



# NEWSMAGAZINE North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth Vol. 29 No. 3 May / June 2013

## 'Francis, rebuild my Church'

A month into his papacy, everybody wants to know who this man is. Refusing the papal apartments, among other luxuries of the office, the Church's first South American pontiff visibly not only talks the talk, but walks the walk.

Full coverage pages 20-23

En Español páginas

28-31

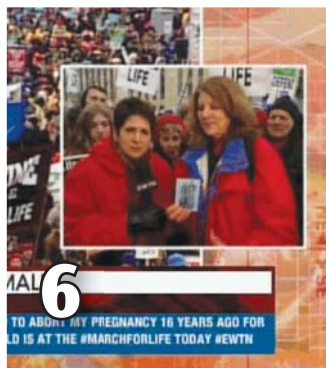


Devastated by tragedy, residents of West and surrounding communities turn to each other and to their faith for support.  
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## GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 14

The annual collection for seminarians falls on the Fourth Sunday of Easter and Vocations Director Father Isaac Orozco shares how the faithful can support the seminarians and promote vocations with their time, talent, treasure, and prayers



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## WHO IS POPE FRANCIS? 20

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**28** ¿QUIÉN ES EL PAPA FRANCISCO? En esta edición especial, les traemos nuestro análisis exclusivo de cómo vemos el papado de Francisco, una explicación local sobre la importancia del elección de su nombre, una breve biografía, y opiniones de los feligreses en la diócesis sobre el nuevo Papa.

### COVER PHOTOS:

**MAIN PICTURE:** Pope Francis kisses a disabled man after spotting him in the crowd and having his popemobile stop as he rode through St. Peter's Square March 19 ahead of his inaugural Mass at the Vatican. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

**CORNER PICTURE:** Residents embrace after taking part in a candlelight vigil April 18 at the Church of the Assumption in West, Texas, in remembrance of those who lost their lives or were injured in the massive explosion at the area's fertilizer plant. The explosion near Waco, Texas, killed 12 people and injured more than 160 others. (CNS photo / Jaime R. Carrero, Reuters)



**24** **WORD TO LIFE NOW IN COLOR** We are continuing to provide the "Word to Life" Sunday Scripture reflection, but now to make our pages pop and match the rest of the magazine, the images are in color. So enjoy spiritually-enriching content by our contributors, and spiritually-enriching art by Jean Denton.

# North Texas Catholic



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## The triumph of the human spirit, with the aid of the Holy Spirit

It's hard to look at the news and not be discouraged — in one week, we saw tragedy strike twice.

First, we learned a bomb exploded at the Boston Marathon. Then, closer to home, a fertilizer plant exploded right across the diocesan border in West, killing at least 14, and injuring 200 — a tragedy that has affected many in the Czech communities in the southern part of our diocese that border West and have ties there.

But during these times we see a triumph of the human spirit, with the aid of the Holy Spirit. In Boston, Cardinal O'Malley (4) worked with other faiths to support the community. In West, our own diocesan priests and deacons were present for their neighbors (16). One priest, a good friend of mine, was out until 2 a.m. the day of the explosion, even though he was still recovering from a recent surgery himself. I've also seen e-mails among my brother Knights of Columbus to organize a group to help.

We were also inspired by the story of the Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun (4), the Army chaplain who died in a Korean POW camp, yet still gave hope to his fellow prisoners, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor last week.

Our Church is alive and Christ is risen. Alleluia! (It's Easter, so I can say that now). In a Q&A, Fr. Isaac reminds us that Christ will never leave us (14).

We have a new pope, and Pope Francis isn't only teaching us how to be Christian, he's showing us (20-23, **en español: 28-31**). When looking for pictures of him showing love and compassion to the less fortunate.

It's an exciting time to be Catholic, because not only is our Holy Father showing Christ's love, but because so are the lay faithful in all the situations above. The Holy Spirit is with us, and allows us to prevail. Please continue to visit our website, [northtexasatholic.org](http://northtexasatholic.org), our blog, [www.ntcatholic.blogspot.com](http://www.ntcatholic.blogspot.com), and our other social media outlets, for inspiring stories of the Holy Spirit moving through people.



*Tony Gutiérrez*

Tony Gutiérrez  
Associate Editor



CNS photo / Gregory L. Tracy, *The Pilot*

Cardinal Sean O'Malley joins interfaith leaders April 18 at a prayer service for victims of the Boston Marathon bombing at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

## Boston interfaith service stresses city's grace and strength in tragedy

BOSTON (CNS) — In an April 18 interfaith prayer service, religious and political leaders emphasized the enduring strength of the people of Boston and urged them to find consolation and healing in their continued support of one another.

Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley welcomed the congregation that packed the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and told them the service was offered in solidarity with those who lost their lives or were injured in the bombings at the Boston Marathon April 15.

"We must overcome the culture of death and promote a culture of life," he said, stressing that the blueprint for doing so was found in the passage of

the beatitudes read during the prayer service.

The only way for people to "repair our broken world" is not as individuals but as a community and as a family, he said, noting that the tragedy provides "a challenge and an opportunity for us to work together with a renewed spirit of determination and solidarity and with the firm conviction that love is stronger than death."

The cardinal, who returned to Boston April 16 after a retreat in the Holy Land, said the tragic event "shakes us out of our complacency and indifference and calls us to focus on the task of building a civilization that is based on love, justice, truth and service."

## Korea War POW Fr. Kapaun awarded Medal of Honor posthumously

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A Catholic Korean War chaplain who selflessly pulled wounded men from enemy fire and helped his fellow prisoners of war keep a sense of hope was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor, the highest military honor, in an April 11 White House ceremony.

In paying tribute to Father Emil J. Kapaun, an Army captain, President Barack Obama told multiple stories of the "shepherd in combat boots" from Kansas who voluntarily stayed behind with the wounded to face certain capture, rather than evacuate when his division was overrun at Unsan, Korea, in November 1950.

"This is the valor we honor today — an American soldier who didn't fire a gun, but who wielded the mightiest weapon of all, a love for his brothers so pure that he was willing to die so that they might live," said Obama.

Fr. Kapaun received the Bronze Star before his capture and the Distinguished Service Cross after he died.

Within the Catholic Church, he has an active cause for sainthood, having been recognized by the Vatican as a "Servant of God" in 1993, a first step



U.S. Army chaplain Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, who died May 23, 1951, in a North Korean prisoner of war camp, is pictured celebrating Mass from the hood of a jeep Oct. 7, 1950, in South Korea. He was captured about a month later. (CNS PHOTO / COURTESY U.S. ARMY MEDIC RAYMOND SKEEHAN)

in the investigation of someone who is being considered for sainthood.

Some of Fr. Kapaun's fellow prisoners, who walked out of their prison camp carrying a crucifix they'd fashioned to honor their deceased chaplain, were in attendance at the ceremony. The medal, given to members of the armed forces for distinguished gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in active service, was presented to Ray Kapaun, a nephew of the priest, who never knew his uncle.

Guests for the ceremony in the East Room of the White House included Fr. Kapaun's extended family, military chaplains and other officers, people from his hometown parish, St. John Nepomucene Church in Pilsen, Kansas; and various members of the Archdiocese for Military Services including Auxiliary Bishop Richard B. Higgins, vicar for Veterans Affairs.

## Grand jury report likens Gosnell's abortion facility to a 'baby chanel house'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When a team of health officials and investigators looking into illegal drug use raided Dr. Kermit Gosnell's Women's Medical Society Feb. 18, 2010, they happened upon what many call a "house of horrors."

"There was blood on the floor. A stench of urine filled the air. A flea-infested cat was wandering through the facility, and there were cat feces on the stairs," said a grand jury report about the conditions found in the facility Gosnell ran in West Philadelphia.

The two surgical rooms resembled a "bad gas station restroom," according to Agent Stephen Dougherty of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency. The team recovered the remains of 45 fetuses "in bags, milk jugs, orange juice cartons, and even in cat-food containers."

Three days later, the Pennsylvania Department of Health suspended Gosnell's license. He was arrested in January 2011 and charged with seven counts of infanticide and one count of murder in the case of a Nepalese woman who died

during an abortion.

Gosnell's trial on those charges began March 18. As of April 15, prosecutors were continuing to call witnesses, including several patients and several former employees, who testified about the squalid conditions they saw at the facility. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Gosnell.

Pennsylvania law does not allow abortions after 24 weeks gestation because of the risks to the mother, but the grand jury report showed Gosnell

routinely flouted that law. "The bigger the baby, the more he charged," it said.

He is accused of sticking a pair of medical scissors into the back of the necks of prematurely born babies and cutting the spinal cord, a procedure he called "snipping."

Several employees face similar charges. The report said Gosnell hired untrained, uncertified nurses, and taught them to view ultrasound pictures at an angle so that unborn babies appeared smaller than they actually were.

## 700 attend annual pro-life Rosary

For 28 years, pro-life supporters have stood outside a local abortion facility on Good Friday to pray the Rosary for babies lost to abortion. But this year's March 29 gathering felt the absence of a man who started the public vigil almost three decades ago.

Chuck Pelletier, an ardent advocate for the unborn and director of Catholics United for Life and Mother and Unborn Baby Care, became ill before the service and was unable to attend. It's the first time the Vietnam War veteran whose serious health issues confine him to a wheelchair, was not there to lead the crowd in prayer.

"Chuck is the life force in this ministry," said longtime participant Alicia Shepard. "His sacrifice and absolute dedication to the unborn and to the Church helped it flourish."

Approximately 700 people — many of them senior citizens and families with young children — attended the event.



Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / NTC  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe parishioner Jesse Fernandez prays with his family at the annual pro-life vigil.*

Diocesan Administrator Monsignor Stephen Berg took turns leading the Rosary with Monsignor Michael Olson, and Fathers David Bristow, Christopher Stainbrook, and Michael Moloney.

## Middle School rally draws 500

More than 500 middle school youth from across the Diocese of Fort Worth shared a day of prayer, worship, and games at the second annual Middle School Youth Rally Saturday, Feb. 16 at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington.

The day began with community building activities and games in the gym and parish hall. Bounce houses, bronco riding, sumo-wrestling, and other teen activities gave youth the opportunity to bond with their peers in preparation for a day of spiritual enrichment.

Larry West, middle school youth minister at Good Shepherd Church in Colleyville, coordinated the rally. Speaking of the rally and its "fun" activities, West said, "All the 'fun' we have on earth is only a reflection of the joy we will all experience in heaven. When



Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC  
*Teens have a laugh as APeX ministries gives a presentation during the Second Annual Middle School Rally.*

I see inflatables, I don't just see something that draws kids to the event; I see something that, if channeled properly, draws kids to heaven."

Youth had the opportunity to listen to speakers, ask questions, and pray in adoration of the Eucharist. Featured keynote speakers included Apex Ministries' Brad Farmer and Gene Monterastelli of Casper, Wyoming, and Perpetual Motion Ministries' Scott Dougherty of Gainesville and Tony Vasinda of Edmonds, Washington. Presentations were centered on the theme "Fired Up Faith," inspiring and encouraging youth to put their faith into action through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## 5th-graders learn about vocations

Father Isaac Orozco fielded a barrage of questions from eager 10- and 11-year-olds at this year's Fifth Grade Vocations Day, but one answer seemed to surprise the youngsters who gathered inside Holy Family Church for the March 20 event. When asked the "most exciting" part of being a priest, the young Vocations director paused a moment before answering.

"It's different for everyone," he explained. "But the most exciting thing for me is the Mass, especially in a big church when there are a lot of people coming through the door."

Giving the 465 fifth-graders who attend one of 17 Catholic schools in the diocese an opportunity to meet priests, seminarians, and women religious is the idea behind the annual Vocation Day. After celebrating Mass together, students divide into small groups and listen as those who answered a call to religious life tell their stories.

## Dallas Auxiliary blesses chrism oils



Photo by Wendy Pandolfo / NTC  
*Dallas Auxiliary Bishop Douglas Deshotel blesses the oils to be used in the Diocese of Fort Worth at the annual Chrism Mass March 26. At a Chrism Mass, a bishop blesses three oils utilized in rites during the year at local parishes: Holy Chrism anoints the newly baptized, seals candidates for confirmation, and anoints the hands of priests and the heads of bishops at their ordinations; the oil of catechumens is used during the baptism of adults joining the Church; and the oil of the sick brings comfort to the infirm and ailing. Only a bishop is allowed to consecrate chrism, and since the diocese is currently without an ordinary, Bishop Deshotel performed the ritual. "Oil is the ancient symbol of medicine for healing and strength," he said in his homily. "For those who desire baptism, the oil of the catechumen strengthens them for the new life in Christ they are about to receive."*

## Knights recognize students for love of God, country

Twenty-six Catholic school students received the American Way Award from the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree General Worth Assembly 1089 and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Louise Court 209 during a Feb. 9 ceremony at Nolan Catholic High School. One eighth grade boy and girl from every Catholic School in the Fort Worth area is recognized each year for their patriotism and Christian principles.

"The importance of nurturing love of God and country in our future leaders is a critical mission for everyone that values the American way of life," said Knight Bruce Mallory who served as emcee. "That is why today we celebrate these eighth grade students, who were chosen by their principals and teachers as the outstanding examples of loving God and country."

# After EWTN interview at Natl. March for Life, Maria Conley has distributed pro-life prayer cards throughout country

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

When Maria Conley and other members of the Respect Life group at Holy Family Church decided to design a parish Prayer for Life card, she never thought the beautifully worded petition would someday capture national attention.

But that's what happened when the mother of three met author and syndicated Catholic talk show host Teresa Tomeo at this year's National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Attending the annual gathering, which commemorates the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, is a family tradition for Conley and her daughters, Carolyn, Madeleine, and Adrienne.

Conley had walked midway down Constitution Avenue with her sister, Trisha, when another sister in Fort Worth, watching the July 25 March on EWTN, spotted them in the crowd and called their cell phone.

"She mentioned Teresa Tomeo was nearby so we stopped to see her," she remembers.

Encouraged by other Texans in the group, the marcher approached the well-respected broadcaster with a handful of prayer cards.

"I handed her one of the cards and explained that we said the prayer at weekend Masses after the Prayer of the Faithful," recalls Conley, who is now a member at St. Patrick Cathedral. "A minute later I was being interviewed. It was totally thrilling."

Tomeo asked her guest to read "The Prayer for Life" which was authored by Father Joe Pemberton five years ago. Now rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, he crafted the prayer while pastor of Holy Family.

Looking into the camera, Conley recited the brief devotion for EWTN's national audience.

"Teresa thought the prayer was wonderful



Photo courtesy of EWTN

Renown Catholic media analyst Teresa Tomeo (left) interviews St. Patrick Parishioner Maria Conley for EWTN at the National March for Life.

and asked for my e-mail address [hfrespectlife@gmail.com]," Conley recounts. "She was sure people would want a copy of the prayer card."

The broadcaster was right. Since returning home from the March for Life, Conley has fielded more than 40 requests for the prayer card from EWTN viewers across the country.

