

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

Vol. 25 No. 9

May 8, 2009

Bishop Vann and Holy Redeemer Parish dedicate first Aledo Catholic church



Above: Parishioner Mike Barron leads the procession of liturgical ministers and 700 parishioners to the dedication of the new Holy Redeemer Church April 25, carrying a processional cross modeled on one used by Pope John Paul II.

Left: Altar servers lead the procession out of the newly dedicated church, parting at the baptismal font. (Photos by Anne Peirce and Tommy Stewart)

Read about the dedication on p. 14.



Former U.S. Vatican Ambassador Glendon declines *Laetare* Medal

Notre Dame adds Judge Noonan as speaker

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Citing concerns about plans to honor President Barack Obama “in disregard of the settled position of the U.S. bishops,” former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Mary Ann Glendon turned down the prestigious *Laetare* Medal from the University of Notre Dame.

In an April 27 letter to Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame’s president, Glendon said she will not participate in May 17 commencement exercises during which the award is presented. The letter was posted on the blog of the magazine *First Things*.

Glendon described Obama as “a prominent and uncompromising opponent of the church’s

position on issues involving fundamental principles of justice” and said the decision to present him with an honorary degree violated the bishops’ 2004 request that Catholic institutions not honor “those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles.”

Obama supports legal abortion and his administration recently proposed new regulations that would expand the use of federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research. Both are in direct conflict with church teaching.

The *Laetare* Medal is presented annually to an American Catholic for outstanding service to the

SEE GLENDON, P. 25



Cardinals pose at the 20th annual American Cardinals Dinner in Houston, April 24. This was the first time the event was held in Texas. First row (L. to R.) Archbishop Pietro Sambi, *apostolic nuncio* to the U.S.; Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, retired archbishop, Galveston-Houston; Cardinal William Keeler, retired archbishop, Baltimore; Cardinal Adam Maida, retired archbishop, Detroit; Cardinal Edward Egan, retired archbishop, New York; Archbishop Donald Wuerl, Washington. Second row (L. to R.) Cardinal Sean, O’Malley, Boston; Cardinal Roger Mahony, Los Angeles; Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Galveston-Houston; Vincentian Father David O’Connell, president of Catholic University of America; Cardinal Justin Rigali, Philadelphia; Chicago Cardinal Francis George. (CNS photo/Ed Pfueller, CUA) See Story p. 3.

Bishop Vann outlines liturgical precautions for dealing with Swine Flu outbreak

Editor’s Note: The following statement issued by Bishop Kevin Vann April 30, details steps taken to limit infection from Swine Flu at Mass. In a news release issued May 6, the diocese announced it will continue classes at its 20 Catholic schools as recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local

health authorities if Influenza Type A is probable or confirmed. Catholic school staffs, students, and parents are advised to take precautionary actions to mitigate the spread of the Swine Flu and other illnesses, as recommended by health officials. The diocese will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary, in consultation with

health authorities and local governmental officials.

Because of the concerns regarding the possible spread of the Swine Flu that has been detected in North Texas, the Diocese of Fort Worth, in consultation with the federal Centers for

SEE DIOCESE, P. 8

Pilgrimage offers chance to experience the Church from its heart – Rome

One exciting way for Catholics to live out the Diocese of Fort Worth’s 40th Anniversary theme of *One Lord, One Faith, One Hope* is by joining Bishop Kevin Vann for the Pilgrimage to Rome, Italy Nov. 9-16.

Pilgrimage organizers want to remind Catholics in the diocese that the deadline for signing up, May 15, is fast approaching.

Organizers urge those who are

interested to make what they refer to as, “the spiritual investment of your lifetime” and contact their parish priest or parish coordinator for full details. Parishioners can also contact Barbara Boone, the pilgrimage coordinator at (972)721-4118. Boone says she “will be more than happy to answer any questions.”

In a recent press release to the NTC, organizers emphasized

that this special anniversary pilgrimage to Rome will give the priests, deacons, staff, and members of the Fort Worth family of parishes a unique spiritual opportunity to travel, worship, and pray together in Italy and to visit some of the most holy sites in the Christian world.

Bishop Vann will celebrate Mass daily at significant churches in Italy during the Pilgrimage

including Orvieto Cathedral in the Umbria region of central Italy not far from Rome. Orvieto’s 14th century Gothic Cathedral is one of the most impressive in Italy, say organizers. Begun in 1290 to commemorate the miracle at Bolsena, the cathedral was built on the orders of Pope Urban VI to house the “Corporal of Bolsena.” In 1263, a skeptical

SEE ROME, P. 23



First brick Catholic chapel in English Colonies in America re-created

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

ST. MARY'S CITY, Md. — When Henry Miller was a Catholic schoolboy in Arkansas, he told his mother about the first brick Catholic chapel built in the English American Colonies that he learned about in school.

The 8-year-old then informed her that one day he would find out where the long-demolished building was located.

Not only did he keep that promise, but he also witnessed the building of that chapel's replica on the very foundation of the early American Jesuit house of worship, in St. Mary's City, near the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in southern Maryland.

"My third-grade teacher at Our Lady of Holy Souls School (in Little Rock, Arkansas) told me about the beginning of the Catholic Church in America and told me about a priest named Andrew White who started the first church in a place called St. Mary's City," said Miller, 59, director of research for the Historic St. Mary's City Foundation.

"I just had it in my mind that I was going to find out where that chapel was located," he said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

By the 1980s Miller was an established anthropologist working for Historic St. Mary's City when archaeologists discovered the foundation of the original St. John's Chapel in 1983.

By 1988 his organization began planning the rebuilding of the first brick Catholic chapel in the U.S., and 21 years later the work is nearly complete. The first brick was laid for the new St. John's Chapel in 2003, and its official reopening is scheduled for September.

A notable team of historians, archaeologists, architects, archivists and others worked together to re-create the chapel — originally built in 1667 and known to be the first brick Catholic church in the English Colonies.

The chapel served as the focal point of the Catholic faith in Maryland until 1704, when the royal Colonial governor ordered the building to be locked and never to be used for religious purposes. The Jesuits later dismantled the building and used some of the material for other structures in the historic town, the original Colonial capital of Maryland.

It's not known what the original chapel looked like, but Miller and his team were able to piece together a composite from



A notable team of historians, archaeologists, architects, archivists, and others have worked to re-create St. John's Chapel, known to be the first brick Catholic church in the English Colonies and a landmark for religious freedom. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

historical references, descriptions of the day of other Jesuit chapels in Europe, and archaeological artifacts discovered around the site of the building's foundation.

"We didn't ever believe we were going to have an exact replica of the original chapel, but we have come up with a historical likeness of what would have been built at that time by the Jesuits," he said. "We've come up with a building that will allow people to appreciate the roots of American Catholicism and the real beginning of the religious freedom we enjoy today."

Jesuit priests — including Father Andrew White — made their journey to Maryland from Great Britain in 1634 aboard the Ark and the Dove, and settled near the Chesapeake Bay in present day St. Mary's City.

They acquired a parcel of land, where they built a wooden chapel and established the Catholic Church in English America.

That wooden chapel was burned in 1645 during an attack on the city by forces hostile to Lord Baltimore and the Calvert family, the founders of the Maryland colony, said Susan Wilkinson, a spokeswoman for Historic St. Mary's City, a museum of living history and archaeology.

By 1667 the Jesuits were in a financial position to build a brick chapel, an architectural first for a Catholic place of worship during that time period in the English American Colonies, Miller said.

"We know there were other Catholic Church buildings in Spanish Florida before this cha-

pel was built, but the St. John's Chapel is really the birthplace for the Catholic Church in the English American Colonies," he said. "That's what gives this site such historical significance."

Seventeenth-century Maryland became the first English society where the official policy required government and religion to be separate, which was in contrast to the Virginia and Massachusetts colonies — or even the mother country — where citizens were denied the right to vote, based on their religious affiliation, Wilkinson said.

It was a blow to the Jesuits and Maryland Catholics when the royal governor ordered the local sheriff to lock St. John's Chapel in 1704, she said.

"But the experiment of religious freedom didn't die and our Founding Fathers saw fit to include it in our (U.S.) Constitution," Wilkinson said. "So, when I look at the new St. John's Chapel, I see more than a monument to the Catholic faith. I see it as a symbol of the religious freedom we all enjoy in this country."

On a chilly March afternoon, Berkley Taylor — a contract worker for the foundation who has worked on the carpentry and the roof of the new chapel for the past six years — packed up his tools and took one last look at the cross-shaped building before quitting for the day.

"We're in the final stages of the construction. It's taken a long time," Taylor said. "We're building it much like the builders would have been constructing



Peter Rivers, front, and Berkley Taylor, prepare to install a window during the reconstruction of the 1667 brick chapel in the Chesapeake Bay region. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

this in the 1660s, so it's a long and laborious process. But, we're getting it right."

The front of the red-brick building is highlighted with a white-stucco rendering to resemble stone, and the roof is the same orange tile that archaeologists found at the site.

When Peter Rivers, the foundation's historical building curator, has finished installing the diamond-shaped window panes in the chapel, he said the leaded glass would give the structure the same look other buildings of the

day would have had.

"The Jesuits wanted the church to inspire light and beauty," Rivers said. "That's exactly what this chapel will inspire when it's all done."

The new chapel is slated to open Sept. 20, the 305th anniversary of the day the sheriff locked the door of the original chapel.

"We're hoping to get the St. Mary's County sheriff to come down here and unlock the door during the opening ceremony," Miller said. "I think that will show justice has been served."



North
Texas
Catholic

Publisher:

Bishop Kevin W. Vann

Editor: Jeff Hensley

Associate Editor: Tony Gutiérrez

Editorial Assistant: Nicki Prevost

Administrative Assistant: Judy Russeau

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

Circulation Office: Rita Garber, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108, (817) 560-3300.

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC (USPS 751-370) (ISSN 0899-7020) is published semi-monthly, except for the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly, by the Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, 800 West Loop 820 South. Subscription rates are \$24 for one year, \$46 for two years, \$68 for three years. Periodical postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *North Texas Catholic*, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

Deadline for information for the *North Texas Catholic* is noon of Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. The *NTC* is published two times a month on Friday, except for the months of June, July, and August when it is published one time each month.

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

U.S. cardinals, other church leaders gather for annual dinner, Mass in Texas for first time

By Jonah Dycus and Erik Noriega
Texas Catholic Herald
Newspaper of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

HOUSTON — A standing-room-only crowd greeted eight U.S. cardinals for the Mass April 24 at Houston's Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart prior to the annual dinner benefiting The Catholic University of America.

Proceeds from the dinner fund scholarships for students attending the school in Washington.

In addition to Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, the Mass and dinner were attended by Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago; Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles; Sean P. O'Malley of Boston; Justin Rigali of Philadelphia; William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore; Adam J. Maida, retired archbishop of Detroit; and Edward M. Egan, retired archbishop of New York.

In his homily at the Mass, Vincentian Father David M. O'Connell, president of Catholic University, said Catholic higher education should work a miracle in its students similar to Jesus' miracle of the loaves and the fishes.

"Our students should become the bread that is then multiplied and given away, witnessing to Christ, witnessing to the church, witnessing to the truth — because of what we teach, because of what we affirm, because of what we support," he said.

"If Christ does not 'happen' in their lives, if the church does not inspire them in their lives through our Catholic universities and colleges, Christ hasn't failed, the church hasn't failed — we have failed," Fr. O'Connell said. "We should not fail; we cannot fail; we must not fail even though many things today tempt us to compromise our identity and mission and purpose."

Other participants in the dinner and Mass included Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, retired archbishop of Galveston-Houston; Auxiliary Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Galveston-Houston; Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Cantu of San Antonio; Archbishop Pietro Sambi, *apostolic nuncio* to the United States; and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, the university's chancellor and

an alumnus.

Prior to the Mass Cardinal DiNardo and Fr. O'Connell addressed the local media in front of the co-cathedral.

"The reason we have this celebration today with the cardinals present is so we can raise funds for the scholarship programs at Catholic University of America. It is the one Catholic university in the country that is run by the bishops," Cardinal DiNardo said.

Noting that it was the first time the dinner had taken place in Texas, he added, "We have a lot of pride in Houston about our new cathedral, and we are happy to show it off to the number of cardinals and people from all over the country who are here for this Mass and dinner."

During the gala, Angela House in Houston, a transitional housing facility for women after incarceration, was honored with the \$10,000 American Cardinals Encouragement Award, which recognizes "faith-based initiatives that reflect Christian values."

Dominican Sister Maureen O'Connell, director of Angela House, was present to receive the recognition.

"What this (recognition) means to the women is that people care," she said. "And that a university like Catholic University of America and the archdiocese are supportive of them and want to help them come back to the community. That's the most meaningful thing about this evening."

Angela House has served more than 125 women since it opened its doors seven years ago. In that time 68 percent of the women taking part in the program have not returned to prison, which is conversely almost the exact percentage of women who usually are re-incarcerated (66 percent) after they are released.

"When our women come to Angela House, most are alone or have minimal family support," Sr. Maureen said. "And for the most part are feeling worthless and ashamed of what they have done. To experience the support and encouragement of such a university and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston encourages them to believe that they can change regardless of poor past choices."

*Responding
to God's Call*

Like our Blessed Mother, Mothers should be honored throughout the year

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

A few years back for Mother's Day, I shocked the congregation by starting my homily off by stating that I was not going to celebrate Mother's Day. Just as the joy in all the mothers' hearts began to sink, I then added, "...because we should be honoring our mothers first and foremost the other 364 days of the year!"

Quickly then, all mothers were pleased, with an increased sense of joy, knowing the church they love was about to acknowledge their great contribution to their families and Church through motherhood.

My point is that Mother's Day is not enough. It is short-lived, and then mothers everywhere have to reenter their hard, day-to-day world of tending to every need in the family, most of the time with little thanks.

But maybe we ought to take a different approach. Maybe we should be honoring women and mothers based on the model of how the Church honors her mother, our most blessed mother Mary. Mary seems to be honored virtually each month of the year. The Church begins things right the first day of the year as we celebrate, as a holy day of obligation, the Solemnity of

Mary, Mother of God.

On Feb. 6, we celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes. On Mar. 25, we celebrate the Annunciation to Mary by the archangel Gabriel that she had been chosen by God to be the Christ-bearer and Mary's sweet response with the words, "Let it be done unto me according to thy word." May is called the month of Mary, as we traditionally honor her the whole month, beginning with the "May crowning" and closing the month with her Visitation to Elizabeth. In June we celebrate the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On July 16, we honor Mary with the celebration of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We celebrate, as another holy day of obligation, her glorious Assumption into heaven on Aug. 15 followed by her Coronation in heaven a week later.

Like all families, the Catholic Church honors her mother with an annual birthday celebration, which occurs on Sept. 8. A week later, on September 15 we remember her and join Our Lady of Sorrows over her son's many sufferings for our salvation. October is the month where we honor Mary as Our Lady of the Rosary. Through the devotion and recitation of the rosary, our Blessed Mother blesses and protects her entire Church, all her children throughout the world, and draws them together to know, love, and depend on her son Jesus. On Nov. 21, we celebrate, according to tradition, Mary as a small child presented to the Lord by her parents in the Temple in Jerusalem. On Dec. 8, we celebrate yet a third day in the year as a holy day of obligation, as we honor her Immaculate Conception. Four days later, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we recognize her appearance to an Indian peasant that led to the conversion of millions of people and their descendants. As a Church we also

honor Mary every Saturday in ordinary time, about 33 weeks each year.

Okay, so let's see how we ought to honor our own mother and those of our parish and the whole world. Would it not be grand to celebrate a special event once a week for the women of our family? Would it not be grand to celebrate the whole month of May to honor all women and mothers with proper appreciation? Would it not be grand to celebrate with all women and mothers, the whole month of October as a month to learn more about how to imitate our Savior as well as our Blessed Mother through the Rosary?

Mothers, thank you for all you do in nurturing your children to read the Bible, to listen to the Word of God, to teach them the ways of Christ, and to recognize his voice in prayer as you teach them to know God with all their hearts, minds, souls, and beings. Mothers, thank you for supporting your children, as they desire to do something special with their lives for Jesus and to be someone special for others. Blessed are you as you help your children consecrate their lives to the Lord and consider their options of serving others through the single life, the religious life, and married life. Thank you for encouraging them in realizing their unique gift and talent to serve God and the Church, thereby multiplying your own family many times over!

Blessed is Mary among women, the perfect model for all women and mothers, and blessed is fruit of her womb, Jesus, the Savior of the world. A happy and blessed month to all women, united with Mary, our most blessed mother. *Father Kyle Walterscheid is the director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth. He can be reached by e-mail to kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.*

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



Father Al Winshman will speak at Rosary Congress in June

Marian Renewal Ministry Director, Father Al Winshman, SJ, will be the presenter at the 20th annual Rosary Congress sponsored by Apostolatus Uniti and hosted by St. Ann Catholic Church in Burleson, June 13-20. Fr. Winshman, is an experienced retreat director and has preached internationally on topics including Called to discipleship with Jesus through Mary, Our Lady's apparitions and her role in the Church today, and the Eucharist through healing Masses.

The Rosary Congress will open with participants attending the Corpus Christi Mass and outdoor eucharistic procession at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, with Bishop Kevin Vann on Sunday, June 14, at 12:30 p.m. Mass. The eucharistic blessing will be given from two altars during the procession with the Knights of Columbus providing the Honor Guard.

The Rosary Congress will also feature the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Our Lady of Fatima, carved by renowned sculptor José Thedim, June 19-20. This statue, as suggested by Sister Lucia after a Youth Congress in Fatima, was blessed by the bishop of Fatima on May 13, 1947, and sent out as a pilgrim statue.

In addition to speaking at the Rosary Congress in Burleson, Fr. Winshman is also scheduled for the following parishes in the diocese: St. Maria Goretti, Arlington June 22-23; St. Paul the Apostle, Fort Worth, June 27-July 1; and St. Peter the Apostle, White Settlement, July 11-15.

For information on the Rosary Congress, call Bonnie Sager at (817) 723-5630 or visit the Web site at www.apostolatusuniti.com.

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

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Central Region will hold its annual meeting May 15-16 at the South Radisson Hotel in Fort Worth. The registration fee is \$100. Registration forms are available online at www.svdpcf.org. The registration form may be mailed to Thomas Loughran at 7917 Crouse Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76137.

For more information call (817) 975-3253. Registration will also be available at the door.

Spring English Cursillo Weekends scheduled for May / June

"Have you heard about Cursillo or has someone asked you to consider attending a Cursillo Weekend?" asks the Cursillo Center.

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

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

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

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

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet May 28

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

Courage group meets twice monthly

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for Catholics striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality, meets the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month.

For more information, e-mail to CourageDFW@Catholic.org or call (972) 938-5433.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



WINDTHORST FIRST COMMUNICANTS — On Sunday, April 19, 23 young parishioners of St. Mary Church in Windthorst received their first Holy Communion. Father David Kraeger celebrated the Mass and was assisted by Deacon Lauro Huerta. Music was provided by Dorothy Meurer and the Praise Band. The first Communicants praised God in a special way by singing and signing "The Hands and the Heart of God" for their parents and other worshippers at this special event in their spiritual development. The children listed in alphabetical order are: Sadie Anderle, Jenna Baird, Jhoselin Burgara, Madison Conrady, Josie Cooper, Braden Dial, Daiana Galvan, Gustavo Galvan, Claire Hemmi, Ahtziry Herrera, Alexa Herrera, Grace Hoegger, Sam Hoegger, Callie Idell, Jaime Rosas, Jr., Erika Sanchez, Bethany Schlumpf, Blaire Schreiber, Codi Schroeder, Daniel Turrubiarres, Fabian Vasquez, Bryan Wolf, and Hunter Wolf. Clara Veitenheimer is the director of Religious Education and catechists for the second grade class are Ann Hertel and Dorothy Price.

Family retreat scheduled at Tecaboca June 11-14

A retreat for families will be held June 11-14 at Tecaboca, a spiritual renewal center located in Mountain Home, Texas. According to the retreat organizers, the week is specially designed for families of all ages.

Single-parent and blended families are encouraged to attend, and all are invited to bring extended family members as well. "We invite you to take a break from the usual hectic activity of your summer and spend some time as a family reflecting on your faith and renewing your family bonds," said Father Al McMenamy, SM, chaplain for the retreat, which will be staffed by a team of lay and vowed religious Marianists. Daily Mass will be celebrated and the sacrament of reconciliation will also be available daily.

