

NEWSMAGAZINE North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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DIFFERENT JOURNEYS *Same faith*

Diocese of Fort Worth ordains three new priests

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Parishioners throughout the diocese say farewell to four longtime shepherds who have made tremendous contributions to the life of the local Church.

FRONT COVER: (L. to R.) Fathers Joe Keating, Nghia Nguyen, and Matthew Tatyrek process out of St. Patrick Cathedral after their May 21 ordination Mass. (Photos by Juan Guajardo / NTC)



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NTC does well at CPA awards

It was a good year for the *North Texas Catholic* and its contributors at the Catholic Press Association awards banquet June 3 at the Ballpark Hilton in St. Louis.

Taking home 12 awards ranging from four first place awards to five honorable mentions, made it one of our best years.

The greatest thrill comes when those not recognized in the past, receive awards. It's especially gratifying that Susan Moses was honored with a second place for her look at the life of seminarians. And it was great to see Ben Torres honored for best single photo for his shot of a young woman being baptized by Fr. Jeff Poirat at Holy Family Parish.

Plus Ben won best photo story originating with a magazine for the story "Easter Sacraments," along with Donna Ryckaert and Associate Editor Juan Guajardo for his outstanding layout.

Ernest Doclar shared second place for his article on the canonization of St. Junipera Serra, his contribution to the coverage of Pope Francis' visit to the U.S. which also featured contributions from Joan Kurkowski-Gillen, again with further recognition to Juan Guajardo for his colorful layouts.

This was not Joan's only award this year. She took first place in the category best feature article for "Prayers rise from Mount Carmel; Answers flow from Heaven" which captured the essence of the charism and character of our own Mount Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity.

Joan and Juan's work also earned third place recognition for best coverage of the World Meeting of Families — pretty outstanding recognition for both the papal visit and the World Meeting of Families, considering Joan gathered her interviews from local folks remotely, and Ernie was covering the canonization on the ground, as he joined other Serrans from around the world for the celebration.

I was especially pleased to see northtexascatholic.org recognized with a third place award for best magazine or newsletter website, thanks once again to the hard work and great design of Juan Guajardo and Judy Russeau, with the assistance of diocesan web coordinator Chris Kastner.

It would be false modesty to say I wasn't thrilled with my own first place award for best essay originating with a diocesan magazine: "Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will always have value, like us."

Five honorable mention awards were garnered by Fr. Carmen Mele, O.P. for his piece on the history of his order, the Dominicans, on the occasion of their 800th anniversary; Jerry Circelli for his profile of Fr. Michael Moloney, formerly Dr. Michael Moloney; Jean Denton for her photo from her article "Finding Christ in the Villages of Haiti," and Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda for her article on "Holy Jordan: Sheltering the living stones of our Christian faith." A word about honorable mention awards: They are only awarded when the excellence of the category they are entered in crowds out materials that would have won higher awards in another year. Congratulations to all and thank you for your contributions!

Jeff Hensley

JPII traveling monstrance visits diocese, encourages Catholics to pray for vocations

By Lance Murray
Correspondent

GRAPEVINE — Praying in silence, more than a dozen Catholic men and women of all ages sat in the chapel the evening of May 25 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

On the altar before them was one of six monstrances blessed in 2004 by St. John Paul II during the Year of the Eucharist so people could pray for an increase of vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life.

The monstrance was at St. Francis for 40 straight hours. Before it was at St. Francis, the monstrance was in the Dallas Diocese.

This was the third straight year the monstrance has visited North Texas through the work of the Serra Clubs in Fort Worth and Dallas.

The Serra Club is a strong supporter of fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

“We set it up for the parishes to host the monstrance during their Adoration,” said Henry Garcia, vice president of vocations and chair of the monstrance’s planning committee for the Fort Worth Serra Club.

The traveling monstrance was in North Texas for three months, and parishioners across the region also were encouraged to pray for the success of the Vocation Awareness Program, June 24-26 at the University of Dallas in Irving.

The program features presentations, panel discussion, question-and-answer sessions, one-on-one personal conferences with diocesan and order priests, sisters, consecrated lay women, and brothers who have volunteered to serve as staff, according to the program’s website.

Offered to men and women between the ages of 18 and 40, the



The monstrance blessed by Pope John Paul II is seen at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine. (Photo by Lance Murray / NTC)

VAP is a weekend of discernment offered to single Catholics who have an “an inclination towards a religious vocation.”

It was led by vocation directors of the Fort Worth and Dallas Dioceses, Father James Wilcox and Father Edwin Leonard, respectively.

John Quin, vice president of vocations for the Serra Club of Arlington-Metro, said the monstrance visited 30 parishes in North Texas, including churches in such places as Hillsboro, Clifton, and Mineral Wells.

Overall, Garcia said the monstrance “was received with tremendous enthusiasm.”

He said that “after Adoration, people wanted to kiss the monstrance, touch the monstrance, take pictures of the monstrance.”

Garcia said that participation by parishes has grown each year that the monstrance has been made available.

Attendance in the past few years at the Vocation Awareness Program has grown, as well, Garcia said.

“We like to attribute it to the presence of the monstrance,” Garcia said.

DIOCESAN, LOCAL & STATE NEWSBRIEFS

North Texas Catholic to provide comprehensive World Youth Day coverage

By NTC Staff

FORT WORTH — More than 200 youth and young adults will be joined by Bishop Michael Olson on a pilgrimage to Krakow for World Youth Day, and the *North Texas Catholic* will be providing daily coverage online.

The diocesan pilgrimage will take place from July 19 to August 1. The pilgrims include youth, clergy, and chaperones from several local parishes.

The NTC is teaming up with the Office of Youth Ministry to bring readers daily blog posts and photos from local youth representatives, seminarians, ministers, and clergy attending the event.

The firsthand accounts will be published on northtexascatholic.org, along with coverage from Catholic News Service and Catholic News Agency.

Before arriving in Krakow, Poland, the main site of World Youth Day activities, the group will spend several days in Rome, Assisi, Prague, Auschwitz, Wadowice, and Czestochowa — symbolically following in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, as pilgrim leaders put it.

“This will be an opportunity for us to pray with Catholics from



around the world, to come to know other young people, to grow deeper in our faith, and to grow to a deeper understanding and catechesis of our faith life,” Bishop Olson said in a video message to youth going on the trip.

Established by John Paul II out of his concern for young people, World Youth Day officially began in 1986.

Traditionally, every two or three years (roughly) WYD is held at the international level. At the diocesan level, it is held annually.

The last World Youth Day was hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2013. To date, there have been 12 international WYD celebrations.

The Krakow trip promises Holy Masses, catechetical sessions with bishops, music, prayer, shows, and a youth festival.

It will also feature opportunities for Confession, visits to various vigil sites, and, of course, eight speeches and three Masses celebrated by Pope Francis himself.



Krakow 2016

Msgr. E. James Hart named Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia

By Susan Moses
Correspondent

Bishop Michael Olson has appointed Monsignor E. James Hart as the Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia, positions he also held from 2005 — 2010 under Bishop Kevin Vann.

The Moderator of the Curia, the role which Msgr. Hart says will occupy more of his time, oversees those who hold offices in diocesan administration and coordinates their administrative duties, under the authority of the bishop. As Chancellor, Msgr. Hart will serve as the diocese's chief notary and manage the official records of the diocese.

"I'm returning to what I've done before, so many aspects will be familiar. However, I expect to find new challenges, along with a new

bishop and new personnel. I hope to serve the Church faithfully and serve the bishop faithfully in whatever he desires," said Msgr. Hart, who begins his position on July 1.

Msgr. Hart has been the pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller since 2010. "It's been a great privilege to be their pastor. I have loved parish life there," he said. "I enjoyed serving God's people in all the various pastoral situations, but especially [celebrating] Mass, which is the center of everything. The sacraments, especially the Eucharist, are an integral part of our faith."

Matt Gill, the director of Evangelization and Catechesis for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, says that Msgr. Hart's emphasis on the Eucharist and Mass attracted non-Catholics and lapsed Catholics.



Msgr. E. James Hart

"Our RCIA and adult Confirmation classes have grown in the past years," he said. "People would be invited to Mass and be blown away by the reverence and beauty of the liturgy. It draws them into the Church, and it's a significant component of conversion."

According to Gill, adult formation also grew under Msgr. Hart's direction. The parish initiated classes for parents during children's religious education, and a formation program for catechists was begun.

This year, Msgr. Hart celebrates his 20th anniversary as a Catholic priest. He came to the Church after five years as an Episcopal priest at St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. "I was baptized Roman Catholic as an infant, and I found my way back," he said.

From 1996–2000, Msgr. Hart was the pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church, a personal parish of the Pastoral Provision to assist Episcopalians wishing to be reconciled with the Catholic Church. Msgr. Hart also served at St. Michael Parish in Bedford and St. Peter the Apostle Church in Fort Worth.

Msgr. Juan Rivero appointed Vicar General

By Susan Moses
Correspondent

On July 1, Rev. Msgr. Juan Rivero will assume the role of Vicar General and relinquish the position of Vicar for Clergy.

The office of Vicar General is the highest office in a diocese after the bishop and is outlined by the Church's Canon Law. (The only other canonical office in the diocese is that of Judicial Vicar, held by Father Anh Tran.) Msgr. Rivero will serve as an assistant to Bishop Michael Olson in matters of administration and executive governance. At Bishop Olson's discretion, he can act in place of the bishop in carrying out many duties throughout the diocese.

Msgr. Rivero has served as Vicar for Clergy for 13 years, coor-

dinating the assignments of priests as well as supporting any individual priests with issues affecting their spiritual or physical well-being.

One year ago, Msgr. Rivero retired as pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Granbury, where he had served for 15 years. He has also ministered at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, St. Jude Parish in Mansfield, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Fort Worth.

Msgr. Rivero began his priestly ministry in Mexico City, after discerning a call to priesthood when he was in high school. He studied for a year at La Universidad Iberoamericana, a Jesuit university in Mexico City, then decided to enter the seminary. He received Holy Orders in 1972.

Fluent in English and Spanish,

Msgr. Rivero knew the immense need for bilingual priests in North Texas. He spoke with Bishop Joseph Delaney, and was welcomed into the diocese in 1982.

When Msgr. Rivero arrived in Fort Worth, he served as the diocese's first director of Hispanic Ministry and established the Cursillo Center (now known as the Diocesan Formation Center) in North Fort Worth.

"Before we bought the old Baptist church and transformed it into the Cursillo Center, those wishing to participate in the retreat weekend had to go to Dallas," he said.

Reflecting on 44 years as a priest, Msgr. Rivero said, "One of the most rewarding aspects of the priesthood is supporting people and being with them in difficult times. That's when the meaning of life and



Msgr. Juan Rivero

of faith is most significant." He also finds great purpose in administering the sacraments.

During his retirement, Msgr. Rivero has been helping parish priests with weekend Masses and Confession. He has also taken advantage of opportunities to camp with his two dogs. "I hope to retire again someday," he said with a smile. "In the meantime, I can help the bishop serve the people of the diocese."



CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH



by Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, STD, MA

RETIREMENT

Rev. David Bristow has retired as Pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Fort Worth, and remains as Pastor Emeritus, effective April 30, 2016.

Rev. George Foley will retire as Pastor of St. Jude Parish in Mansfield, and remain as Pastor Emeritus, effective September 1, 2016.

Rev. Hector Medina has retired as Parochial Vicar of St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth, effective May 10, 2016.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Scantlin will retire as Pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Arlington, and remain as Pastor Emeritus, effective July 1, 2016.

PASTORS

Rev. Sojan George, HGN, is transferred from Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls, and appointed as Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Michael Holmberg is appointed as Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Thu Nguyen is transferred from Pastor of St. George Parish in Fort Worth, and appointed as Pastor of St. Jude Parish in Mansfield, effective

September 1, 2016.

Rev. John Pacheco is transferred from Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Graham and St. Theresa Parish in Olney, and appointed as Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Gainesville, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph Pemberton is transferred from Rector of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, and appointed as Pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Arlington, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Gary Picou is transferred from Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Gainesville, and appointed as Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Karl Schilken is appointed as Pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth, effective July 1, 2016. His term as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia at the Catholic Center ends on June 30, 2016.

Rev. Jaison George Mangalath, SVD, new to the Diocese of Fort Worth is appointed as Pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Fort Worth, effective August 1, 2016.

Rev. Bartłomiej Jasilek, SVD, new to the Diocese of Fort Worth, is appointed as Pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Fort Worth, effective July 1, 2016.

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATORS

Rev. Alexander Ambrose, HGN, is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, and appointed as Parochial Administrator of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Joseph Keating, newly ordained, is appointed as Parochial Administrator of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbott and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Penelope, effective August 1, 2016.

Rev. Cruz Manuel Holguin is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, and appointed as Parochial Administrator of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Ronaldo Mercado is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. Michael Parish in Bedford, and appointed as Parochial Administrator of St. George Parish in Fort Worth, effective September 1, 2016.

Rev. Eugene Nyong is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, and appointed as Parochial Administrator of St. Mary Parish in Graham and St. Theresa Parish in Olney, effective July 1, 2016.

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Rev. Michael Greco is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, and appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Keith Hathaway is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, and appointed as Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Raul Martinez is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, and appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, effective August 1, 2016.

Rev. Nghia Nguyen, newly ordained, is appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. John the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth, effective August 1, 2016.

Rev. Xavier Silvadasan, HGN, new to the Diocese of Fort Worth, is appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. John Robert Skeldon is transferred from Pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth, and appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Robert Strittmatter is appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, effective July 1, 2016. He will continue sacramental ministry at San Mateo Mission.

Rev. Matthew Tatyrek, newly ordained, is appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Michael Parish in Bedford, effective August 1, 2016.

Rev. Msgr. Francis Boakye Tawiah, is transferred from Parochial Vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, and appointed as Parochial Vicar of St. Philip Parish in Lewisville, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Jose Feliciano Torres, OFMCap., new to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been assigned as Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Fort Worth effective May 5, 2016.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Tom Craig is transferred from Pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington, and appointed as full-time Chairman of the Diocesan Mission Council and Diocesan Director of Propagation of the Faith at the Catholic Center, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Msgr. E. James Hart is transferred from Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, and appointed as Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia, at the Catholic Center, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Msgr. Juan Rivero is appointed Vicar General for the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective July 1, 2016. His term as Vicar for Priests ends on June 30, 2016.

Rev. Christopher J. Schroeder, SJ, new to the Diocese of Fort Worth will serve at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake

Dallas, effective July 1, 2016.

DEPARTURES/ SABBATICALS

Rev. Richard Flores will vacate from Pastor of St. Peter Parish in Fort Worth to take a 6-month sabbatical, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Ronald Boudreaux, SJ, of Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas has been recalled by his Religious Order community, effective June 30, 2016.

Rev. Isaac Orozco, Pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Clifton and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Morgan has taken an indefinite leave of absence, effective June 14, 2016. All correspondence for Fr. Isaac can be sent to The Chancery, Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108.

CHANGES IN RESIDENCE

Rev. George Thennattil, TOR, will change residence from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Fort Worth to St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in Fort Worth, while remaining in Hospital Ministry, effective July 1, 2016.

Rev. Salvador Hernandez, CORC, Parochial Vicar of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Fort Worth, departed the Diocese of Fort Worth effective May 2, 2016.

Rev. Hector Medina, now retired, has changed residence to The Waterford at Pantego, 2650 W. Park Row Drive, Unit 152, Pantego, TX, 76013, effective May 10, 2016.

NEW DEANS

Arlington Deanery: Very Rev. Daniel P. Kelley

West Central Deanery: Very Rev. Jeff Poirot

East Central Deanery: Very

Rev. Lucas Alejandro Olivera, OFMCap.

South Deanery: Very Rev. Fernando Preciado

DEACONS

Dcn. Kevin Bagley, new to the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been assigned to St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, effective May 23, 2016.

Dcn. Denver Crawley, has been assigned to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbott and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Penelope only, from the tri-parishes of Hillsboro, Abbott, and Penelope, effective May 23, 2016.

Dcn. Victor Norton, has been assigned to St. Mark Parish in Denton, from St. Jude Parish in Mansfield, effective July 5, 2016.

Deacon Matias Lagunas, has been assigned to St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, effective July 1, 2016.

Deacon David Finch, new to the Diocese of Fort Worth, is assigned to St. Mary Parish in Gainesville, effective June 17, 2016

DECREE: PARISH NAME CHANGE

This decree changes the name of Blessed John Paul II Parish to **Saint John Paul II Parish**, following the canonization of John Paul II on April 27, 2014. The parish is located at the University of North Texas in the City of Denton, and was formally erected on July 1, 2012. Decree given in the Chancery of the Diocese of Fort Worth on June 20, 2016.

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We are all called to share God's love during The Jubilee Year of Mercy

We know we've all been affected by the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The challenge offered by Pope Francis, the turbulence of our world, simply the recognition that each of us is called by Jesus to impact our world for good can't help but call all of us into service to others in our daily lives.

Some of these Catholics on these two pages have responded very thoughtfully to God's call to service to the poor and reconciliation with all during this Year of Mercy.

We can all benefit by their example. There's still plenty of time left in not just the year itself, but in

the course of our Christian lives to bring more of Christ's love and mercy into the lives of others.

What can we do to lighten the burdens of others?

What can we do to make the world more reflective of the Kingdom of God?

Joan LeVasseur



By Jenara Kocks Burgess

Joan LeVasseur, who has been a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls since 1978, learned more about the Year of Mercy, Saint Faustina Maria Kowalska, and her diary (also called

Bonnie Irvine



By Marylou Seewoester

Bonnie Irvine, parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Carrollton, still remembers how she felt last Dec. 13 during the ceremony to open the Doors of Mercy at her parish, one of eight Secondary Doors of Mercy in the Fort Worth Diocese.

"You could feel the presence of God," she said. "The church was full. It was beautiful and meaningful."

"I appreciate that we are a pilgrimage church and can receive indulgences" during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, she added.

Irvine, who is half-Ojibway, first learned about mercy from her Native American upbringing.

"You never know what a person is going through until you have walked

in their moccasins," she said. "If you have two of something; you give one away... and if there is a need, just take it up yourself and do it."

"You can show mercy just by washing the tables after coffee and doughnuts, taking a friend to the pharmacy, or inviting the neighbor's children to come over to color or play cards," she added.

Irvine has been at St. Catherine for four years. She is a sacristan, an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at Mass, and leader of the Divine Mercy Chaplet every Sunday. She also organizes the Maids of Mary, a group that cleans the church twice a month.

"I dust the pews because I can do that sitting down," Irvine noted.

Until a recent illness limited her physical activity, she also took Holy Communion to nursing home residents three days a week. Now, that work of mercy takes the form of phone calls to some of the residents.

"That's the greatest gift we can give — our time and ourselves," she said.

Irvine recalled that she has benefited from corporal and spiritual works of mercy during the darkest times in her life, including the death of an infant son, recovery from cancer, and her recent illness.

"It's a ripple effect," she said. "God gives me mercy, so I'm moved to share that mercy with others."

Ben Wieberg



By Juan Guajardo

Ben Wieberg is a busy man. Over his 37 years as a parishioner at St. Maria Goretti in Arlington, he's served in several ministries — from prison ministry, CHRP retreats, and food pantry, to helping cook Wednesday lunches for the young college students at UTA's Catholic Campus Ministry.

In the sense of living out the works of mercy, the retired Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman has been doing it all along.

"I have always been concrete in my thinking relating to Church teachings and practices," the longtime Knight

of Columbus explains.

That doesn't mean he's not taking the Year of Mercy to heart, though. In fact, for him the message the Church is sending through this jubilee year is simple.

"This Year of Mercy reminds us that God loves us," he said. "God wants us to recognize that his mercy is greater than our sins, and that we will call upon Him with trust and receive his mercy."

This outlook on mercy trickles down into even the small things for the Missouri native. For instance, Wieberg, an avid traveler, sets aside the time to pray a Rosary at the beginning of his many journeys, and another when he safely arrives at his destination.

"Additionally, I pray a Rosary each night before I go to sleep," he says.

Those prayers help draw him closer to Jesus and place greater trust in Him.

"I feel that the more I trust in Jesus, the more I will receive," Wieberg said.

To be sure, it's not to be greedy — it's actually what Jesus invites everyone to in the *Diary of St. Faustina Kowalska* (1520-1578): "I have opened my heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it... The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is — trust."

Divine Mercy in My Soul) by attending the Lenten Mission at her parish this year. Bryan Thatcher, a member of the Eucharistic Apostles of the Divine Mercy, was the speaker, and his conversion story is featured in a book LeVasseur read after the mission called *Love Lost and Found: 17 Divine Mercy Conversions*. This Lenten Mission also inspired LeVasseur to read St. Faustina's diary. Since it is 1,500 pages, she wanted to make sure she would read it all, so she found the book in mp3 audio form. She said she walks a lot and listens to it on her mp3 player while she walks.

"I've almost finished the *Diary of Sister Faustina*, which is a big, big, big book, and I find myself wanting to be more like her," LeVasseur said. "I want to have more of a relationship

with Jesus. As a result of listening to *St. Faustina's Diary*, I am now doing the (Divine Mercy) chaplet every night. It doesn't take but six or seven minutes. That's what I'm doing for the Year of Mercy," she said.

LeVasseur, who is a member of the Sacred Heart Altar Society, said she also attended the Northwest Deanery Council of Catholic Women's Meeting in January at St. Mary's Church in Windthorst and went through the Doors of Mercy. She said she and her husband have been greeters at Sacred Heart for 37 years, ever since the late Msgr. Charles King, then pastor of Sacred Heart, instituted the program at the parish in the early 1980s. She said she is also a member of the newcomer committee and attended Sacred Heart's first Christ Renews His Parish Retreat.

Diane Mills



By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

Diane Mills admits the true meaning of the word "mercy" was a little foreign to her until Pope Francis proclaimed a Jubilee Year of Mercy from December 8, 2015 until November 20, 2016. The holy year offers an opportunity to be "merciful like the Father" and reflect that mercy in daily interactions with others.

"I had not thought about the significance of the word or how it impacts my life," explains the St. Rita parishioner who is co-chairman of the church's annual International Fair, a community-building event that

celebrates diversity and raises money for St. Rita Church and school. "Mercy makes me think of forgiveness but it's more than that. It requires us not only to forgive and be forgiven, but to effect change."

A long-time supporter of Catholic schools, the Empty Bowls program benefitting the Tarrant Area Food Bank and various parishes, Mills is making a concerted effort to be more "hands-on" with her work.

"I have always been involved in coordinating various fundraisers for charitable organizations, but now I'm attempting to actually serve those in need in lieu of just raising money for those in need," she adds.

During this Year of Mercy, the mother of two grown children is trying to show more compassion, less judgment, and greater understanding when dealing with others.