One listener in Washington State is starting a Gabriel Project ministry to help women in crisis pregnancies and wants to say the prayer at meetings. Another is giving the card to her 92-year-old mother in Smyrna, Georgia.

"Requests are coming in from people who want to use it in formation classes, retreats, Confirmation prep, and 40 Days for Life groups," Conley says. "Some people just want to post it on the refrigerator or keep it in their purse."

Organizers are sending out the prayer as a portable document format (PDF) so recipients can make their own copies. The prayer was not copyrighted.

"Fr. Joe said anyone who wants to use the prayer or the image on the card is welcome to it," she adds explaining the artwork depicts a statue

Lord Jesus, come to our aid  
and bring an end to the horror  
of abortion and all the evils  
that flow from it.

May every human being love  
and honor all human life, from  
the moment of conception to  
the moment of natural death.

May we, Your disciples,  
always choose the Gospel of  
Life. Through the Eucharist,  
the great sacrament of life,  
let us be your instruments in  
bringing an end to the culture  
of death.

We ask this through Christ  
our Lord. Amen

found inside Fort Worth's Holy Family Church.

Conley is surprised the quick exposure given the prayer on EWTN and Catholic radio stations caused it to "go viral." She thinks the prayer's powerful wording is part of the appeal.

"I wasn't surprised people liked the prayer. But I am amazed what a few minutes on the television and radio can do," she explains. "The prayer describes abortion with the right words calling it "horrible" and "evil." And it acknowledges that we can't change this culture without God's help."

Fr. Pemberton says his words are the fruit of careful reflection and thought.

"It came from my heart and if it draws people to a better understanding of life issues and the power of prayer, so be it," the long-time pastor concedes.

Reciting the prayer is a way everyone can become involved in promoting life.

"Some people may not be comfortable standing on the street (outside an abortion facility) but they are very willing to pray," he points out. "The prayer is reaching a lot of folks in a lot of places and that's wonderful."

## CATHOLIC RADIO

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PLEASE LISTEN!

# Mike Demma joins the Fort Worth diocesan staff as director of Respect Life Office

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent

Mike Demma has joined the staff of the Diocese of Fort Worth as director of the Respect Life Office. Twice retired from business in the information technology field, Demma is a Cursillista who has always been active in parish life. He and his wife of 45 years, Alana, have been members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller for the past 24 years. They raised six sons and have been blessed with 17 grandchildren ("Three of our grandchildren are in Heaven, the result of miscarriages," Demma explained. "Naturally, we count them as well. We are pro-life."). Warm, expressive, and extremely sociable, Demma is never at a loss for words and very forthcoming in responding to questions about his life and ministry.



Mike Demma

in front of an abortion mill. People were praying. People were counseling women. My wife walked right in the midst of things and began praying, but I was so blown away I had to just stand there and watch. When I came back to Texas I decided to do something. There are lies told by those who are pro-abortion who don't want to admit there's an American Holocaust taking place.

### How did you become involved in Respect Life?

When our son, Jonathan, became a CFR Brother (Franciscan Friars of the Renewal) in 2005, my wife and I went to see him. I got out of a cab in Manhattan

### How do you see your role in the Respect Life ministry?

My mission is to continually increase awareness of what is happening in our country, to influence the saving of the

lives of children, and in so doing to save souls. I believe the best path to that end is to focus on the hearts of our youth, the faith of our adults, and to show compassion for those who have already made the mistake with prayer being the biggest weapon we have. Abortion is everyone's problem. We probably won't end it in this generation. It will be the next.

### On a practical level, how do you anticipate putting that mission into practice?

In order to stop abortion we have to build an army of faithful parishioners in organizations like the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters, and the Women's Guilds. It has to be at the parish level. So I want to focus on helping parishes build their pro-life programs. Civic action is good as well. We need to do it, but in order to do it we must have an infrastructure. I want

to empower people to get out of their chairs and get active in Pro-Life.

### Most Catholics understand abortion as a central issue in Respect Life ministries, but what are some of the other issues that encompass Respect Life?

Life begins at conception and ends at natural death. Our office is concerned with the complete spectrum of that from birth — helping mothers and babies — to end-of-life issues like euthanasia. But within Respect Life, abortion is a top priority: stopping abortion, helping women, and compassion. Right now I'm focusing on saving babies, saving souls, and raising awareness of all life issues.

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# Food Fast teaches Northwest Deanery teens solidarity with poor and hungry

By Jenara Kocks Burgess  
Correspondent

Held annually during Lent to teach teens solidarity with the poor, this year's Food Fast drew 81 teens in grades seven through 12, along with 32 adults from Sacred Heart and Our Lady Queen of Peace parishes in Wichita Falls, St. Joseph Parish in Rhineland, and St. Jude Parish in Burkburnett.

Food Fast is an event that was created by Catholic Relief Services to answer the call of young Catholics who want to respond to the needs of the poor around the world, according to a CRS press release. Youth and adults abstain from food for 24 hours, and ask for donations to send to CRS to feed the poor.

Sacred Heart youth minister Cassie Erazo said that 19 teens and 28 adults serve on the team.

"We continue to offer this retreat because we believe in the real difference and positive impact it is making both in the lives of the people the donations go to as well as the difference it is making in the hearts, minds, and souls of our young people. It helps build responsible and compassionate global citizens who will live a more Christ-like life," said Erazo.

Erazo said this year the retreat focused on India because it has the largest number of hungry



Photo courtesy of Cassie Erazo

Cassie Erazo leads teens in prayer in a makeshift chapel representing Catholicism in India.

people in the world, noting more than 40 percent of children younger than five are malnourished.

"We also are blessed with multiple Indian Catholic priests in our deanery, and learning about their country of origin is a nice way of getting to know our pastors better," she added. Father Aju Prince, HGN, sacramental minister for St. Joseph, and for Santa Rosa Parish in Knox City, and Father Albert Kanjiranthumkal, HGN, sacramental minister for Sacred Heart Parish in Seymour and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Megargel, both attended and shared their personal experiences of growing up in India.

Everything at the retreat centered on India from the guest speakers and videos from CRS to the decorations, prayer services, and fun activities.

A prayer room was designed to represent India with images of Blessed Mother Theresa, an elephant, and a tiger, painted by volunteer Genie Buchanan, and silk pillows for visitors to the room to sit on.

Erazo said every year a guiding verse of Scripture for the retreat is displayed in the prayer room and printed on their retreat T-shirts. This year they used a quote from Blessed Mother Theresa: "If you cannot feed 100 people, then feed just one." She said they incorporated Mother Theresa because she spent almost 70 years of her life dedicated to the poorest of the poor in India and founded the Missionaries of Charity religious order in Calcutta, whose sisters continue to serve India's poor.

The retreat ends each year with Mass and a dinner at the parish hall.

"Ending the retreat with Palm Sunday Mass was extremely moving," said 17-year-old Rachel Parkey, a senior at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Wichita Falls. "It tied in the concept that Food Fast truly is a Lenten retreat and that we are all 'one body, one spirit in Christ.' We are truly united with our brothers and sisters who celebrate the Eucharist around the world," she said.

Hayli Otto, also a 17-year-old Notre Dame senior and team member, added that "receiving the Eucharist as your first morsel is the most fulfilling meal of all."

## John Paul II Institute Summer Cycle scheduled for June 22-29, open to the public

The John Paul II Institute has announced its third annual Summer Cycle. The two-week program of lectures and ministry workshops will be June 17-29 at three different sites. It is intended for the general public and parish workers.

Being the Year of Faith, this year's Summer Cycle will feature a series of lectures on the relevance of Vatican II's documents for today's Church. Juan Rendón of the University of Dallas School of Ministry will present the series in Spanish at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in South Fort Worth June 17-20. Father Jonathan Wallis, diocesan director of Catechesis, will give the series in English at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington, June 24-27.

Saturday workshops will be held at Nolan Catholic High School

June 22 and 29. English workshops on June 22 include "Theology of the Body"; "Challenges of caregiving: giving care, taking care"; "Organizing an international sister-parish relationship"; and "Establishing Eucharistic Adoration in your parish." On June 29, workshops include "Learning the Catechism for personal growth, catechesis, and evangelization"; "Using current technology in catechetical and pastoral ministries"; and "Reducing family poverty."

Workshops are also planned in Spanish with themes such as lay preaching, Eucharistic adoration, pro-life ministry, among others. Complete program information and registration may be found on the diocesan website or by calling (817) 560-3300, ext. 262.


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 Institute for Pastoral Theology  
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY



## Diocese of Fort Worth settles claims involving James Reilly

The Diocese of Fort Worth Monday reached a settlement agreement through mediation of claims brought against the Diocese by a person who was allegedly abused by James Reilly.

The name of the person involved is confidential at the request of the victim. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Diocesan Administrator Monsignor Stephen J. Berg, in a statement shared with the victim, stated that he is deeply sorry for any sexual abuse the victim may have endured and suffered by Reilly. Msgr. Berg informed the victim that he prays that healing and reconciliation can be achieved in the individual's life.

Msgr. Berg stresses that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will address any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible.

"The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth and I are committed to ensuring that the Diocese's policies are adhered to so we can prevent any future tragedy such as that which has befallen the victims of abuse," he said.

The Diocese has been and is committed to being in compliance with the requirements of the *Char-*

*ter for the Protection of Children and Young People* adopted by the Bishops of the United States in 2002.

The Diocese, in accordance with its policies, has actively sought victims of abuse in the Arlington parish where Reilly was assigned. Reilly was assigned to St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington from 1969 through 1987. He retired in 1987 and moved to Philadelphia. He died in 1999.

The Diocese of Fort Worth asks that anyone who has either witnessed or has suffered sexual abuse by anyone who services the Church to come forward so that the individual and the Church can continue the healing process.

To report abuse to the civil authorities, call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at 1-800-252-5400. To report abuse to the Diocese of Fort Worth call Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, at (817) 560-2452, ext. 201 or e-mail her at [jlocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org). Persons also can call the sexual abuse hotline, (817) 560-2452, ext. 900. Or call The Catholic Center (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 and ask for the Diocesan Administrator Msgr. Stephen Berg.

### General Construction Services

General construction work/repairs inside and out including topsoil, sand, gravel, washed materials, driveways, concrete, backhoe, and tractor services. Custom mowing lots and acres. Call (817) 732-4083.

### To Report Misconduct

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

- Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at [jlocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org)
- Or call the Sexual Abuse Hot-line (817) 560-2462 ext. 102 and ask for the moderator of the curia, Msgr. Stephen Berg

### To Report Abuse

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

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### Dental clinic helps clients afford new smiles

Trisha Kirkland, 32, used to be reluctant to talk to people. For almost 10 years, she covered her mouth with her hand while speaking, feeling extremely self-conscious about her broken and missing teeth. Thanks to Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) and the agency's Bishop Kevin W. Vann Dental Clinic, however, Trisha now has a big and beautiful smile to share with the world.

"I was incarcerated for nine years," she admits. An abusive relationship and problems with alcohol and drugs led to her years in prison, where she focused on education, hard work, and addiction recovery.

After her release six months ago, Trisha sought to address her dental issues, and found a warm welcome at the CCFW's new dental clinic, housed in Catholic Charities' campus at 249 W. Thornhill Drive in Fort Worth. Once her eligibility for services was established, the clinic dentist, Dr. Jennifer Chang, began the painstaking work of extracting teeth, performing extensive dental surgery, and, finally, fitting Trisha with a full set of dentures. The services, which would normally have cost approximately \$6,000, cost \$2,400 at the clinic's discounted rates.

"I know this will help me so much in finding employment," says Trisha. "Words can't express how much they [the clinic staff] have helped me and how wonderful they are. I love coming here, because I feel like I'm coming to see friends who care about me."

Paige Schramm, who serves as program manager for the clinic, says that Dr. Chang's warmhearted approach to dentistry makes the workplace "a wonderful place to be" for all the members of the



Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC

Dr. Jennifer Chang, DDS, poses with client Trisha Kirkland on March 13 at Catholic Charities' Bishop Kevin W. Vann Dental Clinic. The clinic provides safe, high-quality and affordable dental care to clients and families.

clinic's small staff.

"I think our patients benefit from our positive spirit," she says, recalling an elderly client who had stopped attending church, embarrassed by the loss of a crown on her front tooth. "She didn't think she could afford to replace it, but we were able to help her," says Paige, noting that 658 established patients have been seen in the clinic since its opening Oct. 8 of last year.

Dr. Chang, an active member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Dallas, says she is "deeply thankful" for the opportunity to be a part of Catholic Charities' mission to help clients become self-sufficient. "We really care," she says. "We feel that great dental care is one step on a path that helps our clients move forward in life."

For more information, call CCFW at (817) 289-3882.

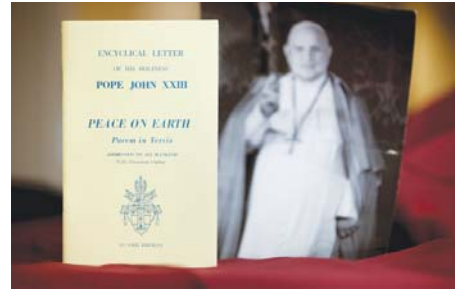
LIGHTER & BRIGHTER



A worker paints a colossal statue of Blessed John Paul II in Czeszochowa, Poland, April 7. The new monument to the late Polish pope measures 46-feet tall. (CNS photo/Agencja Gazeta, via Reuters)



Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, left, signs a response to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, April 15. The development of the response letter and its signing commemorated the 50th anniversary of Rev. King's letter. The effort was organized by Christian Churches Together, an ecumenical organization concerned with issues such as immigration, poverty, and racial injustice, sponsored a commemoration of the anniversary of the letter. (CNS photo/Mary D. Dillard, ONE VOICE)



An early edition of the encyclical *Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris)* is pictured next to a photo of its author, Pope John XXIII. The landmark papal letter addressing universal human rights and relations between states marks its 50th anniversary April 11. (CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiechec)



Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza has become an American citizen. A best-selling author, Ilibagiza has given talks around the country about the 1994 slaughter in her home country and how her Catholic faith and trust in God helped her survive. She is seen in a 2012 photo at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Nuns from Indonesia pose for a photo as they attend Pope Francis' general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 17. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



John Browne Ayes, left, who is a descendant of Juan Ponce de Leon, participates in an April 2 re-enactment of his ancestor's arrival to Florida. The gathering on the sand and a Mass that day at Immaculate Conception Church in Melbourne Beach were part of a 500th anniversary celebration of the explorer's arrival. (CNS photo/Susan Schulz)

Cross-Words

By Mark Simeroth  
Across & Down:

1. The "Iscaior"
2. Procedure
3. He Slew Goliath
4. Nimble
5. Passover Feast

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

**Umbert the Unborn** by Gary Cangemi

The **FLOCK** by Jean Denton www.sheepdotcom.com

## *New Pope, New Evangelization, plus new technology*



### THE FIRST POPE I REALLY REMEMBER WAS JOHN PAUL I.

I was in junior high when he was elected and then died 33 days later. As a 13-year-old kid what was happening with the pope was not in the forefront of my mind. But the strange circumstances of his short papacy caught my attention, and I began to be slightly aware of what was happening in Rome.

