al comienzo de su misa de investidura. A su izquierda está su predecesor, el cardenal Edward Egan, cuya renuncia al arzobispado de Nueva York fue aceptada por el Papa en febrero. (CNS foto/pool)

púlpito del arzobispo de Nueva York tiene una prominencia realizada a la que habría que acostumbrarse”, pero prometió no intimidarse apartándose de predicar la verdad ni de aplicar la enseñanza de Jesucristo a las

situaciones contemporáneas.

“Los obispos no están en la política; estamos en los principios”, dijo.

Dijo que sería “activo, presente y, tengo la esperanza, claro” al expresar las posturas de la iglesia

acerca de asuntos que estén ante la legislatura estatal, tales como el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo y la extensión de los estatutos de prescripción para presentar reclamos de abuso.

Primero, sin embargo, dijo, él “se sentaría con asesores confanzas de la arquidiócesis” para ver qué ha sido hecho y trabajar mediante los canales ya establecidos.

Comentando acerca del declive en la asistencia a la Misa en la iglesia, el arzobispo Dolan lo llamó un subconjunto de un problema más grande de la gente no viendo la necesidad de la religión organizada.

La gente está interesada en la espiritualidad, pero “quiere creer sin pertenecer”, dijo. “Ellos quieren ser ovejas sin pastor. Ellos quieren ser parte de una familia, pero quieren ser hijo único”.

Los obispos necesitan responder predicando e invitando,

dijo.

Comparó la Misa dominical con una comida dominical, pero dijo que la gente no debe sorprenderse que los feligreses no estén asistiendo a la iglesia cuando raramente se están sentando a una comida con sus familias.

No obstante, los católicos tienen una fe que es “una perla de gran precio”, ganada para ellos con la sangre de muchos.

“La fe es algo que heredamos”, dijo, pero más tarde “hacemos una elección libre y deliberada de abrazarla”.

“Al igual que un niño podría rebelarse de su familia cuando es adolescente y para luego regresar, algunos católicos buscan en otros credos lo que sienten que falta en el suyo propio”, dijo el arzobispo Dolan. “Algunos son atraídos a otros lugares por la predicación vigorosa de la verdad que debe ser atendida por los líderes pastorales”.

Funcionarios del Vaticano objetan a comentarios de presidente iraní acerca de Israel

ROMA (CNS) — Aunque los miembros de una delegación del Vaticano objetaron los comentarios del presidente iraní acerca de Israel, hechos durante una conferencia de la ONU sobre el racismo, los miembros de la delegación no consideraron que abandonarla sería la respuesta correcta, dijo un funcionario del Vaticano.

El arzobispo Silvano Tomasi, representante principal del Vaticano ante las agencias de la ONU en Ginebra, dijo a Catholic News Service vía telefónica el 20 de abril que era importante que la gente no fuera distraída por los comentarios del presidente iraní atacando a Israel, que causaron la salida de docenas de diplomáticos.

El Vaticano envió una delegación a la conferencia de Ginebra, la cual fue convocada para examinar la declaración aprobada en el 2001 en la primera conferencia de la ONU sobre el racismo, llevada a cabo en Durban, Sudáfrica. Estados Unidos e Israel abandonaron la conferencia del 2001 cuando algunos representantes árabes argumentaron que el sionismo es equivalente al racismo.

La conferencia estaba siendo boicoteada por Estados Unidos y varios otros países occidentales por temor a que ésta proveería una plataforma para los críticos de Israel.

El presidente iraní Mahmoud Ahmadinejad dijo a los participantes en la conferencia que,

después de la *Segunda guerra mundial*, Israel “había recurrido a la agresión militar para hacer una nación completa desamparada bajo el pretexto del sufrimiento judío”.

Las naciones occidentales “enviaron migrantes de Europa, Estados Unidos y otras partes del mundo para establecer un gobierno totalmente racista en la ocupada Palestina”, dijo.

“Y de hecho, en compensación por las consecuencias calamitosas del racismo en Europa ayudaron a llevar al poder el régimen racista más cruel y represivo en Palestina”, dijo.

