



Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 9

Bishop Kevin Vann invites you to join thousands of your fellow Catholics celebrating the opening of the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Fort Worth at 3 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Fort Worth Convention Center in downtown Fort Worth. A reception will follow in the convention center ballroom.



North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Pope Benedict XVI holds a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament during an evening prayer service June 19 in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, formally opening the Year for Priests. (CNS photo/Giampiero Sposito, Reuters)

Pope opens Year for Priests, says they must bear witness to God's compassion

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Formally opening the Year for Priests, Pope Benedict urged all priests to strive for holiness and said the ordained ministry was indispensable for the church and the world.

"The church needs priests who are holy, ministers who help the faithful experience the merciful love of the Lord and who are convinced witnesses of that love," the pope said at a prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica June 19.

At the same time, in an apparent reference to cases of priestly sex abuse, he warned of the "terrible risk of damaging those we are obliged to save."

'Ours is an indispensable mission for the church and for the world, which demands full fidelity to Christ and unceasing union with him.'

— Pope Benedict XVI

"Nothing makes the church and the body of Christ suffer so much as the sins of its pastors, especially those who transform

themselves into 'robbers of sheep,' either because they lead them astray with their private doctrines, or because they bind them in the snares of sin and death," he said.

Thousands of priests packed the basilica for the evening prayer service, which was preceded by a procession of the relic of the heart of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. The pope proclaimed the yearlong focus on priestly ministry to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the saint's death.

Pope Benedict stopped to pray before the saint's heart, exposed in a glass and gold reliquary. In

SEE POPE HOPES, P. 15

School of Lay Ministry begins two-year cycle in fall in English and Spanish

New Pope John Paul II Institute, expands ministry formation into catechesis and catechumenate

by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

To meet current needs and reflect the life of the Church today, the Diocese of Fort Worth will launch an expanded lay ministry formation program beginning this fall.

The Pope John Paul II Institute, named to honor the teaching legacy of the late pontiff, will replace the Light of Christ Institute which was started 11 years ago to ensure those serving in local parishes were well-trained and well-formed.

"The Light of Christ Institute has a long, important history in the diocese and contributed to the formation of so many ministers in parishes," Bishop Kevin Vann told the *North Texas Catholic*. "But we thought it was time to look at the institute and make sure it

'Adults want to know what the church teaches. And it's important for them to be fully aware of what the church teaches to meet the challenges of this age.'

— Bishop Kevin Vann

reflected current needs and current challenges of faith. As we celebrate the 40th anniversary
SEE JOHN PAUL II, P. 17

Austin Bishop Aymond named archbishop of New Orleans

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of Austin, 59, as archbishop of New Orleans.

The pope has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, who turned 75 Dec. 2, 2007. Canon law requires all bishops to submit their resignation to the pope when they turn 75.

SEE ARCHBISHOP, P. 16

Archbishop Gregory Aymond, the new archbishop of New Orleans, speaks to the media during a news conference in New Orleans June 12. (CNS photo/Frank J. Methe, CLARION HERALD)



Like the Sacred Heart, the Year of the Priest reveals to us God's love

Dear Brothers and Sisters
in the Lord,

I am here in San Antonio at the close of the United States Bishops' Spring Meeting. It is June 19, and in the Church's liturgical calendar, it is the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. While this devotion has often been what I would call "sentimentalized," it has profound scriptural roots and an important place in the life of the Church, both in our private and official prayer.

The heart is, among other things, the symbol of love. In his letter to the Romans in Chapter 8, St. Paul tells us that the love of God is revealed in Christ. The heart of Christ becomes a clear image of this love of God for each and every one of us. The establishment of this solemnity, centuries after St. Paul, came from the private revelations of Christ to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, and provided a welcome balance to the pervasive heresy of Jansenism, which took a very dim view of human nature.

It is appropriate for this day, in what is called the Office of Readings of the Liturgy of the Hours, that St. Paul tells us in Romans that, "We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who have been called according to his decree." As we also will soon be closing the year of St. Paul, these words from his letter to the Romans are important for us to reflect on in light of all of the events of our lives. Sometimes events that we cannot understand at the moment of occurrence: mistakes, sadness, tragedy, or sin, and the blessings and joys of life as well, must be seen in the light that God, in his providential care, does indeed make all things work to the good for those who love God. God's love for us is part of all of our lives, a love which is symbolized by the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the importance that the Church places on this day in her liturgy. In a



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

Most importantly, I would ask that you remember and thank the priests who you know, who influenced your life and your relationship with God, and who work very hard and serve our Diocese and parishes. Please continue to pray for all of them and encourage them daily.

culture and society which is indifferent to the presence of God, and often violent and coarse, the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus stands as a reminder of another reality — that of the love of God — which is stronger than any obstacle or challenge which we might face.

It is also important to note that another important year begins this day, which like the year of St. Paul, was established by Pope Benedict XVI. Beginning today, June 19, on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, we will be celebrating the Year of the Priest. Here is the first paragraph of the letter which our Holy Father dedicated to all the priests of the world on this special occasion...

On the forthcoming Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday 19 June 2009 – a day traditionally devoted to prayer for the sanctification of the clergy —, I have decided to inaugurate a "Year for Priests" in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the "dies natalis" of John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests worldwide. This Year, meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world, will conclude on the same Solemnity in 2010. "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus," the saintly Curé of Ars would often say. This touching expression makes us reflect, first of all, with heartfelt gratitude on the immense gift which priests represent, not only for the Church, but also for humanity itself. I think of all those priests who quietly present Christ's words and actions each day to the faithful and to the whole world, striving to be one with the Lord in their thoughts and their will, their sentiments and their style of life. How can I not pay tribute to their apostolic labors, their tireless and hidden service, their universal charity? And how can I not praise the courageous fidelity of so many priests who, even amid

difficulties and incomprehension, remain faithful to their vocation as "friends of Christ," whom he has called by name, chosen and sent?

Our North Texas Catholic will be giving special coverage to this Year for Priests on the 150th Anniversary of the *Dies Natalis* of the Curé of Ars in the months ahead, and there will be several events planned for this year as well. Most importantly, I would ask that you remember and thank the priests who you know, who influenced your life and your relationship with God, and who work very hard and serve our Diocese and parishes. Please continue to pray for all of them and encourage them daily.

Every member of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Fort Worth, in their response to the call to holiness, has also the call to encourage priestly and religious vocations. This year, thanks be to God, we will have around 31 seminarians studying for the diocesan priesthood in various seminaries around the country and

in Mexico. We have had one priestly ordination this year, and another one is scheduled for later on in the fall. Three of our priests (Fathers Richard Flores, Hector Medina, and Ivor Koch) are celebrating 25 years of ministry this year and Monsignor Joseph Scantlin celebrates 50 years.

Finally, I would ask that you rejoice with me at the appointment of my good friend, Bishop George Lucas, who has been bishop of my home diocese in Springfield, Illinois; he has been appointed the new Archbishop of Omaha, Nebraska and will be installed on July 22. He will receive the pallium (the archbishop's symbol) on June 29 in Rome from Pope Benedict XVI.

I hope and pray that all of you have a very blessed and restful summer and safe travels and vacations. Remember that it is easy to locate Mass times wherever you are traveling and that as I tell students each year "vacation from school is not vacation from Church." The solemnity of Sunday, the Day of the Lord, is vital for each of our spiritual and family lives, even as it is an obligation to the Lord which He calls us to. It is also important to reflect on our worship in the summer season and remember that respectful and modest attire is an important sign of our reverence and relationship to God.

God bless you always.

+ Kevin W. Vann

+Kevin W. Vann



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Diocesan

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.

In a time of crisis — Religious vocations offer hope for next generation

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Our local Catholic Church is experiencing much vibrancy as families and communities become more Christ-centered and adhere more closely to the true teachings of Christ provided us by the Magisterium through guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Yet I have much concern as to whether or not our current commitment to Christ and the Church is strong enough to be considered a true rebound.

First, though, some great news for the future of our diocese is that we will have at least 31 seminarians studying for the priesthood this fall, six

more than last fall and double the number of seminarians four years ago. Considering that we only have 45 diocesan priests in full-time ministry, we must give glory to God and thank Him for calling these men forward to consider diocesan priesthood here in the Diocese of Fort Worth. At the same time, we are beginning to see a jump in the number of men considering the religious life from our diocese. So why am I concerned for the future of our local church — and why should you be concerned too?

First, it's my job to be concerned! As the director of Vocations for the diocese, this is what I do fulltime. I pray and analyze and then pray some more. Below are three of my primary concerns:

— At a recent discernment gathering for women, one of the sisters started out the discussion by asking the young single women why they had decided to come for the evening. One college-age woman responded with excitement that she grew up Catholic and had never seen a nun in person, so she came

simply to see a nun in person for the first time. What's wrong with this picture? How can a Catholic church be Catholic without sisters? Can you say "crisis"? Parents are searching frantically and desperately for the best way to raise their children. For this reason I have been heavily involved with teens involved in all of our schooling options: public school, private school, Catholic school, and home school.

Parents are searching for a means of education that complements their value system, discipline, and prayer life at home. Parents have steadfastly seen public schools screen out prayer, and now many see a new wave of attacks on Christian values in their local ISDs. At the same time, while Catholic schools provide a complementary formational system, parents have steadfastly seen Catholic school tuition increase to the point that many families are not financially capable of sending their children there. Can you say "crisis" again? This is why home-schooling will continue to rise in the years ahead, especially for larger families,

I am a dreamer; that is part of who I am. Yet a dream connected to the will of God is called real hope. Imagine with me for a moment. Just 40 years ago, more than 800 nuns were serving in the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth! What would your parish look like if you had a dozen brothers or a dozen sisters?

as it is being seen as a new, viable alternative.

— The overall moral attack on the family and Christian community is at an all-time high in this country, and I see no end in sight. Here is yet another gigantic crisis.

However, there is one solution that will work. Only one solution will give relief to our parishes and Catholic schools' budgets, while at the same time addressing the many concerns of parents.

We need single men and single women, young and not so young, from our diocese to answer their calling from God to enter religious orders to be brothers and sisters! For those who are called, I plead with you to begin to answer our Lord, to give up your life in order to save it, to lay down your life for Christ in order to renew the Church, and to save the next generation from grave harm.

I am a dreamer; that is part of who I am. Yet a dream connected to the will of God is called real hope. Imagine with me for a moment. Just 40 years ago, more than 800 nuns were serving in the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth! What would your parish look like if you had a dozen brothers or a dozen sisters? What is stopping this from happening? If

Christ is the center of family life, then what is standing in the way of single men and women from committing their lives completely to the Lord? Did Jesus not call the apostles to leave everything behind and to follow him? St. Paul writes, "For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's (Romans 14:8)." Are single men and women willing to consider leaving the glamorous world of personal gain for the greater purpose of renewing the Church by building up families in a Culture of Life centered on Christ?

If you (or someone you know) are single and believe that God may be calling you to the religious life as a nun, brother, or priest, then get going! The Annual Vocation Awareness Weekend at Holy Trinity Seminary is set for July 17-19. This is the perfect place to spend time with the Lord, to listen to his voice, and to understand your purpose in life. For more information, please see the ad in this paper titled "is God calling you?"

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

is God calling you?

Join other Catholics who want to know.

The Vocation Awareness Program will be held Friday - Sunday, July 17-19 at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. This weekend of discernment helps single Catholic men and women, ages 18-40, find answers about life as a Priest, Sister or Brother. It includes presentations, panel discussions, question and answer periods and one-on-one personal conferences with diocesan and order Priests, Sisters and Brothers. There are no fees, private rooms and meals are furnished, and no one will pressure you or seek commitment. For more information and to apply, visit vapinfo.org, or contact Fr. Kyle Walterscheid at the Fort Worth Diocese, 817-366-0439, kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.

Vocation
Awareness
Program

July 17-19 vapinfo.org

Support for grief and loss to be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Help is available for those whose marriage has ended through death, divorce, or separation. This structured and confidential peer ministry, sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office, was created to help persons work through the stages of grief and pain that accompany the loss of a spouse. A new session will begin Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington.

For information or to register, contact Helen Engle at (817) 261-9706 or e-mail to hengle@sbcglobal.net; or call Kevin Gamble at (817) 626-9382.

Marriage Encounter weekend to be held July 10-12

Marriage Encounter weekends will be held July 10-12 and Oct. 9-11 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St. in East Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of marriage vows, and strengthening the couple's faith.

For more information or to register online, visit the Web site at www.ntexasme.org or e-mail to mereregistration@sbcglobal.net

Cardinal Newman Institute to present talk Aug. 21

The Cardinal Newman Institute, located in the Diocese of Fort Worth, is hosting a talk on Friday, Aug. 21, from 7-9 p.m. Chris Tunnell, M.Th. will present an overview of St. Augustine's masterpiece, *City of God*, drawing out implications for today's challenges of the relationship between the heavenly and earthly kingdoms.

Hospitality begins at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1400 N. Davis Dr., Arlington.

For more information, call (817) 277-4859 or e-mail, cni.info@yahoo.com. More information may also be found on the Institute's Web site at www.cardinalnewmaninstitute.org.

Tribunal to offer advocate training

The diocesan Tribunal Office will offer Tribunal Advocate Training three Thursdays in July. The training will be held July 16, 23, and 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth.

Anyone wishing to serve as a Tribunal advocate in a parish is invited to participate in this training. Attendance at all three sessions is required to serve as an advocate and attendance at "Introduction to Tribunal Ministry" or equivalent is a prerequisite.

There is no charge for this seminar. Pre-registration is required by Friday, July 10. For more information and to register, call (817) 560-3300 ext. 204.

Fr. Crotty to present at parish mission in Muenster

Father Christopher Crotty of the Fathers of Mercy will present a parish mission at Sacred Heart Church, 714 N. Main, Muenster, from Sunday, July 26, through Thursday, July 30. Fr. Crotty specializes in giving parish missions and retreats that focus on inner/spiritual healing.

The mission will introduce the participants to the wonders of the Catholic faith as expressed through the healing power of the sacraments, the potency of the preached word, and the mystery of the sacramental. The mission will include healing Masses, confessions, talks on healing and the Holy Spirit, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and the laying on of hands.

Fr. Crotty will be speaking at the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, July 25, and the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 26.

For more information, call Lanie Bartush at (940) 759-4215.

Sr. Inés Díaz Meneses to celebrate silver jubilee Aug. 8

Sister Inés M. Díaz Meneses, SSMN, will celebrate her silver jubilee as a religious with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur.

All are invited to attend the Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 1:30 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills. A reception will be held in the parish hall following the Mass. To RSVP call (817) 284-4811 ext. 214 or e-mail lpasillas@sjanrh.com

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



SACRED HEART, WICHITA FALLS — Richard and Shannan King's fourth grade class presented Religious Education Director Linda Price with a wooden puzzle cross, which was made by the class as a yearlong project. Different portions of the artwork represent the liturgical year and its seasons and the sacraments. The cross was hung in the parish hall of Sacred Heart. Pictured above are: (left to right) Shannan King, catechist assistant, Stevie Joyner, Blake Heier, Trisha Nicolas, Madelaine Johnston, Felisa Nihof, and Richard King, catechist and designer of the cross.

NTC summer schedule

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published.

Items for the July 31 issue must be received by noon on July 15. Due to the 40th anniversary celebration, items are being requested one week earlier for the July issue. Items for the Aug. 21 issue must be received by Aug. 12.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet July 24

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, other sexual minorities, and their families and friends regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held July 24 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth.

For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy at (817) 927-5383, Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601, or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

Theology of the Body Series at St. Rita Church July 10-31

The St. Rita Respects Life Group and the Knights of Columbus, St. Rita Parish, Fort Worth, invite all to attend a life-enhancing and life-changing event. "An Education in Being Human: Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*," a workshop using noted author Christopher West's book, *Created and Redeemed*, will be offered on four consecutive Fridays, July 10 through July 31 beginning at 7 p.m.

Each session will last approximately two hours and will address questions such as: "What is the meaning of life?" "How do we experience it?" "Why were we created male and female?" "Why is there evil in the world and how do we overcome it?" The program is designed for those ages 16 and older.

The cost for the series workbook is \$8. Pizza and salad will be available at the door for \$5. Free childcare will be provided.

For more information and to reserve a workbook, call (817) 861-1350.

Engaged Encounter seeking volunteers

The Engaged Encounter (EE) ministry provides marriage preparation weekends for engaged couples seeking to marry in the Catholic Church. EE needs married couples who believe in the sacrament of marriage and wish to help engaged couples lay the foundation for a holy marriage.

EE is currently seeking married couples to volunteer their time in hospitality roles such as greeting engaged couples upon arrival and feeding them during the weekend by working in the kitchen.

If you would like to be involved, attend an informational meeting on July 8 or July 14 from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth.

For more information, contact Jeff and Cyndi Carpenter at cyndi.carpenter@yahoo.com or call (972) 539-8070.

Teacher's retreat to be offered July 31-Aug. 2

A special retreat for Christian teachers serving elementary and secondary schools, including public and private schools will be offered at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, 600 N. Shady Shores, Lake Dallas. The retreat, facilitated by Father Raymond Fitzgerald, assistant provincial at the New Orleans Jesuit Province, will begin the evening of Friday, July 31. Registration will be held from 4-7 p.m., with dinner included. The retreat will end Sunday Aug. 2 following lunch.

"This is an excellent opportunity for teachers to reflect on their vocation as a teacher and [how they can] share their Christian values with the children they teach," according to promotional materials.

The fee for the retreat is \$200. A special discount for two or more teachers from the same school is being offered. Private room/bath and meals are included.

For more information, call the Montserrat Retreat House at (940) 321-6020 or register on line at www.montserratreteat.org.



Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate a Eucharistic Liturgy in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Worth on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 3 p.m. The celebration will be held at the Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., in downtown Fort Worth. A reception will follow in the ballroom.

For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org or call (817) 560-3300.

'COGD' cancelled Aug. 9

St. Paul the Apostle Church has announced that the "Children of God's Delight Christian Community" prayer meeting has been cancelled for Sunday, Aug. 9 due to the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Worth. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 738-9925.

Weekend scheduled for couples in troubled marriages

A Retrouvaille weekend is scheduled for July 17-19 at a hotel in Fort Worth. Retrouvaille — a French word meaning "rediscovery" — is designed for couples of all faith traditions who are struggling in their marriage and are contemplating separation or divorce. The weekend program is presented by a Catholic priest and by couples who have also faced significant challenges in their marriages. Topics for private discussion between couples are presented and opportunities for prayer and counseling are made available. Total confidentiality is assured to all participants.

The deposit for the weekend is \$75; scholarship assistance is available for those unable to pay additional fees. For more information, visit www.retrouvaille.org or call (817) 462-8953.



THE CATHOLIC FAMILY FRATERNAL OF TEXAS — KJZT Junior Division Society #104 Immaculate Heart of Mary in Abbott recently helped the Abbott Volunteer Fire Department with its annual fund raiser on April 26. During dinner the Juniors filled cups with ice, poured tea and water, wiped tables, and assisted people with their plates of food. The Juniors pictured are (front row left to right) James Bezdek, Sherry Pustejovsky, Morgan Ballew, and Ashley Ballew; (second row) Alyssa Ballew, Carly Pustejovsky, Mallory Ballew, Payton Pustejovsky, and Lauren Gerik; (third row) Danielle Nors and Lydia Pustejovsky.

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father Publius Xeureb has been assigned as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, Aledo, effective July 1.

Father Thu Nguyen has been assigned as pastoral administrator of St. George Parish, Fort Worth, effective July 1.

Father Ray McDaniel has been assigned as pastoral administrator of St. Peter Parish, Lindsay, effective July 1.

Diocesan

Nolan honors passing of beloved ecology teacher

By Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

When Nolan Catholic High School said goodbye June 8 to Dr. Joe Kuban, 30-year faculty member, they celebrated all facets of his life, which had ended four days earlier from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Speakers remembered his passion for ecology and music, his curiosity and hunger for learning, his affection for family, friends, and Nolan. They also remembered light moments with him.

"I think we can all admit God has a sense of humor," said Father Oscar Vasquez, SM, former Nolan principal, beginning his homily at Kuban's Mass of Christian Burial, "Joe would have liked that.

"Saturday evening I was at St. Joseph Parish in St. Louis, and I had arrived early, to pray over my notes for Joe's funeral," Fr. Oscar said. He noted that he had left home with three sets of notes: the funeral homily, the homily for that evening's Mass,

and a grocery list.

He sat in church, reading his funeral homily, and at Mass time, picked up his notes for the homily he was about to deliver.

