

**Clockwise from top left:**

- Bishop Vann addresses his thanks to those present and to all across the diocese who have helped in the campaign.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers added flair to the celebration.
- Parish leaders from across the diocese greeted each other and shared in the joy of the campaign's success.
- Younger Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers seemed especially expressive.
- Father Stephen Jasso's All Saints Parish was among those honored for surpassing their ATP parish goals.



## Diocese celebrates *All Things Possible* campaign success, honors leaders, donors

Story and Photos by  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

As the Diocese of Fort Worth celebrated the massive success in its *All Things Possible* capital campaign, far surpassing its goal of \$40 million in pledges, Bishop Kevin Vann found it possible to see something else.

A group representative of the diverse leadership of the diocese, all significant participants in the fund-raising effort, had gathered in June for a prayer service and dinner reception in honor of the successful campaign. They sat in Fort Worth's Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall, a circle of tables facing their bishop, and he com-

pared them to a photograph.

"If we were going to get a photo of everybody here this evening," the bishop mused, "what a beautiful view it would be for me to look out and see all the people in front of me who truly are a symbol of our diocese together as a family."

SEE CELEBRATION, P. 22

## Catholic schools will open school year, mark close of 40th Anniversary with All Schools Mass



ONE  
in the Spirit

The Office of Catholic Schools has announced that Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at a special Mass of the Holy Spirit at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena, Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 11 a.m. to mark the close of the Fort Worth Diocese's 40th Anniversary year and to celebrate the opening of the new school year. More than 6,000 students from 19 diocesan schools will gather for the special Mass for all students in grades one through 12. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this celebration.

"This is a unique and wonderful opportunity not only for our children in Catholic schools, but

for the entire diocese as well," said Superintendent of Schools Don Miller.

A news release from the Schools Office says, "The first All Schools Liturgy was celebrated in 2006 and was a memorable, Spirit-filled experience for all who participated."

"Focusing on our theme, One in the Spirit, the 2010 liturgy gives us the opportunity as a body of believers to offer thanks and pray for our community and the success of the coming school year," Miller added.

For more information on the All Schools Liturgy, contact Tessy Ross at [tross@fwdioc.org](mailto:tross@fwdioc.org).

## Cardinal DiNardo praises HHS for reiterating abortion exclusion in health plans

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities praised the Department of Health and Human Services July 15 for reaffirming that no federal funds will be provided to cover elective abortions under state-run health insurance plans.

The statement came from Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston after HHS spokeswoman Jenny Backus said that "in Pennsylvania and in all other states, abortion will not be covered in the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan except in the cases of rape or incest, or where the life of the woman would be endangered."

The cardinal said the statement averted what could have been an "alarming precedent" and pointed up the need for a permanent law to exclude abortion from all programs under the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The HHS statement was issued after Pennsylvania officials announced that the state had received \$160 million in federal funds for its insurance program

covering those with pre-existing conditions.

Although an outline of the program says that "elective abortions will not be covered" under the program, another section states that coverage "includes only abortions and contraceptives that satisfy the requirements of" several Pennsylvania statutes. Under one of the cited statutes, abortion is permitted up to 24 weeks of pregnancy if a physician certifies that the abortion is necessary because of the woman's "physical, emotional, psychological (or) familial" circumstances or her age.

HHS' Backus said the abortion policy she outlined in her statement would apply to both state and federally run programs covering people with pre-existing conditions.

"We will reiterate this policy in guidance to those running the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan at both the state and federal levels," she added. "The contracts to operate the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan includes a requirement to follow all federal laws and guidance."

Cardinal DiNardo said he  
SEE CARDINAL, P. 13

## Bishops Vann and Farrell to confer papal honor on Fr. Michael Olson, Sept. 5

A Fort Worth diocesan priest whose 16-year history has brought him from his own ordination to the seminary formation of future priests, recently received a papal honor from His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI.

Monsignor Michael Olson, rector of Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, in late June was notified of his papal honor of Chaplain to His Holiness, with the title of reverend monsignor.

Bishop Kevin W. Vann and Bishop Kevin J. Farrell will formally confer the honor at a solemn Vespers celebration at St. Patrick Cathedral Sept. 5. The two



Father Michael Olson  
Rector, Holy Trinity Seminary

SEE HOLY TRINITY, P. 13

Embracing modern technology, 2010 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference challenges teens to

# Know, Love, and Serve

Story and Photos by  
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

When 14-year-old Lulu Rodriguez wanted to encourage her friends to attend this year's Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC), she used the best — and sometimes the only way — to contact today's teenagers. The Itasca High School sophomore sent out text messages.

"I would start off with a Bible verse," says the Our Lady of Mercy parishioner from Hillsboro who fires off about 100 texts a day from her cell phone. "I told my friends the weekend would be an eye-opener and bring them closer to God."

About 20 of her high school pals accepted the invitation and spent July 9-11 at the DFW Hyatt Regency Hotel. Along with 1,650 young people from across the Diocese of Fort Worth, they listened to motivational speakers, enjoyed rousing Christian music, and attended workshops designed to deepen faith and help build life skills.

"It was a great experience and we learned different ways of praying and worshiping God," remembers Rodriguez, recalling the youth conference's efforts to connect faith and technology. "Computers and phones are an easy way to connect with people, but now I know we can use them to talk to someone about God too."

Sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry, DCYC provides a time for junior high and high school youngsters to experience their Catholic faith, make new friends, and come away from the experience with a greater sense of the Church, the community, and who they are, according to Kevin Prevou, director of the Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry.

"Our theme, 'Know Love, Serve' (Micah 6:8) seemed to really connect with young people and our adult leaders," he says, noting that several of the 50 youth groups attending the event were first time participants. "Our DCYC annual



**CLOCKWISE FROM**

**LEFT:** Keynote speaker

ValLimar Jansen challenges participants to use their cell phones to build the kingdom of God. • A group of teens from St. Ann Church in Burleson hold out their cell phones during Jansen's talk. • Keynote speaker DJ Bill Lage talks about prayer as a conversation with God. • Boys from St. Mary Church in Windthorst sit on the steps in between workshops. • A group of teens from Our Lady of Mercy Church in Hillsboro move their arms to live music during the conference.

youth conference continues to grow thanks to God and all of the volunteer hours put in for months before the conference."

Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann celebrated Sunday Mass and visited with the youngsters during the weekend. A special booth set up by the diocesan Vocation Office provided teens with an opportunity to visit with seminarians and priests.

This year's list of workshops, talks, and musical performances tried to bring in aspects of the high tech world familiar to young people. One of the breakout sessions, given by a law enforcement official from the Cyber Safety Division of the Texas State Attorney General's Office, discussed the legal issues and offered guidance regarding sexting, cyber-bullying, and social networking sites.

"Because teens are so tied into electronics and technology for social networking, we do try to make deep connections in keynotes and workshops at DCYC," Prevou explained.

Keynote speaker ValLimar Jansen, who entertained the assembly with a theatrical version of the Jacob's Well Bible story and sang a soulful rendition of "Wade in the Water," during a Saturday afternoon address, surprised her young listeners when she suddenly asked them to pull out their cell phones. During the weekend, youth leaders had discouraged their young charges from using the devices.

"This is a tool that can be used to build up the kingdom of God and answer the spiritual and emotional needs of people," she told the audience.

As a sea of cells flickered in the darkened ballroom, the versatile performer asked God to bless the phones and then issued a challenge.

"Use your phone once a day to build up the body of Christ,"



Jansen urged. "Send one text, one e-mail, or make one phone call to someone who is hurting, lonely, or feels separated."

Understanding the nuances of youth culture, disc jockey Bill Lage wove together interactive music and storytelling to rally and inform youngsters about their Catholic faith.

"I became a DJ because I wanted to provide positive, clean music," explained Lage, a 15-year veteran of the industry. "I play secular songs everyone loves, but I make it more about interaction. I challenge them to be open to Christian music and look at things a little differently."

Meeting kids "where they're at" is key, he insisted. During a serious moment, the hip DJ told the throng of energetic teens and preteens how the power of prayer helped him deal with a bully in the fifth grade. To help the situation, his mother advised him to pray to God spontaneously, "like He's your friend. Make it real, different."

"So that's what I did, and God told me my prayers would be answered," he said. "The bully went away and the experience changed my life. God's had my back ever since."

Faith-filled talks from DJ Bill and the other speakers received rave reviews from members of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton youth group from Keller. Friends urged first-time participant Zach Co-

chran to come, and he brought along a buddy from his baseball team who isn't Catholic. The pair shadowed Sara Schaubhut and Margaret Crescioni who are veteran DCYC attendees. All agreed this year's DCYC exceeded expectations.

