



NEWSMAGAZINE North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

Vol. 28 No. 6

June 2012

Nolan students come to aid of classmate's family and their neighborhood in Tornado cleanup



By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Mitch Titsworth expected the worst as he approached the South Arlington neighborhood hit by an EF-2 tornado April 3. The Nolan Catholic High School senior knows the devastation a violent twister can leave behind. While visiting his grandparents living in Joplin, Missouri, last July, he noticed crews still picking up debris from the May 22, 2011 monster tornado that rolled through their hometown.

"I was happy there wasn't more damage," said Titsworth, one of 30 students who spent Good Friday pulling up tree stumps and hauling off fence panels from homes hit by the funnel cloud. "And I'm glad no one was hurt."

Nolan students huddled in school hallways as warning sirens blared in East Fort Worth, but the weather event became even more personal when they learned the family of one of their classmates, Mary Crimmins, was affected by the storm. Her special needs brother, Douglas, his nurse, and her mother, Karen, narrowly missed being injured or killed by the tornado that sent a neighbor's two-story brick chimney sailing through the roof of their Arlington home. Alerted by a TV weather report, the trio scurried to the basement 30 seconds before the twister hit.

"The chimney crushed the roof leaving a huge hole in Douglas' room," Mary said, describing how the space became littered with rafters, insulation, and bricks.



Thirty Nolan Catholic High School students spent much of Good Friday helping out Arlington residents whose homes were damaged in the flurry of tornados that touched down in the area April 3. After helping with a Nolan student's home, they assisted with others in the neighborhood (Photos courtesy of Nolan Catholic High School)

Majestic oak trees that lined the neighborhood were split in half and fencing was blown apart. Several homes behind the Crimmins residence were so badly damaged, they were bulldozed.

"The whole neighborhood looks different," Mary explained. "You don't think something like this is going to happen to you until it does. I was having a normal day at school and then my whole life was turned upside down."

School friends soon rallied to make things right. A call for volunteers, sent out by Nolan administrator Maureen Barisoniek, brought out a contingent of students who gave up part of their Easter break weekend to help the Crimmins family and other tornado victims.

"Seeing them walk down the street

in their blue t-shirts with shovels, rakes, and saws was an incredible sight," Karen Crimmins said emotionally. "When a tornado hits, the work seems endless."

Under the direction of fathers in the group, the young men used chain saws to cut apart fence panels. The girls picked up bricks and raked litter from the yard. After piling a 20-foot hill of debris in front of the curb, Nolan volunteers offered their services to the Crimmins' neighbors. The young, goodwill ambassadors spent more than five hours laboring in the destruction zone.

Nolan junior Zoe Pfeifer pulled bricks out of an air conditioning unit and collected scattered debris from the Crimmins' yard before volunteering her services down the street.

"I felt it was my duty to help them," says the Nolan junior, whose home, a block away,

was spared damage. "It was a good feeling to help people and be part of the experience."

Karen Crimmins received notes from neighbors praising the students for their assistance.

"You could tell which homeowners didn't have a social network of church or school friends to help them, so we shared," explains Karen, an ICU nurse at Cook Children's Hospital.

Karen says she, her husband Michael, and their six children feel fortunate their home is still standing, and are grateful for the help they received in the aftermath of the tornado.

"We've seen the incredible side of people helping others they don't even know," Karen said. "There's more good in people than bad. As a family, we've witnessed that."



Our Shepherd Speaks

'For Greater Glory: The True Story of the Mexican Cristada' and our current struggle for religious freedom for all

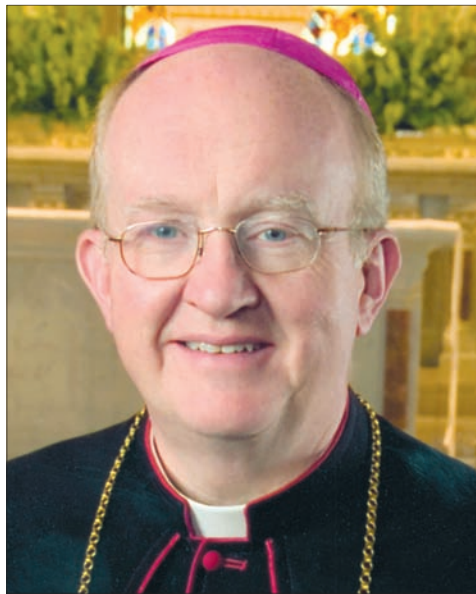
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I had the privilege with several of my brother bishops of previewing the soon to be released movie "For Greater Glory: The True Story of the Mexican Cristada" which tells the often untold story of the Cristero War in Mexico and the fight for religious liberty that seized that nation not all that long ago. I was deeply impressed and moved by this movie, and I believe that its release is quite timely given our own recent growing concerns and struggles for religious liberty in our own country. This dark era in the history of Church of the Americas is widely unknown, certainly to most of us here in the United States and even to many Mexicans. I do know, however, from talking to many in the Diocese, especially Mexican Americans who came from Guanajuato, Guadalajara, Zacatecas, and other areas of Mexico are all too familiar with this sad and difficult time in Mexican history and the life of the Church. The parents and grandparents of many of our parishioners knew this trial and suffering personally, yet remained strong as great witnesses of the Faith.

The story of the Mexican Cristada is one that needs to be told and known not only to remember the many Mexican Catholics who gave their lives for their faith and religious freedom, but to also remind all of us here in the United States that our faith and religious liberty is our most precious gift and it needs to be cherished and protected with courage and vigilance.

The story of the Mexican Cristada begins with the Mexican Revolution in 1910. What began as a fight for freedom against an aristocratic order and authority soon turned into a multi-sided civil war which turned against the Church, who was perceived as being opposed to the revolution. In 1917, a new constitution was drafted which included several anti-clerical articles which set the stage for almost 20 years of religious persecution against Catholics in Mexico. In 1926, Mexican President Plutarco Elias Calles, a Mason, passed the so-called "Calles Law" which included much stronger and wide sweeping persecutory laws against Catholics. Resistance to these laws began peacefully, with prayer, peaceful demonstrations, signed petitions, and boycotts. However, in August of 1926, several uprisings took place which began the Cristero War or the Cristada deriving from the battle cry *Viva Cristo Rey!* (Long live Christ the King!).

The Mexican government retaliated swiftly and violently against the Church. The government seized Catholic schools, seminaries,



Bishop Kevin Vann

and properties, closed Catholic hospitals, banned monastic orders, barred public worship, and priests and nuns were forbidden to wear religious garments and priestly garb. In addition, Mexico's bishops were expelled along with most of Mexico's clergy. Many Catholics of all states of life: clergy, religious, and lay were also martyred — over 200,000 between 1926 and 1930, in what came to be one of the most brutal Catholic persecutions of the 20th century.

However, like many persecutions of the Church over the centuries, the persecution of the Church in Mexico brought about the rise of many saints and blessed, and through the blood of these brave and holy martyrs the Church in Mexico not only survived, but flourished. The Catholics in Mexico did not cower before the government, but bravely and courageously continued to live their faith and refused to renounce and sacrifice their love for Christ and his Church. As a result of this persecution we now hail such saints and blessed as St. Rafael Guizar Valencia, the Bishop of Veracruz, who operated a clandestine seminary and was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006. Another was Blessed Miguel Pro, a Mexican Jesuit priest who was executed without trial under President Calles. His last request before being shot by a firing squad was to kneel down and pray. His martyrdom was one of the most publicized and photographed martyrdoms of the 20th century, and his execution was splashed on the front page of Mexican newspapers the following day. On May 21, 2000, Blessed Pope John Paul II canonized 25 martyrs who were also executed during the Cristada. These brave Catholics stood up not only for their Catholic faith, but also fought to the end for their religious liberty.

Another unknown but important twist to

the Mexican Cristada was that the Mexican government was encouraged in its persecution against Catholics by some elements in our own country. The Klu Klux Klan offered all of its 4 million members to fight with the Calles regime against the Catholics, should any other government intervene militarily. Also, Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, supported Calles in his war against the Church and her "intolerance," so that Sanger's own work of birth control and population control could be rid of the opposition and influence of the Church. Sanger stated, "With the yoke of medievalism thus thrown off, we can anticipate a splendid development of the government work for birth control already begun in Mexico." Even the U.S. government under the Coolidge Administration showed a tepid response to the crisis in Mexico. History shows and teaches us that there were and still are many anti-Catholic influences in our country that are at work, slowly eroding religious liberty and which readily support the suppression of the Church even in our own country.

As I said earlier, the timing of the release of "For Greater Glory" is providential as the truth of this dark side of Mexico's past and this sad chapter in the life of the Church in America teaches us from history the great gift of our faith and our religious liberty — and that this gift is not one that we can take lightly or for granted. This terrible persecution of the Church happened less than 100 years ago and in our neighboring country of Mexico with the assistance of some influences in our own country which are still very much alive and well today! I encourage all of you to take some time to see this great movie and to reflect upon the gift of our faith and our religious liberty that we have been given in this great country of ours. But also recognize that this gift of religious liberty is under attack in an unprecedented way in the history of our nation and that we need to respond with courage, diligence, and faith.

There is also another side of this story that is relevant for our time that Archbishop José Gomez of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles pointed out in a recent column in the Archdiocesan newspaper *The Tidings*. Blessed María Inés Therese Arias was beatified last month in Mexico City. Born in Mexico in 1904, she joined the Poor Clare sisters in Mexico City. In 1929 she fled the violence of the Cristero Wars, immigrated to the United States and arrived in Los Angeles. She then became the foundress of the Poor Clare Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. This immigrant from Mexico, fleeing the violence of the Cristero Wars has contributed much to the Church of the United States. As Archbishop Gomez

points out, the story of Blessed María Arias calls us to reflect upon how our country welcomes immigrants, especially as the U.S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments regarding Arizona's immigration law. Archbishop Gomez states:

Our Church is a Church of immigrants. It always has been. Just as America has always been a nation of immigrants. Except for a few, all of our saints, blessed, and venerables were immigrants. Some, like St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, were canonized for their service to our immigrant communities.

Today we seem to be losing this sense of America's heritage — as a land of missionaries, immigrants and saints. A land where men and women from every race, creed and nation can live as brothers and sisters.

That's why this Arizona case is important. Every year, state governments keep passing new anti-immigrant laws. There were 197 new laws in 2011 and 208 the year before that, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

These laws express people's anger and frustration. Everyone knows our national immigration system is broken. So far Congress and the President have not found a way to fix it. There has been no real movement at the national level since comprehensive immigration reform failed in Congress in 2007.

Our national "policy" right now is to arrest and deport as many illegal immigrants as we can. Last year alone, our government deported nearly 400,000 people, a record number.

Of course, we're not just talking about statistics. Each of these "numbers" is a person, many of them Catholics. Many are mothers or fathers who, without warning, won't be coming home for dinner tonight. Many may never see their children grow up.

This is not a "solution" worthy of a great nation. In the name of enforcing our laws, we are now breaking up families. We're punishing innocent children for the crimes of their parents.

We are a better people than this.

America has always been a nation of justice and law. But we are also a people of compassion. We can find a better way. It

CONTENTS

Features

- 15-18** *Catholic Scouting leadership meets to better serve spiritual needs of Scouts*
By Jerry Circelli
- 20-21** *Fr. Eagle helps shepherd kids and their parents through serious illness at Cook's*
By Jerry Circelli
- 22** *Our first university parish is gearing up to serve UNT and TWU*
By Tony Gutiérrez
- 25** *Four SSMN nuns with 250 years of service amongst them celebrate Jubilees*
By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

June 2012

Departments

- 4-5** **Briefly**
- 11** **Catechesis**
- 12-13** **Voices**
- 14** **Features**
- 26-27** **Word to Life**
- 28-30** **Spanish**
- 31** **Calendar**

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin W. Vann

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: Pat Svacina

EDITOR: Jeff Hensley

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Tony Gutiérrez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Judy Russeau

WEB DESIGNER: Chris Kastner

CIRCULATION: Rita Garber

REGULAR COLUMNISTS:

Denise Bossert
Jean Denton
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Jeff Hedglen
Jeff Hensley
David Mills
Mary Regina Morrell
Sharon K. Perkins
Lucas Pollice
Father John Rausch
Father Kyle Walterscheid

CONTRIBUTORS:

Michele Baker
Crystal Brown
Jenara Kocks Burgess
Juan Guajardo
Kathy Cribari Hamer
John Henry
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Mike McGee
Wendy Pandolfo
Donna Ryckaert
Kristin Zschiesche

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

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC (USPS 751-370) (ISSN 0899-7020) is published monthly, by the Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas. For those who are not registered parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Worth, subscription rates are \$20 for one year, \$40 for two years, \$60 for three years. Periodical postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to North Texas Catholic, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

Deadline for information for the North Texas Catholic is noon of the Wednesday two weeks before the paper is published. The NTC is published the third Friday of each month with the date of the following month as the date of issue.

To access current news and information, find us at www.fwdioc.org/ntc

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



19 Years in a Row

New Evangelization is on the horizon

You may have missed it. Even if you follow news of the Church, it barely made a blip on the radar screen. But April 23 at the annual rector's dinner for the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, Apostolic Nuncio Carlo Maria Vigano made some startling statements.

He said "The Church in the United States should lead the entire Church in the world," in a revitalization effort. "This is a great task," he went on to say, "but you have the determination and the grace to do it. This I know is the vision of the Holy Father regarding the Church in the United States."

This probably comes as a great surprise to all of us. But when in February Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York was chosen by Pope Benedict XVI to give the presentation on the New Evangelization to the Cardinals gathered for the Consistory of Cardinals the next day (at which Archbishop Dolan and Archbishop Edwin O'Brien would be elevated to the office of Cardinal), we should have known something was up. (For Cardinal Dolan's talk go to www.news.va/en/news/the-announcement-of-the-gospel-today-between-missi — or just search for **Cardinal Dolan and New Evangelization**)

So, what does this have to do with this issue? Well, a brief story about the Nuncio's talk is on **Page 4**, and the rest of the paper is full of Good News you may not have heard. Another brief story on **Page 4** details how an English tutor helped

lead Mexican actor Eduardo Verástegui from a meaningless life starring in tele-novelas to one that seeks to lift up the dignity of his fellow man and honors God.

More than 1,000 13- to 20-year-olds turned out for Youth 2000 — once again. You can read about that on **Page 8**. A thousand kids gathered around the Blessed Sacrament, on a weekend. Young people moving toward conversion, laying a firm foundation for their lives in Jesus Christ. Must be Good News.

And there's so much more. Look at the featured stories above and you know that good things are happening in the Church. Compassionate action is being taken in Jesus' name; young people are coming to faith; worthy, charitable nuns are honored for their service.

But what if God is going to do something even greater, in calling all of humanity to Himself. What if, as part of the American Church, we are part of that larger call. Sounds to me like a time for prayer and preparation, to show that the God we serve is alive, and we are alive in Him.

And, as always, you can find out what's going on behind the scenes at the **Bishop's Blog** at www.fwdioc.org. And catch us on Facebook: **North Texas Catholic Newspaper** or at fwdioc.org/NTC for fresh news.

Jeff Hensley
Editor

begins by remembering the promise of America — as a land where poor immigrants can become great saints.

I join Archbishop Gomez and my other brother Bishops in asking that we find a solution to our broken immigration system, one that both secures our borders and also allows immigrants to come into our country with their gifts, talents, and great faith to help our country to flourish and prosper with the blessings that they bring. This is one of the more important issues that face our country today, especially here in Texas and the Southwest and a just and reasonable solution needs to be found soon.

As we approach the great feast of Pentecost, I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and guide our great country, especially with the gift of fortitude as we continue as Catholics to defend and stand up for our religious freedom and also work

to ensure that the immigrant can be safely and justly welcomed into our country to continue to enrich us all with their gifts and presence. May God bless you and your families.

Kevin W. Vann

+ BISHOP KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD
DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH





Pope Benedict XVI meets Italian Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the new apostolic nuncio to the United States, at the Vatican Nov. 7. Archbishop Viganò was preparing to leave the Vatican to take up his new post in Washington. (CNS file photo / L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

Pope wants U.S. Catholics to lead a revival of the Church worldwide, says Apostolic Nuncio Viganò

By Tim Puet
THE CATHOLIC TIMES
Catholic News Service

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Pope Benedict XVI wants the Catholic Church in America to be in the forefront of reviving Catholicism worldwide, the apostolic nuncio to the United States said in Columbus.

"The Church in the United States should lead the entire Church in the world" in a revitalization effort, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò said. "This is a great task, but you have the determination and the grace to do it. This I know is the vision of the Holy Father regarding the Church in the United States."

The archbishop was speaking to an audience of seminarians and benefactors of the Pontifical College Josephinum at its annual rector's dinner April 23. He called on the American Church to go beyond its mission of evangelizing the United States and "to be missionaries not only to the Third World, but especially to the countries of Europe."

"Christianity (in Europe) in some way has lost its strength and needs an example," he said, noting "very positive signs of growth" in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the United States.

Archbishop Viganò said he especially wanted to direct his message to young people, particularly those studying for the priesthood at the Josephinum.

The institution has experienced substantial growth in recent years and currently has an enrollment of more than 180 men, its highest in 25 years. They represent 29 dioceses from all over the United States, including six that sent seminarians to the institution for the

first time this year, and their ethnic and cultural backgrounds echo the diversity of the American Church as a whole.

The nuncio, who serves as the Vatican's ambassador to the United States and is based in Washington, also serves as chancellor of the Josephinum.

"I've been taken by surprise since I arrived here ... because everywhere that I've been, everything has been much beyond all of the imaginations and the expectations I had," he said.

The archbishop spoke in general terms about the state of American Catholicism, but did not specifically mention in his 10-minute remarks the current tension between bishops and the federal government in connection with a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that most health plans cover the cost of contraception, sterilization and some drugs that can induce abortion.

"This particular moment for the Church in the United States is certainly a situation of great challenge," he said. "Where there are challenges, there also is a moment of grace. The challenge is that we are put in a situation where we have to overcome the difficulties, and we know that the grace is always overwhelming and amazing for us."

Archbishop Viganò noted that the Church throughout its history has experienced moments of great success and other times when people have thought it was going to disappear. He said this was nothing new, noting that St. Ambrose in the fourth century had compared the Church to the moon in the way it seems to become full, then almost slips from sight only to grow again.

Briefly

Church, National, & International

Helen Alvaré receives Notre Dame's *Evangelium Vitae* Medal

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Pro-life champion Helen Alvaré was honored April 25 as winner of the 2012 Notre Dame *Evangelium Vitae* Medal. Inaugurated in 2011, the medal is given annually by the University of Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life to an individual who "steadfastly" affirms and defends the sanctity of human life.

"From the television studio, to the radio airwaves, congressional hearing rooms, university campuses and forums beyond, you have spoken and acted with 'courage on behalf of those who have no voice,'" read the citation for the award.

The medal citation praised Alvaré for more than 20 years of service defending and promoting human life. With quotes from Blessed John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*), for which the medal was named, the citation stated: "In an age when the sanctity of life from its earliest to its final days is assaulted, you have boldly and unremittingly worked to build and sustain the 'unconditional respect for the right to life of every innocent person,' 'one of the pillars on which every civil society stands.'"

In her remarks after the medal was conferred, Alvaré thanked all the people who had kept the pro-life movement alive and cited the large number of young people who are pro-life as a sign of tremendous success.

She described the pro-life movement not as a cause or an issue, but a way of life, God's way of trying to transform the activists personally as they do good for the world. The Catholic Church is the best at pursuing the truth about the human person and thus does pro-life better than anyone, she added.

Alvaré said the pro-life movement has won the argument about the humanity of the unborn child, though formidable challenges remain because of the culture's distorted view of human sexuality — challenges that she said she went into



Pro-life champion Helen Alvaré was honored April 25 as winner of the 2012 Notre Dame *Evangelium Vitae* Medal.

academia to address.

In his introduction of Alvaré, David Solomon, Notre Dame philosophy professor and chairman of the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life, explained that the fund had been created by several Notre Dame faculty and staff members to support pro-life initiatives on the campus and to put in place a comprehensive pro-life educational effort at Notre Dame.

The 2011 inaugural medal winner, Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, was present for the 2012 event that honored Alvaré, who was his former colleague.

Alvaré worked for three years in the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and then became spokeswoman for the USCCB pro-life secretariat for the next 10 years. She then joined the faculty of the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America, and now is on the faculty of School of Law at George Mason University. Her scholarly work is in the areas of abortion's impact on women; marriage; parenting; and new reproductive technologies. Alvaré is also a consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Laity.



Manny Yrique displays the special red, white and blue beads he uses for his the Rosary for the United States of America at his Phoenix home May 8. Along with the rosary there is a prayer booklet that lists all the special intentions for branches of the federal and local governments as well as the names of the 50 states. (CNS photo / J.D. Long-Garcia, THE CATHOLIC SUN, Phoenix, Arizona)

Catholic leaders reject Obama's support for same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders rejected President Barack Obama's May 9 declaration in a television interview that "personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

"President Obama's words today are not surprising since they follow upon various actions already taken by his administration that erode or ignore the unique meaning of marriage," said Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, in a May 9 statement.

"We cannot be silent in the face of words or actions that would undermine the institution of marriage, the very cornerstone of our society," Cardinal Dolan added. "The people of this country, especially our children, deserve better."

In December 2010, Obama said his views on same-sex marriage were "evolving" and that he "struggles with this," adding he would continue thinking about the issue. An Associated Press story May 10 quoted Obama as saying the institution of marriage, the very cornerstone of our society, "deserve better."

The Catholic Church upholds the sanctity of traditional marriage as being only between one man and one woman, and also teaches that any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful.

"I pray for the president every day, and will continue to pray that he and his administration act justly to uphold and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman," Cardinal Dolan said. "May we all work to promote and protect marriage and by so doing serve the true good of all persons."

In a May 9 statement, the Archdiocese of Washington said it "opposes the

redefinition of marriage based on the clear understanding that the complementarity of man and woman is intrinsic to the meaning of marriage. The word 'marriage' describes the exclusive and lifelong union of one man and one woman open to generating and nurturing children. Other unions exist, but they are not marriage."

In its statement, the archdiocese said it would "continue to strongly advocate for the federal government's existing definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman," adding it supports efforts undertaken by those who uphold the traditional meaning of marriage."

On May 8, North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman by a 3-to-2 margin. According to an initial tally by the North Carolina State Board of Elections, 1,303,952 people — 61.05 percent — voted for the amendment while 831,788 people — 38.95 percent — voted against it.

The amendment read, "Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state." It enshrines the definition of traditional marriage in the state constitution, elevating it from what has been state law since 1996.

The outcome in North Carolina "affirms the authentic and timeless meaning of marriage," said Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

"(It) demonstrates people's awareness of the essential role that marriage, as the union of a man and a woman, plays for the common good," Bishop Cordileone said in a May 10 statement. Marriage is "not a partisan issue," he said, "but a matter of justice, fairness, and equality for the law to uphold every child's basic right to be welcomed and raised by his or her mother and father together."