"I suppose God's mercy working in me is the acceptance that I need to change my own thoughts and deeds and then try to effect change in others by granting them mercy," Mills suggests. "It's truly a pay-it-forward concept."

The dedicated volunteer says the Year of Mercy inspired her to spend more time and offer more care to the most vulnerable people in the community, "particularly the elderly and poor in my parish."

Diane Etzel



By Susan Moses

Diane Etzel thinks the timing of the Year of Mercy is not happenstance. "Just look at the news: We're surrounded by talk about immigrants, Islam, and the insanity of this election year. The timing is perfect."

Having read Pope Francis' book, *The Name of God is Mercy*, Diane agrees with the Holy Father that our society can see others as a faction to fear or hate. "We totally forget that

the group is made up of individuals like us who are just trying to live their lives as well as they can."

Diane began prison ministry seven years ago, before Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope Francis on March 13, 2013. A 30-year member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth, she read a request in the bulletin for a woman to lead a Bible study at Carswell Federal Medical Center and felt that the Lord was calling her. She also mentors female prisoners in a re-entry program designed to prevent relapse.

"God gives me new chances every day; why would I deny that to someone else?" she asked. "I try to help women understand what went wrong and what changes they need to make so that they won't land back in prison."

Since the Year of Mercy began, Diane has been amazed by how many times the word "mercy" appears in the liturgy. She explained, "Pope Francis is reminding us of what's always been there and what's always been true. God's name really is mercy."

Diana Vetter



By Adrean Indolos

"You can't help but love someone once you hear their story," quotes Diana Vetter, from a billboard she once saw.

Diana is the Director of Stewardship and Parish Relations for the diocese and is a parishioner at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth. Talking about the mercy given to us by God, she says, "Mercy to me is correlated to that [billboard]. Sometimes I can be quick to judge or put preconceived notions on someone, but really it's being able to love someone for who they are and where they're at regard-

less of situation and circumstance."

Along with working for the Advancement Foundation, Diana volunteers her time with the discipleship committee at St. Andrew, as well as helping the welcoming committee. One of the projects she is working on is organizing a tour group to go to Our Mother of Mercy Parish for a prayer service and confession to receive the indulgence for the Year of Mercy. Our Mother of Mercy was designated by Bishop Michael Olson as the principal church for the celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy for the diocese. The tour will be sometime in July.

Heading into the latter half of this Year of Mercy, Diana reflects upon what she can do to personally be more merciful by posting a list of "the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, whether it's on my desk or on my fridge, so I'm constantly seeing and aware of them."

She says, "It's easy to go through life out of habit, and I know I can do better at making it a focal point... I just need to be more intentional with different acts of mercy in ways I can help others."

Fr. Tom Craig takes on full-time role as Mission Council chair, hoping to ‘bear much fruit’

By John Henry
Correspondent

AS THE STORY GOES, A WEALTHY MAN IN THE DEPTH OF A MIDLIFE CRISIS SEEKING MEANING FOR HIS LIFE TRAVELED TO CALCUTTA with plans to work at Blessed Mother Teresa’s home for the destitute, the dying, and abandoned children.

She sent him home with instructions, “Grow where you’re planted.” That is, go be a missionary of charity and love for the people in your midst.

That message is now the sole focus of Father Tom Craig, who on July 1 will leave his work as pastor at St. Vincent de Paul in Arlington and become the full-time chairman of the Diocesan Mission Council and the diocesan director of Propagation of the Faith at the Catholic Center.

Bishop Michael Olson announced the appointment in the spring.

His task is to foster a better understanding that as Catholics we are all called to mission. “It’s the call Pope Francis has been reminding us of,” Fr. Craig said. “Part of our baptismal commitment is to be a missionary, to evangelize.

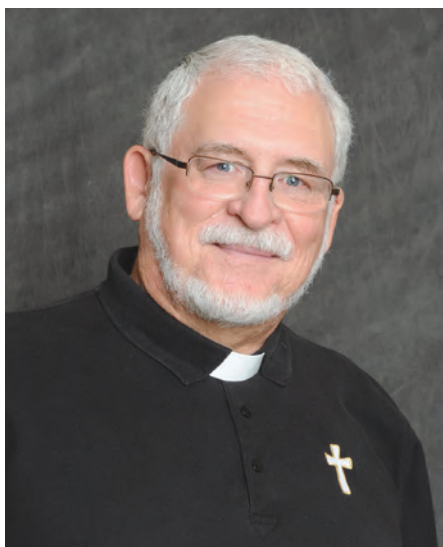
“The first question I get when I tell people I’m a missionary is ‘where have you been a missionary?’ And my answer is right here in the Diocese of Fort Worth. You don’t have to go to a foreign country. It’s right we are.”

In his first apostolic exhortation, *“Evangelii Gaudium”* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis asserted that “every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: We no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries,’ but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples.’”

As examples, Francis promoted the experiences of the first disciples, who, immediately after “encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim Him joyfully.” The Samaritan woman, too, in John’s Gospel instantly became a missionary after speaking with Jesus, and many other Samaritans came to believe in Him ‘because of the woman’s testimony.’

“St. Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, immediately proclaimed Jesus,” Francis recalled.

Fort Worth’s Diocesan Mission Council,



Fr. Tom Craig

created by Bishop Kevin Vann, was established to support mission outreach. It came to be at the suggestion and urging of Fr. Craig, who was made its director at the time while also remaining as pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, where he has been since 2001.

Since Bishop Olson’s installation, a process has taken place to grow the Mission Council and make Fr. Craig its full-time leader.

The Mission Council indeed does promote a number of foreign mission activities,

including two in Honduras, one in Bolivia, and another in Guatemala.

“It’s a great opportunity,” Fr. Craig said. “It’s an expansion of what we’ve done in the past ... building on what we’ve done in the past. It’s opening up a whole new avenue to approach missions in our diocese through education and resources.”

Like any new job, “some of it I’ll just have to feel my way [through] because we haven’t been doing all of this.”

In addition to promoting opportunities to mission and fostering our call to ongoing, perpetual discipleship, Fr. Craig has also taken on the role of facilitator for the diocese’s missionaries.

“All of us are called to mature in our work as evangelizers,” Pope Francis said in *“Evangelii Gaudium.”* “We want to have better training, a deepening love, and a clearer witness to the Gospel. In this sense, we ought to let others be constantly evangelizing us.”

That does not mean that we should postpone the evangelizing mission, Pope Francis wrote.

“Rather, each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are.”

Said Fr. Craig: “Guided by the Holy Spirit, this was the time to put this together. I’m thankful for the opportunity. I’ll see what I can do and, hopefully, it’ll bear much fruit.”



In this file photo from 2013, Fr. Tom Craig poses with members of the long-standing mission council at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington. Pictured, from left to right, are Rita Paul; Ross Martinez; Mike Crocker; Fr. Tom Craig, SVDP pastor; Elroy Leger; and Letty Zatarain.

(NTC photo / Juan Guajardo)

Assistant Superintendent Melissa Button wants to cast a wider net for Catholic education

MELISSA BUTTON LOVED HER JOB AS THE PRINCIPAL OF AN EXEMPLARY-RATED BURLESON I.S.D. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

“But in 2011, my husband and I enrolled our daughters at St. Andrew Catholic School, and we saw their faith and reliance on God grow even after just a few months there.”

One afternoon in the spring of 2012, a tornado threatened Southwest Fort Worth. When she asked her sixth-grade daughter about the experience, she answered, “It was fine, Mom. We just went into a safe room and prayed the Rosary.”

Button recalled, “The tornado scare made me appreciate that the most important thing for students and staff is to walk in relationship with Christ.... At Catholic school, students can grow in their knowledge of Catholicism and their relationship with Christ along with having a successful academic career,” she explained. After 15 years as a public school teacher and administrator, she joined St. Andrew School as assistant principal that fall. She



Melissa Button

became principal in 2014.

Soon into her career as a teacher, Button had realized she could have a bigger influence on the lives of students as a principal, so she

returned to the University of North Texas to earn her Master of Education degree.

Now as assistant superintendent of education, Button hopes to support the teachers and principals across the 20 schools in our diocese. “We are all here to help them be successful, and ultimately help the children in the seats.”

According to Button, her philosophy of education is inspired by a quote from St. Catherine of Siena, “Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire,” which applies to both students and teachers as they help each other along in their journey.

“I want to cast a wider net for Catholic schools and increase enrollment,” she explained. “For families who might not have considered Catholic schools, I want them to understand that Catholic identity is an actual difference. For families under the false impression that a Catholic education is not possible for their family, I want to help break down barriers and make Catholic education a reality for them.”

Unexpected journey casts Jason Whitehead in role of assistant director of Evangelization and Catechesis

AT THIS POINT, JASON WHITEHEAD EXPECTED TO BE A PROFESSOR AT SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. However, reading the early Church Fathers proved a wrecking ball to his plans.

Instead, Whitehead was recently named assistant director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the diocese.

“I knew the Church Fathers were profound spiritual thinkers and a deep, bottomless well of insight to help me prepare sermons. But what I didn’t know jeopardized my career plan and my entire universe. I was shocked to discover they were as Catholic as Pope John Paul II,” said Whitehead, who then resigned from Criswell College just short of receiving his degree.

He responded by absorbing every Catholic resource he could find. After a few years, he was convinced he needed to join the Church, be an active Catholic, and an apologist for the faith. He was accepted into the Church at the Easter Vigil 2012 at Holy Family Church, and earned a Bachelor of Theology degree at



Jason Whitehead

St. Joseph’s College of Maine the next year. He’s currently pursuing a Master of Theology degree at Holy Apostles College.

Whitehead began assisting with Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at Holy Family right away, and since 2014 has been

the RCIA coordinator at St. Patrick Cathedral. With his education and experience as a convert and RCIA leader, he was a natural fit for the diocese’s new position of assistant director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

One of Whitehead’s priorities is to shift the mentality that thinks of RCIA as a class or program. “The parishes’ RCIA coordinators have great hearts on fire for Jesus, we just need to remind them that they are not leading a program, they are leading a conversion,” he continued.

Whitehead plans to assist Director of Catechesis Marlon de la Torre and reach into the parishes to provide help and resources to RCIA coordinators while continuing as RCIA Coordinator at St. Patrick.

Another goal for Whitehead is to increase the opportunities for cradle Catholics to grow deeper in their faith. “The top reason for Catholics to leave the Church is that they are unfed in some way.” His goal is to help them better understand their faith, so “they will be on fire with the Good News,” he said.

Shirley Krueger joins staff as Human Resources Director

With a confident gait and firm handshake, Shirley Krueger has a natural charm that would put even the most nervous job applicant at ease in her new role as director of Human Resources for the diocese.

She comes to the diocese after more than 10 years in human resources in the corporate world.

“Even when working in the secular world, my faith never left me in terms of how I treated people,” she told the *North Texas Catholic*. “Here, though, there’s a ministry aspect in that everything I touch has the potential to impact the building of the Kingdom of God.”

The desire to build the Kingdom was instilled in Krueger early. She grew up in Lindsay, the oldest daughter of nine children, and attended historic St. Peter Church.

Within a few years of marrying, she and husband, Jeff, moved to the Denton area where they raised their four children and have been parishioners at Immaculate Conception for 28 years.

“I’ve always been active in our parish,” she said, mentioning volunteer work at the Catholic school where my her younger children attended.”

But it was a call for volunteers to the Stewardship Committee at Immaculate Conception that started Krueger on the path that would



Shirley Krueger

eventually lead her to the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“I first started serving on the committee because it met only once a month, and I was busy with work, school, and family,” Krueger said. “So I thought that the time commitment would be manageable.”

However, when then chair of the committee, Diana Vetter—now diocesan Director of Steward-

ship—stepped down, Krueger stepped up to fill the position. Shortly thereafter, Krueger earned a bachelor’s in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University and, with Vetter’s encouragement, applied for the HR vacancy for the diocese.

“Every job has dignity, value, and worth,” Krueger said of her new position. “If you don’t have the right people in plac-e, your ministries won’t work. We have to attract and keep the right people.”

Attracting and keeping the “right people” could easily sum up the entirety of an HR director’s job anyplace, but Krueger recognizes that her work, though common to all businesses and organizations, is anything but commonplace, given her particular circumstances. That’s why, in addition to the ordinary duties necessary to maintain the personnel of the Catholic Center, she wants to encourage parishes and schools throughout the diocese to use her office as a resource.

“We don’t recruit directly here,” Krueger said. “But we want to help parishes do that. Whether giving advice on hiring, writing job descriptions, or advising on website communications, we want every school and parish to know we are here to help them. This is our mission.”

Pam Potts serves as new Safe Environment assistant director

Pamela Potts came to the diocese after serving as business manager at Holy Trinity Seminary under Monsignor Michael F. Olson. She became Assistant Director of the Safe Environment Office on May 1. Her first order of business has been a complete overhaul of the Safe Environment database and online program, a task that her stint at Holy Trinity Seminary made her uniquely qualified to tackle.

The seminary draws men from about 13 different dioceses—each of which had its own Safe Environment protocols. While each student entered the program with current Safe Environment certification--retraining, and background check requirements from the dioceses from which they came, varied.

“We had to find a uniform way to screen and train these men,” Potts explained. “And the process had to be approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.”

Having taken an active role in putting the HTS program in place, Potts became a natural choice to undertake a similar project in Fort Worth.



Pam Potts

This time, however, Potts doesn’t have to invent the wheel. The Diocese of Fort Worth has purchased the Safe & Sacred Environment Training Program

for Catholic Dioceses. Developed by the company, Proud to Protect, the *Safe & Sacred* program allows training, screening, and administrative records to be accessed in one, seamless interface.

Before that can happen, though, current records must be prepared to be incorporated into the new database. And while staring at spreadsheets, updating data records, and culling through lists all day is hardly her idea of a good time, Potts sees it as an opportunity to put her extensive organizational skills to use.

“It’s not glamorous work but it does matter,” she said. “And it’s an important time to make sure we pay attention to these things.”

The Office of the Director of Safe Environment collaborates with both the clergy and the laity of the diocese to ensure compliance with the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Diocesan Safe Environment Program, monitors training and background checks for all clergy, employees, and volunteers who minister and work in the diocese.

Mother Maria of Jesus Crucified, former prioress of local Carmelites, dies at 82

By Kathy Cribari Hamer Beck
Correspondent

REVEREND MOTHER MARIA OF JESUS CRUCIFIED, OCD, THE FORMER PATRICIA ANN BRINKLEY, PASSED AWAY MAY 6 — 54 YEARS PLUS ONE DAY SINCE RECEIVING THE CARMELITE HABIT IN 1962. SHE WAS 82.

Widely recognized as a spokesperson for the local Carmelites, Mother Maria was the first woman who persevered in entrance to the Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity near downtown Fort Worth, said Mother Anne Teresa, prioress of the monastery, now located in Arlington.

“Mother entered the Fort Worth Monastery in 1961, and was elected prioress in 1970. And I entered in 1965,” Mother Anne Teresa said.

In 1984, the community moved to Arlington.

“After the Second Vatican Council in 1965, all religious orders went through a lot of turmoil,” Mother Anne Teresa continued. “Reverend Mother was in the thick of it, but always focused on the essential elements of our Carmelite vocation.”

In his homily at Mother Maria’s Mass of Christian Burial May 11, Bishop Michael Olson also spoke about Vatican II. “Mother Maria was called to leadership in a time of renewal, at a time when so many things became confused. She was able to shepherd the Carmel through transitions and challenges, not just because of her natural gifts of leadership and wit, intelligence and integrity — which were apparent to all who came to know her — but because of the supernatural love Christ had given her, and her response to that love.”

Mother Anne Teresa said, “She was ready to defend the spirit that Our Holy Mother St. Teresa gave to us. The renewal of our Constitutions was extremely time consuming, but Mother worked many long hours with our community chapter, and the meetings of all the nuns in the United States. She never hesitated to speak the truth of our contemplative Carmelite life.”



Mother Maria of Jesus Crucified

Just three years ago, the Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity celebrated Mother Maria’s golden jubilee, and her first cousin, Father C.M. Trinkle, delivered the homily.

“Your life before you went to Carmel was anything but routine,” he said, retelling family stories. “One of the most interesting was that you played tackle football on the CYA team. As you know, young girls just didn’t do that at that time.

“You were the field general,” he recalled, “the quarterback. I guess in some remote way, you were prepared to be the prioress of contemplative nuns! This is a stretch, but all things work for good for those who know God. When you took your helmet off, and your hair flowed down, your opponents were spellbound, and left the field. They had been beaten by a woman.”

Mother Anne Teresa recalled, fondly, “In all the changes in religious life Mother kept us united and made decisions according to the Church and the Order. She knew the difference between the essentials and the minutia of our life.

“Mother Maria will always be a rock for

me to lean on. She taught me how to live virtuously and most importantly to love the One who called us. Her humor made a difficult situation bearable and her beautiful smile brought light to a dark room.”

“I think often of Mother Maria’s sense of humor,” Bishop Olson said, “and what comes to mind is her stories. One of them in particular happened when she was prioress at the Carmel in Fort Worth, a few streets from the Cathedral. She called the rector and told the pastor, ‘Monsignor, we need a priest for Mass,’ and Monsignor said, ‘You know we have a parish to run here...’ And Mother replied, ‘Well, at this time I am already enrolled in the woman-priest classes...’ After that he answered, ‘I’ll be right over.’

“It was sort of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object,” the bishop recalled, with a smile.

“Mother Maria was a ‘holy spiritual giant’ for all of us,” Mother Anne Teresa said. “She taught us and guided us, her love of her Spouse was the most important, and she showed us by her example.

“Love of the Divine translates into love of the human person. Her care for each one of us was so generous and selfless. She walked that extra step to lend a helping hand or a comforting word.”

Having spent most of their lives together in Carmel, Mother Maria’s death was understandably difficult for all the nuns, as it was for the lay community whose lives she had touched. People gathered to say an emotional goodbye to someone they would never forget.

Emotionally, Mother Anne Teresa said, “She would never miss an opportunity to smile or to make you laugh when you really did not think there was anything to smile about or to laugh about.

“Mother Maria’s generosity, kindness, and understanding were other hallmarks in her life. She truly sang the ‘Mercies of the Lord’ and now she is singing his praises.

“So much more could be said,” Mother Anne Teresa concluded. “Words fail to express how incredible Mother Maria really was.”

IN MEMORY

Father James McGhee, beloved priest in residence at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, dies at 77

FATHER JAMES E. MCGHEE, LOVINGLY KNOWN AS “FATHER JIM,” SPENT A LIFETIME IN MINISTRY, HELPING PEOPLE OF ALL DENOMINATIONS COME TO KNOW THE LIVING CHRIST. HAVING SERVED AS A HAPPILY MARRIED PASTOR IN METHODIST AND EPISCOPALIAN CHURCHES, FR. JIM ULTIMATELY FOUND WHAT HIS FAMILY CALLS HIS “TRUE CALLING” AS A CATHOLIC PRIEST.

The Missouri native — married for nearly 60 years to his wife, Ann, the father of three children, and grandfather to eight — felt “blessed,” according to his family members, to spend the last 13 years of his life as a Catholic priest in residence at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller. After suffering a stroke, he died on April 18, surrounded by many friends and family members.

He is remembered as a gifted homilist, one who deftly combined elements of humor and pathos in sharing the Gospel message.

“Fr. Jim was a great storyteller, with a special gift for connecting with people,” recalled Deacon Don Warner, who also serves on staff at St. Elizabeth’s. “Many times he would be chuckling to himself as he told the funny parts of his stories during his homilies. He had such a strong sense of humor.”

When the examples he used to make a point were poignant, Fr. Jim was “just as likely to tear up,” said Dcn. Warner. “He just cared so deeply for others. He was a very dear man.”

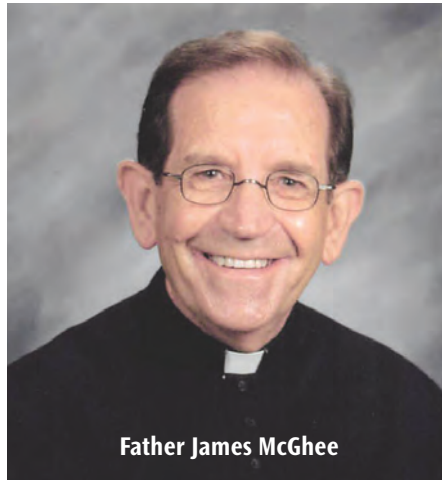
Iris Galindo, a parishioner at St. Elizabeth’s since 2005, said Fr. Jim’s homilies and smiling, friendly presence at every church function helped to make her family feel at home in the Metroplex after a move from East Texas.

“You always left Mass feeling that you could be a better person,” explained Galindo.

Fr. Jim’s gift was in helping his listeners to connect Scripture to the challenges of daily life, Galindo recalled. “He made me think about the ways that God wants to be at work in our lives....

“Sometimes he had to be a true father, in reminding us about how we needed to do better. He was a teacher in every aspect.

“Sometimes love has to be tough, and it was beautiful, the way in which he embodied that love. I will never forget him.”



Father James McGhee

Other parishioners recall the ways in which Fr. Jim’s partnership with his wife, Ann, touched their lives. While some Catholics are unfamiliar with the concept of a married priest, Ann McGhee’s quietly steadfast support of her husband’s ministry made a strong, positive impact upon the many young couples to whom they offered counsel, said Mary Stanley, the McGhees’ youngest daughter.

Calling her parents “inseparable,” Stanley mused, “You couldn’t imagine one of them without the other.”

An example of her parents’ shared commitment to ministry was their care for those in nursing homes and hospitals. It was not uncommon, recalled Stanley, for her father to receive emergency calls in the middle of the night.

“While he was still on the phone, my mother would be up and getting ready to go with him to the hospital,” said Stanley. “Then, my dad would be at the patient’s bedside, taking care of the person who was ill, and my mother would be offering love and consolation to the family members. They really made such a wonderful team.”

Born to Ralph and Jimmie Lee (McDowell) McGhee on November 5, 1938, in Kennett, Missouri, Fr. Jim entered the Air Force at age 18 and married Hattie Ann Keenum, his high school sweetheart, in 1957. Their shared work

with youth in a Methodist church while stationed in Mississippi led him to leave the military in order to pursue studies as a Methodist minister, said his wife. After several years as a Methodist chaplain at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, the McGhees traveled with their young family to Dallas, where Fr. McGhee became an Episcopalian priest, and served as the pastor of a vibrant parish for nearly 24 years.

“Of course, even then, we wanted to be Catholic,” explained Ann McGhee. “We always had a shared love for Catholicism.”

After Pope John Paul II announced the decision providing for the priestly ordination of married former Episcopalian clergymen, her husband began to explore the possibility of conversion, she said. Together, they became Catholics in 1992, and Fr. McGhee was ordained a Catholic priest on April 1, 1995, at Sacred Heart Church in Canadian, a small community in the Texas Panhandle.