As my teen years continued, I was marginally aware of John Paul II, but in 1987, my second year as a youth minister, World Youth Day occurred in Buenos Aires, and all of my attention was now focused on this young, vibrant, youth-loving pope. Though I did not attend, I watched, and though the media coverage was not pervasive, I did follow it. When it was reported that half a million youth and young adults attended, I was shocked, stoked, and inspired.

Shortly after this, I began a masters in theology program where we had to read many of the encyclicals of John Paul II. I was worried this would be an arduous task beyond my ability, but I quickly learned his writings were not only approachable, they were inspiring, faith-affirming, challenging, and filled with exhortations to surrender to Jesus, live for Jesus, embrace the Church of Jesus, and spread the message of Jesus' love to the world.

Needless to say, I fell in love with John Paul II. When he died in 2005, his passing affected me deeply. The media coverage of his death, and the ceremony and events surrounding it, was over-

whelming. We were all reminded of the far-reaching impact of this orphan pope whose origins were in occupied Poland. The question quickly became who could replace such an immense figure.

Enter Benedict XVI, a man widely known for dealing with the difficult issues confronting the Church when he served as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. His role then was to protect and defend the Church's dogma throughout the world. As pope, though his theological outlook remained steady, the public perception of his tone softened, as people became more familiar with his heart through his writings, including the first encyclical of his papacy, *Deus Caritas Est (God is Love)*. He went on to write a marvelous series of books on the life of Jesus.

His relatively short pontificate — by John Paul II's standards — left the

world, and I do mean the world, abuzz with who his replacement would be. When John Paul II was elected there was no Internet. Benedict was elected the year Facebook was founded. Eight years later Facebook has one billion users worldwide and Twitter has over 500 million users. This reality caused the announcement of Benedict's retirement and the fervor around the election of a new pope to reach fever pitch, "blowing up" Facebook and Twitter feeds everywhere.

Having worked in youth and young adult ministry for 26 years, I had a unique vantage point as I watched these events unfold. Most of my Facebook friends and Twitter followers are under the age of 30, and they were voracious in their consumption with everything pope-related — from moment-by-moment "pope smoke" updates to

The New Evangelization that John Paul II called for and Benedict XVI continued to push for has come alive in a new way as a direct result of social media and the fresh face of the lived Gospel found in Pope Francis.

#popefrancisrocks

*Jeff Hedglen is the Campus Minister at UTA and associate director of Young Adult Ministry for the diocese. He is also the primary convener of Camp Fort Worth's many editions.*

details on who the newly elected Pope Francis was almost immediately after he appeared to say "hello" and ask for the world's prayers.

It was a joy to sit back and watch my Facebook newsfeed and see so much excitement about our new pontiff. Everything Pope Francis did and said was either shared or commented on constantly for the first few days. I saw posts from folks of all ages and many posts of excitement and awe from many non-Catholic friends. Even our own NTC editor Jeff Hensley was caught up in the excitement as seen in this March 14 post: "this is awfully darned exciting, and this is indeed a new day in the Church. Francis is humbly pioneering it for the rest of us." Another friend remarked on the fact that the first thing she does each day is to scour the Internet for what Francis said yesterday.

As with most things in the Internet age, the excitement has waned a bit, but there is no denying that the New Evangelization that John Paul II called for and Benedict continued to push for has come alive in a new way as a direct result of social media and the fresh face of the lived Gospel found in Pope Francis. #popefrancisrocks

# Christianity's Unhappy Times

## making the the happy times brighter

By David Mills

### THE COVERS REALLY HAVE TO “POP,” THE BOOK DESIGNER TOLD ME.

The people wandering down the aisles won't buy a book they don't notice. It needs a cover that jumps out at people, makes them pick it up and leave all the other books beside it on the shelf.

You can make the cover pop by using contrasting colors, like a red picture on a black background or blue lettering on a yellow stripe. The dark color makes the light color brighter and the light color makes the dark color deeper. Someone glancing at the shelves will see this kind of cover when he won't even notice duller ones.

I thought of this on Good Friday as I walked the Way of the Cross held in New York by Communion and Liberation. It begins at the cathedral in Brooklyn, goes over the Brooklyn Bridge, and winds up at St. Peter's church in lower Manhattan, with stations along the way. It takes about four hours.

Walking the Way of the Cross drove home the contrast between my own sins and what Christ had suffered for us. Most people walking by didn't seem to notice or care what we were doing, but many stared and pointed, and every now and then someone rolled his eyes or shrugged and laughed. Some, judging from the looks on their faces, couldn't figure out what in the world all these people were doing.

We meet lots of secular people who like Christianity's happy times, especially Christmas and Easter. They may not believe any of it and they may not know all the details, or care about them, but they like the idea of that baby in the manger and that empty tomb. Those stories are happy and cheerful and life-affirming and all that.

But Christianity's unhappy times, those they don't understand at all. When they know the details, they often dislike them. The long period of Lent seems weird, and so does fasting on Fridays and ashes on Ash Wednesday. Good Friday looks like a real downer.

Confession can really bother them. People



have told me that confessing your sins to a priest is “morbid” and “sick.” One man indignantly told me that anyone who told a priest about his sins had to be messed up. (He said it more rudely than that.) What you did was none of the priest's business. This man had spent years spilling his guts to a therapist, which I pointed out, but that, he insisted, was different.

People I've talked to about this don't like the unhappy parts of the Christian life partly because they don't have a very good sense of sin, or any real sense of sin at all. Some people will tell you “I'm okay” or “I'm a good person” or “I'm good enough.” About the most negative statement you'll hear is “Look, I'm not perfect,” but that really means “I'm pretty much okay.” If that's true, why depress yourself with Lent and Good Friday and truck over to the church on Saturday to tell the priest you're a sinner?

I know exactly how they feel and most of the time feel that way myself. But still, we know they're wrong. The evidence is right out in the open. We can look at them and we can look at

ourselves. For any of us to say “I'm not perfect” is like a small college pitcher with a 10.47 ERA saying “I'm not ready for the major leagues.” We're not just not perfect, we're really not that good.

Many people do feel guilty, whatever they say. That comes out if you let them talk. They may feel guilty in general or guilty about something in particular but they know they've sinned even if they don't like the term.

When we talk about sin, we are asking them to see a truth that will make them happier. There are benefits to seeing yourself as a sinner and pushing through Christianity's unhappy times. The darkness you see and feel makes Christianity's happy times all the brighter. To have said “Crucify him!” on Good Friday helps you say “He is risen!” with fist-pumping joy on Easter. Good Friday makes Easter pop.

*David Mills is executive editor of First Things (www.firstthings.com) and author of DISCOVERING MARY.*

# Times of silence connect us to God and our authentic self

By Mary Morelli

**EVERY YEAR, AS MY YOUNGEST SON'S MARCH 19 BIRTHDAY COMES AND GOES,** I am reminded of an unusual encounter on the feast of St. Joseph many celebrations ago when I met Elvis in the parking lot of Dunkin' Donuts.

I knew it was him because he pulled up next to me in an Elvis car, with wings on the back. He had Elvis hair, dark and swirled up in the front; Elvis sunglasses, large and black, and an Elvis belt, covered with silver. He even had an Elvis swagger and a crooked Elvis smile.

Being raised in the commercial generation, my first inclination was to ask, "Is it live or is it Memorex?"

As I rolled down my window to hear his conversation with another patron, the image was shattered by his voice, which had a strange Mickey Mouse quality to it. I couldn't help but smile at the thought of "hunka hunka burning love" being sung in high-speed falsetto.

Of course, he wasn't Elvis. We all know he's dead and buried. But the art of imitation has reached its height with him.

There are many people who work hard at defining themselves by an identity that's not genuine. It may not be so dramatic as attempting to imitate a rock-and-roll legend, but when you get to know them at a deeper level you discover that what you thought was real is actually contrived.

In his book, *Crafting the Soul*, Rabbi Byron Sherwin, writes, "... rather than living one's life as an imitation of the life of another, one should look to find the authentic self within. . . An individual who denies his or her own individuality articulates life with a voice other than that which is uniquely his or her own. A person who suppresses his or her own self is in danger of missing the point of his or her own existence, of surrendering what being human means."

It is easy to manipulate what others see



Painting of St. Joseph in his workshop by Gerrit van Honthorst

on the surface, to craft that which we wish people to think about us, but to do so is to deny the person God created us to be. Besides, our humanity does not live on the surface. Our humanity and our authentic self reside at the level of soul, formed in the deep recesses of our interior lives where we can experience and respond to the mystery of God.

I recently read a book excerpt about a novice master who once responded when asked about a life lived in Christian authenticity "... that to be a Christian was not to know the answers but to begin to live in the part of the self where the question is born. ..." He was speaking of an attitude of listening, of awareness of presence, of an openness to mystery.

St. Joseph was such a person. Our knowledge of the adoptive father of Jesus comes more from what isn't said about him in Scripture than what is.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once spoke of St. Joseph as a model of recollection,

whose silence in the Gospel, "does not demonstrate an empty interior, but rather the fullness of faith that he carries in his heart," a silence that is "permeated with the contemplation of the mystery of God, in an attitude of total availability to the divine will."

Such silence is the key to authenticity. Without it we are not able to cultivate a spirit of interior recollection. Most importantly, without it, we are unable to listen to God — the source of all that is real.

*"It is not exaggerated to say that Jesus will learn — on a human level — precisely from 'father' Joseph this intense interior life, which is the condition of authentic righteousness, the 'interior righteousness,' which one day he will teach to his disciples."*

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Mary Morrell serves as managing editor of *THE MONITOR*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey.

# SEEKING GOD'S PATH VOCATIONS



Father Isaac Orozco  
Director of Vocations

*Good Shepherd Sunday, held on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, was held on April 21 of this year. The annual celebration is used throughout the Church to increase support, financial and other, for seminarians and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Diocesan Vocations Director Father Isaac Orozco sat down with the NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC to share his thoughts about the significance of Good Shepherd Sunday and vocations in general.*

**NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC:** Thanks for meeting with me. We don't have a bishop at the moment and a lot of people are wondering what this means for vocations in our diocese. What's the state of vocations, and what do you want to say to the people about the state of vocations in our diocese?

**FR. ISAAC OROZCO:** The state of vocations is good. We have a stable and growing number of seminarians, and overall, the seminaries who train our seminarians for priesthood are doing a good job. From what I can see, the guys continue to be faithful, inspired, and excited about what God has in store for them. ... As far as recruiting efforts go, we're doing pretty well in that area, too. I have a list of about 15 guys at any given time who are interested in learning more about the seminary and what the priesthood is about, and so I keep in contact with them on a regular basis to help them informally discern. So the state of vocations is good.

What I would want people to know is that everyone can play a part in supporting vocations. On a local level, every parish can contribute to that support by fostering an environment that supports vocations whether it be through prayer or through the various programs within the parish always mentioning the need for priests and what the priesthood is all about, and also about the religious life. And people can always encourage young men and young women they see within their parishes to consider the religious life and serving the Church in that capacity. A lot of people take for granted the fact that they have a direct role in vocations by just encouraging them.

**NTC:** Are ordinations going to continue as scheduled?

**FR. ISAAC:** Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio has been invited to do the ordinations because he's our metropolitan archbishop and he graciously said yes. So I'm excited that our metropolitan gets to come down to Vietnamese Martyrs on June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul to ordain Deacon James Wilcox and Deacon Khoi Tran [to the priesthood], in the absence of a bishop.

**NTC:** This interview will be coming out right after Good Shepherd Sunday, which is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. What's the connection to the Easter Season?

**FR. ISAAC:** Think about it — who's the Good Shepherd? It's Jesus. And one of the earliest Christian images in caves is the Good Shepherd with the sheep or the lamb over his shoulders. In the Gospel of John chapter 10, [Jesus] says "I am the Good Shepherd ... my sheep know me, they know my voice," and talks about how the Good Shepherd lays down his life. He says this as he prepares for his own Passion to let people know that even though he will suffer and die, he will rise again and take up his life for the benefit of his flock. So Good Shepherd Sunday being the Fourth Sunday after Easter reminds us of what Jesus said on the way to Jerusalem or as he prepared for that, so that we who are still suffering, still waiting for Christ, and hoping in his second coming, are reminded of that promise.

And that's connected to vocations because what are our priests other than a physical reminder of Jesus' promise to care for the Church. You think about it — every priest who is in charge of a parish is called a pastor, and pastor comes from the word for "shepherd." And

so that Good Shepherd Sunday being right after Easter ties in that idea that the priests in our Church are connected concretely to the resurrection, and that all of us as lay faithful are invited to see the priesthood as part of the way that Jesus keeps his promise to lead the Church until the second coming.

**NTC:** How are our seminarians supported on Good Shepherd Sunday. I know that as lay faithful, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure. In what ways does that go to support the seminarians?

**FR. ISAAC:** Number one is that our seminarians get more visibility — we actually talk about them. It's a time where the diocese gets to talk about vocations and recognizes "Well who do we have? How many do we have? Where are they studying? What are they doing?" Some seminarians even go out to parishes and give a little talk about how the collection is used directly for the benefit of our seminarians. The collections that are taken up on Good Shepherd Sunday are put to the rather expensive cost of college preparation, which is necessary, but grows as the number of seminarians grows. So it's a good problem to have — that more seminarians means it costs us more, but that also means that in the future we'll have more priests to staff parishes, which also means more priests can be present for baptisms, for witnessing marriages, for confessions, for hospital visits, for working with youth, for every other ministry. So it's a significant contribution that fits into our long-range planning, but also our current needs.

**NTC:** What about prayer? In what ways can the people pray for our seminarians?

**FR. ISAAC:** Well every person can pray that more young men and women look to religious life and specifically that more men are open to the possibility of discerning priesthood. And through that prayer, hopefully, they'll get ideas about how to support that. Also, I think it's a conversion of heart for our parishioners. Unfortunately, I've found that too many parents don't want their sons to become priests — that's a surprising obstacle that I've encountered. They have actively discouraged or tried to talk their sons out of even thinking about it. That has happened on several occasions, where young men have approached me who were thinking about it with no support from their parents. So prayer, hopefully, will help some of these parents be more open to what their son is already open to.

**NTC:** That kind of follows into my next and last question, really. What message do you want to convey to the people of the diocese?

**FR. ISAAC:** Just to support their priests and support young men and women who want to step up and be involved in the Church in a way that involves sacrifice, that is very intimate, and in a way that's totally self-giving. We're always going to have people called to the married life. That's a big part of us. But there's always going to be fewer numbers of priests, so we really have to be active in searching out and preparing those future leaders. We can't take it for granted. Good Shepherd Sunday is an occasion for us not to take it for granted, and to be active in supporting vocations, ... and present to the people how that is directly related to the vitality and life of their own local parish.