English teacher gave Mexican actor Eduardo Verástegui new focus in life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — One might think actor Eduardo Verástegui would have fond memories of his first English-language movie, 2003's "Chasing Papi," because it gave him a chance to share the screen with Sofia Vergara, who has since become a breakout star. But Verástegui's most cherished memories come not from the film, but from the fact that he had to learn English to make the movie. That led him to an English teacher who challenged him in more ways than learning English

pronunciation and syntax.

"Her name was Jasmine," Verástegui, a Catholic, told Catholic News Service during a May 4 interview in Washington to promote a new movie, "For Greater Glory." "She really started questioning the important things."

During his six months of tutoring, he said, Jasmine would ask him such questions as "What is the purpose of life? How are you using your talents? Are you trying to elevate human dignity, or

are you not? Who do you live for? Who do you die for?"

From all of this, Verástegui said, "I realized I was not happy. Something inside was missing. I don't know what."

In time, he came to believe that he should use his talents only in life-affirming screen projects. Out went the "telenovelas" the Mexican-born actor cut his teeth on. In came Metanoia Films, which Verástegui created to bring his new vision to life. The first fruit was "Bella,"

which found him starring and producing, in a tale about a young man's efforts to convince a single pregnant woman to not go through with a planned abortion.

Regarding "For Greater Glory," he said he was intrigued about it but was first embarrassed. "It was an American person asking me about Mexican history, my own history. I was 30 years old. ... It was embarrassing to me" to not know. There was no mention at home, at school, or elsewhere about the Cristero War of

the 1920s in which Catholics took up arms to contest the Mexican government's systematic repression of religion, he said.

Verástegui said he wanted to tackle the story in a movie, but "I was a first-time producer. I was not ready to do the film." About three years ago, he heard from Pablo Jose Barroso, the producer of "For Greater Glory," saying he had a script and wanted Verástegui in the film.

But Verástegui was busy with another film, "Little Boy," and could not commit to

a heavy filming schedule. Barroso offered him the part of Anacleto Gonzalez Flores, a lawyer and journalist. Verástegui took it, saying he was proud to portray the "Gandhi of Mexico" in the movie. He went to Mexico and filmed all his scenes in 10 days.

Gonzalez, who was well known in Mexico for his philosophy of nonviolent resistance, was tortured and murdered by army soldiers in April 1927 in Guadalajara. He was beatified in 2005.

Serrans honor outgoing Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid



Photo courtesy of the Serra Club of Fort Worth

Serra representatives present Father Kyle Walterscheid (center) with a gift in appreciation for his work as Vocations Director. Pictured from left to right with Fr. Kyle are: Tom Mahony (Fort Worth Serra Club), Dr. Bruns Watts (Serra District Governor), Jim Humphrey (Fort Worth Metro Serra Club), and Pat LaPosta (Arlington Metro Serra Club).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is adapted from a press release submitted to the NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC by the Serra Club of Fort Worth.

FORT WORTH — The Annual Spring Party, an appreciation dinner for the priests and religious of the Diocese of Fort Worth hosted by the Serra Club of Fort Worth was held Tuesday, May 8 at Shady Oaks Country Club.

This year's event was of special significance because the Serrans honored Father Kyle Walterscheid, outgoing diocesan Vocations director for his innovative and fruitful service to the Vocations Office and for its great success during his tenure, including doubling the number of seminarians from when he first took over the Office in 2006.

"Father Kyle has done a tremendous job of growing and nurturing vocations over the past six years. We have enjoyed working with him and supporting his efforts. We wish him every success in his new assignment and want him to know how much we appreciate him," said Fort Worth District Governor Bruns Watts.

To show their appreciation,

representatives from the Arlington Metro, Fort Worth, and Fort Worth Metro Serra Clubs presented Fr. Kyle with a gift of vestments for his new assignment as pastor of Blessed John Paul II Parish, which will serve the communities of the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University in Denton.

Attendance for the dinner was one of the largest in recent times, with more than 90 Serrans and guests. A brief program included the introduction of religious women, brothers, and clergy by Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, vice chancellor for Parish Services and Women Religious for the diocese, and Father Daniel Kelley, diocesan chancellor, and pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Arlington.

Fr. Kyle's service with the Vocations Office over the past six years included working closely with the Serra Clubs in the diocese, meeting with club presidents and district governors to collaborate on projects and to enlist members' support of various vocation activities, especially the monthly Men's and Women's Discernment Meetings, the Vocation Awareness Program, and the annual Seminarian Dinner.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish breaks ground for renovations, event space



Photo by Patsy Bustillos

St. Catherine pastor Father Mathew Kavipurayidam, TOR, (center) blesses the ground at the parish, assisted by Deacon Kurt Maskow (left) holding the Book of Blessings, and Deacon Walter Stone (right) holding holy water.

CARROLLTON — St. Catherine of Siena Church in Carrollton celebrated a long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony Sunday, April 15, following the 11 a.m. Mass. Pastor Father Mathew Kavipurayidam, TOR, led the community in prayer before blessing the grounds with holy water and making the first dig. Parishioners then joined Fr. Kavipurayidam in digging.

The groundbreaking begins the expansion and refurbishing of the kitchen facility, as well as a 5,000-square-foot event space, primarily for the youth of the parish.

The much-needed space will accommodate the various projects, youth nights, and celebrations for the parish. The groundbreaking ended with an ice cream reception.

Briefly

Local & State

MSU Catholic Campus Ministry wins university's community service award



Photo courtesy of Debra Neely

Members of the MSU Catholic Campus Ministry pose with MSU President Jesse Rogers after winning the James L. Stewart Service Award at the annual leadership banquet Friday May 4. The award is given to a student organization in recognition of community service.

WICHITA FALLS — The MSU Catholic Campus Ministry won the Midwestern State University James L. Stewart Service Award, an award given to a student organization for community service, at the annual leadership banquet Friday May 4.

Other active campus ministry students won awards at the banquet: Kamilla Bell of the Dominican Republic was named Outstanding International Studies Student as well as Outstanding

Senior Woman; Rebecca Cuba of Holliday was named the Hardin Scholar; Sara Cuba of Holliday was named Outstanding Freshman Woman; Isaac Davis of Muenster was named Outstanding Junior Man; Matthew Farris of Wichita Falls was named Outstanding Geosciences Student; Kendall Neu of Lindsay was awarded the Viola Grady Leadership Award; and Josh Yosten of Muenster was named Outstanding Mathematics Student.

Brownsville teen meets Pope Benedict courtesy of Make-A-Wish Foundation

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was compiled from articles written by Carol Glatz of CNS and Rose Ybarra of THE VALLEY CATHOLIC, newspaper for the Diocese of Brownsville.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Of the more than 20,000 pilgrims from all over the world who attended Pope Benedict XVI's general audience in St. Peter's Square May 2, an altar server from Brownsville, had the privilege of meeting the pontiff.

Armando Sanchez, 17, came to Rome thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"When they told me that I had this opportunity to go wherever I wanted and meet whomever I wanted, I did think about celebrities, but I said no," Sanchez said. "I want to meet the Pope and be where the Church was founded by Peter. I want to see the great important masterpieces and architecture."

At the end of the audience, Sanchez and his mother, Maria de la Luz Sanchez, greeted the pope. The pope shook their hands and blessed the teen.

Sanchez has been a cancer patient at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for 16 years and has multiple tumors in his heart, brain, and optical tracts. But his mother says he has never wanted special treatment or accommodations.

The teen's mother said that "Armando is an example for the whole world. He doesn't need or want anyone's help. He takes care of himself. He is very strong."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation has



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Benedict XVI greets Armando Sanchez, 17, from Brownsville, during his general audience in St. Peter's Square May 2. Sanchez, a cancer patient, met the pope thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

been fulfilling the wishes of hundreds of thousands of children and teens with life-threatening illnesses since its founding in 1980.

"Many young people would rather go to Disney — he chose Rome," said Father Michael Amesse, OMI, who is rector of Immaculate Conception Cathedral, where Armando is an altar server. "That speaks volumes. He loves God so much."

The teen said he plans on pursuing a career in pathology after high school graduation and that he is also discerning the priesthood.

While he briefly went through a period of being angry about his condition, today he said he has accepted it.

"Some people have stressful jobs or pressures at home; this is my cross to carry," he said.

New Galveston-Houston auxiliary pledges to 'be true in faith, teaching'



Bishop James A. Tamayo of Laredo, and retired Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston applaud Auxiliary Bishop George Arthur Sheltz, with crosier, during his ordination Mass at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston May 2. Bishop Sheltz is only the seventh auxiliary bishop to serve in the oldest and largest diocese in Texas.

Photos by Jonah Dycus / Texas Catholic Herald

By Monica Hatcher
TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD
Newspaper of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

HOUSTON (CNS) — Promising to be a humble servant to God and his people and dedicating his ministry to the Blessed Mother, George Arthur Sheltz was ordained the new auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston May 2 in a packed cathedral of jubilant supporters of the native Houstonian.

Bishop Sheltz is only the seventh auxiliary bishop to be ordained in the oldest and largest diocese in Texas. He will assist Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo in shepherding more than 1.2 million Catholics across 10 counties, 146 parishes, and 59 schools.

"I will be true in faith and in teaching," the newly ordained bishop said in comments near the close of the ordination Mass. "I hope that I will govern with great care and compassion and love. I know that it takes a lot of prayer and hard work to do that."

Cardinal DiNardo, principal consecrator and celebrant, joined 18 bishops from around the country and more than 200 clergy for the ordination, during which Bishop Sheltz was anointed with the sacred chrism, signifying his full share in the priesthood of Christ.

Bishop Sheltz, who learned of his appointment on Feb. 21, said he was deeply moved and humbled that Pope Benedict XVI had chosen him to help lead the beloved archdiocese where he was born, raised, educated, and ordained to the priesthood.

"I ask you to pray for me and keep me in your prayers so that I can be that humble servant I have been called to be, but also to help me keep a sense of humor and to be there when people need me, to be able to listen to them, and to be able to help them in anything I can do," Bishop Sheltz said. In doing so, he said he sought to model his life after the Blessed Mother.

"My mother always said that (Mary) was a simple person, but she was always there, was always supporting, always loving. She never did anything for herself, but for other people," he said.

During his homily, Cardinal DiNardo spoke about the role of a bishop within the Church, which is to teach, sanctify, and govern, and how special it was to have a shepherd who had spent his whole life among his flock in one diocese.

"What a gracious act of the Holy



Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston lays his hands on the head of Auxiliary Bishop George A. Sheltz during his May 2 ordination Mass.

Father to grant us a local priest to be our new auxiliary. How much it says about the priests of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston that one of their number is considered, as the pope says, 'apt with ecclesial experience' to serve as a bishop," Cardinal DiNardo said.

A priest for more than 40 years, Bishop Sheltz's story in faith began in a family of men and women deeply committed to the Church.

His father, Deacon George Sheltz, Sr., was in the first class of permanent deacons ordained for the diocese in 1972. The bishop's late brother, Anton Sheltz, was ordained a priest in Houston 1976. His uncle, Monsignor Anton Frank, was the first native Houstonian to be ordained for the diocese in 1933.

His mother, Margaret, and maternal grandmother, both now deceased, and his sister Mary Margaret Keen were also profoundly devoted to the faith.

"They taught me by their example what it means to be a Catholic, what it means to be a Christian, and even what it means to be a priest. They taught me you're not in it for yourself. You're in it to share your blessings and your gifts," Bishop Sheltz said during a vespers service on the eve of his ordination.

During his priesthood, Bishop Sheltz served at Assumption, Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, and St. Vincent de Paul churches. He was the founding pastor of Christ the Redeemer and served as pastor at both Prince of Peace and St. Anthony of Padua parishes, all within the archdiocese.

In 2007, Bishop Sheltz became archdiocesan director of Clergy Formation and Chaplaincy Services. Since 2010, he has served as vicar general and chancellor of the archdiocese, overseeing the administrative operations for the 12th largest archdiocese in the nation.

In Memory

Former diocesan Family Life director Deacon Dick Stojak dies at 71

By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

Deacon Dick Stojak, director of Family Life for the diocese from 1998-2008, passed away Monday, April 23. He is remembered for his faithful service to his family, the Church, and his community.

"In my eulogy for him, I used the St. Francis of Assisi quote, saying, 'preach the Gospel every day, and if you have to, use words,' and that best described Dick with his family, his friends, and his parish," said Michael Demma, Stojak's former neighbor, who worked with him as a volunteer at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller.

Visitation and a vigil service were held April 25, and a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 26, all at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury. He was interred at Assumption Cemetery in Glenwood, Illinois.

Richard "Dick" Michael Stojak was born March 19, 1941, in Blue Island, Illinois, to Michael James and Emilie Dzierwa Stojak. Stojak was a 1960 graduate of

Quigley Preparatory Seminary North and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University in Chicago.

He married Kathleen Joann Kasmirs on Aug. 22, 1964. Stojak worked for the Social Security Administration for 33 years beginning that career as Medicare was enacted.

Stojak was ordained a deacon for the Archdiocese of Chicago May 4, 1985, by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

In 1993, the Stojak family moved to Keller, where he was given faculties to serve as a deacon in the Diocese of Fort Worth. He served at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller from 1993-2001, and at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury from 2001 until his death.

Jerry Austin, Jr., a longtime parishioner of St. Francis Cabrini, said Dcn. Stojak was a gentle, God-loving man who liked to help people. Austin and Demma both said that Dcn. Stojak was an exceptional homilist.

Dcn. Stojak was named



Photo Courtesy of Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home

Deacon Richard Stojak

diocesan director of Family Life in 1998, and together with his wife, Kathy, emphasized sacramental marriage as a relationship. Together, Dcn. Stojak and Kathy served the Church for 27 years.

Kathy Stojak said she and her husband helped with marriage preparation together first in Chicago and then in parishes in Texas before he became Family Life director.

Kathy said prior to his death her husband went through the lists of the classes they had done together

and found that they had counseled and prepared more than 2,500 couples — either individually or in groups — for marriage.

Dick and Kathy have five children, and their service to the Church through marriage preparation did affect them. She said that Dcn. Stojak presided and gave the homilies at the weddings of all their children who married, and their youngest son, Steve, even attended one of their marriage preparation classes. Dcn. Stojak also baptized all six of their grandchildren.

"He was a great dad," said his daughter Amy Stojak. "He was supportive. He was soft spoken, but we knew what his expectations were and what he wanted for us."

Another of his daughters, Mary Schneider, remembers how her father spent a lot of time with her and her siblings.

"He went to our swim meets, our baseball games, and our basketball games," Schneider said. "He taught us how to water ski and drive. He was always there for us."

Another daughter, Andrea "Andi" Zmucki, said she has special memories of cooking with her father. "He not only loved to eat food, but he loved to make food," Zmucki said. "We oftentimes made homemade pizzas. We would spend a whole Saturday making pizzas and freeze them."

"One thing that we learned early on in life is service," said Rick

Stojak, the Stojak's oldest son. "Service to others and service to the Church, were really important in his life, and he wanted to make it important in our family life as well," he said. His dad lived out those values especially in his later years. "He did a lot with the Church and tried to do whatever he could for people, to understand what they were going through and to help them in any way."

"He was the greatest gift I could have ever received," Kathy said. "I never had a day where I thought, 'Why did I marry this man?' because there was something good about every day, and I'm really going to miss him," she said.

Kathy Stojak said that she and her children were amazed that at least 200 people attended the wake service and at least 300 people attended the funeral Mass.

"There were a lot of people at the funeral," Schneider said. "Everyone said a lot of nice things about him and how much they're going to miss him."

Dcn. Stojak is survived by his wife, Kathy Stojak; his children, Richard Michael Stojak, Jr., and wife, Denise; Mary Bernice Schneider and husband, Ken; Amy Kathleen Stojak; Andrea JoAnn Zmucki and husband, Tim; Steven Bernard Stojak and wife, Sarah; six grandchildren, Emilie, Nathan, Zach, and Olivia Stojak, and Julia and Brooke Zmucki; and his sister, Camille Clavio and husband, Fred.



Catholic
Charities
Fort Worth

Clinical
Counseling



Catholic Charities Fort Worth provides counseling services respectful of your faith. Our licensed professionals can help you through the challenges of raising a child, strengthening a marriage, succeeding at school or work, or coping with depression, anxiety, and the stresses of daily life. Services are fee-based; financial assistance is available to assist in paying the cost of services for low-income individuals and families. Medicaid and Medicare accepted.

Locations: Parishes in Arlington, Weatherford, Colleyville, Gainesville or at our main Fort Worth campus (249 West Thornhill Drive).

Contact us at 817.534.0814 or centralintake@ccdofw.org to find the location nearest you and book your appointment today!

We're always here. Whenever you need us.

Casa Brendan and Casa II, Inc. provides Affordable Independent Living for Seniors (62+)

Amenities for Casa Brendan and Casa II, Inc.

Efficiencies and One Bedroom
Apartments
Income Based Rent
Tile Throughout
Utility Allowances
Cable Ready – Discounted
Emergency Pull Cord Systems
Individual Central Heating and Air
Conditioning
24 hour emergency maintenance
Night and Weekend Courtesy Patrol

Facilities include:

Community Room
Library
Landscaped grounds
Wheelchair Accessible Units
2 Laundry Facilities
Domestic Pet Friendly (one per unit
under 25 lbs)



Call For Details!

Casa Brendan/Casa II, Inc. Apartments

1300 Hyman St.
Stephenville, Texas 76401
254-965-6964
Relay Texas TTY line – 711



DCYC 2012

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference
July 13-15, 2012



Keynote Presenters

Guest Presenters



Mike Patin



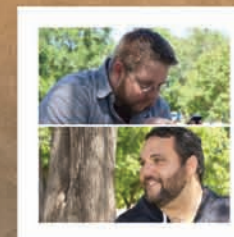
Judy McDonald



Roy Petitfils



Dj Bill Lage



Perpetual Ministry
Scott Dougherty, Tony Vasinda



Visit: www.fwdioc.org

Office of Youth Ministry, Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth

Annual Youth 2000 retreat helps youth and young adults connect to love and mercy of Jesus

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

When Joe Magnetico is patrolling the streets of East Fort Worth, he carries a duty belt with equipment needed to keep others — and himself — safe. But there is something else the police rookie wears for protection. Underneath the blue uniform of the Fort Worth Police Department is a scapular.

“It’s not a good luck charm,” the 27-year-old is quick to explain. “But it has saved my life in a lot of ways.”

During his teenage years, Magnetico admits he wasn’t a firmly-

rooted Catholic. He credits the Blessed Mother for keeping him in the Church and giving his life direction.

“I prayed to God and Mary for guidance and they kept bringing me to this,” he said referring to his job with the police force.

Today, the recent police academy graduate patrols a low-income neighborhood where he finds joy in helping the underprivileged.

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner shared his reawakening to faith and prayer with others during the annual Youth 2000 retreat April 13-15 at Nolan High School. Designed for 13- to 30-year-olds, the spiritual weekend helps young people develop a



Brother Maximilian Stelmachowski, CFR, helps his young listeners understand how Jesus is present in their lives during a Saturday morning talk.

close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ through Eucharistic Adoration,

the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and upbeat music. The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, who conduct the retreat in conjunction with the Diocese of Fort Worth, offer inspirational talks and personal testimonies.

To keep young minds focused on God, the assembly sits around an imposing, tiered platform of candles that supports a gold monstrance and consecrated host. For many participants, the highlight of the weekend is the Saturday evening Eucharistic procession when the priest removes the monstrance from its altar and carries it through the crowd. The rite reinforces the belief that God is real and truly present in their lives.

“Jesus is who he says He is,” Father Juan Diego, CFR, assured an audience of more than 1,000 people during a Saturday morning talk. “He is Lord. Jesus is God made man.”

Standing in front of his young listeners, the robed friar said philosophers and theologians have spilled a lot of ink trying to answer the question, “Why would God want to become man?” The answer is simple.

“It’s one word — love,” the speaker stated. “Jesus comes to show us the way back to the Father. He came to show us how we should live our lives.”

WWJD, an abbreviation for the catch phrase, “What Would Jesus Do,” has become the target for pop culture jokes and sarcasm. Instead of

ridicule, it’s a question that should shape your life, the missionary priest pointed out.

“If Jesus is God, what He says should make an impact on the choices you make,” Fr. Juan added. “We should examine every action in our life according to that question.”

For Kristin Wise, coordinator of youth ministry for Sts. Simon and Jude Church in The Woodlands, bringing a group to Youth 2000 is a ritual she’s maintained for the past nine years. The Houston area teens look forward to the annual event and raise money to cover lodging expenses and travel to Fort Worth. Organizing the long distance trip is worth the effort because young people find something they’re looking for during the weekend, she said.

“The retreat offers the truth and our kids are hungry — so hungry for the truth. They can tell when someone is insincere,” Wise asserted.

Youth 2000 shows them a new way to look at the Rosary, Mass, Reconciliation, and other basic Catholic practices.

“They see how much the friars and rest of the community love their faith and want to share it,” she added. “It’s a genuine experience.”

Nineteen-year-old Christian Pardo, a first-time participant in Youth 2000, came to the retreat to deepen his relationship with God. Confined to a wheelchair because of a chronic pain condition, the St. Patrick parishioner has asked God a lot of questions since his diagnosis.

“I know God has a plan for me,” says Pardo, a newcomer to his parish’s young adult ministry program. “I think Youth 2000 is going to help me understand what that is.”



VOCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM

JUNE 22 - 24, 2012 HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY, IRVING

A weekend of discernment helps single Catholic men and women, ages 18 – 40, find answers about life as a Priest, Sister, Brother or Lay Woman. It includes presentations, panel discussions, Q&A periods and one-on-one conferences with diocesan and order Priests, Sisters and Brothers. There are no fees, private rooms and meals are furnished, and no one will pressure you or seek a commitment. To learn more and apply, visit vapinfo.org or contact Fr. Isaac Orozco at the Ft. Worth Diocese, 817-560-2452, ext. 109 iorozco@fwdioc.org.

Application deadline June 11 Visit vapinfo.org

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



Brother John Mary Johannssen, CFR, leads one of the small group discussions that are part of the Youth 2000 experience.

School of Lay Ministry Summer Cycle to run in Spanish and English July 7-21

By Michele Baker
Correspondent

The School of Lay Ministry Summer Cycle is set to begin July 7 continuing through July 21. The combination of lectures and workshops are open to everyone in the diocese who is looking to deepen their understanding of the faith.

"The thing that I want to stress is that Summer Cycle is open to everyone," said Father Carmen Mele, OP, director of the school. "You don't have to be enrolled in the John Paul II Institute to participate."

This year's Summer Cycle will begin in Wichita Falls with day-long workshops in English and Spanish at Sacred Heart Parish. Fr. Mele will conduct an English language session on lay preaching while special guest, Father Alejandro López-Cardinale of RENEW International, will give the Spanish language presentation entitled "*Retos en la transmisión de la Fe.*"

"Padre Alejandro is a passionate catechist with quite a following in this diocese and beyond," said Fr. Mele. "He's always very well received and we're happy to host him again."

After the Wichita Falls weekend, Fr. Alejandro will give a four-part lecture series from 7 to 9:30 p.m. July 9-12 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller entitled "*Retos en la Transmisión de la Fe a Nuestros Hijos: Esperanzas en el Año de la Fe.*"

Diocesan priest Father John Robert Skeldon is the featured speaker for the four-part lecture series "Knowing God through his People: What Minor Biblical Characters Tell Us about Faith." Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington will host this event from 7 to 9:30 p.m. July 16-19.