Total cost is \$155 per person for participants age eight and older, and \$95 for children ages two through seven. Children ages two and under may attend free of charge. The maximum amount per family is \$880; all meals are provided.

For more information or to register, visit the Tecaboca Web site at www.tecaboca.com or contact Patti Krasensky at (215) 634-4116 or at pkrasensky@sm-usa.org.

SMG Children's Summer Choir Camp to be held June 8-12

St. Maria Goretti Church of Arlington will host its ninth annual Children's Summer Choir Camp Monday through Friday, June 8-12. The Camp will be held at 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children ages 8 to 13.

Activities for the day camp will center around the story of Jonah with arts and crafts, Bible study, and preparation for the presentation of the children's musical, "Oh, Jonah!" to be held Friday, June 12, at 7 p.m. in the St. Maria Goretti School cafeteria. The performance is open to the public and admission is a non-perishable item for St. Anthony's Food Pantry, St. Teresa's Baby's World, or Tools for School in support of the Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Maria Goretti.

A registration form and \$55 registration fee is required for each child to attend the camp. Registration deadline is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19.

The Choir Camp is sponsored by the Music Ministry of St. Maria Goretti Church and directed by Freda Breed, director of Music/Liturgy. Registration materials are available by contacting Freda Breed at (817) 274-0643 ext. 234 or fbreed@smgparish.org or on the church's Web site at www.smgparish.org.

St. Maria Goretti Youth Group Concert to be held May 16

The St. Maria Goretti Youth Group will sponsor a live concert "After the Cross... A Night of Praise and Worship," Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m. in the church's cafeteria at 1200 N. Davis St. in Arlington.

Matt Warner and the Sunday Night Live Band will perform popular contemporary Christian rock songs. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 18 years-old and younger with a canned food item to benefit the St. Anthony's Bread Pantry. "So come on out for a faith-filled night the whole family will enjoy," say event organizers.

Tickets will be sold that evening at the door. For more information, contact Raymond Lipinski at (817) 274-0643.

FertilityCare Center offers training for NFP teachers

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

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

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

Holy Family Dads' Club to host golf tournament May 22

The HFCS Dads' Club will be hosting its third annual golf tournament benefiting Holy Family Catholic School. The event will be held Friday, May 22, at Hawk's Creek Golf Club, 6520 White Settlement Rd. in Fort Worth. All net proceeds will help with planned improvements to the Holy Family Catholic School's athletic facilities.

The tournament format will be a Best Ball, Four-Man Scramble with featured events including a Ball Drop, Hole in One, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Raffle, Auction, and Team Awards. The event will kick-off at 10 a.m. The registration fee is \$150 per player or \$600 for a team of four players. Register before May 18 and receive an early bird savings of \$100 per team. The fee includes a round of golf, cart, driving range use, golf shirt, drinks, catered lunch, and more. Sponsorships and volunteers are welcome.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.holyfamilygolf.org or contact Mark Cortez at (817) 360-7034, Mike Cook, Jr. at (817) 829-5174, or Grant Thomas at (817) 683-9875.

NTC deadlines for submission

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

Items for the May 22 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, May 13. Items for the June 26 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, June 17.



GIRL SCOUT TROUP #3003 — The 6th grade Girl Scout Troop #3003 of St. Andrew's in Southwest Fort Worth, purchased 50 board books and 17 puzzles as a service project benefiting Cook Children's Hospital. The troop spent half of the profits from their annual cookie sales on the project that will place the collection of books and puzzles in the waiting rooms at the children's hospital. The other half of the profits was spent on a visit to a Build-A-Bear Workshop. Pictured above (left to right) are Emma B., Kaitlin R., Jaime S., and Katie H.

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father Dan Kelley has been assigned as pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Arlington, effective July 1.

Rev. Mr. Alfredo Barba has been assigned as transitional deacon at Immaculate Conception Parish, Denton, effective April 18.

Diocesan

After adapting to a new culture, Alfredo Barba is ordained a deacon, taking his

Next step toward priesthood

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

When Alfredo Barba decided to be a priest, he knew it would involve discipline and formation. When he decided to be a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth, he recognized it would also require adaptation and change: to a new culture, country, and language.

Barba was ordained to the diaconate April 18 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, and, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood Oct. 30 at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. After that he will minister in North Texas, utilizing his native language in an area that has increasing need for that skill.

A native of Mexico, Barba's home is in Tlaxcala, where he lived with his parents Sara and Alfredo, two sisters, and a brother. He studied at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (National Autonomous University of Mexico), UNAM, remembering, "It was my life."

But life led him another way when students from a local parish encouraged him to join them at a retreat, where he experienced parish life, then to a retreat at the seminary, where he met the bishop, other priests,

and seminarians, and started a journey of discernment.

Still studying physics at UNAM, Barba began a three-month process of spending every Saturday at the seminary, and also consulting with a priest who was a graduate student in engineering at the same university.

"The father made me confident," Barba said, "because he could talk with me about both things — engineering and the priesthood. And he prayed with me."

Barba studied seven years at the Seminario Conciliar (major seminary) of Mexico, then spent his last year at The Hispanic Seminary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a seminary that provides formation for priestly vocations among Hispanic communities in the United States and Canada. During the summer of 2008, he came to Denton where he is completing his pastoral year at

ICC, and studying English at the University of North Texas.

In his ordination homily, Bishop Kevin Vann spoke of Deacon Alfredo's land and origin, praying the deacon would "show to us the strength, joy, and faith of your parents and your people, their devotion to the Mother of God at Ocotlan and the great strength of God, as your country shows to so many people.

"Actually I never intended to work in another country," Dcn. Alfredo said, "to serve people here, or to speak in English or preach in English.

"But in Scripture it says, leave your father, leave your mother, and follow Me, and I felt this was real clear. So I followed Him."

The ordination was the second public ceremony for the new deacon, the first, April 3 at Immaculate Conception, was the formal promise of faith, obedience to the bishop, and

celibacy. "I read and signed my oath in front of the church," Dcn. Alfredo said. "I promised it was my free will to do this."

None of the deacon's family was present for the either celebration, however, helping with his vestments at the ordination were a local family he said "are like parents to me." Joe and Theresa Escobar, St. Mark parishioners, met the seminarian last July, and have remained in a supportive role with him.

As he spends his final months in preparation for ordination, Dcn. Alfredo said, "I don't worry about the priesthood, it is coming soon, but I am enjoying this ministry as a deacon.

"I go to the parish and stay there for the people who come to speak to someone if they have problems. I assist at Masses and go around the parish, and if someone needs help, I help them."



Dcn. Alfredo Barba, joined by Director of Vocations Fr. Kyle Walterscheid (right), takes his formal promise of faith, obedience to the bishop, and celibacy at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton on April 3.



Bishop Vann prays over the newly ordained deacon. God willing, Dcn. Barba will be ordained to the priesthood Oct. 30.



Joe and Theresa Escobar, parishioners at St. Mark Church in Denton, who have unofficially adopted Dcn. Barba since his arrival in the United States, help vest him during his ordination. Standing to the left is Father Rogelio Alcantara, spiritual director from Dcn. Barba's seminary in Mexico.



Dcn. Barba, newly vested, thanks the congregation for their support during his journey to the priesthood.

is God calling you?

Join other Catholics who want to know.

The Vocation Awareness Program will be held Friday - Sunday, July 17-19 at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. This weekend of discernment helps single Catholic men and women, ages 18-40, find answers about life as a Priest, Sister or Brother. It includes presentations, panel discussions, question and answer periods and one-on-one personal conferences with diocesan and order Priests, Sisters and Brothers. There are no fees, private rooms and meals are furnished, and no one will pressure you or seek commitment. For more information and to apply, visit vapinfo.org, or contact Fr. Kyle Walterscheid at the Fort Worth Diocese, 817-366-0439, kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.

Vocation
Awareness
Program

July 17-19 vapinfo.org

Holy Trinity School DI team advances to globals

After taking first place at its Destination ImagiNation® (DI) regional competition and second place at the DI state competition in Houston, a team from Holy Trinity School in Grapevine—The PequoDIans—will represent the school and Texas at the DI Global Finals 2009 competition. The competition will be held May 20-23 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and will include teams from many U.S. states and 45 different countries.

“This is quite an honor,” said Shelly Hickman, one of the team’s managers, and a teacher at Holy Trinity. “This is a first for Holy Trinity and quite a major achievement. Since Texas represents 20 percent of all DI Teams in the world, just making it out of the state is a major feat. We are so proud of these kids!”

The team also includes Teri McCarthy, the other team manager, 8th-graders John McCarthy, and Joanna Coogan, and 7th-graders Erin Cummings, Theresa Guarino, and Haden Hickman.

Holy Trinity has eight other teams that regularly compete in regional competitions. While some of the students on this team have been in DI for up to six years, this team has been together and gone to the state competition for the past four years. Haden Hickman and John McCarthy are the original members of the team. Cummings has been involved in DI since 2003, she and Coogan joined the team in 2005, and Guarino joined both DI and the team this last fall.

“Our practices were innumerable and sometimes seemed endless, but it was definitely worth it,” said John McCarthy, Teri McCarthy’s son who will attend Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth next fall. “Nolan doesn’t have a DI program, so I knew this would be my last year. This really motivated me to do my best so we could advance to the global tournament.”

Through Destination ImagiNation, students work as a group to



Holy Trinity’s DI team, the PequoDIans, advanced to the Global Finals 2009 competition with their musical rendition of *Moby Dick*, with John McCarthy (left) as Starbuck, and Erin Cummings as Captain Ahab.

take on a challenge that develops their critical thinking, teamwork and creative problem-solving skills. This team chose the “ViDIO Lit Hits Challenge” and converted the classic novel *Moby Dick* into a clever music video.

In addition to writing their own lyrics and designing an elaborate set and props, the team dramatically portrays the key characters in *Moby Dick* and retells the story in a song to the tune of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” and other popular tunes. The students named their team after the *Moby Dick* whaling ship “The Pequod.”

Coogan says being in DI has made her more confident in her sense of humor, writing, artistic performance, and problem-solving abilities. She feels accepted and appreciated by her coaches and her friends and says she feels free to be herself. Team member Theresa Guarino agrees.

“The best part about this is being able to be creative and not worry about what anyone else thinks,” Guarino said.

“The kids never cease to amaze me with their creativity and I am forever thinking, “How did they come up with that?”” Shelly Hickman said. “I underestimate them all the time, even though I know they’re exceptional. They always come together to support

and cheer each other on to a positive end.”

“I always hoped I would someday make it to globals,” said Erin Cummings. “All our work is finally paying off.”

Shelly Hickman’s son, Haden, couldn’t agree more.

“I’m so excited to have finally reached my goal of going to globals and meeting kids from all over the world,” Haden said. “This is a great experience for us all.”

Principals hired to fill vacancies at St. Andrew and Holy Rosary Schools

The vacancies for two school principals in the Diocese of Fort Worth have been filled.

Edward Noll has been named principal of St. Andrew School in Fort Worth for the 2009-10 school year. He succeeds Clarice Peninger, who announced her retirement in October after 24 years as principal of St. Andrew.

Noll has a bachelor’s degree in speech and English from Fort Hayes State University in Kansas, and a master’s degree in educational administration from the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

He is a veteran Catholic school administrator having served as a Catholic school principal for 14 years at various schools in Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. In addition to many years of Catholic school teaching, since 2003 he has been teaching speech and debate at William B. Travis High School in Richmond,

Texas. Noll will assume his new duties July 1.

Chad Riley has been named principal of Holy Rosary School in Arlington for the 2009-10 school year. He succeeds Lynn Day, who announced his retirement in December after 10 years as principal of Holy Rosary.

For the past four years, Riley has served as the principal of Sacred Heart School in Muenster. He has a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Dallas in Irving, a master’s degree in pastoral studies from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, and a certificate in Catholic school leadership earned at the University of Dallas.

Prior to moving into administration, Riley taught history in public schools in Denison and Arlington from 1998-2000 and at Holy Rosary School in Arlington from 2000-2005. Chad and his wife, Caryn, are the parents of four children.

June 8-11
2009

Annual Tschoepe Homiletics
SEMINAR

To be held at:
Holy Family of Nazareth Parish
2323 Cheyenne St
Irving, TX 75062

972.721.5228
www.udallas.edu/ministry/homiletics.cfm

“Preaching Christ -
Lessons from Paul”
Featured Speakers



Rev. Joe Tetlow, SJ
Paul, Preaching
& the Interior Life



Rev. Lawrence Boadt, CSP
Preaching Paul’s Bible



Bishop Daniel Flores
New Age, New Worlds:
Preaching and Inculturation

General Sessions, workshops, a preaching practicum, liturgies, meals and rich interaction with other participants. This seminar is designed for parish priests and deacons who want to refresh their homiletic skills, as well as other ministers of the Word, and all who support good preaching.

THE WRIGHT FIRM, LLP
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS
Paul F. Wright, MST, JD

Jesuit Alum,
St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioner
ATTORNEY & CPA

- Family Law
- Probate
- Guardianships

1-866-780-9696
Free One Hour Consult &
Knights of Columbus Discount
www.thewrightfirmllp.com

Principal Office Located in Dallas, Texas
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal
Specialization

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

The Lady Margaret Roper program
at the College of St. Thomas More
helps Catholic parents in
homeschooling their children.
Classical learning,
8 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday through Thursday
Call 817-923-8459

Diocesan

NCHS to host middle school summer band camp

Middle School band members from across the Metroplex are invited to attend the Nolan Catholic High School's ninth annual Middle School Summer Band Camp June 8-12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Summer band camp provides opportunities to bring together young musicians from across the Metroplex and learn from some of the best music teachers in the area, according to a press release.

"Participants will be able to perform in both concert and jazz bands as well as attend master classes," said Camp Director

Chuck Compher. "Summer band camp is a great way to help motivate students to practice during the summer months."

The camp is geared toward private and parochial school students who have completed at least one year of band and are entering the fifth grade through completing the eighth grade. Band members from public schools are welcome to attend.

Camp will be held in the Music Hall of the Multi-Purpose Activity Center at Nolan Catholic High School located at 4501 Bridge St. in East Fort Worth. An end-of-camp concert will be held on June

12 at 11 a.m.

Cost of the camp is \$75 which includes five days of group, ensemble, individual instrument instruction, and a concert experience. The cost is \$65 for those who register and pay by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 22, and an additional \$10 can be saved for each new student referred to this year's camp.

For more information and to register, visit the "Band" page on the school's Web site at www.nolancatholic.org or contact Melissa Korzekwa at mkorzekwa@nolancatholic.org, or at (817) 457-2920 ext. 1733.



ST. JOSEPH, RHINELAND FIRST COMMUNION — Thirteen students from St. Joseph Church in Rhineland received their first holy Communion on Sunday, April 26, with Father Charles Gorantla celebrating. Those receiving the sacrament for the first time included (front row from left to right) Ramiro Carranza, Maggie Armendariz, Dakota Harlin, Emily Scott, and Jared Ramirez; (middle row from left to right) Ricardo Carranza, Edgar Araujo, Ossiel Zavala, and John Mendez; and (back row from left to right) Oscar Zavala, Pedro Armendariz, Fr. Gorantla, Shawn Castorena, and Emanuel Gonzalez. A reception was held in the school building afterwards.

Peter Kreeft to discuss proof of God May 16

World-renowned theologian Dr. Peter Kreeft will give two talks at St. Maria Goretti Church, located at 1200 S. Davis Drive in Arlington from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, May 16. The topics covered will include "A Refutation of Moral Relativism," and "Proofs of God's Existence."

"Both of these powerful talks will give the philosophical and theological arguments on how to refute the modern errors of moral relativism and atheism and help you develop sound reasoning and logic on how we can know God's existence with certainty, and also be certain about his moral truths," say event organizers in a press release.

Kreeft is a professor of philosophy at Boston College and is considered one of the best

Catholic philosophers currently residing in the United States. He is a regular contributor to several Christian publications, is in wide demand as a speaker at conferences, and is the author of over 45 books including *Fundamentals of the Faith*, *Everything You Ever Wanted to know about Heaven*, and *Back to Virtue*. His ideas draw heavily from religious and philosophical tradition, especially St. Thomas Aquinas, Socrates, G. K. Chesterton, and C. S. Lewis.

The event is free, but donations will be accepted. For more information, contact Lucas Pollice, director of the Office of Adult Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth at (817) 560-3300 ext. 260 or lpollice@fwdioc.org or John Cox at (817) 274-0643 ext. 226 or jcox@smgparish.org.



Register now for an awesome experience!
Check it out at www.thepines.org



Contact Us

Business Office (214) 522-6533
1124 Commerce Drive
Richardson, TX 75081
registrar@thepines.org

Campsite Office (903) 845-5834
300 White Pine Drive
Big Sandy, TX 75755
campoffice@thepines.org

The ONLY co-ed Catholic Camp in the Southwest accredited by the ACA





Donate That Vehicle!

Toll Free 1-888-317-7837
Have title in hand when you call

- Tax Deductible
- Free Vehicle Pickup
- Trucks, Cars & Vans
- Most Running & Non-Running Vehicles Accepted



**Society of St. Vincent dePaul
Vehicle Donation Program**

Proceeds benefit needy throughout North Texas

TRIDENTINE MASS


LATIN INDULT MASS

5:30 P.M. SUNDAYS

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

509 W. MAGNOLIA, FORT WORTH

HIGH MASS SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS
LOW MASS FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS



Retired ecology teacher Joe Kuban honored at Nolan Earth Day celebration

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

"I was a student at the University of Texas at Arlington on the first Earth Day," Dr. Joe Kuban told Nolan Catholic High School students at their Earth Day celebration April 22.

"I learned about some illegal tree cutting at the Big Thicket, east of Houston; I went with some other students, and we chained ourselves to a tree."

The students were arrested and soon released, Dr. Kuban said, speaking through a keyboard controlled communication device. The respected and loved teacher, who taught ecology at Nolan for more than three decades, has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

At the Earth Day celebration, Nolan planted an evergreen tree in Dr. Kuban's honor. "As we open the Christmas season on campus each year," Principal Cathy Buckingham told the assembled



Dr. Joe Kuban, communicating through a portable speech communications aid, thanks Nolan students for their applause.

students, staff, and supporters, "it will be an opportunity to remind ourselves of the need for Christ in our daily lives, and to remind us of Joe's dedication to helping make the environment on our campus and around our world a constant priority."

The Nolan ecology program, thought to be the longest-running

high school ecology program in the nation, is unique, said Ellen Browning, who succeeded Dr. Kuban at Nolan, because "These kids are given the chance ... to not just study it in a textbook or in a classroom but to experience it, to smell it, to feel it, to touch it, to hear it, to sleep in it, camping for days on end without showers,



Nolan students Scott Frankovich and Sarah Cottrell plant an evergreen tree in Dr. Kuban's honor as part of Earth Day festivities.

to get rained on in the rainforest, stung by mosquitoes and all kinds of cool stuff."

Also during the ceremony was the unveiling of a panoramic photograph of the approach to the Chisos Basin of Big Bend National Park, donated to Nolan by 1984 alumnus Sean Fitzgerald. Alumni relations coordinator Patricia Pier-

ret represented the painting, reading Fitzgerald's message. "This is in appreciation of Dr. Joe Kuban's introduction to me and to others," he wrote, "of the wonders of the natural world. I would like to donate this print of the dunes at Big Bend, to Nolan Catholic High School, for display in the ecology classroom."

Diocese...

FROM PAGE 1

Disease Control (CDC) and the Tarrant County Health Department, is asking all our parishes and schools to take precautions to help mitigate its effects. This applies to the entire diocese.

I have recommended that all priests and deacons as well as members of our diocese exercise common sense precautions when it comes to the liturgy. Influenza is often spread from person to person through contact with coughing and sneezing of an infected person. Simple hygiene such as washing hands and using alcohol-based hand sanitizers at appropriate times can prevent the spread of influenza. If a priest, altar server, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion is sick, whether it is the flu or the common cold or whatever, then he or she should not serve until the sickness has passed. Likewise, if members of the faith community are not feeling well, especially during this period, please stay home and do not risk the possibility of spreading infections to others.