El arzobispo Tomasi dijo que mucho más significativo que el discurso de Ahmadinejad eran los verdaderos avances hechos

en el documento borrador de la conferencia, el cual reconoce el *Holocausto* como algo a no ser olvidado y condena el antisemitismo, así como la intolerancia contra otras religiones. El texto bajo consideración en Ginebra ha sido revisado en meses recientes y el borrador más reciente no incluye referencias a Israel ni al sionismo.

El arzobispo dijo que era también esencial que la comunidad internacional pusiera atención a las nuevas formas de racismo y discriminación que están emergiendo, especialmente contra los inmigrantes, los indígenas y los marginados económicamente.

El portavoz del Vaticano, el padre jesuita Federico Lombardi, dijo a Radio Vaticano el 20 de abril que “declaraciones como las del presidente iraní no van en la dirección correcta porque aun si no hubiese negado el *Holocausto* o el derecho de Israel a existir,

expresó posturas extremistas e inaceptables”.

Señalando que la gran mayoría de países está participando en la conferencia, el padre Lombardi dijo que el documento borrador que estaba siendo examinado era “aceptable, puesto que los elementos principales que causaron objeciones han sido removidos”.

Israel, los Países Bajos, Polonia, Australia, Canadá, Alemania, Italia y Nueva Zelanda se unieron a Estados Unidos boicoteando la conferencia.

En una declaración emitida el 18 de abril, el *Departamento de estado* de Estados Unidos dijo que el texto que estaba bajo consideración en la conferencia “selecciona singularmente un conflicto en particular y prejuzga asuntos claves que pueden ser resueltos solamente en negociaciones entre los israelitas y los palestinos”.

Política de Cuba para visitas familiares llamada ‘un paso en la dirección correcta’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Algunos de los que trabajan con la comunidad cubana estadounidense entusiastamente acogieron el anuncio de la administración Obama de que las restricciones serían levantadas para los viajes, los regalos de dinero y otros tipos de ayuda de los cubanoamericanos hacia su patria.

Pero ellos estuvieron de acuerdo que la forma en que responda el gobierno cubano es la clave de si el gesto ayudará o no a traer los

cambios que no han sido logrados por un embargo de 47 años contra el país comunista.

“Este es un paso en la dirección correcta”, dijo padre José Espino, sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Miami y nativo cubano que regresó a casa para trabajar en la Diócesis de Guantánamo-Baracoa de 1999 al 2004.

La *Casa blanca* anunció el 13 de abril que los cubanoamericanos ya no estarían restringidos a visitas de dos semanas cada tres años. El memorando del presi-

dente Barack Obama no afectó el embargo comercial general contra Cuba ni permitirá viajes más generales a la isla nación por parte de estadounidenses no cubanos.

El memorando a los departamentos de *Comercio*, *Tesoro* y *Estado* también amplió la definición de familia para permitir visitas a parientes lejanos.

Eso es particularmente importante, dijo padre Espino, porque los cubanos tienen una definición de la familia mucho más amplia

que lo reconocido por el límite de parientes inmediatos.

La orden también levantó los límites de la cantidad de dinero y cuán a menudo los cubanoamericanos pueden enviarlo a sus familias y permitirá que los bancos remitan fondos a Cuba. Ésta también amplió la extensión de las donaciones humanitarias que pueden ser enviadas sin estar en conflicto con el embargo comercial.

Así mismo, autorizó la creación de licencias nuevas permitiendo que las compañías de telecomunicaciones estadounidenses provean en Cuba servicio telefónico, de radio por satélite y de equipo de televisión.

El Padre Espino ayuda a *Catho-*

lic relief services a coordinar en Miami algunas actividades con sus contrapartes cubanas. Él dijo a *Catholic news service* el 14 de abril que, según visto el año pasado después que Cuba fuera azotada por cuatro huracanes, “la ayuda de familia a familia es siempre la manera mejor y más fácil” de proveer ayuda a Cuba.

Pero, advirtió, “es una calle de dos vías”. El gobierno cubano todavía podría negarle visas a ciudadanos estadounidenses que intenten visitar a sus parientes. Cuba también requiere que todo nativo que salió del país después de 1970 use un pasaporte cubano en visitas de regreso. Tales pasaportes pueden tomar meses o años para ser obtenidos.