"The notes read, 'Orange juice, bread, milk...', and I thought, 'Joe's playing a game with me.'

"It is appropriate that we gather for Eucharist on this property," Fr. Oscar continued, seriously. "Nolan, for Joe, was a property where he came many years ago, and stayed. I think Joe would agree when I say, 'This is holy ground, made holy by the people who have gone through these doors.'

"Joe would say, 'I'm coming home to start my final voyage home.'"

Kuban's wife, DeLane, said they had planned his funeral services, "and he knew what he wanted: [history teacher] Kai Nemeth singing 'Oh Mary of Graces,' a Gaelic hymn he and Joe had sung together."

A long-time musician and songwriter, Kuban traditionally composed songs for every graduating class. One graduate, Matt Stahl, spoke at the funeral, intertwining Kuban's lyrics with his own words of tribute. "In the heavenly desert that is your new home, the air's washed clean with God's healing love ... everything turns green ... the ocotillo's leafing out again ... and the late summer rains of heaven refresh your soul and ours."



Dr. Joe Kuban sits on a tree during one of his many field trips to Big Bend. (Photo courtesy of Natalie Hubbard)

Having founded what is thought to be the nation's longest-running high school ecology program, Kuban gave Nolan students a remarkable field trip tradition. Brother Al Kuntemeier, SM, served Kuban "as bus driver, teaching assistant, cook, chaplain, chaperone, moderator, finance man, and logistics manager for more than

75 trips." At the vigil service, Br. Al smiled, "Joe referred to me as his right-hand man. Did you know that Joe was left-handed?"

The men took students to Port Aransas, Beavers Bend, Caddo Lake, Big Bend (Kuban's favorite), the Cayman Islands, and Costa Rica. "That's how I served Joe and how I knew Joe,"

Brother Al said, "but the most important honor was that I had this great man as my friend. I feel honored and privileged to be able to make that claim."

Nolan's arena was full of praise and song, as three decades of his students brought their affection and respect home. Their teacher's legacy would be preserved through the ongoing ecological program and students who chose to follow his lead.

Fr. Oscar invited everyone "to take Joe's positive energy and pass it on — continue to be involved with saving our world." To remind Nolan, a memorial Christmas tree was planted in their courtyard on Earth Day, six weeks before Kuban's death.

"He was a truly good man," said DeLane, through tears, "and there was no pretense. He was truly what you thought he was, an exceptional man, teacher, husband, father, and friend."

"I thank you, Joe, from the bottom of my heart for letting me — for letting us — be a part of your life," Brother Al said emotionally. "May our Creator God, and his mother the Queen of Heaven, accept you, give you the reward of eternal life and eternal happiness in a place where the ecosystem is always working perfectly.

"You done good, Joe. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you."

Peter Kreeft gives presentation on moral relativism and atheism

By Juan Guajardo
Correspondent

"Out of this apparently innocent idea comes the disease that will certainly end our species and damn our souls if it is not crushed," Dr. Peter Kreeft read aloud from an essay by C.S. Lewis.

With those few words, Kreeft, a prominent Catholic theologian and Boston College philosophy professor, began his two hour-long talk and question and answer sessions on the "poison" of moral relativism and on how to prove and defend God's existence.

The diocesan Office of Adult Catechesis invited Kreeft, the author of more than 45 books, who was speaking in the diocese for the second time, according to Lucas Pollice, director of Catechesis and RCIA.

"I think [moral relativism] is probably the crucial topic of our time," Dr. Kreeft said, as an audience of 200 sat in silence, some leaning forward attentively in the pews of St. Maria Goretti Church

while others jotted notes.

Moral relativism, the modern view that there is no objective truth or concrete moral values, only mere sentiments that should all be respected equally, is harming society, Kreeft said. The two World Wars, totalitarianism, and a societal loss of "hard" virtues, such as courage and honesty, were all brought about by moral relativism, Kreeft explained.

Kreeft also noted how attractive moral relativism has grown and how in the past few decades it has created a sea change in society by becoming the mainstream ideology in America while also extending its influence to schools, universities, and the media. No society has ever had moral relativists as its teachers, Kreeft said.

"That's why Lewis directly prophesied, if we continue down this road, if our society becomes more and more moral relativist, this will be the abolition of man," Kreeft said. "This will end the species. No society in the history of the world has survived with

moral relativism."

The consequences are even greater for the soul, Kreeft warned, reminding the audience of Christ's message to the Pharisees: "I didn't come into the world for you. I'm not your Savior, sorry. I am the Doctor and only the sick person knocks on the door of the Doctor. You say you're not sick, so goodbye." That's terrifying but that's what moral relativism does. If we make up the rules, if moral relativism is true, then there's no such thing as sin."

Pollice felt Kreeft's talks would help the church community and would better explain the Church's firm stance on issues like abortion, euthanasia, and stem-cell research — a stance that's come under attack as moral relativism has grown.

"I'm hoping it will help give people some tools to be able to engage our culture particularly in the area of moral relativism, which is so prevalent," Pollice said. "Even Pope Benedict XVI, right before he was elected Pope,

"That's why Lewis directly prophesied, if we continue down this road, if our society becomes more and more moral relativist, this will be the abolition of man. This will end the species. No society in the history of the world has survived with moral relativism."

— Dr. Peter Kreeft

talked about the dictatorship of relativism. It's a big issue in our culture."

The audience ranged from teenage and adult parishioners to catechists and non-Catholic Christians.

"I thought it was a very enjoyable lecture," said Paul Beeler, a philosophy student at the University of Dallas. "I'm hoping to take away from it a better understanding of the world we are operating in."

Kreeft concluded with a discussion on the proof of God's existence, giving several arguments his listeners could use to rationally prove that God exists.

He touched on several arguments from Thomas Aquinas, Lewis, and Blaise Pascal.

"Almost nobody is an atheist; it's not easy to be an atheist," Kreeft said, in response to an audience member's question on how it might be more difficult to prove that God is good. "It's easy to be a believer in God, but it's much harder to believe that God is totally good and totally trustworthy — and that's a matter of faith. Romeo doesn't come to Juliet with a battery of lawyers and philosophers proving to her that it's rational to accept his marriage proposal. He says trust me, leap into my arms. That's God."

ICCS student wins national handwriting championship

Bethany Rush, daughter of Melissa and Brian Rush of Denton, has been named the first place winner in the 2009 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest.

Bethany, who graduated in May from eighth grade at Immaculate Conception Catholic School (ICCS) in Denton, learned of the honor during a campus awards ceremony held Friday, May 29 at ICCS.

Bethany's entry was chosen from more than 200,000 submissions from students in first through eighth grades across the country.

Larry Cannon, a representative of Zaner-Bloser, an educational publishing company, presented Bethany with a plaque at the awards ceremony. Bethany will also receive \$1,500 in prizes, including a Nintendo Wii video game system. Her eighth grade classroom at ICCS will receive a new computer system, and Susan Byrd, her handwriting coach, has been awarded a trip for two to Washington, D.C.

Bishop Kevin Vann attended the awards ceremony at which Bethany was named the winner of the national competition.



Handwriting champion Bethany Rush, left, with Larry Cannon of Zaner-Bloser, handwriting coach Susan Byrd, and Bishop Kevin Vann.

The announcement came as a surprise to her, she told reporters with the *Denton Record-Chronicle* newspaper. She knew she had been named a state and then a national grade-level winner in this year's competition, but was unaware that she had achieved national champion status. Expert judges said Bethany demonstrated impeccable slant, size, shape, and spacing with her handwriting.

According to school principal Elaine Schad, students at Im-

maculate Conception practice their handwriting with a campus coach before entering the Zaner-Bloser contest each spring. Bethany has entered annually over the past six years and has been named a state finalist on three occasions.

"I try to take a lot of pride in what I write," Bethany said. "It shows your personality and how you think about what you're doing."

Bethany and her family attend St. Mark Church in Denton.

TCC Credit Union breaks ground on new office in South Fort Worth

Texas Catholic Community Credit Union, serving the Catholic community in North Texas since 1969, held a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday, May 28, at the site of their future Fort Worth location, at Kellis and Town Center Drive, just south of La Gran Plaza in South Fort Worth.

The credit union, with a main office in Dallas, opened a temporary branch office this spring in the La Gran Plaza Tower in South Fort Worth at 4200 South Freeway, just north of the facility under construction.

"Although TCCCU has been providing financial services to thousands of Catholics and Catholic institutions for over 40 years, the groundbreaking marks an historic point in the history of the credit union in that this will be the first location of the credit union constructed from the ground up," noted TCCCU press materials.

The new branch office will provide the same consumer financial services that are currently offered at the Dallas and Fort Worth locations, including auto and personal loans, savings and checking accounts, certificates of deposits and



Officials with the Texas Catholic Community Credit Union celebrate along with project engineers from JEA/HydroTech Engineering at the May 28 groundbreaking of the credit union's South Fort Worth location.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA). The new credit union location will also have an on-site ATM to allow for the convenience of credit union members to obtain cash from their accounts 24 hours a day with no surcharge.

"TCCCU has a very strong net worth of over 10 percent, and every member account is insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund with the backing of the full faith and credit of the U.S. government to at least \$250,000 for individual accounts," wrote the credit union's

president, Ron Powers, in a recent release. "Higher levels of insurance are available based on account ownership. Also, certain retirement accounts, such as IRAs, are insured separately up to \$250,000. As the nation braces itself for more tough times ahead, TCC Credit Union is prepared to succeed even in a weakening economy."

The new branch office is expected to open by the beginning of 2010. For more information, contact TCCCU at 1(800)256-0779 or online at www.tcccu.org.

St. Mary in Windthorst honors graduating senior altar servers



St. Mary Church in Windthorst honored those graduating seniors who had faithfully served their parish as altar servers since fifth grade at a Sunday Mass, May 24.

The seniors honored for eight years of service were (from left to right) Ryan Berend, Carmen Stallcup, and Justin Veitenheimer. The three served Mass together for the last time and were given a St. Christopher medal and chain. Father David Kraeger, TOR, pastor of St. Mary, presented the three young adults with the gift of appreciation.

While the gifts were being presented, Mark Veiten-

heimer, altar server trainer and sponsor, encouraged the three to find ways to stay active in the Church as they all head off to college.

"Ryan, Carmen, and Justin were in the first group of fifth-graders that I trained in 2001. They have been wonderful examples to the younger servers, and I could always count on them. As they head off to Texas Tech (Ryan), North Texas Junior College (Carmen), and Midwestern State University (Justin), I expect all three to remain active in their Catholic faith. St. Mary's appreciates their years of service."

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Diocesan

St. Mary parishioners reflect on last 100 years

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

The 100th anniversary of the May 6, 1909 first Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish included a congregation with people whose children and grandchildren had attended the parish elementary school, and received first Communion from the St. Mary's altar.

Father Jonathan Wallis, who three years ago served his pastoral year at St. Mary's, filled in for Father David Bristow, who was ill.

"I'm not clairvoyant," the young priest said, in his homily, "but I have heard Fr. David speak on other times, and one of his favorite sayings, of a parish church, is that there are places in this world, where the veil

that separates us from heaven, is worn thin through prayer."

"And our parish is indeed one of those places," he said, "where heaven doesn't seem that far away, and it doesn't seem really unattainable."

After Mass, celebrating on the church's familiar front porch, were gatherings of people whose laughter filled the space that had greeted thousands upon thousands, through the past century.

Present were 30-year parishioners Clara and Ray Tovar; 53-year parishioner Richard Nieswiadomy and his daughter Donna, who graduated from the eighth grade at St. Mary's in 1972 and from Nolan Catholic High School in 1976.



Anniversary flowers are placed at this statue of the Blessed Mother, patroness of the 100 year-old parish community of St. Mary of the Assumption.



Longtime St. Mary parishioners pose together at the 100th anniversary celebration. Shown from left to right are Ray Tovar, Clara Tovar, Richard Nieswiadomy, Lupe Vasquez, and Margaret Smith.



Fr. Jonathan Wallis, standing in for St. Mary's pastor Fr. David Bristow, leads the congregation in Benediction as part of the anniversary celebration.

Lupe Vasquez who attended the anniversary Mass with her daughter Melinda Clark and her granddaughter Ava Clark, said, "I just belong here — I've been here so long. I just belong here! Sixty years! My children went here and my children's children went here."

Margaret Smith said she had attended St. Mary's for an in-

credible 80 years. "I started here when I was ten years old," the woman said with a beautiful, beaming smile.

"I had never seen a nun in my life, when I started school over here," Margaret laughed, "and I thought I'd walked into heaven."

Concluding his homily, Fr. Jonathan said, "It is our privilege

to stand shoulder to shoulder with those who have gone before us, saying 'Credo in Unum Deum,' 'I Believe in One God,' carrying, as it were, the faith to all corners of the earth.

"Let us give thanks," he said, "that through the protection and patronage of Our Lady of the Assumption, our parish has been granted 100 years."

Chesapeake Energy donates 12 computers to Cassata High School

In an 88-year-old school building just south of downtown Fort Worth, students are living a dream of renewed hope, as they excel in classrooms that offer them a second chance at a quality education.

Cassata, an alternative school sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth and co-founded by Sister Bonaventure Mangan, SHSp, and Sister Mary Venard Fulbright, SSMN, in 1975, is a private, non-traditional high school offering personalized

attention, self-paced curriculum, and a proven ability to educate students from a wide variety of religious faith traditions and ethnic backgrounds. More than 3,500 students have graduated from Cassata since 1975.

Cassata faculty members, administrators, and students joyfully received 12 new desktop computers, donated by Chesapeake Energy of Fort Worth, Thursday, May 21.

"These computers donated by Chesapeake add to our 21st

century technology plan," said Cassata President Sal Espino. "Students and staff will benefit immensely from this gift, as the computers will improve learning in the classroom and efficiency in our offices."

"Cassata is deeply appreciative of this wonderful gift," Espino added.

Housed in the former Laner High School building, which was built in 1921, Cassata enrolled 280 students this year. This year's graduation class of 73 students is among the largest ever for the school. Sharon Cheatham, who teaches English, journalism, speech, and creative writing at Cassata, also oversees the publication of the school yearbook and student newspaper.

"I am so grateful. It's been a struggle on the old computers," said Cheatham.

John Banks, 17, who plans a career in architecture, told Chesapeake officials that he was happy at the prospect of using

more efficient computers. "Oh, most definitely," Banks said.

Contributing to this story was Jack Douglas Jr.



Cassata principal Nancy Martin is shown here with Cassata students (foreground to background) John Banks, Mariel Perez, and Christopher Daniel. The teens were searching for summer employment opportunities on new computers, donated to the alternative high school by Chesapeake Energy. (Photo by Mary Martin)



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'Walking Together in Faith' joint ministry conference opens for early registration

The Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, in partnership with the University of Dallas School of Ministry, are co-sponsoring "Walking Together in Faith," a major two-day conference set for Oct. 23-24 at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 E. Griffin St. in downtown Dallas.

Bishop Kevin Vann of Fort Worth and Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas released a joint statement emphasizing the importance of the conference, which is designed to serve as the only catechetical conference for all ministry leaders within both dioceses during the 2009-2010 year. The conference

replaces "Ministry Formation Day," formerly held in the Diocese of Fort Worth in various central and rural parish locations.

"As the bishops of the respective dioceses, we have committed that this will be the only Roman Catholic ministry conference to be held in either diocese," stated the bishops. "In doing so, our Catholic Schools Office, Office of Catechetical Services along with all other diocesan offices of ministry... will no longer hold separate annual meetings. Instead, we are closing our Catholic Schools on Friday, October 23, so that our teachers and others can participate fully

in conference events and make the University of Dallas Ministry Conference an event of major scope."

The bishops noted in their statement that "Our hope is that this event will grow each year to become one of the premier ministry conferences in the United States. We are asking all members of our respective staffs to assist the University of Dallas to make that happen. We will have ministers from the administrative, parish, and school levels from throughout the country in attendance... in what will be a significant gathering of those of us who serve the

Catholic Church."

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, DC, who has a doctorate of sacred theology, will serve as the keynote presenter for the conference, which will include several other major presentations in English, Spanish, and in Vietnamese. Catholic musical artist John Michael Talbot will perform Friday night, Oct. 23.

Registrations are available at a discounted rate now through Aug. 1 for individuals and for groups of 20 or more. Registrations are also available online. For more information about registration, hotel accommodations in the Dallas



area, or other questions, contact Bertha Escarzaga at (972)265-5809 or visit the conference Web site at www.udministryconference.com.

Diocese names St. Rita principal associate superintendent of schools

Charlene Hymel has been appointed associate superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Fort Worth. She has more than 25 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in Catholic and in public schools.

For the past six years Hymel served as principal at St. Rita School in Fort Worth. She earned a bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, and completed her master's degree in education administration at the University of North Texas in Denton. She is currently a doctoral student at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

Hymel and her husband, Clyde, are the parents of three children and have four grandchildren.

"We are pleased and proud to welcome 'one of our own' to the diocesan Catholic Schools office," commented Donald Miller, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Fort Worth. "Charlene has consistently demonstrated a dedication to the evangelizing mission of our Catholic schools, a commitment to the highest quality of Catholic education for all students, and a true collaborative spirit that has earned her the respect of all associated with our Catholic schools."



Charlene Hymel

Hymel will assume her new duties on July 1.

Diocese announces principals at Holy Trinity and Sacred Heart schools

The Diocese of Fort Worth has announced the names of two incoming principals in the school system.

Valerie Johnson has been named principal of Holy Trinity School in Grapevine for the 2009-10 school year. She succeeds Sister Bernice Knapek, SSMN, who announced her retirement in December after 5 years as principal of Holy Trinity.

Johnson has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Dallas and master's degree and doctorate in educational administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce.

She is a veteran Catholic school educator having first served as a teacher for 13 years at various schools in Dallas, fol-

lowed by 11 years of Catholic school administrative experience, first as an assistant principal at St. Anthony Catholic School in Dallas and then as principal at Good Shepherd Catholic School in Garland and at St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Johnson will assume her new duties July 1.

Rafael Rondon has been named principal of Sacred Heart School in Muenster for the 2009-10 school year. He succeeds Chad Riley, who resigned in April, after 4 years as principal of Sacred Heart, to become the principal at Holy Rosary School in Arlington.

Randon earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Florida International University and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Oklahoma.

This summer he will complete a master's degree in educational leadership from Christian Brothers University.

He has had a varied career both in private business and education. As a teacher he has served as an assistant professor at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona, an adjunct faculty member at Broward Community College in Florida, and a philosophy and mathematics teacher at Belin Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami.

Most recently he has been the principal of Resurrection Catholic School in Memphis, Tennessee and the assistant superintendent of Catholic schools for the Catholic Diocese of Memphis. Rafael and his wife Mary are the parents of two children. He will assume his new duties as of July 1.

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Diocesan

Knights of Columbus plan fundraiser for Deaflympian

The Knights of Columbus Council 4709, is working to assist Aaron Matthew Gomez, age 21, in raising funds so that he will be able to compete in the upcoming 21st Summer Deaflympics, to be held Sept. 5-15 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Summer Deaflympics will attract over 2,500 athletes from 67 nations to engage in international competition in 20 sports. Approximately 20,000 are expected to gather to witness this event, designed to showcase the abilities of elite deaf and hard-of-hearing athletes.

With the goal of raising \$4,500 to cover the expense of airfare, uniforms, meals, and lodging in Taipei, Council 4709 is sponsoring a charity dance Saturday, July 11 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3809 Yucca Ave., Fort Worth.

Participants are asked to donate \$10 per person for the opportunity to enjoy the evening's raffles, cake walk, silent auctions, and music

by the Dynamic "D." Food will be available for purchase.

Aaron, a longtime parishioner of St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington, has a 50 percent bilateral hearing loss. He was one of seven top tennis players selected to represent the United States in Taipei.

"I have dreamed of this moment since the first day I took my first tennis lesson at the Arlington Tennis Center. I have worked extremely hard and dedicated myself to this goal with the support of my family, coaches, and the Catholic community. This is an accomplishment for all of us. I am honored to represent our country, and my goal is to win the gold!" wrote Aaron in describing his gratitude for the support of family and friends, and in particular for the years of services offered to him through the office of Deaf Ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

To learn more about USA Deaf Sports Federation and the 2009



Aaron Matthew Gomez, 21, prepares to compete in the Summer Deaflympics, to be held in Taipei, Taiwan in September.

21st Summer Deaflympics, visit www.usdeafsports.org or www.usadsf.org.

For more information about Aaron's journey to Taiwan or the upcoming fundraising event, contact Louis A. Doporto, Sr. at (817) 838-0223 or Bobby Gomez at (817) 692-4650.