The following precautions should be followed concerning the celebration of Mass:

- The faithful should be encouraged to not hold hands during the reciting of the Our Father.
- The faithful should be en-

couraged to share the Sign of Peace without touching hands or kissing. This can be done with meaningful eye contact, smiles, and a bow of the head in reverence to one another.

- The faithful should be encouraged to receive Communion in their hands and not on their tongue.

- The cup is not to be shared with the faithful during Mass. Communion is only to be given in the species of the consecrated bread.

- Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should be especially reminded of the need to practice good hygiene. Ministers of Holy Communion must be encouraged to wash their hands before Mass begins, or even to use an alcohol-based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion. A good practice is the distribution of alcohol-based antibacterial solution by the Eucharistic Minister Captain to other ministers while the priest is preparing for distribution of Communion.

The Diocesan School Superintendent's Office is coordinating with each school concerning precautionary actions in schools.

Let us all pray for our community and the families who are affected by this disease that they suffer minor effects and recover promptly. And pray for those who have died. May their souls rest in peace.

Youth...

FROM PAGE 15

wooden platform illuminated with a collection of lighted votive candles. The top tier of the simple altar displays a golden monstrance. This "burning bush," as the friars refer to it, teaches young people to focus on Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist.

Elizabeth Victory, chair of the organizing committee, said the retreat's most powerful moment is the Saturday evening eucharistic procession.

"You just have to see it to understand it," she added, describing how the priest moves through the throng of youngsters holding the monstrance. "They come away knowing that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and that they don't have to be taller, thinner, smarter, or richer for God to love them."

NCHS junior Morgan Gribble decided to attend Youth 2000 for the first time after the friars visited her campus earlier in the week to promote the event. The weekend exceeded her expectations.

"It seemed like a good opportunity to grow in faith, but I had no idea it would be this amazing," said the St. Peter the Apostle parishioner who was impressed by the outpouring of tearful emotion during the

eucharistic procession. "I'm definitely going to plan on coming again next year."

With their distinctive gray robes and beards, the religious order of priests and brothers has conducted 11 retreats in the diocese and have gotten to know many returning participants. The friars are viewed as friends by the young people who respond to the message they deliver.

"I think they get a real experience of Christ in the Eucharist — that he's really present and truly loves them," said Brother Mariano Demma, a former parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who currently lives in the order's Bronx motherhouse. "When they leave, they know that in their hearts."

The hours of music, meditation, and motivational talks culminated with a Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday celebrated by Father Pio Maria Hoffman. During his homily, the priest read excerpts from a diary belonging to Saint Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun who is credited with initiating the apostolic movement of Divine Mercy. Through her journal entries, Jesus conveyed to the world the great message of God's mercy and revealed the pattern of Christian perfection based on trust in God and mercy toward one's neighbors.

"This obscure beautiful Pol-

ish nun who died in 1938 still touches our lives today," Fr. Pio said, referring to the feast day, which is celebrated on the eighth day after Easter. "Every age needs a reminder of God's ridiculous, radical, excessive mercy. We need this reminder that he loves us and wants to banish from our hearts darkness and sin."

He asked the audience to remember that the only requirement for God's mercy is trust.

"You don't have to go on a pilgrimage, grow a beard, become a Franciscan, or do some other amazing thing," Fr. Pio explained. "All you have to do is open up your heart to trust. Jesus wants people to trust him."

Todd McCartney wanted to share his love for the Catholic faith with the young men in his group, and, "I trusted the Holy Spirit would give me the words," he said.

A gun took his friend's life, but it was the story about the power of another type of weapon — the rosary — that impressed his listeners. The cowboy carries his rosary at all times, and it was with him when he needed it most.

"The Catholic faith is so (spiritually) rich, and it gives us so many tools to help us get through ordinary life," McCartney explained. "I just didn't want these kids to take the rosary lightly. I know its power."

Diocesan

MSU Campus Ministry offers students a place to

Be, Love, and Serve

By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

The students involved in the faith-nourishing work of the Catholic Campus Center at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls have made service to their community their No. 1 priority.

This year marks the fourth out of the past six years that the CCC at MSU has been recognized with the James L. Stewart Service Award at the school's May leadership banquet.

Campus Ministry Director Debra Neely said service became the group's focus seven years ago during her second year as director. She asked the students what they wanted to do at the beginning of the year, as she does every year, and a large number of them were interested in community service.

"It's a part of our Catholic faith, and now it's something we're known for on campus," Neely said.

Francisco Salas, a 23-year-old senior accounting and Spanish major and the CCC's student assistant, said the group's service projects over the years have included collecting food for the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank, building houses for Habitat for Humanity, playing bingo with senior citizens at Texoma Christian Care Center, and hosting events for children from the North Texas State Hospital in Wichita Falls and the Arc, formerly known as the Association for Retarded Citizens.

"We don't stay here with each other. We go out and have fun with other people," Salas said.

The Catholic Campus Center students have also facilitated confirmation retreats and other events for high school students from Wichita Falls area Catholic parishes.

"I love the confirmation retreats," said Michele Pisciotto, a senior education major. "The high school students get to see college kids who still have a strong faith in Christ. You're able to share your journey in faith. You don't have to be perfect all



Madeleine Zaehring and Marisol Arvizu, both members of the Midwestern State University Catholic Campus Center, play bingo with senior citizens at Texoma Christian Care Center in Wichita Falls on March 25.

the time," she said. "You've got God there to help you through the rough patches."

Josh Loeffler, an 18-year-old sophomore math major who just started his first year at Midwestern this fall, said that of all the activities he has participated in during his first year with the CCC, the service activities are his favorites.

"That's one of my passions. That we can go out and be a positive impact on our community — that's something special that we do," he said.

Encouraged by his high school youth minister to take part in the ministry, Loeffler says, "I came to the first Mass of the year. There is something special about the CCC Mass." Neely said on average, 60 people, including a few Wichita Falls community members who are not students, attend the CCC's Mass at 6 p.m. Sundays during the school year. Six priests from parishes in Wichita Falls and surrounding areas take turns presiding at the Masses.

Salas said that a large number of the students who participate in the MSU CCC are from the Caribbean, and they lead the music for the center's weekly Mass. He said some of their songs are very lively and upbeat, while others are meditative and soulful.

Caesarina Paul, a 34-year-old freshman sociology major from Dominica, an island nation in the Caribbean Sea, sings and plays a traditional drum from her country called the *tabou* during CCC Masses.

"We try to make the music Caribbean, but we also recognize the American style. It is toned down a bit," she said.

Neely said the Midwestern Campus ministry is able to embrace a significant international

population, with students from the Caribbean, and other parts of the world.

Paul said she joined the Catholic campus ministry because of her faith foundation and because she was a very active member of the Catholic Church in her home country of Dominica.

"It (CCC) was very welcoming, very warm, and a safe haven," she said.

Paul said it can be difficult to adjust to a new culture and environment as she and other Caribbean students have had to do, but CCC has really helped.

Pisciottano, who is also a member of the national sorority Alpha Phi, said that while her sorority offers her the social aspects of the college experience, the CCC helps her grow as a woman of God. She said she would encourage college students to get involved with their Catholic campus ministries.

"It's a family away from home. They embrace your whole heart the way you are. It's important for them to have people they can count on and hold them accountable," she said.

Neely said the MSU Catholic campus ministry has an ecumenical aspect, as well. They have joint activities with other campus ministries including groups from the Methodist, Assembly of God, Church of Christ, and Baptist denominations.

At the beginning of each school year, they collaborate on a picnic to invite all new students to get involved in the campus ministry centers. This year, they also had a day of prayer together on the Tuesday during Holy Week called, "Journey to the Cross," she said.

"All the directors get along. We look for what we have in common instead of what is dif-



ABOVE: The late Bishop Joseph Delaney dedicated the Midwestern State University Catholic Campus Center building in 1986. MSU CCC Director Debra Neely said they are blessed to have a building that was built specifically for the Catholic Campus Center.

BELOW: Midwestern State University Catholic Campus Center Director Debbie Neely passes out songbooks and other information before its 6 p.m. Sunday Mass, which is celebrated weekly during the school year.



ferent," she said.

Churches of different faiths in the area also provide the Catholic campus ministry with lunches on Mondays during the school year, Neely said. They call the gathering, "Dollar Lunch" because students can eat for a dollar and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Neely said besides Dollar Lunch and service projects, one of the students' favorite activities is called "Theology on Flap." Neely explained that it is called that because the students meet with Father Hoa Nguyen at the International House of Pancakes near his church, Sacred Heart, and have the opportunity to ask him anything they want.

Fr. Nguyen said he enjoys spending time with the MSU CCC students, and also said that a Catholic Campus Center is important on any college campus.

It is especially important for faith formation in a segment of the Church, post high school graduates, whose percentage for nonattendance is high, roughly 80 to 90 percent.

They are growing from their teen-aged faith into adult faith, he said. "The transition is very difficult. The CCC is available to guide and help them grow into ownership of their faith," he said.



ABOVE: Student Bryson Lawrence, Student Assistant Francisco Salas, and Father John Swistovich, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls, talk about the liturgy before Mass on April 26. Fr. Swistovich brought Deacon candidate Jim Bindel, a former CCC guitarist when he was a student at MSU, to Mass to give the reflection that night.

BELOW: MSU Catholic Campus Center students, get ready to go on a canoe float during their fall retreat in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on Oct. 6, 2008.



Diocesan



ABOVE: Bishop Kevin Vann, joined on the altar by Deacon Don Warner and by the pastors of the parish schools represented at the Mass, celebrates the annual Eighth Grade Mass for nearly 500 young Catholic school students.

BELOW: Superintendent Don Miller addresses the gathering of youth and their school leaders, expressing hope in their future and belief in their abilities.



At annual Eighth Grade Mass, bishop challenges students to go forth and

Spread the Faith

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Young people growing up in today's world live in a culture that too often celebrates individualism.

During the annual Eighth Grade Mass, Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann offered the assembly of graduating students a countercultural view, telling them it's more important to serve God and others as they move forward through life.

"In your years attending our Catholic grade schools, you have studied not only the subjects needed for life, but also your Catholic faith," he said to the throng of young people

and their teachers who filled St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller April 22. "You know what it means to always be people of hope. Pray to find the presence of Christ in the world around you and extend that to others."

The bishop challenged the graduating Eighth-graders to persevere in being Christ-like as they live out their faith.

"It's our prayer that all the graduates of our Catholic schools will show the love of Christ to those they meet along the way and persevere in service to one another," he added. "Not because it's a nice or good thing to do but because it's a reflection of Christ himself. It's a command we take on by virtue of who we are."

A total of 460 eighth-graders are expected to graduate in the diocese this year. The annual liturgy, which brings together students from across the diocese,



Students representing the Catholic grade schools of the diocese prepare to process into the Eighth Grade Mass, held April 22 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller.

"You know what it means to always be people of hope. Pray to find the presence of Christ in the world around you and extend that to others."

— Bishop Kevin Vann

is held to mark the milestone, while providing an opportunity to ask for God's blessing as students take on new and exciting responsibilities. Bishop Vann concelebrated the liturgy with several church pastors and other members of clergy.

Looking over the crowd of soon-to-be graduates, School Superintendent Don Miller expressed hope for the Church's future.

"I know for the past 14 years or so, each of you on a daily basis has encountered the person and teachings of Jesus Christ,

and it was done in the context of family, parish, and school," he said. "It gives me hope, faith, and a belief in what you can and will do."

The school administrator told the youngsters to remember that the two most precious gifts God has given them are life and his love. And then, recalling his own eighth grade graduation, Miller recited the words he heard from his own parish priest.

"What we are is a gift from God. What we become is our gift back to God," he continued.

"Today you give me hope in what you will become."

Dressed in their varied uniforms, representatives from each school's eighth grade served as lectors, ushers, and music ministers. Jason Ayala, an eighth grade student at Our Lady of Victory, sketched a picture titled "God's Grace" for the Mass program.

Logan Trachta, from Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Denton, was chosen to serve as a lector for the first reading.

"I felt honored to participate because the bishop was here, and I've known some of these priests since I was a kid," he said, referring to Father Isaac Orozco and Father James Flynn, who had both served at Immaculate Conception Church.

Trachta, who will attend Denton High School in the fall, says the Mass was a "great way" to end his years in Catholic school.



Fathers Kyle Walterscheid (left) and James Flynn share some light moments after Mass with students from Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Denton.



Students from St. John the Apostle School in North Richland Hills sing together during the liturgy.



Eighth-graders representing the grade schools of the diocese offer prayers during the Mass. Students served as lectors, ushers, and music ministers at the liturgy.

Diocesan

Loreto House ministry opens doors to offer women contemplating abortion

A Safe Haven

By Tony Gutiérrez
Associate Editor
Photos by Juan Guajardo

When Gabriel the Archangel told Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God, her parents, Saints Ann and Joachim, provided a safe haven for her in their home. It is in this tradition that Randy and Laurie Bollig started the Loreto House ministry in Denton, named for the home of Mary's parents.

Loreto House, a ministry dedicated to promoting the "Culture of Life" from conception to natural death, opened its doors March 29 with an open house. The public presentation of the ministry came after two years and more than 100 volunteers worked to lay its foundation. During the come-and-go event, ministry directors led visitors on tours of the new facility, located at 913 Ave. C in Denton.

According to its Web site, www.loretohouse.org, the center will primarily serve women facing unplanned pregnancies by providing baby and maternity items, and Catholic parenting assistance. They plan to offer sonograms of the developing children. In addition Loreto House will provide prayerful support for families dealing

with end of life issues.

"We focus on the woman, walking through her pregnancy with her, loving her, helping her understand God's love for her and loving herself and her body," says Laurie Bollig, executive director for Loreto House. "Just like Mary carried Jesus to see Elizabeth when she was pregnant, we want to bring Jesus to women. That's been our motto, 'What would Mary do?'"

The facility's prayer chapel is designed after the original Loreto House, which is now located in Italy, and is decorated with donated stone walls and tiled floor. The new facility also has a welcome area with couches, and two visitation rooms with chairs rather than desks or tables. There is also an office and kitchen area for staff, and a conference room where meetings and classes such as Natural Family Planning, and other topics related to the ministry will be taught.

"Ann and Joachim welcomed everyone... we want this to be a welcome center, as if you're coming home," says Michael Demma, a member of the ministry's board of directors.

The new facility also has a medical room where volunteer nurses, doctors, and professional counselors will provide assistance. Demma also says the ministry is seeking a sonogram machine to provide free sonograms to women.

"Ninety percent of the time, once they [women] see a picture [of their unborn child] they won't abort," Demma said.

VISITATION VOLUNTEERS

Visitation volunteers serve women in unplanned pregnancies, according to Laurie Bollig. Volunteers are not trained counselors, but provide an ear to listen to the women they serve.

"A Visitation Volunteer must



LEFT: Randy Bollig and his wife Laurie Bollig pose inside the Loreto House chapel. The chapel is designed after the original Loreto House in Italy. Loreto House opened its doors to all the parishes in the Metroplex on Sunday when it hosted an open house and appreciation gathering for the community.

BELOW: Chris Bollig puts up a frame for his mother, Laurie Bollig, the director of Loreto House, before the open house. The Loreto House is a non-profit organization helping women with unplanned pregnancies. The ministry also serves the elderly and terminally ill.

realize that we are not there to 'fix' a woman, or to try to change her behaviors. We are there to serve her, and to love her. By doing this we are showing her the love of our Lord. We must help the women we serve to see her own value and dignity as a child of God. By doing this, she will be able to love her child and choose life," writes Bollig in the information provided.

SAINT ANN AND JOACHIM FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

According to Bollig, "foster grandparent" volunteers act as a listening ear for the women by calling and encouraging them by "doing things grandparents do, like sending a holiday card or birthday card, maybe [buying her] lunch or a small gift, praying for her, and letting her know that [their] prayers are with her."

Training will be offered every few months in a one-time session of several hours designed to help build relationships between volunteers and the pregnant women they will serve.

SAINT JOSEPH'S END OF LIFE MINISTRY

End of Life Ministry volunteers work with the family, priest, or minister of a dying



loved one to offer prayer and support to the patient and family, according to information provided at the open house. Loreto House provides resources and educational materials to help volunteers in this mission.

Volunteers accompany a dying patient, showing them they are not alone. "It is building a relationship. It is a matter of seeing the face of Christ in this patient who is sick or dying," writes Laurie Bollig in a flier about the ministry.

HOLY FAMILY THRIFT STORE

The ministry is supported by the nearby Holy Family Thrift Store at 1103 Ave. C, which collects donations of used items and is staffed by volunteers from St. Mark and Immaculate Conception churches and students from the Catholic

Campus Ministry in Denton. In the fall of 2008, the youth groups from both parishes ran a clothing drive and collected 4,500 pounds of clothing for the thrift store.

Volunteers typically hang, size, price, and steam clothes in a warehouse in the back of the store. Non-clothing items are dusted and cleaned, and media such as books, movies, and music, are also offered for sale. According to information provided at the open house, Holy Family Thrift Store seeks volunteers to help sort and price items and coordinate other volunteers.

"We start the day with prayer here," says Loreto House Director Laurie Bollig. "We know all of this belongs to God, and he'll lead us in a way to use it best."



Laurie Bollig (center), director of Loreto House, shows some visitors the newly opened chapel.



Tom Barger, of St. Mark parish in Denton, tours the Holy Family Thrift Store, where an open house was also held. The store is operated by Loreto House, and is the primary source of funding for the ministry.



Chanacee Ruth-Kilgore, Respect Life director for the Diocese of Fort Worth, helps Loreto House founder Randy Bollig unload donated items at the back entrance of Holy Family Thrift Store. The thrift store supports the ministry.

Viewpoints

Adult stem cells offer safe, moral alternative to embryonic research

By Lucas Pollice

On March 9, President Obama signed an executive order allowing federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research. This caused a firestorm of controversy and opposition, especially from many religious groups including the Catholic Church.

This once again raised many questions about the morality of stem-cell research: What exactly is stem-cell research and does the Church condemn all forms of stem-cell research? These are important questions that we as Catholics need to know the answers to, if we are to be informed participants in the public square regarding these important moral issues.

WHAT IS STEM-CELL RESEARCH?

A stem cell is a "blank" cell that has not yet made up its mind as to what it is going to be. Very early in embryonic life, the embryo is filled with these stem cells that have not yet determined what type of cell and tissue they will become. The idea behind stem-cell research is that if we can get these stem cells, we can manipulate them to become the kind of tissue that is needed, such as brain tissue, heart tissue, lung tissue, and so on. These healthy tissues can then be implanted in someone with an illness or disease to bring about a cure.

The real moral question behind stem-cell research is how we get them. The retrieval of stem cells from embryos results in the violent destruction of the embryo and the direct killing of a new human being. Embryos are not the only source of stem cells, and embryonic stem-cell research has yet to be proven successful, while using stem cells obtained from adults has been proven to be quite successful.

DIFFERENT TYPES AND SOURCES OF STEM CELLS

Embryonic stem cells: These are the stem cells taken from the embryo conceived through *In Vitro* fertilization. As the cells continue to divide, they become what we call a blastocyst, which is filled with hundreds of these stem cells.

These cells will eventually become bone tissue, heart tissue, brain tissue, pancreas, spinal cord, etc. There are 220 total cell/tissue types that these cells can become. Once they are retrieved, they can continue to grow and grow into what are called stem-cell lines. The goal is to place the cells into humans to grow new and healthy tissue that is needed to cure disease.

Adult stem cells: Adult stem cells are stem cells that are taken from an adult. Umbilical cords, placentas, and amniotic fluid can be saved after birth, and adult stem cells can be retrieved from them. Adult stem cells can also be retrieved from bone marrow, from the hipbone, liposuction, and from the nasal epithelium (neural stem cells) from cadavers within 20 hours of death (with full, informed consent of family). However, adult stem cells cannot become all 220 cell/tissue types. They are more restrictive and not as flexible. This is why embryonic stem cells are so coveted.

MORAL PROBLEMS WITH EMBRYONIC STEM-CELL RESEARCH

The central issue is the destruction of human embryos. The Church clearly teaches that life begins at the moment of conception. One can never destroy human life for therapeutic reasons, no matter how good the reason, no matter the benefit. Thus, any form of stem-cell research that results in the destruction of human life in its embryonic form is absolutely morally unacceptable.