"Fr. John Robert Skeldon is



an excellent speaker," said Fr. Mele. "He's known for his enthusiasm, his unique ways of addressing his subject matter, and his eclectic range of interests."

Each lecture series is open to the public for a total \$20 registration fee.

The Summer Cycle will continue July 14 and 21 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in South Fort Worth with workshops offered in English and Spanish. Presenters from throughout

the Diocese of Fort Worth will lead classes on a variety of topics. Like the lecture series, each class is open to the public for a nominal fee.

"We want everyone who's interested to take advantage of these classes," said Fr. Carmen.

Additional information and online registration for the Summer Cycle of the Blessed John Paul II Institute School of Lay Ministry is available on the diocesan website at www.fwdiocese.org.

Casa, Inc. and Nuestro Hogar, Inc. provides Affordable Independent Living for Seniors (62+)

- Efficiencies, One and Two Bedroom apartments
- Income Based Rent
- Wheelchair accessible apartments
- Emergency pull-cords in bedroom and bathroom
- Grab Bars in bathroom
- Handrails lining hallways
- On-Site Laundry, Library & Computer Access
- Night and weekend security officers
- 24-hour emergency maintenance service
- Pets Welcome (under 20 lbs, one per apartment)
- On-Site Social Service Coordinator



Call For Details!

Casa, Inc.

3201 Sondra Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
817-332-7276

Relay Texas TTY line – 711

Nuestro Hogar, Inc.

709 Magnolia Street
Arlington, Texas 76012
817-261-0608

Relay Texas TTY line – 711

Housing Properties are managed for HUD by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.

www.ccdofw.org



Catholic Charities Spotlight: International Foster Care



Photo courtesy of Catholic Charities Fort Worth
CCFW's International Foster Care Program places refugee children like the one pictured above into loving foster care homes.

Sharon and Tom Strittmatter, longtime parishioners at St. Rita Church in Fort Worth, enjoy the life they share with the three "wonderful" African teenagers who have come to live with them and their 13-year-old son. Having previously served as foster parents for Catholic Charities Fort Worth's (CCFW) therapeutic foster care program for several years, the couple entered the CCFW International Foster Care (IFC) Program two years ago.

"Participating in this program is the most enriching experience of my entire life," says Sharon. "We absolutely love these amazing young people. They have been through so much, but they are working so hard to create new lives for themselves. They are truly inspiring to me."

Integrating the children — now ages 19, 18, and 13 — into the Strittmatters' busy home and large extended family, was never difficult, because of the youths' positive attitudes and their focus upon learning English and succeeding in school, says Sharon. "They respond to us with great respect and cooperation," she explains.

The three children, having experienced violence and the deaths of their own family members in the Congo and Rwanda, came to the United States as a result of Catholic Charities' partnership with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Division of Unaccompanied Children's Services. Catholic Charities' IFC Program provides foster care for unaccompanied minors, working with foster families to provide a safe, nurturing, and culturally sensitive environment that equips and empowers these displaced young people to reach their full potential.

"We currently have 37 young people living in 22 foster homes. Our minors are from the Congo,

Rwanda, Eritrea, Burma, Uganda, Guatemala, and Mexico," explains Catholic Charities staff member Jennifer Anderson, who serves as program manager for the IFC. "We work hard to find the right family for each child, and then we offer continual support to the foster families and to the youth to make it the best experience possible for everyone involved."

That support includes assistance provided through tutoring, mentoring, language interpretation, highly involved case workers, life skills training, legal assistance, and mental health services. "The fellowship and community we have experienced through the IFC Program is truly unbelievable," says Sharon. "The monthly training we receive is always excellent, and we parents always have so much to share and discuss when we get together, while the kids receive training and support within their own groups at the same time. Everything we have ever needed, as foster parents, has always been provided immediately."

Feelings of grief and loss will always be present within young people who have witnessed death and destruction, says Jennifer. "And yet, we find that they are so very resilient," she adds. "They are determined to honor their lost families by working hard and being successful. We all admire them tremendously. And we hope many more people will come forward to offer a chance to these young people who need a home and an opportunity."

For more information about donating to or becoming a volunteer or foster parent with the IFC Program, visit the Catholic Charities website at www.ccdofw.org, or contact Alyssa Elledge at aelledge@ccdofw.org or at (817) 289-3889.

To Report Misconduct

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

- Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdiocese.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 moderator of the curia, Father Stephen J. Berg

To Report Abuse

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



Father Isaac Orozco
Diocesan Director of
Vocations

Vocations

Responding to God's call

What does it mean to be Catholic Americans?

One of the greatest hang-ups for Catholic Americans is understanding the interplay between what it means to be American and what it means to be Catholic. I suppose this means that we have a problem figuring out what it means to be Catholic Americans.

From the time that we are children, we all learn that America is the best country in the world and that freedom is the quintessential character of our citizenship. Imbibing this doctrine and bringing it into the arena of faith however, has its cost, since true freedom can only be found in being a follower of Christ. We can never take for granted that our citizenship in heaven is the only one that endures.

Extending from citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven is the call to holiness. It recalls that although we render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar, we must also render to God



what is his. As such, we are called to strive daily to open our hearts and minds to the love of God and give Him everything since there is nothing which does not already belong to Him.

This openness isn't simply a feeling or a superficial sentiment directed toward God. Rather, it is the continual decision to

encounter God wherever we find Him. This disposition of openness is fundamentally opposed to any notion of entitlement, no matter how closely it approximates the understanding of American freedom.

Since every Catholic is called to love God, to follow his commandments and to love his neighbor, it is required that a proper notion of freedom be embraced. The freedom that reverses the effects of the Fall and ushers in the Kingdom of God is not found in a political notion of freedom. Instead, the freedom of the children of God is found in an open disposition to God's love and is unfurled when extended to others.

Every discernor must be cautioned against falling into the trap of understanding freedom as a sort of exercise of rights. Freedom isn't found in rights endowed by the Creator. It is found in loving Jesus Christ.

Vocation Awareness Weekend

If you are single, Catholic, 18 to 40 years of age and interested in learning about the ministry as a priest, brother, sister, or consecrated lay woman, you are invited to attend the 2012 Vocation Awareness Program June 22-24.

The weekend is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of the Dallas and Fort Worth Dioceses in conjunction with the diocesan Vocation Offices of Dallas and Fort Worth. The weekend includes presentations on how attendees should approach their discernment of a religious vocation, personal one-on-one conferences with staff members, panel discussions pertaining to the lifestyles of

priests, sisters, consecrated, and brothers, question and answer sessions, other vocation related presentations, and time for prayer and meditation. There is no cost to the attendees. Attendees will be provided a private room and excellent meals. The weekend concludes with attendees, staff and Serrans attending Sunday mass followed by a brunch.

The event will be held at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. Pre-registration is required. Registration deadline is June 11.

For information, contact, Father Isaac Orozco, Director of Vocations, Fort Worth Diocese, at (817) 560-2452, ext. 109, or e-mail iorozco@fwdioc.org, or visit <http://www.vapinfo.org>.

Don't let fear, search for the superficial drown out God's call, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — God is always calling people to dedicate themselves fully to serving him, but they often don't hear because they



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pope Benedict XVI ordains one of eight priests for the Diocese of Rome in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 29.

are either too distracted or afraid they would no longer be free if they answered the call, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Let us pray that all young people pay attention to the voice of God, who speaks to their hearts and calls them to detach themselves from everything in order to serve him," he said April 29 — the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Before praying the *Regina Coeli* with the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope said, "The Lord is always calling us, but very often we don't listen."

"We are distracted by many things, by other voices that are more superficial and because we are afraid to listen to the Lord's voice because we think that it can take away our freedom."

But everyone on the earth is deeply loved by God, and as soon as people become aware of that love, their lives change by becoming a response to God's love, which in turn means human freedom is fully

realized, the pope said.

The pope asked that the Universal Church and every local parish or community become a lush garden "in which the seeds of vocations that God spreads in abundance can germinate and ripen."

He asked that everyone help cultivate this garden so that those who do hear God's call can follow through with joy and generosity.

Earlier in the day, Pope Benedict ordained nine new priests in St. Peter's Basilica; one of the priests will serve the diocese Bui Chu in Vietnam, while the others — who come from Italy, the Ivory Coast, and Colombia — will serve in the Diocese of Rome.

One of the newly ordained men, Father Piero Gallo, 42, worked as a lawyer and magistrate for the Italian government for eight years. Another, Father Marco Santarelli, 29, used to pilot private aircraft with the dream of someday flying a Boeing 747.

Before reciting the *Regina Coeli*



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Priests lie prostrate during their ordination by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 29. The pope ordained eight for the Diocese of Rome.

prayer, the pope said these men "are not any different from other young people."

The only thing that sets them apart is that "they have been profoundly touched by the beauty of

God's love and could not do anything but respond to it with their whole lives," he said. They encountered that love in Jesus through the Gospel, the Eucharist, and people in their church community, he added.

Catechesis

The Holy Spirit is the source and soul of the Church, leading us always to Christ.

By Lucas Pollice

“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.” These words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven were fulfilled nine days later at Pentecost. The word Pentecost itself, means “50 days” as the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles 50 days after Easter. Christ sends the fullness of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the disciples who were present, and they were filled with his presence, power, and gifts, and they began to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

The event of Pentecost is significant in two ways. First, the Holy Spirit is fully revealed, and as a result, the mission of the Holy Spirit of empowering and transforming the followers of Christ is also inaugurated. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were transformed from being weak and afraid, to being bold and courageous in proclaiming and witnessing the revelation of God. For it is only through the Holy Spirit that the early Church was able to have true faith in God.

Secondly, the Pentecost event marks the birthday of the Church, and the origin of the Church’s mission and identity, both visibly and spiritually. The Church is manifested visibly as the Apostles began to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to all the nations that were present in Jerusalem, who all heard the apostles speaking in their own native tongues. Thus, the Catholic or universal Church became present in the unity of the human race in Christ and became the visible and active instrument of salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit. In fact, Pentecost is the reversal of the scattering of humanity through sin at the Tower of Babel as seen in the Old Testament. At Babel, humanity through sin, was fractured through the different languages and no longer able to communicate and live together as one, but through the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the human family was once again united in the Church, where in a single day, over 3,000 people were baptized.

The Church also began her spiritual mission through the power of the Spirit by beginning to teach and proclaim the Gospel of Christ. The Apostles burst out of the Upper Room filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit and began the missionary activity of the Church.



An artist's depiction of a scene from the Pentecost appears in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

(CNS photo/Crosiers)

It is the Holy Spirit who not only leads us to the truth, but also empowers us to go forth and proclaim the truth. Truly, the Holy Spirit is the source and soul of the Church, leading us always to Christ.

This gift of the Holy Spirit is poured forth upon the Church at Pentecost to dwell within us so that we may be sanctified, or become holy (from the Latin *sanctus*). Christ opens the gates of heaven for us through his death and resurrection, and then he sends the Holy Spirit to transform us through our cooperation with his power and grace, so that becoming holy, like Christ, we may have eternal life. The Holy Spirit accomplishes this work of sanctification in several ways:

THE HOLY SPIRIT FREES US FROM BOTH THE LAW AND THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are set free from the law that was written on stone and receive a new law written on our hearts. We now live in the freedom of Christ, no longer subject to the law and the desires of our flesh. St. Paul states, “But now we are released from the law, dead to what held us captive, so that we may serve in the newness of the Spirit and not under the obsolete letter” (*Romans 7:16*). The Holy Spirit frees us from the bondage of sin and death so that we live in the freedom of the life of God.

THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS AND BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.

We are literally transformed from being bent over in sin to now being able to stand upright or become righteous before God. The power of the Holy Spirit is a transforming power that conforms us to the image of Christ and

restores that image of God within us which was disfigured through sin. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us as children of God, and by uniting us to Christ, we become the adopted sons and daughters of God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS US WITH HIS SEVEN GIFTS.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us at our Baptism and then given to us in superabundance at Confirmation. The gifts of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and the fear of the Lord are given to us as the foundation, or spiritual tools, of the Christian life, so that we too may continue the mission and work of Christ. In fact, the sacrament of Confirmation is like our own personal Pentecost in which we are filled with these gifts so that we may truly be the witnesses and instruments of Christ to all the world. Through these seven gifts we in turn are called to bear the fruits of the Spirit: love, peace, joy, patience, humility....so that the presence and mercy of Christ may be made richly present in and through us.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALSO THE SOURCE AND INSPIRATION OF OUR PRAYER.

In fact, our prayer is actually our soul responding to the thirst of Christ for us that comes to us through the Holy Spirit. When we pray, it is the Holy Spirit praying in and through us, leading us to the heart of Christ. We cannot even call Jesus “Lord” without the grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As St. Paul teaches, “the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with sighs too deep for words” (*Romans 8:26*). We should always call upon the intercession of the Holy Spirit

in our prayer, especially when it is difficult to pray or in times of spiritual dryness. When we find it hard to pray, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is the inspiration of prayer, and it is only through his grace and power that we can lift our hearts like incense up to God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVINCES US CONCERNING SIN. Finally, the Holy Spirit also works to sanctify us by convincing us concerning sin. When we find ourselves in sin, or straying away from God, the Holy Spirit convinces us of our sin and calls us back to the Father. Even when we turn away from God in sin, the Holy Spirit our Advocate does not abandon us, but through the gift of our conscience, calls us to conversion and repentance. This call of love of the Holy Spirit comes to us through our conscience and involves the feeling of guilt or remorse.

In our present culture, we are many times taught to avoid the feeling of guilt or remorse, that feeling guilty or remorseful is a bad thing. It is true that feeling remorse is indeed a form of suffering, a feeling of loss and sadness. However, even more profoundly and importantly, remorse is a form of redemptive suffering, for it is the voice of the Holy Spirit calling us back to the Father. For example, if I touch a hot stove, the feeling of pain is not a pleasant experience. But the pain I feel is good, in that it triggers my brain to get my hand off the burning stove before more damage is done. In the same way, the pain of remorse is the Holy Spirit calling us away from sin and all its damaging effects, back to the merciful heart of Christ. We should never avoid this merciful call of the Spirit, because no sin is beyond the forgiveness of God. In fact, the only sin that is unforgivable is the sin against the Holy Spirit, when through the hardness of our heart, we reject the call of conversion and mercy of Christ, choosing not to open ourselves to the forgiveness of God. The sin against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable precisely because we refuse that very forgiveness continuously offered by Christ!

As we once again celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, may we come to realize more deeply and profoundly the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and seek to deepen our cooperation with his graces and gifts. I conclude with the simple but powerful prayer of Cardinal Désiré-Joseph Mercier (a Belgian cardinal noted for his resistance to the German occupation of 1914) to the Holy Spirit:

Oh, Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul...I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what to do...give me your orders. I promise to submit myself and all that You desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me know only your will. Amen.

Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCLIA for the diocese.

VOICES of the CHURCH

opinions, stories, wisdom, and personal voice

Getting folks to see the light May just take a re-orientation

By Denise Bossert

It was the 1970s and New Math was everywhere. Mrs. Veninge paired me up with a student who didn't like me at all. Our task? To draw a straight line that was five inches long. We opened our desks, grabbed our rulers, and sharpened our pencils.

I looked at the blank piece of paper and decided to draw a vertical line. Even in third grade, I was determined to be a bit different from everybody else.

Norma looked at my line and informed me, "That's not a line."

"Of course it is," I said to the critic seated next to me.

"No. A line goes like this." She took another piece of paper and drew a five-inch horizontal line.

I grabbed my paper and walked straight over to Mrs. Veninge. In a spirit of indignation, I presented my case to the teacher. "Mrs. Veninge, Norma says that my line isn't a line. She thinks a line has to go this way!" I drew an imaginary horizontal line in the air. "But a line can go any way you want it to go. Can't it?"

Mrs. Veninge didn't say anything.

"Can you come over to our desks and tell Norma that my line is right, too?" My teacher just sat there for a moment.

"Why don't you go over there and find a way to show Norma that a line can be horizontal or vertical?"

I wasn't happy with my teacher. She was supposed to take my side. I was right, and I knew it. Why couldn't she just come over and set Norma straight (no pun intended)? A line is a line! What good was a teacher, if she wouldn't vindicate you in front of your peers?

I shuffled my feet back to Norma. She had a really irritating smile on her face that said, See! If you were right, Mrs. Veninge would say so!

I sat in my chair and thought hard. How do you get through to a kid who has no respect for you? How do you get her to listen and take you seriously?

"Okay, Norma. Draw another line."

Norma took another blank piece of paper and proudly drew a second horizontal line.

"Great." I said. "That's a perfect line."

Norma smiled.

Then, I reached over and laid the palm of my hand on the center of her paper. I rotated everything 90 degrees so that the line was now vertical.

"And it's still a line now," I said.

Norma stared at her paper as a light bulb turned on, and a new schema took shape in her previously closed mind. "Oh." Finally, she understood. Relief replaced my frustration.



There's no easy path to apologetics.

It requires tenacity.

It takes a lot of ingenuity

Sometimes, I want priests or bishops to just stand up and tell it like it is. "Come on over to the fullness of the Christian faith. No other Church is 2,000 years old! History affirms who we are and what we are. This is the Church Jesus Christ founded. So why not reconsider what the Church has always taught..."

...About the Eucharist...about the New Ark of the Covenant...about what the Communion of Saints means...about what the Early Church Fathers taught... about Our Lord's High Priestly Prayer for unity...about heaven touching down in the Mass...about holiness and grace and mercy and true social justice.

Why don't they just have one big come-to-Jesus-talk with the Normas of the world?

Here's why... I'm the one sitting by Norma. God gave me a brain and a mouth and a passion for Truth. He wants me to learn a few lessons about getting along with Norma. He wants me to talk to her and show her the Good News. He wants me to be the Good News.

There's no easy path to apologetics. It requires tenacity. It takes a lot of ingenuity. You have to want to help Norma along — not beat her over the head with it.

Sometimes, all Norma needs is a 90 degree re-orientation to the whole thing.

And the floodlights turn on, revealing a Church that has stood the test of time. A Church that goes all the way back to Jesus and St. Peter. The Church that has been empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit since that first Pentecost. With a little ingenuity and a whole lot of grace, a new schema is born in the hearts and minds of those around us. And Norma is left uttering a breathless, "Amen."

How do I know this? I was once a Norma, too. And many Catholic writers, speakers, and parishioners have shown me what a 90 degree reorientation can do. Thanks be to God!

Denise Bossert has four children and is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in New Melle, Missouri. Her column Catholic by Grace has run in 46 diocesan newspapers. Check out her blog at catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.

When freedom of religion Is twisted into freedom from religion

By Richard Doerflinger

The "Freedom From Religion Foundation" has placed a full-page ad in the *Washington Post*. It urges Catholics to "quit the Catholic Church" over its teachings on sex and procreation, asking: "Will it be reproductive freedom, or back to the Dark Ages?"

Noting Catholic opposition to the Obama Administration's mandate for covering contraception, sterilization, and abortifacient drugs in most private health plans, the ad declares: "The Church that hasn't persuaded you to shun contraception now wants to use the force of secular law to deny birth control to non-Catholics."

This is so topsy-turvy a description of what is going on that I guess the Post's advertising fact-checkers are out sick. But in case anyone is swayed by such charges, the facts may bear repeating.

It is, of course, the Administration that wants to "use the force of secular law" to deny a freedom Americans have long enjoyed. Until now, Catholics and non-Catholics alike had the freedom to decide, without federal interference, whether to buy the above-mentioned coverage or not. A religious organization with a moral objection could exclude the coverage from the health plan it subsidizes; an individual who wanted those drugs and procedures could choose to work for an organization that subsidizes them, or use his or her own money to buy them.

Under the Administration's mandate, by contrast, there is no free choice — for employers, or for individual women. Almost everyone must have coverage for the full range of anti-pregnancy technologies aimed at women, from surgical sterilizations to the injectable and implantable drugs often used by overzealous population control programs in the Third World. (Interestingly, male methods such as condoms and vasectomies are excluded.) An extremely narrow "religious employer" exemption will let some churches and houses of worship opt out — if they focus on "inculcation of religious values," and don't hire or serve people of other faiths.

The Administration will delay enforcing its mandate for one year for a wider class of religious employers — those which educate, heal, and serve the public. But once this year is up, the coverage will be provided "automatically" to these organizations' employees, whether the employees want it or not — and to their "beneficiaries" such as teenage children, with guarantees of "privacy."

This acts out a script that Planned Parenthood and its allies wrote many years

This acts out a script that Planned Parenthood and its allies wrote many years ago. In 1995 PP's former research arm, the Guttmacher Institute, issued a position paper titled "Uneven and Unequal" that urged comprehensive "access" to "reproductive health" services as part of health care reform.

ago. In 1995 PP's former research arm, the Guttmacher Institute, issued a position paper titled "Uneven and Unequal" that urged comprehensive "access" to "reproductive health" services as part of health care reform. It insisted on covering these procedures for enrollees' children "confidentially," so parents need not be aware what others are encouraging their children to do about pregnancy prevention. The Institute said such coverage should be available without co-pays or other out-of-pocket expenses — not only to maximize access, but to ensure "confidential care" (that is, teens can obtain the services without telling Mom why they need twenty dollars).

So this dispute is about religious freedom, and other freedoms as well. As part of its human rights stand on population policy, the Church has long insisted that government should not be encouraging or dictating the specific methods by which parents decide the size of their families. The Church has also supported the freedom of parents to be primary educators and guides for their children, including on matters of sexuality. Those freedoms are forfeit when the federal government can reach into every family in America to ensure that children are counseled and given drugs, implants, or surgeries to prevent pregnancy behind their parents' backs. To justify that agenda, you need a broader slogan than just "Freedom from Religion." Maybe "Freedom from Freedom" will catch on.

Richard Doerflinger is Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops' efforts on religious freedom and rights of conscience, visit www.usccb.org/conscience.

VOICES of the CHURCH

opinions, stories, wisdom, and personal voice

Yes, your baby's laugh will change But the joyful qualities it conveys will remain with him ...

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Charlie, my grandson, is about to be one year old, and that makes my heart laugh. The anniversary brings happiness to his parents, because they have had the privilege of seeing their child's smile, hearing his cry, vocalization, and attempts at words, every day of the year.

Sadly, the June 1 anniversary also marks a year since the death of Charles King, Charles' namesake. But I believe Monsignor is able, and especially happy, to watch the growth of this beautiful boy. I know he prays Charles will grow up to be a significant person in the Church we all love.

Charlie is a sweet baby with gentle eyes, a natural affinity for music, and some of the huskiest thighs known in Toddler-land.

But one of Charlie's most endearing characteristics is not so much his eyes and thighs, but his wonderful baby laugh.

"He makes us earn it," says Andrew, his father. "But when we do get him really laughing, it's the most identifiable, audible expression of pure joy I think I've ever heard. It's equal parts laugh and squeal with glee."

Recently, Charlie's mother Erika explored this topic on her Facebook wall, confiding with thousands of her friends and friends of their friends.

"Question for moms out there with older little ones," she wrote. "Does the laugh of your child stay the same, or does it evolve as they get older? I really love Charlie's laugh and wonder if it will change as he grows up..."

