



# North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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June 22, 2007



**EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION** — Pope Benedict XVI leads a eucharistic procession in Rome on the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ June 7. (CNS photo/Chris Helgren, Reuters)

## Pope says Eucharist essential for Christians in often-hostile world

By Cindy Wooden

ROME (CNS) — Before leading a Corpus Christi procession with the Eucharist through the streets of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI said the sacrament is essential nourishment for Christians walking through an often-hostile world.

“For every Christian generation, the Eucharist is the indispensable nourishment that sustains them as they cross the desert of this world,” he said in his June 7 homily for the solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord.

The world is “made arid by ideological and economic systems that do not promote life, but rather mortify it,” he said during the Mass celebrated outside Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Ours is “a world where the logic of power and possessing dominates more than that of service and love; a world where often the culture of violence and death triumphs,” the pope said.

“But Jesus comes to meet us and reassure us: He himself is the bread of life,” Pope Benedict said.

The pope’s security team and Italian police, who are responsible for papal safety outside the Vatican, were extra attentive

June 7. A day earlier, a mentally disturbed man jumped a barricade in St. Peter’s Square in an attempt to reach the pope as he rode through the crowd at his weekly general audience.

Because the Mass was considered a Rome diocesan event, despite the thousands of foreigners present, Pope Benedict celebrated the liturgy, including the eucharistic prayer, in Italian rather than Latin.

The pope told people gathered for the Mass that they should not be surprised that many people have difficulty accepting church teaching that Jesus is truly present in Eucharist.

The real presence is a mystery, and “a God who becomes flesh and sacrifices himself for the life of the world puts human wisdom in crisis,” he said.

But Catholics continue to proclaim the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and, in traditional Corpus Christi processions, they bear witness to their faith by carrying the Eucharist through their cities, the pope said.

Pope Benedict said Luke’s Gospel account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes emphasizes the fact that everyone present ate and was filled.

SEE EUCCHARIST CALLS..., P. 25

## Immigration bill stalled, not dead, backers say

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the June 7 failure of a procedural vote intended to bring the bill to a vote, the Senate’s attempt to pass comprehensive immigration reform went back behind the scenes, though the bill’s backers in both parties vowed to bring it to the floor again.

After the failure of a second cloture vote to cut off debate,

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, said he would take the bill off the floor to allow other legislation to move along, though he did so without closing the door to reviving its consideration.

By the June 9-10 weekend, Reid and Republican leaders were saying the bill was not dead and debate would reopen, possibly before the Independence Day recess that begins July 2.

Analysts on all sides have said that if immigration reform legislation is not passed before the end of 2007 it is unlikely to get a serious shot at passage again until after the 2008 general election.

Immigrant advocates including Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, and Los Angeles Cardinal Roger SEE CATHOLIC LEADERS..., P. 24

## In historic moment for diocese, four to be ordained as priests

By Nicki Prevou  
Staff Writer

The excitement within the Diocese of Fort Worth is palpable as July 7 approaches. Like proud members of a multicultural extended family, parishioners across the 28 counties claim the four seminarians, so soon to be ordained, as their own.

Deacons Thomas Kennedy, Raymond McDaniel, Isaac Orozco, and Jonathan Wallis, in stepping forward to be ordained together after several years of discernment, study, and prayer, are at the forefront of a new wave of energy and optimism that is focused upon vocations to religious life within the church.

“We are blessed by God as four more men have been accepted and will be entering the seminary for the fall semester. Thus, we will have a total of 20 seminarians this fall, studying in five seminaries in the United States and Mexico.”

The growing interest in vocations to the priesthood is cause for rejoicing across the region, said Fr. Walterscheid. “Most of the dioceses in Texas are beginning to see an increase in the number of men entering the seminary,” he noted. “Today six dioceses in

the state have 20 or more seminarians, including the Diocese of Fort Worth. I believe this is only the beginning of a great trend.”

Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, where Deacons McDaniel, Wallis, and Kennedy, and several other priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth have completed their studies, had 84 seminarians, representing nine dioceses in Texas and seven in other states, enrolled in the spring of 2007. For the second year in a

SEE THE JOURNEY..., P. 14

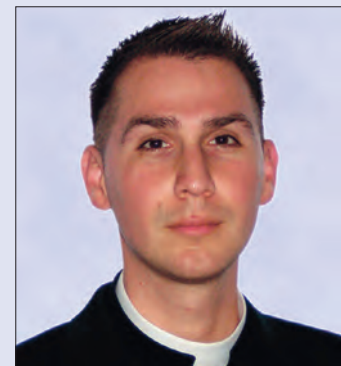
More information about the July 7 ordination Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral may be found on p. 13.



Deacon Thomas Kennedy



Deacon Raymond McDaniel



Deacon Isaac Orozco



Deacon Jonathan Wallis

# Bishop Vann reminds us of the value of carrying Christ into the world; looks forward to ordination of four to priesthood

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Fort Worth,

This past weekend, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

("Corpus Christi"), I had the privilege to celebrate Mass and lead Corpus Christi processions in three locations: St. Peter's in Lindsay, St. Patrick's Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth, and St. Mark's in Denton at the evening Mass for "Life Teen."

The response of all of those who attended, and especially the young people, was very edifying. I believe that the Solemnity of Corpus Christi is especially relevant for today, as it is a visible reminder of the presence of Christ in our daily pilgrimage of life. It is an occasion to reflect on the reality of the Real Presence of Christ and offers all of us the occasion for contemplative prayer and active liturgical participation.

In Rome, during the Corpus Christi procession there (which I had the chance to participate in when I was a student priest years



Bishop Kevin Vann kneels before the Eucharist on an altar before a statue of Mary on the grounds of St. Patrick Cathedral during the Corpus Christi procession in downtown Fort Worth, Sunday, June 10, the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. (Photo by Francine Sustaita)

ago), Pope Benedict XVI said the Eucharist passing by "between houses and through the streets of our city is for those who live in them an offering of joy, of eternal life, of peace and of love." He further stated that he wanted "to put Christ in the midst of our daily lives, so that he walks where we walk, so that he lives where we live."

While the liturgical celebration of Corpus Christi traces its immediate roots to the life of the Church in Belgium and Italy in the 1200s, it is a clear echo of "This is my Body and this is my Blood" for the Church of all times and places to hear. I truly believe that the celebration of Corpus Christi and its history and solemn liturgy, with the opportunity for accompanying eucharistic adoration, is complementary to our necessary and active participation in Mass itself. It is a chance for a real encounter with the Lord, so that we may know Him personally as we continue to live the Gospel and

bring Him into our daily lives in the world in which we live.

Commenting on this reality some years ago, Father Richard McCullen CM, who had been the Superior General of the Vincentians (The "Congregation of the Mission") said, at the conclusion of his 12 years as Superior General, that as he made his visitations around the world, "Many times during these years I have asked myself and others if we have not been too busy, too active, and too horizontal, in our approach to the problems of society today. It may be that we are so busy about the work of the Lord that we forget the Lord of the work. I would like to see in our communities a greater sensitivity to the presence of Christ; not only in the poor but in our tabernacles...."


I have heard it said that we cannot really recognize Christ in the poor if we have not first recognized him in the Eucharist. In a word, we may be overactive, hence less contemplative, and action that is not rooted in contemplation of God and the humanity of Christ will inevitably be shallow and not fruitful for eternal life" (From *Deep Down Things*, 1995).

Reflecting on the Eucharist leads us to look to the weeks ahead when on July 7 four priests will be ordained for the Diocese of Fort Worth at St. Patrick's Cathedral. This is the greatest number of ordinations in the nearly 40-year history of our local Church! This is a great blessing for all of us, and more will follow on this in the *North Texas Catholic*. As we approach this day and celebration, we can keep in mind the words of Pope Benedict XVI at ordinations in St. Peter's Basilica on April 29: "On today's World Day of Prayer for vocations, whose theme this year is 'The vocation to the service of the Church as communion,' let us pray that all who are chosen to such a lofty mission may be accompanied by the prayerful communion of all the faithful. Let us pray that in every parish and Christian community attention to vocations and to the formation of priests will increase: It begins with the family, continues at the seminary, and involves all who have at heart the salvation of souls."

God bless you and your loved ones always. Thank you for all that you do and for your faithful witness of the love of Christ.




Bishop Kevin Vann, carrying the Eucharist in a monstrance, leads the Corpus Christi procession from St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth on the solemnity of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 10. (Photo by Francine Sustaita)



16 Years in a Row

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## Diocesan



**PAPAL BLESSING** — Father Joseph Scantlin, pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington, receives a papal blessing on the anniversary of his 48th year as a priest. He is joined by Deacon Jim Blackmore and members of St. Bernadette's Guild, a parish volunteer organization in support of families, which had arranged for the blessing from the Vatican. (Photo courtesy of Sue Child)

## Andrew Hill is named assistant director for UD School of Ministry

The University of Dallas School of Ministry has announced that Andrew Hill has been named as its assistant director. Hill, a parishioner at Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo, will manage the school's academic and administrative affairs, coordinate its marketing outreach, and support the strategic growth goals of the ministry programs.

Hill's higher education professional background began in enrollment management at St. Mary's University in San Antonio and at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. His experience later expanded into student affairs, when he served for four years as associate dean of students at St. Mary's University. From 2003 through 2006, Hill served as director of the university's Service Learning Center, as a senior lecturer of law and ethics in the graduate school at St. Mary's, and as a professor of undergraduate and graduate courses in the university's theology department.

Hill earned an undergraduate degree in English and philosophy from St. Mary's University and a juris doctor degree from Loyola University. He is currently a



Andrew Hill

canon law student at Cardiff University's Centre for Law and Religion in Wales. He and his wife, Mary Lynne, are parents of a young son, Andrew Jr.

The University of Dallas School of Ministry (formerly the Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies) celebrated its 20th anniversary this year and, according to press materials, is one of the fastest growing graduate schools in ministry in the United States.

For more information about the School of Ministry, visit online at [www.udallas.edu/ministry](http://www.udallas.edu/ministry).

*Responding  
to God's Call*

## Vocation awareness — Mission: Daily prayer is important in discerning God's will for you Part 2 of 4

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

**W**hat is my mission in life? How can I be more certain that I am heading in the right direction with my life?

Several essentials are reading the Bible daily, having a daily prayer life, learning and following the teachings of the Church, and receiving the sacraments to be in communion with God and neighbor. In this column, I will cover the need for having a daily prayer life.

Praying is not a seasonal thing. It is not, for example, something we pack into the 40 days of Lent and then abandon the rest of the year. Let's compare for a moment our spiritual life with our physical life.

Every New Year you see fitness and aerobic centers promoting their 30-minute workouts to help people keep physically fit. Normally, when individuals add physical exercise to their daily routine, they begin to feel more energized as stress levels decrease. But to be a top contender, an athlete can't put in a 30-minute workout and expect to reach the summit of his or her profession. Most likely, that will take several hours of daily exercise.

Now I ask you, which is more important, your mortal, physical body, or your immortal soul? One need not be physically fit to enter into heaven, but one must be spiritually fit to do so!

Part of your mission in life then, is to establish a high standard for your spiritual life, to keep holy the one and only soul that God has given you. One's prayer life brings the individual into contact with the Creator, the Divine, the Holy of Holies, our Lord and Savior, and helps us build a solid foundation on Jesus Christ, enabling us to live a holy, joyful life.

A daily 30-minute spiritual exercise is a good beginning.

The Catholic Church has official morning and evening prayers called the Liturgy of the Hours that all religious brothers, sisters, and priests pray daily. Before his death, Pope John Paul II recommended that all married couples pray the Liturgy of the Hours, too. My response was to introduce it as part of the marriage preparation program when I was serving in a parish.

The Catholic Church has hundreds of other kinds of prayer to choose from, like the rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet. When spouses are united in prayer, their souls are being nourished by God, and they will soon find themselves in harmony. No prayer, no peace. No peace, no harmony. No harmony, no understanding of one another. Ergo division, divorce, and destruction.

But is 30 minutes of prayer enough?

Certainly not for either those responsible for leading the flock nor for a strong marriage or

family life. If the pastor is lost and out of touch with God, his sheep will be too. If parents are lost and out of touch with God, their children will be too. The parish life for the priests laboring in our diocese is very demanding, yet our prayer life is to take priority over all our labor. Anyone who says that their labor is their prayer will soon find their lives spinning out of control. You can't give what you don't have! Praying and praising God brings us into contact with our Lord as he replenishes our soul with bread from heaven that we may then serve others with great joy and zeal.

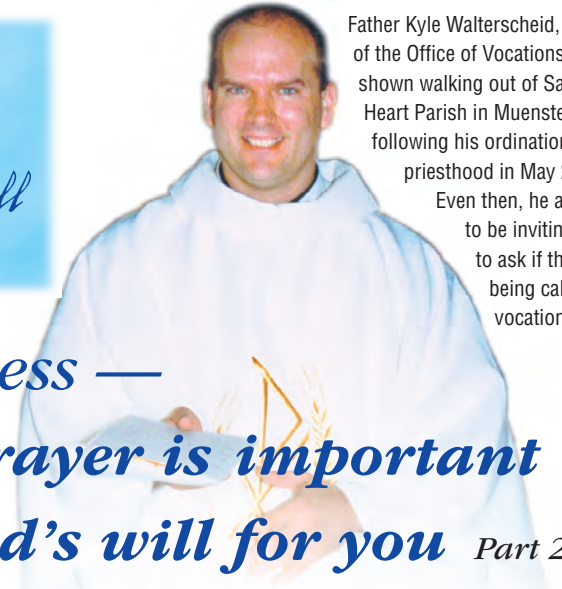
Just like reading a chapter of the Bible each day, as I described in part one of this series, in order to have a daily prayer life a person must make it a top priority. I've been at this daily prayer thing for more than 15 years, and I'm still struggling. But even as a very busy priest, I consciously make it my top priority to pray, meditate, and read spiritual books one to two hours, each and every day.

For anyone considering religious life as a priest, brother, or sister, or for those who simply want to get their lives in better order, start with 30 minutes of daily prayer and steadily build up, over a year or two, to more than an hour of daily prayer. Through a steady prayer life, God will reveal to you the path he desires you to take, your mission in life.

"Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations, is shown walking out of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster following his ordination to the priesthood in May 2002.

Even then, he appeared to be inviting people to ask if they were being called to a vocation.



## Single young adults invited to attend Vocation Awareness Program

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

partnership with the diocesan vocation offices.

The Vocation Awareness Program (VAP) offers single young adults the opportunity to participate in a weekend of vocational discernment and reflection. The weekend will include presentations on the process of discerning

a religious vocation; panel discussions on the lifestyles of clergy and religious men and women; question and answer sessions; and the opportunity for private conversations with the priests, sisters, and brothers who serve as leaders during the weekend.

There is no charge for the

program, which includes accommodations in private rooms and meals at the seminary.

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

## Marriage Encounter weekend to be held July 13-15 at CRC

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held July 13-15 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of marriage vows, and strengthening the couple's faith.

"A Marriage Encounter Weekend provides a unique way for married couples to deepen their relationship. Whether you've been married one year or 50, a Marriage Encounter weekend may be just the thing to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship," according to Marriage Encounter materials.

Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call (817) 451-6005. More information is also available online at [www.ntexasme.org](http://www.ntexasme.org).

## Retrouvaille weekend July 20-22 to offer help for hurting marriages

A Retrouvaille weekend, part of a program which offers help to married couples who are struggling in their relationship, will take place July 20-22 in the Metroplex area. Offered through the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Retrouvaille is a three-month process which combines a live-in weekend with post-weekend follow-up sessions.

Through the Retrouvaille program, couples who are distanced in their relationship learn how listening, forgiveness, and communication are powerful aids for building a loving and lasting union. All names and conversations will be kept confidential.

To register or for more information, call (800) 470-2230, or visit online at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

## Beginning Experience offers help to those grieving loss of spouse

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The next weekend session will be offered July 27-29 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, next to Nolan Catholic High School.

The program is designed to help those grieving the loss of a spouse to put closure on the past and to create a new beginning in the present. The ministry, although rooted in the Catholic tradition, is open to people of all faiths.

Another Beginning Experience weekend is also scheduled for Oct. 26-28.

For more information or to register, call metro (972) 601-4091 or e-mail to [dfwbe@hotmail.com](mailto:dfwbe@hotmail.com).

## Couple to Couple League to offer NFP classes

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning. The group finds Natural Family Planning to be safe, healthy, and effective, and indicates that many couples who use NFP "grow in love and respect for one another as they learn to appreciate God's design for marriage."

New classes are scheduled to begin on the following dates: Friday, July 6, at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller; and Sunday, July 22, at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 714 N. Main in Muenster. Because the class consists of four meetings at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a class starting at least four months before their wedding.

For more information or to register for the class in Keller, contact Mike and Lisa Arth at (817) 488-0699; for the class in Muenster, contact Gary and Mary Endres at (940) 759-4810.

# People & Events

## of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



**CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD** — Msgr. Joseph Schumacher (left) and Father Robert Wilson share a smile May 27 with Judie Woodall (center), pastoral assistant at Holy Redeemer Parish in Aledo, where Fr. Wilson serves as pastor. The two priests, joined by more than 500 friends and relatives, celebrated 50 years of ordained priesthood at a May 27 Mass and reception held at Aledo High School. Msgr. Schumacher retired in July 2006 from his longtime position as vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth; Father Wilson also retired in July 2006 from his position as chancellor for the diocese, after 20 years of service in that capacity. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

## Faith and Fiction group to discuss film 'Il Postino' July 19

"Faith and Fiction: Conversations on Spirituality and Imagination," a venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on the journey of faith, will meet Thursday, July 19, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in Fort Worth.

The topic of discussion will be the film "Il Postino," directed by Michael Radford.

The movie is to be shown at 5 p.m. with a potluck supper to be served during the movie. The discussion

session will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m.

Future dates and topics of discussion are as follows: Aug. 16, the film "Rabbit-Proof Fence," directed by Phillip Noyce; and Sept. 20, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith.

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

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

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

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

"DCYC provides a time for junior high- and high school-aged youth to grow in their faith, to make new friends, and to have fun with hundreds of other Catholic youth," said Kevin Prevou, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Catechesis.

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

Youth entering grades six through 12 in the fall of 2007 may register for the conference through their parish youth leader. The cost for the weekend, which includes accommodations and three meals, is \$110. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site under Faith Formation at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org), or call Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-3300 ext. 261.

## Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Avenue in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held July 7, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

Calix meetings focus on enhancing spiritual growth through sharing Eucharist, discussion, and fellowship.

For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105 or Tim S. at (817) 735-1519.

## University of Dallas announces plans for fall ministry conference

The University of Dallas recently announced plans for a new conference event. The UD Ministry Conference is scheduled for Sept. 6-8 at the Westin Park Central, 12720 Merit Drive in Dallas. Sponsored by the UD School of Ministry in association with the Diocese of Dallas, the conference will have as its theme "Walking Together in Faith."

Keynote and major presentations are to be given by Father Ronald Rolheiser; Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Steven Ellair. Workshops will be offered in both English and Spanish, focusing on a wide variety of topics, including adult catechesis, apologetics, art and environment, music, parish leadership, prayer, social justice, theology, young adult ministry, and youth ministry.

The cost is \$40 for a single day or \$70 for the full conference, if registration is submitted before July 9. After that date, the cost is \$50 for a single day and \$80 for the full conference. Meals are extra. Group discounts are available. A limited number of guest rooms at the conference rate of \$99 have been reserved. For room reservations, call (972) 385-3000.

For more information, visit online at [www.UDallasConference.com](http://www.UDallasConference.com), e-mail to [info@UDallasConference.com](mailto:info@UDallasConference.com), or call the conference registrar, T.M. Enterprises, at (815) 332-7084.

## Catholic Divorce Ministry to hold international conference at Notre Dame

Catholic Divorce Ministry (CDM), the ministry of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics, invites all divorced and separated individuals, members of the clergy, and pastoral professionals to its 33rd annual international conference, to be held at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, July 5-7.

With the theme "Water in the Desert," the conference will offer participants the opportunity to hear keynote presenters and authors Kathy Brewer Gorham and Bill Dye, to attend workshops, and to experience fellowship with other conference attendees.

Workshops will address topics such as "Healing through rituals," "Recovering from difficult life events," "Forgiveness," "Remarriage," "Helping children cope with divorce," and "The annulment process."

Pre-conference ministry leadership seminars will also be held July 2-5. Participation in the seminars is available for a \$200 registration fee. Registration costs for the international conference range from \$170 for one-day participation to \$300 for the entire conference.

For more information about the conference and seminars, housing options, and registration, visit the CDM Web site at [www.nacsdcc.org](http://www.nacsdcc.org), or call (906) 482-0494.

## Beginnings Plus Institute to be held Aug. 1-4

The Initiation Experience: Beginnings Plus Institute, cosponsored by The North American Forum on the Catechumenate and the Diocese of Fort Worth, will be held Aug. 1-4, at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving.

The institute, according to a press release, will focus on the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process and provide an experience of the flow, steps, and periods of the rite, in order to deepen one's understanding of the conversion journey. Participants will learn the skills necessary for local implementation while taking part in opportunities for individual reflection, faith sharing, and liturgical celebration. Experienced pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists, and theologians, including Nelson Bonet, Kevin Bourassa, Sister Gael Gensler, and Father Joe Scardella, will serve as institute leaders. Spanish dialogue sessions will be offered.

The cost is \$385 for commuters or \$427 for those staying at the seminary. Parish team discounts and scholarships are available. Check-in for the institute will take place the evening of July 31, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., or on Aug. 1 at 8 a.m. For complete information and a registration form, see the North American Forum on the Catechumenate's Web site at [www.naforum.org](http://www.naforum.org) or contact Debbie Stark, local coordinator, at (817) 485-2851 or via e-mail to [ddstark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddstark@sbcglobal.net).

## Official Assignments

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

Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, has been assigned pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville, effective Aug. 1.

Deacon James Novak has been assigned pastoral administrator for Sacred Heart Parish in Seymour and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Megargel, effective Aug. 1.

Father Thu Nguyen has been named parochial vicar for St. George Parish in Fort Worth, effective immediately and continuing through Aug. 1, with the permission of Bishop David Fellhauer of Victoria.

Father Victor Cruz, of the Heralds of Good News, has been named parochial vicar for St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington, effective June 6.

Father Dennis Smith has been assigned parochial administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, effective immediately and continuing through July 31.

## People and Events

### Montserrat to offer program on healing, forgiveness

Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, located at 600 N. Shady Shores Lane, Lake Dallas, will offer a Forgiving and Healing Retreat Workshop July 6-8.