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**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

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*Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!*



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

# Catholic communities band together in wake of West, Texas, tragedy

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

Father Ed Karasek was driving home from a meeting in Austin April 17 when reports of a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, came across the radio. The tragedy's human toll hit home quickly for the pastor of St. Mary, Church of the Assumption in West. One of the first responders killed in the magnitude 2.1 blast was the son of parish secretary Carolyn Pustejovsky. Joey Pustejovsky was a volunteer fireman and city secretary for the heavily Czech-Catholic community located 20 miles north of Waco off Interstate 35.

West is in the Diocese of Austin, but borders the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Approximately 200 others were injured in the industrial explosion that followed a 7:29 p.m. fire alarm at the plant where volatile ammonium nitrate was used to manufacture fertilizer. At press time, there were 14 confirmed deaths.

"This is just devastating," said Fr. Karasek who spent most of Thursday morning comforting grieving families. "We've lost parishioners and a lot of people lost homes. People are in shock."

The explosion cut a six-block swath of destruction across the laid-back town of 2,800 best known for its Czech bakeries, kolaches, and annual Westfest heritage event. Stain glass windows inside Assumption, located 10 blocks from the site of the explosion, were broken but there was no other damage to the sanctuary. Other churches in the northern part of the town were heavily impacted by the blast heard 45 miles away. Two public schools, a nursing home, and 50-unit apartment complex were reduced to rubble.

During a Mass celebrated the morning after the explosion, Fr. Karasek tried to encourage devastated parishioners.

"The Lord will see us through this," said the pastor in his homily. "We're all grieving but we can support each other."

In the spirit of that message, Assumption hosted an interdenominational prayer service for the community April 18. Prayers and calls of concern continue to pour into the church office.

"We've gotten calls from Vatican Radio and Sky News," Fr. Karasek added. "People from all over the country are offering their support and prayers and we really appreciate it."

"It's been a busy 18 hours for us," admitted Deacon Denver Crawley, who serves several nearby parishes in the Fort Worth Diocese. "Two of our parishioners live inside the blast zone and we've been talking to them."

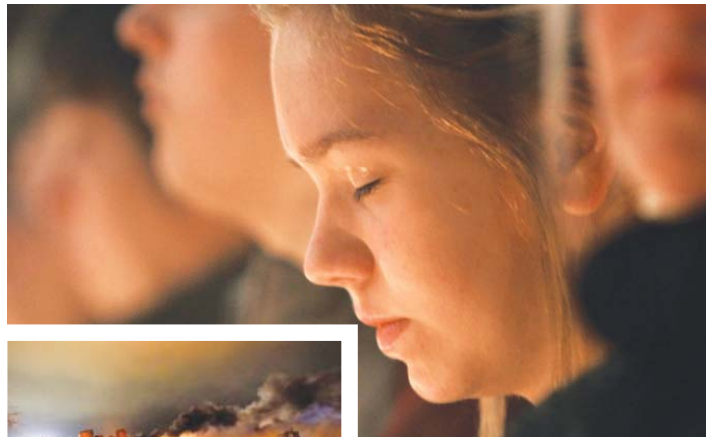
Dcn. Crawley told the *North Texas Catholic* his friends were physically and spiritually fine but shaken.

"The wife, who is our organist at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Parish] in Penelope, was blown from her living room into her kitchen. She was cut up with debris and glass but the injuries are minor," he said.

The three parishes the deacon serves — Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Mercy in Hillsboro, and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Abbot — have already started relief efforts to help victims. Donations are being channeled through the McLennon County Sheriff's Department.

"This is a very Catholic area. The people are very close and they're all family to one another," Dcn. Crawley said describing the small towns between Waco and Fort Worth settled by Czech immigrants in the 1850s. "They have a tremendous faith in God and a belief that He overcomes all evil and all sadness. It's our faith in the risen Christ that gets us through."

Father Tom Kennedy, pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Clifton in the Diocese of Fort Worth, spent the



**ABOVE:** A young woman prays during a candlelight vigil April 18 at the Church of the Assumption in West in remembrance of those who lost their lives or were injured. (CNS photo/Jaime R. Carrero, Reuters) • **INSET:** A vehicle is seen near the burning remains of a fertilizer plant in West April 18. Rescue workers searched rubble for survivors. (CNS photo/Mike Stone, Reuters)

evening and early morning hours after the tragedy ministering to the injured arriving by ambulance and car to the Hillsboro Medical Center. Most had no idea what caused the explosive bang and percussion that sent them to a hospital.

"They told me it was like the biggest sonic boom you've ever heard," he remembered. "Then they showed me pictures of cars crushed like beer cans."

The priest let victims use his cell phone to contact relatives. He traveled to a Red Cross shelter set up in neighboring Abbott the following day to deliver bottled water, blankets, and messages returned on his phone by concerned family members.

In the wake of a shocking, life-altering event, the best thing you can offer people is your calming presence, Fr. Kennedy explained. Knowing the area's predominantly Catholic population would look to the Church for help during the crisis weighed heavily on his mind as he drove down back roads toward the Hillsboro hospital to avoid a clogged I-35. The priest found 40 people waiting for medical treatment when he arrived.

"At one and two o'clock in the morning there were nine or 10 different ministers from different churches there and we were all doing the same thing," he recalled. "Just trying to console people. It was an incredible thing."

Monsignor Stephen Berg, diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Fort Worth, offered prayers and support to the people of West and the Diocese of Austin after the April 17 explosion. Catholic Charities of Fort Worth will work with Catholic Charities of Austin to coordinate further assistance.

"We extend the support of the Diocese of Fort Worth to the people of West and the Diocese of Austin as they struggle through this devastation," said Msgr. Berg who spoke personally to Bishop Joseph Vasquez in Austin. "Bishop Vasquez says there is a great need at this time for financial assistance for blood donations for the victims. I ask the people of the Diocese of Fort Worth to respond generously to these needs and take heart from the call of Pope Francis to, 'Please join me in praying for the victims of the explosion in Texas and their families.'"



# Pro-life without fear

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

try, but allegations of sexual abuse cover-ups, violations of parental consent and notification laws, and medical misinformation at abortion facilities. Through Live Action, Lila has led undercover teams of young people at Planned Parenthood facilities across the country.

In 2007, after her first two undercover investigations as a UCLA college student uncovered racism within the abortion industry, Lila said pressures began mounting from the abortion industry, with threats of lawsuits about videos she was posting online.

Not knowing quite where to turn for help, Lila prayed to God. "I asked for his help, and said, 'God, you're in charge.'"

Within just a few days, said Lila, she received a call from the "The O'Reilly Factor" on the Fox News Channel. Shortly thereafter, the UCLA freshman was on the news show with Bill O'Reilly. Parts of one of her undercover tapes were shown and millions of viewers discovered the work of the energetic pro-life activist and her Live Action movement.

Lila's prayers were answered. As a result of her television appearance, Live Action received



Nolan Catholic High School gave Lila Rose a warm reception in mid-February. Pictured, from left, are Principal Cathy Buckingham, Lila Rose, Sean Gillen, Hannah Knight, Charlton Nguyen, Victoria Torrent, Maddie Muskrat, Juan Piceno, and Lifesavers Club Moderator, Toni Corbett. Corbett teaches theology and brought her students to hear about Live Action after Cyndi Seger of the Legatus Chapter of Fort Worth arranged for Lila's visit at the school.

free legal help, donations, and a groundswell of support from pro-lifers around the country. Since then, Lila has appeared with Laura Ingraham, Glenn Beck, Mike Huckabee, and a host of others.

In a swing through Fort Worth recently, Lila shared her story with Catholic business executives at the Fort Worth Chapter of Legatus. She also spoke to students at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth.

"I would never have imagined when I was

starting Live Action as just a youth group in my living room with some friends that 10 years down the road I would get to be a part this," she told about 250 students at Nolan.

"I feel very blessed."

She encouraged the students to pray to God about ways they can become involved in the Culture of Life.

"I believe in my whole heart that we as young people can stand up and say we reject the culture of death, the abortion of our parents' generation. We reject this. We want something more. We want an America that protects and respects human life.

"If we demand this from our politicians, from our media, from ourselves, from each other, from our communities, and take action in our churches — if we demand this — we will create a pro-life America. We will create a culture of life. We will revolutionize our country," she said.

"But it starts with each one of us," she told students. "Figure out what your role is. Start doing your own research. Ask God to show you what he has in store for you."

"And if you open up your heart to what God has planned for you, He will show you, He will love you, and He will make such an amazing adventure of your life.

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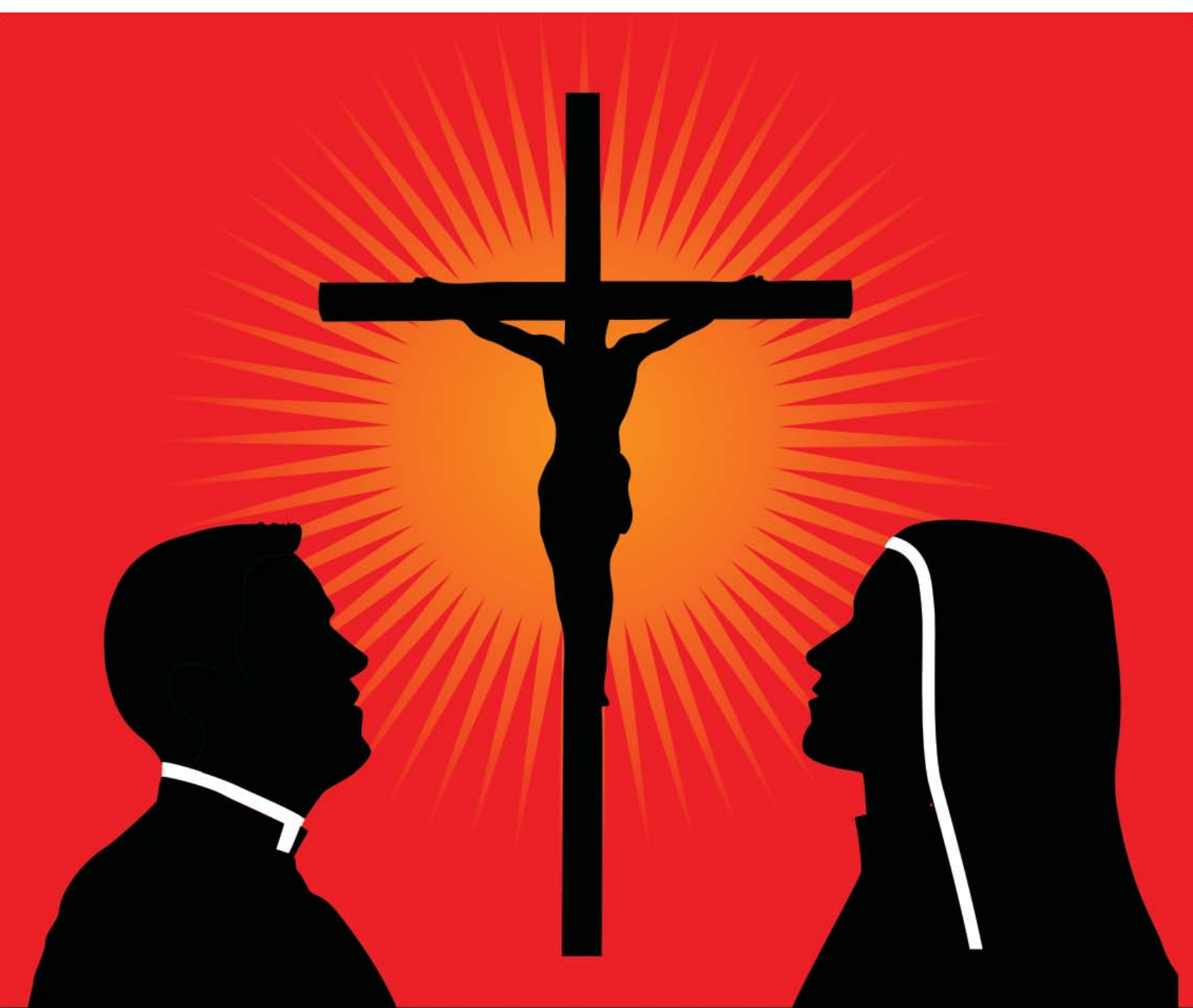


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Sponsored by the Vocations Offices and Serra Clubs of Dallas and Fort Worth

# Holy Family student wins North Texas Reading Bee

Reading at a college freshman level, second-grader Sam Willey keeps alive the tradition of a Catholic school student winning the annual competition

By Jerry Circelli / Correspondent

THE FRUSTRATION WAS ALMOST TOO MUCH FOR 7-YEAR-OLD SAM WILEY TO BEAR AS HE LISTENED TO THE JUDGES ANNOUNCE THE FINAL RANKINGS FOR THE NORTH TEXAS READING BEE, SPONSORED BY SCORE A GOAL IN THE CLASSROOM. Sam had been selected by his teacher at Holy Family School in Fort Worth to compete against the best readers from 43 other private schools and 39 public schools in North Texas. In all, the 83 students in the final competition last fall were selected as the best second-grade readers from among a field of nearly 70,000. But only one would clinch the North Texas Reading Bee Championship.

As judges read off a long list of award winners at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth at the conclusion of the competition, not once were they mentioning Sam Willey's name. They had totally forgotten him, the youngster thought, greatly disappointed that he didn't even seem to be in the top 10. Hope was dwindling as the final names were read.

"They said fifth, then fourth, then third, and then second," said Sam. "And then they finally said first place — and my name!"

It took the youngster by surprise. "I couldn't believe that I was in first place." Those who know Sam certainly weren't surprised. From his reading evaluation by a panel of North Texas Reading Bee judges, it was determined that the remarkable and gifted second-grader reads at the college freshman level.

"That young man is amazing," said Ernie Horn, executive director of Score a Goal in the Classroom. "He's such a bright student, very engaged, and it's obvious that he certainly loves to read."

Sam's passion for reading is quite evident. When he sat down for his interview with the *North Texas Catholic* in the library of Holy Family School, he had with him some of his favorite books. It is an eclectic collection, ranging from the German fairy tale *Rumpelstiltskin*, by the Brothers Grimm, to the classic science fiction book *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, by

Jules Verne.

Ask Sam what the books are about and he will go into great detail. In *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, for example, Sam will tell you all about Captain Nemo and the crew of the Nautilus, including details about the underwater breathing tanks used by the early submarine's divers.

When it comes to reading comprehension, it's tough to beat this North Texas Reading Bee champion. He often reads books twice, just in case he missed something the first time around.

"What impresses me most about his ability is not just that he reads like a college student," said his second-grade teacher, Mary Salerno, "but that he comprehends on that level also."

On average, Sam spends more than two hours a day reading. His mother, Maria, and father, Rod, have always read to Sam and his two siblings. It has served as a basis for Sam's interest, but he obviously possesses a passion to continue reading on his own.

Sam likes page-turners — those books that just make you want to keep reading. "Sometimes when I'm reading and I have to go to bed, I 'accidentally' read a few words of the next chapter," Sam admits. "Then I just start thinking about it."

Books seem to be all around Sam. His mother is a book collector, always on the lookout for interesting children's titles, and books are central to Sam's education. At Holy Family School, reading is an important part of the curriculum. Even the layout of the school emphasizes the importance of books, as all the classrooms surround the library.

