



North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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All Things Possible campaign surpasses \$40 million goal

The *All Things Possible* campaign has generated pledges of \$46.5 million, nearly \$7 million more than its goal of \$40 million, to be collected over the course of the four-year campaign. Of the money pledged, \$9 million has been collected.

With the exception of five parishes that will run their campaigns this fall, June concludes active campaigning to raise money. Fulfillment of pledges and distribution of funds for case items outlined in

the campaign will continue for the next four years.

According to Peter Flynn, diocesan director of Finance and Administrative Services, the original campaign goal was slated to be for \$60 million, but because of concerns with a struggling economy, Bishop Kevin Vann decided to cut back and prioritize the needs of the diocese to be funded by the *All Things Possible* campaign.

"The fact that we are where we are indicates that was a wise move, and we were accurate in our estimate of what we could raise," Flynn said. "Individuals looked at the case and realized the bishop focused in on true needs to move the diocese forward, and their commitment to helping him accomplish those goals is evident by their commitment to the campaign."

The money received is already being

SEE ALL THINGS POSSIBLE, P. 17



BP oil leak offers 'lesson in humility,' says Vatican

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The "sense of powerlessness and delay" in resolving the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history offers a lesson about the limits of technology, a Vatican official said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said in a commentary June 19 that the leaking BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico was a disaster "of enormous proportions, and getting worse."

He compared it to the 1984 chemical factory explosion in Bhopal, India, or the 1986 meltdown of the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine.

"What is striking in this case is the sense of powerlessness and delay in finding a solution to this disaster faced by one of the largest and most technologically advanced oil multinationals in the world, but also by the most powerful country on earth," Fr. Lombardi said.

"It seems incredible, but it is a fact. This is not the eruption of a volcano, but a relatively small man-made hole in the seabed. Yet, in two months, expert scientists and technicians, leaders in their field, have failed to plug it," he said.

The Vatican spokesman said he hoped people would draw from the disaster a lesson of prudence and care in the use of the earth's resources.

"Perhaps we can also draw a lesson in humility," he said.

"Technology will advance. But if a relatively simple production process leaves us so helpless, what will we do if much more complex processes get out of hand, such as those affecting the energy hidden in the heart of matter or moreover in the processes of the formation of life?" he said.

Fr. Lombardi noted that the issue of responsible use of technology was addressed by Pope Benedict XVI in his latest encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth).



ABOVE: Workers contracted by British Petroleum scrape oil from a beach May 23 in Port Fourchon, Louisiana, after it was inundated by the oil spill from the Deepwater Horizon rig in what is considered the worst oil spill in U.S. history. (CNS photo/Lee Celano, Reuters)

LEFT: Fish lie dead in oil in Bay Jimmy near Port Sulpher, Louisiana, June 20. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said in a commentary June 19 that the leaking British Petroleum oil well in the Gulf of Mexico was a disaster "of enormous proportions, and getting worse." (CNS photo/Sean Gardner, Reuters)

Cardinal DiNardo voices 'grave concern' over drug known to cause abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities expressed "grave concern" about a drug labeled as an emergency contraceptive and the Food and Drug Administration's process for approving it.

He said it was misleading to call it a contraceptive, as it is also known to cause abortions.

In a June 17 letter to Dr. Margaret Hamburg, FDA commissioner, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston criticized the advisory panel's hearing that day on the drug. He said the hearing — held without broad public input or a full record on the drug's safety "for women or their unborn children" — demonstrated a failure to understand the "new medical and

moral issues" the drug presents.

The drug, ulipristal, is being marketed under the brand name ellaOne or ella, and would be available only by prescription. The drug is said to prevent pregnancy five days after sex — two days longer than the morning-after pill known as Plan B, which is sold over-the-counter to women 17 and older.

SEE ULIPRISTAL, P. 17

The NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC is getting a new look!

Beginning in September, the *North Texas Catholic* will move from its traditional newspaper look to a more news-magazine style. Also beginning in September, the *NTC* will be published on a monthly basis, and have regularly updated news content on its page on the diocesan Web site. More details will be released as available.

During these summer months, let us reflect on the blessings God has given us

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we move into the summer months, it is an occasion that offers for many of us a time for vacation and hopefully a few moments of relaxation and renewal away from the business and all the demands of daily life. For those of you who work and minister in the parishes, these summer months tend to be a time when things slow down as many ministries take a break for the summer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who work and minister in the parishes for all of your hard work and dedication in building up the Body of Christ, the Church.



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

These times also afford us the opportunity to reflect on the many blessings that God has given us and to truly give our thanksgiving to Him who gives us everything that is good. In fact, part of living out our faith in Christ means living in a constant spirit of thanksgiving. ... Sometimes we can fall into the habit of just asking God for things or for his help without taking the time to first and foremost give Him thanks for the gift of life and the gift of faith.

Many of you are hard working volunteers who give generously of your time and talents working in communion for the communion of the Church. Do not underestimate your service to the Church and how Christ is using you to bring souls closer to Him. Without the gift and presence of each one of you, the Church's mission of evangelization would certainly be diminished.

These times also afford us the opportunity to reflect on the many blessings that God has given us and to truly give our thanksgiving to Him who gives us everything that is good. In fact, part of living out our faith in Christ means living in a constant spirit of thanksgiving. As St. Paul teaches us, "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17). Sometimes we can fall into the habit of just asking God for things or for his help without taking the time to first and foremost

give Him thanks for the gift of life and the gift of faith. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "As in the prayer of petition, every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving. The letters of St. Paul often begin and end with thanksgiving, and the Lord Jesus is always present in it: 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you'; 'Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving'" (2638).

For us as Catholics, the attitude and virtue of thanksgiving is especially expressed in the celebration of the Eucharist. In fact the word Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eucharistein* meaning "thanksgiving." The *Catechism* teaches us that "The Greek words *eucharistein* and *eulogein* recall the Jewish blessings that proclaim — especially during a meal — God's works: creation, redemption, and sanctification" (1328). This is what we do when we celebrate the Mass — we are coming together

as the one Body of Christ, the Church, to give thanks and praise to God for the gift of salvation and redemption accomplished in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we say each and every Mass during the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give Him thanks and praise." Living out a Eucharistic spirituality means among other things living our lives with a constant spirit and attitude of thanksgiving to God and for his gift of salvation. Even in times of trial, we are called to be thankful for the opportunity to offer our suffering with the suffering of Christ and that Christ is ultimately victorious over suffering and death.

On a personal note, next month I celebrate my fifth anniversary of my ordination to the Episcopate and as the Bishop of Fort Worth. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanksgiving to everyone in our Diocese for your faithfulness, your witness, and your love for Christ and the Church. I have said to several individuals that I am not the same person who arrived here five years ago. Thanks to all of you, who in God's providential plan, have helped me grow into the shepherd and person the Lord wishes me to be. It has been an honor and a great gift to be your servant and shepherd. May we go forth together in our local Church with a spirit of humility and thanksgiving as we continue to follow our Lord and do his work.

+ Kevin W. Vann

+ Bishop Kevin W. Vann
Diocese of Fort Worth
June 25, 2010

Diocese's School of Lay Ministry opens registration for new students

The Diocese of Fort Worth Pope John Paul II Institute School of Lay Ministry is accepting registrations for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The Pope John Paul II School of Lay Ministry replaced the Light of Christ Institute lay ministry training program last year. It has a restructured, two-year curriculum which features ministry courses in both the "Basic Competency (first) Year" and the "Commissioning (second) Year." The program has been a requirement for consideration for diocesan permanent deacon formation.

"The people have shown a great deal of interest," said Father Carmen Mele, OP, the institute's director, about the success of the first year.

Those who plan to enter the School of Lay Ministry's first-year program in September should submit an application with their respective pastor's signature. First-year classes in English will be offered

at the Catholic Center on some Wednesday evenings, and in Spanish usually on the last Saturday of the month. There will also be an Internet option for those who have difficulty attending classes.

The academic year will begin with joint assemblies for first and second-year participants. The assembly in Spanish will take place on Saturday, Sept. 11, at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth, and the assembly in English on Saturday, Sept. 25, at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth.

Parishioners looking to become lay ecclesial ministers or current lay ministers who desire updated training may contact Fr. Carmen Mele, OP, at the diocesan Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300, ext. 262. An information sheet and an application form have also been sent to every pastor in the diocese and are available on the diocesan webpage at www.fwdioc.org/catechesis/pjp2_institute/school_lay_min/Pages/default.aspx.



18 Years in a Row



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

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

Vocations

USCCB launches Web site to promote vocations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington has launched a new Website to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The site, www.ForYourVocation.org, is meant to help people who are discerning a possible vocation and educate Catholics about the need to encourage others to consider a vocation.

The site includes discernment resources for men and women, ideas for promoting a vocation

culture within the home, and a range of tools for educators, youth leaders, and vocation directors, including prayers, videos, best practices, lesson plans, and vocation-awareness programs. It also includes videos of priests and religious men and women talking about their vocations and testimonies from family members.

The site has links to a Facebook fan page and a YouTube vocation channel.

A Spanish-language site will be available in the fall at www.PorTuVocacion.org.

Widowed deacons, engineer, video game developer, among 2010 ordinands

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A former NASA engineer, a PlayStation video game developer, and widowed deacons are among the 440 men in the ordination class of 2010.

The average age of the men ordained in June is 37, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. More than half are between the ages of 25 and 34, and 11 of them are age 65 or older.

The center conducted a national survey of ordinands for the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The study was based on 339 responses or 77 percent of this year's ordination class. Of those who responded, 291 will become diocesan priests and 48 will be religious order priests.

A news release from the USCCB reported on results of the survey and highlighted some of the men who will become priests this year.

Paul Kubista of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis worked on the PlayStation 3 processor at IBM before entering the seminary. Roy Runkle of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, was an aerospace engineer with NASA for 38 years.

Gregory A. Rapisarda of the Archdiocese of Baltimore is a widowed deacon with four children, one of whom is a priest. After his ordination, he and his son will be the first father-son priests to serve in the archdiocese since its founding.

Rapisarda is an older member of the ordination class, but he is not the only widowed deacon in the group. Others are James Reinhart of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, who has

been a deacon for 27 years and is a father and grandfather, and D. Mark Hamlet of Austin, Texas, a deacon for 15 years, who was married for 37 years and has six children and 11 grandchildren.

With the permanent diaconate in place for several decades now, the Church is seeing a growing number of priests with deacon fathers, according to the USCCB. More than one-third of the new priests have a relative who is a priest or a religious.

In the Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska, Jerry Wetovick practiced dentistry for 45 years, and Joshua Brown was a firefighter for six years before pursuing the priesthood. In the Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey, Amadito Flores was a sheriff's officer before entering the seminary, and Benjamin Williams served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years.

Nearly one-third of new priests this year were born outside the United States. Lutakome Nsubuga, who is being ordained for the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, traces his vocation back to his native Uganda, where he said his family sacrificed to send him to Catholic boarding schools.

David Price of the Diocese of Colorado Springs was not a Catholic when he felt the call to become a Catholic priest. Others said they had left the Church temporarily, such as Matthew Book of the Archdiocese of Denver. He dropped out of his high school confirmation program and didn't return to his faith until he was 24. James Arwady of Detroit describes himself as a "re-vert" to the Catholic faith.

The entire report can be found at www.usccb.org/vocations/classof2010 or www.ForYourVocation.org.

*Responding
to God's Call*



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.

Facebook: three months in How this new medium is helping to evangelize

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

In recent years more and more hesitant to invest my time in exploring new mediums of communication. Why? Because we barely get accustomed to one means of communication, and overnight, traffic seems to shift to another.

In the music industry, for example, I grew up with changes from record players, to 8-track tapes, to cassettes, and then to CDs. That's about where the industry left me. I just got tired of the changes in technology, and the music industry pretty well left me in the dust a dozen years ago (though radio still works for me, and it's free too).

Given the above example, you might get the right sense that I am not particularly technologically savvy, so when I heard about Facebook, I was not impressed. In addition, I had heard several horror stories from the evening news about teenagers using MySpace, so I was quick to resist a change to a means of communication that was already proving unhealthy for the family and community.

Early last fall I took a look at the means I had been using to advertise for the promotion of vocations to the religious life, using fliers, posters, cards, ads, bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements, etc. These methods were becoming less and less effective, but I did not know why. This downward trend continued

into February of this year. Again, for our Lenten Vocation Discernment Program, there was a sharp drop in attendance from prior years, despite spending about twice as much in advertising. I turned to an advertising agency for help.

I explained our traditional advertising efforts of the past, and asked what they thought we were doing wrong. As explained to me, a dramatic shift in advertising has happened in recent years from people searching for what they want in newspapers and magazines to companies finding their clients where they are in their daily life: on the Internet. In short, because advertisers are going out to reach their potential client, my traditional ways of advertising were becoming less appealing to young people as it appeared too passive and disconnected from their world. What did I need to do? Change! And change I did. I have spoken several times in past articles about the need for the Catholic Church (that means you and I) to take a more active role in our evangelization of teenagers and young adults, as well as in sharing our faith at work. Well, I threw my hat in the ring and decided the Vocations Office was going to be a contender in this battle to catch the ears, eyes, and hearts of our young people. How? I was told I must reach the millennials, the young people, where they are daily, on Facebook.

Hesitant, frustrated, and confused every day for the first month, I was eventually able to see the many advantages of using Facebook, especially as a priest who is called as a pastor to lead his flock to Christ.

What is Facebook? The best analogy I can offer is to say that it is everyone's personal daily newspaper. If you have 200 friends, you may receive messages from half of them on any given day, telling you what is going on in their lives.

We used to call that gossip, but since everybody can see what you write, there's no need to gossip.

But what good is it for a priest? Good question. Every day for the past two months, I have copied a passage from Scripture and made a short reflection to apply it to our daily lives. What's the advantage of this? On any given day of the week, a priest may have from 10 to a hundred people come to Mass, with only a handful of young people in attendance — if any. On the other hand, using Facebook, a priest can reach out to his whole flock every day. I estimate that more than 500 teenagers and young adults read my short posts every day — and another 500 adults my age and older! No, they are not going to Mass during the week, but the Church is connecting with them every single day, so that they will be excited about their faith, live their faith, and attend Mass with more zeal on Sunday.

Although we have a long way to go to connect with more teenagers and young adults using Facebook or other similar media, we have already conducted three events with great success: 30 young men attended the Breakfast at the Cathedral with Bishop Vann on May 15 (we could not have gotten 10 young men together for such an event before Facebook); we had 10 young women visit the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur for a day retreat on May 29; and we have 20 young adults, men and women, attending the Holy Trinity Seminary Vocation Awareness Weekend June 25-27, which is nearly double our number from previous years. Score one for modern technology! You and members of our Church family are welcome to "Facebook me" at Kyle Walterscheid.

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

Icon workshop to be offered in Irving July 12-16

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

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

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

English Cursillo weekends scheduled for Oct. and Nov.

Have you heard about Cursillo or has someone asked you to consider attending a Cursillo Weekend? A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ. Cursillo opens participants to a deeper relationship with Christ.

Separate Cursillo weekends will be held Sept. 30 through Oct. 3 for women and Nov. 4-7 for men. Both weekends will be held at the Fort Worth Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th St. in Fort Worth and these weekends will be presented in English.

Following a Cursillo experience, participants are encouraged to gather in groups on a regular basis to share with others, to pray and to offer one another encouragement. For more information, call Florence Marcucci at (972) 291-6817 or e-mail her at mamarcucci@sbcglobal.net.

Knights of Columbus state golf tournament to be held Sept. 24-26

The Texas State Council and the Arlington Knights of Columbus Council #6269 will host the 36th annual Johnny Lopez Knights of Columbus State Golf Tournament Sept. 24, 25, and 26. The tournament will be held at Pecan Valley Golf Course, 6400 Pecan Valley Dr., Fort Worth. The committee has secured both the River Course and the Hills Course

for the tournament.

The entry fee for the scramble is \$55 per golfer and the entry fee for the individual two-day tournament is \$110 per golfer. Entry fees must accompany the registration form. Entry deadline is Aug. 21 and is limited to 220 entries.

For more information, contact Marshall Webb at marshall6269@aol.com or (817) 460-5586.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



ST. JUDE CWO CELEBRATES YEAR FOR PRIEST — Resa Shipman, (third from the left) Catholic Women's Organization (CWO) president, organized a committee consisting of (left to right) Claudia Livingston, Florence Marcucci, Joleen Rampy, Paulette Uzee, and Barbara Kimmel to plan a special celebration for priests of the East Deanery of Arlington and Mansfield in honor of "Year For Priest." A biographical questionnaire was mailed to all the priests in advance of the dinner and a special program was planned to honor the priests and show appreciation for their dedication.

NTC submission deadline

The *North Texas Catholic* is published once a month. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published.

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

Natural family planning classes to be offered at two locations

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the symptothermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. To register for a course starting Aug. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 Ninth St., Wichita Falls, contact Jacob and Lauren Morath at (940) 544-2515. To register for a course starting Aug. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at Loreto House, 913 Avenue C, Denton, contact Tom and Laura Maisano at (713) 557-1110. Visit www.ccldfw.org for more class dates and information.

Suicide Survivors offers new support groups this summer

Suicide Survivors, is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. New groups are forming this summer.

Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours weekly for eight weeks. Group meetings are facilitated by a mental health professional and a trained survivor. There is no charge for this service. For more information call (817) 698-9955 or e-mail suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org.

Partners in Ministry to present 'Searching for God in our lives'

Partners In Ministry and Spirituality will present "Searching for God in our lives - the 'new' old story," facilitated by Sisters Kay Kolb and Pat Miller, SSND, along with Ray and Christy Szempruch. All are invited to participate in an eight-month program of finding the Spirit of God in Jesus, in prayer, Scripture, the sacraments, revelations of today, and the community of the church. The program is designed for "those who are on a spiritual quest, who see the critical issues of our time, and who are open to explore their own call to discipleship in Jesus," according to program materials.