No true progress for humanity if research sacrifices human embryos, says Cardinal Rigali of NIH draft

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—By proposing to allow the use of federal funds for stem-cell research on embryos created for reproductive purposes at in vitro fertilization clinics and later discarded, the National Institutes of Health opens “a new chapter in divorcing biomedical research from its necessary ethical foundation,” said Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia April 21.

“Without unconditional respect for the life of each and every member of the human race, research involving human subjects does not represent true progress,” said the cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. “It becomes another way for some human beings to use and mistreat others for their own goals.”

Cardinal Rigali was commenting on draft guidelines for embryonic stem-cell research issued April 17 by acting NIH director Dr. Raynard S. Kington during a news briefing by telephone.

Although Kington said he believed the draft guidelines reflect “broad support in the public and in the scientific community,” he said he expected much of the public comment on them to focus on ethical concerns. A 30-day period of public comment was to begin with publication of the draft guidelines in the Federal Register, which had not occurred by April 21.

The guidelines drew support from a group of evangelical Christian and Catholic leaders and scholars as “a common-

ground approach that respects life at every stage,” but were opposed by a Catholic congressman who co-chairs the House Pro-Life Caucus and by the National Right to Life Committee.

Cardinal Rigali said it was “noteworthy that, despite calls for an even broader policy by some in Congress and the research community, the draft guidelines do not allow federally funded stem-cell research using embryos specially created for research purposes by in vitro fertilization or cloning.”

“We can hope that NIH and Congress will continue to respect this ethical norm, and will realize that the alleged ‘need’ for violating it is more implausible than ever due to advances in reprogramming adult cells to act like embryonic stem cells,” he said.

But he warned that some might “pursue a more extreme policy” and urged “other concerned citizens” to join with the bishops in writing to Congress and the Obama administration “about the need to restore and maintain barriers against the mistreatment of human life in the name of science.”

The draft guidelines specifically ban funding “for research using embryonic stem cells derived from other sources, including somatic cell nuclear transfer, parthenogenesis and/or IVF embryos created for research purposes.”

Also prohibited is funding of research in which stem cells “are introduced into nonhuman primate blastocysts” or research “involving the breeding of ani-



Nick and Paula Mueeting are pictured with their 3-year-old son, Andrew, outside their home in Dodge City, Kansas, in late September, 2007. As an infant, Andrew was diagnosed with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, an exceedingly rare blood disorder that affects approximately 20 U.S. babies a year in which children typically don't live past age 10. Thanks to a new procedure using his father's stem cells, Andrew is expected to live a long, healthy life. (CNS photo/David Myers, SOUTHWEST KANSAS REGISTER)

mals where the introduction of human embryonic stem cells or human-induced pluripotent stem cells may have contributed to the germ line.”

Kington said research on adult stem cells and induced pluripotent cells — which do not require the destruction of human embryos — will continue to receive NIH funding.

“We have a substantial investment in that area and we have been excited about the develop-

ments in recent years,” he said.

Catholics praising the draft guidelines included Jesuit Father Thomas J. Reese, senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University; Stephen Schneck, director of the Life Cycle Institute at The Catholic University of America; and Douglas Kmiec, a professor of constitutional law at Pepperdine University.

Schneck said aspects of the NIH plan are “clearly a major

step toward the common ground most Americans are now demanding.”

Kmiec called it “a very positive sign that President (Barack) Obama has been listening — as he promised — to the heightened claims of conscience posed by Catholics in the modern medical environment.”

But Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a leading pro-life member of Congress and a Catholic, said the new federal funding “will likely detract from the noncontroversial treatments that are already changing lives” through research involving adult stem cells and cord blood.

“Assertions that leftover embryos are better off dead so that their stem cells can be derived is dehumanizing and cheapens human life,” Smith said. “There is no such thing as leftover human life.”

Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, warned in an April 17 statement that the draft guidelines might be “part of an incremental strategy intended to desensitize the public to the concept of killing human embryos for research purposes.”