As a Catholic priest, Fr. Jim ministered at parishes in the Diocese of Amarillo, dutifully serving in Canadian, Dalhart, and Hereford, “and wherever he was needed,” said his daughter. “Wherever he went, he brought a spirit of peace, of healing, counsel, and support.”

When he retired in 2003, he and his wife decided to follow their adult children to North Texas. Because their daughter Renee attended Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, Fr. Jim offered his assistance at the parish, and soon became immersed in the life of the large, dynamic faith community.

Thirteen years later, his brother priests, the Very Rev. Msgr. James E. Hart and Father Dennis Smith, concelebrated at Fr. Jim’s Mass of Christian Burial at St. Elizabeth’s April 23.

Hundreds of friends, family members, and representatives from the many churches he led were in attendance at the funeral and at the vigil service, held at St. Elizabeth’s on the evening of April 22.

Fr. McGhee is survived by his wife Ann and his children, Renee, Robert, Mary, “adopted” daughter Janie, and their families. Memorial gifts in his honor may be made to the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth in support of vocations and seminarians.

Father Robert Strittmatter celebrates Golden Jubilee

By John Henry
Correspondent

FATHER ROBERT STRITTMATTER'S EXERCISE ROUTINE COULD BE APPLIED AS A METAPHOR TO HIS JOURNEY AS A PRIEST.

Fr. Bob runs 15 miles a week — five miles three times a week — and in the summer, he goes in the heat of the day.

“It feels so good to sweat and so good to clean up,” he said recently in the soft-spoken tone all have come to know him by.

On May 22, Fr. Bob was joined by family, friends, and admirers at St. Rita Church in Fort Worth to celebrate the golden anniversary of his ordination, 50 years and all inspired by the Gospel urging: “The harvest is rich but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers to his harvest.”

Hard work and faithfulness define this 75-year-old, who began his vocational journey more than 60 years ago.

It was in 1954 that the then-almost 14-year-old entered minor seminary at St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio, after his pastor at All Saints Parish on Fort Worth’s North Side had recommended that Fr. Bob take a “kind of entrance exam” for boys who might want to be priests. Fr. Bob said he had first given priesthood a thought as a fourth- or fifth-grader at Mount Carmel Academy Catholic School (now All Saints Catholic School), next to All Saints, where he has received each of his sacraments, including Baptism.

Fr. Bob was ordained by Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth Bishop Thomas K. Gorman at All Saints on May 27, 1966, a Friday — just like in 2016. The destination of Fr. Bob’s first assignment was Holy Family Parish in Irving, part of the then Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth.

He is well traveled, having

had stints at St. Andrew and St. George in Fort Worth, St. Maria Goretti in Arlington, St. Patrick Cathedral, and all about the western and southwestern portions of the diocese, from Wichita Falls to Ranger, Eastland, and Stephenville.

He continues a more than decade-long stint at San Mateo Mission in near West Fort Worth, while being a priest in residence at St. Patrick Cathedral.

His anniversary Mass was one of joy and thankfulness. Among the many mentioned respectfully was Monsignor Robert Rehkemper, the first pastor he served under in Irving, along with his parents and siblings; his teachers at Mount Carmel Academy; the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word; and his Vincentian instructors at the seminary.

“I am grateful for our Protestant brothers and sisters and fellow ministers with whom I have prayed and worked and with whom I have ministered to others.”

Fr. Bob spoke about the lifelong journey of faith, how it can grow, wither, and die several times throughout our lives.

Those gathered for the anniversary Mass enjoyed time with Fr. Bob afterward at a reception that included his siblings and a “the committee of nieces and nephews and others who have planned and are conducting this celebration.” Lots of pictures were taken.

Retirement is not on his radar, Fr. Bob said.

He’s healthy; his “physical therapy” — running — keeping him physically fit, not to mention offering a boost to his emotional and spiritual life.

“I started running on a regular basis when I went to St. George in 1975,” Fr. Bob said. “It became obvious I needed to do something. But it’s also prayer time. I’m praying while I’m running.”



In this file photo Fr. Bob Strittmatter baptizes a new parishioner at San Mateo Mission in near West Fort Worth. (NTC file photo)

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(Left to right) Fathers Matthew Tatyrek, Joseph Keating, and Nghia Nguyen give a blessing to the congregation at the end of their ordination Mass.



DIFFERENT JOURNEYS *ONE FAITH*

Three new priests ordained for Diocese of Fort Worth

Story by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Photos by Juan Guajardo

THE BOND OF FAITH THAT BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER WAS EVIDENT MAY 21 as people from different parts of the U.S. and around the world gathered inside St. Patrick Cathedral to witness the ordination of three young men to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Bishop Michael F. Olson conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Joseph Paul Keating, Nghia Trung Nguyen, and Matthew

Robert Tatyrek during a ceremony steeped in symbolism, tradition, and prayer. Relatives and friends from as far away as Vietnam, Germany, and Australia filled the cathedral to hear the ordinands pledge obedience to the bishop and watch them receive the essential rite of the sacrament during the imposition of hands and the reading of the Prayer of Consecration.

“It’s a blessing to be here on this special day,” said Cang Nguyen, older brother of Nghia Nguyen, who welcomed scores of relatives arriving in Fort Worth for the ordination. Some had never met the seminarian.

“We stay connected by that single thread of faith,” he explained. “In the Vietnamese culture, family ties run deep.”

After Bishop Olson offered the Prayer of Consecration invoking the Holy Spirit, fellow

clergy placed a stole and chasuble on each new priest.

Dressed in the outward signs of the priestly office, each man approached the bishop once again to have his hands anointed with holy chrism — symbolizing wisdom and strength. Bishop Olson then presented the paten and chalice to each of the newly ordained.

“Understand what you do. Imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord’s cross,” Bishop Olson said.

At the conclusion of the rite, the bishop welcomed the new priests into the diocesan presbyterate with the fraternal Kiss of Peace. A legion of concelebrating priests did the same.

Theresa Nguyen met her distant cousin, Father Nguyen, when he was a seminarian taking courses at Creighton University, in

Omaha.

“My mother often hosted seminarians when they came through town, and it took a few weekends before we realized we were related,” explains the 22-year-old.

The University of Nebraska graduate said extended family members from different parts of Texas and overseas attended the ordination because “it’s an honor for a family to have a priest.”

Mary Sokolowski traveled from Midland to join other Texas Tech University alumni at the morning liturgy. The young adults and Tatyrek were part of a Catholic student organization at the Lubbock campus. She also knows Keating, another Texas Tech alumnus.

“It’s important that we’re here to show we support and love them,” Sokolowski said. “Today is the fruit of all the prayers we’ve said while they were both in Rome and throughout the process.”

Father Keating and Father Tatyrek completed their years of formation at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Father Nguyen finished his studies at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston.

Father Matthew Baldwin who traveled from Melbourne, Australia to Fort Worth, met Matthew Tatyrek when both were seminarians in Rome. “He has a great personality and connects well with people. I think that’s a great asset in spreading the Gospel,” said Fr. Baldwin, who was visiting the U.S. for the first time.

Before the ordination Mass began, Bishop Olson thanked the parents of the three candidates, Bob and Priscilla Keating, Khai Nguyen and Dung Tran, and Luna and Gary Tatyrek, as well as the seminary staff, vocation directors, and pastors who helped the trio during their formation and pastoral internship year.

During his homily, Bishop Olson said a priest’s ministry is a continuing conversation with Christ that begins with the words, “Follow Me,” grows through “a dialogue of prayer,” and manifests itself as self-sacrifice for God.

The bishop said everyone shares in Christ’s cross, but the priest shares intimately in Christ’s sacrifice through celebrating the sacraments — especially Eucharist and Penance. It is the sacrificial aspect of a priest’s life that enables him to lead people from selfishness and sin to the freedom of the baptized.

“It is this sacrificial aspect that motivates a priest to go to the peripheries of society to reach those who otherwise would collapse in

fear and confusion,” Bishop Olson said. “It is this sacrificial aspect of a priest’s life that illuminates [him] with the truth of the Gospel to enlighten those lost in the fog of error.”

Addressing the candidates as “dear sons,” the bishop told the candidates the conversation with Christ that began with the words “Follow Me” will continue with their promises to serve his Church and its people.

“It will grow with Christ in your daily prayer and ministry throughout your lives,” he said. “It will grow in your development of authentic Christ-like love in your life and ministry by which you will be able to meaningfully and humbly stand at the altar and say, ‘This is my Body, this is my Blood.’”

A large contingent of parishioners from St. Mark Church in Denton arrived early for the ordination Mass. Joseph Keating worked as a part-time youth minister at the parish before entering the seminary. The local Knights of Columbus supported him during his studies.

Fr. Keating celebrated his first Mass at St. Mark on his ordination day followed by a Czech-style dinner and party at the parish.

“He definitely maintained connections with people at St. Mark’s. Some even went to Rome for his (ordination to the) diaconate,” Kim Bonfield added. “He was a positive influence for a lot of kids who are now out of college.”

Fr. Nguyen celebrated his first Mass on May 22 at Christ the King Church, in Northeast Fort Worth, where he once served as an altar boy. Family and friends of Fr. Tatyrek gathered at his home parish, Holy Family of Nazareth in Vernon, for the new priest’s first Mass on May 22.

Bishop Olson told the *North Texas Catholic* he’s known all three men since they entered the seminary and looks forward to working with them.

“I’ve been involved in their formation and feel very blessed to have them in the diocese,” he added. “It’s a sign to us that the Church is very much alive; there are vocations and each of us has a responsibility to help people hear their vocation — particularly young men to the priesthood.”

MORE PHOTOS ONLINE!

To see our ordination photo gallery, please visit northtexascatholic.org and click on ‘Photo Gallery’



Father Matthew Tatyrek is helped to vest during the Mass.



Father Joseph Keating says the Eucharistic Prayer.



Father Nghia Nguyen receives an embrace from Bishop Michael Olson during the ordination Mass.

Fr. Nghia Nguyen found purpose, passion in priesthood

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

NGHIA NGUYEN ALWAYS VIEWED HIS LIFE AS A GIFT. BORN FOUR MONTHS EARLY, WEIGHING A SCANT 2 POUNDS 4 OUNCES, HIS PREMATURE BODY FIT IN THE PALM OF A DOCTOR'S HAND.

"If I had been born in Vietnam in that condition, there's no way I would have lived," says Nguyen, whose father emigrated to the U.S. from the Communist country in 1982. His mother followed in 1984.

Three years later, Khai Nguyen and Dung Tran's second child was delivered in a van as it pulled up to a Houston hospital.

"My heart stopped beating a couple of times, but I was revived," explains the 28-year-old, who suffered none of the complications usually associated with prematurity. "In hindsight, God has really graced my family."

Nguyen always felt God saved his life for a reason. Growing up in a faith-filled home, he found purpose and passion in a vocation to the priesthood.

His May 21 ordination ceremony marked the end of a discernment process that began at a confirmation retreat when the cradle Catholic was barely in his teens.

"I remember telling God, you gave me the gift of life; my gift to you is my life. I'll do whatever you want me to do," says the Houston native.

Inspiration on how best to serve God came from observing his parish priest. After his family moved to Fort Worth near Christ the King Church, Nguyen and his older brother, Cang, became altar servers for the morning Mass. The church's pastor, Father Mathias Man, CMC, became a role model for the attentive boys.

"I saw the joy of the priesthood in Fr. Mathias," the priest recalls. "He's a humble, pastoral man who was kind and patient. When I messed up as an altar boy, he never yelled or scolded. I wanted to live a life like that."

At the age of 14, Nguyen moved to Joplin, Missouri where he lived in a formation house operated by Fr. Mathias' order — the Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix — while attending McCauley Catholic High School. After graduation, he joined the religious community as a postulant and took courses at Missouri Southern State University where he served as a liaison for the campus ministry.

"During this time I began to think God was calling me elsewhere," recalls Nguyen, who briefly considered life as a Trappist monk. The idea of becoming a diocesan priest never entered his thoughts, "because all the priests I had ever known belonged to religious orders."

After finding out what diocesan priests do in a parish, the discerning college student began considering that option.

"I spent four years with a religious community, so I prayed to Mary to give me a sign," says Nguyen, who wrestled with the path his vocation would take.

A casual comment, made by a friend a few days later, resolved his indecision. The words, "I don't know why I'm telling you this, but you will make a great diocesan priest," motivated Nguyen to call the Diocese of Fort Worth's vocation office.

His immediate family had returned to Houston, "but what drew me to the Fort Worth Diocese were the friends and family who left the Church," he explains. "I want to bring them back with God's message."

The seminarian went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from St. Joseph Seminary College in Louisiana. His formation continued at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston where the priest received a Master of



Father Nghia Nguyen gives Communion during the packed ordination Mass. (Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC)

Divinity degree this May.

A year of pastoral ministry was spent as a chaplain at Children's Medical Center in Dallas and working at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Wichita Falls. Serving the predominantly Hispanic parish exposed Nguyen to a new culture and language.

"I'm fluent in English and Vietnamese, but I didn't have much training in Spanish, so it was baptism by fire," recalls the priest, who discovered many similarities between his family and the faith community at Our Lady of Guadalupe. "People in the Hispanic and Asian cultures are very family-oriented and deeply-rooted in sheer trust and faith in God."

The pastoral volunteer loved watching parishioners work together, "and I found out, if you can enjoy a bowl of menudo (a traditional Mexican soup made of tripe, broth, and red chiles), you're accepted," he adds with a laugh.

The newly-ordained priest offers words of advice to other men considering the seminary.

"Don't be afraid to give it a try," he encourages. "It's not a prison. It's a time to discern and find out what God is calling you to do."

A simple, but powerful, question led Fr. Matthew Tatyrek to priestly vocation

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

SOMETIMES THE SIMPLEST REMARK CAN TOUCH THE SOUL AND CHANGE A LIFE.

When Father Matthew Tatyrek attended World Youth Day in Germany in 2005, he had no idea a question, posed by one of the cardinals, would set his future on a trajectory that would lead to his ordination as a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“At the time, I was pursuing a commission in the U.S. Air Force through the ROTC program. I wanted a career as a JAG (Judge Advocate General’s Corps) lawyer,” admits Fr. Tatyrek who was a sophomore at Angelo State University when he traveled to Cologne, Germany.

The Vernon native was excited to attend the international gathering with the youth ministry from his parish — Holy Family of Nazareth — and see Pope Benedict XVI at his first major apostolic event since becoming pontiff. During his six days in Germany, there were various talks and liturgies with bishops and cardinals, but one stood out from the rest.

“Before giving the final blessing, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, [then] archbishop of Washington, D.C., pointed to all the priests concelebrating the Mass with him and asked the young men in the crowd, ‘how many of you are going to be sitting with them?’” Fr. Tatyrek recalls. “I remember being struck by the strength of his words and the challenge. It stayed with me.”

Raised in a strong, Catholic home, the experience of being surrounded by the universal Church drew Fr. Tatyrek deeper into his faith. But, instead of contacting a vocation director, Tatyrek transferred to Texas Tech University where he joined the U.S. Army’s ROTC program and became more involved with his parish community.

“I started going to daily Mass and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation more frequently,” the cradle Catholic says, describing the little ways



Father Matthew Tatyrek smiles as he and his fellow priests are called to stand before the altar during the ordination Mass.
(Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC)

his daily routine changed. “I really started getting involved in ministries.”

When Fr. Tatyrek’s volunteer activities caused him to spend more time at the parish than fulfilling his ROTC responsibilities, he dropped out of the program. With help from a small group of faith-filled men on campus, Fr. Tatyrek began seriously discerning a call to the priesthood or some ordained service in the Church.

“Through my conversations with these men, I was able to talk about issues of faith and prayer, and share where the Lord was leading me,” he explained.

After years of discussions and discernment, the undergraduate decided he would enter the seminary after receiving a degree from Texas Tech in 2009.

“When I told my mom, dad, and brother [Aaron], the seminary was something I wanted

to try, they were very supportive,” Fr. Tatyrek said. “Their level of support can only be engendered because of the seriousness in which they take their own personal faith.”

Encouragement also came from his maternal cousin, Father Edmundo Parades, a priest in the Diocese of Dallas.

“He always played a large part in my family’s life, so we were used to a religious presence,” he continued.

After two “beautiful” years at Holy Trinity Seminary where his vocation was nurtured, the young seminarian was sent to the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he was enriched in his faith and theological education.

Before Fr. Tatyrek was ordained to the transitional diaconate in his home parish last July, he spent a pastoral year working at Denton’s Immaculate Conception Parish and with the church’s pastor Father Tim Thompson. The experience taught him how to integrate himself into parish life.

“Being able to see myself live this life of a priest with joy is my greatest treasure of that year,” says

the priest. “During my pastoral year, the Lord really told me this was something He wanted me to do with my life.”

After seven years of discernment and preparation, Fr. Tatyrek celebrated the final chapter of his vocation journey — his May 21 ordination — with family, friends, and the Church in Fort Worth.

“I’m ready to begin. I’m ready to start my life as a priest,” Fr. Tatyrek said eagerly. “During these past seven years, my vocation has become more clear. I just want to respond with gratitude and thanksgiving for this call to the priesthood.”

And what about his dream of becoming a judge advocate in a military courtroom?

“Well, I am studying the law,” he says with a laugh. “But it’s Canon law.”

Joys of parish life led Fr. Joseph Keating to priesthood

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

YEARS OF STUDYING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD REACHED A PINNACLE FOR FATHER JOE KEATING MARCH 27 WHEN HE PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL DURING THE SOLEMN MASS OF EASTER CELEBRATED BY POPE FRANCIS IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE.

Already a talented musician, the 34-year-old joined the seminary choir after arriving at Rome's Pontifical North American College (PNAC) in 2011 and used his new-found vocal talent to chant the Gospel in Latin.

"I was a little nervous but very happy to be doing it," recalls the then-transitional deacon, who stood steps away from the pontiff during the morning liturgy. "I shook hands with him before Mass and received the Sign of Peace and Communion from him. To spend Easter Sunday with the Holy Father and proclaim the Resurrection on Easter Sunday was just an immense honor."

The plaza outside St. Peter's Basilica is a far cry from the Tarrant County Walgreen's where Fr. Keating worked as a retail manager while discerning his vocation. As a student at Texas Tech University, he went to a Raider Awakening retreat and heard a talk about vocations. It was the first time the priesthood crossed his mind, but the freshman quickly dismissed the possibility.

"I got caught up in the many distractions that college offers," admits the San Angelo native. "It wasn't until my last year of school in 2006 that I earnestly began considering the priesthood."

Working at the Catholic Campus Ministry at Texas Tech deepened his faith and drew him closer to God in prayer, but he was still years away from making a long-term decision about the future. Time spent as a youth minister at St. Mark Parish in Denton helped the store manager realize he wanted his life to have greater purpose.

"It was really that parish that gave me the proper context for good discernment before entering the seminary," Fr. Keating asserted. "I really felt at home there the minute I stepped into the church."

The part-time church worker loved being with the people and watching the community live out its Catholic faith.

"There was a spirit of joy there, and I wanted to share parish life and offer whatever I could offer them," he continued. "I realized I'm happiest when I'm in the parish."

Fr. Keating entered Holy Trinity Seminary in fall 2009 and spent two years at the Irving campus taking pre-theology courses. When the time came to change schools, he embraced the opportunity to study at PNAC in Rome.

Witnessing the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, the election of Pope Francis, both sessions of the Synod on the Family, and other world events was exhilarating. But the real advantage of living in Rome was meeting other seminarians from the U.S., Australia, and Canada studying to be diocesan priests at the 157-year-old college.

Fr. Keating said it was encouraging "to know there are so many good men willing to lay down their lives in service to Jesus," and it inspired him to know that he would someday "be part of this great fraternity of priests."

A pastoral year spent at St. Joseph Church in Arlington introduced the seminarian to the joys and struggles of parish life. He sang and assisted the organists, shared his faith with converts in the RCIA class, and worked one day a week with Texas Christian University's Campus Ministry program.



Father Joe Keating gives a blessing to his friend Tyler Dubek. (Photo by Juan Guajardo / NTC)

"The parish people were very warm and welcoming, especially those involved at St. Joseph School," says Fr. Keating, who was ordained to the transitional diaconate in Rome last October.

After completing a pastoral internship, Fr. Keating continued his formation in Rome where he earned a baccalaureate of sacred theology and studied sacred music under the direction of a knowledgeable choir director.

"Being part of the choir here is one of the biggest fruits to come out of my time in seminary," said the skilled clarinet and guitar player.

Fr. Keating now hopes to use his musical talents in his new ministry as a priest. But leaving Rome was bittersweet.

"I will miss the friends I made [there] very much," he admits. He hopes to share his experience of Rome and "the saints, churches, and music" with the people of God throughout his priesthood.

And the newly-ordained Fr. Keating will not wait long to accomplish that objective. This summer he will accompany young Catholics from the Diocese of Fort Worth to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. A stop in Italy is planned.

"I'll get to exercise my knowledge of the city and Italian," he adds enthusiastically. "Everything I've been given is meant to be given back to the Church."

A CATHOLIC AT HEART

Convinced of the fullness of the Catholic faith, Fr. David Bristow, recently retired, was one of the first married Episcopal priests to join and serve in the diocese

By Mary Lou Seewoester
Correspondent

FATHER DAVID BRISTOW, WHO RETIRED APRIL 30 AFTER 42 YEARS AS A PRIEST, PLANS TO FINISH WRITING A BIOGRAPHY OF HIS FATHER, TAKE A FEW ROAD TRIPS WITH HIS WIFE, JANICE, AND SPEND TIME WITH HIS CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.

Fr. Bristow was one of the earliest married Episcopal priests to join the Fort Worth Diocese. He was ordained in 1998 after completing the Pastoral Provision process established by Saint John Paul II that prepares ordained Episcopal priests to become Catholic priests.

"I was the fourth one in the diocese," he said. "I had been reading Catholic literature for a long time, and when the opportunity came [to become Catholic], it was a very easy and happy decision to make."