PIMS will meet one Saturday a month, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., from August through March at St. Andrew's Pastoral Center, 3312 Dryden Drive, Fort Worth. An overnight retreat will be held in April for all participants.

The cost is \$10 per session plus the cost for selected books. Scholarships are available. For more information call (940) 382-3594 or e-mail ministry643@yahoo.com

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 Aug. 6-8 in Fort Worth.

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.

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

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner, Dustin Wilde, earns Eagle Scout Award



Dustin Wilde is the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America.

Dustin's Eagle Scout project was to place head stones on unmarked graves discovered by a ground survey at the Mount Gilead Cemetery in Keller. In 2009 a portion of the cemetery was scanned with a radar that detected approximately 40 unmarked burial sites in the front section of the property. It is possible that these could be the graves of some of Keller's first pioneers from the 1850's when the cemetery and church were established on that site.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat to be offered July 23-25

A Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat for healing following an abortion will be held July 23-25. This retreat provides the tools needed to work through the difficult feelings of grief, guilt, and loss that are common after an abortion.

The weekend is open to women, men, and couples—anyone hurting because of abortion. Come and experience the mercy, forgiveness, and healing love of God in the company of others who understand and have dealt with the same issues.

For more information or to register, call (817) 923-4757. All calls are strictly confidential.

TOBET will host 'boot camp' three Saturday's

TOBET (Theology of the Body Evangelization Team) is hosting an intense study of the Theology of the Body as a "boot camp." The boot camp will be offered three Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 26, July 3 and 10. For more information, contact Monica Ashour at (972) 849-6543 or mashour@tobet.org.

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth to offer vocation retreat Aug. 21

Women interested in knowing about religious life are invited to a Come and See retreat Aug. 21 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The retreat will be held at Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth at 1814 Egyptian Way in Grand Prairie.

To RSVP, contact Sister Mary Paul Haase, CSFN at (972) 642-5191 or (972) 262-5137 ext. 24 by Aug. 18. More information may also be found their Web site at www.nazarethcsfn.org.

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Priests in Residence:

Father Carmen Mele, OP will be in residence at St. George Parish, Fort Worth, effective June 1, while continuing as director of Hispanic Catechesis.

Father Isaac Orozco will be in residence at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Fort Worth, while secretary to Bishop Vann, effective July 1.

Graduate Studies:

Father Jonathan Wallis has been assigned to graduate studies in dogmatic theology at the Gregorian University in Rome and in residence at the Casa Santa Maria of the North American College, effective July 1.

Administrators and Pastors:

Father E. James Hart has been assigned as episcopal vicar for Special Projects, effective Aug. 1, and parochial administrator (priest in charge) of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Keller, effective Aug. 1

Father Richard Flores has been assigned as pastor of St. Peter Parish, Fort Worth, effective Aug. 1

Father Joseph Pemberton has been assigned as rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, effective Aug. 1.

Father Jeff Poirot has been assigned as pastor of Holy Family Parish, Fort Worth, effective Aug. 1.

Father Balaji Boyalla, SAC, has been assigned as parochial administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mineral Wells, and St. Francis of Assisi, Graford, effective Aug. 1.

Father Thomas Kennedy has been assigned as parochial administrator of Holy Angels Parish, Clifton, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Morgan, effective Aug. 1.

Father Fernando Preciado, has been assigned as parochial vicar at St. Michael Parish, Bedford, effective Aug. 1.

Father Amado Vallejo has been assigned as parochial vicar at St. Matthew Parish, Arlington, effective Aug. 1.

Diocesan

Christ the King and Our Lady of Fatima parishioners join together for 2,000 Rosary Rally

By Lisa Pham
Contributing Writer

A large group of the faithful filled the Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs Chapel at Christ the King Church in Fort Worth on May 15 to take part in a 2,000 Rosary Rally in honor of the 93rd anniversary of the Marian apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. Gathering for the first time for this event at Christ the King Church, more than 200 parishioners as well as parishioners from Our Lady of Fatima Church in Fort Worth, both predominantly Vietnamese parishes, began praying at 9 a.m. after the Saturday morning Mass.

A small statue of Our Lady of Fatima wearing a white cloth shroud decorated with shining stones was placed at the center of the chapel. Her hands held a real rosary, and flowers filled the chapel. The parishioners recited Rosaries continuously with only one short break at 3 p.m. to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and pray for sinners and for the ill.

The program also included prayers for Pope Benedict XVI, local clergy, participants and their families, the youth ministry, world peace, unborn children, and peaceful death. These specific prayer requests were added to the beginning of each mystery of the Rosary and at the beginning of each set of 100 Rosaries.

Since it takes at least 10 hours to complete 2,000 Rosaries, some parishioners left early, while others took short breaks for meals before returning. However, the ongoing prayer inside the chapel did not end until 8 p.m.

"I hardly pray the Rosary each day, but today I recited almost 900 Rosaries," said one participant. "I feel peace and blessings. Hallelujah!"

Cung Pham from Oklahoma City penned a special song dedicated to the event.

Christ the King Church hosts four group prayers every weekend. Each group, which has a dedicated traveling statue of Our Lady of Fatima, has more than 100 families. Each week, a different family hosts the prayer group and brings their group statue to their home until the next week. Each prayer group lasts about two hours. The first hour is dedicated to praying the mysteries of the Rosary. The second hour is for socializing or discussing the next week's group or church activities.

One of the prayer groups' leaders, Thai Tran and his wife Buoc, recently experienced God's



Members from Legio Maria group at Christ the King pose for a picture during the 2,000 Rosary Rally held there. Pictured from left to right are: Nbi Le, Thao Nguyen, Duyen Vu, Buoc Tran, Huong Rosa Vu, Lich Le, Peter Dinh (blue shirt), Dat Nguyen, Thai Tran (standing)

personal love for them. After suffering insomnia and night pains from Trigeminal Neuralgia treatment, Buoc found little help from prescription medicines, and she and her husband asked for Mary's intercession by reciting the Rosary during the week their family hosted their group's statue. She recovered shortly afterwards. This experience motivated them to host a 2,000 Rosary Recital in

their home to thank Our Lady of the Rosary and to share the experience with their relatives and friends.

By request, the recitals will be held at the church and are open to the public under the supervision of Christ the King's Legio Maria group, with assistance from the Trans and support from Christ the King pastor Father Louis Ha Pham, CMC.

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Denton ACTS community to sponsor marriage conference

By Juan Guajardo
Editorial Assistant

The diocesan Family Life Office and the Denton ACTS community, along with Denton parishes St. Mark and Immaculate Conception, will host "The two will become one," a marriage conference featuring well-known Catholic speakers Dr. Scott Hahn and Greg and Julie Alexander.

The conference will be held Aug. 28 at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton and will last most of the day. It will feature three talks on marriage by Dr. Hahn and two talks titled "Blessed and Broken" and "How can I serve you better, and what is it that makes you feel loved?" by the Alexanders. The day-long event, expected to draw 1,000 people, will conclude with confession, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a Mass, said Sharon Hess, facilitator of Denton ACTS core team.

"That's a lot to cram in one day, but it's going to be a day packed full," Hess said.

The conference came about through collaboration by the ACTS community and the Family Life Office, which were both initially preparing their own separate marriage workshops. But while Diane

Schwind, diocesan Family Life coordinator, was arranging to get the Alexanders, she heard of Denton ACTS' plan to bring Dr. Hahn. So the two got together to create a larger conference aimed at helping couples enjoy a "happy, holy marriage."

"I hope they take away a better understanding of the sacrament of marriage," Schwind said. "You know, our society seems to think that marriage is the next step in a relationship after you've been together for a certain amount of time. But the sacrament of marriage is a sacrament. It is a vocation. And I hope they take that understanding of, 'Wow! We have something very beautiful and very important here. This isn't just a contract. It's a covenant.' And I also hope they take away some ideas of how to live that out, how to help them in the day-to-day life of marriage..."

Thus the conference title, "The two will become one," she said.

"The Ephesians 5 passage that Paul writes ... gives such a perfect layout of what marriage is supposed to be, the roles of husband and the roles of wife and how the two are to become one," Schwind explained.

Scott Hahn is a world-renowned



Dr. Scott Hahn



Julie and Greg Alexander

speaker and apologist who has delivered several talks on faith and Scripture topics. He has also authored many bestselling books, including *The Lamb's Supper* and *Reasons to Believe*. A professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, he has taught there since 1990. Once a Protestant minister, he and his wife, Kimberly, are converts to Catholicism. Their book *Rome Sweet Home* describes their conversion process.

Greg and Julie Alexander were close to divorce due to living a materialistic and selfish life in tune with the views of society, but, according to their Web site www.thealexanderhouse.org, when they went to a priest, prayed together and invited God back into their lives, they saved their marriage. They then went on to establish The Alexander House, an apostolate dedicated to saving marriages, enriching family life, and reducing

divorce. On their Web site, they state they have helped about 900 couples save their marriages.

"Several of the men on the [ACTS community's core] team had heard Dr. Scott Hahn and he had really moved them and inspired them in a lot of ways," Schwind said. "I have personally worked with Greg and Julie Alexander and their ministry is specifically marriage. I've worked with them and heard them speak a few times... they're a very good [team]... and they're very relational, and very practical."

All married couples are invited, but so are engaged and seriously dating couples, Schwind said.

Registration is available online at www.dentonacts.org/marriageconference2010. The cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch. After July 31, the cost is \$25 per person. The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church at 2255 N. Bonnie Brae St. in Denton, and concludes at 5 p.m. with a Mass.

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Nazareth Retreat Center in Grand Prairie, TX is offering a 12-day pilgrimage to Central Europe that will visit Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. The \$3,210 cost includes round-trip airfare from Dallas-Ft. Worth to Chicago, then to Warsaw, Poland; land package and taxes. *Please note:* Air transportation can be arranged from any city. Sister Edyta Krawczyk, CSFN, will be leading the pilgrimage; a priest will serve as spiritual director and offer daily Mass for the pilgrims. The pilgrims will connect with local guides in each country. For information and a brochure, contact Sr. Edyta at (972) 641-4496 or sedytak@yahoo.com; or contact the tour company at (800) 566-7499 or sales@georgesintl.com.



"The two will become one"
Ephesians 5:31



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Greg & Julie Alexander

August 28, 2010

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Diocesan

Sacred Heart students raise money to support Our Mother of Mercy School

During the 2009 football season, the students at Sacred Heart School in Muenster had the opportunity to dress in spirit clothes every Friday, but there was a catch. In order to dress out, the students had to pay one dollar.

All of the money that was raised was given to Our Mother of Mercy School in Fort Worth. Our Mother of Mercy is a school in need of financial support, and the students were happy that they could help.

On Wednesday, May 5, the Sacred Heart senior class traveled to Fort Worth for this year's Senior Service Day, held at Our Mother of Mercy. The seniors helped out by organizing a storage room and putting books away in the library. They also took a tour of the school and interacted with many of the young students.

"It was a humbling experience that showed me the importance of helping those in need," said Sacred Heart senior Kevin Kulle.



Seniors from Sacred Heart School in Muenster pose with students from Our Mother of Mercy School in Fort Worth during Sacred Heart's Senior Service day held at OMM. During the football season, Sacred Heart students collected money to donate to OMM.

The seniors felt this was a great experience for them, and many said they were glad that they could make a difference in these young students' lives.

"It was definitely a worthwhile trip, and I loved having the opportunity to serve," said Sacred Heart senior John Krawietz.

Cindy Cummins named new principal of St. Peter School

Dr. Cindy Cummins has been named principal of St. Peter the Apostle School in White Settlement for the 2010-11 school year. She succeeds Erin Vader who had been principal since 2005.

Cummins has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Oklahoma, master's degrees from Southern Methodist University and Texas A&M University at Commerce, and a doctorate in educational supervision and curriculum from Texas A&M-Commerce.

Since 2003, she has served as the principal of St. John the Apostle School in North Richland Hills. Prior to that, as a veteran Catholic school educator, Cummins had been an assistant principal at Christ the King School in Dallas, an administrative intern at



Dr. Cindy Cummins

Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas and taught in numerous Catholic schools in Oklahoma and Texas.

A native of Oklahoma City, Cummins and her husband Don are the parents of three adult children.

Her formal duties at St. Peter will begin on July 1.

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New facility at St. George School dedicated at Mass



LEFT: The newest addition to St. George School houses a new gymnasium and additional classroom space for science labs, music, art, and the library.

BELOW: The new fitness playground encourages exercise because its use requires children to engage in physical activity.



New addition houses gym, library, and classroom space for music, art, and science labs

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Students and supporters of St. George School gathered on a sunny, spring Sunday morning to dedicate a new addition to the Hudgins Street campus, but one familiar face was missing from celebration.

William Pilcher, the school's maintenance man for seven years, was too ill to attend the May 23 ceremony. He died the following day.

A talented carpenter and electrician, Mr. Pilcher spent years gathering information for the building project. Though in failing health, the devoted school employee was able to visit St. George to see the completed addition.

"He worked very hard during the planning of this building and I know his heart was with us at the dedication," said Principal Olga Ferris. "The students dedicated their yearbook to him because of all he did for the school."

The extra space provided by new construction will make working on school projects, like the yearbook, easier. Completed in December 2009, the \$1.5 million extension to the existing building includes a new gym and a science, art,

and music room. Students are also enjoying a combination media, library, and computer center.

"It's definitely helped the teaching process," Ferris said. "The children and teachers are excited. We've been planning this 10 years and it's finally here."

Money for the project came from parish donations, fundraising, grants from the Kenedy and Amon Carter Foundations and the Diocese of Fort Worth's *All Things Possible* campaign.

Peter Flynn, director of finance and administrative services, said the diocese's contribution to the building fund underscores Bishop Kevin Vann's commitment to Catholic education in the center city.

"St. George is one of the projects that compelled us to move the (*All Things Possible*) campaign forward," he explained.

The improvements were necessary and in the planning stages for a long time. "They needed to get done," Flynn continued. "The campaign has been successful thanks to people who are supporting these efforts in difficult economic times."

Funds from the diocesan appeal, formerly known as "Sharing in Ministry," provided new computers for the media center. A large library desk purchased at an auction for \$5, square tables sold by the government as federal surplus and new chairs create an invit-

ing place for students to study or browse the school's inventory of 15,000 books.

"The only thing not done is the gym floor," added Ferris who expects installation to be complete by the beginning of the new school year. "It will be nice to host basketball and volleyball games and have a real concession stand."

Bishop Vann concelebrated the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass with St. George pastor Father Thu Nguyen before walking over to the adjacent school to bless the new addition. Students, dressed in their blue plaid jumpers and uniform shirts, watched as the bishop sprinkled holy water and recited prayers dedicating the space.

Fr. Nguyen said the music, art, and science classroom will give children the room to explore their talents and the availability of a gym will benefit the larger St. George community as well as the school.

"We now have the space to hold retreats, special Masses, and other functions," the pastor said.

He's also hopeful the improvements will attract more students to the school, which boasts an equal mix of Hispanic, Anglo, and Asian youngsters.

"St. George offers a unique multi-cultural experience," Fr. Nguyen added. "The mission of our school is to provide a Catholic education to children and I hope more parents take advantage of that."

Special Collection: The Church in Eastern Europe

Parish Name	Parish Location	Eastern Europe Feb 2009	Eastern Europe Feb 2010
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	111.00	624.46
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	0.00	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	1,238.00	2,637.10
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	1,970.09	1,127.75
St. Joseph	Arlington	4,748.80	2,245.04
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,147.00	1,115.50
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	100.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	2,609.00	780.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	819.00	937.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,200.00	1,565.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	1,086.00	885.00
St. Michael	Bedford	7,309.92	6,943.17
St. Jerome	Bowie	70.00	25.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	281.82	0.00
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	845.41	297.00
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	508.00	65.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,904.00	2,047.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	4,536.00	4,244.50
Holy Rosary	Cisco	453.66	184.52
St. Joseph	Cleburne	1,233.67	779.50
Holy Angels	Clifton	70.00	297.10
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	3,505.75	5,583.18
Holy Cross	The Colony	1,631.66	961.40
Sacred Heart	Comanche	212.00	497.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	39.00	0.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	1,634.98	568.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	114.00	35.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	4,221.37	4,813.50
St. Mark	Denton	3,547.03	1,612.00
St. Mary	Dublin	391.00	152.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	338.00	204.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	897.75	975.72
Christ the King	Fort Worth	536.00	393.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	3,214.00	2,896.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	502.00	285.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	3,729.00	519.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	859.11	697.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	3,514.97	3,094.43
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	175.00	219.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	446.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	1,677.51	5,464.83
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	2,251.42	1,689.00
St. George	Fort Worth	653.61	510.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,084.00	677.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	195.00	329.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	624.70	646.48
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	80.00	470.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	968.93	958.48
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,185.92	1,532.31
St. Mary	Gainesville	178.00	58.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	587.53	360.73
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	1,227.03	874.12
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	209.00	191.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	0.00	3,204.34
St. Mary	Henrietta	25.00	120.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	1,088.25	1,270.15
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	167.95	77.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	1,901.00	1,863.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	458.59	258.40
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,817.80	1,248.75
St. Peter	Lindsay	850.00	40.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	0.00	0.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	106.60	0.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	1,601.66	797.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	202.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	55.00	229.52
Sacred Heart	Muenster	1,889.80	1,492.70
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	360.65	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	59.88	184.00
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St. Mary	Quanah	288.00	0.00
St. Rita	Ranger	84.00	127.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	508.22	345.27
St. Boniface	Scotland	73.00	26.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	568.00	394.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	122.00	157.00
St. John	Strawn	178.00	201.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	749.00	0.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	2,073.00	0.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	555.00	526.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	607.00	373.00
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	497.00	477.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	2,082.00	1,675.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	302.60	300.63

93,702.02 80,496.22

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

Diocesan

In its fifth year, St. Patrick Cathedral's Corpus Christi celebration takes participants out into the street to

Share the gift of the Holy Eucharist with the world

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

Corpus Christi feast celebrations are an ancient tradition, dating back to the mid-13th century. But Michael Fronk, St. Patrick Cathedral sacristan, remembers the processions from his childhood in Oregon. He participated in the tradition in Mount Angel, where his grandparents lived and his parents had grown up.