“We believe that today’s action may be part of a ‘bait-and-switch’ strategy, under which Democratic leaders in Congress will suddenly bring up new legislation that they will claim codifies today’s NIH action, but which will in fact authorize further expansions involving the deliberate creation of human embryos for use in research, by human cloning and other methods,” Johnson added.

Bishop asks forgiveness from those harmed by church, seeks healing

By Robert P. Lockwood
Catholic News Service

PITTSBURGH — They gathered quietly for the “Service of Apology.”

The roughly 250 people who came together at St. Paul Cathedral did not share the usual greetings with fellow parishioners that can be seen before Mass on any given Sunday throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Many of these people were strangers to each other, but all were gathered for the service led by Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik April 7.

Bishop Zubik had announced in a mid-Lent column in the *Pittsburgh Catholic*, the diocesan newspaper, that he would conduct the service for those “who have been harmed by the church in any way. There will be noth-

ing expected of you but your presence and your willingness to pray with me.”

Those who took their seats at the cathedral that evening were a mix of men and women, with the older more evident than the young.

As they came in, most dipped their fingers in the holy water font, pulled down the kneelers in the pews and folded their hands in prayer. It was clearly a gathering of Catholics, comfortable in a Catholic environment, even though some may not have been in church for many years.

“You come here,” Bishop Zubik said in his homily, “with hurts that you hold, and perhaps painfully so, in the inner recesses of your hearts.”

“I stand before you tonight

as shepherd of the church of Pittsburgh,” he said, “and embrace the presence of each of you, women and men, who have come here tonight showing by your presence that somewhere, some time in your life, you have been hurt by someone who was entrusted to represent Jesus Christ and his church, but failed to do so.”

“Some of you may have already expressed your hurt; for many others of you, you do so this night by your being here,” he continued. “You call me, as leader of the church of Pittsburgh, to not only not forget the sins of those who hurt you, but you charge me with the need to continue to work to secure that the sins not happen again.”

Bishop Zubik provided a powerful litany of possible fail-

ings, from “scolding and harsh judgment” in the sacrament of penance, to “heartless, unfeeling, un-Christian-like attention to your need” and for “any here tonight who have been in any way victims of abuse, sexual or otherwise, whether as a child or as an adult, or as a parent, or sibling or friend who shared in the pain of that loved one.”

For each possible failing, Bishop Zubik stated forcefully: “I ask you, the church asks you, for forgiveness.”

“With all the love in my heart and with all the sincerity in my soul, you can be assured that I — David Allen Zubik — will do all that I am able to do to restore your trust in the church and to work together with you to reflect the very love, compassion, and mercy of Jesus himself in and

through the church,” he said.

He concluded: “I stand before you tonight on behalf of the church, seeking your blessing, seeking your forgiveness, seeking a healing, so that we as church can live our best, love our best, do our best, and give our best.”

At the end of the homily, he leaned his head forward against his crosier for a moment, then turned and walked slowly down from the pulpit, bowed at the altar and crossed to his chair where he stood in silent prayer.

After the final blessing and the service was over, Bishop Zubik stood in the vestibule to greet any in attendance who wished to speak with him. While a number left by the side doors, many waited quietly to shake his hand and share a few words.

Diocesan



Two women join in prayer at the vigil service.



People of all ages gathered to advocate for the unborn and to pray together on Good Friday.



A father and his two young sons reverently joined the gathering in reflecting upon the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries during the vigil service.

Rosary...

FROM PAGE 24

"What goes on here is a violation of the fifth commandment," Bretschneider said, nodding at the nearby abortion clinic. "How can someone say they live by the commandments and think that's okay? That's not what I learned when I was in school."

The Caspers and the Bretschneiders were part of a crowd that included parishioners from across the diocese, several Catholic youth groups, health care professionals, and a large contingent of clergy led by Bishop Kevin Vann. Worshipers, who packed both sides of the street, prayed 20 decades of the rosary for the unborn babies, their mothers, and the conversion of clinic workers.

