

Join Bishop Kevin Vann for a special Mass celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi at St. Patrick Cathedral, Sunday, June 6 at 12:30 p.m., followed by a Eucharistic Procession through downtown Fort Worth. All are welcome. For more information call the Cathedral at (817) 332-4916.



North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd during his "Regina Coeli" prayer at the Vatican May 16. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

Reorganization trims \$1 million from diocese's FY 2011 budget

By Jeff Hensley
Editor

On May 11, Father E. James Hart, chancellor of the diocese, announced that Bishop Kevin Vann has authorized reorganization of the Central Offices of the diocese, as part of an overall effort to bridge the gap between diocesan income and expenses.

As Fr. Hart put it in an interview with the *North Texas Catholic* this past week, "The diocese is in good financial condition, but just like at home, it's not good to be living on your savings.... You can only do that for so long. It's just not a good way to operate."

The gap between projected income and expenses for fiscal year 2011, according to Director of Financial Services Peter Flynn, is less than \$1.6 million dollars out of a projected budget of around \$12 million (using projections from fiscal year 2010). The changes to programming and staffing brought about by the reorganization will trim about \$1 million from the deficit, according to Flynn.

As part of the reorganization of the diocesan offices, changes in the Chancery of the diocese are scheduled to take effect on the last day of the current fiscal year, June 30, and will include making Father Stephen Berg, currently Vicar General of the diocese both Vicar General and Moderator of the

SEE BUDGET, P. 8

Huge crowd shows support for Pope Benedict

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An estimated 120,000 people converged on St. Peter's Square to express support for Pope Benedict XVI in dealing with the clerical sexual abuse scandal.

Thanking the crowd for their presence and affection May 16, Pope Benedict said,

"The true enemy to fear is sin, the spiritual evil that unfortunately sometimes infects even members of the church."

"We Christians are not afraid of the world, even if we have to be careful of its seductions. Rather we must fear sin and, for that reason, be strongly rooted in God

and solid in goodness, love, and service," he said at his weekly Sunday blessing.

With trust in the Lord and a renewed commitment to following him, he said, the Church can become holier by going through "the trials" it is facing.

SEE CATHOLICS, P. 8

Catholic Charities hosts first citizenship ceremony in new quarters

By Juan Guajardo
Editorial Assistant

April 29, 2010 was a special day for Maria de Lourdes Carranza.

The 25-year-old college student became a citizen that day.

As candidates' family members and friends prepared to snap photos, Carranza raised her right hand in unison with the 53 other applicants from 21 different countries and recited the Oath of Allegiance, becoming a citizen

of the United States in the new Catholic Charities Fischer Family Campus, beginning a new stage of her life.

"I am very happy to be a citizen. It's something very important to me," the native of Mexico said. "I have a lot of plans for the future," she explained excitedly. "I will continue studying because I came here to progress. I want to earn a bachelor's in forensic science."

"[Citizenship] is a big deal," Jesus Ramirez, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer, told the audience at the start of the ceremony. "Enjoy it and live it. This is one of the biggest benefits this country can give you."

Juan Rangel, a Fort Worth ISD school board member, echoed that thought during his keynote address. He told how he remembered exactly where he was dur-

SEE CITIZENSHIP, P. 9



Christy Ibekwe of Nigeria sings the national anthem during the naturalization ceremony April 29 at Catholic Charities' Fischer Family Campus. (Photo by Juan Guajardo, NTC Editorial Assistant)

Pentecost is a great moment in the life of the Church, but also a reminder to help build up the Body of Christ

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

These times in the liturgical year are great moments of grace in the life of the Church. As we conclude the 50 days of the Easter season, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit is sent upon the Church and the world.

In fact, the feast of Pentecost is second only to Easter in importance because it is such a great moment in salvation history.

First, Pentecost is the full revelation of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate or Counselor, that Christ promised to send upon his disciples. The dramatic transformation of the Apostles on the morning of Pentecost is a powerful revelation of how transforming the grace and presence of the Holy Spirit is in our lives and the life of the Church. Pentecost reminds us that we need to be continuously aware and open to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and how He speaks to us and leads us closer to Christ and his Church.

One of the great blessings of being a Bishop is the opportunities I have to travel to the many parishes in the Diocese to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with young people and adults alike. The Sacrament of Confirmation for us is our own "personal Pentecost" in which the presence of the Holy Spirit and his seven gifts that were given to us in Baptism are now given in superabundance and not unlike the Apostles and other disciples on the morning of Pentecost, we are sent out into the world to be the witnesses of Christ and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. Confirmation "in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1288), and by being sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are made full and active participants in the life of the Church. This Pentecost, I will have the privilege



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, it is a good time to look into our lives and discern the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to us so that we may use them to build up the Church Without your witness, your example, and your graced gifts of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Church would certainly falter.

Bishop Kevin Vann
Diocese of Fort Worth

of confirming more than 100 adult Catholics from around the Diocese at St. Patrick's Cathedral. It will most certainly be a powerful reminder of the grace of Pentecost and the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit in the life and mission of the Church.

Pentecost is also a very special feast day for the universal Church, as the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost marks the beginning or the "birthday" of the Church. The Pentecost event is not just a personal event for the Apostles and the disciples; it is above all an ecclesial event, a moment of communion and the manifestation of the oneness of the Church. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, all of the people from all of the different nations and regions of the ancient world are able to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached in his or her own language. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit achieves an intimate communion of the entire human family, a communion that transcends nation, language, and culture. At Pentecost, we see that the Holy Spirit is the very source of the Church's communion and catholicity.

Therefore it is important for all of us to remember that we do not work out our salvation on our own, but through our Baptism, Confirmation, and most particularly through the Eucharist, we belong to the Body of Christ, the Church. The Sacraments of Initiation and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, call us to build up and enhance the communion of the Church through the gifts and charisms the Holy Spirit has given each of us. As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, it is a good time to look into our lives and discern the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to us so that we may use them to build up the Church. As St. Paul teaches us:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them

in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

— 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

It is also important to remember that each of us has our important role to play in the life and mission of the Church. The Church cannot exist without my role as Bishop, and without the important role of our priests, deacons, and the witness and work of the many religious working in our Diocese. The laity also cannot forget their unique and indispensable role in bringing the Church and the truth of the Gospel to the ordinary places of society. Without your witness, your example, and your graced gifts of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the Church would certainly falter. As Vatican II states:

Now the laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through

them can it become the salt of the earth. Thus every layman, in virtue of the very gifts bestowed upon him, is at the same time a witness and a living instrument of the mission of the Church itself "according to the measure of Christ's bestowal."

— *Lumen Gentium*, 33

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost may we all be renewed by the grace, gifts, and communion of the Holy Spirit, so that we may continue to fulfill the words of Christ: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (*Acts 1:8*).

Kevin W. Vann

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



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Cardinal backs bill fixing health reform law on abortion

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan bill before the House of Representatives would bring the new health reform law "into line with policies on abortion and conscience rights that have long prevailed in other federal health programs," said the head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

In a May 20 letter to House members, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston urged passage of H.R. 5111, legislation proposed by Reps. Joseph Pitts, R-Pa., and Dan Lipinski, D-Ill., and co-sponsored by 91 other House members.

"Efforts to ensure that our health care system serves the life, health, and conscience of all will be a legislative goal of the Catholic bishops in the months to come," Cardinal DiNardo said, adding that the Pitts-Lipinski proposal makes "a significant contribution to this important task."

The cardinal warned, however, that if "these genuine problems are not addressed in their own right, they will be taken up and used as ammunition by those who favor repealing (the health reform law) outright, which would eliminate the positive as well as negative aspects of the new law."

U.S., Mexican presidents meet; bishops urge them to focus on migration

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — As the presidents of the United States and Mexico declared their intentions to work together on immigration-related problems and other issues, the bishops who head the migration committees of the two nations called on them to critically examine their immigration policies "and their adverse impact on human beings."

In prepared statements at the White House Rose Garden May 19, Presidents Barack Obama and Felipe Calderon noted that in earlier talks that day, the two had paid special attention to migration issues, particularly the recently passed Arizona law which, among other provisions, requires officers to arrest those they encounter in the course of police work if they are not able to provide documentation of their legal status.

Both Obama and Calderon criticized the law and said they would work to address border-related problems, including drug and human smuggling. Other topics of the presidents' talks included trade, the environment, hemispheric cooperation, and battling crime.

In a statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Mexican Episcopal Conference, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, who heads the U.S. bishops' migration committee, and Bishop Rafael Romo Muñoz of Tijuana, Mexico, who heads the Mexican bishops' migration

commission, said that while they "respect the obligation of both countries to ensure the integrity of their borders and the security of their peoples, we believe they can achieve these goals without sacrificing the basic human dignity and rights of the migrant."

The bishops had advice for both countries, urging the United States to make comprehensive immigration reform legislation a priority, to deal with an inadequate number of visas and legal options for immigrants to work in the United States, to prevent exploitation by human smugglers and bring undocumented migrants out of the shadows of society.

They said the Mexican government must ensure that migrants are not abused and subject to exploitation by criminals and corrupt officials. "More attention should be paid to the creation of living-wage employment for low-skilled workers, so that they can stay at home and support their families in dignity," the bishops' statement said. "This would help reduce illegal immigration over the long term, a goal which both nations share."

The bishops said repairing immigration laws in both countries would take migrants out of the complicated border situation that includes drug and human smuggling and puts citizens of both countries at risk. That would in turn "permit law enforcement to focus their limited resources on criminal networks," the bishops said.

*Responding
to God's Call*

Mexico and the U.S. should build Bridges, not Walls

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

The issue on illegal immigration is certainly a hot button topic at this time, and emotions can run high whatever our view is in regard to immigration reform. If you give me five minutes of your time to speak to you, emotions aside, I hope to give you a perspective not being talked about.

I have been traveling to Mexico regularly since 1996, and I have been learning the richness of their language, history, customs, and culture. We can learn from the Mexican people and they can learn from us. They are a people who work hard, if they can find a job, and a people who place God and family first.

Catholics and the Catholic Church in Mexico have fought long and hard for the past two centuries to obtain their religious freedom from the multiple waves of religious persecutions which has given them much pride with great heroes and heroines in their many canonized saints and martyrs. When you walk into a Catholic house (Mexico is 90 percent Catholic) you would think that you are entering into a holy shrine or a cathedral with all the religious articles, wall hangings, prayers, and images of Christ, his Crucifixion, the Last Supper, Mary, and the saints. Their welcome — "Mi casa es tu casa" (My house is your house) — is profound and from the heart. Currently, we are benefiting tremendously with six seminarians in Mexico City studying for the Diocese of Fort Worth. In addition, we have two young

men from Mexico, Deacons Amado Vallejo and Fernando Preciado, who will, God-willing, be ordained to the priesthood June 5 for our spiritual benefit!

But the physical poverty of the Mexican people is also profound. In my recent trip to Celaya, Mexico, I learned that about 10 percent of the people there eat only one meal a day. They are starving for food, starving for work, and starving for a better economic life. They have much pride in their country, mainly due to their faith in Christ, but most come to the U.S. humiliated as men looking for work, risking life and limb to put food on the table. One woman, giving voice to all the women in her town, wanted me to know exactly the hardships they have to undergo as their husbands leave for the U.S., saying in Spanish, "We don't know when our husbands will come back or if they will come back!" Their families are being broken apart just like ours, but for different reasons. Many kids grow up without a father figure in their life because they have gone off to the U.S.

Do not get me wrong, I am also empathetic toward the ranchers on the border who have to deal daily with illegal immigration, but you deserve to see both sides of the controversy.

We will never solve the massive immigration problem no matter how high a wall, how long a wall, or how thick a wall we build. In fact, the Mexican government is reaching a point where they will probably want a wall more than we do because of the effects that shattered families are having on their gross national product, as well as the demands for more social services.

We have reached critical mass of foolhardiness. Walls and isolation from Mexico are not going to help our economy, nor stop illegal immigration. What will help is investing in Mexico. They need our help to stop corruption and

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.

the drug cartels. At the same time, they have a strong and young work force. Mexico is not a third-world country. They have the infrastructure and education system best fit to do the jobs that our U.S. companies are currently sending overseas. The U.S. needs to partner with Mexico in every level of business. Why? It makes complete economic sense! Mexico is the golden key to exporting our goods and services to all of the Americas and beyond. A stable Mexico makes a stable U.S. Together with Canada, North America can become an economic superpower ready to compete with any other part of the world.

God tells us through Moses not to oppress the alien, for "you well know how it feels to be an alien, since you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt" (*Exodus 23:9*).

Every sovereign nation has a right to protect its borders, but how much longer before we go spiritually and economically bankrupt because of our own cold-heartedness to our neighbors? What about being economically responsible and Christian at the same time? Metaphorically, Mr. President, tear down that wall! That is, let's protect our borders, but more importantly, let's build bridges to economic and spiritual prosperity for both countries.

By the way, I mentioned earlier that we have quite a few Mexican-born seminarians. Jesus challenged his disciples to travel to foreign countries and "make disciples of the nations" (*Matthew 28:19-20*). That is exactly what these men are doing. They are following their own people so they can pastor them and pastor us. Let us welcome them with open arms as they give their lives to share the Gospel with us.

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

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur offer discernment retreat day

Are you "Called to follow Jesus?" A retreat day, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, will be offered Saturday, May 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Women between the ages of 18 and 45 are invited to spend a day of discernment, prayer, sharing, and reflection with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur at Our Lady of Victory Center, 909 W. Shaw St., Fort Worth.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN at (817) 980-7242 or sycruz@sbc.global.net.

Catholic recording artists to perform at St. Paul Parish

Kurt and Julie Carrick, Catholic recording artists from Scottsdale, Arizona, will perform "Living the Mass, The Outward Expression of Our Catholic Faith" at St. Paul the Apostle Parish Friday, June 11 at 7 p.m. The Carricks share, through their music and witness, how the powerful prayers of the Mass and Eucharist give Catholics grace and strength to live in the world.

There is no admission charge. A free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 738-9925. St. Paul Church is located at 5508 Black Oak Ln., River Oaks.

St. Patrick K of C to hold annual golf tournament June 14

The second annual St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament will be held Monday, June 14 at Iron Horse Golf Course, 6200 Skylark Circle, North Richland Hills. The format for the tournament will be a Four-person Shotgun Start, Best Ball with an 8 a.m. Tee-off time. The tournament is open to women as well.

The cost is \$65 per player. All proceeds will benefit St. Patrick's K of C Council #14679. To sign up for the tournament or to donate door prizes, contact Ish Gonzales at (682) 557-2227 or iggolf@sbcglobal.net, or call Joe Govea at (817) 292-3819. Registration deadline is June 7.

CrMS to offer introductory session June 23

A free introductory session to the Creighton Method FertilityCare™ System will be offered Wednesday, June 23 at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. The session will be held in the Community Center at 7 p.m.

The CrMS is a standardized modification of the Billings Ovulation Method of family planning and is built on research, education, and service, according to program materials. It teaches women to identify and understand their natural fertility patterns and monitor and evaluate their reproductive and gynecologic health. CrMS provides a 99.5 percent effective method of natural family planning and has the ability to identify potential abnormalities, including infertility, PCOD, and ovarian cysts.

To register or for more information, contact Rosemary Mendiola at (214) 557-0006 or rmfertilitycare@gmail.com.

Diocesan Singles picnic to be held June 12

The Diocesan Singles picnic will be held June 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Benbrook Longhorn Overlook, 7000 Lakeside Drive, Benbrook. All singles are invited to join in the fun and festivities by bringing a dish to share and something for the grill. Beverages, paper goods, and coals will be ready for lunchtime. There are volleyball and game areas at the park, as well as fishing and water activities.

For more information, call Susan at (817) 346-8023.

Annual Vocation Awareness Program will be held June 25-27

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

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



CHRIST THE KING — During Lent the children in the Religious Formation Program at Christ the King Parish in Iowa Park collected canned goods and non-perishable food items to help the Food Pantries in Iowa Park and Electra. To encourage participation in their project the children built canned good sculptures with items collected. On Sunday, May 2 the congregation was invited to view the sculptures and vote for their favorite. Jon Eckstine, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Iowa Park and Don Bealls, representing the Iowa Park Food Pantry were welcomed by Deacon Pat Burke and the children who presented the nearly 300 pounds of food for those in need. The First Communion class and teacher Betty Copas won with their sculpture titled, "The Tower to Jesus." All students were awarded ribbons for their efforts.

NTC begins summer schedule

The summer schedule for the *North Texas Catholic* will begin in June. The *NTC* will be published only once a month in June, July, and August. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published.

Submit items to jrusseau@fwdioc.org. Items for the June 25 issue must be received by noon on June 16. Items for the July 23 issue must be received by noon on July 14.

Young adults invited to participate in 'Adventure' retreat May 28-31

"The Adventure: An Ignatian Experience," a retreat program based on St. Ignatius' *The Spiritual Exercises*, will be offered May 28-31 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-detraining mistakes, are made." "The Adventure" is a personal guided tour of the heart, in silence, and is described as an "identity-defining opportunity."

The cost is \$100. For more information or to register, call Montserrat at (940) 321-6020.

Icon workshop to be offered in Irving June 12-16

St. Basil the Great Byzantine Church, 1118 East Union Bower Rd., Irving, will sponsor an ecumenical workshop in painting icons during the week of July 12-16 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Participants will learn the various techniques iconographers have employed in the ancient art of icon painting through the centuries. Father Elias Rafaj, workshop instructor, will also explain the symbolism, meaning, and religious uses of icons in public services and private devotions.

Fr. Rafaj is the pastor of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Church of Houston and assistant director of religious education for the Byzantine Archeparchy (Archdiocese) of Pittsburgh. He holds a licentiate degree in Eastern Christian studies from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

For additional information on the workshop, contact St. Basil Parish at (972) 438-5644 or web@stbasilsinirving.org.