Now, for the past five years, Fronk has had the pleasure of experiencing Corpus Christi events in downtown Fort Worth, where the processions emerged locally in 2006, at the end of the year of the Eucharist. The celebration also coincided with the end of Bishop Kevin Vann's first year in the diocese.

"They wanted to do something to mark the occasion," Fronk said, "and I thought of the Eucharistic Procession. It reminded me of my childhood."

Approximately 600 people yearly attend Fort Worth's Corpus Christi event which this year began Sunday June 6 with a noon Mass at the cathedral. It was followed by an outdoor procession with singing, and Eucharistic adoration, and ended with Benediction in the church. Before the cathedral rediscovered the tradition, Lindsay's St. Peter Parish had been hosting Corpus Christi processions for a number of years, Fronk said.

"I carry an image of this day with me, of this Eucharistic procession," Bishop Vann said, "from when I was a graduate



priest in Rome. We used to do the Corpus Christi procession in the city of Rome, from the Basilica of St. John Lateran, which is a cathedral where Pope John Paul II would begin with Mass, and wind down a long busy street, the *Via Merulana*, ending at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, where he would give Benediction."

The bishop explained the *Via Merulana* is a busy street lined on both sides with shops and apartments. "It is down this big, busy street in Rome, where so much life is, that this Eucharistic procession would go, with the Holy Father carrying the Blessed Sacrament.

"And the times I was able to be in that procession, whole families would be leaning out the windows of their apartment buildings to catch a glimpse of that procession. There would be flowers and candles, and people would be hanging out of the windows of their apartments, to give honor to the Eucharistic Lord as he passed by.

"It became an image for me," Bishop Vann said, "something that I carry with me, of life itself, and life itself that is not far from God, where God dwells in our midst. Just as the Eucharistic Christ was carried in the lives of all those people in Rome on the *Via Merulana*, so too is he with us."

When he was a child, Fronk said, "For that day it seemed the whole town was centered around the Holy Eucharist. The whole day of festivity made an impres-

sion on me, that for that one day our Lord in the Eucharist was the center of our faith and our lives.

"And we wanted the whole world to know it and see it."




TOP: Fr. Richard Flores, St. Patrick rector, and participants kneel in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

LEFT: Fr. Flores leads a large crowd as he carries the Holy Eucharist in a monstrance through the streets of downtown Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann, driven by sacristan Micheal Fronk, followed in a golf cart since he is still recovering from knee surgery.



A participant holds a candle during the the Corpus Christi Mass. After the Mass and procession, participants came back into the cathedral for benediction.



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Diocesan

1,400 men and women from around the diocese gather for a weekend to give praise to God and

Renew their faith

Story by Liliana Vargas
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

For María Galván, renewing her faith is an act of great spiritual importance.

For a second year, she decided to attend the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Congress, so that she might move closer to God.

"I came because I participated last year, I liked it very much, and I decided to return and experience an encounter with God to renew my faith," said Galván, who is involved in a prayer group at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine.

Galván, 31, was one of a total of 1,400 parishioners who went to the event that took place from June 12-13, in the gymnasium at Nolan High School.

This is the third year this organized event has managed to unite people of different churches within the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"We organize this congress because the necessity exists (of doing it), and because it has had great success within the Spanish community; they come to have an encounter with God, and they return to their parishes feeling renewed," said Andrés Aranda, diocesan delegate for Hispanic Ministries.

Aranda mentioned that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Congress, whose theme was "Jesus' love heals my heart," has become so successful that he could organize something similar in the rural areas of the diocese.

During the conference that began on Saturday morning,



(L-R) Fr. Valdemar Gonzalez, who visited from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, Dcn. Martin Garcia and Fr. Ángel Infante from All Saints in Fort Worth, and Dcn. Carlos Frias from St. Stephen in Weatherford, pray during Mass at the retreat. Almost 1,400 men and women attended the third annual retreat hosted by the diocese.

hundreds of people of varying ages heard the anticipated blessing from Bishop Kevin Vann, who, in Spanish, expressed his happiness at being part of this diocese.

"Your presence is a sign of many blessings; you are my family," said Bishop Vann, who added that his vocation has been strengthened during these last five years that he's led the diocese.

The bishop commented that he would like to see the number of participants increase each year.

After giving his blessing he left, since he had other pending commitments.

Father Ángel Infante celebrated the welcoming Mass and spoke of the journey the Virgin Mary made to Jerusalem, next to St. Joseph of Nazareth, when they realized that their son, Jesus, had not traveled back with them to Nazareth but had stayed in the temple, where they found him.

"Just as they traveled, today you have had to travel from your homes to find yourselves here, with Jesus, inside a temple," said Fr. Infante.

During the conference, people had a chance to pray, sing, and dance, all in the praise of God.

In addition to the Mass, the participants attentively listened to Saturday's guest speaker, Roberto Ramírez.

"The encounter with Christ should be something frequent, constant," Ramírez said. He mentioned that when he was 14, he was addicted to drugs, and he even came to live in the streets of his native Dominican Republic, but his faith in God rescued him from drugs.

According to Ramírez, he found a prayer group in his country that helped him change his life, and now he dedicates himself to retelling his story and motivating others

to come closer to religion.

He told the people that when they feel broken, they should think of their faith in God.

"God doesn't care how low you have fallen, but how high he can pull you up," said Ramírez.

Galván, filled with emotion,



Bishop Kevin Vann greets participants at the start of the retreat and also gives them his blessing.

applauded with the rest of the participants when she heard the speaker's message.

"He's right; our encounter with God should be constant," said Galván.

The event concluded with Mass on Sunday, June 13.



Men and women listen to the Mass concluding the Charismatic Renewal Congress June 12 and 13 at Nolan Catholic High School. This was the third annual retreat.

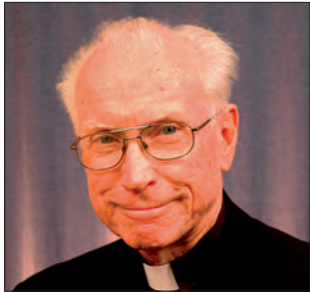


A retreat participant prays after receiving Communion.

Diocesan

The Gift of Priesthood

Priests of the North Deanery share their experiences



Monsignor Charles King, PA
Parish: Immaculate Conception, Denton
Other: Dean of the North Deanery
Ordained: December 16, 1956

Q. How have you experienced the gift of priesthood?

A. For me, the gift of priesthood is representing God to His people and interceding for His people before the Lord. I've witnessed the Lord in the celebration of the sacraments. I've experienced the priesthood by ministering. I became a priest because I wanted to work with people. In high school, I saw that there were many jobs in which I could work with people, but priests seemed to do it best.

Q. What part does the celebration of the Eucharist play in your fulfillment as a priest?

A. Being a pastor and working with people has always been the joy of my life. I had a funeral this afternoon. Many of those there (at this or any funeral) are not Catholic. One of the richest experiences I have is to preach the Good News of Christ's life, death and resurrection. Death is not the end of life—it's the doorway—the gateway through which we pass. I'd like to think something I say would sow a seed that sprouts up and starts a faith commitment or renews one. There are so many fallen away Catholics out there and so many times the only time they come to Mass is at funerals or weddings.

Editor's Note: This is the second in an ongoing series featuring priests from the different deaneries in the diocese sharing about aspects of their ministry. Interviews were compiled by Jenara Kock Burgess



Father Victor Cruz, HGN
Parish: Immaculate Conception, Denton
Other: Campus Ministry
Ordained: January 3, 2001

Q. How does your interaction with God's people make your priesthood more rewarding?

A. It is a great reward. We are learning from the people. We are receiving from the people through reconciliation and the celebration of the other sacraments. Because they come with pain, we are called to see the sufferings of Christ in them and to give Christ to them.

Q. What are you most grateful for as a priest?

A. I am grateful that I can bring Christ to the people in the Eucharist. Through Him, with Him and in Him, the Lord is present. Through Christ, I can bring everyone together as one family. It is not social work, but by celebrating the Eucharist that I commune with the people.



Father Sojan George, HGN
Parishes: St. John the Baptizer, Bridgeport; Assumption the of Blessed Virgin Mary, Decatur; St. Mary, Jacksboro
Ordained: January 1, 2000

Q. What are you most grateful for as a priest?

A. Grateful for the joy that comes through serving the Lord and the opportunity to bring Christ's presence to others through the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

Q. How can God's people better support their priests?

A. By remembering to pray for them daily.



Father Raymond McDaniel
Parish: St. Peter, Lindsay
Ordained: July 7, 2007

Q. What do you believe you are accomplishing through your priestly ministry?

A. The most important thing a priest can accomplish is to affect an encounter between Jesus Christ and His people particularly in the sacraments. Again, it's that bridge or link of the people with God. It's that encounter that heals, saves and forgives, and the priest is an integral part of that meeting between God and man.

Q. What are you most grateful for as a priest?

A. I am most grateful for my vocation. I believe it was the reason I was given life in the first place. It shows that God is interested in someone as weak and sinful as me, and He calls me to do things for the sake of His kingdom. The understanding of priesthood as a vocation is an even deeper gift than the personality or physical characteristics of a person. It shows His (God's) personal interest in a way.



Father James Flynn
Parish: St. Thomas Aquinas, Pilot Point
Ordained: May 13, 2006

Q. How have you experienced the gift of priesthood?

A. In just celebrating the sacraments, preaching, in the Mass and being with people during the happiest times of their lives in marriage and baptism or in those sad times when they experience the death of a loved one, friend, or relative.

Q. What part does the celebration of the Eucharist play in your fulfillment as a priest?

A. The celebration of the Eucharist plays every part. It's integrally tied to the priesthood. Without it, there is no priesthood. It's bringing Christ not in signs or symbols, but in reality. If they could just find Christ in the Eucharist, the world would be a better place.



Father Ken Robinson
Parish: Sacred Heart, Muenster
Ordained: May 16, 1992

Q. How does your interaction with God's people make your priesthood more rewarding?

A. It allows me to see God's love in action. That's what I'm supposed to do as a priest—God's work. When I see that love and ministry in action, it supports my priesthood.

Q. What do you believe you are accomplishing through your priestly ministry?

A. I suppose what I am supposed to be accomplishing is modeling Christ for others to follow. I don't think you'll change their minds by telling them. Through our (priests') own relationship with Christ, we are modeling Christian values. We lead by example—not by talking. After a homily, someone might come up to me and say, "You were speaking directly to me." And I would say, "I was talking to me but if it happens to be a benefit to you, wonderful."



Father James Pemberton
Parish: St. Mary, Gainesville
Ordained: May 21, 2005

Q. How do you find Christ's presence in your parishioners?

A. I find a special presence of Christ in my parishioners through the ACTS retreats program. They are on fire with Christ's spirit and eager to be involved in parish ministry. Since we have the (ACTS) program for both the Anglo and Hispanic community, it does bring us together more as a family.

Q. What do you most want to see happen in the lives of those you serve?

A. I most want to see me being an effective instrument of Christ's grace in their lives.



Father Timothy Thompson

Parish: St. Mark, Denton
Other: Judicial Vicar
Ordained: July 16, 1982

Q. What do you most desire to convey to your parishioners or others you serve?

A. God loves them, and it is okay to trust—although that is one I'm working on myself.

Q. How do you nourish your relationship with God?

A. Spending time in prayer each day is important, and participating in Mass is important. As a priest, it shouldn't be about just directing the Mass but participating in it. Going on retreat is important as well as sharing my faith with other people in faith-sharing groups. It just supports me in my faith by seeing the witness of other people in their faith. It's love God and love your neighbor for your own benefit also.



Father J. Michael Holmberg
Parish: Holy Cross, The Colony
Ordained: April 28, 1973

Q. What do you most desire to convey to your parishioners or others you serve?

A. That we are stewards of the gifts God has given us.

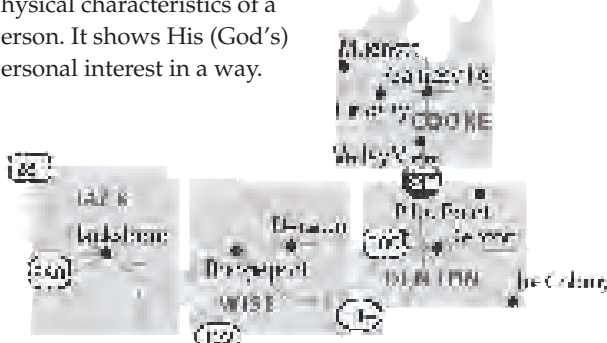
Q. How do you nourish your relationship with God?

A. Dedicated daily time for prayer and meditation.

Q. How do you find Christ's presence in your parishioners?

A. Through the sharing of their lives.

NORTH DEANERY



Viewpoints

The Vatican's treasures can't be sold, because to us, they are priceless

By David Mills

The line stretched about a hundred feet in front of me and around the corner, which, as I was to find out, was still 200 yards from the door. The people around me were the kind of people you might see walking around the city on a Saturday, or at Mass.

I was blessed to have a couple of days in Rome and stood in line to see the Vatican Museum. It is an amazing place. You have to walk for about twenty minutes, through some of the world's greatest and most famous art works, just to get to the Sistine Chapel at the end. The chapel itself is amazing, of course, with Michelangelo's famous ceiling as beautiful and overwhelming as I'd always heard.

Some people insist the Church should sell all that art and all those beautiful buildings, and use the money to feed the poor. Every few years this idea becomes the media's Deep Thought of the day, and journalists treat it as a serious question, until another Deep Thought comes

along. We endured one of those episodes just a few months ago, when a comedian declared "Sell the Vatican, feed the world" on YouTube and various columnists and web writers agreed that this is just what the Church should do.

You can see why they would say that. The Church tells us we should care for the poor. We need money to do that. The Church has lots of property that must be worth a fabulous amount of money. Why should people starve just so the Vatican can keep Michelangelo's ceiling, and Raphael's ceilings in the old papal apartments, and Leonardo's portrait of St. Jerome, and all the other art?

Writing in *Lay Witness* magazine, an artist named Michael Schrauzer pointed out that the idea is kind of dumb. How in the world would you sell the Vatican anyway? Who's going to buy St. Peter's Basilica? Who would buy the art works other than the rich, if even they could afford them? As Schrauzer noted, "Great historic buildings and priceless artifacts are effectively unsalable — that is what makes them 'priceless.'"

Besides (this is me, not Schrauzer), even if the rich bought the art, they'd probably hide it in their private collections, so people like us couldn't see it anymore. The Vatican spends a lot of money maintaining the world's artistic and historic heritage for everyone, not just Catholics.

Even if the Church could sell most of its assets, the money wouldn't do much, Schrauzer continued. Whatever the Vatican is worth, selling it won't feed the

Sinners tend to wreck whatever they touch. But only something divinely guided and empowered would have survived everything its members have done to it, much less shown that amazing ability for renewal and revival that marks the Church's history.

hungry for very long (a year or eighteen months, maybe, he guessed), and once the money's gone, it's gone.

There's one more problem with the idea. "Those who push this scheme onto the Church typically neglect to ask the same of other institutions or groups," he wrote. "Why shouldn't the Greeks be re-

quired to sell the Parthenon? What good does the *Mona Lisa* do for the French or a malnourished child in a developing country? How much healthcare could the United States provide by hawking the White House or the Smithsonian?"

That's a good question. Not one the columnist telling the Church to sell what she has and give away the money is likely to see, of course, but a good one. If the Vatican must sell its possessions, everyone else must do as well. Fair's fair.

In fact, this kind of question is one you might try to ask when someone criticizes the Church for not doing something he thinks she should do. The Church's critics sometimes use the fact that she has such high standards to treat her with a double standard, and we shouldn't let them get away with it.

Find a worldly parallel and point out that if the Church should do this, it should too. If the person criticizing the Church starts explaining why it shouldn't — why the Greeks should keep the Parthenon, say — you'll probably find that most of his reasons apply to the Church as well, and this you can point out to him. You might not convince him, but you might at least show him that the Church cannot be condemned as easily as he thought. And that's a start to showing him what the Church has given the world, even in her real estate.

David Mills is author of *DISCOVERING MARY* and deputy editor of *FIRST THINGS*. He can be reached at catholicsense@gmail.com. *LAY WITNESS* is published by Catholics United for the Faith (www.cuf.org).

The Gospel of Life also calls us to care for creation

By Fr. John S. Rausch

The pictures of oil encrusted seagulls and cranes from the Gulf of Mexico glimpse only the surface of the death and destruction beneath the sea from the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill. Marine biologists fear for shrimp, oysters, crabs, and untold varieties of fish endangered by the oil assault on the fragile ecosystem. The wetlands of Louisiana, a critical spawning ground for many species, present the next worry.

Our addiction to oil keeps 7,000 oil platforms with 35,000 wells in the Gulf pumping crude to fuel our lifestyle of mobility and convenience. Yet, federal statistics reveal 172 spills of more than 2,100 gallons in the Gulf over the last decade. The effects of the Exxon Valdez spill still linger in the coastal habitat two decades later along the Alaskan shoreline. Our petroleum economy with its drilling, shipping, refining, and burning oil is killing the planet locally with poisoned water and air and globally with accelerated climate

change.