The program, led by Elizabeth Moulin and Father Joe Tetlow, SJ, is described in a press release as an opportunity for participants to focus upon the process of healing and forgiveness as they "deepen their knowledge and mature in their faith" through prayer, study, silent reflection, lectures, and small and full group discussions.

"All adult Christians who are serious and desiring to learn and grow in their life and faith are welcome to participate," according to the release.

Moulin is a therapist and experienced retreat leader; Fr. Tetlow, director of Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, is an author, spiritual director, and retreat leader with 40 years of experience.

The retreat house offers private and double room accommodations with air conditioning. The cost for the program is \$200, which includes all materials, accommodations, and meals. A \$50 registration deposit is requested. For more information about the program, call Nicole Foster at (817) 283-8746 ext. 32; visit the retreat house's Web site at [www.montserratretreat.org](http://www.montserratretreat.org); or e-mail to [nfoster@smcchurch.org](mailto:nfoster@smcchurch.org).

### Midwest Catholic Family Conference set for Aug. 3-5 in Wichita, Kansas

Catholics representing dioceses from across the country will gather at the Midwest Catholic Family Conference to be held Aug. 3-5 at the Century II Convention Center, located at 225 Douglas Avenue in Wichita, Kansas.

The conference, which will include presentations by EWTN program host Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, Catholic author Michael Barber, screenwriter Barbara Nicolasi, and others, will also provide inspirational daily Masses and devotions such as eucharistic adoration, confession, and Benediction.

"It is a good program to support and strengthen family life, which is itself crucial to the life of the church and society; a vibrant family is so often the source of religious vocations and of serious stewards," wrote Bishop Michael O. Jackels of Wichita in a letter to Bishop Kevin Vann, asking that the conference be promoted within the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Conference fees, not including meals and lodging, range from \$15 per child or teen to \$90 for families, if registering prior to the early registration deadline of July 22. For more information about the conference, visit [www.catholicfamilyconference.org](http://www.catholicfamilyconference.org); call (316) 618-9787; or e-mail to [midwconf@cox.net](mailto:midwconf@cox.net).

### NCCW to hold 53rd convention in Columbus, Ohio, this fall

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), a women's service organization comprised of more than 5,000 affiliated Catholic women's organizations in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States, has announced that the NCCW's 53rd national convention, "Bringing Light to our Global Society," will be held Sept. 20-23 in Columbus, Ohio, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus.

The convention will feature internationally recognized Catholic speaker and author Matthew Kelly as the keynote presenter. Also featured will be writer Susan Conroy, author of *Mother Teresa's Lessons of Love and Secrets of Sanctity*, currently a NCCW book club selection. Delegates and individual members with voting privileges will also have the opportunity to guide the future of the organization by proposing and voting upon new resolutions and bylaw changes.

For more information about housing costs, registration fees, and the conference schedule, visit the NCCW Web site at [www.home.catholicweb.com](http://www.home.catholicweb.com) or call the NCCW office at (703) 224-0990.

### Grief ministry offers peer support for the divorced, widowed, and separated

Help is available for those whose marriage has ended through death, divorce, or separation. Starting a New Life, a structured and confidential peer ministry sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office, was created to help persons work through the stages of grief and pain that accompany the loss of a spouse. A new session will begin Tuesday, Aug. 28, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington.

All faiths are welcome. For information or to register, contact Helen Engle at (817) 261-9706 or e-mail to [hengle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hengle@sbcglobal.net); or call Kevin Gamble at (817) 626-9382.

### San Mateo Church plans fundraising event June 29

San Mateo Church will host an enchilada dinner fundraiser Friday, June 29, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at San Mateo Hall, located at 2930 Pulido Street in Fort Worth. The parish community is raising funds in order to build offices and classroom space for religious education programs.

Dinners consisting of two enchiladas, rice, beans, and a drink may be purchased for \$5 each. "To go" orders will be available for purchase by calling (817) 994-6228. For more information about the event, contact Rachel Rodriguez at (817) 994-6228 or by e-mail to [rachel.rodriguez@lmco.com](mailto:rachel.rodriguez@lmco.com).



**LADY KNIGHTS WELCOME TROOPS** — Members of the Lady Knights of Council #9884, St. Philip the Apostle in Lewisville, recently gathered for their monthly trip to DFW Airport to greet the troops coming home on leave from Iraq. With their banner in hand, along with flags and posters, they give the soldiers a warm welcome back to the United States. The women make this trip on the third Saturday of each month if a flight is expected, many carpooling and caravanning so that all arrive at the airport at the same time. Some of those greeting the troops this time were (l. to r.) Brendan Walker, Claire Walker, Patty Osborne, Pat Miller, Doris Urban, Becky Groh, Jan Darling, Juliette Keiderling, and Mary Jo Reimer. (Photo by Jeff Reimer)

### Two Sisters of St. Mary of Namur to celebrate significant jubilees Aug. 18

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be celebrating the significant jubilees of two of their congregation with a Mass Saturday, Aug. 18, at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Sister Mary Merdian, SSMN, will be marking her 50th year of religious life, and Sister St. John Begnaud, SSMN, will be celebrating her 65th year as a religious sister.

For more information, call Our Lady of Victory Center at (817) 923-3091.

### Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

### St. Michael Church to mark 30th anniversary

The parish community of St. Michael Church, which was established in Bedford in 1977, is planning the church's 30th anniversary celebration. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the anniversary Mass to be celebrated at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1, at the church, located at 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford. A reception will follow.

For more information, contact Nicole Foster at (817) 283-8746 ext. 32 or by e-mail to [nfoster@smcchurch.org](mailto:nfoster@smcchurch.org).

### St. Augustine Men's Purity Group meets weekly

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller, in Room 213, and on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Padre Pio House, 1301 Paxton in Arlington.

For more information, visit the group's Web site at [www.sampg.org](http://www.sampg.org) or e-mail to Mark at [seasmenspurity@yahoo.com](mailto:seasmenspurity@yahoo.com) or call the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office at (817) 431-3857.

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

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

The cost for the conference and banquet, not including accommodations, is \$110. The cost for accommodations at the Wyndham hotel is \$69 per night and includes breakfast.

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

### Lay Carmelites invite others to join twice monthly gatherings

"Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and Mary?" ask the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (Lay Carmelites). The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of this deeper relationship to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. The next scheduled gatherings will be June 24 and July 8.

Those interested are asked to gather at 1:45 p.m. in the rectory chapel of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth. Formation will take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the school building. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

### ADDITION

In May 25 *Good News* supplement to the *North Texas Catholic*, the article on Bill Hardisty's retirement contained an omission regarding the names of the founders of Cassata High School. The last line of the article should have read, "[Bill Hardisty] led the school by following the mission, philosophy, and the 'heartbeat' of Cassata established by Sister Bonaventure Mangan, SHSp, and Sister Mary Venard Fulbright, SSMN, the school's founders." We apologize for this oversight.



**VICTORY GARDENERS** — (l. to r.) Bernie Duhan, Joshua Ford, Sarah Elizabeth Odidikah, and Rebecca Castellon release ladybugs on the roses in front of Our Lady of Victory School in April. The students are among the members of The Victory Gardeners, a garden club affiliated with the Junior Master Gardener program out of Texas A&M University. The after-school program, which is in its second year at OLV, is open to third, fourth, and fifth grade students. The Victory Gardeners have also planted and cared for a vegetable, herb, and flower garden behind the school building. "The entire school community has enjoyed observing the growth of the plants," according to faculty moderator Judy Winanski, "as well as the numerous butterflies it has attracted."

# Building for the community Building for the future

By Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

In a town of fewer than 3,000 people, the Catholic parish's goal was to build a facility that would reach out to the whole community, and that is exactly what happened.

Five years after the planning began, and eight months after groundbreaking, Sacred Heart Church in Seymour gathered May 7 to dedicate its new pastoral center. The 8,700 square-foot building houses administration and education facilities, and will double as a resource for community activities.

"It's state of the art," according to Deacon Jim Novak, parish director of mission and ministry, and faith formation. "The building will give us [the] opportunity for catechesis for adults and youth, and for the community. That's the key issue."

Finished at a cost of about \$600,000, the facility holds classrooms, a conference room, library, supply room, kitchen, and offices for the pastor, secretary, director of religious education, and youth directors. A point of pride in this rural community with strong ministries for young people is that the bathrooms have showers to accommodate overnight retreats for youth from other counties.

"We called it 'building for the future,'" Deacon Novak said of the project, which received a \$50,000 grant from the diocese, with additional financing coming from fundraising and donations. "Now the people do have a vision for the future — and it is completely paid for."

Every step of the way, construction plans had an extended goal of serving the greater

**Above:** Wesley and Genevieve Hrencirik coax great-granddaughter Kenzli Hagger into taking a bite of celebratory cake at a reception held in Sacred Heart Parish's new pastoral center. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)

community, with that mission originating from Pastor Father Richard Eldredge, TOR. Both Fr. Eldredge and Deacon Novak are members of Seymour's Ministerial Alliance, a league of 15 Christian churches who work on social issues. "There are six or seven of us who are most active," Deacon Novak said, "and I am the coordinator of social ministry funds, which mostly serve people who are un-churched."

Indicating that the Ministerial Alliance would be able to work from this building, Sharon Hertel, long-time active parishioner, liturgist, and musician, described their charitable work as involving "benevolence issues, like paying utility bills, buying clothes, or paying for hotel rooms for transients."

"Fr. Richard's hope has always been that the community would use this," Hertel said. "It's kind of exciting to think of what could be done and what could happen."

"For me this is a dream come true," Deacon Novak said. "I feel we can be a center for the surrounding counties — a hub for the rural community."

"It was one of Fr. Richard's goals to make this building available to others," said Laurie Poindexter, coordinator of religious education for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. "Private individuals or churches can lease part of it for a small fee.

"The whole project has been ecumenical. The community helped us raise funds, and Fr. Richard wanted them to be connected with the building and enjoy it as well."

Much of the Seymour community was present at the dedication, which was also the parish's confirmation Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann. "Because we have confirmation once every two years, and because of Bishop Delaney's illness, this was the first time in six years a bishop was here to celebrate," said Donna Carver, coordinator of youth discipleship for seventh through 12th grades.

"The kids were impressed. They felt so comfortable with Bishop Vann. When we were gathered in the hall with sponsors, he came in and chatted with them, and said, 'Let's ask the sponsors some questions.'"

"It was nice that the building was finished in time for confirmation," Carver said, "because a lot of families were there, and many of them had been instrumental in getting the building done."

After seeing his construction mission completed, Fr. Richard recently announced his reassignment to Colleyville's Good Shepherd Parish and Deacon Novak's assignment to be pastoral administrator at Sacred Heart. While parishioners expressed sadness at their pastor's departure, they

**Below:** Bishop Vann walks through the halls of the new pastoral center, blessing the facility with holy water. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)

**Left:** Bishop Kevin Vann is joined at the eucharistic table by Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)

were happy he stayed until the building was finished.

"I'm pleased the bishop let him stay," Carver said. "It's his 'baby!' We need to get him a picture so he can carry it in his wallet."

"He has done so much for our parish community and for our community as a whole," Poindexter said. "The parish will be proud of this building."

Deacon Novak, who grew up in Seymour, will take over parish administrative duties in August. "I'm giving up my love for farming," joked the deacon, who was ordained in 1995, and in 2005 completed a master's degree in theological studies at the University of Dallas.

"I had thought I was over the hill," said Deacon Novak, 55, of being asked to study for the master's degree. "I even took a summer course in Rome!"

Deacon Novak and wife Rilda will continue to live "on the old family farm," 10 miles out in the country, and the rectory will stay as is, Deacon Novak said, for sacramental priests who travel to Seymour to celebrate Mass. He is training son Bobby to take over the farm, where they raise wheat, hay, cattle, and cotton. The Novaks

**Below:** Sacred Heart Parish in Seymour celebrated the completion of its new 8,700 square-foot pastoral center May 7. The community of Seymour helped the parish raise funds for the building and will also enjoy its benefits.



## Diocesan

At the diocesan Prison Ministry Symposium, Texas Catholic Conference head Andy Rivas tells the assembly to forget prisoner stereotypes and . . .

# Look for the image of God in the face of the incarcerated

Story and Photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

**W**hen Andy Rivas first became interested in criminal justice issues, he harbored a stereotypical view of prisoners.

"I see movies. I see television. I thought people in prison were big, hulky men with pock-marked faces and lots of tattoos, who were dangerous," said the executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference.

A visit to a medium-security prison in New Hampshire quickly changed that perception. As he walked through the cell-lined corridors, guided by a Catholic nun who was the prison's chief administrator, Rivas observed a sea of ordinary looking faces.

"I was taken aback," he remembered. "I was convinced these dangerous men would be larger than me, but they were just guys. And they were guys who looked lost and tired."

Visits to other prisons exposed him to similar populations of discouraged inmates. So today, when the peace and justice advocate talks about crime and punishment in America, his first order of business is to remind audiences that incarcerated people are no different from everyone else.

"They are neighbors, family members, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews," he told participants at a diocesan symposium on prison life and its aftermath, offered May 19 at All Saints Church in North Fort Worth. "That is the first thing we try to tell people as a church. Those who have done something wrong and those accused of doing something wrong are part of our community."

More than 100 people attended the daylong seminar, sponsored each year by the diocesan Office of Peace and Justice Ministries. Rivas' keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion, and testimo-

**Below:** Diocesan Prison Ministry Symposium participants listen intently to Andy Rivas as he talks of his own experiences in prison ministry. More than 100 people attended the program, held May 19 at All Saints Parish in North Fort Worth.

**Top, right:** Andy Rivas, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, speaks of how his perception of the incarcerated changed after he became involved in prison ministry.



nials from a former inmate and family members of individuals currently in jail.

"This is an opportunity to come together to pray, reflect, and affirm a ministry that can be stressful, difficult, and isolating," said event organizer Ralph McCloud, diocesan director of Peace and Justice Ministries. "We try to look at issues that affect prison ministry as a whole and develop strategies that will help us become better advocates."

And one staggering statistic is central to any discussion of the criminal justice system. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 95 percent of incarcerated individuals are eventually released from jail; within three years, 67 percent will commit a crime that puts them back behind bars.

Rivas blames the high rate of recidivism on a lack of rehabilitation programs and support for the newly released. After serving a sentence, most inmates leave jail with \$50 and the instruction not to break the law.

"We have a moral obligation to deal with those folks and help them integrate back into society in a good and healthy way," he asserts. "In our

society, we are so focused on incarcerating people, we forget to help them integrate back into society."

During his talk, Rivas advised the audience to read the U.S. Catholic bishops' statement on crime and the criminal justice system, entitled "Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration." Published in 2000, the booklet was written with input from judges, attorneys, prison guards, police, and others involved in the judicial process.

"At the heart of our Christian faith is the belief that everyone is made in the image of God," he explains. "He who created us gave us value and dignity that we as people can never take away and, as a sinner, can never diminish. That's why we're always advocating on behalf of rehabilitation, redemption, and restoration."

In closing, Rivas told the peace and justice advocates to continue the fight against the death penalty and other injustices by contacting members of the Texas Legislature.

"You have the network in place to shut the phones down and get their attention," the speaker said, referring to previous lobbying effort that



**Above:** Ralph McCloud, diocesan director of Peace and Justice Ministries, introduces the four-person panel at the symposium.



**Right:** Keynote speaker Andy Rivas entertains a question from symposium participant Billie Dolenz.

affected a legislator's communication system. "Ask for better sentencing reform, better lawyers for indigent prisoners, and cheaper phone rates for inmates. Get involved. Fight for their rights."

God, family, and skills learned in a prison leather shop helped Mark Herrera survive 12 years of incarceration. The 42-year-old Texan, who was paroled three years ago, gave symposium participants a firsthand account of the challenges facing newly released inmates.

"I received a 20-year sentence, but in reality I have a life sentence," says Herrera, who must satisfy a string of requirements that include meetings with his probation officer, home visits, fee payments, drug tests, and proof of employment to keep his freedom. "I applaud the people in this room. I had

no idea there were people out there trying to help us guys. It's lonely inside prison."

George Toledo, who visits inmates housed in a private facility in Bridgeport, tries to ease those feelings of isolation.

"I bring in Communion and the word of God, and we sit down and talk," the prison minister says of his Wednesday trips to the jail. "We don't discuss crimes or sentences. They have other issues."

Prison ministry does not attract many volunteers, but it's a needed service that makes a tremendous impact.

"I started doing this to bring Jesus to the inmates, but after talking to them, I realized Jesus was already there," Toledo explains. "They just need to know he hasn't abandoned them. If they repent, Jesus will forgive them."

# Bishop Vann sees GRACE's work as invaluable to community

By John English  
Correspondent

Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (GRACE) received a very special visitor May 21 when it welcomed Bishop Kevin Vann to tour its facilities in Grapevine.

Among the highlights of the tour were visits to the organization's transitional housing units and outreach clinic. GRACE Executive Director Shonda Schaefer felt that the bishop's visit was a good opportunity for GRACE and the Catholic Church.

She described GRACE "as Northeast Tarrant County's largest social service agency and one that is incredibly well-supported by the Catholic Church here.... I think he wanted to come out and take a look at what's going on," Schaefer said. "He's heard good things about GRACE and wanted to come out and see how we operate."

GRACE is a faith-based, non-profit agency which provides food, clothing, financial assistance, and other needs for people with limited resources.

Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville, according to Schaefer, has been a major contributor to



## TOURING

### GRACE

#### FACILITIES

— Bishop Kevin Vann peruses an information packet provided by Grapevine Relief and Community Exchange (GRACE), a faith-based social service agency in Grapevine. The bishop had the opportunity to tour the GRACE facilities May 21. (Photo by Bill Miskiewicz)

GRACE for years. Good Shepherd also provides the largest number of GRACE volunteers from a single church.

"They have provided over 16,000 hours of volunteer work over the last four or five years, Schaefer said, "and [have] over 100 active volunteers representing the church."

In addition to a tour of the transitional housing and out-

reach clinic, Bishop Vann visited the food pantry and clothing sections, both of which are a part of their emergency assistance program.

The key to GRACE's success over the years, Schaefer said, has been networking with area churches.

"This is all about communication," she said. "There isn't one of us that could do this on our

own. We need the support of the church, and the church needs the support of GRACE and the community here, so this is just about keeping everybody on the same page. Sharing a vision with people is the only way it is going to become a reality."

Deacon Rick Griego of Good Shepherd Parish said his church was impressed with the work of GRACE.

"Good Shepherd is actually a core sponsor of GRACE," he explained, indicating that they have been a sponsor since 1998. "Two of my hopes are to give Bishop Vann exposure to outreach in our community and to see how more involved the churches themselves could be. GRACE was founded on the principle that the churches were the foundation of the community, and we want to ... get back to that."

Transitional Housing program manager Deborah Lyons said most of the GRACE clients are single mothers who tend to be served by the organization for about two years. GRACE urges all residents of the housing units to attend church in some form or fashion, according to Lyons.

"We believe that internal posi-

tive change is the only thing that will keep people from repeating their behavior," Lyons said. "That is why we encourage spiritual growth."

Bishop Vann, who decided to take part in the tour at the request of Deacon Griego, said he is pleased with the local churches' participation.

"We have a number of parishes in the area, such as Good Shepherd and St. Francis of Assisi, that are involved, so I thought this would be a good opportunity for me to come up and see this," Bishop Vann said.

The bishop indicated that he was very encouraged by what he saw from GRACE and feels that the organization's work is invaluable to the community.

"This certainly fits in with the mission of Christ — to reach out to those in need," he added. "This is also very much in keeping with the Catholic Church's mission to the poor and marginalized. It is a very important function, and I hope this tour provides a greater awareness of what GRACE does for the community."

Learn more about GRACE online at [www.gracegrapevine.org](http://www.gracegrapevine.org).

## North Texas Catholic garners CPA awards for 16th consecutive year

For the 16th consecutive year, the *North Texas Catholic* (NTC) diocesan newspaper has achieved recognition at the national level. NTC editor Jeff Hensley accepted three Catholic Press Association awards — two in English-language categories, and one in a Spanish-language category — at the May 25 Catholic Media Convention held in Brooklyn, New York.

The NTC was awarded second place honors in the "General Excellence" category for diocesan newspapers with circulation of 17,001-40,000. Judges praised the overall quality of the paper, calling the paper "very reader-friendly," and noting, "Loved the number of local photos and story digests included.... You really feel the community's presence in their pages. While it must be quite time-consuming, their efforts should be applauded.... Really enjoyed the story about the careers of friends Msgr. Joseph Schumacher and Father Robert Wilson by Kathy Cribari Hamer."

Pedro Moreno, director of the Light of Christ Institute for the Diocese of Fort Worth, earned third place honors in the Spanish-language category for "Individual Excellence: Writer/Editor." Moreno, who has received 10 CPA awards over the

### Catholic Press Association Awards

The three consecutive *North Texas Catholic* issues which received second place honors for General Excellence by the Catholic Press Association are shown at right. This is the 16th year in a row in which the NTC has received CPA recognition.

past several years, was praised by CPA judges for the quality of his regular NTC column. "Pedro Moreno's dedication and perseverance to the *North Texas Catholic* is remarkable. His decision to share with readers his personal heart-wrenching health issues was moving and an example of his commitment and dedication," commented the judges.

A third CPA award was given to the May 26, 2006, issue of *Good News in Our Catholic Schools*, a periodic supplement to the *North Texas Catholic*. The triannual publication, produced under the direction of diocesan Catholic Schools consultant Tessa Ross, was awarded honorable men-



tion in the "Best Regular Special Supplement" category.

Pat Svacina, director of the Office of Communications for

the diocese, praised what he described as the NTC's "long history of communicating information effectively about the broader Catholic Church, as well as the Catholic Church of Fort Worth." Svacina congratulated Hensley, editor of the NTC since 1988, for his leadership, noting that Hensley "and the entire newspaper staff strive to make the paper interesting and relevant to North Texas Catholics," and adding, "The 2007 awards confirm once again that Catholics in North Texas are fortunate to have access to one of the best diocesan newspapers in the country."

Hensley, in accepting the awards on behalf of the NTC, reflected on the special honor of receiving the second place award for general excellence in

the newspaper's circulation category. "The whole team of NTC employees, associates, and freelancers deserve the credit for this achievement," said Hensley. "The excellence of the work of NTC staffers Mary Martin, Nicki Prevou, and Judy Russeau, and our associates on The Catholic Center staff, including Pedro Moreno, Dan Luby, and Reyna Castelán, help to explain this award." The paper's regular freelance writers, noted Hensley, are often CPA winners themselves.

"We would not be able to function, much less excel, without this great group of freelance writers and photographers who help us capture the life and love and commitment of the People of God in the Diocese of Fort Worth," he added.