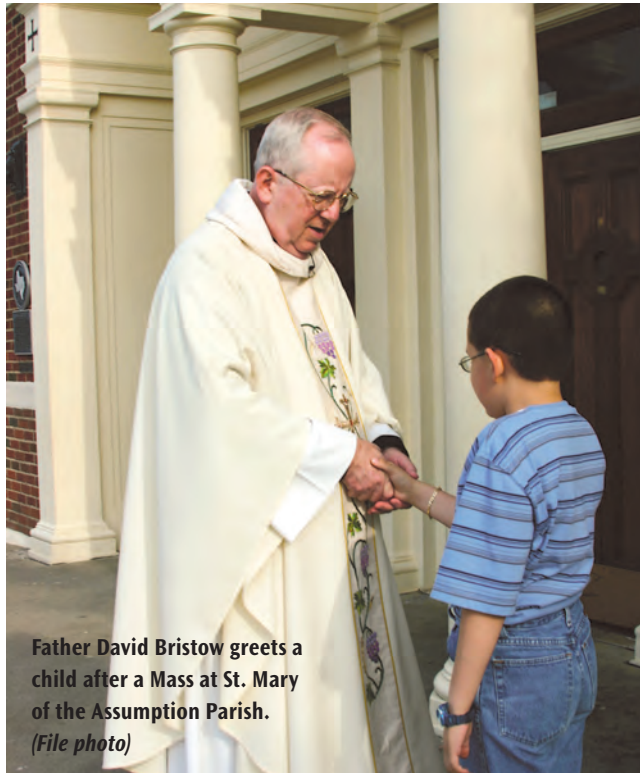
Fr. Bristow explained how reading drew him toward becoming Catholic.

"If you read serious Catholic literature, two things are going to happen. It's going to convict you. And the next thing is that it will convert you. That's what happened to me."

One of the books that influenced his journey toward conversion was *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Fr. Bristow remembered that when the *Catechism* was first published, "there were three priests standing at the door of St. Anthony's Church Supplies. All three of them were Episcopal priests, and I was one of them."

Fr. Bristow, who grew up in Franklin, Texas, knew that he wanted to become a priest by the time he was 12. Along the way, he developed an interest in the Catholic Church, but his family and his pastor encouraged him to remain Episcopalian, although the "pastor very much wanted to see the two churches united once again," Fr. Bristow explained.

Fr. Bristow was ordained in 1974 and served in the Episcopal Church until 1995. Soon after,



he began the Pastoral Provision process to become a Catholic priest.

His first parish in the diocese was Blessed Sacrament Parish in Arlington, where he was parochial vicar for two years. Next, at St. Michael Parish in Bedford, he began as parochial vicar, but within six months, the pastor retired and Fr. Bristow became the pastoral administrator.

In 2001, he became pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Fort Worth, where he served for 15 years.

Fr. Bristow said that there has been very little resistance to him as a married priest.

Fr. Bristow's wife participated in parish life at St. Mary's, and after the demands of being the wife of an Episcopal rector, she welcomed the change to a low-profile role, he said.

"She's always had an active ministry, but it was quietly done and without any show," he said. For example, at St. Mary's, she served as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the elderly in nursing homes.

"She did a fantastic job," he said, "and out of her ministry, I ended up doing seven convertings."

"Fr. David is exceptionally educated and at the same time a humble man," St. Mary's Parishioner Pete Bynum said. "He's the son of a farmer and rancher and can connect with people from every strata of life."

He added that Fr. Bristow "took his care of the parish seriously ... he was wonderful in confession, and if you had a problem, his door was always open."

"I'm a people person and at St. Mary's, the people are just wonderful. A priest couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with," Fr. Bristow said.

In addition to caring for the people of St. Mary's, Fr. Bristow also cared for the aging Romanesque church building. When he arrived as pastor, he noticed that the 70-year-old stained glass windows were in

grave disrepair.

"I saw this tremendous work of art," he said. "And it was suffering. It was about to die."

So, he began with a grant from Partners for Sacred Places, a nonprofit that provides funding to care for historic religious properties. With second collections and other donations, the parish finally raised the \$500,000 needed to send all 28 windows to Franz Mayer Studio in Munich, Germany for repair in 2010. It happened to be the studio that originally created the windows, but also offered the most affordable bid.

For now, Fr. Bristow will "take a few months to relax," but eventually will ask to be called to fill in for parish priests.

"Just because I'm retired doesn't mean I'm no longer a priest," he said. "I love being a priest. It's a great joy to go to the altar and to serve God there. I look forward to the time I can help other priests and return to the altar and serve God's people."

NOT AN 8-TO-5 PRIEST

After a dynamic 57 years in Holy Orders, Fr. George Foley will soon retire from St. Jude Parish

By Susan Moses
Correspondent

FATHER GEORGE FOLEY'S 57 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD HAVE TAKEN HIM FROM HIS NATIVE SOUTH AFRICA TO HIS CHURCH'S ROOFTOP IN MANSFIELD.

However, one of his favorite moments is something he experiences most days. "I love facing the people at the beginning of Mass and seeing all of us make the sign of the cross in unison."

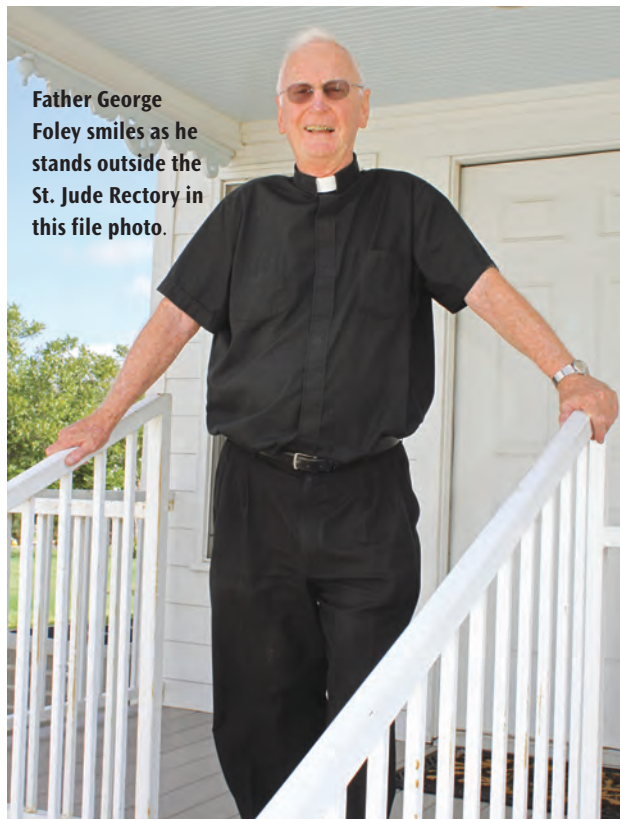
Fr. Foley retires on August 31 from his current assignment as pastor of St. Jude Church in Mansfield. Twelve years ago, Bishop Joseph Delaney described the post to him as a small, growing country parish, a natural progression from the years Fr. Foley spent shepherding the flock in Breckenridge, Albany, Cisco, Eastland, and Ranger. Since then, the population of this fast-growing suburb south of Arlington has almost doubled.

Fr. Foley remembered, "On my first Sunday Mass at St. Jude, I saw a young family enter. They had to leave because there was no room. We were squeezing 700 people into a 650-seat church every Sunday. We added an extra Spanish Mass immediately, and I told the bishop that we needed to build a new church."

Fr. Foley has led St. Jude through the construction of a new church, the addition of ministries including a radio station, and the purchase of a former Baptist church across the street. The parish has grown from 1,200 families to 4,500.

Despite the rapid growth, Fr. Foley remains a very involved, hands-on pastor. "I'm not an 8-to-5 priest. I'm a 6-to-10 priest, unless I get a call or knock on my door during the night, then I go," he explained.

"I was ordained to minister to God's



Father George Foley smiles as he stands outside the St. Jude Rectory in this file photo.

people 24 hours a day. Even my day off is still a day of priesthood, so if I am needed, I will be there."

Fr. Foley pointed out that in his years at St. Jude, he has attended every hospital call within 15 minutes, except for one occasion. "One of the best things about being a priest is being in the right place at the right time for the person who wanted me at that time. The Holy Spirit has put me in the right place so many times."

The Holy Spirit will lead Fr. Foley's retirement plans too. He's considering expanding his ministry in prisons, which he has visited for years as time has allowed. He also noted that Mansfield has several more nursing homes than the two that were open when he first came to St. Jude.

"I may visit nursing homes with the volunteer Communion ministers," he said. "I trust that the Holy Spirit will grab hold of me and yank me to be in the right place at the right time."

As the youngest of six children of Irish immigrant parents in South Africa, Fr. Foley's earliest ambition was to become a priest. "I remember being on the veranda when our parish priest drove up on his motorbike to visit our family. I thought, 'I want to be like him.'"

He recalled, "I wanted to be a priest, but I was not a pious boy. With my red hair, I was noticed, and most of the time I was in the wrong. My parents never knew what I'd do next."

His impish sense of humor remains evident in the teasing and jokes he shares with his parishioners. And his irrepressible spirit could be seen a few years ago when he stood 85 feet above the neighborhood on the roof of the new St. Jude Church, gripping the cross. At age 79.

Fr. Foley was a parish priest and military chaplain in South Africa from 1958 until 1989,

when he immigrated to Fort Worth with the blessing of his South African bishop to escape increasing violence and unrest.

"It took just three days to become a diocesan priest for Fort Worth. I met Bishop Delaney on a Thursday, and by Monday he had assigned me to St. Michael Church in Bedford," said Fr. Foley.

Fr. Foley has adapted to his new homeland, saying that his 12 years at St. Jude are the happiest of his life. "I've tried to dedicate my life and time to God totally and without reservation, and the people have given me a warm reception."

Even the Mansfield community has embraced Fr. Foley.

He rides in the annual Christmas and St. Patrick's Day parades, blesses fire stations and schools, and opens city council meetings with prayer. He noted quickly, "It's not me, it's the Church. I'm representing the Church in the community. Jesus told us to 'go and preach.' I've tried hard."

A HEART TO SERVE

Fr. Hector Medina, recently retired, will continue helping fellow Catholics going through tough times

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS FOR FATHER HECTOR MEDINA WAS ONE PART OF BERTHA OLMOS' DUTIES AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHURCH. PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE DIOCESE WOULD CALL ASKING FOR A FEW MOMENTS WITH THE KINDHEARTED PRIEST.

"They wanted to come and talk with him about their different issues," says the secretary, remembering how troubled visitors looked as they walked into the parochial vicar's office. "After seeing him, they left with a sense of peace that was noticeable. People always told me how much he helped them with their problems."

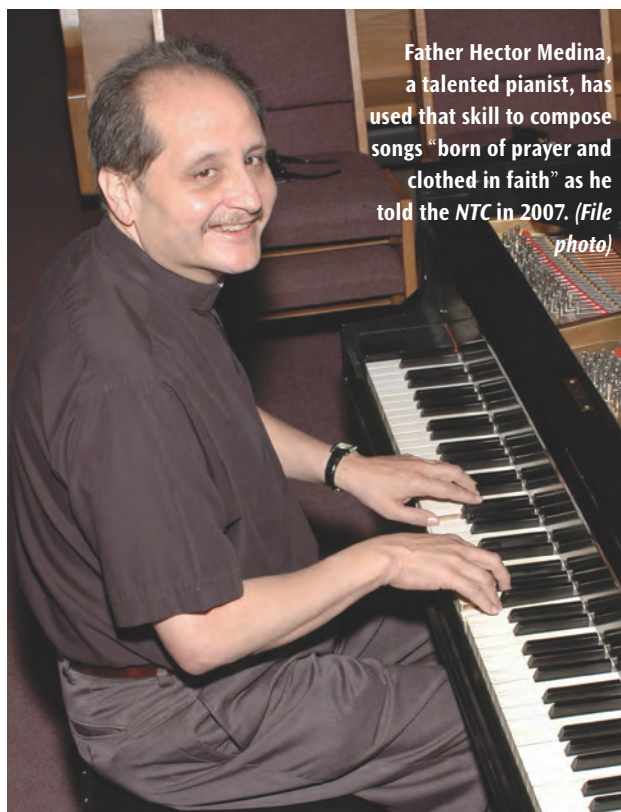
North Texas Catholics who met Fr. Medina during his years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, St. John the Apostle in North Richland Hills, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Wichita Falls, St. Matthew in Arlington, and St. Bartholomew in Fort Worth were saddened to hear the 58-year-old is retiring from active ministry for medical reasons.

Born in Galveston, the native Texan moved to Fort Worth as a 9-year-old and was a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral.

Inspired by the story of St. Francis of Assisi, he began his studies for the priesthood with the Franciscans but later decided to become a diocesan priest. The late Bishop Joseph P. Delaney ordained him as a priest of the diocese on June 23, 1984. In addition to serving parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Worth, Fr. Medina's skills as a composer, author, and retreat facilitator touched the lives of people across the United States.

"He totally gives himself to his ministry," says Cristina Porrás, pastoral assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe, where Fr. Medina was pastor for 16 years.

"People remember the way he preached. His homilies had a way of touching people's lives and connecting them with the Scriptures. Parishioners



Father Hector Medina, a talented pianist, has used that skill to compose songs "born of prayer and clothed in faith" as he told the NTC in 2007. (File photo)

came out of church feeling God had just spoken to them for real."

During his time in Wichita Falls, the priest became involved in a Spanish-language prayer group and helped people who wanted to file immigration papers.

"He even drove people to Dallas to the immigration office," Porrás recalls. "It was inspiring to see that he would take the time himself to assist them."

Years later, he co-founded *Proyecto Inmigrante* in Wichita Falls — an organization started to assist and provide legal counseling for immigrant families seeking citizenship. The office was designed to spare local residents the long drive to immigration services in Fort Worth and Dallas.

The pastor's work on the diocesan marriage tribunal encouraged him to reassure another group of struggling Catholics.

"I did a lot of work with the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics," Fr. Medina explains. "After seeing the

strength of their faith going through those trials, I decided to write a little bit about the stories of the divorced people I know."

His research and insights were published in a 2011 book detailing the thought process and painful emotions of divorce.

"I got letters back from people," the author says, describing the positive feedback he received. "Divorced people could relate to the book and found it very healing. It helped them come back to Christ."

Alma Vazquez, church secretary at St. Matthew's, says Fr. Medina's compassion and concern for others is best demonstrated in the devotion he has shown his mother across the years.

"We all hope our children will take care of us the way he takes care of his mother Gloria," continues Vazquez, remembering how the dutiful son took "Big G" shopping to Wal-Mart every Tuesday on his day off. "He is always doing things for his

mom or taking her someplace. Many times when you see him, Big G is behind him somewhere."

A composer of four songs published by Oregon Catholic Press, ("Canto de Despedida," "Aleluya," "Al Paraíso," and "Bajo la Sombra de Tus Alas") the retiring pastor plans to focus on writing more music. Parishioners are also hoping his weekly program on Guadalupe Radio continues. The broadcast is heard via the Internet each Wednesday at 10 a.m. on KJON 850 AM.

"It's an excellent way to prepare for the Sunday Scripture readings," explains Olmos. "He has people come in to comment on how the readings helped them in their lives and how they can help other people."

Witnessing the faith journey of others is one of the rewards of 32 years in the priesthood, according to Fr. Medina.

"I would remind people that the seed of faith is within them and to not lose sight of it," he cautions. "Let those seeds of faith grow within you."

ALWAYS A SPIRITUAL FATHER

Msgr. Joseph Scantlin, the kindhearted longtime shepherd of Most Blessed Sacrament, calls his time as a priest “extremely fulfilling”

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

WHEN MEMBERS OF MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH FOUND OUT THE MAN THEY FONDLY REFER TO AS “FATHER JOE” WAS RETIRING JULY 1, A SADNESS RIPPLED THROUGH THE ARLINGTON FAITH COMMUNITY.

Gloom was quickly replaced with relief when they found out Bishop Michael Olson had appointed Monsignor Joseph Scantlin Pastor Emeritus of the parish he’s shepherded for 21 years.

“I plan to help out in the parish as needed,” assures the monsignor, citing health issues as a reason for his retirement. “I hope to say Mass here or help out in other places. I’m a judge in the Marriage Tribunal. I’ll do whatever my body allows me to do.”

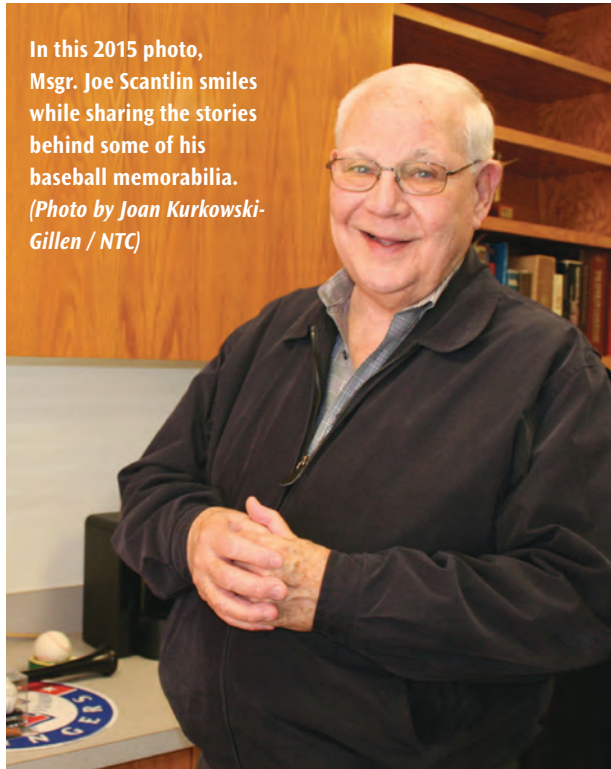
The 83-year-old recently underwent back surgery and is still recovering from the aftereffects.

“Everybody understands the decision and wants the best for Fr. Joe,” says Karen Simmons-Kunkel, church secretary. “We’re looking forward to meeting our new pastor, Monsignor Joseph Pemberton, but we’re happy Fr. Joe is staying on. He’s a wonderful priest and represents what the word ‘shepherd’ means.”

Ordained on May 23, 1959, Monsignor Scantlin is celebrating 57 years in the priesthood. During that time, he’s served in small rural communities (St. Rita in Ranger, Sacred Heart of Jesus in Breckenridge), helped start a new church in Lewisville (St. Philip the Apostle), and began his ministry at a Dallas church (Christ the King) when Fort Worth and Dallas were part of one diocese. A young priest in 1963, Fr. Joe consoled distraught parishioners who quickly filled the pews when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated 10 miles away.

After serving at Our Lady Queen of Peace

In this 2015 photo, Msgr. Joe Scantlin smiles while sharing the stories behind some of his baseball memorabilia. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / NTC)



in Wichita Falls, Fr. Scantlin became pastor at Holy Family Church in 1983 and remained there 12 years. A month after arriving at the West Side Fort Worth parish, the pastor hired Karen Roach as the church secretary.

“Father was involved in establishing many of the ministries,” recalls Roach, who later became a pastoral assistant. “It was an exciting time. A contemporary choir and children’s choir were started, and Holy Family became very involved ecumenically.”

People were more interested in parish work and a desire to serve reached into the neighborhood.

“There was a real spirit of unity,” she adds.

When the parish added a multipurpose building to the property, church members quietly agreed to name it Scantlin Hall. It was a decision that didn’t involve the pastor.

“On the morning of the dedication, he just looked at me and I told him ‘It’s in memory of your wonderful mom and dad,’ so he was okay with that,” Roach says, remembering the

ruse with a laugh. “He’s an extremely humble man.”

In 1995, the late Bishop Joseph P. Delaney assigned Fr. Scantlin to Most Blessed Sacrament in an effort to grow the parish. Today it’s home to more than 2,000 families.

Longtime parishioner Tom Barnard met the kindhearted priest in a moment of crisis shortly after the pastor came to MBS. A good friend’s husband had just died.

“When I got to the house, Fr. Joe was already there,” he says, describing the upsetting scene. “It was amazing the way he was talking and consoling her.”

The priest and parishioner then teamed up to retrieve the deceased’s car from a parking lot.

“Fr. Joe can relate to people. He understands people and is caring,” Barnard continues. “I think he loves everyone he meets.”

The dedicated pastor calls his long tenure in the priesthood “extremely fulfilling.”

“I’ve never tired of it — particularly counseling people,” he confides. “Hearing confessions is one of my favorite things and I do that every Saturday.”

Catholics often avoid the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“Some people haven’t had a good experience going to confession,” Fr. Joe agrees. “I try to make it the loving, forgiving sacrament it’s meant to be by showing the mercy and goodness of the Lord.”

Michele Grimm considers the seasoned counselor, “one of the most pastoral priests I have ever known.” He once shared with the liturgist part of his daily prayer routine.

“Fr. Joe told me he puts post-it notes on his mirror while shaving, so he knows who to pray for and visit each day,” Grimm explains. “We’re delighted he was named Pastor Emeritus. We don’t want to lose him. What you see on the altar is what you get every day behind the scenes.”

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CCFW works to move people *out* of poverty



The climb to self-sufficiency can include training for better job opportunities. (NTC / Juan Guajardo)

The climb out of poverty is a grueling journey, and the path to a better life is often filled with setbacks. Limited access to needs such as affordable housing, reliable transportation, quality childcare, and job training can prevent families from reaching what Heather Reynolds, CEO of Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW), calls the goal of true self-sufficiency.

Reynolds and her dynamic team of CCFW staff members and volunteers are working tirelessly to help their clients overcome such obstacles. In a recent interview with the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Reynolds notes that financial stability means “earning a consistent wage to sustain your family, having at least three months of savings in the bank, and living independent of government subsidies.”

Hundreds of CCFW clients are now achieving such stability, thanks to help from the agency’s Workforce Services. CCFW case manager Alisha Wilkinson says she has witnessed the transformative shift that takes place in clients’ lives when they experience the high level of personal attention and support offered through the program’s education, employment, and financial services.

Describing case managers as “coaches,” whose relationships with clients are built

upon trust and mutual respect, Wilkinson notes, “We help clients map out the life they would like to have. We help them get excited about the possibilities when we ask, ‘In what areas would you like to grow? How would you like to see change happen in your life?’ We encourage them to dream and tell us what is most important to them. And then we work to connect them to the opportunities and sources of assistance that can help them to be successful.”

Wilkinson cites the story of a recent client with a serious, chronic health condition who, with the encouragement and assistance of his case manager, was able to fill out the “mountains” of paperwork necessary to obtain his GED and obtain access to health services and job opportunities.

“Our clients know we are here to equip and empower them, and to help them problem solve when roadblocks arise in their paths,” she explains. “Our approach is extremely individualized. We see our clients graduating from school or their training programs, getting good jobs, paying down their debts, and achieving their goals. That’s how we know this is an effective approach to helping people move out of poverty.”

For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org or call 817-534-0814.