"This is really about saving souls — the mom's, the baby's, and our own," Pelletier told the *North Texas Catholic* explaining the motivation behind the sidewalk counseling ministry that goes on outside local abortion centers three days a week. "Abortion is a soul-searing event."

When an abortion is performed, three things happen, he continued. A baby dies, a mother's heart is pierced by a sword, and a soul is damaged.

"If you can prevent the abortion from happening, the other two things don't occur," Pelletier reasoned.

The feast of the Annunciation marked one of the pro-life ministry's recent success stories. A woman walked into the crisis pregnancy center holding a brochure she had plucked from a bush outside the abortion

clinic entrance. Pelletier and his wife Pat were handing out the pamphlets at the facility earlier that morning.

"Obviously, someone discarded the brochure, and it became trapped in the bush where it caught this woman's attention," he explained, adding that he interpreted the incident as a message from the Blessed Virgin Mary saying "sometimes I don't need you there to save a baby's life."

The distraught mother, who couldn't afford prenatal care, received help thanks to donations made to Mother and Unborn Baby Care. Affected by the struggling economy, contributions to the crisis pregnancy center are down 40 percent.

"But we've never failed in 25 years to give a woman what she needs," the director says. "God provides."



A young father holds his toddler while showing him how to pray with a brightly colored wooden children's rosary.



Lilly Northey and Elizabeth Mangio, teen parishioners at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, join the crowd in singing the *Stabat Mater* between each decade of the rosary.

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11

"I wanted to play the grand piano," Andrew said, "so instead of waiting for approval, I decided to move it myself, making my band director mad and maybe damaging the instrument and a really good friendship with John."

"Of course this was 11 years after first grade, when I had thrown a rock and accidentally hit him in the face. Even though we can warmly reminisce about that day now, I think if I reminded him I disassembled the table he built for the talent show and used it for a ramp, he would probably void out our friendship."

By this time in his story, Andrew had carried me from incredulous horror to stifled, explosive laughter.

He concluded with a fine literary twist: "I finally suc-

ceeded in performing the song the way Bed Folds would have wanted — on a grand piano. Ironically, two years later Abby and I heard him sing at a Dallas Starbucks, and he was playing an upright."

You never know what your mind is going to hold onto, out of the significant memories in your life. Will it remember a meaningless list, or will it bring to mind an event suitable for performance, but arguably requiring an apology — or two?

What my daughter Abby remembers about high school is learning photography from journalism teacher Dick McNally. "During freshman year I would hang around his room," she recalled. "He would stand at the door with his coffee cup, and as we talked, he started teaching me photography. Once he loaned me his Yashica, let me play with it for a day and shoot a roll of film. After I

was finished, he went through all the pictures with me and commented on every one of them. He was a great mentor.

"I remember once in the darkroom I was leaning over the paper-cutter to trim a photograph, and I rested the cutter arm on my shoulder, between cuts, while I readjusted the paper. McNally saw that and said, 'You're a natural.' I never forgot that."

This week Nolan students collectively remembered the 30-plus years Dr. Joe Kuban influenced their lives while teaching ecology. At a tree-planting in his honor, ecology teacher Ellen Browning called Dr. Kuban's field a study of relationships, and said it allowed students to glimpse the beauty of biodiversity, of earth and of life.

"As people of faith," she said, "we celebrate the sacredness of life — of all life on earth. We are stewards of cre-

ation; we are stewards caring for God's gifts, in the natural world, and that is our job."

A plaque in my kitchen says no matter how fine our cars and our houses are, or how much money we make, we will be remembered for our influence on children's lives. This can be how much we taught them, how much we listened and accepted them, or how much we loved and led them.

Dr. Joe Kuban, who is battling Lou Gehreg's disease, spoke at Nolan on Earth Day through a keyboard-controlled communication device. He told students "I am so glad to be here at Nolan. I love you all." The much loved teacher taught a generation of kids how to do good for the Earth and consequently for each other. He did this when they were listening and watching, and when they were working together in the field.

My son-in-law Matt Stahl,

who considers Dr. Kuban his mentor, had no trouble calling up a high school memory of significance.