### Catholic publications in Texas receive CPA awards

In addition to the *NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC*, three Texas newspapers and one North Texas publishing company were honored at the Catholic Media Convention, held in New York May 25.

#### Diocesan/archdiocesan newspapers in Texas receiving awards include:

*Catholic East Texas*, Tyler: Best personality profile, first place — circulation 1-17,000.  
*Today's Catholic*, San Antonio: General excellence, third place — circulation 17,001-40,000;  
Best personality profile, second place, Carol Sowa.  
*Catholic Spirit*, Austin: Best regular column, honorable mention, Bishop Gregory Aymond.

#### Catholic publishers in Texas receiving awards include:

RCL, Allen: Educational books, first place, *Faith First Legacy Parish Edition*.



# Diocesan

## Prayer shawl ministry is offered at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

A local chapter of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, an international, ecumenical organization founded in Connecticut in 1998, has been established by two parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (OLQP) in Wichita Falls.

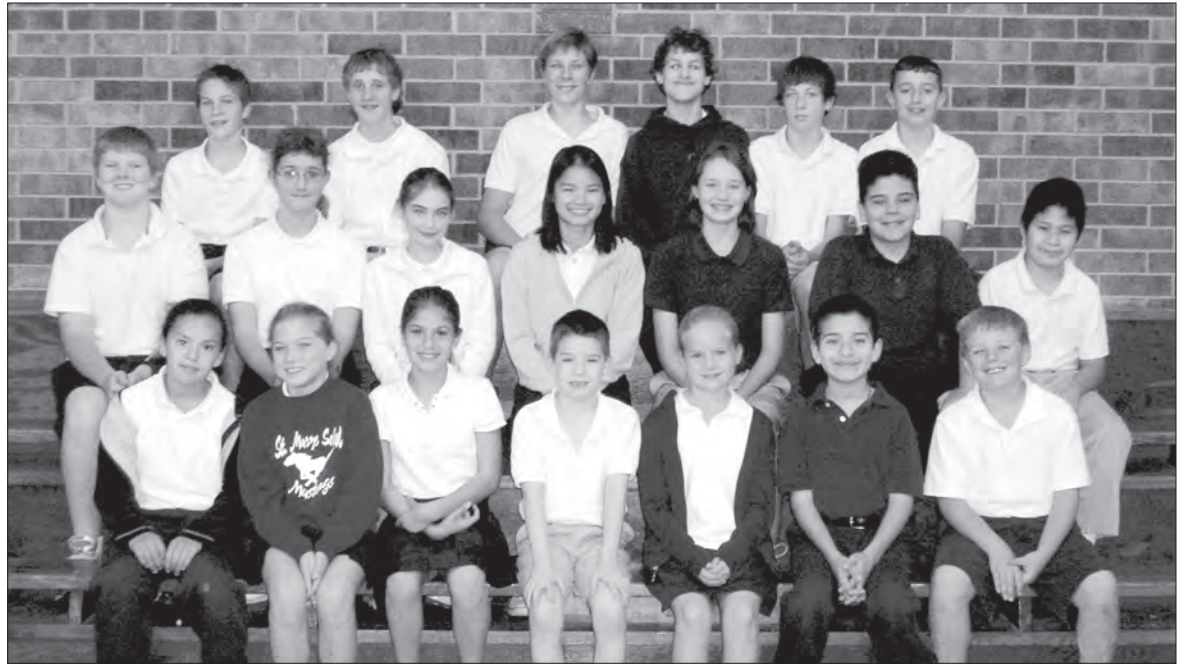
"Care and the love of knitting and crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace," writes OLQP parishioner Jo Ann Brennan in publicizing the ministry. "Many blessings are knitted or crocheted into every shawl or lap robe. Each [shawl is begun] with prayers for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout its creation. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl or lap robe is sent on its way."

Currently, the ministry is comprised of 48 members who

participate in sewing, knitting, crocheting, and quilting blankets for those suffering from a life-threatening illness, facing surgery, or going through medical treatment. The blankets are also made available to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one and are in need of prayerful comfort.

Brennan and fellow parishioner Sharon Kelley invite all who would like to participate in the ministry to contact them. Even those who cannot sew, crochet, or knit can be of assistance in this outreach, notes Brennan, adding that 60 prayer shawls and lap robes have been completed through the OLQP chapter.

For more information, to volunteer, or to request a prayer shawl or lap robe for someone in need, contact Jo Ann Brennan at (940) 691-0460 or Sharon Kelley at (940) 691-6539.



**STATE ACADEMIC MEET** — Students from St. Mary's School in Gainesville had the opportunity to compete with students around the state in the Private School Interscholastic Association state academic tournament. The competition was held May 5 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. To qualify for the state competition, the students had to place either first or second in their event at the district meet held March 31 at North Central Texas College. Among the participating students, many placed in the top three spots in their competition categories, including first place finishes for Alex Sherry in Calculator Applications and for Hannah Gerken in Dictionary Skills. As a whole, St. Mary's School came in third place in the state in the middle school division and eighth in the elementary school division.

### NOTRE DAME CULTURE FAIR

— Second graders at Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls, under the direction of their teacher, Jennifer Schlabs, recently hosted a culture fair. Charged with researching various countries of the world, the youngsters, including (l. to r.) Sydney Chapa, Sierra Hodges-Yarbrough, Isabelle Revis, Elizabeth Koch, and Clayton McElroy, conducted a Parade of Nations, displaying each nation's flag and wearing the native costumes associated with each region. The students gave presentations to all their elementary schoolmates and shared samples of food from their researched countries. (Photo provided by Cindy Huckabee)



## TRIDENTINE MASS

LATIN INDULT MASS

5:30 P.M. SUNDAYS

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

509 W. MAGNOLIA, FORT WORTH

HIGH MASS SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS

LOW MASS FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS



**OCTOBER 2007 & MARCH 2008 - SPECIALS FROM DFW**  
 -HOLYLAND - Pilgrimage Jerusalem, Tiberias, Oct 2 -10 - \$2,099  
 -GREECE - Athens, Corinth, Meteora, Cruise - Oct 8 - 16 - \$2,299  
 -CHINA - Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Suzhou Oct 13 - 23 - \$2,199  
 ++++++  
 -FRANCE - Paris, Lourdes, Lisieux, Normandy -Mar 3-12 - \$2,199 with Ext. 3 nights Belgium-Brussels, Holland-Amsterdam - \$599  
 -SPAIN - Madrid, Avila/Segovia, Toledo, Seville-Mar 3-12 - \$1,999 incl. Cordoba, Granada with Ext. Barcelona 3 nights - \$599  
 -CHINA - Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Suzhou March 7-18 - \$2,199  
 Prices per person double, breakfast/dinner daily + air/taxes from DFW  
 Call Michael or Sue Menof for all details/conditions/terms  
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# Viewpoints

## The remembrance of things past; the anticipation of serving God in a new place

By Dan Luby

I know the drill. I've moved in and out of offices frequently enough to have it down, if not to a true science, then at least a quasi-art.

Pack the books in small, sturdy cartons, so they won't be too heavy to lift when I have to load them into my trunk. Store the files in those boxes made especially for that purpose and — this is crucial — in the same order as they've been in the cabinets. Label everything, thoroughly and consistently. Though it's tedious now, it will be the difference between order and chaos in the new place.

There are, I'm sure, other rules of thumb I'll follow when I finally move all my stuff out of my office. The most obvious, however, also proves to be the most bafflingly difficult to do: exercise ruthlessness in tossing out everything I don't need.

After almost 25 years working at The Catholic Center, I am moving on. For the record, I am not retiring (despite my long tenure here and my retirement-aged hair color).

When the fall semester begins in August, I will be embarked on a new phase of my ministry and my career as a professor in the University of Dallas's new School of Ministry. I'll be teaching

*Surrounded by all these symbols, it is a bittersweet place to be, this doorway between the familiarity and comfort of brightly lit memory, and the uncertainty and challenge of the dappled future.*

full time in the graduate program there, and organizing some programs for the continuing education of preachers.

I've been an adjunct faculty member since 1987 in the School of Ministry's predecessor, the Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies, so the shift won't be as traumatic for me as it is for many who make a change after so long a time at one place. I've always loved teaching, and the opportunity to do it full time, at such an exciting moment of growth for the university and for the Church fills me with gratitude and anticipation. I can't wait to get started.

So why am I dragging my feet at packing up my stuff? Why does it seem so hard to go through these drawers and binders and shelves and separate the wheat from the chaff?

Mostly it's hard to think about leaving because of the people. My colleagues, many of whom have been close friends and collaborators for a decade or more, are a cherished part of my life. I know that not seeing them every day will be hard, that I will miss their inspiration and humor and insight. I fully expect those feelings of loss.

But my resistance to throwing things away is surprising. What could be so hard about pitching all these papers? Why should I feel compelled to hang onto these old calendars? What's making it so wrenching to delete those folders with details about long finished projects?

The pain — with undertones of rich pleasure — comes from the memories all these things evoke. That stack of little spiral notebooks I've used to record years of phone messages? It tracks so many of the conversations I've had in this work, the questions posed and answers offered, the complaints voiced and the good news shared, the long discussions illuminating new possibilities and confirming ancient truths.

That quirky array of family photos scattered across the windowsill and bookshelves? It makes my wife and children present in memory. The kids, from charming babyhood to accomplished young adulthood, and my wife a constant of grace and affection and wisdom; all of them form the deep,

nourishing roots of my ministry.

What's in play here is the very Catholic phenomenon of sacramental imagination.

Much of the richness of our liturgical tradition lies in the Catholic conviction that everything accessible to our senses — people, places, objects, smells, sounds, etc. — have the potential to become symbols of other, invisible realities. Through inspired imagination we recognize a graced Presence, a mysterious Person whose love and healing and empowerment to do his work are more real than anything we can see or touch or hear or smell.

Surrounded by all these symbols, it is a bittersweet place to be, this doorway between the familiarity and comfort of brightly lit memory, and the uncertainty and challenge of the dappled future. But precisely the gift of that graced past is what strengthens me to relax my grip on it and move forward.

For the record again, this will be my last column for the *North Texas Catholic* as a member of the diocesan staff. My next will come from a new vantage point, with new perspectives and new challenges and new stories. I can't wait.



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

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

## Death can teach us to treasure our time

By Mary Morrell

*"Dear angel guide my feet, I come each moment closer to the brink, it may be I am nearer home today, dear angel, than I think"*

*—Carved on an old headstone in an English cemetery*

The headstone found in an old English cemetery relayed an incomplete story of a family struck by tragedy — the dad, James, died in 1929; his wife, Margaret, died a year later, and his daughter, Mary, age 22, died the following year. One may imagine any number of stories to fill in the gaps of this family's losses, and it wouldn't be hard to imagine a young girl of 22 years succumbing to the pain of a broken heart after losing both her parents so close to one another. She, herself, died just days before the second year anniversary of her father's death.

It seems this story comes to mind for me most often as we approach the date

of my own father's birthday. In some way, I suppose, I have projected on this young English girl my once seemingly unbearable pain at his death, followed closely by the death of my mother, so many years ago. It was a desolate time, one that taught me the cost of loving.

Surely, for those who remain behind, death is the cruelest blow. But it is only so because of the human heart's desire and capacity to love, and in that truth we have evidence of our maker.

*Who, but God,* could have created a heart and soul capable of such deep love and such profound grief? And who would be better able to console us than the One who made us as we are?

In all of the significant losses of my life, I have found God in my grieving, or perhaps it is God who found me, and in the finding reminded me that amid every loss there remained abundant blessings.

One such experience, profound in

its simplicity, was a monumental step forward in the healing process of grief.

As I am often led to do when pain threatens to overwhelm me, I had escaped to a little cottage at the beach to spend time alone in a place where time was all mine. A small paper journal recalled the day: Here, at the shore, there had been time for making pie, a beautiful thing with golden brown crust and fresh, succulent blueberries. Unfortunately, the cat thought so, too, and in the whip of a tail, the counter [was splashed] with purple, as in a display of children's finger-painting, and the remnants of pie resembled a vat of paw-pressed grapes. I sighed.

Still, it was pie, nonetheless. With my eyes closed, I slipped one salvaged morsel in my mouth, remembering a morning standing at short stocky bushes, plump with blueberries, and picking until my fingers took on the hue of distant mountains at the close of day.

Gratitude welled up in me.

I must find joy in my life as it is, because it is mine, and I know it is mine by the generous hand of God. Such knowledge makes ignorance impossible as an excuse for failed gratitude and cast away blessings.

Whether in our most painful moments or through the stress and strain of daily life, it is easy to lose sight of gratitude, as it is easy to lose sight of the passing of time and the fragility of tomorrow. But death, which is so often the source of our deepest pain, has also taught me that cast away blessings are lost treasures and that joyfully living the life we are given is the most meaningful expression of gratitude.

*Who, but God?*

*Mary Regina Morrell is the associate director of religious education for the Diocese of Metuchen in New Jersey. She and her husband are the parents of six boys and live in Colonia, New Jersey.*

# The end of the 80th

By Jennifer Carr, associate director, Texas Catholic Conference

The 80th legislative session marked a change in the order of business at the Texas Catholic Conference. It was the first regular session after a changing of the guard of leadership at the conference. The lobbying team for this legislative session was expanded to include Andy Rivas, executive director; Jennifer Carr, associate director; and Margaret McGettrick, director of education. Even Marsha Solana, associate director of education, and our intern, Maria Frederick, got into the action and testified on critical bills. The Texas Catholic Conference actively monitored 260 bills and took positions on 115 individual bills (63 supported, 52 opposed) during the 80th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. Some of these bills were the identical companion bills filed in the House and Senate. We took positions on 108 different pieces of legislation throughout the session. Here's how we did:

## TEXAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE PRIORITIES FOR 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Texas Catholic Conference divides our advocacy agenda into five sections: Life Issues, Immigration, Health and Human Services, Education, and Criminal Justice. In this section, we include in our successes bills that we opposed that did not pass.

### LIFE ISSUES:

We are disappointed that there are no major successes in terms of pro-life legislation this session. Efforts to improve reporting and informed consent for abortion were defeated, and the clock ran out on the bill that would have substantially improved our state's Advance Directives statute. We remain hopeful that hospitals will implement the ideas in SB 439 during interim. In addition, the budget includes funding for alternatives to abortion and adult stem-cell research.

(None of the 16 bills supported by the TCC passed this session; none of the 19 bills opposed by the TCC passed this session.)

### IMMIGRATION:

The session started with multiple anti-immigrant bills that were able to be defeated, by and

large. This was a defensive session on the immigration issue at the state level. We look forward to continued efforts by the U.S. Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform which will bring our immigrant brothers and sisters out of the shadows and improve our nation's security. (None of the 7 bills supported by the TCC passed this session; none of the 24 bills opposed by the TCC passed this session.)

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:

CHIP restoration, foster care system improvements, long-term care insurance improvements, wage and training enhancements for elder care attendants, increase in the personal needs allowance for seniors in nursing care, and legislation aimed at reducing human trafficking in Texas are among the many successful Health and Human Service initiatives of the session. We are pleased to report that legislation (HB709) passed which will improve education on the benefits of adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood.

(8 of the 27 bills supported by the TCC passed this session; none of the 3 bills opposed by the TCC passed this session.)

### EDUCATION:

Pre-kindergarten for children in foster care was added to other education bills, drop-out prevention programs were funded, and child care reimbursement rates were improved. At first review, it does not appear that initiatives to improve parental choice in education had any major outcomes in this session. In addition, we are disappointed that legislation passed which removes a licensing exemption from many of our Catholic Schools which provide after-school care for students.

(2 of the 8 bills supported by the TCC passed this session; one of the 8 bills opposed by the TCC passed this session.)

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

Criminal Justice reform was a major highlight of the session with system-wide improvements for treatment alternatives to incarceration. The scandals of the Texas Youth Commission led to needed reforms in the juvenile justice system. In addition, the budget reflects increased funding for treatment alternatives.

We remain deeply disappointed in the passage of "Jessica's Law" which for the first time allows the death penalty in Texas when the convicted did not actually kill someone.

(2 of the 7 bills supported by the TCC passed this session; one of the 2 bills opposed by the TCC passed this session.)

It is also helpful to review our outcomes in light of the outcomes of the entire Legislature.

943 of 4,140 House Bills filed passed, or 23 percent; 525 of 2,058 Senate Bills filed passed, or 25 percent.

### IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE NUMBERS...

While these statistics are interesting, they do not capture the full impact of our presence at the Capitol. Our legislative Mass at the beginning of the session and our Respect Life rally day and Catholic Charities rally day were well attended and brought much attention to important issues on our agenda. A clear presence of Catholic school children was seen at the school choice rally day, and our immigration message was heard loud and clear at press conferences. We received feedback that our increased activity at the Capitol was a powerful influence in educating members on our positions and the theology behind them. Our newly revised Web site, [www.txatholic.org](http://www.txatholic.org), helped our grassroots advocates to track legislation with us and be a part of the legislative process. For the first time in many years we had three bishops testify before committees, including one who stayed until midnight to do so.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

As much as we relish the belief that the session is over and our work is done for 18 months, there is much more to be done. During the interim, TCC staff will track interim committees, including testifying at public hearings and work with state agency staff on implementation of legislation that passed. We will work hard to educate the Church on the policy issues and policymakers on the Church. Our Web site will continue to undergo major improvements. We will research the issues further and build relationships, so that we are even more effective in the 81st Legislative Session.

We handle questions better when we think of the questioner as

One of Our Own

like maybe even Howie...

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Because I have five children, it is difficult to establish the stupidest question I ever heard. But I do remember the most endearing question. It came from a son — let's say Howie.

"Howie," is a fictitious name, like they used in early black-and-white TV police dramas, in which "the names were changed to protect the innocent." In this case I am protecting the guilty.

But the only guilt my son Howie had, when he asked this question, was the guilt of the guileless. The question came from an innocent and adorable lack of pretense and sophistication. It came from a mind that had been busy playing, laughing, living a life paved with hope and dreams.

Howie's world was video games, Friday night pizza, no homework, and not sleeping in his bed. Sometimes I'd ask, "Howie, are you going to sleep in your room tonight?"

"Heck no, Mom," Howie might answer. "Why would I miss a perfectly good weekend by sleeping in my room?"

Then Howie and his siblings would pull out blankets and snacks, and spend the night on the living room floor watching movies, the Simpsons, or Saturday Night Live. In the morning they would still be there, sound asleep.

But when Howie asked me the endearing, unaffected question I am recalling, it was not a weekend, but early morning, driving to school.

"Mom," Howie said, "when you get your driver's license, does it have to be at the exact minute you are 16, or just on the same day?"

Howie touched my heart that moment, in a way that still brings a twinge. I wished I could keep him as naive as he was then (that exact minute).

"It doesn't have to be the time you were born," I told Howie, "just your birthday." I was wishing his birthday were far away.

Last week I heard a question that easily could be the stupidest ever, but the hearing of it made me think of Howie.

The phone rang at my university office, where we were preparing to print a face book, with pictures of freshman students. Among requirements I had requested was, "a photograph with identification on the back."

When the phone rang, it was a student asking for clarification. "What does identification on the back mean?" he asked.

Puzzled by the student's question, I mused, "Does he think it means to write his student ID? Does he think I need 'the last four digits of his Social,' or his 'mother's maiden name?'"

Perhaps he was going for the simplistic and wanted

SEE HAMER, P. 26

# Field of Dreams

## for Our Lady of Grace High School

Story and Photos by  
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

While attending a Catholic schools banquet in 2000, parents of children enrolled at Immaculate Conception School in Denton realized they faced a dilemma. Opened in 1995, the new elementary campus was to welcome its first class of sixth graders that fall. Decisions concerning high school for these students loomed, and the families had no convenient option for Catholic secondary education.

One ICS parent, Tim Donohue, was already driving his oldest son to Sacred Heart High School in Muenster. The 90-mile round trip was time consuming for the father of six.

"It's a beautiful school and a beautiful community, but that was something I really did not want to do for the next 18 years," the American Airlines pilot admitted honestly. "So, a group of us thought we would try and see if the Diocese of Fort Worth would open a high school in our area."

The magnitude of the project and the associated costs precluded diocesan involvement, but that didn't deter Donohue, his wife, Denise, and others from pursuing their dream. They formed a corporate board of directors and applied to the Internal Revenue Service for non-profit status. After a series of monthly meetings that focused on fundraising and curriculum development, Our Lady of Grace High School opened its doors at St. Mark Church in Denton on the feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15, 2002. Since then the college preparatory school, which provides a scholastic liberal arts education in service to the Catholic Church, has grown to a student enrollment of 37.

"This is totally a lay initiative," explains Donohue, a member of the OLG board of directors who serves as both the school's athletic director and development

director. "Essentially it's what the call of Vatican II was, for the laity. It asked people to go out, evangelize, and bring Christ to the world. What better way to do that than a school?"

One year after graduating its first senior class, Our Lady of Grace High School is receiving a much needed boost from the Diocese of Fort Worth. The diocese has agreed to lease the school a portion of the 27 acres it owns along Hwy. 170 and Alta Vista Road in far North Fort Worth. Located near the Alliance Airport corridor, the school will serve an expanding population of Catholic families in northern Tarrant County and southern Denton County who rarely considered Nolan Catholic High School in East Fort Worth an option because of distance.

A groundbreaking ceremony and re-consecration of Our Lady of Grace High School was held at the site May 16. Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann blessed the six-acre patch of field before a gathering of OLG students, staff, and benefactors. School Principal Denise Donohue led the senior class in a prayer of consecration. Students also presented a time capsule for burial at the site.

Freshman and sophomore classes will meet in portable buildings, constructed on the property. Four modular units will house classrooms, a library, technology center, administrative offices, as well as bathrooms and showers. Phase I of the project includes a football/soccer field, track, parking lot, and sidewalks.

The agreement between the diocese and OLG board of directors includes one basic stipulation: that the school become recognized and accredited as a Catholic school. In order to do this, two things are necessary: The bishop must approve the religious education program, and the school must abide by accredi-

tation standards set by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department. Bishop Vann has approved the religious education program, and the school has formally applied to the TCCED for accreditation.

Despite the small amount of money the diocese is investing in Our Lady of Grace High School, "this is not the development of a new diocesan Catholic high school," explains Don Miller, diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools. "Our Lady of Grace is a private Catholic high school operating under the auspices of the Texas Catholic Conference and the Diocese of Fort Worth."

Its status is similar to the only other private school in the diocese — Our Lady of Victory Elementary School in Fort Worth, which is owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur.

"Many families in northern Tarrant and southern Denton counties never considered sending their children to Nolan Catholic High School because of the distance involved," Miller said. "This school makes Catholic secondary education available to those people."