International evangelization conference slated for Houston, Sept. 11-12

"Call to Holiness," an evangelization conference featuring inspirational speakers from across the globe, will be held Sept. 11-12 at the George R. Brown Conference Center, located at 1001 Avenida de las Americas in downtown Houston.

Speakers representing the thought and ministries of Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Oscar Romero, Maria Esperanza Bianchini, and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta will serve as keynote presenters at the conference.

The speakers, all close friends and associates of the pope, archbishop, mother, and missionary they represent, will be sharing the message of how these evangelizing witnesses "all said 'yes' to God's Universal Call to Holiness, walking unhesitatingly according to their own gifts and duties in the path of a living faith," say conference organizers.

Monsignor Slawomir Oder, postulator for the beatification and canonization cause of Pope John Paul II, will speak about the pope's personal understanding and response to the call to holiness in his own life.

Other speakers include Monsignor Ricardo Urioste, former personal secretary to assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador; Geo Bianchini of Venezuela, who will discuss the

extraordinary life of Maria Esperanza Bianchini, who as a lay woman shared a message of reconciliation from Mary, the mother of God; and Sister M. Dorothy, one of the original sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, who will bear witness to the inspirational life of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

The two-day conference will feature three tracks: a theological symposium, a general conference, and a youth track. Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, and vice-president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will serve along with Bishop Thierry Brac de la Perrière from the Archdiocese of Lyon, France, as opening keynote presenters and will discuss the Vatican II message of a personal call to holiness.

Conference workshops will feature opportunities to hear national and local presenters on topics such as "Eucharist and Adoration," "Suffering and the Cross," "Scripture, Iconography and Prayer, Grace and Holiness," and "The Mission and Salvation of the Church." Service opportunities will also be available to conference participants.

The youth track, offered Sept. 12 for senior high youth, will emphasize prayer, mission, charisms, and the invitation to live out their own call to holiness in the world. The day will include keynote



speakers, breakout sessions, and opportunities for sharing as well as praise and worship music with internationally known musician Father Stan Fortuna, CFR.

"Come, see, experience the life-changing grace of the Holy Spirit as we gather to deepen our faith and give praise to God," wrote Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in a letter to pastors, encouraging their support and attendance at the conference. "It is my hope that this conference will help transform our hearts and enlighten our minds to answer God's Call to Holiness."

Discounts are offered to early registrations prior to June 30 for individuals, July 30 for youth track participants, and Aug. 10 for groups.

For more information, including registration, go to the conference Web site at www.cth2009.org or call (713) 391-2609.

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St. Mary	Henrietta	40.00	15.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	762.02	716.51
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	30.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	51.00	44.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	3,680.00	3,833.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	184.00	102.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,875.93	3,028.65
St. Peter	Lindsay	2,240.67	1,175.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	1,174.97	2,260.62
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	20.00	20.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	17.00	17.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	177.00	71.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	1,820.00	1,279.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	69.75	138.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	606.00	240.50
St. Mary	Quanah	91.00	134.00
St. Rita	Ranger	0.00	116.25
St. Joseph	Rhineland	255.00	318.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	47.00	138.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	29.00	89.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	186.23	155.00
St. John	Strawn	0.00	57.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	314.00	455.50
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	188.00	544.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,649.00	2,334.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	487.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	839.98	906.19
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	627.00	765.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	815.00	906.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	484.75	543.00

77,302.24 83,422.83

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

For 25 faith-filled years, Mother and Unborn Baby Care has helped women

Choose Love

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Pat Pelletier still remembers the first day Mother and Unborn Baby Care of Texas Inc. opened for business.

The small cadre of volunteers who gathered inside the crisis pregnancy center on Ballinger Street near Fort Worth's hospital district nervously arranged supplies and completed other chores as they waited for the first clients to walk through the door.

"They were scared," Pelletier says, describing the mood of the pro-life workers. "They weren't professional counselors, and yet we were dealing with life

or death. After all, that's what abortion is all about."

Finding the right words to help a young woman decide against abortion is a weighty task, she admits. But the founders of Mother and Unborn Baby Care have never relied on their own wisdom alone when it comes to saving babies.

"We really believe this is something God is asking us to do," Pelletier says. "Be faithful and things will work out. We keep learning that lesson over and over again."

Throughout its 25-year history, the pro-life ministry has experienced both triumphs and trials. According to organizers Chuck and Pat Pelletier, the center has served more than 54,000 people and rescued over 7,500 babies from abortion since it opened on June 4, 1984. Contributing to that success are the receptionists and counselors who donated more than 175,000 volunteer hours assisting women in crisis, their boyfriends,

spouses, and family members. Others supported the outreach ministry with monetary donations and prayers.

But there were also setbacks. Rerouted traffic hampered the center's visibility at its original location and a 2002 electrical fire gutted the building and destroyed hundreds of dollars in donated baby goods.

Nine months later, Mother and Unborn Baby Care reopened on Pennsylvania Avenue where it continues to offer spiritual guidance and material resources to women considering abortion.

To acknowledge benefactors for 25 years of unselfish giving and recommit to continuing the pro-life effort, supporters of the Mother and Unborn Baby Care center gathered inside St. Patrick Cathedral on June 5 for a Mass celebrated by Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann and a contingent of other diocesan priests. Calling the ongoing work of the ministry, "a journey of faith," the bishop thanked the congregation for making a difference in people's lives during challenging times.

"Certainly in our society, we are surrounded by blindness to the gift of life and the intrinsic value of it," he said.

The work accomplished by workers at the Mother and



Two young mothers tenderly hold their babies while participating in the Mass held at St. Patrick Cathedral on June 5. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann, marked 25 years of dedicated service by the supporters of the Mother and Unborn Baby Care of Texas pro-life ministry.

Unborn Baby Care center serves as a beacon of light and hope for women and their families in a moment of desperation. When volunteers meet and assist vulnerable mothers, "somebody's prayers reach the throne of God, and somebody's prayers touch hearts, so the cataracts of blindness — the inability to see the gift of life — fall away," the bishop said. "In that moment, the power of evil is loosened and a new life is saved."

He asked the legion of pro-life supporters to give thanks for past success and keep moving forward.

"Invite others to join you so what began 25 years ago can

continue," the bishop urged. "Be faithful and the power of evil will never have the last word."

Chuck Pelletier, who does sidewalk counseling with other volunteers outside local abortion facilities three days a week, considers the work, "a faith-challenging and faith-strengthening experience. I can't imagine my life without it."

Permanently disabled after the helicopter he was flying in crashed into a rice paddy in Vietnam, the war veteran was once called a "baby killer" by two University of Michigan law students who watched him struggle to get into his wheelchair in the early 1970s.

Nothing could be further from the truth, says his wife.

"Look what he's been able to do," Pat explains, referring to the countless babies saved, thanks to her husband's presence outside the facilities and his gentle, persuasive manner toward frightened women who approach him with questions.

Some days are frustrating, but the Pelletiers and other counselors take encouragement from Bishop Vann who celebrates Mass at the pregnancy center every Friday, and other priests "who have been such a blessing and fill our lives with hope."

"We look to the future but work day-to-day," says the 67-year-old Pelletier, who would like others to join him in the outdoor ministry. Prayers and donations are appreciated, but, "we need people to put feet to their words," he adds. "We need to be Jesus' hands and feet on the sidewalk and at the abortion center. When we do that, we help [the babies] right there and right then."

RIGHT: Frank and Sue Laux, longtime pro-life advocates in the Diocese of Fort Worth, pray during the anniversary Mass as members of what the bishop referred to in his homily as, "the legion of pro-life supporters" who have worked tirelessly to uphold the sanctity of life.



LEFT: A young couple participates in the anniversary Mass as members of the community who gathered to offer thanks for the ministry offered through the services Mother and Unborn Baby Care of Texas.



Chuck and Pat Pelletier offer each other a sign of peace during the anniversary Mass. "We need to be Jesus' hands and feet on the sidewalk and at the abortion center," Chuck Pelletier told participants in the liturgy. Both Pelletiers work at the Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center on Pennsylvania Avenue in Fort Worth, offering spiritual guidance and material resources to women considering abortion.

ABOVE: Bishop Vann is joined on the altar by other priests of the diocese during the anniversary Mass. The bishop offers Mass at the Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center each Friday morning.

*In ministry for 50 years,
Msgr. Joe Scantlin sees the
people he's served as*

Family

By Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

Young Joe Scantlin was a high school senior when he began his seminary education at St. John's Seminary in San Antonio. His future friend and brother-in-law Jim Pemberton was a junior.

"All the seminarians in the high school department had domestic duties," Jim Pemberton said, "and coincidentally, on the Sunday afternoon the Scantlin family arrived with Joe, my job was opening the front door."

A year apart in age, Joe and Jim were classmates for two years. "But I left the seminary after that," Jim Pemberton said, "because I fell in love with Joe's sister Joy."

Jim Pemberton married Joy Scantlin in 1956.

Joe Scantlin was ordained to the priesthood in 1959.

"What you see now is what he was then," said Pemberton, now Father Pemberton, having returned to the seminary after his wife passed away in 2001. Pemberton was ordained in 2005. "Joe is a priestly priest — totally dependable, and with style."

Monsignor Joseph Scantlin celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination May 23 at Arlington's Most Blessed Sacrament Parish,



Msgr. Scantlin, posing with personality at age four.

where he is pastor. In his anniversary homily, he said a priest's life is about giving away little pieces of himself all the time. He linked this to the Gospel for the feast of the Ascension: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16).

"I have tremendous respect for him and his priestly ministry," said Fr. Pemberton. "He is always available, and will sacrifice himself for the needs of the people. I think he developed a reputation of being totally dependable in all phases of pastoral work. Whatever it took, he did it. He loves it and has always loved it."

When Msgr. Scantlin was ordained in St. Rita Parish 50 years ago, Vickie Johnson, then the Altar Society president, was asked by Fr. Scantlin's mother Nona to help with the reception.

"The ordination was in the auditorium we used as a church, with folding chairs," Johnson said. "What a far cry from his 50th anniversary — beautiful reception settings and a beautiful church.



Parishioners break into applause as Msgr. Scantlin enters the parish hall for the reception, following his anniversary Mass. Shown in the foreground are Peggy and Joe Camperson, longtime MBS parishioners. (Photo by Kathy Hamer)

"Back then we prepared the food ourselves, but it was made with love."

Maureen Moore, charter member of Most Blessed Sacrament, said, "Fr. Scantlin is compassionate and empathetic, with a twinkle in his eye." Fr. Scantlin officiated at Moore's oldest daughter's wedding and funeral. "When she was in a Dallas hospital for cancer treatment, he took her communion. He is a good man and a good priest."

Gail Schatzman's family began their friendship with Msgr. Scantlin in 1969 while they were working with The Happening, a youth retreat. "It was run by lay people, but a number of priests volunteered to keep it all going. We needed good liturgy, and having priests who were 'just present' was very important. It was a wonderful time in the church."

Her children Mark Schatzman and Andi Vignale, who now have families of their own, "grew up knowing Fr. Scantlin as a wonderful friend," Schatzman said.

"When we were in the process of adopting our son Paul (age six now)," said Vignale, "he wrote a letter to the adoption agency to show we practiced our faith. The foster parents in Guatemala were excited to read his letter, because they wanted Paul to go to a Catholic family."

The pastor touched Andi's husband Steve, a cardiologist,

Mementos displayed at the anniversary reception included these early photographs of Msgr. Scantlin.

Below is a copy of a newspaper article chronicling then-Fr. Scantlin's ordination. At right is a picture of the young priest taken shortly after his arrival at Christ the King Church in Dallas, his first priestly assignment after ordination. At the bottom right is a photo taken of him at age eight months, with his mother, Nona Horn Scantlin.



profoundly. "When I was having a difficult time after the loss of a patient," Vignale said, "Fr. Scantlin was there to help me fall back on my faith and know that as a physician there is only so much you can do."

Most Blessed Sacrament's honored pastor enjoyed his 50th anniversary with more than 800 people who celebrated with him at Mass and those at the reception. He said the anniversary was beautiful and meaningful, not just for himself but "for the diocese and the people I serve. It was an honor for me to be with them.

"And it was a great celebration for all the priests of the diocese," said Msgr. Scantlin. "I shared all those 50 years with them and five bishops: Thomas Gorman, Augustan Dangelmayr, John Cassata, Joseph Delaney, and Kevin Vann. The bishops came and went, but I stayed around!"

Msgr. Scantlin's friends talk about his love of baseball, and that last year he

threw out the first pitch at a Texas Rangers game. On his 75th birthday the Rangers gave him an official jersey with his name on it, and presented it to him at Mass, after which he wore it over his vestments to process out of church.

But as a kid he had different goals, his brother-in-law, Fr. Pemberton recalled, and he reached one last year. "He wanted to be either a mayor or a monsignor," Fr. Pemberton smiled.

On June 15, 2008, Msgr. Scantlin received the title "Prelate of Honor to His Holiness." And at his 50th anniversary, for the second time, he wore the black cassock with red piping and purple sash that accompany the title "Monsignor."

"I will always remember when he turned 76," Maureen Moore said. "At Mass he told the congregation, 'Technically I'm eligible for retirement. But I got to thinking that you people, when you retire, go to other interests and enjoy your families.'

"Then he stretched out his arms widely and said, 'But you — you are my family, and I love my work, so I will continue to work!'

"It was so humble the way he held his arms out — like Jesus.

"He embraced the congregation," Moore said. "He touched us."



Msgr. Scantlin is joined on the altar at his anniversary celebration by Fr. John Robert Skeldon (left), Msgr. Joseph Lopez of San Antonio (front) and by deacon candidate Bill Johnson. (Photo by Wendy Pandolfo)



MBS parishioner Dr. Steve Vignale shares a laugh with his pastor at the anniversary celebration. (Photo by Kathy Hamer)

Viewpoints

Role of Peter and his successors to the papacy are rooted in Scripture

By Lucas Pollice

On June 29, we celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul in which we honor and recognize these two great apostles as the pillars of the Church and great defenders of the truth of Christ. After spending the last year reflecting upon the teachings and mission of St. Paul, this feast gives us an opportune time to now reflect upon the role and mission of St. Peter as the head of Christ's Church, and the profound authority that was given to him by Christ Himself that is also handed on to his successors, the popes, until the end of time.

In a world and culture marred by the great errors of moral relativism and the denial of objective truth, the papacy, in the role of the successor of St. Peter, stands as the one and true defender of all truth as revealed by Jesus Christ.

While all the apostles were given the authority and the mission by Christ to teach, govern, and minister in his name, Peter was set apart and given a unique role by Christ that emphasized his teaching and governing authority over all the apostles and other disciples. This is seen most profoundly in Matthew 16:

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock

The servant who is given the keys of the master is expected to take care of and run the estate in the way the master desires. In the same way, Peter's authority is one of service and obedience to the will and teachings of Christ. It is the sole responsibility of Peter and his successors to authoritatively and faithfully teach and hand on what Christ has taught and willed.

I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

— Matthew 16:13-19

In this very powerful scene, Jesus is asking the apostles who others think He is, but in reality, He is asking *them* who *they* think He is. While the other apostles give many different answers, Peter is the one who sees the real identity of Christ as the Messiah and responds, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus responds, "Blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." Jesus is revealing a profound truth. Peter has been given a unique gift, or charism, by the Father to know and teach the truth, and his knowledge of Jesus' identity is a result of this special gift. *Jesus recognizes this gift and special role of Peter and bestows on him a unique teaching and governing authority over all the apostles and the entire Church.*

Therefore, Jesus changes Peter's name from Simon to Peter, which means "Rock" (Greek *petros*). This is packed with meaning, as the changing of one's name in the Scriptures means a new identity, mission, and calling. For example, God changed Abram's name to Abraham when he responded to God's invitation of faith, and he became the father of all of God's people. In the same way here, Jesus changes Simon's name to Peter to show his new identity and mission as the "rock" and head of the Church.

Jesus calls Peter "rock," and it is upon "this rock" that Jesus will build his Church. Why does Jesus build his Church upon Peter? *It is fundamentally in response to Peter already exercising his teaching authority given to him by the Father.* He has received a gift of wisdom to know the truth about Christ, and also a teaching charism to proclaim it with clarity and without error.

No mere human revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Messiah. He had not yet told Peter that he was the Messiah, and many were still seriously grappling

with exactly who Jesus was. But Peter was given the gift to know the truth, and he faithfully proclaimed it to the apostles. He will be the one who will lead, teach, and strengthen the apostles and the other followers after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

Recognizing Peter's gift of teaching the truth, Jesus then grants him a unique and profound authority: "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Jesus entrusts to Peter the keys to the Church! What does this mean? In Jesus' time, when the master was going to leave his estate for a time, he would entrust to his head servant the keys to the estate. This servant, who possessed the keys, was entrusted with the full authority of his master while he was away. Thus, the servant does not replace the master, but possesses his authority in his absence. Peter becomes the "Vicar" of Christ, that is, he has been given the full authority of the Master over his Church until He comes again. However, with this authority comes great responsibility. The servant who is given the keys of the master is expected to take care of and run the estate in the way the master desires. *In the same way, Peter's authority is one of service and obedience to the will and teachings of Christ. It is the sole responsibility of Peter and his successors to authoritatively and faithfully teach and hand on what Christ has taught and willed.*

This bestowing upon Peter the teaching and governing authority of the Church is also seen in John's Gospel. After his Resurrection, Jesus and Peter have a profound and personal encounter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee:

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he

had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep."

— John 21:15-18

In this powerful passage, Jesus three times exhorts Peter to "feed and tend my sheep." This is a very deliberate and meaningful action by Christ. He is restoring Peter and forgiving him for his three-fold denial during Jesus' Passion. But even more importantly, Jesus is commissioning Peter as the head and shepherd of the Church, for in the Scriptures, three always means divine and complete. Just before Jesus' departure when he ascends into heaven, we see the divine commissioning of Peter as the head of the Church, responsible for feeding (teaching and ministering) and tending (governing) the Church.

This same teaching charism given by the Father and profound authority bestowed upon Peter by Christ Himself is also handed on to each and every successor of Peter in the person of the pope. By virtue of his office, the pope is guided by the Holy Spirit to teach and proclaim the truth as it pertains to faith and morals without error. Thus, it is through the pope as the visible head of the Church that the sacred Deposit of Faith entrusted by Christ to the Church has remained preserved, intact, and handed on without error for over 2,000 years.

The gift of the papacy has been especially evident in recent history through the great popes of the 20th century, especially as exemplified in our late Holy Father Pope John Paul II and continued today through the great leadership of Pope Benedict XVI. In these times of great moral confusion, and when the basic foundations of the truths of Christianity are being challenged by an increasingly secular culture, it is the pope as the successor of St. Peter who continues to steer and guide the Church towards the truth of Christ so that the promise of Christ will be fulfilled: "you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld will never prevail against it."



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.

A Weapon Aimed at pro-life Americans

By Richard M. Doerflinger

The senseless murder of Kansas abortion practitioner George Tiller, allegedly by a mentally ill man with ties to an extremist militia group, has sparked much commentary.

Catholic and other pro-life groups immediately condemned the killing. Speaking for the U.S. bishops' conference, Cardinal Justin Rigali said that "such killing is the opposite of everything we stand for, and everything we want our culture to stand for: respect for the life of each and every human being from its beginning to its natural end." He offered prayers for Dr. Tiller and his family. So did Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, who said: "Killing those who perform abortions builds up the culture of death, because it embraces its premise that we solve problems by destroying human life rather than honoring the truth that every human being is made in the image of God."

This doesn't matter to some abortion advocates. They've suffered a setback from recent opinion polls, in which most Americans say they are "pro-life" and favor substantial restrictions on abortion. These advocates see an opportunity to exploit the tragic death of Dr. Tiller to discredit pro-life Americans and regain lost ground.

One tactic is to accuse the pro-life movement of inciting people to violence by its "rhetoric" about abortion. When pro-lifers say abortion is a form of violence or even murder, it is said, this invites others to attack those who perform abortions.

But to get upset about something being called murder, one first has to be revolted by murder. To any misguided soul who decides murder is sometimes okay, the repugnant force of that word has pretty much been lost.