While secular publications raise the issues of economic impact and legal liability, people of faith are reflecting on phrases like "common good," "solidarity," and "care of creation." The National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC) issued a statement encouraging people of faith to "ask for the wisdom to live in harmony with God's plan and the courage to serve as stewards of God's creation." The statement implies our ordinary economic ways disregard God's plan, especially when rural residents and the environment pay the price. (Disclosure: as a board member, I contributed to the statement.)

Carelessly we ignored essential moral principles and consequently invited disaster. All workers have a right to a safe workplace, yet we complacently allow workers to risk their lives to supply our energy from oil rigs and coal mines. Eleven men died in the Gulf rig explosion when only two weeks before 29 miners died in West Virginia's Upper Big Branch Mine. The global economy demands productivity

and profits, producing a corporate culture that occasions short-cuts and negligence. Regulations go unenforced and workers give their lives for a paycheck. Bishop Michael Bransfield of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese in his pastoral letter, "On My Holy Mountain," asks: "Why is it safer to travel in space than to work in a West Virginia mine?"

Extractive industries, now virtually controlled by giant corporations, operate for the enrichment of their stockholders. With a "least cost" incentive, frequently their methods reduce the rural area to a sacrificial resource colony. In the Gulf those whose livelihoods revolve around fishing or tourism just got sacrificed. In Appalachia community people whose lives and well-being depend on their well water and forests just lost to mountaintop removal.

Care of creation comes directly from the Book of Genesis when God put humanity in the garden "to care and cultivate it" (*Gen. 2:15*). God's garden, i.e. creation, needs attention because it possesses inherent worth.

God found it "very good" (*Gen. 1:31*), and not just "useful."

The NCRLC statement recommends that "we reflect about our own lifestyles that make undue demands on nature." The U.S. with 4.5 percent of the world's population uses 33 percent of all electricity generated each year and consumes 42 percent of gasoline refined. How many vacant parking lots are illuminated all night, and how many computers are on "sleep mode" all weekend?

"In these days of anxiety, we encourage people of faith to assemble for prayer and sharing," says the NCRLC statement. The Gulf folks need one another's support, but the whole Church needs to ratchet up care of creation to a higher ranking in the Gospel of Life.



Father John S. Rausch is a member of the Glenmary Home Missioners and director of the Office of Peace and Justice for the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky.

Promoting Women's Health

Beyond the Fine Print

By Mary E. McClusky

Today we are rightly concerned about damage to women and children from environmental toxins, yet many ignore the health risks and consequences of flooding a woman's body with hormones from the birth control pill or chemical abortions.

As advocates of so-called "reproductive health services" celebrate the 50th anniversary of the pill, and the new law allowing federally subsidized health plans to treat abortion as "health care," it's time again to break through the catch phrases and examine the fine print. Doing so reveals the unpleasant truth that advocates of contraception and abortion frequently undermine women's health by trading their consciences for cash registers.

Why else would Planned Parenthood recently reveal plans to implement "tele-med" abortions in all its clinics by 2015? Implemented in Iowa two years ago, "tele-med" abortions allow doctors to forgo a physical exam, counsel pregnant women by teleconference, and press a button to remotely dispense the deadly concoction RU-486. The woman completes the abortion alone at home. Not only does the drug cause the death of the woman's unborn child, the FDA reports complications from at least a thousand women. Even Exelgyn, the drug's maker, reports that 29 women have died worldwide. Yet Planned Parenthood wants to increase profits by killing more children, endangering women's lives, and potentially violating state laws.

Catholic teaching calls on medical professionals to consider fertility as the healthy, natural, God-given state of a woman's body in her child-bearing years, and to treat a pregnant woman and her unborn child equally as patients.

Makers of the new abortifacient drug ulipristal (ellaOne) are currently pushing the FDA to approve it for over-the-counter use as abortion advocates deceptively promote the drug as just another contraceptive "morning-after pill." Ulipristal is actually a derivative from the abortion drug RU-486. A group of pro-life obstetrician-gynecologists has filed testimony to block its approval.

Product information from the recently-developed contraceptive product "Essure" reveals contradictory information and physical risks and problems not mentioned in the slick new ad campaign. Wire coils are inserted into the fallopian tubes through the cervix, expanding and causing tissue to grow around them over the next three months. Flaunted in ads as "permanent," the fine print reveals that "you can become pregnant even years after the Essure micro-inserts are placed" and "very little is known about how well the Essure micro-inserts work beyond the first 5 years." Only two clinical trials have been conducted involving 745 women. Thirty percent of them experienced cramping, 13 percent pain, 11 percent nausea/vomiting, 9 percent dizziness/lightheadedness, and 7 percent bleeding/spotting. The inserts can get in the way of reading MRIs, making nearby organs harder to see. In fact, any pelvic

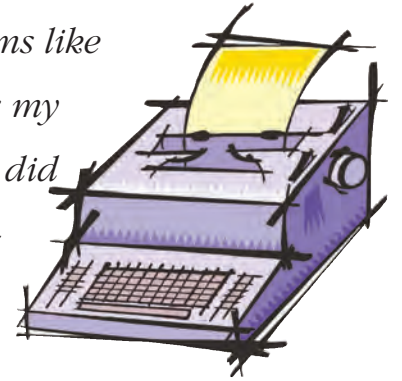
procedure near the inserts could cause complications.

Catholic teaching calls on medical professionals to consider fertility as the healthy, natural, God-given state of a woman's body in her child-bearing years, and to treat a pregnant woman and her unborn child equally as patients. Critics incorrectly argue that the Catholic Church just wants to oppress women. On the contrary, the Church has a long history and a vast array of teaching documents exalting the unique gifts and contributions of women, denounces their exploitation for profit, and calls for "a renewed commitment by all to the well-being of all the world's women" (Pope John Paul II, "Address to the International Meeting on Promoting the Well-Being of Women," 1996).

May both men and women alike respond to this call by educating themselves on the risks to both body and soul of contraception and abortion, and opening themselves to God's plan for love, life, and marriage. Let all Catholics pray for increased respect for the bodily integrity of women and their gift of fertility and motherhood.

Mary McClusky is Special Projects Coordinator at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to www.usccb.org/prolife.

God doesn't (typically) speak to us in such obvious forms like typing a letter, as my mind thought he did in a state of half-sleep; He's more subtle, and we have to find ways to



Listen to his voice

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Based on the habits of intelligent and good people, I guess the best way to fall asleep is to read a solid, intellectually stimulating or spiritually uplifting book.

If I were a person who fell asleep with books, I would definitely do that, just so I could steer lunchtime conversations to late-night reading preferences. "What are you reading right now," my girlfriends could say, and I could answer, "I'm revisiting the classics," or, "I read anything by C.S. Lewis." I might even add, "But this time of year I always go back to Jane Austen."

Something like that.

But I don't fall asleep with books, because the ones I like require sunlight and a porch swing. And sometimes a guard dog.

For some of us, reading at sleep-time is not a workable option. Not falling-asleep-able.

Maybe that's why people used to fall asleep to the low-stress *Tonight Show*, with Johnny Carson. I never watched the Carson show all the way through, in fact, until college I didn't know it had an ending. I thought it went on until morning, when perhaps they would broadcast a sort of "test-pattern" image accompanied by the sound of a rooster call.

Some people relax and sleep while watching TV — late-night news or *Seinfeld* re-runs — but for me it must be a previously viewed DVD, programmed to turn itself off. It's the perfect "white noise," especially if it's a movie I've seen at least 100 times. It doesn't take long for me to get to the 100th time either, because every single night I fall asleep in the first four minutes.

Sleep-inducing systems have one purpose: to erase thoughts of things to do, deadlines to meet; to avoid stress and worry. So, at bedtime, I turn the light off and the DVD player on.

But late last night, around 3 a.m., I awoke hearing no sound except this: "click-click shhh, click-click shhh, click-click shhh." In my sleep it sounded like a typewriter.

"Nah, it can't be a typewriter. Maybe it's my computer."

Something shutting down, something turning off... something printing... "Is that the printer?" All these things went through my mind, that was, remember, still asleep.

"The 'click-click shhh' really does sounds like a type-

SEE HAMER, P. 26

Three men's varied backgrounds bring them to the transitional diaconate and The start of a new journey

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

Three men were ordained to the diaconate last month, and that liturgy, celebrated on the feast of the Visitation of Mary, emphasized similarities among their routes to Holy Orders.

"Each of your journeys was different," Bishop Kevin Vann told the men. "And it is on this day, the feast of the Visitation of Elizabeth, that your journeys end, and you will say yes, giving your lives to the Lord in service as a deacon."

One of the new deacons had traveled from the Methodist faith to Anglican, and then Catholic. "I have been confirmed three times!" Philip David Petta said. "I converted to Catholicism eight years ago. And it was the best decision I ever made in my life."

One man had moved from a successful business career in Kansas, ending up in a seminary in Texas. Richard Ward Kirkham was single and working 12 to 14 hours a day, he said, when he realized his parish offered 6:30 a.m. daily Masses, and started attending. "I realized all work and no time for prayer was beginning to make me a dull boy."

The third man crossed the Pacific Ocean — on a small boat — to get to the Diocese of Fort Worth. "August 15, 1982, I went to Mass in the morning," Khiem Van Nguyen said, "and that night I escaped and was free from Vietnam. On the ocean, I talked to Heavenly Mother that I would become a priest if I might come to America."

None of the paths were completely smooth, and neither was that of Mary the mother of God, Bishop Vann said, when she crossed hills and valleys to get to her cousin Elizabeth's home.

The diaconate ordination took place at Deacon Petta's longtime parish, St. Mary of the Assumption, where he was a parishioner when he discerned his calling to the priesthood. St. Mary pastoral administrator Father David Bristow became his spiritual director and friend.

"We share the vice of reading so we would talk about books. One day I told him, 'I think I have a vocation to the priesthood.' He encouraged me and helped me every way he could through the



Bishop Kevin Vann performs the imposition of hands as he ordains Khiem Van Nguyen, Richard Kirkham, and Philip David Petta to the transitional diaconate.

whole process."

But that wasn't Dcn. Petta's first "call." "I knew I was supposed to be a Roman Catholic priest before I was a Catholic," he said.

He was in Phoenix working for an insurance company, and one day saw a TV program about the Church. "Suddenly I had the conviction that someone was telling me I needed to be a priest, and not Anglican, but Roman Catholic. I dismissed it as my imagination.

"But I was between jobs and wanting to get back to Fort Worth. So that night I prayed — and I wasn't much into prayer then.

"A few days later a friend in Fort Worth called and said 'There's a guy I've given your name to—he needs somebody just like you.' The guy flew to Phoenix and hired me."

Dcn. Petta came home, and a few years later entered the seminary.

"There's total evidence of God intervening."

Deacon Kirkham made a habit of attending daily Mass. Then, "One week I prayed a novena to St. Paul, and on the ninth day is when it hit me: the thought of the priest-

hood. It scared me to death.

"I did all that I could to ignore the idea of the priesthood, and tried to put it out of my mind, because my career was going so well. For several years I began making deals with God. "Leave me alone this year, and I'll think about it next year."

"But as I became more involved in my parish," Dcn. Kirkham said. "The parish community and my pastor began to recognize something within me, and they encouraged me to enter the seminary.

"Finally one of the older ladies said, 'It's time you shut up and listen to what God is telling you instead of making excuses.' That was God speaking through the community to me. I was approaching 40, and I asked myself, what do I want to be doing when I die? My answer was that I wanted to be serving God.

"I had no more excuses," Dcn. Kirkham said.

Deacon Nguyen got to America from Vietnam, but did not enter the seminary, as he had promised on the boat. "I wanted to enjoy life as other young men."

Then, in April 1987, he had a

Top to bottom: Dcn. Khiem Van Nguyen helps prepare the altar • Dcn. Philip Petta uses incense during the Mass • Dcn. Richard Kirkham helps prepare before Communion • The three deacons lay prostrate during Mass.



car accident, lay in the hospital for one month and seriously rethought his vocation. In July, 1989, he was accepted and joined the Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix in Missouri, and took his final vows in 1999. "I finished philosophy in 2001 with a BA at Conception Seminary," he said. In 2005, I asked to transfer to the Fort Worth Diocese, and I began to study theology in the fall of 2006."

There were coincidences in Dcn. Nguyen's journey: "The feast day of the Co-Redemptrix province order is Assumption," he said, "and the founder of the order in Vietnam who gave the feast day to my group is also Assumption.

"The feast day of the seminary

where I'm living right now is Assumption in San Antonio. And the church I was ordained is also Assumption. Is it coincidence?" the deacon asked.

St. Mary of the Assumption, Bishop Vann said in his homily at the ordination, "has been a full journey of faith for more than 100 years. And the stories of the people who have come here and those who have served here, still echo from the walls.

"Your 'yes' is echoing against the countless men and women of faith who have prayed here and still pray here — pray that their lives will be strengthened and nourished by the word of God, the bread of life, which you will minister."

Diocesan

New priests ...

From Page 24

"All of us gathered here today," Bishop Vann said in his homily, "all of us here in this church, are united with much joy with your families and friends, and especially those who are in Mexico this day, who could not be with us, this day of your priestly ordination."

"This indeed for us is the day the Lord has made. Your vocations, your call and your response teach us clearly that our faith knows no frontiers or boundaries. We are indeed as the body of Christ, one family of God."

At the time of the calling, the beginning of the ordination rite, Fr. Amado remembered, "I was very nervous, a lot of joy and some fear at the same time. But it's also intense joy, happiness, and peace at once. I said to myself, 'This is truly the moment for which I have studied all my life. Once again it is here where I hear God's call, and once again God calls me through the voice of the Church.'"

"Beyond the celebration," Fr. Fernando said, "is the commitment that comes with the ordination. But the most significant ordination moment was the imposition of the bishop and priests' hands." He said that moment contained the fullness of the Power of the Holy Spirit, and was "the time

"One is a priest ... at every moment of his life. The priesthood is one's whole life."

— Fr. Amado Vallejo

when you feel part of the ministerial priesthood community."

Fr. Amado said the most moving part of the Mass was when he felt the laying on of hands, saying he felt his call to the priesthood strengthened because God called him with the voice of the Church and the Apostles.

When the bishop imposed his hands, and the other priests came up to impose their hands, Fr. Amado said, "passages from the Gospels came to my mind, passages referring to the life of Jesus and how God calls us, loves us, and gives us his Holy Spirit; passages from Gospels that referred to how Jesus died for us and left us the Eucharist and the priesthood. All that



Clockwise from top: Bishop Kevin Vann and Fr. Amado (LEFT) and Fr. Fernando (RIGHT) enjoy the moment after the Mass. (PHOTO BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER) • Father Hector Medina of St. Matthew embraces Dcn. Amado Vallejo before the ordination. Fr. Amado is now at St. Matthew (PHOTO BY JUAN GUAJARDO) • Newly ordained Fr. Fernando Preciado gives Communion during the ordination Mass. (PHOTO BY JUAN GUAJARDO)

came to my mind, what seemed as an infinite stream of biblical passages and each time another priest imposed his hands, I saw a different passage.

"That moment was impressive, and I told God, 'Well Lord, here I am to do your will.' That was a moment of intense happiness and joy, which was the gratifying moment of my call to the priestly vocation."

Fr. Amado's first Mass, Corpus Christi Sunday, took place at Immaculate Conception, and, "If the cathedral was full, this was even fuller. I was a little nervous, because it was the first time that I celebrated Mass, but I celebrated it with great devotion, knowing what I have received, and what I am — a priest."

"My first Mass was held the same day as the ordination," Fr. Fernando said, "at 7 p.m. at Holy Name (of Jesus Parish in Fort Worth), the community where my brothers commonly attend Mass. It was very beautiful, that I offered Mass for all the people, and my parents.

"Today I am celebrating every moment that I feel, as St. Paul, 'who am I, but Christ who is acting on me.'

"My father told me, the Church needs priests who give it life," Fr. Fernando said. "These words rattled in my heart and I thought I could be one of them. Today as a priest, I ask God to help me really live as a priest for those who need it most. And I'm also sure that I could not do it just with me, but it is with God and spiritual support of the people, their prayers, that I can accomplish this."

"I believe in living each day on the path to holiness," Fr. Amado said. "I believe this journey is a challenge for every priest and every Christian. It is important that we fully live the Gospel every day, and that we move closer to the life of Christ."

"One is a priest not only as he stands at the altar, but in every aspect of his life within the Church and at every moment of his life. The priesthood is one's whole life."



Onlookers cheer as the newly ordained priests turn to face the community. (PHOTO BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER)



Fathers Fernando Preciado (FRONT) and Amado Vallejo lay prostrate during the Litany of Saints. (PHOTO BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER)



Bishop Kevin Vann receives the first blessing from Father Fernando Preciado. (PHOTO BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER)

Diocesan

After more than 25 years as permanent deacon formation director, and teaching four classes in the diocese, Ann Healey retires from her

Service to the Servants of God

By Michele Baker
Correspondent
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

Well-wishers from all over the diocese gathered at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington June 6 to congratulate Ann Healey as she retires. Healey, who has served as director of Permanent Deacon Formation with the Diocese of Fort Worth since 1984, helped to create and execute the comprehensive formation course used here for four classes of deacons.

"Ann Healey is known nationally for her work in this field," said Bishop Kevin Vann, who attended the celebration. "She's been a good friend and advisor. I have a great deal of respect for her knowledge of diaconate formation."

And yet, 26 years ago, Ann Healey simply answered an ad.

"They wanted someone with spiritual formation experience who could speak Spanish,"



Ann Healey (center) stands next to Bishop Kevin Vann with members of the diocese's permanent deacon community at her retirement reception June 6. As permanent deacon formation director, she led the formation process for close to 100 deacons over a period of 26 years.