"They've really tried incorporating the modern world and technology we use and then bring it together with religion," Schaubhut pointed out. "They're talking about texting and music and Facebook. Facebook pages are everywhere now."

The weekend gave Zach Cochran a lot to think about.

"It's energized my faith and, now that I know what it's about, I can reach out to my friends and tell them to come next year," he said.

Gloria Rodriguez is counting on positive reviews from DCYC to boost participation in Our Lady of Mercy's new youth group. After a five-year effort by the religious education teacher, the Hillsboro parish launched a youth ministry program in 2009. This was the first time it sent a contingent of teenag-



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner Robert Fitzpatrick learns about vocations from seminarians Stephen Hauck (far right) and Daniel Cochran.

ers to the diocesan event.

"I think the kids realize what they've been missing all these years," explained Gloria, who chaperoned 25 youngsters including her daughter, Lulu Rodriguez. "I've enjoyed watching the fellowship. Our kids are building new relationships outside their comfort zone."

The youth leader hopes the weekend cements her parish's fledgling youth ministry and strengthens the faith of its members.

"I want them to come away from DCYC with a deeper understanding of their religion and the kind of relationship they are going to build with God," she added. "The kids are loving the experience and I'm excited."

## Vocations

# Diocese's School of Lay Ministry opens registration for new student enrollment

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

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

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

Those who plan to enter the School of Lay Ministry's first-year program in September should submit an application with their respective pastor's signature. First-year classes in English will be offered at The Catholic Center on some Wednesday evenings, and in Spanish usually on the last Saturday of the month. There will also be an Internet option for those who have difficulty attending classes.

The academic year will begin with joint assemblies for first-



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

Parishioners looking to become lay ecclesial ministers or current lay ministers who desire updated training may contact Fr. Carmen Mele, OP, at the diocesan Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300 ext. 262. An information sheet and an application form have also been sent to every pastor in the diocese and are available on the diocesan website at [www.fwdioc.org/catechesis/pjp2\\_institute/school\\_lay\\_min/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fwdioc.org/catechesis/pjp2_institute/school_lay_min/Pages/default.aspx).

*Responding to God's Call*

## Finding fruitful marriages

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Everyone in the community and the family looks forward to the wedding day of a young couple. However, before we ring the church bells, let us be well-prepared as a community, a family, an engaged couple, and as singles considering marriage so that the hopes and dreams anticipated on their wedding day will be not only met but exceeded through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Last month I spoke about the need of our Vocations Office to begin using new communications to reach our parishioners on a daily basis. On my Facebook page, I recently asked married women the following question to help out the single ladies looking into the vocation of marriage: What qualities should a woman look for in a future husband? Below are 10 very diverse responses from women that will be of great value in helping the community, the family, and singles dating to determine if a couple is complementary for a happy and holy marriage.

- "First, of course, a strong faith. Then, look at the way he treats his mom/sisters. And an ability to sacrifice for the good of others."
- "How does he get along with your parents and family? What do they think of him? We often want whatever our parents don't, but those who love us have our best interest at heart and see things we don't. Trust your instincts AND your loved ones' instincts. Remember that you CAN'T change another's character."

- "Look for someone who loves the Lord, and who can be your best friend. If you don't get along before you get married, you won't get along afterward! I am so blessed that my husband is also my best friend! Also, look for a guy who is willing to wait until marriage for physical intimacy — you are worth waiting for, and a man who truly loves you will agree!"

- "Be sure that he is KIND and RESPECTFUL. Those two qualities go a LONG way!!! My husband has never raised his voice to me or ever made me feel like I am less than an amazing woman. And I'm a hard one to live with!! He doesn't have to use 'scare tactics' to get his point across. He says what he needs to say lovingly and patiently. Remember what the Bible teaches us about how husbands should love their wives."

- "You ought to wait... (for physical intimacy) while you strengthen your faith and rely on the Lord to bring the man to you. That way, your perfect man will be the one God plans for you. Then you'll have your perfect 'God' mate."

- "His relationship with God comes first, you are always a close second."

- "Tall, dark, and handsome with a good salary... doesn't cut it!! Is he good with children? Do you trust him? Does he make you laugh? When you are sick, does he do something to make you feel better?"

- "First of all, ladies, ditch the myth of the Aisle Change Hymn. Then look for faith in God, dependability, honesty, shared values and religious beliefs, trustworthiness, emotional stability, and the ability to be your best friend, as well as your lover. After all, you are trusting your future husband not only with your heart but with your very soul."

- "Does he know the Blessed Mother? What is his favorite image of her? This can be a beginning insight to how he sees women. I would want to know his commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Magisterium, and to the Church. I think a real woman shows a

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations, is shown walking out of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster following his ordination to the priesthood in May 2002. Even then, he appeared to be inviting people to ask if they were being called to a vocation.

man what is expected of him. To know Mary is a great way to begin inner transformation so that we may give our Fiat as she did."

- "Since the Church teaches us that the two purposes of marriage are, first, to help one another get to heaven and, second, to procreate and get all the munchkins to heaven, he needs to have a holy, healthy, happy faith. He needs to understand his role as husband and father to the best of his ability before marriage. (He will learn day by day within marriage.) He can't give what he doesn't have. If he has that kind of faith, all the things above will be there because he will know protecting your soul and the souls of your children are his mission, even unto death."

I have added a few other questions into the mix to help round out the criteria. Do the two of you talk about God? Can you speak openly about your faith in Jesus Christ? Does he respect your opinion? Do you pray together? Does he ever seek forgiveness? Does he forgive you when you seek forgiveness? Does he enjoy time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and an hour at Mass on Sundays? If he doesn't respect the Lord, what makes you think he will respect you? If he's not meeting the overwhelming criteria from above, then he's not the godly man you want for marriage, and it's time to press the "dump" button.

Whether married or single, I believe we owe it to our community to strive for holiness and maturity, holding one another accountable so that young married couples and future marriages will, with the grace of Christ, provide true love for each other and for their children and withstand the many storms that have destroyed marriages in the past. What God has joined, man must not divide.

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



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

## 'Rebuilding' program to be held at St. Andrew Parish

Rebuilding, a divorce and separation recovery program will be offered at St. Andrew Parish, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. The 12-week program is designed to provide support in a safe and nurturing environment where healing can begin. The program offers a step-by-step process that can make divorce recovery easier and less traumatic. The next program will be held Monday evenings, Aug. 30 through Nov. 22, from 7 to 9 p.m.

To register, call the parish office at (817) 927-5383. Childcare is available with reservations made at least 48 hours in advance. For reservations, call (817) 924-6581.

## Annual Rosary Congress to be held Aug. 15-21 at Holy Redeemer

The annual Rosary Congress, sponsored by Apostolatus Uniti and hosted by Holy Redeemer Parish, 16250 Old Weatherford Rd., Aledo, will be held Aug. 15-21. The upcoming congress is open to all ministries, all apostolates, and groups in the diocese. The Rosary Congress is a seven-day novena with Adoration and prayer.

The first Rosary Congress in the United States was held in 1988 in the National Shrine Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. Many Marian organizations came together to begin this project under the direction of John Downs.

For more information on this year's congress or to commit to a certain hour of Adoration, call Kim Ball at (817) 294-5579 or Cris Mendoza at (817) 732-4046. For more information on the history of the Rosary Congress and a daily schedule of the week of the congress, visit "Rosary Congress - 2010" at [www.apostolatusuniti.com](http://www.apostolatusuniti.com).

## Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

## Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics meets fourth Thursday each month

The next regular meeting of The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry With Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Thursday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503

## Beginning Experience weekend to be offered Aug. 6-8

A Beginning Experience weekend will be offered Aug. 6-8 at the Catholic Renewal Center, located at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. Beginning Experience is a peer ministry for separated, divorced, or widowed individuals and offers a weekend program to help participants move from the darkness of their grief into the light of a new beginning and move into the future with renewed hope. It helps deal with the natural grief process and offers an opportunity, through God, for turning the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. While this ministry is rooted in the Catholic tradition, it is open to men and women of all faiths, including non-Christians.

To register, call the metro number (972) 601-4091 or e-mail the DFW Beginning Experience Team at [dfwbe@hotmail.com](mailto:dfwbe@hotmail.com). Additional information can be found on the local Web site at [www.beginningexperiencedfw.org](http://www.beginningexperiencedfw.org). For mail correspondence the address is Beginning Experience, 6387B Camp Bowie Blvd. Suite B343, Fort Worth, TX 76116.