Abortion advocates themselves, when not using "rhetoric" but simply being candid, have used the same words to describe

Abortion advocates want to portray the pro-life movement as violent, and some may even want it to be so. This is of course a trap, an attack on the movement's reason for existing. Dodging the trap requires nothing more than continuing to be who we are, the people who hold all human life sacred.

abortion as pro-life people do. Before Planned Parenthood became a huge network of abortion providers, its educational materials said: "Abortion kills the life of a baby after it has begun." Dr. Warren Hern, now among those condemning pro-lifers' "violent rhetoric," has said of a late-term abortion method used by himself and Dr. Tiller that his associates "are having strong personal reservations about participating in an operation which they view as destructive and violent... We have reached a point in this particular technology where there is no possibility of denial of an act of destruction by the operator." Facts are facts.

A few pro-abortion critics have actually dared pro-lifers to take up arms. "If abortion is what you say it is," they argue, "you should be killing abortionists. The fact that you aren't shows you don't really believe the fetus is a person." Well, no, it shows we reject your assumption that the end justifies any violent means. One abortion advocate making this taunt, bioethicist Jacob Appel,

recently wrote that Dutch doctors should not need parental consent before giving lethal injections to handicapped newborns. His own logic has led him to justify medicalized killing of the born as well as the unborn, an object lesson for those tempted to accept a little bit of killing.

Abortion advocates want to portray the pro-life movement as violent, and some may even want it to be so. This is of course a trap, an attack on the movement's reason for existing. Dodging the trap requires nothing more than continuing to be who we are, the people who hold all human life sacred.



Mr. Doerflinger is Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities see www.usccb.org/prolife.

When Kathy's daughter needed someone to watch over her, God provided very human protection in the form of a

Police Angel



By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Festerday a policewoman came into my TCU office, out of uniform. "Sometimes in the summer," she said, "I dress casually. It's much cooler, and it feels good not to wear the gun-belt. It's really heavy."

There it is, I thought. The reason I couldn't have become a police officer.

Apart from undeniable klutziness that would have made me a liability to the force, it's most likely impossible I could have hauled around the duty belt.

Carrying an expandable baton, flashlight, handcuffs, pepper spray, walkie-talkie AND a Berretta M96 tied around my waist? This load on a person who complains about the extra weight of her purse when it also contains a water bottle, a coupon file, and peanut M&Ms?? Probably not.

I also couldn't have been a Catholic school principal, though, and there is no heavy schlepping involved with that.

Clarice Peninger just finished 24 years as principal of Fort Worth's St. Andrew's School, and in addition to administrator and educator, she performed a job most people would avoid: song-leader.

To me, that was the part of her career that was most meaningful, not because of how she did it, but because of what it meant.

At school liturgies, Clarice would lead the music. She did this gracefully and humbly, and not because there were no other musicians.

She did it because, "The principal is, in a practical way, the religious leader of the school." There may have been people who were more musical, even performers in their own right. "But it is important," Clarice said, "to be out there so kids can see, 'This isn't just a school. It's more than just a school.'"

Perhaps that's why, after educating children and their children's children, St. Andrew's stood as an outstanding place to form individuals, who would make a difference in their halls of higher learning, and later in grownup communities.

Because of Clarice's commitment, social ministry also became something St. Andrew's was known for. "It's kind of my 'thing,'" she said. At every school Mass the children would file up, bringing to the table – literally – gifts for the parish's food pantry. In the past two decades the donations grew to mountain-size, stacked in

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Liturgy, immigration, marriage among issues at USCCB spring meeting

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Liturgical matters, immigration reform and same-sex marriage were among the topics discussed by the U.S. bishops in public sessions at their June 17-19 spring meeting in San Antonio.

But the bishops also devoted time — in executive session — to the recent controversy over the University of Notre Dame's decision to award an honorary degree to U.S. President Barack Obama. They emerged from the meeting with a two-sentence affirmation of Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, for his "pastoral concern" for the university.

The only two liturgical texts receiving definitive approval from the bishops in San Antonio were a Spanish-language Lectionary and a Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life.

The Mass for life, first proposed nearly 20 years ago by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, passed by a 183-2 vote, with three abstentions. The Spanish-language Lectionary was approved on a 181-2 vote, also with three abstentions. Both now go to the Vatican for confirmation.

But five sections of the Roman Missal being prepared for use in English-speaking countries failed to get the necessary two-thirds votes of the Latin-rite U.S. bishops during the meeting.

With 244 Latin-rite bishops in the United States eligible to vote on the questions, the required two-thirds was 163. With 189 eligible bishops attending the meeting, only 134 voted to accept the first section, Masses and prayers for various needs and intentions.

On four subsequent translations, the votes also failed to reach two-thirds, mean-

ing the 55 bishops not present will be polled by mail on all five parts. That process is expected to take several weeks.

The items that failed to pass contain the Order of the Mass II; prefaces for various occasions; votive Masses and Masses for the dead; solemn blessings for the end of Mass; prayers over the people; and eucharistic prayers for particular occasions, such as for evangelization or ordinations.

On immigration reform, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago wrote on behalf of the full U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to urge President Barack Obama and Congress to enact comprehensive reform before the end of 2009.

"It has been clear for years that the United States immigration system requires repair and that reform legislation should not be delayed," said the USCCB president in a prepared statement. "I would ask President Barack Obama and congressional leaders of both parties to work together to fashion and enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation before the end of the year."

He also urged "respect and observance of all just laws" and said the bishops "do not approve or encourage the illegal entry of anyone into our country."

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Defense of Marriage, reported to his fellow bishops about the challenges in meeting their priority focus on marriage, especially the quick rate at which states and courts have been taking up legislation that legalizes same-sex marriage or prohibits it.

Six states now recognize marriage between same-sex couples, Archbishop Kurtz said, and others are considering the same type of laws or a range of others "allowing everything but marriage," that would give new legal rights



Bishops gather outside San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio prior to celebrating Mass June 17. The Mass came before the start of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring meeting. (CNS photo/Bahram Mark Sobhani)

to civil unions.

He said the key points that the ad hoc committee is focusing on to support marriage are:

— That marriage is inherently related to sexual differences and the complementarity of men and women.

— That marriage is for the good of children, who are themselves "a great good of marriage."

— That marriage is a unique bond reserved to men and women by nature.

— That same-sex marriage has negative effects on religious rights.

The bishops also heard brief reports from their conference vice president, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, about their other four priorities: faith formation and sacramental practice; the life and dignity of the human person; cultural diversity in the church; and promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

In other actions, the bishops in a 135-2 vote approved a recommendation from their Committee on Budget and Finance to keep the 2010 assessment on dioceses to fund the work of the USCCB at the 2009 level of just over \$10 million. The vote was open only to bishops who head dioceses.

But Archbishop Kurtz, chairman of the committee, warned that he would probably be asking for an increase for 2011 when that assessment comes up at the bishops'

November meeting in Baltimore.

The assessments are calculated for each diocese based on a formula that includes offertory income, registered households and contributions to three national collections.

The bishops also approved funding of \$450,000 for the New York-based John Jay College of Criminal Justice to complete a study of the causes and context of clergy sex abuse of minors. Commissioned by the bishops in the 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the study is expected to be completed by December 2010.

During their executive session, the U.S. bishops expressed "appreciation and support" for Bishop D'Arcy especially for "his pastoral concern" for the University of Notre Dame.

In a two-sentence statement made public June 22 in Washington, the bishops also affirmed Bishop D'Arcy's "solicitude for (Notre Dame's) Catholic identity and his loving care for all those the Lord has given him to sanctify, to teach and to shepherd."

The statement made no direct reference to the controversy over the Indiana university's decision to have Obama as commencement speaker May 17 and to give him an honorary degree or to a recent call by the board of directors of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities for the bishops to revisit their 2004 statement, *Catholics in Political Life*.



LEFT:

Bishops celebrate Mass at San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio June 17. The Mass came before the start of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring meeting. (CNS photo/Bahram Mark Sobhani)

RIGHT:

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, left, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, talks with Bishop Richard F. Stika of Knoxville, Tennessee, before the start of the meeting in San Antonio June 17. (CNS photo/Bahram Mark Sobhani)



Pope hopes clergy will use year to renew zeal for the Gospel

FROM PAGE 1

his homily, he said the French curate's heart was "burning with divine love," a love that priests today need to imitate if they are to be effective pastors.

The liturgy was celebrated on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a day of prayer for the sanctification of priests.

In his homily, the pope said the "essential nucleus of Christianity" is found in the heart of Jesus: the saving love of God that "invites us to step outside of ourselves" and "make ourselves a gift of love without reserve."

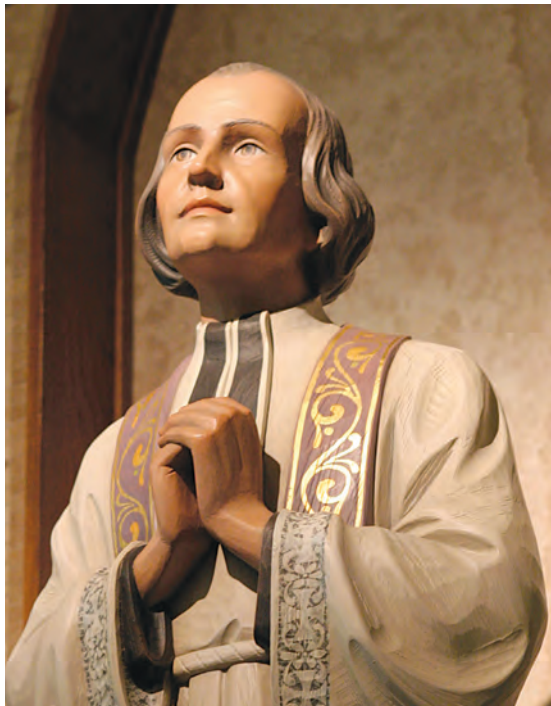
"God's heart throbs with compassion," he said.

He said priests should never forget that that are consecrated to "serve, humbly and with authority, the common priesthood of the faithful."

"Ours is an indispensable mission for the church and for the world, which demands full fidelity to Christ and unceasing union with him. It demands, therefore, that we tend constantly to sanctity, as St. John Vianney did," he said.

The pope said pastoral formation of priests was certainly important for modern priests. But even more necessary, he said, was the "'science of love' that one learns only in a 'heart-to-heart' encounter with Christ."

The liturgy closed with adoration of the Eucharist, underlining the central place of the Eucharist in the life of priests. In his final blessing, the pope lifted a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament and used it to make



A statue of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests, is seen at Cure of Ars Church in Merrick, N.Y. The Year for Priests coincides with the 150th anniversary of his death. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

the sign of the cross over the assembly.

The day before the opening liturgy, the pope issued a six-page letter thanking God for the gifts the overwhelming majority of priests have given to the church and the world, even while acknowledging that some priests have done great harm.

He said he hoped priests would use the year and its special events to deepen their commitment to their own renewal "for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world."

Since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Benedict has given special attention to priests and their ministry, holding frequent and lengthy off-the-cuff discussion sessions with clergy of Rome

Year for Priests Web site highlights international celebration

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has set up a Web site to mark the Year for Priests, a worldwide celebration from June 19 of this year to June 19, 2010.

Pope Benedict XVI chose to begin the Year for Priests on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a day of prayer for the sanctification of all priests. The pope also designated St. John Vianney as the universal patron of all priests on the 150th anniversary of the saint's death. The saint, who is also known as the Cure of Ars, is the patron of parish priests.

The Year for Priests Web site is www.usccb.org/yearforpriests.

The site includes the pope's

message for the occasion and the announcement of the plenary indulgence in conjunction with the celebration. The site also offers specially commissioned prayers for priests and laity. The pope's messages and the prayers are available in English and Spanish.

Throughout the year, the secretariat also will use the site to publish monthly articles about the priesthood written by prominent Catholic women.

Other activities in the Year for Priests include a retreat on the national level and a gathering of priests in Rome for the celebration's culmination. Further details about the national retreat will be available on the site.

Year for Priests: Pies and prayers are not enough; clergy need love and support

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Each and every one of the world's 408,000 priests should feel loved, respected, valued and supported in his vocation to bring the Gospel to an increasingly secular — but still open — world, said Cardinal Claudio Hummes.

The Brazilian cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, said the 2009-2010 Year for Priests, which begins June 19, must recognize the new challenges and possibilities Catholic priests face.

Pope Benedict XVI called for the special year to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, who was famed for his priestly ministry.

The aim, however, is not to organize a historical commemoration, but to look realistically at the world in which priests live and work and to recognize that the horrible abuse perpetrated by some priests has harmed the reputation of all priests, Cardinal Hummes said.

"Many priests in the world have been wounded by what has happened in recent times — pedophilia and other crimes that the media has publicized and that are true and extremely serious, especially pedophilia in which the victims are minors whose lives often are damaged forever," Cardinal Hummes told Catholic News Service in early June.

"These are terrible crimes that must be judged and punished," he said.

But justice also requires people to recognize that the vast majority of the world's priests have never been involved in any kind of abuse, and instead give their lives

and other parts of Italy.

He has forcefully condemned the scandal of priestly sexual abuse, most notably during his visit to the United States in 2008. More recently, Irish bishops said the pope was visibly upset listening to their report on decades of abuse suffered by thousands of Irish children in the care of religious congregations.

The pope has many times noted the burdens carried by priests in the modern age, including their increasing workload and their responsibility to preach and witness to Gospel values in a world that often seems indifferent to them.

The pope has also insisted on improved selection and formation of priests, so that they can live

up to the promises made in their vocation — in particular priestly celibacy.

In recent weeks, the Vatican signaled a tougher line on the celibacy issue when a Central African Republic archbishop resigned following an investigation into priests of his diocese who lived more or less openly with women and the children they have fathered.

According to Vatican statistics, there were 408,024 priests at the end of 2007. The total number of priests has been increasing slightly in recent years, but has not kept pace with the increase in the number of Catholics. The number of Catholics per priest was 1,830 in 1977, and had jumped to 2,810 in 2007.

to Jesus and to serving the church and humanity, he said.

"We must say to priests that we are proud of them and that we recognize they are a group that is very special for the church and society," the cardinal said. "We must recognize who they are and what they do and tell them that we love them and want to be alongside them to support them."

Cardinal Hummes is not looking for a yearlong commitment to baking pies for priests or smiling at them more than usual; he's looking for study and discussions and meetings and laypeople rolling up their sleeves to work alongside their priests.

And he's definitely not looking for some 1950s style of keeping the celebration in the church or the parish hall, avoiding the wicked world outside.

"The post-modern, urban, relativistic, secularized culture is the dominant culture," he said, and the temptation is to say, "Oh, it is impossible to engage this society. We should remain in our corner, with our little group, closing ourselves into a ghetto," the 74-year-old cardinal said.

But the world still is the place where priests are called to live with joy and "to evangelize with the certainty that it is possible to bring the Gospel to this new society and not demonize it, not ignore it and not be discouraged by it," he said.

Cardinal Hummes is convinced that men and women still are looking for the love of God and salvation in Jesus, but "maybe not with an approach that starts with doctrine and morals."

Once people meet Jesus, he

said, "then come doctrine and morality as a form of following that Jesus who attracted me, enchanted me, enlightened me. It is then that you begin talking about what it means to follow Jesus in practice; that's morality."

Cardinal Hummes said that showing support for priests includes sharing responsibility with them for parish life and for mission.

"Sometimes laypeople help their priests, but think that if things don't go well, it's the priest's responsibility — it's his church. But, no, the church is all of ours," he said.

Obviously, any discussion about the world's priests includes talk about the priest shortage, a situation the cardinal insists is not exaggerated.

"We have too few priests," he said. "Several countries face a very worrying, very difficult future because the number of priests has fallen so drastically."

Vatican statistics have reported an increase in the number of priests in the world in the past few years, but that increase has not kept pace with the increased number of Catholics in the world, not to mention the world's growing population.

While the significant growth in the number of priests in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe may mean some of those men would be available to minister in Western Europe and North America, Cardinal Hummes said local communities should give rise to local vocations.

"A local church having its own priests is a sign of vitality," he said.

Archbishop-elect Aymond to be installed Aug. 20

FROM PAGE 1

Archbishop Aymond's appointment was announced June 12 in Washington by Msgr. Alexander Cifuentes Castano, *charge d'affaires* at the apostolic nunciature.

His installation Mass will be Aug. 20 at St. Louis Cathedral.

Archbishop Aymond is a New Orleans native, born there Nov. 12, 1949. After grade school and high school, he went to St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana, where he graduated in 1971. He earned a master's degree in divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in 1975 and was ordained as a priest of the New Orleans Archdiocese the same year.

From 1973 to 1981, he was a professor, business administrator and then rector of St. John Vianney Preparatory Seminary in New Orleans. From 1981 to 1986, he was professor of pastoral theology and homiletics and director of education at Notre Dame Seminary.

The bishop served as president-rector of Notre Dame Seminary from 1986 until the end of the 1999-2000 academic year, longer than any rector in the seminary's 76-year history.

He also was a member of the seminary faculty for 18 years. During his tenure, Notre Dame Seminary grew to become the third-largest seminary in the country.

Bishop Aymond also served as the executive director of the archdiocesan Department of Christian Formation, with responsibility for Catholic schools and religious education, and as the archdiocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

He made mission work a strong emphasis of his ministry. In the 1980s, Bishop Aymond and groups of Notre Dame seminarians began to visit Sotuto, Mexico, where they built housing and offered religious training.

In 1994, he began a medical mission program in Nicaragua called "Christ the Healer," taking volunteer teams of health care professionals to the town of Granada to offer medical help at San Juan de Dios Hospital.

Archbishop Aymond was ordained an auxiliary bishop of New Orleans in 1997, and became coadjutor bishop of Austin in 2000, succeeding to head the diocese in 2001.

Archbishop Aymond has served as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

In response to a 2007 report based on an audit conducted the previous year by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate that found a drop in the number of reported victims of clergy sexual abuse, he said: "What we are doing in creating safe environments is working."

At the same time he called the

report "sobering." While most of the new allegations concerned behavior that occurred decades ago, "the fact that there are any recent cases at all is very disconcerting," he said. "We need to be consistent and do more."

At a 2007 symposium, less than two years after the bishops approved a document on lay ecclesial ministry, Archbishop Aymond described lay ecclesial ministry as "an essential part of the church."

At the 2006 National Catholic Educational Association convention in Atlanta, he said teachers need to be like Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

"As we find him (Jesus) walking with us, asking probing questions with us, our hearts begin to

burn," as happened to the men headed for Emmaus, Archbishop Aymond said. "You and I have the privilege in our teaching ministry to deal with those probing questions, and not to give up on them (students)."

Archbishop Hughes was named archbishop of New Orleans in 2002, after serving as co-adjutor archbishop there since 2001. Since Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, many of Archbishop Hughes' responsibilities have involved shepherding Catholics in the archdiocese through the recovery from the storm and overseeing its post-Katrina pastoral plan.

A Boston native, Archbishop Hughes studied at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, and the Gregorian University in

Rome. He was rector at St. John's when he was named an auxiliary bishop of Boston in 1981. In 1993, he was appointed bishop of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

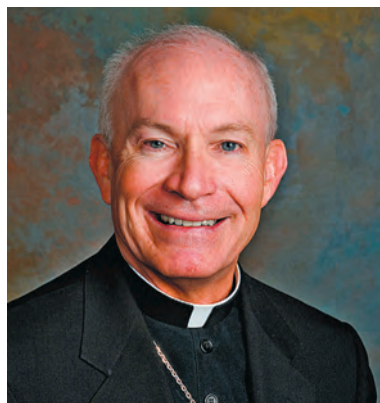
At the USCCB, Archbishop Hughes has served on the Committee for Evangelization and Catechesis and chairman of the Subcommittee on the Catechism.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans now has three retired archbishops: Archbishop Hughes; Archbishop Francis B. Schulte, 83, who served 1989-02, and Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, 96, who served 1965-88.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has a population of 1.08 million people, with about 387,000, or 36 percent, of them Catholic.

Springfield, Illinois Bishop Lucas named Archbishop of Omaha

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha, Nebraska, 76, and has named as his successor Bishop George J. Lucas, 59, of Springfield, Illinois. The changes were announced June 3 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Lucas will be installed July 22 at St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha. Archbishop Curtiss has been appointed to serve as *apostolic administrator* until the installation. "It is humbling to be given such responsibility by the vicar of Christ, and I thank the Holy Father for this privilege," the new archbishop said during a press conference in Omaha. "I look forward to learning about all of the ways in which the Gospel is preached and lived in the Archdiocese of Omaha. I have a great deal to learn, and you all have much to teach me." In a message to priests and employees of the Springfield Diocese, which he



Archbishop George Lucas

has headed for almost 10 years, he said, "The joy of being able to say yes to the pope without hesitation is tempered by the sadness I feel at the prospect of leaving this diocese and all of you."

Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann served as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Springfield until his installation as the bishop of Fort Worth in 2005. Bishop Vann's parents and his sister are residents in the Springfield Diocese, and Bishop Vann maintains a close personal friendship with Archbishop-elect Lucas.



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Parish Name	Parish Location	Eastern Europe Feb 2008	Eastern Europe Feb 2009
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	141.00	111.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	0.00	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	642.80	1,238.00
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	3,536.00	1,970.09
St. Joseph	Arlington	900.00	4,748.80
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	866.00	1,147.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	0.00	20.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	2,427.25	2,609.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	908.00	819.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,800.00	1,200.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	346.00	0.00
St. Michael	Bedford	6,122.00	7,300.92
St. Jerome	Bowie	25.00	70.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	298.00	281.82
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	414.74	845.41
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	379.00	508.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,350.00	1,904.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	3,927.50	4,531.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	0.00	453.66
St. Joseph	Cleburne	794.45	1,233.67
Holy Angels	Clifton	422.30	70.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	4,737.93	3,505.75
Holy Cross	The Colony	1,591.33	1,631.66
Sacred Heart	Comanche	408.00	212.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	0.00	39.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	1,382.12	1,634.98
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	75.00	114.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	5,003.88	4,231.37
St. Mark	Denton	558.00	3,547.03
St. Mary	Dublin	178.00	391.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	0.00	338.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	662.00	897.75
Christ the King	Fort Worth	467.00	536.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	2,449.00	3,214.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	2,524.00	502.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	3,659.00	3,729.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	933.00	859.11
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,901.00	3,514.97
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	0.00	175.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	310.50	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	5,542.09	1,677.51
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	2,313.17	2,251.42
St. George	Fort Worth	0.00	1,764.69
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	877.00	1,084.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	142.00	195.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	2,405.30	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	567.30	624.70
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	526.00	65.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	1,672.50	968.93
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,096.25	0.00
St. Mary	Gainesville	1,192.80	138.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	167.00	587.53
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	507.42	1,227.03
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	214.00	209.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	3,500.15	0.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	105.00	25.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	1,115.54	1,088.25
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	284.48	167.95
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,363.25	1,891.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	294.87	458.59
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,419.34	2,817.80
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,140.00	850.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	1,444.66	0.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargee	20.00	106.60
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	294.50	1,601.66
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	159.99	55.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	1,031.32	1,889.80
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	78.75	360.65
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	164.80	59.88
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	568.05	960.38
St. Mary	Quanah	651.00	288.00
St. Rita	Ranger	0.00	84.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	256.00	508.22
St. Boniface	Scotland	39.00	73.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	40.00	568.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	222.31	122.00
St. John	Strawn	0.00	178.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	366.00	749.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	0.00	2,073.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	444.00	555.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	0.00	607.00
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	490.00	497.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,517.50	2,082.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	365.53	302.60
		89,738.67	91,946.18

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

John Paul II Institute will offer formation for catechetical and catechumenal work

FROM PAGE 1

of the diocese, it's important to explore — in the fullest sense — what it means to be a Catholic in the world we live in."

Modifications to the retooled lay ministry formation program go beyond a name change. The new institute is designed to foster and implement the new evangelization as envisioned by Pope John Paul II.

"It reflects our commitment within the Diocese to implement and hand on the rich teaching and pastoral wisdom that Pope John Paul II left the Church in the way of teaching, catechesis, pastoral ministry and the implementation of the Second Vatican Council," the bishop explained in a letter sent to parishes this week. "My hope is that the Pope John Paul II Institute will provide formation for a wide variety of lay ministries rooted in the rich teaching of the church, articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and guided by sound pastoral principles."

To implement these goals, the John Paul II Institute is structured into three schools — the School of Lay Ministry, the Catechetical School, and the School for Catechumenal Ministry. All classes, training and resources will be available in both English and Spanish.

The School of Lay Ministry, will offer a two-year program starting this September. During the first or basic competency year, participants will learn the basics of theology, ministry, and church life. Those successfully completing the second year will receive certification in one of four ministerial areas — catechetical ministry, liturgical ministry, social ministry, or pastoral ministry. Those choosing to enroll in the advanced level, second year program will take more in-depth courses focusing on specific liturgical, pastoral, social justice, or catechetical ministries. Certification is a prerequisite for applying to the diocesan Permanent Deacon Formation Program, however, completion of certification requirements does not assure acceptance into the PDFP.

"We hope to provide participants in the program a formation experience that goes beyond studying theology and learning the functions of a particular ministry," said Father Carmen Mele, OP, director of the School of Lay Ministry. "The School of Lay Ministry will succeed to the extent that participants incorporate the apostolic spirit of serving other members of the Church in Christ's

name and with the leadership of Bishop Vann and their pastors."

"We want to give people who are considering lay ministry and those currently involved in ministry a better theological understanding of the Church," said Fr. Mele, who also serves as diocesan director of Hispanic Adult Catechesis. "People also want practical advice on how to do ministry better and this will address that need."

English basic competency classes will begin in Denton on Sept. 5 and in Fort Worth on Sept. 15 at the Catholic Center, and at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Wichita Falls on Sept. 19. Spanish classes will begin at St. Jude's in Mansfield on Sept. 12, at the Catholic Center on Sept. 14, and at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Decatur on Sept. 26. Fr. Mele expressed excitement about an Internet section of the basic competency program. "Dr. Robert Sargent, a theologian who has published in both Scripture and spirituality as well as theology and philosophy, has agreed to take on the challenge of organizing and teaching this option," Fr. Mele explained.

The advance level course will debut in September 2010 when the basic competency courses will be repeated. "After that, people will be able to jump in within a year at either level," explains Lucas Pollice, director of adult catechesis. "Basic certification can be completed in one year or over a longer period. The continuous two-year cycle gives people a realistic, flexible way to get ministry formation."

The Catechetical School will concentrate on adult catechesis by providing training, resources, and certification in this vital area. To encourage more participation in adult formation classes, the school will offer a series of adult catechesis sessions in parishes. A sliding fee scale will help make the workshops affordable to small and rural parishes. Target date for beginning adult catechesis certification courses is fall 2010.

Giving catechists the goals, principles and methods for teaching adults the Catholic faith is a priority, Pollice says, because "adult catechesis is the foundation for other parish ministries." He will oversee the operation of both the catechetical and catechumenal schools.

"We've had two generations of adult Catholics not well-formed in the faith," the director continues. "I think there was an attitude in some parishes that once you were confirmed, the need for faith formation was over."

In the past, a parish's religious education programs centered around children and teenagers. Most adult involvement in parish life was often limited to joining organizations like the Knights of Columbus or Altar Society, he said.

"Many parishes never had adult classes and that's why some people don't know their faith as well as they should," Pollice points out.

Some baptized, practicing Catholics have less faith formation than someone coming into the Church, Pollice said.

"It's important to get adults back in touch with what the church teaches and believes," he adds. "So many people don't understand the role and mission of the lay person in the church. They must recognize the indispensable part they play in the life of the church and in society."

Full implementation of the liturgical, catechetical, and pastoral aspects of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) is the focus of the third opportunity for formation — the School of Catechumenal Ministry. Participants enrolled in the school will earn catechist certification for both RCIA and RCIC and receive ongoing training in both areas. The Association for Catechumenal Ministry will continue to provide many of the materials and curriculum for RCIA development.

Individuals interested in finding out more about the School of Lay Ministry of the Pope John Paul II Institute can contact their parish or Fr. Carmen Mele at the Catholic Center. Participants in the program will pay \$80 per year.

"We're asking parishes to co-sponsor their ministers and prospective ministers," Fr. Mele said. "but the bulk of the cost is being absorbed by the diocese."

The new John Paul II Institute will meet the need for more ongoing formation programs and training in the diocese. "More than 25 men, interested in becoming permanent deacons have inquired about the old Light of Christ Institute that has now become functionally the School of Lay Ministry," said Fr. Mele, adding, "Other inquiries have come from people who want to know more about the church and theology."

"Adults want to know what the church teaches," Bishop Vann asserts. "And it's important for them to be fully aware of what the church teaches to meet the challenges of this age."

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Bishop Pilla: Catholics must remember responsibility to the poor

LORAIN, Ohio (CNS) — Retired Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland is encouraging Catholics to do what they can to work for justice for individuals and families most affected by the recession and poverty. Bishop Pilla's speech at the First Friday Forum of Lorain June 5 resonated with many coping with the strains of the economic crisis. "We're going through some tough times. And the folks here in Lorain are feeling it in a very special way," said Bishop Pilla, adding that Catholic social teaching requires people of faith to not only be compassionate about what is happening, but also to "speak up" in terms of public policy. "We cannot leave it to the politicians. We have a responsibility. It's not just political activity. It's church activity. It's virtuous behavior. Compassion for the poor. Read the Gospel," he said. Bishop Pilla, a past president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops who teaches a course in social justice at the diocesan St. Mary Seminary, quoted statistics about the 9.4 percent unemployment rate, the rise in home foreclosures, the loss of 401(k) accounts and high mortgage rates. He said that food pantries and shelters can't keep up with the growing demand. But he also drew attention to the psychological and social effects of the crisis.

Bishops support Bishop D'Arcy's 'pastoral concern' for Notre Dame

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Meeting in executive session in San Antonio, the U.S. bishops expressed "appreciation and support" for Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., especially for "his pastoral concern" for the University of Notre Dame. In a two-sentence statement made public June 22 in Washington, the bishops also affirmed Bishop D'Arcy's "solicitude for (Notre Dame's) Catholic identity and his loving care for all those the Lord has given him to sanctify, to teach and to shepherd." The statement made no direct reference to the controversy over the university's decision to have U.S. President Barack Obama as commencement speaker May 17 and to give him an honorary degree or to a recent call by the board of directors of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities for the bishops to revisit their 2004 statement, "Catholics in Political Life." That document states: "The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

Our Sunday Visitor acquires Harcourt Religion Publishers

HUNTINGTON, Ind. (CNS) — Our Sunday Visitor acquired Harcourt Religion Publishers from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co. June 3, combining two of the nation's leading Catholic publishing groups. Our Sunday Visitor, based in Huntington, publishes a national weekly newspaper, magazines, books and other religious materials. A press release from the company announcing its new acquisition said it solidifies Our Sunday Visitor's "ability to help millions of Catholics of every age bring their faith to life, while Harcourt Religion Publishers substantially extends the reach of its curriculum base." Harcourt Religion Publishers is known for its "Call to Faith" religious education series for elementary school students, liturgical-catechetical sacrament preparation programs and Catholic high school religion programs. Our Sunday Visitor will retain Harcourt's existing management team, support staff, field representatives and product line. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.



Leroy Smith pauses while talking with Catholic health care leaders outside his and his wife's refurbished home in New Orleans June 9. The stop at the Smith's home was part of a tour of post-Katrina projects sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans for participants in the Catholic Health Association's annual assembly. The Smith's original home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. (CNS photo/Sandy Huffaker Jr., courtesy CHA)

Health care leaders view Katrina devastation, see hope of rebuilding

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

NEW ORLEANS — Gwen Smith keeps an envelope full of her important papers in the trunk of her car, along with bottles of water and Army rations.

She and her husband, Leroy, don't ever want to be caught unprepared, as they were in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina destroyed their home and the lives they had known.

But today the Smiths live in a lovely two-bedroom home in the Gentilly Woods neighborhood of New Orleans, where they welcomed dozens of Catholic health leaders June 9. The stop at the refurbished home was part of a tour of post-Katrina projects sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans for participants in the Catholic Health Association's annual assembly.

The CHA group also visited a program in a former Catholic church that provides "all-inclusive care" for the frail elderly. They paused for a moment of prayer in the city's Lower 9th Ward — destroyed but being rebuilt — to remember the 2,800 lives lost in the flooding following Hurricane Katrina.

Martin Gutierrez, executive director of neighborhood and community centers for Catholic Charities of New Orleans, said no one knows precisely how many people live in New Orleans nearly four years after Hurricane Katrina.

"We can't wait for the (2010

census," he said, estimating that 300,000 to 350,000 people currently live in the city, or about three-fourths of the pre-Katrina population. The number of undocumented immigrants is even more difficult to determine, he added.

But Gutierrez said 40 percent of the dwellings in New Orleans remain unoccupied, with an estimated 80,000 blighted properties.

Andreanecia M. Morris, director of public affairs and community development for Providence Community Housing, said her organization is working with Catholic Charities and other groups with the goal of building 20,000 Katrina victims back to the city by restoring, rebuilding or developing 7,000 homes and apartments.

So far, Providence has cleaned and gutted 1,173 homes and 810 apartments; completed construction on 858 homes and apartments for seniors and working families; and has 1,032 homes and apartments under construction, she said.

Dr. Elmore F. Rigamer, medical director for Catholic Charities of New Orleans, led a tour of the PACE adult day health center at St. Cecilia in the city's Bywater neighborhood. PACE, which stands for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, aims to keep the frail elderly out of nursing homes by providing them with meals, medical care and adult day care.

More than 70 people — 80

percent of whom have some form of dementia, according to center officials — currently attend the PACE center, which can accommodate up to 96 in its current space.

Although it now includes medical offices, an exercise room and a dining and recreation area, the space still clearly shows its origins as a church, with stained-glass windows, a choir loft and glassed-in side chapels that now serve as offices.

At the Smith home, the messages that kept Gwen and Leroy Smith going are apparent on the walls: "Hope," "One day at a time" and "There's no place like home."

But Gwen Smith said she remains "hyper-aware," especially after the hurricane season started June 1.

Their home was rebuilt with the help of thousands of volunteers coordinated by Catholic Charities' Operation Helping Hands. In late March, the project celebrated both its 20,000th volunteer and its 2,500th home gutted and rebuilt since Hurricane Katrina.

Gordon R. Wadge, co-president and CEO of Catholic Charities New Orleans, said volunteers "never seem to tire" of coming to New Orleans from across the United States to help in post-Katrina rebuilding.

"So many of you sent teams down to help us," he told the Catholic health leaders. "There's nothing like Catholic health systems to cut through the red tape."

Shoebox find leads to book on first American Indian religious order

By George P. Matysek Jr.
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE — When 12-year-old Thomas Foley opened a shoebox in his Aunt Mame's closet more than 65 years ago, he unwittingly uncovered the building blocks for a remarkable story of faith, courage and determination.

The box contained the personal journals and papers of Father Francis M. Craft, a 19th-century missionary to American Indians who died in the arms of Foley's father in 1920. The treasure trove of documents included a letter from Sitting Bull and handwritten religious vows taken by young Lakota Sioux women, along with a photograph of Father Craft.

The boy's discovery was the first step in what would become a lifelong quest to learn more about an independent-minded, forward-thinking priest and the first women's religious order for American Indians, which he founded.

His research took the author to monasteries and Indian reservations in the Dakotas, and archives in Washington, New York, Belgium and Rome.

Faces of Faith: A History of the First Order of Indian Sisters is a new book published by the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, under the direction of Father Wayne C. Paysse, executive director.

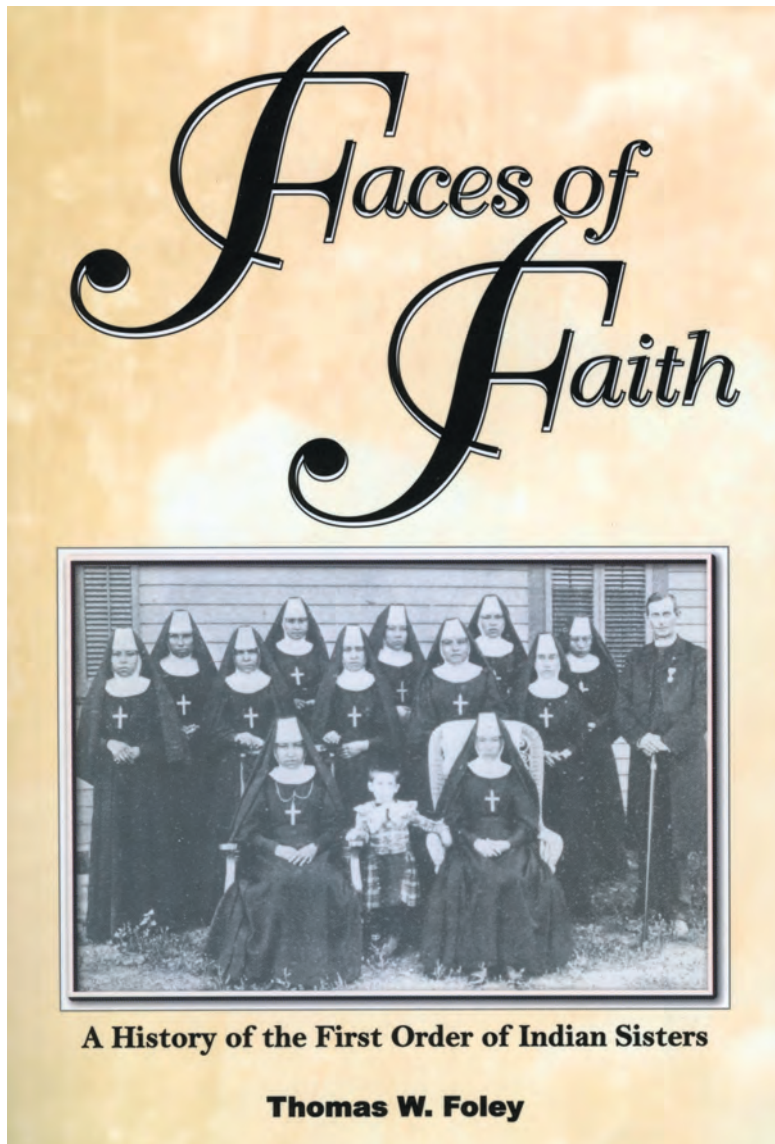
In the book, Foley tells the story of how the Congregation of American Sisters came to be, its many struggles, and its ultimate dissolution.

"Father Craft was way ahead of his time," said Foley, who wrote a biography of Father Craft in 2002. "He was a medical doctor, and he taught these women nursing skills. Father Craft's sisters were among the people."

Father Craft, who was part Mohawk, had a fundamental respect for American Indians and treated them with dignity, according to Foley.

"If you look at the pictures of his sisters, they look like pictures of sisters anywhere else in the world," said Foley, a retired labor personnel executive who lives in Georgia. "He was presenting these sisters as equal to any coming out of St. Patrick's Cathedral."

An Episcopalian who became a Catholic and a former soldier who enlisted at age 10 in the Union Army during the Civil War, Father Craft joined the Jesuits in 1876. He left the religious order to become a missionary to American Indians and in 1883 was ordained by Bishop Martin Marty to serve



The box contained the personal journals and papers of Father Francis M. Craft, a 19th-century missionary to American Indians who died in the arms of Foley's father in 1920. The treasure trove of documents included a letter from Sitting Bull and handwritten religious vows taken by young Lakota Sioux women, along with a photograph of Father Craft.

the Dakota Territory.

Father Craft, who was injured in the battle at Wounded Knee, first served in the Dakotas on the Rosebud Reservation before moving to Standing Rock Reservation and then Fort Berthold. He often butted heads with religious and governmental authorities, some of whom regarded him as an eccentric crank.

The Congregation of American Sisters grew to about a dozen sisters at its height in the 1890s. It ultimately ended as the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament — St. Katharine Drexel's religious order devoted to American Indians and African-Americans — increased in popularity. St. Katharine funded her outreach with a \$15 million inheritance.

Asked what he wanted readers to remember from his book, Foley

choked up for a moment before responding.

"There's a place and a time where people embarked on heroic efforts and 100 years later, no one knows or cares," he said. "They tried so hard for a decade. I want people to know what they tried to accomplish."

Editor's Note: Copies of *FACES OF FAITH* may be ordered by calling the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions at: (202) 331-8542, or by writing to: Father Wayne C. Paysse, Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, 2021 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20006. The suggested donation for the book is \$20, which includes shipping and handling; checks should be made out to "Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions."

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Pope appeals for Africa as world's hungry reach 1 billion mark

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a letter to the president of Germany, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his concern at the plight of struggling African countries during the current global economic crisis. The pope's letter was released as new statistics showed that a record 1 billion people — about one in every six — were suffering from chronic hunger in the wake of the economic crisis. The rate is much higher in Africa, where about one in four people suffers from chronic hunger. The pope's May 4 letter to German President Horst Kohler, published in the Vatican newspaper June 20, said Africa's future depends on an attitude of sharing and fairness that resists the "law of the strongest" and the pursuit of selfish interests. "In this context the support of the international community is needed, notwithstanding — and in fact precisely because of — the current financial and economic crisis that is particularly affecting Africa and the poorest countries," the pope said. The pope was responding to a letter from Kohler that preceded the German pontiff's March visit to the African countries of Cameroon and Angola.

