



# North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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May 11, 2007



**LATINOS WORSHIP** — Worshippers sing during a Spanish Mass at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, last year. A new study from the Pew Hispanic Center shows that Latinos are influencing U.S. religious practice, especially Catholicism. Latinos account for about a third of all Catholics in the United States. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

## Study finds U.S. Hispanics drawn to charismatic churches

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The church familiar to and preferred by Hispanic Catholics in the United States is a livelier, more charismatic place than the one most American Catholics are used to, finds a new survey on Latinos and religion.

A detailed survey by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released April 25 says about a third of U.S. Catholics are Latinos and that they are bringing a more evangelical style of faith into the broader church as their numbers grow.

Despite an overall drop in the

percentage of U.S. Hispanics who are Catholic — due largely to those who joined evangelical and Pentecostal churches — Latinos will continue to represent an ever-larger share of the U.S. Catholic population because of immigration and high birth rates, it said. About 68 percent of U.S. Hispanics say they are Catholics.

While in many respects Latinos differ little from the general U.S. population in their religious attitudes and activities, Roberto Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center, said analysts were surprised to see the depth of what he called “renewal Christianity” among people of Latino origin

or descent.

In a telephone press conference about the study, “Changing Faiths: Latinos and the Transformation of American Religion,” Suro said Latinos are much more likely than the general U.S. public to be involved in churches where an enthusiastic, hand-clapping, arms-raised style of worship and prayer is typical.

Fifty-four percent of Hispanic Catholics were identified as charismatics on the basis of what religious practices people said they have in their churches, the survey said. Among the characteristics the survey used to classify people

SEE SURVEY INDICATES..., P. 14

## Diocese of Fort Worth announces changes to organization of diocesan staff

The Diocese of Fort Worth announced changes to the organization of the diocesan staff April 25. The staffing changes were designed to better focus on the pastoral needs of the changing and growing Catholic community in North Texas.

A comprehensive strategic planning process involving a professionally guided, arduous, and thoughtful analysis of the

Diocese of Fort Worth led to a series of realignments, beginning in early 2007, of the diocesan staffing to more effectively meet the spiritual needs of the 400,000 Catholics within its 28 counties. The consulting firm Richard J. Burke and Associates assisted the leadership of the diocese in the study, helping to find ways to operate more efficiently and more cost-effectively, according

to diocesan officials.

The Fort Worth diocesan staff restructuring will enable the diocese to better serve members of the local Catholic Church as the rapid growth in the number of Catholics in the Fort Worth area continues into the foreseeable future. This growth in the Catholic population, according to demographic experts, is the result

SEE DIOCESE..., P. 8

## Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act is upheld; abortion opponents laud court's decision

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Abortion opponents lauded the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision April 18 upholding the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

President George W. Bush, who signed the ban into law in 2003, called partial-birth abortion an “abhorrent procedure” in an April 18 statement from the White House.

“Today's decision affirms that the Constitution does not stand in the way of the people's representatives enacting laws reflecting the compassion and humanity of America. The partial-birth abortion ban, which an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress passed and I signed into law, represents a commitment to building a culture of life in America,” said Bush.

While praising the decision, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life

Activities, said, “The court's decision does not affect the legal status of the great majority of abortions, and does not reverse past decisions claiming to find a right to abortion in the Constitution.”

“However, it provides reasons for renewed hope and renewed effort on the part of pro-life Americans,” he said. “The court is taking a clearer and more unobstructed look at the tragic reality of abortion, and speaking about that reality more candidly, than it has in many years.”

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing the majority opinion in the *Gonzales v. Carhart* and *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood* cases, said the law's opponents “have not demonstrated that the act would be unconstitutional in a large fraction of relevant cases.”

Also voting in the majority were Chief Justice John Roberts

SEE PRO-LIFE ADVOCATES..., P. 15



**BISHOP FARRELL INSTALLED** — An overflow crowd of more than 2,000 people greet Bishop Kevin J. Farrell as he is escorted by Deacons Charlie Stump (left) and Denis Corbin into the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Dallas for his installation Mass. Bishop Farrell, who was an auxiliary bishop in Washington for five years, became the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Dallas. See story, p. 7 (CNS photo/Robert Bunch, TEXAS CATHOLIC)



# As we approach Pentecost, the 'birthday of the Church,' we are reminded that we are to love and serve one another

Dear Friends in the  
Diocese of Fort Worth,

We are still celebrating the joyous season of Easter



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

and the Sunday readings refer us back to the public ministry of Our Lord, while at the same time, they begin to look ahead toward Pentecost, the "birthday" of the Church.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter brings us the words of Christ Himself, who once again asks us to "love one another," and the Gospel of the Sixth Sunday of Easter prepares us for the coming of the Holy Spirit. These two realities, love and the Holy Spirit, are interconnected and inseparable in the life of the Church.

These readings certainly mir-

*These two realities, love and the Holy Spirit, are interconnected and inseparable in the life of the Church.*

ror the lived reality of our Faith. We are called to love God and one another, and we must remember always that the primary source of the love we share is the Holy Spirit. The Lord and giver of life is also the Lord and giver of love, a divine love which we receive for the first time at Baptism, and initiates us into the *communio* which we struggle to live out to the best of our abilities each day.

This past Wednesday our Holy

Father, Pope Benedict XVI, spoke once more about love when speaking about Origen, the famous third century historian. He reminded us that "the best way to know God is love, and that there can be no true 'scientia Christi' without being enamored of Him.... The highest level of knowledge of God flows from love...." The Holy Father is obviously preparing us for the upcoming celebration of Pentecost.

While we are still in the Easter season, we are also celebrating many life-giving events within our Church community: Confirmation, First Holy Communion, and other significant events in our Catholic schools and catechetical programs. All of these events reflect the reality of the Risen Lord in our midst, who teaches us how to truly love one another in all of the sacramental and liturgical moments and with the graces received through them, to love God, and one another, each day and be within our communities true examples of charity.

Thanks to all of the many people who help prepare our children and young people for these important events, and for the priests, religious, and catechists who work so hard in this ministry.

In this holy season, whenever we renew our baptismal promises, whether at confirmation or at Mass, it is a chance to reaffirm our belief in our Faith, surrender our lives completely to the Risen

Lord and his love, and commit ourselves to lives of charity and mercy. These moments, and all of the events in our parishes, are grace-filled opportunities to truly "love one another" and serve one another as the Risen Lord commands us to do.

Let us also pause a moment to celebrate the second anniversary of the election of Pope Benedict XVI as Bishop of Rome and Universal Pastor. He is truly teaching us to be followers of Christ, and to see His presence clearly in the Church, and to "love one another." His first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, is a clear statement of that.

Let us also, as the Diocese of Fort Worth, welcome Bishop Kevin Farrell to North Texas as bishop of the Diocese of Dallas. Many of you know that we have a common history with the Diocese of Dallas, so their rejoicing is truly rejoicing for us here in Fort Worth. I had the privilege of participating in his welcoming ceremonies this past week in Dallas and visited with many friends of both of our local Churches. Bishop Farrell and I are looking forward to working together for the common good of all of our Catholics here in North Texas (There has been a lot of good humor about the "two Kevins" here now!).

God bless you and your loved ones in these days of the Risen Lord.

## Pope says religious vocation means giving life to God, church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A vocation to the priesthood or religious life consists of giving one's life not only to God, but also to the church so that it leads people into communion with God, said Pope Benedict XVI.

"God has always chosen some individuals to work with him in a more direct way in order to accomplish his plan of salvation," Pope Benedict said.

Jesus taught the apostles about God and his love for them, which led them into a relationship with God, the pope said. Jesus then entrusted the apostles with leading others into a relationship with God, he said.

The church has been given the same task, the pope said in a message released April 24 for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2007. The theme for the day, cel-

ebrated April 29 in most dioceses, is "The Vocation to the Service of the Church as Communion."

Pope Benedict marked the day by ordaining 22 new priests for the Diocese of Rome.

The faithful, who have entered into a relationship with God, are then united with each other through the Eucharist, the pope said.

"This intense communion favors the growth of generous vocations at the service of the church: The heart of the believer, filled with divine love, is moved to dedicate itself wholly to the cause of the kingdom," Pope Benedict said.

In order to encourage vocations, it is necessary to teach the faithful how to hear God's voice, he said. It is easier to listen for God's voice in a church com-

munity that is harmonious and where people feel responsible for each other, the pope said.

All the different ministries that exist within the church must be used to promote communion with God and communion among the faithful, he said.

"In the church's liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence, and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives," the pope said.

Having experienced God's love and presence through the liturgy, the faithful can respond with love, he said.

The pope said Mary, who supported the first Christian community, continues to teach the faithful how to listen to Jesus' voice and respond to his call.



15 Years in a Row



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## Diocesan



**CALLED TO CANDIDACY** — Diocesan seminarians John Pacheco (left) and Jack McKone celebrate their Call to Candidacy March 12 at Assumption Seminary Chapel in San Antonio. A major step in the journey toward priesthood, Candidacy is celebrated when it is clear that a seminarian is committed to the completion of his studies for Holy Orders. (Photo provided by Mary Pacheco)

## Two diocesan seminarians are called to Candidacy

At a special Mass, celebrated Monday, March 12, at Assumption Seminary Chapel in San Antonio, 13 seminarians, including two from the Diocese of Fort Worth, received the Call to Candidacy for Diaconate and Priesthood.

Seminarians Jack McKone and John Pacheco, both of the Diocese of Fort Worth, participated as candidates in the liturgy. Archbishop Emeritus Thomas J. Flanagan of San Antonio presided at the Mass.

A major step in the journey of becoming a priest, Candidacy is celebrated when it is clear that the seminarian is committed to the completion of his studies for Holy Orders. The rite includes a public statement, similar to an an-

nouncement of the bans of marriage, in which each seminarian presents himself as a candidate for the Holy Orders within the community where the individual shares the life of faith.

At the time of Candidacy, the church, represented by the rector and faculty of the seminary, makes a judgment that the individual has manifested positive signs of an authentic vocation to the ordained ministry. The seminarian submits a letter of petition to the bishop, who grants approval of the petition, affirming that he has no reservations in the candidate.

For McKone and Pacheco, the next step on their journey to the priesthood will be their ordination to the diaconate.

## Nominations will be accepted for positions on Diocesan Pastoral Council

The Diocese of Fort Worth Diocesan Pastoral Council — formerly known as the Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Council (DPAC) — is seeking new members, said Joe Rodriguez, who serves as staff to the council.

"The Diocesan Pastoral Council is a body of Catholics, ordained and lay, who are active in and in touch with the life of the church within our diocese," said Rodriguez in explaining the mission and purpose of the council.

"The members of the council will reflect upon their faith, experience, and information that is presented to them in order to investigate, consider, and propose practical resolutions in advising Bishop Vann on areas of policy and future direction within the diocese," added Rodriguez. Council meetings will be held three to four times per year or more frequently, as needed.

Prospective council members representing both genders and various geographical areas, age groups, ethnicities, languages,

and perspectives are sought, said Rodriguez. Up to 24 Catholics from the diocese will be selected to serve on the council for terms of approximately three to five years.

"We ask that pastors, pastoral administrators, staff members, current Diocesan Pastoral Council members, and parish pastoral council members identify practicing Catholics who are open-minded, visionary, and experienced at putting their faith into action," said Rodriguez. "We are asking that all Catholic leaders begin to prayerfully consider if you, or someone you know, might be called to the ministry of consultation within the Diocese of Fort Worth."

The May 25 issue of the *North Texas Catholic* will include further information about the council and the process for recommending candidates. For more information, contact Joe Rodriguez at (817) 560-3300 ext. 115 or by e-mail to jrodriguez@fwdioc.org.

*Responding  
to God's Call*

## Vocation awareness — My Calling

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

**I**t's hard to believe that 12 years ago I was in the middle of my second year of seminary studies in San Antonio, discerning my call to the priesthood.

I had chosen a path that appeared to be shocking and futile to many. I wanted to do something more meaningful with my life. I wanted to lay down my life for my friends.

Yes, I was a successful engineer. I loved designing bridges and roadways for the Texas Department of Transportation in the District of Fort Worth, making people's lives easier. I had developed some great friendships. I had earned my license as a structural engineer. I found engineering fulfilling and rewarding, but I felt there was more to life and that I was called to give of myself to the People of God.

I remember sitting in the back pew Sunday after Sunday, not to be distant, but pondering what I really wanted to do with my life. I wanted to be involved in my church community but felt I wasn't connected to what appeared to me as the "inner circle" of church life. Outside of Mass I couldn't see the church actively engaging myself or anyone my age in its ministries. So, I remained physically and

emotionally disengaged, even though God was calling me forward into active ministry.

There I sat in the back pew, engaging God in my great, but one-sided discussions. I could sense God calling me to consider serving the community by being an usher or an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. Or was I being called to visit the homebound or the elderly and the hospitalized? I kept telling God, "I could do that," but deep down I knew that God was asking something more of me.

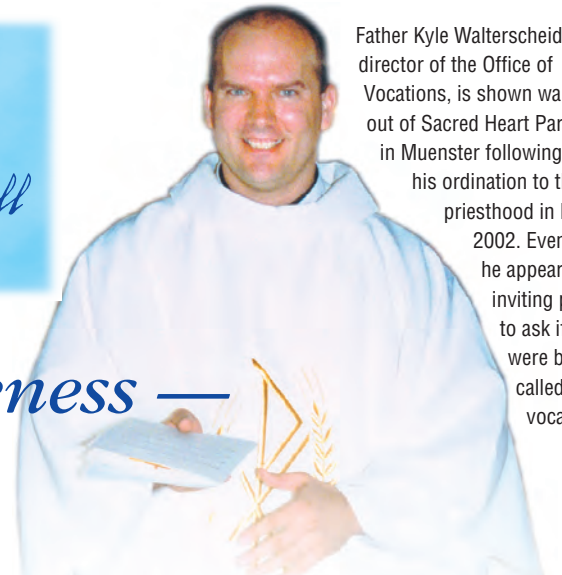
As I yawned from the back pew, the Prayers of the Faithful were being read. Then it came, like a bolt of lightning "Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life." I thought, "Why, oh why, Lord, do they keep praying this same old prayer? Nobody has ever stood up and said, 'Here I am; take me!' Why don't they just give up already? Good Lord, why doesn't someone step forward and just do it!" There I was, still sitting in the back pew, but now I was getting angry at the whole matter.

Then it hit me like a ton of bricks, like a hard punch in the stomach. It was me! Jesus was saying, "I want you!"

"Oh, Lord, not me!" I pleaded. "Good grief, there are a thousand men in this community more qualified than I am. Oh no, NO WAY!" Now I had my answer but was fighting ferociously against the Lord.

As the weeks passed I began uneasily watching all the actions of the priest. I began to recall the hundreds of times I helped serve at Mass as an altar boy. Those were the best days of my life. Something glorious and miraculous happened to me at each Mass. I was beginning to

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.



### North Texas Catholic 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 25 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, May 16. Items for the June 22 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, June 13.



## Single young adults invited to consider religious vocation at VAP weekend

Single Catholic men and women, ages 18 to 40, are invited to attend the 2007 Vocation Awareness Program to be held at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Drive in Irving, July 13-15. The weekend is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses, in partnership with the diocesan vocation offices.

The Vocation Awareness Program (VAP) offers single young adults the opportunity to participate in a weekend of vocational discernment and reflection. The weekend will include presentations on the process of discerning a religious vocation; panel discussions on the life styles of clergy and religious men and women; question and answer sessions; and the opportunity for private conversations with the priests, sisters, and brothers who serve as leaders during the weekend.

There is no charge for the program, which includes accommodations in private rooms and meals at the seminary.

For more information, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, at (817) 366-0439, or by e-mail to kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.

## Rachel's Vineyard retreat, June 1-3, to offer post-abortion healing

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held June 1-3 in Fort Worth.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats offer a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath. The retreat team provides the confidential support needed to help participants work through feelings of anger, shame, guilt, and grief, so that they may be open to experiencing the healing love and mercy of God.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and former participants in the abortion industry — anyone who has been hurt by abortion — are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register for a retreat, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail to [forgiven@racheltx.org](mailto:forgiven@racheltx.org).

## Symposium on incarceration and its aftermath set for May 19

First-time offenders make up only a small percentage of the approximately one million people incarcerated in the state of Texas, according to material from the diocesan Office of Peace and Justice. The question of how to prevent repeat offenders concerns not only the incarcerated, potential victims, and the families of both, but also the society at large.

A diocesan symposium on incarceration and its aftermath will be held Saturday, May 19, at All Saints Church, 214 N.W. 20th Street in Fort Worth. Andy Rivas, the executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, will address the assembly, speaking on "The State of the State in Rehabilitation, Legislation, and Realities in 2007." Rivas will also entertain questions on the subject.

A panel discussion will address various aspects of the subject, calling on the experience of ex-offenders and their families as well as those whose expertise contributes to their restoration in matters of employment, housing, and transportation. A second panel will offer a "5 x 5" presentation: five minute suggestions for individual and parish involvement.

A skit, "Is Jesus Calling?" will be presented by Sister Mercedes Kiely, SHSp, followed by small group discussion.

Gathering time with coffee will take place at 9 a.m. in the parish hall, with the program extending from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge, and lunch will be provided. For more information, call the diocesan Office of Peace and Justice at (817) 560-3300 ext. 255 or ext. 305.

## Knights to host Memorial Day rosary May 28

The Knights of Columbus, Bishop Dunne Council #2813, invites all to share in a special Memorial Day rosary. The rosary will begin at 7:15 p.m. May 28, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 4500 Columbus Trail, four blocks west of 7900 Hulen in Southwest Fort Worth.

According to the Knights, the rosary will be "dedicated to all those who have made the supreme sacrifice in the armed services of the United States of America." All members of the armed services and veterans, who gave or offered their lives in defense of our faith and freedom will be remembered.

# People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



**AUXILIARY PRESENTS CHECK** — The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, represented by (*foreground, l. to r.*) Ann Carminati, president; Carole Weaver, fundraising chair; and Connie Meyer, fundraising co-chair, presented a \$20,000 check April 18 to (*background, l. to r.*) Mother Maria and Sister Anne Teresa of the Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington. The auxiliary's fundraising event, "A Tribute to the USO," which featured musical performances by many Catholic volunteers from throughout the diocese, helped to make this yearly gift to the nuns possible.

## Immaculate Conception Parish to host parish mission May 14-16

Sisters of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ will present a parish mission, "Deep Conversion, Deep Prayer," at Immaculate Conception Church, 2255 North Bonnie Brae Street in Denton, May 14-16.

The mission will begin with a 6:30 p.m. Mass on Monday, May 14. Each session will be offered from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, and the sisters will be available after the sessions for prayer.

Organizers call the mission "an inspiring opportunity to deepen, renew, or experience our walk with the Lord." The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, based within the Diocese of Amarillo, is a contemplative community of Franciscan and charismatic vowed women religious. The community follows the Rule of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Constitutions of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For more information about the sisters, visit the congregation's Web site at [www.dlhc.org](http://www.dlhc.org). For more information about the mission, contact the parish at (940) 565-1770.

## Dan Luby to present keynote for singles conference in Plano June 9

"Finding God in the Gaps: Connecting Spirituality with Everyday Life," a one-day conference for all single adults — including those who are separated, divorced, widowed, or never married — will be held Saturday, June 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Prince of Peace Church Cana Center, located at 5100 W. Plano Parkway in Plano.

Dr. Dan Luby, a columnist and Catholic educator who currently serves as the director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Fort Worth, will offer the keynote address for the event. A wide variety of workshops will also be offered throughout the day, addressing topics such as "Living Your Vocation as a Single Adult," "When Life Throws You a Curve Ball: Growing through Life's Unexpected Changes," "Living a Hope-Filled Life," and "God is Forgiveness: Letting Go of the Hurt." The day will conclude with Mass at 3:30 p.m.; a social hour will follow.