Erika got some answers, some personal anecdotes and reminiscences. But the answer she would have gotten from me, Charlie's Grammie, would have been much more personal than what Facebook folks could even know.

"Yes, dear Erika, the laugh will change — every day, probably — like his gradual perfection of word usage and the ability to stand alone."

But it won't change completely. Andrew's baby laugh was exactly as he described Charlie's: "an audible expression of pure joy ... equal parts laugh and ... glee." It still is.

But as Andrew grew older, he began to understand different kinds of "funny" so his laughter became more discerning.

Andrew was about 11, and we were driving home from school one day when we passed a van with the business name painted on the side. A man was standing there, kicking it, jiggling the door handle, stomping his foot.

I heard Andrew let out an explosion of laughs — gleeful, joyful, musical. Then he was quiet, I looked back and he was just gazing out the window. A couple of seconds

One of Charlie's most endearing characteristics is not so much his eyes and thighs, but his wonderful baby laugh.

later he did the same thing, only this time he threw his head back and guffawed, squealing with laughter.

"What are you laughing at?"

"Did you see the name on that van? It was 'Kenny's Key Shop.'"

Talking about his own baby boy now, Andrew gives a familiar description: "Just when you think Charlie couldn't possibly keep laughing hard at the same gag, his head bobs back and he lets out another burst of baby chuckles."

Exactly like his daddy.

I had four other children, and no matter how hard I worked to raise the five, I very seriously met each new phase in their lives with a kind of sadness, knowing there would be changes.

I would have told Erika, "I never wanted any changes to occur — I just didn't. Whether it was changing from grade school to high school or finishing a year of ballet lessons or playing on their first soccer team, I wanted to digest things slowly so I wouldn't forget them.

Nevertheless time always went by quickly, and changes did too.

"But," I would have told Charlie's mom, "don't worry because what is following will always turn out to be better than what preceded it. I promise."

In college, when Andrew stopped playing drums in the TCU marching band, I was so sad; I teared up when he told me. But he said, "Don't worry Mom -- I'm going to do something that's even better."

He described his wish to do comedy — and it did turn out to be better! We experienced all his talents with him — the band, piano playing at Catholic Community, and improv comedy. It was a wonderful collection of memories.

As I was trying to think of my kids' laughs, I remembered the things they thought were funny. John liked to imitate Steve Martin movies, and Andrew and his



Baby from Clipart.com

sisters got to perform with him.

No matter who was performing, there were always four siblings to laugh, so the blend of their voices was in harmony, like a barbershop quartet.

Four different kinds of laughing right there for me to enjoy! And all their laughs were different.

I think when God makes us, He includes great gifts, and characteristics our mothers are going to love the second they know us. Maybe that's why moms have the strength to go through labor and sleepless nights, because they know there's something so endearing, they can endure anything, just for those children.

"My dearest Erika," I would tell his mother, "certainly Charlie's laugh is going to change, just like your laugh and my kids' laughs changed, and your activities and actions and abilities changed. You went from crawling to pulling up to walking around the coffee table. All of those things changed, so why wouldn't your laughs change?"

God gave us a myriad of wonderful gifts, made for our happiness.

He gave us everything we remember fondly, that we care about and love, that we sing about or cherish. God gave us everything that is funny or wonderful, everything that we should praise and thank Him for daily.

It may be that one of God's best gifts was not how we laugh, but that we laugh.

I think it was his choice and his gift that we do laugh.

Kathy Cribari Hamer and her husband are members of St. Andrew Parish near TCU in Southwest Fort Worth. In May 2009 her column received the second place award for best family life column from the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada for the second time in two years. In 2005, Kathy's column received the first place award in the same category.

When friends collide on the Public Square

By Jeff Hensley
Editor, *North Texas Catholic*

Where is the center? It's a question that increasingly haunts me, especially as I flick through the postings of the 150 or so friends I claim on Facebook.

It took me a long time to decide to make the leap and join the 900 million others who sometimes share too much, too freely, and sometimes simply lurk and listen.

I like to think I'm somewhere in the middle of those two extremes. I don't often initiate a stream of conversation or share anything too terribly personal.

Since my friends range from quite conservative to somewhat liberal, I try not to say anything too inflammatory, though I often privately message someone with a thought or post a congratulatory comment.

Sometimes I'll even take one of my more conservative friends to task for being too narrow in their pursuit of what the bishops have defined as our highest priorities: pursuit of Religious Liberty and the protection of innocent human life.

My beef with some of them, is that they don't see much of an appropriate role for government in working to improve the lot of the poor or making higher education more accessible or making immigration law more just.

But especially, they don't want the bishops to speak collectively on any of these issues, thus blunting their moral authority to speak to the two most important issues they address in the public square at the present time: Respect for all Human Life and Religious Liberty.

I understand the point that there are matters that are open to the prudential judgment of individuals. None of us gives up the right to conscience and has to buy in to absolutely all the judgments the leadership of the Church makes on all the topics of the day.

But on the other hand, the Church does call us to inform our consciences as we live out our lives as citizens.

We will always have differing opinions on at least some of the issues that face us, but the issues of Respect for Human Life and Religious Liberty are ones on which we should all be in basic agreement. My only request is that all of us would seek to know the mind of Christ and his Church as we enter the Public Square, that we would all remain open to being persuaded of the truth of the claims the Church makes on our consciences.

Features

Courage comes with the fire of the Holy Spirit

By Jeff Hedglen

This is such a special time of year. There seems to be something in the air, and it is not just the alternating of storm clouds and blue skies or another baseball off the bat of Josh Hamilton headed for the bleachers. The air is filled with a special power that proceeds from the Father and the Son: it is the Holy Spirit.

All spring, in parishes throughout our diocese, the Holy Spirit is coming to hundreds of teenagers in the sacrament of Confirmation. Months of preparation, prayer, retreats, catechesis, and tracking down of baptismal certificates, all culminate in an extremely powerful moment when each candidate stands before the primary pastor for the Diocese of Fort Worth, a successor of the Apostles, Bishop Kevin Vann. He extends his hand, dripping with chrism and says "Receive the Holy Spirit"; they each respond "Amen!" and we have a newly empowered Catholic ready to take up the mantle of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit is in the air in another way this spring as Pentecost is just around the corner. May 27 is, in effect, the birthday of the Church. For on that day 2,000 years ago the frightened and confused disciples were in the Upper Room awaiting the promised Paraclete. I imagine them praying and hoping and wondering to each other about what Jesus had meant when he said the Holy Spirit was coming.

Then in the moment that changed the face of the Church forever, a strong driving wind entered the place in which they were, and tongues as of fire came and settled upon their heads. At once this fear-filled gathering became proclaimers of the truth of Jesus crucified, died, and resurrected. Peter stepped out to address the crowd that had gathered at the commotion, preached the first sermon of the Church, and 3,000 people were added to the Church that day (Acts 2:41).

When the Holy Spirit comes, what follows is power. By this I do not mean a magical power like Superman or some other fictional character, rather it is a power that in the everyday life of a Catholic helps us to stay the course and be faithful to the Gospel. When we fail, this same power brings us to the sacrament of Reconciliation so we can begin again. Sometimes this power takes on a more miraculous manifestation, but this need not be the litmus test for the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I recently heard a great description of one of the gifts of the Spirit in a most unusual place. While watching "American Idol" I heard Stephen Tyler of Aerosmith say, "Courage is fear that has said its prayers." I was struck by how this, in a simplistic way, kind of explains the way the Holy Spirit moves in our life. Each of the gifts takes what is in us naturally and infuses it with the power and grace of God, which transforms us and empowers us to impact the world for Jesus.

Wisdom helps us see things the way God sees them. **When the Holy Spirit comes, what follows is power.** Understanding helps us penetrate to the heart of what God has revealed to us, even when we do not fully understand God's truths. Counsel helps us judge quickly and rightly,

what should be done in difficult situations. Courage helps us stay strong and do good despite obstacles. Knowledge helps us to see all creation from a supernatural viewpoint. Piety helps us have a supernatural love for God and a desire to grow closer to God. Fear of the Lord helps us have a profound respect for God's glory and a selfless love for God.

Without the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we would see things in a different way, be confused about much of our beliefs, struggle knowing the right thing to do, have a weak faith, not see God in creation, struggle to grow in faith, and have an unclear understanding of God's power.

The promise has been fulfilled, the Spirit has descended, the gifts have been planted in us through the sacraments; all that is left is for us to open our hearts and open the gifts and live in the power of God.

Jeff Hedglen is campus minister at UTA and associate director of Young Adult Ministry. Jeff is continuing to be active with Camp Fort Worth. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at Jeff.hedglen@gmail.com.



(CNS / Paul Haring)

Pontifical North American College seminarian John Gibson of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, third from left, celebrates after scoring the first goal against the Pontifical Gregorian University during the final of the Clericus Cup soccer tournament in Rome May 12. The Pontifical North American College won the game 3-0, achieving its first win in the six year history of the tournament.



(CNS photo / Sam Lucero, The Compass)

Lily Mannenbach, 4, participates in a dance clinic sponsored by the St. Nicholas School Dance Team at Freedom High School in Freedom, Wis., April 28. The Catholic school dance team hosted the event. Those in attendance also met the reigning Miss Wisconsin USA, Emily Guerin, and Miss Teen Wisconsin, Briana Yamat.



(CNS photo / Paul Haring)

New Swiss Guards attend their swearing-in ceremony in Paul VI hall at the Vatican May 6. New recruits are sworn in during a colorful ceremony at the Vatican every May 6 to commemorate the day 150 Swiss Guards died saving Pope Clement VII's life during the sack of Rome on that date in 1527.

Cross-Words

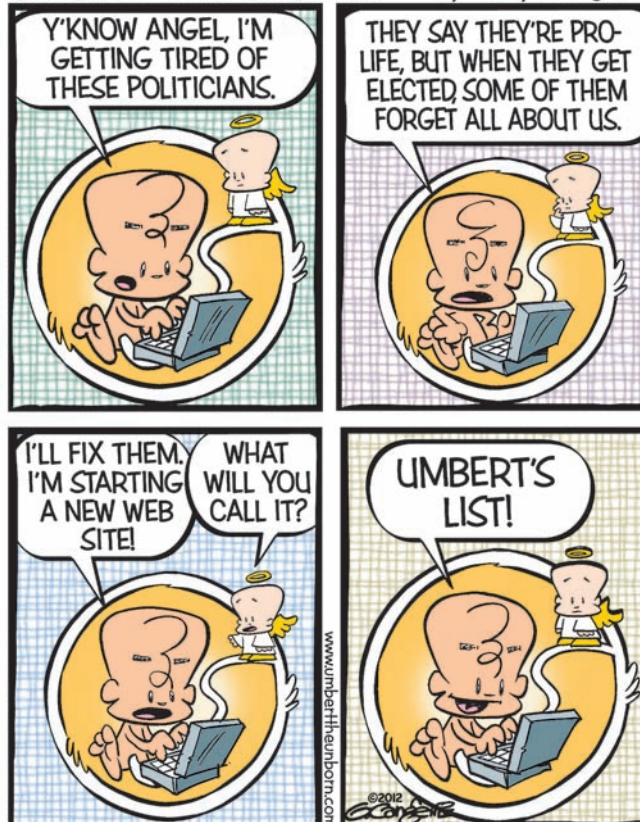
By Mark Simeroth

Across & Down:

1. Isaiah's contemporary
2. _____ at the office
3. Inland waterway
4. Benefit
5. Ciao

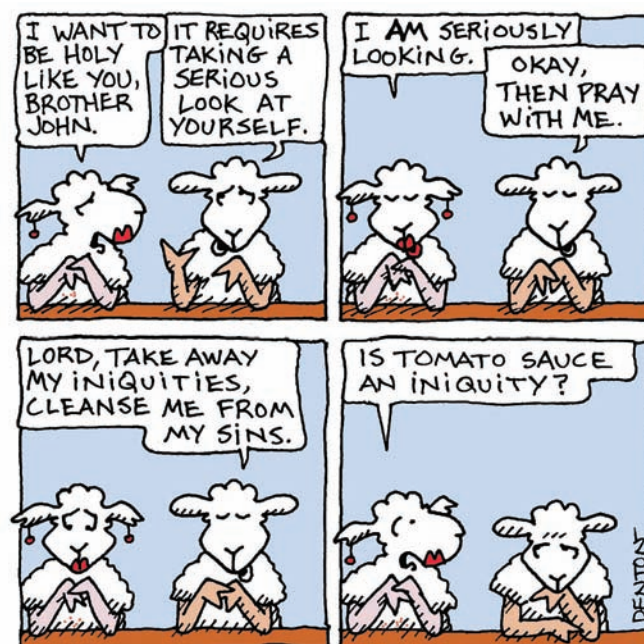
1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



The FLOCK by Jean Denton

www.sheepdotcom.com



A Scout is Reverent

Scout leaders from across the country meet in Irving for National Catholic Committee on Scouting Conference

Story and Photos by Jerry Circelli / Correspondent

Background image: NCCS logo (Courtesy of NCCS)

More than 175 adult leaders from around the country associated with the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) — including 22 priests and four bishops — gathered April 19-22 in Irving for the organization's 42nd Biennial Conference. The event was co-hosted by the Catholic Committees on Scouting for the Diocese of Fort Worth and the Diocese of Dallas.



Priests wear stoles with the National Catholic Committee on Scouting logo embroidered on them during a Mass celebrated April 20 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine during the committee's 42nd Biennial Conference. Four bishops, 22 priests, and about 150 other Catholic Scout leaders attended the four-day conference.

The four-day conference, designed to help adults become better leaders in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program, included a showcase of Scouting activities around the United States, special committee meetings, business sessions, training workshops, leadership gatherings, awards ceremonies, and three Masses.

The NCCS, which serves as an advisory board to the BSA, utilizes programs and activities centered on Catholic teachings to link Scouting and faith.

"Scouting is a successful youth ministry for the Catholic Church," said the Bishop Robert E. Guglielmono of Charleston, South Carolina.

Bishop Guglielmono, with 35 years of involvement in Scouting programs, serves as the liaison between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the NCCS.

The bishop explained that Scouting offers an outstanding way for the Catholic Church to strengthen its involvement with youth.

"We add the faith dimension," Bishop Guglielmono said of the Catholic Church. "Scouting doesn't offer a faith dimension. It just says there should be a belief in God and there should be a religious perspective in the hearts of its Scouts. But in terms of how that is lived out, they invite churches to be part of it and to help their young people." In the process, said the bishop, the Catholic Church assists Scouts in living up to BSA ideals.

"It's perfect," Bishop Guglielmono said of the relationship between the Church and BSA.

Father Anh Tran — chaplain for the Fort Worth Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting and pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine — agrees with the bishop that the Catholic Church's involvement in Scouting is an important part of its youth ministry. That association comes in the form of a Catholic parish or church-organization sponsorship of Scout units, which include Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Venture Crews (BSA's co-ed program for 14- to 20-year-olds). Special Catholic patches and emblems can also be earned by Scouts, involving religious education and serving God, the Church, and community.

"Scouting motivates our youth to be good Catholics and good citizens," Fr. Anh said. "It's more than just camping out.

It's about faith, community, friendship, service, and skills that will help you all your life."

During the NCCS conference, Fr. Ahn and other Scout leaders from the Diocese of Fort Worth shared their experiences about an innovative outing they launched in 2007 and will résumé with about 50 Scouts and 25 adult leaders later this summer. The outing this year is named, "Footsteps of the Saints Pilgrimage: Inspiring Role Models for the 21st Century." The Scouts will begin their journey in Fort Worth on a charter bus that will take them to missions, cathedrals, and churches along the way to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. The high-adventure ranch is located in Northern New Mexico, in the rugged mountain wilderness of the *Sangre de Cristo* (Blood of Christ) range of the Rocky Mountains.

In addition to visiting the ranch and churches, the Scouts will learn about the lives of inspirational Catholics, including St. Juan Diego; St. Kateri Tekakwitha; Blessed Father Junipero Serra; Blessed Pope John Paul II, and Venerable Father Michael McGivney.

The adventure's organizer, John Ryan, said these holy figures help provide insight to Scouts on the character it requires to face adversity, make wise and moral choices, and remain faithful to God. "We are all sinners, but we all aspire to be saints," Ryan said. "The saints are role models in faith."

An Eagle Scout himself, Ryan has a combined total of 45 years, from youth to adult, with BSA. Like so many others attending the conference, Ryan said he has remained involved with Scouting because of the positive effect it has had on his life, as well as that of his son and other youngsters under his leadership.

"You listen to the news and hear of so many negative things going on in the world. Scouting is a positive experience, built on positive values and character. In Scouting, you associate with role models who can show you how to go forward in life."

For Ryan that role model was his Scoutmaster, John Gillespie. Ryan authored a booklet, named *A Legend in his Own Time*, about the Scout leader who served local youth for 49 years. Ryan wrote in his account that Gillespie's influence on Fort Worth-area Scouting was enormous, as his troop

produced five Catholic priests, two Baptist ministers, three judges, two lawyers, five Scoutmasters, nine Grand Knights of the Knights of Columbus, and four chairmen of the Catholic Committee on Scouting. He also helped form more than 90 Eagle Scouts.

Fellow Catholic Scouter David Blaschke, with more than 12 years experience as a Scout and 28 years as adult leader, was also inspired by Gillespie and assisted at the NCCS conference. Blaschke emphasized that dedicated Catholic leaders can have a great influence on youth, including their own children. Both Blaschke's son and Ryan's son are Eagle Scouts and earned advanced Catholic religious awards.

Blaschke — who as a youth was a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Explorer — said he renewed his involvement with Scouting after he became a parent. "My son came home from first grade and said, 'Dad, I want to be in a Cub Scout Pack.' That's when my 28 years as an adult leader started."

Ernest Doclar, chairman of the Fort Worth Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, is not surprised that so many adults attending the conference, like Ryan and Blaschke, continue to serve as leaders after experiencing the thrill and excitement of being Scouts during their youth.

"The kid who grows up in Scouting is very much predisposed to being an active adult in Scouting when he has kids of his own," Doclar said.

For Doclar, the experiences of Scouting influenced his profession. Now retired after 38 years with BSA, Doclar served in many professional roles with the organization, including nine years with *Boys' Life* magazine for Scouts, and 21 years with *Scouting* magazine for adult volunteers.

Doclar estimated that about 840 Scout leaders and 1,400 Scouts are directly involved with the BSA program under units affiliated with the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Fort Worth. He and other Diocesan CCS members said that number is likely much higher, since many Catholic Scouts are involved in units sponsored by organizations outside the Catholic Church. All Scouts are eligible to participate in Catholic Scouting activities and earn Catholic religious awards.

"Scouting offers a great way for outreach in the Church,"

A Scout is Reverent

In their own words

Boy Scouts discuss Catholic faith, reverence, and duty to God

By Jerry Circelli / Correspondent

Five dedicated Boy Scouts spoke recently with the *North Texas Catholic* about why they took the oath to uphold the values of the Boy Scouts of America and the important role their Catholic faith plays in fulfilling their duties to God and country.

Ranging in age from 12 to 18, the Scouts all served at a special Mass April 20 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine for adult leaders as part of the 42nd Biennial Conference of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. That Mass was concelebrated by three bishops and 22 priests.

On the importance of Scouting, 15-year-old Andrew Hitscherich — a member of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Lewisville — said he values the training he has received and the acquaintances he has made along the way. “As a Scout, you develop a lot of life skills that will serve you your whole life,” Andrew said. “And you develop life-long friendships.” From first-aid to emergency preparedness and from leadership to good citizenship, Scouts acquire valuable skills and gain practical experience at an early age, he said. And when it comes to honoring the Scout oath about “Duty to God,” Andrew draws pride and spiritual strength from being active in his church.

“Being Catholic, I like the values that Catholics have and the basis of Catholicism,” said Andrew. As an Eagle Scout, he has achieved the highest rank in Scouting.

Patrick Blan, who attends St. Francis of Assisi, has also attained the rank of Eagle Scout. The 18-year-old said the leadership skills and character-building activities gained through Scouting are two of the most important aspects of the program.

“Scouting really helps develop character for everyone. It’s helped me. Just the values that you get instilled from day one are so important,” he said.

As he has advanced through Scouting, Patrick has taken an active role teaching and serving as a role model for younger Scouts. “You watch them as they learn and grow. Then you see them become instructors and start teaching. It’s this really awesome cycle of watching Scouts grow in maturity and develop their leadership skills.”

Patrick said that while he is committed to obeying all parts of the Boy Scout Law, it is the last point, “A Scout is Reverent,” that he said is most important.

“The morals and ethics of Scouting and the morals and ethics we have with the Church are very close,” the Eagle Scout said. “It really hits home both being active in the Church and being active within Scouting. It really gives you a sense as a



Photo by Jerry Circelli

Dedicated local Scouts said their Catholic faith is an integral part to their Scouting experience. They include, from left, Andrew Hitscherich, Lane and Cole Tschirhart, and Timothy and Patrick Blan.

Catholic about the Scout oath and laws and your moral code of conduct. The 12 points of the Scout Law align closely with teachings of the Catholic Church,” Patrick said.

Following closely in his older brother’s footsteps is Timothy Blan, a 13-year-old who has achieved the rank of Star Scout. While he aspires to reach the Eagle rank, like his older brother, Timothy has already gained the wisdom of being a reverent Scout.

“I believe the Scout Law is very similar to the Ten Commandments,” Timothy said. “They are rules to go by, except there are 12 points to the Scout Law and 10 Commandments.” Following the similar rules of each of these moral codes, youth are able to stay on the right course as Catholics, as Scouts, and responsible citizens, Timothy said.

Another Star Scout, 14-year-old Lane Tschirhart, who attends St. Francis of Assisi, sees similar values instilled by Scouting and Catholicism.

“Scouting stresses the importance of good moral character,” said Lane. “And so does religion. Because they both want you to have good moral character, they tie in hand-in-hand. And they build on each other.

“They both teach important life lessons in the way of ethics,” the 14-year-old continued. “That’s one very important aspect. The 12 points of the Scout Law are pretty much characteristics of the Scout, and given any situation, you follow those 12 characteristics, and you’ll pretty much never make a wrong choice in your life. And they tie in with religion.”

In the process of learning and putting sound moral decisions to the test, Lane said Scouts have just plain fun.

“I like the once-in-a-lifetime experiences,” said Lane. “Kids who aren’t in Scouting can’t usually go out a couple times a month and have a really fun campout in the woods or go to a U.S. Army base ... I like the fun, but I also like

the skills it teaches you. Based on those skills, you can apply yourself to achieve more things.”

Lane’s younger brother, Cole, a 12-year-old who is a Tenderfoot Scout, said he is also aware that this is a critical time in his life, as he enjoys the many benefits offered to youngsters through Scouting.

“It’s unique for us to do this,” said Cole, “because you can only do it when you’re young and developing. It’s a good program and I like it.”

And, similar to the others, Cole is proud of the long and successful relationship between the Catholic Church and Scouting.

“Being a Catholic and learning about God is great,” said Cole. He emphasized that the added activities and awards offered by the Catholic Church enrich the entire Scouting experience.

“It means a lot more being a Catholic *and* being in Scouts,” said Cole.