In addition, the use of stem cells for medical research that have been obtained from the deliberate and violent destruction of human life is also absolutely morally unacceptable. Therefore using stem cells from aborted fetuses and from already destroyed embryos is immoral. As Pope John Paul II forcefully states:

This evaluation of the morality of abortion is to be applied also to the recent forms of intervention on human embryos which, although carried out for purposes legitimate in themselves, inevitably involve the killing of those embryos. This is the case with experimentation on embryos, which is becoming increasingly widespread in the field of biomedical research and is legally permitted in some countries. Although "one must uphold as licit procedures carried out on the human embryo which respect the life and integrity of the embryo and do not involve disproportionate risks for it, but rather are directed to its healing, the improvement of its condition of health, or its individual survival," it must nonetheless be stated that the

use of human embryos or fetuses as an object of experimentation constitutes a crime against their dignity as human beings who have a right to the same respect owed to a child once born, just as to every person.

This moral condemnation also regards procedures that exploit living human embryos and fetuses — sometimes specifically "produced" for this purpose by in vitro fertilization — either to be used as "biological material" or as providers of organs or tissue for transplants in the treatment of certain diseases. The killing of innocent human creatures, even if carried out to help others, constitutes an absolutely unacceptable act.

— THE GOSPEL OF LIFE, 63

**Emphasis added*

MEDICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH EMBRYONIC STEM-CELL THERAPY

In addition to embryonic stem-cell research being morally unacceptable, there are also significant medical difficulties involved. Although embryonic stem cells can become all 220 cell/tissue types, they are very powerful and grow very quickly. Because they grow so fast, when they are placed in the body they very often grow tumors. In addition, since embryonic stem cells come from another person, they are almost always rejected. To date, there has been no success in using embryonic stem cells in curing any disease.

SUCCESSFUL AND MORAL USE OF ADULT STEM CELLS

Quite different from embryonic stem cells, adult stem cells can be morally retrieved from umbilical cords, placentas, and amniotic fluid. They can also be morally retrieved from one's own or another person's tissue as long as there is informed consent. These cells can be retrieved and used in research without the killing of an innocent human life. In addition, there has been great success using adult stem cells to cure disease. Because these cells can be retrieved from your own body they are much less likely to be rejected. Here are some recent examples of the successful use of adult stem cells:

- A mother was cured of leukemia using the umbilical cord stem cells from the birth of her daughter.
- An 11-year-old boy was cured of sickle-cell anemia using an umbilical cord stem-cell implant.
- Six Texans were cured of spinal cord injuries by using neural stem cells retrieved from their nasal epithelium.

The stem cells were used to grow tissue to bridge the injury site on the spinal cord.

- Some cases of Parkinson's disease have been successfully cured using these same neural stem cells.

- In addition, some adult stem cells from the marrow of the hipbone have been discovered to be immunologically privileged, that is, they can be placed in anyone and not be rejected. Thus, a generic stem cell can be used to cure many diseases in anyone!

Therefore, since research using adult stem cells does not result in the destruction of innocent human life, the Church supports and encourages adult stem-cell research. In fact, the Church loves, praises, and promotes science and scientific research that helps to better our society and the human condition. God has blessed us with our reason to learn and discover marvelous things about the world and about human nature. However, science is not autonomous and must always respect the life and dignity of the human person in all of its stages from the moment of conception to natural death.

In conclusion, while science is a gift from God and can be used in many ways for the good of humanity, it must always halt before the sacredness of human life so as not to destroy life or the source of life and love. The Church will continuously defend the sacredness of all human life, from the moment of conception to natural death, from any form of science and technology that results in harming or destroying human life and dignity. Catholics and all Christians should make our voices known to bring the light of Christ into the area of biomedical research and preserve human life from the very moment of conception. For more information on stem-cell research please visit the USCCB Web site at www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/bioethic/stemcell/index.shtml for a great deal of additional resources, pamphlets, church documents, and articles on this important topic.



Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCIA for the diocese. Lucas holds a degree in theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and has a master's degree in theological studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He is an adjunct professor of theology with the Cardinal Newman Institute in Fort Worth. Lucas and his wife, Mary, have five children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, Christian, and Julia.

Plan B for minors

a bad prescription

By Susan Wills

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently expanded over-the-counter (OTC) access to the “emergency contraceptive” Plan B to 17-year-old girls and boys. Since 2006 the FDA has allowed adults, 18 and older, to purchase the drug without a prescription.

The reaction of the press to the FDA’s decision has been predictable and dead wrong. Editorials declared it “a long-overdue triumph of science over politics” (*Baltimore Sun*) and “not only good science but smart policy” (*San Jose Mercury News*).

The scientific literature, however, shows that FDA’s move was based on wishful thinking, not science. Plan B’s claimed effectiveness has been debunked — both for individuals and populations. And while advocates encourage unnecessary and repeated use, science shows that young women are being put at risk, while the drug’s mode of action and side effects are downplayed.

One of Plan B’s earliest champions, Princeton’s James Trussell, Ph.D., widely promoted claims that it was 89 percent effective in preventing pregnancy and would reduce abortions in the U.S. by half. But in January 2007, Trussell and others published a review of 23 studies evaluating Plan B effectiveness. They found that “no study has shown that increased access to [Plan B] reduces unintended pregnancy or abortion rates on a population level.” They concluded that individual use of Plan B may reduce pregnancy risk

Plan B’s side effects and risks are not trivial. One dose is the equivalent of taking 40 Ovrette contraceptive pills in 12 hours! Use of Plan B can result in bleeding disorders, extreme menstrual cycle irregularities, soaring STD rates, and increased risk of potentially fatal ectopic pregnancies.

by “more than 23 percent,” but that efficacy claims of 80 percent “may overstate actual efficacy, possibly quite substantially.” In short: Plan B works poorly in the individual woman and not at all in large groups of women!

So when are women advised to take this wonder drug? Plan B’s 20-page product insert says that it is meant for “infrequent emergency” use. But Barr, its manufacturer, and others describe an emergency as any “unprotected intercourse or a known or suspected contraceptive failure” (e.g., torn condom) or missing one’s birth control pills for two days. According to *Managing Contraception*, a woman using a daily progestin-only pill should take Plan B if she is even three hours late in taking one pill! All these recommendations disregard the fact that women are naturally infertile three out of every four weeks of the menstrual cycle and so have no “need” for Plan B 75 percent of the time.

Pharmacists in many countries report that some young men, as well as girls, are buying Plan B many times a month. The possibility of coercion, abuse of a minor, and

cover-up of statutory rape cannot be ignored.

Plan B’s side effects and risks are not trivial. One dose is the equivalent of taking 40 Ovrette contraceptive pills in 12 hours! Use of Plan B can result in bleeding disorders, extreme menstrual cycle irregularities, soaring STD rates, and increased risk of potentially fatal ectopic pregnancies.

There is also evidence that, depending on the timing of Plan B relative to ovulation, the drug may act as an abortifacient by indirectly altering protein levels in the uterine lining so the week-old embryo cannot implant to receive nutrition from his or her mother.

Girls and their parents deserve the truth about Plan B — not more deception and wishful thinking.



Susan Wills is assistant director for education and outreach in the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. To learn more about the bishops’ pro-life activities go to www.usccb.org/prolife.

OK, so while my mouth is propped open, there’s just one thing I want to ask...

Thought balloons, a threshold we may not want to cross. But, hey, they might come in handy in families...

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Let’s just say right off the bat that I don’t advocate mind reading at all.

I think it would be intrusive, uncomfortable, and confusing most of the time, especially if you were in a foreign country. And even if you could mind read in your native tongue, everything would depend on the composition and literary skills of the thinker, wouldn’t it? And I’m just not that interested in spending my time on endless thought editing.

So let’s agree to let the mind reading option rest.

But here’s the thing. This morning at a dental appointment, I realized there is potential benefit in thought bubbles.

My dentist is friendly, and we love to chat. Today he was talking about his stepchildren, affectionately referring to them as “my sons,” as though the 20-year-olds had been his own since birth, instead of since the turn of the millennium. We were discussing his familial attitude and how his boys adjust to him as their dad. Valuable conversation, I thought.

Then suddenly the really-nice-guy dentist interrupted my train of thought, asking me to “open wide” (how gauche), so he could start his oh-so-important drilling.

But I had one more question: “Do your stepsons call you Dad?” Seven syllables wouldn’t have mattered; let’s face it. But he opted to work on tooth number 28 (yes, teeth have official numbers) instead of finishing our chat, giving me the respite of that one last detail.

It was agonizingly suspenseful. Not only was my mouth gaping, there was a big hole in my equanimity. Now I had anxiety not just because of the mini vacuum instrument in my cheek and that annoying desire to swallow, but my reporter’s quest for information.

Thought bubbles would be useful at times like that. I would have been able to think my question, and then, like a Peanuts or Doonesbury comic strip, it would have popped up printed on a white cloud-like bubble that settled above me, connected to my head by three small white dots.

The dentist wouldn’t have had to stop his work to listen. He wouldn’t have had to struggle through my brain, tripping over jumbled meanderings I myself can’t understand sometimes.

The thought-bubble skill would be a combination metaphysical text message and real-world comic book, but very, very convenient.

I think bubbles in father- and mother-hood might be useful for recurring conversations. I can imagine reus-

SEE HAMER, P. 26

Bishop Vann dedicates Holy Redeemer's first church



Story by Kristin Zschieche
Photos by Anne Peirce
and Bobby Stewart

The new Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo is a 25,000 square-foot facility. Architects with Martsolf Architecture designed a "wrap around" seating arrangement that permits members of the congregation to be seated close to the altar while also experiencing a sense of closeness to others during prayer. (Photo by Kristin Zschiesche)

In a beautifully orchestrated liturgy April 25, Bishop Kevin Vann dedicated Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish in Aledo's first permanent church, a 25,000-square-foot facility with seating for 500.

"A parish church is what can be called the front line of faith," said Bishop Vann, "where people, day in and out, bring their joys and sorrows, ups and downs, to meet the Lord Himself present in word and sacrament, to be nourished then sent forth again and again into the challenges of daily life."

The site for the \$4.9 million Salado stone and stucco, red-roofed structures surrounded by hundreds of acres of ranchland was softened by the springtime crop of Texas wildflowers whose blooms covered the ground and medians in the newly-paved parking lot, an ideal backdrop for the church's mission-style architecture.

With 700 worshipers gathered outside the church, Bishop Vann and seven concelebrating priests approached. After describing the parish's dream to have a Catholic church in Aledo, Holy Redeemer's Pastoral Assistant Judie Woodall said to Bishop Vann, "We respectfully ask you to accept this key and dedicate our new home to the honor and glory of God."

On behalf of the parish's 370 families, Woodall thanked Martsolf Architecture, F.P.I. Builders, and all subcontractors and

artisans who helped make the parish's dream become reality.

The key was ceremoniously handed from the builder to the architect to the bishop, who asked Father Jenry Ruiz, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Juticalpa, Honduras, Holy Redeemer's sister parish, to unlock the doors. This role is normally reserved for the dedicating parish's priest, however Father Robert Wilson, Holy Redeemer's pastor, died unexpectedly on Christmas Day. Parishioners were shocked and saddened, yet determined to complete the dream Fr. Wilson lovingly guided them toward for nine years.

Worshippers entered the breathtaking 10,000-square-foot church with light interior walls, dark walnut-stained woodwork, and gray slate flooring, filling it to capacity. Another 200 filled an overflow area in the adjoining parish hall. As parishioners assembled to celebrate 10 years of dreams, prayers, and hard work, the setting sun brilliantly illuminated the western-facing stained glass window depicting Christ's ascension. The striking image projected onto the church's opposite wall, reflecting the hope of resurrection.

"Wash us in rivers, O Lord," sang worshippers lead by a multidenominational choir and the orchestra, as the bishop blessed the water of the baptismal font. As a reminder of baptism, the bishop sprinkled the assembled people, followed by the church's walls and altar.

The Litany of the Saints preceded the anointing of the altar. Bishop Vann poured sacred chrism in the center, then on the four corners, of the limestone altar quarried in Mexico, before spreading the oil over the entire surface. All eyes were on the

bishop as he rubbed chrism on the walls, repeatedly making the sign of the cross to signify that the building is given over entirely and perpetually to Christian worship. Next, incense was burned on the altar and carried throughout the church representing the ascension of Christ and prayers rising to God's throne.

Preparing for the celebration of the Eucharist, excess oil was wiped away, a cloth was placed on the altar, and flowers set before it. Altar and church candles were lit signifying the light of Christ shining in the church and through his followers.

Parishioners received Communion for the first time in their new home, then the Blessed Sacrament was carried to the eucharistic reservation chapel in a procession. The chapel was inaugurated, placing the sacrament in the tabernacle and lighting the perpetual candle to indicate the presence of Christ.

The service concluded with the presentation of a memorial plaque for Fr. Wilson from Holy Redeemer's Honduran sister parish.

"We want to express our gratitude to Fr. Robert, who from heaven is here with us," Fr. Jenry said through a translator. "And we want you to know that in Juticalpa, we have a home for you also."

Symbolic of the close relationship between the two parishes the tabernacle and the stations of the cross were carved of mahogany by a Honduran artist who travelled to Aledo for the dedication.

The ambo and cover for the lower baptismal font are made of Honduran mahogany by Texan woodworkers, and the cover's centerpiece is Texas mesquite. The corpus on the crucifix was carved of linden wood in Italy.

With thunderous applause, the

Judie Woodall (center), pastoral assistant for the parish, described the decade of planning that preceded the building of the church before asking the bishop to dedicate the new church building.



Bishop Vann, joined by deacon-candidate and parishioner Scott France, spread sacred oil on the center and four corners of the limestone altar during the dedication ceremony.



Bishop Vann speaks to the assembly at the conclusion of the Mass, prior to the presentation and blessing of the memorial plaque honoring Fr. Robert Wilson, founding pastor.

Fr. Jenry Ruiz (left) stands with former parishioner Tom Ghesquiere (center) and Honduran artist Alfredo Gonzalez, who carved the memorial plaque, Stations of the Cross, and tabernacle for the new church.



long-awaited service concluded. Worshippers proceeded to the 300-person parish hall and some of the facility's eight religious education classrooms for fellowship and a celebratory meal.

"Today is a day of celebration, yet with a touch of sadness," said Woodall. "We are absolutely thrilled to fulfill this dream within our parish. Still, while Fr. Bob is with us in spirit, we miss his physical presence and the supportive, spiritual role he played in our lives."

Holy Redeemer focuses its ministries on its Honduran sister parish and local outreach

programs. Over its brief history, Holy Redeemer has also received extensive support from others. Before Saturday's dedication, the parish held Mass and other activities at Aledo High School and Aledo Community Center. Its administrative offices were at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willow Park. Members of Aledo United Methodist Church joined Holy Redeemer creating an impressive choir and orchestra for the dedication with an impressive performance.

Holy Redeemer Parish is located in Aledo at 16250 Old Weatherford Road.

National

Annual Youth 2000 retreat encourages Texas youth to

Trust in God



Youth 2000 participants sing devotional hymns to Mary after crowning her statue on Sunday morning.



Small groups met during the day on Saturday, discussing topics such as the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation.



Young people led an International Rosary on Saturday, offering prayers in Tagalog, English, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Huddled together on the floor of Nolan Catholic High School's Hartnett Arena, the group of 17- and 18-year-old boys watched intently as the man in the white cowboy hat pulled a simple, brown rosary out of his pocket. Fingering the dull beads, the local rancher explained to his riveted audience how he used the prayer tool at the scene of his best friend's suicide.

"I had to take control of the situation," said Todd McCartney,



Todd McCartney, a parishioner at St. Stephen Church in Weatherford (in cowboy hat) shares his devotion to Mary and his personal experience of his Catholic faith with a group of young men.



Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR, a member of the national Youth 2000 team, speaks on Saturday morning about the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Large group talks were presented next to a large tiered, wooden platform illuminated with a collection of lighted votive candles, with a golden monstrance on the top. This "burning bush," as the friars refer to it, teaches young people to focus on Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist.

ney, who arrived moments after his buddy shot himself in the head.

The Weatherford rancher moved the victim's young wife and baby to safety and then approached the blood-soaked body.

"I'm not a trained

psychologist, police officer, or priest. I'm just a guy, but I had a rosary, and I knew I had Christ right there with me," McCartney said, recalling the summer tragedy. "He was deceased — I could tell by the wound — but God doesn't work on timelines."

The St. Stephen parishioner placed the rosary on his friend's body and prayed for his soul.

"If I didn't love my faith, I couldn't have done that," he added. "I would have been a wimp."

It's personal testimonies from average, faith-filled Catholics like McCartney that help make Youth 2000 a life changing event for hundreds of young people. This year's April 17-19 event on Divine Mercy

weekend brought together 1,200 teens, young adults, and their chaperones from 30 different youth groups across the state of Texas.

The three-day retreat is designed to expose young people to the power of the Holy Spirit and help them form a stronger bond to their faith. Started in 1990, the Youth 2000 initiative answered a challenge from Pope John Paul II to become "shining heralds of the re-evangelization and generous architects of the civilization of love." More than 40 Youth 2000 gatherings are held in the



ABOVE: Fr. Pio Maria Hoffman, CFR, celebrates Sunday morning Eucharist. Each Youth 2000 retreat includes daily Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer, talks, music, and fellowship, as a way of helping young people to develop a deep and lasting personal relationship with Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist.



Two Youth 2000 participants, joined by Sr. Ann Kateri Hamm, CFR, lead other teens in singing, praise, and worship on Saturday morning.

United States each year.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth, the North Texas retreat is led each year by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal who use inspirational talks, upbeat music, small group conversations, and adoration to help the impressionable audience recognize God's love in their lives. A strong visual tool used to reinforce that belief is a tiered,

SEE YOUTH, P. 8

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Cardinal Rigali urges House members to co-sponsor Pregnant Women Support Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Whatever their position on abortion, any House members who agree that “no woman should ever have to undergo an abortion because she feels she has no choice” or alternatives should co-sponsor the Pregnant Women Support Act, said Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Lincoln Davis, D-Tenn., “provides an authentic common ground, an approach that people can embrace regardless of their position on other issues,” said the cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in an April 24 letter to House members. “An abortion performed under ... social and economic duress meets no one’s standard for ‘freedom of choice,’” he added. The bill provides “many kinds of life-affirming support for pregnant women and their unborn children,” Cardinal Rigali said, adding that it “reaches out to women with a helping hand when they are most vulnerable, and most engaged in making a decision about life or death for their unborn children.”

Hope for avoiding mutual annihilation grows with U.S. proposal to reduce nuclear arms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama’s recent move to open a new round of nuclear arms reduction talks this year represents the best opening since the presidency of Ronald Reagan to make meaningful cuts in the world’s nuclear weapons stockpiles, according to faith-based disarmament advocates. Speaking in Prague, Czech Republic, April 5, Obama called for a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia to replace the 1990s-era START, which expires Dec. 5. A new treaty, the president said, would be a step toward the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. The president said he and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev broached the subject during the economic summit in London in early April. Obama told his Prague audience that he and his Russian counterpart agreed to seek a treaty by the end of the year that is “legally binding and sufficiently bold.” Bold indeed, and a positive step, said Ronald E. Powaski, a retired adjunct professor of history at Cleveland State University who has written on arms control topics for three decades. “It means he’s serious about his goal about eliminating nuclear weapons,” Powaski told Catholic News Service. Obama’s offer is being embraced by long-standing nuclear disarmament proponents, such as Pax Christi International and its affiliate, Pax Christi USA, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

New play, ‘The Vitae Monologues’ offers hope for healing after abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A play created by a member of a Minnesota theater company aims to be an alternative to “The Vagina Monologues,” a popular campus play but one that is often criticized for its sexual explicitness. Jeremy Stanbary of Epiphany Studio Productions says his play, “The Vitae Monologues,” portrays powerful stories of hope and healing from women who have suffered from the psychological and physical effects of abortion. Stanbary, founder and executive director of the Minneapolis-based Catholic production company, was inspired to write this play a few years ago after hearing women and men speak publicly of their experiences dealing with post-abortion syndrome at a Silent No More event in Minnesota. Sarah Preissner and Stanbary star in the one-act play designed for performance particularly on college campuses or at high schools. “These personal and very real testimonies are unfortunately often dismissed by the secular, medical community,” said Stanbary in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service. “The Vitae Monologues” or “The Monologues of Life” opens with a scene in a therapist’s office, where several people talk about seemingly unrelated problems they’re having in their lives. Each one has experienced trauma in the aftermath of an abortion.