Sacred Heart Church, Seymour will celebrate centennial

Sacred Heart Church in Seymour will celebrate its 100th anniversary June 11, the feast of the Sacred Heart, and June 12. On Friday, June 11, the celebration will begin with a Mass at 7 p.m. followed by a catered meal in Mosler Hall. Father Stephen Berg, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Father Charles Gorantla, HGN, sacramental minister of Sacred Heart, and priests who have served Sacred Heart in the past will celebrate the Mass.

Saturday's celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with vendors, a horseshoe tournament, volleyball, and kids' activities on the grounds. A Polka Dance will be held in Mosler Hall from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. A Mass at 7 p.m. will round out the day's festivities.

The parish community extends a special invitation to former parishioners. There will be family displays of history/memorabilia. Those wishing to attend the dinner Friday night, set up a family display, or have any questions regarding the event are encouraged to contact the church office at (940) 889-5252.

Sacred Heart Church is located two-and-one-half hours from the Fort Worth area into the country going 199 West to Jacksboro and then 114 West to Seymour.

St. Mary Parish, Windthorst, celebrates 118th birthday June 6

St. Mary Parish of Windthorst will celebrate its 118th birthday Sunday, June 6. Activities will be held in the parish hall and school grounds beginning at noon.

New games are being added this year such as a watermelon seed spitting contest, Skee-ball, and an egg toss. Other activities will include Sand Dig, Ring Toss, and Turtle Races.

The Dairy Derby Fun Run/Health Walk will begin at noon on the football field. To pre-register, contact Diane Conrady at (940) 423-6304 or participants can register the day of the race from 11-11:45 a.m. at the concession stand by the football field. There will be races for children ages one to 12 years and a 5K run. A horseshoe tournament will begin at noon and will run throughout the day. For additional information contact Jerry or Terry Bacon at (940) 237-7765 or (940) 423-6121. A live auction will begin at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

A golf tournament will be held Saturday, June 5. For more information or to register, contact David Veitenheimer at (940) 423-6780 or Michael Schroeder at (940) 423-6267.

For more information contact the parish office at (940) 423-6687. St. Mary Church is located at 101 Church St., Windthorst.

Marriage Encounter Weekend to be held at CRC June 25-27

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held June 25-27 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth.

Marriage Encounter is a weekend program for married couples led by married couples. It consists of carefully designed steps that lead couples to honestly examine all aspects of their life together. Presentations are given by trained "team couples," followed by an assignment. National Marriage Encounter is an ecumenical and interfaith organization and based in Judeo-Christian traditions. All couples are welcome.

Reservations are required and a \$60 non-refundable deposit is required to hold each reservation. The balance of the weekend cost is due at the program. Space is limited. Marriage Encounter is a non-profit organization and supported entirely by couple donations. To cover lodging, meals, and other expenses, the weekend cost is \$175 for each couple. In the case of financial need, scholarship funds are available. A partial deposit is still required. For more information or to register online, visit the Web site at www.ntexasme.org.



ST. MARY, WINDTHORST — Junior and senior members of St. Mary Parish and the community of Windthorst gathered at St. Mary's parish hall for the annual St. Mary's Birthday Ball held Apr. 17. Students in kindergarten to sixth grade represented their classes in the Birthday Ball Court. The "Wall of Fame" was a focal point of the evening where pictures and biographical information of the honored senior guests were displayed. Pictured above are student representatives: (*back row*) Duncan Hilbers, Trevor Morath, Presley Zotz, Brooke Herndon; Logan Veitenheimer, Cheyenne Veitenheimer, Kylie Berend, and Drew Butler; (*middle row*) Ashlyn Zotz; Maclain Bowen, Caroline Wolf, Jacob Lindeman, Evan Kennedy, Lindy McCall, Claire Hemmi, Sadie Anderle, Alexa Herrera, and Callie Idell; (*front row*) Brenea Hoff, Gage Oliver, Macenly Bowen, Levi Anderle, Brenna Anderle, Haven Vieth, Caleb Schroeder, Macy Zotz, and Christopher Vomastek (missing from the photo is Madalyn Sharp).

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father E. James Hart has been assigned as parochial administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Keller, effective Aug. 1.

Father Steven J. Berg has been appointed vicar general and moderator of the curia, effective Aug. 1.

Father Isaac Orozco has been assigned as priest secretary to the bishop, effective July 1.

Deacon Len Sanchez has been appointed chancellor, effective Aug. 1.

State

Grand re-opening, formal blessing in Goliad for renovated Presidio La Bahia Museum set for June 8

GOLIAD — Politicians, historians, archeologists, re-enactors, news media, and tourists will gather in Goliad Tuesday, June 8, for the grand re-opening, ribbon cutting and formal blessing of the Presidio La Bahia (Fort of the Bay) Museum, over which nine flags have flown.

Bishop David Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria, which owns the 289-year-old National Historic Landmark, will formally bless the museum. It was fully renovated at a cost of more than \$500,000 during the past three and a half years.

Activities begin with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. at the Museum entrance. Newton M. Warzecha, director of the presidio since 1991, and museum designer Drew Patterson of Drew Patterson Studios in Austin will comment on the re-design before the blessing and re-opening to the public.

A recently acquired, 250-year-old bronze cannon will be used to salute the occasion. Lunch will be served on the Quadrangle grounds to invited guests and to visitors who have made advance reservations by calling (361) 645-3752 or writing presidiolabahia@goliad.net. The Presidio is one mile south of Goliad on U.S. Highway 183 (77A).

Sally and David Johnson of Goliad, directors of the Presidio La Bahia Foundation, are sponsoring the lunch. The company's barbecue team, the Farm Industrial Good Guys, will prepare the food.

The walled bastion, a crucial structure in Spanish, Mexican, and Texas colonial histories, was re-located to its hilltop site beside the San Antonio River in 1749. In 1836 it became central to the bloodiest chapter of the Texas Revolution — the Goliad Massacre. The Mexican Army executed 342 "Texians" who had surrendered after the nearby Battle of Coleto Creek.

"Thanks to the generosity of members of The Presidio La Bahia Foundation, its Advisory Board, the Friends of the Fort, and numerous individuals and area foundations, the presidio, museum, and portions of Our Lady of Loreto Chapel have undergone the most extensive refurbishing in more than half a century," said Warzecha, also president of the foundation.

The fort features eight-foot stone walls, parapets, historic cannons, and contains the chapel with its bell tower, ancient religious statue and stunning fresco. All



The Presidio La Bahia, site of the infamous "Goliad Massacre" in 1836, will be reopened as a museum and blessed by Victoria Bishop David Fellhauer June 8.

were restored to their 1836 appearance in the mid-1960s with funds from the Kathryn Stoner O'Connor Foundation.

"The exhibits have been re-designed with new, museum-quality cases and lighting, and all interiors have been repainted; murals and decorations refreshed; the floors repaired and re-sealed, and the gift shop expanded," Warzecha emphasized.

"The soldiers' barracks have been upgraded and the entry and museum are now more wheelchair accessible. 'The Quarters,'

which formerly housed officers and later priests, can accommodate four persons for overnight stays in one of the most historic — and eerie — lodgings in America."

For more information about the dedication, contact Newton M. Warzecha, director of Presidio La Bahia and president of The Presidio La Bahia Foundation at (361) 645-3752, or by e-mail at presidiolabahia@goliad.net, or visit the foundation's Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org/index.html.

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UNT student Knights plant garden to feed Denton homeless

College Knights of Columbus making impact on campuses across diocese

Knights of Columbus Council 14789, serving the University of North Texas and other schools served by Catholic Campus Ministries in the Denton area, recently undertook a project to help feed the local homeless population.

In cooperation with another student organization called Seeds of Change, they helped build a garden at the Catholic Campus Center located adjacent to the campus. The garden currently is growing tomatoes, onions, and jalapeño peppers. The project overall took about three weeks with the Knights putting in over 40 man hours in addition to the volunteers from Seeds of Change. All the supplies were donated, and the vegetables grown in the garden will go to feed the homeless in the Denton area.

Council 14789 is currently the only Knights of Columbus council designated specifically for college students in the diocese and has been an independent council for a year.



Members of UNT Knights of Columbus Council 14789 (LEFT TO RIGHT) Chris Curto, Mike Arduengo, Catholic Student President Matt Di Giovanni, Uche Onob, and Grand Knight Archie Wright, plant vegetables at a new garden located in the backyard of the school's Catholic Campus Center. The vegetables will go to feed the homeless population of Denton.

Because 2010 is the centennial anniversary of the first college council in the country, Council 1477 at the University of Notre Dame, the Supreme office of the Knights of Columbus has placed an emphasis on offering opportunities for college students to join the Knights throughout the year.

As a result, round tables, or groups of Knights of Columbus not able to sustain a council, have formed at the University of Texas at Arlington and Hill College in Hillsboro. Student Knights at UTA pray a weekly Rosary on campus, and those at Hill College perform various service tasks around the community.

Vocation
Awareness
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answers

is it I, Lord?

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

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

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

Special Collection: The Church in Latin America

Parish Name	Parish Location	Latin America Jan 2009	Latin America Jan 2010
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	138.00	257.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	61.00	40.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	1,245.65	1,332.55
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	3,078.96	4,104.84
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,623.27	3,035.90
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,881.00	1,632.50
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	377.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	576.00	900.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	171.00	925.26
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,575.00	1,896.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	920.00	672.00
St. Michael	Bedford	2,266.00	1,906.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	130.00	90.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	297.31	365.94
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	529.62	536.42
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	435.19	280.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,391.00	1,330.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	2,444.62	3,284.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	112.75	57.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	1,011.01	0.00
Holy Angels	Clifton	0.00	128.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	3,264.50	4,361.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	1,137.61	1,332.29
Sacred Heart	Comanche	180.00	423.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	64.00	59.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	795.38	922.37
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	50.00	190.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	729.00	1,122.00
St. Mark	Denton	2,382.57	2,500.46
St. Mary	Dublin	581.00	935.40
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	81.00	117.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,753.34	1,957.70
Christ the King	Fort Worth	0.00	695.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	2,014.00	2,228.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	0.00	486.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,017.44	1,396.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	1,318.00	1,699.13
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,791.50	3,118.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	150.00	383.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	729.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	3,951.85	2,334.00
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	6,045.98	4,358.20
St. George	Fort Worth	793.00	391.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	849.03	910.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	269.00	272.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	3,705.50	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	1,038.10	1,066.45
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	480.00	939.26
St. Rita	Fort Worth	178.00	188.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,411.42	1,785.95
St. Mary	Gainesville	304.00	324.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	177.25	179.60
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	762.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,585.70	1,090.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,273.00	1,854.68
St. Mary	Henrietta	35.00	55.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	688.07	921.77
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	48.00	83.50
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,917.00	4,082.25
Santa Rosa	Knox City	114.00	164.33
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,911.34	2,413.08
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,517.00	697.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	0.00	2,053.95
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	0.00	95.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	484.55	394.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	0.00	17.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	838.00	843.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	108.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	150.50	173.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	767.45	772.65
St. Mary	Quanah	132.00	162.00
St. Rita	Ranger	79.00	75.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	332.00	427.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	59.00	88.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	82.00	160.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	190.00	345.00
St. John	Strawn	119.00	57.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	363.00	461.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,645.00	2,086.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	528.00	572.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	1,182.35	1,637.09
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	716.31	600.37
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	758.00	699.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	629.26	501.25

81,520.38 83,028.14

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

Diocesan

Spanish prayer groups seeing growth, more participation in parish life, community

Story and photos by
Juan Guajardo
Editorial Assistant

When Carlos Espinoza and his wife tried to start a charismatic prayer group at St. George Parish, they were met with some apathy from parishioners, had few participants, and did not have a fixed meeting place.

"At the beginning, things here were very difficult," Carlos Espinoza said. "... In this parish, there weren't such things."

But four years later that group has swelled to about 60 families and meets for several hours each Friday evening to pray the Rosary, reflect, give praise to God, read Scripture, and study the faith.

But the participants aren't simply learning about the faith; they're living out that faith.

The group at St. George divides parishioners into seven small communities that get together once a week to perform acts of mercy like caring for sick or poor parishioners, volunteering at the parish, or doing a Bible study or *Why Catholic?*

It's a trend being seen throughout the diocese, and that was the plan four years ago: to promote involvement in parish life and community, using Spanish prayer groups and the charismatic movement, Andrés Aranda, diocesan delegate for Hispanic Ministry, said.

Four years ago, Bishop Kevin Vann and Aranda saw the potential Spanish prayer groups had for uniting and involving the community and formally recognized the groups at several parishes. But Aranda and Bishop Vann went further and developed the diocesan charismatic renewal committee to help parishes form or maintain their own prayer groups (either charismatic or more traditional), or hold parish retreats in Spanish.

"The idea is that these people have an encounter with the living Christ," Aranda said. "That they keep forming in their parish, or wherever they may be, and also that they make a difference in the Church and in society — inside and outside the Church."

Now there are 20 prayer groups throughout the diocese that "are becoming more active... and are participating more enthusiastically in parochial life," Aranda said. And they have worked outside the parish as well, often visiting hospitals, jails, and the elderly. Furthermore, attendance at diocesan charismatic retreats has boomed. This past January, a men's retreat attracted 500, and a women's retreat attracted 1,400. Now, organizers are expecting 2,000 people at the *Ter-*



Efrain Sandoval and his wife, Lucy Sandoval, lead about 60 people in the St. George parish prayer group in prayer on Friday evening. The group, founded in 2006, has grown steadily over the past four years.

cer Congreso Católico, a diocese-wide retreat to be held June 12-13 at Nolan High School.

Father Ángel Infante, of All Saints Parish in Fort Worth, has also seen firsthand the benefits of prayer groups. While the prayer group at All Saints, Rios de Agua Viva, has served the parish for at least 15 years, it has continued to grow, recently adding a charismatic Mass, or healing Mass, to its weekly schedule.

He said members of the 20-person prayer group have also been very involved in parish life.

"Some of them are Eucharistic ministers, some are lectors, some are catechism teachers, a few others are involved in the *Why Catholic?* program. In this way their faith not only opens up to the charismatic group, but also goes further outside the group," Father Infante said.

Just last year, the group helped host a three-day retreat, attracting about 1,000 people to Nolan Catholic High School.

Likewise, Espinoza said people have embraced the goal of St. George's prayer group, which is to invite people to live in the way Christ lived.

"When people fall in love, afterward they want to live with the

other person, no? Espinoza asked. "So it's the same thing, we fall in love with Jesus, and afterward, we always want to be with Him. And that is the consequence — that this movement helps people establish firm roots within the community, within their church, and that it gives them the motivation to serve, to give themselves to others. That is the greatest benefit this movement can impart to the Catholic Church."

The group is seeing a vibrant parish community as a result.

"We have 25 people in the group now participating in the John Paul II Institute, and we have four people from here who have entered into the discernment process for the diaconate. In other words, we have already advanced in what we're doing," Espinoza said.

But Aranda and Fr. Infante make clear that prayer groups, charismatic and otherwise, are only a means helping to point the way to Christ.

"Charismatic prayer sprung out of necessity. Like all ministries, it springs from the Church, for the Church," Fr. Infante said.

"Sometimes people can think, 'And does the charismatic movement form part of the Catholic Church?' Of course, it comes from the Church, to guide and energize



Pedro Mendez and his wife, Saily Ruiz, pray during a prayer group meeting. The St. George group meets weekly to pray, praise God, and learn about the faith.



Carlos Espinoza discusses a faith topic during the prayer group meeting at St. George Parish. The group meets for about 3 hours every Friday evening.

that same Church. They aren't faraway things, nor even less, some sort of cult — no, no, no. They are always in communion with the Church or in line with its vision. It is an expression of its people, so they can get closer to God. I have

already learned that whichever church group... takes us to God.

"And that is the objective. These are only a means to get closer to God, because the end is God. And He is worth getting to by whatever means."

El Espíritu Santo y la Eucaristía

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

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



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

Budget...

FROM PAGE 1

Curia. Father Isaac Orozco will become the Priest Secretary to Bishop Vann, and Deacon Leonard Sanchez will become Chancellor of the diocese. Fr. Hart, Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia since his appointment in 2005, will become parochial administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller and also take on the position of Vicar for Special Projects.

Programmatic changes that come as part of the reorganization include the previously announced suspension of the Permanent Deacon Formation Program (PDFP) for at least the next three years, a change that will result in perhaps the most significant savings, according to Fr. Hart. "We've just ordained our largest class of deacons," he said, "and were just on the cusp of beginning a new program, so it was a good time to allow the program to lapse." This change and the other program and staff changes will occur at the end of June. According to Fr. Hart, all employees affected by the changes have been welcomed to remain in their positions until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, and will be given compensation packages, based in part on their number of years of service with the diocese.

The current associate director of the PDFP, Judy Locke, is also the current Victims' Assistance Coordinator. To further streamline the Central Office operations, Locke will also replace the current director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, said Fr. Hart.

Beginning July 1, the Family

Life Office will be staffed with one bilingual program director, resulting in a one-person office instead of the current one and a half person staffing.

The *North Texas Catholic* will move from twice monthly publication to monthly publication and more of a magazine-style design. More of the current news and announcements will move to *North Texas Catholic* web pages which will become part of the diocesan website beginning this fall. Those changes will allow the office to be staffed by two full-time editorial workers instead of two and a half employees, as at present.

The work of the Coordinator of Council Development will be picked up by other Chancery staff members, including Fr. Orozco, Fr. Hart said. Fr. Orozco's duties as Priest Secretary will also allow for reduction in administrative assistance in the Chancery.