U.S. priest elected vicar general of Franciscans at general chapter

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — U.S. Franciscan Father Michael Perry was elected June 5 as vicar general of his order during the international gathering of the Order of Friars Minor known as the 187th general chapter. Father Perry is currently provincial of the Franciscans' St. Louis-based Sacred Heart Province, a post to which he was elected just shy of a year ago. Prior to that, Father Perry had worked on African development for Catholic Relief Services, as an international policy adviser for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and had headed the Africa desk at Franciscans International. In addition, he worked for 10 years as a pastor, teacher and development director for Franciscan programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A native of Indianapolis, Father Perry holds a doctorate in religious anthropology, a master's of divinity in priestly formation and a bachelor's in history and philosophy, said a release posted on the order's Web site. He entered the Franciscans in 1977 and was ordained a priest in 1984.

Priest who is new doctrinal chief praised as 'incredible theologian'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Colleagues of Archbishop-designate J. Augustine DiNoia said they were pleased with his new appointment at the Vatican, calling him an "incredible theologian" and a man with a "brilliant mind" who can engage others in liturgical and theological discussions. Pope Benedict XVI named the U.S.-born Dominican an archbishop and the next secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments June 16. He has worked at the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith since 2002. Archbishop-designate DiNoia, known for his expertise in liturgical and doctrinal affairs, was praised for his knowledge as well as his warm personality. News of the Vatican announcement spread quickly in the Dominican order's St. Joseph province, based in New York, to which Archbishop-designate DiNoia belongs. Dominican Father Brian Mulcahy, provincial vicar, said he and his fellow Dominicans were "absolutely thrilled" by the appointment. "We see it as not just an honor for us, but for the order as a whole," said Father Mulcahy. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the appointment of Archbishop-designate DiNoia is a "matter of pride" for the U.S. church and the Dominican order. Noting that the archbishop-designate formerly worked in the Secretariat for Doctrine at the USCCB, Cardinal George said in a statement that the bishops are grateful that the Dominican is bringing his talents to the Vatican for the benefit of the church around the world.

Scripture Readings



July 5, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 2:2-5
Psalm 123:1-4
- 2) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Gospel) Mark 6:1-6

By Sharon K. Perkins

Everyone experiences situations in their lives when they feel as if they are in over their heads. One of my more memorable ones happened in the hospital — but I was not the patient. I was an administrator and acting chaplain of an inpatient psychiatric unit which specialized in treating disorders resulting from severe trauma and abuse.

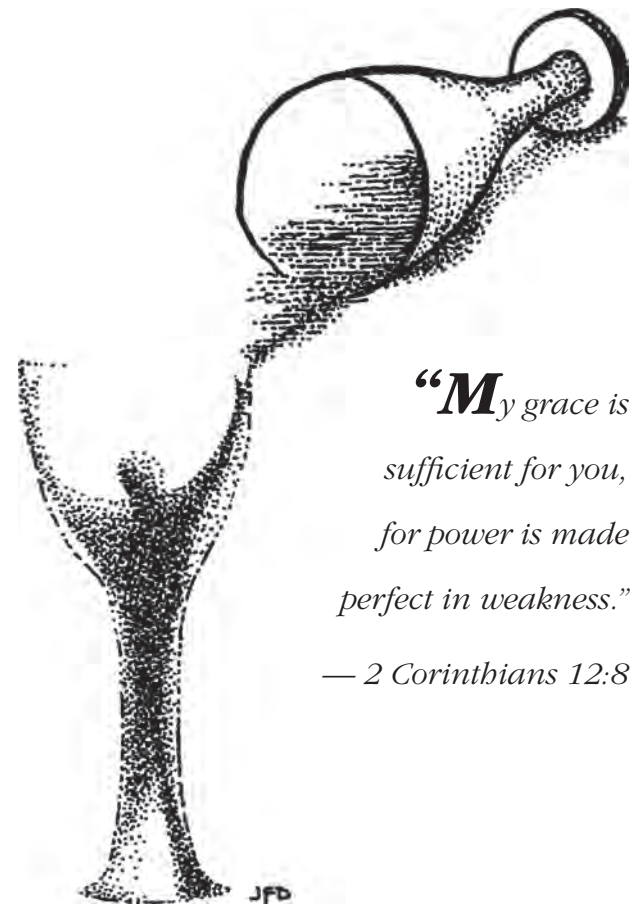
Each day brought entirely new challenges in which I was hard-pressed to find any satisfactory answers for the patients who questioned where God had been while such extreme cruelty was happening to them.

And yet, even among these most horrible accounts of abuse, there were stories of courageous survival and the realization of how God had indeed been with them through their darkest hours of affliction. As patients shared these with me and their fellow group members, we sensed among us a healing presence greater than any one of us

could have summoned through our own human resources. True therapy occurred as each woman was able to re-imagine her past and envision the Lord by her side, sharing her suffering.

In today's Gospel reading, the people of the synagogue who heard Jesus teach could not understand how anyone from the same village as they — someone whom they had known since birth — could possibly possess such wisdom or such power to perform "mighty deeds." Their vision, too, was restricted, for they saw only the human limitations of a hometown boy, not imagining that God's great works could happen through this man Jesus of Nazareth. As a result, Jesus was limited in his ability to heal them; their focus on Jesus' supposed "weakness" prevented God's power from working on their behalf.

One need not have suffered through severe trauma to experience powerlessness to change one's situation. Circumstances beyond our control — or the consequences of our own sin and ignorance — can often leave us feeling utterly overwhelmed and defeated. And yet (as any successful 12-step program can verify), the best raw materials for God's creative, healing grace are our inadequacies. Precisely by entrusting to God our weaknesses, we make it possible for God's power to be perfected in us.



"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."
— 2 Corinthians 12:8

QUESTIONS:

In what sort of situation are you feeling completely inadequate? How can you re-envision your weakness as the way that God's power can be revealed?

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Understanding the Bible requires faith, intelligence, says pope

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICANCITY—Discovering the truth contained in the Bible about God and about each human person requires attentive reading and scholarship as well as a constant willingness to change one's life, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"God gave us the Scriptures to teach us," the pope said June 10 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Reviewing the teaching of John Scotus Erigena, a ninth-century Irish theologian and philosopher, Pope Benedict said Erigena insisted on the fact that the only way to understand the Bible fully was with an approach that relied on intelligence and prayer at the same time and that the final result was not understanding, but contemplation.

An expert on the writings of the early Christian theologians of the East, Erigena said the purpose of the Bible is to help the human person "remember that which was impressed on his heart at the moment he was created in the image and likeness of God," an understanding of God later clouded over



Pope Benedict XVI greets a family during a Mass on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ outside the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome June 11. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

cultivating a constant readiness for conversion. To reach a deep understanding of the text, it is necessary to move simultaneously toward the conversion of heart and the correct conceptual analysis of the biblical passage," the pope said.

Obviously, the closer a person comes to understanding the text and understanding God, the more one becomes aware of his or her weaknesses and limits, he said.

"The simple and sweet force of truth" pushes the studious believer to go even deeper, finally reaching the point of "adoring, silent recognition" of God, the pope said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict greeted representatives of the Variety Club of France, which was organizing a benefit soccer match between former stars of French soccer and members of the Swiss Guard.

On behalf of the Variety Club, Marius Tresor, a French soccer star in the 1970s and '80s, gave the pope a team shirt and a Variety Club official gave the pope a bottle of cognac from 1927, the year of the pope's birth.

by original sin, the pope said.

"The words of the Holy Scriptures purify our reason, which is somewhat blind, and help us remember that which we bear in our hearts as images of God," Pope Benedict said.

For Erigena, the pope said, a Christian has "the obligation to continue to seek the truth until one reaches an experience of silent

adoration of God."

The theologian taught that to know God, people cannot start with their own ideas or intuitions, but must begin "with what God has said about himself in the Holy Scriptures," Pope Benedict said.

"Because God speaks only the truth," Erigena "was convinced that authority and reason can never be in opposition and he

was convinced that true religion and true philosophy coincide," the pope said.

"This led him to draw certain consequences for interpreting the Scriptures, consequences that still today can indicate the correct path for reading the Holy Scriptures," the pope said.

"This exercise consists in

Scripture Readings



July 12, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Amos 7:12-15
Psalm 85:9-14
- 2) Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel) Mark 6:7-13

By Jeff Hedglen

I recently started a new quest. It is a rather simple thing: I want to say “hi” to people when we pass each other on the sidewalk or grocery store aisle. I’m tired of walking by people and neither one of us acknowledging the other’s existence.

So far it has not gone well. Most of the time people either give me a strange look or ignore me completely. Every once in awhile someone will look at me, smile and say “hello” back to me. I don’t know why this is such a hard thing for people to do, but I feel compelled to continue this mission.

My little “say hi” campaign is nothing com-

pared to the quests we hear about in this Sunday’s readings, though the results are similar.

Amos is called to be a prophet for the Lord. But not only is he not welcomed by the people to whom he gives God’s word, he is asked to leave. He complains, “I was no prophet, ... I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores,” as if to say, “I never asked for this job, I liked my old job; no one ever ridiculed me there.”

In the Gospel, Jesus sends the Twelve Apostles out, two by two, on a missionary journey. They are to preach repentance, heal the sick and drive out demons. Jesus must have anticipated that they would not always be welcomed, so he gives them this instruction: “Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.”

Following the Lord and bringing his message of love to the world is seldom easy. Like

“Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two.”

— Mark 6: 7



Amos and the apostles, we will not always be welcomed with open arms. But our motivation does not have to come from people responding to our mission. St. Paul reminds us that we who hope in Christ, “exist for the praise of his glory.” Bringing glory to God is success enough. We accomplish this when we spread the love God has given us with all we meet, even if it is just in passing.

QUESTIONS:

What are some ways you try to share the love of God with others? Have you ever been rejected when trying to live your faith?

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Perception of **God’s goodness:** a matter of **Our Faith?**

By Jeff Hedglen

I’ve been reading a book about spiritual direction by Henri Nouwen for over a year now. I pick it up and read a few pages and then spend a few weeks thinking about what I just read. The current bit of wisdom has been with me for months. It is a fairly simple concept but it is starting to redefine how I look at myself.

Henri Nouwen is commenting on how often, in his role as a spiritual director, he finds people with a rather low opinion of themselves. He refers to the story of Jesus’ baptism and how when he comes up from the water a voice from the heavens says “This is my beloved Son.” Father Nouwen suggests that this is exactly how the Father sees each of us. We too are God’s beloved.

Before we are anything else, we are loved by God. Even after many years of ups and downs in life, we remain first and foremost God’s beloved. I’m not sure why this struck me so deeply. I know and believe that

We might be tempted to think that when we grow in holiness that God’s love for us also grows. That is not exactly how it works, though it does feel that way. It is actually more like the difference between sitting at the top row of the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington and sitting in the commissioner’s box.

It is God’s love that sent Jesus to save us all. But something about this truth being phrased as me being God’s beloved has shone new light on who I am.

I think part of it is that too often I tend to focus on what I am not instead of realizing who I am, at my core. Before I was a son, brother, friend, youth minister, or husband, I was loved by God.

This is not unlike the scene at my parish these days. It seems you cannot turn your head at Mass without seeing a beautiful baby. The look on the parents’ faces lets you know that even in the midst of sleep deprivation and endless diaper changes, this child is the beloved of this mom and dad.

We start out in the heart of God loved. We come into the

world as the cherished one of our parents. Then somewhere along the line we lose sight of this love. The fallen nature of our world begins to take hold, and we begin to believe that the bad things we do define us. We see ourselves as an accumulation of our actions and not the actualization of the Father’s love.

This is not to say that our sin is not real or not important. Our failings are a part of our journey to holiness. In fact, they play an important role in helping us grow. The more honest we are with our sinfulness, the more we confess it, and the more we strive to overcome it with the grace of God, the more holy we become.

We might be tempted to think that when we grow in holiness that God’s love for us also grows. That is not exactly how it works, though it does feel that way. It is actually more like the difference between sitting at the top row of the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington and sitting in the commissioner’s box. The game is the same no matter

where you sit. Our experience of it is different, not because the game changed, but because we moved closer to the action.

Growing in holiness is us stripping away layers of sin. When this happens our experience of God’s love is more intense, more pure, and more real. The trick is to keep our eyes on the field of play, not on the section in which we are sitting.

Too often we grumble because we wish we had “better seats” or we are jealous of the people who appear closer to God. All of these thoughts distract us from why we are here in the first place. If we can just remember that no matter where we are sitting, we are God’s beloved, then even if we are in the nose-bleed section, it will feel like the front row.

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in South-west Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at jeff@stbartsfw.org.

Como el Sagrado Corazón, el Año del sacerdote revela la amor de Dios para todos

Estimados hermanos y hermanas en el Señor,

Estoy aquí en San Antonio en el cierre de la reunión primavera-veral de



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann

los Obispos de los Estados Unidos. Es el 19 de junio, y en el calendario litúrgico de la Iglesia, se celebra la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Mientras que esta devoción ha sido a menudo lo que llamaría "puesta sentimental," tiene raíces scriptural profundas y un lugar importante en la vida de la Iglesia, en nuestro rezo privado y oficial.

El corazón es, entre otras cosas, el símbolo del amor. En su carta a los Romanos, capítulo 8, San Pablo nos dice que el amor de Dios está revelado en Cristo. El corazón de Cristo se convierte en una imagen clara de este amor de Dios para cada uno de nosotros. El establecimiento de esta Solemnidad, siglos después de San Pablo, vino de las revelaciones privadas de Cristo a Santa Margarita María de Alacoque, y ofreció un equilibrio agradable a la herejía del Jansenismo, que no veía como algo bueno la naturaleza humana.

Es apropiado para este día, en lo que se llama el *Oficio de lecturas de la liturgia de las horas*, que San Pablo nos dice en Romanos que, "También sabemos que Dios dispone todas las cosas para bien de los que lo aman, a quienes Él ha escogido y llamado." Pronto cerraremos el *Año de San Pablo*, y estas palabras de su carta a los Romanos son importantes para que reflexionemos sobre ellas a la luz de todos los acontecimientos de nuestras vidas. A veces acontecimientos que no podemos entender en el momento:

He resuelto convocar oficialmente un "Año Sacerdotal" con ocasión del 150° aniversario del "dies natalis" de Juan María Vianney, el Santo Patrón de todos los párrocos del mundo, que comenzará el viernes 19 de junio de 2009, solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús —jornada tradicionalmente dedicada a la oración por la santificación del clero. Este año desea contribuir a promover el compromiso de renovación interior de todos los sacerdotes, para que su testimonio evangélico en el mundo de hoy sea más intenso e incisivo, y se concluirá en la misma solemnidad de 2010. "El sacerdocio es el amor del corazón de Jesús", repetía con frecuencia el Santo Cura de Ars.



Se puede ver una estatua de San Juan de Vianney en la iglesia Cure of Ars en Merrick, Nueva York. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC)

errores, tristeza, tragedias, o pecado, y las bendiciones y las alegrías de la vida también, se deben considerar a la luz de Dios, que en su cuidado providencial, dispone todas las cosas para bien de los que lo aman. El amor de Dios por nosotros es parte de todas nuestras vidas, un amor que es simbolizado en el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y la importancia que la Iglesia le otorga a este día en su liturgia. En una cultura y una sociedad que es indiferente a la presencia de Dios, y a menudo violenta y grosera, la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús es un recordatorio de otra realidad — que el amor de Dios es más fuerte que cualquier obstáculo o desafío a que nos podamos enfrentar.

Es también importante observar que otro año importante comienza en este día, como el *Año de San Pablo*, que fue establecido por el Papa Benedicto XVI. Comenzando hoy, 19 de junio, en la solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón, estaremos celebrando el *Año del sacerdote*. Aquí les ofrezco el primer párrafo de la carta del Santo Padre dedicada a todos los sacerdotes del mundo en esta ocasión especial...

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comenzará el viernes 19 de junio de 2009, solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús — jornada tradicionalmente dedicada a la oración por la santificación del clero. Este año desea contribuir a promover el compromiso de renovación interior de todos los sacerdotes, para que su testimonio evangélico en el mundo de hoy sea más intenso e incisivo, y se concluirá en la misma solemnidad de 2010. "El sacerdocio es el amor del corazón de Jesús", repetía con frecuencia el Santo Cura de Ars. Esta conmovedora expresión nos da pie para reconocer con devoción y admiración el inmenso don que suponen los sacerdotes, no sólo para la Iglesia, sino también para la humanidad misma. Tengo presente a todos los presbíteros que con humildad repiten cada día las palabras y los gestos de Cristo a los fieles cristianos y al mundo entero, identificándose con sus pensamientos, deseos y sentimientos, así como con su estilo de vida. ¿Cómo no destacar sus esfuerzos apostólicos, su servicio infatigable y oculto, su caridad que no excluye a nadie? Y ¿qué decir de la fidelidad entusiasta de tantos sacerdotes que, a pesar de las dificultades e incomprensiones, perseverarán en su vocación de "amigos de Cristo", llamados personalmente, elegidos y enviados por Él?

Nuestro periódico católico *North Texas Catholic* ofrecerá una cobertura especial a este *Año Sacerdotal* con ocasión del 150° aniversario del "dies natalis" de Juan María Vianney, durante los próximos meses, y habrá varios acontecimientos previstos para este año también. Y más importante todavía, les pido que recuerden y sean agradecidos con todos los sacerdotes que usted conozca, todos los que influenciaron su vida y su relación con Dios, y que trabajan con mucha dedicación, y sirven, en nuestra diócesis y sus parroquias. Continúen por favor orando por todos ellos y animándolos diariamente.

Cada miembro del cuerpo de Cristo en la diócesis de Fort Worth, en su respuesta a la llamada a la santidad, tiene también una llamada para animar las vocaciones sacerdotales y religiosas. Este año, gracias a Dios, tendremos alrededor de 31 seminaristas estudiando para el sacerdocio diocesano en varios seminarios alrededor del país y en México. Hemos tenido una ordenación sacerdotal este año, y otro se programa para más tarde en el otoño. Tres de nuestros sacerdotes (Padres Richard Flores, Hector Medina, e Ivor Koch) están celebrando 25 años de ministerio este año y Monseñor José Scantlin celebra sus 50 años de sacerdote.

Finalmente, les invito a que se unan a mi alegría, pues mi buen amigo, el obispo George Lucas, que ha sido el obispo de mi diócesis natal en Springfield en Illinois, ha sido nombrado como el nuevo arzobispo de Omaha, Nebraska, y será instalado el 22 de julio. Recibirá del Papa Benedicto XVI su palio (el símbolo del arzobispo) el 29 de junio en Roma.

Espero y ruego que tengan un verano lleno de bendiciones y de descanso, además de viajes y vacaciones seguras. Recuerde que es fácil localizar horarios de Misas mientras están viajando y que, como le digo a los estudiantes cada año, "vacaciones de la escuela no son vacaciones de la Iglesia". La solemnidad del Domingo, el día del Señor, es vital para nuestra vida espiritual y familiar, además de ser una obligación a la cual el Señor nos llama. Es también importante reflexionar sobre nuestro culto a Dios durante la época de verano y recordar que vestir de manera respetuosa y con modestia es una muestra importante de nuestra reverencia y relación con Dios.

Que Dios los bendiga siempre,

+Kevin W. Vann

+Monseñor Kevin W. Vann
Obispo de Fort Worth

Lleno de vida nueva, esperanza

Retiro de fin de semana fortalece la fe de muchos

Escrito por Juan Guajardo
Traducido por Ana M. Fores

Un gimnasio de colegio podría ser un lugar improbable para encontrar al espíritu santo. Sin embargo, fue todo lo contrario el pasado fin de semana cuando aproximadamente 1500 católicos, llegando de lugares tan lejanos como Oklahoma y Houston, llenaron el gimnasio del bachillerato católico *Nolan Catholic High School* para un retiro carismático que duró tres días.

Aptamente llamado *Un nuevo Pentecostés*, el retiro comenzó el viernes al atardecer y continuó hasta el domingo de Pentecostés. El retiro fue planeado y organizado por el grupo de oración *Ríos de agua viva*, de la iglesia Todos los santos en Fort Worth (*All Saints Church*), con el objetivo principal de acercar a los concurrentes a Cristo a través del Espíritu Santo.

El retiro ofreció una noche de sanación espiritual con la presencia del bendito Sacramento, siete charlas presentadas por dos oradores, abundancia de fervor, una hora sagrada, y dos misas.