Elms College catcher Gina Gilday reaches for a pitch in a game against Bay Path College in Chicopee, Mass., April 18. Gilday, a junior who was born without legs, has played softball for more than a dozen years. (CNS photo by Fred LeBlanc, *The Catholic Observer*)

Disability doesn't limit possibilities for Massachusetts athlete born without legs

CHICOPEE, Mass. (CNS)—A few weeks ago, a friend came to Gina Gilday’s Elms College dorm room and asked to borrow a pair of socks.

That’s not an unusual occurrence among juniors in college. However, Gilday does not own any socks because she was born without legs.

Gilday’s friends seem to forget that fact as they watch the 21-year-old in the classroom, dorm or on the softball diamond.

“A lot of people see her as, ‘Oh, she has no legs, and that must be hard.’ I tend to forget that she doesn’t (have legs) because I’ve never heard her complain once in her life about it,” said teammate and friend Ally Graffum.

Cheryl Condon, softball coach at Elms College, recalled that she was a bit surprised and anxious when she heard the news that a player with no legs wanted to join her team.

“For every one of us who doesn’t think we can do something because it gets a little hard, I think Gina inspires all of us every day to keep on keeping on. She leads us,” said Condon.

Gilday’s love for softball came early in life. She started with T-ball and continued playing.

“I remember telling my mom that I was going to try out for the softball team” in high school, she said, adding that her mother was nervous but encouraged her to go ahead.

“My parents, they are amazing. And they always brought me up to have strong faith and

believe that God gives you certain things to deal with because you can handle them. He would never give you anything you can’t handle,” said Gilday, who has bilateral lower limb deficiency.

Gilday’s lack of limbs is not much of a hindrance for her position as a catcher. Instead of squatting behind home plate, she hops out of her chair and scoots to the spot.

Batting is a challenge. Without her prosthesis she has a very small strike zone. She could bat that way and did in high school.

“However, it’s not fair to the other team because I am so low to the ground,” she said. “And if I did hit it, I would have to crawl to first and then have a pinch runner. I would really have to hit it pretty far because I am not very fast,” she said.

Gilday said she wears her artificial limbs for special occasions. “When I wear them I get really tired and I am not as energetic as I normally would be,” she said.

Asked if she ever feels down, she said, “I think everybody has a dark moment, but I actually, surprisingly, didn’t have a lot. I think I have just really lucked out with the people I have in my life.”

She especially credits her mother, Eda, with supporting and guiding her.

“She would tell me you can go one of two ways. You can be OK with it and do something with yourself or you can sit back and feel bad for yourself,” said

Gilday.

Eda Gilday’s face lights up when she begins to talk about the youngest of her four children. Gina’s siblings are Candace, 28; Ricky, 25; and T.J., 23.

“When Gina was born it was a very hard time,” she said.

Father Edmund B. Walsh, longtime pastor at St. Mary Parish in Hampden, the Gildays’ home parish, helped Eda Gilday.

“I was so down, and I told (Father Walsh) that I don’t know if I have any faith. And he said this is the time your faith should become the strongest, and your faith will carry you. And it did,” she said.

Gina Gilday said her parents “raised me to focus on what you do have, not on what you don’t have. So I just kind of stayed with that. I still have my voice. I can still talk. I can communicate. I can hear. I can see. I have my arms. I work with what I have and go with that.”

She described the Elms College community as “a big family” that has boosted her confidence. It has become a new home for her.

When Gilday is not playing ball or studying, she volunteers at Homework House in Holyoke and works in customer relations at Peter Pan Bus Lines. She drives a car with hand controls and wants to be a high school teacher.

But for now, she just enjoys suiting up for her softball games and sharing a laugh and a cheer with her fellow Blazers.

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSBRIEFS

Unidentified delegates walk out of the assembly hall as Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addresses a U.N. conference on racism at the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva April 20. Dozens of diplomats walked out of the conference after Ahmadinejad accused Israel of being the "most cruel and racist regime." (CNS photo/Denis Balibouse, Reuters)

Vatican diplomat Archbishop Silvano Tomasi:

Despite extremist speech, UN draft text on racism recognizes Holocaust

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — An international conference dedicated to combating racism unfortunately was used as a platform for taking "extreme and offensive political positions the Holy See deplors and rejects," said the chief Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva.

The Durban Review Conference was meant to be an "occasion to set aside mutual difference and mistrust; reject once more any theory of racial or ethnic superiority; and renew the international community's commitment to the elimination of all expressions of racism," said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi.

While the work of the April 20-24 conference took a step forward in combating racism, it "has unfortunately been used to utter extreme and offensive political positions," which do not contribute to dialogue, "provoke unacceptable conflicts, and in no way can be approved or shared," he told conference participants in Geneva April 22. The Vatican released a copy of the archbishop's remarks late that same day.

The archbishop was referring to remarks Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made about Israel at the U.N.-sponsored conference April 20.

Ahmadinejad said that Israel had "resorted to military aggression to make an entire nation homeless under the pretext of Jewish suffering" and had established a "totally racist government in the occupied Pal-

estine." His comments prompted a temporary walkout by dozens of diplomats in attendance.

The U.N. conference, which was a follow-up meeting to examine a statement adopted in 2001 at the U.N.'s first conference on racism held in Durban, South Africa, was being boycotted by the United States, Canada, and several other Western countries. The boycott stemmed from fears the Geneva conference would provide a platform to critics of Israel.

Archbishop Tomasi underlined the Vatican's position, which also had been expressed by Pope Benedict XVI April 19, that participation in the conference was an important way to promote concrete measures to prevent and eliminate every form of racism and intolerance.

The reason most countries chose to participate in the conference and not walk out was a desire to make progress in eliminating old and new forms of racism, said the archbishop.

U.N. officials said that the text under consideration in Geneva was revised in recent months, and the latest draft does not include references to Israel or Zionism.

Archbishop Tomasi told Catholic News Service April 20 that much more significant than Ahmadinejad's speech were the real advances made in the draft conference document, which recognizes the Holocaust as something not to be forgotten and condemns anti-Semitism as well as intolerance against other religions.

In his speech April 22 to U.N.

delegates, the archbishop said racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance "are evils that corrode the social fabric of society and produce innumerable victims."

"Combating racism is a necessary and indispensable prerequisite for the construction of governance, sustainable development, social justice, democracy, and peace in the world," he said.

Coming together to share ideas and implement recommendations "is the duty and responsibility of everyone," he said.

Archbishop Tomasi said education, the media, and faith-based communities play an instrumental role in helping shape mentalities and consciences that are free from fear and prejudice against others.

He also expressed the Vatican's alarm at "the still latent temptation of eugenics that can be fueled by techniques of artificial procreation and the use of 'superfluous embryos.'"

"The possibility of choosing the color of the eyes or other physical characteristic of a child could lead to the creation of a 'subcategory of human beings' or the elimination of human beings that do not fulfill the characteristics predetermined by a given society," he said.

He also warned against the introduction of "excessive measures and practices" in the legitimate fight against terrorism.

Efforts for greater security should never exacerbate people's irrational fear of foreigners or undermine the protection and promotion of human rights, he said.

Pope, Arab League head pledge cooperation for dialogue, justice, peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI and the secretary-general of the League of Arab States met April 24 at the Vatican, pledging to cooperate more closely to promote dialogue, justice, and peace. The primary topic of discussion, the Vatican press office said, was the Vatican-Arab League agreement signed the day before "to foster increased cooperation between the two parties with a view to promoting peace and justice in the world." During the meeting, Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the organization representing 22 nations, and Pope Benedict gave special attention "to the role of intercultural and interreligious dialogue," said the Vatican statement issued after the meeting. In addition to the new agreement, the Vatican said, the two exchanged "views on the international situation, especially in the Middle East, and on the need to find a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the other conflicts which afflict the region." The official memorandum of understanding was signed April 23 at the Vatican by Moussa and by Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Vatican secretary for relations with states.

Irish parishes report increase in Mass attendance since recession

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Many Irish parishes have reported an increase in Mass attendance in recent months, with some parishes reporting increases of up to 30 percent. Bishop Joseph Duffy of Clogher, Northern Ireland, said it is not just the older people who are attending Mass in greater numbers. "There are a lot of people with young families who have been absent from the church who are now returning," Bishop Duffy said. "It's been happening for a little while now — people are seeing the need for deeper values, for moral values that lead on to a search for spiritual values; people are certainly searching for something deeper," he said. After a period of unprecedented economic growth, Ireland's economy has been in dire straits in recent months. In a work force of 2 million, approximately 1,000 people lose their jobs every day. "People are experiencing deep crisis for the first time in their lives," Bishop Duffy said. "The pace of this economic collapse has been so swift, I think it is causing people to stop and search; this naturally finds a home in coming back to church."

Smiles, kisses, and therapy: Haifa home offers care for disabled kids

HAIFA, Israel (CNS) — The creamy stones of the Sacred Heart Home gleam in the sun, and squeals of delight echo in the corridors when Sister Pascale Jarjour enters a room. When she talks about an individual child's case, tears fill her eyes. But when she's with one of her 60 little charges, it's all smiles, caresses, and kisses. Sister Jarjour is one of four members of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and 105 staff members who care for the 60 severely physically and mentally disabled children who call Sacred Heart their home. Two hundred children attend the day care center in the same compound. Like the inhabitants of Haifa itself, the residents and staff of the home are Muslims, Jews, Druze, and Christians. Some parents arrange for their children's baptisms or bar mitzvahs while they are at the home, and several take their children home briefly for their own religious holidays, Sister Jarjour said. During Passover this year, one couple brought everything needed for a Seder and celebrated with their 1-year-old son who suffered severe brain damage as a result of choking. "Whether we are Christians, Muslims, Druze, or Jews, suffering is the same and the small joys are the same," Sister Jarjour said.



May 17, Sixth Sunday of Easter.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Psalm 98:1-4
- 2) 1 John 4:7-10
Gospel) John 15:9-17

By Jeff Hedglen

Junior high is one of the hardest times in life. Try, if you can, to remember those awkward times. I remember craving attention but being mortified when I received it. I wanted girls to like me but had no idea what to do when one smiled at me. I desperately wanted friends and would do almost anything to be seen as cool. Those days were filled with a deep longing to fit in and be loved.

It is with this in mind that our parish offers a junior high overnight retreat on Good Friday. The reading of the Passion and veneration of the cross set the scene for this spiritual exercise. After the solemn services we head into a lock-in that focuses on the sacrifice Jesus offered for us on the cross.

As we go through life, we discover that Jesus is many things to us. Who he is to us and the role we see him in varies with our need. Sometimes we need him as our Lord, such as when we really need someone to take care of us. Other times we feel our need for a savior or a healer. Sometimes we revert back to those early adolescent days of greatly needing a friend. It is this last aspect of Jesus that we zero in on at our overnight retreat.

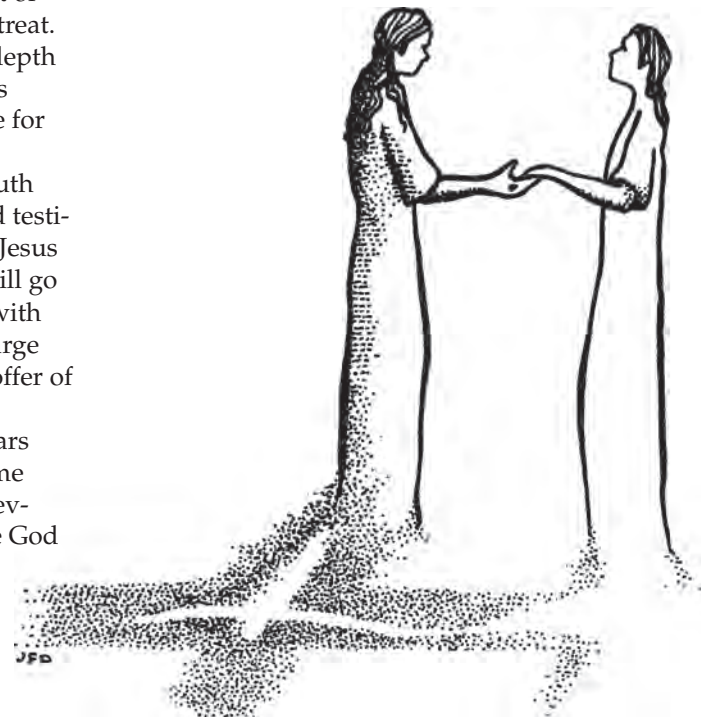
In this week's Gospel, Jesus reveals the depth of his friendship when he says, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends."

Armed with these words we lead the youth through a series of reflections, activities and testimonies aimed at helping them see the love Jesus has for them and the lengths to which he will go to be their friend. The evening culminates with a chance for them to sign their name on a large wooden cross as a sign of accepting Jesus' offer of friendship.

Whether we are in eighth grade or 80 years old, we all need a reminder from time to time that Jesus is not only the God who created everything seen and unseen, but he is also the God who is a friend who loves us to death.

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends..."

— John 15:13-14a



QUESTIONS:

What characteristics of a true friend do you think best describe Jesus in his role as a friend? In what ways do you experience Jesus' friendship? How does it feel to know that Jesus calls you a friend?

Copyright © 2009, Diocese of Fort Worth

Pope says greed – the root of all evil – triggered economic crisis

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Greed lies at the root of all evil and is the source of the current global economic crisis, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"It is precisely greed that insinuates to us that having is the highest good" in life, and yet it is greed that distorts the purpose of material goods and destroys the world, he said April 22 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope's catechesis dealt with early Christian writers of the East and West, and his talk focused on a little-known, eighth-century Benedictine monk, Abbot Ambrose Autpert.

This French-born abbot lived during a time marked by strong political tensions, nationalism, and tribalism, which affected life within the monasteries, he said.

The pope said Abbot Autpert wrote a very popular treatise titled *Conflict Between the Vices and the Virtues* as a way to help his monks combat temptation and face their daily spiritual struggles.



"For each of the 24 vices threatening the soul, he indicated the corresponding virtue that would help the Christian overcome temptation," said the pope.

The abbot taught that greed is the root of all the vices, he said.

"I underline this because in light of the current worldwide economic crisis, it reveals itself

as being timely. We see that this crisis arose precisely from this root of greed," he said.

Abbot Autpert foresaw that the wealthy and the powerful would defend their way of life, saying they were not monks and therefore were not obligated to follow the austere life of an ascetic, the pope said.

The abbot said their excuse was valid, but he explained that God offers humanity just two paths and two doors in life: a door that is narrow or wide and a path that is steep or easy, the pope said.

God did not point to a third way that was both easy and led to salvation, he said.

Pope Benedict XVI arrives to lead his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 22. Greed lies at the root of all evil, and is the source of the current global economic crisis, the pope said in his audience talk. (CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)

"There are many different ways to live, but people, including the rich, must fight against greed, against the desire for appearances, and be against the false sense of freedom," which leads people to think whatever they desire is at their disposal, he said.

Pope Benedict said everyone, rich and poor, "must find the right path of truth, of love and therefore of the principled life."

The ascetic lifestyle of contemplative religious does not reflect a disregard for the world, creation, and beauty, he said.

Turning their backs on the world's material possessions reflects "a disregard for the false vision of the world greed presents to us," he said. And it is this greed that tempts people into thinking that having is the most important value in life "and in this way distorts creation and destroys the world," he added.

The pope said the abbot also taught that God can only be found through love.

Theological or "intellectual study may point the way, but only when we love God do we truly know him," he said.

Scripture Readings



May 24, The Ascension of the Lord.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
- 2) Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel) Mark 16:15-20

By Jean Denton

I'm writing this days after celebrating the sacrament of confirmation with 15 young people in our parish. For me, as coordinator of their sacramental preparation, the confirmation Mass is always a spiritual and emotional "high." This one was no exception.

But only a few weeks earlier, at our final confirmation class, I felt kind of like the disciples in this weekend's readings about Jesus' ascension. I felt as though I were searching the sky, struck by the feeling that Jesus had "left the building," so to speak. I sensed that our session wasn't clicking. None of us — candidates, catechists, sponsors — seemed to be connecting.

I was disappointed because throughout their preparation this particular group had been extremely engaged in every aspect of the spiritual journey we had shared. What was this emptiness I was feeling?

In retrospect, I think it was my looking for

"It is not for you to know the times or seasons ... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...."

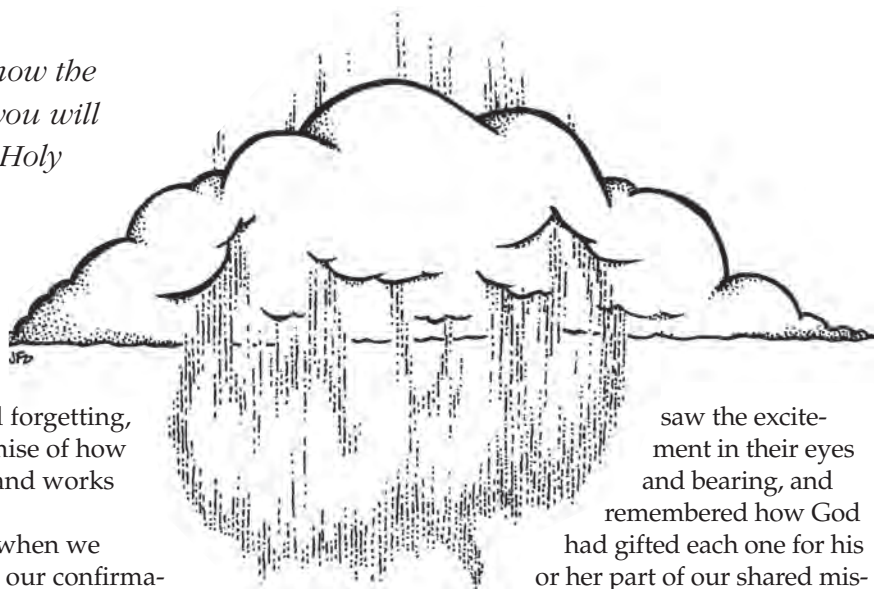
— Acts 1: 7-8

Jesus in the wrong place and forgetting, momentarily, about his promise of how the Holy Spirit comes to us and works with us.

I was reminded, though, when we gathered again last week for our confirmation dinner, an annual potluck meal with their families and sponsors to celebrate the young people's impending passage into full participation with us as Jesus' church.

When they arrived, they came with extended family and extra food, and I'd never seen the entire "confirmation community" mix so freely — and this in a group where three of the families spoke little English. The mood was total joy and fellowship.

At the confirmation Mass, I watched each confirmand anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit,



saw the excitement in their eyes and bearing, and remembered how God had gifted each one for his or her part of our shared mission to spread the Gospel.

I recalled how Kane had deftly, compassionately encouraged a reluctant candidate from another parish on our retreat; how Sandi had decided to go play chess every week with an elderly nursing home resident; how Elizabeth had become a confident cantor; how Erin always had thoughtful words of encouragement for me.

I recognized again: Jesus has ascended to be with the Father, and his Spirit, as promised, continuously comes to us and is with us proclaiming the Gospel.

QUESTIONS:

When have you recognized the Holy Spirit proclaiming the Gospel in your faith community? How do you see individual gifts provided by God combining to build up the body of Christ?

Copyright © 2009, Diocese of Fort Worth

Graduation carries a hint of Resurrected Life

By Jeff Hedglen

I recently spent an afternoon with a group of friends from high school, some of whom I had not seen since we graduated. Over the past few months we had reconnected via Facebook. One person suggested we get together for dinner, and before I knew it, we were having a party with our spouses and children.

Amidst the great food, muddy kids, and viewing of old pictures, we reminisced about our high school shenanigans and caught each other up on our journey from graduation to today. That trip down memory lane stayed with me for days. I kept thinking back to my senior year and the way I felt. I was full of hope and wonderment about the future. It seemed that nothing could derail me.

I see the same wide-eyed expectation in the faces of the senior class this year at my parish. It is a sight to be seen. These young people are at the end of a long journey, yet at the same time they are just begin-

One of the key attributes to the triumph over the grave is that Jesus is always present to us in a very real way. We just have to tune in to this truth.

ning the rest of their lives.