That actually evolved over time, explained Jennifer Tayag, development director of Holy Family. She said the school was originally built on an open-classroom concept design. The open area was later transformed into the present library, and classrooms were added around it. The result, she said, has made the library "the heart" of the school.



Photo by Jerry Circelli

Sam and his mother, Maria, take a moment in the library of Holy Family School to show Sam's awards for winning the North Texas Reading Bee. Sam comes from a family of readers and is surrounded by books at his school.

Sam, of course, is a frequent visitor to that library and explained his selection process for reading material. It's simple, Sam said. "If it looks good, I might get it. Or I might look at a few pages inside, and if it looks interesting, then I check it out. And it's not how long it is that matters. It's how good it is and if it's fun to read."

From his experience as executive director of Score a Goal in the Classroom, which challenges teachers and students to strive for excellence, Horn said Sam is among the best and brightest to come along in the competition. And he pointed out a fact that he said truly speaks to the quality of education at Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"The last three reading bee championships have all been won by students from Catholic schools," said Horn.

In addition to Sam's 2012 North Texas Reading Bee Championship award, Mary Grace McGann, from St. Peter the Apostle School in White Settlement, won the championship in 2011. In 2010, Max McGaughy of St. John the Apostle School in North Richland Hills read his way to the championship.

"I'd say that's quite a compliment to Catholic education," said Horn.



Pope Francis greets Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, after receiving his ring from Cardinal Sodano during his inaugural Mass. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Pilgrims wave flags, including the Argentine flag (blue and white), as the pope walks through St. Peter's Square before celebrating his inaugural Mass. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio is pictured traveling by subway in Buenos Aires. (Fernandez Otero, Clarin handout via AP)

# Who exactly is Pope Francis?

## Getting acquainted with the new Bishop of Rome

By Juan Guajardo / Correspondent

**AT 7:06 P.M. ROME TIME MARCH 13, WHITE SMOKE RISING FROM THE CHIMNEY OF THE SISTINE CHAPEL SIGNALLED THAT A POPE HAD BEEN CHOSEN.** About an hour later, the 266th pope, a quiet man wearing a shy smile and simple white vestments, emerged from behind the curtained doorway of the second story of St. Peter Basilica.

To many onlookers that day, the name Jorge Mario Bergoglio brought much excitement but didn't quite ring a bell. So who exactly is Pope Francis? Here are some details to get you better acquainted with the new Bishop of Rome.

### HE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR

At a dinner with the cardinals at Casa Santa Marta the day of his election, the characteristically humble Pope Francis kept the mood light, joking with them about their choice to elect him. Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York told the *National Catholic Register*, "When the secretary of the state toasted to him, he toasted back to us and said, 'I hope God forgives you.'"

### HE IS A UNIVERSAL MAN

He is a cardinal born and raised in Argentina, a country at "the ends of the earth," as he put it. He is the son of middle-class Italian immigrants. He is fluent in Italian, Spanish and German. He was a university professor. He is the first Jesuit ever to be chosen pope. He studied in Chile, finished his doctoral studies in Germany and has authored various books. He's held various leadership positions and quickly rose through Church ranks when he became a bishop in 1992. Even so, this prince

of the Church has become known more specifically for his servant's attitude (during a visit to a hospice in 2001, he washed and kissed the feet of 12 AIDS patients).

"If you look at his background, it's far-reaching at several points," said Marlon de la Torre, diocesan director of Children's Catechesis and Catechist Formation. "If you have a compass, he's going north, south, east, and west... It's a microcosm of everything. As a universal Church, he is a universal man."

### HE IS DOWN TO EARTH

The story of Pope Francis' habit of riding the bus to work, living in an unpretentious apartment, and cooking his own dinners as archbishop of Buenos Aires has spread quickly. His actions during his first few days as pope indicate Francis will continue practicing the spirit of poverty that he preaches.

On March 13, Cardinal Dolan told the *Register* that the newly elected pope rode the minibus with the cardinals back to the Santa Marta residence rather than ride in the papal car — a Mercedes-Benz with the license plate "Stato Vaticano 1." The pope also declined wearing the usual papal fittings — an elegant gold pectoral cross and ermine-trimmed red *mozzetta* (cape) — opting instead to wear a simple white cassock and the cross he used as a bishop. Indeed, *L'Osservatore Romano* reported that Pope Francis has been known to say, "My people are poor and I am one of them."

Father Jonathan Wallis, diocesan director of Catechesis finds this simplicity impressive. "There seems to be a great personal humility and also a real focus toward the Church's mission," he said.

### HE CONNECTS WITH HIS PEOPLE

During his announcement to the world on Wednesday night, Pope Francis spoke familiarly and conversationally with the crowd in attendance, addressing them, "Brothers and sisters, good evening!" and asking them to pray for *him*, before bestowing his apostolic blessing on them. "His request to the people for silent prayer to invoke God's blessing on this new bishop was unheard of and stunning," reflected *L'Osservatore Romano* in an editorial.

De La Torre agrees, "The fact that he asked for everybody to pray for him first before he gave his apostolic papal blessing to everybody, that speaks volumes. What man would be able to calm hundreds of thousands of people at St. Peter's square to pray in silence for him? That's very revealing of how he's going to handle and lead the Church.... That's a servant of the servants of God."

Then the next morning, Pope Francis stopped by the residence he stayed at during the conclave and paid his bill, picked up his own bags, and personally greeted the attendants and housekeeping staff before heading off. The same day, on his way to the Basilica of St. Mary Major to pray to the Virgin Mary, he stopped to wave hello to a group of high school students, wrote John Thavis, a Vatican watcher and author of *The Vatican Diaries*.

### HE DEFENDS OUR FAITH

There's a misconception that clergy with a strong sense of social justice sometimes offer weaker support for and promotion of Church

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, left, and Pope Francis, right, in Buenos Aires in 2013. (CNS photo/Diego J. Hernandez/Reuters)



A statue of St. Francis of Assisi is seen at Graymoor, headquarters of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement, in Garrison, New York. Pope Francis is the first pontiff to name himself after the 13th-century saint. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)



Pope Francis checks out of the Church-run residence March 14 where he had stayed in Rome before becoming pontiff. The pope returned to the residence and insisted on paying the bill, despite now effectively being in charge of the business, the Vatican said. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

# What's in a name?

## The meaning behind the Pope's choice of 'Francis'

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Correspondent

### HE'S A JESUIT POPE WITH A FRANCISCAN NAME.

When Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran announced that newly elected pope Jorge Mario Bergoglio “takes for himself the name Francis” Catholics around the world were not only surprised but delighted. His papal identity honors St. Francis of Assisi — an iconic figure in Church history known as a servant to the poor and destitute, a lover of nature, and preacher who embraced all humanity including people of other faiths.

The 13th-century saint is patron of Italy, animals, ecology, and merchants, but is best known as founder of the Franciscan Order of the Friars Minor, and the inspiration for other communities referring to themselves as “Franciscan.” So it’s no wonder that Father Larry Uhlman, a Third Order Regular Franciscan priest was pleased with the new pontiff’s name.

“As a Franciscan, I was touched in a very special way,” says the parochial vicar at St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington. “It’s significant that St. Francis of Assisi was a man called by God to rebuild the Church, and he did it through a life of poverty, simplicity, a love for God’s people, and a love for God’s creation.”

By choosing to honor St. Francis, the new pope may indicate a desire to bring people back to the essential Gospel values — love of God and love of neighbor, the friar suggested. There’s also a universality to St. Francis that appeals to other faiths. A less known fact about the saint is his attempt to convert the Sultan

of Egypt. A three-week dialogue failed but left both men with mutual respect for each other.

“The Sultan didn’t convert to Christianity. He remained Muslim but let Francis go free and said if more Christians were like Francis, things would be different,” Fr. Uhlman explained. “So maybe this Holy Father is going to reach out even more than his predecessors to the Islamic faith in a gesture of good will.”

Philosophy/theology professor Taylor Marshall, of Fort Worth’s Fisher More College, initially thought the new pope, a Jesuit, chose the name Francis to honor St. Francis Xavier, a 16th-century missionary saint who co-founded the Society of Jesus, more commonly known as the Jesuits.

“St. Francis Xavier is one the greatest missionaries of all time, so I thought it made sense because of the New Evangelization,” Marshall said, referring to the Church’s effort to bring Catholicism more fully into the marketplace of the modern world, especially to alienated Catholics.

A Vatican spokesman later confirmed the pontiff’s name honored Francis of Assisi — the medieval child of privilege who renounced his wealth to serve the poor. After hearing the words, “Francis, rebuild my church which has fallen into ruin,” from a crucifix at San Damiano, the saint became a spiritual reformer and received permission from Pope Innocent III to organize the the religious order that would bear his name, the Franciscans.

Marshall, author of a history on the papacy entitled, *The Eternal City: Rome & the*

*Origins of Catholicism*, said by picking a name never used before, the pope may be signaling something different for the church. Nothing will change theologically, he insists, “but I think there’ll be a simplification and humbling of the Catholic Church before the world.”

Father Edmundo Rodriguez, SJ, a spiritual director at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, never thought a member of his religious order would become pope.

“The Society of Jesus thinks faith and justice go hand in hand and, in some places, that’s very controversial,” the priest explains. “Many people believe justice belongs in the political instead of the religious realm.”

But the Holy Father’s Jesuit training is an advantage, he continues. The *Spiritual Exercises* of Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola and still practiced by the Jesuits, help connect God to the reality of people’s lives.

“It brings a spirituality that engages the world,” the retreat leader adds. “It’s a tool God gives us to better society as we march toward our final society — heaven.”

If the election of a Jesuit pope surprised Fr. Rodriguez, Cardinal Bergoglio’s decision to be called Francis did not.

“From what I know about his life as a priest and archbishop, it’s very appropriate,” he opines, noting the prelate’s austere lifestyle and penchant for riding public transportation and cooking his own meals. “He’s a man who genuinely cares for the poor and travels with working people. He has the same charisma as St. Francis of Assisi.”

teaching and morality. Pope Francis brings a strong social justice background, but De La Torre says if people were expecting him to budge on traditional Church teaching, they're wrong. His track record shows that he is pro-family, pro-life, and opposes liberation theology, homosexual marriage, and abortion.

In 2010, he spoke out vehemently against the Argentinian government, which passed legislation giving same-sex couples the right to marry and to adopt children.

"As it's his responsibility, there has to be a connection between the present day and the apostles," said Father Carmen Mele, OP, diocesan director of Hispanic adult catechesis and director of the diocese's School of Lay Ministry. "We are facing tremendous challenges of relativism, and he has to oppose them. The fact that he has defended the teachings of the Church amongst great criticism from the president of Argentina indicates that he will fulfill this primary responsibility of keeping the Church on the course of the true faith that has been handed down from the apostles and from Jesus."

## HE WALKS THE TALK

Bergoglio chose the name Francis after the popular saint known for his keen dedication to poverty and peacemaking. It's a fitting papal name for a man who for the second time (His first? When he became cardinal in 2001) encouraged his fellow Argentinians to stay home instead of celebrating his installation Mass in Rome, asking them instead to donate the money they would have spent to charity. He is described as a man who would teach his parishioners to go out and live their faith, and would do just that himself.

As archbishop, he made frequent trips to Buenos Aires' shantytowns where he visited with local parishioners, wrote Sergio Rubin in his biography of Bergoglio, *El Jesuita*. Rubin wrote that as cardinal, Bergoglio "set up a direct telephone so that priests could call him at any hour with a problem. He would stay overnight in a parish, helping a sick priest, if it was needed."

"If you want to find an example of somebody immediately evangelizing without using words, well there he is, by his actions he's already fostering conversion to the whole world," De La Torre said.

# What people around the diocese have to say about Pope Francis

*"I saw them waving the Argentine flag. Then I knew it was true and I started to cry. I never thought in my lifetime I would see an Argentine elected pope."*

— Mary Charette, Argentina native, St. Maria Goretti Parish, Arlington

*"I think it's surprising to see a Latin American Pope. It's something that I thought about, but I knew the chances were slim. After he was elected it was a great joy."*

— Victor Flores, senior, University of North Texas, Denton

*"We at Catholic Charities Fort Worth felt so blessed to hear the news of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis. As we heard the news, we were filled with joy.... the press quickly went on to cite his commitment to the poor among us and his work with the poor in the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires. What a validation for our work at Catholic Charities! We were so excited to hear about the compassion that he bears for the least of our brothers and sisters among us."*

— Heather Reynolds, CEO of Catholic Charities Fort Worth

*"I think my excitement for World Youth Day this year shot up by '266 percent' when I heard that Pope Francis is from Latin America. I have this perception that Latin American Catholicism expresses a certain kind of joy as a whole that you don't usually see around here in the United States."*

— Randell Labio, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Keller



Pope Francis signs a cast on the leg of a young pilgrim at the end of his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 3. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)



Pope Francis, pictured as a young man in black and his family members are seen in this undated photo. (CNS photo/Clarin handout via Reuters)

"I felt blessed to witness the first moments of his papacy. It really strengthened my faith life by allowing me to see the big picture. Being this close to the Church reminds me that God's plan is to bring us all closer together in his Son. Embracing that call is what truly brings deep and profound change."

— Alex Taylor, University of Dallas student studying in Rome

"I absolutely love that our new pope chose the name Francis. I was surprised when I realized that he was the first pope to do so, but I am pleased with the decision, considering the joy that Saint Francis brought to the Church and to the world."

— Sarah Miller, high school senior, Sacred Heart Parish, Muenster

"We've never had a pope from Latin America. My mother called me, my children called me, and my sister called me. We were all rejoicing! We have such different issues from Europe, America, Central America and Mexico because our culture is different. He is aware of all of that because he has worked with the poor throughout his priesthood."

— Liliana Samuelson, Columbia native, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Wichita Falls



...k second from left, ...ted handout photo.



Pope Francis kisses the foot of a prison inmate during the Holy Thursday Mass at Rome's Casal del Marmo prison for minors March 28. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

## A brief bio of Latin America's first pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born Dec. 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires. He grew up in Barrio de Flores, a working-class neighborhood. His father was a railway worker, his mother a homemaker. As a youth, the pope studied in public schools and in high school obtained a technical certification as a chemist.

From a young age, he knew he would become a priest. Amalia Damonte, who grew up in the pope's neighborhood, reportedly was briefly the object of his affections. Damonte, who still lives in the same neighborhood, has said in interviews that when they were 12, Pope Francis said that, if he could not marry her, he would become a priest.

When the pope was 21, he became gravely ill with severe pneumonia and had his right lung partially removed. The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, has confirmed this, noting that it is "not a handicap" in the pope's life.

In 1958, Pope Francis entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus, and two years later he took his first vows as a Jesuit. In 1963, on returning to Buenos Aires, he studied philosophy at San Miguel Seminary.

Between 1964 and 1965, he taught literature and psychology at a Jesuit secondary school in Santa Fe, Argentina, and in 1966, he taught at the prestigious *Colegio del Salvador* secondary school in Buenos Aires.