LIGHTER & BRIGHTER



Pope Francis greets a girl after celebrating a Mass for the sick and disabled in St. Peter's Square, June 12. The Mass was an event of the Jubilee of Mercy. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Eight-year-old Thomas Gilbert of Phoenix places a U.S. flag at a gravesite in the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix May 28. Volunteers arrived early for the annual Memorial Day weekend "flags in" observance honoring more than 70,000 veterans and veteran family members buried in the cemetery. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



Two-year-old Thomas Chandran of Boston smiles as he plays on a vintage fire truck during a block party in New York City June 1 hosted by the Sisters of Life's 25th anniversary. The event was preceded by an anniversary Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)



Redemptorist Father Cyril Axelrod, who is deaf and blind, speaks at Chiesa Nuova in Rome June 10. At left is an Italian translator. The South African priest, who travels the world ministering to deaf Catholics, said that sign language, tactile sign language, and body language, are "gifts of the Holy Spirit." He was in Rome for the Year of Mercy jubilee celebration for the sick and persons with disabilities. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Bishop Salvatore R. Matano, left, of Rochester, N.Y., and Father Daniel White chat with Sister Mariam Caritas, (left), and Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, superior general of the Sisters of Life, during a block party in New York City June 1 celebrating the religious community's 25th anniversary. The event was preceded by an anniversary Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

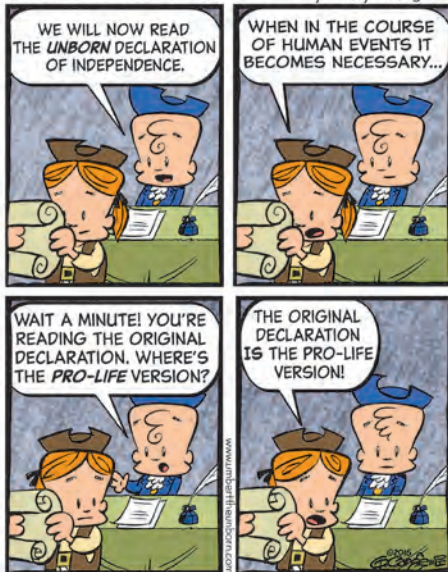


The sky at the Cerro Tololo in the Valle de Elqui, Chile, is seen Oct. 11, 2015. People from diverse cultures and religions working together greatly enrich scientific research, Pope Francis told international astronomy students. (CNS photo/AURA Observatory of Chile via EPA)

Comic Retreat by: Brian Montfort



Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



The **FLOCK** by Jean Denton



GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

Christian Roots *of Apostolic succession*

By JEFF HEDGLEN



Jeff Hedglen is director of Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry for the diocese. He is also the founder and primary convener of Camp Fort Worth's many editions. His column received second place honors for best spiritual life columns by Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada in 2014.

I RECENTLY HAD THE PLEASURE OF VISITING MY WIFE'S FAMILY IN HER HOME COUNTRY OF GERMANY.

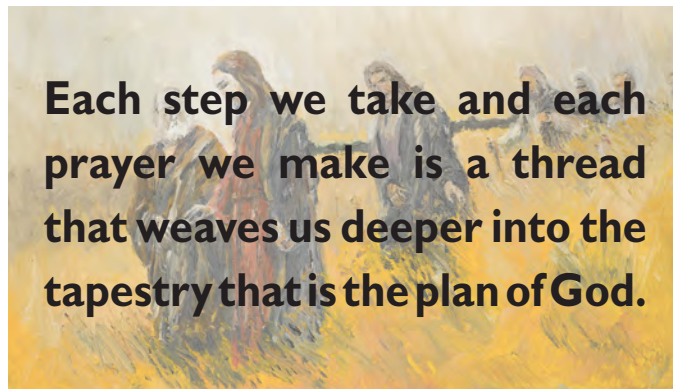
They live in a quaint village of about 5,000 people near France. The town is in a region that is filled with hills and vineyards; it is extremely picturesque.

One day when we were hiking through the forest of her childhood, where there are not one, but two castles, we started talking about family and home, and she mentioned how walking these trails really makes her feel rooted and grounded because of the memories and history they evoke.

In the days that followed I began to think about my own family history. An uncle of mine has been working to trace our lineage and it has been discovered that there is a good possibility that, on my father's side we might have had family fight in the United States Revolutionary War. One of them may have actually been at Valley Forge with George Washington.

This summer my Mother's side of the family will gather for our once-every-three-years reunion. This time we are going back to South Dakota where this family has its origins after coming from Ireland, France, and Germany more than 130 years ago.

There really is something about family and the past that grounds me and gives me stability. I have never been someone who moved around a lot. I have lived



Each step we take and each prayer we make is a thread that weaves us deeper into the tapestry that is the plan of God.

in the same part of Fort Worth since 1981, gone to the same parish for the same amount of time, and have worked with youth and young adults in the Church for over 30 years. Stability is something I really enjoy, and I think part of the reason why is the comfort that comes from being connected to a community.

When it comes to the spiritual life, being rooted is taken to another level. There is nothing like watching people walk by me during Communion and knowing most of them, or at least being familiar with their faces. Additionally, having been the youth minister for someone and then 20 years later their children is frightening and awesome at the same time.

But the time when I felt the most rooted in my entire life is when I read this passage from St. Justin Martyr:

On the day called Sunday, all

who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things.

Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons.

And they, who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president.

This is from his First Apology written around 150 AD. It is a letter of defense of the faith and in this section he is explaining the typical Sunday ritual. What we discover in this passage is that this particular order of Sunday worship was normative just over 100 years after Jesus' death, and is pretty much exactly what we do every Sunday, including the collection!

The first time I read this I imagined roots sprouting from the bottom of my feet and going back 1900 years. I knew we are a Church of Apostolic succession, but I didn't know it was so specific.

Being rooted means we are a part of something bigger than just us. Others have walked these trails and traditions before us and many more will do so after us. Each step we take and each prayer we make is a thread that weaves us deeper into the tapestry that is the plan of God.

What can a catechist learn from St. Thomas More?

BY MARLON DE LA TORRE



Marlon De La Torre is the director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth, and author of *SCREWTAPE TEACHES THE FAITH: A GUIDE FOR CATECHISTS*.

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTES WE FIND IN THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS IS THEIR UNDYING DEVOTION TO GOD THE FATHER REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES PLACED IN FRONT OF THEM.

This loving and heroic characteristic is affirmed by the Son of God Jesus Christ who exemplified a martyr's death for the sake of God's children. The *Catechism* (2086) reminds us of this undying love as it describes the significance of God's first commandment in the following way:

The first commandment embraces faith, hope, and charity. When we say 'God' we confess a constant, unchangeable being, always the same, faithful and just, without any evil. It follows that we must necessarily accept his words and have complete faith in him and acknowledge his authority. He is almighty, merciful, and infinitely beneficent. . . . Who could not place all hope in him? Who could not love him when contemplating the treasures of goodness and love he has poured out on us? Hence the formula God employs in the Scripture at the beginning and end of his commandments: 'I am the Lord.'

ST. THOMAS MORE: A MODEL CATECHIST

Owing our very existence to God the Father, it should come to no one's surprise that the saints recognized this gift and placed themselves before the throne of God in an active and holy way. A great saintly model we can imitate is found in the life of St. Thomas More. He can best be described as a humble and prudent servant of the Church who refused to affirm and acknowledge the adulterous acts of King Henry VIII as the King's moral right. Another important characteristic of St. Thomas More's was his refusal to take an oath acknowledging King Henry VIII as supreme ruler over the Church in England.

What makes St. Thomas More's actions significant to catechists was his unwillingness to compromise the Catholic faith. He was unequivocally clear in his defense of the Church and his affirmation of the First Commandment regardless of the consequences that would fall upon him, eventually suffering a martyr's death. In other words St. Thomas More was not afraid to profess the truth of the faith in a logical, prudent manner.

A great virtue we can take from St. Thomas More and apply

in our own journey as catechists is the virtue of prudence. Prudence is defined as a virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it (*CCC 1806*). The book of Proverbs echoes this point that a prudent man looks where he is going (14:15). For St. Thomas More his reason for disobeying King Henry VIII's demand and affirmation of his divorce and remarriage was that it went against the basic premise of the First Commandment which meant that it went against Christ and his Church. The significance of St. Thomas More's actions is the love he not only had for the Church but for King Henry VIII, by directly addressing his immoral behavior to him. As catechists these saintly actions serve as a guide of what our catechesis should look like.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN AS CATECHISTS?

First and foremost a catechist should have a properly formed conscience in order to articulate the faith clearly and faithfully. This means our souls should always be prepared to engage the faith in a calm, prudent manner. Second, our catechetical aim is

to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and assist our students in genuinely forming an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Again the *Catechism* (1790) reminds us that:

A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience. If he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself. Yet it can happen that moral conscience remains in ignorance and makes erroneous judgments about acts to be performed or already committed.

The foundation of our catechetical instruction is to form saints regardless of the pedagogical age we teach. If our emphasis is not on establishing an opportunity for a student to engage Christ, then our catechesis is pointless both in word and deed. Our duty toward God is to believe in Him and bear witness to Him (*CCC 2087*), and as I mentioned earlier, the first commandment requires us to nourish and protect our students in the faith which is the primary position a catechist should hold and the example we receive in the life of St. Thomas More.

St. Thomas More Pray for Us!

SEEKING GOD'S PATH VOCATIONS

Seminarian summer activities are a continued witness to Christ

BY FATHER JAMES WILCOX

THE STRUCTURE OF PRIESTLY FORMATION IN THE SEMINARY IS OFTEN GOVERNED BY THE ACADEMIC COURSEWORK NEEDED TO BE COMPLETED EACH SEMESTER. THAT SAID, THE DAILY SCHEDULE IS ALWAYS CONFIGURED BASED ON THE TIMES OF PRAYER, ESPECIALLY THE HOLY MASS. Once the spiritual schedule is determined, the other parts of the day — classes, ministry, exercise, homework, chores — are slotted into their appropriate times.

Perhaps for your own personal reflection, you may want to determine what in your life is demanding priority in your daily schedule. How can you maintain the needs and wants of family and work while making prayer time the priority each day?

Now that summer is upon us, the seminarians are each off to their various assignments, and they are working to arrange these days beginning with the spiritual life, ministry tasks, and other work as necessary. Many of our seminarians are in parish assignments where they are assisting with summer activities like Vacation Bible School, youth activities, and Bible studies. While serving during Mass at the altar, they are helping the young servers learn more about the Mass and how to be more engaged in the celebration. Our two newly-ordained transitional deacons are serving in parishes, where they are growing in the experience of preaching homilies.

Some of our senior seminarians are serving in the Tribunal Office, where they are learning the process of a marriage case seeking an annulment. This will greatly aid in their ability to serve parishioners who unfortunately find themselves with this need.

A group of seminarians are serving our

community through their summer assignments at Catholic Charities of Fort Worth. They are experiencing the array of services offered through Catholic Charities, including the Street Outreach Services, which seeks to aid the homeless of Fort Worth. The opportunity to live the social teaching of the Catholic Church in a direct manner will aid these men as they serve those in great need.

One of our seminarians, Pedro Martinez, was selected by Catholic Relief Services to spend part of the summer in Kenya to learn about the Church's social teaching in action throughout the world. Pedro said, "The Kenya Catholic Relief Services (CRS) experience was awesome and powerful. CRS is doing wonderful work to help our brothers and sisters with many different projects: water sanitation, peace building, empowerment, schools, orphanages, etc. We are called to not be indifferent to the needs of all our human family."

Back home, the Fort Worth seminarians served all of Texas recently this summer as they provided much-needed assistance at the Steubenville Lone Star Conference for youth. This three-day conference with 3,500 attendees was a faith-filled weekend, and the seminarians were there to help all along the way. They served at the liturgies (Mass and Adoration), were members of the prayer team, helped with security, and even assisted at the bookstore. Their visible witness to the love of Christ was terrific.

As we head to press, seminarians will serve at the Vocation Awareness Program (VAP), which is a weekend for young adults to discern God's call to the priesthood or religious life. In addition, a great group will be hosting high school men for the *Quo Vadis?* retreat. This



Father James Wilcox was ordained to the priesthood in 2013 and serves as the Vocations Director for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

three-day retreat allows young men to explore the priesthood and seminary life. The seminarians are planning the activities: spiritual, athletic, contemplative, and discursive.

Finally, late this summer a small group of seminarians will join the large group of Catholics from Fort Worth on the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Krakow with Bishop Olson. The seminarians will aid in small group discussions and will offer some reflections to the entire group at some of the pilgrimage sites.

There appears to be much doing through the summer months for our seminarians. However, the emphasis is always on being. In each assignment, the men are working to be witnesses to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. They are striving to be instruments to bring people closer to God. They seek to be examples to young people seeking to know God's will in their lives, especially as they discern priesthood and religious life. The doing is important, but it is only effective if the being is primary. These men seek to be men of Christ and, God willing, priests of Christ.

Through all of these activities, the seminarians are diligent in focusing on their prayer life and on their relationship with Jesus Christ. It is in that relationship and in conversation with God that these men hear the Word of the Lord and are confirmed in their call to serve in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for our seminarians. Please pray for the new men who will enter seminary in August. Please pray for men to hear the call to priesthood. Please pray for women to hear the call to religious life. Let our lives be structured by prayer, and may God, our Father, bless us.

Reflection on ‘motherly wisdom’ and special friendships

By Kathy Cribari Hamer Beck

ANNUALLY, AT THE CARMELITE MONASTERY (BACK WHEN IT WAS ON SUNSET TERRACE IN FORT WORTH), I CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH ALL OF MY MOTHERS.

The annual occasion was the third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday. A large group of recognizable faces — young and older women, spouses and little children — attired in pre-Christmas finery, would nibble on holiday cookies, while hugging and chatting like a large, happy, reunited family.

During our pre-Christmas Monastery event, we received the once-a-year pleasure of greeting all the nuns, who gathered in their parlor as visitors filed through, chatted, and laughed with them. It was through those visits that I observed the incredible joy emanating from each and every one of the Carmelites.

The nuns had a tight little friendship with our circle of admirers, and we all maintained our relationships, our fondness for the sisters, and subsequently for one another.

When I reflect on those days, their importance grows larger in my mind, because, as a young mom, transplanted from Colorado, away from my family of origin, I knew that yearly holiday party would bring much-loved attendees: all my mothers.

There was Anna Bell Coffey, who founded the “Friends of Carmel” organization. She was a surrogate mom very close to my heart.

Kathleen Thompson, my maternal role-model, was essential to me, much of my life.

And another wonder-woman, Anne Cram, was the mom my friend Nancy Dalton was willing to share with me.

Anne enjoyed a friendship with my own precious mother, Katherine, who visited yearly and was always in attendance at the nuns’ house on Gaudete Sunday.

And finally, but never least, there was a treasure of a mother, one we all learned to know, love, and follow: Mother Maria of Jesus Crucified, OCD, born Patricia Ann Brinkley, who entered Carmel in 1961, professed in 1963, celebrated her golden jubilee in 2013, and went home to the Lord in 2016.

Mother Maria carried a dignified and serious name, and earned a respected title. But the jovial and funny prioress was also frequently the “life of the party,” and, for the community’s early days in Fort Worth, she was the public representation of the cloistered nuns.

Mother’s wit and spirit were well known, and began in her youth, said Father C.M. Trinkle, Mother Maria’s first cousin. “Your life before you went to Carmel was anything but routine,” he said, at her Golden Jubilee Mass. “You were the quarterback on the CYA football team — and that was tackle football!

“That’s why she’s in a wheel chair,” he quipped to a howling assembly.

“She was so talented!” Barbara Powell, Mother Maria’s sister said. “My little sister was like the Pied Piper — so many friends followed her around.”

My own first one-on-one encounter with Mother was a phone call at about 7 a.m. on a school day in the late 1990s. She wanted to come to my house, along with Mother Anne Teresa, to see the printer I had just purchased. I’m not gonna lie; I was pretty surprised that sweet voice would soon be knocking at my door, the door which would lead two nuns to an un-vacuumed carpet and a couch covered with un-folded laundry.

I would have bet my own son Andrew that the mates of all his white soccer socks would leave our neighborhood that day on

the brown veil of a Carmelite nun.

As time went on, I enjoyed many more experiences with my friend, the Reverend Mother of the Carmel of the Most Holy Trinity. Mother had entered Carmel in her 20s, and stayed there the rest of her life. Yet, when I phoned her with modern problems she had never dealt with, she somehow understood them. She listened, she never judged, and she was able to offer applicable suggestions.

“God understands everything about you and everything you pray for,” Mother would say, “because his Son, Jesus Christ, became man. But you must ask that his will be done.”

“But what if his will isn’t my will?” I asked.

“Then you ask Him to give you strength,” she replied.

“But I don’t want strength. I just want what I want.”

I loved Mother Maria in the same ways I loved the others of all my mothers, who, through the years, had joined together each December at the old monastery.

Ironically they all are together again today, in Heaven: Kathleen Thompson, Anne Cram, Anna Bell Coffey, Katherine Cribari, and now, the late, great Patricia Brinkley. I know Mother Maria is leading the songs and the prayers.

And I think she is also leading the laughs.



*Kathy Cribari Hamer Beck’s column has been recognized repeatedly by the Catholic Press Association. For information about her book, *ME AND THE CHICKENS*, go to somethingelseagain.com.*

We can find healing

through the virtues of faith, hope, and love

By Chris Benguhe

LONGTIME READERS KNOW OF MY MOTHER'S STROKE. SINCE 2009 SHE HAS SHOWN GREAT STRENGTH AND FORTITUDE IN NOT JUST SURVIVING BUT STRIVING TO LIVE A MEANINGFUL AND HAPPY LIFE.

She will tell you that God accomplished that. But God works in mysterious ways and through others who offer love and support. More often than not they have faced their own hardships that ironically prepared them to help others — like my mom.

One of those others is her physical therapist Raymond. His dedication has been life-changing. When you have a stroke, having a talented and good therapist is crucial, but having someone who understands the pain, the struggle, and the challenges involved is even more important. Raymond has all of that because he has his own story of hardship.

Raymond grew up in Long Island, New York and studied business but wanted to help others, so he became a volunteer fireman. One day a pressure irregularity in the hose pulled his shoulder out of its socket, and it took two painful surgeries and two years of physical therapy to put it back. That ended his firefighting. And so he graduated and became a stockbroker. But he didn't like asking people to part with their money. And realizing how important physical therapy was to helping him heal, he became a therapist himself.

It took him six more years of school to achieve his dream. He graduated in 2001. Then the terrorist attacks happened. Raymond lost many friends, former fellow firemen and his neighbor Leroy who was the co-pilot on United Flight 93. But Raymond knew he had to pull through so he could help others.

He met his future wife on a blind date in 2003, and five months later asked her to

marry him. The happy couple had a child and they moved to Arizona in 2008, where he went to work as a physical therapist. And life was good.

Then on Jan. 6, 2011, he was on his way to see a patient when he was stopped at a red light and a driver smacked into him from behind at full speed — almost 70 miles per hour. Raymond didn't know what hit him.

Recalls Raymond: "The last thing I remember I was calling my wife from the ambulance to tell her I was in an accident and I couldn't feel my legs."

The diagnosis was a subdural hematoma and fractured L-3. He was in ICU for several days, then back again because his brain was swelling. He couldn't walk, and he couldn't talk. He was in the hospital for over a month for rehab. Once again, Raymond was determined to overcome his tragedy with the help of his family and friends, his faith in God, and the help of the rehab team.

There was only one glitch. His rehab people weren't very supportive. At first Raymond was telling the therapist how to help him because she was young and inexperienced. Then the next therapist would tell him to do things and then walk away and not even pay attention.

When she did pay attention, she was rude.

"She was yelling at me," recalls Raymond. "And she was very disrespectful."

In fact, just about everyone Raymond encountered in his rehab either didn't know what to do or didn't care to do it. But being a therapist Raymond knew what to do and how to do it, and now he was even more determined to get back on his feet and back to work.

"I realized I was going through this for a reason," explains Raymond. "It made me realize what some patients go through. And

I never wanted to be like that as a therapist. If I ever was in the past, I decided I never wanted to be that way in the future."

Slowly but surely he regained his speech, and made his way from a wheelchair to a walker, and then a cane. Raymond not only overcame his accident but he got back to work. And that's when he met my mom.

It was 2014, and she was at a crossroads. Therapists simply didn't know how to work with her. And her inactivity and depressed spirits were taking their toll. She could barely keep herself from falling out of her wheelchair. Then when one therapist went on vacation, Raymond filled in and filled her heart with hope again.

"I first bonded with her because we were both from the East Coast," recalls Raymond. "But I also knew what she was going through. I made a promise to her that I would do whatever I could to keep her in her home and get her as independent as possible."

She believed him because of what he had been through. She believed him because he knew the pain. She believed him because he overcame it with faith, hope, and love of God. Within a few months Raymond had her walking outside. It was a miraculous turnaround.

Whatever you are going through, if you see it as a chance to reach out to God for help, for his love and for a chance to pass that love on to others, it will transform you and so many others.

So when tragedy strikes, strike back with faith, hope, and love!

Chris Benguhe is a regular columnist for the CATHOLIC SUN, newspaper for the Diocese of Phoenix and syndicates nationally. He is the author of OVERCOMING LIFE'S 7 COMMON TRAGEDIES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCOVERING GOD from Paulist Press.



An undated file photo shows Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls. The parish is one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Generations of faith, hope, and love

Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls celebrates its 125th anniversary

By **Jenara Kocks Burgess**
Correspondent

ON THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS JUNE 3 PARISHIONERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND MANY OTHERS GATHERED AT SACRED HEART CHURCH IN WICHITA FALLS FOR MASS, AND DINNER AFTERWARD, IN CELEBRATION OF THE PARISH'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY.

In his homily Father Jack McKone, pastor of Sacred Heart, said it is not coincidence, but rather God's plan that Sacred Heart Parish is celebrating its 125th anniversary during the Church's Year of Mercy.

"The Heart of Jesus, which is the fountain of God's mercy, which we celebrate today, seems so powerful in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy," he said, adding that he and

former Sacred Heart Pastors Father Ivor Koch and Father Hoa Nguyen "delight in how this community is so giving and caring to others around us..."

He mentioned how parishioners fostered the creation of the Wichita Falls office of Catholic Charities, supported Interfaith Ministries for many years, performed various charitable projects at the parish, and helped out at the Wichita Falls Pregnancy Help Center.

Fr. Nguyen echoed Fr. McKone during the dinner at the city's Multi-Purpose Event Center (MPEC) after Mass.

"I truly believe that the name Sacred Heart fits them because they spread the love of Jesus through the community, and you're seeing the love of everybody here. I always miss this community a lot," Fr. Nguyen said.

Many priests, deacons, and seminarians



Father Jack McKone, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, delivers a homily in October 2015, when Catholic Charities Fort Worth's new Northwest Campus was dedicated. (Photo by Ben Torres / NTC)

from the diocese attended the Mass along with parishioners and community members.

Also during the homily, Fr. McKone spoke about Sacred Heart's history as a mission parish of Henrietta and that the first baptism in the parish was in 1884, its founding year.

A congregation of 12 families built their first church, a small frame building on Austin Street in 1891, according to a brief history in the Sacred Heart Church Directory. At that time it was called St. Patrick Church.

But the church's name soon changed, Fr. McKone explained.