Their giddiness is palpable. Every event in their lives is now viewed as the "last" time we will do this. This realization usually brings mixed emotions of sadness to be moving past one thing and an unnamed excitement about passing a threshold in their lives.

There really is something special about graduation. It is more than just the huge accomplishment, which of course it is. It is also more than the ceremony, speeches, caps, gowns, walking the stage, and cheers from the crowd. Somewhere in the middle of all this revelry

there is a new birth occurring.

Spring is such a perfect setting for graduations. After all, everywhere we look new life is springing up, and this is true for our high school seniors as well. They are experiencing a birth from childhood to an emerging adult life, a birth from dependence on parents to movement toward independence; a birth from the known to the world of the unknown.

Right alongside these new births is our journey through the Easter season, the ultimate rebirth, where we move from death to life. Every journey and every milestone in our lives

marks a beginning and an end. In our faith journey, the resurrection of Jesus is the turning point for all creation. Death no longer has the final say in our lives. Resurrection is our new destiny.

Too often this truth is glossed over and underappreciated. In our day to day routine, the wonderment of the afterlife is set aside for the immediate tasks of groceries, studying, working, and taking care of the kids. But the Resurrection is not just a subject for the end of our lives. The power of the Resurrection can impact us daily.

We can experience the Resurrection every time we come through a hard time, and we can cling to the Resurrection in the midst of that hard time. We can also feel its power when we pray and read the Scriptures because Jesus ushered in a new kind of connection with the Father when he rose from the dead.

The Resurrection can also impact us every time we have a triumph in our lives. And most especially we can encounter the

Resurrection at every celebration of the Mass.

For any of these experiences to be resurrection moments for us, we have to be conscious of the moment and reflect on how we are meeting God in the here and now. One of the key attributes to the triumph over the grave is that Jesus is always present to us in a very real way. We just have to tune in to this truth.

All over the country there are high school seniors savoring each moment spent with friends, dreaming up new and random excuses to get together with them, and working very hard to not miss a single moment of the next few weeks. If we can take this attitude with us in our daily walk with Jesus, every step we take will be done fully immersed in the power of the Resurrection.

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

Católicos y musulmanes esperan que el viaje del Papa a Jordania y la región inicie renovadas relaciones

AMMÁN, Jordania (CNS) —Algunos analistas musulmanes y católicos creen que la visita del Papa a Jordania, que se llevará a cabo del 8 al 11 de mayo, podría iniciar una renovación de relaciones entre personas de diferentes credos.

“Viene después del 11 de septiembre, después de la invasión de Estados Unidos en Irak; tantas cosas han cambiado en esta región (el Medio Oriente)”, dijo Farouq Jarar, director interino del Instituto “Royal Aal al-Bayt” para pensamiento islámico en Ammán. “El entendimiento mutuo entre musulmanes y cristianos es mucho más importante ahora de lo que había sido antes”.

El instituto, fundado en 1980, es una organización internacional que utiliza investigaciones y conferencias para ayudar a aclarar formas de pensar equivocadas con respecto al Islam, y para difundir la verdadera imagen del Islam de hoy.

Jarar dijo que espera que la visita del Papa sea “un nuevo comienzo, un nuevo puente para un mejor entendimiento, mejor coexistencia, más respeto y más aceptación”.

“Creo que su visita enviará un fuerte mensaje para todos los musulmanes, especialmente después del discurso del Papa en Alemania”, dijo Jarar, en referencia al discurso del Papa Benedicto en el año 2006 en Regensburg, que causó protestas por parte de los musulmanes en todo el mundo. La mayor parte de las críticas se centraron en la cita del Papa de un emperador medieval bizantino, que había dicho: “Demuéstrame algo que Mahoma haya traído nuevo, y sólo encontrarán cosas malas e inhumanas tales como su mandato de difundir la fe, que predicaba a base de la espada”. El Papa aclaró después que no estaba de acuerdo con las palabras del emperador.

“Esta (visita) enseñará el otro lado de la moneda, y será un mejor mensaje para los musulmanes en general y para los árabes en particular”, dijo Jarar.

“Creemos que cuando el Papa entienda bien los puntos de la cuestión, será algo grande para la humanidad, debido a su gran influencia. Ojalá pueda ser efectivo en realizar cambios para mejorar”, dijo Jarar.

Después de su visita a Jordania, el Papa Benedicto viajará a Jerusalén, el 11 de mayo. Jarar también expresó su esperanza de que el Papa “ayude a promover el proceso de paz en la región para resolver el conflicto, haciéndoles evidente a todos

“El entendimiento mutuo entre musulmanes y cristianos es mucho más importante ahora de lo que había sido antes”.

**Farouq Jarar
— el Instituto “Royal Aal al-Bayt” para pensamiento islámico en Ammán**

los involucrados sus derechos legales y legítimos”.

Esta visita del Papa “se considera como un nuevo horizonte de colaboración entre musulmanes y cristianos; no solamente en Jordania, sino en todo el mundo”, dijo el padre Rif’at Bader, director responsable de relaciones con los medios de difusión para la visita del Papa a Jordania.

“Esperamos con ansia la renovación de las relaciones entre la iglesia, los estados y el mundo, especialmente después de la visita del Papa a Turquía, en donde visitó una mezquita por primera vez”, dijo el padre Bader. El 9 de mayo, el Papa visitará la mezquita más reciente y grande de Jordania, la Mezquita que lleva el nombre del rey Hussein. Con más de 1,500 yardas cuadradas (1254.181 metros cuadrados), tiene cupo para 6,000 devotos.

“¿Qué hará el Papa en esos momentos? Pienso que le rezará a Dios, en una oración en silencio. La presencia del Papa en una mezquita es señal de respeto mutuo. Con el hecho de estar allí, no se necesitan palabras”, añadió el padre Bader.

El Papa pronunciará un discurso frente a la mezquita.

El padre Imad Alamat, quien dirige el comité responsable de la preparación de los textos litúrgicos de la visita del Papa, ve la visita como algo que le dará a la región “una nueva visión”.

“El Papa les dará a las relaciones entre cristianos y musulmanes una nueva visión y les dará la fuerza para que sigan adelante. Nosotros (musulmanes y cristianos) tenemos muy buenas relaciones en Jordania, pero su visita nos ayudará en seguir adelante”.

“La venida del Papa sucede en momentos de mucha confusión y conflictos en la región; así que viene a darnos un poco de paz, pues necesitamos paz en la región, y el Papa es un creador de paz”, dijo el padre Alamat.



El terreno donde se celebrará una misa papal se prepara cerca del jardín de Getsemaní en el valle Josafat en Jerusalén el 5 de mayo. El Papa Benedicto XVI oficiará la Misa el 12 de mayo en esta localidad durante su visita a la Tierra Santa. (CNS foto/Ronen Zvulun, Reuters)

Declaración de Monseñor Vann respecto a adaptaciones Litúrgicas de precaución por la Influenza Porcina para la comunidad de la parroquia

Por causa de la preocupación de un posible esparcimiento de la Influenza que ha sido detectada en el Norte de Texas, la Diócesis de Fort Worth, en consulta con el Centro Federal para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) y el departamento de Salud del Condado de Tarrant, pide a todas nuestras parroquias y escuelas que tomen precauciones para ayudar a mitigar sus efectos. Esto aplica a toda la Diócesis.

Yo he recomendado que todos los sacerdotes y diáconos, así como los miembros de nuestra diócesis ejerciten precauciones de sentido común cuando se trate de la liturgia. La Influenza frecuentemente es transmitida de persona a persona por contacto con tos o estornudos de una persona infectada. La higiene simple tal como lavarse las manos y usar desinfectantes de mano con alcohol en momentos apropiados puede prevenir el esparcimiento de la Influenza. Si un sacerdote, servidor del altar o ministro extraordinario de la Santa Comunión está enfermo, ya sea con influenza, con gripe común o cualquier otra, no debe servir hasta que la enfermedad haya pasado. De igual manera, si hay miembros de la comunidad de fe que no se sienten bien, especialmente durante este periodo, por favor quédense en casa y no se arriesguen a la posibilidad de contagiar a otros.

Las siguientes precauciones deberán ser seguidas con respecto a la celebración de la Misa:

- Animen a los fieles a no tomarse de las manos mientras rezan el Padre Nuestro.
- Animen a los fieles a compartir la señal de la paz sin tocarse las manos o besarse. Esto se puede hacer con mirarse a los ojos, sonrisas, inclinar la cabeza en reverencia los unos con los otros.
- Animen a los fieles a recibir la Comunión en sus manos y no en su lengua.
- La copa no deberá ser compartida con los fieles durante la misa. La Comunión solo será dada en la especie del pan consagrado.
- Se les debe recordar a los sacerdotes, diáconos, y ministros extraordinarios de la Santa Comunión acerca de la necesidad de practicar buena higiene. Se les debe animar a los ministros de la Santa Comunión a lavarse las manos antes de comenzar la Misa, o aun usar una solución anti-bacterial con alcohol antes y después de distribuir la Santa Comunión. Una buena práctica es la distribución de solución anti-bacterial con alcohol por el Ministro Capitán Eucarístico a otros ministros mientras el sacerdote se prepara para la distribución de la Comunión.

La Oficina del Superintendente de Escuelas de la Diócesis está coordinando con cada escuela con respecto a las acciones que deberán ser tomadas.

Oremos por nuestra comunidad y por que las familias afectadas por esta enfermedad sufran efectos menores y se recuperen pronto. Oremos también por aquellos que han muerto. Que sus almas descansen en paz.



Personas usan mascarillas mientras asisten a Misa en la catedral metropolitana de la Ciudad de México el 26 de abril. Temores de propagación de la gripe porcina había mantenido millones de mexicanos dentro de edificios para evitar el virus. (Foto CNS/Eliana Aponte, Reuters)

¿Por qué ser católico? ofrece talleres de lanzamiento y de evangelización, el 23 de mayo

El Padre Carmen Mele, coordinador de *¿Por qué ser católico?* por la diócesis, ha anunciado que Padre Alejandro López-Cardinale regresará a Fort Worth para dar una vez más los talleres de lanzamiento y de evangelización, el sábado, 23 de mayo, de 10 a.m. a 12:30 p.m. (lanzamiento) y de 1:30 a 4 p.m. (evangelización).

Todos están invitados. Por favor, llame al Padre Carmen (817-560-3300) para indicar si va a presentarse.

El Padre Carmen dice que "Si necesita ayuda con la planificación del programa de *¿Por qué ser católico?* en su parroquia, por favor llámeme o póngase en contacto con el Padre Alejandro."

Clases del método natural para la planificación familiar empezarán el 17 de mayo

La planificación familiar es 99 por ciento efectivo, 100 por ciento natural.

La fertilidad es un regalo de Dios que nos permite ser co-creadores de nuevas vidas con nuestro Padre Celestial. Si desea o aplazar o lograr el embarazo, la planificación familiar natural puede ser un método muy útil para vivir su vida en armonía con las leyes naturales de Dios.

A la vez, le permite fortalecer los lazos de unión con su familia y profundizar su relación con su pareja. Las clases en español empezarán el domingo, 17 de mayo, a las 4 p.m. en el *Centro católico*, 800 W. Loop 820 S., Fort Worth. Es muy importante que se registre lo más pronto posible. Si desea más información, favor de hablar con Suzanna Ordoñez al (817) 560-3300 ext. 256.

Encuentro para comprometidos, del 24-26 de julio

El encuentro para comprometidos es una preparación matrimonial de fin de semana para parejas de novios que desean contraer matrimonio. Está designado para dar a las parejas la oportunidad de dialogar intensamente y honestamente sobre su futura vida como pareja.

Es presentado por un equipo de parejas casadas. El próximo fin de semana se llevará a cabo del 24-26 de julio, en el *Catholic Renewal Center*, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth.

Para inscribirse, favor de hablar con Suzanna Ordoñez al 817-560-3300 ext. 256.

Retiro sobre el Espíritu Santo en el Centro de Cursillos

Todos están cordialmente invitados a un día de retiro llamado *El Espíritu Santo: su misión en nuestra vida, en la Iglesia y en el mundo*, mayo 31, domingo, de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. El retiro en español será para adultos, hombres y mujeres, solteros o casados, en el *Centro de cursillos*, 2221 N.W. 26th St., Fort Worth. La donación

es \$25. Si no puede dar esa cantidad, le ayudaremos. Además de pláticas y reflexión, habrá Misa, oportunidad de confesarse, y de dialogar con líderes. Para más información, llame al Centro (817) 624-9411 o a Martha Galván (817) 770-6522. No hace falta registrarse previa. Venga a pasar un día con el Espíritu Santo.

El Papa dice que las Sagradas Escrituras deben de interpretarse dentro de la comunidad de la iglesia

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — La interpretación de las Sagradas Escrituras no puede ser subjetiva, sino debe de ser hecha dentro de la comunidad de la iglesia, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

"Solamente dentro del contexto eclesial se pueden entender las Sagradas Escrituras como la auténtica palabra de Dios que actúa como guía, norma y regla de vida para la iglesia y el crecimiento espiritual de los fieles", dijo.

"Esto significa el rechazo de cualquier interpretación que sea subjetiva o simplemente limitada a un mero análisis (y por lo tanto) incapaz de estar abierto al significado total que ha guiado la tradición del pueblo entero de Dios durante el curso de los si-

glos", dijo en un discurso ante los integrantes de la *Comisión bíblica pontificia*, el 23 de abril.

La comisión de eruditos bíblicos es un cuerpo consultivo de la *Congregación de la doctrina de la fe*; y su presidente es el cardenal de los Estados Unidos, William J. Levada, prefecto de la congregación.

Durante su reunión, llevada a cabo del 20 al 24 de abril, los integrantes de la comisión se concentraron en el tema "Inspiración y Verdad en la Biblia".

El Papa Benedicto dijo que el tema trata de "una preocupación que reside muy cerca de mi corazón, pues la interpretación de las Sagradas Escrituras es de fundamental importancia para la fe cristiana y la vida de la iglesia".

Para tener una interpretación

correcta de las Sagradas Escrituras, los eruditos deben seguir el criterio fijado por el *Concilio vaticano segundo*, dijo.

Primero, "se debe dar gran atención al contenido y a la unidad de toda la Sagrada Escritura"; y segundo, "las Sagradas Escrituras deben de leerse en el contexto de la tradición viva de la iglesia entera", dijo.

Por último, los eruditos deben prestar atención "a la cohesión de las verdades individuales de fe, tanto una con otra como dentro del plan total de la revelación", dijo.

Sin embargo, no es suficiente aplicarse solamente al estudio de las Sagradas Escrituras en un estudio académico, que podría conllevar el riesgo de verlas solamente como un trabajo de literatura, dijo el Papa.

Un Nuevo Pentecostés "2009"

Grupo de Oración
"Rios de Agua Viva" de la
Iglesia de Todos los Santos

Conferencistas:
Padre Pedro Nuñez
de New Orleans, LA
Dr. Carlos Barillas
de New York
Alabanza
Juan Carlos Garcia

Nolan Catholic High School
4501 Bridge St.
Fort Worth, Tx 76103

Viernes, 29 de Mayo
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sábado, 30 de Mayo
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Misa, Hora Santa y Vigilia

Domingo, 31 de Mayo
8:00 a.m. - ?

Costo de conferencia \$20 incluye comida
No habra cuidado de niños

Para Mas Informacion y Boletos: 682-647-0550
817-306-3528

El Papa visita zona de temblor para fortalecer la fe, esperanza de futuro de sobrevivientes

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

ONNA, Italia — En una visita orientada a fortalecer la fe y la esperanza de la gente para el futuro, el Papa Benedicto XVI hizo un llamado a medidas concretas e inmediatas para reconstruir los pueblos y las villas devastados por un terremoto mortal.

El Papa dijo a los sobrevivientes que había sido su deseo venir a verlos desde el preciso momento en que el terremoto azotó esta región central italiana montañosa el 6 de abril.

“Me hubiese gustado ir a todo pueblo y a todo vecindario, a todas las ciudades de carpas y haber conocido a todos si hubiese sido posible”, dijo en un campamento de carpas improvisado a unas millas fuera de L’Aquila.

La visita del Papa el 28 de abril lo llevó primero a Onna, una diminuta villa que una vez fue hogar de 300 personas. El terremoto de magnitud 6.3 redujo a escombros los edificios del pueblo, matando 40 personas y dejando desamparada la población completa.

El clima pobre obligó al Papa a viajar a las zonas afectadas



El Papa Benedicto XVI saluda a un bombero después de visitar una iglesia en la villa Onna, Italia, destrozada por un terremoto, el 28 de abril. El Papa visitó dos pueblos en Italia central, donde un temblor y sus réplicas dejaron 65,000 personas desamparadas el 6 de abril. (Foto CNS/Maximo Rossi, Reuters)

por automóvil en vez de helicóptero.

La severidad y la extensión de los daños eran evidentes aun cuando vistos desde la carretera que circunda L’Aquila. La ciudad y sus cercanías se han convertido en

pueblos fantasmas, con las calles y los lotes de estacionamiento vacíos de automóviles y enteros edificios de apartamentos oscuros y cerrados. Varios edificios tenían orificios que reventaron en sus paredes, como si hubiesen

sido bombardeados con disparos de cohetes.

El temblor y su serie de réplicas dejaron 65,000 personas desamparadas, casi 300 personas muertas y otras 1,500 heridas, según las autoridades.

La mitad de los residentes de Onna se relocalizó en hoteles a lo largo de la playa o se mudó con familiares. Los demás se quedaron, viviendo en carpas azul brillante suministradas por el gobierno. Muchos de ellos son ancianos que prefieren cuidar lo poco que ha quedado: sus gallinas, animales de corral y jardines de vegetales.

En el campamento de carpas en Onna el Papa expresó sus condolencias a aquellos que viven lejos de sus hogares y a aquellos que viven en sus automóviles o en carpas, especialmente con un clima tan frío y lluvioso.

La derrama de ayuda y apoyo no puede terminar sólo con ayuda de emergencia, dijo.

Los esfuerzos deben continuar y “convertirse en un proyecto estable y concreto”, de modo que la ciudad y los pueblos circundantes puedan levantarse otra vez, dijo.

Sueño estadounidense todavía brilla para mujeres detenidas en redada de Postville

Por Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

POSTVILLE, Iowa — Cuando Marta Verónica Cumez Solovi fue llevada a la planta empacadora de carne *Agriprocessors* en Postville, donde una vez trabajó, dijo que tenía un sentido de pavor al regresar.

“Yo estaba pensando otra vez más sobre todas las cosas que habían sucedido”, dijo Solovi, nativa de Guatemala, mediante un intérprete.

Solovi, de 33 años de edad, quien ha estado en los Estados Unidos durante tres años, fue una de 389 personas arrestadas por el *Servicio de inmigración y control de aduanas* de los Estados Unidos el mayo pasado, en una de las redadas más grandes en

un lugar de trabajo.

Ella fue detenida y procesada, pero, después de casi un año, todavía no ha sido enjuiciada. A cambio de cierta medida de libertad mientras espera el juicio, Solovi debe usar una pulsera de tobillo que tiene un sistema GPS dentro, de manera que las autoridades federales puedan supervisar sus movimientos. Pero a ella no se le permite trabajar.

Solovi y docenas de otros han tomado refugio, a veces físicamente y a veces espiritualmente, en la iglesia *St. Bridget* en Postville. La parroquia ha intentado racionar casi \$1 millón en donaciones recibidas para ayudar a los trabajadores de *Agriprocessors*, arrestados o no, a

pagar alquiler, servicios públicos, y costos de vida.

En gratitud, Solovi, miembro de la parroquia, y otras mujeres inmigrantes, preparan el almuerzo diario para el personal y los voluntarios de *St. Bridget*. De esa manera, ellas agradecen a quienes les han ayudado a sobrevivir estos tiempos difíciles.

Janet Rafael, otra ex trabajadora de *Agriprocessors*, no estuvo involucrada en la redada. Ella no estaba programada a trabajar durante esa mañana.

Sin embargo, su esposo fue arrestado y programado para deportación hacia su Guatemala natal. Aunque Rafael continuó trabajando, la planta *Agriprocessors* cerró abruptamente el 14 de noviembre, aplastada bajo el peso de investigaciones en cuanto a sus prácticas de trabajo y finanzas, además de una multiplicidad de acusaciones criminales contra los dueños.