Boy Scout Oath

**On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.**

A Scout is Reverent

Bishop Vann awards religious emblems to diocesan Scouts

By John Cuccaro / Contributing Writer

Bishop Kevin Vann presented religious emblems to 162 elated Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers from the Diocese of Fort Worth at a ceremony Sunday March 25, during the heart of the Lenten season, at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. The bishop congratulated the Scouts on completing months of hard work, Christ-like service, and contemplative prayer. He then offered the youth words of support and encouragement in the continued deepening and exploration of their faith, before bestowing the Lord's abundant blessings upon them and their smiling families.

The Scouts, ranging in age from 8 to 17, worked diligently to explore ways to connect the practice of their Catholic faith with the laudable and time-honored values of Scouting. New this year, four Boy Scouts earned the Bob Connelly Memorial emblem, in recognition of having earned all the Catholic Scouting awards the National Catholic Committee on Scouting offers its youth members. The emblem is named after Bob Connelly, a lifelong Catholic Scouter who died last year and helped found the Fort Worth Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Other emblems for the Boy Scouts of America include: "Light of Christ" for Tiger and Wolf Cub Scouts to help the Cub Scout become aware of the sacraments, especially Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation; *Parvuli Dei* for Cub and Webelo Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation; *Ad Altare Dei* for sixth through eighth grade Boy Scouts to equip them to take their place in the world as maturing Catholics and maturing Americans; and the "Pope Pius XII" award for Boy Scouts 14 and older and Venturers, BSA's co-ed program for 14- to 20-year-olds, recognizes the need for Catholic lay leaders in Church and community affairs, and the use of Scouting's potential in developing such leadership.

Emblems for Girl Scouts of the USA and Camp Fire USA include: "Hail Mary" a diocesan award for Catholic youth in the first or second grades to help them become more aware of God's presence in daily life, especially within home and community; "Family of God" for youth ages 7 through 9 to help children explore a wide range of activities to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their families and parishes; "Holy Family" for the Catholic youth in third or fourth grades to help them

become more aware of God's presence in daily life especially within the home and community; "I Live My Faith" is for girls ages 9 through 11 to learn to appreciate more deeply the place God and religion occupy in their daily lives and become more aware of their potential as growing people, friends, citizens, and participants in the community of faith; the "Marian Medal" for Catholic young women ages 12 through 15, seeks to enable them to "proclaim the greatness of the Lord," featuring active involvement in understanding Mary as the model of openness and spirituality as a woman of the Church, and developing a Christian spirit of hope, faith, and joyful Christian community; and the "Spirit Alive" award for Catholic youth in high school in the senior level of Girl Scouts and Horizon Club members of Camp Fire, assisting them in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to participation in the Catholic Community.

The Religious Emblems Award program is administered in the Diocese by the Fort Worth DCCS, and is available to all practicing Catholic youth who are registered members of the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts organizations. For more information on the emblems program, visit www.bsaccs.org; for information on joining a Scouting unit nearby, visit www.girlscouts.org or www.beascout.org.



Photo courtesy of John Cuccaro

ABOVE: Bishop Kevin Vann stands with members of various Girl Scouts of the USA troops from throughout the diocese after presenting them with the "I Live My Faith" religious emblem for girls ages 9 through 11.



Photo courtesy of John Cuccaro

ABOVE: Members of Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew 304 stand with Bishop Vann after receiving the Pope Pius XII award for Boy Scouts 14 and older, and Venturers, members of BSA's co-ed program for 14- to 20-year-olds.

Boy Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly

Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful

Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

A Scout is Reverent



Fort Worth Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting members, from left, Chairman Ernest Doclar, Diocesan Scout Chaplain Father Anh Tran, and committee members Steve Zerbe and John Cuccaro.

Scouting...

FROM PAGE 15

Doclar said. "And it promotes longevity in the Catholic faith."

At a special Mass for conference participants celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine, Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, asked Scout leaders to keep up their hard work. Himself a former Cub Scout and Boy Scout, Bishop Vann told those attending the Mass that the Catholic presence in BSA prepares youth for challenges that come their way in life. It develops a solid foundation for youth, he said, "so they know what is right, good, and true; how to discern right from wrong; and how to know that whatever comes their way that God is present in their midst. And with the Lord present, they can do all things as young people of virtue."

The bishop also told leaders, "In Scouting we have a special God-given opportunity and gift to form our young people to be able to respond to the presence of Christ and his will."

Those words were emphasized by the NCCS Conference keynote speaker, Gary Butler, during the event's annual banquet near the conclusion of the conference. Butler is BSA Assistant Chief Scout Executive of Council Operations. As someone who grew up as a Catholic Scout, Butler said he continues to work on his journey of faith in Scouting. He said he draws spiritual guidance from the words of Blessed Pope John Paul II. Butler read a passage from the pope's address to the Italian Scouts and Guides Association in 1997. In that address,



Bishop Kevin Vann celebrated the special April 20 Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine for adult leaders involved in Scouting during the NCCS conference April 19-22.

Pope John Paul II said:

You are more and more frequently approached by children and young people who come from families and backgrounds that are far from the Christian life, or who belong to other religious faiths, but are attracted by the beauty and wisdom of the scout method, open as it is to love for nature and human values, imbued with piety and faith in God, successful in teaching responsibility and freedom. This is an important challenge, which asks you to reconcile the clarity and completeness of presenting the Gospel life with the capacity for a dialogue that respects the diversity of cultures and personal experiences ...

Butler put the pope's words in context by adding that Scouting is "a

series of personal experiences in which young people are tested." Similarly, in everyday life, youth are tested, and it is the hope of BSA that moral teachings help guide them. For Catholics, it means following the Gospel.

"That's the personal experience that Pope John Paul II was stating in those words and challenging us to think in terms of all young people and how they can be taught," Butler said.

"We recognize that Scouting and faith, together, are the most powerful ways for this world to be at peace and for this world to find what God is asking us to do," he added.

At the packed banquet hall with more than 175 Scout leaders present, he concluded, "And don't forget the challenge to seek young people," from all backgrounds. "Bring them into Scouting; share with them the Gospel; and help them find their way so they can become the future, ready for what life brings, no matter how difficult it can be."

A Scout's Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help to keep my honor bright and teach me that integrity of character is my most priceless possession.

Grant that I may do my best today, and strive to do even better tomorrow.

Teach me that duty is a friend and not an enemy, and help me face even the most disagreeable task cheerfully.

Give me the faith to understand my purpose in life, open my mind to the truth and fill my heart with love.

I am thankful for all the blessings you have bestowed upon my country.

Help me to do my duty to my country and to know that a good nation must be made from good men.

Help me to remember my obligation to obey the Scout Law, and give me understanding, so that it is more than mere words.

May I never tire of the joy of helping other people or look the other way when someone is in need.

You have given me the gift of a body; make me wise enough to keep it healthy, so I might serve better.

You are the source of all wisdom, help me to have an alert mind, teach me to think, and help me to learn discipline.

In all that I do and in every challenge I face, help me to know the difference between right and wrong and lead me in obedience on a straight path to a worthy goal.

Amen

YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

"I give you a new commandment: love one another.
As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

JOHN 13:34



July 6-8, 2012

Friday 7:00 PM to Sunday 12:00 PM

Emerging is a Conference for young adults ages 18-25+. This year's theme "Ignite Our Hearts for One Another" will explore all the relationships in our lives. How can we have our relationships with friends, parents, roommates, coworkers, boyfriends and girlfriends, fulfill Jesus' command to love like he loves? We will explore how these relationships change as we grow into adulthood and discover ways to strengthen and heal ourselves as well as the people in our lives.

Location:

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
861 Wildwood Lane
Grapevine, Texas 76051

Cost:

\$50.00 - by June 15th
\$60.00 - until July 2nd
\$75.00 - at the door only
Hotel stay is not included!



YAM - Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth ...fan page!

Keynote Speaker

Roy Petitfils



Roy Petitfils earned his Masters in Counseling from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette and is a proud alumnus of St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, LA. For two years he studied ministry and spirituality in Rome, Italy at the Angelicum, the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

For eight years he served as a Religion Teacher and Director of Campus Ministries at St. Thomas More Catholic High School. Following his time at STM he served as a counselor and administrator at St. Cecilia School in Broussard, LA. Today he is a Counselor Intern at Pax Renewal Center in Lafayette, LA. His counseling ministry draws upon his own experience of the therapeutic process.

Roy has written the following books: A Practical Guide to High School Campus Ministry (2007), What I Wish Someone Had Told Me About the First Five Years of Marriage (2010), God Wears Running Shoes: Spiritual Reflections for Those Ministering to Young People (2009), What Teens Want You to Know But Don't Tell You (IN PRESS-2012)

Visit his website at: www.roypetitfils.com

Online Registration: www.fwdioc/yam

Like his namesake Raphael the Archangel, hospital chaplain Franciscan Father Raphael Eagle

BRINGS GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

by guiding families along a spiritual journey at Cook Children's

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JERRY CIRCELLI / CORRESPONDENT

The Book of Tobit has long intrigued Beth Park. The Scripture tells how God sent his archangel, Raphael, disguised as a common man, on a journey with Tobit's son, Tobias. While protecting Tobias, Raphael shows the young man how to drive demons from his wife, Sarah, and how to heal Tobit. Raphael — meaning “God Heals” in Hebrew — is the patron saint of nurses, physicians, and young people away from home for the first time.

“I have always been taken with that story,” said Beth, who saw it as more than coincidence when “Father Raphael” appeared at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth after her 8-year-old son was admitted with a soft-tissue cancer. No stranger to the halls of Cook Children's, Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, — also known as “Father Ray” — is a full-time Catholic chaplain at the medical center.

“We were still in shock,” said Beth, recalling a summer day in 2006 that started out with magnetic resonance imaging of her son at a clinic and ended up with a serious cancer diagnosis and admittance to Cook Children's.

“We were trying to get our bearings and also were in a little bit of denial, thinking there must be some sort of mistake. That's when we first met Fr. Raphael.”

As doctors at Cook Children's moved forward with a plan to cure the youngster of his cancer, Fr. Raphael offered his services to Thomas and his family during the child's long journey of treatment and recovery.

“I remember Father Raphael telling me at a point, ‘OK, no sudden weight loss and get the makeup back on, because Thomas needs you to be Mom.’”

In addition to prayer and spiritual guidance, it was that kind of practical advice that Beth and her husband, Doug, valued in the early days of Thomas' treatment at Cook Children's.

“He helped us keep moving forward,” Beth said. “In those early days, you have so many doctors in and out of the room, and you're trying to learn who's who. It was very nice to have someone come in to help us on the spiritual side of how to deal with this diagnosis.”

For the Park family, their prayers would be answered. A 42-week treatment program, which involved frequent stays at Cook Children's for chemotherapy and radiation, resulted in Thomas having no evidence of the disease within a year.

“Father Raphael was the constant,” Beth said. “We always looked forward to his visits.”

With more than 35 years experience in hospital ministry, including 22 years in Paraguay and 13 years as full-time chaplain at Cook Children's, Fr. Raphael has developed keen insight from the perspective of patients.

“A hospital is a lonely place filled with people,” said Fr. Raphael. “It's something I've learned. You're alone with your sickness.”

The chaplain explained that when people are admitted to hospitals, they are at once separated from their friends, their homes and their familiar spaces. And they are no longer in control of their schedules. To truly help children and their families mentally and spiritually, it is important to understand this new situation in which they find themselves, said Fr.

Raphael.

The chaplain is also prepared to answer the most challenging questions asked of him when he first meets families.

“It falls to me to answer the question of ‘Why do people get sick?’ The main questions are ‘Why me?’ ‘Why now?’ and ‘Why my child?’”

Fr. Raphael often answers those questions with an assessment of the situation and a question of his own.

“I explain that even if doctors offer them a detailed explanation, it still does not change the situation. The real question is, ‘What do I do now?’”

Fr. Raphael said he explains to parents who are often distraught about their child's serious illness that it is not their fault, and they are not being punished. He emphasizes that God is loving, not vengeful.

“I try to walk along with the faithful and help them understand the reality,” he said.

When parents arrive at the “What do I do now?” question, Fr. Raphael said the answer is not difficult. “I explain that you do the same things now that you did when your child was healthy. You talk to him, sing to him, play with him. You eat with him, play games with him, and read to him. You do the same things with a sick child as you do with a healthy child.”

Sick children not only need the help of the medical community to cope with illness and get better, but also need their parents to be strong, the chaplain said.

“Children are much more accepting of their difficulty, because their world revolves around mom and dad. They feel safe as long as mom and dad are there.”

As children look to their parents for security, the parents seek help from God to carry on, said Fr. Raphael. The Catholic Church offers that spiritual assistance in a number of ways.

“Every visit I make ends in prayer,” said Fr. Raphael, who has composed a handy booklet of prayers that he leaves with children and their families. Printed in both English and Spanish, the 25 prayers in the book range from giving thanks for the morning and evening, to asking for divine help through suffering and pain.

Fr. Raphael also offers sacraments to patients and their families, including Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick. He also celebrates a weekly Catholic



Fr. Raphael Eagle was the “constant” as he looked after the Park family's spiritual needs during Thomas' treatment for cancer in 2006. They met again recently at Cook Children's for this photo. Seated in front of Fr. Raphael, from left, are mother, Beth; sons Stephen and Thomas; and father, Doug.



Fr. Raphael Eagle in the colorful and inviting Cook Children's Medical Center Chapel, where he celebrates Mass every Friday.



Thirteen years ago, Ann Miller, director of pastoral care at Cook Children's, was looking for a bilingual priest with hospital ministry experience to become a full-time Catholic chaplain at the medical center. Fr. Raphael was the perfect fit, she said, adding that support from the Diocese of Fort Worth has strengthened the pastoral ministry program at Cook Children's.

Mass on Fridays in the chapel at Cook Children's. That chapel has a distinction not typical at public hospitals — the Blessed Sacrament is present there.

The commitment of the Diocese of Fort Worth at the medical center has become critical to the spiritual healing

SEE FR. EAGLE ON NEXT PAGE

PRAYERBEARS TAKE UP SPECIAL RESIDENCE AT COOK CHILDREN'S

BY JERRY CIRCELLI / CORRESPONDENT

During the course of his extensive cancer treatment six years ago, Thomas Park found comfort in the two cuddly, colorful bears he received at Cook Children's Medical Center. Not just any bears, these were PrayerBears. They are given to children after a painful procedure, during a lengthy stay, or to help them get through especially difficult times. The bears offer security and companionship, and they are reminders that God is always near. Children learn that people praying hard for their recovery donate the bears.

The PrayerBears meant a lot to Thomas during his nearly year-long treatment at Cook Children's, and they still hold a special place in his heart and in his life. "They're on my bed," said Thomas.

An avid Boy Scout, 14-year-old Thomas recently completed requirements for a Catholic religious emblem, *Ad Altare Dei* — meaning "To the Altar of God" in Latin. To earn the medal, Boy Scouts must complete projects related to each of the seven sacraments. When it came to the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the project called for Scouts to help someone who was ill, injured, or in need of special assistance. Thomas said it came naturally that he should focus on the PrayerBear project for Cook Children's.

"When I came here for my cancer, I received a couple of PrayerBears," Thomas said during a recent visit to Cook Children's, "So I thought it would be great to reciprocate."

"I've been here," Thomas added. "And I've actually been healed."

To help others heal, Thomas set a project goal to collect 100 bears in a two-week span at Holy Family Catholic School in Fort Worth, where he is an eighth-grader. His schoolmates responded in a big way, helping him exceed his goal by collecting 151 bears.

In mid-February this year, the bears were gathered up at the school during a special assembly with students and blessed before being distributed to children at the hospital. That blessing was aptly offered by Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, the chaplain at Cook

Children's who befriended Thomas at the hospital and offered spiritual support to his family throughout his treatment.

"Thomas was delighted," said his mother, Beth, who added that the priest was a big hit with all the school children, who were "well doused" with Holy Water.

It is typical for Fr. Raphael to find spontaneous ways to connect with children. It's part of his calling, and he has proven to be quite good at it. With 151 more bears to distribute at the hospital, thanks to Thomas's effort to give back, Fr. Raphael will be able to continue to make those connections.

Assisting him along the way will be others, including three bilingual volunteers who also help him serve holy Communion, pass out rosaries, distribute prayer books, and extend his reach to Catholic patients and their families at Cook Children's. One of those volunteers, Elizabeth Morales, said she considers it a blessing to be able to serve at the hospital.

Terry Shaw, pastoral care specialist at Cook Children's, said Elizabeth's dedication is typical of the many volunteers and supporters at the medical center. Terry is assisted by 17 volunteers who help her organize and distribute PrayerBears for the children, as well as shawls for mothers spending long nights at the hospital.

Last year alone, Terry said that

For information about donating a PrayerBear to a child, or about assisting in other ways, contact the Pastoral Care Department at Cook Children's at (682) 885-4030.

more than 9,000 bears were given out to children at Cook Children's. There is always a need for the furry friends and the prayers that go with them, Terry said, explaining that more than 300 area churches are involved in collecting bears and praying for children.

One of those churches is St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington. Mary Ellis has helped collect more than 4,000 bears for the hospital over the past four years with the help of fellow parishioner, Letty Zatarain. They collect from within their own parish and throughout the community.

"Many people don't know my name," said Mary, "But they do know me as 'The Bear Lady.' I see collecting the bears as a ministry that has taken on a life of its own. The kids keep coming to Cooks, so the bears have to keep coming, too."

Those who unselfishly give their time to help the youngsters at Cook Children's are characterized

the director said. "We really wanted him," she added. Cook Children's now has 17 chaplains, with Fr. Raphael the first to be hired full time to minister to a specific denomination.

"This is a ministry to which God has called us," Miller said, explaining that the team of pastoral care workers at Cook Children's is always sensitive to their mission of offering spiritual support for children, families, and staff.

"If we do our job well, pray with them, and support them, they are better able to sense



Photo courtesy of Doug Park

Thomas Park, a cancer patient at Cook Children's six years ago, decided to give back to the medical center this year. As part of a Boy Scout project, he collected 151 PrayerBears from his classmates at Holy Family Catholic School in Fort Worth.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Tajay

Thomas Park and Fr. Raphael Eagle, TOR, were reunited earlier this year when the Cook Children's chaplain blessed the bears Thomas collected as part of a Boy Scout project to earn the distinguished *AD ALTARE DEI* Catholic religious emblem.

in a colorful, illustrated storybook that is given to parents to read aloud to their children after they are given a PrayerBear. It was written by Dr. Ann Miller, director of pastoral care at Cook Children's, and illustrated by Terry Shaw.

In one section of the storybook, a man walks into a store and asks for a teddy bear that he can give to children who are hurt or afraid.

"Children belong to all of us," said the man. "They are God's gift to the world. Babies and children are reminders of God's love and care for each of us. I am sending a bear because I am grateful for the gift of children. I am sending a PrayerBear because I want children, especially children who are sick or hurt, to

know that many people, people they may not even know, care about them and pray for them every day."

The children's story concludes with a prayer recited by a little girl who becomes the proud owner of the bear, along with a final word from the bear himself.

*I thank you for my PrayerBear,
And for the friend so dear
Who cares enough to send it
To remind me God is near.*

*Every time I feel afraid
I'll hug my PrayerBear tight
For I have friends who care for me,
And I will be all right.*

*And the PrayerBear nodded,
"Amen."*

Knowing that every child's life is sacred, it is the promise of Cook Children's to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease, and injury.

"When you start your mission statement that way, it says a lot," Fr. Raphael said. "It's the foundation of what we do here at Cook's, and we all feel the same way. It's why this is such a great place."

Fr. Eagle...

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

process for children and their families, said Dr. Ann Miller, director of pastoral care at Cook Children's. Thirteen years ago, she actively sought a full-time Catholic chaplain, experienced and respected in hospital ministry, who was a priest and could speak English and Spanish. Fr. Raphael filled the bill perfectly,

the presence of God, which is really what we all need in crisis."

Miller went on to point out, "Fear not" in the Bible is always followed by "I am with you." So my job and Father Ray's is to help provide the "For I am with you."

Fr. Raphael echoes that sentiment, emphasizing his respect for Cook Children's, which has at the core of its mission statement a promise that deals specifically with a respect for life and spirituality. The Cook Children's promise reads:

UNT/TWU Catholic Campus Ministry in Denton is being renamed Blessed John Paul II, becoming the diocese's first

University Parish

By Tony Gutiérrez | Associate Editor

Photos Courtesy of Luisa Martini

In a small building right off the campus of the University of North Texas in Denton, a group of about 50 students gather in the downstairs common area for a daily Mass as the end of the semester nears. The building is the Catholic Campus Center, affectionately known as the "C" to the students, and as of July 1, will be home to the newly established Blessed John Paul II Parish to serve the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of UNT and Texas Woman's University, and their families.



Catholic Campus Ministry students climb to the top of a hill displaying a prayer cross at Glen Lake Retreat Center in Glen Rose during the ministry's Fall 2010 "Rooted" Retreat.

The "C" housed the Catholic Campus Ministry for both universities for many years, but with the growth of the ministry and the new parish being established, it is no longer sufficient, says founding pastor Father Kyle Walterscheid.

"There has been an increased volume of students on their traditional Thursday evening Mass, and the confessional line now averages more than two hours, more than doubling since I started coming here four years ago," said Fr. Kyle, who is ending his tenure as Vocations director, and has been celebrating the C's weekday Mass as part of his role.

Currently, the C's chapel is upstairs and can only hold 30, which is why daily Mass is now held in the common area and Sunday Mass is celebrated on campus in the university's student union.

Fr. Kyle hopes to add about 500 square feet to the building to serve as a chapel that can seat 60, but can open into other parts of the building to accommodate overflow attendance, and would also be handicap accessible, a project that would cost approximately \$50,000. This would be a temporary solution, Fr. Kyle adds, until a new facility can be built, hopefully three years in the future, either at the C's current location or at a different site. Renovations for the building, and potential land to be purchased will be partly funded by the diocese's *All Things Possible* campaign launched in 2009, but Fr. Kyle also said he hopes to rely on the generosity of

alumni and other members of the community.

However, establishing a new parish involves more than just building up the physical facility. It also involves building up the community spiritually. With a full-time priest, students will have a greater availability to the sacraments, including daily Mass, says Luisa Martini, director of campus ministry.

"Sacraments are so much more available to students or faculty and staff, especially since so many students don't have cars, and their entire lives revolve around what's walking distance from campus," she said. "Having a pastor will be so helpful in helping to guide the pastoral efforts in a unique way a layperson cannot."

Fr. Kyle's presence will also bring a role model for male students of the ministry as well.

"There's been a demand for sacraments and a priest, and a male mentor here on campus," said Martin Aucoin, a UNT sophomore student intern with the ministry. "Some guys have expressed concern that there's no male leader to look up to, so I think Fr. Kyle will do well in that role."

Also to help build the community, the campus ministry is transitioning from a staff of one full-timer — Martini — to a parish with a staff of seven, including Fr. Kyle, Martini, a business manager still to be hired, and four missionaries from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), an apostolate dedicated to serving college students by sending young adults to evangelize on college campuses.

"One of the great benefits of having FOCUS missionaries is one of their charisms is to engage and evangelize the campus and ... that's not something I'm able to do," said Martini, "but also to make disciples [of the students] and build them up in their faith."