In 1967, he returned to his theological studies and was ordained a priest Dec. 13, 1969. After his perpetual profession as a Jesuit in 1973, he became master of novices at San Miguel. Later that same year, he was elected superior of the Jesuit province of

Argentina and Uruguay.

From 1979 to 1985, Pope Francis served as rector and theology teacher at *Colegio Maximo*, before heading to Germany to finalize his doctoral thesis.

In May 1992, he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires. He was one of three auxiliaries and he kept a low profile, spending most of his time caring for the Catholic university, counseling priests and preaching and hearing confessions.

On June 3, 1997, he was named coadjutor archbishop. He was installed as the new archbishop of Buenos Aires Feb. 28, 1998.

As archbishop, he was known simply as "Father Jorge," and he adopted the attitude that the Church belongs in the street. He built chapels and missions in poor areas and sent seminarians to serve them.

He spoke out often against injustice, such as the treatment of migrant workers from neighboring countries and those lured into the sex trade, and against social issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage.

In 2001, he was elevated to cardinal, and later that year he served as an official of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican.

Press reports indicate that in the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Bergoglio received the second-highest number of votes.

That same year, he began a six-year term as head of the Argentine bishops' conference.

*Contributing to this report were David Agren in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Francis X. Rocca in Rome; and Patricia Zapor in Washington.*

**May 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter. Cycle C. Readings:**

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

**By Jean Denton**

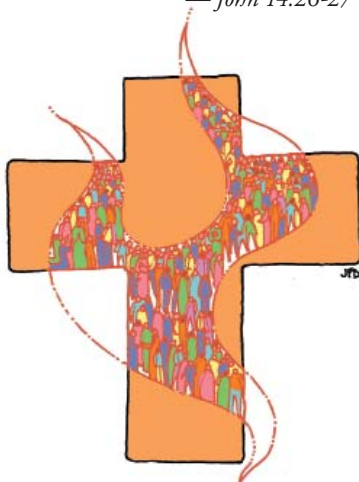
This weekend's readings of **T**fer pointed assurance that a committed love for our loving God is all that is necessary for the salvation of his faithful followers.

The story in Acts shows the elders of the earliest Christian church wanting to assure their Gentile brothers that certain strict requirements for salvation based on the Jewish law were off-base.

Concerned that such misguided teaching had upset and disturbed these new Christians, the elders sent their representatives, men dedicated to Christ, to set things right. They restored the people's peace of mind toward

*"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit ... will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you."*

— John 14:26-27



their faith with the promise that what was needed for salvation was to respect God and follow his ways.

Misguided teaching continues to disturb and upset would-be followers of Jesus even today.

But in the Gospel, Jesus said, "My peace I give to you," and He offered this peace in the person of his Holy Spirit. As a Christian community, we are called to embody his Spirit — and provide his peace — through loving God and one another.

A woman I met recently at a Rite of Election ceremony described to me the peace she felt in coming to understand the loving, forgiving nature of Jesus as she prepared for her baptism.

"It was exactly what I imagined," Pam said, "not what I'd been told in the old church." She was referring to an image of God imprinted on her since childhood in an independent rural church deep in the Appalachian Mountains. Such congregations, common to the region, are often

led by self-styled preachers spouting hellfire and damnation and suggesting irrational requirements for salvation to inspire fear, rather than love, in the hearts of those who would seek heaven.

The image of a vindictive God never rang true with Pam and disturbed her peace of mind. "I'd always read the Bible, but I wondered, am I reading it right?" Pam said. And she wondered, too, if when she died, she would go to heaven. Imagine her relief as a true picture of Christian life unfolded before her. The embrace of the priest and people of faith in her new church community assured her that loving God and caring for others was all that was necessary. Her questions about heaven? She smiled, "Now I know."

That is the peace Jesus gives.

**QUESTIONS:**

As a member of the body of Christ, how can you help bring the light of truth, and with it peace in faith, where it is needed?

**May 12, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.**

**Cycle C. Readings:**

- 1) Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
- 2) Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23  
Gospel) Luke 24:46-53

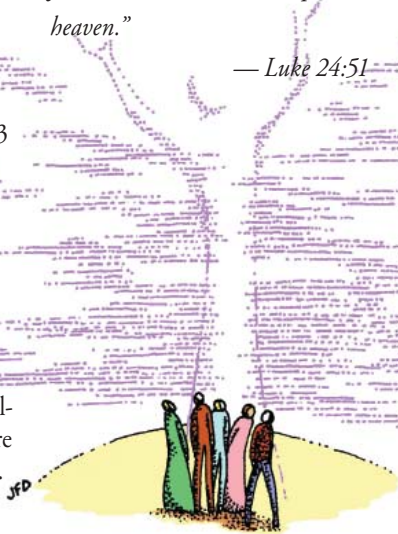
**By Jeff Hedglen**

The subject of death is not something we willingly talk about. It conjures up feelings of sadness, longing for loved ones, fear of our own passing, and a realization that life, as we currently are living it, will not continue forever.

Years ago, my former pastor, Father Beaumont, posed a question to a group of people at a Bible study. He asked for a show of hands: "How many of you are looking forward to death?" Not surprisingly, just a few hands went

*"As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven."*

— Luke 24:51



up. He was incredulous, and the exhortation began.

With a power that still resonates in my soul today, he said that we should all be longing for our

death, for that is the doorway to heaven. In Jesus, he explained, there is no fear of death, only hope, healing, and forgiveness.

Of course, he was not saying we should hasten our death or neglect the realities of life because, after all, we are going to die some day. Rather, he was just reminding us of the ultimate meaning of our belief in Jesus. Death is not the end; it is not to be feared; it is to be anticipated with hope and joy for, as the *Baltimore Catechism* says, it is why we were made.

This week's readings reveal the glorious ascension of Jesus to heaven. The reading from Hebrews seeks to dispel our fears when it says that "through the blood of Jesus we have confidence of entrance

into the sanctuary by the new and living way he opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh."

Jesus' death on the cross opens the doors of heaven for us and ushers in a whole new meaning for death.

The Gospel reveals that the disciples did not understand Jesus' death, then they rejoiced in his resurrection. Then he ascended, and they were once again left wondering. But that ascension is the promise. We, too, are headed where Jesus headed. Death is not the end, and earth is not our eternal dwelling. It thrills me to no end that Fr. Beaumont has reached the goal he so fervently preached about. I, for one, cannot wait to join him!

**QUESTIONS:**

Who are the people you know who have joined Jesus in heaven? Do you look forward to heaven yourself?

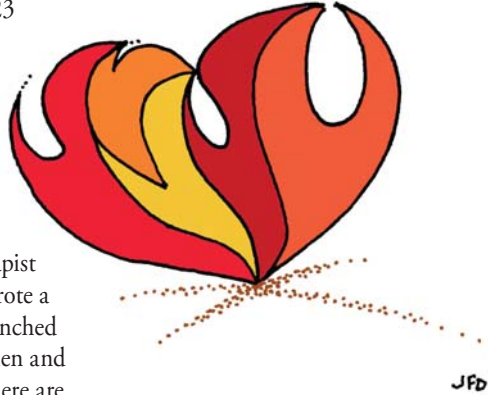


**May 19, Pentecost Sunday.**  
**Cycle C. Readings:**

- 1) Acts 2:1-11  
 Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13  
 Gospel) John 20:19-23

**By Sharon K. Perkins**

In 1995, marriage therapist Dr. Gary Chapman wrote a best-selling book and launched the theory that among men and women in relationship there are five preferred ways of expressing love for the other. These five “love languages” — which include gifts, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service, and physical touch — are the ways each of us “hears” and responds best to the tangible expression that matches our dis-



tinctive emotional needs for love.

Today’s readings are replete with examples of God’s love languages to human beings. The most obvious and easily grasped is the language of all created things. According to the psalmist, the same Spirit who hovered over

*“We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”*  
 — Acts 2:11

the waters in the act of creation continues to sustain and renew all of his manifold works, affirming them in their goodness.

God’s desire to encounter us even more tangibly has expressed itself in the physical, human flesh and blood of his son Jesus. In the Gospel reading, the risen Jesus is most recognizable when he shows his disciples the wounds in his hands and side. And his very breath — the breath of the Spirit that brings peace and forgiveness — is a gift that he leaves with them for all time.

St. Paul underscores the varieties of the workings of the Spirit, accomplishing different acts of service in each member of the one body. The Spirit who enables

us to acknowledge Jesus as Lord is also the one who produces the manifold workings of God for everyone’s benefit.

Nowhere is the declaration of the Spirit’s willingness to communicate in multiple ways more apparent than in the familiar narrative of Pentecost. The phenomenon of devout Jews, gathered in Jerusalem from “every nation under heaven,” who suddenly and inexplicably hear and understand the Galilean disciples in their own language, is incredible — but hardly surprising. The Spirit is the love language of God, generously adapting himself to the unique needs of each person, pouring out upon us so that we, in turn, can speak his language to all.

**QUESTIONS:**

What is the love language to which you respond the best? In what way does the Spirit “speak” to you most distinctively and clearly?

**May 26, Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.**

**Cycle C. Readings:**

- 1) Proverbs 8:22-31  
 Psalm 8:4-9
- 2) Romans 5:1-5  
 Gospel) John 16:12-15

**By Jeff Hensley**

My wife and I visited California’s Big Sur region only a few years back. Its hillsides are covered in rich succulents, red and yellow, green and purple. Sea lions and harbor seals swim and sun just off the coast. Cliffs above the Pacific line the sinuous highway on which you fly above clouds clinging to the ocean’s surface, a surface reflecting blues of surreal

*“When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place — What is man that you should be mindful of him?”*

— Psalm 8:4-5a



beauty, the waves shimmering as they mirror patches of turquoise skies above.

My heart was moved to praise the Creator of this wonder-inducing bit of the earth. It seems impossible that anyone could move through sights so dazzling and not have their hearts moved past that wonder to the One who brought the beauty forth from nothing.

That is much of the content of today’s first reading from Proverbs and of the psalms. Before all this, over which God has given us dominion, God and his wisdom — his Holy Spirit — was.

Proverbs says, “When the Lord established the heavens I was there; when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; when he made firm the skies

above, when he fixed fast the foundations of the earth; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; then was I beside him as his craftsman ... and I found delight in the human race.”

In the Gospel, God assures us this same Holy Spirit that was there, the same Spirit that was to be poured out at Pentecost, would be there for us: “When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.” We are offered the security that comes from knowing that God has not left us without the wisdom provided by his Spirit, the same Spirit that was there from the beginning.

**QUESTION:**

When has the beauty of the natural world moved you to wonder and awe and beyond to an experience of worship?

**June 2, The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Cycle C.**

**Readings:**

- 1) Genesis 14:18-20  
Psalm 110:1-4
- 2) I Corinthians 11:23-46  
Gospel) Luke 9:11b-17

**By Jean Denton**

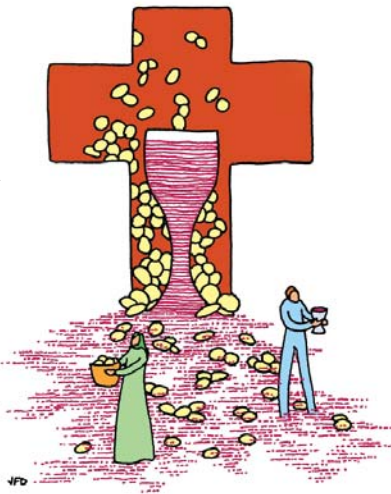
A few weeks before Easter, I was talking with a 7-year-old member of my parish about his anticipation of his first Communion. Along with his older stepbrother, he'd been preparing for it for months through Rite of Christian Initiation classes for Children.

It was clear the boys had discussed the impending event quite a bit, so when Evan said he was excited about it, I knew he had a reason.

"What is it that makes you

*"Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd."*

— Luke 9:16



excited about it?" I asked him.

The likeable, precocious youngster was only too happy

to explain. "Getting the blood and body. I don't mean to be disrespectful," he said earnestly, his voice rising, "but when I'm at church and I see the bread and wine on the altar, I get really hungry and really thirsty."

Wow, I thought. We all should be so respectful.

We all should be so hungry and thirsty for Christ within us and so trusting that his body and blood will satisfy our longing.

This weekend's readings celebrate Jesus' sacrificial gift of himself to nurture and save us. The Gospel, in which He multiplies the loaves and fish so that everyone will be fed, reminds us that after He spoke to them, healed them, and satisfied their

hunger, there was more food left over.

That's the important take-away of this story. At the Last Supper, Jesus offered his body and blood for our spiritual nourishment. In the miracle on the hillside, He showed that his body and blood will always be there to give life to those who seek Him.

In Evan's innocent words of wisdom, he also reminded me how important it is to conscientiously live the life Jesus pours into us through his body and blood. We must not only receive it but also participate in it so that, like his first disciples, we recognize and serve those among us who are really hungry and really thirsty for Him.

**QUESTIONS:**

When in recent weeks have you witnessed someone's hunger or need for Christ's life within them? How can you help provide the spiritual nourishment that you have received yourself from Him?

**June 9, Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle C.**

**Readings:**

- 1) 1 Kings 17:17-24  
Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
- 2) Galatians 1:11-19  
Gospel) Luke 7:11-17

**By Jeff Hedglen**

A few years ago my wife and I regularly hosted a young adult gathering at our house. It was named Frassati Friday, for Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a man who as a young adult was very enthusiastic about the Catholic faith. At one particular Frassati Friday we started with what I thought was a simple question: "Why are you Catholic?" What followed was a sacred three hours of deep sharing of life and faith far beyond my wildest imagination.

I was expecting answers such

*"They glorified God, exclaiming, 'A great prophet has arisen in our midst,' and 'God has visited his people.'"*

— Luke 7:16



as, "My parents baptized me," or "I have never really thought about it," or possibly, "The Eucharist and

other sacraments." What actually happened was personal sharing about how Jesus had impacted their lives, mostly through other Catholics or in youth group settings such as confirmation class or retreats, and even how some had fallen away and had an arduous journey back to the Catholic faith.

This week's readings have a similar theme. Elijah encounters a woman, brings her son back to life, and as a result, she believes Elijah is from God; Paul shares his conversion story; and Jesus raises a young man back to life, which causes a whole crowd of people to praise God and begin to believe in Jesus as God's son.

We all have a story to tell about why we are Catholic and why we believe in Jesus. Some of

the stories are dramatic and involve huge life changes; others are less dramatic but equally significant because God does not only rescue people at their lowest; he also comes to many through good families, strong faith communities, and regular participation in the life of the Church.

But it is not enough to know our story; we have to share our story. If Elijah, Paul and the Gospel writers had not told their stories, we might very well not believe what we believe. Our Catholic Church has called us to a new evangelization. Sharing who Jesus is to you is at the heart of it. The first step is to know why you are Catholic; the next is to let someone else know. May the evangelizing begin!

**QUESTIONS:**

When has your belief in Jesus' resurrection been the strongest? What ways have been most effective in passing your faith on to others?