"Joe helped me find my calling and my faith," Matt said, "by teaching me that the mechanics of science, the beauty of nature, and the grace of humans could only be created by God."

People grow up memorizing trivial facts, but sometimes they stumble onto something earth-shattering. No, earth-building.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby.

Last May, her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada at the Catholic Media Convention in Toronto. In 2005, Kathy's column was recognized with the first place award in the same category.

Calendar

CURSILLO RETREATS

The Cursillo Center has announced the spring English Cursillo weekend dates. A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ. A Cursillo weekend for men will be held May 21-24, and a Cursillo weekend for women will take place June 11-14. Both weekends will be presented in English and held at the Cursillo Center, 2221 NW 26th St. in Fort Worth. Deadline for the men's retreat is May 18, and for the women's retreat is June 8. For more information call Susan Urbanek at (817) 423-4095 or e-mail to qtpikitty@sbcglobal.net.

ST. PAUL MISSION

St. Paul the Apostle Church, in the River Oaks area of Fort Worth, will host a parish mission April 26-28, with Passionist Father Cedric Pisegna, CP, giving talks at 7 p.m. Fr. Pisegna has been giving retreats for the last 19 years. The parish mission will start on Sunday night with the topic "Happiness;" Monday night, the theme is "Change is Possible;" and Tuesday night's theme is "The Holy Spirit and Passion." St. Paul the Apostle is located at 5508 Black Oak Ln. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact the church office at (817) 738-9925.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

St. Andrew School will hold a special retirement Mass at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 17 in the church and a reception immediately following in the school gym for Clarice Peninger, St. Andrew's principal for the last 24 years. All past students, alumni, parents, faculty, and friends are cordially invited to attend the celebration for Peninger. The nursery will be open for small children. To RSVP for the nursery, call (817) 924-6581 by May 14. For more information, contact Rose Hall, St. Andrew development director, at (817) 292-4355.

NFP PRACTITIONERS

The FertilityCare Center of North Texas will offer an informational luncheon May 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for individuals interested in teaching a natural form of family planning and women's health maintenance. The luncheon will be held at St. Maria Goretti Church, located at 1200 S. Davis Blvd. in Arlington. RSVP to Mandy Cox at fccont@att.net or at (817) 685-0756. The cost is \$6. For more information, visit www.fwcreighton.com.

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be Saturday, May 2. 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.

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To Report Misconduct

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

- Call **Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator**, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at 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

CARDINAL NEWMAN LECTURE

Dr. Patrick Foley will present a lecture entitled "John Henry Newman: Following in His Footsteps" from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at St. Mary the Virgin Church's parish hall at 1408 N. Davis Dr. in Arlington. The event is sponsored by the Cardinal Newman Institute of Fort Worth. All lectures are free, though offerings will be accepted. For more information, visit the institute's Web site at www.cardinalnewmaninstitute.org.

SVDP SOCIETY MEETING

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Central Region will have its annual meeting May 15-16 at the South Radisson Hotel in Fort Worth. The registration fee is \$100. Registration forms are available online at www.svdpcf.org and may be mailed to Thomas Loughran at 7917 Crouse Drive, Fort Worth, TX, 76137. For more information call (817) 975-3253. Registration will also be available at the door.

NOLAN JAZZ BAND

The Nolan Catholic High School Jazz Band will perform a concert for a big band dance Saturday, May 2 from 7 to 10 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, located at 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10 per person. All proceeds will support the Nolan Catholic Jazz Band. Refreshments will be available. For more information, visit the NCHS web site at www.nolancatholicchs.org.