## Divorce Care program to be offered at St. Paul Parish

St. Paul the Apostle Church, located at 5508 Black Oak Lane in River Oaks, is sponsoring DivorceCare and DC4K, Thursday evenings beginning Aug. 26, through Nov. 18. The sessions will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This 13-week program is designed to assist individuals who have experienced the pain of divorce or separation and are ready to begin the healing process in order to move ahead with their lives and is open to anyone going through or who has completed the divorce process. The facilitators have been trained in the program, have attended "Keeping Children Safe," and because the facilitators have already been through the process themselves, can offer their compassion and understanding to guide participants. Although the program is a scripture-based program, it is not a Bible study. Children over the age of 12 may attend the adult session.

A companion program DC4K (Divorce Care for Kids) is being offered simultaneously for children ages 5-12. Pre-registration is preferred. For more information and to register, contact Stephanie Ayala at (817) 239-1297 or [sayala3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sayala3@sbcglobal.net) or Deacon Ron Azieze at (817) 738-9925 or [ron@stpaulfw.org](mailto:ron@stpaulfw.org).

Bridge St., Fort Worth.

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



**AUXILIARY TO DISCALCED CARMELITE NUNS** — The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns presented a check for \$20,000 to Rev. Mother Maria (center), Sister Frances Terese (left) and Mother Ann Terese (right). Proceeds from the auxiliary's fund-raising activities, dues, and donations make this annual gift to the nuns possible. The auxiliary members present were (standing left to right) Sheila Galis, Cathy Lancaster, Sara Jane O'Brien, Sheila Palagi, (seated) Karen Hull, and Kathy Thome. For more information about the auxiliary, contact Connie Meyer at (817) 577-4556.

### NTC submission deadline

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

Submit items to [jrusseau@fwdioc.org](mailto:jrusseau@fwdioc.org). Items for the Aug. 20 issue must be received by noon on Aug. 11.

## Celebrant Singers to hold concert at St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Church will offer a free concert featuring Celebrant Singers, an internationally-known Christian music group, Sunday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. A freewill offering will be accepted for their ministry.

Immediately following the concert, Celebrant Singers will hold auditions for future ministry teams including a new group for the "over 40 crowd" next year. The new group, called Reprise!, will specialize in short term, 21-day outreaches in the U.S. and overseas. Jon Stemkoski states in the promotion material, "Hundred's of excellent and dedicated musicians over 40 approach me at Celebrant Singers concerts every year saying, 'What've you got for us?' So we're responding. We're looking for vocalists, brass, woodwinds, strings, keyboards, rhythm players, technicians, bus drivers, and interpreters for the hearing impaired, for Celebrants and our newest venture, Reprise!" For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 478-8206.

St. Vincent de Paul Church is located at 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. Arlington.

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

Partners In Ministry and Spirituality will present "Searching for God in our lives - the 'new' old story," facilitated by Sisters Kay Kolb and Pat Miller, SSND, along with Ray and Christy Szempruch. All are invited to participate in an eight-month program of finding the Spirit of God in Jesus, in prayer, Scripture, the sacraments, revelations of today, and the community of the church.

The program is designed for "those who are on a spiritual quest, who see the critical issues of our time, and who are open to explore their own call to discipleship in Jesus," according to program materials.

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

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

## Hospital Ministry training to be offered Sept. 11-12

Training for hospital ministry will be offered Sept. 11-12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. This training, sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth Hospital Ministry, is open to all who visit the homebound or those in hospice or local hospital ministry.

The program is designed to give participants basic knowledge, skills, and guidelines for care ministry, plus diocesan and local hospital guidelines for visiting the sick. Instructors for this training will consist of the Directors of Pastoral Care from several of the hospitals in the area, as well as diocesan staff. A training manual will be provided for each participant as well as selected resource material. Lunch on both days will be provided. Mass will also be offered on Sunday for participants.

For more information or reservations, contact Deacon Bruce Corbett at (817) 880-5479 or [bcorbett@fwdioc.org](mailto:bcorbett@fwdioc.org).

## Second annual women's conference to be held Aug. 28

The second annual Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference, sponsored by Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, will be held Saturday, Aug. 28 at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman, Oklahoma. The theme of this year's conference is "Moving Forward In Faith, Hope and Love." Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and close with Mass at 5:30 p.m. Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City will be the principle celebrant and homilist with Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa concelebrating at the closing Mass.

The Keynote speaker will be Bishop Edward J. Slattery. During the morning session Bishop Slattery will speak on "Praying with the Icons." The bishop's topic for the afternoon session will be "The Little Way of St. Therese." Special guest speaker, Tim Staples, an apologist, of Catholic Answers and EWTN, will address the assembly both in the morning and afternoon sessions on "Saved by Faith Alone or Faith, Hope and Charity" and "The Eucharist-God's Extravagant Love Revealed." Other speakers and a priest panel will also be featured at the assembly.

Donations from Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference 2010 will benefit "Water for Life" through Catholic Relief Services.

Registration cost is \$40. A box lunch will be provided for \$10. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://okaccw.tripod.com/woa/index.html>. For general information contact Chris Thomas at [thomaschrisL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomaschrisL@sbcglobal.net) or call (405) 306-5187.

## Cardinal Newman Institute to offer fall course

In recognition of Cardinal John Henry Newman's beatification by Pope Benedict XIV the Cardinal Newman Institute is pleased to offer a five-week course on Saturdays, starting Aug. 28 on The Life and Writings of John Henry Cardinal Newman. The two-credit course will be held in the library at the College of St. Thomas More (CSTM), 3013 Lubbock St., Fort Worth, near TCU. The classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 28, Sept. 11, 18, and 25 and Oct. 9. Each class will include an "on your own" lunch break. The instructors will be Dr. James Patrick, founder and chancellor of CSTM, and Dr. Patrick Foley, professor, historian, and editor.

The cost for the course is \$200, with half payable at the first class. There is an additional charge for books.

For more information, including pre-registration, contact the Institute at (817) 277-4859 or [cninfo@yahoo.com](mailto:cninfo@yahoo.com).

## Seminarian Welcome Dinner to be held Oct. 5

The 2010 Seminarian Welcome Dinner will be held Oct. 5 at the Fairmont Dallas, 1717 N. Akard, Dallas. The reception will begin at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The evening will include a Wine Pull, silent auction, keynote speaker, and priest prize packages. For more information or reservations, call (972) 438.2212 or visit [www.holytrinityseminary.com](http://www.holytrinityseminary.com).

## John Tenny awarded rank of Eagle Scout



John Tenny

John Tenny was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor for achievement, at his Court of Honor on April 3 held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Denton. Tenny is a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Denton and is a member of Troop 65, which is chartered by First United Methodist Church of Denton. He is the son of Michael and Sue Tenny of Krum and is a junior at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth.

For his Eagle project, Tenny built new picnic benches and repaired existing benches for St. Mark Church. After designing the benches, Tenny received approval for the design and placement of the benches and recruited other Scouts to help build, paint, and place the benches.

## Funeral director Guy Thompson, known for service to Catholic community, dies at 90

Story and Photo by  
Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

When Roger Kersten first met with Guy Thompson, "My job interview consisted of going to a funeral with him. We were going to St. Francis Village."

Kersten is now Harveson and Cole's funeral director with the most seniority — 25 years — but then he was a 24-year-old from Nebraska, and had no idea where Mr. Thompson was taking him on this drive. "I thought he might be taking me somewhere and dropping me off," Kersten joked.

"As we drove that day he would point things out — homes of people he had served, families who lived there, what each person did." During that drive the man who would be his boss taught Kersten a truism that set Guy Thompson apart from others in his profession.

"He taught me, 'You're not just doing a funeral,'" Kersten explained. "'You're serving someone who is part of the community where we all live. You're part of the knit of the whole society.'"

Guy Thompson, a Fort Worth icon, died Sunday, July 18, 2010, at the age of 90, but not before teaching Kersten the delicate, fine traditions of funeral directing, and not before influencing most of his children, and some grandchildren, to work in the family business.

Paul Joseph Bernardy, son of Teacy Thompson Bernardy, and husband Paul, both employed by Harveson and Cole, said, "I worked at the funeral home on and off for three to four years.

"When I worked for my grandfather, I would deliver flowers, and people would talk about the care he gave them in the tough times of their lives. How many lives he affected!

"Yesterday I was shopping for a shirt like one my grandfather wore, so I took a picture of him wearing it, and showed the clerk. She talked for 20 minutes about how he affected her family's life. That is the epitome of my grandfather on a professional level: He did not have to be a minister or a doctor. As a funeral director he impacted so many lives.

"My grandfather, if not the most, is the second-most influential person in my life," Paul Joseph Bernardy said, "along with my father."

Professionally Mr. Thompson also influenced his son Tim,



This photo of Guy Thompson and his wife, Kathleen, was taken at her birthday Mass at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth.

who is a priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth. His vocation was nourished by parents Guy and Kathleen, with their family's ritual of Sunday Mass and breakfast together.