Healey recalls with a smile. "I'm sure I'm not what they had in mind!" she said with a laugh. But the fair-haired, forty-something Anglo, who just happened to have been born in Havana, Cuba, and raised in South America as a result of her father's business dealings, followed the Holy Spirit and made her home in Fort Worth. Of course, 20 years of social work in inner city Chicago, five years of formation as a spiritual director, and several post-graduate degrees in pastoral ministry — including certification as a hospital chaplain — didn't hurt.

Healey finally found a place where her varied gifts and experiences could come together.

As Deacon Raymond Lamarre of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Lewisville described it, "From the beginning, Ann told us we were learning to put this program in place together." His class, ordained in 1989, was the first in the diocese. "I've watched over the years and the program she initiated has undergone few changes. It was solid from the start."

"She wrote the book on Permanent Deacon Formation for this diocese," said Sharon

Blackmore, wife of the late Deacon Jim Blackmore. "What was so special about our program is that we, as wives, had our own formation process as well. We were encouraged to be completely involved."

Dcn. Lamarre agreed, saying, "Having our wives involved has made our program well-rounded. The process strengthened our marriage and our family. It drew us together because it acknowledges the integral role of wives. That kind of perspective is not true of every program but it was always important to Ann."

Still, the work of the Permanent Deacon Formation director is not all structure and paperwork. The men who have been through the process speak of Healey's compassionate care for her charges.

Deacon Pat Lavery, ordained in 2009 and now serving at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville said, "As you go into the diaconate, you have this picture of Ann as a stern teacher, but as the years go on, you realize that she epitomizes caring. She feels very close to the ups and downs that we candidates go through. We needed to be listened to and cared for."

"When you start this process," added Deacon John Kerigan, also of St. Philip, "you're not really sure if you're being called to the diaconate at all.



This staff photo of Ann Healey was taken in 1987, several years after she started working for the diocese. (NTC FILE PHOTO)

Then, as time goes on, Ann helps you peel away the layers to reveal your relationship with God so that you see your gifts."

"This is absolutely not my program," Healey insists. "I'm very proud of the work I've done for the diocese and nationally. I got to work with great people. There are priests, deacons, and lay people who gave," untold hours of time, teaching and mentoring. "All of these people came together to make this successful."

While she may be embarrassed to take the credit she deserves for her years of service, Healey readily concedes the joy her work has brought her. "I have loved every minute of it," she said. "Even the tearful moments. Working in formation with men in mid-life is wonderful!"



ABOVE: Ann chats with Deacon Gary Brooks and his wife, Cheryl (left) and Pam Krempp, wife of Deacon Micheal Krempp.

LEFT: Healey laid most of the books she used over the years for the formation process on a table for well-wishers to peruse and take at her retirement reception held at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington.

All Things Possible...

FROM PAGE 1

used to support the case items, Flynn said. Completed renovations for All Saints and St. George Schools in Fort Worth have been funded by the campaign, in addition to catechetical programs such as RCIA training and *Why Catholic?*. Also funded through the campaign is the near-complete *Hospital Santo Hermano Pedro* in Catacamas, Honduras, and the annual diocesan appeal, "Sharing in Ministry," will be funded from the campaign this year and next.

"We benefit quite a bit from the *All Things Possible* campaign. I really don't know that our school could survive much longer without the funds from the campaign," said Christina Mendez, principal of All Saints. "It's absolutely glorious to come to school now. ... The kids feel a real ownership and responsibility to take care of everything."

Mendez, who serves on the campaign's leadership committee, described how the old school building was cooled by window units and heated by an old boiler system, neither of which were adequate for the growing school. Maintenance problems were such that "you never knew what was going to happen next." The last year spent in the old building, there was only one working oven.

Because the school started using the new building eight months ago, Mendez has said that All Saints School will see an increase in enrollment in the fall.

"People are ... giving it a look. The inquiries have more than tripled. It's a matter (now) of getting financial aid so the kids can come here," Mendez said, pointing out that some of the campaign money will also go to the Bishop's Scholars Fund to provide scholarships to students to attend Catholic schools. "When we had our first open house for parishioners, we had a new kitchen, computer lab, and science lab, and that helped generate interest."

The Office of Catechesis has also taken advantage of the funds received, sponsoring a three-part diocesan wide RCIA training last summer through the Association for Catechumenal Ministry, said Lucas Pollice, director of Adult Catechesis and RCIA.

"That has helped enormously in giving the parishes the resources to do RCIA well and has really helped to standardize the RCIA process in the diocese," he said. "RCIA has been a tremendous success. I can't tell you how many parish directors and team directors have come up to me and told me how it's better equipped them and given them the resources to

teach RCIA according to the mind of the Church."

Why Catholic?, another program funded by the campaign, is designed by RENEW International to help parishes provide adult catechesis over a period of four years based on the four sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and has just finished its first year in the diocese. Pollice added that parishes could use it as a jumpstart to establish ongoing adult catechesis.

"We're very pleased. We had during the first part of the year, 10,000 [participants]. It's not only doing well in parishes, but the prisons are taking well to it," said Father Carmen Mele, OP, diocesan director of Hispanic Adult Catechesis, and coordinator for *Why Catholic?*, adding that there were small groups meeting in at least three prisons. "The small communities in some cases want to continue meeting. They don't want to stop when they finish the first 12 reflections for the first year."

The money, Fr. Mele said, goes to pay royalties to RENEW, so that the only costs the parishes have to pay are organizing costs. Fr. Mele said that through the campaign, the diocese pays approximately \$1,800 per parish per year to participate.

The money also goes to pay for promoters and trainers for the program, with the next small community leader training scheduled for Sept. 8-18 this year, before the program begins its second year in October. Fr. Mele added that parishes or small groups within parishes can join at any time, since the years don't have to be done in any particular order.

Campaign Executive Director Meegan Wright said that while active campaigning has stopped, the diocese would continue to accept new pledges throughout the four-year redemption phase, especially from businesses, foundations, or any new families who move into the area.

Wright said that the Parish Share component might provide the incentive for parishes to continue promoting the campaign. Before reaching their parish goal, parishes receive 25 percent of what is donated from their parishioners for local needs up to their goal. After that goal is met, they'll receive 75 percent of funds received.

"A significant portion of the funds are going to be used for local needs," Flynn said. "The people realize they have to take care of their local needs first. People are good stewards, and even though times are tough, they recognize things need to go forward, and they stepped up to the plate."

Early evidence of devotion to apostles found in Rome catacombs

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME — In the basement of an Italian insurance company's modern office building, Vatican archaeologists — armed with lasers — discovered important historical evidence about the development of Christian devotion to the apostles.

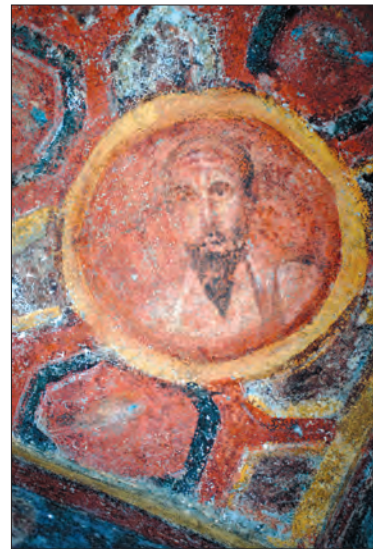
At Rome's Catacombs of St. Thecla, in the burial chamber of a Roman noblewoman, they have discovered what they said are the oldest existing paintings of Sts. Peter, Paul, Andrew, and John.

Technicians working for the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology discovered the painting of St. Paul in June 2009 just as the Year of St. Paul was ending.

Barbara Mazzei, who was in charge of the restoration work, said June 22 that she and her team members knew there were more images under the crust of calcium carbonate, but excitement over the discovery of St. Paul in the year dedicated to him led them to announce the discovery even before the rest of the work was completed.

Presenting the complete restoration of the burial chamber to reporters a year later, Monsignor Giovanni Carru said that the catacombs "are an eloquent witness of Christianity in its origins."

Into the fourth century, Christians in Italy tried to bury their dead near the tomb of a martyr. The walls of the tombs of the wealthy were decorated with



A fourth-century image of St. Paul the Apostle that Vatican archaeologists believe is the oldest in existence is seen on a wall in the Catacombs of St. Thecla in Rome in this photo released June 29. Experts of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology made the discovery June 19. (CNS photo/Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology)

Christian symbols, biblical scenes, and references to the martyr.

At the Catacombs of St. Thecla, the noblewoman's burial chamber — now referred to as the Cubicle of the Apostles — dates from late in the fourth century. The arch over the vestibule features a fresco of a group of figures the Vatican experts described as "The College of the Apostles."

The ceiling of the burial chamber itself features the most typical icon found in the catacombs — Christ the Good Shepherd — but the four corners of the ceiling are decorated with medallions featuring the four apostles, said Mazzei.

Fabrizio Bisconti, the commission's archaeological superintendent, said that in the decorations of the catacombs one can see "the genesis, the seeds of Christian iconography," with designs from the very simple fish as a symbol

of Christ to the resurrection image of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead.

The discovery of so much attention to the apostles in the Catacombs of St. Thecla documents the fact that widespread devotion to the apostles began earlier than what most Church historians believed, he said.

"This is the time when the veneration of the apostles was just being born and developed," he said, and the art in the catacombs no longer presented just the martyrs or biblical scenes.

The burial chamber also features frescoes of Daniel in the lion's den, the Three Wise Men bringing gifts to Jesus, Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac and a very large wall painting of the noblewoman herself — jeweled, veiled, and with "an important hairstyle," a symbol of status in ancient Rome, he said.

Bisconti said the Vatican has no plans to open the Catacombs of St. Thecla to the public, although the pontifical commission occasionally gives permission for groups to visit as long as they are willing to pay a licensed guide and escort.

Ulipristal...

FROM PAGE 1

The FDA's advisory panel of 11 reproductive health experts voted unanimously for ulipristal's approval and called it safe and effective. Although the FDA is not required to follow the panel's advice, it often does.

The drug, manufactured by a French pharmaceutical company, is currently available in 22 European countries.

In his letter, Cardinal DiNardo raised concerns that the new drug is more similar to the drug RU-486 — which can cause abortions several weeks into pregnancy — than it is to other emergency contraceptives, which are believed to have an effect on a fertilized egg after implantation in the uterus.

"Millions of American women, even those willing to use a contraceptive to prevent fertilization in various circumstances, would personally never choose to have an abortion," said Cardinal DiNardo.

"They would be ill-served by a misleading campaign to present ulipristal simply as a 'contraceptive.'"

RU-486, known generically as mifepristone, was approved by the FDA 10 years ago. It induces an abortion in the first seven weeks of pregnancy when used in conjunction with another drug, a prostaglandin. The drug prevents the fertilized egg from clinging to the uterine wall, and the prostaglandin is used 48 hours later to set off contractions that expel the embryo.

In a June 2 letter to the FDA, Donna Harrison, president of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, described ulipristal as "an abortifacient of the same type as mifepristone" and said its "approval as an emergency contraceptive raises serious health and ethical issues."

The letter said the new drug had the potential to "destroy established pregnancies as well as prevent implantation."

Plan B, approved by the FDA in 1999, prevents pregnancies with its high doses of a hormone that mimics progesterone. Although the drug works primarily by stopping ovaries from producing eggs, it can also prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the womb.

Cardinal DiNardo noted that for many years, "Congress has acted to ensure that the federal government does not fund abortion and does not endanger or destroy the early human embryo even in the name of important medical research."

He also said the current administration has similarly "voiced support for federal laws to ensure that no one is involved in abortion without his or her knowledge or consent."

"Plans for approving a known abortion-causing drug as a 'contraceptive' for American women is not consistent with the stated policy of the administration on these matters," he added.

The FDA is scheduled to make a decision on the drug by late July.

Diocesan

Sacred Heart in Seymour celebrates 100 years of faith

By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

As Sacred Heart Church in Seymour celebrated its 100th anniversary with a Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 11, as well as with a dinner afterward and many activities on June 12, parishioners and priests reflected on how the faith of their ancestors brought the parish into existence.

"The work began years before in the 1880's when your forefathers brought the faith even before there was a church. The map of Czechoslovakia on your faces is still very strong," said the Very Rev. Steve Berg, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Worth, during his homily.

Fr. Berg celebrated the Mass with Fathers Charles Gorantla, HGN, Sacred Heart's sacramental minister; Richard Eldredge, TOR, former Sacred Heart Church pastor; Raymond McDaniel, pastor of St. Peter Church in Lindsay and former sacramental minister of Sacred Heart; and Jack McKone, pastor of Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Vernon; and with Deacons Jim Novak, Sacred Heart's pastoral administrator; and Larry Bills of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls.

The official beginning of the Seymour Church was in March 1910 when Father Paul A. Mosler was sent to Baylor County, an area predominately settled by people from Czechoslovakia, because he spoke Czech. Since the community did not have a church building, Fr. Mosler and other priests who came to the area before him celebrated the Holy Mass in homes and the



Left: In this photo from 1953, first graders and their pastor, Fr. Theo Francis Mysliwiec, pose for a first Communion picture. In the front row, (L-R) are Rose Lee Sumbera, Janice Vita, and Arlene Hajek.

Below: (L-R) Janice Vita Thornhill, Arlene Hajek DeYoung, and Rose Lee Sumbera Kajs pose in their 1953 first Communion pose at Sacred Heart Parish before the 100th anniversary Mass. (Photo by Charles Thornhill)

school auditorium.

Fr. Mosler is considered a legend to the Catholic people of Baylor County because he was known to walk as many as 30 miles to say Holy Mass for his people not only in Baylor but the surrounding counties of Archer, Young, Haskell, Foard, and Jones.

"He's the one who started it all — the (parish) hall is named after him," said longtime Sacred Heart parishioner, Janice Thornhill, as she looked at two pictures of him on a partition wall that they used to display historical pictures for the anniversary in Mosler Hall.

"I don't remember Fr. Mosler like this," said longtime parishioner Julie Sosolik Hostas, 85, pointing to a young picture of him. "This is how I remember him," she said pointing to an older picture of him.

When she was young, Hostas was a member of St. John of Nepomucene Church in Bomarton, where Fr. Mosler first lived and which he called the "Mother Church." She said her parents moved to Texas from Europe in 1906, and eventually they moved closer to Seymour and attended Sacred Heart.

"When I was little, he (Fr. Mosler) used to come by the house in a horse and buggy. We couldn't wait for him to come. These pictures bring back a lot of memories," she said.

After the Mass, parishioners and visitors enjoyed a treasure trove of old pictures in the Mosler Parish Hall. Janice Thornhill said they asked parishioners in December 2009 to bring old pictures for the anniversary celebration. Parishioners were also asked to bring smaller boards or scrapbooks of their family histories to be displayed in the parish hall.

Thornhill pointed to three young girls in their white communion dresses and veils in a picture of a first Communion at Sacred Heart. All three, Thornhill, Arlene Hajek DeYoung, and Rose Lee Sumbera Kajs attended the anniversary Mass and dinner.

"This is my home. This is where I made my first Communion," said Thornhill, who has been a member of Sacred Heart since she was an infant and now lives in Seymour with her husband, Charles. Seymour's Catholics' first church was originally the First Baptist Church, located on the northwest corner of Cedar and Morris streets, which they bought and renovated in 1915. The first Mass was celebrated there on Jan. 16, 1916. Later, that building was converted into a parish hall, and the present church was built across the street in 1950, according to a detailed history of Sacred Heart written by parishioners.

In 1957, Cornelia Marie Knezek, the church's organist at the time,



became the first parishioner to answer the call to religious life by entering the convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a novice when she was 16 years old.

Sister Knezek, who has now been a professed sister for 51 years, said sisters from that convent taught catechism to the children of Sacred Heart Parish in the summer when she was a young child.

"One of the sisters, Sister Marie Gerard, asked me what I was going to be when I grew up, and I told her, 'a sister like you.' She's still alive, and she still reminds me of that," she said.

Gerald Knezek, Sr. Cornelia's brother who introduced himself as number seven of the 10 children born to the late Ernest and Marie Knezek, said that even though many of his classmates were very smart and successful — Gerald Knezek and Jim Novak were two of the seven valedictorians of their graduating class — several of them such as Novak came back to their hometown to live and work.

"It's this community that raised us," said Gerald Knezek, a professor at the University of North Texas.

Novak, who was ordained as

a deacon in 1995 and became the church's administrator in 2007, said his parents Lillie Mae and Henry Novak were married at Sacred Heart Church, where he received all of his sacraments except for ordination.

"To be serving here — to be raised in your own parish and then to serve as deacon and administrator ... is kind of a unique experience. Many people go off and end up serving in a different parish," he said.

Deacon Novak and his wife Rilda have been married 38 years, and have three children and four grandchildren with one more grandchild on the way.

Fr. Richard Eldredge, who was pastor of Sacred Heart from 1998-2007, joked during the dinner that he attended the event for the food — especially the homemade kolaches, a traditional Czechoslovakian pastry made by parishioners, but then he became more serious.

"What an inspiration you've been to me tonight and over the years. Your faith is really a rock solid foundation. I brag to all people at my new parish and to others about you," said Fr. Eldredge.