CHILDREN OF GOD'S DELIGHT

The Children of God's Delight Christian Community will host a "Born of the Spirit" seminar May 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church located at 5508 Black Oak Ln. in Fort Worth. The cost for the seminar is \$10, and scholarships are available. For more information or to reserve a seat for the seminar, contact Natasha Childress at (817) 312-5421 or nateeter@yahoo.com, or Stephanie Ayala at (817) 239-1297 or sayala3@sbcglobal.net, or attend "Information Night" 7 p.m. May 20 at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

ST. JOHN 'ROUND UP'

St. John the Apostle School will host a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten "Round Up" on Saturday, May 2 from 9 to 11 a.m. This is open for all families who wish to learn more about the programs for the 2009-2010 school year. Children who will be between ages 4 and 6 by Aug. 1 will be able to experience pre-kindergarten or kindergarten while parents focus on the curriculum and benefits of the program. Siblings between the ages 1 and 3 are welcome to stay in the St. John Child Care at no cost. Reservations for childcare are required. This free event will begin in the St. John School office located at 7421 Glenview Dr. in North Richland Hills. The office entrance is located on Frawley Street, off Glenview Drive. For more information, call Linda Wheeler, admissions director, or Cindy Cummins, principal, at (817) 284-2228 or visit the Web site at www.stjs.org. Childcare reservations for children ages 1 to 3 must be made by Friday, April 24, to assure availability.

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

COURAGE GROUP

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for those striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality, meets every second and fourth Friday evening of the month and will meet next May 8. For information, e-mail to CourageDFW@Catholic.org or call (972) 938-5433.

NTC DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the May 8 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 29. Items for the May 22 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, May 13.

MARIOLOGIST

Monsignor Carl Morris from the Archdiocese of Saint Louis will give a talk entitled: "The Blessed Virgin Mary: Pillar of Faith and Model of Truth" at St. Patrick Cathedral located at 1206 Throckmorton St. in Fort Worth on Tuesday, April 28, beginning with Mass at 7 p.m. He will also speak at St. Maria Goretti Church located at 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington on Wednesday, April 29. For more information, contact the Queen of Peace Center at (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805. For information about the presentation at St. Maria Goretti, contact Cindy Alford at (817) 274-0643 ext 223.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities and Their Families regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next regular meeting will be May 28 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

NOCHE DE GRACIAS

The 12th annual celebration of *Noche de Gracias*, a "night of thanks" fundraising event benefiting Cassata High School in Fort Worth, will be held Tuesday, April 28 at Joe T. Garcia's restaurant, located at 2201 N. Commerce St. in Fort Worth. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tables for 10 for corporations or private parties are available at prices ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. To reserve a table, purchase individual tickets, or for more information, call the school's development office at (817) 926-1745 or e-mail to sflood@cassatahs.org.

SILENT RETREAT

Contemplative Outreach of Dallas's annual Four-Day Silent retreat will be held May 14-17 at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House located on Lake Lewisville. The annual retreat is for those interested in deepening their spiritual practice in an atmosphere of silence, solitude, and community. Fr. Justin Langille will return as retreat leader. Registration form and details are available at www.CellOfPeace.com or by e-mail at CPDallas@CellOfPeace.com or call, (972) 722-6029. Registration deadline is May 1.

LAY CARMELITES

The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of a deeper relationship with Christ to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. Those interested in participating are asked to gather at 2 p.m. May 9 in the chapel of The College of St. Thomas More, 3017 Lubbock St. in Fort Worth. Formation will take place in the college library from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

DEAF MINISTRY

The Deaf Ministry Program is in need of a court reporter to help with CART (Computer Assisted Real-Time Translation) services. The Deaf Community celebrates a special Deaf Community Mass on the first Sunday of each month at 1:45 p.m. at San Mateo Church, at 3316 Lovell Ave., near downtown Fort Worth. The ministry would like to provide CART services for deaf persons who do not sign so they can read the simultaneous transcriptions and be a part of the special liturgy. To help with this service, contact Mary Cinatl, director of the Deaf Ministry Program, at (817) 284-3019 (Voice and TDD) or mcinatl@fwdioc.org.

Classified Section

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

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

INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Diocese of Fort Worth Texas seeks a full-time Auditor for our Internal Audit program at the Catholic Center. Principal duties will include reviewing and testing the compliance with laws, accounting procedures and policies, and administrative procedures and policies as they relate to the temporal affairs of entities of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field, 2-5 years experience in auditing or related field, expertise in computer usage, and knowledge of the Roman Catholic Faith. Knowledge of the workings of the Diocese of Fort Worth is helpful. English/Spanish bilingual applicants are preferred. For a full job description and application, visit www.fwdioc.org. The Diocese of Fort Worth offers excellent pay and benefits to our employees. If interested in this position, e-mail a résumé, a completed job application and cover letter to msimeroth@fwdioc.org or fax to 817-244-8839, to the attention of Mark Simeroth, Director of Human Resources. Application due date is May 1, 2009. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview.