"But also I remember when I was going to the seminary," said Fr. Tim, who currently serves as pastor of St. Mark Church in Denton. "Dad told me there might be difficult times, but never to base any decisions on a particular problem, but on what I knew to be true.

"He wanted me to know no matter what I decided, he would support me and wanted me to be happy. It was good direction. I did find times that were difficult, but I did not quit."

Mr. Thompson grew up in Fort Worth. He worked a variety of jobs, but decided to volunteer at a funeral home to influence them to hire him. It worked. He graduated from funeral directors' school then entered the Navy and worked as a head hospital corpsman.

"He was a giant of a man," said Sister Frances Evans, C.C.V.I. "His compassion was unbelievable. I don't care whether you were a person off the street — because Guy has had me come here to pray with street people whom he later buried. That's the kind of fellow he was."

"He was always kind and protective," said Cindy Thompson, Harveson and Cole president, who named her son after her father.

"One of my proudest moments was when I gave birth to Guy," she said, through tears, "and I introduced him to Dad. I had Guy in my arms and I said, 'Dad, this is Guy Thompson.'

"He was surprised and so pleased. He took a paper towel out of the bathroom and wrote me a note that I still have in Guy's book.

Sr. Frances visited Mr. Thompson Saturday night, and prayed with him hours before his death. "I could tell he would not make it through the night," she said.

After his death it was Roger Kersten — 25 years earlier a student — who prepared his mentor's body.

"It was difficult," he said. "I cried as we carried him out of the house. I cried coming down the hallway. But when we got to the preparation area my mind switched gears.

"OK," I thought, "it's now time to put into effect everything he has instilled in us, and do the best we can.

"Surprisingly, my eyes cleared up," Kersten said, sadly, resignedly. And I thought, "Well wow! OK, thanks."

## Former prison minister for diocese, Sister Mercedes Kiely, SHSp, dies at 83

Sister Mercedes Kiely died peacefully at Holy Spirit Convent in San Antonio July 6. Sr. Mercedes was born in San Francisco, California Jan. 8, 1927. She joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate in 1945.

Sr. Mercedes received her Bachelor of Science in English from St. Mary's University and her Master of Education from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. She completed her Clinical Pastoral Education from Harris County District Hospital in Houston.

During her years of ministry Sr. Mercedes served as a prison minister at the Federal Medical Center, at Carswell Air Force Base, and at the Fort Worth County Jail. She also served as prison minister in San Mateo, California and at Bexar County Adult Detention Center in San Antonio. In addition, she taught in schools of the Congregation in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

Sr. Mercedes was preceded in death by her parents, six brothers, and one sister. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Patience Kiely, several nieces and nephews, and numerous



Sr. Mercedes Kiely, SHSp

friends.

All services were held at Holy Spirit Convent, 300 Yucca St., San Antonio. Reception of the body with evening prayer took place July 6, at 5 p.m. The wake service, with recitation of the Rosary, was held at 7 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at 5 p.m. July 7.

Contributions in tribute to Sister Mercedes may be made to the Ministries of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, 300 Yucca St., San Antonio, TX, 78203.

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# Diocese takes steps to make Natural Family Planning part of marriage prep curriculum

**NFP is currently required in 13 parishes; July is NFP Awareness Month**

By Juan Guajardo  
Correspondent

**B**illings Ovulation Method. Couple-to-Couple Sympto-Thermal Method. Creighton Model FertilityCare System. Those monikers make Natural Family Planning (NFP) seem, to say the least, difficult.

But it's really not, says Marlon De La Torre, diocesan director of Family Life.

"It's not that difficult," De La Torre said. "You don't have to be scientist or biologist."

In an interview this week, Tony Abadie, diocesan coordinator of Natural Family Planning said, "It's kind of funny because it's never really defined by anybody, but NFP is simply using a woman's recordable signs of fertility to find out whether she's infertile or fertile on any given day of the month, as opposed to the rhythm method which is just a guess about fertility."

And the facts don't lie, Abadie said. All three methods of Natural Family Planning taught in the diocese: Billings, Sympto-Thermal, and Creighton, are proven to be up to 99 percent effective in spacing births or achieving pregnancy. And they're all in line with the Church's teaching on sanctity of life and marriage and the landmark papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

"As opposed to contra-

ception," he continued, "it's true family planning because it allows you to achieve or postpone, whereas contraception only allows you to do one thing. Plus, it doesn't violate the covenant God gave us because the people that use NFP are still being fruitful in their marriage; they're still giving themselves totally and fruitfully to each other."

The benefits stem beyond that though, and that's what has stirred the Office of Family Life and Bishop Kevin Vann to increase the promotion of NFP and consider making it an educational requirement for engaged couples seeking to get married in the diocese, Abadie added. It's soon to become a component in Pre-Cana classes too, with participants getting a "snippet of what the science is behind NFP, so that hopefully they'll be encouraged to take the class," he said.

"In the past we've done a lot of education; we've never required it," Abadie explained. "Now we're in that mode of actually going 'OK, now push comes to shove; We need to start pushing people. They need to learn now.'"

Bishop Vann's goal is to have all parishes require NFP for engaged couples, Abadie said. The diocese is currently working toward that goal with the start of the Pilot Parish Program which requires certain parishes to mandate NFP classes for engaged couples and will help Abadie and the NFP committee make sure a diocesan-wide program will work smoothly. Currently 13 parishes require NFP before marriage.

"Over these next five years we'll be expanding into more and more parishes and trying to get more of them online, until the whole diocese requires it," Abadie explained.

And he has seen firsthand that NFP is not a bad thing to learn. For Abadie, who originally did not use NFP in his

marriage, it brought peace to his marriage, chastity, and better communication.

"There's a lot that changed in our marriage," he said.

National Natural Family Planning Awareness week, an initiative by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, starts July 25 and ends on July 31. Already, Abadie has placed ads in parish bulletins and arranged a noon radio interview on July 26 on KATH 910 AM for the start of Awareness week. And he's looking into the possibility of increasing evangelization not just for parishioners, but also for priests.

Abadie also invites anyone interested in NFP, or teaching NFP to visit the diocesan link at [www.fwdioc.org/ministries/familylife/](http://www.fwdioc.org/ministries/familylife/).

## NFP Testimonials

Below are personal testimonies from several NFP instructors around the diocese about the important role the practice played in their lives.

### Scott and Amy Rustand (CCL Instructors)

"Looking back, we can now see how we were both stuck in this cycle of self-gratification. NFP taught us how to be selfless, instead of selfish.

"I thought I was pro-life. NFP taught me what it really meant to be pro-life.\*

"When we were using contraception, we thought we were in control, but little did we know that the medication was in control of us, affecting not only our fertility but our emotions."

\*The use of artificial contraceptives go against pro-life values because it is actively using abortifacient drugs to manipulate family size.

### Bill and Mary Kouba (CCL Instructors / Supervisors)

"I experienced my husband's rejection of my fertility as a personal rejection. I felt used rather than loved. Once we embraced God's design for marriage, we experienced a new freedom and peace in our relationship."



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## Diocesan

# New diocesan Marriage and Family Life director hopes to serve as a bridge to evangelize across cultures

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent

Marlon De La Torre, who joins the staff of the Diocese of Fort Worth as the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life, is the picture of an all-American boy. The son of a salesman and a stay-at-home mother, he grew up working his grandfather's farm during weekends, holidays, and vacations, while working hard at school playing basketball and trying to make the grade.

"My mother knew that an education was the key for all of us," De La Torre recalls. "Even though she hadn't been educated beyond high school when my brothers and sister and I were growing up, she insisted that we read, study, and try to get the best grades. This was always her motivating speech to us."

The twist to De La Torre's story is that it isn't set in the bucolic American Midwest, but on the

California/Mexico border.

"I was born in Calexico, California, and raised in El Centro," De La Torre said. "It's so close to the Mexico border, there's almost no distinguishable difference between the two countries. Just about everyone spoke two languages and we coexisted in a culturally mixed environment." With his mother's extended family in nearby Avenida Nuevo Leon, Mexico, De La Torre grew up not so much traveling between two worlds as embracing the way different aspects of seemingly disparate worlds came together in him.

"I'm not going to say there was no tension," De La Torre is quick to interject. "For example, in a traditional Mexican family like mine, the oldest son — that's me — would typically stay home and take care of the family after high school, but I wanted to go to college. My mother was pleased, but

my father merely acquiesced."

Encouraged by his high school basketball coach and mentor, Dennis Jacobelli, De La Torre moved forward in pursuing his desire to continue his education. He asked Jacobelli to recommend Catholic universities and chose The Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio.