Registration is \$25 and includes lunch and refreshments. The deadline for registration is June 2. For more information or to register, visit online at [www.setonparish.org](http://www.setonparish.org); call (972) 380-2100 ext. 152; or e-mail to [bmwilliams@popplano.org](mailto:bmwilliams@popplano.org).

## Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics and families to meet May 24

The regular monthly meeting of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Thursday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to "come join us for a prayer service and sharing."

For more information, contact Fr. Murphy at (817) 927-5383 or Hank and Dottie Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

## Faith and Fiction group to meet May 17

"Faith and Fiction: Conversations on Spirituality and Imagination," a venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on the journey of faith, will meet Thursday, May 17, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be *Ismael*, by Daniel Quinn.

Those planning to participate are asked to read the book, reflect on it in light of personal experiences, and come to the session with questions, insights, or observations to share. A potluck supper will be served at 6:15 p.m., and the discussion will take place from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Future dates and topics of discussion are as follows: June 21, *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water*, by Michael Dorris; July 19, the film "Il Postino," directed by Michael Radford; Aug. 16, the film "Rabbit-Proof Fence," directed by Phillip Noyce; and Sept. 20, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith.

To ensure good conversation, space will be limited. To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Dan Luby at (817) 560-2452 ext. 259, or by e-mail to [dluby@fwdioc.org](mailto:dluby@fwdioc.org).

## Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

## Workshop on marriage, divorce, and annulment set for May 31

A workshop on marriage, divorce, and the annulment process, entitled "Until Death Do Us Part?," will be offered Thursday, May 31, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at St. Andrew Church in the parish pastoral center, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth.

The program presenter is Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Arlington. Fr. Medina, who works with the diocesan Marriage Tribunal, has studied at the Catholic University of America and has given workshops for the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics at Notre Dame.

The workshop is described in promotional materials as an opportunity to explore the scriptural and traditional understanding of marriage, the reality of divorce, and the process of the declaration of invalidity. "In recognizing the pain of separation and divorce and knowing that we are called to peace, the church uses the annulment process to bring reconciliation to the deep hurt of a broken marriage," the material states. Those who seek to understand more about the annulment process or to serve as volunteers in the Tribunal ministry are invited to participate in the workshop.

Childcare is available by calling (817) 924-6581 at least 48 hours in advance. To RSVP by May 28, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383.

## Youth of diocese invited to attend DCYC July 6-8

The annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC) will be offered July 6-8 for all Catholic youth of the diocese and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel located at the DFW Airport, beginning Friday evening, July 6, and concluding with Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann at noon on Sunday, July 8.

Promotional materials for the conference describe the event as a "dynamic weekend for youth" offering keynote presentations by nationally known speakers, workshops for youth and their adult leaders, vibrant music ministry, youth-oriented prayer and liturgical experiences, a dance, and other activities.

"DCYC provides a time for junior high and high school-aged youth to grow in their faith, to make new friends, and to have fun with hundreds of other Catholic youth," said Kevin Prevou, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Catechesis. "Each year, we see the participants come alive with a deeper sense of commitment to the larger Catholic Church and to their own faith community."

This year's conference will include keynote presentations by Catholic singer and songwriter Joia Farmer and by Apex Ministries, a nationally known comedy duo who evangelize through humor, juggling, and personal testimony. Curtis Stephan, who serves as music director of St. Ann Church in Coppell, will lead participants in songs of praise and worship throughout the weekend.

Youth entering grades six through 12 in the fall of 2007 may register for the conference through their parish youth leader. Costs for the weekend, which include accommodations and three meals, range from \$95 with registration prior to June 7, to \$110 for later registrations. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site under Faith Formation at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org), or call Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-3300 ext. 261.

## St. Michael's to host ACT informational meeting May 21

"Are you called to work for social justice in the community, state, and country?" asks the department of social outreach/pastoral care at St. Michael Church. Those who feel called to this area of ministry are invited to attend an informational meeting with Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT). The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on May 21 at St. Michael's, located at 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford. The meeting will be held in the parish's Great Hall; participants are asked to enter through the church's main entrance.

ACT, a broad-based community organization comprised of religious and civic leaders advocating for just wages and for affordable health care, housing, and education, is based upon the community organizing model taught by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in cities across the United States. To learn more about ACT, visit online at [alliedcommunities.org](http://alliedcommunities.org).

To find out more about the May 21 meeting, contact Martin Peña, director of social outreach and pastoral care at St. Michael's, at (817) 283-8746 ext. 30, or by e-mail to [mpeña@smcchurch.org](mailto:mpeña@smcchurch.org).

## Official Assignments

**The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:**

Father Walter Xavier, TOR, has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Carrollton, effective April 2007.

Father Charles Gorantla, of the Heralds of Good News, has been assigned as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Wichita Falls, effective January 2007.

Father Victor Cruz, of the Heralds of Good News, is in residence at Bridgeport, assisting Father Sojan George, HGN, at St. John the Baptist Parish in Bridgeport, St. Mary Parish in Jacksboro, and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Decatur. Fr. Cruz is presently awaiting a permanent assignment.



## People and Events

### DCCW deaneries meeting set for May 17 at St. Thomas

The fourth quarterly meeting of the Central and East Deaneries of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will be held May 17 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2920 Azle Avenue in Fort Worth. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., with coffee and a light breakfast being served.

Pedro Moreno, director of the Light of Christ Institute for the Diocese of Fort Worth and a lay Dominican, will serve as the program speaker. MHSI topic will be "Ascension Thursday."

Mass will be celebrated at noon, followed by lunch.

As a service project, used eye glasses will be collected for the needy, and donations of used cell phones will be accepted for the women's shelter.

The cost for lunch is \$10. Reservations must be received by Monday, May 14. To make a reservation or for more information, call Connie Soto at (817) 838-8302 or Pat Coffey at (817) 657-2823. Reservations may be cancelled as late as noon on Tuesday, May 15; reservations not honored must be paid.

### Junior high band camp to be offered at Nolan Catholic June 4-8

A summer band camp for junior high students will be offered at Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, from Monday, June 4, through Friday, June 8. The camp is open to students entering the fifth grade through those completing the eighth grade.

Brian Standridge, director of the NCHS band program, and Chuck Compher, associate director, will serve as hosts for the camp. Concert band, jazz band, ensembles, and instrument master classes will be offered. An optional field trip to Burger's Lake is planned.

The fee is \$75 per student, plus an additional \$7 for the Burger's Lake outing. For more information, contact the NCHS band department at (817) 457-2920 ext. 1538 or e-mail to bstandridge@nolancatholic.org.

### Hispanic Pastoral Musicians Conference set for July 26-29 in Albuquerque

The fifth annual Hispanic Pastoral Musicians Conference, sponsored by the Southwest Liturgical Conference Region X and hosted by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe's Office of Worship, will be held July 26-29 at the Wyndham Albuquerque Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For registrations prior to mid-May, the cost for the conference and banquet, not including accommodations, is \$95 per person; for later registrations, the cost is \$110. The cost for accommodations at the Wyndham hotel is \$69 per night and includes breakfast.

For more information, visit the conference Web site at [www.swlc.org](http://www.swlc.org) or e-mail to [worship2@archdiocesasantafe.org](mailto:worship2@archdiocesasantafe.org) or call (505) 831-8194.

### Fullness of Truth conference to be held June 23-24 in Houston

The "New Springtime of Catholic Evangelization" Summer Family Conference will be held June 23-24 at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2222 West Loop South in Houston. The conference, sponsored by the Fullness of Truth Catholic Evangelization Ministries of Houston, will offer participants insights into understanding, explaining, and defending the Catholic Church in contemporary culture.

Author and speaker Dr. Scott Hahn, a professor of Scripture and theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, will keynote the event. Other conference speakers will include Archbishop Daniel DiNardo of Houston, Jeff Cavins, Michael Barber, and Dr. Brant Pitre.

Ticket prices for the conference range from \$20 for youth under age 17 to \$95 for family groups. Meals and accommodations may be paid for separately. For more information, call toll-free at (877) 218-7884 or visit the Fullness of Truth Web site at [www.fullnessoftruth.org](http://www.fullnessoftruth.org).

### Mt. Carmel Center announces summer programs

A morning program, entitled "Celebrating Creator and Creation," will be held at the Mt. Carmel Center, located at 4600 W. Davis Street in far West Dallas. The focus will be upon the dialogue between science and religion, with references to the book *The Gift of Being: A Theology of Creation* by Zachary Hayes, OFM. The program will be held Saturday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to noon.

"A Walk Through the Castle," a series of three presentations on *The Interior Castle* by St. Teresa of Avila, will be offered at Mt. Carmel Center Aug. 4, 11, and 18. Each session will be held from 10 a.m. to noon.

A donation of \$25 per session is requested for all morning programs held at Mt. Carmel Center. All are invited to bring their own lunches for continued fellowship following the programs. Drinks and desserts are provided for those bringing their lunches.

For more information or to register for programs, call (214) 331-6224 ext. 314.

### St. John's Singles Ministry announces spring activities

The Singles Ministry of St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Drive in Fort Worth, has announced a number of activities scheduled for the spring. The St. John's Singles Ministry aims to enhance the lives of singles through fellowship and spiritual growth.

Upcoming activities will include: Friday Volleyball, May 18 and 25, 7:30 p.m. in St. John's School gym; Single adult Sunday classes, May 13 and 20, 11 a.m. at St. John Church.

For more information about St. John's Singles Ministry activities, visit online at [web2.airmail.net/sjta/singles/index.html](http://web2.airmail.net/sjta/singles/index.html), or e-mail to [sjsingles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sjsingles@sbcglobal.net).

### San Mateo Catholic Men's Club to host golfing event May 14

The Catholic Men's Club of San Mateo Mission in Fort Worth will sponsor its 10th annual golf tournament Monday, May 14, at Squaw Creek Golf Club, 1605 Ranch House Road in Aledo.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Prizes will be awarded for the top three teams and for the player closest to the pin and the player with the longest drive. Drinks will be provided during the tournament, and a dinner following the tournament will be catered by R.J. Rivera Catering.

All are invited to "come out for a day filled with fun, food, drinks, golf, and [the] knowledge that you are helping our youth to further their education," states an event press release.

The cost is \$65 per person or \$260 for a team. To register, contact Emerico Perez at (817) 715-0289 or e-mail to [tejanotm@swbell.net](mailto:tejanotm@swbell.net).



**PRIEST'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY** — Father Joseph Pemberton (*front row, fourth from left*), pastor of Holy Family Church in Fort Worth, celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with family and friends in the parish hall April 29. Approximately 300 well-wishers, including Bishop Kevin Vann (*front row, third from left*) and Fr. Pemberton's brother, Father Jim Pemberton (*second from right*), attended the Sunday afternoon event. Among the many gifts Fr. Pemberton received was a framed certificate of an apostolic blessing from Pope Benedict XVI, "invoking an abundance of divine graces" for this significant anniversary. (Photo provided by Mary Pacheco)

### Training for Ad Altare Dei counselors, chaplain aides set for June 2

The Catholic Committee on Scouting (CCS) for the Diocese of Fort Worth recently announced training opportunities for the roles of Ad Altare Dei counselors and chaplain aides. Both training sessions will be held Saturday, June 2, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane, Grapevine.

All Scouters offering Ad Altare Dei Award classes are required to receive this training and approval through the CCS. Additionally, all current Scouts who serve as chaplain aides or who are interested in serving in this role may participate in the chaplain aide training to be offered at the same time.

The cost for each training session is \$5 per person and includes a catered lunch.

For more information on either training opportunity, visit online at [www.bsaccs.org](http://www.bsaccs.org). For specific information about the Ad Altare Dei counselor training, contact Steve Zerbe at (817) 251-1162 or by e-mail to [zpatton@aol.com](mailto:zpatton@aol.com). For specific information about the chaplain aide training, contact Bill Harrison at (817) 283-8052, or by e-mail to [wjh\\_harrison@hotmail.com](mailto:wjh_harrison@hotmail.com).

### Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth to offer vocation retreat May 19

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth will host a Come and See Retreat Day for single Catholic women, ages 16 to 35, who are discerning a vocation to the religious life. The retreat will take place Saturday, May 19, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the sisters' provincialate convent, located at 1814 Egyptian Way in Grand Prairie.

For more information or to register, call Sister Mary Paul Haase, CSFN, at (972) 642-5191 or e-mail to [smpaul@icgrandprairie.org](mailto:smpaul@icgrandprairie.org).

### Information on participating in Scouting Religious Emblem programs is available

Catholic religious emblem programs for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts, according to information from the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, "provide an outstanding religious education supplement for your son or daughter and are available throughout the diocese from trained instructors."

For information on these programs, contact Teresa Harner at (972) 394-9491 for Girl Scouts, and Tom Moore at (972) 539-0257 for Cub and Boy Scouts. The Boy Scout emblem programs — Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII — typically start around May. For more information, visit the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting's Web Site at [www.bsaccs.org](http://www.bsaccs.org).

### Camp Subiaco expands to two weeks

Camp Subiaco, operated by the Benedictine Monks of Subiaco Abbey of Subiaco, Arkansas, in partnership with the Subiaco Alumni Association, has announced an opportunity for boys, ages 9 to 14, to participate in one-week or, beginning this year, a two-week summer camp experience.

Camp sessions will be offered June 17-23 and June 24-30. A camper may choose to camp for either one week or the full two-week session. Camp activities include fishing, camping, archery, go-carting, swimming, tubing, and riflery, with supervision from an all-adult volunteer staff.

Campers use the facilities of Subiaco Academy and Abbey, including a swimming pool, athletic fields, dormitories, and nearby streams and lakes. Subiaco is located in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains, on State Highway 22, 50 miles east of Fort Smith and 110 miles northwest of Little Rock.

Camp Subiaco is now taking applications. For more information or to register, visit the Web site at [www.campsubiaco.com](http://www.campsubiaco.com) or [www.subi.org](http://www.subi.org), or call (479) 934-1001.

### Diocesan Singles Council announces date for annual family picnic

A potluck picnic for single adults of all ages, their family members, and friends will be held May 19, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bowman Springs Park at Lake Arlington.

"All singles from the diocese are welcome...Bring the kids!" notes Mike Wuller, coordinator for the Diocesan Singles Council. Volleyball and games and a recently-updated children's playground will be available.

Those attending are asked to bring something to contribute to the meal. Goals for the grill and beverages will be provided.

The park is located at 7003 Poly Webb Road in Arlington. Reservations are not required. For more information, contact Mike Wuller at (817) 292-9169, or by e-mail to [fwcdsmw@earthlink.net](mailto:fwcdsmw@earthlink.net). For more information about Singles Council activities and events, visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org), and go to the Pastoral Services section of the site.

### Young adults invited to participate in 'Adventure' retreat May 17-20

"The Adventure: An Ignatian Experience," a retreat program based on St. Ignatius' *The Spiritual Exercises*, will be offered May 17-20 for participants between the ages of 19 and 25. The retreat will take place at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, 600 N. Shady Shores, Lake Dallas.

The Spiritual Exercises, according to a retreat flyer, "can be successfully made at almost any stage, but they are specially designed for that proud, bold time in your life when virtually all life-determining options, and life-derailing mistakes, are made."

The cost is \$35. For more information or to register, call Montserrat at (940) 321-6020 or e-mail to [CarolAckels@centurytel.net](mailto:CarolAckels@centurytel.net). Questions may be directed to Father Nathan Stone, SJ, by e-mail to [nstonesj@yahoo.com](mailto:nstonesj@yahoo.com).



**KNIGHTS SCHOLARSHIPS** — Three high school seniors — (*foreground, l. to r.*) Michael Wallace, Marcus High School in Flower Mound; Melissa Courtad, Lewisville High School; and Victor J. Benavides, Flower Mound High School — were each presented with \$600 scholarships for their college education at a Knights of Columbus Founder's Day Dinner March 31 at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Lewisville. The scholarships were sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9884, the Pope Paul VI Fourth Degree Assembly #2291, and the Lady Knights organization, represented respectively by (*others, l. to r.*) Grand Knight Bill Miller, Faithful Navigator Boyd Burris, and Lady Knights President Patti Osborne. All three scholarship recipients demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in the areas of academics, leadership, and service to the community.



Close to 450 eighth graders from throughout the diocese joined Bishop Vann for the celebration of the . . .

# Eighth Grade Mass

**Right:** Bishop Kevin Vann looks out on a sea of eighth graders. About 450 students attended the annual diocesan Eighth Grade Mass April 25 at St. Joseph Parish in Arlington.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
JOAN KURKOWSKI-GILLEN

St. Mark, author of the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels, is credited with evangelizing in Alexandria, where he founded the first well-known Christian school. So his feast day, April 25, provided an appropriate date to honor Catholic school eighth graders from across the Diocese of Fort Worth who will graduate later this month.

“What a beautiful sight truly it is for all of us here gathered today to celebrate, reflect, and thank God for our eighth grade graduates,” said Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann during a Mass celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Arlington. “Our Catholic schools are part of the vital history of the diocese, and you are now part of that heritage.”

As the group of approximately 450 junior high graduates begin their high school education later this year, the bishop implored them not to forget the lessons learned from parents, teachers, and pastors. The “voices of the Church” they have heard throughout their Catholic education have encouraged them to be disciples of Christ and friends of Jesus. As they go out into the world, other voices will influence them to live and to act a certain way.

“And they won’t be the voices you heard this morn-

ing,” the bishop said, referring to the Gospel readings shared during the 11 a.m. liturgy. “Say ‘yes’ to what God wants, not only in high school but for the rest of your life.”

Bishop Vann told the youngsters that St. Mark accomplished great things during his life and that they could, too.

“You will always hear the voices of faith calling you to our Lord,” he said. “Be steadfast, be strong, but most of all, be leaders of the faith, so all of us can be as proud of you as we are today.”

Those sentiments were reiterated by Catholic Schools Superintendent Don Miller, who recalled a thoughtful comment made by a parish priest during his own eighth grade graduation.

“My pastor told each of us [that] what we were was God’s gift to us, what we became was our gift back to God. That stuck with me all these years, and that is the possibility I ask of

you,” he told the young audience as the Mass concluded. “I congratulate and salute you for all you have earned, but more than that, I look forward to what you will become.”

The superintendent asked the soon-to-be graduates to consider making a verbal expression of gratitude to parents, teachers, and other people who were instrumental in providing the Catholic education they received.

“Let them know you appre-

ciate all the sacrifice and other things they have done to support you,” Miller encouraged. “They have given you two of God’s most precious gifts — life and God’s love.”

Held annually, the Eighth Grade Mass provides an opportunity to celebrate the success of Catholic schools in the diocese as they prepare to send another group of accomplished youngsters on to higher education. Representatives of each elementary school participated

in the liturgy as altar servers, musicians, lectors, offertory gift bearers, and choir members.

Our Lady of Victory School eighth grader Katie Nieswiadomy, who has participated in the diocesan sports program, said she recognized a few faces in the crowd of worshippers.

“It was cool to see all the students from each school come together one more time,” she added. “It’s a little sad, but I think I’m prepared to leave and go on to high school.”



**Above:** St. Andrew students (l. to r.) Michael Bass, Christine Mengis, and Ryan Kober were altar servers for the special Mass.