ST. MARY'S PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's Catholic School, Gainesville, TX is seeking a strong academic and spiritual principal to lead its elementary school (PK-8; 193 students). The position is available for the 2009-10 School Year. Qualifications: a practicing Catholic, Master's Degree and 18 hours in Administration, and 3 years experience in a Catholic School. Administrative experience preferred. Please submit a letter of interest, resume, references and a request for an application to: Catholic School Office, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919, 817/560-3300 ext. 253.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

ALL SAINTS PRINCIPAL DALLAS DIOCESE

All Saints Catholic School, a K-8 elementary school in Dallas is seeking a new principal for the 2009-2010 school year. All Saints School is a 2006 nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Candidates must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree with 18 hours in administration and a minimum of three years experience in Catholic schools. Administrative experience is preferred. Salary is negotiable, based on experience, education, and credentials. Benefits include employee health insurance and 403B. Position is open until filled. Applications are available at www.cso-dallas.org. Mail résumé and application to Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, Catholic Schools Office, 3725 Blackburn Street, PO Box 190507, Dallas 75219.

ACCOMPANIST

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

LITURGY & MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

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Good Newsmakers

Catholics gather in vigil at abortion facility on Good Friday to offer

Rosary for Life

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Every Good Friday, members of Catholics United for Life and Mother and Unborn Baby Care invite local Catholics to pray the rosary with them outside a local abortion facility.

The 24th annual vigil, held April 10 near Planned Parenthood on South Henderson just south of downtown Fort Worth, was more important than previous gatherings, according to Chuck Pelletier, who organizes the event. The election of a pro-choice president and the looming Freedom of Choice Act are threatening the modest gains the pro-life movement has made in recent years.

"It's even more important that we stay in prayer and stay at our post," says Pelletier, director of Mother and Unborn Baby Care, a crisis pregnancy center. "The pro-life movement is under attack by the White



House in ways we haven't seen before."

Many in the record-breaking crowd of 700 supporters agree with Pelletier's assessment of today's political attitude toward the unborn and other sanctity of life issues.

Tony Casper said there are 50 million reasons why he wanted to attend this year's Good Friday Rosary Vigil. His comment refers to the number of abortions performed in the U.S. since the Supreme Court legalized the procedure in 1973.



ABOVE: Fr. Richard Flores (far left), rector of St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth, stands with Bishop Vann and other ministry leaders in praying the rosary outside the Planned Parenthood facility south of downtown Fort Worth.

LEFT: Bishop Kevin Vann raises the cross at the conclusion of the service and offers a blessing to those who attended the Good Friday rosary vigil.

BELOW: The Very Rev. James Hart, chancellor of the diocese, stands next to Franciscan Father Michael Kmietek, CFR, (right) and venerates the cross at the conclusion of the vigil service.

BOTTOM OF PAGE: More than 700 pro-life advocates gather on South Henderson St. to join in prayer on Good Friday afternoon.



"Coming out here was especially important because of what's going on in Washington," explained the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus member who participated in the sidewalk service with his wife, Mary Ann. "We've been to other facilities

too. We pray every day." Recently retired, Jerome Bretschneider, a fellow Knight and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner, said he and his wife, Shirley, plan to become more involved in pro-life work.

SEE ROSARY, P. 22



MAILING LABEL: Please enclose label with address change or inquiries concerning mail delivery of your paper. Thank you.

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Retrouvaille means rediscovery, and the program for troubled marriages has been helping couples rediscover the love in their sacramental relationships for 25 years in our diocese. **2**

Fifth grade Vocations Day for Catholic school kids challenges each of them to listen to God's call — while making clear the value of service to God's people as a priest or religious. **8**

Franciscans from from around the world gathered in Italy to celebrate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis receiving papal permission to begin his religious order. **13&18**