"It was the furthest away from home," De La Torre says matter-of-factly. "And I wanted to broaden my range of experiences."

By the time he emerged with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology, a Bachelor of Science in mental health and human services, and a wife, De La Torre's range of experiences had certainly been broadened. As he and wife Amy welcomed 3 children — first Miguel, now 11, then Gabriella, now 8, and Maria, now 5 — De La Torre would continue to expand his horizons by earning a Master of



Marlon De La Torre

Arts in Theology and Catechesis and in Education Administration while beginning his career within the Church.

"Mr. Jacobelli instilled in me a deep love for the Church. He was a strong, Catholic male role

model. He lived his faith and was an authentic human being," said De La Torre.

Fidelity to God and passion for the faith are traits De La Torre continues to uphold as he takes on the duties as director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life here in the Diocese of Fort Worth. He will administer programs in both English and Spanish, once again bringing together both parts of a man who belongs fully to each whole.

"I see it as a merger between cultures in which the unifying force for both is Catholicism. This office is representative of the dynamic of our faith that is one, holy, catholic, apostolic," explains De La Torre. "My response is to make these things co-exist in one place. In the end, our faithfulness as Catholics is our unification."

After all, the "Torre" in De La Torre means "bridge."

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# Bishop says revised norms expand ways church responds to sex abuse

By Dennis Sadowski  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The revised procedures governing the handling of clerical sexual abuse cases give church officials stronger tools for aiding victims and for disciplining wayward priests, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

Bishop Blase J. Cupich said bishops around the world have definitive rules for handling abuse cases and other serious violations of church law under the procedures, known as norms in church parlance.

"The new norms go beyond the 'Essential Norms' (adopted in 2002 by the U.S. bishops). They include other aspects of the crime of sexual abuse, for instance vulnerable adults, and pornography. They also allow for the quick adjudication of these cases," Bishop Cupich said during a conference call with reporters at the headquarters of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The changes have been in the works for months and were approved by Pope Benedict XVI May 21. They formalize many existing

*"This shows that child sexual abuse is a major crime under church law as well as civil laws."*

— Diane M. Knight  
Chairs the National Review Board

church practices involving clergy sexual abuse while raising the seriousness of offenses by clergy who use child pornography as well as those accused of abusing adults with physical or mental disabilities.

Other changes announced by the Vatican upgrade the seriousness of offenses related to the attempted ordination of women and the recording of confessions. They confirm that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith can judge cardinals, patriarchs, and bishops accused of "more grave crimes." Qualified lay Catholics also are permitted to

serve on tribunals that deal with sex abuse cases.

The changes do not lessen the requirement that church officials work with law enforcement to report cases of abuse and the use of child pornography, said Bishop Cupich, head of the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota, who will be installed as bishop of Spokane, Washington, Sept. 3.

"This document has to be taken in consideration with the other documents that have already been released ... on the website for the Holy See, which calls for cooperation with civil officials. Since the time of St. Paul, Christians are called to obey the civil law. That really is fundamental here in regard to abuse. They must act in a way that is best for victims and the church," he said.

Bishop Cupich also said it is likely that more abuse victims will come forward "from the past" because the revised norms include a provision extending the statute of limitations from 10 to 20 years after a sex abuse victim's 18th birthday.

"We would hope, in fact, that the occasion of the release of this document will be another opportunity for any victim to come

forward for healing, for justice in the life of the church," he said. "The publicity has to be aimed at inviting victims to come forward for healing."

Before taking questions from reporters, Bishop Cupich read a prepared statement in which he said the revisions indicate that the church views child sexual abuse as a serious offense.

"By putting child sexual abuse by clergy in the same context as the safeguarding of the sacraments, the church is making it clear that such misconduct violates the core values of our faith and worship," he said.

The announcement was welcomed by various observers, who said the revisions formalize practices already followed by the church. They said the revisions will help the church in handling allegations of abuse and other serious violations of canon law.

"It's a natural development," said Mercy Sister Sharon Euart, executive coordinator of the Canon Law Society of America in Washington. "When the norms were first promulgated in 2001, it was clear they would have to be revised and considered over time.

"This is ... consistent with the seriousness with which the (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) takes the implementation of these norms," she added.

Diane M. Knight, who chairs the National Review Board, which oversees the U.S. bishops' compliance with the national sexual abuse and child protection policies they adopted in June 2002, called the revisions "a big step forward."

"Here in the U.S., the bishops had the 'Essential Norms' to guide them," she told Catholic News Service from Milwaukee. "But there was not that kind of clarity for other bishops around the world.

"This shows that child sexual abuse is a major crime under church law as well as civil laws," she said.

The Swiss Bishops' Conference, which toughened its guidelines on clergy sexual abuse in June, said in a statement that the Vatican's stance backed its own position.

"Sexual violence is a crime, and sexual violence against children is a particularly heinous crime. It must have no place in the church," the statement said.

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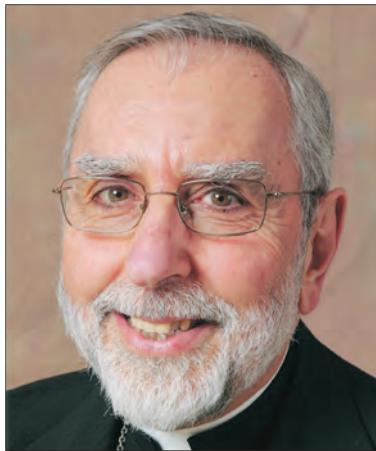
## Diocesan

# Bishop Kicanas urges U.S. to treat immigration as humanitarian issue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told lawmakers on Capitol Hill that the problem of immigration should not be dissected as an economic issue, but as a humanitarian one. Bishop Kicanas made the remarks July 14 before the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.

"The current immigration law we have today fails to meet the moral test of dignity to the human person," said Bishop Kicanas, whose diocese runs along the whole of the Arizona-Mexico border. Referring to a tough new law passed April 23 in Arizona but not expected to take effect until July 29, he said it was "only providing a Band-Aid unless new federal laws are made."

He made a clear distinction between those coming to the United States to work and those coming to do the nation harm. "From a moral perspective, we cannot



Bishop Gerald Kicanas

accept the toil of immigrants without providing them protection," Bishop Kicanas said.

The bishop made several points about what comprehensive immigration reform should include. A new immigration law should "honor the rule of law and help restore it by requiring 11 million undocumented to pay a fine, pay back taxes, learn English and get in the back of the line," the bishop said. "We believe this (is) a proportionate penalty."

# Settlement reached in abuse accusation

*Editor's Note: The following news release regarding settlement of a claim against the diocese involving Rudy Renteria was issued June 10 by the Diocese of Fort Worth:*

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has reached a settlement agreement through mediation of a claim brought against the Diocese by a person who was allegedly abused by Rudy Renteria.

At the request of the victim, the Diocese will not disclose the identity of the individual or details of the settlement. The incident occurred while Renteria was assigned to St. Matthew Catholic Church in Arlington in 1979-1981.

Bishop Kevin Vann expressed regret for the incident.

"I am deeply sorry for any sexual abuse that any individual may have endured and suffered by Renteria or any person connected with the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. I am deeply ashamed and truly sorry. I pray that healing and reconciliation can be achieved in your life. I have previously stated that such actions are a sin and a crime."

Bishop Vann emphasizes that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth

will address any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible.

"As I have stated in the past and want to reiterate now, I am committed to making sure the Diocese's policies are adhered to in order to prevent future tragedy such as that which has befallen the victims of abuse," he said.

The Diocese has been in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People's requirements in every audit conducted since its passage in 2002. An audit by an independent auditing firm hired by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was last done in Fall 2007. The Diocese was found in compliance with the Charter requirements.

The Diocese, in accordance with its policies, has actively sought victims of abuse in parishes where Renteria was assigned. Renteria was assigned to St. Matthew Catholic Church in Arlington in 1979-1981; Sacred Heart in Wichita Falls in 1981-1982; Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church in Vernon. St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crowell and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Quanah in 1982-1985; St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Lewisville in

1985-1987; Holy Family Catholic Church in Fort Worth in 1987-1989 and the hospital ministry in Fort Worth and as hospital chaplain at St. Paul's Hospital in Dallas in 1989-2002.

Renteria was removed from active ministry on June 29, 2002 by the late Bishop Joseph Delaney. Bishop Vann has petitioned the Vatican to laicize Renteria, which is a process to return him to lay status. The request is pending.