The increase in resources will also help better serve the Catholic population at Texas Woman's University on the other side of Denton. Because of limited resources and the C's proximity to UNT, TWU students often had to travel to participate in the community. As pastor, Fr. Kyle plans to celebrate a weekday Mass at least once a week at TWU, and to serve the pastoral needs of the students throughout the week, including regular on-site Bible studies.

Melanie Burr, a TWU senior and outgoing president for the school's Catholic student organization, is excited about the opportunity for evangelization the parish will bring. "Right now, we only have about 40 people attending Mass every week — that can't be the only Catholics on campus," she said.

The name of the new parish, Blessed John Paul II, also serves to inspire the students in building up the new community, as the late pontiff is often regarded as a patron of youth and young adults.

"I think the greatest gift that patronage will bring is that spirit of faith and reaching out to [our peers]," said Austin Bray, a UNT junior and Theology of the Body coordinator for the campus ministry. "I think that bodes

very well in setting a cornerstone for the mission of the new parish."

Another major part of building up the parish community is also serving faculty, staff, and alumni of the universities, as well as their families.

Chalese Connors, faculty adviser for TWU's Catholic student organization, said she hopes faculty and staff join the parish because "as the students participate in the parish [and] see the professors and staff members [from] campus," it builds a sense of community "that extends beyond the classroom."

Fr. Kyle said he plans to build a community of alumni to support each other and the students. He also plans to celebrate Mass occasionally specifically for faculty and staff.

"The alumni are vital to the long-term building up of the new parish. They need mutual support as they struggle to land that first job, as well as the continued bond of faith among their peers. At the same time they will be able to encourage, bring wisdom, and pray for the students," said Fr. Kyle of the importance of the community. "Our Catholic faculty at the two universities will benefit the students by more directly sharing their faith in the community, and the students will inspire the faculty by sharing their love for Christ in active ministry."

For more information about Blessed John Paul II Parish or to learn how to donate to the renovation project visit its website at www.untwucatholics.org.



A prayer grotto, featuring a replica of Michelangelo's "Pietà" is located in the C's backyard. The grotto is dedicated to the memory of Fr. Bob Lewandowski, SM, the campus chaplain who served the ministry until his death in 2003.



Members of the Catholic Campus Ministry program participate in the Dallas March for Life on Jan. 21 of this year.



Father Kyle Walterscheid, founding pastor of the new parish and outgoing diocesan Vocations director, celebrates Mass in the backyard of the C. As Vocations director, Fr. Kyle would visit all the campus ministries in the diocese.

Progress brings problems without guidance from truth, faith, pope says

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Excluding truth and the transcendent from scientific debate and research has impoverished modern thought and weakened the intellect's ability to understand reality, Pope Benedict XVI said.

True intellectual and scientific progress requires an openness to dialogue with opposing views, rather than settling with the "mere repetition" of what one already knows, he added.

The pope made his remarks May 3 in an address to faculty, doctors and students at Rome's Sacred Heart University, one of the biggest Catholic universities in the world.

The pope spoke to hundreds of people, including Italian government officials, gathered in the square outside the auditorium of the university's Agostino Gemelli Department of Medicine and Surgery. His visit marked the 50th anniversary of the faculty's founding.

The pope praised the scientific and technological discoveries that have been made in modern times, saying they rightly are a source of pride. However, the "breakneck" speed of innovation sometimes has brought with it "disturbing consequences."

Lurking behind the optimism



Pope Benedict XVI waves as he arrives at Rome's Sacred Heart University May 3. The pope spoke to hundreds of people, including Italian government officials, gathered in the square outside the auditorium of the university's Department of Medicine and Surgery. (CNS photo / L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

about all the new possibilities now open to humanity is "the shadow of a crisis of thought," he said.

Mankind has a plethora of new tools and means but often lacks noble ends because the prevailing culture of "reductionism and relativism" has led to the disappearance of the true meaning of things, he said.

"Almost blinded by technical potency, (humanity) forgets the fundamental question of meaning, thereby banishing the transcendental dimension to irrelevance," he said.

In this kind of environment, the pope said, intellectual thought "becomes weak" and is based on impoverished ethical foundations, which "clouds valuable normative points of reference."

"A mentality that is basically techno-practical creates a risky imbalance between what is technically possible and what is morally good, with unforeseeable consequences," he said.

Therefore, it is critical that modern culture rediscover the meaning and role of the transcendent, he said.

Scientific inquiry and the search for meaning both share the same source — the "logos" or creative rationality of God himself, Pope Benedict said.

In fact, the search for truth and for the absolute has been part of what fuels the desire to deepen scientific inquiry and all areas of human knowledge, he said.

The very same motivation behind scientific discovery "originates

in the longing for God that dwells in the human heart: essentially scientists aim — often unconsciously — to obtain that truth that can give meaning to life."

Science and faith have a mutually enriching relationship, the pope said, and reflect an "almost complementary requirement" for discerning reality.

"Yet paradoxically, a positivistic culture, which excludes the question of God from scientific debate, leads to the decline of thought and the weakening of the intellect's ability" to understand reality, he said.

Christianity doesn't drive faith into the realm of the irrational, rather it shines light on the dizzying maze of options and alternatives in the world, and guides people toward the right

path of "the way, the truth and the light" in Jesus Christ.

When it is carried out correctly, "research is illuminated by science and faith and draws its impetus and enthusiasm from these two 'wings' without ever losing the accordant humility and sense of limits," he said.

Thus, "the search for God becomes fruitful for the intellect, a leaven of culture, a promoter of true humanism and a quest that doesn't stop at the surface," he said.

"No progress, let alone in the cultural sphere, feeds on mere repetition, but requires an ever new beginning" that demands an "openness to comparison and dialogue, which broadens the intellect and gives witness to the rich, prolific nature of the heritage of the faith."

A strong, well-formed Christian identity will influence everything one does and can be expressed by top-notch professionalism, he said.

Catholic universities have a particular tie to the Church and are called to be "exemplary institutions" that don't reduce their vision to what is the most pragmatic, productive, or economically advantageous or necessary. Rather, they enlarge their horizons to use human wisdom to explore and develop the gifts of creation, he added.

Badges of honor (and value).



We could go on, but that would be considered bragging.

The University of Dallas can't guarantee a specific return on your investment - no school can - but such rankings can give you a better idea of the quality you'll receive for your education dollar.

Sure, there are definitely institutions that cost less to attend. But before you make what is likely to be one of life's most significant investments, consider our consistent national honors collectively and compare us to institutions of similar academic reputation across the nation. You'll find that we're a better value than nearly all of our peers.

What you pay for a college education is one thing. What you get is another. Learn more about what others are saying about the University of Dallas by visiting www.udallas.edu/rankings.



UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS
The Catholic University for Independent Thinkers

udallas.edu/admiss | 800.628.6999

UD
SUMMER
COURSES
START SOON.

udallas.edu/summercourses

Dcn. Holguin...

FROM PAGE 32

Holguin never again considered the idea until he was in his early 20s.

For the last year, Holguin has served as a deacon at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton after receiving the Sacred Order of Diaconate in May of last year.

During that Mass, Bishop Kevin Vann told Holguin that his model for living his new journey of faith in religious life should be Mary's visit to Elizabeth.

"Led by the Holy Spirit," Bishop Vann said, "you, too, must, in this world that is often far from God, seek out in service those in need of consolation and the presence of God."

"You must use as an example for your life of ministry the words of Elizabeth and be a clear example of being blessed because you believed, and lead others to do the same."

Dcn. Holguin said he had few reservations about his decision at the outset, "always giving my answer to God."

"It's hard to start a new life," Dcn. Holguin said. "I had my degree and an established life, but I gave everything to God."

"And I'm very happy to do that, to serve God."

The journey to the priesthood started as a young boy in Chihuahua, the Mexican state that borders Texas along the Rio Grande.

Educated in his town's public schools,



Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer / North Texas Catholic File Photo
Deacon Manuel Holguin pours wine into a chalice shortly after being ordained to the diaconate.

Holguin began to prepare for what he thought would be a career in accounting when he began studies at the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua.

Dcn. Holguin follows in the footsteps of a courageous history of priests from Chihuahua, many of whom were martyred during the Cristero War of the 1920s and have since been canonized as saints.

Deacon Manuel plans to return with his family to Mexico after his ordination to celebrate Mass and honor his heritage.

Then, cloaked in that tradition of faith, Deacon Manuel Holguin will bring his blessings to Fort Worth.

"I'm really happy to serve the people of God in this diocese," Dcn. Holguin said. "God showed me that I need to serve Him everywhere, and I'm really happy to serve the Diocese of Fort Worth."



Photo courtesy of Sacred Heart School of Theology
Deacon Michael Moloney says goodbye to his classmates and Sacred Heart faculty and staff during the seminary's "Rite of Sending," for graduating students.

Dcn. Moloney...

FROM PAGE 32

He believed his calling was using his medical expertise in missionary work. To that end, he enrolled in the late '80s in a program of theology and missionary work at an Evangelical Protestant seminary.

What he discovered, though, was his Catholic faith, through the realization that he was drawing on his Catholic education in the coursework, he said.

He returned to parish life and not long after, friends began encouraging him to explore the priesthood, beginning in the early 1990s, "but I went back to medicine. I always shrugged it off."

"I wasn't ready," he said, even though

people continually encouraged him.

He had, he explained fallen in love with the Word of God through the Protestant churches. Now he had fallen in love with the Eucharist through the Catholic Church.

Unbeknownst to him, he was about to fall in love with the Church, his spiritual evolution coming full circle.

He left Houston for Lubbock, where he joined the faculty as a fellow at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

When he took a job as the medical director of the Community Healthcare Center of Wichita Falls, he was exactly where the Holy Spirit wanted him.

"There was a vocations dinner, and I was invited to attend," Bishop Vann was there and spoke of beginning a discernment group for men. I knew then and there that I had to participate, if for no other reason than to put this question out of my mind once and for all.

"You could say I got tapped on the shoulder by the Holy Spirit because I had been told for 15 years that I should do this."

"When the bishop said that he was setting up the center for discernment, it was like the Holy Spirit saying, 'You're going this time.'"

In 2008, he entered the Sacred Heart Seminary in a program designed specifically for later vocations.

The new priest will be able to share with parishioners his unique journey, not only to the priesthood, but also back into full Communion with the Church.

One can fall away, but he is always welcome to come home.

"FOR GREATER GLORY is 'MUST-SEE' viewing for all those who care about faith and liberty today."
- Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight/CEO, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Academy Award Nominee
ANDY GARCIA **EVA LONGORIA**

For
GREATER GLORY
The TRUE STORY of CRISTIADA
IN THEATERS JUNE 1
ForGreaterGlory.com
© 2012 NEW LAND FILMS S.A. DE C.V. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

RESTRICTED
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN
FOR WAR VIOLENCE AND SOME DISTURBING IMAGES

NEW LAND FILMS
ARC ENTERTAINMENT

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE
offer hope for those in need

1-888-317-SVDP
www.svdpfw.org

Free towing! Tax deductible!

Donate your vehicle to St. Vincent de Paul and support our mission of lending a helping hand to those in need. Have your vehicle title in hand when you call. Your donated vehicle DOES make a difference in North Texas!

TRIDENTINE MASS

LATIN MASS
5:30 P.M. SUNDAYS
ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH
509 W. MAGNOLIA, FORT WORTH
HIGH MASS SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS
LOW MASS FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS

NOVEMBER 2012 - PILGRIMAGES - MARCH 2013

+++ **HOLYLAND - NOVEMBER 2012** +++
-NOV 5 - 13, 2012 - Hispanic group - \$2,599 pp
-NOV 7 - 15, 2012 - English group - \$2,599 pp
-Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, Dead Sea
++ **SPRINGBREAK- FRANCE + LOURDES-MARCH 2013** ++
-March 8-14, 2013 -Paris, Lourdes, Normandy - \$1,899 pp
-March 8-17, 2013 -Paris Lourdes, Carcassonne, The Provence-Aix,Nimes, Papal Palaces, French Riviera, Nice - \$2,399 pp
Price per person dbl. occ. includes R/T air DFW or Houston, current air taxes/fuel, breakfast/dinner daily, escorted,early discount
Call Michael or Sue Menof at GOLDEN WORLD TOURS
For full details/terms/conditions/registration - Tel: 972-934-9635

Vocations

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur honor four jubilarians for a collective 250 years of being

Models of Service



Story and Photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Correspondent

Sr. St. John Begnaud, SSMN, taught Scripture courses to college students, Spanish to seminarians, and English to African nuns in Cameroon, but when asked to recall her favorite memory, the first-rate educator, momentarily, was speechless.

“I have lots of memories — beautiful memories,” said the Waco native who professed her final vows as a Sister of St. Mary of Namur 70 years ago. “I’ve received wonderful gifts — the gift of faith, Scripture, and the sacraments. There’s so much to be thankful for.”

But the humble woman was on the receiving end of appreciative hugs and words of gratitude during an April 21 gathering inside the Our Lady of Victory Center. More than 100 friends and family filled the convent’s small chapel to mark the milestone jubilees of Sr. St. John (70 years) and three other members of her congregation, Sister Adelaide Valtierra, Sister Camella Menotti, and Sister Roberta Hesse who have each given 60 years of service to God, the Church, and community. The four sisters renewed their vows during a Mass concelebrated by Monsignor Joe Schumacher, Monsignor Michael Olson, and Father John Hennessy with Bishop Kevin Vann presiding.

“We’re here to celebrate their ministry to us and so many other people and to imitate their actions in our own lives,” Msgr. Schumacher said in his homily. “Together, they have given 250 years of service.”

The celebrant recounted his own history

with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur which dates back to his days as a schoolboy attending St. Ignatius Academy in downtown Fort Worth. Remembering how members of the teaching order would juggle two grade levels of students during the day, the retired monsignor recalled childhood antics in classrooms taught by the late Sister Isadore, Sister Agatha, and Sister Thomas.

“How did the sisters influence me and maybe you, too? In many ways,” he told the assembly. “Sr. Thomas taught me it’s all right to ask questions if you’re seeking an answer but not if you’re trying to put someone down.”

People can learn a lot by following the example of the sisters, he insisted, adding, “In all areas of their ministry, the sisters imitated the life of their mentor, Jesus Christ, who came to serve and not be served.”

Msgr. Schumacher went on to describe each honoree’s talents and the special gifts contributed to various schools, parishes, and

missions.

Sr. Adelaide Valtierra, known for her creativity in the classroom, was an elementary teacher for more than 41 years in Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, Wichita Falls, Dickinson, and Beaumont. Her interest in hands-on learning engaged children and made learning fun and exciting.

“During my teaching years, I tried to bring God into all the classes I taught, often using his gifts of nature,” she explained. “I encouraged students to do their best work for God hoping they would take this attitude of respect for all things with them through life.”

Now retired, Sr. Adelaide visits the sick and continues to hone her artistic skills through ceramic and horticulture projects.

Longtime educator Sr. Camella Menotti served as both teacher and principal in schools throughout Texas and California for 44 years. A competent computer user, she eagerly introduced the teaching instrument into her classroom and currently tutors fellow sisters who have difficulty mastering the technology.

“Educating children was my primary passion for many years, but now my primary purpose is landscaping the beautiful surroundings of Our Lady of Victory Center,” said the horse lover who once rode horses with Roy Rogers.

Sr. Roberta Hesse spent the majority of her religious life as a missionary in Africa. She originally served the congregation as an LVN nurse before taking charge of constructing schools and houses in Africa.

Buoyed by a missionary spirit, the Muenster native left for Africa in 1967 and spent decades serving villagers in the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Cameroon.

“I met the most wonderful people,”

Sr. Roberta says, recalling her years as a missionary. “The hearts of African mothers are exactly like mothers here and in every other part of the world. They want the best for their children. They want them to be healthy, educated, and to make something of their lives.”

In addition to working as a junior high school teacher, college professor at the University of Dallas, and Peace and Justice director for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Sr. St. John spent time serving her congregation’s mission in Rwanda during the genocide. She recently authored a book, *A Little Good*, about her order’s early accomplishments and struggles in Texas.

“I’ve been an educator in one way or another all my life,” said Sr. St. John who was taught by members of the religious order she would later join. Her alma mater, Sacred Heart Academy in Waco, was the first institution established by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in Texas.

A display inside the convent featured each honoree’s vocation story.

“These women have been models for us of service and gave of themselves for God’s kingdom,” said Sr. Mary Merdian, provincial of the order’s Western Province. “We want to rejoice with them and celebrate their achievements and fidelity to God’s call. We have a lot of gratitude for their presence in our lives.”

Bishop Vann said the religious orders that founded Catholic grade schools in this country shaped his life and many others.

“Thank you for all that you’ve done for the people in North Texas, the missions in Africa and beyond,” he added. “You’ve helped me grow as a person, a priest, and a bishop.”



ABOVE: (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Sisters of St. Mary of Namur St. John Begnaud, celebrating 70 years, Camella Menotti, Adelaide Valtierra, and Roberta Hesse, each celebrating 60 years, renew their vows at a Mass in their honor April 21. • **LEFT:** Bishop Kevin Vann poses with (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Sisters Roberta, St. John, Camella, and Adelaide at Our Lady of Victory Center, home to the sisters’ Western Province. • **BELOW:** A display features pictures from the sisters’ collective 250 years of ministry.



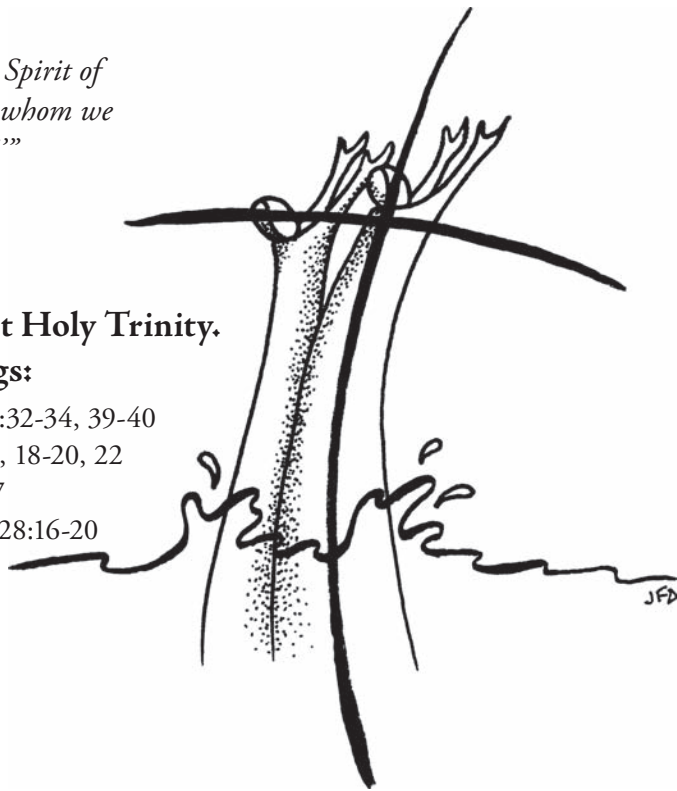
Word = Life

Readings Reflections

“You received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’”
— Romans 8:15

June 3, The Most Holy Trinity. Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Psalm 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22
- 2) Romans 8:14-17
Gospel) Matthew 28:16-20



By Jean Denton

In American culture, weddings are widely understood to be the bride's gig, and I've been to several where the groom appeared a bit glassy-eyed and appreciative of "handlers" leading him through his parts in the ceremony.

But when my nephew got married, it was obvious he was running the show. Michael deftly organized both the rehearsal dinner and the reception, selected the music, and guided his bride through choices of scriptural readings for the Mass. At every turn, it seemed he was being consulted by one or another participant, and he always offered instruction with calm assurance. I was impressed but not surprised, since he'd always shown an innate quality of leadership.

Sitting in the church watching him, surrounded by extended family, I wondered, "Which side of the family did he get that talent from?" I was about to say something to that effect when I remembered that Michael was adopted. It wasn't the first time I caught myself thinking he'd inherited a certain trait from his mom or dad.

Today's readings remind Jesus' followers that our adoptive relationship to God the Father makes us fully his children. Our relationship takes on the same context as Jesus' relationship to him through the binding presence of the Holy Spirit, Paul explains in his letter to the Romans.

Just as Michael's life has been formed and lived through the same loving, supportive family of his adoptive brothers and cousins, so is our life, as Jesus' disciples, formed and lived through the "family" of the Holy Trinity.

Our baptism is our adoption into the family, joining us to Christ as children of God. Paul points out that this makes us joint "heirs of God" with Christ. As long as we accept our place and share in the life of that family, we will receive the same inheritance as Jesus — eternal life with the Father.

Once in the family, we are compelled to further its growth, as the Gospel urges, by bringing new generations of disciples and baptizing them into the life and love of the relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

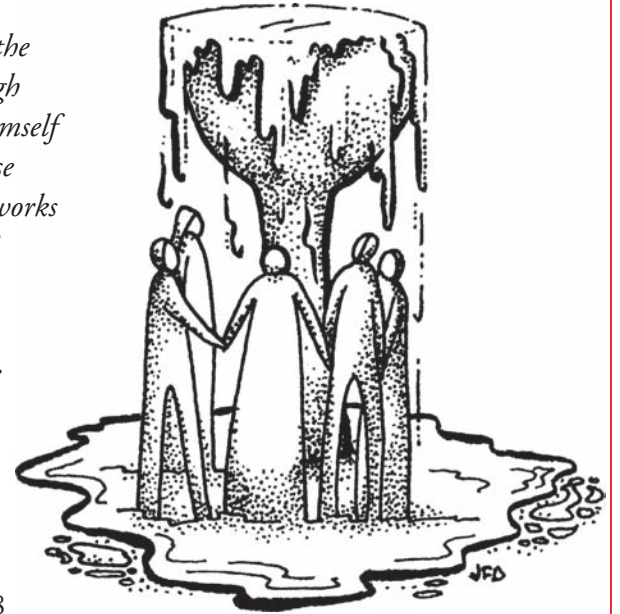
QUESTIONS:

What are some of the "family traits" you've picked up from your relationship with the Holy Trinity? What about that relationship compels you to make disciples of others?

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.”
— Hebrews 9:14

June 10, Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Exodus 24:3-8
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18
- 2) Hebrews 9:11-15
Gospel) Mark 14:12-16, 22-26



By Jeff Hedglen

In my young adult years it was such a joy to attend Mass with a group of friends who all participated in the same Bible study. In fact, besides Mass and Bible study, we did pretty much everything together. It was an amazing experience of the Body of Christ on many levels.

The bond we shared was rooted in the sacraments and faith formation, and it sustained us through some rough years as young adults. We formed our own social circle and did community service together. Many people met their spouses, and marriages were made through this community.

Now, 25 years later, many of us are still friends, and our children are continuing the bond we share. In a very real way, the Body of Christ was and is experienced in this group. The connection is supernatural, transforming, encouraging, and consoling, and it spans decades.

Another way the Body of Christ was revealed to me in the context of this group happened one day as the group was at Mass together. I was sitting next to Kelly. After Communion, I noticed that she was weeping. I didn't say anything but just prayed for whatever might be upsetting her.