El Padre Pedro Núñez, uno de los oradores invitados, dijo que sintió que la ceremonia de restablecimiento del sábado cambió los corazones de varios.

“Yo siento en mi corazón que ha habido, por ejemplo, hombres que han sido infieles a sus esposas y hoy día han optado por comenzar una vida nueva”, explicó. Continuó, “Jóvenes que tal vez estaban metidos en drogas y situaciones que no eran de Dios y han optado por cambiar sus vidas”.

Por horas, varias personas lloraron, rezaron, y se arrodillaron ante la presencia de la sagrada Eucaristía, mientras

el padre Núñez bendecía a centenas de personas durante la ceremonia de restablecimiento espiritual.

“Yo no me había dado cuenta, pero pasamos más de dos horas ante la presencia del Señor Jesús sacramentado”, dijo el padre Núñez. “Entonces había mucha hambre para acercarse a Dios; había mucha necesidad de estar en contacto con Jesús en una forma sacramental, en una forma física. Por eso ha habido mucha sanación, mucha sanación”.

El padre Núñez, conocido sacerdote de la arquidiócesis de New Orleans, que ha estado en varios programas de EWTN y en la Radio Católica Mundial, presentó dos charlas el sábado y tuvo una sesión de preguntas el domingo.

Solamente Dios puede llenar el vacío del corazón y la tristeza que muchas veces es emblema de la sociedad, explicó el padre Núñez a la audiencia durante su primera charla el sábado. Comparó los cristianos a unas palomas heridas, pero añadió que aunque tengan esas heridas, los cristianos todavía pueden tener vida y esperanza a través de Cristo. Con su creciente voz llenándose de urgencia, el padre Núñez se paró en una silla en medio de la audiencia e imploró a los invitados a esforzarse por convertirse en santos, en vez de ser cristianos a medias.

“Basta ya de ser ingenuo; basta ya de coquetear con Satanás. Tú no le perteneces a Satanás; tú has sido comprado a un gran precio. ¡Escúchame! El precio es Dios, que se dejó clavar en una cruz”, dijo el padre Núñez. “Y eso lo hizo por ti, hace tiempo, y también en el día de hoy. Por ti. Dios no quiere que seas buena; Dios no quiere que seas bueno. ¡Harto está Dios de tanta gente buena! Harto está Dios de tanta ‘buenitis’ en su Iglesia. Basta ya de ser cristianos a medias. Dios te está pidiendo que seas como Él; ¡Dios te está pidiendo que seas santo!”

El Dr. Carlos Barillas, un psicólogo de Nueva York con más de treinta años de experiencia trabajando con parejas casadas y familias, dio cuatro charlas durante el retiro. Dr. Barillas se enfocó en el Espíritu Santo, diciendo que necesitamos la tercera persona de la

trinidad sagrada para conocer mejor a Cristo.

Muchas personas en el encuentro comentaron que habían disfrutado bastante del retiro y sintieron que su fe se había fortalecido y sus corazones curados.

“Fue algo muy bonito porque fue una sanación que tuve en mi corazón, aunque antes haya sentido Su presencia. Hoy volví a sentirla aún más, con más fuerza y con mucho amor”, explicó Juanita Guerrero Díaz.

Díaz y su esposo, Germán González, vinieron desde la parroquia de San Patricio (*St. Patrick Parish*), en Houston.

“¡Estuvo precioso! Cuando recién entré sentí la presencia del Señor”, González dijo. “Ahorita me siento muy tranquilo; me siento bien con el Espíritu Santo. Me voy gozando, porque el Señor me ha sanado, y he puesto mi familia en sus manos”.

El grupo *Ríos de agua viva* había estado planeando el retiro desde octubre pasado, dijo Yvonne Vásquez, miembro del grupo de oración. El retiro se llevó a cabo sin problemas, con la ayuda de más de 100 voluntarios de siete parroquias del área, incluyendo las iglesias de *St. George, Holy Name of Jesus, y St. Mary of the Assumption*, en Fort Worth; *St. Francis of Assisi* en Grapevine; *St. John the Apostle* en North Richland Hills; *St. Matthew* en Arlington; y *St. Paul the Apostle* en River Oaks.

“Tuvo mucho éxito espiritual”, comentó Alicia Vásquez, una de las organizadoras del retiro. “Muchas personas que vinieron por primera vez quedaron conmovidas espiritualmente”, exclamó.

El padre Núñez celebró la última misa del retiro el domingo de Pentecostés. Durante el sermón, de nuevo enfatizó que todo católico debe esforzarse por llegar a la santidad y a la vez ayudar a otros a acercarse a Cristo.

“Ya no son huesos secos. Ustedes han recibido vida durante este fin de semana, vida del Espíritu Santo en este día de Pentecostés”, dijo el padre Núñez. “No se desanimen; no se rindan; no se den por vencidos. Sean positivos; sean alegres; han encontrado al Espíritu Santo que los lleva al mismo corazón de Cristo”.

A la derecha:

Uno de los oradores del retiro, el Padre Pedro Núñez, sostiene la mano sobre su corazón, mientras al fondo se puede ver una obra de arte de una paloma descendiendo, representando la llegada del Espíritu santo durante Pentecostés. (Foto de Juan Guajardo)



Abajo:

Una pareja, sus brazos alzados, alaba a Dios en el estadio Hartnett de la escuela de bachillerato Nolan Catholic High School, en Fort Worth, durante el retiro de fin de semana celebrando Pentecostés. (Foto de Juan Guajardo)



Abajo:

El Padre Pedro Nuñez, cerca de un participante del retiro, reza con ella, sujetando la Eucaristía en una custodia. (Foto de Juan Guajardo)



Abajo:

Con brazos alzados durante una de las sesiones generales, muchos de los 1500 participantes del retiro de Pentecostés alaban y adoran a Dios. (Foto de Juan Guajardo)



El Papa inaugura el Año sacerdotal y dice que deben ser testigos de la compasión de Dios

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Al inaugurar formalmente el Año sacerdotal, el Papa Benedicto exhortó a todos los sacerdotes a que procuren la santidad, y dijo que el grupo ministerial que ha recibido la ordenación era indispensable para la Iglesia y el mundo.

“La Iglesia necesita sacerdotes que sean santos, ministros que ayuden a los fieles a que experimenten el amor misericordioso del Señor, y que sean testigos convencidos de ese amor”, dijo el Papa en el servicio de oración en la basílica de San Pedro, el 19 de junio.

Al mismo tiempo, en referencia aparente a casos de abuso sexual por parte de sacerdotes, el Papa advirtió del “terrible riesgo de dañar a aquellos a quienes estamos obligados a servir”.

“Nada hace a la Iglesia y al cuerpo de Cristo sufrir tanto como el pecado de sus pastores, especialmente los que se transforman en ‘ladrones de ovejas’, sea porque los conducen fuera del camino con sus doctrinas privadas, o sea porque los enredan en la trampa del pecado y de la muerte”, dijo.

Miles de sacerdotes llenaron la basílica para el servicio vespertino, que fue precedido por una procesión con la reliquia del corazón de San Juan Vianney, santo patrono de los sacerdotes de parroquia. El Papa proclamó el enfoque sobre el ministerio sacerdotal, que durará un año, para hacerlo coincidir con el 150° aniversario de la muerte del santo.

El Papa Benedicto se detuvo a orar frente al corazón del santo, expuesto en un relicario de cristal y

oro. En su homilía, el Papa dijo que el corazón del cura francés “ardía en amor divino”, un amor que los sacerdotes de hoy necesitan imitar si van a ser pastores efectivos.

La liturgia fue celebrada el día de la fiesta del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, día de oración por la santificación de los sacerdotes.

En su homilía, el Papa dijo que “el núcleo esencial del cristianismo” se encuentra en el corazón de Jesús: el amor salvador de Dios que “nos invita a salir de nosotros mismos” y “hacernos un don de amor sin reserva alguna”.

“El corazón de Dios palpita con compasión”, dijo.

El Papa dijo que los sacerdotes nunca deben olvidar que han sido consagrados para “servir, humildemente y con autoridad, el sacerdocio común de los fieles”.

“Nuestra misión es indispensable para la Iglesia y para el mundo, lo cual demanda completa fidelidad a Cristo y unión incesante con Él. Le ruego, por lo tanto, que nosotros intentemos constantemente llegar a la santidad, como San Juan Vianney lo hizo”, dijo.

El Papa dijo que la formación pastoral de los sacerdotes era ciertamente importante para los sacerdotes modernos; pero que aún más necesaria, dijo, era “la ciencia del amor” que uno solamente aprende en el encuentro con Cristo, de ‘corazón a corazón’”.

El acto litúrgico se terminó con la adoración de la Eucaristía, subrayando el lugar central de la vida eucarística de los sacerdotes. En la bendición final, el Papa levantó una custodia que contenía el Santísimo Sacramento y la usó para hacer el signo de la cruz sobre

toda la concurrencia.

El día anterior al acto litúrgico de apertura, el Papa dio a conocer una carta de seis páginas, en donde le daba gracias a Dios por los dones que la mayoría de los sacerdotes le han dado a la Iglesia y al mundo, incluso reconociendo que algunos sacerdotes han hecho gran daño.

El Papa dijo que esperaba que los sacerdotes utilizaran el año (sacerdotal) y los eventos especiales que se desarrollarán para profundizar su compromiso con su propia renovación “por bien de un testimonio más vigoroso e incisivo del Evangelio en el mundo de hoy”.

De acuerdo con estadísticas del Vaticano, había 408,024 sacerdotes hacia finales del año 2007. El número total de sacerdotes ha aumentado ligeramente en años recientes, pero no iguala al aumento del número de católicos. El número de católicos por sacerdote era de 1,830 en el año 1977 y había aumentado a 2,810 (por sacerdote) en el año 2007.

Actualización de ¿Por qué ser católico? – 17 de junio

Desde que ¿Por qué ser católico? es programa tanto de la diócesis como de la parroquia, es preciso que todos los líderes de comunidades pequeñas tengan el entrenamiento de “Ambiente de seguridad”. Hay que actualizar el entrenamiento básica (la

“certificación”) cada tres años. Es la obligación de la parroquia verificar que todos los líderes de comunidades pequeñas hayan tomado el entrenamiento apropiado; sin embargo la diócesis está planeando una sesión del entrenamiento básica para el

sábado, 5 de septiembre, en el Centro Católico de 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pronto confirmaremos esta fecha. Entrenamientos planeados por la Oficina de la protección de nNiños y jóvenes siguen. No se olvide de reservar su puesto con bastante anticipación.

Entrenamientos de certificación

28/6/09	St. Frances, Granbury	2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	RSVP: 817-326-2131
22/8/09	St. John, N. Richland Hills	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	RSVP: 817-284-4811
15/8/09	IC, Denton	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	RSVP: communications@iccdenton.org
5/9/09	Centro Católico, Fort Worth	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	(para confirmarse)
6/9/09	Holy Cross, The Colony	2:30 – 5:30 p.m.	RSVP: SafeEnvironment@HolyCrossTC.org
12/9/09	IC, Denton	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	RSVP: communications@iccdenton.org
17/10/09	IC, Denton	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	RSVP: communications@iccdenton.org

Entrenamientos de renovación

25/7/09	St. John, N. Richland Hills	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	RSVP: 817-284-4811
11/8/09	IC, Denton	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	RSVP: communications@iccdenton.org
18/8/09	St. John, N. Richland Hills	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	RSVP: 817-284-4811
10/9/09	IC, Denton	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	RSVP: communications@iccdenton.org
13/10/09	IC, Denton	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	RSVP: communications@iccdenton.org

Por favor, informe a todos los líderes de comunidades pequeñas que deberían asistir en un entrenamiento de *Renew*. La

lista de entrenamientos sigue a continuación. El Padre Alejandro estará aquí de nuevo para darlos. En agosto se les pedirá

a todos los coordinadores que indiquen el número de líderes y los entrenamientos a los cuales asistirán.

miércoles	9 de sept.	St. Joseph	Arlington	7 – 9:30 p.m.
jueves	10 de sept.	St. Stephen	Weatherford	7 – 9:30 p.m.
viernes	11 de sept.	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	7 – 9:30 p.m.
sábado	12 de sept.	Assumption of the BVM	Decatur	9 – 11:30 a.m.
sábado	12 de sept.	Sacred Heart	Seymour	3 – 5:30 p.m.
domingo	13 de sept.	St. Joseph	Cleburne	3 – 5:30 p.m.
lunes	14 de sept.	Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	7 – 9:30 p.m.
martes	15 de sept.	St. Francis	Grapevine	7 – 9:30 p.m.

TCC Credit Union comienza la construcción de la nueva oficina en el sur de Fort Worth



(desde la izquierda) Tres miembros del consejo de administración de TCC CU (Ray Vasinda, Charlie Walter, Bob Buchheit), el presidente de TCC CU Ron Powers, la gerente de sucursal Karen Williams, y (con pala) Ed Gutierrez, propietario de JEA HydroTech, y asociados de JEA HydroTech.

TCC Credit Union (la cooperativa financiera de la comunidad católica de Texas), celebrando su 40° aniversario y sirviendo a la comunidad católica desde 1969, ofició una ceremonia el miércoles 28 de Mayo del 2009 para comenzar la construcción de la nueva oficina en Fort Worth, que estará localizada en la esquina de Kellis y Town Center Drive, al sur de la Gran Plaza en el sur de Fort Worth.

La cooperativa financiera, con sus oficinas centrales en Dallas, abrió en la primavera una sucursal temporal en la torre Gran Plaza, al sur de Fort Worth, en 4200 South Freeway, al norte de las instalaciones en construcción. “Aunque TCC Credit Union ha proveído a miles de católicos y otras instituciones católicas con servicios financieros por más de 40 años, esta localidad marcará un punto histórico en la existencia del TCC Credit Union, pues será la primera localidad construida desde cero”, acierta la propaganda de publicidad del TCC Credit Union.

La nueva oficina contará con los mismos servicios financieros que hasta ahora se ofrecen en las sucursales de Dallas y Fort Worth, incluyendo cuentas de cheques y ahorros, préstamos personales y de autos, certificados de depósitos,

y cuentas IRA (cuentas de retiro). También contará con un cajero automático (ATM) para la conveniencia de sus miembros, y con acceso a su dinero las 24 horas del día sin ningún sobrecargo.

“La TCC Credit Union tiene un patrimonio neto muy fuerte, de más del 10 por ciento, y toda cuenta está asegurada por el fondo nacional de seguros de cooperativas financieras (National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund), con el apoyo total del gobierno norteamericano, hasta llegar por lo menos a \$250,000 por cuentas individuales”, escribió recientemente Ron Powers, el presidente de la cooperativa financiera en un comunicado de noticias. “Niveles de seguro más altos también están disponibles, basados en la propiedad de las cuentas. Igualmente, ciertas cuentas de retiro, como los IRAs, están asegurados individualmente hasta \$250,000. Mientras la nación se prepara para un futuro difícil, la cooperativa financiera TCC Credit Union se está preparando para ser exitosa aún cuando la economía se encuentra cada día más debilitada”.

Para mas información, llame a TCC Credit Union al 1-800-256-0779 o vea la pagina web www.tccu.org.

NTC takes home five CPA awards, Ryckaert wins Archbishop O'Meara award

The *North Texas Catholic* (NTC) diocesan newspaper has, for the 18th consecutive year, received international recognition from the Catholic Press Association (CPA) of the U.S. and Canada. NTC editor Jeff Hensley and four freelance NTC writers — each of whom have received previous CPA awards — have again received recognition for their work.

In addition, freelance photographer Donna Ryckaert received the first place Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Award, given by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Results of the 2009 Press Awards competition and the awards given by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith were announced at the Catholic Media Convention awards banquet held May 29 in Anaheim, California. The awards ceremony was held at the conclusion of the annual Catholic Media Convention, which was held in Anaheim May 27-29.

More than 2,500 entries were submitted in 237 categories by Catholic newspaper, magazine, and book publishers in the U.S. and Canada.

Ryckaert, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Arlington, received the Archbishop O'Meara Award for her story, "Who Me? Mission Work?" Ryckaert's photographs and story, published in the Dec. 5, 2008 issue of the NTC, recount her medical mission trips to Guatemala. Ryckaert and teams of doctors, translators, and other volunteers have traveled regularly to the Patzun area of the country since 2003 and were instrumental in helping to raise \$60,000 for a new church in Chucuca, Guatemala.

The NTC also achieved second place honors for the popular "Word to Life" Scripture column which appears in every NTC issue and is made available to all Catholic News Service subscribers. Hensley, along with writers Jean Denton, and Sharon K. Perkins, were recognized for their reflections on weekly Sunday readings.

Longtime NTC columnist Kathy Cribari Hamer was awarded second place honors in the category "Best Regular Column: Family Life"; and NTC freelance writer Joan Kurkowski-Gillen won a third place award in the category "Best Reporting on Young Adults" for her piece, "Great Faith, Hope, and Love," a feature story about 23-year-old Abigail Caperton's travels to Malawi and Mozambique with

representatives of the Orant Charities organization.

Hamer's writing was praised by the competition's judges, who commented that the columnist "has a knack for storytelling, and a way of pulling those stories out of her own life experiences." Kurkowski-Gillen also received accolades for her work, which, judges noted, "takes the reader from a typical American understanding of Africa to a more nuanced appreciation of someone who has lived there."

The NTC received an honorable mention award for "Viewpoints," designed by Hensley, in the "Best Editorial Page Section" category, and Kurkowski-Gillen also received an honorable mention award for her story, "Diocesan Schools Join National Program That Promotes Good Sportsmanship," in the "Best Sports Journalism Sports Feature or Column" category.

"It's always exciting when someone who works with the NTC takes home international recognition for the first time, so it was really great when Donna Ryckaert, who has long been one of our best freelance photographers, won first place, the Archbishop O'Meara Award, for her writing and her pictures, said Hensley.

"Congratulations to all of the members of the team who make up the NTC. Even though our primary concern is to show the face of Jesus, active and alive in his body, the church, and to serve the Church, it is always a special thrill to see our work honored by the Catholic Press Association and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith."

Texas publications earn CPA awards

Other Texas diocesan newspapers receiving recognition at the 2009 Catholic Media Convention included a first place award for the *Texas Catholic Herald*, Galveston-Houston, in the "Best Front Page Tabloid" category; first place for the *Catholic East Texas*, Tyler, in the "Best News Writing Local/Regional" in the 1-17,000 circulation category; honorable mention for *Today's Catholic*, San Antonio, in the "Best Personality Profile" in the 17,001 - 40,000 circulation category; and a third place award for the *Catholic East Texas*, Tyler, in the "Family Life" category.

The *South Texas Catholic*, Corpus Christi, received second place honors in the "Best Multiple Picture Package News" category.

CHA official says palliative care must be part of health reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Palliative care that focuses on pain management and attention to the psychological, social, and spiritual needs of suffering and dying patients must be part of the nation's health care reform, the new chairwoman of the Catholic Health Association's board of trustees said at a Capitol Hill briefing.

Colleen Scanlon, an attorney who previously worked as a palliative care nurse, said such care can be "a model to improve quality and manage scarce resources" as policymakers debate health care reform.

"By reducing pain and suffering and coordinating care transitions, palliative care reduces emergency room visits, hospital stays and readmissions, and most importantly improves patient and family satisfaction," said Scanlon, senior vice president for advocacy at Catholic Health Initiatives in Denver.

At the June 15 briefing, she

represented both CHA and the Supportive Care Coalition: Pursuing Excellence in Palliative Care, a coalition of 19 Catholic health systems.

Scanlon said research shows that in many cases people hospitalized with life-threatening illness "receive expensive, aggressive medical intervention that is often unwanted and that diminishes their quality of life."

Given that the estimated 90 million Americans now living with serious and life-threatening illnesses is expected to double over the next 25 years, "we must find a better way to care for the seriously ill and dying," Scanlon said.

"We have a moral obligation to ensure that the seriously ill receive care that respects their wishes, that protects their dignity and that meets the needs of the whole person — body, mind, and spirit," she added.

Palliative care "is highly

coordinated, interdisciplinary, patient- and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing and treating symptoms, as well as facilitating patient autonomy, access to information and treatment choice," Scanlon said.

In addition, she said, it is "provided concurrently with disease-modifying treatment and continues as end-of-life care and hospice care after such treatment is no longer effective, appropriate or desired."

"Palliative care must be integrated into health reform legislation and should be addressed in quality measures, payment reform, comparative effectiveness, health IT (information technology), demonstration programs and workforce issues," Scanlon said.

The legislation passed the House by voice vote March 30 and, as S. 660, is now before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.