**Above:** Eighth graders from various diocesan schools provided music for the diocesan Mass.



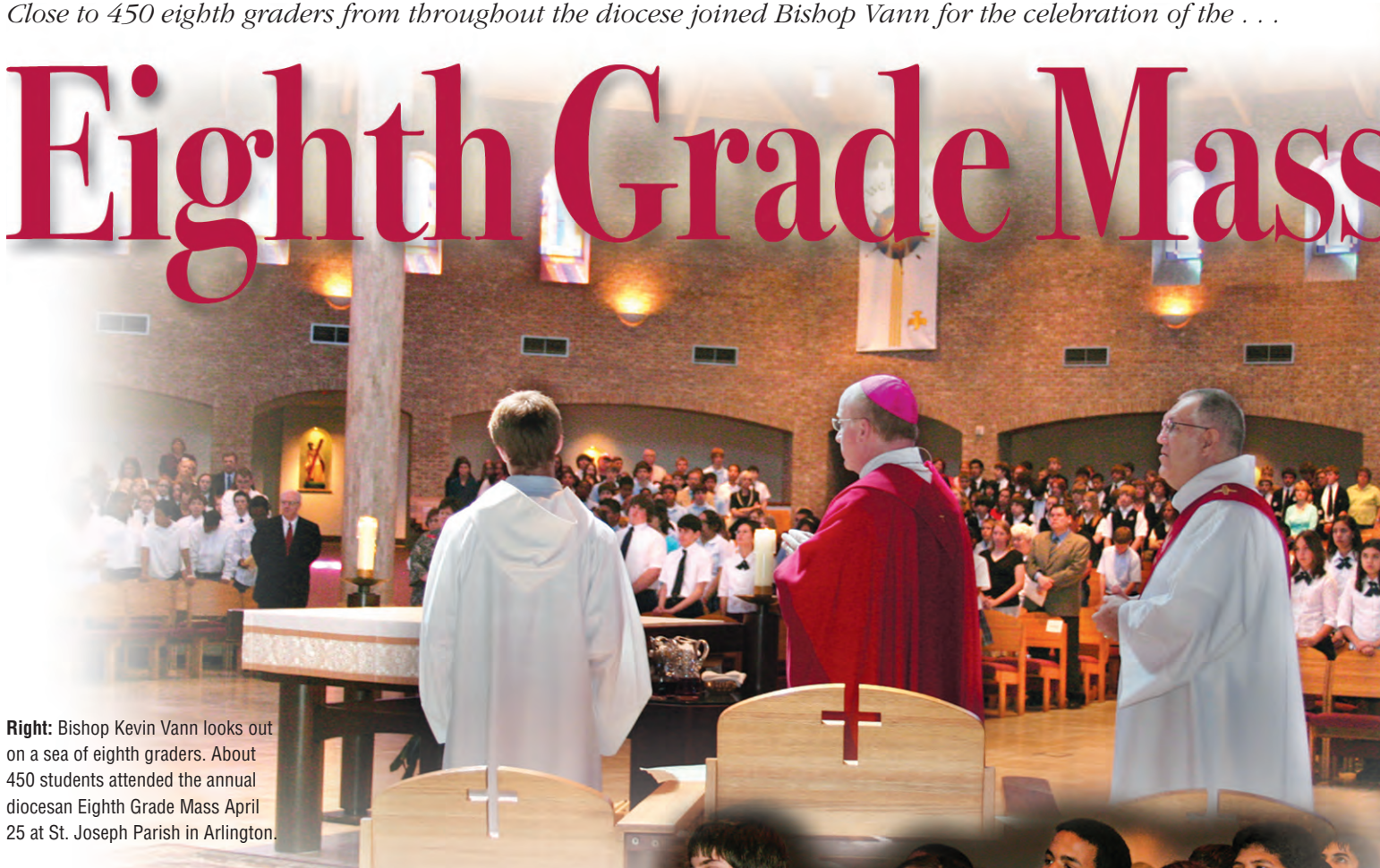
**Above:** Eighth grade students from St. Maria Goretti School in Arlington kneel in prayer.



**Above:** Bishop Kevin Vann speaks with students from Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster. Eighth graders from Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth came to St. Joseph Church in Arlington April 25 to take part in this annual event.



**Left:** At the conclusion of the liturgy, Catholic Schools Superintendent Don Miller encourages the assembled eighth graders to thank their parents, teachers, and other influential people in their lives who have ensured that they received a Catholic education.





# Bishop Kevin Farrell installed as seventh bishop of Dallas Diocese

By Debra Hampton

DALLAS (CNS) — Bishop Kevin J. Farrell was installed May 1 as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Dallas during a Mass attended by an overflow crowd of more than 2,000 people at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

The two-hour Mass was concelebrated by archbishops, bishops, and priests from Texas and from around the United States. They included Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl and Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington. Bishop Kevin W. Vann was present, representing the Diocese of Fort Worth. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read the apostolic mandate appointing Bishop Farrell to Dallas.

Bishop Brian Farrell, who is secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the brother of Bishop Kevin Farrell, also concelebrated the Mass.

Dallas' new bishop, who was an auxiliary bishop in Washington for five years, was led to the

cathedral, the bishop's chair, by Archbishop Sambi and Archbishop José H. Gomez of San Antonio. He was presented with his crosier, the sign of his pastoral office, and welcomed by his predecessor, retired Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas.

Hours before the Mass began, the cathedral was packed with an exuberant crowd. Many attendees were dressed in colorful ethnic or religious costumes reflecting the diocese's cultural diversity.

"This is a momentous opportunity," said Tommy Baril, a member of St. Jude Parish in Allen. "I've never had a chance to watch a bishop be installed. I'm just amazed at the sight in this cathedral of how many special people are part of this diocese — the religious, the deacons, the priests, the seminarians, the laity."

In his homily, Bishop Farrell noted that it was the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, guardian and protector of the Holy Family.

"In the Catholic community, the bishop fulfills a task that has many similarities to St. Joseph's,"

he said, stressing that bishops are called to the challenging task of being guardians of the faith.

He said that one of his priorities will be to foster vocations, and he hopes the whole Catholic community will participate in this effort.

At an evening vespers service April 30 with clergy of the Dallas Diocese, Bishop Farrell emphasized that he will rely heavily on his partnership with priests and deacons of the diocese.

Bishop Farrell said all share in his apostolic mission to lead and sanctify. He referred to the trying times recently faced by the Catholic Church across the country, especially in light of sexual abuse lawsuits, and thanked the clergy for their steadfastness and faithfulness to their ministry in the midst of such difficulties.

Elizabeth Hoag, a member of Christ the King Parish and leader of the Knights and Dames of Malta, described the installation of the new bishop as bittersweet.

"I will miss Bishop Grahmann very much. He's been a



**BISHOP FARRELL INSTALLED**  
— New Dallas Bishop Kevin J. Farrell smiles while holding his crosier as he sits in his chair during his May 1 installation Mass in the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Dallas. Bishop Farrell, who was an auxiliary bishop in Washington for five years, became the seventh bishop of the Dallas Diocese. (CNS photo/Robert Bunch, TEXAS CATHOLIC)

wonderful bishop," she told the *Texas Catholic*, Dallas' diocesan newspaper. "At the same time, I welcome Bishop Farrell with open arms. The people of Dallas

are friendly, and they, too, will welcome him with open arms."

Contributing to this story was Anna Macias.

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## Diocesan / State



**TORNADO DAMAGE** — Yara Romo digs through the remains of her house April 25 after a tornado ripped through the area in Eagle Pass, Texas. The tornado killed at least 10 people, injured at least 80, and left hundreds homeless when it struck along the U.S.-Mexican border the evening of April 24, officials said. Seven people were killed in Eagle Pass, and three people died in Piedras Negras, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande. (CNS photo/Joe Mitchell, Reuters)

# Diocese makes organizational changes

FROM PAGE 1  
of both migration of Catholics from other regions of the country and from immigration.

As part of the realignment, a reduction in force included the elimination of 11 and a half authorized diocesan staff positions. Nine of the 11 and a half positions were currently filled. Special separation packages were offered to each of those nine employees. In addition, the diocese is continuing to work with each employee who desires to find another job, whether they wish to work within the diocese at parishes, schools, or other Catholic entities, or with other area employers.

In an interview with the *North Texas Catholic* Monday, Father James Hart, chancellor of the diocese, said, "It's very important for everyone to understand that these actions in no way reflected on the performance of the individuals involved." Their dismissals, he said, came about "through no fault of their own and had to do entirely with the realignment of the diocesan staff in response to the report of the Burke group." Bishop Vann, Vicar General Father Michael Olson, and Fr. Hart were scheduled to

present the new organization chart for the diocese, incorporating the staff changes, to the priests of the diocese at the Presbyteral Assembly in Denton beginning Tuesday, May 8.

Over the last several years, other dioceses around the country and the headquarters staff of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have undergone similar restructuring to be more focused and more cost efficient. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recently reduced its staff by approximately 25 percent. The Fort Worth Diocese's reduction in force is a 13 percent reduction in authorized staffing.

The Fort Worth Diocese reorganization is guided by the Catholic Code of Canon Law to assist Bishop Kevin W. Vann, as the chief shepherd, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although the creation of the position of Vicar for Priests and the appointment of Father Juan Rivero as Vicar for Priests was announced last July, the addition of that post is part of the ongoing process of reorganization.

In the new organizational structure, the responsibilities of the diocese will be divided into eight major departments: Priestly and Permanent Deacon Formation and related activities

under the direction of the Vicar General; Finance and Administrative Services; Catechetics; Catholic Schools; Communications; Human Resources; Liturgy; and Community and Pastoral Services. Also as part of the re-organization, several elements of the diocese's activities will be managed under separate corporations, one each for development, endowments, and properties. The bishop will continue to employ an array of consultative boards, including the Board of Consultors, the Presbyteral Council, the Diocesan Finance Council, and the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

In a personal letter to each affected employee Bishop Vann wrote, "It is with a deep sense of regret that I must inform you that your employment with The Catholic Center of the Diocese of Fort Worth must come to an end." Expressing how difficult it had been to make the decision regarding which positions would be eliminated, he continued, "I have felt a burden, personally, not just because I am the chief shepherd of the diocese, but also because I count you as a friend and valued colleague." In closing, Bishop Vann offered his prayers that the Lord's grace and peace would sustain them and remain with them.

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## Diocesan / State

# Apostolatus Uniti's Rosary Congress to feature Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

The 18th annual Rosary Congress, sponsored each year since 1990 within the Diocese of Fort Worth by Apostolatus Uniti, will be held from June 10 through June 16 at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 5508 Black Oak Lane in River Oaks. Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, a popular speaker, author, and frequent guest on the Eternal Word Television Network, will give the keynote address.

The weeklong spiritual retreat, which will include conferences on the Catholic faith, daily Masses, the sacrament of reconciliation, 24-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Liturgy of the Hours, and scriptural rosaries, will begin Sunday, the feast of Corpus Christi, with the 11 a.m. parish Mass. The Mass will be followed by an outdoor eucharistic procession in which members of all participating organizations are invited to wear their own insignia and to bring banners. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will provide an honor guard for the Mass and procession.

This year's congress theme, "Come Before the Gaze of Jesus," emphasizes "the true presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, both in the tabernacle and in the monstrance during adoration," wrote Bonnie Sager, director of Apostolatus Uniti. "Adoration is central to the Rosary Congress," she stressed, noting Jesus' words in Matthew 28:20, "And behold,



Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" and in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will refresh you."

Sager indicated that the theme of the event will also be addressed in the workshop session to be held each day of the Congress from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The workshop will focus upon the study of Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic letter, *Sacramentum Caritatis* (*The Sacrament of Charity*).

D'Ambrosio is known for his work on the television series *Early Church Fathers*, which has been broadcast internationally on the Eternal Word Television Network. He has also served as a guest on other syndicated Catholic television and radio productions. D'Ambrosio's best-selling book, *The Guide to the Passion*, sold

over a million copies. He is also a commentator on Catholic issues, recently discussing the legacy of Pope John Paul II on national television and radio shows.

D'Ambrosio will speak for the teen track of the congress at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 13. Teens and their adult leaders must call Jane Sandoval at (817) 980-3538 for registration information.

D'Ambrosio will also present the June 13 evening conference following the 7:30 p.m. Mass. All other evening conferences will be given by Father Antony Mathew, TOR, who currently serves as associate pastor at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth.

The annual Rosary Congress is the main work of Apostolatus Uniti, which works to promote devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary; to promote belief in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, in the Mass, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; and to promote fidelity to the Catholic Church and the teachings of the Holy Father and the magisterium.

To sign up for the time of adoration, call Kim Barton at (817) 926-0019 or (432) 386-3862. For more details on the youth track, call Karen Rangel at (817) 237-0466. For other information about the Rosary Congress, contact Bonnie Sager at (817) 294-5579 or visit online at [www.apostolatusuniti.org](http://www.apostolatusuniti.org).



**SCHOOL BOARD HONORED** — The school board for Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth was among eight governing or advisory boards of Catholic education that received the Outstanding Board Award from the National Association of Boards, Commissions, and Councils of Catholic Education. The announcement was made during the National Catholic Educational Association Convention April 10-13 in Baltimore. The board is composed of the following members: (*l. to r., front row*) Father Larry Doersching, SM, president and executive secretary; Stephen Hiner, principal; Jerry Reis, vice-chair; Michael Casey, chair; Carol Craddick, secretary; Steven Evans; Kristi Trampe; (*second row*) Deborah Lollar; Brother Pierre Weitkamp, SM; James Schwinkendorf; Guadalupe Arriola-Sanchez; Sister Joan Markey, SSMN; Father Joseph Pemberton; (*back row*) Claudia Deck; Charles Smith; Richard Marx; Kent Couch; David Cecero; Walter Hunt; and Patrick Henggeler.

## Pax Christi Austin will host state conference May 19

Pax Christi Austin, a chapter of the national Catholic peace organization Pax Christi USA, has announced that Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, founder of Pax Christi USA and the former auxiliary bishop of Detroit from 1968 to 1986, will serve as the keynote presenter for the 2007 Pax Christi Texas State Conference. The theme of the conference, to be held Saturday, May 19, is "Be Doers of the Word: Working Together for Peace with Justice." The event will be held at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 4800

Convict Hill Road in Austin.

Bishop Gumbleton, a proponent for peace and social justice, has been recognized for his peacemaking efforts with numerous awards. His weekly column, "The Peace Pulpit," can be found online at the Web site of the *National Catholic Reporter* at [www.natcath.org](http://www.natcath.org).

All are invited to attend. For more information about the conference or to obtain a registration flyer, contact Cheryl Grossman at (512) 288-2477 or by e-mail to [cgrossman@austin.rr.com](mailto:cgrossman@austin.rr.com).

## English Cursillo weekends will be offered in May, June

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. Many who have gone through this experience have found it helpful in developing a deeper Christian spirituality.

A Cursillo weekend for men will be held May 17-20, and a Cursillo weekend for women will take place June 7-10. Both weekends, which will be presented in English, will be held at The Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th Street in Fort Worth.

For more information, call Mary Jean Nagy at (817) 226-1110 or e-mail to [mjnagy@fredhall-dfw.com](mailto:mjnagy@fredhall-dfw.com).

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# Viewpoints

## In this season of Easter, one wildflower reminds us that our lives' beauty was won by the cross

By Dan Luby

**O**n a mid-spring Saturday afternoon, I am filled with a sense of graceful well-being. Though sweaty from the heat, and itchy from too-close encounters with grass burrs and twigs and cactus spines, I am blissed out from beauty.

I have just returned from a long, soul-satisfying walk through a breathtaking display of wildflowers. For almost 10 springs, since I providentially "discovered" this extravagant source of natural beauty near my workplace, I have made it a practice to spend some time drinking in the colors and variety on this little patch of grassland prairie — surrounded by the encroachments of the human instinct for paving.

For reasons now unremembered, I had parked one morning at the farthest edge of the parking lot, and when I returned to my car at the end of the day, I was overwhelmed at the astonishing display of flowers blanketing the hillside. I spent hours the rest of that spring admiring the dazzling splendor of the field. I even recruited a botanist from a local nature center to give me



Photo by Jeff Hensley

and my colleagues a tour. Everyone was knocked out by the lavish grace of all that wild beauty, hidden in plain sight.

Every spring since, the field has fed my soul with the extravagance of its beauty and diversity. The deep, almost purple blue of the bluebonnets; the rich gold of the plains coreopsis; the cheerful yellows of the Engelmann daisies and the Missouri primroses; the delicate white of the mock bishop's weed and the Barbara's buttons and the milkwort; the warm pinks of wild onion and evening primrose and Indian paintbrush; the dramatic multi-colors of Texas bindweed and firewheel and Mexican hat and sensitive briar — they are all here again, faithful and dependable old friends.

Though I enjoy them all, and savor their unique beauty, my favorite, among the many wonderful possibilities, is the winecup. Simplicity itself, the five, toothed petals of the solitary flower

*My favorite, among the many wonderful possibilities, is the winecup. Simplicity itself, the five, toothed petals of the solitary flower atop a slim stem are the very definition of purple.*

atop a slim stem are the very definition of purple.

When I first began exploring this hillside, I found only a half dozen or so winecups, all on the other side of the fence on one edge of the property. Annually, that's where I find them, and though they increase a bit in number each year, they have always seemed rare.

Today, though, the winecups are everywhere. On my hour walk, I see masses of them. Their range has increased dramatically this season, not the few yards a year I've noticed in the past, but hundreds of yards, uphill and down, and almost to the opposite edge of the field. Happily, I puzzle over what might have prompted this increase of splendor.

That's when I remember how my heart sank the first time I saw the huge mowers being offloaded from the lumbering trailer that took them from job to job. I envisioned with instantaneous and horrifying clarity the havoc these hulk-

ing, ham-fisted machines were about to wreak on the delicate ecosystem I so loved.

When I expressed my alarm later that cold winter day, my boss patiently explained that, absent an annual "scalping," the biodiversity manifested in the eye-popping array of wildflowers would be lost. Since we couldn't safely rely on nature's method of promoting prairie renewal — lightning generated grass fires — he made sure to have the field mowed short every winter.

Perhaps, I think, this year's mowing was more disruptive, the upheaval of the tractor wheels greater, the cutting of the blades deeper. And perhaps somehow, in what looked like destruction and violence, the seeds of those dormant winecups were spread farther, and a new kind of beauty given a place where it had not yet bloomed.

It is a paschal image, reminding me during this Easter season that the path of discipleship in Jesus, moving us through the painful transformations of challenge and loss and death to what has been, leads us in his grace to unimagined, but certain glory.



Dan Luby is the director of Christian Formation for the diocese. In May 2006, for the third time, his column received first place honors among regular columns on spiritual life in the Catholic press of the U.S.

and Canada. Dan's column earned the same recognition in 2001 and again in 2003. Dan and his wife, Theresa, have two children, Kate and Peter.

## God's stories are powerfully told in the hospital

By Mary Morrell

*"Every human life is a story told by God."*

— Hans Christian Anderson

**E**very writer needs a favorite place where they can scribble notes on napkins or complete manuscripts while the noise of living plays in the background.

Hemingway had La Closerie des Lilas, his favorite restaurant in Montparnasse, Paris.

I have the Terrace Café in JFK Hospital, Edison, New Jersey.

Certainly, a smoke-filled café on the left bank of Paris, where such artistic geniuses as Pablo Picasso, William Faulkner, Salvador Dali, and Dorothy Parker gathered to create and exchange ideas, cannot be compared to my little hospital café.

But for me, spending close to two months in the hospital during the past year while doctors and nurses worked

to heal my son and then my husband, this fluorescent and formica restaurant overlooking the hospital parking lot has provided a much appreciated place of respite with plenty of coffee, the daily newspaper, and really great soup.

Simple blessings are often the most meaningful.

My fellow patrons may not have included the literary or artistic giants of our time, but their conversations — their tears, their frustration, their laughter, their resiliency — revealed the stuff of inspirational writing.

One afternoon, when I was too tired to even write a word, I took a table near the window with my back to most of the room. Even a smile would have been too much to muster. But the noise of living crept in behind me where a very elderly dad sat eating at a small table across from his senior son.

While they ate their voices rose in anger and accusation.

"You're a useless son!"

"You're a terrible father!"

"You're a drunk!"

"You're selfish!"

It went on for 30 minutes before the son stormed out and left the father holding his head in his hands. What became clear to me, in his face and beneath all the anger, was an unspoken fear — of pain and dying or, maybe, of being alone or unloved. Certainly these two men loved each other, but for some reason had just not learned how to do it well.

Theirs was a story of the human condition, taking one step toward love and two steps back in our weakness and frailty. Jesus understood this condition and shared the secret, "Love one another as I have loved you." But dying to self is not a challenge easily met.