## June 16, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.

2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13  
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11  
2) Galatians 2:16, 19-21  
Gospel) Luke 7:36-8:3

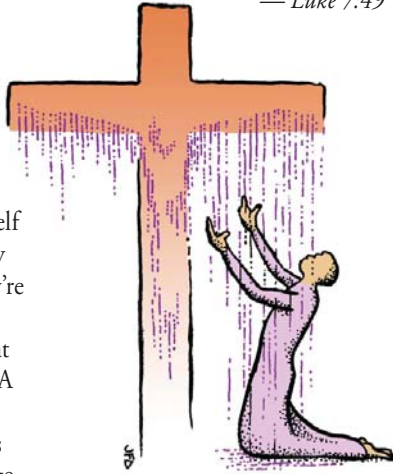
By Sharon K. Perkins

Like many people, I find myself going back to short but pithy sayings — not only because they're easy to remember, but because such maxims pack a lot of insight into a few words. For instance, "A stitch in time saves nine," from *Poor Richard's Almanac*, reminds us that little things can have huge consequences. Archbishop Fulton Sheen, applying this wisdom to the spiritual life, wrote, "Our lives for the most part are made up of little things, and by these our character is to be tested."

Today's Scriptures are, at first glance, about big things. King David committed a heinous crime

"Who is this who even forgives sins?"

— Luke 7:49



and then implicated others in a murderous cover-up — despite the Lord's abundant blessings of his kingship. The Gospel narrative of the "sinful woman" emphasizes her public reputation and her equally public penitent actions. Both she and David were forgiven and their stories capture our at-

tention because of the "bigness" of God's mercy.

But the Gospel also reminds us of the importance of little things. Jesus' host neglected the small details of hospitality — water to wash his guest's feet, a kiss of greeting, ointment for the head — revealing a stinginess of soul, a self-righteous attitude and a comparative lack of love. Unlike the woman, he probably followed all the religious rules, avoided serious sin and felt that he could be virtuous on his own merits.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reaffirms that age-old distinction between serious, or "mortal," sin and less serious, or "venial," sin, noting that the sacrament of penance is necessary for forgiveness of serious sin. If statis-

tics are any indication, most of us probably use that as a rationale to avoid the confessional.

But the *Catechism* also says, "Regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit. By receiving more frequently through this sacrament the gift of the Father's mercy, we are spurred to be merciful as he is merciful."

We're not being called to an overly scrupulous approach to religious practice. But perhaps we need to better attend to the "little things" in order to open ourselves more completely to the largesse of God's mercy and love. The sacrament of penance is a great gift and a good start.

### QUESTIONS:

What "little things" or less serious faults have had larger consequences in your relationship with God? How can you bring these before the Lord's merciful love?

## June 23, Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle C.

### Readings:

1) Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1  
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9  
2) Galatians 3:26-29  
Gospel) Luke 9:18-24

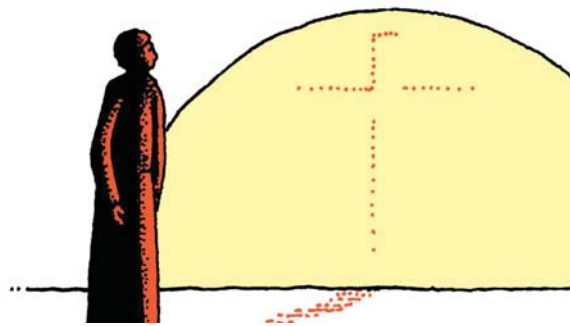
By Jeff Hensley

If we've ever thought the phrase "timing is everything" carried a lot of wisdom, this week's Scriptures confirm that. Whether it's asking for a raise or correcting a friend, we know that there is a time when an action will bear fruit, but there may be many others when it could cause disaster.

If we think we have mastered this art of timing, think how much more accurately must be the timing of the One who created time and exists outside its realm.

In the Luke reading, Jesus asks his disciples who they say he is. Correctly, "Peter said in reply, 'The Christ of God.'" Then Jesus rebuked his disciples for their answers, forbidding them from speaking of his identity because the time was not right, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes."

The time for proclaiming who Jesus was and why he had come had not arrived. This is a



"O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts."

— Psalm 63:2

very mysterious passage until two books of the Bible later, in the second chapter of Acts, when on the streets of Jerusalem Peter and the disciples make their proclamation

of who Jesus is and why he came.

At that point the time was ripe: The proclamation would bear great fruit when 3,000 conversions to this new message of the resurrected Messiah would take place on the very first day Peter and his brothers spoke out on Pentecost.

How often have we wondered about the will of God in our lives, wishing he would simply come out and tell us what to do? Maybe we need to take a lesson from both Luke's Gospel and the second chapter of Acts. Perhaps we know what God wants us to do and proclaim, but, at the same time, we will only know the proper time of fulfillment by listening for the Spirit of God to speak to our hearts.

### QUESTIONS:

Has God asked you to speak or act in obedience to him? Is it something (like giving to the poor or being faithful to your spouse) that simple?



El Papa saluda al Cardenal Angelo Sodano, decano del Colegio de Cardenales, después de recibir el anillo que le otorgó el cardenal Sodano al Papa durante su misa inaugural. (Foto CNS /Paul Haring)



Los peregrinos ondean banderas, entre ellas la bandera azul y blanca de Argentina, mientras el Papa camina por la Plaza de San Pedro. (Foto CNS /Paul Haring)



El cardenal argentino Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Papa Francisco, se ve aquí viajando en un avión en 2008. (Foto CNS/ Diego Fernandez)

# ¿Quién es el Papa Francisco?

## Familiarizándose con el nuevo Obispo de Roma

Por Juan Guajardo / Corresponsal

A LAS 7:06 PM, HORA DE ROMA, EL 13 DE MARZO, EL HUMO BLANCO ASCIENDE EN LA CHIMENEA DE LA CAPILLA SIXTINA SEÑALANDO QUE UN PAPA HABÍA SIDO ELEGIDO. Alrededor de una hora más tarde, un hombre tranquilo, de sonrisa tímida y sencillas vestiduras blancas, atravesó la cortina del segundo piso de la *Basílica de San Pedro*, mostrándose por primera vez a los fieles congregados con gran expectativa como el Papa número 266.

Para muchos espectadores ese día, el nombre de Jorge Mario Bergoglio trajo mucha emoción — pero nadie se recordaba claramente quién era. Entonces, ¿quién exactamente es el Papa Francisco? Presentamos aquí algunos detalles que servirán para familiarizarse mejor con el nuevo Obispo de Roma.

### TIENE SENTIDO DEL HUMOR

En una cena con los cardenales en la *Casa Santa Marta* el día de su elección, el humilde Papa Francisco característicamente mantuvo su sentido del humor, bromeando con ellos sobre su decisión en elegirlo. El Cardenal Timothy Dolan de Nueva York le dijo al *National Catholic Register*: “Cuando el Secretario de Estado brindó por su porvenir, él respondió y también brindó, diciendo: ‘Espero que Dios los perdone’”.

### ES UN HOMBRE UNIVERSAL

Es un cardenal nacido y criado en Argentina — un país en “el fin del mundo”, repite. Es hijo de inmigrantes italianos de clase media. Habla con fluidez italiano, español y alemán. Fue profesor universitario, y es el primer jesuita en ser elegido Papa. Estudió en Chile, terminó sus estudios de doctorado en Alemania, y ha sido autor de varios libros. Ha ocupado diversos puestos de liderazgo y rápidamente ascendió por el escalafón de la Iglesia hasta convertirse en obispo en 1992. Aún así, este

príncipe de la Iglesia se ha dado a conocer más concretamente con su actitud de servicio — tanto así que, durante su visita a un hospicio en 2001, lavó y besó los pies de 12 pacientes con SIDA.

“Si nos fijamos en su formación histórica, reconocemos gran amplitud de alcance”, dijo Marlon de la Torre, director diocesano de la *Catequesis infantil y formación de catequistas*. “Si tienen una brújula, ven que va hacia el norte, el sur, el este y el oeste... Es un microcosmos de todo. Como la Iglesia universal, él es un hombre universal”.

### ES CENTRADO: TIENE LOS PIES EN LA TIERRA

Las anécdotas del Papa Francisco y sus costumbres como arzobispo de Buenos Aires — tomar el autobús para ir al trabajo, vivir en un apartamento modesto, cocinar sus propias comidas — se han propagado rápidamente. Sus acciones durante los primeros días de ser Papa indican que Francisco continuará practicando el espíritu de pobreza que predica.

El 13 de marzo, el Cardenal Arzobispo Dolan de Nueva York le dijo al *National Catholic Register* que el pontífice recién elegido abordó el minibús con los cardenales para ir a la residencia *Santa Marta*, en lugar de utilizar el vehículo oficial del Papa — un Mercedes-Benz con la placa “*Stato Vaticano 1*”. El Papa también rechazó vestir los accesorios papales habituales — una elegante cruz pectoral de oro y una capa roja adornada de armiño, llamada *muceta (mozzetta)* — optando en su lugar por vestirse con una sotana blanca simple y la cruz que siempre usaba como obispo. De hecho, *L’Osservatore Romano* informó que el Papa Francisco ha sido conocido por decir: “Mi pueblo es pobre, y yo soy uno con mi pueblo”.

El padre Jonathan Wallis, director diocesano de *Catequesis*, encuentra esta sencillez impresionante. “Parece que hay una gran humildad personal y también un verdadero enfoque hacia la misión de la Iglesia”, dijo.

### CONECTA CON SU PUEBLO

Durante su anuncio al mundo la noche del miércoles, el Papa Francisco habló con la multitud en asistencia como si estuviera entre familia, conversando, dirigiéndose a ellos, “Hermanos y hermanas, ¡Buenas noches!” Y también les pidió que oran por él, antes de otorgarles su bendición apostólica. “La solicitud a sus feligreses pidiéndoles una oración silenciosa para invocar la bendición de Dios hacia su nuevo obispo era algo inaudito y sorprendente”, reflexionó *L’Osservatore Romano* en su editorial.

De La Torre está de acuerdo: “El hecho de pedir a la multitud congregada que primero orara por él, antes de darles la bendición papal apostólica, lo dice todo. ¿Qué hombre sería capaz de calmar a cientos de miles de personas en la Plaza de San Pedro, y pedir que rezaran en silencio por él? Esto nos revela mucho sobre cómo manejará y dirigirá la Iglesia: siendo siervo de los siervos de Dios”.

La mañana siguiente, el Papa Francisco se detuvo en la residencia donde se alojó durante el cónclave, pagó la cuenta, recogió sus propias bolsas, y personalmente saludó a los asistentes y al personal de limpieza antes de partir. Ese mismo día, camino a la *Basílica de Santa María la Mayor*, para ir a rezarle a la Virgen María, interrumpió sus pasos y saludó a un grupo de estudiantes de secundaria, escribió John Tavis, un observador del Vaticano y autor del *Diario del Vaticano*.

CONTINUADO EN LA PÁGINA 30



Bergoglio, a la derecha, ahora el do por metro en Buenos Aires en Otero, folleto de Clarín via Reuters)



Una estatua de San Francisco de Asís se encuentra en Graymoor, sede de los Frailes Franciscanos y las Hermanas de la Expiación, en Garrison, Nueva York. El Papa Francisco es el primer pontífice en llamarse como el santo del siglo 13. (Foto CNS/ Gregory A. Shemitz)



El Papa Francisco desocupa su habitación en la residencia eclesial el 14 de marzo, donde se quedó antes de ser elegido el nuevo pontífice de Roma. El Papa regresó a la residencia e insistió en pagar la cuenta, dijo el Vaticano. (Foto CNS/ L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

# ¿Qué hay en un nombre?

## El significado detrás de la elección del nombre 'Francisco' para el Papa

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Corresponsal

### ES UN PAPA JESUITA CON UN NOMBRE FRANCISCANO.

Cuando el cardenal Jean-Louis Tauran anunció que el recién elegido Papa, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, “tomaba para sí el nombre de Francisco”, los católicos de todo el mundo no sólo estaban sorprendidos pero encantados. Su identidad papal honra a San Francisco de Asís—una figura icónica en la historia de la Iglesia, conocido como siervo de los pobres e indigentes, amante de la naturaleza, y predicador que abrazó a toda la humanidad, incluyendo a las personas de otras religiones.

El santo del siglo 13 es patrono de Italia, los animales, la ecología, y los comerciantes, pero es mejor conocido como el fundador de la *Orden Franciscana de los Frailes Menores*, y la inspiración para otras comunidades que se refieren a sí mismos como “franciscanos”. Así que no es de extrañar que el padre Larry Uhlman, un sacerdote *Franciscano de la tercera orden regular* se mostrara satisfecho con el nombre del nuevo pontífice.

“Como franciscano, me conmovió de una manera muy especial”, comentó el pastor asociado de la *Iglesia Sta. María Goretti* en Arlington. “Es significativo que San Francisco de Asís fue un hombre llamado por Dios a reconstruir la Iglesia, y lo hizo a través de una vida de pobreza, de sencillez, de amor por el pueblo de Dios, y de amor por la creación de Dios”.

Al elegir honrar a San Francisco, el nuevo Papa podría estar indicando un deseo de unir y reavivar el interés de sus feligreses hacia los valores esenciales del Evangelio—el amor a Dios y el amor al prójimo— sugirió el fraile. También hay una universalidad de San Francisco que atrae a otras religiones. Un hecho poco conocido sobre el santo es su intento de convertir al sultán de Egipto. Un diálogo de tres semanas fracasó; sin embargo, este

intercambio dejó a ambos hombres con un gran respeto mutuo.

“El sultán no se convirtió al cristianismo. Permaneció musulmán, pero le dio a Francisco su libertad, diciendo que si más cristianos fueran como Francisco, las cosas serían diferentes”, explicó el pastor asociado. “Así que tal vez este Santo Padre llegará aún más allá que sus predecesores en la construcción de puentes con la fe islámica como gesto de buena voluntad”.

Taylor Marshall, profesor de filosofía y teología de *Fisher More College* en Fort Worth, en un principio pensó que el nuevo Papa, un jesuita, eligió el nombre Francisco en honor a San Francisco Javier, un santo misionero del siglo 16 que co-fundó la *Compañía de Jesús*, más comúnmente conocida como los Jesuitas.

“San Francisco Javier es uno de los más grandes misioneros de todos los tiempos, así que pensé que tenía sentido, por lo de la Nueva Evangelización”, dijo Marshall, refiriéndose al esfuerzo de la Iglesia para traer al catolicismo más plenamente al mundo moderno del siglo 21, especialmente a los católicos alienados.

Un portavoz del Vaticano confirmó más tarde que el nombre del pontífice honra a Francisco de Asís—el niño medieval privilegiado que renunció a sus riquezas para servir a los pobres. Después de escuchar las palabras emitidas por un crucifijo en San Damián: “Francisco, repara mi Iglesia que ha caído en la ruina”, el santo se convirtió en un reformador espiritual y recibió permiso del Papa Inocencio III para organizar la orden religiosa que llevaría su nombre, los franciscanos.