Deacon Sanchez will continue to perform many of his duties as Director of Community and Pastoral Services, according to Fr. Hart, working in conjunction with Fr. Berg to determine the exact shape of his duties. Fr. Berg as Moderator of the Curia has direct authority for the employees of the diocese and helps shape the work of the staff of the diocese in extending the mission of the Bishop on behalf of the local Church.

With the elimination of the staff position of the Mission Outreach Program, Dcn. Sanchez will assume the role of coordinating the diocese's role in assisting the parishes in their work in mission. But, as Director of Financial Services Flynn pointed out in an interview on Tuesday, the role of the parishes in coordinating their own mission connections and ef-

"As pastor of the diocese, the exercise of good stewardship is one of my primary concerns. This reorganization, will allow us to move forward in addressing the present and future needs of our diocese.

"Iwant to acknowledge as well, the generosity and goodness of our people. I am gratified for all of the staff who assist me on a daily basis in my work and ministry and particularly those who will be moving on at this point to new opportunities of service or retirement."

— Bishop Kevin Vann

forts will inevitably increase.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is being reduced by one full-time position, with some of the functions of that position being performed with the assistance of Andrés Aranda, delegate for Hispanic Ministry.

All of these changes came as Bishop Vann chose from the recommendations of a committee he had formed with the goal of studying how to reorganize and reduce the operating expenses of the Catholic Center, said Fr. Hart, "while doing our best to maintain the level of services offered to parishes."

In analyzing the make-up of

what had been projected to be a \$1.5 million deficit, but now is reduced to a projected deficit of approximately \$500,000 for fiscal 2011, Flynn pointed out the silver lining to this set of circumstances.

A major part of the increase in deficit spending in 2010 came from the dramatic increase in the number of seminarians studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Fort Worth. In addition, the diocese is making strides toward "interning" priests who will be coming from religious orders, allowing each of them to serve an internship in one of our parishes as they become acclimated to the Diocese of Fort Worth.

As Flynn pointed out, the diocese-funded 2009 Meitler Study of expected population growth within Tarrant County and the five surrounding counties within the Diocese of Fort Worth between 2010 and 2030 indicated the addition of 1.5 million persons, which will nearly double the number of Catholics in the Diocese.

The number of new parishes required to serve the Catholics among all that new population, was estimated to be between 12 and 14, Flynn said. Where, he asked, are we going to find the priests to fill those pulpits, to celebrate the sacraments for the people of God, he said, if we don't begin to shift our priorities to discernment and screening, to finding and forming new priests prepared to serve them in the local Church.

Bishop Vann, he said, has rightly prioritized making the choices and doing the preparation to create a new generation of priests to serve this burgeoning population, he said.

"These are very challenging times and many dioceses and parishes are having to address similar realities," Bishop Vann said, Wednesday. "As pastor of the diocese, the exercise of good stewardship is one of my primary concerns. This reorganization," he said, "will allow us to move forward in addressing the present and future needs of our diocese."

"I want to acknowledge as well, the generosity and goodness of our people," the bishop continued. "I am gratified for all of the staff who assist me on a daily basis in my work and ministry and particularly those who will be moving on at this point to new opportunities of service or retirement."

Catholics show support for pope, pray for those hurt by abuse

FROM PAGE 1

The Italian National Consultation of Lay Groups, a Catholic organization, spearheaded the effort to bring Catholics to the square to join the pope and show their support. A variety of Catholic organizations and movements, labor unions, and political groups joined them, filling St. Peter's Square and spilling onto the adjacent streets.

Paola Dal Toso, secretary of the national consultation, told Vatican Radio that participants wanted to pray for the victims of sexual abuse, but also "to recall all the good that many priests do, which does not make the news."

Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco of Genoa, president of the Italian bishops' conference, led the

crowd in prayer before the pope arrived at his studio window to address the gathering.

"Almighty and eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and support of the troubled, hear the cry of those who are in pain so that they would find justice and comfort," the cardinal prayed.

He also prayed that the abuse victims would return to participating in the life of a "purified" church, so that they could "rediscover the infinite love of Christ."

In a rare exception, Vatican officials allowed the organizers to hang banners from the colonnade surrounding the square; many proclaimed, "Together with the pope."

"We young people are with you," "The people of Rome with the pope," and dozens of other

signs, banners, balloons, and flags expressed love for the pope.

Salvatore Martinez, president of the Italian Renewal in the Holy Spirit movement, told Vatican Radio that Catholics recognize that some people in the church have seriously sinned, "but the church is alive, the church is still standing. The laity and the movements are expressions of it through their vitality, their beauty and through the strength of the witness they give each day."

Andrea Olivero, president of an Italian Christian workers' group, told the radio that members of his group appreciated the pope's bluntness in recognizing that some priests have hurt children and betrayed the trust placed in them.

The abuse scandal, he said,

"should be experienced as a cross by all of us. We cannot allow our pastors to be the only ones who live with this suffering, which is a suffering that affects the entire church."

At the same time, Olivero said, all Catholics must make a renewed commitment to living their faith and to helping the poor, the weak, and the hurting.

Pope Benedict also referred to the scandal when he wrote to participants in a large ecumenical gathering in Germany. The ecumenical Kirchentag, which ended May 16, had focused on the theme of hope.

The pope said that at a time when the world's people are in need of hope, some people are asking if the church really is a place to find it.

"In the past few months, we repeatedly have had to face news that could attempt to remove the joy from the church, news that obscures it as a place of hope," he said.

Using the words of a Bible parable, the pope said that people may be tempted to ask God whether he sowed the seeds of his Gospel in good earth.

"Weeds exist even in the heart of the church and among those whom the Lord has welcomed into his service in a special way. But the light of God has not set, the good grain has not been suffocated by the seed of evil," the pope said.

The church continues to be a place of hope, he said, because it is the place where people hear the word of God, "which purifies us and shows us the path of faith."

Diocesan / Region

Worry grows over effect of oil spill on livelihoods of fishing families

By Peter Finney Jr.

Editor, THE CLARION HERALD, Newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Uncertainty over how the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will affect the livelihoods of south Louisiana fishing families as well as potential damages to the environment surfaced at several outreach gatherings in the New Orleans Archdiocese.

The sessions were sponsored by Catholic Charities and Mary Queen of Vietnam Parish, which encompasses Vietnamese Catholics in the archdiocese east of the Mississippi River.

About 200 Vietnamese fishermen packed a meeting room at Mary Queen of Vietnam May 7 to question representatives of British Petroleum on their recovery plans and ensure that they were being included among those the company is hiring to protect the coastline and clean up the spill.

The company has tried unsuccessfully to contain the spill with controlled burning, dispersal and plugging the leak since one of its offshore oil rigs exploded April 20. About 5,000 barrels of oil are leaking into the waters of the gulf every day, threatening the fishing industry, U.S. wetlands, and all manner of wildlife.

"This meeting has helped surface the issues that our fishermen are facing," said Father Vien The Nguyen, pastor of Mary Queen of Vietnam. "The meeting also shows government officials, as well as BP, that either they do things correctly or we will come together as a force."

Father Nguyen said he was deeply concerned that Vietnamese fishermen, who may represent half of the commercial fleet in south Louisiana, were being underrepresented in BP's hiring of local personnel to deploy protective booms along the coastline.

"If we are 50 percent of the fishing fleet, how many of our people are being hired?" Father Nguyen asked. "I know it's not 50 percent. Is it 10 percent? I know it's not 10 percent."

BP spokesman Hugh Depland told the Vietnamese fishermen that of the 900 boaters who had signed up to make their vessels available for the deployment operation, only about 100 have been actually put to work for BP.

However, Depland said, fishermen who file



Catholic Charities volunteer Phyllis Diecidue, center, helps register a fishing family for supplemental food assistance May 5 in St. Bernard Parish, a civil entity east of New Orleans. The volunteers were helping people affected by the oil leaking from the Deepwater Horizon wellhead in the Gulf of Mexico. (CNS photo/Peter Finney Jr., CLARION HERALD)

claims with BP over loss of work because of the spill "are eligible to expedited payments equivalent to one month's earnings from fishing" up to a maximum of \$5,000 per individual per month. Those monthly payments, based on the fisherman's most recent income tax records, are renewable in subsequent months "if you are still unable to fish," Depland said.

At a marina in Hopedale May 5, the archdiocese's Catholic Charities agency, Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana, the United Way, and local nonprofit Santa on the Bayou teamed up to provide immediate relief to fishing families impacted

by the spill.

Of the 124 people who lined up at the marina wharf, 105 received \$100 gift cards for groceries at Winn Dixie supermarkets and 19 received boxes of groceries and baby supplies.

"I'm not surprised by the crowd because I know the need is there," said Father John Arnone, pastor of St. Bernard Church in St. Bernard. "I see quite a number of faces of people who come to church every week, and there are others in the community that I see often."

Waiting his turn to register for aid was Jesse Alfonso, a parishioner of St. Bernard Church, who said his biggest concern was the uncertainty of how long the oil spill would impact his crabbing and shrimping business.

"I'm doing a lot of worrying," Alfonso told the *Clarion Herald*, newspaper of the New Orleans Archdiocese. "When are we going to go back? I'm completely shut down, and we don't know when we're going to be able to go back."

Alfonso has been through natural disasters before. Hurricane Katrina destroyed his home and one of his boats. After three years, he finally was beginning to see positive signs for the crabbing business — "and then this happened, just when I started to make a few dollars."

Asked if he ever wondered why he was being put to the test, Alfonso said, "No, I just let it go. I don't look for yesterday. I just look for tomorrow. You can see people out here today caring for each other. I just thank the good Lord that I'm here."

Merlin Campo, who had been selling crab bait until the spill began, said his largest concern was not knowing whether the spill would be "short term or long term."

"If it's long term and there's no help, God bless us, we'll lose everything," Campo said. "Just like back to Katrina, square one. You know how that goes."

BP has forwarded \$25,000 to Catholic Charities to be used for direct assistance to eligible families, said Colleen D'Aquin, emergency management director for the archdiocese.

"We are in the process of doing further strategic planning to access more dollars," D'Aquin said. "We're looking at more ways to offer direct assistance."

How is the oil spill affecting fishermen in South Louisiana?

Vietnamese and other fishing families are among those hardest hit by the British Petroleum oil disaster off the coast of South Louisiana.

Local Vietnamese Catholic leaders say as much as 50 percent of the fishing fleet is made up of Vietnamese, but they are not being hired at even 10 percent of the rate for other fishermen to use their boats in cleanup efforts.

But everyone is hurting, and crab and shrimp fisherman Jesse Alfonso said, "I'm doing a lot of worrying. When are we going to go back? I'm completely shut down, and we don't know when we're going to be able to go back."

Citizenship...

FROM PAGE 1

ing monumental events in the nation's history.

"Those were very important events," he said. "You're never going to forget today. Today you know where you are. You're in Fort Worth, Texas; you're in Catholic Charities; and you're at a point in your life where your life is never going to be the same again."

This was the first time a citizenship ceremony was held in the new building, said Xergio Chacin, program manager for Catholic Charities Immigration Consultation Services. He added that earning citizenship was the culmination of a long process for the 54 candidates.

"These are people that come

into the country, then they have taken the struggle of becoming residents," Chacin said. "...It's quite a process to make it to this kind of event."

After the ceremony, in an effort to reach out to provide more resources for people looking to become citizens, Catholic Charities hosted an information session given by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Dallas Field Office. Dallas Field Office Director Tracy Tarango and other USCIS officers presented an overview of the naturalization process followed by a question-and-answer session.

About 160 people of various nationalities attended the presentation, which began with a video overview of how to prepare for citizenship and the naturalization test. Participants were encouraged to prepare by learning

how to speak, read, and write English; learning civic rights and responsibilities; and maintaining continuous residence in the U.S. Participants were also informed of the necessary paperwork and requirements of the naturalization process.

To dispel misconceptions about the face-to-face interview, often considered one of the most stressful parts of the process, two USCIS officers role-played an interview. The officers outlined some of the major aspects of the interview, things like presenting proper identification, passing a brief history and government test, and orally answering biographical questions.

"Basically it is all about you," USCIS supervisory adjudications officer Alfonso Gonzalez said of the interview process. "It's not about this alien from outer space.

And who knows you better than you? That's all it is. Don't be nervous."

Following the role-play of the interview, Tarango and her officers answered a barrage of questions from the audience, in Spanish and English, alleviating the worries of many participants. Tarango was asked everything from "How long does the process take?" (4-6 months), to "Can citizenship be revoked?" to which she replied, "Absolutely. Behave. Be good."

At information sessions, normally, Catholic Charities does not have USCIS officers, Chacin said.

"It was a great surprise," that so many people attended, he said. "The few people I talked to were very happy. A few of them got big misconceptions cleared up."

Chacin added that Catholic

Charities' Immigration Services program assists approximately 2,700 families a year and is always available to help with a variety of immigration and citizenship questions.

Chacin said they help immigrants all the way through the process to get their green card, "and then we help them get their citizenship."

"We make sure they have everything they need," he said. "We prepare the paperwork for them; we prepare the applications; and we represent them in front of the government. We're with them during the whole application process."

For more information on obtaining citizenship or for help with immigration questions, call Catholic Charities' Immigration Services Office in either Spanish or English at (817) 534-0814.

Viewpoints

Though the Church has had blemishes

The Risen Christ transforms us

By David Mills

Alexander VI, pope from 1492 to 1503, was not one of our better ones.

Among other things, he fathered perhaps 10 illegitimate children during his clerical career, and Wikipedia includes him in its list of “sexually active popes.” Most of the popes of the time (though not all) were either bad or mediocre, and in either case very worldly.

The bad popes did not teach error, which is one sign that the Holy Spirit watches over the Church, even when her cardinals pick a man like Rodrigo Borgia (Alexander VI) to be the head of the universal Church. Neither did the mediocre popes. But they didn’t teach much of anything else either.

I was recently blessed to be in Rome for a few days, and a visit to St. Peter’s and the Vatican Museums left me pondering the effects of such popes on the Church. We got a lot of great art out of them, but not much else, and their excesses gave some northern European theologians and rulers an excuse to break away from the Church.

This in turn left me pondering what a gift we have in Benedict XVI, especially after reading the talks he gave in Portugal while I was in Rome. I was moved, and convicted too, because he pointed

us so clearly to Christ, both crucified and risen, and especially to Christ as he acts through us. (The link to his talk to the Portuguese bishops can be found below, and I hope you will read it.)

“People cry out for the Good News of Jesus Christ, which gives meaning to their lives and protects their dignity,” he told the Portuguese bishops, after reminding them they should “fear nothing except the loss of eternal salvation for your people.” They must understand the society in which they live in order to lead their people well, but “what is decisive, however, is the ability to inculcate in all those engaged in the work of evangelization a true desire for holiness, in the awareness that the results derive above all from our union with Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit.”

The Catholic faith doesn’t easily “touch the hearts of people by means of simple speeches or moral appeals, and even less by a general appeal to Christian values,” he continued. “The courageous and integral appeal to principles is essential and indispensable; yet simply proclaiming the message does not penetrate to the depths of people’s hearts, it does not touch their freedom, it does not change their lives. What attracts is, above all, the encounter with believing persons who, through their faith, draw others to the grace of Christ by bearing witness to him.”

Preaching in Oporto, he noted again that in Christ we have what people really want — “even those who seem not

Only in Christ can evil be redeemed. You can shake your fist at the world, and still you’ll suffer and die. You can say it doesn’t matter, and still you’ll suffer and die. Only in Christ can you be transformed.

to.” It is “Jesus whom everyone awaits. In fact, the most profound expectations of the world and the great certainties of the Gospel meet in the ineluctable mission which is ours, for without God man neither knows which way to go, nor even understands who he is.”

And so, he said, “you need to become witnesses with me to the resurrection

of Jesus. In effect, if you do not become his witnesses in your daily lives, who will do so in your place?” Our “indispensable mission” is “to receive from God and to offer to the world the Risen Christ, so that every situation of weakness and of death may be transformed, through the Holy Spirit, into an opportunity for growth and life.”

Without Christ, we can deal with weakness and death (that is, evil) only by resistance or resignation, neither of which change anything. Only in Christ can evil be redeemed. You can shake your fist at the world, and still you’ll suffer and die. You can say it doesn’t matter, and still you’ll suffer and die. Only in Christ can you be transformed.

Alexander VI must have known this, but he doesn’t seem to have said it very often. Benedict does. St. Peter’s, the vast and beautiful church the popes of the time gave us, is a blessing to have, but this successor to St. Peter is a greater one.

David Mills is author of *DISCOVERING MARY* (reviewed below, conveniently enough) and deputy editor of *FIRST THINGS*. He and his family attend St. Joseph’s Church in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. He can be reached at catholicisense@gmail.com. Benedict’s address to the Portuguese bishops can be found by going to the vatican.va website, clicking on the English language icon, then the Portugal 2010 icon, and then the 14th topic in the bulleted list of the pope’s addresses.

Two new Marian books inform, inspire

DISCOVERING MARY: ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MOTHER OF GOD by David Mills. Servant Books/St. Anthony Messenger Press (Cincinnati, 2010) 150 pp., \$12.99.

THE SECRETS OF MARY: GIFTS FROM THE BLESSED MOTHER by Janice T. Connell. St. Martin’s Press (New York, 2010) 310 pp., \$24.99.

By Christopher Fenoglio
Catholic News Service

How much do you really know about Mary, the mother of God?

Most Catholics are very familiar with Mary. Every time we recite the Hail Mary or sing the song “Ave Maria,” we recall the story of the visitation of Mary by the angel Gabriel and her faithful acceptance of God’s call to bear his Son.

But familiarity is not the same as factual knowledge, so many Catholics search for more about Mary. Unfortunately, this search is made difficult because of the sparse information about Mary in the Bible.

Two new books add clarity and inspiration by helping Catholics look clearly at the existing information and realize deeper lev-

els of understanding about the life of Mary. Through these books, we come to a fuller appreciation of how she can be a shining source of inspiration for our lives.