Any stay in the hospital, as a patient or a loved one, will confirm a basic truth — being human is not easy. We suffer physically because we are mortal, but we suffer more deeply because we love. It was these stories of love's suffering

and giving and rising above fear that filled my brown stenographer's notebook every day when I visited the Terrace Café, drank my coffee, and was warmed by my soup. Every visit brought new opportunities to consider what was really important in life and how I could do it all better.

Someday I may have the chance to create something meaningful with the notes I scribbled, but for now I'm just grateful for the lessons and the not so simple blessings of health for my family, good doctors, caring nurses, and the unflinching support of my friends.

Above all I am grateful for the glimpses of God caught through the human stories encountered each day and the light of hope that shines through the indomitable human spirit.

Mary Morrell is the associate director of religious education for the Diocese of Metuchen in New Jersey. She and her husband have six sons and live in Colonia, New Jersey.



# We Need to Cut Poverty in half to make our country whole

By Father Larry Snyder  
President of Catholic Charities USA

**F**our years ago, Anita Crawley never would have imagined that she would become a face of poverty in America.

After 12 years of working at a good-paying job at a Tennessee hospital, she was laid off when her position was changed to require a college degree. And after she enrolled in college classes, her daughter was hit by a car and hospitalized.

In no time at all, she had gone through all of the money she had saved, borrowed from her 401k, and was broke. Government public assistance helped, and a Catholic Charities welfare-to-work program helped her find a job. But the \$21,000 salary doesn't cover the needs of her family — but it's enough to cut off her government benefits.

"I have tried to take some steps forward, but so many things are holding me back," she told a congressional committee last month. "We are fighting hard and playing by the rules, but are still struggling — and any small emergency can push us further into poverty."

We like to think of America as the land of plenty — a country with living standards so high that others wish to emulate our success. But this is not the America seen by Anita Crawley and more than 37 million others who are living in poverty, many of them working hard, playing by the rules, but falling further and further behind.

That's why Catholic Charities USA has launched a new initiative to cut America's poverty rate in half by 2020. But this is more than a cause for Catholic Charities; our Campaign to Reduce Poverty on America is a call to action for each of us.

Catholic social teaching says that evidence of extreme poverty amidst plenty is a serious violation of moral values and a threat to the common good of society. Poverty is a moral



Public service advertisements like the one above are being used by Catholic Charities USA to promote its public awareness and advocacy campaign to cut poverty in the U.S. by half by 2020.

and social wound that hurts all when it hurts one.

As the book of Sirach reminds us: "Remember the time of hunger in the time of plenty, poverty and want in the day of wealth."

These times of hunger and poverty are impacting a growing number of people. Between 2000 and 2004, the number of people living in poverty in our country increased by 5.4 million. Anita Crawley and her family are among the faces behind this sobering statistic.

So are Stephanie Baldwin and her son, who were homeless until Catholic Charities of Trenton, New Jersey, put them into a transitional housing program that gave her a chance to go back to school and work part time while her son attended pre-school. She now has a job, but the cost of maintaining her household still far exceeds her income, an example of the lack of affordable housing for those struggling at the lower end of the income scale.

Our campaign to cut poverty in half is urging our elected leaders to ensure that the poor are a priority in making decisions about government policies and spending decisions.

Pope John Paul II wrote that the government must provide for the defense and preservation of human needs and the common good, and our Catholic social teaching holds that government has an obligation to give priority to the needs of the poor.

Our campaign seeks to give

voice to those living in poverty so that those elected to government posts are reminded of this obligation as they consider legislation on critical issues such as housing, hunger, access to health care, and economic justice. All of these issues are going to be debated in Congress in the weeks and months ahead as decisions are made on a minimum wage increase, nutrition assistance, homeless programs, housing, and child health insurance programs.

We need others to add their voices to this call for change and get involved in this campaign. Catholic Charities USA calls on all people of good will to endorse our Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America by visiting <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/poverty/>. In addition, a list of 20 ideas of how people can get involved can be found at <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/poverty/youcando.cfm>.

"Poverty is a plague against which humanity must fight without cease," Pope Benedict XVI said in a public audience 16 months ago.

We must heed the Pope's call to action. Together, we can lift each other up. Only together — with individuals, organizations, our leaders, and our churches all taking part — can we begin to change the face of poverty in America, to provide help and to offer hope.

Join us in this cause. Let's work to cut the poverty rate in half — and make our country whole.

When families show their love  
for each other by taking care  
of one another in dramatic ways  
we see

## Family Life at its Finest

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

There are certain ways grandparents behave, and in my personal playbook, those are essential, non-negotiable, and golden elements of grandparent-ness.

For example, depending on age and heritage, grandparents make gnocchi or pierogi; they talk about how far they walked to school, how things were in the old country, during the Depression, or in the war; and they tell you the pitfalls of sleeping in a draft, or swallowing gum.

Grandparents come to town to help out after the birth of the little people who turned them into grandparents; they shop in your neighborhood grocery store, go to Mass in your parish church, and play bingo in your local Knights of Columbus Hall. They brag about you to completely innocent bystanders, and whenever you go to lunch, they pay.

"My mother never let me pay for lunch," I told my children, one day at a restaurant, as I deftly acquired the check from our waiter. I can perform a satisfactory check-snatching ritual, but not on the level of my own mom, who stole the bill with a pickpocket's finesse.

And if Mother was unsuccessful paying for a meal, she sneaked money to her children another way: handbag, pocket, wallet, diaper bag, make-up case, or glove compartment. Once I found a \$20 bill in an envelope under my pillow — an unnerving discovery that made me instinctively search my mouth for missing teeth.

"But sadly," I told my children that day at lunch, "Gammy never got to live here, to take her grandchildren shopping and bring home new clothes. She never visited their classes, or watched their dance recitals.

"For most of my life we lived in different states," I said, sadly. "I regret not having had enough occasions to let her treat me to lunch, or buy you tacky jewelry I said you couldn't have."

My friend Mary Kaszynski and I raised our children in Fort Worth, spending their formative years at birthday parties and soccer games, but I don't remember many times our kids' grandmothers were with us.

My mom was in Colorado; Mary's parents, Joyce and Fred Felton, who had been charter members of St. Andrew's (Mary's mom once drove the school bus) had moved to Indiana in 1960, then, in 1983, built a retirement home in Kerrville, where they lived the next 23 years.

But today is different. For almost a year now, Mary's parents have been living in their daughter's family home.

"Mom had broken a hip," Mary said, "and Dad got sick the same day she fell." The couple moved to Fort Worth, with Mom in rehabilitation, and Dad experiencing anxiety over their life changes. "He hadn't been eating or taking his medications — he says it was depression," Mary said. "He thought he was dying."

The family initially moved their parents into assisted living, where Joyce's rehab could continue, but Fred was housed in a different location. "He was miserable," Mary said. "He waited every day for me to come.

SEE HAMER, P. 22



Despite violent storms raging outside, a sense of calm pervaded the community assembled for . . .

# Youth 2000

Story and Photos by  
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

**Left:** The Eucharist, which is the central focus of the annual Youth 2000 retreat, resides in a monstrance on the top tier of this candle-lit altar.



**Above:** During the retreat, women and men had the opportunity to participate in separate discussion sessions. In this case, young women listen as one of their group shares her point of view.

**Left:** Brother Agostino Torres, a native Texan and a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, pauses during his talk to gaze upon the Eucharist.

**Right:** The Youth 2000 retreat, held April 13-15 at Nolan Catholic High School in East Fort Worth, attracted people of varying ages and ethnicities for a weekend of prayer before the Eucharist.

**T**he Franciscan Friars of the Renewal lead Youth 2000 retreats across the country, but members of the Bronx-based religious community weren't prepared for what greeted them April 12 in Fort Worth.

As they arrived to guide hundreds of teens and young adults toward a prayerful and peaceful encounter with the Holy Spirit, a celestial event of another sort descended upon the gathering. A violent storm that spawned a destructive tornado in nearby Haltom City sent the visitors rushing into the interior hallways of the Hartnett Arena at Nolan Catholic High School.

"We started praying the rosary and a peace developed," said Brother Maximilian Stilmachowski, who emceed the retreat weekend. "It's natural to worry about what's going on, but we trusted in Jesus. We know God is bigger than a storm."

Huddled together in prayer, the group of leaders and a few early arriving teens formed an immediate sense of community.

"It was the first time I had begun a weekend like that," Br. Maximilian joked, recalling the retreat's auspicious start. "Before we even sang a song, a bond was forming. Talk about an ice breaker!"

More than 1,000 teens and adults from around Texas and adjoining states traveled to Fort Worth for the ninth annual Youth 2000 weekend. Approximately 35 Youth 2000 events are held across the country, designed to introduce young people to the power of the Eucharist.

Part of that objective is carried out visually. As the young people pray, listen to music, and hear first-person stories of faith and conversion, they sit around an impressive tiered altar of flickering candles. The top of the tree-shaped structure holds the exposed Eucharist in a gold monstrance.

"We see that many young people have responded to Jesus being present in the Eucharist," Br. Maximilian said. "It's not something that's understood easily."

Participation in the three-day retreat is often viewed as a rote exercise by first-time registrants, who attend to appease parents or youth ministers.

"Some young people are made to come. On Friday, they don't want to be here, and it doesn't seem very exciting," the 31-year-old veteran retreat leader explains. "By Sunday, they don't want to leave. That's because they've had an experience of Jesus. It can even change their behavior, and that's a wonderful, beautiful thing to behold."

Although the friars conduct two or three retreats each month in different parts of the United States, they have a particular fondness for Fort Worth. The area's faith-filled spirit, coupled by a propensity for vocations, has encouraged the religious order to establish a friary in the Diocese of Fort

Worth. Members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal hope to move into unused space at a convent at Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Fort Worth in July.

"There's a great spirit and a great need here," Br. Maximilian pointed out. "The youth in Texas respond in a way that's different from other places in the country. There's a great enthusiasm and openness to the faith."

That became evident during a morning of personal faith stories given by young people who have participated in Youth 2000 retreats in past years. Prudence Zavala told the crowd how she was coaxed by caring friends into attending the weekend of prayer, pen-

ance, and praise when she was 22 years old.

"I sat in the far back. As far away from Jesus as I could be, but people kept telling me to move closer," said the young woman in recalling the experience. "Some time during the talk that evening, I started sobbing uncontrollably."

A college dropout who was raised in difficult circumstances, Zavala said she grew up feeling unloved, unwanted, and broken. The tears began to flow at the retreat after a sudden realization: Someone saw value in her existence.

"I was loved by that man there, who told me I was worth it," she said, pointing to the monstrance. "And I learned to

love him back. He was silent, but Jesus was speaking inside of my heart."

Now happily married, Zavala said her sweeping conversion changed her life. She offered advice to other retreat participants who might feel a sense of renewal or spiritual awakening after a weekend of inspirational talks and personal prayer. Teens and young adults often leave Youth 2000 energized and committed to forming a deeper relationship with Jesus.

"What does it take to [make] that high last?" she asked rhetorically. "You have to continue to seek him out. Come be with him and talk to him. Learn to stop taking Jesus for granted."





**Above:** A long line of pilgrims join in the eucharistic procession on Divine Mercy Sunday near San Mateo Mission in Fort Worth.

**Right:** Father Robert Strittmatter holds the monstrance containing the Body of Christ during the eucharistic procession.

## Apostolatus Uniti's Divine Mercy Sunday celebration attracts many participants

Bonnie Sager, director of Apostolatus Uniti, welcomed a standing-room only crowd to the apostolate's 15th annual celebration of the Divine Mercy feast April 15 at San Mateo Mission, near downtown Fort Worth. Participants were invited to celebrate and praise God's mercy in response to requests made by Jesus in revelations to St. Faustina Kowalska, a young Polish nun, in 1931.

The celebration began with an entrance procession, with Fourth

Degree Knights of Columbus providing an honor guard for the image of Divine Mercy and a first class relic of St. Faustina. The traditional Divine Mercy image, painted under the direction of St. Faustina, depicts the crucified Christ with two rays, symbolizing blood and water, streaming from his heart.

Father Robert Strittmatter presided at the celebration, which included eucharistic adoration, the rosary, and litanies of praise. Participants were invited to receive

the sacrament of reconciliation from Fr. Strittmatter and from Father Antony Mathew, TOR, prior to the afternoon Mass.

Following the liturgy, Fr. Strittmatter led a procession through the neighborhood near San Mateo Mission. At each street corner, the procession stopped and knelt in silence as Fr. Strittmatter blessed the congregation with the Eucharist. Participants joined in singing and praying the rosary before processing back into the church to conclude with further litanies

of praise and with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

It was in obedience to her spiritual director that St. Faustina, a member of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, Poland, wrote down 600 pages of spiritual revelations before her death from tuberculosis in 1939. Those compiled revelations are now known as *The Message of Divine Mercy*. St. Faustina was

canonized by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000. On that occasion, the pope declared that the second Sunday of Easter was to be called Divine Mercy Sunday.

Apostolatus Uniti serves the church through activities such as the annual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration and an annual Rosary Congress. For more details about Apostolatus Uniti, visit online at [www.apostolatusuniti.org](http://www.apostolatusuniti.org).

## IRPS announces name change at 20th anniversary celebration

*Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies to become University of Dallas School of Ministry*

University of Dallas officials have announced that the university's Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies (IRPS) has been renamed the University of Dallas School of Ministry. The change in name was announced April 27 at a celebration of the institute's 20th anniversary. Dr. Frank Lazarus, president of the University of Dallas, noted at the anniversary event that the change reflects the "growth and development" of the theological educational institution since its inception in 1987.

"IRPS has established a reputation for excellence in its field, experienced major growth in the number of programs offered and students enrolled during the last five years, and is expected to continue increasing its leadership role in theological education for the Catholic Church," said Lazarus.

Dr. Brian Schmisek, director of the institute since 2002, joined Lazarus in addressing nearly 200 supporters, students, and friends of the institute at the anniversary banquet, held at Hackberry Creek Country Club in Irving. Bishop Emeritus William Friend of Shreveport, Louisiana, who gave a keynote presentation at the anniversary event, was also responsible

for urging Catholics of North Texas in 1985 to "take a decisive role in the theological formation and continuing education of Catholic leaders," said Schmisek.

In response to Bishop Friend's challenge, University of Dallas officials undertook a two-year study, noted Schmisek, which culminated in the establishment of the Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies at the University of Dallas in 1987 by Bishop Thomas Tschoepe, then the bishop of Dallas and the grand chancellor of the university.

Press materials provided by the University of Dallas announcing the institute's name change also included information about faculty members at the School of Ministry. Among the faculty members listed was Dr. Dan Luby, who currently serves as the director of the Office of Adult Formation for the Diocese of Fort Worth. Beginning in August 2007, Luby will leave his position within the diocese and will hold the endowed Tschoepe Chair of Homiletics at the School of Ministry.

According to enrollment data, the School of Ministry is one of the fastest growing graduate schools in its field in the United States, said Schmisek, adding that

participants in its five master's degree programs have increased in number from 26 in 2002 to 130 students in 2007. Degree programs include concentrations in theological studies, Catholic school teaching, religious education, pastoral ministry, and Catholic school leadership.

Additionally, enrollment in the institute's Catholic Biblical School certificate program — offered in both English and Spanish at locations throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth and the Diocese of Dallas — is currently at 620, making it the largest program of its kind among all Catholic universities in the United States, according to material from the School of Ministry. More than 130 students are also currently enrolled in the school's deacon and adult faith formation programs, also offered in both English and in Spanish, within the dioceses of Dallas and Tyler.

"We project that enrollment in all of our programs will increase to more than 1,600 in the next four years," said Schmisek. "We are committed to expanding our programs here and internationally, and to bringing area dioceses innovative new programs that serve their developing pastoral, theological, and ministerial needs."



Dr. Dan Luby, who has recently been appointed as the Tschoepe Chair of Homiletics at the UD School of Ministry, attends the school's 20th anniversary banquet April 27 with Dr. Frank Lazarus, UD president, and Dr. Brian Schmisek, School of Ministry director. (Photo courtesy of University of Dallas)

### Facts about the UD School of Ministry

- The School of Ministry is the only Catholic theological school to offer its entire Master of Theological Studies degree program and Catholic Biblical School programs online, as well as selected courses in its other master's degree programs.
- The School of Ministry offers the nation's only summer Rome study program that is fully integrated into its master's degree programs; courses are taught at the University of Dallas campus in Rome by the school's faculty members and by other recognized theological scholars.
- Full-time, professional faculty members at the school have increased from seven in 2006 to 11 in 2007. All master's degree programs are taught by professors with doctorates; all Catholic Biblical School programs are taught by professors with master's or more advanced degrees.
- Catholic Biblical School programs are offered throughout the week at 12 sites within the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Information was compiled from materials provided by the UD School of Ministry.



## Arturo Chavez to succeed Sr. Maria Elena Gonzalez as head of MACC

SAN ANTONIO (CNS)—The board of directors of the Mexican American Cultural Center has accepted the resignation of Mercy Sister Maria Elena Gonzalez as president of the center and named Arturo Chavez, the center's director of programs, to succeed her, effective Aug. 1.

In announcing the appointment, Bishop Michael D. Pfeiffer of San Angelo, board chairman, said, "Arturo firmly believes in MACC's mission. He possesses the foresight and leadership qualities needed to help MACC continue to be the national leading Catholic institute in Hispanic and multicultural ministries."

Sr. Maria Elena, who has headed the center in San Antonio for the past 14 years, said a recent accidental fall helped confirm to her that it was time to resign.

When she was named president in 1993, she was the first woman religious to hold that post. Under her leadership



Arturo Chavez

the center increased its curriculum-based programs both on its campus and off-campus. She was instrumental in raising \$6 million in a three-year capital campaign that paid for the construction of a new campus seven years ago.

"I know that I have brought MACC to a better place; now it is time for another leader to bring new energy and insights for MACC's future," she said in a statement.

Chavez has been with the center for the past six years and served in several positions, including vice president, before he became director of programs in October 2005.

He has more than 20 years of experience as a teacher, youth

minister, chaplain, and community organizer. He founded a nonprofit organization for youths and families called Joven in San Antonio. He and his wife, Mary Baez-Chavez, are co-authors of "Respeto," a curriculum for Latino youth leadership formation that is used in parishes around the country.

He has a master's degree in theology with dual emphasis on Scripture and Hispanic ministry and a doctorate from the University of Denver in religion and social change.

Chavez called Sr. Maria Elena his mentor. "At a time when many believed MACC's closing was inevitable, she helped to birth a new beginning for us," he said in a statement. "Her faith and determination rallied many generous persons to invest in the beautiful campus we now enjoy and to continue to secure the financial stability for the future of MACC."

## Survey indicates majority of Catholic Hispanics prefer charismatic liturgies

FROM PAGE 1

as charismatics was participation in prayer groups where participants pray for miraculous healing or deliverance, or where people speak in tongues.

The survey found that 62 percent of Catholic Hispanics say that the Masses they attend at least occasionally have "displays of excitement and enthusiasm, such as raising hands, clapping, shouting, or jumping."

Among non-Hispanic Catholics, only about 12 percent consider themselves charismatics, Suro said.

Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum, said at the same teleconference that becoming involved in the charismatic style of religious practice strengthens people's religious identity. Whether Catholic, Anglican, or mainline Protestant, Latinos who adopt a more charismatic style of practicing their faith remain within their original church and become stronger in their religious commitment, he said.

"There's absolutely no evidence that it's diminishing or undercutting their Catholic orthodoxy or their connection to parish life," he said.

Hispanic Protestants were proportionally even more likely to belong to "renewal" churches, with 57 percent in that category. Thirty-one percent of Hispanic Protestants said they were Pentecostals, and 26 percent described themselves as charismatics.

"The contrast to the non-Hispanic population is stark: Less than one in five non-Hispanic Protestants are renewalists," the survey said.

About 18 percent of all Hispanics said they had changed churches or stopped considering themselves members of a faith altogether. Former Catholics (13 percent) were the majority.