"There was a furious debate, according to those of German descent that it would be St. Boniface, whereas those of Irish descent insisted that it be named after St. Patrick. The bishop in his wisdom, like Solomon, said, 'Fine, it will be Sacred Heart,'" Fr. McKone said, as parishioners laughed.

Before the dinner Sacred Heart pastoral administrator David Bindel said it was "generations of faith, decades of hope, and families of love," that got the parish to 125 years.

During the dinner Sister Mary Jean Warmuth of the Sisters of St. Mary Namur looked for her mother in an old photograph of the Catholic Daughters at Sacred Heart displayed among other photographs and memorabilia from across the years.

Sr. Mary Jean said her family has a long history with the parish. She has many relatives—Warmuths, Oechsners, Hunds, and Probsts—buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

"The church's stained-glass window of St. John is dedicated to the Probsts, my grandmother's parents," she said.

Sr. Mary Jean said she attended the Academy of Mary Immaculate from eighth grade through her senior year of high school. Her grandparents sent all their children to school there, including her dad and uncle.

The academy was built in 1904.

"I have great, great memories, you know," Sr. Mary Jean said. "Monsignor Daly was here most of the time when I was here. He was just a wonderful priest. I entered the order of the sisters who ran the school there."

The Academy of Mary Immaculate closed



Sisters of St. Mary of Namur Mary Jean Warmuth (left) and Patricia Ste. Marie (right) look through old photographs of Sacred Heart during the 125th anniversary dinner June 3. Sister Ginny Vissing and Sister Clara Vo (not shown) also attended the celebration. (Photo by Jenara Kocks Burgess / NTC)

in 1966, but Notre Dame School (both an elementary and high school) continued on at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, one of Sacred Heart's mission churches. It is now the only Catholic school in Wichita Falls.

Another family at Sacred Heart, the Ruddys, can trace their roots back to a legend said to have occurred after the Academy was built.

In 1906, Tom Ruddy's grandfather and his three sons hitched Sacred Heart, then St. Patrick's, to a mule team and pulled it up the hills of Ninth Street to the corner of Holliday and Ninth, across from the Academy.

The Ruddys have four children, 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren on the way, and many of them are members of Sacred Heart.

Another longtime parishioner, Kristina Ochoa, said she and her four siblings grew up at Sacred Heart with their parents, the late Preciliano T. Galan III and Sulema Galan, after moving from Iowa in the early 1980s.

For more than 25 years, her dad worked for the parish, cleaning it, as well as doing maintenance and keeping the grounds.

"It was a whole family thing," she said. "At the time, you didn't get to say, I don't want to

go to church. You went to church. I'm so glad they did that."

Ochoa said she has many good memories, such as baseball games at parish picnics and the legacy her father left for their family.

"When he went to work, he went to work..." she said. "He was very focused on his job. He was very proud of it. He would keep the flowers and the grass immaculate."

Ochoa said the grass and flowers are still beautiful, and she believes it's because of the roots her father nurtured all those years ago.

"That's what's happening with our faith too. He established that for us too, and it all happened at Sacred Heart," Ochoa said.

The dinner's guest speaker, Sonja Corbitt, a Catholic author and frequent speaker at parishes and retreats, congratulated everyone on the 125th anniversary and also touched on roots and history.

"As I was thinking about my talk for tonight, it kept striking me, 125 years and the sweat and the heartache, and the suffering, and the joy, and the excitement that those first people felt when they began the work of the mission," she said.

"And they kept it going. It just reminded me a lot of the roots of the Catholic Church, and it is ever ancient, and ever new. And I was thinking, what makes it so? It's that ongoing conversion," Corbitt said, referring to the Catholic concept that conversion is not a one-time event, but an ongoing part of the life of faith.

"I truly believe that the name Sacred Heart fits them because they spread the love of Jesus through the community."

— Father Hoa Nguyen referring to Sacred Heart parishioners



July 3, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

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

By Jean Denton

Using Jerusalem as a metaphor in this week’s Scripture, Isaiah presents God as a mother providing her children with comfort, nourishment, and nurture, and proclaims that “the Lord’s power shall be known to his servants.”

Confidence in God’s power and care are indeed essential to Jesus’ disciples, we see in today’s Gospel, when He sends them forth to pave his way in “every town and place He intended to visit.”

This passage offers us valuable instruction in the ways and means of evangelizing.

Warning his disciples that



“Your heart shall rejoice and your bodies flourish like the grass; the Lord’s power shall be known to his servants.”

— Isaiah 66:14

they will face opposition “as lambs among wolves,” Jesus also tells them to be free of material comforts and rely instead on the hospitality of whatever community they visit.

Stay as long as you are accepted, He says, and respond by ministering to the people there. Further, He directed, pray for others to join the effort.

A present-day disciple I know, Adele, followed this very formula when she and two fellow women religious ventured forth from New Jersey to minister to migrant farmworkers in the American South. Welcomed by a community in Virginia, she stayed for more

than 30 years.

In visiting the migrant camps, Adele and her colleagues discovered the workers, Haitian immigrants, were underpaid and living in squalid conditions. When they explained the situation to the pastor of the nearby church, he brought the men to live in his rectory temporarily while parishioners helped them find stable jobs in town.

The parish lent additional support while the men transitioned to independent housing and also gave the nuns part-time staff positions, which covered

their living expenses.

Over the years, Adele’s ministry increased. She prayed for more laborers and the harvest has indeed been abundant.

As the Haitians and the community embraced each other, local parishioners became interested in the families they’d left behind in the country whose dire conditions had forced them to flee. A new mission to serve the impoverished people of Haiti was born and spread throughout the diocese with more than 40 parishes partnered, spiritually and materially, with communities in Haiti.

Follow the instructions: While we are sent forth by Christ, we mustn’t underestimate the call also to welcome, empower, and join those who come among us to spread the Gospel.

QUESTIONS:

How have you reached out to spread Jesus’ message? How have you welcomed and supported others doing the same?

July 10, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37
- 2) Colossians 1:15-20
Gospel) Luke 10:25-37

By Jeff Hedglen

One difficulty of living the Christian life is that while most of it is simple, it’s often not easy. Love God, love your neighbor — simple concepts, but not always easy to accomplish.

Similar precepts are: Serve the poor, sin less, pray daily, read the Bible regularly, and attend and participate fully at Mass on Sunday. There are many others, but you get the idea. All of these are so simple and basic that I hardly need to mention them, but none is easy to bring to fruition.



“Who is my neighbor?”

— Luke 10:29

These tasks are not difficult because, as Moses says in this week’s first reading from Deuteronomy, we don’t have to go up in the sky to complete them or across the ocean to achieve them. No, he says, they are already planted within us; we have only to carry them out. Simple, but not easy.

This week’s Gospel is one of the most challenging messages in the whole Bible. In answering the question, “Who is my

neighbor?” Jesus uses a person all Jews of the day despised. Jews were not to associate with Samaritans, so to use this person as the example

of mercy would have seemed quite outlandish.

For modern-day Christians, this example may seem a bit simple, but as soon as you bring it up-to-date it is not as easy as it sounds. For instance, think of the people or groups you find it hard to like, even people who have to

tally different viewpoints, morals, faith, and country of origin than you do. These are our Samaritans; these are our neighbors.

We all have people in our lives who irk us far past what is holy. It is these people that Jesus says are our neighbors. It is these people we are to love. Pope Francis has trumpeted this message from Jesus that we are to go beyond our comfort zone and love these neighbors. Depending on the situation, this may not even be simple, let alone easy.

Yet Jesus calls us to do it all the same. His exact words are, “Go and do likewise.” We are to go and be merciful and loving to everyone we meet, even those we do not like.

QUESTIONS:

Is there a person or a segment of society that you find hard to love? What can you do to show mercy to these people?

July 17, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15:2-5
- 2) Colossians 1:24-28
Gospel) Luke 10:38-42

By Sharon K. Perkins

My mother never ceases to amaze me. Any time I come for a visit, even on short notice, she's got some sort of homemade treat ready in a matter of minutes. Whether it's a piece of black-berry pie or chicken noodle soup, scratch-made spaghetti sauce or my favorite klobasa sandwich, she's able to produce something out of her freezer or pantry that makes me happy to sit at her kitchen table for a nice long visit.

I'm not the only one. Mom has a large "extended family" that includes parish priests, her kids' former college roommates, retired

"Now that you have come this close to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way."



— Genesis 18:5

welcomes the Lord.

In today's Gospel, Martha and Mary illustrate both sides of that hospitality coin. Martha honors the tradition of her ancestors Abraham and Sarah by fussing over the preparations, the food, a comfortable environment. Mary attends to the guest in a different way, extending personal welcome and attention. Jesus isn't unappreciative of Martha's efforts, but her anxiety and worry are evidence that her focus is off-kilter.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are asked to reflect anew on the spiritual and corporal works

of mercy. At the root of each of them — whether visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, comforting the sorrowful, or instructing the ignorant — is an attitude of hospitality, of welcoming our Lord — the guest, as He comes to us in need of mercy and compassion.

This doesn't just happen. Each of us must prepare and predispose ourselves to be mercifully hospitable, not only in giving material aid, but especially by engaging those to whom mercy is offered, as one would encounter Christ himself.

We don't have to make mercy look easy, and we don't have to worry about performing acts of mercy perfectly. But mercy is not simply an option we can ignore.

QUESTIONS:

Which of the spiritual or corporal works of mercy have you practiced lately? How have you encountered the living Christ more deeply in that action?

July 24, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138:1-3, 6-8
- 2) Colossians 2:12-14
Gospel) Luke 11:1-13

By Jeff Hensley

I'm currently reading Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*.

Reading this week's Scriptures on God's generous dealings with his people, I can't help but think of Lincoln and his tremendous desire to be at peace with all men.

The book is framed around the way he built his cabinet, primarily from men who had run against him for the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1860: William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, and Edward Bates, from

"Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us."



— Luke 11:3-4

New York, Ohio, and Missouri, respectively. None had respect for Lincoln when they began their cabinet positions, yet only one ended up being disloyal to him. Seward, the one who had lost the most to him, ended up as his secretary of state and perhaps his closest friend and confidante.

But Lincoln's teambuilding, reconciling ways were not limited to these three. He had built relationships within his home state of Illi-

nois, prior to his nomination, that involved reaching out and offering an olive branch to anyone who might have been estranged from him.

Throughout his political career, Lincoln continued to exercise this magnanimous wisdom, sincerely and consistently.

It would seem there is no great public figure in human history who has so pervasively modeled his behavior on Jesus and his teachings.

Abraham's bargaining for the salvation of Sodom and Gomorrah would have sounded reasonable to Lincoln.

Jesus' assurance that God

would grant the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him — for "what father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish" — probably governed Lincoln's relations with the many supplicants who sought favors, positions, or reconciliation from him.

This man who sought to preserve the Union fought equally hard to bring reconciliation with his separated brethren, the estranged Southerners, even as the bitter Civil War came to a close. Striving for reconciliation with all parties made him a target for an assassin's bullets.

If, as some critics say, all good literature includes a Christ figure, then we should be able to recognize this one in our own country's story.

QUESTIONS:

Can you recognize any statesmen or stateswomen with a similar desire for reconciliation on the current political scene? Who would you name or why do you believe there is none?

WORD TO LIFE

August 7, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 18:6-9
Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-22
- 2) Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Gospel) Luke 12:32-48

By Jeff Hedglen

I make very few promises in my life. I do my best to never say the word “promise” unless I know I can deliver on it.

However, when I was a youth minister, there was one promise I would routinely make. I would start off every new Confirmation class saying, “Confirmation is a time to seriously consider your relationship with the Lord.” I would go on to explain that if they came every week, listened to the teachings, participated in the group discussions, and were at the very least open to growing in faith, I could promise that they would leave at the end of the

year changed people. I was never wrong.

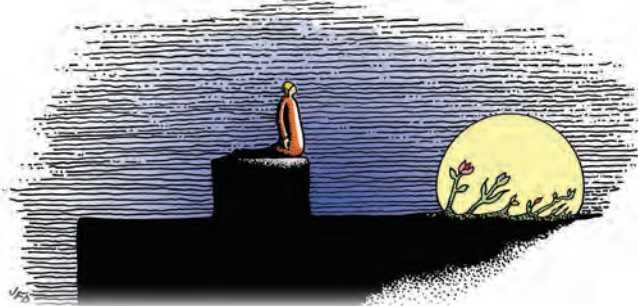
This was an easy promise to make, mainly because I was not the one keeping the promise. I know that all God needs to transform a person is a heart that is open. So my job was to create an atmosphere that would help these young people open their hearts to the possibility that an unseen God loves them enough to die for them. Once the heart was

open, the promise would begin to bloom.

God is a promise-keeper, even when we cannot see to completion the promise kept. This week’s reading from Hebrews tells the story of Abraham and Sarah and the promise that God made

“They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it from afar.”

— Hebrews 11:13



to them that they would be the parents of a nation as numerous as the stars in the sky. But they died with a modest family, nothing close to the size of a village, let alone a nation.

Hebrews says, “They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it from afar.” I really like that verse because it speaks of hope and the power of faith. Earlier in the same reading we hear that “faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”

Life may not always turn out the way we plan, and we cannot always see past our circumstances to the promise of God, but if we lean on our faith and hold on to hope, we can get a glimpse of what remains unseen.

QUESTIONS:

What promise from God have you seen come to pass in your life? What promises are you still waiting to come to fruition?

August 14, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Psalm 40:2-4, 18
- 2) Hebrews 12:1-4
Gospel) Luke 12:49-53

By Jean Denton

I live at the edge of Appalachia, where I’m awed every day by the beauty of the mountains. But despite a sense of serenity, I know the scene before me is not at peace.

The Appalachian’s natural beauty and rich culture belie a continuing struggle with environmental exploitation and poverty.

An inspiring, ongoing story I covered for my diocesan newspaper was the work of the Church advocating for justice in Appalachia. Over recent decades, much of that mission has been carried out at the grassroots by the Catho-

lic Committee of Appalachia, an active group of religious and laypeople living and laboring with the people, lifting a prophetic voice against such degradation as mountaintop removal, industrial pollution, and myriad social problems that come with endemic poverty.

The Holy Spirit is at work among God’s faithful people there, characteristically stirring up conflict. Characteristically?

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus asks, “Do you think I have come to establish peace on earth?”

“There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished.”

— Luke 12:50



On the contrary, He states, He intends to set the earth on fire, bringing division and yes, that can mean conflict even among our brothers and sisters in Christ.

A stark example is the struggle for justice in Appalachia, alive with Christ’s Spirit as the grassroots church and institutional Church grapple with their differences.

Members of the CCA last year applauded Pope Francis’ encyclical on the global threat of climate change. The pope’s words appeared to speak directly to conditions in Appalachia as he

described the critical depletion of the earth’s natural resources and its particular impact on the poor.

But the response of some local dioceses differed from the CCA’s. They disagreed on the environmental and economic impact some of the document’s proposals would have on the region as well as how to address the problems it raised. Nevertheless, the CCA encouraged the bishops of Appalachia to engage the Church in the concerns and conflicts raised by *Laudato Si’*, even though the conversation may be contentious.

So it is with many issues our Church faces, but in bequeathing his Spirit to his disciples, Jesus baptized us in fire and calls us to work through the conflicts to accomplish his will.

QUESTIONS:

When have you witnessed the Spirit of Christ working through conflict?

WORD TO LIFE

August 21, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time.

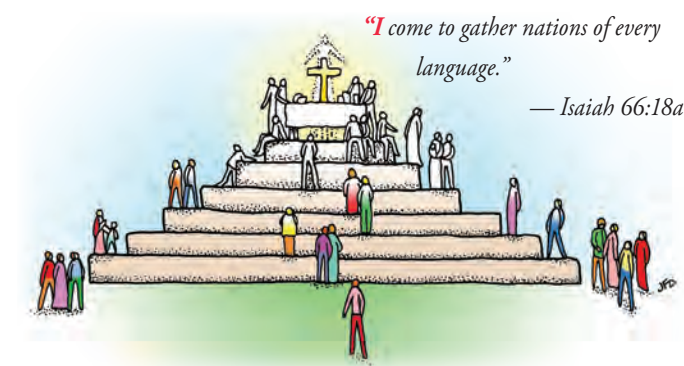
Cycle C Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 66:18-21
Psalm 117:1-2
- 2) Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel) Luke 13:22-30

By Jeff Hensley

The final part of the Gospel for this week speaks of an event many of us are looking forward to with eagerness. Jesus says, “And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

Having lived a pretty privileged first-world life, I’m not looking to rise in the rankings in the Kingdom of God. But it has also been my privilege to know many people, who are despised because of their poverty



and their lack of education, who will.

My wife has the added privilege of dealing with the poor in the form of refugees and immigrants who have literally come from the east and the west, the north and the south: from Africa, Asia, and from all of Latin America.

They come here with hope and a vision to achieve a new life free from fear and free to earn a living that will sustain them and

their families.

Though not all are virtuous to a fault, most of them have grown up in families where they were nurtured and protected. However, some fight against deeply dysfunctional family

dynamics that caused them to live on the streets in their home countries. But they do fight their circumstances, and my wife and her co-workers at her school assist them, offering them a hand up through education, kindness, empathy, and simply the presence of a listening ear.

Many, though not all, are believers. Some follow the Hindu and Muslim faiths.

Many of them will someday be among those our Savior greets in eternity in the Kingdom of God, where, having experienced life in this world among the last, they will everlastingly experience life in the Kingdom among the first as they recline at the table with our Lord.

QUESTIONS:

Who do you know whose lives in this world would put them in the category of “the last”? In what way are you looking forward to seeing them experience life among the first in the Kingdom?

August 28, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle C Readings:

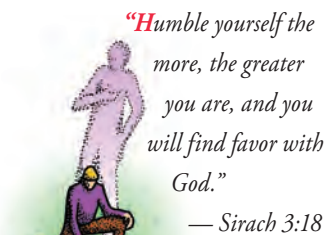
- 1) Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Psalm 68:4-7, 10-11
- 2) Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
Gospel) Luke 14:1, 7-14

By Sharon K. Perkins

The American storyteller Mark Twain is credited with the saying, “The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.” Essentially, Twain is insisting that “words matter.”

Sometimes examining the historical origins, or etymology, of a word can provide valuable insights into its meaning.

Take the word “humility,” for example. If you trace its history far enough, you can find that it is based on the Latin word “humus,”



or “earth.” To be humble is literally to be “down to earth.”

Almost all of us can think of a person who, despite his celebrity or social stature, is admired because of his humility. To say of a famous personality, “She’s so down to earth!” is to pay her a compliment implying genuineness, approachability, and unpretentiousness that are powerfully attractive to others.

Jesus chose to emphasize the importance of humility in today’s Gospel parable at the home of one

of the leading Pharisees of the town — where, oddly enough, the dinner guests were jockeying for positions of honor at the table. He highlights the paradox that such seeking of favor and prestige inevitably leads to disgrace and embarrassment, while choosing to humble oneself carries the potential for exaltation. (Although the words both spring from the same Latin root, I think I would choose “humility” over “humiliation” any day!)

Jesus’ parable wasn’t only instructional — it was prescient. His own freely chosen death on the cross was the ultimate act of humility, leading not only to his exaltation at the right hand of the Father, but to our own lifting up.

In great humility lies great power, for it dismantles the walls that keep our hearts closed to love. Humility changes moralizing to loving example and mere proselytizing to authentic evangelization.

Put another way, it’s what “folk evangelist” Johnny Cash advises in song:

*Come heed me, my brothers,
come heed, one and all
Don't brag about standing or
you'll surely fall.
You're shining your light and
shine it you should
But you're so heavenly minded,
you're no earthly good.**

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QUESTIONS:

Describe a person you know who is humble and “down to earth” despite his or her greatness. How can your own humility of thought, word, and deed attract others to Christ?

¿QUÉ SE DEBE HACER CUANDO NUESTRO ANCIANO REHÚSA COMER?



POR EL PADRE CARMELO MELE, OP

CADA CUATRO DE JULIO HAY UN CONCURSO DE COMER PERROS CALIENTES EN NUEVA YORK.

La persona que consume el mayor número de perros calientes recibe un premio (además, me imagino, de un dolor del estómago). Este despliegue de tontería recalca la abundancia de comida que tenemos en este país. Hay problemas de nutrición pero muy pocos andan sin las calorías para mantenerse vivos.

LA PÉRDIDA DEL APETITO

Algunas excepciones a esta norma son los ancianos que han perdido el apetito. Están deprimidos y muchas veces enfermos. Duermen pero no descansan. Hablan pero no recuerdan lo que han dicho. Sienten la náusea que asquea todo el cuerpo. Además, sus vidas les parecen como cumplidas de modo que nos preguntamos por qué tienen que sufrir más. Rehúsan la comida diciendo que preferían morir a vivir con tanta miseria.

Nos ponemos en conflicto, particularmente cuando los ancianos son nuestros parientes. Vemos su angustia. Razonamos que tal vez sería mejor que mueran a que experimenten más aflicciones de incomodidad y de falta de sentido. Nos preguntamos si es su derecho comer o no.

Pero de otra manera sabe-

mos que la vida humana es un don precioso que siempre merece respeto. Pensando profundamente en ella, nos damos cuenta de que la persona humana no es dueña de su vida, sino su cuidador. Concluimos que el hombre o la mujer tienen la responsabilidad para hacer lo que puedan para mantener la vida. Además, creemos que Dios le ama y le quitará la vida cuando le parezca el momento oportuno. Entonces ¿qué deberíamos hacer cuando un pariente expresa el deseo de dejar de comer definitivamente?

PRINCIPIOS PARA DETERMINAR LO QUE SE DEBERÍA HACER

Hay diferentes principios para guiarnos en casos difíciles. El amor nos urge a alentar al que haya perdido el apetito a comer para que siga viviendo. Por nuestra preocupación queremos enseñarle que somos agradecidos por su vida y esperanzados de su mejoramiento. Sin embargo, no debemos forzarlo a comer. Sería violencia a la persona poner algo en su cuerpo contra su voluntad aunque sea para su beneficio. En cuanto sea capaz de hacer decisiones por sí mismo, tenemos que dejar que él o ella decidan si, qué, y cuánto va a consumir. Si está empeñado acortar su vida por no comer, queremos rezar a Dios que lo ilumine.

La dificultad se multiplica

cuando el enfermo se hace incompetente de escoger por sí mismo y nos hemos nombrado su apoderado. Ocurre cuando la persona cae en una depresión grave o en coma. En tales casos deberíamos decidir según los mejores intereses del enfermo. Esta responsabilidad puede significar que dirijamos a los médicos utilizar una sonda de alimentación o aún un tubo que requiere intervención quirúrgica. Aunque sea contra los deseos expresados anteriormente por el enfermo, tenemos que hacer las mejores decisiones posibles para su bien tanto moral como físicamente.