The diocese decided to support the efforts of Our Lady of Grace organizers because, "the people involved are people of good faith who have worked hard and have agreed to meet the requirements of the Texas Catholic Conference," he added.

Father Mel Bessellieu, who will serve as spiritual director for Our Lady of Grace, has supported the idea of a Catholic high school for Denton residents since

his days as associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Church.

"It's very exciting," says Fr. Bessellieu, who will visit the school to hear confessions, celebrate Mass, and offer religious guidance. "A second high school north of Fort Worth is something we've needed for a very long time now."

The priest, who will become pastor of St. Ann Parish in Burleson in August, credits the Donohues for continuing to move the project forward.

"The seed was planted long ago, and they've been nurturing it," he said. "There have been many ups and downs, but the Donohues have shown how faithful and tenacious they can be. A lot of people would have given up a long time ago."

Privately funded, the new school will benefit from several substantial grants. The Houston-based Scanlan Foundation awarded the school a \$100,000 matching grant to cover the cost of infrastructure needs at the new site. Other major contributions include a \$30,000 gift from the Kenedy Foundation, a \$10,000 endowment scholarship from Bill and Ruth Vogel of Denton, and \$5,000 from the Strake Foundation for installation of a security system.

Over the years, Our Lady of Grace also received help from members of the Knights of Columbus Council #12553, who attended the ground blessing ceremony. With so few families enrolled in the fledgling school, the Knights have assisted with everything from moving furniture to selling raffle tickets.

"We feel proud to be part of

all this since the beginning," says Grand Knight Dennis Pettit. "The school struggled in temporary buildings. It's nice to see it finally find a real home."

Tim Donohue believes the Alliance Gateway location, new facilities, and a relationship with the diocese will help Our Lady of Grace succeed and grow. In 2006, the campus was named one of the top 50 high schools in the Catholic tradition nationwide by the Acton Institute, an international research and education organization. The school was judged on its academic standards, Catholic identity, and ability to prepare students to engage the world.

The average SAT score for a graduating OLG senior is 1657, and students have gone on to higher education at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, the University of St. Thomas in Houston, the University of Dallas, and the University of North Texas.

Graduating senior Samantha Donohue, who will attend Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida, says three years of Latin, courses in classical studies, and a seminar on great books in literature were challenging but prepared her for college.

"The education was tough, but it gave me something to reach for," says Donohue, one of the school's six 2007 graduates. "I think the focus here is in the right place. I learned things that will affect my future."

More information about Our Lady of Grace High School is available on the school's Web site at [www.olghs.org](http://www.olghs.org) or by calling (940) 231-9333.

Left: Principal Denise Donohue and other school dignitaries break ground at the new location for Our Lady of Grace High School.

Far left: Bishop Kevin Vann blesses a portion of a 27-acre field near the Alliance Airport corridor which will one day be home to Our Lady of Grace High School.

Left: A future OLG High School student reaches for the celebratory balloons at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Below: Principal Denise Donohue, joined by Father Mel Bessellieu and OLG seniors, speaks at the prayer service during which the future school grounds were blessed.

## Remote parking and viewing arrangements necessary for historic ordination of four priests

For the first time in the history of the Diocese of Fort Worth, four seminarians will be ordained to the priesthood at an ordination Mass to be celebrated Saturday, July 7, at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the Mass beginning at 10 a.m.

The historic event is expected to attract large numbers of clergy, dignitaries, family, friends, and interested members of the Fort Worth Diocese. As a consequence, only a very limited amount of general seating will be available at St. Patrick Cathedral. To accommodate anyone who wishes to participate in the ordination Mass, the liturgy will be shown live at the nearby Fort Worth Convention Center's Rooms 202 A, B, C, and D, located at 1201 Houston Street.

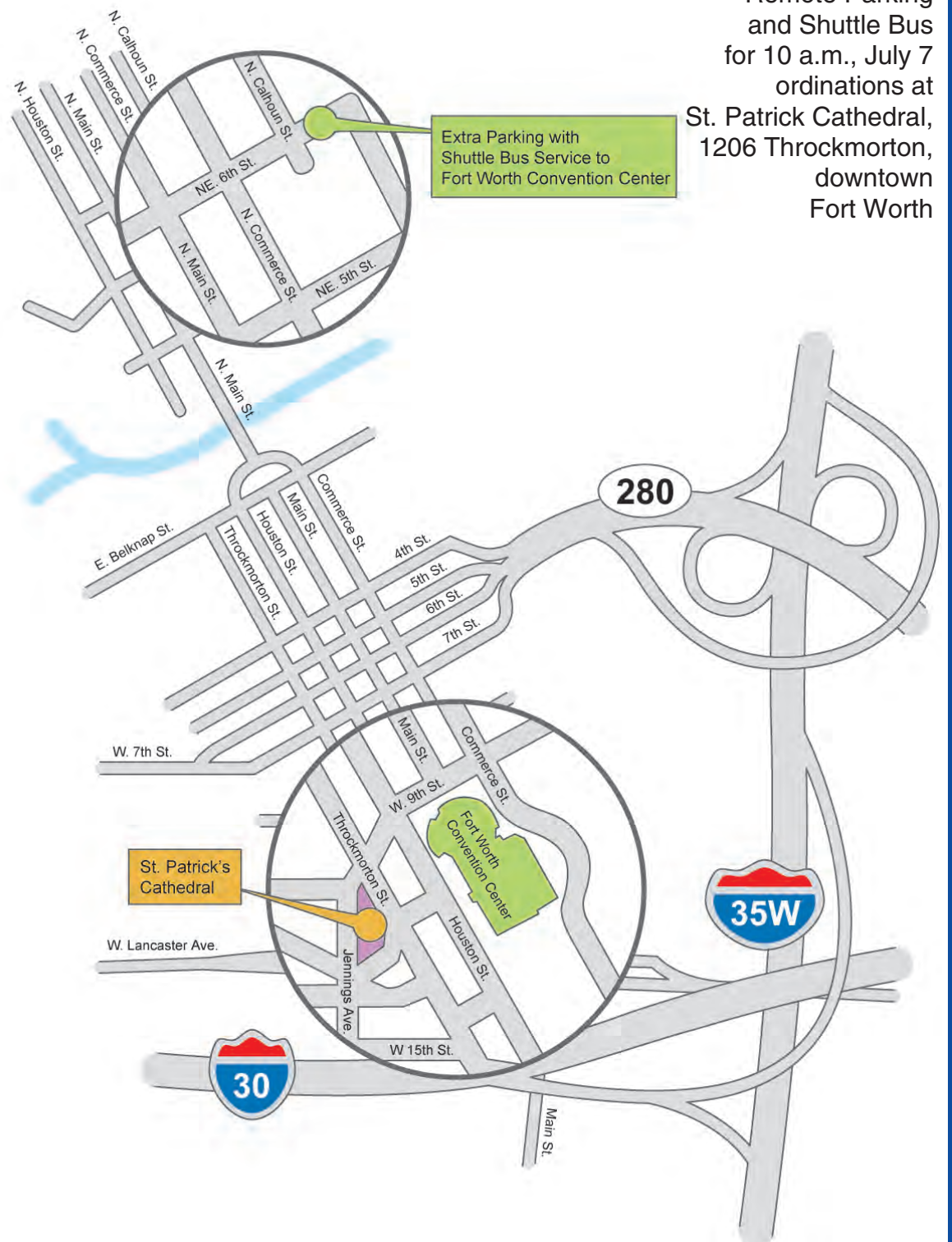
Downtown parking also will be limited because of the diocesan ordination and a large Jehovah's Witnesses meeting at the convention center.

A free park and ride service will be available to persons wishing to attend the ordination.

Free parking will be available at LaGrave Field, located at 301 NE 6th Street, which is north of the Tarrant County Courthouse and one block east of North Main Street. The shuttle service from LaGrave Field will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will shuttle between the cathedral and convention center until the start of the Mass. Once the cathedral is full, the shuttle will run only to the convention center.

Following the ordination Mass, Bishop Vann, the newly ordained priests, and those attending the ordination will proceed to the Fort Worth Convention Center, Room 202 for a reception in honor of the new priests.

The return shuttle from the convention center to LaGrave Field will begin at 1 p.m. and will continue until 2 p.m.



Remote Parking and Shuttle Bus for 10 a.m., July 7 ordinations at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton, downtown Fort Worth

## Upsurge in vocations may be linked in part to more targeted, local discernment groups, says Vocations Director Father Walterscheid

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, has a plan. A comprehensive plan, that is, to invite single men and women to consider what Fr. Walterscheid calls "a life of fulfillment and joy" as a priest or vowed religious brother or sister.

As part of that plan, Fr. Walterscheid, who assumed his diocesan position in 2006, has been working within deaneries to create Vocation Awareness Programs (VAP).

"We established a four-week program last summer at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton," he explained. "Each week, a group of 16 men gathered to explore different aspects of religious life. It was a wonderful group, and I continue to be in touch with the individuals who participated. As a result of their reflection, prayer, and

discernment, several of them are interested in entering the seminary in 2008."

Yet another group of both men and women gathered for a VAP weekend in the Wichita Falls area last December, said Fr. Walterscheid, noting that one of the women who participated in the weekend program is currently preparing to enter religious life.

"Also, this past May, we had a truly outstanding gathering with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur," he added. "We had a total of 12 young women who participated in that weekend, and then, at [St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth], we hosted a seven-week program during Lent this year. We considered that program very successful, as well."

All around the Diocese of Fort Worth, says Fr. Walterscheid, more and more Catholics are heeding

the call of Bishop Kevin Vann, who has urged parishes throughout the diocese to continue to participate in efforts such as the "Chalice Program" as a way of reminding parishioners to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In the current online issue of *Columbia* magazine, Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston writes a reminder that the faithful of the Catholic Church are responsible for continually inviting men and women into a role of spiritual leadership. "In the Catholic Church, the Holy Spirit is the vocation director who plants the grace of a vocation in each person's heart. 'Christ wants you!' 'The Church needs you!' 'God's people need you!' Sometimes the Holy Spirit's promptings are very clear in a person's mind and heart, but more often than not the Holy Spirit relies

on the help of other people to encourage and promote vocations," writes Cardinal O'Malley.

Fr. Walterscheid agrees, and issues a reminder that single Catholic men and women between the ages of 18 and 40 are invited to attend the upcoming vocation awareness program to be held at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving July 13-15.

The weekend is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses, in partnership with the Fort Worth and Dallas diocesan vocation offices, and will include presentations on the

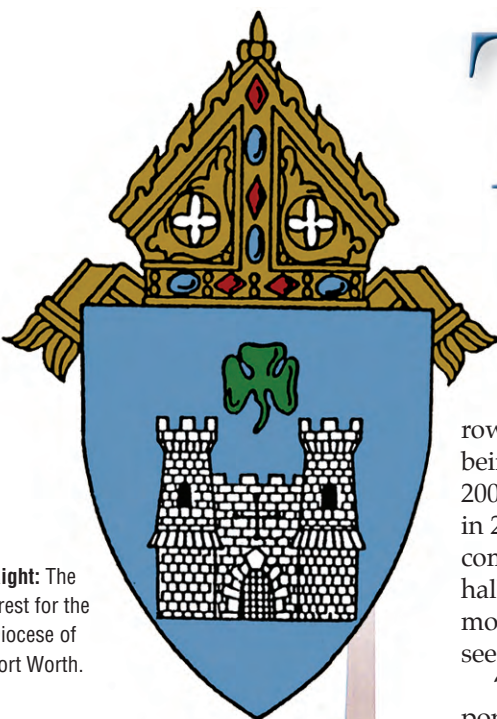
process of discerning a religious vocation; panel discussions on religious life; question and answer sessions; and the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with the priests, sisters, and brothers who will serve as leaders during the weekend, offered at no charge to participants.

"For many people in our diocese, I believe they are just waiting for an invitation to consider priesthood or religious life," said Fr. Walterscheid. "It's up to all of us to extend that invitation, and then to pray for them as they discern their calling."

For more information about vocation awareness programs within the diocese, or for upcoming vocation events at a parish near you, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid at (817) 366-0439, or by e-mail to [kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org](mailto:kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org).

# The Journey to Priesthood

## Four distinct paths will converge on one special day



Right: The crest for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

FROM PAGE 1

row, nine men from Assumption are being ordained to the priesthood in 2007; 11 are expected to be ordained in 2008. Construction will soon be completed on a new 80-unit residence hall at the seminary, built to accommodate the growing numbers of men seeking formation for the priesthood. "We have doubled our seminarian population over the past five years,

and we anticipate even more growth in coming years," said Father Larry Christian, rector of the seminary, in a May 2006 Catholic News Service article.

Within the Diocese of Fort Worth, with Bishop Kevin Vann serving as an enthusiastic advocate for a comprehensive approach to vocation ministry, excitement about the future continues to grow. Creative new approaches,

such as vocation retreats conducted in the Spanish language, have been tried and found to be successful ways of generating interest in vocations to religious life for both women and men.

In the meantime, as their ordination day approaches, four men pray for the grace that is needed to serve as spiritual leaders within a culture that often fails to understand their selflessness. "The people ... through their

baptism, are still drawn to Christ and the church," wrote Fr. Walterscheid in a recent *North Texas Catholic* column. "As priests, we are still teaching.... Through our choice in committing ourselves in marriage to the church, we have chosen to reject a world that denigrates everyone, scorns the sacred, and leaves everyone empty. We looked for more and have found it in Christ and his church."

## Deacon Raymond McDaniel

BY NICKI PREVOU  
STAFF WRITER

Raymond McDaniel Jr. was just nine years old when he first had what he today refers to as his first and "very profound" experience in a Catholic church. Having accompanied his parents on a trip to San Antonio, the boy and his mother wandered into the dimly lit, hushed, and prayerful atmosphere of St. Joseph Church, located next door to the city's famous Joske's downtown department store.

"While my dad was in convention meetings, my mother and I went sightseeing," says Deacon McDaniel, noting that at the time — 1973 — he was a young Baptist schoolboy. "And then when we walked into the church, I saw the red sanctuary lamp; I saw the people praying. It was dark, it was beautiful, and I remember being struck by that beauty, realizing

that there was something so different about a Catholic church. I forgot about that memory until I came back to San Antonio, this time as a Catholic seminarian at Assumption Seminary, and I went into that church again.... It all came back to me, that memory, and how deeply it affected me at the time."

Today, as the 43-year-old Raymond McDaniel reflects upon the path that has led to his Catholic priesthood, he recalls many other trips taken with his family, as the cherished only child of his mother, Eugenia, and his journalist father, Raymond Sr. He spent happy childhood years in his hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana, where he studied classical piano and organ, sang in a choir, and served as an active member of his Baptist church. And he tells of his graduate studies in England, where he decided to become Episcopalian while studying church

music and its origins.

"I had spent my junior year of college in England on a Rotary scholarship," he explains. "It helped me to know for certain that I wanted to work in church music. After

SEE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE..., P. 16



Above: Deacon Jonathan Wallis proclaims the Gospel during a Mass in April at St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish in San Antonio, where he was assigned during his final year of studies at Assumption Seminary. (Photo by Scott Schrader)

## Deacon Jonathan Wallis

BY NICKI PREVOU  
STAFF WRITER

Those who have met Deacon Jonathan Wallis in school, in parish life, and in work situations say that he is kind. They call him fun-loving, approachable, a good listener. They mention that he is a talented singer; they note that he is a hard worker.

Deacon Wallis, 33, is also humble. He laughs a bit when told that those who know him think so highly of him. He graciously acknowledges the praise, but it is also clear that this young man is guided by something much stronger, much more sustaining than the opinions of others. His own path to Catholic faith and ultimately, to priesthood, has become clear through several years of discernment, personal loss, and deep prayer.

"When people ask me, 'Doesn't it seem like this time in your life (the years of my discernment, the years spent in the seminary) has all gone

so quickly?' I tell them, 'Absolutely not. It feels like every day of the years I've spent on this path, and probably more!'" exclaims Deacon Wallis, laughing. "It all involved a lot of hard work. And most of all, a lot of prayer."

As the seminarian prepares for his ordination day July 7, he is grateful, he says, for the "tremendous support" that has been given to him by friends and colleagues from many different eras in his life. Like fellow seminarian Deacon Ray McDaniel, Deacon Wallis came to the Catholic Church after growing up in another faith tradition.

"My dad was an Episcopal priest; my mother is a kindergarten teacher," he explains. "I was born in my father's last semester of seminary, in Evanston, Illinois." His parents, Charles and Nancy Wallis, after several years of assignments in various churches, settled with Jonathan and his younger sister, Anna, in West Plains, a rural community in southern Missouri.

"It was really very small, about 8,000 people, and the Episcopal church where my father was pastor was comprised of about 25 families," says Deacon Wallis. "The town had a skating rink and a movie theater. It sounds quaint when I say this, but really, I spent a lot of my childhood in a very unstructured way. I played outside; I climbed a lot of trees; and I spent a lot of time participating in activities through our church."

Choir and music were his main interests, says Deacon Wallis. After graduating from high school in 1992, he found himself in Fort Worth, attending Texas Christian University and majoring in music education.

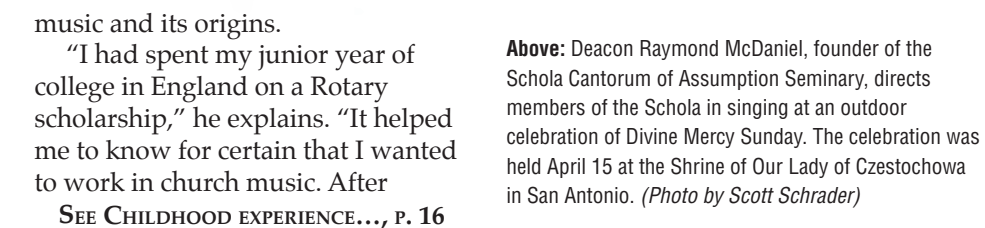
While attending TCU, the college student began attending St. Andrew Episcopal Church, where he became a member of the parish choir. By the time Deacon Wallis graduated from TCU in 1996, he felt sure that he would be converting to the Catholic faith.

"It wasn't an intellectual conversion, because intellectually it really would have been much easier to

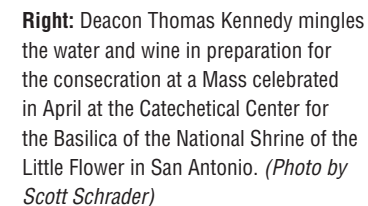
SEE DEACON JONATHAN WALLIS..., P. 17



Above: St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth will be the location of the July 7 ordination Mass. (NTC file photo)



Above: Deacon Raymond McDaniel, founder of the Schola Cantorum of Assumption Seminary, directs members of the Schola in singing at an outdoor celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. The celebration was held April 15 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in San Antonio. (Photo by Scott Schrader)



Right: Deacon Thomas Kennedy mingles the water and wine in preparation for the consecration at a Mass celebrated in April at the Catechetical Center for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio. (Photo by Scott Schrader)

## Deacon Thomas Kennedy

BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER  
CORRESPONDENT

When Deacon Thomas Kennedy is ordained to the priesthood July 7 at St. Patrick Cathedral, he will receive a chalice that in many ways symbolizes his journey to the sacrament of Holy Orders.

The chalice belonged to Father Jerry Scholl, who mentored Kennedy when he was an altar server in the 1960s at Arlington's St. Maria Goretti Parish. Fr. Scholl died in 2002.

"I was at St. Michael's Parish visiting Father Phil Johnson, and asked him if I could have a memento of Fr. Scholl," Deacon Kennedy said. "Fr. Phil took the chalice, which was sitting on his desk, and gave it to me." The family wanted to pass on the chalice — adorned with Fr. Scholl's mother's diamonds — to someone

else to bring forth into the priesthood.

"Some people say things like that are coincidence," Kennedy said. "I call them 'markers on the path.'"

Kennedy was first called to the priesthood in grade school, but "I wasn't a good student. I felt called again while I was an altar server, and again while I was a student at Nolan Catholic High School," he said. "But I always struggled in school, so I just shrugged it off."

"If I had thought about it more, I probably would have followed it. But I think I had to have the experiences of my life, to be where I am today."

Those experiences included years of work as a mechanic, but also some rejection and disappointment, notably a marriage that failed after three years. Having suffered a divorce, Kennedy attended a Beginning

SEE DEACON THOMAS KENNEDY..., P. 16

## Deacon Isaac Orozco

BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER  
CORRESPONDENT

From the age of 10, Isaac Orozco wanted a military career. But in his first year at the Naval Academy Preparatory School, he turned onto a path toward the priesthood.

At the academy, one hour each week was reserved for cadets to attend church services. Orozco's upbringing was mainly Pentecostal, but when he was asked about his religious preference, what came to mind after thinking about it was his two years studying at Cistercian Preparatory School in Irving; he answered, "I guess I'm Catholic."

After walking into the church and listening to the priest speak, Orozco said, "I knew I was somewhere familiar. God was present, and I needed him."

The priest took it from there, meeting regularly with students and forming a Catholic Midshipmen's Club in which Orozco found, "The questions about spirituality were feeding me more than the military ever did."

Deacon Orozco, who will be ordained at St. Patrick Cathedral July 7, is the son of Cesar Perry Orozco

and Esther Gonzalez. He is the oldest of three. His brother, Perry Jr., has three children, and his sister, Tina Sandoval, is the mother of two.

Faith and education were important factors in the family, who attended Pentecostal churches, but Isaac, who had been baptized Catholic, had early curiosity about Mass and Communion.

"I have always loved God and trusted him," Orozco said simply.

"Ever since I was a little boy, I can remember being in love with the Bible. But I can also remember the first time I heard the word 'Mass.' I was at a party with my family, and one of the other little kids just arrived with his family. It must have been a Sunday because when I asked him where he just came from, he told me he went to Mass."

Curious about what that meant, Isaac asked his mother, who explained it was the same as going to church. But even at six years old, he knew there must be something different about it.

"It's funny how God works," said the seminarian, who received his first Communion in sixth grade at Cistercian. "God managed to form a Catho-

SEE ENCOUNTERS WITH..., P. 17

# Deacon Thomas Kennedy recognizes God's hand in 'markers on the path' to priesthood

FROM PAGE 15

Experience retreat, which set the stage for his vocation.

"The tragedy of divorce became a big part of my life," Kennedy said. "But it also gave me an opportunity to serve in ways most people can't. I will be able to say, 'It's okay. There is life after divorce. This is something we can all get over, and this is the way to do it.' A big part of my calling came out of all those things.

"This is pure blessing."