Discovering Mary by David Mills is a straightforward, well-organized collection of facts and simple apologetic arguments about the historical Mary and her place in the church.

Originating from a writing assignment for *Our Sunday Visitor* newspaper, Mills’ book strives to eliminate opinion and conjecture, leaving just the facts and quotes from magisterial works. The result is a clear and concise presentation of what is known about Mary and what is surmised in church teachings, without further elaboration. In Mills’ words, he presents the “atoms and molecules, but leaves the physics to the experts.”

After a personal account of his limited understanding of Mary before and after his conversion to Catholicism, Mills delves into the subject, organizing the information in six chapters: the life of Mary, Mary in the Bible, Mary in Catholic doctrine, the feasts of Mary, Mary’s titles, and, lastly, Marian devotions, prayers and apparitions.

This small book will be a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about the Queen of Heaven.

The Secrets of Mary by Janice T. Connell presents a collection of stories about Mary in a much more prayerful and inspirational style.

A recognized authority on Marian apparitions, Connell’s collection spans the centuries since Mary followed her Son along the road to Calvary. Scripture, photos, prayers, and devotions are woven together to create an inspirational resource for daily devotions.

The book includes many stories of saints and their personal commitment and devotion to Mary. For instance, we find an ancient account of St. Augustine’s discovery of Mary’s grace and power. A few pages later, we read a powerful account of how St. Norbert’s devotion to Mary helped him shake the entrapments of his youth and guide him to initiate Christian renewal in Europe.

Connell’s expertise in Marian apparitions is recognized in her descriptions of the Fatima secrets in Portugal, the church-recognized apparition in Akita, Japan, and



the reported visitations in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Throughout the inspirational stories and accounts of Mary’s influence throughout history, there is a palatable, real sense of prayer and devotion. This is a rich, prayerful collection of stories in which readers will find daily comfort and guidance in the gifts from the Blessed Mother.

Fenoglio is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and an award-winning columnist for *THE TENNESSEE REGISTER* diocesan newspaper in Nashville, Tennessee.

Spread the Good News

across the digital continent

By Denise Bossert

My mother turns 67 in a few weeks. She created a Facebook page the other day. She's not the typical age for joining the digital world, but I understand her decision to embrace technology. Five of her 10 grandchildren are on Facebook, and their lives have become so busy the only way to keep up with them is to go where they hang out.

And so that's what she did.

As Catholics, we could learn some things from grandmothers who tackle new social media for the sole purpose of connecting with the grandchildren they love.

I'm intrigued by the dynamic duo that we find in Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. The first one called us to the New Evangelization and the second one continues that call by directing us to go where the crowds gather. It's no longer Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (*Acts 1:8*). It's no longer the highways and byways (*Luke 14:23*). Now, the crowds meet on the Internet superhighways. Facebook. My Space. Twitter. The blogosphere. Podcasts.

Pope Benedict understands this. That's why his Message on World Day of Communications 2010 encouraged priests to get on Facebook. That's why he has encouraged the faithful to have a presence on the Internet. Basically, he has asked all of us to go where the people gather.

It's no longer Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (*Acts 1:8*). It's no longer the highways and byways (*Luke 14:23*). Now, the crowds meet on the Internet superhighways. Facebook. My Space. Twitter. The blogosphere. Podcasts.

In his 2009 message, the Holy Father called this generation the digital generation and highlighted the "extraordinary potential of the new technologies" which permit us to communicate almost instantaneously with anyone in the world. What we can do with our laptops and iPhones is quite amazing.

But to whom much is given, much is required (*Luke 12:48*). And that is certainly true with the gift of the new media. Do you have access to the Internet? Are you on Facebook? Do you have a blog? Well, that's a little like giving one of those early Apostles a private jet and letting him loose on the world. The possibilities are endless.

The Holy Father concluded his Communications Day message by turning his attention to young Catholics. He encouraged them to share their faith in the digital world. If you are already part of this digital generation, then his message is for you in particular, because you "have an almost spontaneous affinity for the new means of communication," Pope Benedict says. And for this reason, you must "take responsibility for the evangelization" and spread the Good News to a "digital continent."

Don't be afraid to put up a status now and then that shares a little of the love you have for your Catholic faith. Don't shy away from writing a post on your blog that indicates that you love Jesus Christ

and his Church. Tweet about it. Let it be a natural part of your communication with the Internet community that surrounds you. Consider it your digital continent, and you are the one being sent to spread the Good News.

It's quite easy, really. How about this for a status: "On my way to Mass — my favorite part of the week."

Or "wondering if I have any Facebook friends who are thinking about the Catholic faith. Would love to sponsor you. Call or text."

It isn't easy to be salt of the earth to this digital continent. One of the hardest things about Facebook and other social media is that you can't wear more than one mask. You can't be one thing to your friends and another thing altogether to your grandmother. Everyone sees your status. Anyone can read your tweets.

It's a good time to begin reconciling the image you present to the world with the real person you are inside. If you are a Catholic who loves the faith, let it show.

Go into all the world, including the digital continent, and share the Good News. *Denise Bossert entered the Catholic Church in 2005. She began writing for diocesan papers during her conversion and has been published in more than 36 diocesan newspapers. She is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in New Melle, Missouri, a community about 35 miles west of St. Louis.*

Despite all that vastness and our own apparent illegibility, God assures us we are known

and Understood

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

The last time I went on a trip, I printed travel schedules, airline information, and hotel reservations, later realizing my printer's settings were just as I had used them previously: for iron-on transfers, to make T-shirts.

So all my travel plans were printed clearly, but in mirror image.

What should I do now, Lord? Iron them on a shirt and wear them?? Should I check-in at the airport with photo ID, boarding pass and a mirror? Will they put me on a security watch list? Or a sanity watch list??

The Lord wasn't surprised at my dilemma, and said I'd always been printed upside down and backwards to Him anyway. I don't know how to take that. I'm hoping he meant the visual image, not the character one.

But He made all of us. He has the manual. And it's probably printed in whatever format He wants.

God has a good vantage point for seeing us, if we think in a childlike fashion, which seems okay, since He instructed us to live that way always. As a child, my son John once observed, "The best place to enjoy a fireworks display is from heaven."

The Lord can simply look down and see the sparks fly, whether they are the "Oooh! Ahhh!" of jubilation or the dissipating flickers of desperation.

On my trip, I looked out the plane window, realizing you can see much more from the air. Although you are one set of eyes gazing at millions, you can maintain sight of each image until it is long past.

God can hold his vision of us much longer than we of Him.

At night, while flying, you see city lights flickering. Sometimes, through the movement of trees, they are obscured, their light momentarily blocked from view, but still seen by the eye of God.

And how vast the land is, especially between cities. The empty space between — the nothingness — is infinitely larger than the "us-ness," the spots where we live.

What we do not know is vastly bigger than our knowledge — no, not knowledge — simply that with which we have become acquainted through the grace of God.

From the vantage point of flight, it seems we know nothing at all. What we understand is a billion times smaller than what we do not comprehend, and God is the magnitude of time and space and all that is good, while we are simply specks.

But we are his specks.

The last time I went on a trip I couldn't read the simplest thing — my travel information — because it was printed in mirror image. But looking down from the plane, I could comprehend much more than flight numbers.

"See all of this?" I could hear my heavenly Father say. "I see you there, wherever you are.

"And, if no one else understands you, I still do."

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Catholic, Jewish leaders face mutual challenge of engaging young adults

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic and Jewish leaders face challenges in finding ways to keep young adults engaged in the faith practices they were born into, participants heard at a recent Catholic-Jewish consultation. Some of the discussions at the May 12 semiannual meeting in New York of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Synagogues were devoted to findings of the 2008 U.S. Religious Landscape Survey produced by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and their implications for the Catholic and Jewish faiths. In an overview of the Pew survey from the Catholic perspective, sociologist Mark Gray of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University said, "We are living in an age of spiritual 'individualization,' having moved from a sense of religious duty to religious feeling." Steven Cohen, research professor of Jewish social policy at Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute of Religion, said younger Jews, as with younger Catholics, are more likely to adopt a form of spiritual practice that differs from the religious identity given to them at birth. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, the Catholic co-chairman of the consultation, said rabbis and pastors have a shared pastoral dilemma when reaching out to young adults. "It's good to realize that Catholic and Jewish pastors face the same problems today: the integrity of marriage and family life, and the retention of young people in their congregations," he said. "The Pew study has given us a sobering reminder of how American culture challenges both our communities to find new means of outreach to our people."

Catholic scholars say those who thwart labor unions commit mortal sin

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of Catholic scholars contends that management efforts to break labor unions are a grave breach of the church's social doctrine and tantamount to committing mortal sin. A statement from Weymouth, Massachusetts-based Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice, released May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, offers a detailed argument that actions to thwart union organizing campaigns, stifle contract talks, unilaterally roll back wages and benefits, and break existing labor agreements are a "grave violation of Catholic social doctrine on labor unions. This violation of Catholic doctrine constitutes material grounds for mortal sin because it stands in grave violation of both the letter and spirit of Catholic social doctrine," said the document, titled "Union Busting Is a Mortal Sin." In laying out their argument, the scholars said efforts to deny workers the right to organize violate the First, Fifth, and Seventh commandments regarding idolatry, scandal, and theft, respectively. Joseph Fahey, professor of religious studies at Manhattan College in New York City and chairman of the scholars group, told Catholic News Service May 14 that the statement analyzes the criteria for mortal sin much like a priest would during the sacrament of reconciliation. "We said, 'What commandments does (breaking a union) violate? What specific matters of Catholic teaching does it go against? Is it a grave matter? If it is, is there an objective case for mortal sin?'" Fahey explained.

Glendon to receive annual Path to Peace Award

NEW YORK (CNS) — Mary Ann Glendon will be honored with the annual Path to Peace Award in New York June 8. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, apostolic nuncio to the United Nations and president of the Path to Peace Foundation, will present the award at a dinner. The foundation was established to support the work of the Vatican's mission to the United Nations. Glendon is a Harvard law professor, president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Last year she was chosen to receive the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal during the university's commencement ceremony, but turned down the honor, citing concerns about Notre Dame honoring the President Barack Obama as speaker and honorary degree recipient, despite his views on "fundamental principles of justice" contrary to Catholic teaching, referring to his support for legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research. Glendon has written books on human rights, comparative law, constitutional law, and political theory, and many of these works have won awards.

Parishes, schools in Nashville Diocese reach out to flood victims

By Theresa Laurence and Andy Telli

Tennessee Register

NASHVILLE — Once Charlene Garrett got a close look at the flood damage that left so many of her neighbors surrounded by piles of ruined furniture and debris, she was determined to help.

So she organized a command center at St. Matthew Church in Franklin, where she serves as director of stewardship and development for the church and school, to help move volunteers and supplies to those in need after the unprecedented rainfall and flooding in middle Tennessee in early May.

"Now I have a new definition of what stewardship is," Garrett told the *Tennessee Register*, newspaper of the Nashville Diocese. "I really do."

Parishioners were stepping up and taking responsibility to help their neighbors, Garrett said. "It's just amazing for our parish."

The torrential rains created the worst natural disaster in the modern history of middle Tennessee, causing unprecedented flood damage, killing 23 people and leaving thousands displaced.

Professionals and volunteers alike will continue to be in high demand as the area recovers from the flood during the months ahead. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean has said the damage will easily exceed \$1.5 billion.

A number of parishes have come to the rescue of flood victims. The situation has also given students at Catholic schools across the diocese the opportunity to put into action lessons about service and compassion as they have helped classmates, teachers, and neighbors.

At St. Henry Church, which has a large percentage of parishioners affected by the flooding, a resource center has been set up on parish grounds. "Our effort is huge," said the parish's stewardship director, Linda Large, who is part of the team organizing the parish flood relief efforts.

Donations of food, clothing, toiletries, baby items, cleaning supplies, and other household goods are set out on tables in the old parish chapel for anyone who needs them. While St. Henry has received plenty of donations of food and clothing, there is still a great need for gift cards to stores such as Kroger and Target, Large said.

St. Henry's Charitable Constructors ministry has been send-



ABOVE: Helen Marie Cunningham and Cindy Crocker gather food May 10 at St. Henry Chapel for two families displaced by flooding in Nashville.

RIGHT: Debris from flooded homes is seen along the curb in a Nashville neighborhood May 10. More than 15 inches of rain fell in some areas of middle Tennessee as May began, causing unprecedented flood damage in the area and killing at least 23 people. (CNS PHOTOS/RICK MUSACCHIO, TENNESSEE REGISTER)



ing crews of volunteers every day into area neighborhoods that were decimated by the overflowing Harpeth River May 2. While the ministry has been established for some time, it is now working in overdrive, with seven teams of up to 30 people each working in some areas.

"The need is so massive right now," Large said.

Large added that St. Henry has been contacted by people used to disasters in areas such as New Orleans and Oklahoma who want to donate to flood relief efforts in Nashville.

"These people know what it's like," Large said. "It's incredible how generous people are."

Therese Williams, diocesan superintendent of schools, said she has been impressed with the schools' efforts to aid flood victims and added that six different dioceses have contacted her about raising money to help with flood relief.

No diocesan schools sustained serious flood damage. Some schools had to deal with water on the first floor or leaky roofs that threatened to damage library materials, computers, and other resources. Other schools faced electrical, sewage, and access issues.

Students, teachers, administrators, and parents from Father Ryan High School were out in full force in the days following the flood to help others clean up their homes.

Approximately 30 percent of the school's families were affected

by the flooding. Several faculty members, including Principal Paul Davis, lost their homes.

The school, which sustained only minor water damage from leaks to one building, was closed May 3-4 so students and faculty could clean up their own homes or volunteer to help others.

"I have seen students wading into rising waters to save strangers, families offering their homes as safe harbor," said Jim McIntyre, the school's president, in a letter to the Father Ryan community. Helping others in this time of crisis "is our mission as a school and Catholic community," he said.

Father Ryan senior Will Mix spent several days on the front lines of the flood. Mix was helping neighbors move furniture to higher ground May 2 when the water began to rise. "Then it started getting really bad. ... We had to swim people out on our backs," he said.

At Aquinas College, a flood relief fund has been established to help students, staff, faculty, and their families recover. In the first few days, the college collected more than \$1,200 and coordinated approximately 100 hours of manpower to help victims of the flood.

"We are edified by the compassion of our students, faculty, and staff and the hard work they have undertaken to assist members of our Aquinas family during this difficult time," said Dominican Sister Mary Peter, the college's president.

Martyred Polish priest was man of 'deep conviction', integrity'

By Jonathan Luxmoore
Catholic News Service

WARSAW, Poland (CNS)—When a Catholic priest who was murdered by communist agents is beatified in Warsaw June 6, it will confirm his place as one of the Church's most conspicuous modern martyrs.

Polish Church leaders hope the beatification will also recall values for which Father Jerzy Popieluszko gave his life and revive interest in a remarkable story of Christian courage and witness.

"People are full of expectations here, especially those who directly experienced his work," said Archbishop Henryk Muszynski of Gniezno.

"He wasn't a forceful speaker or political activist, but someone of deep conviction and integrity. His sanctity lay in an elementary righteousness that gave people hope even in the worst situations," he said.

The bound and gagged body of 37-year-old Fr. Popieluszko, who was well-known in Poland for sermons defending human rights, was dredged from a reservoir on the Vistula River near Wloclawek Oct. 30, 1984, just 11 days after he was kidnapped while returning from a night Mass in Bydgoszcz.

About 400,000 people attended his funeral, and his murder was widely credited with helping discredit and undermine communist rule.

The Warsaw Archdiocese launched a canonization process in 1997 and sent its 1,157-page dossier to Rome in 2001. A decree recognizing Fr. Popieluszko as a martyr was issued by Pope Benedict XVI Dec. 19. His beatification is a major step toward sainthood.

In a May 17 interview with Catholic News Service, Archbishop Muszynski said he had lived close to St. Stanislaw Kostka Church in Warsaw, where Fr. Popieluszko served in the early 1980s. The archbishop said he became convinced of the priest's saintliness after reading his homilies when they were published after the 1989 return of democracy.

He added that the priest was a "very simple, even shy person," who had become a spiritual leader by virtue of his undaunted "faithfulness to Christ in the Gospel."

"He was a normal person who knew what awaited him and was afraid, but nevertheless refused to betray this Gospel of truth," the archbishop said.

"He stood on the side of people struggling for a free Poland, who'd

been unjustly accused of plotting to overthrow the communist state. This was why he had powerful opponents."

Born into a poor rural family at Okopy in northeastern Poland, Jerzy Popieluszko enrolled at Warsaw's Catholic seminary in September 1965. He was ordained by Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski in May 1972 after having his health damaged by two years of military service.

After other pastoral jobs in the capital, he was sent to help at St. Stanislaw's in May 1980 and served as a chaplain to the nearby Huta Warszawa steelworks when strikes in August 1980 led to the formation of the Solidarity union.

In February 1982, two months after Solidarity was crushed by martial law, Fr. Popieluszko celebrated his first of many Masses for the Homeland, soon copied by other priests around Poland.

Several times detained and interrogated, he was formally charged in July 1984 with "abusing the function of a priest" and "anti-state propaganda," although the charge was suspended a month later.

In a March pastoral letter, Archbishop Kazimierz Nycz of Warsaw predicted the priest would serve as an "advocate against relativism and lies" for "all those wielding power," adding that his teaching



Father Jerzy Popieluszko

had been received by contemporaries "as parched earth receives water," making him a "living sign of hope for millions of Poles."

Meanwhile, the priest's postulator, Father Tomasz Kaczmarek, said the beatification process had faced delays because of the substantial documentation and complexities of the period, as well as concerns over "ways of remembering his work." He added that the beatification, at the end of the Year for Priests, would remind clergy of "the way of authentic priestly service."