Sin embargo, no se requiere usar las sondas o tubos en todos los casos. Su uso depende de los particulares de la enfermedad y la condición del enfermo. Cuando el uso de la sonda o tubo causaría daño al enfermo, no se debe usar. También cuando es determinado que el cuerpo está rechazando la alimentación porque se aproxima la muerte, es sólo justo quitarle los medios de nutrición.

El respeto humano precisa que la comunidad — sea la familia o el público — haga lo que pueda para apoyar la vida. A un cierto punto no se puede hacer más que darle al moribundo el cuidado básico. Esto siempre incluye la nutrición e hidratación, la comodidad, y la limpieza. Lo crucial es que no se

El Padre Carmelo Mele, de la ORDEN DE PREDICADORES (LOS DOMINICOS), ordenado como sacerdote en 1980, es el director del INSTITUTO JUAN PABLO II y de la CATEQUESIS PARA ADULTOS HISPANOS de la DIÓCESIS DE FORT WORTH.

le haga nada para quitar la vida ni por acciones agresivas ni por la falta de proveer el cuidado básico.

EL RETO DEL DÍA HOY

Hoy día varias personas, incluyendo médicos, no reconocen la obligación de proveer la nutrición y la hidratación como cuidado esencial. Parecen ver al ser humano como un complejo de deseos y habilidades que, cuando se disipan, se pierde la razón para vivir. Les falta el aprecio del hombre o la mujer como imagen de Dios siempre digna del cuidado básico. Por lo tanto recomiendan a los parientes que se les prive de alimentos si llegan a un estado bien deteriorado. En un caso reciente en Canadá la familia de una anciana sufriendo de la demencia pidió al asilo donde vivía que no le diera de comer por boca.

No es fácil para la familia cuidar a un anciano muy enfermo. Le cuesta la energía tanto emocional como física. Pero es la prueba del amor no sólo al pariente sino también a Dios. Cuando no esquivamos este reto, nos probamos como hijas e hijos de Dios destinados a la gloria.

Msgr. James Hart nombrado Canciller y Moderador de la Curia

Por Susan Moses
Corresponsal

El Obispo Michael Olson ha designado a Msgr. E. James Hart como Canciller y Moderador de la Curia, puestos que él ocupó de 2005 a 2010 bajo el Obispo Kevin Vann.

El Moderador de la Curia—cargo que, Msgr. Hart dice, ocupará más su tiempo—supervisa a los que ocupan cargos en la administración diocesana, y coordina sus obligaciones administrativas, bajo la autoridad del obispo. Como canciller, Msgr. Hart servirá como notario en jefe de la diócesis, y administrador de los archivos oficiales diocesanos.

“Estoy regresando a lo que he hecho antes, así que muchos aspectos serán familiares. Sin embargo, espero encontrar nuevos retos, junto con un nuevo obispo y nuevo personal.

Espero servir a la Iglesia fielmente y al obispo fielmente en todo lo que él necesite”, dijo Msgr. Hart, quien tomará su puesto el 1º. de julio.

Msgr. Hart ha sido el párroco de St. Elizabeth Ann Seton en Keller desde 2010. “Ha sido un gran privilegio ser su párroco. Me ha encantado la vida parroquial ahí”, dijo él. “He disfrutado servir al pueblo de Dios en todas las diferentes situaciones pastorales, pero especialmente [celebrar] la Misa, que es el centro de todo. Los sacramentos, especialmente la Eucaristía son una parte integral de nuestra fe”.

Matt Gil, director de Evangelización y Catequesis en St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, dice que el énfasis de Msgr. Hart en la Eucaristía y la Misa atrae a los no católicos así como a los católicos no practicantes.

“Las clases de RICA y de Con-



Msgr. E. James Hart

firmación han crecido en los últimos años”, él dijo. “Se invita a la gente a Misa y quedan admirados por la reverencia y belleza de la liturgia. Los atrae a la Iglesia, y es un componente importante de la conversión”.

Según Gill, la formación de adultos también creció bajo la di-

rección de Msgr. Hart. La parroquia inició clases para los padres mientras los niños están en educación religiosa, y también empezó un programa de formación para catequistas.

Este año Msgr. Hart celebra su vigésimo aniversario como sacerdote católico. Él vino a la Iglesia después de cinco años como sacerdote episcopal en la Iglesia Episcopal de San Andrés en Fort Worth. “Yo fui bautizado católico cuando niño, y encontré el camino de regreso”.

De 1996 a 2000, Msgr. Hart fue párroco de la Iglesia Católica de Santo Tomás Moro, parroquia personal de la Provisión Pastoral que apoya a los miembros de la Iglesia Episcopal que desean reconciliarse con la Iglesia Católica. Msgr. Hart también sirvió en San Miguel en Bedford y San Pedro Apóstol en Fort Worth.

Msgr. Juan Rivero nombrado Vicario General

Por Susan Moses
Corresponsal

El 1º. de julio el Msgr. Juan Rivero asumirá el puesto de Vicario General y dimitirá el de Vicario para el Clero.

La oficina de Vicario General es la más alta en una diócesis después del Obispo, y está especificada en la Ley Canónica de la Iglesia. (La única otra oficina canónica en la diócesis es la de Vicario Judicial y la ostenta el Padre Anh Tran).

Msgr. Rivero servirá como asistente del Obispo Michael Olson en asuntos de administración y gobierno ejecutivo. A discreción del Obispo Olson, él puede actuar en lugar del obispo llevando a cabo muchas tareas por toda la diócesis.

Msgr. Rivero ha servido como Vicario para el Clero durante 13

años, coordinando los nombramientos de sacerdotes así como apoyándolos individualmente en asuntos que afecten su bienestar espiritual o físico.

Hace un año, Msgr. Rivero se retiró, después de 15 años de servir como párroco en la Parroquia de St. Frances Cabrini en Granbury. Él también sirvió en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción en Denton, en la Parroquia de San Judas en Mansfield, y en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Fort Worth.

Msgr. Rivero empezó su ministerio sacerdotal en México. Después de asistir a un retiro para jóvenes en la preparatoria, él empezó a discernir su vocación al sacerdocio. Estudió un año en la Universidad Iberoamericana, universidad Jesuita en México y, entonces, decidió ingresar al seminario. Recibió las

Órdenes Sagradas en 1972.

Msgr. Rivero sabía de la inmensa necesidad de sacerdotes bilingües en el norte de Texas. Habló con el señor Obispo Joseph Delaney, segundo obispo de la diócesis, y fue aceptado en la diócesis en 1982.

Cuando Msgr. Rivero llegó a Fort Worth, sirvió como primer director del Ministerio Hispano en la diócesis y estableció el Centro de Cursillos (conocido ahora como Centro Diocesano de Formación) al norte de Fort Worth.

Reflexionando sobre sus 44 años como sacerdote, Msgr. Rivero dijo, “Uno de los aspectos más satisfactorios del sacerdocio es ayudar a la gente y estar a su lado en los tiempos difíciles. Es entonces cuando el sentido de la vida y la fe es más significativo”. Él también encuentra gran provecho en sumi-



Msgr. Juan Rivero

nistrar los sacramentos.

Durante su retiro, Msgr. Rivero ha estado ayudando a los sacerdotes en las parroquias con confesiones y Misas los fines de semana. También aprovecha las oportunidades que tiene para ir a acampar con sus dos perros. “Espero retirarme de nuevo algún día”, dijo sonriendo.

“Mientras tanto, espero ayudar al obispo a servir a la gente de la diócesis.”

(Izquierda a derecha) El P. Matthew Tatyrek, P. Joseph Keating, y P. Nghia Nguyen dan la bendición al final de la misa de ordenación.



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DIFERENTES CAMINOS, MISMA FE

Tres nuevos sacerdotes ordenados para la Diócesis de Fort Worth

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Fotos por Juan Guajardo

EL VÍNCULO DE LA FE QUE UNE A LAS FAMILIAS FUE EVIDENTE EL 21 DE MAYO, cuando gente de diferentes partes de los E. U. y de alrededor del mundo se reunieron en la Catedral de San Patricio para presenciar la ordenación de tres hombres jóvenes al Sagrado Orden Presbiteral para la Diócesis de Fort Worth.

El Obispo Michael F. Olson confirió el Sacramento de las Órdenes Sagradas a Joseph Paul

Keating, a Nghia Trung Nguyen y a Matthew Robert Taryrek durante una ceremonia impregnada de simbolismo, tradición, y oración. Familiares y amistades venidas desde Vietnam, Alemania, y Australia llenaron la catedral para escuchar a los ordenandos jurar obediencia al obispo y verlos recibir el rito esencial del sacramento durante la imposición de manos y la lectura de la Oración de Consagración.

“Es una bendición estar aquí en este día especial”, dijo Cang Nguyen, hermano mayor de Nghia Nguyen, quien recibió a docenas de familiares llegados a Fort Worth para la ordenación. Algunos no conocían al seminarista.

“Estamos conectados por el hilo de la fe”, él explicó. “En la cultura Vietnamita los lazos familiares son profundos”.

Cuando el Obispo Olson terminó la Oración de Consagración invocando al Espíritu Santo,

compañeros sacerdotes pusieron estola y casulla a cada nuevo sacerdote.

Vestidos con los signos externos de su oficio sacerdotal, cada hombre se acercó de nuevo al obispo para recibir la unción de sus manos con el santo Crisma—simbolizando sabiduría y fortaleza. El Obispo Olson entonces presentó la patena y el cáliz a cada uno de los recién ordenados.

“Entiendan lo que hacen. Imiten lo que celebran, y conformen sus vidas al misterio de la Cruz del Señor”, dijo el Obispo Olson.

Al terminar el rito, el obispo dio la bienvenida a los nuevos sacerdotes al presbiterado diocesano con el fraternal Beso de la Paz. La legión de sacerdotes con-celebrantes hizo lo mismo.

Theresa Nguyen conoció a su primo lejano, el Padre Nguyen, cuando era seminarista tomando cursos en Creighton University en Omaha.

“Mi madre siempre alojaba a seminaristas cuando venían a la ciudad, y pasaron unos fines de semana antes de que nos diéramos cuenta que éramos de la familia”, explicó el joven de 22 años.

La graduada de la University of Nebraska dijo que los miembros de su familia de diferentes partes de Texas y de ultramar asistieron a la ordenación porque “es un honor tener un sacerdote en la familia”.

Mary Sokolowski viajó desde Midland para unirse a otros graduados de Texas Tech University en la liturgia matutina. Los jóvenes adultos y Tatyrek fueron parte de la organización estudiantil católica en el campus de Lubbock. Ella también conoce a Keating, asimismo graduado de Texas Tech.

“Es importante que estemos aquí para mostrar nuestro apoyo y amor por ellos”, Sokolowski dijo. “Hoy fructifican todas las oraciones que rezamos cuando ellos dos estaban en Roma y durante todo el proceso”.

El Padre Keating y el Padre Tatyrek terminaron sus años de formación en el Colegio Pontificio Norteamericano en Roma. El Padre Nguyen terminó sus estudios en el Seminario de Santa María en Houston.

El Padre Matthew Baldwin quien vino de Melbourne, Australia a Fort Worth conoció a Matthew Tatyrek cuando ambos eran seminaristas en Roma. “Él tiene gran personalidad y se lleva bien con la gente. Pienso que esto es muy favorable para propagar el Evangelio”, dijo el P. Baldwin, quien está visitando los E. U. por primera vez.

Antes de que la Misa de ordenación empezara, el Obispo Olson dio las gracias a los padres de los tres candidatos, Bob y Priscilla Keating, Khai Nguyen y Dung Tran, y Luna y Gary Tatyrek, así como al personal del seminario, a los directores de vocaciones, y a los párrocos que ayudaron al trío durante su formación y año pastoral.

Durante su homilía, el Obispo Olson dijo que el ministerio del sacerdote es una continua conversación con Cristo que empieza con la palabra, “Sígueme”, crece por medio de un diálogo de oración, y se manifiesta sacrificándose uno mismo para Dios.

Cada uno comparte la cruz de Cristo, pero el sacerdote comparte íntimamente el sacrificio de Cristo al celebrar los sacramentos—especialmente la Eucaristía y la Penitencia. Es el aspecto sacrificial de la vida del sacerdote el que lo capacita para guiar a la gente del egoísmo y pecado a la libertad de los bautizados.

“Es este aspecto sacrificial el que motiva a un sacerdote a ir a la periferia de la sociedad para acercarse a los que de otro modo caerían en el miedo y la confusión”, dijo el Obispo Olson. “Es este aspecto sacrificial de la vida de un sacerdote el que lo ilumina con la verdad del Evangelio para alumbrar a los que se pierden en la niebla del error”.

Dirigiéndose a los candidatos como “queridos hijos”, el obispo les dijo que la conversación con Cristo que empezó con la palabra, “Sígueme” continuará con sus promesas de servir a la Iglesia y a su gente.

“Crecerá con Cristo en su oración y ministerio cotidiano durante todas sus vidas”, les dijo. “Crecerá en el desarrollo del amor como el de Cristo en su vida y ministerio, por el cual podrán significativa y humildemente estar ante el altar y decir, ‘Este es mi Cuerpo, esta es mi Sangre’”.

Un contingente de feligreses de la Iglesia de San Marcos en Denton llegó temprano a la Misa de ordenación. Joseph Keating trabajó medio tiempo como ministro juvenil en la parroquia antes de entrar al seminario. Los Caballeros de Colón del lugar lo apoyaron durante sus estudios.

El P. Keating celebró su primera Misa en San Marcos el día de su ordenación, y enseguida hubo una cena estilo Checo y fiesta en la parroquia.

“Él definitivamente se mantuvo en contacto con la gente de San Marcos. Algunos hasta fueron a Roma para su (ordenación al) diaconado”, añadió Kim Bonfield. “Él fue una influencia positiva para muchos jóvenes que ahora ya salieron de la universidad”.

El P. Nguyen celebró su primera Misa el 22 de mayo en la Iglesia de Cristo Rey al Noreste de Fort Worth, donde fue servidor del altar cuando era niño. La familia y amistades del P. Tatyrek se reunieron el 22 de mayo en su parroquia, la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret en Vernon, para la primera Misa del nuevo sacerdote.

El Obispo Olson le dijo al *North Texas Catholic* que él ha conocido a los tres hombres desde que entraron al seminario y espera trabajar con ellos.

“He estado involucrado en su formación y me siento bendecido de tenerlos en la diócesis”, añadió. “Es un signo para nosotros de que la Iglesia está verdaderamente viva; hay vocaciones y cada uno de nosotros tiene la responsabilidad de ayudar a que la gente escuche su vocación—particularmente los hombres jóvenes al sacerdocio”.



El Padre Matthew Tatyrek recibe el abrazo de un sacerdote durante el beso de la paz.



El Padre Joseph Keating dice la plegaria eucarística, durante la liturgia de la Eucaristía.



Padre Nghia Nguyen recibe un abrazo de Obispo Michael Olson durante la Misa de ordenación.

El Padre Nghia Nguyen encontró su designio y su pasión en el sacerdocio

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Corresponsal

NGHIA NGUYEN SIEMPRE HA VISTO SU VIDA COMO UN REGALO. NACIÓ CUATRO MESES ANTES DE TÉRMINO, PESANDO ESCASAS 2 LIBRAS 4 ONZAS; SU PREMATURO CUERPO CUPO EN LA PALMA DE LA MANO DEL DOCTOR.

“Si hubiera nacido en Vietnam en esas condiciones, con toda seguridad no hubiera sobrevivido”, dice Nguyen, cuyo padre emigró del país comunista a los E. U. en 1982. Su madre lo siguió en 1984.

Tres años después, el segundo hijo de Khai Nguyen y Dung Tran nació en una camioneta cuando llegaban a un hospital de Houston.

“Mi corazón dejó de latir un par de veces, pero me revivieron”, explica el joven de 28 años, quien no sufrió ninguna de las complicaciones asociadas usualmente con nacimientos prematuros. “en retrospectiva, Dios verdaderamente ha bendecido a mi familia”.

Nguyen siempre ha sentido que Dios salvó su vida por una razón. Creciendo en un hogar lleno de fe, él encontró su designio y su pasión en su vocación al sacerdocio.

Ordenado al diaconado transitorio en abril 2015, el Padre Nguyen recibió del Obispo Michael Olson el Sacramento de las Órdenes Sagradas el 21 de mayo, en la Catedral de San Patricio.

La ceremonia de ordenación marca el fin de un proceso de discernimiento que empezó durante un retiro de confirmación cuando el P. Nguyen era apenas un adolescente.

“Recuerdo haberle dicho a Dios, Tú me regalaste la vida y yo te la regalo a ti. Yo haré lo que Tú quieras que yo haga”, dice el nativo de Houston.

La inspiración sobre cómo servir mejor a Dios le llegó observando a su sacerdote parroquial. Cuando su familia vino a vivir a Fort Worth, cerca de la Iglesia de Cristo Rey, Nguyen y Cang, su hermano mayor, fueron servidores del altar en la Misa matutina. El Padre Mathias Man, CMC, párroco de la Iglesia, fue el modelo a seguir para

los atentos muchachos.

“Vi el gozo del sacerdocio en el P. Mathias”, recuerda el sacerdote. “Él es un hombre sencillo y pastoral, y era amable y paciente.”

A la edad de 14 años, Nguyen fue a Joplin, Missouri donde vivió en una casa de formación dirigida por el orden del P. Mathias — la Congregación de la Madre Co-Redentora — mientras asistía a la escuela secundaria. Después de graduarse, él ingresó a la comunidad religiosa como postulante y tomó cursos en Missouri Southern State University, donde sirvió como enlace para el ministerio universitario.

“Durante este tiempo empecé a pensar que Dios me llamaba a otra parte”, recuerda Nguyen, quien brevemente consideró vivir como monje Trapense. La idea de ser sacerdote diocesano nunca cruzó por su mente, “porque todos los sacerdotes que conocía pertenecían a órdenes religiosas”.

Cuando él supo lo que los sacerdotes diocesanos hacen en las parroquias, el estudiante universitario empezó a considerar esa opción.

“Pasé cuatro años en una comunidad religiosa, así que recé a la Virgen María que me diera una señal”, dice Nguyen, quien se debatía acerca del camino que tomaría su vocación.

Un comentario casual de un amigo unos días más tarde, resolvió su indecisión. Las palabras “No sé porque te digo esto, pero tú serías un gran sacerdote diocesano”, motivaron a Nguyen a llamar a la oficina de vocaciones de la Diócesis de Fort Worth.

Su familia había regresado a Houston, “pero lo que me atrajo a la Diócesis de Fort Worth fueron las amistades y familiares que dejaron la Iglesia”, explica él, “Yo quería atraerlas de nuevo con el mensaje de Dios”.

El seminarista de 19 años de edad empezó



El Padre Nghia Nguyen da la Comunión durante la Misa de ordenación. (Foto por Juan Guajardo / NTC)

sus estudios en el Seminario de la Santísima Trinidad y recibió su Licenciatura en Filosofía del St. Joseph Seminary College en Louisiana. Su formación continuó en el Seminario de Santa María en Houston, de donde recibió su Maestría en Divinidad este mes de mayo.

Pasó el año en ministerio pastoral como capellán en el Children’s Medical Center en Dallas y trabajando en la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Wichita Falls. Sirviendo en la parroquia predominantemente Hispana expuso a Nguyen a una nueva cultura y lenguaje.

“Yo hablo Inglés y Vietnamita con fluidez, pero no tuve mucha instrucción en Español, así que fue un bautizo de fuego”, recuerda el sacerdote, quien descubrió muchas semejanzas entre su familia y la comunidad de fe en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. “La gente en las culturas Hispana y Asiática es muy apegada a la familia y profundamente arraigada en la esperanza y la firme fe en Dios”.

Al voluntario pastoral le encantaba observar a los feligreses trabajando juntos, “y descubrí que si uno puede comer con gusto un plato de menudo (un tradicional platillo Mexicano hecho de tripas, caldo, y chile rojo), ellos lo aceptan a uno”, agrega riendo.

Sencilla pero vehemente pregunta puso al P. Matthew Tatyrek en camino al sacerdocio

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Corresponsal

ALGUNAS VECES EL MÁS
SIMPLE COMENTARIO PUEDE
LLEGAR AL ALMA Y CAMBIAR
UNA VIDA.

Cuando el Padre Matthew Tatyrek asistió al Día Mundial de la Juventud en Alemania en 2005, él no tenía idea que una pregunta, hecha por uno de los cardinales, pondría su futuro en una trayectoria que conduciría a su ordenación como sacerdote para la Diócesis de Fort Worth el 21 de mayo en la Catedral de San Patricio.

“En ese tiempo, yo estaba buscando una comisión en la Fuerza Aérea de los E. U. a través del programa ROTC. Yo deseaba una carrera como abogado JAG (Funcionario del cuerpo jurídico militar)”, admite el P. Tatyrek, quien cursaba el segundo año en Angelo State University cuando viajó a Colonia, Alemania.

El nativo de Vernon estaba entusiasmado por asistir a la reunión internacional con el ministro juvenil de su parroquia—la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret—y ver al Papa Benedicto XVI en su primer importante evento apostólico desde que inició su pontificado. Durante sus seis días en Alemania, hubo varias pláticas y liturgias con obispos y cardenales, pero una fue sobresaliente.

“Antes de la bendición final, el Cardenal Theodore McCarrick, [entonces] Arzobispo de Washington, D.C., señaló a todos los sacerdotes concelebrando la Misa con él y le preguntó a los hombres jóvenes en la multitud, ‘¿cuántos de ustedes van a estar sentados con ellos?’”, recuerda el P. Tatyrek. “Recuerdo que me impresionó la fuerza de sus palabras, y el reto permaneció conmigo.

Criado en un firmehogar católico, la experiencia de estar rodeado por la Iglesia universal atrajo al P. Tatyrek más profundamente a su fe. Pero en lugar de hablar con el director de vocaciones, Tatyrek se transfirió a la Universidad Tecnológica de Texas e ingresó al programa ROTC del ejército de los E. U.,



El Padre Matthew Tatyrek sonríe cuando él y sus compañeros sacerdotes son llamados a pararse ante el altar durante la ordenación. (Foto por Juan Guajardo / NTC)

y se involucró más con su comunidad parroquial.

“Empecé a ir a Misa diariamente y a recibir el Sacramento de la Reconciliación más frecuentemente”, dice el católico de nacimiento, describiendo las pequeñas formas en que su rutina diaria cambió. “Realmente empecé a involucrarme en los ministerios”.

Cuando las actividades voluntarias del P. Tatyrek causaron que pasara más tiempo en la parroquia que cumpliendo con sus responsabilidades del ROTC, él dejó este programa. Con la ayuda de un pequeño grupo de hombres de fe en el campus, el P. Tatyrek empezó a discernir seriamente su llamado al sacerdocio o a alguna otra clase de ministerio ordenado en la Iglesia.