The Diocese of Fort Worth asks that anyone who has either witnessed or has suffered sexual abuse by anyone who serves the Church to come forward so that the individual and the Church can continue the healing process. To report abuse to the civil authorities, call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at 1-800-252-5400. To report abuse to the Diocese of Fort Worth call Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 817-560-2452, ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org. Persons also can call the sexual abuse hotline, 817-560-2452, ext. 900. Or call The Catholic Center 817-560-2452, ext. 102 and ask for the Chancellor, Father E. James Hart.

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# Viewpoints

## A lesson for the secular humanists: Facts don't save

By David Mills

**F**ree Inquiry is a magazine in whose title the word "free" seems to mean freedom from having to include God in their inquiries, but not the freedom to include Him.

The magazine is published by the Council for Secular Humanism, and as their homepage says, "The Council promotes rational, human-based viewpoints on important social and ethical issues. In particular, it tackles issues where traditional religion obstructs the right to self-determination, for example, freedom of choice in sexual relationships, reproduction, and voluntary euthanasia."

A few days ago a press release arrived touting an article in the latest edition of *Free Inquiry* titled "We are All African!" The subtitle asked, "Can scientific proof of our commonality save us?"

The article argued that science had proved that all human beings have a common ancestor in Africa millions of years ago, and that this should make us treat each other better. "A scientific understanding of the origin of our species can offer real hope for humanity," said the source quoted in the release. "It reveals greater insight into human com-

monality irrespective of individual or group definitions of religious origins."

The press release then summarized the writer's "moral message" with a quote from the article itself: "We are all African. With these four words, we see a genetic coalescence of the entire human population.... We are equal, for we have been liberated from any self-imposed ideas of importance or special designation. We see that racism is a human invention. It is a social construct with lingering natural biases — leftover baggage from our mammalian xenophobic tendencies. We no longer need to segregate and distinguish ourselves through the use of artificial inventions of importance whether politically, philosophically, or religiously motivated."

The article is written in an eager, excited, and even religious way. It is, after all, about salvation and hope for humanity, as the magazine itself says. And it's one of the more pathetic examples of its genre.

You have a writer, obviously well-meaning and earnest, who has seen a real problem, and thinks that getting everyone to agree on a scientific fact will somehow solve it. (Though even he, near the end of the article, admits "It may be just wishful thinking.")

But why in the world would the bigot care that millions of year ago he shared with everyone else a common ancestor? He's a bigot because he compares himself to the people he dislikes now, because now they have a different skin

**J**udaism and Christianity both declare that our common ancestry is not just a fact but the act of the God who judges us. If we'll ignore God, and we've been doing so since Adam, we'll certainly ignore the scientists.

color or language or national origin or social class or belief system or whatever difference he's chosen to make himself feel superior.

If millennia of belief that "God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" hasn't kept people from treating each other horribly, a simple fact by itself certainly isn't going to. Judaism and Christianity both declare that our common ancestry is not just a fact but the act of the God who judges us. If we'll ignore God, and we've been doing so since Adam, we'll certainly ignore the

scientists.

Are you going to run up to the white-robed leader of the lynch mob with the rope in his hand and say, "Excuse me, but don't you know that you and he both came from Africa millions of years ago? You're brothers! Just give him a hug! Take him home to meet the wife and kids!" It's not going to happen.

Many secular gospels go like this. They want to find good reason for people to treat each other well. They want a "real hope for humanity," as the writer says, even if the hope only gives hope for our life in this world. That's just human, to want what religion offers.

But to get the hope they want, they have to leave out the horrible reality of human sinfulness. They have to pretend that man is not as bad as he is. So they pin their hope on a fact, as if — despite the massive evidence of human history and of our own lives — knowing a fact will make people better.

Christianity begins with the clear-eyed knowledge of what we're really like. It sees the good (we are created in the image of God, after all) and the bad. It doesn't try to fool us into thinking the answer to human wickedness is easy and can be found in a textbook. It points us to a Cross.

*David Mills is author of DISCOVERING MARY and deputy editor of FIRST THINGS. He and his family attend St. Joseph's Church in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. He can be reached at catholicense@gmail.com.*

## Life wasn't meant to be lived on autopilot

By Mary Morrell

*"For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God."*  
— 1 Corinthians 2:11-12

**R**ecently I've discovered that as my car ages, it seems to operate more and more on autopilot.

Just last week, we made it half way to my office though I haven't worked there in eight months. I guess cars sometimes succumb to the same challenges as people. At least, that's the excuse I'd like to use, especially when I've reached my destination absentmindedly, having little

to no recollection of the journey.

In truth, I'll admit the tendency to go through life on autopilot is strong. Maybe because it's safe. Maybe because it's comfortable. No matter the reason, I've been told I'm not alone in letting large chunks of time go by without asking the important questions: Who am I really? What makes me happy? How can I leave the world a better place? What do I need to do differently? Who did God intend me to be?

Sometimes asking the questions leads us to a wonderful realization that we know who we are, at least for this moment; that we are doing what God intended us to do and, with full understanding that life is not always a rose garden, are truly happy and grateful for our lives as they are.

Other times, the questions lead to an acknowledgement that changes need to be made, maybe big, maybe small, or maybe, as my spiritual director once advised, we simply need to unpack our daily craziness and multiple roles, pack a picnic lunch instead and commune with

God's gift of nature. Yet even more than encouraging us to embrace some blessed time to ourselves, there is a greater purpose for examining our lives. Awareness.

Awareness allows us to see ourselves with wise eyes. It peels away the veneer of our assumptions and our imagined self-sufficiency and leaves us naked before God. It puts before us the opportunity to respond more fully to God's generous love, and to be more fully the person God calls us to be.

This was the challenge Jesus placed before the rich young man (*Mark 10:17-27*). Here was a devout Jew keeping God's commandments with sincerity and integrity. Jesus looks at him with great love, but challenges him to examine his life more deeply. What is it he truly values? What illusions and assumptions govern his life?

In essence, Jesus encourages the young man to ask himself the important questions, but he is not yet ready or willing to face the answers. Jesus invites the young man to let go of all he considers as treasure, and is saddened

by his response of shock and grief at the prospect of giving up all he owns. Grief is a powerful emotion, one that parallels the value we place on something.

This Gospel reading is one we often ignore. Assuming that our chances of being rich are slim to none, the message may not be one we internalize. But to consider this Gospel solely as a chastisement of the wealthy is to miss the fullness of Jesus' teaching and challenge to all generations.

Even without two nickels to rub together, as my father used to say, there are riches to which we cling: image, authority, success, importance, possessions, intellect, or our belief that we are self-sufficient. The value of looking within, of examining our lives, is a growing ability to undertake the journey fully conscious and unencumbered with false treasures, so we end up where God wants us to be.

*Mary Morrell and her husband are the parents of six adult sons. They live in Colonia, New Jersey, where Mary works as a freelance writer.*

# Sometime it comes to a critical distinction

By Tom Grenchik

**O**n June 23, the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Doctrine released a clarification entitled: *The Distinction between Direct Abortion and Legitimate Medical Procedures*. Since most folks don't read every new posting on the vast USCCB website, this helpful statement could be overlooked.

The statement notes that "On Nov. 5, 2009, medical personnel at the St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, performed a procedure that caused the death of an unborn child. Most Reverend Thomas Olmsted, the Bishop of Phoenix, has judged that this procedure was in fact a direct abortion and so morally wrong...."

When Bishop Olmsted spoke, many a commentator became a self-appointed expert on the Church's moral teaching overnight. The national media certainly caused confusion among Catholics and the general public as to what the Church teaches regarding illegitimate and legitimate medical procedures for addressing the risk to a mother's health or even life during a pregnancy.

The Committee on Doctrine reminded us that "... abortion (that is, the directly intended termination of pregnancy before viability or the directly intended destruction of a viable fetus) is never permitted... One may never directly kill an innocent human being, no matter what the reason... By contrast, in some situations, it may be permissible to perform a medical procedure on a pregnant woman that directly treats a serious health problem but that

**T**he national media certainly caused confusion among Catholics and the general public as to what the Church teaches regarding illegitimate and legitimate medical procedures for addressing the risk to a mother's health or even life during a pregnancy.

also has a secondary effect that leads to the death of the developing child... The difference can be seen in two different scenarios in which the unborn child is not yet old enough to survive outside the womb."

"In the first scenario, a pregnant woman is experiencing problems with one or more of her organs, apparently as a result of the added burden of pregnancy. The doctor recommends an abortion to protect the health of the woman... The surgery directly targets the life of the unborn child. It is the surgical instrument in the hands of the doctor that causes the child's death. The surgery does not directly address the health problem of the woman, for example, by repairing the organ that is malfunctioning... The abortion is the means by which a reduced strain upon the organ or organs is achieved. As the Church has said many times, direct abortion is never permissible because a good end cannot justify an evil means...."