"There were never objections to Fr. Popieluszko's martyrdom for the faith or heroic conduct up to his death — these were never doubted," the Warsaw-based priest told Poland's Catholic Information Agency April 30. "This pastor, who didn't even have the strength to be a normal curate, nevertheless became the exponent of the nation's deepest yearnings."

More than 110,000 people expected in Warsaw for June beatification

More than 110,000 people are expected for the June 6 beatification of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the outspoken priest killed by communist agents in 1984.

Warsaw Archbishop Kazimierz Nycz told journalists in mid-May that the open-air Mass in Pilsudski Square would be celebrated by Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes. He said he expected 100 bishops, 1,500 priests, and Fr. Popieluszko's mother, Marianna Popieluszko.

The archbishop said Fr. Popieluszko's relics would be taken in procession to the capital's Wilanow suburb for interment at a still-unfinished Divine Providence Basilica, while the rest would be reburied June 13 at St. Stanislaw Kostka Church, Fr. Popieluszko's parish.

The church rector, Father

Zygmunt Malacki, said May 13 that relics of the priest also would be sent to churches rededicated to him in other cities, and that parishes as far away as Uganda and Peru had also requested relics.

Hundreds of statues and memorial tablets have been unveiled to him; some 18,000 schools, charities, youth groups, and discussion clubs have been named after him.

In October, the 25th anniversary of the priest's death, the country's late president, Lech Kaczynski, posthumously awarded him Poland's highest state honor, the White Eagle.

In a resolution, Poland's parliament, the Sejm, said Fr. Popieluszko's message remained "still topical for us," and his life had been "a gift to the nation's history, fully expressed by the words of St. Paul, 'Overcome evil with good.'"

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Pope welcomes United Arab Emirates' first ambassador to Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Welcoming the United Arab Emirates' first ambassador to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI underlined the Church's role in promoting peace and human rights. He also praised the Emirates' efforts in protecting the religious freedom of the hundreds of thousands of foreign workers who live within its borders and its policy of allowing the building of churches on donated land. "I assure you of the desire of the Catholic Christians present in your country to contribute to the well-being of your society, to live God-fearing lives and to respect the dignity of all peoples and religions," the pope told Hissa Abdulla Ahmed al-Otaiba, the new ambassador. Presenting her letters of credential to the pope May 20, al-Otaiba said she was pleased and honored to have been appointed the first ambassador to the Vatican, and she promised to "spare no effort in strengthening friendly relations" and cooperation between the two countries. The Vatican and the United Arab Emirates, a federal union made up of seven states, established full diplomatic relations in 2007.

TV ads for abortion services rile British pro-life groups

LONDON (CNS) — Pro-life groups vowed to take all legal steps possible to halt the broadcast of advertisements for abortion services on traditional television. Marie Stopes International, Great Britain's leading provider of health care services, announced May 20 that British television Channel 4 was to air the first ad May 24 in a campaign that would continue through June. The agency performs about one-third of the country's 216,000 abortions annually. The announcement came as a shock to Catholic leaders and pro-life groups because the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice, a government agency responsible for writing and reviewing radio and television advertising codes, forbids the advertising of commercial abortion clinics. Although Marie Stopes has an annual budget of more than \$180 million, much of it from contracts with the taxpayer-funded National Health Service, it is a not-for-profit agency and is technically not covered by the ban. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales criticized the campaign in a statement released May 20. "We believe that services which offer or refer for abortion — whether commercial or not-for-profit organizations — should not be allowed to advertise on broadcast media," the bishops said. "Abortion is not a consumer service," the statement continued. "To present it as such erodes respect for life and is highly misleading and damaging to women, who may feel pressured into making a quick decision, which can never be revoked." Pro-life groups pledged to work to stop the ads from being broadcast. "The notion that the destruction of human life can be advertised freely on TV as a service to the public is outrageous, and we will be doing all we can to stop the advert from being aired," said Andrea Minichiello-Williams, director of the Christian Legal Center.

Costa Rican panel criticizes bishop; Church calls remarks free speech

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (CNS) — Costa Rica's elections tribunal said Bishop Jose Ulloa Rojas of Cartago should pay a fine for interfering with the country's elections, but his fellow bishops said he was exercising freedom of speech. The bishops said freedom of expression is "a human right upheld in any democratic society" and, by not recognizing the church's freedom of speech, the tribunal is discriminating against the Catholic Church. "In the spirit of fellowship that unites us, we show our solidarity with Jose Francisco Ulloa Rojas in this moment and the actions in defense of his fundamental rights," read a mid-May statement from the Costa Rican bishops' conference. In September, Bishop Ulloa told Catholics in Cartago, a farming community southeast of San Jose, to refrain from voting for candidates that do not share the values of the Catholic faith. The comment came in the middle of a presidential campaign and at a time when politicians were debating a move away from the Catholic Church and toward a secular state. The elections tribunal saw this as an abuse of a position of authority because there were not "sufficient and opportune resources to counter (his statement)."

Scripture Readings



May 30, Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Sharon K. Perkins

Yesterday a co-worker asked me about an injury I recently sustained. Rather than giving her the short answer, I found myself telling her about the aches and pains, the doctor visits and the slow pace of recovery, probably describing them as worse than they really were. I almost was reveling in the lengthy description, which she certainly didn't ask for. Later, I mentally kicked myself for selfishly using our conversation to gain some sympathy.

It's human nature to want sympathy from others in our "afflictions," whether they consist of physical pains, calamities, hardships, or losses — and truth be told, it's not uncommon for people to "brag" about their troubles in a kind of one-upmanship, just to see who is carrying the heaviest burden.

But this is not the kind of "boasting" that St. Paul's letter to the Romans is talking about. Instead of viewing one's sufferings as a ploy for

sympathy, the afflictions of a Christian, when endured with the attitude of Christ, are to have a far more salutary result: endurance, proven character and, ultimately, hope that never disappoints.

On this solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, it is reasonable for us to wonder: "Just what does the dogma of the Trinity mean? How is it possible for God to be one, yet in three distinct persons?" The mental gymnastics required by these complex theological questions usually lead people to the conclusion: "I can't explain it: It's a mystery."

That sounds like a cop-out answer, but it's really not. Both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, in all their richness, give us glimpses of a God who is continually and tirelessly "relating" to us: through primordial wisdom and its playful creativity over the earth, through God's power and glory that our souls thirst to see, through the presence of Jesus who shares in every aspect of our humanity, through the Spirit of truth which he promises to his disciples and which has been poured out as love into our hearts. There's always "something more" to this God-in-relationship — and this inexplicable "moreness," this mystery, is as close to us as our very breath, turning even our afflictions into portals through which the Spirit can enter and share God's deeper life with us.

QUESTIONS:

What affliction is currently preoccupying you, and how do you typically respond to it? How can you open yourself to the Spirit's power to produce, through your suffering, endurance, proven character, and hope in God?



"But we even boast of our afflictions."

— Romans 5:3

JFD

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Pope, at audience, calls for complete nuclear disarmament

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI asked world leaders to work calmly and seriously to control the spread of nuclear weapons "in the prospect of their complete elimination from the planet."

At the end of his weekly general audience May 5, the pope made his appeal to participants at the U.N. Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, being held in New York May 3-28.

Designed to promote nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and an equitable development of peaceful nuclear energy, the treaty can succeed only if nations respect the commitments they made in signing it, the pope said.

"Peace, in fact, rests on trust and on respect for the obligations assumed and not only on a balance of forces," he said.

"In that spirit, I encourage the initiatives aimed at progressive disarmament and the creation of zones free from nuclear arms in the prospect of their complete elimination from the planet," the pope said.

In his main audience talk, Pope Benedict spoke about the

Pope Benedict XVI attends a candlelight vigil at the Marian shrine of Fatima in Portugal May 12. May 13 the pope paid his own respects to Mary at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and celebrated Mass for an estimated 500,000 Catholics. (CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters)



ministry of priests as those called to promote holiness in their own lives and in the lives of the people they meet.

Through the ordained priesthood, Christ gave the Church the gift of ministers, "who despite human poverty, participate in his own priesthood," the pope said.

"Every priest knows that he is a necessary instrument of the sav-

ing action of Christ, but always an instrument. That awareness must make him humble and generous in administering the sacraments," he said.

Pope Benedict told the estimated 15,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for the audience that in recognizing it is Christ who acts in the sacraments and aware that all human beings are

fallible, the Church teaches that the validity of the sacraments does not depend on the holiness of the priest celebrating them.

"But that does not remove the necessary — or rather indispensable — requirement of striving for moral perfection, which must reign in every authentically priestly heart," the pope said.

He asked priests to frequent the

sacrament of confession in order to experience reconciliation with God and to spend more time in the confessional so their faithful "can find mercy, counsel, and support, feel loved and understood by God, and experience the comfort of God's mercy."

Greeting pilgrims from Sweden, where a Congress on the Family was scheduled for late May, the pope said marriage was "an instrument of salvation, not only for married people but for the whole of society."

"Those of us fortunate to be born into a stable family discover the first and most fundamental school for virtuous living and the qualities of good citizenship," said the pope.

"Human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, are made for love — indeed at the core of our being, we long to love and be loved in return," he said.

Only God's love can fully satisfy the human desire for love, he said, but through the love of a husband and wife, the love of parents for children, and the love of siblings for each other, "we are offered a foretaste of the boundless love that awaits us in the life to come."

Scripture Readings



June 6, Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Genesis 14:18-20
Psalm 110:1-4
- 2) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Gospel) Luke 9:11b-17

By Jeff Hensley

When Jesuit Father Rick Thomas was creating ministries in the city of Juarez, across the Mexican border from El Paso, he and those who worked with him among the poor saw many miracles as they attempted to live out Jesus' invitation to visit the sick and imprisoned, feed the hungry, and clothe the naked.

On one occasion, a group of them went into a Juarez jail prepared to feed tortillas and lemonade to about 120 inmates, the number of prisoners they were told would be present. But as the day progressed, first one cell block would empty into the common area and then another: 50 from one group of cells, 60 from the next, and so on, until more than 200 had come forth. The group's food and drink should not have lasted. The large, 5-gallon stainless steel kitchen pot from which they were serving lemonade had been tipped at an angle to allow the prisoners to dip from it for

quite some time. It should have run out. But it didn't, not until the last prisoner, dipping from the container with a one quart milk jug to save some for later, had filled his vessel, did the tart sweet liquid run out.

Today's Gospel tell us of Jesus' multiplication of the five loaves and two fish to feed the crowd of 5,000. Jesus is showing his disciples that God's riches are without limit and that they must be called upon in order for God to show what he can do with a full commitment of our resources to the service of others. It is a foreshadowing of the Eucharist, but also a foreshadowing of all self giving that is totally and completely at the service of God and others, as in the priesthood.

The Melchizedek passage from Genesis is even more transparently a foreshadowing of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

Paul makes the intent of this week's readings in which we celebrate the feast of the most holy Body and Blood of Jesus abundantly clear when he repeats the words with which Jesus instituted the Eucharist "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me....This is the new covenant of my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Jesus' total self giving, the still point at the center of history, the point from which all history is measured, is also the measure of the love we



"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

—1 Corinthians 11:23b

offer others. It is the enriching factor in human experience, whose benefit and reach is beyond measure because it comes from our God who loves us beyond all limits.

QUESTIONS:

Have you experienced God using your own efforts for the benefit of others beyond what you could reasonably expect? How has the self-giving and self-sacrifice of others shown you the presence of God's love in our world?

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Heaven bound, maybe we should pray for each other

By Jeff Hedglen

When I was a kid I often dreamt that I was swimming laps in an Olympic-sized pool. Lap after lap, it seemed to never end. I never got out of breath or came close to drowning. I was just swimming away. It did not seem like the pool was at a friend's house, and I wasn't at swim practice. The place seemed comforting, yet slightly institutional. Each time I awoke I realized I was dreaming about purgatory.

Yes, my 10-year-old mind had transformed this long held teaching of the Church into swimming laps for sins left unforgiven. In the years since then I have learned that purgatory is most likely not swimming laps. In fact it is not even a place we spend time in, rather it is a process we go through.

I think we get the idea of purgatory being a place from Dante's *Divine Comedy*, where he describes a journey into hell, purgatory, and heaven. He says this about purgatory: "Now I

As for spending time in purgatory ... when we die we leave time and enter eternity. This is an existence without clocks and sunrises, but a constant existence. So time is not ticking away.

shall sing the second kingdom, there where the soul of man is cleansed, made worthy to ascend to Heaven (*Purgatorio, Canto I, lines 4-6*). As for spending time in purgatory, as far as we know, and no one has been there and come back with video proof, when we die we leave time and enter eternity. This is an existence without clocks and sunrises, but a constant existence. So time is not ticking away.

The *Catechism* says this about purgatory: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are

indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1030-1*).

So we see that purgatory is a process of purification for all those on the way to heaven. When we die, there are sure to be sins left unrepented for (the one part of my dream that was true). It is these sins and

any other part of us that is not completely pure that needs to be cleansed. So, with this in mind it is not entirely correct to pray for the "poor souls" in purgatory; they are after all, on the way to heaven.

The *Catechism* refers to two Scriptures to support this teaching: "But if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire" (*1 Corinthians 3:15*), and "In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (*1 Peter 1:6-7*).

Both of these Scriptures refer to gold tested in fire. This is a reference to how gold is refined. When this precious material is taken from a mountain, it does not come out in gold bars like those stored at Fort Knox. Rather it is an aggregate of gold with other minerals and rock fragments.

To separate the gold from these lesser materials, it is placed in a furnace. Gold can withstand higher temperatures than most other minerals, so as the heat goes up, the impurities are burned away, and in the end all that is left is pure gold.

This is a great metaphor for purgatory because this is exactly what happens all through life and continues after death, all that is within us that is not pure is constantly purged away until all that is left is holiness. God is the great Refiner, little by little turning up the heat so that every prayer we pray, every Mass we attend, every pain we suffer, and every act of charity burns off a little more impurity. Purgatory is just that last stop on a lifelong journey toward wholeness.

Holy souls in purgatory... pray for us, and we'll pray for you.

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.

Pentecost marks the manifestation of the Catholic Church

By Lucas Pollice

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

These words, spoken by Christ immediately before his Ascension into heaven, are fulfilled nine days later on Pentecost. On that remarkable morning, the Holy Spirit was poured forth from the Father and the Son, and the full fruits of Christ's redemption were made manifest to all.

Pentecost marks the full revelation of the Holy Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also reveals the full fruits and power of Christ's redemption accomplished through the Paschal Mystery. But Pentecost also reveals another great mystery and reality: the revelation of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church instituted by Christ and breathed into life by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is above all an ecclesial event, the first manifestation and birthday of the Church.

In fact, Luke's recording of the Pentecost event in the Acts of the Apostles has as its focus the revelation and appearance of the Church. For Luke, Pentecost was not just the coming of the Holy Spirit, but the coming of the Holy Spirit to establish and vivify the Church that is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC

The Pentecost event first reveals that the Church is an apostolic Church founded upon the authority, teaching, and leadership of the Apostles. The Apostles and other disciples, including Mary, as gathered in the upper room represent the primordial Church, the seed of the People of God. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles become capable of fulfilling their mission as the authoritative witnesses of Christ. Vivified and strengthened in the truth of the Holy Spirit they burst out of the upper room with confidence and conviction glorifying and praising God and began to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles marks the very beginning of the mission of the Church, which is perpetuated through their apostolic office and witness. As Pope John Paul II teaches:

The era of the Church began with the "coming," that is to say with the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, together with Mary, the Lord's Mother. The time of the Church began at the moment when the promises and predictions that so explicitly referred to the Counselor, the Spirit of truth, began to

The Church is then fully revealed ... as the unfailingly holy Bride of Christ, who is so intimately joined to Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit that she becomes the instrument of salvation and holiness for the entire world.

be fulfilled in complete power and clarity upon the Apostles, thus determining the birth of the Church ... With the coming of the Spirit they felt capable of fulfilling the mission entrusted to them. They felt full of strength. It is precisely this that the Holy Spirit worked in them, and this is continually at work in the Church, through their successors. For the grace of the Holy Spirit which the Apostles gave to their collaborators through the imposition of hands continues to be transmitted in Episcopal Ordination. The bishops in turn by the Sacrament of Orders render the sacred ministers sharers in this spiritual gift and, through the Sacrament of Confirmation, ensure that all who are reborn of water and the Holy Spirit are strengthened by this gift. And thus, in a certain way, the grace of Pentecost is perpetuated in the Church.

— Lord and Giver of Life, 25

THE CHURCH IS ONE AND CATHOLIC

Luke, in his account of the Pentecost event in the Acts of the Apostles, seems to go well out of his way to show that Pentecost is in fact an ecclesial event, and the full manifestation of the Church as the gathering of the entire human family on earth in Christ. Luke first mentions all of the people who are gathered in Jerusalem literally from every corner in the ancient world. This shows that the Church is a truly catholic, or "universal" Church that is called and destined to unite all people from every nation and culture. No one is excluded from the Pentecost event. In addition, each person, through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, hears the Good News of Christ preached in his own language. The coming of the Holy Spirit removes all national, cultural, and language boundaries. Through the Holy Spirit all become united in one faith through the teaching of the Apostles.

Therefore the Pentecost event is the beginning of the Church and fully re-



(CNS photo/ Nancy Wiechec)

veals and manifests her as the full flowering of the Father's plan of salvation. All throughout the Old Testament, God not only gradually revealed himself but also gradually gathered and prepared a chosen people. The Church at Pentecost is the fulfillment of the Father's plan to unite the entire human family into one, visible, institutional, and universal (catholic) Church through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. As the Catechism states:

"When the work which the Father gave the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost in order that he might continually sanctify the Church." Then "the Church was openly displayed to the crowds and the spread of the Gospel among the nations, through preaching, was begun." As the "convocation" of all men for salvation, the Church in her very nature is missionary, sent by Christ to all the nations to make disciples of them. (767)

Furthermore, Pentecost is the reversal of the scattering of humanity at the Tower of Babel as seen in the Old Testament. At Babel, humanity through sin was fractured through different languages and no longer able to communicate and live together in peace, but through the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the human family was once again united in the one Catholic Church, where in a single day, over 3,000 people were baptized.