Conversion was much more common among second- and third-generation Hispanics than among recent immigrants, the survey found. And the majority left Catholicism to join evangelical churches. Forty-three percent of evangelical Hispanics said they formerly were Catholic. Just 2 percent of Hispanic converts became Catholics.

Catholics who became evangelicals were asked to discuss their feelings about the Catholic Church and why they left.

The greatest dissatisfaction was voiced about liturgy.

Sixty-one percent of former Catholics said they found the Mass "unexciting," although only 36 percent said that was a factor in why they left. Forty-six percent said they disapprove of church restrictions on divorce, but only 5 percent said that was why they left.

In response to questions about other possible areas of dissatisfaction, majorities of former Catholics said they think the church respects women at least as much as men (66 percent) and

is welcoming toward immigrants (75 percent).

Among all Hispanics surveyed, 83 percent of those who converted said their main reason for changing faiths or churches was a desire for a more direct, personal experience of God. The second most common reason, given by 35 percent, was the inspiration of a particular pastor, followed by 26 percent who said it was related to a personal crisis and 14 percent who converted because of a marriage.

The study counted as a conversion any change such as leaving one Protestant church for another, moving into or out of the Catholic Church, or dropping out of religious practice altogether.

A personal invitation also was important. Among all Hispanic converts, 74 percent said they first heard about their new church from a family member or friend.

The study of 4,016 Hispanic adults was conducted by telephone between August and October 2006. The sample size was larger than is typical in sociological surveys to get a better sense of what non-Catholic Hispanics had to say, Suro and Lugo said.

The margin of error for the entire survey is plus or minus 2.5 percent; plus or minus 3.3 percent for Catholic respondents; and plus or minus 4.8 percent for evangelicals. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending upon the preference of the person being interviewed.

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

### Bishop Aymond weighs in on debate over care of dying Texas boy

AUSTIN (CNS)—Citing difficult decisions in his own family and the example of Pope John Paul II, Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of Austin said Catholic teaching would permit the withdrawal of extraordinary medical treatment for Emilio Gonzales, a dying 17-month-old boy at Children's Hospital of Austin. Catarina Gonzales, the boy's mother, has been fighting for continued medical treatment of her son at the hospital, which is part of the Seton Family of Hospitals, a 31-facility Catholic health system in central Texas. The boy's physicians and other hospital officials have recommended that the child be removed from a respirator and given only "comfort care." Emilio, who has been blind and deaf since birth and was admitted to the hospital Dec. 27 with a collapsed lung, has been diagnosed with Leigh's disease, a rare disorder that is causing his central nervous system to break down. The disease is considered incurable. "I cannot imagine the pain that Catarina experiences as she faces these terrible questions that no mother wants to face," Bishop Aymond said in an April 15 statement.

### Bishops' work group affirms church anti-abuse education programs

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A report sent to the U.S. bishops by their National Review Board and Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People said the safe environment education programs for children in dioceses across the nation are "a major accomplishment and one that must continually be maintained and reinforced." It proposed criteria for evaluating and improving those programs, which are intended to prevent the sexual abuse of children and young people and to help them recognize it if it occurs and report it to adults. The report recommended strengthening the training of teachers and catechists who are called on to teach children in age-appropriate ways what they need to know to help them to avoid inappropriate touching or behavior and to report it when it occurs. The new report, "Safe Environment Training of Children in the Catholic Church," was written by the Safe Environment Work Group, headed by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, California, a member of the bishops' Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People.

### Everyone is called to be a leader, priest tells men at conference

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (CNS)—Leadership is lacking in today's American culture, Father John Corapi told men gathered at a conference April 14 in St. Paul. "Everyone is called to be a leader," he said. "The question of leadership is universal." Beautiful weather beckoned people to go outdoors but 1,700 men chose to be indoors in the Schoenecker Arena at the University of St. Thomas to listen to the priest. Fr. Corapi, a speaker and author who lives in Kalispell, Montana, came to the Twin Cities to present three sessions at the annual St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocesan men's conference. Fr. Corapi, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, opened his half-day session by describing the crisis of leadership and the bad fruit it bears. He then laid out a plan for Catholic men to be strong leaders in their families, jobs, and parishes. Borrowing an acronym from the military, he conveyed a formula for LEADERSHIP: Lead by example. Educate. Attitude. Discipline. Empower. Receive and respect input. Sacrifice. Humility. Initiative. Plan, prepare, and practice. He said it begins with setting a good example.

### Observers say most Mexican states unlikely to legalize abortion soon

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (CNS)—Though Mexico City legalized abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, most states in Mexico are unlikely to follow suit in the near future, said several political observers. Rodolfo Chavez, University of Guadalajara law professor, said abortion laws are the exclusive jurisdiction of state governments, and he predicted none of the nine states with governments run by the National Action Party would move toward decriminalizing abortion. The conservative National Action Party historically has maintained amicable relations with the Catholic Church. In a recent statement, several National Action Party governors pledged to keep their states' restrictions on abortion intact. Dan Lund, a pollster with the research firm MUND Americas, said that up to a dozen of Mexico's 31 states could propose decriminalizing abortion. But Lund said polling in other parts of Mexico suggests support for the decriminalization of abortion lags behind support in the capital, Mexico City.



# After journey of sorrow, look to Resurrection, Virginia bishop urges

By Jean Denton

BLACKSBURG, Virginia (CNS) — Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond told an overflow gathering of students, faculty, and families April 22 at Virginia Tech that rushing to experience the joy of the Resurrection while they are actually feeling pain and confusion “would be terribly unrealistic.”

“As a group, emotionally speaking, we are not there yet,” counseled the bishop in his homily during Mass on the university campus in Blacksburg. “We as a community have not quite caught up to the joy of the Resurrection yet, because of the tragedy we are living. People’s emotions are anything but joyful.”

He reminded the faithful assembled at Memorial Chapel that the message of Christ’s Resurrection would be there to answer their questions when the community emerges from its grief over the tragic loss of life on campus the previous week.

Referring to the challenge campus ministers face in response to students and staff touched by the campus shootings that left 33 people dead April 16, Bishop DiLorenzo said: “We can’t say, ‘Hey, don’t feel your feelings.’ We don’t say, ‘Don’t worry about that, feel the joy of Resurrection.’ That would be a mistake.

“We need to start the journey of Jesus’ passion over,” he explained, noting “the fog of emotion” that surrounds the community in facing “the senseless act of violence where so many have passed away.”

“The loss and pain you feel suggest a tremendous amount of selfless investment in a relationship, and when it is ripped out of our lives it is shocking and becomes unreal,” he said. “But it’s been the general experience of human beings throughout history that people can and do emerge and start to re-establish themselves again. It’s then that somehow or other we have a lot of questions.”

He promised, “This is when we as a faith community can start being present to one another, and we have a set of responses to your questions. Your questions are rooted in your sorrow and your humanity — our responses are rooted in the Resurrection.”

The bishop also celebrated an evening Mass April 21 at St. Mary Church in Blacksburg. He offered the same basic message in his homily at both Masses.

Before the Mass at St. Mary, Bishop DiLorenzo, who has led the diocese less than three years, explained that he had no intention of pretending to have an intimate personal relationship with the community that’s nearly 200 miles from the chancery office.

Those at the campus Mass chuckled appreciatively when he said, “Today I’m here kind of like the person nobody knows who shows up for a funeral.”

However, he explained, “Like that person I’m here to say we knew and are aware, and we are very sorry for your loss. But we are connected, part of the same family, and when you hurt, we hurt as well.”

In his typical personal, conversational tone, Bishop DiLorenzo’s own message to the university and Blacksburg communities emphasized healing and support among members of a believing faith community.

Pointing out that individual experiences related to the campus shooting vary according to circumstances — ranging from loss of a family member or close friend, to having been in close proximity or an emergency responder, to being only indirectly involved — he said their grieving will be accordingly different.

He suggested the questions among those affected would include “Is this loss real? Will I be able to communicate with the one I’ve lost?” He added, “There’s the irrationality of the whole thing: that death isn’t supposed to happen to young people, or why was it not me?”

Bishop DiLorenzo encouraged the faithful to be present to those struggling with questions. “You don’t have to be a psychotherapist or a grief counselor,” he told them, “but because we are a people of the Resurrection, when they are ready and raise those questions, we have responses.”

He explained: “Life has changed, not ended. After death we go to God. Every single Sunday we commit ourselves to belief in the communion of saints,” he reminded them. “Now it’s no longer just another thing we rattle off. Now it has genuine meaning because it’s hit home.

“We can communicate with those who have gone before us,



**VIRGINIA TECH HEALS** — Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond, Virginia, greets people after Mass at Memorial Chapel on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, April 22. Bishop DiLorenzo told students and staff that, after the April 16 campus shootings that left 33 people dead, rushing to experience the joy of the Resurrection while they are actually feeling pain and confusion “would be terribly unrealistic.” (CNS photo/Jean Denton, CATHOLIC VIRGINIAN)

and they can help us with the struggles and challenges of this life. And you may have questions or regrets about ‘what I should’ve done,’ but you don’t have to worry about that because you can continue to pray with them — they know what’s in your heart,” the bishop said.

He also reminded them that their faith calls them to continue to seek God’s will for their own lives as they move ahead.

The first intention in the prayers of the faithful suggested the hope of the Resurrection already had begun to take hold as the cantor intoned: “For 32 Hokie

guardian angels who have made heaven a little more orange and maroon,” after which the name of each victim was read.

The Hokies are the school’s sports teams, and orange and maroon the school colors.

After each Mass Bishop DiLorenzo spoke with worshippers. He wore a maroon baseball cap presented to him by Father James Arsenault, St. Mary pastor.

Although he said he came to the Virginia Tech community “as a stranger,” the bishop said he was touched by the welcome and warmth he received.

## Pro-life advocates laud court’s decision to uphold ban on partial-birth abortion

FROM PAGE 1

and Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia, and Clarence Thomas.

Voting in the minority were Justices Paul Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Souter, and John Paul Stevens.

Six federal courts had ruled the act had unconstitutionally restricted a woman’s legal right to an abortion. In October the Supreme Court accepted cases from California — the Planned Parenthood case — and Nebraska — the Dr. Leroy Carhart case. The high court conducted oral arguments in November.

In what the law calls partial-birth abortion, also referred to as an “intact dilation and extraction,” a live fetus is partially delivered and an incision is made at the base of the skull, through which the brain is removed, and then the dead body is delivered the rest of the way.

In the 1990s, Congress had twice passed a ban on partial-

birth abortions. Both times the bills were vetoed by President Bill Clinton.

In 2000, the Supreme Court struck down a Nebraska ban on partial-birth abortions. Writing for a 5-4 majority at that time, Breyer said the law imposed an undue burden on a woman’s right to make an abortion decision. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who died in September 2005, and now-retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor were both on the high court at the time this ruling was issued. O’Connor sided with the majority, and Rehnquist with the minority.

In 2003, Congress again passed a ban on partial-birth abortions. Bush signed the bill into law, but because of court challenges it never went into effect.

Kennedy’s majority opinion said there was “medical disagreement whether the act’s prohibition would ever impose significant health risks on women” — a prohibition based

in significant part on the finding that the procedure was never medically necessary — and that other procedures exist to abort late-term pregnancies.

During the November oral arguments, Solicitor General Paul Clement, who argued for the federal government, said Congress had sufficient evidence that “partial-birth abortions were never medically necessary, and that safe alternatives were always available such that no woman would be prevented from terminating her pregnancy. As a result, Congress was entitled to make a judgment in furthering its legitimate interests that they were going to ban a particularly gruesome procedure that blurred the line between abortion and infanticide.”

A separate opinion written by Thomas and joined by Scalia said they wanted to reiterate their view that “the court’s abortion jurisprudence ... has no basis in the Constitution.”

In his statement, Bush also said: “The Supreme Court’s decision is an affirmation of the progress we have made over the past six years in protecting human dignity and upholding the sanctity of life. We will continue to work for the day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law.”

In statements issued April 18, abortion opponents rejoiced in the decision.

“Granted this is a very small step, but it is the first step away from a society that looks at the life of an unwanted, unborn child as nothing more than a problem that needs to be disposed of, and the first step toward a society that respects and values all human life,” said a statement by former Republican Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, author of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

“When drafting this legislation, we were confident that it would withstand constitutional scrutiny

and today’s ruling confirms that belief,” said a statement by Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, who sponsored the bill in the House. “Our legislation was supported by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress, signed into law by the president, and has now been upheld by our highest court.”

In praising the decision, Father Frank Pavone, president of Priests for Life, said, “Congress and the vast majority of state legislators and American citizens have made it clear over the last decade that this procedure — by which a child is killed in the very process of delivery — has no place in a civilized society.”

“Finally,” said National Right to Life Committee legislative director Douglas Johnson, “it is illegal in America to mostly deliver a premature infant before puncturing her skull and removing her brain, which is what a partial-birth abortion is.”



## Scripture Readings



May 13, Sixth Sunday of Easter.  
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Jeff Hensley

When I came into the church 33 years ago, my pastor, whether in the pulpit or in the church library where he presented the faith to inquirers like me, gave insight into Catholicism with firmness and gentleness and good humor.

He welcomed me, and the rest of the inquiry class, with open arms. Like the apostles in the Acts reading for today, who refused to set impossibly high standards for new converts who sought to follow Christ, my pastor outlined the teachings of the church with clarity and kindness.

John's Gospel seems to map the same territory, showing us that the hand of God on his people demonstrates this same loving contrast. With great promise, Jesus says, "Anyone who loves me will be true to my word and my Father will love him; we will come to him and make our dwelling place with him." But there is a definitively firm limit to this offer of God's indwelling with us in the words immediately following: "He who does

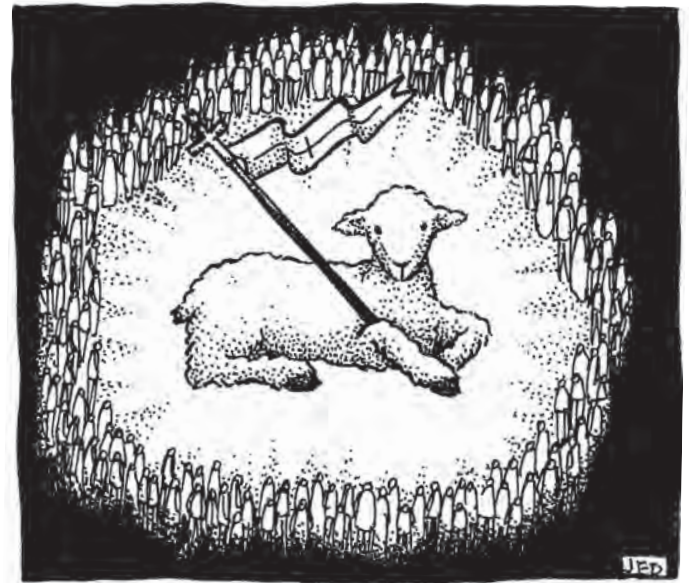
not love me does not keep my words."

A little further on, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to instruct us and to give us peace. We should pay particular attention to what Jesus tells us here. The disciples' feet have been washed; Judas has departed to carry out his betrayal; Peter's denial has been predicted. We stand poised on the brink, and Jesus delivers his final instructions to those who will build his church. "Peace is my farewell to you," he tells them and us, "my peace is my gift to you. I do not give it to you as the world gives peace. Do not be distressed or fearful." Then he tells them he will go to the Father, giving them the one key insight that will help them see that his crucifixion will lead onward in God's plan to his resurrection and his continuing presence with both them and us.

When I came into the church three decades ago, gradually moving out of years of doubt as a young adult, coming into the light of Christ through my involvement in both the charismatic renewal and the institutional church, I found that the sense of loneliness that had haunted me for years left me. I'm sure that came as a result of entering into communion with those who had inherited Jesus' promise of peace.

### QUESTIONS:

Where have you found peace in your own walk with God? Could prayer, Scripture study, or reconciliation with someone help you recapture that peace?



*"The [heavenly] city had no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the lamb."*

— Revelation 21:23

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## Pope says only true way to know God is to love him

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The only true way to know God is to love him and enter into a relationship with him through prayer and reading the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Just as between people, one really knows another deeply only if there is love, if one opens his heart," so it is with God, the pope said May 2 at his weekly general audience.

St. Peter's Square was a sea of colorful umbrellas and raincoats as rain sometimes gently sprinkled or poured down on the estimated 20,000 visitors gathered for the audience. As the pope rode through the crowd in an open jeep, his personal secretary held a huge white umbrella over him.

As the rain became heavier, the pope told the people that Italian experts had been worrying about a serious drought this year, "so [the] Lord is giving us a sign of his blessing."

In his main audience talk, the pope continued the previous week's discussion about the teach-



Pope Benedict XVI waves from his popemobile after celebrating Mass in Pavia, in northern Italy, April 22. (CNS photo/Daniele Colarieti, Catholic Press Photo)

ing of Origen of Alexandria.

According to Origen's teaching, the pope said, "understanding the Scriptures requires, even

more than study, intimacy with Christ, and prayer."

"Origen is convinced that the privileged path to knowing God

is love and that there cannot be an authentic knowledge of Christ without being in love with him," the pope said.

Pope Benedict told the crowd that Origen emphasized his idea by pointing to "the meaning sometimes given to the verb 'to know' in Hebrew, as this verb is used to express the act of human love. For example, in Genesis we read, 'Adam knew Eve, his wife, who conceived.' In this way, it is suggested that a union in love leads to the most authentic knowledge.

"Just as the man and woman are two in one flesh, so God and the believer become two in one spirit," the pope said.

In his remarks to Spanish and Portuguese speakers, the pope asked prayers for his May 9-13 visit to Brazil and for the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, which he will open.

"We ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to bless this ecclesial encounter with abundant fruit so that all Christians truly feel themselves to be disciples of Christ, sent by him to evangelize their brothers and sisters with the divine word and the witness of their lives," he said.



## Scripture Readings



May 20, Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 97:1-2, 6-7, 9
- 2) Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20  
Gospel) John 17:20-26

By Beverly Corzine

On one golden Saturday morning, it was my lot to monitor a film crew's use of our office space. While I waited for the crew's arrival, I stared at the beautiful morning unfolding outside in the parking lot and in a grassy area nearby. With the arrival of each car, I wondered, "Is this part of the crew?" Car after car indeed was filled with a "crew." However, these people were not the crew I was anticipating.

Out of each vehicle spilled children with one or both parents as well as an occasional grandparent. Today was the long-awaited First Eucharist Preparation Day. I soon became the unofficial greeter. One young person informed me that the next Saturday when he would receive the Eucharist for the first time would be "the best day of all." I noted that nearly every child was bringing a gift to the event. When I asked about them, I was proudly told that the bags were full of toi-

letry items for people who were sick. The spirit of anticipation and joy that seemed to animate each group was contagious.

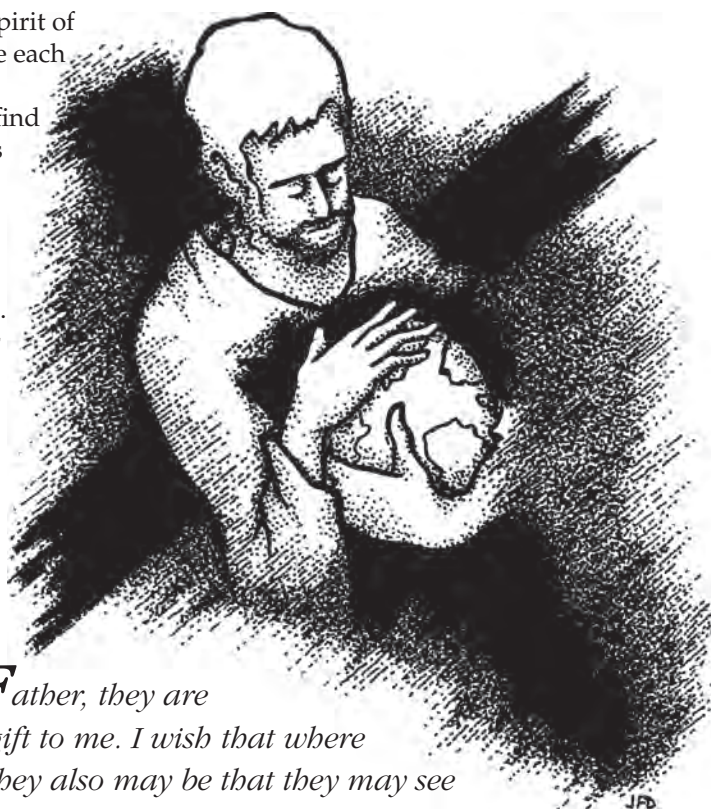
As I sent the last family on their way to find the designated meeting room, the members of the camera crew began to arrive. During introductions, someone asked, "Are you always this happy when you have to work on a Saturday morning?"