"In the second scenario, a pregnant woman develops cancer in her uterus. The doctor recommends surgery to remove the cancerous uterus as the only way to prevent the spread of the cancer... The woman's health benefits directly from the surgery, because of the removal of the cancerous organ. The surgery does not directly target the life of the unborn child. The child will not be able to live long after the uterus is removed

from the woman's body, but the death of the child is an unintended and unavoidable side effect and not the aim of the surgery. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with surgery to remove a malfunctioning organ. It is morally justified when the continued presence of the organ causes problems for the rest of the body."

"Surgery to terminate the life of an innocent person, however, is intrinsically wrong... Nothing, therefore, can justify a direct abortion. No circumstance, no purpose, no law whatsoever can ever make licit an act which is intrinsically illicit, since it is contrary to the Law of God which is written in every human heart, knowable by reason itself, and proclaimed by the Church."

May the Law of God, proclaimed by our Church and through our bishops, inspire each of us to work for the protection of every human person, mother and child alike.

To read the entire statement, go to: [www.usccb.org/doctrine/direct-abortion-statement2010-06-23.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/doctrine/direct-abortion-statement2010-06-23.pdf)



Tom Grenchik is Executive Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Go to [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife) to learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities

It's something we don't think about much. But Guy was one of those who is the last to deal with something so simple, so mundane, and yet so personal as

*Our Shoes*

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

**T**he last time I saw my mother's shoes, they were on the floor under her hospital bed.

One was lying parallel with the foot of the bed, pointing toward the side. And one's toe was over the other shoe's heel, balanced, like they had been walking, and now, ready to rest, one was removing the other one.

As I looked at the shoes it never occurred to me I wouldn't see them again. They would never again be on her feet. I would never again see her feet.

But Guy Thompson saw my mother's feet the very next day, as he gently prepared her for burial. That would be the last thing anyone would ever do for her. The last careful attention, the last ministering she would ever receive.

Mr. Thompson, the man we always contacted when loved ones died, has now himself passed away, a month after his 90th birthday. And our grief is intense, communal, familial, and generational. All that, multiplied by the 71 years he spent touching people's feet — and their lives.

I knew Guy Thompson during 30 years of those 70, a trickle in time, but longer than I knew my own father. Mr. Thompson had a great impact on my life, and I loved him.

When my mother died, while visiting Fort Worth, Mr. Thompson knew exactly what to say to my family, to help us make sense of the worst event we had ever faced together.

We were still children ourselves weren't we? Where was that buffer, that cushion between us and chilly reality (death) that we were suddenly — how was this possible — touching? We walked into the funeral home as little blobs of clay, sticky, melting clay. But Guy was a sculptor, refining and repairing the artifact previously known as life.

And when we walked out the door — walking on our own feet — we were, once again, whole.

That was Mr. Thompson's genius.

I spent most of last week, thinking about Guy Thompson, and the times our families shared — children and grandchildren's occasions; projects, parties, pictures.

I remembered the festivities, and the times of ill health. I also thought of my mom's shoes. When I saw her shoes under the hospital bed, I didn't comprehend they would not always be there — that they would not always be anywhere.

Naively, like a newly-formed clay figurine, I ignored that which I was unable to confront. I never spoke to my mother again after that night. If I had acknowledged it was my last chance, I would have reacted much differently.

There is a voice message from Guy Thompson on my answering machine. It has been there for nearly three years, and I shall not erase it. The message begins, "Hey Sister Kathy. This is your friend up on 8th Avenue..."

I don't know if we ever finished the conversation we began that day, just as I don't know if my mom and I finished ours.

For now, it is bittersweet that my friend up on 8th Avenue is in Heaven, and I shan't speak to him again.

All I can say now is, "Vaya con Dios, Guy. I send my love."

# Bishop Kevin Vann reflects on his first five years as Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth

**Editor's Note:** On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Bishop Kevin Vann's ordination and installation as the third bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth on July 13, 2005, NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC Editor Jeff Hensley asked the bishop a few questions about how he has experienced his time as shepherd. The interview from which these remarks are taken can be seen on the diocesan website: [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).



Bishop Kevin Vann, just ordained to the episcopate and having been installed as bishop, blesses the crowd of more than 5,000 gathered in Daniel Meyer Coliseum on the TCU campus, followed by his former bishop, Bishop George Lucas, then bishop of Springfield, Illinois, and then San Antonio Archbishop Jose Gomez, metropolitan of what was then the Province of Texas. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

**NTC:** Can you talk a little bit about what it was like to make the transition from your home and the place you were formed, Springfield, Illinois, to the diocese?

**Bishop:** At a distance of five years I can reflect on the experience a little more objectively. My world changed — just like that (flicking his hand). I went from being pastor of a good-sized parish without any prior experience being a bishop to being bishop of one of the fastest growing dioceses in the country.

**NTC:** You're in constant motion, visiting and being out in the parishes with the people of the diocese; something I've observed you do since you first came. Could you talk a little bit about visiting the various parishes and communities and how you have experienced being among the variety of communities in the diocese?

**Bishop:** That is part of my life and ministry that I enjoy. It gives me a lot of uplift or strength, or a sense of purpose, as part of what I am supposed to do as a shepherd. I've tried to view this work that God has given me, this calling, through the lens of being a pastor or a priest. So as when I was pastor of a parish, I've tried to get to know as many families as I can, to pray with them and be with them, being with them in the good times and the bad. So I'm trying to live this out now as well as I can, with the help of God and my friends. That's why it's important for me to be in as many places as I can — all 28 counties, all 25,000 square miles, (getting to know) as many people as possible in our institutions, in our faith communities, and in our families.



Bishop Vann, sprinkles the gathered Church as he consecrates the new church building for Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in South Fort Worth. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

**NTC:** Have you been surprised at the diversity of the ethnic groups, the mix of rural and urban and small towns?

**Bishop:** Well I think I had a taste of that at my ordination and installation Mass. The Tongan choir sang, and the Vietnamese and certainly the Hispanic (people were there). But now that I've been here five years, I've experienced it firsthand many, many places, and that's a blessing in the diocese that I really enjoy. The diocese I came from, the Diocese of Springfield which was my home for so many years, really doesn't have that kind of diversity — and that's something that I really enjoy. And along with that, the diversity in the whole state of Texas, these two ecclesiastical provinces — I really enjoy seeing the hand of God, the presence of God (in that diversity).

**NTC:** What were some of your reactions to seeing the mission work of Father Bob Thames on your recent trip to Bolivia?

**Bishop:** That was the second time I had been there to see him. I actually was there, I believe, three years ago around the occasion of the feast of the patron saint of his parish — Nuestra Señora del Carmen. I marvel at him, and his deep prayer life, his deep spiritual life, his deep care for the people — and his very simple lifestyle. But like me, he's always on the go. But he has a great heart for the people and a great heart for the missionary work there in Bolivia.

**NTC:** How about Celaya (Mexico)? Do you have any thoughts on that and the mission work we are beginning there?

**Bishop:** We have the blessing here in the diocese to have an active Mission Council. That's true throughout the state. That's something that I hadn't experienced back in Illinois. The first year when I came here, I had a visit with the bishop of Celaya and the vicar general at that time and Father Juan Rivero and perhaps some others, because that was a project that had started before I got here. Father Joe Schumacher had met with them, and perhaps Bishop Delaney, several years before that. We had discovered that we had a natural connection with the diocese, because we have a lot of people from Celaya here in Fort Worth, mostly concentrated around St. George Parish, but then elsewhere as well. With that natu-

ral connection we explored what we could do. We met with (the bishop and his representatives) and their proposal to us was to send a couple of their priests to help minister to their people up here. That's how it all began.

**NTC:** So it's moving along then?

**Bishop:** It's moving along slowly, but we had this natural connection, this natural relationship already which I think is very important in the formation of the work. We have some built-in relationships with people here who have family still in Celaya. I know a number of folks from Celaya in the Parish of St. George, where there is a group of jóvenes that I know. I go and pray with them maybe once a month. In fact, next week, I'm going down to Guanajuato, which is near Celaya, because I'm having a *quinceñera* for a family who have friends in Celaya. So there are connections.

**NTC:** I wonder if you're able to sneak over and do some hospital ministry, occasionally, because I know that that's something close to your heart?

**Bishop:** I was at Cook's this past week. I try to celebrate Mass every couple of months. I usually go to Cook's Children's on Christmas Eve to visit with the families that have children still in there. I used to do that regularly when I was in Illinois. I occasionally, if necessary, will take calls from the hospital.

**NTC:** I understand you've also been known to "sneak into prisons" to minister to prisoners — you and Deacon Len Sanchez sometimes.