THE CHURCH IS HOLY

Last, but certainly not least, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost reveals that the Church is, above all things, holy. The Holy Spirit is sent from the Father and the Son to sanctify the Church and each and every member through the presence of his sanctifying grace, his Seven Gifts, and numerous charisms. This is made most evident at Pentecost through the radical transformation of the

Apostles and the fruits of the coming of the Spirit in the sanctification of so many that were present. The miracle of Pentecost above all others is the conversion of the hearts and minds and the sanctification of over 3,000 people. The Church is then fully revealed at Pentecost as the unfailingly holy Bride of Christ who is so intimately joined to Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit that she becomes the instrument of salvation and holiness for the entire world. As the Catechism again states:

"The Church . . . is held, as a matter of faith, to be unfailingly holy. This is because Christ, the Son of God, who with the Father and the Spirit is hailed as 'alone holy,' loved the Church as his Bride, giving himself up for her so as to sanctify her; he joined her to himself as his body and endowed her with the gift of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God." The Church, then, is "the holy People of God," and her members are called "saints." (823)

The reality of the Church's holiness should be a reminder to us all that the Church on earth "is endowed with a sanctity that is real though imperfect" (CCC, 825). Thus, the feast of Pentecost is a reminder to us all of our call, especially through the Sacrament of Confirmation, to ongoing conversion, to always bear witness to Christ, and to bring about in our own lives and circumstances the reality of the Pentecost event and the power and consoling presence of the Holy Spirit. In this sense, and through living this kind of spirituality, Pentecost is always real and present in the life of the Church and the true holiness of the Church is made manifest to all. As Pope John Paul II powerfully states:

In the midst of the problems, disappointments and hopes, desertions and returns of these times of ours, the Church remains faithful to the mystery of her birth. While it is an historical fact that the Church came forth from the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, in a certain sense one can say that she has never left it. Spiritually the event of Pentecost does not belong only to the past: the Church is always in the Upper Room that she bears in her heart. The Church perseveres in prayer, like the Apostles together with Mary, the Mother of Christ, and with those who in Jerusalem were the first seed of the Christian community and who awaited in prayer the coming of the Holy Spirit.

— Lord and Giver of Life, 66



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

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

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Pentecostés es un gran momento en la vida de la Iglesia, pero también es un recordatorio para fortalecer el Cuerpo de Cristo

Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Estos momentos en el año litúrgico son momentos de gracia en la vida de la Iglesia.



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann

Al concluir la cincuentena pascual, celebramos ahora la gran solemnidad de Pentecostés cuando el Espíritu Santo es enviado a la Iglesia y al mundo. De hecho, la solemnidad de Pentecostés es la segunda fiesta en importancia, después de Pascua, por ser un momento tan grande en la historia de la salvación.

Primero, Pentecostés es la plena revelación del Espíritu Santo — del abogado o consolador — que Cristo prometió enviar sobre sus discípulos. La transformación dramática de los apóstoles en la mañana de Pentecostés es una revelación de gran alcance de cuan transformador es la gracia y presencia del Espíritu Santo en nuestras vidas y en la vida de la Iglesia. Pentecostés nos recuerda que necesitamos estar continuamente consientes de, y abiertos a, la presencia del Espíritu Santo en nuestra vida diaria, y de cómo nos habla y nos lleva más cerca de Cristo y su Iglesia.

Una de las grandes bendiciones de ser obispo es la oportunidad que tengo de viajar a las parroquias en la diócesis para celebrar el sacramento de la confirmación con jóvenes y adultos. El sacramento de la

El fluir del Espíritu Santo

logra una comunión íntima de toda la familia humana, comunión que trasciende nación, lengua, y cultura. En Pentecostés, vemos que el Espíritu Santo es la fuente de la comunión y catolicidad en la Iglesia.

— El Obispo Kevin Vann
Diócesis de Fort Worth

confirmación para nosotros es nuestro propio “Pentecostés”, en el cuál la presencia del Espíritu Santo y sus siete dones — recibidos anteriormente en el bautismo — se nos dan de nuevo, de manera superabundante y de manera semejante a los apóstoles y demás discípulos en la mañana de Pentecostés. Nosotros también somos enviados al mundo para ser testigos de Cristo y para colaborar en el crecimiento del Cuerpo de Cristo — la Iglesia. La confirmación que “perpetúa, en cierto modo, en la Iglesia, la gracia de Pentecostés” (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, 1288*), y el ser sellados con los dones del Espíritu Santo, nos hace partícipes plenos y activos en la vida de la Iglesia. Durante esta solemnidad de Pentecostés, tendré el privilegio de confirmar a más de 100 católicos adultos alrededor de la diócesis en la *Catedral de San Patricio*. Será ciertamente un recordatorio del gran alcance de la gracia de Pentecostés y de la continua presencia del Espíritu

Santo en la vida y la misión de la Iglesia.

La solemnidad de Pentecostés es también un día muy especial para la Iglesia universal, pues la venida del Espíritu Santo en Pentecostés marca el comienzo o “cumpleaños” de la Iglesia. El acontecimiento de Pentecostés no es solo un acontecimiento personal para los apóstoles y los discípulos; es sobretodo un acontecimiento eclesial, un momento de comunión y la manifestación de la unicidad de la Iglesia. Con la llegada del Espíritu Santo, todos los pueblos — de todas las diversas naciones y regiones del mundo antiguo — pueden oír el Evangelio de Jesucristo predicado en su propia lengua. El fluir del Espíritu Santo logra una comunión íntima de toda la familia humana, comunión que trasciende nación, lengua, y cultura. En Pentecostés, vemos que el Espíritu Santo es la fuente de comunión y catolicidad en la Iglesia.

Por lo tanto es importante que todos recordemos que no alcanzamos la salvación por nuestros propios esfuerzos, sino por medio de nuestro bautismo, confirmación, y sobre todo por la Eucaristía. Es por medio del encuentro y comunión con Cristo, a través de los sacramentos, que pertenecemos al Cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia. Los sacramentos de iniciación y la presencia del Espíritu Santo en nuestras vidas, nos llaman a fortalecer y promover la comunión en la Iglesia por medio de los dones y carismas que el Espíritu Santo nos ha dado a cada uno de nosotros.

Al celebrar la solemnidad de Pentecostés, es un buen momento para examinar nuestras vidas y discernir los dones que el Espíritu Santo nos ha dado, de modo de poder utilizarlos para fortalecer la Iglesia. Como San Pablo nos enseña: “Hay diferentes dones espirituales, pero el Espíritu es el mismo. Hay diversos ministerios, pero el Señor es el mismo. Hay

diversidad de obras, pero es el mismo Dios quien obra todo en todos. La manifestación del Espíritu que a cada uno se le da es para provecho común”. (*1 Corintios 12, 4-7*).

Es también importante recordar que cada uno de nosotros tenemos un rol importante en la vida y misión de la Iglesia. La Iglesia no puede existir sin mi rol como obispo, y sin el papel importante de nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos, y el testimonio y trabajo de los muchos religiosos y religiosas trabajando en nuestra diócesis. El laicado tampoco puede olvidar su papel único e imprescindible en llevar la Iglesia y la verdad del Evangelio a los lugares ordinarios de la sociedad. Sin su testimonio, ejemplo, y dones del Espíritu Santo, sería más difícil cumplir con la misión de la Iglesia. Como nos dijo el *Concilio Vaticano II*:

Los laicos, sin embargo, están llamados, particularmente, a hacer presente y operante a la Iglesia en los lugares y condiciones donde ella no puede ser sal de la tierra si no es a través de ellos. Así, pues, todo laico, por los mismos dones que le han sido conferidos, se convierte en testigo e instrumento vivo, a la vez, de la misión de la misma Iglesia “en la medida del don de Cristo.

(*Ef 4,7*). (*Lumen Gentium, 33*)

Al celebrar la solemnidad de Pentecostés, espero que todos seamos renovados por la gracia, dones, y comunión del Espíritu Santo, para así seguir cumpliendo las palabras de Cristo: “Recibirán la fuerza del Espíritu Santo cuando venga sobre ustedes, y serán mis testigos en Jerusalén, en toda Judea, en Samaria y hasta los extremos de la tierra”.

+ Kevin W. Vann

+Monseñor Kevin W. Vann
Obispo de Fort Worth

Enorme multitud se reúne para mostrar apoyo al Papa Benedicto

Por Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Un estimado de 120,000 personas convergieron en la *Plaza de San Pedro* para expresar su apoyo al Papa Benedicto XVI al afrontar el escándalo del abuso sexual por parte de clérigos.

Agradeciendo a la multitud por su presencia y afecto el 16 de mayo, el Papa Benedicto dijo: “El verdadero enemigo a temerse es el pecado, el mal espiritual que desafortunadamente a veces

infecta hasta los miembros de la Iglesia”.

“Los cristianos no le tememos al mundo, aunque tengamos que tener cuidado de sus seducciones. En vez, debemos temerle al pecado y, por tal razón, estar fuertemente arraigados en Dios, y sólidos en el bien, el amor y el servicio”, dijo durante su bendición semanal dominical.

Con la confianza en el Señor y un compromiso renovado a seguirlo, dijo, la Iglesia puede tornarse más santa, pasando

por “las tribulaciones” que está enfrentando.

Consulta nacional italiana de grupos laicos, organización católica, lideró el esfuerzo de traer a los católicos a la plaza para unirse al Papa y mostrar su apoyo. Una variedad de organizaciones y movimientos católicos, sindicatos laborales y grupos políticos se les unió, llenando la *Plaza de San Pedro* y desbordándose hacia calles adyacentes.

Paola Dal Toso, secretaria de

la consulta nacional, dijo a *Radio Vaticana* que los participantes querían orar por las víctimas del abuso sexual, pero también “recordar todo el bien que muchos sacerdotes hacen, lo cual no aparece en las noticias”.

El cardenal Angelo Bagnasco de Génova, presidente de la *Conferencia episcopal italiana*, lideró la multitud en oración antes que el Papa llegara a la ventana de su estudio para dirigirse a los reunidos.

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“recordar todo el bien que muchos sacerdotes hacen, lo cual no aparece en las noticias”.

Los participantes en el movimiento carismático están viviendo su fe

Por Juan Guajardo
Asistente Editorial

Cuando Carlos Espinoza y su esposa trataron de comenzar un grupo de oración carismático en la parroquia de *St. George*, hallaron un poco de indiferencia en los feligreses, tenían poca participación, y no encontraban un lugar fijo donde reunirse.

“Aquí al principio fue muy difícil”, dijo Carlos Espinoza. “...En esta parroquia no había movimientos como este”.

Sin embargo, después de cuatro años ese grupo ha crecido a 60 familias más o menos, y se reúne por varias horas cada viernes por la noche para rezar el rosario, reflexionar, darle gracias a Dios, leer la Biblia y estudiar la fe.

Pero los participantes no están simplemente aprendiendo su fe — la están viviendo.

El grupo en *St. George* divide a los feligreses en siete pequeñas comunidades que se reúnen una vez a la semana para realizar actos de caridad, tal como cuidar a los enfermos o pobres de la parroquia, trabajar como voluntario, o estudiar la Biblia o *¿Por qué ser católico?*

Es una tendencia que se está viendo por la diócesis, y ese era el plan hace cuatro años: promover la participación en la vida parroquial y en la comunidad, utilizando grupos de oración hispanos y el movimiento

carismático, comentó Andrés Aranda, delegado diocesano para el ministerio hispano.

Hace cuatro años, el obispo Kevin Vann y Aranda vieron el potencial que tenían los grupos de oración hispanos para unir e involucrar a la comunidad, y formalmente reconocieron a los grupos en varias parroquias. Pero Aranda y el obispo Vann fueron más allá, y desarrollaron un comité de renovación carismática en la diócesis, para ayudar a las parroquias a crear o mantener sus propios grupos de oración (de carismáticos o los más tradicionales), o celebrar retiros parroquiales en español.

“La idea es que estas personas tengan un encuentro con Cristo vivo”, comentó Aranda. “Que sigan formándose en su parroquia o donde sea, y también que hagan una diferencia en la iglesia y en la sociedad — dentro y fuera de la Iglesia”.

Al presente hay 20 grupos de oración en la diócesis que “ahora ya están tomando más actividad... [y] están participando más en la vida parroquial”, dijo Aranda. Y también han trabajado fuera de la parroquia, muchas veces visitando hospitales, cárceles, y ancianos. Además, la participación en los retiros carismáticos de la diócesis ha tenido un aumento sostenido. Este enero pasado, un retiro de hombres atrajo a 500 personas, y uno de mujeres aproximó a 1400.

Y ahora, organizadores esperan la participación de 2000 personas en el *Tercer congreso católico*, un retiro diocesano en *Nolan Catholic High School*, el 12 y 13 de junio.

El padre Ángel Infante, de la parroquia *All Saints* en Fort Worth, también ha visto de primera mano los beneficios de dichos grupos de oración. Mientras el grupo de oración en *All Saints — Ríos de agua viva* — ha servido a la parroquia durante por lo menos 15 años, ha continuado creciendo, y recientemente ha añadido una misa carismática, o una misa de curación, a su horario semanal.

Comentó que miembros del grupo de oración de 20 personas también han estado muy involucrados en la vida parroquial.

“Algunos de ellos son ministros de la Eucaristía, algunos son lectores, algunos son catequistas, algunos están involucrados en el programa *¿Por qué ser católico?* De esta manera su fe no solamente se abre al grupo carismático, sino sale más allá del grupo”, explicó el padre Infante.

Apenas el año pasado, con la ayuda de otros, el grupo ofreció un retiro de tres días que atrajo a aproximadamente 1,000 personas a *Nolan Catholic High School*.

De la misma manera, Espinoza comentó que la gente ha adoptado la meta del grupo de oración de *St. George*, que es de invitar a todos a imitar a Cristo.

“Cuando uno se enamora, después quiere vivir con la otra persona, ¿no?” preguntó Espinoza. “Y es igual, nos enamoramos de Jesús, y después queremos estar siempre con Él. Y esa es la consecuencia — este movimiento ayuda a la gente a echar raíces firmes dentro de una comunidad, dentro de una parroquia; y así aumenta la motivación a servir, a darse a los demás. Ese es el beneficio más grande que la renovación puede aportar a la Iglesia católica”.

El grupo está viendo una comunidad parroquial vibrante como resultado.

“Tenemos 25 personas del



Carlos Espinoza, quien con su esposa ayudó a formar el grupo de oración de *St. George* en el 2006, guía una plática sobre la fe.



Pedro Méndez y su esposa, Saily Ruiz, rezan el viernes durante el grupo de oración en la parroquia de *St. George*. El grupo se reúne semanalmente para rezar, alabar a Dios y aprender de la fe.



Efraín Sandoval y su esposa Lucy Sandoval guían al grupo en oración.

Fotos por
Juan Guajardo
Asistente Editorial

grupo participando ahora en el *Instituto Juan Pablo II*, y tenemos cuatro personas de aquí que entraron en el discernimiento para el diaconado. O sea, que ya va avanzando lo que estamos haciendo”, comentó Espinoza.

Sin embargo, Aranda y el padre Infante aclaran que todo grupo de oración — bien sea carismático u de otro tipo — solo

son medios para ayudar a las personas a encontrar el camino hacia Cristo.

“La oración carismática surgió de una necesidad. Como todo ministerio, surge de la Iglesia, para la Iglesia”, explicó el padre Infante.

“A veces la gente puede pensar, ‘¿Y la renovación carismática forma parte de la iglesia católica?’ Claro que sí, surge de la Iglesia para guiar y animar a la misma Iglesia. No son cosas distantes ni mucho menos es una secta: no, no, no. Siempre están en comunión y alineamiento con la Iglesia. Es una expresión de la gente para acercarse a Dios. Ya aprendí yo que cualquier grupo de la iglesia... nos lleva a Dios.

“Y ese es el objetivo. Solo son medios para acercarnos a Dios, porque el fin es Dios. Y Él se vale de cualquier medio”.

Conferencia para Mujeres Señor hoy tengo hambre de Ti

junio 26, 2010 de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Church
1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington

CONFERENCISTAS:

Sacerdote F. Ángel Darío Carrero:

Originario de Puerto Rico, escritor, poeta, teólogo, periodista, conferencista en EEUU, America Latina y Europa.

Sacerdote Amado Vallejo:

Originario de México, actualmente trabajando en la Diócesis de Fort Worth.

Con la *Música Ministerio Manantial*

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INFORMACIÓN: Grupo mujeres enamoradas de Jesús, de *St. Matthew*.

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Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

Habiendo completado su educación formal como seminaristas en México, los diáconos Fernando Preciado y Amado Vallejo han llegado a la diócesis de Fort Worth, donde planean ser ordenados como sacerdotes y servir como

Misioneros para el pueblo de Dios

Por Juan Guajardo / Asistente Editorial

Con un corazón misionero, el diácono Fernando Preciado trae al norte de Texas su experiencia sirviendo a los más necesitados

Como parte de una congregación misionera en México, el diácono Fernando Preciado sirvió a los indígenas en varias áreas de México, y después en la selva de la Amazona.

Y de alguna manera terminó en la diócesis de Fort Worth, dijo el diácono Preciado, 34, quien sirve en la parroquia de *St. Frances Cabrini* y será ordenado como sacerdote el 5 de junio a las 10:30 a. m., en la catedral de *St. Patrick*.