Back row (L-R): Fathers Ray McDaniel, Richard Eldredge, TOR, Jack McKone, Charles Gorantla, HGN, Steve Berg, and Deacons Larry Bills, and Jim Novak pose with altar servers and seminarian Justin Conover (front right) after the 100th anniversary Mass. (Photo by Charles Thornhill)



This portrait taken around 1918 of Fr. Paul A. Mosler was on display in the parish hall named after him during the 100th anniversary dinner. (Photo by Jenara Kocks Burgess)



Sister Cornelia Marie Knezek of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Gerald Knezek, her brother and a professor for the University of North Texas at Denton, stand in front of three board displays of their family history during the 100th anniversary dinner. (Photo by Jenara Kocks Burgess)



Some men enjoy a game of horseshoes during festivities on June 12 to celebrate Sacred Heart's 100th anniversary. Other activities included volleyball, polka dancing, and Mass. (Photo by Charles Thornhill)

Christ comes to us through the Eucharist

By Lucas Pollice

Every year on the second Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the great feast of Corpus Christi in which we are reminded of the profound gift of the Eucharist and the real presence of Christ and we recall the words of Christ Himself: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day" (*John 6:54*).

The Eucharist is truly at the very heart of Catholicism and sets it apart from all of the other Christian denominations. In fact, it is so important in the life of the Catholic Church that it is called the "source and summit of the Christian life."

Why is it so important, so adored, and so central to what it means to be a Catholic? It is because the Catholic Church teaches and believes that the bread and wine are literally changed into Jesus himself. At every Mass Jesus makes himself really and totally present to us in this Most Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist is not a symbol of Christ but *IS* Christ!

The word Eucharist means "thanksgiving" because it is in and through this sacrament that we give thanks to God for the gift of salvation. The thanks that we ultimately give Him is the gift of ourselves to Him. Herein lies the true beauty of this Sacrament of Sacraments. Jesus gives himself totally, completely, and unconditionally to us in the Eucharist. His gift to us is so profound that He desires to literally and physically enter into our being. Our response in return is the very gift of ourselves as well.

We surrender ourselves to God so that He may heal and transform us in order for us to become his instruments of grace and love. This is why we also call the Eucharist "Communion," because it is literally and profoundly the communion of God and man. It reaches even beyond our individual communion with Christ. It also brings about the communion of the whole Church, which is the Mystical Body of Christ on earth. Through the Eucharist, we are not only united to Christ, but are also intimately united to each other as brothers and sisters of Christ.

THE EUCHARIST AUGMENTS OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

The Eucharist is often called the Blessed Sacrament, or the Sacrament of Sacraments, because in it, we literally

have communion with Christ himself. Each time we receive his Body and Blood we literally welcome Jesus into the very depth of our being; into our hearts. This union is so profound that it cannot help but be efficacious in transforming us to be more like Christ. The more we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, the more we become like Him and mirror his virtues, his wisdom, and his strength.

THE EUCHARIST SEPARATES US FROM SIN

Since the Eucharist transforms us to become more like Christ, it can't help but to separate us from sin. The more we receive Jesus in this sacrament, the easier it is to avoid sin. First, it cleanses us from all venial sins, and heals the wounds caused by them. We are also given grace by Christ to transform our desire for sin into our dislike and hatred for it. The Eucharist heals our intellect and strengthens our will so that, literally, it becomes harder for us to sin. It enables us to see how sin both offends God, and also wounds us.

The Eucharist is like medicine for our souls and food for our journey to heaven. In the same way that the manna came down from heaven and nourished and sustained the Israelites as they journeyed toward the Promised Land, this heavenly food of Christ's Body and Blood nourishes our souls and protects us from sin as we journey toward our heavenly home.

THE EUCHARIST UNITES THE CHURCH

Through the Eucharist, all the members of the Church are not only united to Christ, but through this union, are also intimately united to each other as brothers and sisters in Him. With Christ as the Head, our union makes up the Mystical Body of Christ, which is the Church that is present and working in the world.

It is the Eucharist that is truly the source of this unity, and gives life and power to the Church. This is why it is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the source because it gives life and unity to the Church. The summit of Christian life is the celebration of the Eucharist because it is the greatest and most powerful prayer or action of the Church. The whole life, unity, and mission of the Church have their source and climax in this Most Blessed Sacrament.

As mentioned previously, the Eucharist is also called "Communion." This not only signifies our union with God, but also our union with each other in the Body of Christ. This is why one who is in mortal sin and has separated oneself from God and the Church cannot receive Communion until they go to confession to reconcile this separation. One cannot participate in such an intimate union with Christ and his Church when they have chosen to willfully separate themselves through their actions. The same applies to those who willfully and publicly reject Church teachings. One cannot say yes to Christ and reject the teachings of his Church, especially regarding serious issues of faith and morals such as

The Catholic Church teaches and believes that the bread and wine are literally changed into Jesus himself. At every Mass Jesus makes himself really and totally present to us in this Most Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist is not a symbol of Christ but IS Christ!



Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory clutches the monstrance containing the Eucharist during morning adoration. (CNS photo/Michael Alexander, Georgia Bulletin)

abortion, euthanasia, etc.

It is also important to take a moment and explain why the Catholic Church does not have "open communion", or "interfaith communion." Not only does the Eucharist bring about the unity of the Mystical Body of Christ, but it also deepens our union with the Church every time we receive Jesus. In fact, the reception of his Body and Blood is the most visible and powerful statement we can make about our faith. When we receive the Eucharist, we say "Amen," or "Yes, it is true" to Jesus and that we accept Him and surrender ourselves completely to Him. This means accepting and saying yes to all He reveals to us, his teachings, and especially to the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. It is through the Church that He has established, that He is present and working in the world and is sanctifying it. Therefore, each time we say "Amen" when we receive the Eucharist, we are saying yes to all that Christ's Church believes, teaches, and proclaims. This Most Holy Sacrament is at the heart of the Catholic faith. One cannot receive Christ while at the same time rejecting his Body, the Church, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches quoting St. Augustine:

If you are the body and members of Christ, then it is your sacrament that is placed on the table of the Lord; it is your sacrament that you receive. To that which you are — you respond "Amen" ("yes, it is true!") and by responding to it you assent to it. For you hear the words, "the Body of Christ" and respond "Amen." Be then a member of the Body of Christ that your Amen may be true. (1396)

THE EUCHARIST COMMITS US TO EVANGELIZATION AND SERVICE

Finally, the Eucharist, by its very nature, heals, prepares, and strengthens us for evangelization and service. The entire goal

and purpose of the Mass is so that we can come and be fed and transformed; so that we can then be sent out into the world to be Christ's instruments, especially to those who are most in need, vulnerable, alone, and desiring God's love and mercy. In fact, the word, Mass, comes from the Latin word *missio*, which means "to be sent." Through the Eucharist we are intimately united with Christ our Savior, and we are then called by Him to continue his mission of building the Kingdom of God. We are his hands, his voice, and his instruments in a world that is crying out for the message of the Gospel. The Eucharist is truly the source of our mission of evangelization and service.

Although there are many ways for the Christian to worship and come into union with Christ, there is no union on this earth that brings us as close to Christ as when we receive him in Holy Communion. He comes to us as the "bread from heaven," the manna in the desert which gives us strength for our journey. It unites us to Christ in the deepest sense and gives strength and unity to his Mystical Body, the Church, through which He sanctifies the world. The Eucharist is truly the source and summit of all that we are as Catholics, an "inexhaustible richness" given to us by Christ himself.



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

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

Scripture Readings



June 27, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21
Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11
- 2) Galatians 5:1, 13-18
Gospel) Luke 9:51-62

By Sharon K. Perkins

If I wish to find a place where — to use St. Paul's words to the Galatians — Christians "bite and devour one another," I need look no further than 18 inches away. That's about the distance between my eyes and my computer screen.

That's also where many well-meaning and faith-filled Christians engage one another in debate and commentary, sometimes arguing their positions so passionately that they forget with whom they are arguing. Using their online freedom as an "opportunity for the flesh," they all too readily attempt to "consume" their debate opponents by denigrating them.

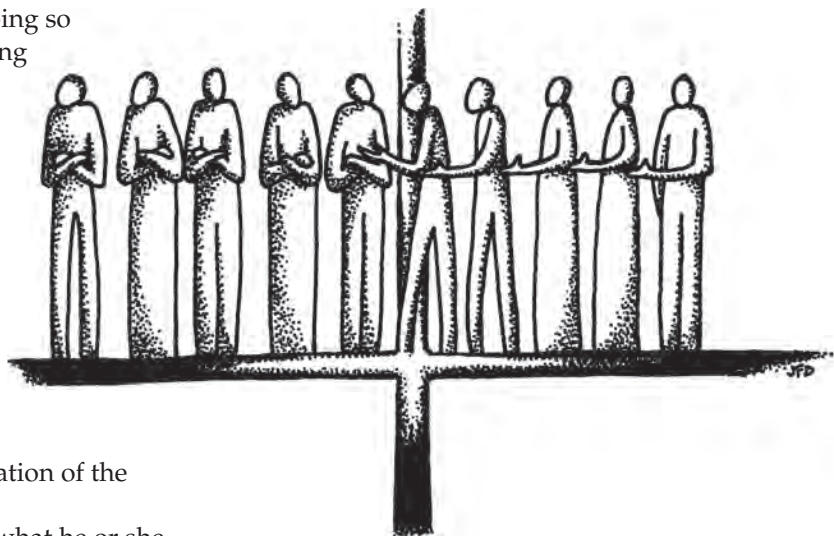
If you don't believe me, check out both the offensive and defensive comments posted after online articles, blogs or Facebook posts where there is a controversial religious or political issue at stake. Christians who would never dream of speaking such words in a fellow believer's

presence, often think nothing of doing so publicly on the Internet and arousing emotional responses in kind.

In today's Gospel, Jesus rebuked his disciples for just such a response after they asked to "call down fire from heaven" to consume the Samaritans who refused to welcome Jesus because of his obviously Jewish pilgrimage destination. Rather than thanking them for defending his honor, Jesus saw that this sort of ethnic and religious dissension did nothing to further the proclamation of the reign of God.

A Christian's understanding of what he or she believes and the willingness to defend the Gospel of Christ are certainly crucial, especially in times of darkness and ignorance. But St. Paul reminds us that we are to "serve one another through love" even as we stand up for Christ.

The Christian path is neither simple adherence to an ideology nor is it a mere feeling of devotion. It is surrender to the person of Jesus and faithfulness to his call to love unselfishly. In situations of dispute or disagreement, this sometimes means asking ourselves whether we are representing him or merely our own preferences and



"But they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem."

— Luke 9:53

prejudices. It requires a careful consideration of yet another distance of 18 inches — that between the mind and the heart.

QUESTIONS:

Is there an issue of faith or morality in which you feel particularly passionate? How can you invite conversion of mind and heart, so you can be a witness of Christ's peace and not simply a voice of dissension?

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Pope says Sunday Mass essential to Catholic life, charity

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME — Participation at Sunday Mass and reception of the Eucharist are central to the life of Catholics because they are a clear expression of belief in the sacrifice of Christ, they create community, and motivate charity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"In our day, people don't love the word 'sacrifice,' which seems to belong to another age and another way of understanding life. However, when it is properly understood, it remains fundamental because it reveals how much God, in Christ, loves us," the pope said June 15 in an address to the Rome diocesan pastoral conference.

With an evening speech at Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran, the pope opened the diocese's three-day conference, which focused on finding ways to help Catholics understand the importance of the Sunday Eucharist and the essential role of charity in Catholic life. Parishes, the priests' council, lay groups and special ministries throughout the diocese held preparatory listening sessions and conferences to



Pope Benedict XVI adores the Eucharist during exposition at Mass on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome June 3. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

draw up recommendations for the 300 delegates attending the June gathering.

While the majority of Rome's citizens are baptized Catholics, "faith can never be assumed because every generation needs to receive this gift through the proclamation of the Gospel and knowledge of the truth which Christ has revealed to us," the pope said.

Even among practicing Catholics, he said, there is a lack of understanding about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and about the fact that receiving Jesus in the Eucharist must lead people to witness to God's love by being charitable.

"A eucharistic celebration that does not lead to encountering people where they live, work, and suffer in order to bring them the

love of God does not demonstrate its truth," the pope said.

"Charity is able to generate an authentic and permanent change in society, acting in the hearts and minds of men," he said.

Pope Benedict told the diocesan delegates the best way to teach people the truth about the Eucharist and about the charity that flows from it is to have prayerful, well-prepared

A eucharistic celebration that does not lead to encountering people where they live, work and suffer in order to bring them the love of God does not demonstrate its truth.

Masses.

When Catholics receive Jesus in the Eucharist, they are no longer isolated individuals, but members of a community committed to one another and to bringing God's love to the world, he said.

"The world and men and women do not need another social organization, but they need the church," which can unite them in Christ, the pope said.

Scripture Readings



July 4, 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 Jeff Hensley

I was leaving the administrative offices of the Salvation Army in Fort Worth late one afternoon as we finished a major capital campaign. We had raised \$7.5 million, primarily to build a new shelter for homeless families and individuals, and I had headed the second half of the campaign. I had helped keep the campaign alive in a rough economy, an economy in which local banks were losing value drastically. They were rough economic times locally, not unlike our current national recession.

As I closed the door and put my key in the lock, I was basking in the glory of "my" accomplishment. As I silently thanked the Lord for allowing me to lead this campaign, I gradually worked my way backwards until I had reached the more realistic point of being grateful for hav-

ing been a part of the team God used to accomplish his goal of serving the poor.

It was a good and useful lesson I have never forgotten. Even though I may temporarily drift into the area of the ego trip, God always brings me back around to see that I am merely a member of the team, one of his servants being allowed to witness and participate in his work,

In the Gospel for this week, Jesus cautions his followers who have just returned jubilant from a successful mission. He says he has observed Satan fall in defeat like lightning from the sky. But he goes on to say, "Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

The Scriptures from Isaiah 66 and Psalm 66 implore us to rejoice in the prosperity of Jerusalem and, "Shout joyfully to God, sing praise to the glory of his name," to "proclaim his glorious praise," to, "Say to God, 'How tremendous are your deeds!'"

So even though Jesus warns us against dwelling too much on our own roles in accomplishing God's purposes, Scripture places no such restriction on our praise of God for his glorious deeds. As the Psalm reading puts it: "Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing praise to your name!"



"Loudly sound his praise."

— Psalm 66:8b

QUESTIONS:

What successes have you experienced that you realized came, ultimately, from God's grace? Is praise of God for his presence in your life, for his creation, and simply for who he is, a part of your prayer life?

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Summertime gives us a chance to **re-create ourselves**

By Jeff Hedglen

Recently at a young adult Bible study I saw a 2009 graduate. I asked him how he was doing and he kind of stretched and said he was doing great; he was on his first ever paid vacation.

He was simultaneously proud of his accomplishment, exhilarated at the prospect of not being at work and overjoyed at a week off to do whatever came across his mind, all while getting paid. It is exactly this type of feeling I think God had in mind when he took a day off after creating the world.

I remember, as a school kid, longing for summer vacation. Sometimes on the first day of school I would begin the countdown. I would log, first months, then weeks, then days,

I think what [Jesus] is trying to say is that yes, there are rules and obligations attached to keeping the Sabbath, but the rules are not the point, what is the point is that God knows we need time off, time away from normal daily life, time to rejuvenate, time to be recreated.

and finally hours until freedom was mine again. Then would begin the days either packed from sun up until well after sun down with activities or painfully void of any activity at all and me following my mom around the house saying I was bored. She always had very unappetizing ways to remedy my predicament.

O how I long for those days of boredom. These days it feels like if I am going to find a moment of leisure I have to put it on the calendar weeks ahead of time. It is actually not that bad; in fact most Sunday afternoons in the summer I can

be found taking full advantage of a friend's invitation to float in their pool with a swim-up snack station. These Sundays at the pool have become mini-vacations for me and they are truly refreshing.

The ideas of relaxing, having time to our self, partying with friends, and honoring the Sabbath are all over the Scriptures. Jesus' first miracle was at a huge party so we know he liked to hang out with his friends and have a good time. He also was always going off to a quiet place to pray. When questioned about his disciple's observation of the Sabbath he said "The Sabbath

was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

I think what He is trying to say is that yes, there are rules and obligations attached to keeping the Sabbath, but the rules are not the point, what is the point is that God knows we need time off, time away from normal daily life, time to rejuvenate, time to be recreated. It is not an accident that the word recreation when broken up reads: re-creation.

Once we graduate, very few of us get the summer off from work and most jobs only offer two weeks of vacation. On top of this we, as a society, are busier than ever. I hate to fall into "good ole day's" syndrome, but when I was a kid sports had seasons, they were not year-round activities. If we were playing sports during the summer it was a neighborhood wiffle ball game. Add to this the reality of modern technology that makes it so we are seldom more than an arm's reach away from our phone, e-mail, and Internet.

This reality can make it hard to find time of true rest. A time of being truly away from it all,

a time to catch our breath, relax our brains, rest our bodies and have a little fun. Leisure time doesn't have to be spent on a hammock reading a book with a cool beverage within arms reach (though it is not a bad idea). Full or mini vacations should be filled with the types of activities that re-create you.

The long hot summer is upon us. You may not have a lot of vacation saved up or in these tough times it might be hard to afford an exciting trip to Yellowstone or the Cayman Islands, or even Six Flags, but it is still possible to grab a slice of leisure.

Think of something you or your family love to do, but just have not made time to do in a long time. Now look at your calendar and schedule a mini-vacation. It is as simple as that. Kick back, relax, and enjoy a day off like God did after creating the world.

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.

Durante estos meses de verano, reflejemos en las bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado

Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Al entrar en los meses de verano, es una ocasión que nos ofrece a muchos de nosotros una oportunidad para las vacaciones y, si Dios lo permite, algunos momentos de relajación y de renovación lejos de los asuntos y exigencias de la vida diaria. Para aquellos de ustedes que trabajan y ejercen sus ministerios en las parroquias, estos meses de verano tienden a ser una época en que el trabajo va disminuyendo por la pausa de algunos ministerios por el verano. Quisiera tomar esta oportunidad para agradecerle a todos los que trabajan y sirven en las parroquias por todo su esmero y arduo trabajo en fortalecer al Cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia.