The Beginning Experience brought Kennedy into the church "very strongly," and he became active in his parish, Holy Family of Nazareth in

Irving, as a youth minister, lector, and extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. Finally his pastor, Father Jerry Duesman, pointed out, "Look at what you are doing — what the center of your life is."

"So I went to the Serra Club Vocation Awareness retreat," Deacon Kennedy said, "and that got me started."

Deacon Kennedy was working for a car leasing company that handled the pink "Mary Kay" fleet. "Back then I wondered if I even had what it took to get a bachelor's degree," he said. "But God is such a lover. He knew where and who I was supposed to be. Now I have a master's of divinity, when I was content with just being active in the church.

"And God has a sense of hu-

**Left:** Deacon Thomas Kennedy proclaims the Gospel at a Mass celebrated at the Catechetical Center for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio. (Photo by Scott Schader)



mor," Deacon Kennedy added. "The day I went to my boss with my letter of acceptance from the Diocese of Fort Worth, the boss said, 'I have something to talk to you about.' I said, 'Let me go first,' and told him I had decided to become a priest. He laughed and said, 'In my hand is a letter asking you to become a manager.'

"I was terrified at going to the seminary," Deacon Kennedy said. "I had been out of school for 31 years, and now I was going to study master's level stuff.

"They started me on a short course, which would have had me graduating two years ago. But I did better and better, and they increased the course work, and I ended up being the first person without a bachelor's degree to be awarded the master of divinity," he explained.

"I am constantly in awe of where God has led me."

As a new priest, Deacon Kennedy hopes to work in the area of retreats, to give back to programs that were important to him. "I think one of the great gifts of the Catholic Church is confession. I want to help



**Below:** Deacon Thomas Kennedy distributes the Eucharist during Mass at the Catechetical Center for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio. (Photo by Scott Schader)

people understand God's compassion and mercy.

"Going to confession at the Beginning [Experience] retreat was the most important experience of my life," Deacon Kennedy said. "You go into confession with the mantra that it is Jesus you are talking to. Msgr. Joe Schumacher was my confessor, and that confession was the life-changing moment for me.

"I spent five years discerning. At first I had issues of not being worthy, but because of the Vocation Awareness retreat, I realized it wasn't what I thought that mattered, but what God was calling me to do."

Because he lived in Irving, Kennedy first applied to the Diocese of Dallas and was rejected because of restrictions on age, and having been divorced. "Then I went to Father Anh

Tran, at the Fort Worth Diocese Catholic Center.

"When I got to the chancery, the first people I saw as I walked in the door were Fr. Phil Johnson, Msgr. Joe Schumacher, and Father Steve Berg — all very important to me.

"Okay, I get it," I thought. The drive from one side of town to the other, and then seeing all three of them there, was like a big confirmation, like God saying, 'Yeah, this is where you are supposed to be.'

"These markers on the path are always there, but sometimes we see them more clearly.

"Receiving Fr. Jerry's chalice was one of the greatest moments of all," Deacon Kennedy said. "I will carry it with honor forward, and when I pass on, I hope I am privileged to have someone to hand it down to."

# Childhood experience of grace takes on new meaning as Deacon Raymond McDaniel approaches ordination

FROM PAGE 14

graduating from Centenary College in Shreveport, I had the privilege of going back to England and studying organ and choral music at the University of York."

His experiences in England inevitably led him to the Anglican Church, says Deacon McDaniel, and ultimately to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, where he served as organist and director of music from 1990 to 2000. He was confirmed in the Anglican church

in 1991. While continuing to grow in appreciation for and knowledge of the richness of traditional church music and its connection to his own spirituality, he says, he began to attend classes at the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth.

"I took four semesters of night classes, and each Tuesday night, I found out something more about the Catholic Church. Throughout those years of work and study, I came to know, more and more, that I was preparing to convert to Catholicism," says Deacon Mc-

Daniel. "I began speaking with Father Allan Hawkins, pastor of St. Mary the Virgin Church in Arlington, which became my home parish. I made my profession of faith on Feb. 1, 1995."

While continuing to serve on staff at St. Andrew's, Deacon McDaniel began attending Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. While assisting as an altar server at the cathedral liturgies, he found himself "continually besieged" with thoughts of exploring the priesthood.

"I remember finally telling God, 'Okay, yes, I will think about this if you will just leave me alone!'" Deacon McDaniel laughs as he recalls the moment. "And then, later I remember walking to the cathedral and looking at the statue of Our Lady of Victory. It was something about the solidity of

the statue.... It was stone, so solid, and I had a deep, deep sense of inner peace about the decision I knew I was making at that point."

That moment of realization led to his eventual acceptance into Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, which he entered in the fall of 2000. While at the seminary, Deacon McDaniel continued to share his musical talents and leadership abilities by working to form a group of fellow seminarians into the Schola Cantorum, Latin for "School for Singing." Under his direction, the group learned to sing traditional Latin hymns and Gregorian chant, and eventually sang a Marian hymn for Pope Benedict XVI during a trip to Italy in May 2006.

The connection between the exhilaration of that moment and his long-ago experience in downtown San Antonio is not lost on him as he approaches his ordination. "I have always loved teaching, interaction with people, beautiful music, and I have always



**Above:** Deacon Raymond McDaniel carries a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament in a eucharistic procession at a Divine Mercy Sunday celebration, April 15, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in San Antonio. (Photo by Scott Schader)

loved liturgy," he says simply. "I also love the very broad aspects of life as a priest: teaching the faith, celebrating Mass, and visiting the sick. I think it all started there for me, in the quiet and the prayerfulness of that church, all those years ago."

He smiles. "It took me a long time to get here. But now I'm ready to devote my life to transmitting the beauty and the richness of our Catholic faith."



**Left:** "Deacon Ray," as he was called at St. Anthony Mary Claret parish in San Antonio, chats with parishioners following a Mass at the church, where he served during his final year of studies at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

## Diocesan

# Deacon Jonathan Wallis feels fortunate to live 'sacramental life'

**Below:** Deacon Jonathan Wallis proclaims the word of God during a Mass at St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish in San Antonio. (Photo by Scott Schrader)

FROM PAGE 14  
remain in the Episcopalian Church," he explains. "However, the way I was raised, I knew that my parents really would support me in doing what I believed was right. They lived up to that. They were both really great about my decision to become Catholic. And I think my mother, from the beginning, knew that for me, becoming a Catholic would also mean becoming a priest."

An important part of his exploration of the Catholic faith, says Deacon Wallis, was the opportunity for dialogue with

several Catholic priests, including Father James Hart, who currently serves as chancellor for the Diocese of Fort Worth. "Fr. Hart and other religious leaders I admired, these men made a big impression upon me," says Deacon Wallis. "I came to know them, and I knew that their Catholic faith must be something that was very profound."

After being received into the Catholic Church Feb. 23, 1997, Deacon Wallis began to attend Mass regularly at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth and to think seriously

about pursuing his vocation to the priesthood. Less than a month after turning in his application to attend Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, he learned that his father was critically ill. Charles Wallis passed away in January 2000, after himself being received into the Catholic Church on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Wallis's mother, who had been attending RCIA classes with his father, had also decided to become a Catholic.

While still grieving for his father, Deacon Wallis entered the seminary in the fall of 2000. He calls the experience of communal life, immersion in the Hispanic culture and language, and his year of pastoral internship at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort Worth "very valuable" aspects of his spiritual journey, which have helped to lead him to his approaching ordination day.

"At the time I entered the seminary, I felt completely convinced that Jesus Christ was calling upon me and inviting me to embrace my vocation to priesthood," he says. "I still feel



that way today. I always expected to get married, to have children." He smiles, exuding a sense of peace. And yet, he says, he's looking forward to the life of a priest. "Most of all, I look forward to celebrating

the Mass, because the Eucharist is at the center of our life as Catholics. I feel fortunate to be living a sacramental life. It makes everything — everything I've gone through — absolutely worth it."

**Below:** Deacon Jonathan Wallis takes an opportunity to visit with parishioners at St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish in San Antonio. (Photo by Scott Schrader)



# Encounters with God's grace led him to the priesthood in a 'circuitous way,' says Deacon Isaac Orozco

FROM PAGE 14  
-lic identity in me in a circuitous way."

Orozco's path to his future wound through high school and difficult family times when his parents divorced. "My brother and sister did not cope well, and I was far from home. I needed something stable, a new identity and place to belong. The Catholic Church, which for so long was subtly present in my life, took center stage.

"Although I didn't have the vocabulary or experience to know I was being called to be a

priest, I knew God was forming me and speaking to my heart. Just as he piqued my curiosity about the Mass as a child, he sparked a desire for the Holy Spirit in my heart. I soon discovered the Navy was not for me, and was honorably discharged within a year to discern the new direction for my life."

That direction came through priests at his parish, St. Matthew in Arlington, who asked, "What do you want to become?" and Fort Worth Bishop Joseph Delaney, who invited Orozco to study in Rome. "That was sort of 'unconditional support,'" Orozco said.

In his pastoral year, Orozco received training from Msgr. Charles King, at Denton's Immaculate Conception Parish. "I don't think he knew who he was getting," the priest-to-be joked. "He was

a great teacher. He gave me access to any meeting I wanted to go to, and anything I wanted to do. I could make mistakes, but I was always affirmed.

"Being a parish priest is dynamic — not stagnant, not mundane. I like working in the parish with the people. And I definitely love teaching kids," Orozco said. "They make me love God more." Orozco also helped Father Richard Collins at McFadden Ranch Youth Commission, mentoring, teaching, and "giving back."

Deacon Orozco finished his Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (parallel to the United States' master of divinity) in 2005, and will complete a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) in 2008. His area of specialization for the STL in Dogmatic Theology is "The Doctrine of Grace and Post-modern Thought."

"I want to learn more about grace," he said. "Looking back on my history, it is not just dates and facts, it is how God has acted in my life.

**Right:** Deacon Isaac Orozco (front, right) explores the ruins of an ancient church cemetery during a pilgrimage to Ireland.



"Grace is not a concept, like God is not a concept. They are dynamic events. We manipulate concepts, but we can never manipulate God or grace. You can't conceptualize him like gravity or the law of supply and demand. God can't be contained in our lives. God is a subject, not an object, and grace is an event.

"God is an experience. Any conversation about God is an encounter with God. And grace reminds us God is always recharging us, always reforming us."

Orozco's family was suffering in many ways when he began his journey to the priesthood. His siblings' lives were "off track," and neither

finished high school. "But as I went on," he said, "I think my vocation became an instrument of faith for them. Both are married, and my brother, with an eighth-grade education, wants to study, become a theologian, and work for the church.

"My family has always been very important to me," Orozco said, explaining that he takes the siblings' new stability as a statement from God. "They are both doing well. I take that to mean, 'I am here. And no matter what, I will always outdo you in generosity,'" he said.

"The seminary was a leap of faith for me. I paid attention to my vocation, and God sustained the rest."



**Above:** Deacon Isaac Orozco (left) attends the April 24, 2005, inauguration of Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square.



## Scripture Readings



July 1, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21  
Psalms 16:1-2, 5
- 2) Galatians 5:1, 13-18  
Gospel) Luke 9:51-62

By Sharon K. Perkins

Last week our oldest child left the nest — probably for good.

She graduated from college, drove home, swept through her bedroom closets and drawers like a tsunami, loaded her car almost to the roof, and headed for points south to visit friends and begin a new life in another state. It seemed to have happened in the blink of an eye.

My husband, always sentimental where his “baby girl” is concerned, insisted that I record on video the leave-taking, but throughout the footage there is an unmistakable undercurrent of impatient resoluteness beneath the goodbyes.

Her immediate destination was but a precursor to a whole series of new adventures which she was eager to begin, and nothing — not even the poignancy of the moment or her love for her parents — was going to stop her.

Today’s first and Gospel readings are about other kinds of leave-taking and the strength of

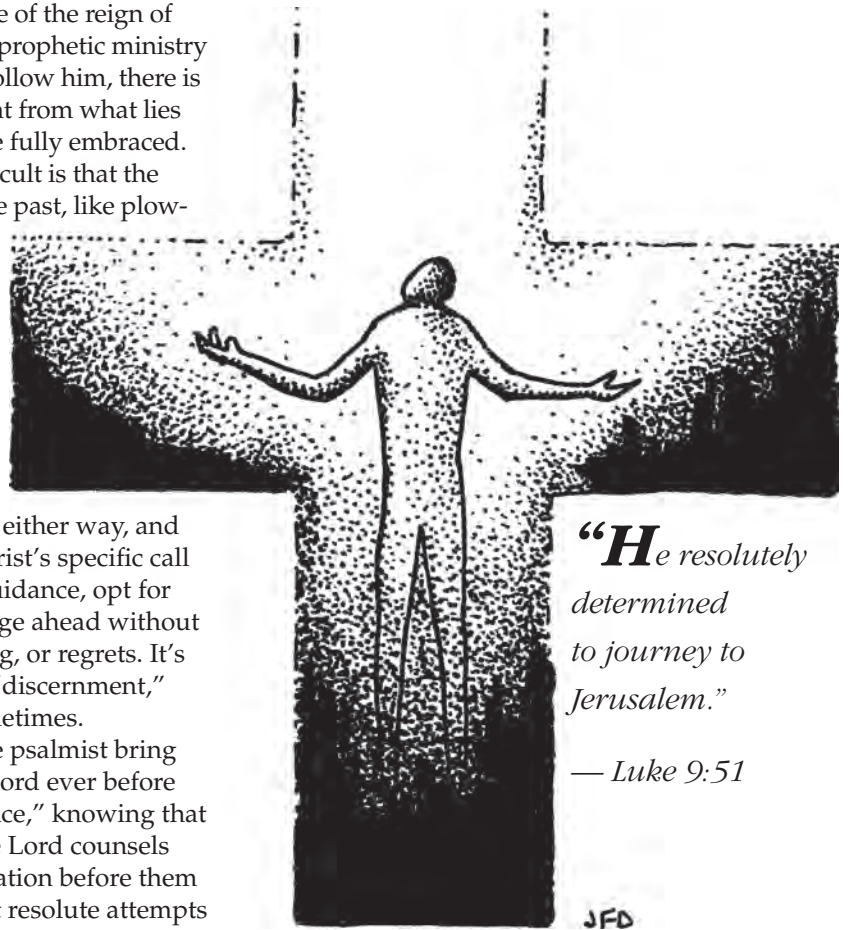
purpose they require for the sake of the reign of God. Whether in Elisha’s call to prophetic ministry or Jesus’ call to his disciples to follow him, there is an almost wrenching detachment from what lies behind, so that the calling can be fully embraced. What makes detachment so difficult is that the activities and relationships of the past, like plowing the fields or love for one’s parents, are themselves noble and good.

I am often struck by the frequency with which Christians are required to choose, not simply between clearly delineated good and evil, but between two seemingly equal goods. In those moments we can truly go either way, and either way is justifiable. But Christ’s specific call to me requires that I pray for guidance, opt for one over the other, and then forge ahead without absolute clarity, second-guessing, or regrets. It’s what the spiritual masters call “discernment,” and it’s a scary proposition sometimes.

That’s when the words of the psalmist bring such comfort. When I “set the Lord ever before me,” I can “abide with confidence,” knowing that my “lot is held fast” even as the Lord counsels his children, holding the destination before them and blessing their stuttering yet resolute attempts to get there.

### QUESTIONS:

When have I had to discern between two good options? How did my prayer for guidance and the counsel of other believers help me to proceed with confidence?



**“He resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem.”**

— Luke 9:51

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## True believers look at life of church seeking God’s love, says pope

VATICANCITY (CNS)—True believers look at the life and history of the Catholic Church seeking signs of God’s love, rather than trying to highlight the curious or being fixated by the scandalous, Pope Benedict XVI said.

When Catholics take church history seriously, they are inspired to live lives that are more Christian so that they, too, may add their own evidence of God’s greatness, the pope said June 13 at his weekly general audience.

As usual, the pope began by riding in an open jeep through St. Peter’s Square, blessing a crowd of about 20,000 people. Although it was just one week after a 27-year-old German man jumped a barricade and tried to get into the jeep, the security detail closest to the pope was not obviously strengthened. However, the number of Italian police patrolling the square’s perimeter appeared to have increased.

At the end of the audience, the pope offered special prayers for young people who have just begun their summer vacations and, especially, for their peers who are in the middle of their final exams.



Pope Benedict XVI, donning a red hat, waves to pilgrims during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican June 13. (CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)

“May the Lord help you live this period with serenity and experience his protection,” the pope told the young people.

In his main talk, Pope Benedict focused on the third-century Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, the author of a 10-volume history of

the church.

Eusebius set a “moral” standard for recounting church history, the pope said. The aim of a church history “is not just to know the past,” but to prompt reflection leading to “conversion and an authentic witness of

Christian life on the part of the faithful.”

“Eusebius questions believers of every age regarding their way of approaching the events of history, especially that of the church,” he said.

Pope Benedict said: “He asks

us, too, what is our attitude in the face of events in the church? Is it an attitude of interest motivated simply by curiosity, perhaps going in search of the sensational and scandalous at any cost?

“Or is it an attitude full of love and open to mystery,” an attitude that demonstrates a conviction that “it is possible to trace in the church’s history the signs of God’s love and the great works of salvation he has done,” the pope said.

“This is how we want to read history: seeking the signs of God’s love,” he said. “If this is our attitude we cannot help feeling called to a response that is more consistent and courageous, to a more Christian witness of life in order to leave signs of God’s love for future generations.”

Eusebius’ approach to history “invites us to be in awe, to contemplate in history the great works of God for the salvation of humanity and, with as much energy, he invites us to the conversion of life,” Pope Benedict said.

“Let us do everything in our lives in order to leave a trace of God’s love,” he said.

## Scripture Readings



July 8, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 66:10-14c  
Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
- 2) Galatians 6:14-18  
Gospel) Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

By Dan Luby

During a recent visit to New England, my wife and I spent several days in New Hampshire, traditionally home to one of the “make-or-break” primaries in the presidential election cycle.

Everywhere we went we found evidence of multiple campaigns in high gear. Every newspaper, every local newscast featured the candidates, household names and long shots, appearing at a dizzying variety of venues. And for every gathering with potential supporters — at pancake breakfasts in diners, giving speeches in VFW halls, shaking hands at “meet and greet” cocktail parties in people’s homes — each candidate was preceded by what political pros call an “advance team.”

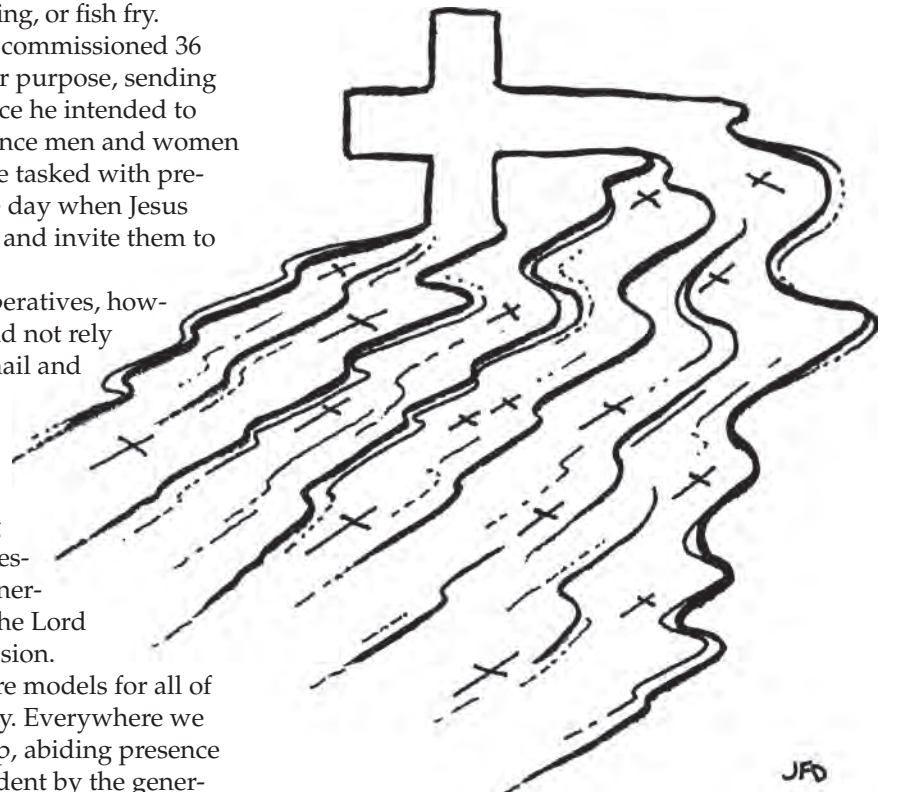
Advance teams travel ahead of their candidate to prepare people for his or her arrival and ensure a friendly reception and an enthusiastic turnout

for the picnic, town hall meeting, or fish fry.

In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus commissioned 36 “advance teams” for a similar purpose, sending them “to every town and place he intended to visit.” Like the political advance men and women of today, Jesus’ disciples were tasked with preparing those they met for the day when Jesus himself would come to them and invite them to be his disciples, too.

Unlike today’s political operatives, however, Jesus’ advance teams did not rely on phone banks and direct mail and the sophisticated machinery of mass communications to accomplish their tasks. These disciples were told, in fact, to travel light, relying only on the power of their message, the sincerity of their generosity, and the inspiration of the Lord Jesus to accomplish their mission.

The 72 whom Jesus sent are models for all of us who are his disciples today. Everywhere we go, our conviction of the deep, abiding presence of God’s kingdom, made evident by the generosity and compassion to which that conviction moves us, prepares people for a more open hearing of the Gospel and a deeper, more personal encounter with Jesus himself.



**“The Lord’s power shall be known to his servants.”**

— Isaiah 66:14c

### QUESTIONS:

What is one specific way I can be a more effective witness in my circle for the truth and power of the Gospel? From whom can I seek support in my task of preparing people to recognize the presence of Christ?

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# Sometimes a dad’s love comes with wheels

By Jeff Hedglen

When I was in the 8th grade I received a note from the office during fourth period. The note said that I was not to take the bus home that day; my father was going to pick me up from school.

On hearing this, sweat beaded up on my forehead, and all the saliva in my mouth went running for its life. Questions began bouncing around in my brain like a superball thrown in a closet by Nolan Ryan in his prime. You see, my father had never picked me up from school, and the only reason I could think of for this visit was that I was somehow in trouble.

I spent the rest of the day reviewing the past few months of my life, trying to come up with all the things I had done wrong that, to the best of my knowledge, had remained undiscovered. Which of these things had finally made it to the light of day and was so bad that it sent Dad to pick me up from school?

I spent the rest of the day reviewing the past few months of my life.... [What] had finally made it to the light of day and was so bad that it sent Dad to pick me up from school?