An Evening With An Exorcist



Guadalupe Radio Network

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PRESENTS

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Guest Speaker and Exorcist

Fr. Thomas J. Euteneuer

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7:00 pm Presentation

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Event is for the benefit of the Guadalupe Radio Network

Fr. Pacheco...

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a function," the bishop said, "it is rather identity as to who you are, in your very form, your heart and soul."

The liturgy of ordination is a transformation, from the calling forth of the candidate to the anointing of his hands with holy

chrism. Between those events, the man pledges obedience to the bishop, lies prostrate as the community prays for him, after which the bishop lays hands on him, conferring the order of presbyter and praying for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

When he has been invested

with stole and chasuble, and his hands anointed, all priests present welcome him into the order of presbyter.

"Because of my age," said the 54-year-old newly-ordained priest, "sometimes at the seminary someone would mistakenly call me 'Father.' But after the bishop anointed my hands with oil, and I got up to walk to the back and wash my hands, the sacristan, Michael Fronk, led me, saying, 'Father, this way.'

"I thought, 'I am a priest! I made it. By the grace of God, I'm here.'

"When you are getting close to ordination," Fr. Pacheco said, "priests say, 'We are looking forward to having you in the brotherhood of the holy presbyterate.' Suddenly, that day, I was part of that brotherhood.

"And during the Litany of the Saints, when you are lying down, it is so moving. You are asking all the saints to pray for you! The whole church is asking their prayers for you."



Deacon Pacheco sits with his brother, Adam Jr., and his sister-in-law, Mary, at the beginning of the ordination liturgy. Mary read the first reading for the Mass, and Adam offered the second reading.

Hamer...

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baskets, brought up in a procession that required two pieces of music to fill.

"At first there was mostly corn and beans," Clarice laughed. "The kids were bringing whatever was left over in the pantry." But one day Clarice noticed, "it wasn't corn and beans anymore. I realized the families were thinking about this when they shopped. Now there were boxes of cereal, canned meats, toothpaste – expensive things. There was a real sense of helping people."

Poignantly, Clarice added that some children who brought food had no idea it might be going to their own families.

I couldn't have been a principal like Clarice, but I'm glad she did it.

And I'm glad Father John Pacheco was a police officer.

My daughter Julie, who was a Texas Christian University cheerleader, once had a stalker, her former cheerleading partner. The man followed her, threatened, and before he was arrested, vandalized our home.

But what most frightened Julie was the day he invaded her sculpture lab when she was alone.

"I was working," she remembered. "There was plaster on my hands, plaster on my feet, and suddenly there he was, in my face, yelling.

"There were always students and teachers in there, but that day no one was around. Somehow I backed out of the room

and ran upstairs to the art office. The police came and searched the building.

"I was always in the sculpture lab, working on my senior show. He had come out of nowhere, and then he was gone," Julie said. "He could do that anytime."

On campus the next day, I received a call from Julie's art teacher, asking me to keep her out of the sculpture lab because someone had been there, and had dressed her plaster and hay sculptures in his clothing.

After that she was more afraid. "I couldn't sleep. I would see shapes in my bedroom. What would he do next?"

"It was my playground," she said, "the place I loved, and I was frightened whenever I was there.

Suddenly a visitor began positioning himself in the art-building hallway.

"Whenever I was in the lab, I realized a policeman was outside our door. When I went to my next class, the policeman would be there too.

"I would walk with my friends, and at every class, no matter which building, there was my policeman. I knew, 'These people aren't going to let anything happen to me.'"

"While I was watching her," said our newest diocesan priest, Fr. John Pacheco, "I was thinking about my niece Lisa, who is about a year older than Julie.

"Although my career was in law enforcement, this took it a step further."

Father Pacheco, who was then Sergeant Pacheco, oversaw Julie's protection.

"No young lady should have to worry about going to school. I resolved that with Julie, [though] I couldn't account for every minute of every day, I could account for the time I was with her, and when I couldn't be there, I could send my best officers."

"They were a silent presence," Julie said. "I didn't have to ask for it; it just happened. I knew there wouldn't be any more confrontations. No one could come in and do anything to me anymore."

"It was like looking after my niece," 'Father-Sergeant' Pacheco said. "I thought, 'No one is going to hurt you on my watch.'"

When Clarice Peninger led the music that helped a generation of children celebrate Eucharist, she was their spiritual leader.

And when Fr. John Pacheco guarded my daughter through her most fearful time ever, he was the hands and feet of Christ.

"I remember thinking the officer had the face of an angel," Julie said. "And when I went to his ordination, I saw that angel's face again."



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



Fr. Pacheco is joined by Dcn. Joe Milligan (left) and by Fr. Joe Pemberton at Fr. Pacheco's first Mass, held at his home parish, Holy Family Church in Fort Worth.

In his homily, Bishop Vann had told Fr. Pacheco the cathedral stained-glass windows are reminders of those who have gone before, marked with the sign of faith, who will encourage him daily as friends of the Lord. "These saints, John," he said, "some of whom are priests, all of whom lived holy lives in challenging times, do this for you in a special way today, as they surround you, and as God's light shines through them.

"There is also the fact, John, of the communion of saints," the bishop continued, "and we think today of your mother and father, who gave you the gift of faith and prayed for you daily. Their prayers and love are certainly part of the reason you are here today.

"My mom and dad were part of me getting there," Fr. John reflected. "I got my theological basis from my mother, and I saw my father's courage and fortitude." His father fought in World War II, under General George Patton, and sustained serious injury from shrapnel that hit him through his pocket. It was deflected, Fr. John said, and his life saved, by a card of Our Lady of Guadalupe his dad carried in that pocket.

"When I was coming out of my ordination it occurred to me



Bishop Vann receives Fr. Pacheco's first blessing after the ordination.

that my parents were part of me getting there, even though they weren't there.

"A person cannot find true happiness unless he is trying to do the Lord's will," Fr. John Pacheco said.

"This is what I was supposed to do."



ABOVE: Fr. David Bristow, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort Worth where Fr. Pacheco served as a deacon, assists in robing Fr. Pacheco during the ordination liturgy. Fr. Joseph Pemberton later assisted Fr. Pacheco in robing with his new chasuble.



Associate Director of Vocations Fr. Jim Pemberton lays his hands upon the newly ordained priest, as Fr. Tom Craig and other priests of the diocese await their turn. This welcoming display of brotherhood is also a symbol that all priests participate in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Calendar

TRIBUNAL TRAINING

The diocesan Tribunal Office will offer Tribunal Advocate Training three Thursdays in July. The training will be held July 16, 23, and 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth. Anyone wishing to serve as a Tribunal advocate in a parish is invited to participate in this training. Attendance at all three sessions is required to serve as an advocate, and attendance at "Introduction to Tribunal Ministry" or equivalent is a prerequisite. There is no charge for this seminar, and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required by Friday, July 10. For more information and to register, call (817) 560-3300 ext. 204.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The Beginning Experience is a peer ministry for separated, divorced, or widowed individuals. The program, operated and supported entirely by volunteers, has been in operation in North Texas for over 30 years. While this ministry is rooted in the Catholic tradition, it is open to men and women of all faiths, including non-Christians. The North Texas area group schedules four weekend programs per year. The next program scheduled in the Fort Worth area will be held Aug. 21-23 at the Catholic Renewal Center, located at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, call metro (972) 601-4091 or e-mail the DFW Beginning Experience Team at dfwbe@hotmail.com.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

The Engaged Encounter (EE) ministry provides marriage preparation weekends for engaged couples seeking to marry in the Catholic Church. EE needs married couples who believe in the sacrament of marriage and wish to help engaged couples lay the foundation for a holy marriage. EE is seeking married couples to volunteer their time in hospitality roles such as greeting engaged couples upon arrival and feeding them during the weekend by working in the kitchen. If you would like to be involved, join us for an informational meeting on either July 8 or July 14 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact Jeff and Cyndi Carpenter at cyndi.carpenter@yahoo.com or call (972) 539-8070.

PARISH MISSION

Father Christopher Crotty of the Fathers of Mercy will present a parish mission at Sacred Heart Church in Muenster from Sunday, July 26, through Thursday, July 30. Fr. Crotty specializes in giving parish missions and retreats that focus on inner/spiritual healing. Fr. Crotty will speak at the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, July 25, and the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 26. Sacred Heart Church is located 714 N. Main, Muenster. For more information, call Lanie Bartush at (940) 759-4215.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

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

COURAGE GROUP

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

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. Calix meetings focus on enhancing spiritual growth through sharing Eucharist, discussion, and fellowship. For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105.

To Report Misconduct

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

- Call **Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator**, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org
- Or call the **Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 102 and ask for the chancellor/moderator of the curia, Father James Hart

To Report Abuse

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

DIOCESAN 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate a Eucharistic Liturgy in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Worth on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 3 p.m. The celebration will be held at the Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., in downtown Fort Worth. A reception will follow in the ballroom. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org or call (817) 560-3300.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 2601 Lansing Blvd., Wichita Falls, invites all to the dedication Mass for their new church Sunday, July 12, at 3 p.m. For more information, contact the parish office at (940) 696-1253.

OLG JAMAICA

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 4100 Blue Mound Rd., Fort Worth, will host a Jamaica Saturday, June 27, from 4-9 p.m. Event organizers invite all to a day filled with "food and fun." For more information, call (817) 626-7241.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

The St. Rita Respects Life Group and the Knights of Columbus, St. Rita Parish, Fort Worth, invite all to attend a life-enhancing and life-changing event. "An Education in Being Human: Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*," a workshop using noted author Christopher West's *Created and Redeemed* will be offered on consecutive Fridays July 10 through July 31 beginning at 7 p.m. Each session will last approximately two hours and will address questions such as: What is the meaning of life? How do we experience it? Why were we created male and female? Why is there evil in the world and how do we overcome it? The program is designed for those ages 16 and older. The cost for the series workbook is \$8. Pizza and salad will be available at the door for \$5 and free childcare will be provided. For more information and to reserve a workbook, call (817) 861-1350.

MOUNT CARMEL CENTER

Mount Carmel Center in Dallas has announced its 2009-2010 schedule. The first seminar scheduled is "Introduction to the works and spirituality of St. Teresa of Jesus," presented by Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD, Wednesday, July 29, or Saturday, Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to noon. This conference will offer an overview of the historical settings of the reform movement that led to St. Teresa's works. Participants may bring a lunch and stay for personal prayer until 4 p.m. The suggested donation for this conference is \$25. The deadline to register is Wednesday, July 22. For more information, contact Mary Bellman at admin@mountcarmelcentr.org or call (214) 331-6224 ext. 314.

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller; at 1301 Paxton Ave. (Padre Pio House) in Arlington; and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton at 2255 Bonnie Brae St. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.sampg.com, or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com.

TEACHERS RETREAT

A special retreat for Christian teachers serving elementary and secondary schools, including public and private schools, will be offered at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House. The retreat, facilitated by Father Raymond Fitzgerald, assistant provincial at the New Orleans Jesuit Province, will begin the evening of Friday, July 31. Registration will be held from 4-7 p.m., with dinner included. The retreat will end Sunday Aug. 2 following lunch. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers to reflect on their vocation as a teacher and how they can share their Christian values with the children they teach. The fee for the retreat is \$200. A special discount for two or more teachers from the same school is being offered. Private room/bath and meals are included. For more information, call the Montserrat Retreat House at (940) 321-6020 or register on line at www.montserratretreat.org.

NTC SUMMER SCHEDULE

The North Texas Catholic is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the July 31 issue must be received by noon on July 15. Due to the 40th anniversary celebration, items are being requested one week earlier for the July issue.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Sister Inés M. Díaz Meneses, SSMN, will celebrate her silver jubilee as a religious with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. All are invited to attend the Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, Aug. 8 at 1:30 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills. A reception in the parish hall will follow the Mass. To RSVP call (817) 284-4811 ext. 214 or e-mail ipasillas@sijanrh.com.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Oklahoma City Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women will sponsor the first annual "Women of Faith, Women of Action" conference and workshop Saturday, Aug. 22, at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman, Oklahoma, with Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio as the guest speaker. Dr. D'Ambrosio will speak on spirituality both in a morning and afternoon general session at the conference, which is open to all Catholic women, as well as men. The event will open at 7:45 a.m. and include additional speakers, a priest panel, vendors, and Pastoral Center services. The event will conclude with a Mass to begin at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mark. The registration fee is \$30. A catered box lunch will be provided for an additional \$10. To register via PayPal and for more information, visit the Web site at http://okaccw.tripod.com/woa/index.html. For mail-in registration, contact Karen Ritz at (405) 350-2239. For general information, contact Chris Thomas (405) 306-5187.

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CARDINAL NEWMAN INSTITUTE

The Cardinal Newman Institute, located in the Fort Worth Diocese, is hosting a talk on Friday, Aug. 21, from 7-9 p.m. Chris Tunnell will present an overview of St. Augustine's masterpiece, *City of God*, drawing out implications for today's challenges of the relationship between the heavenly and earthly kingdoms. Hospitality begins at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1400 N. Davis Dr., Arlington. For more information, call (817) 277-4859 or e-mail, cni.info@yahoo.com. More information may also be found on the Institute's Web site at www.cardinalnewmaninstitute.org.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Marriage Encounter weekends will be held July 10-12 and Oct. 9-11 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of marriage vows, and strengthening the couple's faith. For more information or to register online, visit the Web site at www.ntexasme.org or e-mail to meregistration@sbcglobal.net

RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS RETREAT

Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House will offer a retreat for DREs, Campus Ministers, CCD teachers, and RCIA facilitators Aug. 14-16. This workshop, presented by the Jesuits at Montserrat, will help form perspective, explore perception, and invite discernment in what, and how, God is working in the Church today. Registration will be held from 4-7 p.m., with dinner, on Friday. The retreat will end on Sunday following lunch. Private room/bath and meals are included in the the retreat fee of \$225. For more information, call the Montserrat Retreat House at (940) 321-6020 or register on-line at www.monserratretreat.org.

RETRouvaille

A Retrouvaille weekend is scheduled for July 17-19 at a hotel in Fort Worth. Retrouvaille is designed for couples of all faith traditions who are struggling in their marriage and are contemplating separation or divorce. The weekend program is presented by a Catholic priest and by couples who have also faced significant challenges in their marriages. Topics for private discussion between couples are presented and opportunities for prayer and counseling are made available. Total confidentiality is assured to all participants. The deposit for the weekend is \$75; scholarship assistance is available. For more information, visit www.retrouvaille.org or call (817) 462-8953.

'COGD' CANCELLED AUG. 9

St. Paul the Apostle Church has announced that the "Children of God's Delight Christian Community" prayer meeting has been cancelled for Sunday, Aug. 9 due to the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Worth. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 738-9925.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

All Fort Worth Diocese's parishes and parishioners are invited to become active in the 2009 Catholic Home Build for Habitat for Humanity. This will be the second home sponsored and built by parishes within the Fort Worth Diocese. Sponsor and work group formation is currently in process. For more information, contact Eddie Monroe at (817) 737-0007, femonroe@sbcglobal.net, or Ann Marie Brannan at (817) 514-6550, a.brannan@sbcglobal.net

Classified Section

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR

St. Andrew Church is seeking candidates for the part-time position of Contemporary Choir Director/Accompanist for the 12:30 p.m. Mass. Applicants for this position should possess piano accompanying skills. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy is preferred. Job description and an application are available on request. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send résumé, two letters of reference, and job application to: Music Search Team, St. Andrew Catholic Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76109, e-mail: calves@standrewcc.org, Fax (817) 927-8507.

ST. RITA PRINCIPAL

St. Rita School, Fort Worth is seeking a strong academic and spiritual principal to lead its elementary school (PK-8; 212 students). The position is available for the 2009-10 school year. Candidates must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree with 18 hours of administration and three years experience in a Catholic school. Administrative experience is preferred. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, references, and a request for an application prior to July 6 to: Catholic School Office, St. Rita Principal Search, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919.

SECRETARY / BOOKKEEPER

St. Paul Church is seeking a bookkeeper/secretary. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have basic bookkeeping knowledge and be computer literate with MicroSoft programs. Bilingual is preferred but not necessary. For more information or to request an application, contact the parish office at (817) 738-9925. Application deadline is July 15.

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In his former career, Fr. John Pacheco's job was to serve & protect...

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Serve and Love

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

Johnny Pacheco's mother, Mary Lou, had decided it was time to schedule her baby's baptism.

She wrapped the four-month-old in a blanket, left her South Fort Worth home, and caught the Hemphill bus toward Magnolia, and St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. Her husband Adam was at work; their son Adam, Jr., was in school.

Inside the rectory, she spoke with the pastor, Father Meinrad Marbaugh, OSB, then went with his secretary to put her baby's baptism date on the parish calendar.

"When she left the room, my mother handed me to Fr. Meinrad," said Johnny, now Father John Pacheco, ordained May 23 to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Worth. "She said, 'Here, take him. He's yours.'"

Later, when his mother recounted the story, she told her son, "He took you. You're going to be a priest."



ABOVE: Fr. Pacheco presides at the consecration of the Eucharist at his ordination liturgy, using the chalice given to him by his family. He is joined on the altar by several other priests from the Diocese of Fort Worth.

LEFT: The newly ordained Fr. Pacheco receives the applause of his brother priests and other friends and family members on the steps of St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. He was given special permission by Bishop Vann to wear a chasuble honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, rather than the traditional white or gold chasuble ordinarily worn for ordinations.

BELOW: Bishop Kevin Vann lays his hands upon Fr. Pacheco and prays silently, invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit. This moment is the most solemn and essential act in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Mary Lou was more than right. Johnny would not only be a priest, he would use the chalice of Fr. Meinrad, who once had held him — and possibly the little boy's destiny — in his arms.

On the morning of his ordination a half-century later, John Pacheco entered St. Patrick Cathedral with absolutely no doubts about his vocation. "When I processed in, I said to myself, 'Here we go, Father.' It was breathtaking."

When he joined his brother

and sister-in-law Mary in the cathedral's front row, Adam took his brother's arm and asked, "Well, Johnny, are you nervous?" "I told him I wasn't," the priest-to-be recalled, "and he said, 'That's okay, I'm nervous enough for both of us.'"

Fr. Pacheco's long-anticipated ordination, with its grandeur and tradition, brought together elements intensely personal to the new priest: One was a sense of family so strong that one brother felt the other's nerves; the other was the memory of Fr. Meinrad, of whom Fr. Pacheco said, "In my mind he was a saint ... a good priest whose life I want to emulate."

Fr. Meinrad's chalice, which Fr. Pacheco would use a week later for the first he celebrated Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, was a memento. And the new priest's own chalice — blessed that day by Bishop Kevin Vann — was sentimental because it was a gift from his family. "During the eucharistic prayers, I remembered that the bishop was raising the chalice my family gave me. It meant a lot to have their total

support.

"I see myself as an ordinary person, and I chose a simple chalice. God could take a diamond and make it into a chalice, but he doesn't do that. A chalice representing me would be sort of plain."

Fr. John was a long-time police officer before he began studying for the priesthood, and he said police officers serve and protect, but a priest is in even more ways a servant. "You minister to everybody, every day," he said. "You help people with special needs become one with God."

In his homily, Bishop Vann spoke of his years in an Illinois parish, where he once served as police chaplain, occasionally riding with officers overnight from Friday to Saturday. "Sometimes they would have me come into homes in difficult situations," he said. "When they

said it was okay for me to go, they would say something like, 'Father, what these people need is God, not us.'

"You probably had similar experiences in your years with the police force," Bishop Vann said to then Deacon Pacheco. "Through your kindness ... and your desire to serve, you were able to help people who came your way at TCU and other places.

"But now John, you, as Fr. John Pacheco, will be able to bring them to God. You will find that being a priest in Jesus Christ ... is never a matter of just

SEE FR. PACHECO, P. 22



Marcos and Ann Marie Torres of Austin receive Fr. Pacheco's blessing for their unborn daughter, Rachel, who was born three weeks after the May 23 ordination.

MAILING LABEL: Please enclose label with address change or inquiries concerning mail delivery of your paper. Thank you.

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Much loved ecology teacher Joe Kuban's life was remembered and celebrated with a Mass of Christian Burial June 8 at Nolan Catholic High School, where he had taught for 30 years. **5**

Supporters of Mother and Unborn Baby Care came together to celebrate 25 years of offering assistance to mothers, so they could give birth to their babies — more than 7,500 of them. **10**

Msgr. Joe Scantlin celebrated 50 years of service as a priest May 23, with Mass and a celebration that brought together hundreds of those he has served across the past five decades. **11**