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

Estos tiempos también nos dan la oportunidad para reflexionar sobre las muchas bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado, y en verdad darle nuestra acción de gracias a Aquel quien nos da todo que es bueno. De hecho, vivir nuestra fe en Cristo significa vivir en un constante espíritu de acción de gracias. ... Podemos caer a veces en el hábito de solo pedirle a Dios cosas, o su ayuda, sin tomar un momento para, sobre todo, darle gracias por el don de la vida y el don de la fe.

**+ Monseñor Kevin Vann
Obispo de Fort Worth**

Muchos de ustedes son voluntarios muy trabajadores que dan generosamente de su tiempo y talento, trabajando en comunión por la Iglesia. No subestime su servicio a la Iglesia, ni cómo Cristo los utiliza para acercar las almas a él. Sin el don y la presencia de cada uno de ustedes, la misión evangelizadora de la Iglesia ciertamente sería disminuida.

Estos tiempos también nos dan la oportunidad para reflexionar sobre las muchas bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado, y en verdad darle nuestra acción de gracias a Aquel quien nos da todo que es bueno. De hecho, vivir nuestra fe en Cristo significa vivir en un constante espíritu de acción de gracias. Como San Pablo nos enseña, "Y todo lo que puedan decir o hacer, háganlo en el nombre del Señor Jesús, dando gracias a Dios Padre por medio de él" (Colosenses 3:17). Podemos caer a veces en el hábito de solo pedirle a Dios cosas, o su ayuda, sin tomar un momento para, sobre todo, darle gracias por el don de la vida y el

don de la fe. Como el Catecismo nos indica: "Al igual que en la oración de petición, todo acontecimiento y toda necesidad pueden convertirse en ofrenda de acción de gracias. Las cartas de san Pablo comienzan y terminan frecuentemente con una acción de gracias, y el Señor Jesús siempre está presente en ella. 'En todo dad gracias, pues esto es lo que Dios, en Cristo Jesús, quiere de vosotros'; 'Sed perseverantes en la oración, velando en ella con acción de gracias'". (CIC 2638).

Para nosotros como católicos, la actitud y la virtud de la acción de gracias se expresa de manera especial en la celebración de la Eucaristía. De hecho, la palabra Eucaristía nos llega de la palabra griega *eucharistein* que significa "acción de gracias". El catecismo nos enseña que "Las palabras *eucharistein* y *eulogein* recuerdan las bendiciones judías que proclaman — sobre todo durante la comida — las obras de Dios: la creación, la redención y la santificación" (CIC 1328). Esto es lo

que hacemos cuando celebramos la Misa — nos reunimos como el Cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia, para dar gracias y alabanza a Dios por el don de la salvación y redención, logrados por Jesucristo por la fuerza del Espíritu Santo. Como decimos en cada Misa durante el *Prefacio de la Plegaria Eucarística*: "Demos a gracias al Señor nuestro Dios. Es justo y necesario". Vivir una espiritualidad eucarística significa entre otras cosas vivir nuestras vidas con un espíritu y una actitud de constante acción de gracias a Dios y por su don de salvación. Incluso en tiempos difíciles, somos llamados a ser agradecidos por la oportunidad de ofrecer nuestros sufrimientos con el sufrimiento de Cristo, y ese Cristo es el que en la última instancia tiene la victoria sobre el sufrimiento y la muerte.

En una nota personal, celebro el próximo mes el quinto aniversario de mi ordenación al Episcopado y como el Obispo de Fort Worth. Quiero expresar mi gratitud y mi más sentida acción de gracias a cada uno en nuestra Diócesis por su fidelidad, su testimonio, y su amor por Cristo y la Iglesia. Les he dicho a varios individuos que no soy la misma persona que llegó aquí hace cinco años. Gracias a ustedes, que en el plan providencial de Dios, me han ayudado a crecer como el pastor y como la persona que el Señor desea que sea. Ha sido un honor y un gran don el ser su servidor y pastor. Que juntos vayamos hacia adelante en nuestra Iglesia local, con un espíritu de humildad y de acción de gracias, a medida que continuemos seguimiento de Nuestro Señor y haciendo su trabajo.

+ Kevin W. Vann

**+ Monseñor Kevin Vann
Obispo de Fort Worth**

El papa dice que la participación en la Misa dominical es esencial para vida, caridad católicas

Por Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROMA — La participación en la Misa dominical y la recepción de la Eucaristía son centrales en la vida de los católicos porque son una expresión clara de la creencia en el sacrificio de Cristo; éstas crean comunidad y motivan la caridad, dijo el papa Benedicto XVI.

"En nuestros tiempos, la gente no ama la palabra 'sacrificio', la cual parece pertenecer a otra era

y a otra manera de entender la vida. Sin embargo, cuando es entendida apropiadamente, ésta sigue siendo fundamental porque revela cuánto Dios, en Cristo, nos ama", dijo el papa el 15 de junio en un discurso ante la conferencia pastoral diocesana de Roma.

Con un discurso nocturno en la *Basílica de San Juan de Letrán* en Roma, el papa abrió la conferencia de tres días de la diócesis, la cual se enfocó en encontrar maneras de ayudar a los católicos a

entender la importancia de la Eucaristía dominical y el rol esencial de la caridad en la vida católica. Los parroquias, los consejos de sacerdotes, los grupos laicos y los ministerios especiales de toda la diócesis llevaron a cabo sesiones preparatorias de escuchar y conferencias para redactar recomendaciones para los 300 delegados que asistían a la reunión de junio.

Aunque la mayoría de los ciudadanos de Roma es

bautizada católica, "la fe nunca puede ser asumida porque todas las generaciones necesitan recibir este regalo mediante la proclamación del Evangelio y el conocimiento de la verdad que Cristo nos ha revelado", dijo el papa.

Aun entre católicos practicantes, dijo, hay falta de entendimiento acerca de la presencia verdadera de Jesús en la Eucaristía y acerca del hecho que el recibir a Jesús en la Eucaristía

debe llevar a las personas a ser testigos del amor de Dios, siendo caritativos.

"Una celebración eucarística que no lleve a un encuentro con la gente donde ésta vive, trabaja y sufre para poder traerlas al amor de Dios, no demuestra su verdad", dijo el papa.

"La caridad puede generar un cambio auténtico y permanente en la sociedad, actuando en los corazones y en las mentes de los hombres", dijo.

América

1,400 hombres y mujeres de la diócesis se juntan por un fin de semana para dar gracias a Dios y

Renovar su fe

Por Liliana Vargas / Corresponsal
Fotos por Donna Ryckaert

Para María Galván renovar su fe es un acto de gran importancia espiritual.

Ella acudió por segundo año al Congreso católico de renovación carismática para lograr un acercamiento con Dios.

“Vine porque participé el año pasado, me gustó mucho y decidí regresar y tener un encuentro con Dios y renovar mi fe”, dijo Galván, quien pertenece al grupo de oración de la Iglesia San Francisco de Assis, de la ciudad de Grapevine.

Galván, de 31 años, formó parte de un total de 1,400 feligreses que acudió al evento que se llevó a cabo del 12 al 13 de junio, dentro del gimnasio de la preparatoria Nolan Catholic High School.

Este fue el tercer año que se ha organizado el evento que logró reunir a personas de diversas iglesias de la Diócesis católica de Fort Worth.

“El congreso se hace porque existe la necesidad (de hacerlo) y además por el éxito que ha tenido entre la comunidad hispana; (ellos vienen) a tener un encuentro con Dios y regresan a sus parroquias sintiéndose renovados”, dijo Andrés Aranda, delegado de los Ministerios Hispánicos de la diócesis.

Aranda comentó que el Congreso católico de renovación



(IZQUIERDA A DERECHA) El padre Valdemar González de Nuevo Laredo, México, el diácono Martín García y el padre Ángel Infante de la PARROQUIA ALL SAINTS, y el diácono Carlos Frías de la PARROQUIA ST. STEPHEN en Weatherford rezan durante la Misa en el retiro. Casi 1,400 hombres y mujeres asistieron al tercer CONGRESO ANUAL DE RENOVACIÓN CARISMÁTICA.

carismática, cuyo tema fue “El amor de Jesús sana mi corazón” ha resultado tan exitoso que podría organizar algo parecido en áreas rurales de la diócesis.

Durante el congreso que inició la mañana del sábado, cientos de personas de diversas edades escucharon la esperada bendición del obispo Kevin Vann, quien, en español, expresó su alegría de ser parte de esta diócesis.

“La presencia de ustedes es una señal de bendiciones; ustedes son mi familia”, dijo el obispo Vann, quien agregó que su vocación ha sido fortalecida en los últimos cinco años que ha estado a cargo de la diócesis católica de Fort Worth.

El obispo comentó que le gustaría ver que el número de participantes incrementa cada año.

Después de dar su bendición, salió, debido a otros

compromisos que tenía que cumplir.

El padre Ángel Infante celebró la Misa de bienvenida y habló sobre el viaje que realizó la Virgen María a Jerusalén, junto a San José, al darse cuenta que su hijo, Jesús, no había viajado con ellos hacia Nazaret, y lo encontraron en el templo.

“Así como ellos viajaron, ustedes hoy han tenido que viajar desde sus casas para encontrarse aquí con Jesús, dentro de un templo”, dijo el padre Infante.

Durante el congreso, la gente tuvo la oportunidad de rezar, cantar y bailar con el fin de alabar a Dios.

Además de la Misa, los participantes escucharon atentamente al orador invitado del sábado, Roberto Ramírez.

“El encuentro con Cristo debe ser frecuente, algo constante”, dijo Ramírez, quien contó que

a los 14 años de edad sufría de adicción a las drogas y llegó hasta vivir en las calles de su natal República Dominicana, pero la fe en Dios lo rescató de las drogas.

Según Ramírez, encontró un grupo de oración en su país que lo ayudó a cambiar su vida, y ahora se dedica a contar su



Monseñor Obispo Kevin Vann saluda a participantes al inicio del retiro. También les dio su bendición.

historia y motivar a los demás a que se acerquen a la religión.

Él les dijo a las personas que cuando se sientan derrotados, piensen en su fe en Dios.

“A Dios no le importa que tan bajo has caído, sino que tan alto te puede subir”, dijo Ramírez.

Galván, junto a los demás participantes, aplaudió con emoción al escuchar el mensaje del orador.

“Tiene razón, el encuentro con Dios debe ser constante”, dijo Galván.

El evento culminó con una Misa el domingo 13 de junio.



Hombres y mujeres oyen Misa durante la conclusión del CONGRESO CATÓLICO DE RENOVACIÓN CARISMÁTICA el 12 y 13 de junio en NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL. Este era el tercer retiro anual.



Un participante reza después de recibir la comunión.

Con las bendiciones del obispo Vann ante centenas de feligreses, los padres Fernando Preciado y Amado Vallejo son ordenados al sacerdocio, convirtiéndose en

Pastores del rebaño de Dios

Por Kathy Cribari Hamer / corresponsal

La ya distintiva fecha de la ordenación del Diácono Fernando Preciado y del Diacono Amado Vallejo fue de una manera especial e importante para el Diácono Fernando por dos motivos adicionales. Este fue el 34to aniversario de su nacimiento y cinco años desde la muerte — “realmente la resurrección” — de su madre.

El nuevo padre Fernando dijo, “Regresaba de la selva del Amazona en Perú a mi casa porque mi madre se estaba muriendo. Y Dios me concedió que ella estuviera bien en mi cumpleaños. Nací el 5 de junio de 1976, a las 10:30 a.m.

“Para mí ha sido una providencia de Dios, un signo maravilloso de su bondad hacia mi. He muerto con Cristo, como lo ha hecho mi madre, pero he también resucitado con Él, para hacer algo en este mundo. Ruego a Dios a través de mi madre por la oportunidad de hacer algo bueno”.

Los dos sacerdotes más nuevos en la diócesis, el padre Fernando y el padre Amado, llegaron a los Estados Unidos desde su nativo México (padre Fernando de Nochistlan, Zacatecas y el padre Amado de Oaxaca), y en la homilía de la ordenación, el obispo Kevin Vann invoca a la patrona de las Américas. “Pido especialmente, y todos pedimos hoy, que la Madre del Señor — Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Nuestra Señora de las Américas — los guie siempre hacia su Hijo, el Buen Pastor, el Gran Sumo Sacerdote.

“Estoy aquí como su Madre”, el Obispo citó a María. “No teman”.

La liturgia tradicional



Desde arriba, hacia la derecha: los padres Amado Vallejo y Fernando Preciado salen de la Catedral de St. Patrick, después de su ordenación al sacerdocio. (Foto por Juan Guajardo) • El padre Amado Vallejo, recién ordenado, abraza al padre Tim Thompson de la Parroquia de St. Mark, con quien vivió mientras estudiaba en Denton. Al fondo se ve al padre Alfredo Barba, quien fue ordenado el año pasado y tomó clases intensivas de inglés con el padre Amado. (Foto por Kathy Cribari Hamer) • El obispo Kevin Vann impone las manos al padre Amado. (Foto por Juan Guajardo) • El padre Fernando recibe el sacramento de ordenación del obispo Vann. (Foto por Kathy Cribari Hamer)

y solemne de ordenación incluye una presentación de los candidatos, una promesa de obediencia al obispo y una invitación a la oración mientras los candidatos están postrados, y la comunidad canta la *Letanía de los santos*.

Después de ese ritual fue la imposición de manos por el obispo, el momento específico de la ordenación. Esta acción fue seguida por todos los sacerdotes de la diócesis, imponiendo sus manos como símbolo de fraternidad.

De seguido los nuevos sacerdotes fueron revestidos, según la orden de presbítero, con sacerdotes escogidos y mentores prestándoles asistencia. Sus vestimentas de ordenación fueron bordadas con rosas e imágenes de la Virgen de Guadalupe y San Juan Diego. Por último, el obispo ungió sus manos con el Santo Crisma.

El sacerdote asistente para revestir al padre Fernando fue el padre Juan Rivero, de San Frances Cabrini en Granbury. “Dios lo puso en mi vida como un maestro”, dijo el padre Fernando. Y asistiendo al padre Amado fueron Monseñor Charles King de la *Parroquia Immaculate*

Conception en Denton, el padre Héctor Medina de la *Parroquia de St. Matthew* en Arlington y el padre Domingo Romero, OFM Cap., de la *Parroquia Our Lady of Guadalupe* en Fort Worth.

“Yo escogí a los tres”, dijo el padre Amado, “por su testimonio de vida, su amor al Evangelio, su testimonio de servicio y también como [son] personas que lo pueden acompañar a uno, a aconsejar”, dijo el padre Amado. “Los escogí a ellos por su celo por el Evangelio, su entrega total. Y me dio mucho gusto que ninguno de ellos dijeron que no. To mundo dije que sí”.

“Todos nosotros reunidos aquí hoy”, el obispo Vann dijo en su homilía, “todos nosotros aquí en esta Iglesia, estamos unidos con mucha alegría con sus familias y amigos, y especialmente con aquellos que están en México este día, que no pueden estar con nosotros durante este día de su ordenación sacerdotal.

“De hecho, este día es para nosotros el día que el Señor ha hecho. Su vocación, su llamada y su respuesta nos enseñan claramente que nuestra fe no conoce fronteras o límites. Somos, de hecho como el Cuerpo de Cristo, una familia

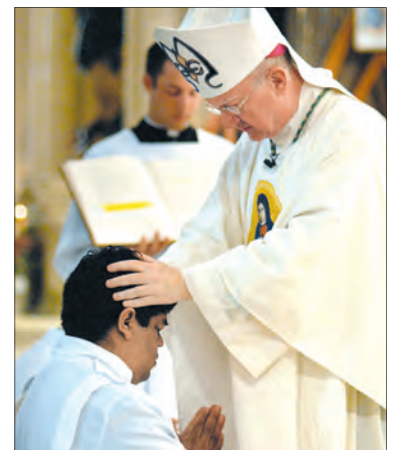
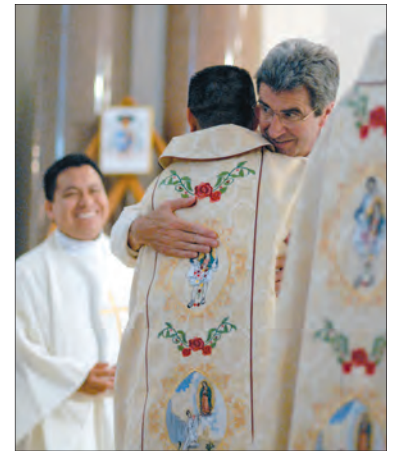
de Dios”.

En el momento de la llamada, el comienzo del rito de ordenación, recordó el padre Amado, “estaba muy nervioso; (tenía) mucha alegría y a la vez es miedo. Dije, ‘Ahora si llego el momento por cual ha estudiado toda la vida, por el cual aquí ahora se que Dios me llama, y nuevamente Dios me llamo aquí por la voz de la Iglesia.’”

Más allá de la celebración, el padre de Fernando dijo, “Es el compromiso que viene con la ordenación. Pero el momento más significativo de la ordenación fue la imposición de las manos del obispo y los sacerdotes”. Dijo que ese es el momento que contiene la plenitud del poder del Espíritu Santo y fue “el momento cuando uno se siente parte de la comunidad del sacerdocio ministerial”.

El padre Amado dijo que la parte más conmovedora de la Misa fue cuando sintió la imposición de manos, diciendo que sentía que su llamada al sacerdocio fue fortalecida porque Dios lo llamaba con la voz de la Iglesia y de los apóstoles.