At the end of the day, I reluctantly made my way to my dad’s car. I closed the door ready with my defense for whatever he brought up. To my surprise he didn’t say much. He just put the car in gear and took a curious right turn out of the parking lot. Our house was to the left; where were we going?

My father and I drove in silence with country music as the sound track to my fear-filled wondering. I could not for the life of me figure out what was

going on. Where was the lecture, the debate, the argument I had been preparing for?

The confusion increased when we pulled into the parking lot of the Schwinn bicycle shop. My father turned to me and said: “I understand you have been saving for a new bike. Let’s go take a look.” I got out of the car on shaky legs, reeling from the turn of events.

One minute I thought I was in trouble and the next we were looking at bikes.

As we entered the store, my father asked which one I wanted. I went to one called the World Traveler and said that this was the one I was saving for. He asked if it was the one I wanted. I said, “The one I really want is the Le Tour IV, but I can’t afford it.” My dad turned to the salesman and said, “We’ll take the Le Tour IV.” I was stunned, humbled, confused, relieved, and elated all at once.

Looking back on that emotional roller coaster of a day I realize that with the simple task of buying me the bike I longed for, I knew my dad loved me, cared for me, and wanted me to be happy. Though there were certainly times that I tested this love, and times he did not express it, the love was there, and it was real.

The love of a father is so important. Jesus knew this, having had the love of Joseph.

He also knew that his earthly father was given to him to model the love of the Father in heaven. He highlights this when he says: “Which one of you would hand his son a

stone when he asks for a loaf of bread or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him?” (Matthew 7:9-11)

Jesus is not trying to say, “My Dad is better than your dad;” he is pointing out that if we, who are weighted down by sin, know how to give good things, how much more goodness is flowing from Him who is all love?

Sure, the love of our earthly fathers may fall short of the perfection found in the Heavenly Father, but when it is combined with the love of God, the possibilities of expressing it are endless. Sometimes it even takes the form of a Schwinn Le Tour IV. Thanks, Dad!

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

## Proyecto de ley de inmigración estancado, no muerto, dicen proponentes

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Con el fracaso de un voto procesal el 7 de junio, el intento del Senado de aprobar la reforma abarcadora de inmigración regresó a tras bastidores, aunque los proponentes del proyecto de ley en ambos partidos prometieron regresarla al pleno.

El líder de la mayoría, Harry Reid, demócrata por Nevada, dijo que él retiraría el proyecto de ley para permitir que otra legislación se moviera adelante, aunque lo hizo sin cerrar la puerta a revivirla.

Para el fin de semana de los días 9 y 10 de junio, Reid y los líderes republicanos estaban diciendo que el proyecto de ley no estaba muerto y que el debate se reabriría, posiblemente antes del receso del Día de la Independencia que comienza el 2 de julio.

Varios analistas han dicho que si la legislación de la reforma de inmigración no es aprobada antes del final del 2007 sería improbable conseguir de nuevo una oportunidad de aprobarla antes de las elecciones generales del 2008.

Los defensores del inmigrante, incluyendo padre Larry Snyder, presidente de Caridades Católicas USA, y el cardenal Roger M. Mahony, de Los Ángeles, estuvieron prestos a criticar el Senado por no mover adelante el proyecto de ley.

"El Congreso no debe abdicar su responsabilidad ahora", dijo una declaración de padre Snyder. "Es

crucial que los miembros del Senado resuelven sus diferencias".

La declaración del cardenal Mahony dijo que el país tiene una obligación moral de crear un sistema de inmigración edificado sobre los principios de imparcialidad, oportunidad y compasión.

"Lograr una reforma abarcadora de inmigración es trabajo arduo, pero nuestros senadores no deben ser disuadidos por la dificultad de esta empresa", dijo él. "Lograr la reforma abarcadora este año tendrá un gran impacto en la continua salud moral y económica de nuestro país en años venideros".

Reid dijo que él traería de nuevo al pleno el proyecto de ley tan pronto como suficientes republicanos apoyaran llevarlo a votación.

Algunos partidarios del proyecto de ley acusan al presidente George W. Bush de no ejercer suficiente presión sobre los republicanos del Senado para aprobar el proyecto de ley. La legislación fue producto de meses de negociaciones tras bastidores entre la Casa Blanca y senadores demócratas y republicanos.

En una estrategia solicitada por la Casa Blanca, se siguió ese proceso de formación del proyecto de ley en vez del sistema normal de formación pública de un proyecto de ley en comités. Esto tenía la intención de satisfacer a suficientes miembros de ambos partidos para evitar exactamente

la clase de maquinaciones procesales que ocurrieron durante la segunda semana de debate sobre el proyecto de ley.

Aunque muchos partidarios de la reforma abarcadora de inmigración dijeron que el proyecto de ley masivo tenía defectos, la mayoría de los miembros de una vasta alianza de grupos de fe, sindicatos, grupos de derechos civiles y organizaciones comerciales estaban pidiendo que el proyecto de ley fuera aprobado como punto de partida para reparar un sistema de inmigración quebrado.

En conferencias de prensa el 8 de junio representantes de muchas de las organizaciones que están trabajando por la reforma de inmigración dijeron creer que Reid es sincero sobre llevar el proyecto de ley a votación y que los esfuerzos privados podrían producir un plan viable para permitir más debate y un número limitado de enmiendas.

Frank Sharry, director ejecutivo del Foro Nacional de Inmigración, que representa una amplia gama de grupos de intereses particulares, dijo que él estaba mucho más optimista el 8 de junio sobre la posibilidad de aprobación de un proyecto de ley que lo que estaba justo la noche anterior.

Bush usó parte de su tiempo durante una visita preprogramada al capitolio el 12 de junio para intentar persuadir a más republicanos a apoyar el proyecto de ley.

## El Papa: Los católicos deben llevar Evangelio al mundo rebajado por pobreza, abusos

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — La tarea primaria de cada católico es llevar el mensaje del Evangelio a un mundo rebajado por la pobreza, la violencia y los abusos de los derechos humanos, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

Mediante su acción misionera, dijo el Papa, la iglesia puede "dirigir y evangelizar transformaciones culturales, sociales y éticas y ofrecer la salvación de Cristo a la humanidad moderna, que está rebajada y oprimida en tantas partes del mundo debido a la pobreza endémica, la violencia y la denegación sistemática de los derechos humanos".

Aunque los esfuerzos renovados de evangelización han comprobado ser fructíferos, hay "todavía más que hacer para responder al llamado misionero

que el Señor le hace incansablemente a toda persona bautizada", dijo él en su mensaje para el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones 2007.

El Vaticano emitió el mensaje de este año el 29 de mayo, antes del Domingo Mundial de las Misiones, que ha de ser celebrado el 21 de octubre en la mayoría de las diócesis.

Tratando el tema de este año, "Todas las iglesias para todo el mundo", el papa se enfocó en la necesidad de toda iglesia local de soplarle nueva vida a su mandato misionero.

Llevar el poder salvador de Cristo a toda la gente "verdadamente involucra a todos", dijo él.

Los católicos individuales deben verse no como simples "colaboradores" en la misión

evangelizadora de la iglesia, sino como "protagonistas" y conjuntamente responsables de realizarla, dijo el Papa.

Él dijo que toda diócesis local en cada continente necesita estar consciente de la "necesidad urgente de relanzar la actividad misionera para resolver los muchos serios desafíos de nuestro tiempo".

El Papa Benedicto dijo que la creciente secularización ha tenido un impacto en las iglesias establecidas en Occidente.

Los bajos índices de natalidad, los reducidos números de vocaciones y un clero cada día con mayor edad promedio ponen las iglesias establecidas en "riesgo de encerrarse en sí mismas, de mirar al futuro con menos esperanza y de reducir sus esfuerzos misioneros", dijo él.

## ¡Lee tu Biblia! El Espíritu Santo es maestro de la lectio divina

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

Se supone que cada bautizado tome tiempo para leer y reflexionar sobre la Palabra de Dios. ¡LEE TU BIBLIA!

Si no promovemos la lectura y oración bíblica en la Iglesia estamos entorpeciendo el proceso y desarrollo de la evangelización que el Espíritu Santo está dirigiendo.

Una frase en latín que se refiere a la lectura de la Biblia en la Iglesia es "Lectio Divina". San Benito hace 1500 años lo enseñaba a sus monjes y desde entonces, y hoy inclusive, el Magisterio lo sigue promoviendo. La Lineamenta del próximo Sínodo de Obispos sobre la Palabra de Dios en la Vida y Misión de la Iglesia, párrafo 24, dice:

*Un rol importante en la evangelización corresponde al encuentro directo con la Sagrada Escritura. Esto es un objetivo primario: "La catequesis, en concreto, debe ser una auténtica introducción a la 'lectio divina', es decir, a la lectura de la Sagrada Escritura, hecha según el Espíritu que habita en la Iglesia", y al mismo tiempo un contenido central: la catequesis "ha de estar totalmente impregnada por el pensamiento, el espíritu y las actitudes bíblicas y evangélicas, a través de un contacto asiduo con los mismos textos".*

Más adelante, en su párrafo 25, dice:

*Se ha de alentar vivamente sobre todo esa praxis de la Biblia que se remonta a los orígenes cristianos y que ha acompañado a la Iglesia en su historia. Se llama tradicionalmente Lectio Divina con sus diversos momentos (lectio, meditatio, oratio, contemplatio). Ella tiene su casa en la experiencia monástica, pero hoy el Espíritu, a través del Magisterio, la propone al clero, a las comunidades parroquiales, a los movimientos eclesiales, a la familia y a los jóvenes.*

El Espíritu Santo, maestro de la lectio divina, nos guía a través de los cuatro pasos de esta peregrinación espiritual. Todo comienza cuando separamos un tiempo, y lugar tranquilo, para tener este encuentro con Dios en su Palabra. Estando en la presencia de Dios invocamos al Espíritu Santo y pedimos que nos guíe. Después, sin apuros y con paciencia, le dedicamos tiempo a los cuatro momentos de la lectio divina.

- 1. LECTIO:** Es leer, y permanecer en varias relecturas, un corto texto de la Biblia.
- 2. MEDITATIO:** Es meditar, buscar entender el mensaje del texto bíblico. ¿Qué es lo que Dios nos está diciendo y le ha dicho ya a la Iglesia?
- 3. ORATIO:** Es orar, responderle a Dios que nos habla en su Palabra, sobre lo que hemos leído.
- 4. CONTEMPLATIO:** Es contemplación, disfrutar la compañía de Dios, entregarnos, comprometernos y adorarlo.

Este modo de leer la Biblia ha sido altamente recomendado. El Papa Juan Pablo II decía: "la lectio divina... orienta y modela la existencia". El Papa Benedicto XVI invita a los jóvenes "a adquirir intimidad con la Biblia, a tenerla a mano, para que sea... una brújula que indica el camino...". Por eso digo, ¡LEE TU BIBLIA!



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

# Monseñor Vann nos recuerda del valor de llevar a Cristo al mundo; en expectativa de la ordenación de cuatro sacerdotes

## Estimados Amigos de la Diócesis de Fort Worth,

**E**ste pasado fin de semana, la Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo ("Corpus Christi"), tuve el privilegio de celebrar



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann

Misa y dirigir una procesión de Corpus Christi en tres lugares: San Pedro en Lindsay, la Catedral de San Patricio en el centro de Fort Worth, y la Misa vespertina para el grupo Life Teen en San Marcos en Denton. (El grupo Life Teen se dedica a promover entre los jóvenes las enseñanzas de la Iglesia a favor de la vida y en contra del aborto.)

La respuesta de todos los que asistieron, especialmente la de los jóvenes, fue edificante. Creo que la Solemnidad de Corpus Christi es especialmente relevante para hoy, pues es un recuerdo visible de la presencia de Cristo en el diario peregrinar de la vida. Es una ocasión para reflexionar sobre la realidad de la Presencia Real de Cristo y nos ofrece a todos la oportunidad para la oración contemplativa y participación litúrgica. Este año en Roma, durante la procesión de Corpus Christi, que despertó en mí los recuerdos de mi participación en estas procesiones hace muchos años cuando fui sacerdote estudiando en Roma, el Papa Benedicto XVI dijo que el paso de la Eucaristía "entre las casas y las calles de nuestra ciudad es para aquellos que viven



Monseñor Kevin Vann se arrodilla ante la Eucaristía colocada en un altar frente a una imagen de la Virgen María en los terrenos de la Catedral de San Patricio antes de la procesión de Corpus Christi que se llevo a cabo en el centro de la ciudad de Fort Worth, el domingo 10 de junio, Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo. (Foto por Francine Sustaita)

en ellos un ofrecimiento de alegría y vida eterna, de paz y amor." También añadió que el deseaba "poner a Cristo en medio de nuestras vidas diarias, para que caminara donde caminamos y viva donde vivimos."

Mientras que la celebración litúrgica de Corpus Christi tiene sus raíces en la vida de la Iglesia en Bélgica e Italia en el siglo XIII, es un claro eco de "Esto es mi Cuerpo" y "Esto es mi Sangre" para que lo escuche la Iglesia de todos los tiempos y lugares. Verdaderamente creo que la celebración de Corpus Christi y su historia y solemne liturgia, con la oportunidad para la adoración Eucarística, es complementario a nuestra necesaria participación activa en la Misa. Es una oportunidad para un verdadero encuentro con el Señor, para que lo lleguemos a conocer personalmente mientras continuamos viviendo el Evangelio y trayéndolo a nuestras vidas dia-

rias en el mundo en que vivimos.

Comentando respecto a esta realidad hace algunos años, el Padre Richard McCullen C.M., que había sido Superior General de los Vicentinos (Congregación de la Misión) dijo, en la conclusión de sus doce años como Superior General que durante sus visitas alrededor del mundo, "muchas veces durante estos años me he preguntado y también a otros si no hemos estado demasiado ocupados, demasiado activos y demasiado horizontales, en nuestro acercamiento a los problemas de la sociedad hoy. Puede ser que estemos tan ocupados con el trabajo del Señor que nos hemos olvidado del Señor del trabajo. Quisiera ver en nuestras comunidades una mayor sensibilidad a la presencia de Cristo; no solamente en los pobres sino también en nuestros Sagrarios... He escuchado el comentario de que no podemos realmente

reconocer a Cristo en los pobres si primero no lo hemos reconocido en la Eucaristía. En una palabra, podemos estar sobre activos, por lo tanto menos contemplativos, y la acción que no se arraiga en la contemplación de Dios y la humanidad de Cristo será inevitablemente llana y no fructuosa para la vida eterna." (Tomada del libro Deep Down Things, 1995).

Reflexion sobre la Eucaristía nos lleva a mirar a las próximas semanas. El 7 de julio cuatro sacerdotes serán ordenados para la diócesis de Fort Worth en la Catedral de San Patricio. ¡Éste es el número más grande de ordenaciones en los casi 40 años de historia de nuestra Iglesia local! Esto es una gran bendición para todos nosotros, y más seguirá sobre esto en el North Texas Catholic. Al acercamos a este día y celebración, podemos tener presente las palabras del Papa Benedicto XVI en las ordenaciones en la Basilica de San Pedro el pasado 29 de abril: "En el día de hoy la Jornada Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones, cuyo tema este año es 'La vocación al servicio de la Iglesia como comunión', roguemos que todos los que han sido elegidos para esta misión tan alta puedan estar acompañados por la comunión orante de todos los fieles. Roguemos que de cada parroquia y comunidad cristiana aumente la atención y la formación de los sacerdotes aumente: comienza con la familia, continúa en el seminario e involucra a todos los que tengan en su corazón la preocupación por la salvación de almas."

Que Dios siempre los bendiga a ustedes y a sus seres queridos. Gracias por todo lo que hacen y por su fiel testimonio del amor de Cristo.



Monseñor Kevin Vann, llevando al Santísimo Sacramento, la Eucaristía, en una custodia, dirige la procesión de Corpus Christi desde la Catedral de San Patricio en el centro de Fort Worth en la Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo, domingo 10 de junio. (Foto por Francine Sustaita)



El Papa Benedicto XVI dirige una procesion eucarística en Roma en la Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo, celebrada el 7 de junio en la Diócesis de Roma. (Foto CNS-Chris Helaren, Reuters)

## 'Mano a Mano', junio 9 y 10, fue un éxito



La conferencia anual "Mano a mano caminando juntos" que se llevo a cabo el 9 y 10 de junio en la Iglesia de Todos los Santos en Fort Worth fue todo un éxito con la participación de 280 personas. Parejas de matrimonios se reunieron para el evento de dos días con el propósito de mejorar sus vidas matrimoniales y personales al escuchar hablar al Dr. Carlos Barillas, un psicólogo de New York con más de 30 años de experiencia en trabajar con matrimonios y familias.

El fin de semana, organizado por Suzanna Ordóñez de la Oficina de Asuntos Familiares de la Diócesis de Fort Worth y un equipo de 10 parejas ayuda tanto a los matrimonios que hubo personas que viajaron desde Austin, Mt. Pleasant, Wichita Falls, Graham y México para asistir.

La próxima conferencia se llevara a cabo en el verano del 2008. Si desea más información, favor de hablar con Suzanna Ordóñez al 817-560-3300 ext. 256.



## 'Empezando una vida nueva' comenzará 20 de agosto; grupo de apoyo para separados, divorciados y viudos

"Empezando Una Vida Nueva" es un grupo de apoyo para personas que están pasando por el dolor de una separación, un divorcio, o muerte de su cónyuge. El grupo se reúne una vez por semana por diez semanas y su propósito es de compartir destrezas de superación que otras personas han aprendido, encontrar nuevos amigos/as que cami-

narán con usted hacia el futuro, perdonar, adquirir aceptación y más.... "Empezando Una Vida Nueva" comenzará el lunes, 20 de agosto, 2007 a las 7 p.m. en la Iglesia de Todos Los Santos (en el salón nuevo), 214 N.W. 20th St. en Fort Worth. Si desea registrarse o quiere más información favor de hablar con Carmen Zacarías al 682-472-8517.

## Teólogo jesuita e hispano experto ocupará la dirección del puesto de diversidad cultural

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El padre jesuita Allan Figueroa Deck, teólogo y experto reconocido nacionalmente en el campo de cultura y ministerio hispano, ha sido nombrado el primer director ejecutivo de la Oficina de Diversidad Cultural de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB, por sus siglas en inglés).

Tomará posesión del cargo el 1º de enero próximo, cuando formalmente se establezca conforme un plan de reorganización que se hará sentir de una manera u otra en todos los comités y dependencias nacionales de los obispos católicos.

El padre ocupa al presente el cargo de presidente y director ejecutivo del Instituto de Espiritualidad Loyola en Orange, Calif.; puesto que ha ocupado desde el año 1997. Desde el año 2000 también ha sido superior de la comunidad jesuita del condado de Orange.

Cuando los obispos adoptaron el plan de reorganización el pasado otoño, asentaron su reconocimiento de la diversidad

cultural, con énfasis especial en el ministerio hispano, como una de cinco prioridades mayores en el ciclo de planeación que va del 2008 al 2011.

El padre Deck es originario de Los Ángeles, y nació el 19 de abril, 1945. Entró con los jesuitas en la provincia de California y en el año 1963; fue ordenado sacerdote el 27 de marzo de 1976.

El padre cuenta con títulos universitarios otorgados por la Universidad de San Luis, la Escuela Jesuita de Teología en Berkeley, Calif., y la Universidad Pontificia Gregoriana de Roma; como también un diploma de ministerio pastoral dado por el Instituto Brasileño de Desarrollo en Río de Janeiro.

Ha enseñado teología en la Escuela Jesuita de Teología de Berkeley y en la Universidad Loyola Marymount en Los Ángeles. También fue el primer director de ministerio hispano en la diócesis de Orange.

El padre Deck habla con fluidez el inglés, español y portugués; asimismo, lee italiano y latín.

# El Papa dice que los católicos deben ayudar a Latinoamérica en forma espiritual y material

Por Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

LACIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Frente a la pobreza, la secularización y el esparcimiento de sectas en Latinoamérica, los católicos del mundo deben formar comunidades fuertes en la fe dispuestas a ayudar espiritual y materialmente, dijo el papa Benedicto XVI.

El Papa tuvo audiencia el 14 de junio con miembros del Vaticano de la fundación "Populorum Progressio" (Progreso de los Pueblos, en latín), que proporciona fondos para proyectos modestos de desarrollo, educación y salud, dirigidos a la asistencia de indígenas

pobres y comunidades agrícolas de raza mestiza y de color, en Latinoamérica y el Caribe.

Desde 1992, por medio de la fundación establecida por el papa Juan Pablo II se han distribuido más de \$20 millones en subvenciones, utilizándose fondos allegados principalmente por la Conferencia Episcopal Italiana.

El papa Benedicto dijo que al establecer la fundación, el papa Juan Pablo deseaba ayudar "a los pueblos cuyas costumbres ancestrales estaban amenazadas por una cultura postmoderna" y que estaban en riesgo de la destrucción de "sus tradiciones, tan abiertas a aceptar la verdad

del Evangelio".

Con seis obispos latinoamericanos y un funcionario del Vaticano en el consejo administrativo de la fundación, el Papa dijo, las decisiones que se tomen en la fundación están "en las manos de los que conocen mejor los problemas y necesidades concretas de esos pueblos".

El Papa dijo que en la fundación también se debe reconocer que la ayuda para el desarrollo debe funcionar a favor de la persona total y no solamente estar dirigida a aliviar la pobreza material.

"Con frecuencia, la verdadera pobreza de la persona es la falta

de esperanza" y de fe que le da significado a la vida, dijo.

"Latinoamérica es una parte del mundo que es rica en recursos naturales, en donde las diferencias en el nivel de vida deben dar paso al espíritu de compartir los bienes", dijo el Papa.

"Frente a la amenaza de la secularización, la proliferación

de sectas y la indigencia de muchos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas", dijo, "es urgente que se formen comunidades unidas en la fe, como la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret, en donde el testimonio gozoso de los que han encontrado al Señor es la luz que ilumina a los que buscan una vida más digna".

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## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

### Postal rates for nonprofits will take sharp hike, effective July 15

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Truckers and commuters paying more than \$3 a gallon for gas can understand what Catholic newspaper and magazine publishers will feel like July 15 when new postal rates kick in for nonprofit mailings. "Any nonprofit publisher should be working with his mailer" to find ways to lessen the impact, said Thomas Schmidt, general manager of the *Catholic Standard*, Washington archdiocesan newspaper. He said he conservatively estimates an 11 percent postal increase for the *Standard*. Christopher Gunty, associate publisher of *The Florida Catholic*, said the paper's current postal rates run about half a million dollars a year. "We haven't crunched all the numbers yet," he said, but in July the paper's postal costs will go up "something like 12 to 14 percent." That would be like gasoline jumping overnight from \$3 a gallon to \$3.36 or \$3.42. But for Barbara Stinson Lee, editor of the *Intermountain Catholic* of Salt Lake City, where the diocese covers the entire state of Utah, the expected increase is a whopping 35 percent or more — similar to gas skyrocketing to \$4 a gallon overnight.