Rafael, de México, con 25 años de edad, y su esposo, se conocieron en la planta. Han estado casados tres años y son padres de un hijo de 2 años de edad, Yordi, ciudadano nativo estadounidense.

“Mi hijo está lleno de energía”,

dijo a *Catholic News Service* mediante un intérprete el 22 de abril, mientras Yordi correteaba por la casa parroquial.

El personal de *St. Bridget* también ha ayudado a la familia Rafael. Quizás las mejores noticias para Janet Rafael han sido que la deportación de su esposo se ha retrasado y podría ser cancelada. Restituyeron a su esposo a Iowa como testigo federal en los procedimientos criminales contra *Agriprocessors*.

Rafael dijo que el matrimonio ha conversado sobre las opciones que tienen de mudarse a Guatemala o a México. Sin embargo, si ella tuviese la opción, permanecería en Iowa, pero quizá no en Postville. “En algún lugar más grande, donde haya más trabajo”, dijo. También quisiera mudarse a un apartamento más amplio, y no a uno como en el que viven ahora.

Lloró mientras hablaba de la esperanza que el regreso de su esposo para testificar le otorgara inmunidad contra la deportación, de modo que ellos pudiesen permanecer en los Estados Unidos. Lagrimosa, Rafael dijo: “No puedo decir cuán grande es” estar reunida con la familia.

Comisión recomienda que EE.UU. observe de cerca a Venezuela y a Cuba

Por Regina Linskey
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Una comisión del gobierno de los Estados Unidos le ha recomendado al presidente Barack Obama que su administración coloque a Venezuela y a Cuba en la lista de países que deben de ser observados de cerca por sus violaciones en contra de la libertad religiosa.

En su informe anual, dado a conocer el 1° de mayo en Washington, la *Comisión de libertad religiosa internacional* de los Estados Unidos también recomendó que otros 13 países, incluyendo Irak, Irán, Saudi Arabia, China y Pakistán, sean designados como “países de especial preocupación”. Esta designación se reserva para países donde se lleva a cabo las más notorias violaciones en contra de la libertad religiosa y para gobiernos que toleran tales abusos.

La comisión, cuerpo independiente, le entrega sus recomendaciones al presidente, a la secretaria de estado y al Congreso.

Durante la rueda de prensa en donde se dio a conocer el informe, Talal Eid, que es imán, encargado de presidir la oración musulmana, de Boston, y miembro de la comisión, dijo que en Venezuela se ha aumentado sin descanso la tolerancia de los abusos en contra de católicos, judíos y grupos protestantes cuyas oficinas principales están en Estados Unidos. Aunque no hay restricciones oficiales en contra de la libertad religiosa, dijo, la “cruda retórica” usada por parte del gobierno venezolano y la impunidad han creado “un ambiente hostil” para ciudadanos católicos y judíos.

Los obispos católicos de Venezuela han denunciado las acciones políticas del presidente Hugo Chávez, diciendo que detenta demasiado poder en la presidencia y viola los principios democráticos.

En su recomendación de que Cuba sea puesta en la lista de observación, la comisión dijo que “las creencias y prácticas religiosas continúan estando controladas en forma muy apretada” en la nación caribeña.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

Special Collection: National Collection for the Retired Religious

Parish Name	Parish Location	Retired Religious Dec 2007	Retired Religious Dec 2008
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	330.00	446.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	84.00	15.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	1,214.52	1,911.00
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	5,714.85	6,822.86
St. Joseph	Arlington	4,420.48	4,089.74
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	4,940.00	4,390.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	308.00	325.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	661.75	518.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	2,134.00	2,089.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	3,964.00	2,883.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	855.00	967.00
St. Michael	Bedford	3,466.00	4,251.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	103.00	170.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	932.42	716.00
St. John the Baptist	Bridgeport	545.20	563.00
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	343.00	380.00
St. Ann	Burleson	2,174.00	2,571.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	4,333.26	3,426.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	148.00	1,401.60
St. Joseph	Cleburne	903.79	988.65
Holy Angels	Clifton	1,188.00	0.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	2,387.00	5,617.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	152.00	156.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	82.00	75.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	929.86	885.88
Immaculate Conception	Denton	1,611.10	1,890.00
St. Mark	Denton	3,298.60	4,106.90
St. Mary	Dublin	494.00	1,073.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	51.00	60.00
St. Paul	Electra	25.00	46.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,299.98	1,615.00
Christ the King	Fort Worth	733.00	938.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	4,968.00	3,628.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	300.00	0.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,873.78	2,149.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	1,099.10	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,203.00	2,106.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	198.00	228.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	199.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	9,022.79	9,690.94
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	12,879.43	12,954.69
St. George	Fort Worth	0.00	968.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	2,041.00	1,978.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	627.00	460.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	4,857.00	4,774.50
St. Paul	Fort Worth	768.90	1,024.60
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,360.00	1,009.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	395.00	365.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	2,718.82	2,659.66
St. Mary	Gainesville	1,145.01	741.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	260.27	878.61
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	40.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	758.15	829.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,381.00	0.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	5,081.00	0.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	0.00	190.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	1,373.03	0.00
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	43.00	64.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	84.00	91.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	6,350.00	7,954.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	107.00	132.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,892.91	2,843.65
St. Peter	Lindsay	2,935.00	4,831.50
St. Jude	Mansfield	3,300.30	3,165.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	85.00	60.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	909.70	688.04
St. William	Montague	0.00	50.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	205.31	0.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	10.00	1,931.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	180.00	85.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	98.19	311.28
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	361.00	1,123.43
St. Mary	Quanah	131.50	185.00
St. Rita	Ranger	59.03	97.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	0.00	388.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	105.00	166.07
Sacred Heart	Seymour	76.00	226.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	750.00	300.00
St. John	Strawn	152.05	123.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	552.47	2,061.80
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	292.00	338.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	7,260.00	7,633.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	453.00	731.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	1,246.62	1,240.52
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	1,241.17	1,715.50
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,463.00	1,519.80
St. Mary	Windthorst	890.90	884.00

138,610.24 142,959.22

Prepared by the Accounting Dept for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
Please forward all questions and comments to Debbie Lankford

Rome Pilgrimage deadline approaches

FROM PAGE 1

priest witnessed the miraculous appearance of drops of blood on a Host that he was consecrating. The traveling priest had doubts about the truth of transubstantiation and found that his Host was bleeding so much that it stained the altar cloth.

Today, in the Eucharistic Chapel (The Chapel of the Corporal) in Orvieto Cathedral, a large silver shrine contains the Holy Corporal (linen altar cloth) from Bolsena. The Corporal of Bolsena, which is preserved in a rich reliquary in Orvieto Cathedral, is one of the many relics the group will see during the Pilgrimage as well as the major holy sites in Rome. Home to St. Peter and his successors, including, of course, Pope Benedict XVI. Rome and especially St. Peter's in the Vatican, is one of the most important centers in the Christian world — the second most visited site in Christendom after Jerusalem.

The group's full program also includes a visit to Assisi, the ancient holy town of St. Francis.

Bishop Vann will travel with the Fort Worth group from DFW International Airport to Rome on Monday, Nov. 9, arriving in Rome on Nov. 10. On arrival the group will enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome before checking into a first class hotel near the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica. In the late afternoon, Bishop Vann will celebrate Mass for the group in the great Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls before the welcome dinner — a great way to start this important pilgrimage, since the year of St. Paul, designated by Pope Benedict XVI from June 2008 to June 2009, will have recently ended.

The Pilgrimage also includes a visit to St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums, Michelangelo's renowned Sistine Chapel, the Basilicas of St. John Lateran, and St. Mary Major, which has a piece of the wooden crib from Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

The group will also attend the weekly papal audience where Pope Benedict XVI will bless the assembly, followed by a visit to the Christian Catacombs. Opposite St. John Lateran, parishioners will have the opportunity to kneel at the Holy Stairs — the 28 marble steps of Pontius Pilate's Palace in Jerusalem that Jesus climbed during his Passion. They were brought to Rome by Emperor Constantine's mother, St. Helena, around 334 AD.

Pilgrimage participants will also be offered an option to visit Montecassino (the second home of St. Benedict) or Pompeii where

the volcano destroyed the city of Vesuvius in AD 73.

The Pilgrimage ends with a tour of Rome by night — a visit to the famous Trevi Fountain and "sure to make a lasting impression," say trip organizers, "St. Peter's illuminated, a splendid sight at night, ending the Pilgrimage on a high note."

According to information from the organizers, the cost of the Pilgrimage is \$2,799 per person, double occupancy, with all inclusions — roundtrip airfare and taxes from Dallas to and from Rome, six nights in a four-star hotel (each room with private facilities) with buffet breakfast and dinner daily (including wine and bottled water at dinner). All transfers in Italy and applicable sightseeing and entrance fees with local professional guides, daily motorcoaches, gratuities for drivers, guides, and escorts are included. Each motorcoach will have its own priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth and/or co-ordinator, local escort, and driver throughout the program. A dedicated information desk

will be located in each hotel and staffed by special personnel to answer any questions.

Medical and cancellation insurance is also included in the package price as well as a special commemorative T-shirt, dedicated name tags, luggage tags, and a detailed information booklet with all program details, destination information, contacts, terms, conditions, Rome map, and more. The only extra cost will be for a sandwich or pizza and soda for lunch.

Pre- and post-extensions will also be offered, enabling participants to spend three days and nights before or after the main Pilgrimage to Rome visiting other historically and religiously significant Italian cities: Venice, Florence, Verona, Padua, Milan, and Turin, depending on program choice.

For more information or questions, parishioners from the Diocese of Fort Worth are asked to contact Barbara Boone, the Pilgrimage coordinator at (972) 721-4118 or diocesanpilgrimage@gmail.com.

Make the spiritual investment of your lifetime

Join Bishop Kevin Vann

On a Journey to Rome, Italy

Nov. 9-16, 2009

To Celebrate the 40th Anniversary
of the Diocese of Fort Worth

Spend 6 nights in Rome — the Eternal City

Walk in the footsteps of the Apostles
St. Peter and St. Paul

Enjoy Mass daily with Bishop Vann at some
of the most holy sites of the Christian world:

- St. Peter's Basilica
- St. Mary Major
- St. Paul Outside the Walls
- St. John Lateran
- St. Francis Basilica — Assisi
- Orvieto Cathedral

This unique Anniversary Pilgrimage led by Bishop Vann includes the weekly Papal Audience in Rome, a visit to the Vatican Museums including Michelangelo's awesome Sistine Chapel, a day in Assisi visiting the holy sites of St. Francis and a day in Orvieto and Bolsena. In Rome, visit the Christian Catacombs and a chance to kneel at the Holy Stairs at the Chapel opposite the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Deadline for sign up is May 15

The Pilgrimage is open to all members of the parishes of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

Contact your Pastor and/or his designated Rome Pilgrimage Coordinator for the detailed itinerary, price, registration form, and all the inclusions — air and taxes from DFW, 6 nights first class hotel near the Vatican, Rome, breakfast and dinner daily, fully escorted, all applicable entrances, sightseeing, transfers, and insurance.

Or call the Diocesan Pilgrimage Coordinator Barbara Boone at (972) 721-4118 or Pilgrimage Director Father J. Michael Holmberg (972) 625-5252.

Diocesan

Bishop honors scouts from throughout the diocese for fulfilling their

Duty to God

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

Uniformed Scouts and leaders embodied the blend of scouting and faith at an award ceremony April 19 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller.

The 200 youth and their adult leaders had come together to receive Catholic diocesan awards in recognition of excellent work in religious programs.

Bishop Kevin Vann, who presided at the ceremony, told the assembly the religious scouting programs value hard work in and of itself, and also in the context of faith.

"In this octave of Easter, each day is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ," the bishop said. He explained that in the context of Easter, and of the day's Gospel reading (John 20:19-31), "Catholic Scouting becomes a place that says, 'Do not persist in your unbelief.'"

"Diocesan scouting," he said, "is a place where children learn



Stephanie Thomas, a member of Venture Crew 304 with St. Ignatius of Loyola College Preparatory School, holds the Pope Pius XII Medal.

not only what it means to be a Scout, but what it means to be a person of faith."

Presented this year were the Family of God award, for girls 7 to 9 years old, designed to help discover the presence of God in their daily lives; and the Hail Mary award, for first and second graders, who worked to recognize God's presence in home and community.

Third and fourth grade girls received the Holy Family award, for learning to recognize God in the home and community. Girls 9 to 11 years earned the I Live my Faith award, which teaches appreciation of God and religion in daily life, and encourages participation in the community of faith.

The Marian Medal, for young women aged 12 to 15 years, recognizes active involvement in understanding Mary as the model of openness and spirituality, and development of a Christian spirit of hope, faith, and joyful Christian community.

Boys who are Tiger and Wolf Cub Scouts earned the Light of Christ, by studying the sacraments, while Cub and Webelo Scouts received the *Parvuli Dei*



Gene Lamis pins the Light of Christ award on his son, Nicholas Lamis, a Tiger Scout from Pack 97. The Light of Christ award is achieved by studying the sacraments.

award, a national emblem that recognizes advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation.

Sixth to eighth-grade Boy Scouts earned the *Ad Altare Dei* award, preparing to take their places as maturing Catholics and Americans; and the Pope Pius XII award recognized scouts' potential to develop as leaders in church and community events.

This year the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award was given to Patricia Glasgow, for her work helping youth develop their spiritual lives. That award was inaugurated in 1980 to recognize the meritorious contributions of adults who serve Catholic youth through Girl Scouts and Camp Fire.

The Bronze Pelican, a diocesan recognition presented to those who have made significant contribution to Catholic Scouting, this year went to Terry Bachman, of Troop 32 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Victor Nguyen, of Troop and Crew 304 at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Fort Worth.

In recognition of outstanding contribution to the spiritual de-



Victor Nguyen (left), principal of St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, stands with Oanh Nguyen (center), founder of the school, and longtime Scout leader Bob Connelly. The school's Venture Crew 304 was presented with the prestigious Gold Medallion Award, and is the first crew in the diocese to receive it.

velopment of Catholic youth in the Boy Scouts of America, the St. George Emblem was given to Bill Bellman of St. Jude Parish in Mansfield; John Houters of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington; and Richard Mathews of St. Francis of Assisi Parish at Grapevine.

A National Catholic Quality Unit Award, Pope Paul VI, was presented to Pack 32, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Qualifications for that honor were adult leadership response to training, with Scouts participating in the religious emblem programs of their particular levels in scouting.

The prestigious Gold Medallion Award, with its distinctive

banner, was presented this year to Crew 304 of St. Ignatius School. Accepting the banner were Oanh Nguyen, founder of the school, and Victor Nguyen, principal.

The Gold Medallion was established to identify and recognize the outstanding Catholic Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop, and Venturing Crew in each of the 15 episcopal regions of the United States. Winners are chosen because they excel at providing youth with quality religious activities, religious emblem participation, outdoor activities, and special events that encompass the religious, vocational, and educational aspects of Catholic Scouting.

Diocesan Scouting Committee offers counselor training

The Fort Worth Catholic Committee on Scouting will conduct two *Ad Altare Dei* counselor, cub coordinator, and refresher trainings May 12 and 20 from 7 to 9:30 p.m., and May 16 and 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Education Wing of St. Philip the Apostle Church, located at 1897 W. Main Street in Lewisville, or at a trainer's home, depending on the size of the group.

Applicants must bring a "Religious Emblem Counselor Application" signed by their pastors, which can be found by looking on page 10 of *Emblems Program*, along with other information. Applicants must also have a current youth protection certification from the Boy Scouts of America, and a current "Keeping Children Safe" certification from the diocese, and should bring a Scout and counselor handbook for the program they wish to be trained

in, and a highlighter.

According to event organizers, certified counselors not trained in the last two years are expected to come to the first hour of any period as part of their Continuing Education in Religious Emblems. This time will focus on the administrative aspects of the program, not how to conduct classes. Based on situations in the past this training is most necessary. Pack/Parish Cub religious coordinator training is included in the first hour of training.

There will be no training at the Scout retreat in the fall and pre-registration is required. To RSVP, e-mail Tom Moore at tommyjoe2@verizon.net. Other dates and locations may be available based on demand. Dates for the *Pope Pius XII* medals will be scheduled on an "as needed" basis. Please contact Tom Moore to coordinate.



Bishop Vann smiles as he stands with a young Brownie from Girl Scout Troop 1526 at the April 19 ceremony.



Two young members of Pack 32 receive their award from Bishop Vann. Pack 32 received the Pope Paul VI unit award for the third consecutive year.

Cutting U.S. poverty rate in half by 2020 seen as vital for country

By Julie Carroll
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn.— Father Larry Snyder admits it's a daunting challenge: starting work on cutting the U.S. poverty rate in half by 2020 at a time when thousands of Americans are drowning in debt and organizations that serve the poor are straining to meet their clients' needs.

Not only is Catholic Charities USA, which Fr. Snyder heads, committed to the goal, but he and the organization are convinced that it's vital for the country.

On April 20 Catholic Charities hosted the first of 10 summits to be held at sites across the nation in 2009 and 2010 to give social service providers, health care providers, educational leaders, and others an opportunity to discuss the needs of the poor in their communities.

Catholic Charities plans to use the information to craft anti-poverty legislation that it will propose to Congress next year.

"Our plan is simple," Fr. Snyder told more than 100 people gathered at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul.

"Earlier in our history," he said, "Monsignor (John) O'Grady joined with the Roosevelt administration in crafting the New Deal and the largest

anti-poverty program in our nation's history: Social Security. It is time for the New Deal of our time."

Msgr. O'Grady headed the national Catholic Charities operation for more than 40 years.

The organization is one of the largest networks of social service providers in the nation. It serves nearly 8 million people annually through more than 1,700 local agencies and institutions nationwide.

Catholic Charities USA launched an anti-poverty campaign in 2006 after publishing a policy paper titled "Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good," which called for the creation of more livable-wage jobs and a greater investment in social policies that support the poor.

In 2007, according to the most current data available, more than 37 million Americans were living below the official federal poverty level, which was \$22,050 for a family of four. Some have predicted that by the end of this year, that number will climb to more than 50 million.

Catholic Charities and other organizations that serve the poor also have been scarred by the troubled economy.

In a 2009 survey conducted

by Catholic Charities USA, the organization's agencies around the country reported an increase in demand for nutrition, housing, and direct-assistance services coupled with a decrease in donations.

"The statistics coming back to us are disturbing," Fr. Snyder said at the St. Paul summit.

Eighty-two percent of the 50 agencies that responded to the survey reported an increase in requests for food services in 2008, he said. Eighty-six percent experienced an increase in requests for rent or mortgage assistance, and 90 percent reported an increase in requests for financial assistance.

"The demographics of people seeking help have also changed and are now including people who consider themselves middle class as well as senior citizens," Fr. Snyder added.

Anecdotes from the front lines are even more revealing.

Father Ragan Schriver, executive director of Catholic Charities of East Tennessee in the Knoxville Diocese, reported to Catholic Charities USA: "Through October, November, and December all family shelter beds were full. We had to ask our United Way to allow us to spend some of their money on lower-end hotel rooms

to put families who were homeless into a place until something opened up."

Laura Opelt, executive director of Catholic Charities of Rochester, New York, said: "We are seeing more working poor who have never accessed services before and are not eligible for traditional programs. They are in need of food and emergency assistance."

At the same time that demand for services is increasing, Catholic Charities agencies are experiencing a sharp decline in philanthropic giving and government funding, according to the survey.

As a result, 20 percent of agencies reported making reductions in programs that provide basic needs. Sixteen percent made reductions in housing assistance programs. Of the agencies reporting program reductions, 56 percent cut staff and 44 percent made service delivery cuts.

In 2006, Fr. Snyder said, "we never imagined that we would be facing in 2008 and 2009 a housing crisis, a financial crisis, a nation in crisis."

"But this crisis presents us with the opportunity to change a nation," he said, adding that the aim should not be "to look around for signs of hope" but

to be determined "to be signs of hope."

In an interview with *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Fr. Snyder said Catholic Charities will propose "landmark legislation ... that we hope to call the 'Corporal Works of Mercy Legislation.'"

The legislation will focus on five "pillars" outlined in "Poverty in America": hunger, health care, economic security, housing, and education and workforce development.

To eradicate poverty, Fr. Snyder said, nonprofit organizations and government must work together.