The next week, we ended up next to each other again, and after Communion she was weeping again. This time I asked if everything was all right. She said, "Yes, I just feel Jesus cleansing me of my sins." This blew me away. The Body and Blood of Jesus had affected her in a deeper way than I had ever felt.

This week's reading from Hebrews speaks of the power of Jesus to take away sin: "How much more will the blood of Christ ... cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God."

Whether it is in eucharistic form or in shared communal bonds, the Body of Christ renews and transforms. It is no wonder that the documents of the Second Vatican Council refer to the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian spirituality. The Body and Blood of Jesus is the place where it all began, and it is the place we find completion.

QUESTIONS:

How have you experienced the Body of Christ in community? How does receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus impact your life of faith?

Word = Life

Readings Reflections

“They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be.”
— Psalm 92:15

June 17, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92
- 2) 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Gospel) Mark 4:26-34

By Sharon K. Perkins

I recently heard a story about St. Katharine Drexel, the beloved North American saint, who was raised in Philadelphia as an heiress in the mid-1800s. Her compassion led her to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and dedicate her life to sharing the message of the Gospel and the life of the Eucharist among American Indians and African-Americans.

Mother Katharine traveled extensively and tirelessly, overseeing the flourishing of the almost 60 missions and institutions she founded (and funded), and encouraging her sisters. Then, at age 72 a serious health crisis curtailed all travel and rendered her nearly immobile. The commentator on her life then followed with a startling declaration: “At that point, St. Katharine entered the most productive period of her life.”

As a busy, active person, I found that statement to be both amazing and counterintuitive. Katharine Drexel lived for 18 more years in a physical state that most would think of as anything but productive. Yet, she spent those years in intense prayer and contemplation of Jesus in the Eucharist, focusing her passionate devotional life as an intercessory offering for the same sisters and institutions that she had traveled to encourage. Active? Maybe not physically. Fruitful? Most certainly.

Today’s readings place before the believer a paradox that is often difficult to fathom. Because our contemporary society prizes activity, problem-solving, and a “can-do” spirit, Jesus’ parable of the mustard seed as a paradigm for the kingdom of God strikes us as deceptively simplistic. It invites us to think: “Yes, that’s a nice story for children, but ...”

We tend to think of prayer as a last resort after all our grownup endeavors have failed. However, as St. Katharine and many others illustrate, those “mustard seeds” of prayer bear incredible fruit, not only transforming the ones who pray, but changing situations and hearts in ways they could not have imagined, through the release of the Holy Spirit’s loving, creative power.

Anyone — young or old, in prime physical shape or in the feebleness of advanced age — can plant a mustard seed.

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever been tempted to turn to prayer as a “last resort”?
What “mustard seed” of prayer can you plant today, trusting the power of the Holy Spirit to act in a difficult situation?



“Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.”
— Acts 13:25de

June 24, Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-15
- 2) Acts 13:22-26
Gospel) Luke 1:57-66, 80

By Jeff Hensley

Three of the four readings for this week point to the mission of John the Baptist.

In the Isaiah reading, the mission of John to prepare the way for Jesus is announced in the prophetic Scripture: “The Lord called me from birth, from my mother’s womb he gave me my name.” A few verses later, the prophet speaks in the name of God about the role of Jesus: “It is too little,” he says, “for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth,” thus expanding Jesus’ place in human history.

The Acts and the Luke reading are even more specific to the role of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus, a very specific mission.

But the passage from Psalm 139, a favorite of all who care about the value of the lives of the unborn, is much more general. “Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works.”

I have a friend who is a grandmother now, who works with a pro-life group. I’ve known her for decades, but know little of her upbringing. I don’t know if she was told repeatedly as she was growing up that God knew her, had formed her and had a purpose for her as great as that of John the Baptist.

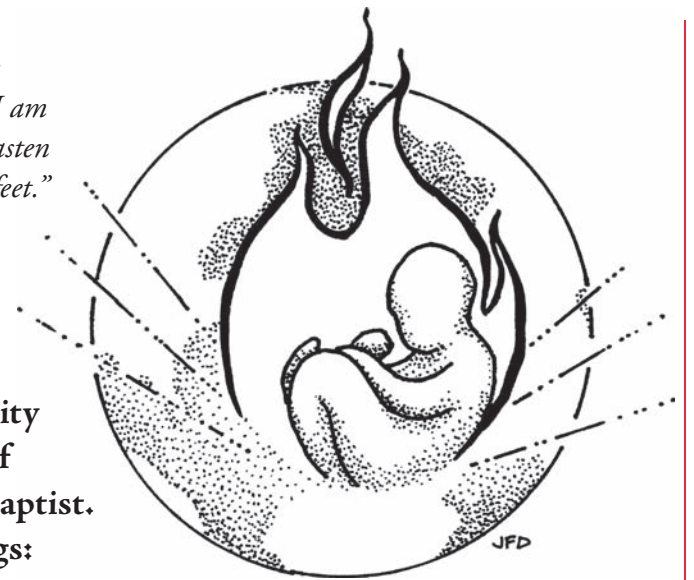
What I do know is that in counseling mothers carrying children in their wombs, she has had hundreds of opportunities to quote these words from Psalm 139, pointing to the incalculable value of the lives of the children they are carrying.

Each of us is announcing that in the eyes of God each individual has value, is loved by God, and has an important role to fulfill in building the kingdom of God.

That is the message of the Gospel, and that is the message of the New Evangelization. We each announce the coming of the Lord as a light to all the nations; we each are known and loved by the Lord of the universe.

QUESTIONS:

Who do you need to remind that they are loved by God? What can you do to help others know that Jesus has come to bring them life?



Nuestro Pastor Habla

La historia de la Guerra Cristera de México es un hecho que se debe contar y conocer

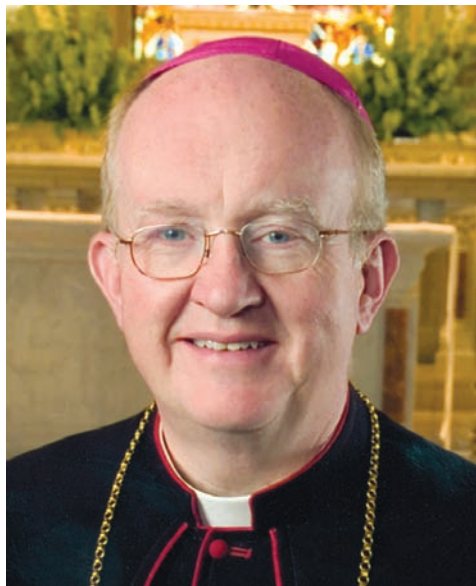
Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Hace poco tuve el privilegio de ver antes de que se estrene en unos días la película *For Greater Glory: The True Story of the Mexican Cristera* junto con varios de mis hermanos obispos. Esta película relata la historia, a menudo sin contar, de la Guerra Cristera en México y la lucha por la libertad religiosa que estremeció esa nación hace unos años. Me sentí muy impresionado y conmovido por esta película y creo que su estreno es sumamente oportuno en vista de nuestras propias inquietudes y luchas recientes por la libertad religiosa en nuestro país. Esta era sombría en la historia de la Iglesia en las Américas es en su mayoría desconocida, sin duda para casi todos nosotros en los Estados Unidos e incluso para muchos mexicanos. Sé, sin embargo, a raíz de mis conversaciones con varias personas de la Diócesis, especialmente mexicoamericanos provenientes de Guanajuato, Guadalajara, Zacatecas y otras áreas de México, que dichas personas están muy familiarizadas con estos momentos tristes y difíciles en la historia mexicana y en la vida de la Iglesia. Los padres y abuelos de muchos de nuestros feligreses vivieron esta prueba y sufrimiento en carne propia, no obstante, permanecieron fuertes como testigos fieles de la fe.

La historia de la Guerra Cristera de México es un hecho que se debe contar y conocer no solo para recordar los muchos católicos mexicanos que entregaron su vida por la fe y la libertad religiosa, sino también para que nosotros aquí en los Estados Unidos recordemos que nuestra fe y libertad religiosa son el regalo más preciado que tenemos y debemos atesorarlo y protegerlo con valentía y vigilancia.

La historia de la Guerra Cristera de México comienza con la Revolución Mexicana en 1910. Lo que comenzó como una lucha contra un orden y una autoridad aristocrática, pronto se convirtió en una guerra civil de diversas facciones que se volcó contra la Iglesia dado a que esta se percibía estar opuesta a dicha revolución. En 1917, se redactó una nueva constitución que incorporaba varios artículos anticlericales que crearon las condiciones para casi 20 años de persecución religiosa contra los católicos en México. En 1926, el presidente mexicano Plutarco Elías Calles, quien era masón, aprobó la llamada Ley de las Calles que incorporaba leyes persecutorias aun más rigurosas y de mayor envergadura contra los católicos. La resistencia a estas leyes comenzó pacíficamente, con oraciones, demostraciones pacíficas, peticiones firmadas y medidas de boicoteo. Sin embargo, en agosto de 1926, surgieron varios movimientos de insurrección que comenzaron la Guerra Cristera o la Cristiada a raíz del grito de guerra ¡viva Cristo Rey!

El gobierno mexicano tomó represalias de manera rápida y violentamente contra la Iglesia.



Monseñor Kevin Vann

El gobierno incautó escuelas católicas, seminarios y propiedades; cerró hospitales, abolió los órdenes monásticos, prohibió la adoración pública y no se les permitió a los sacerdotes y hermanas usar hábitos religiosos ni vestimentas sacerdotales. Además, se expulsó a los obispos mexicanos junto con la mayoría de los miembros del clero. También se martirizaron a muchos católicos de diversos ámbitos de la vida: el clero, miembros de órdenes religiosas y laicos. De hecho, a más de 200,000 personas entre el 1926 y 1930, en lo que pasaron a ser las persecuciones católicas más brutales del siglo XX.

Sin embargo, como muchas persecuciones de la Iglesia a lo largo de la historia, la persecución de la Iglesia en México dio lugar a muchos santos y beatas, y a través de estos mártires valientes y santos la Iglesia de México no solo sobrevivió sino que floreció. Los católicos en México no se acobardaron ante el gobierno, sino que siguieron viviendo la fe con valentía y determinación y se negaron a renunciar y sacrificar el amor para Cristo y su Iglesia. A consecuencia de esta persecución, ahora veneramos a esos santos y beatos como San Rafael Guizar y Valencia, Obispo de Veracruz, quien operó un seminario clandestino y fue canonizado por el Papa Benedicto XVI en 2006. Otro beato fue Miguel Pro, un sacerdote jesuita mexicano quien fue ejecutado bajo el Presidente Calles. Su último pedido antes de que fuera ejecutado por un pelotón de fusilamiento fue que le permitieran arrodillarse y rezar. Su martirio fue uno de los martirios más publicados y fotografiados del siglo XX, y su ejecución se desplegó en la portada de los periódicos mexicanos al día siguiente. El 21 de mayo de 2000, el beato Papa Juan Pablo II también canonizó a 25 mártires quienes también fueron ejecutados durante la Cristiada. Estos valientes católicos se mantuvieron firmes no solo en nombre de la fe católica, sino que también lucharon hasta el final por la libertad religiosa.

Otro giro también desconocido pero importante de la Cristiada mexicana fue que

el gobierno mexicano fue motivado a llevar a cabo esta persecución contra los católicos por algunos elementos en nuestro propio país. El Klu Klux Klan ofreció a todos sus cuatro millones de miembros para combatir junto con el régimen de Calles contra los católicos, en caso de que otro gobierno interviniera por medios militares. Además, Margaret Sanger, fundadora de la organización *Planned Parenthood*, apoyó a Calles en su guerra contra la Iglesia y su "intolerancia" para que la labor de Sanger con anticonceptivos y control de la natalidad no tuviera que lidiar con la oposición y la influencia de la Iglesia. Sanger declaró, "Con el yugo del medievalismo a un lado, podemos anticipar el magnífico desarrollo de la labor del gobierno en torno al control de la natalidad ya iniciada en México". Incluso el gobierno de los Estados Unidos bajo la administración de Coolidge demostró poco interés ante la crisis de México. La historia nos demuestra y enseña que todavía existen muchas influencias anticatólicas en nuestro país que laboran y socavan lentamente la libertad religiosa. Estas influencias apoyan fervientemente el refrenamiento de la Iglesia aun en nuestro propio país.

Como mencioné anteriormente, el estreno oportuno de *For Greater Glory* es providencial ya que la realidad de este pasado sombrío de México y este capítulo triste en la vida de la Iglesia en América nos enseña, a partir de la historia, el gran regalo de nuestra fe y libertad religiosa, y que ese regalo no se puede dar por sentado ni tomar a la ligera. Esta terrible persecución de la Iglesia ocurrió hace menos de 100 años en nuestro país vecino de México, con la ayuda de algunas influencias en nuestro propio país que todavía están muy vivas y presentes. Les exhorto a todos a que le dediquen un momento a ver esta gran película y reflexionen sobre el regalo de nuestra fe y libertad religiosa que se nos ha otorgado en este nuestro querido país. No obstante, debemos también reconocer que este regalo de libertad religiosa está siendo atacado sin precedentes en la historia de nuestro país y que debemos reaccionar con valentía, atención y fe.

También hay otro lado de la historia que es relevante en nuestros tiempos y que el Arzobispo José Gómez de la *Archidiócesis de Los Angeles* mencionó en una columna reciente en el diario archidiocesano *The Tidings*. La Beata María Inés Teresa Arias fue beatificada el mes pasado en la Ciudad de México. Nacida en México en 1904, entró a la congregación de las Hermanas Clarisas en la Ciudad de México. En 1929 huyó de la violencia de la Guerra Cristera, emigró a los Estados Unidos y se estableció en Los Angeles. Fue allí que fundó la congregación de las Hermanas Misioneras Clarisas de los Pobres del Santísimo Sacramento. Esta inmigrante de México, tuvo que huir de la violencia de la Guerra Cristera y ha contribuido mucho a la Iglesia de Estados Unidos. El Arzobispo Gómez señala que, la historia de la Beata María Arias nos llama a

reflexionar sobre cómo nuestro país acoge a los inmigrantes, especialmente si tomamos en cuenta los argumentos recientes que se presentaron ante el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos con respecto a la ley de inmigración de Arizona. El Arzobispo Gómez señala:

Nuestra Iglesia es una Iglesia de inmigrantes. Siempre lo ha sido. Así como Norteamérica ha sido siempre una nación de inmigrantes. Con excepción de unos pocos, todos los santos, bienaventurados y venerables fueron inmigrantes. Algunos, como Santa Francisca Javier Cabrini, fueron canonizados por su servicio a nuestras comunidades inmigrantes.

Hoy día parece que estamos perdiendo ese sentido de la herencia norteamericana, como una tierra de misioneros, inmigrantes y santos. Una tierra donde los hombres y mujeres de todas las razas, credos y naciones pueden vivir como hermanos y hermanas.

Esa es la razón por la que el caso de Arizona es importante. Todos los años, los gobiernos estatales continúan pasando leyes antiinmigrantes. Se crearon 197 leyes nuevas en 2011 y 208 el año anterior, de acuerdo con la Conferencia Nacional de Legislaturas Estatales.

Estas leyes son una expresión de la ira y frustración de la gente. Todos sabemos que nuestro sistema de inmigración nacional está deshecho. Hasta el momento, ni el Congreso ni el Presidente han encontrado la manera de repararlo. No ha habido un movimiento real a escala nacional desde que la reforma migratoria integral de 2007 fracasara en el Congreso. Actualmente, nuestra "política" nacional es arrestar y deportar tantos inmigrantes ilegales como podamos. Solamente el año pasado, nuestro gobierno deportó a 400,000 individuos, un número récord.

Por supuesto no estamos solo hablando de estadísticas. Cada uno de estos "números" es una persona, muchas de ellas católicas. Muchos son madres o padres, que sin avisar, no regresarán a casa para cenar esta noche. Muchos, quizás, no verán crecer a sus hijos.

Esta no es una "solución" digna de una gran nación. En nombre de la implementación de nuestras leyes, estamos ahora destruyendo familias. Estamos castigando a niños inocentes por los crímenes de sus padres.

Somos un pueblo mejor que esto.

Norteamérica ha sido siempre una nación de justicia y ley. No obstante, somos también un pueblo compasivo. Podemos encontrar una manera mejor. Esto comienza recordando la promesa de América, una tierra donde los inmigrantes pobres pueden llegar a ser santos.

Me uno al pedido del Arzobispo Gómez y de mis otros hermanos obispos para que encontremos una solución a nuestro sistema fragmentado de inmigración. Uno que asegure nuestras fronteras contra el cruce ilegal, y que permita que los inmigrantes lleguen a nuestro

Dirigentes católicos rechazan el apoyo de Obama ha declarado darle a matrimonios de personas del mismo sexo

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Dirigentes católicos rechazaron el contenido de la declaración que hizo el Presidente Barack Obama el 9 de mayo en una entrevista por televisión de que “personalmente es importante para mí continuar adelante y afirmar que creo que parejas del mismo sexo deben poder casarse”.

“Las palabras del Presidente Obama no nos caen de sorpresa pues siguen a varias acciones tomadas por su administración que erosionan o

ignoran el significado único del matrimonio”, dijo el cardenal Timothy M. Dolan de New York, presidente de la *Conferencia de obispos de los Estados Unidos*, en una declaración del 9 de mayo.

“No podemos permanecer callados ante palabras o acciones que destruyan insidiosamente la institución del matrimonio, verdadera piedra angular de nuestra sociedad”, añadió el Cardenal Dolan. “El pueblo de este país, especialmente nuestros

hijos, merecen algo mucho mejor”.

En el mes de diciembre del año 2010, Obama dijo que su punto de vista sobre matrimonios de personas del mismo sexo “estaba en evolución” y que “lo debatía consigo mismo”, añadiendo que continuaría reflexionando sobre el asunto. Un artículo de la *Associated Press* (Prensa Asociada) del 10 de mayo, citó a Obama diciendo que él quería anunciar su apoyo para tales uniones (uniones de personas del mismo sexo) “a mi manera, bajo mis

términos”, pero aceptó declaraciones anteriores del Vicepresidente Joe Biden que aceleraron el anuncio.

El 6 de mayo, Biden, quien es católico, dijo que estaba “perfectamente a gusto” con que personas del mismo sexo se casaran, añadiendo que deberían tener “los mismos exactos derechos” que reciben las parejas casadas de hombre y mujer.

Por otra parte, la Iglesia Católica sostiene la idea de la santidad del matrimonio tradicional contraído entre

un hombre y una mujer; y también enseña que cualquier actividad sexual fuera del matrimonio es pecaminosa.

“Rezo por el presidente todos los días, y continuaré haciéndolo para que él y su administración actúen justamente a fin de sostener y proteger el matrimonio como la unión de un hombre y una mujer”, dijo el Cardenal Dolan. “Trabajemos para promover y proteger el matrimonio para que así haciéndolo sirvamos el verdadero bien común de todas las personas”.

Maestra de inglés dio al actor Verástegui nuevo enfoque en la vida

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Uno podría pensar que el actor Eduardo Verástegui tiene buenos recuerdos de su primera película en inglés, “Chasing Papi”, filmada en el 2003, porque le dio la oportunidad de compartir la pantalla con Sofía Vergara, quien se ha convertido en una estrella por sí misma gracias a su rol en la comedia de ABC “Modern Family”.

Pero los recuerdos más preciados de Verástegui provienen del hecho que él tuvo que aprender inglés para hacer la película. Eso lo llevó a una maestra de inglés que lo retó en otras más maneras que en solo aprender gramática y pronunciación.

“Su nombre era Jasmine”, dijo Verástegui, católico, a *Catholic News Service* durante una entrevista del 4 de mayo en Washington para promover una nueva película, “For Greater Glory”. “Ella realmente comenzó a cuestionar las cosas importantes”.



Eduardo Verástegui en una escena de la película “For Greater Glory”. El actor católico Eduardo Verástegui interpreta a Anacleto González Flores en una escena de la película “For Greater Glory”. Verástegui, un popular actor de telenovelas mexicanas, fue retado por su maestra particular de inglés mientras hacía la transición a películas en inglés, a buscar un propósito mayor en su vida y a la práctica de su arte. El desafío cambió la vida del actor. (Foto de CNS/ARC Entertainment)

Durante sus seis meses de particulares tutoría, Verástegui dijo que, Jasmine le hacía preguntas tales como “¿cuál es el propósito de la vida? ¿Cómo estás usando tus talentos? ¿Estás intentando elevar la dignidad humana o no? ¿Para quién vives? ¿Para quién mueres?”.

De todo esto, Verástegui indicó dijo: “Me di cuenta que no era feliz. Faltaba algo adentro. No sé qué”.

Con el tiempo llegó a creer que él debía usar su talento solamente en

proyectos de pantalla que afirmaran la vida. Se fueron las telenovelas, en las que el actor nativo mexicano inició su carrera. *Vino Metanoia Films*, creada por Verástegui para traer a la vida su nueva visión. El primer fruto fue “Bella”, en la cual se encontró protagonizando y produciendo un cuento acerca de los esfuerzos de un joven para convencer a una joven embarazada a no continuar con un aborto planificado.

Eso llevó más tarde a “Little Boy”, la cual comenzó hace tres años

y justo ahora está en post producción. Verástegui personifica un sacerdote en la película, pero es también su productor y productor ejecutivo. La película trata de un niño que desea que su padre regrese a salvo de la *Segunda guerra mundial*, por lo que se dedica a las obras de misericordia corporales con la esperanza de acelerar el final de la guerra. Originalmente tenía un presupuesto de \$59 millones, dijo Verástegui, pero al filmar en México pudo recortarlo a \$25 millones.

Él dijo que cuando llegó el momento para “For Greater Glory” él estaba intrigado al respecto, pero primero estaba avergonzado. “Fue una persona estadounidense que me preguntaba acerca de la historia de México, mi propia historia. Yo tenía 30 años de edad... fue vergonzoso para mí” no saber. No se hizo mención alguna en su casa, en la escuela ni en ningún otro lugar sobre la *Guerra cristera* de la

década de 1920, en la que los católicos tomaron las armas para oponerse a la represión sistemática de la religión por parte del gobierno mexicano, dijo.

Verástegui dijo que quería abordar la historia en una película, pero “yo era un productor primerizo. No estaba listo para hacer la película”. Hace unos tres años se enteró que Pablo José Barroso, productor de “For Greater Glory”, había dicho que tenía un guión y quería a Verástegui en la película.

Pero Verástegui estaba ocupado con “Little Boy” y no podía comprometerse a un pesado calendario de filmación. Barroso le ofreció el rol de Anacleto González Flores, abogado y periodista. Verástegui lo aceptó diciendo que estaba orgulloso de personificar el “Gandhi de México” en la película. Él fue a México y filmó todas sus escenas en 10 días.

González, quien era muy conocido en México por su filosofía de resistencia no violenta, fue torturado y asesinado por soldados del ejército en abril de 1927 en Guadalajara. En el 2005 fue beatificado.

El ciclo de verano de la Escuela del Ministerio de Laicos comenzará el 7 de julio

El ciclo de verano de la *Escuela del Ministerio de Laicos titulado School of Lay Ministry Summer Cycle* comenzará el 7 de julio y terminará el 21 de julio de 2012. Todos los que deseen tener un mejor entendimiento de su fe están bienvenidos y pueden participar en los diversos discursos y talleres de trabajo que se ofrecerán.