### Subcommittee removes abstinence requirement in anti-HIV/AIDS program

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A requirement to participate in a program that promotes abstinence as a way of reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS should not have been removed from an appropriations bill marked up by a House subcommittee, said a statement from Catholic Relief Services President Ken Hackett and Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Florida, chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Policy. In marking up the appropriations bill for the 2008 fiscal year, the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee June 5 eliminated a requirement that a portion of HIV/AIDS prevention funding be used to promote abstinence and "partner reduction," or fidelity. "This change could cost lives," said Bishop Wenski in the June 7 statement. He said it "rejects tried-and-true methods that have proven to actually reduce HIV infections." Hackett said that in the experience of CRS, which runs programs in the developing world to help millions of people affected by HIV/AIDS, "only an approach to HIV prevention that has sufficient funding for groups to conduct abstinence and faithfulness education has yielded meaningful advances in stopping the spread of HIV."

### Vote to affirm same-sex marriage ignores will of people, bishops say

BOSTON (CNS) — The Massachusetts Legislature's June 14 vote to reaffirm same-sex marriage thwarts the will of the citizens and undermines efforts to protect children, families, and society, the four Catholic bishops of Massachusetts said. The bishops made their statement shortly after the Legislature voted 151-45 to reject a proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. At least one-fourth — or 50 — of the legislators had to affirm the proposed amendment for it to be placed before voters on the 2008 ballot. But only 45 legislators voted in favor, 17 fewer than the 62 who had supported it on Jan. 2, 2007, the final day of the 2005-06 session of the Legislature. "Today, the common good has been sacrificed by the extreme individualism that subordinates what is best for children, families, and society," said Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston and Bishops George W. Coleman of Fall River, Timothy A. McDonnell of Springfield, and Robert J. McManus of Worcester.

### Pope: Adults owe young people values that give foundation for their lives

ROME (CNS) — Adults have a debt to pay to today's young people; "we owe them real values that will provide them with a foundation for their lives," Pope Benedict XVI said. In a June 11 evening address to participants in the Diocese of Rome's annual pastoral convention, the pope said all Catholic adults have a role to play in addressing the "education emergency" found in Italy and in other developed nations. For parents, teachers, and religious educators "a growing difficulty is encountered in transmitting to new generations the basic values of existence and of correct behavior," he said. "It is an inevitable emergency in a society and culture that too often makes relativism its creed. Relativism becomes a dogma in such a society. The light of truth fades, or in fact it is considered dangerous to speak of truth," because a claim of truth is seen as "authoritarian" or intolerant, he said. In response to such claims, the pope said, many schools and universities focus on transmitting information and technical skills while many parents seek to ensure their children's happiness by giving them material goods and pleasant experiences.



**FAMILIES DISPLACED** — A family flees a Palestinian refugee camp during clashes between Lebanese soldiers and Islamist militants at an entrance to the camp in south Lebanon June 3. Lebanese troops have been trying to root out al-Qaida-inspired militants from several Palestinian refugee camps. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been displaced. (CNS photo/Ali Hashisho, Reuters)

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# Pope, Bush discuss wide range of issues, including Christians in Iraq

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting for the first time, Pope Benedict XVI and U.S. President George W. Bush spoke about the precarious situation of Christians in Iraq and a wide range of other foreign policy and moral issues.

The pope and president looked relaxed as they greeted each other and spoke briefly before reporters before their 35-minute private encounter June 9. Bush later held a separate 40-minute meeting with the Vatican's top foreign policy officials.

A Vatican statement described the meetings as "cordial" and said they had focused in part on "the worrisome situation in Iraq and the critical conditions in which the Christian community finds itself." Tens of thousands of Christians have fled Iraq over the last four years to escape violence and discrimination.

The talks also touched on the overall situation in the Middle East, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and developments in Lebanon.

"The Holy See again expressed the hope for a 'regional' and 'negotiated' solution to the conflicts and crises that are tormenting the region," the Vatican statement said.

Bush and the pope also discussed problems in Africa, the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, and developments in Latin America, it said.



**PRESIDENT MEETS POPE** — U.S. President George W. Bush meets with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican June 9. The two leaders spoke about the precarious situation of Christians in Iraq and a wide range of other foreign policy and moral issues. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

"Finally, there was an examination of current moral and religious questions, including those related to human rights and religious freedom, the defense and promotion of life, marriage and the family, education of new generations, and sustainable development," the Vatican said.

Before the president's visit, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, went out of his way to praise Bush for his position on abortion and for "positive initiatives in favor of the defense of life from conception."

Bush arrived at the Vatican under very heavy security. His motorcade entered St. Peter's Square from a side street instead

of along Via della Conciliazione, the wide avenue leading to the Vatican, which had been cleared of cars and was lined with curious onlookers.

In the sunny St. Damasus Courtyard, the president was greeted by U.S. Archbishop James Harvey, one of the pope's private secretaries, who escorted him past a picket of Swiss Guards and up an elevator to the fourth floor of the Apostolic Palace for the papal audience.

The pope smiled broadly as he greeted Bush just outside his private library. The two men shook hands, and the pope ushered the president to a large desk. Reporters and photographers

were allowed to stay for the first minute of the encounter.

"It's good to be with you sir," Bush said as he sat down opposite the pope, crossing his legs and leaning back in a white chair.

"You come from the conference in Heiligendamm?" the pope said, referring to the G8 meeting in Germany.

"I did, your old country. And it was successful," Bush replied.

"Successful? You had some decisions? It's not so easy," the pope said. He said it was important for humanity that conferences like this produce decisions.

"It was, you know, a lot of different opinions. But it was good. It was good," Bush said.

The pope asked whether Bush's dialogue with Russian President Vladimir Putin was also good.

The president paused as photographers kept snapping photos and said: "I'll tell you in a minute." Both men laughed. Putin and Bush had sparred over a U.S. proposal to build a missile defense system in Europe.

Bush then went on to tell the pope that he had recently asked Congress for \$30 billion toward fighting the global AIDS crisis, a doubling of the previous U.S. commitment.

After reporters left, the two leaders met privately without aides or interpreters.

The pope and the president also exchanged gifts. Bush gave

the pope a long wooden stick with a design representing the Ten Commandments. When the pope picked it up, Bush told him it had been made by a former homeless man in Dallas.

"The Ten Commandments?" the pope asked, looking at the inscriptions.

"Yes, sir," Bush answered.

The pope presented Bush with an engraving of St. Peter's Basilica and a gold medallion of his pontificate. The president put on his glasses to give it a closer look and remarked: "It's beautiful, thank you very much."

Afterward, Bush and several top aides met with Cardinal Bertone and other Vatican foreign policy officials.

The Vatican's concern about Iraq was underlined in another way during the Bush visit. As the president and the pope ended their meeting, the Vatican released a statement by the prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, who said many Eastern-rite Catholics were suffering in Iraq, Lebanon, and elsewhere because of "war, violence, or fear of an uncertain future."

"I think also of those who must leave their homeland and everything they own," Archbishop Sandri said. Church officials have been increasingly distressed at the exodus of Iraqi Catholics following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

# Catholic leaders urge lawmakers to press forward with immigration reform

FROM PAGE 1

M. Mahony were quick to take the Senate to task for not moving the bill forward.

"Congress must not abdicate its responsibility now," said a statement from Fr. Snyder. "It is crucial that members of the Senate work out their differences."

Cardinal Mahony's statement said the country has a moral obligation to create an immigration system built upon the principles of fairness, opportunity, and compassion.

"Achieving comprehensive immigration reform is hard work, but our senators should not be deterred by the difficulty of this enterprise," he said. "Achieving comprehensive reform this year will have great impact on the continued moral and economic health of our country for years to come."

Reid said he would bring the bill back to the floor as soon as enough Republicans were on board with the goal of bringing the measure to a vote.

Some supporters of the bill accused President George W. Bush of failing to exert enough pressure on Senate Republicans to



**IMMIGRATION REFORM** — San Francisco Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius C. Wang blesses boxes May 29 containing 45,000 petitions asking Congress for just immigration reform. The petitions, signed by Catholics throughout California, were delivered to the San Francisco office of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California. With the bishop are, from left, Redemptorist Father Don MacKinnon, director of the Kmhm Pastoral Center of the Oakland Diocese, and immigration rights advocates Betty Canton-Self, Tess Rouverol Callejo, and Diana Otero. (CNS photo/Jose Luis Aguirre)

pass the bill. The legislation itself was the product of months of behind-the-scenes negotiations by the White House and Democratic and Republican senators.

In a strategy urged by the White House, that bill-shaping process was followed instead of the normal system of publicly crafting a bill in committees. It was intended to satisfy enough members of both parties to head off exactly the kind of procedural machinations that occurred in the second week of debate on the bill.

While many supporters of comprehensive immigration reform, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and

Catholic Charities USA, said the massive piece of legislation was flawed, most members of a vast alliance of faith groups, unions, civil rights groups, and business organizations were urging that the bill be passed as a starting point to fixing a broken immigration system.

In a series of press conferences June 8, representatives of many of the organizations working for a broad approach to immigration reform said they believe Reid is sincere about bringing the bill to a vote and that backroom efforts could yield a viable plan for allowing more debate and a limited number of amendments.

The White House had an-

nounced that Bush would use some of his time during a previously scheduled visit to the Capitol June 12 to try to persuade more Republicans to back the bill.

Meanwhile, House leaders have said they would bring their version of immigration reform to the floor before Congress recesses in August.

In some parts of the country, Catholics used June 10 observances of the feast of Corpus Christi to pray for struggling immigrants. Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Oscar A. Solis led a procession to the El Pueblo National Monument for a blessing for participants in a Dreams Across America rail tour to

Washington.

"The exclusion that immigrants suffer, wounds the body of Christ," Bishop Solis said at a Mass at Our Lady Queen of the Angels Church, where the procession began.

The Dreams Across America rail tour is actually a series of four tours intended to highlight immigrants' stories and dreams at stops across the country before concluding with visits to members of Congress. The Los Angeles train was to leave June 13, followed by groups departing later in June from Miami, Boston, and Richmond, Virginia.

In Denver, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput urged lawmakers to press forward.

"I repeat my constant appeal: We can no longer wait to address this pressing humanitarian issue," he said. "Delaying would lead to more enforcement raids, confusion, and resentment."

He asked the public to press their senators "to not give up on the path started." He asked the public to ask senators to not give up and to pursue a "true, comprehensive immigration reform now."

## National / International

## Faith leaders urge quick action to expand children's health insurance

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic representatives joined with Jewish and Christian faith leaders in calling for quick action by Congress to fund health insurance coverage for the nation's 9 million

uninsured children.

"We speak from a broad range of religious traditions representing many millions of families in urging you to craft SCHIP legislation that will help our nation see a day when no child goes without

treatment or relies on an emergency room for his or her primary health care," the leaders said in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, and Sen. Max Baucus, D-Montana, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

SCHIP is the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The committee was expected to take up in June the budget resolution that calls for spending \$50 billion over five years to expand the program.

"The faith community worked extraordinarily hard to see that the Senate and House included \$50 billion in new funding in the budget resolution," said the June 7 letter to Baucus and Reid, made public June 12. "We want to see these funds used to support a strong SCHIP reauthorization."

The leaders also called for giving greater flexibility to states under the program, allowing said states to expand income-eligibility levels and to cover pregnant women and legally documented immi-

grant children under their plans.

"States that see covering parents as a way of covering more children should not be undermined," the letter added.

The religious leaders pledged to continue an "unprecedented grass-roots campaign to rally people of faith" around the issue of SCHIP reauthorization.

"Through hundreds of local events, tens of thousands of contacts with members of Congress, and scores of Op-Ed pieces and letters to the editor, people of faith are making their voices heard on the need for a strong SCHIP reauthorization," they added.

Catholic leaders signing the letter included Jesuit Father John Baumann, executive director of PICO National Network in Oakland, California; Kevin E. Lofton, president and CEO of Catholic Health Initiatives; and Good Shepherd Sister Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, national coordinator of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

## Special Collections:

## Easter Ministries and Holy Land

Parish Name	Parish Location	Holy Land April 2006	Holy Land April 2007	Easter Ministries April 2006	Easter Ministries April 2007
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbot	236.00	506.00	1,568.00	2,222.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	74.00	5.00	606.00	1,500.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	751.00	859.00	7,266.30	7,131.73
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	3,316.38	2,264.50	20,793.00	25,141.00
St. Joseph	Arlington	122.00	1,979.00	24,916.69	27,035.84
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	3,051.00	3,108.00	29,872.64	32,165.27
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	601.00	0.00	1,251.78	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	1,927.50	628.00	20,550.50	10,808.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	1,884.98	0.00	26,245.52	30.00
Vietnamese Martyrs Community	Arlington	2,005.00	1,602.00	12,980.87	10,292.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	904.00	612.00	5,183.00	3,706.00
St. Michael	Bedford	4,970.00	2,450.00	44,305.20	39,499.70
St. Jerome	Bowie	0.00	0.00	865.34	967.80
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	164.59	271.70	889.01	1,830.25
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	238.00	289.35	1,772.62	2,161.15
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	430.00	361.00	2,713.00	2,059.13
St. Ann	Burleson	770.00	950.00	9,279.67	11,484.52
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	2,294.00	2,906.00	20,120.50	21,414.42
Holy Rosary	Cisco	107.00	152.92	608.00	619.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	234.05	418.61	3,991.29	7,019.92
Holy Angels	Clifton	165.00	311.00	1,007.00	1,453.20
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	2,488.83	2,933.25	45,299.35	53,684.99
Holy Cross	The Colony	932.76	1,736.12	5,676.55	7,167.83
Sacred Heart	Comanche	70.00	81.00	603.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	0.00	39.00	0.00	0.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	358.22	514.01	4,433.67	5,228.45
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	0.00	96.50	253.96	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	1,289.73	1,630.80	14,051.12	27,389.29
St. Mark	Denton	2,532.78	2,776.00	15,114.27	16,561.37
St. Mary	Dublin	248.00	0.00	2,600.00	3,313.50
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	33.00	101.00	247.00	245.00
St. Paul	Electra	78.00	85.00	243.00	449.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	869.64	873.30	10,926.45	11,043.18
Christ the King	Fort Worth	541.00	906.00	5,407.00	6,409.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	2,099.40	2,507.00	27,180.00	36,369.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	294.00	0.00	4,102.19	7,307.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	946.00	0.00	12,695.00	14,296.88
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	3,089.00	0.00	3,523.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	1,938.00	1,725.00	12,520.50	14,277.50
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	307.00	421.00	2,755.00	3,146.74
San Mateo	Fort Worth	314.00	139.00	1,397.15	1,985.50
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	3,975.73	3,175.05	38,779.44	52,185.55
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	2,261.23	2,302.00	15,644.08	19,956.08
St. George	Fort Worth	547.00	1,000.00	5,505.50	7,005.29
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	2,337.00	1,615.50	29,377.17	29,814.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00	5,814.25	0.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	2,120.28	2,710.00	26,185.51	23,388.50
St. Paul	Fort Worth	740.35	569.00	3,209.35	3,493.00
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,769.82	1,957.10	15,002.54	15,213.52
St. Rita	Fort Worth	708.63	1,039.74	5,180.03	4,940.73
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,310.00	1,574.59	6,294.00	8,847.91
St. Mary	Gainesville	637.00	894.79	7,772.19	9,260.89
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	79.00	293.00	1,200.51	1,500.26
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	86.00	102.00	522.00	412.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	0.00	2,843.27	2,738.11
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,351.00	100.00	10,492.00	761.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,715.40	1,779.23	50,479.82	45,509.38
St. Mary	Hennietta	0.00	95.00	1,425.00	1,649.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	302.00	483.00	2,156.97	2,166.00
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chnst the King	Iowa Park	100.00	57.00	425.00	488.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	4.00	193.75	622.62	370.11
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	5,475.16	5,393.32	68,323.94	99,721.02
Santa Rosa	Knox City	104.00	108.00	791.62	593.75
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,081.85	0.00	20,427.16	0.00
St. Peter	Lindsay	985.00	1,324.25	5,878.75	9,180.24
St. Jude	Mansfield	838.00	785.65	10,686.03	13,511.59
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	0.00	0.00	214.00	293.64
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	198.75	410.20	1,651.49	3,204.10
St. William	Montague	0.00	105.00	275.00	580.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	159.00	104.35	389.10	691.40
Sacred Heart	Muenster	972.15	1,012.00	6,561.24	20,050.40
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00	510.00	681.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00	599.88	470.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	127.00	199.50	1,105.10	820.37
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	452.00	209.27	4,539.00	8,477.56
St. Mary	Quanah	0.00	102.00	0.00	877.50
St. Rita	Ranger	57.00	42.00	526.64	384.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	219.00	301.00	2,221.00	2,287.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	19.00	50.00	1,414.62	1,334.26
Sacred Heart	Seymour	378.00	607.00	891.50	1,123.25
St. Brendan	Stephenville	80.00	0.00	1,112.00	1,396.26
St. John	Strawn	65.00	170.00	940.00	568.00
St. John	Valley View	62.00	0.00	722.55	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	0.00	424.00	2,566.25	2,111.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	325.00	1,176.00	14,965.00	13,441.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	583.00	798.00	1,559.00	1,352.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	0.00	466.33	1,122.22	5,927.85
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	572.36	651.00	13,927.36	13,937.95
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	2,211.50	2,040.00	10,473.09	14,634.25
St. Mary	Windthorst	874.11	605.00	3,517.22	4,299.74

79,558.18 73,260.68 812,656.15 867,063.62

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

## Eucharist calls Christians to give themselves to others, says pope

FROM PAGE 1

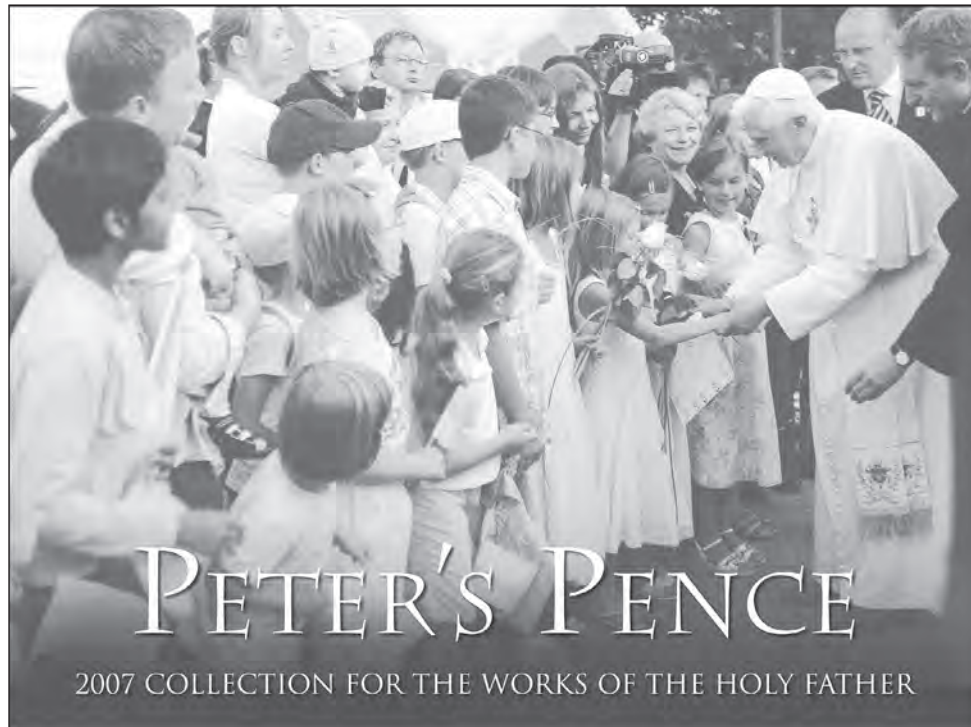
In the same way, he said, the public procession "calls attention to the fact that Christ sacrificed himself for all humanity," the pope said. "His passage between the houses and along the streets of our city will be an offering of joy, of eternal life, peace, and love to those who live there."

Pope Benedict said Luke's Gospel story also emphasizes the fact that the bread and

fish multiplied by Jesus were offered by people in the crowd.

"The five loaves and two fish indicate our contribution, poor but necessary, which he transforms into a gift of love for all," the pope said.

The Eucharist, he said, calls Christians to give themselves to others "because the vocation of each of us is to be, like Christ, bread broken for the life of the world."



The theme for this year's Collection is *Let us make sure that none of God's children ever feels alone*. The theme is based on a September 2006 homily given by Pope Benedict XVI, in which he explained how those who are baptized create one family of believers who are never alone. Your contribution to the Peter's Pence Collection allows the Holy Father to respond with timely and effective emergency assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world. Thus, in solidarity with the Pope, we Catholics participate in works of goodness that distinguish us as followers of the Gospel.

Please pray for the Holy Father, and please give generously in your parish.

For more information, visit [www.usccb.org/ppc](http://www.usccb.org/ppc).



# Diocesan

## Abbot Wolf finds the rhythm of work and prayer similar across the world

FROM PAGE 28  
another," he says of the high emotional toll of dealing with disease. "We are talking about consolidating. There are some fragile communities. In South Africa also there are two Anglican Benedictine communities."

Since the time of the Reformation, Anglican Benedictine communities have maintained official friendly relations with the Benedictine Confederation. Abbot Wolf reaches out to them as well.

"I saw also Anglicans and Episcopalians [on this visit] here in the States," he says of this effort. "...And they say, 'We feel at home with you.'"

The dynamics of these monasteries are remarkably the same, according to Abbot Wolf,

whether the religious community is in South Africa or Alabama.

"They are living together," he says. "They are trying to strengthen each other. They are praying together, but they are also working together because they have to survive somehow. They are real monks when they are living from the income of their own work."

"And then they can also do something good for other people."

The abbot estimates Benedictines the world over are educating some 150,000 students, from elementary age through university. The monasteries are frequently home to both boarding schools and day schools.

"In my own monastery [Sant' Anselmo] we have 700

boys and girls. It's a high school. Only about 30 of them are boarders.

"[Additionally,] we have two houses for the many people who are coming for retreats — and they are always full. This is not just for the weekend. They come for spiritual guidance, courses in spirituality, for direction. I myself am giving twice a year, weeklong retreats."