"In Catholic social teaching, we would define the role of government as providing for the common good," Father Snyder said. "A lot of people on Capitol Hill would not agree with that. They would say government's business is to maintain the security of our borders and maintain law and order."

"Those are important things," he said, "but they're pieces of the common good. We would say the other pieces are, if there are people who are not able to live independently, then somehow the government has a responsibility to be a part of the solution."

Glendon points out Notre Dame placed her in role of balance to Obama

FROM PAGE 1
Catholic Church and society.

A spokeswoman for the Indiana university confirmed April 27 that Glendon, who served as ambassador from 2007 until earlier this year, was the first person to accept and then later decline the award.

Jennifer R. Psaki, a White House spokeswoman, said Obama also was disappointed by Glendon's decision, "but he looks forward to delivering an inclusive and respectful speech at the Notre Dame graduation, a school with a rich history of fostering the exchange of ideas."

"While he is honored to have the support of millions of people of all faiths, he does not govern with the expectation that everyone sees eye to eye with him on every position, and the spirit of debate and healthy disagreement on important issues is part of what he loves about this country," Psaki added.

Glendon, professor of law at Harvard Law School, wrote that she thought the bishops' request is "reasonable" and does not seek to "control or interfere with an institution's freedom to invite speakers and engage in serious debate with whomever it

wishes." As a result, she wrote, "I am at a loss to understand why a Catholic university should disrespect it."

Glendon said she was also concerned that the university had issued "talking points" that implied that her acceptance speech for the award would "somehow balance the event."

She quoted two statements from the university:

— "President Obama won't be doing all the talking. Mary Ann Glendon, the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, will be speaking as the recipient of the *Laetare* Medal."

— "We think having the president come to Notre Dame, see our graduates, meet our leaders and hear a talk from Mary Ann Glendon is a good thing for the president and for the causes we care about."

Glendon wrote that a commencement is supposed to be a joyous day for the graduates and their families.

"It is not the right place, nor is a brief acceptance speech the right vehicle, for engagement with the very serious problems raised by Notre Dame's decision — in disregard of the settled position of the U.S. bishops — to honor a

prominent and uncompromising opponent of the church's position on issues involving fundamental principles of justice," the letter said.

In light of reports that other Catholic institutions also are choosing to disregard the bishops' request, Glendon expressed concern that Notre Dame's example "could have an unfortunate ripple effect."

Father Jenkins in a statement posted on the university's Web site April 30, sought to fill the gap left by Glendon's rejection of the *Laetare* Medal. "In thinking about who could bring a compelling voice, a passion for dialogue, great intellectual stature, and a deep commitment to Catholic values to the speaking role of the *Laetare* medalist — especially in these unusual circumstances," Fr. Jenkins wrote, "it quickly became clear that an ideal choice is Judge Noonan."

"Since Judge Noonan is a previous winner of the *Laetare* Medal, we have decided, upon reflection, to not award the medal this year," he added.

A former professor at Notre Dame, Noonan was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in 1985 by President

Ronald Reagan and has been a consultant for the Presidential Commission on Population, the National Institutes of Health, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the American Law Institute, and served on the Eisenhower administration's National Security Council.

He is the author of numerous books, including *A Church That Can and Cannot Change: The Development of Catholic Moral Teaching and Contraception: A History of Its Treatment by Catholic Theologians and Canonists*.

Since Noonan, 82, has served as a consultant for several agencies in the Catholic Church, including Pope Paul VI's Commission on Problems of the Family and several U.S. bishops' committees, Father Jenkins said he would send Notre Dame graduates "into the world with sound advice and affirmation."

Since announcing March 20 that Obama would speak at the commencement, the university has been criticized by some U.S. bishops, including Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John M. D'Arcy, leader of the diocese where Notre Dame is located,

who announced plans to boycott the event.

Other clergy, alumni and conservative Catholic organizations have mounted a campaign seeking to have the university revoke the president's invitation.

Anti-abortion activist Randall Terry has vowed to protest Obama's scheduled address every day leading up to the May 17 ceremony and has suggested that protesters may disrupt the commencement.

Asked for a response to Terry's plans, Bishop D'Arcy said, "As you know, we have distanced ourselves from him."

The bishop reiterated that he had asked "Catholics and others of good will not to join in unseemly protests, which attack the president of the United States or Father Jenkins or the University of Notre Dame."

The spokesman said Bishop D'Arcy "has urged everyone to cooperate, so Notre Dame will have a peaceful graduation."

Though some Notre Dame students have participated in campus protests about Obama's scheduled appearance, others have voiced their enthusiasm and support of the president's upcoming commencement address.

Pacheco...

FROM PAGE 24
on the search committee that selected him. "Walking away from TCU, I sensed I had helped make it a better police department," Pacheco said. "And I enjoyed myself there all the time.

"The kids would come to the university as freshmen, sort of intimidated," he said. "Then four years later you'd see how much they had matured. I have a soft spot in my heart for TCU."

Pacheco's priestly vocation, from the first hint at age four to the seminary 49 years later, was book-ended by his mother, who he said, "knew me thoroughly." He remembers traveling to Mexico City with his parents Adam and Mary, his older brother Adam Jr., and his grandparents, when he was 4, and holding his mother's hand at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"My mother had a 'death grip' on my hand," he said, laughing, "as we watched all the people walking on their knees to where Mary had appeared to Juan Diego. I asked my mother what they were doing, and she said, 'They are showing our Blessed Mother how much they love her.'"

Five years later, when nine-year-old John was with his mother and brother in the chapel at Immaculate Heart of Mary, "I thought, for just a few seconds, I could see myself as a priest. It scared me at first."

"My mother had a 'death grip' on my hand, as we watched all the people walking on their knees to where Mary had appeared to Juan Diego. I asked my mother what they were doing, and she said, 'They are showing our Blessed Mother how much they love her.'"

— Deacon John Pacheco

His reverence came back periodically through the years. In college, he read all he could find of Our Lady of Lourdes and Fatima, and for the first time expressed his feelings to his mother. Her reaction was simple, said Pacheco: "I don't want you to be a priest."

"Later in life she said, 'I should not have told you that. I was being selfish. I only have two sons, and I hoped you would get married, but I should not have said that.'"

"My mother was a big influence on my life," Pacheco said. "We were very, very close to one another. And I loved my dad. To me he was a cross between John Wayne, Gary Cooper, and Superman. When he came in the room, I knew everything would be okay, because he was there. Even when he was dying I felt that way."

John's father, who had Alzheimer's disease, died of cancer in 1998. His mother died of Alzheimer's in 2007.

"We had a real good talk a few days before she died,"

Pacheco said. "She was very proud that I was in the seminary, and that I had decided to do 'what the good Lord had called me to do.' She said she wasn't going to live much longer, but that she would be with me."

Pacheco applied twice for admission to the seminary for the Diocese of Fort Worth, but was not accepted the first time.

He said he "let it go, and took a trip to Israel, Capernaum, and the Sea of Galilee. We had Mass where Jesus spoke the Sermon on the Mount, and I just adored it there. I felt I needed to be there. I didn't want to leave, and yet I wanted to return to care for my mom."

At home, then-Vocations Director Father Anh Tran and then-Director of Seminarians Sister Donna Ferguson, SSMN, asked John if he was still interested in the seminary, and, "I knew God was calling me. I took the test again — I knew I was going to the seminary, and I did!"

John's brother Adam and



Deacon Pacheco offers a blessing to St. Mary of the Assumption parishioner Brigit Condors. Looking on are her sister, Caitlin Condors, and Dr. Frank McGehee.

his wife Mary took their mother into their home, encouraging their younger brother to leave for the seminary. "Thanks be to God for my brother and sister-in-law," said Pacheco, "Had I not been confident they could look after my mom, I wouldn't be here."

"Once I stepped into the seminary I had no doubts at all. I told my spiritual director, 'I want to be a priest and get out there.' He answered, 'Your priesthood starts now, in the seminary. God wants you here now. When you are ordained, that's where God will want you.'"

"I am really looking forward to my life as a priest," Pacheco said. "We all feel apprehension and confusion when we start here, but God asks us to try. This is what God called me to do. I know it. Being a priest. Serving the Body

of Christ.

"The moment I stand before God," he said, "a split second before I die — I want to know that I tried. That I did the best I could."

John Pacheco's parents shared with him their devotion to our Lady of Guadalupe, where he first saw pilgrims demonstrating their faith. "When I got to the seminary, there was a picture of the tilma, with the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and I prayed that if she helped me, I would make a pilgrimage back there to where it all started."

For his ordination day, Pacheco asked the bishop's permission to wear a gold chasuble with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the front.

"And at my first Mass," he said, "I will be looking up and saying, 'Mom, Dad, I'm here. I'm doing it.'"

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 13
able thought-bubbles suitable for moms: "Don't even ask," or "Not after midnight."

For younger children you could use: "In a minute," "Hush," and "Enough."

Bubbles wouldn't be necessary all the time. For example in teenager carpool conversation, which is the closest thing we know to mind reading, thought bubbles would be irrelevant. "How did your research paper turn out?" "Okay." "Did the teacher say anything?" "Not much." "What kind of grade did you get?" "Dunno." "Are you hungry?" "Kinda." "What would you like for dinner?" "Whatever."

In moments of household mayhem, when all the kids are talking at once, and you are mentally working on something else (dinner, a phone call, or your check book), thought

bubbles might not work.

At those times you'd still have to go with the tried-and-true option of empathetic grunts: "Huhmm." "Arghhh." "Uh huh." "Awww." Spoken with the correct emphasis and pitch, those four can get you through a six-year-old's retelling of the story of Noah's Ark or a seventh-grader's description of the mean things "all the other kids" did during lunch.

Today at the dentist's office there were no alternate communication methods I could use.

So while I waited it out, I thought of the dentist, a parent, who once made two 11-year-old children his own. I heard the words "my sons," given with the affection of a father who knows nothing about the word "step."

Then I thought of fathers who are also mothers, and mothers who are also fathers, and I thought how next-to-im-

possible that is, until you are doing it.

My mind wandered to mothers who had small children on their hips once, tiny appendages without which they thought they could not survive. But sadly, some of these mothers were forced to do so.

And I thought of frightening late-night phone calls parents all fear coming, and sometimes, like the enactment of our worst nightmares, actually do come.

I thought of the mothers and fathers who are not anybody's mothers or fathers at all — nurses, teachers, next-door neighbors, or clergy. Those are fill-in-the-blanks parents, the ones who take up the slack, make the bad times okay, and cause things to feel normal, sometimes without words — just empathetic grunts.

So, if I'd had thought-balloons, my dentist would have

known I was thinking of him not as the guy with the drill, but the parent who inspired my thoughts that day when he said, "my sons."

When my tooth was fixed, and the dentist removed the human hydraulic power lock that was holding my mouth open, I had not forgotten my question: "What do the boys call you?"

"Dad," he said. "At first it was awkward, but one day my son was introducing me to someone and instead of saying 'This is my stepdad Rick,' he said, 'This is my dad.' It was nice," my dentist said, saying the words with feeling. "Very nice."

Later I told my daughters about the thought bubbles idea, and they all weighed in.

Abby said she probably wouldn't use hers. "It's like 'Twitter,'" she said. "I don't believe people want to know what I'm thinking at 2:30 on any afternoon."

Julie said it was a good idea, "But can we also have subtitles under everything we look at — like when we're looking out the window on car trips. And can we add pop-ups with additional information?"

Meredith's idea was pragmatic. "I'd like thought-bubbles," she said. "But I'd need a pin, so if I didn't care what someone was thinking, I could pop their bubble."

"And of course I'd want it to make the bubblewrap popping sound."



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

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

Calendar

CURSILLO RETREATS

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

ROSARY CONGRESS

Marian Renewal Ministry Director, Father Al Winshman, SJ, will be the presenter at the 20th annual Rosary Congress sponsored by Apostolatus Uniti and hosted by St. Ann Church in Burleson, June 13-20. The Rosary Congress will also feature the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Our Lady of Fatima carved by renowned sculptor, José Thedim, June 19-20. For information on Rosary Congress, call Bonnie Sager at (817) 723-5630 or visit the Web site at www.apostolatusuniti.com.

SVDP SOCIETY MEETING

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

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

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

NFP PRACTITIONERS

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

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

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

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

To Report Misconduct

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

- Call **Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator**, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org
- Or call the **Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 102 and ask for the chancellor/moderator of the curia, Father James Hart

To Report Abuse

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

CHILDREN OF GOD'S DELIGHT

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

NTC DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the May 22 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, May 13. Items for the June 26 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, June 17.

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

LAY CARMELITES

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

COURAGE GROUP

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for those striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality, meets every second and fourth Friday evening of the month and will meet next May 22. For information, e-mail to CourageDFW@Catholic.org or call (972) 938-5433.

CARDINAL NEWMAN LECTURE

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

NOLAN BAND CAMP

Nolan Catholic High School will offer its ninth annual Middle School Summer Band Camp June 8-12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Summer band camp provides opportunities to bring together young musicians from across the Metroplex and learn from some of the best music teachers in the area, according to a press release. Camp will be held in the Music Hall of the Multi-Purpose Activity Center at Nolan Catholic High School located at 4501 Bridge St. in East Fort Worth. An end-of-camp concert will be held on June 12 at 11 a.m. Cost of the camp is \$75 which includes five days of group, ensemble, and individual instrument instruction, and a concert experience. The cost is \$65 for those who register and pay by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 22. For more information and to register, visit the "Band" page on the school's Web site at www.nolancatholics.org or contact Melissa Korzekwa at mkorzekwa@nolancatholics.org, or at (817) 457-2920 ext. 1733.

RACHEL MINISTRIES

Rachel Ministries, a program that offers a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath, is expanding its outreach to include programs and services in Spanish. The expanded outreach program is currently seeking volunteers who can read and speak Spanish to help build the Spanish program. The ministry is also seeking Spanish-speaking licensed counselors to volunteer during the Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats. There are also opportunities for volunteers to be included on the referral list. Training will be provided to all volunteers. Anyone who is bilingual and is interested in this ministry is asked to contact Betsy Kopor at (817) 923-4757 or by e-mail to forgiven@racheltx.org.

THEOLOGIAN PETER KREEFT

Theologian Dr. Peter Kreeft will give two talks at St. Maria Goretti Church, located at 1200 S. Davis Drive in Arlington from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, May 16. The topics covered will include "A Refutation on Moral Relativism" and "Proofs of God's Existence." The event is free, but donations will be accepted. For more information, contact Lucas Pollice, director of the Office of Adult Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth at (817) 560-3300 ext. 260 or lpollice@fwdioc.org or John Cox at (817) 274-0643 ext. 226 or jcox@smgparish.org.

HOLY FAMILY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Holy Family Catholic School Dads' Club will host its third annual golf tournament benefiting Holy Family Catholic School, Friday, May 22, at Hawk's Creek Golf Club, 6520 White Settlement Rd. in Fort Worth. The event will kick-off at 10 a.m. The registration fee is \$150 per player or \$600 for a team of four players. Register before May 18 and receive an early bird savings of \$100 per team. Sponsorships and volunteers are welcome. For more information, visit the Web site at www.holyfamilygolf.org or contact Mark Cortez at (817) 360-7034, Mike Cook, Jr. at (817) 829-5174, or Grant Thomas at (817) 683-9875.

DEAF MINISTRY

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

Classified Section

ALL SAINTS PRINCIPAL

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

ST. PIUS X PRINCIPAL

St. Pius X Catholic School, a Pre-K3 through 8th grade school located in the northeast area of San Antonio, is seeking a candidate for principal who is a practicing Catholic and a dynamic leader with a master's degree and at least three years administrative experience for the 2009-2010 school year. Applications may be downloaded from www.sacatholicschools.org and mailed to the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Dept. of Catholic Schools, Attention: Joann Gawlik, associate superintendent, 2718 Woodlawn Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78228. For more information, contact Peter H. Wickersham, St. Pius X Principal Search Committee at (210) 829-1551.

ACCOMPANIST

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

ST. MARY'S PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's Catholic School, Gainesville, is seeking a strong academic and spiritual principal to lead its elementary school (PK-8; 193 students). The position is available for the 2009-2010 School Year. Candidates must be a practicing Catholic, have master's degree and 18 hours in administration, and three years experience in a Catholic School. Administrative experience is preferred. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, references, and a request for an application to: Catholic School Office, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919, or call (817) 560-3300 ext. 253.

SACRED HEART PRINCIPAL

Sacred Heart Catholic School in Muenster is seeking a spiritual and educational leader to serve as principal for 2009-2010. Sacred Heart, a PreK-12 school with 260 students, has served the parish community for 117 years. Candidates must be a practicing Catholic and must have master's degree with 18 hours of administration and three years experience in a Catholic school. Administrative experience is preferred. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, references, and a request for an application to Catholic School Office, Sacred Heart Principal Search, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919, prior to May 15.

LITURGY / MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

ASSOC. SUPERINTENDENT

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of associate superintendent of schools. The associate superintendent will provide leadership and service in the areas of curriculum, supervision, professional development, accreditation, and federal programs. Dedication to quality Catholic school education as integral to the teaching mission of the Catholic Church should be demonstrated with a minimum of five years administrative experience in Catholic schools. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic with at least a master's degree in educational administration or a related field. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, and references to Catholic School Office, Associate Superintendent Search, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

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

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

Good Newsmaker

After 21 years of service with the TCU police force, Deacon John Pacheco trades in his badge for a

Higher Calling



Deacon Pacheco joins the congregation in prayer at fellow seminarian Alfredo Barba's ordination to the diaconate on April 18. Also pictured are Deacon Simón Tórréz of Holy Cross Church in The Colony (center), and Deacon Bill Beaton of St. Mark Church in Denton.



An engaging homilist, Deacon Pacheco was a communications major during his college years at UTA.

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

John Pacheco wore purple for 21 years, but not as a liturgical color. The purple was a badge on his sleeve, the formal insignia of Texas Christian University. He was a TCU police officer.

Soon, however, whenever Pacheco wears purple, it will be on the chasuble of a Catholic priest. The newest priest in the Diocese of Fort Worth will be ordained at 11 a.m. May 23, at St. Patrick Cathedral.

"I stumbled into law enforcement," said Pacheco,

who started out as a communications major at the University of Texas at Arlington. He worked as a public safety officer at Tarrant County Junior College, then attended the North Texas Regional Police Academy, spent a year with the Fort Worth police, and ended up as day sergeant in the TCU force.

The job was supposed to have been temporary, the soon-to-be-ordained priest said, "But I fell in love with TCU, and stayed there."

At Pacheco's diaconate ordination last fall, Bishop Kevin Vann called to mind his metamorphosis, saying, "John, in your past life as a law enforcement officer you wore a uniform, and now you are exchanging one uniform for another."

But Pacheco's policeman-to-priest transition was a less drastic leap than it might have seemed, because his priority was always "helping people." "Kids at TCU are good kids.

They come to get an education and have fun, but as campus police, you have to watch people from off campus, too.

Pacheco once received a phone call from the Fort Worth Police Department about an assault that had occurred off campus, and that the suspect was headed toward TCU.

"It didn't include anyone from the university, but the guy had a handgun, and he had crawled into the bushes to hide. I found him; he started to roll out, and I had to pull my gun for protection.

"Thanks be to God he didn't have anything in his hand, but it was a scary feeling. I remember pulling my gun and holding it," Pacheco said, "but I didn't raise it."

During his more than 20 years of work in TCU law enforcement, the police department changed and flourished under the direction of a new chief, and Pacheco had served

SEE PACHECO, p. 26



The soon-to-be-ordained priest pours water into the chalice during Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church.



Dee Sweeney, a parishioner at St. Mary of the Assumption, receives a greeting from Deacon Pacheco after Mass.



Deacon Pacheco embraces the diocese's most recently ordained deacon, Alfredo Barba, at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton on April 18.

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

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Deacon Alfredo Barba brings his faith and his desire to serve as a priest in our diocese from Tlaxcala, Mexico. He was ordained to the diaconate recently at Immaculate Conception Parish, Denton. **5**

A profile of Catholic Campus Ministry at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls kicks off a series on campus ministries in the diocese. These students are known for their service to others. **9**

Youth 2000 drew 1,200 plus young Catholics to Nolan's Hartnett Arena where the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal helped bring them closer to Jesus, through prayer, adoration, and sharing. **15**