"I had some help this morning!" I replied.

The gorgeous day, the children and their families, meeting the film crew, watching their creativity and attending Saturday evening Mass, all became a part of a gift called Saturday.

Most of us would agree that one of God's great gifts to humanity is Scripture. In fact, some passages or books in the Bible seem to literally knock us over with a great aha! John's Gospel is one of those books. The entire 17th chapter is a prayer of Jesus. Today's Gospel comes from the closing verses of chapter 17.

When this prayer is ended, Jesus will go to the garden, but not before he has included in his prayer those who are yet to come.



**F**ather, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be that they may see my glory that you gave me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."

— John 17:24

### QUESTIONS:

When have you ever prayed in anticipation of an event yet to happen or an unknown person yet to enter your life? How has this affected the way this event or person becomes a gift to you?

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## 'Lookin' for Love' has to end up in Jesus

By Jeff Hedglen

Since Holy Saturday, I haven't been able to shake the memory of the words of the angels at the tomb of Jesus. When the familiar words coursed through my mind that candle-lit night, my thoughts went in a surprising direction.

The women who had been at the cross of Jesus and stayed with him until he was laid in the tomb, went off to prepare spices and perfumed oils for Jesus' burial. When they returned in the morning they found the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus missing.

I imagine them, at first, looking at each other dumbstruck, then frantically saying things like: "Someone stole the body," "I'll bet it was the priests," "Maybe even Pilate," "Why would they do this?" On and on the accusations would have flown.

Suddenly they are shocked out of their outrage by two men in dazzling garments who mysteriously appear before

If Jesus conquered even death, then life itself is defined by him. Seeking it from any other source will only leave us wanting.

them. The women fearfully put their faces to the ground only to hear: "Why do you seek the living one among the dead?" (Luke 24:5)

It is this phrase that has stayed at the forefront of my mind: "seeking the living among the dead." Instead of thinking about the resurrection, I immediately started thinking about all the time we humans spend on activities and pursuits that do not lead to life. In effect, a lot of what we do is seeking the living among the dead.

Some of these things are necessary parts of our lives. We all need jobs and hobbies and

material items like food, clothing, and shelter. But each of these seemingly innocent and indispensable parts of our lives can change from life-sustaining to life-defining faster than the stars of this summer's big movie "Transformers" will shift their shapes and identities.

For some it is like the old country song "Looking for love (life) in all the wrong places." We are all told that we cannot find life through sex, drugs, alcohol, and other addictive behaviors, but far too many people end up in this vicious cycle of life-eroding activities.

Some people find their identity in the relationship they are in, or long to be in. I have known people who wanted to be in a relationship so badly that they chose people who were not good for them, and once again, while looking for life, found something very different.

Let me be clear. It is not that the above things are in and of themselves bad or evil. Jobs provide services and pay bills; hobbies help us have balanced lives; sex is how God designed married love to bring life into the world; drugs (that are legal) provide healing, Jesus' first miracle was making good wine; and we were created to live in community, so relationships are vital to our existence.

The problem comes when our lives are defined by these things and not by the love of God brought to us in Christ Jesus.

The message from the dazzlingly clad gentlemen outside Jesus' tomb is meant to inform the women that Jesus is not to be sought among the dead,

for he is alive. They went to the tomb to seek the man who redefined their lives. They arrived sad, for they had seen this life-altering man die a brutal death. They left confused and haltingly excited at the possibility that what he had said about being raised from the dead might actually be true.

We sit comfortably, 2,000 years later, assured in the truth of the resurrection, yet sometimes we forget where life comes from. The proclamation "Jesus is alive!" is not only about the resurrection. It is also the defining moment of our lives. If Jesus conquered even death, then life itself is defined by him. Seeking it from any other source will only leave us wanting. Finding it in Jesus makes every aspect of our lives — life giving. Now there's a reason to sing Alleluia!

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



# Las lecturas dominicales comienzan a anticipar el 'cumpleaños de la Iglesia,' Pentecostés

## Estimados Amigos de la Diócesis de Fort Worth,

**T**odavía estamos celebrando la feliz época de Pascua y las lecturas dominicales nos refieren



Monsieur Kevin W. Vann

de nuevo al ministerio público de nuestro Señor, mientras que al mismo tiempo, comienzan a anticipar el "cumpleaños" de la Iglesia, Pentecostés.

El quinto domingo de Pascua nos trae las palabras de Cristo mismo, que nos invita de nuevo a que nos amemos unos a otros. El evangelio del Sexto Domingo de Pascua nos prepara para el camino para la venida del Espíritu Santo. Estas dos realidades, amor y el Espíritu Santo, están interconectadas y son inseparables en la vida de la Iglesia.

Estas lecturas reflejan ciertamente la realidad que vivimos en nuestra fe. Nos llaman a amar a Dios y amarnos unos a

*Estas dos realidades, amor y el Espíritu Santo, están interconectadas y son inseparables en la vida de la Iglesia.*

otros y debemos recordar siempre que la fuente principal del amor que compartimos es el Espíritu Santo. El Señor y dador de vida es también el Señor y dador del amor, un amor divino que recibimos por primera vez en el Bautismo, y nos inicia en la comunión que luchamos por vivir de la mejor manera posible cada día.

Este último miércoles nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Benedicto XVI, nos habló una vez más sobre el amor al hablarnos sobre Orígenes, el famoso historiador del siglo tercero, él nos recordó que la mejor manera de conocer al Dios es el amor, y que no puede haber verdadera 'scientia Christi' sin estar enamorado de Él... El nivel más alto del conocimiento del Dios fluye del amor... ". El Santo Padre nos está preparando obviamente para la celebración de Pentecostés que ya se aproxima.

Mientras estamos todavía en la época de Pascua, también estamos celebrando varios acontecimientos vitales dentro de nuestra comunidad de la Iglesia: Confirmaciones, primeras Comuniones, y otros acontecimientos significativos en nuestras escuelas católicas y programas catequéticos. Todos estos acontecimientos reflejan la realidad del Señor Resucitado entre nosotros, que nos enseña cómo amarnos unos a otros en verdad a través de los momentos sacramentales y litúrgicos, y con las gracias recibidas por medio de ellas, amar a Dios, y amarnos unos a otros, cada día y ser en nuestras comunidades verdaderos ejemplos de la caridad.

Gracias a todos los que ayudaron a preparar a nuestros niños y jóvenes para estos momentos tan importantes, y a los sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas, y catequistas que trabajan tan arduamente en este ministerio.

En esta época santa, cuando renovamos nuestras promesas bautismales, sea en la confirmación o en la Misa, es una ocasión para reafirmar nuestra creencia en nuestra fe, entregar nuestras vidas totalmente al Señor Resucitado y a su amor y comprometer nuestras vidas plenamente a la caridad y a la misericordia. Estos momentos, y todos los acontecimientos en nuestras parroquias, son oportunidades llenas de la gracia que

nos impulsan al amor y servicio entre unos y otros, como nos lo pide nuestro Señor Resucitado.

También detengámonos brevemente para celebrar el segundo aniversario de la elección del Papa Benedicto XVI como el Obispo de Roma y Pastor Universal. Él nos está enseñando en verdad a ser seguidores de Cristo, y a ver su presencia claramente en la Iglesia, y amarnos unos a otros. Su primera encíclica, Deus Caritas Est, es una declaración clara de eso.

Démosle todos, como Diócesis de Fort Worth, la bienvenida al Norte de Texas al Obispo Kevin Farrell como el nuevo Obispo de la Diócesis de Dallas. Muchos de ustedes saben que tenemos una historia común con la Diócesis de Dallas, así que el regocijo de nuestros hermanos en Dallas es también un regocijo para nosotros aquí en Fort Worth. Tuve el privilegio de participar en sus ceremonias de bienvenida esta pasada semana en Dallas y compartí con muchos amigos de ambas Iglesias locales. El Obispo Farrell y yo esperamos trabajar juntos para el bien común de todos nuestros católicos aquí en el Norte de Texas. (Ha habido mucho buen humor sobre los "dos Kevins" como Obispos aquí en Dallas y Fort Worth!)

Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus seres amados en estos días del Señor Resucitado.

## En estudio se informa que los hispanos de EEUU son atraídos por iglesias carismáticas

WASHINGTON (CNS) — La iglesia con la que están familiarizados y la que prefieren los católicos hispanos de los Estados Unidos es un lugar lleno de más vida y más carismático que el lugar al que la mayoría de los católicos norteamericanos están acostumbrados, se manifiesta en una nueva encuesta sobre latinos y religión.

En un estudio llevado a cabo por dos instituciones, el "Pew Hispanic Center" (Centro Hispano Pew) y el "Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life" (Foro Pew sobre Religión y Vida Pública) dado a conocer el 25 de abril, se dice que cerca de una tercera parte de los católicos de los EEUU son latinos y que le dan un estilo más evangélico de fe a la iglesia en general conforme su número aumenta.

Apesar de una baja en conjunto del porcentaje de hispanos de EEUU católicos, debido principalmente a los que han ingresado a iglesias evangelistas y pentecostales, los latinos continuarán representando una cifra cada día más grande de la población católica de los EEUU por causa de inmigración y de la alta tasa de natalidad, se decía en el estudio. Cerca del 68 por ciento de los

hispanos de los EEUU dicen que son católicos.

Y a pesar de que en muchos aspectos los latinos difieren poco de la población en general de católicos de los EEUU en sus actitudes y actividades religiosas, Roberto Suro, director del Centro Hispano Pew, dijo que los analistas se habían quedado sorprendidos de ver la profundidad de lo que él llamó "renovación de la cristiandad" entre las personas de origen latino o ascendencia latina.

En un texto informativo dado a conocer por teléfono, en relación al estudio titulado "Cambio en Expresiones de Fe: Los Latinos y la Transformación de la Religión Norteamericana", Suro dijo que es más fácil que los latinos se vean involucrados en iglesias en donde el estilo típico de culto y oración sea más entusiasta y en donde se batan palmas y se eleven los brazos al cielo, en contraste con la población en general de los EEUU.

Un cincuenta y cuatro por ciento de católicos hispanos fueron identificados como carismáticos con base en las prácticas religiosas que las personas dijeron llevan a cabo en su iglesia, se decía en el estudio. Entre las características

que se mencionaban en el estudio, usadas para la clasificación de las personas como carismáticas, aparecía la participación en grupos de oración en donde los participantes rezan para alcanzar curaciones milagrosas o liberación, o en donde las personas hablan en lenguas especiales o particulares.

En el estudio se encontró que un 62 por ciento de católicos hispanos dicen que en las Misas a las que asisten hay "manifestaciones estimulantes y entusiastas, por lo menos en varias ocasiones, en donde se levantan los brazos al cielo, se aplaude, se grita o, incluso, se dan brincos o saltos".

En el grupo de católicos que no son hispanos, solamente cerca de un 12 por ciento se consideran a sí mismos carismáticos, dijo Suro.

Luis Lugo, director del Foro Pew, dijo en la misma conversación por teléfono, que el lograr involucrarse en el estilo carismático o práctica religiosa carismática fortalece la identidad religiosa de las personas. Ya sean católicos, anglicanos o protestantes, los latinos que adoptan un estilo más carismático de practicar su fe permanecen con su iglesia original y llegan a alcanzar más fuerza en su

compromiso religioso, dijo.

A los hispanos protestantes, proporcionalmente, se les hace aún más fácil que pertenezcan a iglesias de "renovación", con un 57 por ciento en esa categoría.

"Hay un marcado contraste con la población que no es hispana: Menos de uno en cinco protestantes no hispanos pertenecen al movimiento de renovación", se decía en el estudio.

Cerca de un 18 por ciento de todos los hispanos dijo que se habían cambiado de iglesia o habían dejado de considerarse miembros de algún grupo religioso por completo. Las personas que habían sido católicas (el 13 por ciento) era la mayoría.

La mayoría de ese grupo abandonó el catolicismo para formar parte de iglesias evangelistas. El cuarenta y tres por ciento de los hispanos evangelistas dijo que antes habían sido católicos. Solamente un 2 por ciento de hispanos conversos se hacen católicos.

Se les pidió a los católicos que se hicieron evangelistas que hablaran de sus sentimientos acerca de la Iglesia Católica y de la causa por la que la habían abandonado.

La causa de mayor insatisfacción era la liturgia.

El sesenta y uno por ciento de excatólicos dijo que la Misa les parecía "vacía de entusiasmo"; aunque solamente el 36 por ciento dijo que esa era una causa por la que habían dejado la Iglesia Católica. El cuarenta y seis por ciento dijo que no estaban de acuerdo con las restricciones de la iglesia impuestas al divorcio; pero solamente el 5 por ciento dijo que esa era la causa de su abandono de la iglesia católica.

Del grupo de hispanos que respondieron a la encuesta, el 83 por ciento de los que se convirtieron a otra iglesia dijeron que la razón principal del cambio de credo o iglesia fue el deseo de una experiencia más directa y personal con Dios. La segunda razón más común, dada por el 35 por ciento, fue la inspiración de un pastor en especial; seguido este grupo por el de 26 por ciento que dijo que el cambio se debía a una crisis personal, y un 14 por ciento se convirtió debido a que contrajeron nupcias.

Una invitación personal también fue importante. Entre todos los hispanos conversos a otra religión, el 74 por ciento dijo que primero habían sabido de la nueva iglesia por un familiar o amigo.



Señor y Dador de la Palabra

## El Espíritu Santo

Por Pedro A. Moreno, OPL  
Director, Instituto Luz de Cristo

Es providencial que ya poco antes de celebrar la gran fiesta de Pentecostés la Iglesia nos invite a un dialogo sobre la Palabra de Dios en la Vida y Misión de la Iglesia.

Hace ya dos semanas, se publico la llamada Lineamenta que consiste en una serie de reflexiones catequéticas o meditaciones sobre las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre la Biblia, o Palabra de Dios. El documento también contiene una serie de preguntas de discusión para que los diversos grupos de la Iglesia y diócesis respondan a ellas y después le envíen sus respuestas al Vaticano.

La Oficina del Sínodo de Obispos en Roma se encargara de recopilar las respuestas, que deben ser enviadas para antes de finales de noviembre de este año, y preparar un documento de trabajo para los Obispos que se reunirán con el Santo Padre Benedicto XVI el próximo año para discutir el tema de la Palabra de Dios en la Vida y Misión de la Iglesia.

Al leer la llamada Lineamenta veo claramente como el Espíritu Santo continúa llevando a su Iglesia a un acercamiento más profundo con su Palabra. Este acercamiento a la Palabra de Dios, que siempre ha existido en la vida de la Iglesia, tuvo un impulso significativo hace ya más de cuarenta años con el documento Dei Verbum del Concilio Vaticano II. Creo que sería un gran error que un católico se dedicara al estudio de la Biblia sin haber estudiado este documento, sería como el Etiope en Hechos 8. Dios envía un Apóstol para que el Etiope no solo lea a Isaías, sino que entienda.

El viajero tenía buena escuela y no era un tonto pero necesitaba ser guiado por el Espíritu Santo para mejor entender la Palabra de Dios. El Espíritu Santo se manifestó por medio de la Iglesia representada en Felipe y no directamente al hombre que llevaba y leía la Palabra de Dios.

La Biblia, la Palabra de Dios, ha de ser leída con y en el mismo Espíritu Santo con que fue escrita, el Espíritu que esta vivo y presente en toda la Iglesia desde Pentecostés hasta el día de hoy. El Espíritu que vive en, y que guía a cada sucesores de los Apóstoles, los Obispos. El Espíritu Santo que también llena y vive en los corazones de cada bautizado. El Espíritu Santo que nos une en el amor y la verdad y que busca santificarnos y llevarnos por caminos de humilde servicio y obediencia además de continuo crecimiento en su Palabra dentro de la comunidad de fe de la Iglesia que es guiada por sus pastores.

Para aquellos que desean leer la Palabra de Dios con el mismo Espíritu con que fue escrita les recomiendo la Lectio Divina y en mis próximos artículos estaré compartiendo un poco más sobre esto. Lectio Divina, donde nos damos cuenta de que el Espíritu Santo es también el Señor y dador de la Palabra.



Pedro Moreno es director diocesano del Instituto Luz de Cristo. Sus escritos espirituales han recibido múltiples premios de la Asociación de Periodismo Católico de los Estados Unidos y Canadá. Vive en el noroeste de Fort Worth con su esposa Maria Mirta y sus tres hijas Maria, Patricia y Mirangela. Pedro es Laico Dominicano.

## Nuevo director del Centro Cultural Mexicano Americano en San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — La Mesa directiva del Mexican American Cultural Center (Centro Cultural Mexicano Americano) ha aceptado la renuncia de la hermana de la Merced María Elena González como presidenta del centro y ha nombrado a Arturo Chávez, director de programas del centro, como su sucesor, empezando el 1º de agosto.

La hermana María Elena, que ha presidido el centro en San Antonio durante 14 años, dijo que una reciente caída accidental le ayudó a



Arturo Chávez

su directiva, el centro aumentó los programas base del currículo tanto en su recinto como fuera de él.

Chávez ha estado con el cen-

tercerarse de que era hora de renunciar.

Cuando fue nombrada presidenta en 1993, fue la primera mujer religiosa en ocupar el

puesto. Bajo su directiva, el centro aumentó los programas base del currículo tanto en su recinto como fuera de él.

Chávez ha estado con el cen-

tro durante seis años, ocupando varios puestos, incluyendo el de vicepresidente.

Chávez tiene más de 20 años de experiencia como maestro, ministro de jóvenes, capellán y organizador de la comunidad.

El centro fue fundado a principios de la década del 1970 cuando casi no había material pastoral para los millones de católicos hispanos de los EEUU, y había también pocos dirigentes religiosos que hubieran recibido entrenamiento para el ministerio hispano.

## Sugerencias para prepararse para posible programa de legalización de inmigrantes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Las agencias de servicios de inmigración, las diócesis y los grupos comunitarios están siendo aconsejados por la Red Católica de Inmigración Legal Inc., conocida como CLINIC, a que se preparen para un posible programa federal para legalizar el estado de inmigración de potencialmente millones de personas dentro de los próximos años.

Ningún programa como tal existe todavía, pero éste es un componente clave de la legislación abarcadora de reforma de inmigración que está siendo considerada en el Congreso este año. Si una ley es aprobada probablemente pasarían muchos meses antes que un programa comience.

He aquí algunas sugerencias de CLINIC en anticipación a un proceso nacional de legalización.

Para las diócesis y las agencias de servicios de inmigración:

— Reclutar voluntarios para los programas eventuales.

— Comenzar a extenderse hacia los inmigrantes y proveer información sobre los servicios.

— Aclarar las diferencias entre las agencias afiliadas a la iglesia o al gobierno y los "notarios". En

muchos de los países de origen de los inmigrantes los "notarios" tienen entrenamiento y autoridad legales para actuar como representantes legales. Los notarios en Estados Unidos no tienen esa autoridad, pero algunos "notarios" sin escrúpulos han sido conocidos por aprovecharse de la confusión de la gente, complicando los casos legales de algunos clientes.

— Establecer un sistema, tal como una lista de correo electrónico, para comunicarse con personas que podrían ser elegibles para la legalización.