Cuando el obispo impuso sus manos, y los demás



sacerdotes llegaron para imponer sus manos, dijo el padre Amado, “

“venían a mi mente todos los pasajes del Evangelio, todos los pasajes de la vida de Jesús ... cómo Dios nos llama, como nos ama, y cómo nos da su Espíritu Santo; cómo Jesús murió por nosotros y nos dejó la Eucaristía y el sacerdocio. (Todo) eso venía a mi mente, una infinidad de citas bíblicas. Cada [vez] que un sacerdote venía a poner sus manos, me inculcaba un pasaje distinto.

“Es impresionante para mí ese momento, y yo le decía a Dios, ‘Bueno, aquí estoy para hacer tu voluntad’. Y es un momento de mucha alegría, mucho gozo. Fue el momento gratificante del llamado a la

Sacerdotes...

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vocación sacerdotal”.

La primera Misa del padre Amado, el domingo de *Corpus Christi*, tomó lugar en la *Parroquia Immaculate Conception*, y, “si la catedral estaba llena, aquí estuvo mucho más llena. Estaba un poco nervioso, porque era la primera vez que celebraba [Misa], pero lo celebré con gran piedad, sabiendo lo que había recibido y lo que soy como sacerdote”.

“Mi primera misa se celebró el mismo día que la ordenación”, dijo el padre Fernando, “a las 7 p.m. en la *Parroquia Holy Name* en Fort Worth, de la comunidad donde mis hermanos comúnmente asisten a Misa. Fue muy hermosa; ofrecí la Misa por todas las personas y por mis padres. Hoy estoy celebrando cada momento, y siento, como

San Pablo, ‘que no soy yo, sino que es Cristo quien está actuando en mí’”.

“Mi padre me ha dicho que se necesitan sacerdotes que le den vida a la Iglesia”, dice el padre Fernando. Estas palabras conmovieron mi corazón y pensé que podría ser uno de ellos. Hoy en día, como sacerdote, pido a Dios que me ayude realmente a vivir como un sacerdote para aquellos que estén más necesitados. Y también estoy seguro de que no podré hacerlo sólo, sino con Dios y el apoyo espiritual de las personas, sus oraciones, que (con) ellos podré lograrlo.

“Yo creo en vivir cada día en el camino a la santidad”, dijo el padre Amado. “Creo que (este viaje) es el desafío para cada sacerdote y cada cristiano”. Para el padre Amado, es más importante que vivamos “el



El obispo Kevin Vann, el padre Amado (izquierda) y el padre Fernando (derecha) disfrutaron del momento después de la misa. (Foto por Kathy Cribari Hamer)

Evangelio de forma plena cada día, y ir acercando la vida a Cristo”.

“Eres sacerdote no solamente en el altar, sino en toda la vida de la Iglesia y en

todo momento de tu vida. (El sacerdocio) es toda la vida de uno.



Los padres Fernando Preciado (al frente) y Amado Vallejo yacen postrados durante el rezo de las letanías. (Foto por Kathy Cribari Hamer)



El obispo Kevin Vann recibe la primera bendición del padre Fernando Preciado. (Foto por Kathy Cribari Hamer)

El cardenal DiNardo de Galveston-Houston expresa ‘seria preocupación’ por droga de la que se sabe causa aborto

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El presidente del *Comité de actividades a favor de la vida de los obispos de los Estados Unidos* expresó “seria preocupación” con respecto a una droga llamada *contraceptivo de emergencia* y el proceso de aprobación seguido por la *Administración de alimento y droga, (FDA)*.

El cardenal dijo que el título conduce a error si se le llama *contraceptivo*, pues se sabe que también causa abortos.

En una carta del 17 de junio dirigida a la doctora Margaret Hamburg, comisionada de la FDA, el cardenal Daniel N. DiNardo de Galveston-Houston criticó la audiencia del grupo de consejo ese día con respecto a la droga. Y dijo que la audiencia, llevada a cabo sin

colaboración amplia del público, o un expediente completo sobre la seguridad de la droga “para mujeres o su hijo respectivo todavía no nacido”, demostraba una falla de comprensión “de asuntos médicos y morales” que presenta tal droga.

La droga, conocida como *ulipristal*, se ha puesto en el mercado con la marca registrada de *ellaOne* o *ella*, y se podrá adquirir solamente con receta médica. De la droga se dice que evita el embarazo cinco días después del encuentro sexual, dos días más en comparación con la píldora, que se toma la mañana siguiente después del encuentro sexual, conocida como *Plan B*, y que se les vende sin receta a mujeres mayores de 17 años.

El grupo de consulta de la

FDA, compuesto de 11 expertos de salud reproductiva, votaron unánimemente a favor de la droga *ulipristal* y se refirieron a ella como algo seguro y efectivo. Aunque no se le requiere a la FDA seguir el consejo del grupo de consulta, generalmente sí lo sigue.

La droga, hecha por una compañía farmacéutica francesa, se puede conseguir en la actualidad en 22 países europeos.

En su carta, el cardenal DiNardo expresa su preocupación que la nueva droga sea más similar a la droga conocida como RU-486, que causa aborto varias semanas después del embarazo inicial, y no a otros contraceptivos de emergencia, que se cree surten efecto sobre un huevo fertilizado

después de su implante en el útero.

“Millones de mujeres de los Estados Unidos, incluso las que estuvieran dispuestas a usar contraceptivos para evitar la fertilización en varias circunstancias, personalmente nunca escogerían tener un aborto”, dijo el cardenal DiNardo. “Se les haría un perjuicio mediante una campaña engañosa que presenta la droga *ulipristal* simplemente como ‘contraceptivo’”.

La droga RU-486, conocida genéricamente como *mifepristone*, fue aprobada por la FDA hace 10 años. Esta droga causa aborto en las primeras siete semanas de embarazo cuando se usa junto con otra droga, la *prostaglandin*. Esta droga evita que el huevo

fertilizado se adhiera a la pared uterina, y la *prostaglandin* se usa 48 horas después para inducir contracciones con la expulsión posterior del embrión.

En una carta del 2 de junio dirigida a la FDA, Donna Harrison, presidenta de la *Asociación americana de obstetras y ginecólogos*, que están a favor de la Vida, describió la droga *ulipristal* como “causante de aborto del mismo tipo que la *mifepristone*”, y dijo que “la aprobación de la droga como contraceptivo de emergencia presenta temas delicados de salud y de ética”.

En la carta se decía que esta nueva droga tiene la capacidad de “destruir embarazos establecidos; como, también, evitar el implante”.

Graduates of Loyola University-sponsored ministry program honored at St. Michael

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Before walking up to the altar of St. Michael Church in Bedford to accept well-earned academic credentials, graduates of the Loyola University Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) received another special reminder of their effort to become better lay ministers, teachers, and followers of Christ. Each member of the LIMEX class of 2010 from the Diocese of Fort Worth was handed a white ministry towel depicting Jesus washing the feet of a disciple.

"We give these towels to our graduates as a symbol of what they are called to be," explained Cecelia Bennett, associate director of the distance-learning program based in New Orleans. "It's a testament to the journey they walked together as a learning group."

Addressing worshippers attending the May 13 commencement exercise and Mass of Thanksgiving, the administrator said Loyola University likes to think of the apostles as the first LIMEX students who got their towels at the Last Supper when Jesus washed their feet. Like those early disciples, today's LIMEX participants learned to pray, reflect, and discern together.

"Jesus at the Last Supper modeled what he wanted them to do," she added continuing the comparison. "He wanted to make the center of ministry service, respect, and gratitude for others. These towels symbolize what you're taking on as you move from the world of your learning group to the wider Church and marketplace."

LIMEX students come from a variety of backgrounds and expe-

riences. Graduate Monica Collins of Aledo was firmly entrenched in the world of finance when she first felt the tug to do something different.

"I was in bank management for 20 years and that's where I thought my path was," explained the Holy Redeemer parishioner who volunteered as a catechist and finance committee chairman. "I was at a Montserrat retreat when I felt a stronger call to ministry."

Calling the three-and-half-year effort to earn her certificate in religious education "a beautiful and spiritual journey," Collins said her involvement with LIMEX became more than just an academic exercise.

"What I didn't realize is how deeply it would affect my faith walk," she continued. "I read some of the great authors and now have a greater understanding of our roots, where we're headed, and what our role is in lay ministry."

Today, Collins is the director of religious education at Holy Redeemer.

The five other LIMEX graduates from the Diocese of Fort Worth include Lorraine Miller of St. Matthew Church in Arlington, Master of Pastoral Studies; Virginia Marie Rodriguez from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Fort Worth, Master of Religious Education; Bianca Ramirez LeVesque, also of St. Matthew, certificate in religious education; Ana M. McBride of Holy Family Church in Fort Worth, certificate in pastoral studies; and Peter Nguyen of Christ the King Church in Fort Worth, certificate in pastoral studies.

Started in 1983 in response



LIMEX graduates pose after the Mass and ceremony held at St. Michael Church in Bedford. In the front row (from left to right) are Virginia Rodriguez, Bianca LeVesque, and Monica Collins, and in the back row are Peter Nguyen, Lorraine Miller, and Ana McBride. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

to the Second Vatican Council's universal call to ministry and the changing demographic patterns in the Church, LIMEX provides Catholic lay people with the opportunity to pursue professional training and education within their own localities. Available in numerous dioceses across the United States and Canada, the extension program offers fully accredited graduate degrees and certificate programs in both religious education and pastoral studies from Loyola University New Orleans. A Loyola-certified facilitator leads the 12-course curriculum and students remain with the same classmates throughout the program.

Each learning group, consisting of individuals with varied interests and goals, sets its own time and meeting schedule. Participants are required to take 10 core courses in theology, ministry, and religious education. Two additional self-study electives are chosen from

a list of focus areas that include religious education, pastoral life, Christian spirituality, youth ministry, small Christian community formation, marketplace ministry, religion and ecology, and Hispanic ministry.

The challenging 36-hour curriculum fosters ministerial proficiency by challenging students through rigorous academic study, theological reflection, and critical thinking. Depending on the learning group's pace, courses normally take three-and-a-half to four years to complete.

Thirteen individuals initially enrolled in the latest LIMEX class in 2006. More than half the membership withdrew over the years due to family and work problems.

Those who stayed the course were exposed to up-to-date information and views concerning Church matters, according to Becky Lucas, the facilitator of the

Fort Worth learning group who guided participants through the process, and a LIMEX graduate from the Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina.

"It's all very pertinent Catholic material," explained Lucas. "The curriculum is augmented by videos and lectures from professors who are experts in their field."

Lucas called the education "very broadening" with students contributing their own perceptions and perspective to group discussions. During the years of study, participants met at St. Michael Church and later at Most Blessed Sacrament in Arlington.

"It's a comfortable, convenient way to attain educational goals and do it in an environment with some sense of informality," she said.

Ana McBride, who works in adult faith formation at Holy Family Church, always wanted to learn more in-depth theology.

"But the facilities weren't available to do that," said the RCIA volunteer. "I thought I had done enough through the diocese but then I wanted to learn more. I wanted to discover what makes me Catholic."

LIMEX reading selections and group discussions provided answers to that question and she now feels better equipped to help others on their faith journey.

"You get tired doing homework and reading, but the three-and-a-half years went by quickly because it was so interesting," she admits. "I feel fortunate that I was given the opportunity to do this and I recommend it to others who feel God's spirit calling them."

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 13

writer," I sat up and dashed open both eyes, (as though that would make me hear better). I thought-whispered, "Dear God, if I open the computer and you have typed me a note, I'm going to be very frightened."

But I did get up, went closer to the computer, which was near the TV. Click-click Shhh. I reached for the computer latch and stopped. There was no touch-typing from the hand of God, because the click-click shhh wasn't coming from the computer. It was the senseless spinning of a broken DVD player.

The thought of a divine letter had been enticing, even though I was asleep when I thought it, even though laptop computers don't "click" or "shhh." But God could

make that happen, if he wanted to say something important enough for us to hear.

This spring we welcomed three new transitional deacons and two new priests into the Diocese of Fort Worth. Each of them received a vocation message from God, but they all came in different forms.

Deacon Philip Petta said "I knew I was supposed to be a Roman Catholic priest before I was a Catholic. I was watching TV — in 1997 — and I heard a voice in my head: 'My church needs you.'"

Father Fernando Preciado, newly ordained priest said, "... many brothers ... since I arrived from Mexico, made me feel that the Scripture was fulfilled, 'he which is able to drop everything for the Lord, will receive a hundredfold.'"

Deacon Richard Kirkham acknowledged that he did everything possible to ignore a call to the

priesthood. "I began making deals with God ..., if I could just have one more year in my job. ... But God speaks through the community, and his voice came through a woman: 'It's time ... to listen to what God is telling you.'"

Father Amado Vallejo said at his ordination they called him forward, and he felt joy, happiness and peace. "Once again," Fr. Amado said, "God was calling me through the voice of the Church."

Deacon Khiem Van Nguyen escaped from Vietnam in August, 1982. He attended Mass one morning and sailed away that night. "On a small boat in the ocean, I talked to Heavenly Mother that I would become a priest if I might come to America."

Through the years I have heard of profound messages from God, and they always come to people who have prepared themselves to hear his voice, read the right books,

studied the right words.

Those people pray rather than spending time — even sleeping time — on activities that might not pull us away from God, but don't do anything to push us closer to him.

Reading and movie watching are both acceptable nighttime positions. But there is another way we can achieve the same thing; prayer. Some people pray the Rosary at bedtime (if you didn't finish it the angels will) and some quietly place themselves in God's hands. They don't count sheep; they talk to the Shepherd.

The other night, even though I went to sleep with an old movie, I still woke up with the thought of my Heavenly Father. I remembered the sounds of the night before. It would have been an interesting way for the Lord to send me a message: type a letter on my computer. Make a lot of noise.

After that night I got a new DVD player, but I did not take the computer out of my room. I want to talk to God as much as I can. Maybe someday He really will contact me!

Would it frighten me to receive an instant message from God? Absolutely not.

I wouldn't miss it for the world.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. In May 2009 her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association for the second time in two years at the Catholic Media Convention in Anaheim. In 2005, Kathy's column was recognized with the first place award in the same category.

Good Newsmakers

With the blessing of Bishop Vann before hundreds of people, Fathers Fernando Preciado and Amada Vallejo are ordained to the priesthood becoming

Shepherds of God's flock

Story by Kathy Cribari Hamer / correspondent

The already distinctive date of Father Fernando Preciado and Father Amado Vallejo's ordination was uniquely important to Fr. Fernando in two additional ways. It was the 34th anniversary of his birth, and five years since the death, "rather, the resurrection" of his mother.

The new Fr. Fernando said, "I was returning from the Amazon jungle in Peru to my house because my mother was dying. And God granted me that she was well on my birthday. I was born on June 5, 1976 at 10:30 a.m.

"For me this has been a providence of God, a wonderful sign of his goodness to me. I have died with Christ, as my mother has done, but I've also been raised with Him, to do something in this world. I pray to God through my mother for the opportunity to get something good done."

The two newest priests in

Left to right: Newly ordained Father Amado Vallejo embraces Father Tim Thompson of St. Mark, whom he lived with while studying in Denton. Watching is close friend Fr. Alfredo Barba, who was ordained last year and took intensive English classes with Fr. Amado. (PHOTO BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER) • Bishop Kevin Vann lays hands on Fr. Amado. (PHOTO BY JUAN GUAJARDO) • Fr. Fernando receives the sacrament of ordination from Bishop Vann. (PHOTO BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER)



Fathers Amado Vallejo and Fernando Preciado process out of St. Patrick Cathedral after their ordination to the priesthood. (PHOTO BY JUAN GUAJARDO)

the diocese, Fr. Fernando and Fr. Amado, came to the United States from their native Mexico (Fr. Fernando from Nochistlan, Zacatecas, and Fr. Amado from Oaxaca), and in the ordination homily, Bishop Kevin Vann invoked the Patroness of the Americas. "I pray especially, we all pray today, that the mother of the Lord — Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of the Americas — lead you always to her son,

the Good Shepherd, the Great High Priest.

"I am here as your mother," the bishop quoted Mary. "Do not fear."

The traditional, solemn liturgy of ordination included a presentation of the candidates, a promise of obedience to the bishop, and an invitation to prayer, through which the candidates lay prostrate, while the community sang the litany of the saints.

Following that ritual was the laying on of hands by the bishop, the singular moment of ordination. This action was followed by all the priests of the diocese, laying on hands in a symbol of brotherhood.

The new priests were then vested for the order of presbyter, with honored priests and mentors assisting them. Their ordination vestments were similarly embroidered with roses, and



"Today as a priest, I ask God to help me really live as a priest for those who need it most."

— Fr. Fernando Preciado

pictures of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego. Finally the bishop anointed their hands with holy chrism.

Vesting priest for Fr. Fernando was Father Juan Rivero of St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Granbury. "God placed him in my life as a teacher," Fr. Fernando said. And vesting Fr. Amado were Monsignor Charles King of Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, Father Hector Medina of St. Matthew Parish in Arlington, and Father Domingo Romero, OFM Cap., of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Fort Worth.

"I chose these three priests," Fr. Amado said, "because of their life witness, love of the Gospel, dedicated service and also because they can accompany and guide me," Fr. Amado said. "I chose them because of their zeal and commitment to the Gospel. It made me so happy that none of them refused! Everyone said 'yes.'"

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Inside... This issue of the NTC

1,400 men and women attended a Spanish charismatic retreat hosted by the diocese and led by dynamic speakers. Find out what participants have to say about the popular retreat. **10**

Ann Healey, Director of Permanent Deacon Formation for the diocese, retires after 26 years and forming four classes of permanent deacons. Read about the impact she's had on others. **16**

The parishioners and former pastors of Sacred Heart Parish in Seymour celebrate their Czechoslovakian heritage and 100 years of faith with an anniversary Mass and festivities. **18**