“Pues yo vine de vacaciones nada más”, dijo sonriendo, antes de explicar que de veras había venido a visitar a su hermana y su familia en septiembre

El diácono Amado Vallejo desea dar su vida completamente a Cristo, imitándolo frente a sus feligreses

El diácono Amado Vallejo sabía exactamente cuál cita iba a escribir en las invitaciones para su ordenación de diaconato transicional en diciembre: “Dios me llamó por su gracia y amor, y aquí estoy para hacer su voluntad”.

También [la cita] puede resumir su sagrado deber al sacerdocio: sintió que Dios lo llamaba, y aceptó. Aunque, admitió el diácono Vallejo, quien será ordenado como sacerdote para la diócesis de Fort Worth el 5 de junio a las 10:30 a. m., en la catedral de *St. Patrick*,

del 2008. Pero cuando llegó aquí, ella le llamó la atención cuando le dijo que había una gran necesidad de sacerdotes.

Después de hablar con sacerdotes diocesanos y conocer mejor la diócesis, decidió quedarse, aunque iba a ser ordenado al diaconado transitorio de México.

“Ha sido algo bonito porque nunca me imaginé la necesidad que hay aquí en los Estados Unidos. Como que uno cuando escucha hablar de los Estados Unidos, se imagina que todo está controlado, bien atendido, que no hay necesidades en ningún sentido”, explicó el diácono Preciado.

“Pero cuando llega uno aquí, va viendo que hay tanta necesidad como en otros lugares.

“Veo la necesidad de mucha gente de saber más de Dios, de no olvidarse de las tradiciones culturales aquí en los Estados Unidos, de fomentar más la unidad dentro de las comunidades, de hacer crecer a la gente aquí en donde está”.

El deseo de Fernando de ayudar a otros no es nada nuevo; de hecho, eso fue lo que lo atrajo al sacerdocio cuando tenía 13 años. Además de tener la guía de sus padres, María Nolasco Preciado (ninguna relación) — una mujer muy

devota de su pueblo natal, Zacatecas — lo invitaba junto con otros niños del vecindario a pasar el tiempo con un sacerdote local que había trabajado en Nairobi, Kenya, sirviendo como misionero. Él traía videos y fotos de allá, y se las explicaba a los niños.

“Todo eso me decía ‘yo quiero ser como ese señor’”, comentó el diácono Preciado. “Tenía a lo más 13 años, pero yo siento que desde allí comenzó todo ese movimiento dentro de mí.

“Y nos enseñaba varias cosas. Como que todo eso—la búsqueda de descubrir algo más en la vida—me llevaba a decir ‘caray, esto me gusta’”.

Así que entró en el seminario a los 15 años. Sin embargo, se fue a los 20.

“Muchas de las cosas que había pensado al principio no eran como las había imaginado”, contó. “Yo me imaginaba que pronto estaría fuera, trabajando en una comunidad, estando con la gente. Y resultaba que no; tenía que estar mucho tiempo estudiando”, explicó con una carcajada. “Y aparte, también quería probar la experiencia de salir fuera del seminario y estar con la familia, con una novia, con una amiga, porque pensaba que había entrado muy chiquillo al seminario, y quería, en cierta forma, experimentar lo que pasaba en el mundo real”.

Pasó los próximos dos años

VEA DIÁCONO PRECIADO, PÁGINA 21

impactante. La cruz es como un rayo de luces”.

Mientras rezaba ante el Cristo glorioso, comentó: “Si Tú me llamas, aquí estoy para hacer Tu voluntad, no solamente para seguirte, para lo que quieras”.

Después de esa experiencia, Amado añoraba entrar al seminario.

“Eso ha cambiado toda mi vida,” comentó. “Yo quería estudiar para médico. [Pero] a partir de allí nació el deseo de ser sacerdote, el deseo de consagrar mi vida a Dios, de entregarme, de tratar de vivir el evangelio.... Es un Jesús impactante”.

Esa misma noche, fue a un sacerdote en el retiro y le contó de su experiencia. El padre le dijo, “Bueno, si Dios te llama, va a poner los medios para que entres al seminario”.

Y Dios de veras dispuso los medios, comentó el diácono Vallejo, quien siguió a estudiar varios años de filosofía, teología, y espiritualidad francesa en el seminario.

Durante su segundo año, Amado conoció a quien es ahora el padre Alfredo Barba, y se hicieron buenos amigos. El padre Barba le contó de sus visitas a Fort Worth, y poco después los dos vinieron a la diócesis.

Desde llegar en Junio del 2008, el diácono Vallejo ha servido en las iglesias

VEA DIÁCONO VALLEJO, PÁGINA 21



Los diáconos Fernando Preciado (izquierda) y Amado Vallejo posan al frente de una estatua de NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE, en el Montserrat Jesuit Retreat Center, en Lake Dallas. (FOTO POR JUAN GUAJARDO)

ese no era su plan original.

Nacido en Oaxaca, México, el diácono Vallejo, que ahora tiene 38 años, creció en una devota familia católica. Quería ser doctor entre 10 hermanos ingenieros, contadores, maestros, y uno quien es hermano Salesiano. Pero cuando tenía 15 años, se fue a estudiar a Veracruz. Allí, conoció a un sacerdote local quien, unos años después, lo invitó a un retiro.

Amado aceptó la invitación y, un viernes por la tarde durante ese retiro de ocho días, entró en la capilla para rezar solo ante el Santísimo Sacramento. Mientras rezaba, alzó los ojos para ver

una visión esplendorosa del Cristo resucitado. El diácono Vallejo estaba tan feliz y atónito, que se pellizcó para asegurarse que era real, y no un sueño o su imaginación.

“Es un Jesús que no puedes describir; no hay ninguna pintura que pueda igualar su belleza, su grandeza”, dijo el diácono Vallejo. “Lo que te diga— eso se queda corto. No es el Jesús que uno contempla— nada que ver.... [Es un] Jesús alegre, y con las marcas de la corona, en sus manos, en sus pies ... con las marcas de las llagas. Y la cruz, está de frente, parada majestuosamente... es

Catholic Charities oficia ceremonia para ciudadanos, ayuda a otros en el camino hacia la ciudadanía

Por Juan Guajardo

El 29 de abril del 2010 fue un día especial para María de Lourdes Carranza: la estudiante universitaria se hizo ciudadana americana ese día.

Mientras familiares y amigos de los candidatos se preparaban para tomar fotos, Carranza alzó su mano derecha al mismo tiempo que 53 otros candidatos de 21 países extranjeros, y recitó el juramento de lealtad a la nación, convirtiéndose ciudadana de los Estados Unidos en el nuevo campus de Catholic Charities, la red americana de organizaciones católicas de caridad — el Fischer Family Campus — comenzando así una nueva etapa de su vida.

“Estoy muy contenta de ser ciudadana. Es algo muy importante para mí”, la nativa de México contó. “Tengo muchos planes para el futuro”, explicó emocionada. “Voy a seguir estudiando porque vine aquí para progresar. Quiero sacar una licenciatura en ciencias forenses”.

“[La ciudadanía] es algo grande”, dijo el delegado Jesús Ramírez, de los Servicios de ciudadanía e inmigración de los Estados Unidos (USCIS, por sus siglas en inglés), a la audiencia al comienzo de la ceremonia. “Aprovéchenlo y vívanlo: este es uno de los mejores beneficios que este país les puede dar”.

Juan Rangel, miembro de la junta directiva del Distrito escolar independiente de Fort Worth (Fort Worth ISD), compartió ese sentimiento durante sus palabras de presentación. Contó cómo recordaba exactamente

dónde estaba durante eventos monumentales en la historia de la nación.

“Esos fueron eventos muy importantes”, dijo. “Nunca olvidarán el día de hoy. Hoy saben dónde están: en Fort Worth, Texas, en Catholic Charities; y están en un punto donde sus vidas nunca van a ser igual”.

Esta fue la primera vez que una ceremonia de ciudadanía se celebraba en el nuevo edificio, dijo Xergio Chacin, gerente de programas para Servicios de consulta migratoria de CATHOLIC CHARITIES (Immigration Consultation Services). Añadió que ganar la ciudadanía era el punto culminante de un largo proceso para los 54 candidatos.

“Estas son personas que han venido a este país, y luego han emprendido la lucha por hacerse residentes”, comentó Chacin. “... es un largo proceso el llegar a este tipo de evento”.

Después de la ceremonia, en un esfuerzo de proveer más recursos para personas interesadas en hacerse ciudadanos, Catholic Charities ofreció una sesión informativa, presentada por las oficinas en Dallas de Servicios de ciudadanía e inmigración de los Estados Unidos. El director de la oficina de Dallas, Tracy Tarango, y otros oficiales de USCIS, presentaron una visión general del proceso para la naturalización, seguida por una ronda de preguntas.

Aproximadamente 160 personas de varias nacionalidades asistieron a la presentación, que comenzó con un video general sobre la preparación para el examen



Christy Ibekwe de Nigeria canta el himno nacional durante la ceremonia de ciudadanía en el Fischer Family Campus, parte de Catholic Charities, el 29 de abril.

de ciudadanía y naturalización. Animaba a los participantes a prepararse, aprendiendo a hablar, leer, y escribir en inglés; aprender sus derechos cívicos y responsabilidades; y mantener residencia continua en los Estados Unidos. También se les informó a los participantes de los documentos necesarios y los requerimientos del proceso de naturalización.

Para disipar ideas equivocadas de la entrevista en persona, mayormente considerada una de las partes más estresantes del proceso, dos oficiales de USCIS improvisaron una entrevista. Los oficiales resumieron los aspectos principales de la entrevista, factores como presentar identificación propia, ser exitoso en un examen corto sobre la historia y el gobierno, y oralmente responder a preguntas biográficas.

“Básicamente se trata de ti”, el agente Alfonso González,

supervisor de adjudicaciones de USCIS, dijo del proceso de la entrevista. “No se trata de un marciano del espacio. ¿Y quién te conoce mejor que ti mismo? Eso es todo lo que es. No se pongan nerviosos”.

Después de la improvisación de la entrevista, Tarango y sus oficiales respondieron a una multitud de preguntas del público, en español e inglés, calmando las preocupaciones de muchos participantes. A Tarango le preguntaron todo, desde “¿Cuánto tiempo se tarda el proceso?” (4-6 meses) a “¿Se puede revocar la ciudadanía?”, al cual ella respondió, “Absolutamente. Pórtense bien. Sean buenos”.

Normalmente, Catholic Charities no invita a oficiales de USCIS a las sesiones informativas, explicó Chacin.

“Fue una gran sorpresa” que tanta gente atendiera, dijo. “Las pocas personas con quienes hablé estaban muy contentas. A varias



Luis Fuentes y Jesús Ramírez improvisan una entrevista para disipar malentendidos sobre las entrevistas personales. Los oficiales resumieron algunos de los aspectos más importantes de la interrogación.

se les aclararon concepciones equivocadas”.

Chacin añadió que el programa de servicios para la inmigración de Catholic Charities beneficia a aproximadamente 2700 familias al año, y siempre está disponible para ayudar con una variedad de preguntas sobre la inmigración y la ciudadanía.

Explicó Chacin que ayudan a los inmigrantes con todo el proceso para obtener la tarjeta de residente, “y después los ayudamos a conseguir su ciudadanía”.

“Nos aseguramos que tengan todo lo que necesitan”, comentó. “Les preparamos los documentos; preparamos las aplicaciones; y los representamos frente al gobierno. Estamos con ellos durante el proceso completo de la aplicación”.

Para más información sobre como obtener la ciudadanía, o para ayuda con preguntas sobre la inmigración, llame en inglés o español a las oficinas de Servicios de inmigración de CATHOLIC CHARITIES, al número (817) 534-0814.

Diácono Preciado...

DE PÁGINA 20

estudiando, trabajando por las noches en un hospital, y enseñando en una escuela. Pero cuando los Misioneros del Sagrado Corazón (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart) lo invitaron al seminario de su congregación, aceptó, atraído por la oportunidad de trabajar con los indígenas. Dedicó los próximos 12 años estudiando para el sacerdocio, hasta que llegó a Fort Worth y decidió trabajar para la diócesis.

“Fernando es una persona que será sumamente capaz, ya que tiene un deseo innato de servir a la comunidad entera”, comentó el padre Kyle Walterscheid, director diocesano de la Oficina de vocaciones.

“Lo he visto en acción con los jóvenes en St. Frances Cabrini, y tiene una gran empatía con los niños. Los jóvenes están súper emocionados de estar cerca de él, porque tiene tanta energía, y también

lleva al Espíritu Santo por dentro; eso es muy atractivo”.

El diácono Preciado tiene ganas de que llegue su ordenación; interesantemente, este será el día de su cumpleaños, y será casi a la misma hora de su nacimiento. Está emocionado de comenzar a servir a la comunidad como sacerdote.

“Ahora que ya estoy en este lugar, siento que es tiempo de consagrar completamente la vida”, dijo el diácono Preciado. “Dios quiere que seamos sacerdotes no por un momento, sino para siempre, y como que ese lema ahora me ha puesto en la mente que necesito aprender, conocer... Había una monjita que me decía, ‘En la vida del sacerdote, tienes que aprender a ser el cura de las tres s.’ Y le decía yo, ‘¿Cuales son las tres s?’ Y ella me contestaba, ‘El cura tiene que ser santo, sabio y servicial’”.

Diácono Vallejo...

DE PÁGINA 20

de St. Mark y de la Inmaculada Concepción (Immaculate Conception), en Denton, y más recientemente en la parroquia de St. Matthew en Arlington, llamando cada época con las congregaciones una “bella experiencia”.

Ya ha impactado las feligresías donde ha servido, dijo el padre Kyle Walterscheid, director diocesano de la Oficina de vocaciones.

“Amado aporta la habilidad de ver las dificultades que está sufriendo la comunidad, y prestar buena atención a los demás”, dijo el padre Walterscheid. “Es muy querido en las comunidades que ha servido, muy querido. ¿Y por qué es así? Porque todos tienen la sensación de que él está presente, que los quiere, que los escucha, y que está dispuesto a sacrificar todo para ayudar a cualquier familia, en cualquier circunstancia particular, y proporcionar verdadero

apoyo pastoral para ellos”.

Durante una entrevista con NTC (periódico de North Texas Catholic: sus siglas en inglés), el diácono Vallejo sacó un cuaderno morado lleno de reflexiones escritas y citas de la Biblia, explicando sus versos favoritos en el evangelio de Juan, y una motivación que se percibe en su convicción que Jesús nos llama para unirnos a Él en su misión como “colaboradores, discípulos suyos...”

Ahora tiene ganas de llevar a cabo esa misión.

“Ahora no nos queda más que abonarnos a la acción de Dios, que digamos ‘aquí estamos para hacer tu voluntad’”, exclamó el diácono Vallejo. “Yo en lo personal quiero vivir la vida sacerdotal en su plenitud, y entonces quiero vivir no solamente enamorado de Dios, sino quiero poder transmitirlo—ese mismo amor—a las personas, a los amigos, sin diferencia al mundo”.

Dcn. Preciado...

FROM PAGE 24

grow here, where they're at."

Fernando's desire to help others is nothing new; in fact, that was what attracted him to the priesthood when he was 13. In addition to the guidance of his parents, back in his hometown of Zatecas, María Nolasco Preciado (no relation), a deeply devoted woman, would invite him and the neighborhood kids to spend time with a local priest who had worked serving in Nairobi, Kenya. The priest would bring back videos and photos, and he would show and explain them to the children.

"All that told me 'I want to be like this man,'" Dcn. Preciado said. "I was about 13 years old, maybe, but I feel that from that point onward, that entire development within me began.

"And he taught us several things. It's as if all that — the search to find something more in life — found me saying 'Geesh, I like this.'"

So he went into the seminary at age 15. But he left at age 20.

"A lot of the things I had thought about at first weren't as I had imagined them," he said. "I imagined that I would soon be outside in the world, working in a community, being with people. But that wasn't true; I had to study a lot," he said with a laugh. "And besides, I also wanted the experience of going outside the seminary and being with family, with a girlfriend, with a friend, because I thought I had entered the seminary too

"It's been something nice, because I never imagined the need that there is here, in the United States. It's as if when we hear about the United States, we think everything is controlled, everything is well taken care of, that there is no need here at all. But when we arrive here, we realize that there is as much need here as in other places."

— **Deacon Fernando Preciado**

young, and I wanted, in a certain way, to experience what was happening outside, in the real world."

He spent the next two years studying and working night shifts at a hospital, and teaching at a school. But when the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart invited him to their congregation's seminary, he accepted, enticed by the opportunity to work with indigenous people. He spent



Deacon Fernando Preciado stands with his pastoral supervisor, Father Juan Rivero, following his ordination to the transitional diaconate at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury. (PHOTO BY JOAN KURKOWSKI-GILLEN)

the next 12 years studying for the priesthood, until he came to Fort Worth and decided to work for the diocese.

"Fernando is a person that's going to be capable, and he has this inner desire to serve the entire community," said Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the diocesan Vocations Office.

"I've seen him in action with the youth at St. Frances Cabrini and he clicks with the kids. The teenagers are really excited to be around him because he brings so much energy, and he brings the Holy Spirit with him, so that's very attractive."

Dcn. Preciado is now looking forward

to his ordination, which interestingly, will be on his birthday and almost at the exact time he was born. He is excited to begin serving the community as a priest.

"Now that I am in this place, I feel that it is time to completely consecrate my life," Dcn. Preciado said. "God wants us to be priests not of the moment, but for always, and so that motto has now given me a great desire to learn, to know... There was a nun who used to say, 'In the life of the priest, you need to learn to be the priest of the three S's.' And I asked her, 'What are the three S's?' And she responded, 'A priest needs to be a saint, a sage, and one who serves.'"