— Animar a los inmigrantes a que se inscriban en las parroquias. Esto podría ayudar a comprobar la residencia.

— Ofrecer clases de inglés como segundo idioma.

Para los solicitantes potenciales de legalización:

— Reunir documentos que comprueben su identidad, particularmente un pasaporte. Aquellos que no tengan pasaportes deben solicitarlos en sus países de origen antes que haya una gran demanda.

— Reunir materiales que comprueben empleo y residencia en Estados Unidos. Talonarios de

salario, recibos de bancos, cartas de patronos, facturas de hospitales y expedientes escolares pueden servir ese propósito. Compilar información de comunicación con patronos y las fechas del empleo.

— Las personas que han sido arrestadas y no están seguras de qué clase de expediente tienen, deben consultar a un abogado de inmigración y considerar obtener acceso a sus archivos del FBI para que puedan saber si ese expediente podría excluir su participación en la legalización.

— Nunca reclamar falsamente ser ciudadano estadounidense ni intentar inscribirse para votar. Reclamos falsos de ciudadanía podrían ser usados para descalificar a solicitantes para la residencia legal.

— Declarar y pagar impuestos sobre ingresos. Aquellos que no tienen un número de Seguro Social legítimo deben obtener un Número de Identificación Individual del Servicio de Rentas Internas. Estos números permiten que la gente pague sus impuestos sin usar un número de Seguro Social. La información no es proporcionada a las autoridades de inmigración.

## Con apoyo de los jesuitas, nueva escuela Cristo Rey planificada para Houston

NUEVA ORLEÁNS (CNS) — La provincia de Nueva Orleans de la Sociedad de Jesús patrocinará una escuela secundaria en Houston que será parte de la Red Cristo Rey, la cual establece escuelas en zonas urbanas para servir a jóvenes desaventajados económica y educativamente.

La red ha comisionado un estudio de viabilidad para determinar dónde en Houston la escuela secundaria debe ser situada. Ésta servirá la cuarta ciudad más populosa del país y una de las más diversas étnicamente.

El estudio de viabilidad de un año comenzará este verano y

considerará datos demográficos, educativos, de vivienda y otros. El coordinador del estudio, que todavía no ha sido empleado, entrevistará a líderes locales escolares, eclesíásticos y comunitarios y realizará grupos de enfoque de estudiantes de escuelas intermedias y sus padres para medir el interés en la escuela.

El estudio determinará si hay o no suficientes empleos de oficina en el nivel de entrada en la zona para apoyar a los estudiantes de la escuela, así como cuántos estudiantes podrían matricularse. Las escuelas Cristo Rey se asocian con empresas locales que proveen

oportunidades de empleo a los estudiantes pagando su matrícula mediante sus sueldos.

Al completarse el estudio de viabilidad, que incluirá un presupuesto y un plan de negocios, la junta directiva de la Red Cristo Rey lo revisará y, si es aceptado, otorgará a la escuela participación provisional como miembro de la red.

La escuela comenzará con una clase de estudiantes del primer año, creciendo por una clase cada año subsiguiente. El currículo será en idioma doble, ya que muchos en la población objetivo hablan ambos, español e inglés.



# Comisión del Vaticano dice: el Limbo refleja una 'vista restringida de la salvación'

Por John Thavis  
CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Después de varios años de estudio, la Comisión Teológica Internacional del Vaticano ha dicho que hay buenas razones para esperar que los infantes que mueren sin bautizo vayan al cielo.

En un documento publicado el 20 de abril, la comisión dijo que el concepto tradicional del limbo como un lugar a donde los infantes que no han sido bautizados pasan la eternidad pero sin comunión con Dios parecía reflejar "indebidamente una vista restringida de la salvación".

La iglesia continúa enseñando que, debido al pecado original, el bautismo es el medio ordinario de salvación para toda la gente y exhorta a los padres de familia a que bauticen a sus hijos o hijas, se decía en el documento.

Pero hay una toma de conciencia teológica más grande hoy de que Dios es misericordioso y de "que quiere que todos los seres humanos alcancen la salvación", se decía. La Gracia tiene prioridad sobre el pecado, y la exclusión de infantes sin cielo no parece reflejar el amor especial de Cristo hacia "los pequeños", se decía.

"Nuestra conclusión es la de que existen muchos factores que hemos considerado... que brindan una base teológica y litúrgica seria para esperar que los infantes que mueren sin haber sido bautizados alcancen la salvación y gocen de la visión beatífica", se decía en el documento.

"Enfatizamos que estas son razones para una esperanza llena de oración y no es base para un conocimiento seguro", se añadía.

El documento de 41 páginas, titulado "La Esperanza de Salvación para infantes que Mueren sin Haber Sido Bautizados", fue publicado en "Origins", servicio documental de Catholic News Service (CNS, Servicio Católico de Noticias). El papa Benedicto XVI autorizó su publicación a principios de este año.

La Comisión Teológica Internacional, integrada por 30 personas, actúa como grupo de consejo para

el Vaticano, en particular para la Congregación de la Doctrina de la Fe. Sus documentos no se consideran expresiones autoritarias de las enseñanzas de la iglesia, pero a veces sientan las bases para declaraciones oficiales del Vaticano.

En el documento de la comisión se decía que la salvación de infantes que mueren sin bautismo se estaba convirtiendo en una cuestión pastoral urgente, en parte debido a que su número aumenta considerablemente. Muchos infantes nacen de padres que no son católicos practicantes, y muchos otros son las víctimas de abortos, se decía.

El limbo nunca ha sido definido como dogma de la iglesia y no se menciona en el actual Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, en el que simplemente se dice que a los infantes que no han sido bautizados se les entrega a la misericordia de Dios.

Sin embargo, el limbo ha sido considerado como enseñanza común de la iglesia. En la época moderna, "la gente encuentra cada día más difícil aceptar que Dios es justo y misericordioso si excluyera a los infantes, que no tienen pecados personales, de la eterna alegría", se decía en el nuevo documento.

Los padres y madres de familia, especialmente, pueden experimentar aflicción y sentimientos de culpabilidad cuando dudan de que sus hijos o hijas no bautizados estén con Dios, se decía.

En el documento se siguió el desarrollo de la forma de pensar de la iglesia con respecto al destino de los infantes (que mueren) sin bautismo, haciendo notar que "no hay respuesta explícita" en las Sagradas Escrituras ni en la tradición.

En el siglo quinto, San Agustín concluyó que los infantes que mueren sin bautismo son enviados al infierno. En el siglo XIII, los teólogos se referían al "limbo de infantes" como el lugar en donde los infantes que no habían sido bautizados se encontraban privados de la visión de Dios, pero que no sufrían pues no sabían de lo que estaban privados.

A través de los siglos, los Papas y los concilios de la iglesia tuvieron cuidado de no definir el limbo como parte de la doctrina de fe y dejaron la cuestión abierta. Eso fue importante para permitir la evolución de la enseñanza, dijo la comisión teológica.

Una pregunta clave que se estudió en el documento fue la enseñanza de la iglesia de que el bautismo es necesario para la salvación. Esa enseñanza necesita ser interpretada, en vista al hecho de que "los infantes ... no presentan ningún obstáculo personal en el camino de la gracia redentora", se decía.

En estas y otras situaciones, la necesidad del sacramento del bautismo no es absoluta y es secundaria al deseo de Dios de la salvación de cada persona, se decía.

"Dios puede así dar la gracia del bautismo sin que sea conferido el sacramento; y este hecho debe de recordarse especialmente cuando sea imposible conferir el bautismo", se decía.

En el documento se decía que la enseñanza normal de que "no hay salvación fuera de la iglesia" llama a una interpretación similar.

El magisterio de la iglesia se ha dirigido a una "enseñanza más matizada" de cómo una relación de salvación con la iglesia puede realizarse, se decía. Esto no quiere decir que alguien que no haya recibido el sacramento del bautismo no pueda alcanzar la salvación, se decía.

Por el contrario, sí significa que "no hay salvación que no venga de Cristo y que no sea eclesial por su misma naturaleza", se decía.

En el documento se citaba la enseñanza de San Pablo de que los cónyuges de cristianos pueden ser "consagrados" por medio de su esposo o esposa. Esto indica que la santidad de la iglesia alcanza a personas "que (se encuentran) fuera de los vínculos visibles de la iglesia" a través de los vínculos de la comunión humana, se decía.

En el documento se decía que la iglesia claramente enseña que las personas nacen en un estado de pecado, el pecado original, lo que requiere un acto de gracia redentora para que se lave.

Pero en la Sagrada Escritura también se proclama la "superabundancia" de la gracia sobre el pecado, se decía. Esto parece que falta en la idea de limbo, que se identifica más con el estado de pecado de Adán que con la redención de Cristo, se decía.

Litúrgicamente, el motivo de esperanza fue confirmado con la introducción en 1970 de un rito funeral para los infantes sin bautismo cuyos padres tenían las intenciones de presentarlos para ser bautizados, se decía.

La comisión dijo que el nuevo acercamiento teológico a la cuestión de infantes sin bautismo no debería ser usado para "negar la necesidad del bautismo, ni para retardar el conferir el sacramento".

La comisión dijo que el estado de esperanza no era lo mismo que la certidumbre acerca del destino de tales infantes.

"Se debe de aceptar claramente que la iglesia no tiene conocimiento seguro acerca de la salvación de infantes que mueren sin bautismo", se decía.

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## Encuentro para comprometidos (Spanish Engaged Encounter)

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 intensa y honestamente sobre su futura vida como pareja. Es

presentado por un equipo de parejas casadas. El primer fin de semana se llevará a cabo el 7 y 8 de julio, 2007 en el Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth, Tx. 76103. Favor de hablar con Suzanna Ordóñez para inscribirse al 817-560-3300 ext. 256.

### Se necesita ayuda

Apartamento privado disponible como intercambio para ayuda en propiedad. (Ubicada en Southlake) Solicito mujer necesita tener horas flexibles para ayuda en casa y cuidar 2 niños. Si hay pareja interesada, el esposo necesita estar empleado. Hay algún pago negociable. No debe tener niños por favor. Llame Tracy (817) 329-4332.



## Diocesan / International

Special Collection:  
**Black and Indian  
 Missions**

Parish Name	Parish Location	Black & Indian Mar 2006	Black & Indian Mar 2007
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	108.00	305.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	161.00	174.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	683.25	782.05
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	3,414.15	3,504.48
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,263.00	2,297.65
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	2,571.00	0.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	442.00	268.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	0.00	0.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	188.00	662.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	2,045.00	1,937.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	690.50	529.00
St. Michael	Bedford	2,445.00	20.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	46.00	110.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	367.23	416.52
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	397.21	533.80
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	260.00	233.00
St. Ann	Burleson	903.00	990.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	1,718.00	2,050.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	186.46	0.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	359.00	845.73
Holy Angels	Clifton	206.78	294.75
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	2,543.00	1,200.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	202.00	228.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	129.95	0.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	29.00	0.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	652.29	777.38
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	120.97	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	710.00	846.00
St. Mark	Denton	2,552.13	2,423.27
St. Mary	Dublin	325.00	0.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	53.00	0.00
St. Paul	Electra	35.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,295.13	1,299.00
Christ the King	Fort Worth	453.00	515.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,905.00	2,442.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	100.00	0.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,877.00	2,460.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	1,044.71	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,111.00	2,921.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	428.00	714.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	367.00	126.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	1,890.00	2,893.45
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	5,662.98	5,412.47
St. George	Fort Worth	724.05	484.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	716.00	1,762.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	370.00	0.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	3,225.00	3,937.10
St. Paul	Fort Worth	971.70	725.30
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	789.26	452.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	223.39	374.95
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,675.65	1,431.30
St. Mary	Gainesville	0.00	50.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	227.62	245.56
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,198.00	953.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,622.00	1,314.00
St. Mary	Hennetta	175.00	0.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	347.32	661.60
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	45.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	72.00	72.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	3,460.50	2,838.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	137.11	0.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	4,064.35	3,312.52
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,381.07	1,670.28
St. Jude	Mansfield	401.00	1,106.07
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	60.00	0.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	304.55	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	125.00	129.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	1,280.86	1,103.35
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	40.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	134.00	227.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	286.00	387.00
St. Mary	Quanah	109.00	0.00
St. Rita	Ranger	50.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	341.00	0.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	61.36	107.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	97.00	65.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	185.58	0.00
St. John	Strawn	83.00	0.00
St. John	Valley View	0.00	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	304.00	0.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,816.00	2,394.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	482.00	125.00
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	955.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,140.15	642.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	586.14	535.25

75,167.40 67,354.83

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

## Critiquing limbo: Vatican responds to changes in theological thought

By John Thavis

VATICANCITY(CNS)—In its recent document on unbaptized children, the Vatican's International Theological Commission demonstrated how church teaching can be responsive to changes in theological thought, Christian beliefs, and the "signs of the times."

The document, published April 20, critiqued the traditional understanding of limbo, arguing instead that there was good reason to hope unbaptized babies who die go to heaven.

Some people saw that as a reversal of a centuries-old Catholic principle. But rather than announcing a radical break with the past, the commission said it was assessing an issue in theological evolution.

The very first sentence of the document signaled an important distinction when it spoke of the "hierarchy of truths" in Catholic doctrine. The teaching on limbo was among those never addressed by Scripture and never defined as dogma and is therefore subject to theological development, it said.

"When the question of infants who die without baptism was first taken up in the history of Christian thought, it is possible that the doctrinal nature of the question or its implications were

not fully understood," it said.

More specifically, the commission said the theological tradition of the past seems to have a "restricted conception of the universality of God's saving will." That's an extremely sensitive issue today, one that goes beyond the fate of unbaptized babies and has implications for the church's relations with non-Christian religions.

The new document repeats traditional Catholic teaching that all salvation is through Christ and has a relationship with the church. But it emphasizes more than once that God's saving ways are ultimately mysterious and that the holiness that resides in the church can reach people outside "the visible bounds of the church."

The modern theologians cited by the document include the late Jesuit Father Karl Rahner and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, both of whom had presented arguments for abandoning the concept of limbo.

But the document goes beyond strictly theological opinions. It repeatedly refers to the "sensus fidelium" — the sense of the faithful — to illustrate how Christians increasingly reject the idea that the vision of God would be denied to innocent babies.

One reason the Second Vatican Council rejected attempts to

strengthen teaching against the salvation of unbaptized infants was that bishops felt it was "not the faith of their people," the document said.

It referred to an important teaching of Vatican II, which said that the whole body of the faithful shares in Christ's prophetic office and "cannot err in matters of belief."

To support its conclusions on limbo, the theological commission's document also cited the need for the church to read the "signs of the times" in order to better understand the Gospel.

In unusual detail, it listed several such signs that support the idea of hope for the salvation of unbaptized infants: greater emphasis on God's love and mercy in a world of suffering people; renewed concern for the welfare of infants in societies that are scandalized by the suffering of children; and increased dialogue with people of other faiths, which encourages the church to have greater appreciation for the "manifold and mysterious ways of God."

Perhaps the clearest instance of the commission's ranging outside traditional theological boundaries was when it cited in a footnote the Live Aid and Live 8 charity rock concerts of 1985 and 2005 as examples of global concern for children.

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Catholic Foundation  
 of North Texas  
 Diocese of Fort Worth

Patricia A. Miller, CFRE  
 800 West Loop 820 South  
 Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919  
 817-560-3300, ext. 116  
[pmiller@fwdioc.org](mailto:pmiller@fwdioc.org)



## Diocesan

# The challenge to the arrangement is scheduling the sharing of space

FROM PAGE 24  
... sharing. All 14 of St. Mary's classrooms are busy at night and on weekends, when they provide some 750 children with religious education. Their program, which has three tracks, has grown from 300 students just five years ago.

"It requires constant communication and scheduling of who is going to do what," Fr. Bristow said. "But Terry Hostler, our formation director, has a great spirit of accommodation and knows how to make things work for the school and the religious education program."

"We give them our monthly calendars, and they merge

them with the parish schedule," Dr. Yusuf said. "I know [about] the nights they are not busy. On Saturday mornings I can usually schedule extra meetings.

"We also have to make sure we are out of the building in time for them. There have been times when we've run into each other!"

But logistics, desk arrangements, room allocations, and calendars are not the most important things, according to both sides of the sharing arrangement.

"One family with two adult daughters — they are very active in the parish — came to see

me not long after school started," Fr. Bristow said. "They said how nice it was ... to hear the sound of school children.

"Some [of those who were] touched more than others, are those who went to school here. This is very precious to them."

Our Mother of Mercy plans to go back to its former location, and a brand new building, by early 2008, Dr. Yusuf said.

The former OMM School building was demolished and removed this month, and work is starting on the new \$2.1 million facility that is being provided by the diocese.

The building will be larger than the old OMM, which

included a main building and three portable buildings with five classrooms. This one will have one story, with two wings: one for primary grades and one for junior high. It will contain 13 classrooms, offices, a science lab, and, something the principal is enthusiastic about: a sound-proof music and art room.

"We say we develop the whole child," Dr. Yusuf said, "but if you don't have facilities, you can't develop the whole child. Now we can develop the aesthetic side, and they can flourish. And we are close to the church, so they can develop their spiritual side, too.

"I have no idea how this is happening," she said. "I just thank God. He's working behind the scenes, as usual."

Three additional, adjacent lots, either donated or purchased by the diocese, were acquired for the building, and the space will enable OMM to have "everything we need right now," Dr. Yusuf said, "and for the things we want, the parish will work on that in the future."

On the "what we want" list are a computer lab, a gym/multi-purpose facility with a stage, and playground equipment. "Those kinds of things make the place really nice.

"This is going to be a beautiful building. The minute we announced it, people started wanting to enroll. If it opened in September, we would have

all the people we need to fill it.

"I can't wait to be on our 'home court,'" the principal said. "But I am very grateful St. Mary's allowed us to share this facility with them. It's a wonderful opportunity for being Christian.

"I'm so glad for the way we've been welcomed by Fr. Dave and the people here. I look forward to continuing that relationship.

"And I dream of welcoming people to our location, if we ever have the opportunity to share space. That is what being Christian is all about."

"It will be easier on our religious education program when we have the building," Fr.

David Bristow said, "but this is a wonderful way of demonstrating that the fundamental structure of the Catholic Church is not a parish, but a diocese. They need help, and it is incumbent upon us here at St. Mary's to open our doors and reach out our hands to help them. The kids will remember this for a long time," Fr. Bristow said, imagining that those students will recall one day that "While our school was being built, St. Mary's opened its doors, so we could have a place to go to school."

"The house of God remains sacred," Dr. Yusuf summarized, simply. "You have an obligation to share.

"You don't have to share," she said. "You can say 'no.' But I am so glad St. Mary's said 'yes.'"

## Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11  
One day, after taking newly-prescribed medication, his blood pressure plunged, and Mary's dad was taken by ambulance to the hospital, where he stayed three days. "When time came for his release," Mary said, "and we were taking him back to assisted living, he said, 'I can't go there.'"

So, Mary and her husband Jim solved the housing problem with a move of their own.

In their home, in one of Fort Worth's historic neighborhoods, they moved their belongings and furnishings upstairs, into two bedrooms and a bath. Then they brought Mary's parents' furnishings and décor to the main level, arranging the home as though it belonged to them.

"It was an easy decision. I thought it was important they had their things around them," Mary said; "don't you?"

What is it like? "When they first came to town, Dad didn't drive because he had anxiety attacks," Mary said.

But he has gradually built up strength; he plays racquetball, and was champion in his age group in the Senior Olym-

pics. He drives to the grocery store every day. Tuesdays he plays "42" at a Baptist church in Arlington. Thursdays he goes to the golf course and plays with whoever is there. "He makes friends wherever he goes," Mary said.

Her mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease two years ago, Mary said. "Mom used to win medals in '42,' and she still plays cards and beats us every time. She has not regressed, and even seems better — sometimes she wakes up and wants to crochet."