Marshall, autor de una historia sobre el papado titulada, *The Eternal City: Rome & the Origins of Catholicism* (*La ciudad eterna: Roma y los orígenes de*

*la religión católica*), dijo que, al escoger un nombre nunca usado antes, el Papa puede estar señalando algo diferente para la Iglesia. Nada cambiará teológicamente, insiste, “pero creo que habrá una simplificación, una lección de humildad por parte de la Iglesia católica ante el mundo”.

El padre Edmundo Rodríguez, SJ, director espiritual de *Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House* en Lake Dallas, nunca se imaginó a un miembro de su orden religiosa convertido en Papa.

“*La Compañía de Jesús* piensa que la fe y la justicia van de la mano y, en algunos lugares, esto es muy controversial”, explica el sacerdote. “Muchas personas creen que la justicia pertenece a la política y no a la esfera religiosa”.

Pero el entrenamiento del Santo Padre con los jesuitas es una ventaja, continúa. Los ejercicios espirituales creados por el fundador de los jesuitas, San Ignacio de Loyola, y practicado por ellos, ayudan a conectar a Dios con la realidad de la vida de todos.

“Trae una espiritualidad que se acopla con el mundo”, añade este líder de retiros. “Es una herramienta que Dios nos da para mejorar la sociedad aquí en el mundo a medida que marchamos hacia nuestra sociedad final—el cielo”.

Si la elección de un papa jesuita sorprendió al padre Rodríguez, la decisión del cardenal Bergoglio de ser llamado Francisco no lo hizo.

“Por lo que sé acerca de su vida como sacerdote y arzobispo, la selección de su nombre es muy apropiado”, opina, teniendo en cuenta el estilo de vida austero del prelado, su gusto por viajar en transporte público, y cocinar sus propias comidas. “Es un hombre que realmente se preocupa por los pobres y viaja con los trabajadores. Tiene el mismo carisma de San Francisco de Asís”.

## DEFIENDE NUESTRA FE

Hay una concepción errónea que el clero con fuerte sentido de la justicia social a veces ofrece un endeble apoyo de la Iglesia y su moral, al igual que una tenue promoción de la enseñanza tradicional. El Papa Francisco aporta una gran experiencia en los fundamentos de la justicia social; sin embargo, De la Torre explica, si el público espera que con estas ideas cambie la enseñanza tradicional de la Iglesia, se equivoca. Su trayectoria demuestra que es pro-familia, pro-vida, y se opone a la teología de la liberación, el matrimonio homosexual y el aborto.

En 2010, apasionadamente habló contra el gobierno argentino, que aprobó una ley dando a las parejas del mismo sexo el derecho a casarse y adoptar niños.

“Ya que es su responsabilidad, tiene que haber una conexión entre la actualidad y los apóstoles”, dijo el padre Carmen Mele, OP, director diocesano de la *Catequesis para adultos hispanos* y director de la *Escuela de la diócesis del ministerio laico*. “Nos enfrentamos a enormes desafíos del relativismo, y tiene que oponerse a ellos. El hecho que ha defendido las enseñanzas de la Iglesia en medio de grandes críticas por parte de la presidente de Argentina indica que cumplirá con su responsabilidad primordial de mantener a la Iglesia en el curso de la verdadera fe, que ha sido transmitida por los apóstoles y por Jesús”.

## HACE LO QUE DICE

Bergoglio eligió el nombre de Francisco en honor al santo popular conocido por su gran dedicación a la pobreza y a la paz. Es un apropiado nombre papal para un hombre que, por segunda vez (¿su primera vez? Cuando se convirtió en cardenal en 2001), les pidió a sus compañeros argentinos que se quedaran en casa en lugar de ir a la celebración de su misa de instalación en Roma. De hecho, les pidió que el dinero que ahorrarían lo donaran a la caridad. Se le describe al Papa Francisco como un hombre capaz de enseñar a sus feligreses a salir y vivir su fe, como él mismo lo haría, siempre.

Como arzobispo, hacía viajes frecuentes a los barrios pobres de Buenos Aires, visitando a los feligreses locales, escribió Sergio Rubin en su biografía, *Bergoglio, El Jesuita*. Rubin escribió que, siendo cardenal, Bergoglio “creó una línea telefónica directa para que los sacerdotes pudieran llamarlo a cualquier hora con algún problema. Se quedaría toda la noche en una parroquia, ayudando a un sacerdote enfermo, si era necesario”.

“Si quieren encontrar un ejemplo de alguien inmediatamente evangelizando sin usar palabras, allí está; con sus acciones ya está fomentando la conversión de todo el mundo”, dijo De La Torre.

# Lo que los feligreses alrededor de la diócesis opinan del Papa Francisco

“Los vi ondear la bandera argentina de un lado a otro. Entonces supe que era verdad y me puse a llorar. Nunca en mi vida pensé que iba a ver un Papa argentino”.

— María Charette, nativa de Argentina,  
PARROQUIA DE STA. MARÍA GORETTI,  
Arlington

“Creo que es sorprendente ver a un Papa latinoamericano. Es algo que había pensado, pero sabía que las posibilidades eran escasas. Después de ser elegido, sin embargo, sentí una gran alegría”.

— Victor Flores, último año, UNIVERSIDAD  
DE NORTH TEXAS, Denton

“Creo que mi entusiasmo por el Día mundial de la juventud este año se disparó al 266% cuando me enteré que el Papa Francisco es de América Latina. Tengo la percepción que el catolicismo latinoamericano — a diferencia del normalmente visto en los Estados Unidos — expresa un cierto tipo de alegría que no se suele experimentar aquí”.

— Randell Labio, PARROQUIA DE STA. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, Keller

“Nosotros en Caridades Católicas de Fort Worth nos sentimos tan benditos al escuchar la noticia de nuestro nuevo Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco. Al escuchar la noticia, nos llenamos de alegría.... la prensa rápidamente citó su compromiso con todos los pobres entre nosotros, al igual que su trabajo con los pobres de la Arquidiócesis de Buenos Aires. ¡Qué recomendación para nuestro trabajo en Caridades Católicas! Estábamos tan emocionados al escuchar de la compasión que demuestra hacia los más vulnerables de nuestros hermanos y hermanas a través del mundo”.

— Heather Reynolds, Directora Ejecutiva/  
CEO, CARIDADES CATÓLICAS, Fort Worth



El Papa firma un yeso en la pierna de un joven peregrino al final de su audiencia semanal en la Plaza de San Pedro del Vaticano, el 3 de abril. (Foto CNS/ L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)



El Papa Francisco — el jovencito en el fondo, izquierda — y los miembros de su familia se foto sin fecha. (Foto CNS/ folleto de Clarín via F)

“Me sentí bendito al ser testigo de los primeros momentos de su papado. Realmente fortaleció mi vida de fe al permitirme ver este panorama completo. Vivir tan cerca de la Iglesia me recuerda que el plan de Dios es traernos más cerca de Él a través de su Hijo. Abrazando decididamente esa llamada de Dios nos trae un cambio penetrante y profundo”.

— Alex Taylor, un estudiante de la UNIVERSIDAD DE DALLAS, que estudia en Roma

— Sarah Miller, high school senior, Sacred Heart Parish, Muenster  
 “Me encanta que nuestro nuevo Papa eligió el nombre de Francisco. Me sorprendió cuando me di cuenta que era el primer Papa en hacerlo, pero estoy satisfecha con su decisión, teniendo en cuenta la alegría que San Francisco trajo no solamente a la Iglesia, sino al mundo entero”.

— Sarah Miller, estudiante de secundaria, la PARROQUIA DEL SAGRADO CORAZÓN, Münster

“Nunca hemos tenido un Papa de América Latina. Mi mamá me llamó, mis hijos me llamaron, y mi hermana me llamó. ¡Todos nos alegramos! Tenemos problemas tan diferentes de Europa, de Norteamérica, de América Central y de México, porque nuestra cultura es diferente. Pero él está consciente de todo eso porque ha trabajado con los pobres en todos lados a través de su sacerdocio”.

— Liliana Samuelson, nativa de Colombia, NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ, Wichita Falls



segundo desde la encuentran en esta Reuters)



El 28 de marzo, el Papa Francisco le besa los pies a un prisionero durante la misa del Jueves Santo, en la cárcel para menores de Roma, Casal del Marmo. (Foto CNS/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

## Una biografía del primer papa latinoamericano

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Jorge Mario Bergoglio nació el 17 de diciembre de 1936, en Buenos Aires, Argentina. Creció en el Barrio de Flores, un barrio de clase obrera. Su padre era trabajador de los ferrocarriles, su madre ama de casa. En su juventud, el Papa estudió en las escuelas públicas, obteniendo una certificación técnica como químico en la escuela secundaria.

Desde muy joven, sabía que iba a ser sacerdote. Amalia Damonte, quien creció en el barrio del Papa, al parecer fue brevemente el objeto de su afecto. Damonte — que todavía vive en el mismo barrio — ha dicho en entrevistas que cuando tenían 12 años, el Papa Francisco dijo que, si no podía casarse con ella, se convertiría en sacerdote.

Cuando el Papa tenía 21 años, se enfermó gravemente de neumonía y le tuvieron que eliminar parte de su pulmón derecho. El portavoz del Vaticano, el padre Federico Lombardi, ha confirmado la veracidad de esta enfermedad, pero señaló que de ninguna manera “ha discapacitado” la vida del Papa.

En 1958, el Papa Francisco entró en el noviciado de la *Compañía de Jesús*, y dos años más tarde tomó sus primeros votos como jesuita. En 1963, al regresar a Buenos Aires, estudió filosofía en el *Seminario de San Miguel*.

Entre 1964 y 1965, fue profesor de literatura y psicología en un colegio jesuita en Santa Fe, Argentina, y en 1966, fue profesor en la prestigiosa escuela secundaria *Colegio del Salvador* en Buenos Aires.

En 1967, regresó a sus estudios de teología y fue ordenado sacerdote el 13 de diciembre de 1969. Después de escoger su profesión perpetua como jesuita en 1973, lo distinguieron como maestro de novicios en *San Miguel*. Ese

mismo año, fue elegido superior de la provincia jesuita de Argentina y Uruguay.

De 1979 a 1985, el Papa Francisco sirvió como rector y profesor de teología en el *Colegio Máximo*, antes de viajar a Alemania para finalizar su tesis doctoral.

En mayo de 1992, fue nombrado obispo auxiliar de Buenos Aires. Fue uno de tres auxiliares, manteniendo un bajo perfil; pasaba la mayor parte de su tiempo atendiendo las necesidades espirituales de la *Universidad Católica* — especialmente asesorando sacerdotes, predicando, y recibiendo confesiones.

El 3 de junio de 1997, fue nombrado arzobispo coadjutor. Fue instalado como el nuevo arzobispo de Buenos Aires el 28 de febrero de 1998.

Como arzobispo, era conocido simplemente como “Padre Jorge”, y adoptó la actitud que la Iglesia pertenece al pueblo, forma parte de sus calles. Construyó capillas y misiones en las zonas pobres y envió a los seminaristas a su servicio.

Hablaba a menudo contra la injusticia, como el trato de los trabajadores migrantes de países vecinos o de los tentados por la industria del sexo. También tomaba posiciones firmes en torno a temas sociales de la hora, como el aborto y el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo.

En el 2001 fue ordenado cardenal, y ese mismo año se desempeñó como funcionario del *Sinodo de Obispos* del Vaticano.

Informes de prensa indican que en 2005, durante el cónclave que eligió a Benedicto XVI como Papa, el cardenal Bergoglio recibió el segundo mayor número de votos.

Ese mismo año, comenzó un período de seis años como presidente de la *Conferencia Episcopal Argentina*.

## GOOD NEWSMAKER

# Pro-life without fear

*Pro-life prodigy Lila Rose energizes new generation to protect the unborn*

Story and Photos by Jerry Circelli / Correspondent

**GOD'S UNEXPECTED CALLING FOR 9-YEAR-OLD LILA ROSE Poured down all around her one dreary and rainy day in 1997.**

Looking for a way to entertain herself indoors on a soggy afternoon at her family's Northern California home, young Lila searched around for an interesting book to read.

She found one, and it would change her life forever.

Lila never noticed it before, but the book had been lying indiscriminately on the bottom shelf in the living room, the cover a bit dusty and its pages yellowing with age. Titled, *A Handbook on Abortion*, by Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Wilke, the book explored the harsh realities of abortion, including photos of fetuses that had been taken from their mothers' wombs.

Upon opening the book, the graphic images caused the child to slam it shut and recoil in shock and disgust. "I didn't want to keep looking at what I had just seen," recalled Lila.

"Then gathering a little bit of 9-year-old courage, I opened the book back up and began looking again," Lila said.

She had been viewing photographs of innocent victims of first trimester abortions, including a 10-week-old fetus with tiny fingers and toes.

The child ran to her mother and asked, "Is this real?" The question was followed with a string of others: "Is this really happening? How can anybody be doing this to a baby? How can anyone do this? How can this be true?"

Lila's mother tried to calm



Lila Rose spoke to Catholic business executives at the Fort Worth Chapter of Legatus and encouraged them to remain strong in their fight against abortion. She praised Texas for stopping the funding stream for organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, that support abortion.

her and explained that this was, indeed, true. While she did not go into great detail for the youngster, she did explain that helpless babies were being taken out of their mothers' wombs and left to die in this country. Lila learned that since its legalization in 1973, abortion was claiming unborn lives at a rate of 3,000 daily, totaling more than 1 million per year.

A compassionate child, Lila took many issues to heart at an early age — wars, genocide, and homelessness to name a few. "But I kept coming back to that image of the child that I had seen. Because at the end of the day, I couldn't come up with an issue that was more burning or that was more pressing," she said.

Lila, now age 24, is a devout Catholic who was accepted into the Church four years ago after grow-

ing up in a Protestant family. Nevertheless, she was always attracted by the teachings, writings, and leadership style of Blessed Mother Teresa. Even as a child, she could closely relate to the humble, steadfast, and resolute Sister of Calcutta who stood against abortion.

Lila was particularly struck when she read the nun's comments at the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast, where she told an audience of 3,000 that included then-President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, that abortion was "the greatest destroyer of peace today ... because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself."

Lila admired Mother Teresa's courage to stand up for what was right and not just utter words that were politically correct for a specific audience. Lila further immersed

herself in the nun's writings.

"Blessed Mother Teresa definitely had a hand in my conversion," said Lila, who grew steadily in her faith. "I felt compelled in my heart to pray about abortion," she said. Lila recalled a special prayer she offered up at age 15. "I said, 'God, please use me. Use me to do something about abortion. Use me somehow to save some lives. Let your will be done in my life.'"

Ever since that time, God has been answering the young woman's prayers. Lila's first task was to assemble a group of friends in the living room of her family's home — where she had discovered the startling book about abortion. In 2003, the teens formed Live Action, a youth group that proactively spoke out against abortion.

In 10 years, it has evolved into one of the nation's largest and most popular youth-led movements dedicated to building a culture of life and ending abortion. Through investigative journalism and the use of undercover videos, Live Action exposes not only the real-life tragedies of the abortion indus-

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