Dcn. Vallejo...

FROM PAGE 24

can say falls short. It isn't the Jesus you contemplate — nothing like it ... [It is] a joyous Jesus, with the gashes from his crown, his hands, his feet ... with the scars from his wounds. And the cross, it is facing forward, majestically; it is stunning. The cross is like a ray of lights."

While praying before the glorious Christ, he said: "If you call me, I am here to do your bidding, not only to follow you, but to do whatever you want."

After that experience, Amado felt a longing to enter the seminary.

"This has changed my entire life," he said. "I wanted to study medicine. [But] from that point on, I wished to become a priest; I desired to consecrate my life to God, to surrender myself to him, to try to live his gospel He was a remarkable Jesus."

That same night, he went to a priest at the retreat and told him about his experience. The priest said, "Well, if God is calling you, he will provide the means for you to enter the seminary."

And God indeed provided the means, said Amado, who went on to study several years of philosophy, theology, and French spirituality at the seminary.

During his second year, Vallejo met now-Father Alfredo Barba, and the two became close friends. Alfredo told Amado about his visits to Fort Worth, and soon both came to the diocese.

"This has changed my entire life," he said. "I wanted to study medicine. [But] from that point on, I wished to become a priest; I desired to consecrate my life to God, to surrender myself to him, to try to live his gospel He was a remarkable Jesus."

— **Deacon Amado Vallejo on his vocation to the priesthood**

Since arriving in June 2008, Dcn. Vallejo has served at St. Mark and Immaculate Conception Churches in Denton, and more recently at St. Matthew Parish in Arlington, calling his time at the parishes a "beautiful experience."

He's already made an impact in the parishes he has served, said Father Kyle Walterscheid, diocesan director of Vocations.

"Amado brings to the table his ability to see struggles that are going on in the community and to really listen well,"



Deacon Amado Vallejo welcomes applause from the congregation just before his ordination to the transitional diaconate at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, where he served his pastoral internship. (PHOTO BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER)

Fr. Walterscheid added. "He is so well loved in the communities that he has served, very well loved. And why is that? It's because they have a sense that he is present to them, that he cares, that he listens, and that he's willing to sacrifice to be there to see a family through, in whatever particular circumstances, and to provide some real pastoral support to them."

During an interview with the *North Texas Catholic*, Dcn. Vallejo pulled out a purple spiral notebook full of neatly written reflections and Bible quotes, explaining his favorite verses from John

and a motivation that lies with his being convinced that Jesus calls us to join him on his mission as "collaborators, his disciples...."

He now looks forward to carrying out that mission.

"Now what is left is abandoning ourselves to God's actions, to say 'we are here to do your will,'" Dcn. Vallejo said. "I personally want to live my priestly life to the fullest, and then not only do I want to live completely enamored of God, but I also want to be able to transmit that love to other people, to friends, and to the world."

Calendar

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate Corpus Christi Sunday with a special Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on Sunday, June 6. The Mass will begin at 12:30 p.m. and an outdoor Eucharistic Procession at St. Patrick's will be held following the Mass. All are invited to participate. For more information, contact the cathedral office at (817) 332-4915. St. Patrick Cathedral is located at 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth.

'ARE YOU CALLED'

Are you "Called to follow Jesus?" A retreat day, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, will be offered Saturday, May 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Women between the ages of 18 and 45 are invited to spend a day of discernment, prayer, sharing, and reflection with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur at Our Lady of Victory Center, 909 W. Shaw St., Fort Worth. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN at (817) 980-7242 or sycruz@sbcglobal.net.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be held June 25-27 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter is a weekend program for married couples led by married couples. Reservations are required and a \$60 non-refundable deposit is required to hold each reservation. The balance of the weekend cost is due at the program. Space is limited. The cost is \$175 for each couple. In the case of financial needs, scholarship funds are available. For more information or to register online, visit the Web site at www.ntexasme.org.

IGNATIUS EXPERIENCE

"The Adventure: An Ignatian Experience," a retreat program based on St. Ignatius' *The Spiritual Exercises*, will be offered May 28-31 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 Adventure" is a personal guided tour of the heart, in silence, and is described as an "identity-defining opportunity." The cost is \$100. For more information or to register, call Montserrat at (940) 321-6020.

BENEDICTION AWARD NOMINEES

The Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) is requesting nominations for the Benediction to Mankind Award to be presented by Bishop Kevin Vann and Father Ivor Koch at the DCCW convention on Oct. 20. The convention will be held at St. Jude Parish in Mansfield. The nomination must be submitted with the DCCW form and signed by the pastor or administrator of the parish submitting the nominee. All forms must be postmarked no later than July 1 and mailed to Kathleen Thome at 6491 Peden Rd. East, Fort Worth, TX 76179. For more information, call Kathleen at (817) 236-8518.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

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

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.sampg.com, or e-mail to Mark at 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 jllocke@fwdioc.org
- Or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 102 and ask for the chancellor/moderator of the curia, Father James Hart

To Report Abuse

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

NTC SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

The summer schedule for the *North Texas Catholic* begins in June. The NTC is published only once a month in June, July, and August. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the June 25 issue must be received by noon on June 16. Items for the July 23 issue must be received by noon on July 14. Send information to jrusseau@fwdioc.org.

VOCATION AWARENESS

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

'LIVING THE MASS ...'

Kurt and Julie Carrick, Catholic recording artists from Scottsdale, Arizona, will perform "Living the Mass, The Outward Expression Of Our Catholic Faith" at St. Paul the Apostle Parish Friday, June 11 at 7 p.m. There is no admission charge. A free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 738-9925. St. Paul Church is located at 5508 Black Oak Ln., River Oaks.

CREIGHTON FAMILY PLANNING

The Creighton Method Fertility *Care*™ System teaches women to identify and understand their natural fertility patterns and monitor and evaluate their reproductive and gynecologic health. A free introductory session to the CrMS will be held Wednesday, June 23 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. To register or for more information, contact Rosemary Mendiola at (214) 557-0006 or rmfertilitycare@gmail.com.

ICON WORKSHOP

St. Basil the Great Byzantine Church, 1118 East Union Bower Rd., Irving, will sponsor an ecumenical workshop in painting icons during the week of July 12-16 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Participants will learn the various techniques iconographers have employed in the ancient art of icon painting through the centuries. Father Elias Rafaj, workshop instructor, will also explain the symbolism, meaning, and religious uses of icons. For additional information on the workshop, contact St. Basil Parish at (972) 438-5644 or web@stbasilsinirving.org.

COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

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

DIOCESAN SINGLES PICNIC

The Diocesan Singles picnic will be held June 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Benbrook Longhorn Overlook, 7000 Lakeside Drive, Benbrook. All singles are invited to join in the fun and festivities by bringing a dish to share and something for the grill. Beverages, paper goods, and coals will be ready for lunchtime. The park has volleyball and game areas, and fishing and water activities. For more information, call Susan at (817) 346-8023.

CELL PHONE DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus Council #759, Keller are collecting cell phones to support Loreto House, a Catholic Life Center located in Denton. Loreto House ministers to women in crisis pregnancies, the elderly, and all who strive to build a Culture of Life. Information on Loreto House is available on its Web site at www.loretohouse.org. Collected phones need not be in working order. Contact any knight from Council #759 to make a donation, or call Burnie Vaughn at (817) 881 6261 for more information.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Second Annual St. Patrick's Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament will be held June 14 at Iron Horse Golf Course, 6200 Skylark Circle, North Richland Hills. The format for the tournament will be a Four-person Shotgun Start, Best Ball with an 8 a.m. Tee-off time. The tournament is open to women as well. The cost is \$65 per player. All proceeds will benefit St. Patrick's K of C Council #14679. To sign up for the tournament or to donate door prizes, contact Ish Gonzales at (682) 557-2227 or iggolf@sbcglobal.net, or call Joe Govea at (817) 292-3819. Registration deadline is June 7.

ST. MARY CELEBRATION

St. Mary Parish of Windthorst will celebrate its 118th birthday Sunday, June 6. Activities will be held in the parish hall and school grounds beginning at noon. To pre-register for the fun run/health walk, contact Diane Conrady at (940) 423-6304. For additional information on the horseshoe tournament, contact Jerry or Terry Bacon at (940) 237-7765 or (940) 423-6121. A golf tournament will be held Saturday, June 5. For more information, contact David Veitenheimer at (940) 423-6780 or Michael Schroeder at (940) 423-6267. For more information on the weekend celebration, contact the parish office at (940) 423-6687. St. Mary's is located at 101 Church St., Windthorst.

TRAPPIST RETREAT

The Holy Trinity Trappist Monastery in Huntsville, Utah will host a "Live-in Experience" vocational retreat Aug. 4-8. The monastery is located on a scenic 2,000-acre farm. Single men are invited to work and pray with monks and enjoy vocational talks. There is no charge for the retreat. Free transportation to and from area bus depots and airports will be provided. For more information, call toll-free (800) 221-1807.

Classified Section

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Nolan Catholic High School, Fort Worth, a 9th to 12th grade diocesan high school administered in the Marianist tradition, is seeking candidates to serve as dean of students responsible for student development and discipline beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Applicant must be a practicing Roman Catholic, proficient in interpersonal oral and written communication skills and be able to function in collaboration with the administrative team. Secondary school experience is required with a master's degree preferred. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, references, and request for application to Catholic Schools Office, Nolan Catholic High School Search, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919. Applications will be accepted through May 30.

DIRECTOR

The Diocese of Dallas is currently searching for a full-time director of Catechetical Services to oversee the Office of Catechetical Services at the Pastoral Center. The director of Catechetical Services directs and moderates all the catechetical activities in the diocese in collaboration with other diocesan departments and serves as a resource to parishes and staff in the area of catechetical formation. Qualifications needed include MA in theology/religious studies and extensive parish and/or diocesan experience in catechesis. Proficiency in English and Spanish is highly recommended. Résumés along with a cover letter can be e-mailed to tvega@cathdal.org or mailed to Director of Catechetical Services, PO Box 190507, Dallas, TX 75219. A detailed job description can be found at www.cathdal.org listed under Employment.

YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT

St. Andrew Church, a vibrant parish in Fort Worth, seeks to hire a full-time coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry beginning July 1. Successful candidates must be committed to developing comprehensive ministry programs for youth and young adults and hold strong administrative skills in the area of program planning, execution and evaluation, volunteer development, and training. Candidate must have strong collaboration and communication skills and a proven ability to work independently as well as perform as a team member. Youth ministry experience required along with appropriate bachelor's degree and must be an active member of a Catholic parish. Send a résumé and cover letter by June 1 to resume@standrewcc.org or mail to St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Our Lady Queen of Peace is searching for a chief assistant to the pastor in the coordination of parish activities and programs in a small or mid-sized parish. At this level the position provides multiple liaison functions typically with volunteers. The position requires experience in pastoral work and a bachelor's degree in theology or related field, or equivalent education and experience. Responsibilities will include: participation in staff meetings; providing planning, training, implementation and follow-up on RCIA, RENEW, Small Christian Communities, and Christ Renews His Parish programs; assisting in preparation of parish and diocesan programs; serving as staff person liaison to various parish committees and reporting to the pastor; assisting the pastor with all programs deemed necessary by the pastor; coordinating parish retreats; maintaining volunteers and ensuring compliance with diocesan policy on Safe Environment For Children along with business manager and liturgy coordinator; providing leadership in prayer to parish community; assisting and acting as advocate for individuals with the Marriage Tribunal. Candidate must be an active member of a Roman Catholic parish; ordained deacon or equal education; have some college level course work in a related field, typically obtained through a lay pastoral ministry program; possess skill and aptitude for working with groups, e.g., volunteers and parish organizations. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with education and experience. Application deadline is June 7. Résumés can be sent to: John Spyra, Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 4040 York St., Wichita Falls, TX 76309, or e-mail to olqpwf.net.

PRINCIPAL

St. Peter the Apostle School, Fort Worth, (PreK-8 parish school) is seeking a visionary spiritual and academic leader to serve as principal beginning with the 2010-11 school-year. Applicants must have excellent interpersonal skills and leadership qualities. Additional requirements include being a practicing Roman Catholic, a master's degree (including 18 hours in administration) and three years experience in Catholic school education. Previous administrative experience is preferred. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, references, and a request for application packet to Catholic Schools Office, St. Peter Principal Search, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

ASST. CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. Maria Goretti Church is looking for an assistant choir director who could also cantor, and serve as an assistant to the director of Music/Liturgy. One choir rehearsal each week, one Mass directing the choir and one Mass serving as cantor is required. Knowledge and experience of the Catholic Liturgy and availability for weddings and funerals is a plus. This position would require 10-12 hours per week and will be paid an hourly wage according to ability and qualifications. Applications for employment can be obtained from the parish office and on the parish Web site at www.smgparish.org. Application, interview, and audition will be required. For more information, contact Don Wagner at dwagner@smgparish.org or Freda Breed at fbreed@smgparish.org or (817) 274-0643.

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP

The Diocese of Dallas is currently searching for a full-time director of Worship who will oversee the liturgy department at the Pastoral Center. The director of Worship serves as a liturgical resource for parishes, institutions, and diocesan staff in liturgical matters. Qualifications include MA in theology/liturgy, five to 10 years working in liturgy/music in a parish or on a diocesan level. Spanish is preferred but not required. Résumés along with a cover letter can be e-mailed to tvega@cathdal.org or mailed to Director of Worship Search Committee, PO Box 190507, Dallas, TX 75219. A detailed job description can be found at www.cathdal.org listed under Employment.

OMM TEACHER POSITION

Our Mother of Mercy School in Fort Worth is seeking candidates for the position of lead teacher of the middle school (grades six to eight). The ideal candidate will demonstrate a commitment to creating an environment that fosters high expectations for academic success within a highly disciplined and faith-filled community. Experience with Teach America or KIPP programs would be a plus. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic and have at least a BA degree with 12 hours of education. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, references, and a request for an application to Catholic Schools Office, Our Mother of Mercy Search, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919.

ADVERTISE IN THE
NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC
CALL
(817) 560-3300

Good Newsmakers

Having gained their formal seminary education in Mexico, Deacons Fernando Preciado and Amado Vallejo have come to the Diocese of Fort Worth where they plan to be priests and serve as

Missionaries to God's people

Stories by Juan Guajardo / Editorial Assistant

With a heart for missions, Deacon Fernando Preciado brings experience serving those in need to North Texas

As part of a religious missionary congregation in Mexico, Deacon Fernando Preciado once served indigenous peoples in various areas of Mexico, and later the Amazon.

And somehow he ended up in the Diocese of Fort Worth, said Dcn. Preciado, 34, who serves at Granbury's St. Frances Cabrini Parish and will be ordained a priest on June 5 at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, God-willing.

"Well, I only came for a vacation," he said jokingly, before saying that he really came to visit his sister and her family back in September 2008. But once here, she sparked Fernando's attention when she told him there was a great need for priests.

After talking to diocesan priests and getting to know the diocese better, he decided to stay, even though he was about to be ordained to the transitional diaconate in Mexico.

"It's been something nice, because I never imagined the need that there is here, in the United States. It's as if when we hear about the United States, we think everything is controlled, everything is well taken care of, that there is no need here at all," Dcn. Preciado explained.

"But when we arrive here, we realize that there is as much need here as in other places.

"I see the necessity of many to know more about God, of not forgetting their cultures and traditions here in the United States, of fomenting unity within their communities, of helping people

SEE DCN. PRECIADO, P. 22



Deacons Fernando Preciado (left) and Amado Vallejo pose in front of a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat Center in Lake Dallas. (PHOTO BY JUAN GUAJARDO)

Deacon Amado Vallejo desires to give his life completely to Christ by emulating Him to those he serves

Deacon Amado Vallejo knew exactly what quote he was going to write on the invitations for his ordination to the transitional diaconate back in December: "God called me through his grace and his love, and here I am, to do his will."

It can also sum up his calling to the priesthood: He felt called, and he accepted. Although Dcn. Vallejo, who will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth on June 5 at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral, God-willing, admits that this was not his original plan.

Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, Amado, now 38, was raised in a devout Catholic family. He wanted to be the doctor among 10 siblings who are engineers, accountants, teachers, and one who is a Salesian brother. But when he was 15, he went to study in Veracruz. There, he met a local priest who a few years later invited him on a retreat.

Vallejo accepted the invitation, and on a Friday afternoon during that eight-day retreat, he went into the chapel to pray alone before the Blessed Sacrament. As he was praying, he looked up and saw a splendid vision of the risen Christ. Amado was so joyful and astounded that he pinched his arms to assure himself that it was real and not a dream or his imagination.

"It is a Jesus you cannot describe; there is no painting that can equal his beauty, his greatness," Vallejo said. "Whatever I

SEE DCN. VALLEJO, P. 22

BACKGROUND

Deacons Fernando Preciado and Amado Vallejo completed their formal seminary training while in Mexico. When they came to the United States, they were enrolled in intensive English language classes to prepare to serve here.

MOTIVATION

Both were motivated by a desire to serve as missionaries to the United States, both for those who have lived here for generations, and those who have come here as immigrants.

ORDINATION

Dcns. Fernando and Amado will, God-willing, be ordained to the priesthood at St. Patrick Cathedral at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 5.

FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR

The Diocese of Fort Worth is now bringing other priests and seminarians here from other countries, particularly from Mexico, in an effort to fill the need for priests in many parishes.

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid tackles the immigration issue by offering a spiritual perspective and offering solutions for the U.S. and Mexico to learn from each other. **3**

Spanish Charismatic prayer groups are growing in popularity in parishes throughout the diocese. Find out what they have to offer to the members of their communities. **7**

Following a devastating flood in Tennessee that killed 23 people, and will cost at least \$1.5 billion in damages, Nashville parishes and schools are working to help those affected. **12**