"Dad fixes everything in my house," Mary said. "He cooks breakfast every morning, and we all eat together at 7 a.m. He built a brick wall in my garden. He's thinking about digging a French drain!"

Fred and Joyce recently celebrated their 90th birthdays.

When I told my children about the Kaszynskis' living arrangement, my daughter Meredith asked if there is anything in their home now that Mary remembers from her childhood home.

"There is a leather-topped table my sister Carol wrote her name and phone number on," Mary said, "and it is still in our living room.

"And on the wall, there are four-seasons plaques, black and gold metal, with winter,

spring, summer, and fall flowers on them. I remember the day — we were little — when we went to Wards to pick them out, and they stayed in our house forever.

"Each of us was born in a different season, and those plaques mean a lot to Mom," Mary said. "She always said she wanted us to keep our own plaques."

My friend Mary's house holds traditional parents and grandparents, and traditional children, but the roles have changed more than the furnishings in this unselfish and loving inter-generational environment.

"It's a blessing," Mary said. "I keep thinking this will go on forever, that we'll go on for a long, long time. But it will end. I don't like to think of that."

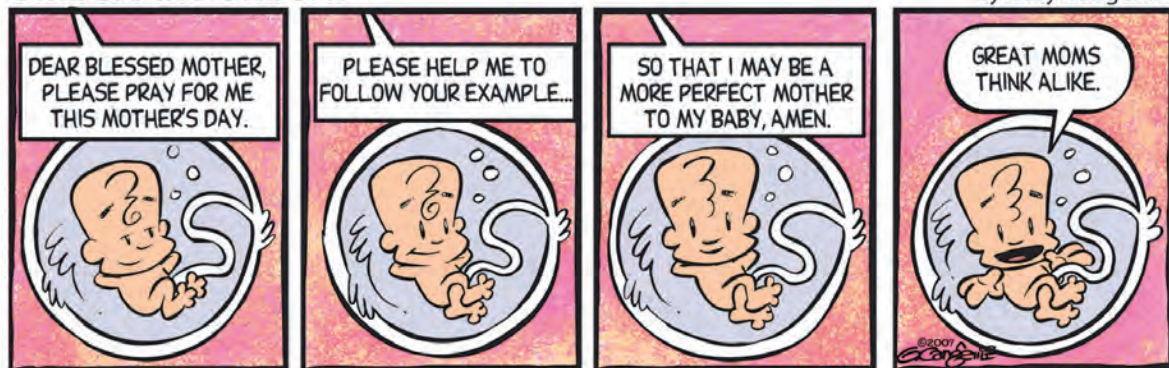
It isn't just motherhood or grandparenthood. This is family at its finest.



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

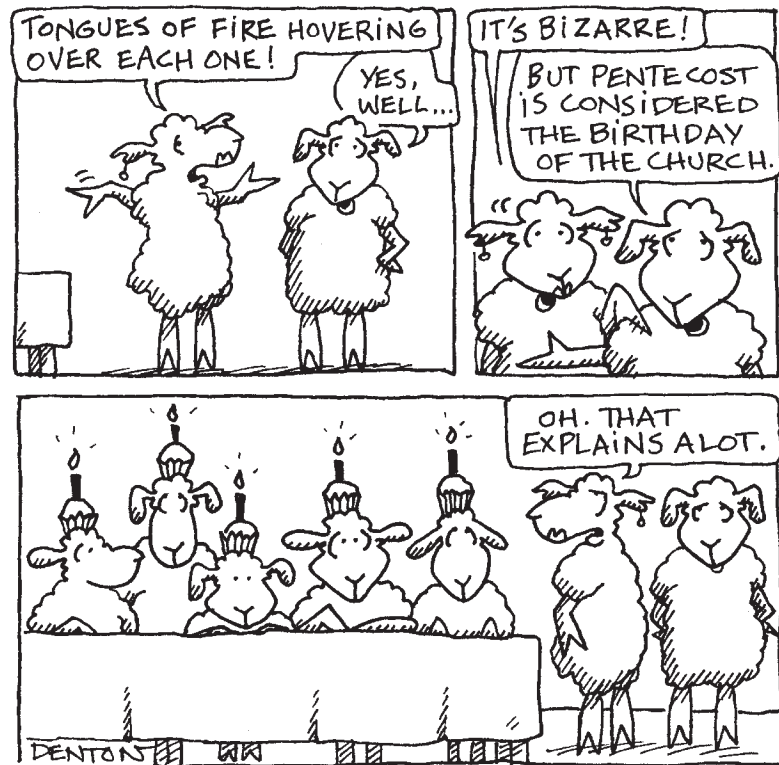
Abby. Her column is syndicated in a number of the best Catholic diocesan newspapers across the U.S. In May of 2005, her column received the first place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada.

## Umbert the Unborn



## The FLOCK

By Jean Denton  
Copyright © 2007, Jean Denton





# Calendar

## INCARCERATION SYMPOSIUM

A diocesan symposium on the subject of incarceration and its aftermath will be held May 19 at All Saints Church, 214 N.W. 20th St., Fort Worth. Gathering time with coffee will take place at 9 a.m. in the parish hall, and the program will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Andy Rivas, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, will present information on "The State of the State in Rehabilitation, Legislation, and Realities in 2007." A panel discussion will address various aspects of the topic, calling on the experience of ex-offenders and their families as well as those whose expertise contributes to their restoration in matters of employment, housing, and transportation. A second panel will offer a presentation offering suggestions for individual and parish involvement. For more information, contact the Office of Peace and Justice at (817) 560-3300.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE INFORMATION

The department of social outreach/pastoral care at St. Michael Church invites all to a meeting with Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT) May 21 at 7 p.m. at in the Great Hall, 3713 Harwood Rd., Bedford. The evening event will present information on how to play an active role in social justice issues in today's cultural climate. For more information about ACT, visit the Web site at [www.alliedcommunities.org](http://www.alliedcommunities.org). For more information about this event, contact Martin Peña at (817) 283-8746 ext. 30 or e-mail to [mpeña@smcchurch.org](mailto:mpeña@smcchurch.org).

## NCCW QUARTERLY MEETING

The fourth quarterly meeting of the Central and East Deaneries of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will be held May 17 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2920 Azle Ave., Fort Worth. Registration, coffee, and a light breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. The speaker will be Pedro Moreno, director of the Light of Christ Institute for the Diocese of Fort Worth, and his topic will be "Ascension Thursday." Mass will be celebrated at noon, followed by lunch. The service project for this meeting is the collection of used eyeglasses to be given to the needy and used cell phones for the women's shelter. The cost of lunch is \$10. The reservation deadline is May 14. For more information and reservations, call Connie Soto at (817) 838-8302 or Pat Coffey at (817) 657-2823.

## ANNULMENT WORKSHOP

A workshop on marriage, divorce, and the annulment process, "Until Death Do Us Part?" will be presented by Father Hector Medina May 31 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive, Fort Worth. Fr. Medina works with the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Fort Worth. He has studied at the Catholic University of America and has given workshops for the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics at Notre Dame. Childcare is available by calling (817) 924-6581 at least 48 hours in advance. To RSVP by May 28, call Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383.

## VOCATION AWARENESS

Single Catholic men and women, ages 18 to 40, are invited to attend the 2007 Vocation Awareness Program to be held at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Drive in Irving, July 13-15. The weekend is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses, in partnership with the diocesan vocation offices. There is no charge for the program, which includes accommodations in private rooms and meals at the seminary. For more information, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, at (817) 366-0439, or by e-mail to [kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org](mailto:kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org).

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S GROUP

St. Augustine's Men's Purity Group, a ministry for men who struggle with sexual impurity issues on the Internet and other sources, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, and Sundays at 7 p.m., at 1301 Paxton (Padre Pio House) in Arlington. For additional information, visit the Web site at [www.sampg.org](http://www.sampg.org), or e-mail to Mark at [seasmenspurity@yahoo.com](mailto:seasmenspurity@yahoo.com).

## To Report Misconduct

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

- Call **Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator**, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at [jl Locke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jl Locke@fwdioc.org)
- Or call the **Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call **The Catholic Center** at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olson.

## To Report Abuse

Call the **Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services)**  
1 (800) 252-5400

## MEMORIAL ROSARY

The Knights of Columbus Council #2813 invites all to share in a special Memorial Day rosary. This rosary will be prayed at May 28 at 7:15 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 4500 Columbus Trail, four blocks west of 7900 Hulen in Southwest Fort Worth. The rosary is dedicated to all those who have made the supreme sacrifice in the armed services of the United States.

Would the following persons call  
**Meg Hogan**  
at (817) 560-3300 ext. 200.

Jerry Gene Dobson  
Michael Thomas Kitchen

## ROSARY CONGRESS

Apostolatus Uniti's 18th annual Rosary Congress will be hosted by St. Paul the Apostle Parish, 5508 Black Oak Ln., River Oaks, June 10-16. The congress will open with Mass and an outdoor eucharistic procession on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 10, and will close with a Mass and procession June 16, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. To sign up for hours of eucharistic adoration or for more information, call Kim Barton at (817) 926-0019 or (423) 386-3862, or Bonnie Sager at (817) 294-5579.

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## RACHEL'S VINEYARD

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held June 1-3 in Fort Worth. Rachel's Vineyard retreats offer a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath. For more information or to register for a retreat, call the confidential helpline at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail to [forgiven@racheltx.org](mailto:forgiven@racheltx.org).

## YOUTH ACTIVITY AT NRH20

Each summer junior high youth from across the diocese gather for a day of fun at NRH20 Family Water Park. As part of the daylong event, the students also have a chance to pray together and share faith. Activities will be centered on the theme through art, skits, and prayer and song. Friends Altogether in Christ Experiencing the Spirit (FACES) will be held June 8. The cost of the day will include all-day entry into NRH20; all-you-can-eat lunch; unlimited drinks throughout the day; a presentation on the theme for the day; and prizes for artwork, poetry, and symbol. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

## PARISH MISSION AT ICC

Sisters from the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ will present a parish mission May 14-16 at Immaculate Conception Church, 2255 North Bonnie Brae Street, Denton. The mission will open with Mass at 6:30 p.m. May 14. Each session will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. With a theme of "Deep Conversion, Deep Prayer," the mission will be an opportunity to deepen, renew, or experience a walk with the Lord. The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ are a young Franciscan order based in Prayer Town (Channing), Texas. For more information, contact the parish office at (940) 565-1770.

## Jazz Monsters

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## DENTON THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is a series with dynamic speakers and engaging discussions on topical theological issues in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. It is intended for all young adults ages 21 through their 30s, single or married. The topic of discussion for the next session, to be held May 22 in Denton, will be "More than Just a Good Snack - Christ's True Presence," presented by Father James Flynn. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at The Wing Pit, 1800 South Loop 288 # 101-2, Denton. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

## DCYC

The annual Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC), sponsored by the diocesan office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Catechesis will be held July 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the DFW Airport. The weekend will offer keynote presentations from nationally known speakers; workshops where youth learn to deepen their faith and build life skills; a music ministry pre-conference; hands on activities; service experiences; Sunday Mass; a coffee house; games; dance; karaoke; and much more. Youth entering grades six through 12 in the fall of 2007 may register for the conference through their parish youth leader. Costs for the weekend, which include accommodations and three meals, range from \$95 with registration prior to June 7, to \$110 for later registrations. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site under Faith Formation at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) or call Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-3300 ext. 261.

## COURAGE SUPPORT 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 evenings. For information, e-mail to [CourageDFW@Catholic.org](mailto:CourageDFW@Catholic.org) or call (972) 938-5433.

Catholic Couple would like to clean your home or office and/or maintain your yard. Excellent references. Call **(817) 692-8434**.

# Classified Section

## TEACHER

Our Lady of Grace High School (OLGHS) in northern Tarrant County is now accepting teaching applications in all positions. OLGHS will be serving students in grades 9 and 10 in the fall of 2007. Teachers must be degreed in their content area. Experience is preferred. Perfect for retired or graduate student. Call (940) 390-6902 or e-mail [resumé@www.olghs.org](mailto:resumé@www.olghs.org).

## BOOKKEEPER / FINANCE

Growing Catholic marketing company located in Irving has an immediate opening for individual with a minimum of five years accounting/bookkeeping experience. Applicant should be familiar with windows-based QuickBooks Pro 2006 Multi-User Edition. Individual should be a self-starter who is comfortable working with minimum supervision. The position is 32-40 hours a week and reports directly to the president. Starting salary is \$16 to \$20 an hour with excellent working environment and full health insurance. Position offers strong growth potential for the right individual. Mail [resumes](mailto:resumes@MargaretRowland.com) to Margaret Rowland at Catholic Marketing Network, 111 Ferguson Court #102, Irving 75062, or e-mail to [mrowland@catholicmarketing.com](mailto:mrowland@catholicmarketing.com). No phone calls.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

## DIRECTOR

Applications are being accepted for the position of Adult Formation/Liturgy Education Director for Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls, a parish of about 1,150 registered families. The director would oversee RCIA, parish missions, retreats, Catholics Returning Home, and various Bible study groups in the parish. The director would also oversee coordinators of the various liturgical ministries and be a resource person for the training of new volunteers for these ministries. The director would prepare the Advent and Lenten penance services for the parish. Applicants should have experience with faith formation in the Catholic Church; have good leadership skills, and the ability to work with staff and volunteers. Anyone interested in applying for this position should contact John Spyra at the parish office at (940) 696-1253.

## YOUTH MINISTER

A Youth Minister (high school and young adults) is needed for St. Mary Parish in Gainesville. Qualifications include: Practicing member of the Catholic faith; some teaching or experience working with youth; the ability to organize, plan, and implement the catechesis, confirmation program, and youth activities. Salary is negotiable. Contact Father Pat Murphy at (940) 665-5393 ext. 303.

## HOME CAREGIVERS

Visiting Angels, a non-medical home-care service, is seeking experienced caregivers for on-call positions, PT to live-in. Great supplemental income. Call (817) 224-9701.

## SINGLES FAMILY PICNIC

The Diocesan family picnic will be held May 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bowman Springs Park on Lake Arlington. Participants are asked to bring a dish to share. Coals for grilling and beverages will be provided. Reservations are not required. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) under Pastoral Services, Singles Ministry.

## MINISTRY WITH GAYS / LESBIANS

The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will offer an evening of prayer and conversation for lesbian/gay persons, their families, and friends May 24 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the Ministry, encourages those interested to join for prayer and sharing. For additional information, contact Fr. Murphy at (817) 927-5383 or Dottie and Hank Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

## CATHOLIC SCOUTING

Ad Altare Dei counselor training and chaplain aide training will be offered June 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane, Grapevine. The cost of the each class is \$5 and will include a catered lunch. For more information regarding the counselor training, contact Bill Harrison at (817) 283-8052 or by e-mail to [wjh\\_harrison@hotmail.com](mailto:wjh_harrison@hotmail.com). For more information regarding the chaplain aide training, contact Steve Zerbe at (817) 251-1162 or by e-mail to [zpatton@aol.com](mailto:zpatton@aol.com). All Scouters holding Ad Altare Dei award classes are required to be approved by the Catholic Commission on Scouting (CCS) for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

## 'COME AND SEE' DAY

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth will host a Come and See retreat day for single Catholic women ages 16-35 interested in the religious life. The retreat day will be held May 19 at the convent located at 1814 Egyptian Way, Grand Prairie. For more information and to register, contact Sister Mary Paul, CSFN, at (972) 642-5191 or e-mail to [smpaul@icgrandprairie.org](mailto:smpaul@icgrandprairie.org).

## YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Pilot Point has an immediate opening for a full-time coordinator of youth ministry. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Applicant must be an active Catholic, have experience in youth ministry with a basic certificate in youth ministry or willing to become certified, and preferably have a degree in religious education or theology. Bilingual is a plus. Send [resumes](mailto:resumes@kimjaresht.com) to Kim Jaresht, DRE, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 400 St. Thomas Aquinas Ave, Pilot Point 76258, or e-mail to [kim@stthomaspilotpoint.org](mailto:kim@stthomaspilotpoint.org). For more information, call Kim Jaresht at (940) 686-2088 ext. 2. Application deadline is June 1.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

Incarnate Word Academy, Corpus Christi, is seeking a director of Campus Ministry. A bachelor's degree in Catholic theology, three years experience, and Spanish fluency preferred. Send [resumes](mailto:resumes@deleona@iwacc.org) to [deleona@iwacc.org](mailto:deleona@iwacc.org) or fax to (361) 883-2185. Visit [www.iwacc.org](http://www.iwacc.org) for job description.

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## Good Newsmakers

*St. Mary of the Assumption had a school building but no school; Our Mother of Mercy School needed a home while their new school is under construction. It was an opportunity for*

**Story and Photos by  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent**

# Sharing

*in the spirit of Christ*

**Background Photo:**  
Catholic school students  
once again grace the  
hallways and playgrounds  
of St. Mary Parish on Fort  
Worth's near South Side.

**T**heir parish calendar lists six Masses each weekend, events every weekday evening, Masses or Communion services daily, some followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There are holy hours, group prayers, baptism classes, confirmation classes, RCIA classes, youth activities, and choir practices.

St. Mary of the Assumption, Fort Worth's near-South Side parish on Magnolia Street, functions like a multi-tasking soccer mom.

But, already one of the busiest churches in the diocese, she said "yes" to another request: to provide a temporary home for Our Mother of Mercy students during the construction of their own new building.

The OMM building project began on two fronts in early 2006, when OMM Principal Dr. Carolyn Yusuf met with diocesan Catholic Schools Superintendent Donald Miller, and when St. Mary's priest Father David Bristow conversed with Peter Flynn, diocesan director of Finance and Administrative Services.

They were talking about the same thing: Our Mother of Mercy School needed a new home.

"The building was falling down," said Dr. Yusuf. "One day some school board members came to visit, and I'd had an incident that morning when a door had jammed and students had been locked in.

"They saw the imminent danger and decided we needed to move."

"I was on the [diocese's] Pastoral Finance Committee," Fr. Bristow said, "and Peter Flynn asked me if I thought



**CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:**

- Our Mother of Mercy Pastor Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD, celebrates Mass for the OMM School students in St. Mary Church on Fort Worth's near South Side.
- A student with a peaceful countenance takes part in Mass.
- OMM teacher Jimetta Masters leads a roomful of clapping kindergarteners.
- OMM principal Dr. Carolyn Yusuf gets a hug from a student.
- Students hard at work on the day's assignments.
- Notre Dame ACE teacher Kyle Martin gives assistance to a student.

we could have OMM stay here during the building project. We had group talks with Carolyn and [Bishop Kevin Vann], and last summer the diocese arranged to fix up our building, [to] do some modifications and also some cosmetic updates. We received some nice things that definitely had been needed."

"When we moved in, there was such a welcoming environment," Dr. Yusuf said. "It was like St. Mary's took us in as a ministry! The classroom doors were

painted different colors, and it looked so welcoming. And the kids loved the stairs," she laughed, adding, "I don't."

The building that temporarily houses OMM was St. Mary's parochial school until its closing in the late 1980s. "Parishioners are happy to see it," Fr. Bristow said. "St. Mary's had a school for so many years, and it was a source of great grief when it closed.

"The people have been so happy to see this — it's kind of 'bragging rights'

that we have a school again."

It is the welcoming that has made Dr. Yusuf happy for her school. "They welcomed us; we shared their carnival with them. St. Mary's invited us, and our kids came. When we first started serving lunches," the principal said, "St. Mary provided sandwiches for kids who forgot their lunches and couldn't buy lunch at school."

The tricky part of sharing, however, is **SEE THE CHALLENGE P. 22**

## Inside... This issue of the NTC

Bishop Kevin Vann encouraged the Catholic school students attending the annual eighth grade Mass to continue to respond to God's voice as they move on to high school and beyond. **6**

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and early arrivals for the Youth 2000 retreat sought both peace from God and shelter as a tornado struck nearby. God answered their prayers. **12**

The Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies announced its new name as it celebrated its 20th anniversary. It is now the University of Dallas School of Ministry. **13**

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