“Lo que deseo recalcar”, indicó el Padre Carmen Mele, O.P., director de la escuela, “es que todos están bienvenidos y pueden participar en este ciclo de verano. No es necesario estar inscrito en el Instituto Juan Pablo II para participar”.

El ciclo de verano de este año comenzará en Wichita Falls con talleres de trabajo que durarán todo el día en inglés y español en la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón. El Padre Mele dirigirá una sesión en inglés sobre cómo predicarles a los laicos mientras que el invitado especial, el Padre Alejandro López Cardinale de RENEW International, dará la presentación en español titulada “Retos en la transmisión de la Fe”.

“El Padre Alejandro es un catequista apasionado con un gran número de seguidores en esta diócesis y en otras más”, comentó el Padre Mele. “Siempre hasido muy bien recibido y nos complace

que sea nuestro invitado nuevamente”.

Después del fin de semana en Wichita Falls, el Padre Alejandro dará una serie de cuatro discursos en Keller del 9 al 12 de Julio en la Parroquia de Santa Isabel Ana Seton que lleva por título “Retos en la transmisión de la Fe a nuestros hijos: esperanzas en el año de la Fe”.

El Padre John Robert Skeldon, un sacerdote de la diócesis, es el orador programado en la serie de cuatro discursos, “Knowing God through his People: What Minor Biblical Characters Tell Us about Faith”. *La Iglesia del Santísimo Sacramento* de Arlington

será la anfitriona de esta actividad del 16 al 19 de julio.

“El Padre John Robert Skeldon es un orador excelente”, indicó el Padre Mele. “Se destaca por su entusiasmo, su manera singular de abordar los temas y sus amplios intereses eclécticos”.

Cada una de la serie de discursos está disponible al público por un cargo de inscripción de \$20.

El ciclo de verano continuará el 14 y el 21 de julio en la Parroquia del Inmaculado Corazón de María en el sur de Fort Worth con talleres de trabajo en inglés y español. Ponentes de diversas partes de la Diócesis de

Fort Worth dirigirán una variedad de clases con distintos temas. Al igual que la serie de discursos, todas las clases están disponibles al público en general por un costo nominal.

“Queremos que todos los interesados aprovechen estas clases”, dijo el Padre Carmen.

Para obtener más información e inscribirse en línea en el ciclo de verano de la Escuela del Ministerio de Laicos del Instituto del Beato Juan Pablo II (Summer Cycle of the Blessed John Paul II Institute School of Lay Ministry), visite el sitio Web de la diócesis, www.fwdioc.org.

país con sus regalos, talentos y gran fe para que nuestro país crezca y prospere con las bendiciones que ellos nos brindan. Este es uno de los asuntos más importantes que enfrenta nuestra nación hoy día, especialmente aquí en Texas y el Suroeste. Es pre-

ciso encontrar una solución justa y razonable pronto.

A medida que nos acercamos a la fiesta de Pentecostés, oro para que el Espíritu Santo siga dirigiendo y guiando a nuestra gran nación, especialmente que la bendiga con fortaleza

de ánimo mientras seguimos, como católicos, manteniéndonos firmes y defendiendo nuestra libertad religiosa y que además nos esmeremos para garantizar que los inmigrantes sigan siendo acogidos de manera justa y segura en nuestro país para que nos

sigan enriqueciendo con todos sus regalos y su presencia. Que Dios les bendiga a todos y a sus familias.

+ Kevin W. Vann
+ OBISPO KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD
DIOCESIS DE FORT WORTH



El Papa dice en audiencia sentirse apoyado por oraciones de católicos

EL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI dijo que saber que católicos de todo el mundo oran por él le ha dado fortaleza y confianza desde su elección hace siete años.

“Desde el primerísimo momento de mi elección como sucesor de Pedro siempre me he sentido apoyado por sus oraciones, por las oraciones de la iglesia, especialmente en los momentos más difíciles”, dijo el 9 de mayo durante su audiencia general semanal.

Interrumpido por los aplausos de las aproximadamente 10,000 personas que se reunieron para la audiencia en la Plaza de San Pedro, el Papa dijo a los que oran por él: “Les agradezco desde lo más profundo de mi corazón”.

Continuando con una serie de charlas acerca de ejemplos de oración en los *Hechos de los Apóstoles*, el Papa se dirigió a la historia del encarcelamiento de San Pedro en Jerusalén y su liberación milagrosa. El relato bíblico enfatiza cómo toda

la comunidad cristiana estaba reunida para fervientemente oraciones por el apóstol Pedro mientras él dormía en la cárcel, dijo el Papa.

El episodio, dijo, “demuestra el poder de la oración”.

“Con la oración constante y confiada”, dijo el Papa, el Señor libera las personas de sus cadenas, las acompaña pasando la noche oscura, y “nos da la serenidad de corazón para enfrentar las dificultades de la vida, incluyendo el rechazo, la oposición, la persecución”.

“La oración constante y unánime es un preciado instrumento para superar las pruebas que surgen en la vida” porque es una señal de estar unido con Dios y los unos con los otros, dijo.

El Papa Benedicto XVI dijo que la liberación de San Pedro ofrece a la Iglesia hoy día una lección de la importancia de ambas, la oración auténtica y la unidad en la oración.

Aunque *Los Hechos de los Apóstoles* narra sobre una comunidad cristiana

que enfrentaba la persecución, la carta de Santiago cuenta sobre una comunidad en peligro debido a sus divisiones internas provocadas por el egoísmo, “la dictadura de los deseos de uno” y la falta de oración, él dijo.

Santiago advierte a la comunidad que las oraciones de ellos no serán contestadas si están motivados principalmente por un deseo “de obtener lo que uno quiere” y no lo que Dios desea para el bien de la comunidad, dijo.

Hasta predicar y enseñar acerca de Dios se arriesga a perder el significado y su poder de tocar los corazones y cambiar vidas si no se apoya en la oración, lo cual es “un diálogo continuo y avivado con Dios”, dijo el Papa.

El Papa Benedicto XVI dijo que todas las comunidades, “tanto las pequeñas como las familias como las grandes como la parroquia, la diócesis y toda la Iglesia”, necesitan recordar la importancia de estar unidos en la oración.



El Obispo Ricardo Ramírez de Las Cruces, Nuevo México, da la homilía durante una Misa concelebrada en la Basílica de Santa María la Mayor en Roma, el 1º de mayo. (Foto de CNS/Paul Haring)

Obispos estadounidenses ofrecen oraciones por los trabajadores, la familia

ROMA (CNS) — Un grupo de obispos estadounidenses comenzó sus visitas “ad limina” a Roma orando por los trabajadores y por las familias.

Los obispos de Colorado, Arizona, Nuevo México y Wyoming concelebraron Misa en la *Basílica de Santa María la Mayor* el 1º de mayo, marcando el inicio del mes tradicionalmente dedicado a María, a la *Fiesta de San José Obrero* y el *Día del trabajador*, día feriado público en Italia y muchos otros países.

El Obispo Ricardo Ramírez de Las Cruces, Nuevo México, celebrante principal y homilista de la Misa, dijo que durante el día feriado “nuestros pensamientos se dirigen a los trabajadores en todas partes. Debemos orar por los trabajadores hoy, especialmente por aquellos que están teniendo tiempos difíciles en sus empleos, por aquellos a quienes no se les paga un salario justo o un salario de sustento, por aquellas madres solteras que intentan criar a sus hijos” trabajando tanto dentro como fuera del hogar.

El obispo también oró por aquellos

que trabajan “en talleres explotadores donde se les paga solamente una miseria, quienes podrían estar trabajando de pie, quizás durante 18 horas diarias”.

En muchas partes del mundo, él dijo, son tiempos terribles en que “la gente trabaja tan arduamente por tan poco y sufren tantas injusticias. Así es que oramos por ellos y sus familias”.

Enfocándose primero en María y José, el obispo Ramírez elogió sus roles como padres “que le dieron la bienvenida a Jesús al mundo y le enseñaron buenos modales y le enseñaron cómo ser un buen chico judío”.

El obispo dijo que la virtud que más admira en María y José es la mansedumbre.

“Mansedumbre no es debilidad”, dijo. En vez “connota fortaleza y valentía porque tiene que ver con entregarse a la voluntad de Dios”.

El obispo Ramírez dijo estar seguro de que nunca ha habido un hogar tan pacífico como el de la Sagrada Familia porque “hay una serenidad conectada con la entrega a la voluntad de Dios”.

Obispo reitera preocupación que presupuesto de la Cámara no pasa una ‘prueba moral básica’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Los propuestos recortes presupuestarios en los programas que satisfacen las necesidades de personas pobres y vulnerables que están siendo considerados en la *Cámara de Representantes* no cumplen fracasa una “prueba moral básica”, dijo el presidente del *Comité sobre justicia y desarrollo humano nacional*, de los obispos estadounidenses (*USCCB*).

En una carta dirigida a miembros de la *Cámara* el 8 de mayo, el Obispo Stephen E. Blaire de Stockton, California, reiteró su postura anterior que “el presupuesto comienza con la proposición de que el Congreso primero no debe hacer daño” y que los funcionarios electos tienen que evaluar toda decisión presupuestaria basado en “si esta protege o amenaza la vida y la dignidad humanas”.

Dado que reconoce que el déficit presupuestario del país es una preocupación seria y que el *Congreso* enfrenta decisiones difíciles, el Obispo Blaire hizo un llamado a los miembros de la *Cámara* para “asegurar que todas las políticas cumplan los criterios morales establecidos por los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos para crear un círculo de protección en

torno a los programas que sirven a personas pobres y vulnerables y las comunidades”.

“Las necesidades de aquellos que están hambrientos y desamparados, sin trabajo o en la pobreza, deben ser primero. El gobierno y otras instituciones tienen una responsabilidad compartida de promover el bien común de todos, especialmente de los trabajadores y las familias ordinarias que luchan por vivir con dignidad en tiempos económicos difíciles”, dice la carta.

El Obispo Blaire escribió que el marco de trabajo para los futuros presupuestos “no puede depender de recortes desproporcionados en los servicios esenciales para las personas pobres; este requiere el sacrificio compartido por todos, el incluyendo recaudar ingresos adecuados, eliminar gastos militares innecesarios y otros gastos, y atender de manera justa los costos a largo plazo de los seguros médicos y los programas de jubilación”.

La carta cita tres programas en particular como teniendo un impacto significativo en las familias y personas pobres.

El Obispo Blaire renovó la oposición de la *USCCB* a los cambios en el crédito tributario por niños

que excluirían los niños de “familias inmigrantes que trabajan arduamente”. También repitió la oposición de los obispos a los recortes en el *Programa Suplementario de Ayuda Nutricional*, antes conocido como estampillas de alimentos, y la *Concesión en bloque de servicios sociales*, que ayuda a personas desamparadas, ancianas e incapacitadas, a víctimas de abuso y a niños que viven en la pobreza.

“Los esfuerzos de reducción del déficit y responsabilidad fiscal tienen que proteger y no socavar las necesidades de las personas pobres y vulnerables”, dice la carta. “Los propuestos recortes en los programas de reconciliación del presupuesto no pasan esta prueba moral básica”.

La carta fue enviada mientras la *Cámara* se preparaba para votar el 10 de mayo sobre un plan presupuestario que recortaría miles de millones de dólares en gastos no militares. Los mayores recortes en el plan presupuestario para el 2013, apoyado por los republicanos, estaban orientados hacia reformas en los servicios médicos y en los mercados financieros, pero también incluyen miles de millones en *Medicaid*, cupones de alimentos y reintegros por crédito tributario por niños.



El seminarista Nick Nelson, del colegio de seminaristas Pontifical North American College de la Diócesis de Duluth, Minnesota, patea el balón mientras su equipo compite contra la Pontifical Gregorian University durante los finales del torneo de fútbol Clericus Cup en Roma el 12 de mayo. El colegio Pontifical North American College ganó el partido 3 a 0 logrando así el primer triunfo en el torneo de 6 años. (Foto de CNS/Paul Haring)

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 Stephen Berg.

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

Events Calendar

Around the Diocese and region

June Dates

1

AN EVENING OF PRAYER & SHARING WITH THE SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF NAMUR

4 to 7:30 p.m. - Our Lady of Victory Center, 909 West Shaw, Fort Worth. For information, contact Sister Yolanda Cruz at (817) 923-3091 or sycruz@sbcglobal.net.

2

NOLAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY GRAND FINALE CELEBRATION

Mass, 5 p.m.; Family Picnic, 6 p.m. - Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Kathryn Rhadigan at (817) 395-0263.

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

10 a.m. - A monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and those struggling with addiction and seeking recovery. Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth. For information, contact Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 431-5369.

9-10

GABRIEL PROJECT ANGEL TRAINING

Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. (includes Mass at 6 p.m.) - St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1408 N. Davis Dr., Arlington. For information, contact Mary Stroupe at (940) 464-3224.

10

MEN'S MONTHLY DISCERNMENT: SINGLE MEN, 16-50

6 to 9 p.m. - St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Father Isaac Orozco at (817) 560-2452 ext. 109 or iorozco@fwdioc.org

12

WOMEN'S MONTHLY DISCERNMENT: SINGLE WOMEN, 16-50

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Father Isaac Orozco at (817) 560-2452 ext. 109 or iorozco@fwdioc.org

22-24

VOCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM

Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Dr., Irving. For information, contact Father Isaac Orozco at (817) 560-2452, 109 or iorozco@fwdioc.org or visit www.vapinfo.org.

28

FORT WORTH DIOCESAN MINISTRY WITH LESBIAN AND GAY CATHOLICS, OTHER SEXUAL MINORITIES, FAMILIES, FRIENDS

7 p.m. - Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370 or Rita and Ron Clegg at (817) 795-9747.

29-1

PRO-LIFE BOOT CAMP SESSION 1

High school students ages 14-18. For information, contact Sue Laux at (817) 939-8595.

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School is happy to announce that its Pre-Kindergarten program will expand to include both three-year-olds and four-year-olds for the 2012-2013 school year. Students need to be three/four-years-old respectively by Sept. 1, 2012. For more information or to tour, or register, contact the school office at (817) 246-2032.

The Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) is accepting nominations for the Benediction to Mankind award. Applications must be postmarked by July 1. For information, contact Joyce Brown-Thomas at (817) 483-9838.

July Dates

6

AN EVENING OF PRAYER & SHARING WITH THE SISTERS OF ST. MARY OF NAMUR

4 to 7:30 p.m. - Our Lady of Victory Center, 909 West Shaw, Fort Worth. For information, contact Sister Yolanda Cruz at (817) 923-3091 or sycruz@sbcglobal.net.

6-8

IGNITE OUR HEARTS FOR ONE ANOTHER - EMERGING CONFERENCE

Friday 7 p.m. to Sunday noon - St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Ln., Grapevine. For information, contact Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-2452 ext. 261 or Josie Castillo at (817) 560-2452 ext. 255.

7

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

10 a.m. - A monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and those struggling with addiction and seeking recovery. Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth. For information, contact Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 431-5369.

9

MEN'S MONTHLY DISCERNMENT: SINGLE MEN, 16-50

6 to 9 p.m. - St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Father Isaac Orozco at (817) 560-3300.

10

WOMEN'S MONTHLY DISCERNMENT: SINGLE WOMEN, 16-50

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Father Isaac Orozco at (817) 560-3300.

13-15

DCYC: DIOCESAN CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

Friday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 7 a.m. to noon. - The Hyatt Regency -DFW Airport, 2334 North International Pkwy., Dallas (Terminal C). For information, contact Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-2452 ext. 261 or kprevou@fwdioc.org, or Josie Castillo at (817) 560-2452 ext. 255 or jcastillo@fwdioc.org.

20-22

RACHEL'S VINEYARD WEEKEND RETREAT

The retreat is open to women, men, couples, anyone hurting because of abortion. For information, contact Betsy Kopor at (817) 923-4757.

26

FORT WORTH DIOCESAN MINISTRY WITH LESBIAN AND GAY CATHOLICS, OTHER SEXUAL MINORITIES, FAMILIES, FRIENDS

7 p.m. - Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370 or Rita and Ron Clegg at (817) 795-9747.

27-28

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY NORTH TEXAS HOME SCHOOL AND PARENT CONFERENCE

Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington. For information, call (972) 437-1310. or visit www.IHMConference.org.

27-31

PRO-LIFE BOOT CAMP SESSION 2

High school students ages 14-18. For information, contact Sue Laux at (817) 939-8595.

Courage, a support group for persons with same-sex attraction living chastely according to Catholic Spirituality meets twice monthly in the DFW area. Father James Gigliotti, TOR, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, serves as Spiritual Director. For more information, call (972) 938-LIFE (5433) or e-mail CourageDFW@Catholic.org or visit the national Courage website at www.CourageRC.net.

Classifieds

Business Manager / Bookkeeper

The new Blessed John Paul II University Parish in Denton is in need a full-time business manager/bookkeeper. Applicants should be practicing Catholic with a thorough background in bookkeeping, accounting, and finances, and a minimum of three to five years experience. The position does not require supervising others. Minimum requirement is an associate's degree in accounting. Application deadline is June 1. Send résumé to Fr. Kyle Walterscheid, The Catholic Community Center, 1303 Eagle Dr., Denton, TX, 76201, or to padrekyle@gmail.com or call (817) 366-0439.

Director of Religious Education

St. Ann Catholic Community, a very large (>8,500 families), dynamic, multi-cultural parish in the Diocese of Dallas, seeks a director of RCIA and Adult Religious Education (DRCIA). This person will direct all phases of the RCIA process in Spanish and English, with an established group of volunteers. DRCIA also directs Adult Religious Education classes and is the parish staff liaison to adult educational ministries. Candidates should bring a passion for ministry, strong organizational skills, the ability to be part of a team and a proven track record. Minimum requirements include: practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, a masters in theology or related field; excellent communication skills (written, conversational, and presentation) in English and Spanish; and large parish ministry/staff RCIA experience. Send a cover letter and résumé to St. Ann Catholic Parish, Attn: Search Committee, 180 Samuel Blvd., Coppell, TX 75019 or businessoffice@stanparish.org by May 25. The parish website is www.stannparish.org

Experienced Accompanist

An accompanist experienced with piano and organ is needed for weekend Masses at St. Matthew Catholic Church, Arlington. Responsibilities include rehearsal with choir weekly, three weekend Masses, holy day Masses, availability for parish funerals, weddings, and major parish celebrations throughout the year preferred. Applicant must be familiar with post-Vatican II Catholic liturgy. Send résumés to St. Matthew Catholic Church; Attn: Linda Lawler, Arlington, TX 76010 or call (817)860-0130, to apply.

Christian Caregiver

Christian caregiver will provide care in your home; light housekeeping; excellent references; 12 years experience; (817) 713-7353.

General Construction Services

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

Good Newsmaker

Missionaries to the Church of Fort Worth

Deacons Manuel Holguin and Michael Moloney set to be ordained to priesthood June 9 at St. Patrick Cathedral

Stories by John Henry / Correspondent

TOP BACKGROUND PHOTO: Deacon Manuel Holguin places his hands inside Bishop Kevin Vann's as a sign of obedience during his ordination to the diaconate May 31 of last year. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)

BOTTOM BACKGROUND PHOTO: Deacon Michael Moloney accepts the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Kevin Vann during his ordination to the diaconate Nov. 19 of last year. (Courtesy of Sacred Heart School of Theology)

Dcn. Manuel Holguin studied in Mexico before deciding to spread the Gospel in Texas

He is the son of the fertile land of faith, the area of La Junta de los Rios in Mexico's state of Chihuahua, an accountant educated at the local university, poised to begin a prosperous professional career with all the comfortable privileges of such a life.

Deacon Manuel Holguin, though, decided to go the way of Paul and devote his life as a living sacrifice to God by accepting the call to Holy Orders.

Dcn. Holguin will become Father Manuel Holguin June 9, when he is ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Worth at St. Patrick Cathedral.

"I discovered my calling when I graduated from college," said Dcn. Holguin, 33, who attended Seminario de Chihuahua from 2003-09 before deciding he wanted to spread the Word of God in Texas. "A friend invited me to a vocational retreat, to live the experience. It was after that that I decided to become a seminarian.

"It was special to me. It was beautiful."

His decision also made his grandmother's words prophetic.

"You will become a priest one day," Dcn. Holguin recalled his grandmother's words to him when he was a very young boy.

SEE DCN. HOLGUIN, P. 24



Photo by Juan Guajardo / North Texas Catholic

Irish native Dcn. Michael Moloney excited to share his lifelong journey of faith as a new priest

Michael Moloney's journey to Holy Orders has literally taken a lifetime. Yet, his ordination next month at St. Patrick Cathedral will be just in time. With God, it is never too late. In his 61st year, he will become a priest in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

He has fallen from the Church and fallen back in love, first with the Word, then with the Eucharist and, finally, with the Church.

"The reason I'm going to ordination next month is because of that call, which has been persistent," said Deacon Moloney, a native of Ireland who spoke by phone from Sacred Heart Seminary in Wisconsin, where he is undergoing intensive instruction in the Spanish language.

"The most proximate cause was the call to discernment by the bishop in 2006."

For years the question of answering the call had hung over Moloney's head.

Born to a dairy farming family in County Waterford, Ireland, Moloney had "a full Catholic school education," a background and heritage left behind when he was a teen.

Moloney went his own way, which led him to medical school in the states and a practice in Houston, where he moved in 1976.

It turned out to be the wrong way for him.

Around the age of 30, Moloney said he had "a crisis of meaning in life."

It was 30-year journey to the priesthood.

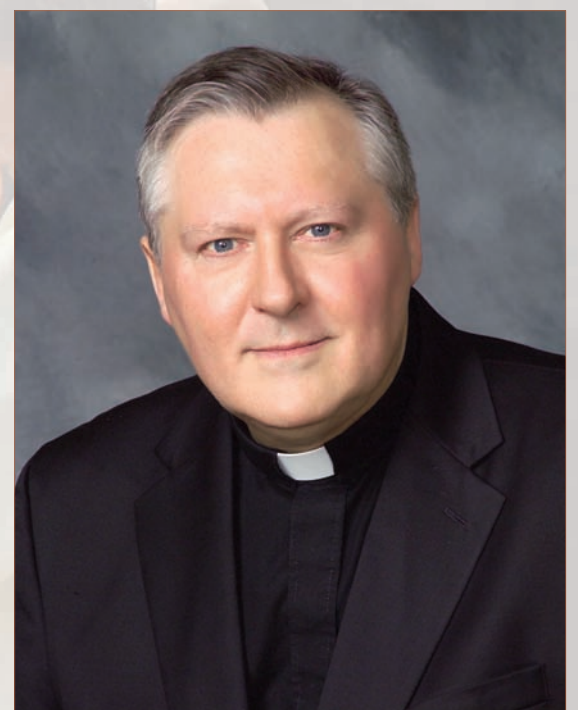


Photo courtesy of Sacred Heart School of Theology

"God responded by giving me a conversion experience," Moloney said. "Out of that I found myself in the evangelical churches. All the way through the '80s I was Evangelical."

SEE DCN. MOLONEY, P. 24