“En mis conversaciones con estos hombres, yo pude hablar acerca de asuntos de fe y oración, y compartir hacia donde me estaba guiando el Señor”, él explicó.

Después de años de discusiones y discernimiento el estudiante universitario decidió ingresar

al seminario al recibir su licenciatura del Tecnológico de Texas en 2009.

“Cuado le dije a mi mamá, a mi papá, y a mi hermano [Aaron] que quería probar el seminario, ellos me apoyaron”, dijo el P. Tatyrek. “Su nivel de apoyo solo puede nacer de la seriedad con que ellos toman su propia fe”.

El estímulo también vino de su primo materno, el Padre Edmundo Paredes, sacerdote en la Diócesis de Dallas.

“Él siempre ha sido parte importante en la vida de mi familia, así que estábamos acostumbrados a una presencia religiosa”, continuó.

Después de dos “hermosos” años en el Seminario de la Santísima Trinidad, donde fortalecieron su vocación, el joven seminarista fue enviado al Colegio Pontificio Norteamericano en Roma.

Antes que el P. Tatyrek fuera ordenado al diaconado transitorio en su parroquia en julio pasado, él pasó un año pastoral trabajando en la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción en Denton y con el párroco de la

iglesia, el Padre Tim Thompson. Esa experiencia le enseñó cómo integrarse a la vida parroquial.

“Poder verme vivir con alegría la vida de un sacerdote es mi más grande tesoro de ese año”, dice el sacerdote. “Durante mi año pastoral, el Señor verdaderamente me dijo que esto era algo que Él quería que yo hiciera con mi vida”.

Después de años de discernimiento y preparación, el P. Tatyrek celebró el capítulo final de su jornada vocacional—la ordenación—con su familia, amistades, y la Iglesia en Fort Worth.

“Estoy listo para empezar mi vida como sacerdote”, dijo con entusiasmo el P. Tatyrek. “Durante los últimos siete años, mi vocación se ha vuelto más clara. Solo quiero responder con mucho agradecimiento por haber sido llamado al sacerdocio”.

Y ¿Qué pasó con su sueño de ser un abogado? “Bien, estoy estudiando la ley”, dice riendo, “Pero es la ley canónica”.

El Padre Joseph Keating desea servir a los fieles de la diócesis

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Corresponsal

AÑOS DE ESTUDIAR PARA EL SACERDOCIO ALCANZARON EL PUNTO CULMINANTE PARA EL PADRE JOE KEATING EL 27 DE MARZO, CUANDO ÉL PROCLAMÓ EL EVANGELIO DURANTE LA MISA DE PASCUA QUE CELEBRÓ EL PAPA FRANCISCO EN LA PLAZA DE SAN PEDRO.

Siendo ya un músico talentoso de 34 años, se unió al coro del seminario después de llegar al Colegio Pontificio Norteamericano de Roma (PNAC) en 2011 y utilizó su recién descubierto talento vocal para entonar el Evangelio en Latín.

“Estaba un poco nervioso, pero muy feliz de estar haciéndolo”, recuerda el entonces diácono transitorio, quien estuvo a pocos pasos del pontífice durante la liturgia matutina. “Lo saludé de mano antes de la Misa y recibí de él el Saludo de Paz y la Comunión. Estar con el Santo Padre y proclamar la Resurrección el Domingo de Pascua fue un inmenso honor”.

La Plaza afuera de la Basílica de San Pedro está muy lejos de la farmacia Walgreens del Condado de Tarrant donde el P. Keating era gerente de ventas mientras discernía su vocación. Cuando estudiaba en la Universidad Tecnológica de Texas asistió a un retiro Raider Awakening y escuchó una plática sobre vocaciones. Fue la primera vez que el sacerdocio cruzó por su mente, pero el estudiante de primer año rápidamente desechó tal posibilidad.

“Me atraparon las muchas distracciones que ofrece la universidad”, admite el originario de San Angelo. “Fue hasta mi último año escolar en 2006 que empecé a considerar seriamente el sacerdocio”.

Trabajar en el Ministerio Católico Universitario en Texas Tech aumentó su fe, y la oración lo acercó más a Dios, pero aún estaba a años de distancia de tomar una decisión duradera acerca de su futuro. El tiempo que pasó como ministro juvenil en la parroquia de San Marcos en Denton ayudó al gerente de tienda a darse cuenta que que-

ría que su vida tuviera un mejor propósito.

“Realmente fue esa parroquia la que me dio el contexto adecuado para un buen discernimiento antes de entrar al seminario”, afirmó el P. Keating. “Verdaderamente me sentí en casa el momento en que entré en la iglesia”.

Al empleado de medio tiempo de la iglesia le encantaba estar con la gente y ver cómo la comunidad vivía su fe católica.

“Ahí había un espíritu de alegría y yo quería compartir la vida parroquial y ofrecerle lo que yo podía”, continuó. “Me di cuenta que soy más feliz cuando estoy en la parroquia”.

El P. Keating ingresó al Seminario de la Santísima Trinidad en el otoño de 2009 y pasó dos años en el campus en Irving tomando cursos pre-teológicos. Cuando llegó el tiempo de cambiar escuelas, entusiasmado abrazó la oportunidad de estudiar en PNAC en Roma, donde conoció otros seminaristas de los Estados Unidos, Australia, y Canadá que estudian para ser sacerdotes diocesanos.

El P. Keating dijo que era alentador “saber que hay tantos hombres buenos que quieren poner sus vidas al servicio de Jesús”, y le inspiró saber que algún día él sería “parte de esta gran fraternidad de sacerdotes”.

El año pastoral que pasó en la Iglesia de San José en Arlington introdujo al seminarista a las alegrías y conflictos de la vida parroquial. Él cantó y ayudó a los organistas, compartió su fe con los conversos en las clases de RICA, y un día a la semana trabajó en el programa del Ministerio Universitario de la Universidad Cristiana de Texas.

“La gente de la parroquia fue muy afectuosa y agradable, especialmente las involucradas en la



El Padre Joe Keating da una bendición a su amigo, Tyler Dubek. (Foto por Juan Guajardo / NTC)

Escuela de San José,” dijo el P. Keating, quien fue ordenado al diaconado transitorio en Roma en octubre pasado.

Al terminar su internado pastoral, el P. Keating continuó su formación en Roma donde obtuvo su licenciatura en teología sagrada y estudió música sacra bajo la dirección de un experto director de coro.

“Aprendí como leer canto gregoriano, polifonía, y me familiaricé con compositores de los que nunca había oído antes”, dijo el experto clarinetista y guitarrista.

Después de su ordenación el 21 de mayo en la Catedral de San Patricio, el P. Keating espera usar su talento musical en su nuevo ministerio sacerdotal. Pero dejar Roma fue agri dulce.

“Voy a extrañar mucho a los amigos que hice [allá]”, admite él. “La habilidad de llegar a conocer esta ciudad—el corazón de la Iglesia realmente—aprender Italiano y la experiencia de los santos, las Iglesias, y la música es una bendición que espero compartir con el pueblo de Dios”...

Y el recién ordenado P. Keating no esperará mucho para lograr ese objetivo. Este verano acompañará a la juventud católica de la Diócesis de Fort Worth al Día Mundial de la Juventud en Cracovia, Polonia, con escala en Italia.

“Voy a poder usar mi conocimiento de la ciudad y del Italiano”, agrega con entusiasmo. “Todo lo que he recibido está destinado a ser devuelto a la Iglesia”.

¿Qué están haciendo los católicos en la Diócesis de Fort Worth durante este **AÑO DE LA MISERICORDIA?**

Por Susan Moses, Mary Lou Seewoester, y Juan Guajardo

Ben Wieberg



BEN WIEBERG ES UN HOMBRE OCUPADO. Durante sus 37 años como feligrés de Santa María Goretti en Arlington, ha servido en varios ministerios — desde ministerio de prisiones, retiros de CRHP, dispensa de alimentos, hasta ayudar a cocinar los almuerzos para los jóvenes estudiantes que asisten al ministerio universitario en UTA.

En el sentido de vivir las obras de misericordia, el Jefe de la Armada las ha estado viviendo todo el tiempo.

“Siempre he sido preciso en mis

pensamientos relacionados con las enseñanzas y prácticas de la Iglesia”. explica el Caballero de Colón.

Sin embargo, eso no significa que él no tome en serio el Año de la Misericordia. De hecho, para él, el mensaje que la Iglesia está mandando este Año jubilar, es simple.

“Este Año de la Misericordia nos recuerda que Dios nos ama”, él dice. “Dios quiere que entendamos que su misericordia es más grande que nuestros pecados, y que lo invocaremos con confianza y recibiremos su misericordia”.

Para el nativo de Missouri, esta perspectiva de la misericordia llega hasta las cosas más pequeñas. Por ejemplo, Wieberg, ávido viajero, reserva tiempo para rezar el Rosario al inicio de sus muchos viajes, y también para cuando llega sano y salvo a su destino.

“Además, rezo el Rosario diariamente antes de dormir”, dice él.

Esas oraciones lo llevan a acercarse más a Jesús y a confiar más en Él.

“Siento que entre más confío en Jesús, más recibiré”, dijo Wieberg.

DIANE ETZEL PIENSA QUE LA SINCRONIZACIÓN DEL AÑO DE LA MISERICORDIA NO ES UNA CASUALIDAD.

“Sólo mira las noticias: No se cesa de hablar de inmigrantes, Islam, y la insensatez de este año de elecciones. El momento es perfecto”.

Después de leer el libro del Papa Francisco *El nombre de Dios es Misericordia*, Diane coincide con el Santo Padre en que nuestra sociedad puede ver a otros como una facción a la que hay que odiar o temer, “olvidamos completamente que el grupo está formado de individuos como nosotros,

que están tratando de vivir sus vidas lo mejor que pueden”.

Diane empezó su ministerio en la prisión hace siete años.

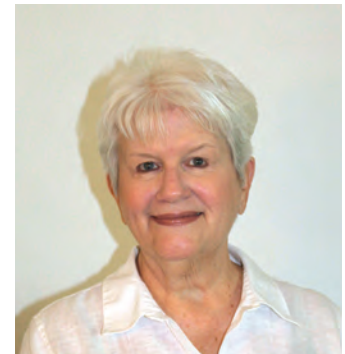
Miembro desde hace 30 años de la Parroquia de San Bartolomé en Fort Worth, ella leyó en el boletín que solicitaban una mujer para conducir estudios bíblicos en Carswell Federal Medical Center y sintió el llamado del Señor. También es consejera de mujeres en el programa para preparar a las prisioneras para su reingreso a la sociedad, tratando así de evitar la reincidencia.

“Dios me da nuevas oportunidades

cada día, ¿por qué le negaría yo eso a alguien más?”, preguntó. “Trato de ayudar a las mujeres a entender qué fue lo que estuvo mal y qué cambios necesitan hacer para no caer de nuevo en la prisión”.

Desde que empezó el Año de la Misericordia, Diane se ha asombrado de las muchas veces que la palabra “misericordia” aparece en la liturgia. Ella explicó, “El Papa Francisco nos recuerda lo que siempre ha estado allí, y que siempre ha sido cierto. El nombre de Dios verdaderamente es Misericordia”.

Diane Etzel



Bonnie Irvine



BONNIE IRVINE, FELIGRESA DE LA PARROQUIA DE STA. CATALINA DE SIENA EN CARROLLTON, TODAVÍA RECUERDA CÓMO SE SINTIÓ EL PASADO 13 DE DICIEMBRE durante la ceremonia de apertura de las Puertas de la Misericordia en su parroquia. “Uno podía sentir la presencia de Dios” ella dijo. “La iglesia estaba llena. Fue hermoso y significativo”.

“Yo comprendo que somos una iglesia peregrina y podemos recibir indulgencias durante el Año Jubilar de la Misericordia”, añadió ella.

Irvine ha estado en Sta. Catalina cuatro años. Ella es sacristana, ministra extraordinaria de la Sagrada Comunión en la Misa, y líder de la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia todos los domingos. También organiza a las Siervas de María, un grupo que limpia la iglesia dos veces al mes.

Hasta que una enfermedad limitó su actividad física, ella llevaba, tres días por semana, la Sagrada Comunión a los habitantes en una residencia para ancianos. Ahora, esa obra de misericordia toma la forma de llamadas telefónicas a

algunos de los residentes.

“Ese es el don más grande que podemos dar—nuestro tiempo y nosotros mismos”, dijo ella.

Irvine recordó que ella se ha beneficiado de las obras corporales y espirituales de misericordia durante los momentos más tristes de su vida, incluyendo la muerte de su pequeño hijo, su recuperación del cáncer, y su reciente enfermedad.

“Es un efecto dominó”, dijo ella. “Dios me da misericordia, y esto me mueve a compartir esa misericordia con otros”.

At annual boot camp, teens learn that defending life takes

An approach rooted in truth and love

By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

THIRTEEN TEENAGERS FROM THE FORT WORTH DIOCESE LEARNED HOW TO DEFEND LIFE AT PRO-LIFE BOOT CAMP HOSTED AT NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN WICHITA FALLS.

The camp, started 12 years ago by the Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, specializes in offering pro-life formation to high school youth.

This was the first year it was hosted solely by the Fort Worth Diocese, according to Michael Demma, director of the diocese's Respect Life Office.

Participants woke early June 4 to embark on a two-hour bus ride to Fort Worth to pray for the unborn and their mothers in front of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility.

During the bus ride, Trent Horn, an apologist and speaker for Catholic Answers, spoke to the teens about how to talk to people in a respectful and productive way about abortion, just like he does on his national weekly radio show "Catholic Answers Live."

Horn said people often ask how he is able to be so calm and patient when people get angry or say crazy things to him during his most popular radio shows, which have tackled atheism, abortion, and Protestant beliefs.

"I say, well, 'I pray, I have practice doing this, and I understand that these people are not my enemy. They are mistaken. Sometimes I think they are very mistaken, but I want them to come see the truth,'" Horn explained.

Horn said he also never approaches the conversation by saying he's right, and they're wrong, but by instead asking the person he is talking to a series of questions.

"If you listen to the show, about 80 percent of the time, I'm usually asking a question and not making a statement. It's not me pushing the truth at them — it's them finding their way to



Teens and chaperones pray the Rosary in front of Planned Parenthood in Southwest Fort Worth during Pro-Life Boot Camp. (Photo courtesy / Michael-Demma)

the truth," he said.

Horn said people want to talk about a lot of issues when the issue of abortion comes up, such as poverty, pregnancy centers, adoption, imposing morality, and women's control of their bodies. But, he said, the problem is many people who identify themselves as pro-choice skip over the question that he believes is the most important — what are the unborn?

"Their reason or their argument for why abortion should be legal almost always boils down to this: abortion should be legal because we're better off with it or things would be worse without it," he said.

Horn said that most people who are for abortion sidestep the question of who the unborn are, instead giving other reasons to support abortion.

"If they're human, the solution (abortion) is worse than any problem we are facing," he said.

He told the high school students that if they commit to learning the techniques he showed them and practice them by talking to others, they will improve at communicating and help people come to the truth about abortion.

"It's so very, very important, and you're the future to do that on university campuses," Horn said.

After Horn's talk, the youth stood in a line on a sidewalk, facing the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Southwest Fort Worth. There they prayed the Rosary using a booklet called, "Rachel's Rosary," by Father Larry Kupferman, which included meditations and intercessory prayer for parents contemplating abortion or parents who have already had abortions. They also sang the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Many of the teenagers said praying at the

Planned Parenthood abortion center was a meaningful part of the boot camp experience for them.

"I've seen what happens to people when they see people like us outside [the clinic] and they sometimes choose to change their mind and have the baby instead of having an abortion, and that's amazing," said 16-year-old Gracie Morris, a parishioner of St. Mary the Virgin Parish in Arlington.

Margery Pyle, 17, a parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Pilot Point, said in addition to praying at the abortion clinic, she also appreciated Horn's talk on the bus.

"I liked his approach and how he is always friendly to people. He showed love to them and explained why he believed and what he believed," Pyle said.

"I really liked that. Love is a really important thing, and if you don't convey it, then what you say to a person won't mean anything because you're not talking in love."

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) 945-9340 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jllocke@fwdioc.org
- Or call the Sexual Abuse Hot-line (817) 945-9345 and leave a message.

To Report Abuse

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

Ordinatee phenomenal.

“When my community was preparing in 2009 to 2011, it seemed like things were moving slowly, but in terms of the history of the Church, it’s lightning speed,” Fr. Perkins suggests.

Sue and Mike Harron have known the former Anglican priest and his wife, Jody, for more than 20 years and were on the search team that brought the Pleasanton, Texas native to Arlington’s St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in 1995. They later watched their pastor struggle with changes in Anglican teachings.

“We discussed what was happening in the Episcopal Church on many occasions and at length,” Mike Harron recalls. “When the *Anglicanorum Coetibus* offer was announced, he led a number of us in signing a petition asking to be brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.”

Leaving St. Mark’s was painful, Harron admits, but Fr. Perkins remained a compassionate, patient, and nurturing leader as the small Arlington group attended RCIA classes and joined folks from Cleburne and Keller to form the St. Peter the Rock community. The Harrons are now members of St. Mary the Virgin.

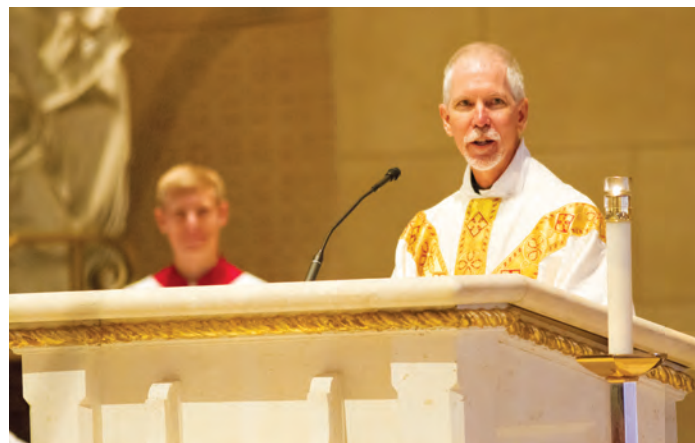
“Fr. Perkins preached the truth throughout,” Harron adds, praising the priest’s simple, clear-cut guidance. “He has extensive knowledge of the history of the Church and the *Catechism* and is able to communicate in an insightful, thought-provoking, and articulate manner.”

Harron will miss his long-time friend, but “I know this is the job he was meant to fill at this time.”

An enthusiastic advocate for the Ordinariate, Fr. Perkins doesn’t mind fielding questions about his journey into the Catholic faith. During his recent stay at the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani, a monastery in Kentucky,

Fr. Timothy Perkins addresses the assembly after he and five other Anglican clergy were ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood June 30, 2012 by Bishop Kevin Vann at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller. It was an historic event, as it represented the largest group of Anglican clergy to be ordained Catholic priests in the U.S.

(NTC / Juan Guajardo)



Fr. Perkins met a Sister of Charity from Cincinnati who had read about the Ordinariate in news reports but had never spoken to a participating member.

“She offered her prayers to us and those of her community and hoped we would soon be present in Ohio,” he remembers. “Her words about this new endeavor for evangelization were very encouraging, and for that I’m always grateful.”

In addition to shepherding a 350-400 member congregation at St. Mary the Virgin, Fr. Perkins served as the Ordinariate’s director of liturgy and worship. In that capacity, he made history again by developing *Divine Worship: The Missal* — a universal liturgical aid for the Ordinariate. The new missal celebrates the distinct liturgical language and music of the Roman Rite with a nod to Anglican expression. It’s the first time a document from the Vatican allowed elements from separated ecclesial communities to be included in the Eucharistic celebration.

Standing side by side with the first edition of the Roman Missal, the worship aid “reflects the Roman rite with an Anglican accent,” Fr. Perkins told the *North Texas Catholic* in 2015. “It echoes a treasured Anglican style, but it resonates with the richness of the Catholic faith.”

Although he is looking forward to new challenges, the dedicated clergyman regrets leaving the “wonderful people” of St. Mary the Virgin. Moving out of the Diocese of Fort Worth is another emotional hurdle.

“It’s been a wonderful mothering home to me, and there are people here I love very much,” Fr. Perkins explains eloquently. “I’m eager for the work and excited about what we’re doing, but it’s always hard to say goodbye to those you’ve journeyed with for some time.”

With his parting words he asked people to pray for the success of the Ordinariate.

“We hope to bring many, many more souls into the Church and the fullness of the faith we find in Jesus Christ,” he asserts. “Our request for prayer remains very fervent.”



Bishop Kevin Vann ordains Fr. Timothy Perkins to the Roman Catholic priesthood June 30 2012 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller. (NTC / Juan Guajardo)

The newly ordained Fr. Perkins offers the Communion chalice shortly after his ordination. (NTC / Juan Guajardo)



GOOD NEWSMAKER

Father Timothy Perkins, priest of the Anglican Ordinariate and pastor of St. Mary the Virgin Church in Arlington, will now serve

ANGLICANS BECOMING CATHOLICS

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

"I am grateful you reminded me of the pure joy found in God's love for his Church. Our parish has been so blessed by your care. You will be missed."

Those words by Colleen Smith, former pastoral council president at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Arlington, reflect what many parishioners feel as they prepare to say goodbye to Father Timothy Perkins — a spiritual leader who guided them through several landmark events in Church history.

The former Anglican priest is one of six men ordained by former Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann to the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter in 2012.

Established in 2012, the Houston-based Ordinariate is the second of three "diocese-like" structures created worldwide under Pope Benedict's 2009 Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus*. The document provided a way for Anglican Christians to enter into full communion with



The newly ordained Fr. Timothy Perkins processes out of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller following the Ordination Mass. (NTC / Juan Guajardo)

the Roman Catholic Church while retaining elements of their liturgical prayers and worship traditions.

St. Peter the Rock, an Arlington congregation led by

Fr. Perkins, was the first group of former Anglicans in the country welcomed into the Ordinariate.

Parochial administrator of St. Mary the Virgin Church since 2013, the 61-year-old priest is leaving the

post this summer to assume new responsibilities. Appointed Vicar General for the growing movement, Fr. Perkins is relocating to Houston where he will oversee clergy personnel and assist Bishop Steven J. Lopes, the first prelate ordained for the Ordinariate.

"We also have several communities in formation, and part of my duties is to help them discern their path into the Church and provide what assistance we can," explains the soft-spoken pastor. He recently traveled to Kentucky where he visited a small faith group to answer questions about the process.

"They asked if they can keep the clergyman who's already been leading them and about where they can worship," says Fr. Perkins, who understands their concerns from personal experience. "We help them explore relationships with the local diocese."

There are currently 42 active communities in the Ordinariate served by 63 priests. Looked at from the perspective of 2,000 years of Church history, Fr. Perkins considers the growth of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47