But it is the work of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute at Sant' Anselmo, for which the Abbot Primate seeks support. Also located on the Aventine Hill, the institute promotes the study of liturgy, a mission entrusted to the Benedictines by the pope. It trains seminarians and academics alike to help all Catholics understand the im-

portance of liturgy throughout the Church — not only in Mass but in every aspect of life. The institute has an impressive list of alumni, among them Archbishop Wilton Gregory.

The St. Benedict Foundation supports the institute's work, and, in order to more fully understand its role, Abbot Wolf encourages visits to the Web site at <http://www.stbenedictfoundation.org>.

The abbot enthusiastically embraces the Internet as a tool of his work. He speaks nine languages — and communicates daily by e-mail in at least five of them. German is his native tongue.

Like the Holy Father, Abbot Notker Wolf grew up in Bavaria — and the two have known each other since seminary days. They were both doctors of theology who taught in Rome and have shared a friendship since they were young men. The abbot regularly provides commentary on Pope Benedict's travels for a German TV station and other media outlets.

In April 2005, Abbot Wolf was at the Benedictine Monastery in Tepeyac, Mexico (Our Lady of Tepeyac), when he learned Joseph Ratzinger had been chosen as the new pope. He was preparing to lead a conference when he heard a cry of "The smoke is white! The smoke is white!"

"We all went to the TV so we could see it," he recalls of the live coverage and Cardinal Ratzinger's appearance on the papal balcony. "I dropped my conference, but I didn't drop the Mass we had planned. So perhaps we

held the first Mass said for the papacy of Benedict XVI."

The 66-year-old religious leader is an accomplished musician, who plays the electric guitar. He's equally at home with traditional Benedictine music and Christian rock. And when he visits other monasteries, he often finds strength in sharing his music.

"Each day we are several times in choir, and that is always for me the relaxing moment."

Does he find more people wanting to enter the monastic life?

"It is a little bit increasing," he concedes.

"In Europe we are blocked by demographic reasons. In each family you have maybe only one or two children. If there is just one boy, you can't imagine the mother's reaction. I would have mothers nearly jumping in my face: 'You have stolen my son!' But on the other hand, if you have a business in your family, you are waiting for the son to take over some day."

There are more vocations in the United States and especially in the larger monasteries, a trend Abbot Wolf finds interesting but not surprising. The morning's conversation again turns to size — although using a different measure.

"Thirty years ago we would have said 'small is beautiful,'" he observes. "But people realize that living in a small community is a big challenge. The fewer in number you are the easier it is to step on each others' toes."

## Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11  
to know if he should turn the snapshot over and identify it with the word "picture."

Stifling a giggle, I answered, "Write your name on the back." "Thank you!" the boy said, and I was happy I had answered with appropriate decorum. And I remembered Howie.

That day, in my publication office, I received 27 calls, from across the country. Three of them mattered more than most.

The first was from a woman in her early 30s who, a decade earlier, had adopted her sister, and now was sending her to college. As the foster mother prepared her sister for orientation, she had questions — as did I. During our conversation we discussed miscellaneous college facts, and I learned of the selflessness that lets a woman, the age of my oldest child, take the obligation of educating her sister.

She was taking on this responsibility because: "My sister will be the only one in our family who ever got a [college] education."

The second call, immediately after, was from a mother whose deep voice was difficult to hear, and who spoke so slowly I wished her questions would "get here faster." During

her long preamble, it suddenly became so quiet, I asked, "Are you still there?"

"I'm here," she whispered, and then began to cry. "I'm in intensive care. My little 80-year-old mother, who has been so healthy, suddenly collapsed, and no one knows what is wrong with her."

All I could think to tell this woman — who could have been any of us — was "I will pray for her — and you."

The last call was a bright voice, a mother who said she was about to send her first child off to college — but, "It's hard to let her go."

"Do you have more children at home?" I asked. "Yes," she replied, "four."

"Well," I joked, because her story sounded familiar, "wait until the last one goes! My youngest left, and suddenly I am absolutely alone — with the dog."

"No husband?" she asked. "No," I answered.

The woman laughed, somewhat sadly, then added, "When I get to campus can we talk? I think I'm about to become a single mother too."

"We'll talk," I promised. My heart hurt for her.

When I hung up the phone that day, I realized some things:

Young people surprise us, with their tenacity and ability to achieve what others would never

attempt. They light our world.

We never know who we're walking with on this road through life, and sometimes death. We should hold their hands.

And our Father in heaven, even though he is God, sometimes sends us in to sub for Him. It may not be his ear we provide, but providing ours could be a little miracle of its own.

Finally, reflecting on the day, I realized, "There is no stupid question." I repeated this aloud, like a professor might say it to a freshman class.

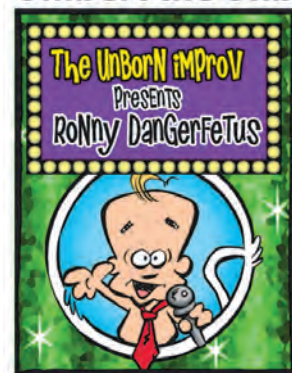
That morning when the new student had called and asked, "What do you mean by identification?" it was no less silly than my son Howie had been when he asked about his driver's license.

When I think of Howie, I feel warm and loving. So when I think of that freshman boy — from now on I'll identify him as Howie.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. Her column is syndicated in a number of diocesan newspapers across the U.S. Her column received the first place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada in 2005.

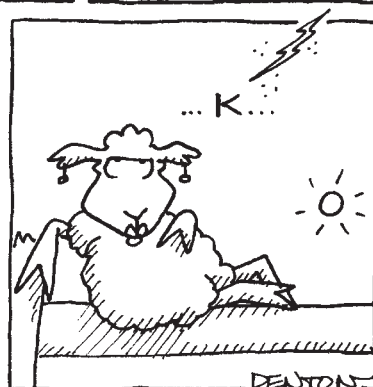
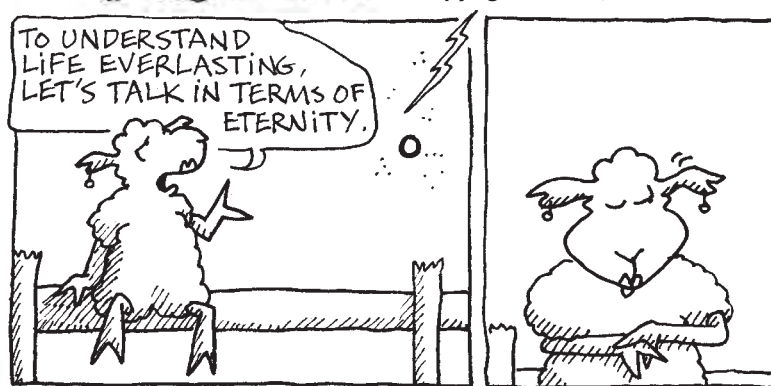
## Umbert the Unborn



by Gary Cangemi

## The FLOCK

By Jean Denton  
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# Calendar

## DCYC

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

## NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning is safe, healthy, and effective. Many couples that use NFP find that they grow in love and respect for one another as they learn to appreciate God's design for marriage. The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of NFP. Since the class consists of four meetings at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a class starting at least four months before their wedding. For more information or to register for a class starting July 6 at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Ln., Keller, contact Mike and Lisa Arth at (817) 488-0699. To register for a class starting July 22 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 714 N. Main, Muenster, contact Gary and Mary Endres at (940) 759-4810.

## LAY CARMELITE GATHERING

"Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and Mary?" ask the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (Lay Carmelites). The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of this deeper relationship to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. The next scheduled gatherings will be June 24 and July 8. Those interested are asked to gather at 1:45 p.m. in the rectory chapel of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth. Formation will take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the school building. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

## 'FAITH AND FICTION'

"Faith and Fiction: Conversations on Spirituality and Imagination," a venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on the journey of faith, will meet Thursday, July 19, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be the film "Il Postino," directed by Michael Radford. The movie is to be shown at 5 p.m. with a potluck supper to be served during the movie. The discussion session will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Dan Luby at (817) 560-2452 ext. 259, or by e-mail to [dluby@fwdioc.org](mailto:dluby@fwdioc.org).

## BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The weekend retreat provides an environment and tools to help participants put closure on the past, and to create a new beginning in the present. The next BE weekend will be held July 27-29 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. For more information, call metro (972) 601-4091 or e-mail to the Dallas/Fort Worth BE team at [dfwbe@hotmail.com](mailto:dfwbe@hotmail.com).

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S GROUP

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

## To Report Misconduct

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

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

## To Report Abuse

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

## SSMN JUBILEES

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be celebrating the significant jubilees of two of their congregation with a Mass Saturday, Aug. 18, at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Sister Mary Merdian, SSMN, will be marking her 50th year of religious life, and Sister St. John Begnaud, SSMN, will be celebrating her 65th year as a religious sister. For more information, call Our Lady of Victory Center at (817) 923-3091.

## GRIEF MINISTRY

Help is available for those whose marriage has ended through death, divorce, or separation. Starting a New Life, a peer ministry group sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office, will start another session Aug. 28 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. This structured confidential support group was created to help persons work through the stages of grief and pain that accompany the loss a spouse. For registration, contact Helen Engle at (817) 261-9706 or e-mail to [hengle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hengle@sbcglobal.net); or call Kevin Gamble at (817) 626-9382.

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## CREIGHTON NFP TRAINING

A Creighton Model FertilityCare System Provider Education Program, located in Omaha, Nebraska, will offer a training program at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington for providers of the Creighton Model of FertilityCare System. The first education phase will be held Aug. 4-11 and the second phase will be held Feb. 4-9. Accredited by the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals, the program is designed to professionally train providers of the Creighton Model FertilityCare System. CEUs are available for nurses. For more information, contact Margaret Howard, the program director, at (420) 320-9268 or e-mail to [cmhoward12@cox.net](mailto:cmhoward12@cox.net) for application and program information.

## COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

Donna M. Campbell  
Vicki Lynn Thomas

## MINISTRY WITH GAYS / LESBIANS

The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will offer an evening of prayer and conversation for lesbian/gay persons, their families, and friends June 28 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to join for prayer and sharing. For additional information, contact Fr. Murphy at (817) 927-5383 or Dottie and Hank Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

## NTC DEADLINE DATES

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the July 27 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, July 18. Items for the Aug. 31 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Aug. 22.

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# Classified Section

## LITURGY DIRECTOR

The Diocese of Fort Worth is seeking a full-time director of Liturgy. The director of Liturgy is responsible for assisting the bishop, clergy, and parishes of the Diocese of Fort Worth in attaining full, active, and conscious participation in the liturgy of the church. Principal duties include: knowing the liturgical documents and norms, the rites with their praenotandae, and learning the preferences of the bishop in matters of choice; serving as resource to clergy, parish staff, and others on liturgical practices, implementation and application of liturgical norms and diocesan sacramental (liturgical) guidelines; and providing continuing liturgical education for clergy and liturgical ministers, particularly in understanding documents and instructions of the church concerning worship, e.g. the diocesan organization for liturgy directors, coordinators, and music directors. Qualifications include a master's degree in theology, liturgical studies or a closely related field of study; prior experience in diocesan or parish liturgical work; and applicants should be bilingual (English/Spanish) in speaking, reading, writing, and understanding. For a full job description and application, visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org). If interested, e-mail a résumé to [msimeroth@fwdioc.org](mailto:msimeroth@fwdioc.org) or fax to (817) 244-8839, to the attention of Mark Simeroth, director of Human Resources. Application due date is July 15. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview.

## YOUTH MINISTER

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

## HOME CAREGIVERS

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

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## YOUTH MINISTER

Sacred Heart Parish, a fast-growing parish of over 1,300 families, seeks a full-time coordinator of youth ministry who has vision, enthusiasm, and collaborative skills to reach out to the youth in our community. The coordinator will plan, coordinate, and implement weekend retreats and prayer reflections, and provide opportunities for youth to hear and respond to the Gospel message. In addition, the coordinator will develop a relationship with the parents to foster open communication between parents and youth. The coordinator will also assist in the preparation of liturgical celebrations for youth and coordinate participation in diocesan-sponsored training programs. They must be able to recruit, train, assign, and evaluate youth leaders, and serve as their advisor, and keep the parish faith community informed of youth ministry activities and goals. The necessary qualifications are: active member of a Catholic church, bachelor's degree in a related field (or currently working toward a college degree), youth ministry experience in a Catholic parish, certification (or the ability to become certified) by the Fort Worth Diocese for Youth Ministry, background check, and the completion of the "Keeping Children Safe" course. For information, call the Sacred Heart business manager, Rick Hutchings at (940) 723-5288.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mark Church, Denton, has an opening for a full-time (40 hour) coordinator of high school youth ministry. Responsibilities include: direction of our comprehensive high school youth ministry program including adolescent catechesis; diocesan youth ministry program; diocesan youth activities; confirmation preparation; direction of our Life Teen program; and the recruitment and training of volunteers for high school youth ministry programs. We are looking for an energetic, faith-filled individual who is an active member of a Catholic parish with excellent organization, communication, and computer skills, and who is both creative and detail-oriented. A thorough understanding of relational ministry is critical. A bachelor's degree in theology (or its equivalent) is preferred as well as diocesan certification in youth ministry. If interested, e-mail a résumé to [slesko@stmarkdenton.org](mailto:slesko@stmarkdenton.org) or fax it to the attention of Silvia Lesko, director of religious education, at (940) 382-1641. Application due date is June 15. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller seeks a coordinator of high school youth ministry/Christian education. This individual will be responsible for high school youth ministry, high school religious education, and preparation for the sacrament of confirmation. This is a full-time salaried position with benefits. A bachelor's degree in a related field, at least three years experience in youth ministry, national certificate in youth ministry studies, or equivalent combination of education and experience preferred. Committed, practicing, vibrant Catholic required. Salary based on experience. Send a résumé by e-mail to [dwarner@seascc.org](mailto:dwarner@seascc.org) or to SEASCC-CYM Search, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller 76248. Résumés should be sent no later than June 25.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Applications are being accepted for the position of coordinator of Youth Ministries for Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls. The coordinator is responsible for organizing and maintaining religious education programs, sacrament preparation, and RCIA for grades 7-12. The coordinator also plans social and spiritual events for youth in the parish and is involved in planning and coordinating both deanery and diocesan youth activities. Computer and administrative skills; ability to prepare an annual budget; to recruit, train, and support volunteers; and ability to work with church staff are expected. The successful applicant will have youth ministry experience in a Catholic parish and a basic understanding of total youth ministry in accordance with the United States bishops' document "Renewing the Vision." The applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church, have a bachelor's degree or working toward one in theology or related field, and certification (or eligibility for certification) by the Fort Worth Diocese for Youth Ministry. Anyone interested in applying for this position is requested to contact John Spyra at the parish office at (940) 696-1253.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

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## Good Newsmaker

When Abbot Notker Wolf, abbot primate of the world's Benedictines, came to Texas recently, he spoke of his order's mission and how his role is to act as something of a

# Bridge

By Barbara Griffith  
Correspondent

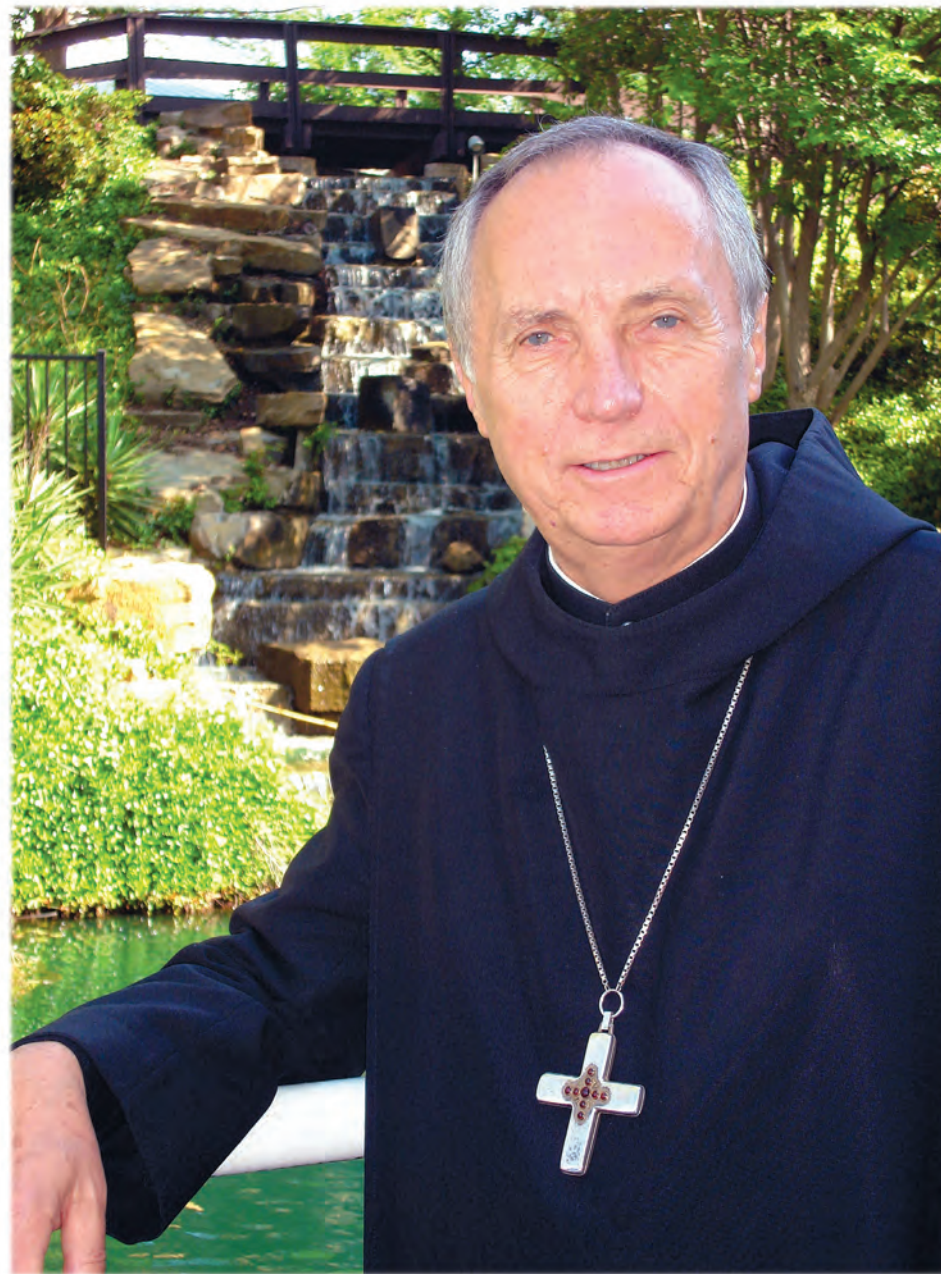
St. Anselmo, on a wind-swept hill overlooking Rome, is a long way from Arlington. The 19th century Benedictine monastery, with its commanding view of St. Peter's Basilica, couldn't be more different from the crowded and noisy Arlington Wyndham Hotel, with its own perspective of The Ballpark and the rapidly rising Cowboy Stadium.

But Abbot Notker Wolf is perfectly at ease in both worlds.

The Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Confederation bridges geography and schism, serving as a sort of roving ambassador for the order. His mission is to increase awareness of the order's St. Benedict Foundation, its pontifical university in Rome, and to foster Benedictine charism. In the weeks just prior to his interview with the *North Texas Catholic*, the abbot had traveled to San Francisco, India, South Africa — then back to the United States, and finally to Texas. All the world's Benedictine monasteries look to him as a tangible sign of their connection with each other.

"I'm 'the missing link,'" he explains, laughing, in the packed Arlington hotel restaurant. While others in the group sip coffee, Abbot Wolf politely declines. In fact, his only comment on the bustle of 21st century consumerism is to express astonishment at the heaping plates of breakfast being served up all around him and how much larger the portions are in America than in Europe and elsewhere.

The Rule of St. Benedict is about finding moderation and balance, a juxtapo-



sition of prayer and work. (The Order's traditional motto is "Ora et labora" or, in English, "Pray and work.") That measure has successfully guided Benedictines for 15 centuries; St. Benedict is regarded as the founder of Western monasticism.

Interest in Benedictine spirituality is on the upswing right now — and not just in traditionally Catholic circles. A CD of Gregorian chant, sung by Benedictine monks, climbed to the top of the charts only a few years ago. Dozens of books extol the virtues of the Rule of St. Benedict, and Catholics and non-Catholics alike are exploring *Lectio Divina*, the Benedictine approach to prayer.

### Above:

Abbot Notker Wolf, OSB, appropriately enough, poses before a waterfall and bridge at Arlington's Wyndham Hotel where *North Texas Catholic* correspondent Barbara Griffith visited with him recently. Abbot Wolf spoke with her about the Benedictines around the world and his work seeking to help increase the communion of the varied and dispersed groups. (Photo by Steve Moffett)

### Right:

Abbot Wolf (right) and Father Cajetan Homick, OSB, president of the Saint Benedict Educational Foundation, confer over notes in Arlington. (Photo by Steve Moffett)

"It's the handing over of your whole life to Jesus Christ, but based on the Holy Scriptures," says Abbot Wolf of life in the monastery. "It is our living together, praying together, singing together. And, the liturgy is our main activity."

Abbot Wolf, elected to his role seven years ago, travels almost weekly to a different country to visit fellow Benedictines.

"It's amazing. It's simply a bunch of men or women, fascinated by the Gospel, by Jesus Christ. They are in search of God, as St. Benedict says."

Recently he witnessed an effective and economical approach to monastic teaching by the Benedictines of India. It was dubbed the 'Mobile Monastic Institute.'

"Every year after Easter, they have a crash course of eight weeks, each year for three years," he explains. "And each year they do it in a different monastery, and that way it doesn't get too expensive nor too big a burden for a single monastery because they are moving around."

Abbot Wolf shared the idea with Benedictines in South Africa, who face constant challenges of how to best utilize their resources.

"Benedictines are teaching the South African tribes how to live together and how to work together so that HIV/AIDS patients don't become outcasts but rather live inside the family unit. They help family members find medication," he says. "That is a long project for them."

His face shows concern for the South African religious communities.

"You cannot do it from one day to  
SEE ABBOT, P. 26



## Inside... This issue of the NTC

Sacred Heart Church in Seymour dedicated a new pastoral center May 7, with an eye to its serving a number of needs for the church and the surrounding community. **6**

The diocesan Prison Ministry Symposium at All Saints Church brought home our need to see prisoners as being like ourselves — and in need of more support as they re-enter our communities. **7**

As Dan Luby prepares for a transition after nearly 25 years working for the diocese, it causes him to reflect on God's presence in the work — and in his life. **10**

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