**Bishop:** Yes, Deacon Len and I do that sometimes, and sometimes with the help of other priests. Maybe every other month or so I have Mass at the prison. I went out to the prison at Venus.... And I've celebrated Mass and heard confessions and anointed some of the prisoners. I did some of that back when I was in Illinois.

**NTC:** This is a challenging time to be an American Catholic in a lot of ways, with the challenges

to the respect for life, with the challenges in the area of human sexuality. Is there anything you would like to say to our people — to your people — about how they should meet the secular society that surrounds them, that they swim in?

**Bishop:** I've always liked Church history. It's given me the ability to see beyond the blessings and the challenges of the present moment. The first year I was here, I re-read *Death Comes to the Archbishop* by Willa Cather, which talks about Archbishop Lamy, in New Mexico, in Santa Fe, which is not that far from here. I read and re-read the story of the history of the Church in Texas, *Through Fire and Flood*, (by Father Talmadge Moore) then volume two of that too, called *Acts of Faith*. I'm not so sure that there has ever been a time that was not challenging for us. I saw what Archbishop Lamy had to deal with; I saw what some of the early settlers in Texas had to deal with; what the first settlers in this country had to deal with, even in the history of the Church. So every age has its blessings and its challenges. I just think that we have to be steadfast in our prayer, in the conviction of our faith. Living our faith does not impose limits or burdens on us, but in fact, living our Catholic faith to the best that we can, in its fullest aspects, is liberating and freeing, rather than oppressive — which might be what the current culture might try to tell us.



Bishop Vann walks along the shore of the Sea of Galilee on a pilgrimage he shared with the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. (Photo courtesy of Chris and Karen Hull)

**NTC:** I know your prayer goes beyond praying daily, celebrating the Mass and reading the Divine Office, but that you also set aside time for prayer so that you can center your attention on God and

## Diocesan / National

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
your relationship with God. Can you tell me a little bit about how prayer strengthens your life?

**Bishop:** Well, it just gives me a chance to really articulate to the Lord Himself my gratitude above all for being here, and I really say that. All of my concerns, frustrations, and worries. I've got, unfortunately, this "worry gene." I try to spend some time in quiet prayer every day. We have a little chapel here (gesturing toward the room in the St. Patrick Rectory). I try to go to San Mateo some Saturday nights from 11 to 12 and make a Holy Hour. Another place is the chapel at the College of St. Thomas More, and various places — at the Catholic Center as well. It just kind of helps me to have a reflective perspective, and have the Lord to help me to see the bigger picture of things — that it doesn't all depend on me at this



Bishop Vann, concelebrates the Mass commemorating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, surrounded by about 40 of the priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

particular moment, that He in his grace and his mercy helps all of us, that He helps me to be a shepherd and to work things out.

**NTC:** And that's really a good example for all of us, that the Lord is available to us in that way. It's our problem if we don't go to Him and seek that out.

**Bishop:** Even though we participate fully in the liturgy, and active participation is very important at Mass and in our various celebrations of all kinds, but there needs to be a contemplative dimension in our life too. It's both, you know. Father Karl Rahner who was such an important theologian of the Second Vatican Council said something to the effect that Eu-

charistic Adoration is the Mass held in meditation, so I think that's what I try to do.

**NTC:** At your fifth anniversary, I'm wondering what you think about the next five years or 10 years or 15 years down the road for the Church of Fort Worth?

**Bishop:** You know, it's interesting. I was in the airport yesterday in Indianapolis. I had gone there because another classmate of mine from North American College Tim Doherty who was coming from Rockford, was becoming the bishop of Lafayette, Indiana. Bishop Gettelfinger of Evansville was kind of near me, and visiting. And he said, "Well, Kevin, how long have you been in Fort Worth?" And I told him five years, and he said, "Well now you're just beginning." I had a conversation with one of our priests not long

ago, and it really gave me some insight... He said, "You know, when you're in a parish it takes you one or two years to get your bearings," and this particular priest, whose judgment I value very greatly said, "You know, I'll bet as a bishop it takes you five or six." And you know, I think he's right. Now that I've been here, (five years) I can say honestly that I feel at home, moreso here than when I go back to Illinois — to be really honest about it. And I'm confident knowing the history of the place, the history of the local Church. We've done some things about planning, but we can do more. Our challenge is to take the reality of the blessing of a Church that is very much alive and dynamic — as so much of Church of Texas and the Southwest — and then begin to live that and bring all of that into becoming what God wants us to be.

## Bishops having success limiting federal funding of states' abortion policies

FROM PAGE 1  
welcomed "this new policy, while continuing to be gravely concerned that it was not issued until after some states had announced that pro-abortion health plans were approved and had begun to enroll patients."

"This situation illustrates once again the need for Congress to enact legislation clearly stating once and for all that funds appropriated by PPACA will not

pay for abortions or for insurance coverage that includes abortion," he added.

In a May letter to House members, Cardinal DiNardo urged passage of the Protect Life Act, H.R. 5111, to bring the new health reform law "into line with policies on abortion and conscience rights that have long prevailed in other federal health programs."

Although it has 115 co-sponsors in the House, the bill has

not yet received a hearing in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

"The issue of government involvement in the taking of innocent human life should not remain subject to the changeable discretion of executive officials or depend on the continued vigilance of pro-life advocates," the cardinal said.

He said it is "vitaly important for people with serious medical

conditions who have been unable to obtain coverage to receive the help offered by programs" such as the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan.

But it is equally important "for them to be assured that their coverage will be life-affirming, not life-threatening," Cardinal DiNardo added.

After reports surfaced about the Pennsylvania plan, The Associated Press reported that a

description of the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool said it would include elective abortions.

Michelle Lujan Grisham, deputy director of the New Mexico plan, initially told AP that the plan would include "elective termination of pregnancy" as a covered benefit, but later said her agency was "in the process of correcting the package so it will not have elective abortion coverage."

## Holy Trinity Seminary Rector, Father Michael Olson will become Monsignor Michael Olson Sept. 5 at St. Patrick Cathedral

FROM PAGE 1  
originally submitted Msgr. Olson's name to the pope, for consideration of the honorary title.

"I was very surprised," the new monsignor said of the announcement. He noted his selection was based on his current ministry at Holy Trinity, plus an ongoing role in priestly formation. Between 2001 and 2006 he served as a member of the formation faculty at Saint Mary's Seminary in Houston and lectured at the University of Saint Thomas School of Theology.

Ordained in 1994 by Bishop Joseph Delaney, Msgr. Olson's priestly ministry has included service as a parochial vicar, pastor, formation advisor, and hospital ethicist. He also served two years as vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Known for his joviality and sense of humor, Msgr. Olson receives both respect and affection

from the seminarians whose lives he impacts.

Daniel Cochran, second year philosophy student at Holy Trinity, said, "Msgr. Olson is very caring as a rector. He made a point of going out of his way to get to know me and the others. He's been there, advised, helped with problems."

His position at Holy Trinity involves a mixture of roles, Msgr. Olson said, noting administration, formation, teaching, evaluation, and helping seminarians with their discernment.

"He's really a lot of fun, too," Cochran said. "It's great to sit and have a conversation with him. He will fill your ears with anecdotes from his life and wide range of experiences."

"I got to know him first as vicar general," said philosophy seminarian Stephen Hauck, who now studies at St. Joseph's Abbey Seminary in Covington, Louisiana, "but I became better ac-

quainted with Msgr. Olson while studying at Holy Trinity.

"With his history of formation work, he was very interested in getting to know us and helping us, and making sure we were getting what we needed. He's always been good to us and is always extremely generous.

"The announcement that he was receiving the title of monsignor came near his birthday and was a big surprise to him," Hauck said. "We called and wished him happy birthday and congratulations. We said, 'Hello, Monsignor,' and he started laughing."

"His appointment did not come as a surprise to me," Cochran said. "He is a perfect candidate for monsignor, and I think he very much deserves this honor. He has done a lot of great work for the diocese, recently as vicar general for two years."

"There's no greater honor than being a priest," Msgr. Ol-

son said, preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments, and ministering to the people of God in the most important times in their lives.

"But it is an honor to serve, and see how my ministry is tied not only to the local Church but

to the universal Church."

"Msgr. Olson shows his holiness by going out of his way to work with all the seminarians and with me," Cochran said. "He takes his priestly call very seriously and I feel he lives it out in a wonderful way."

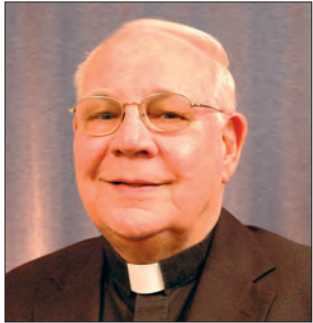


Fr. Michael Olson visits with Holy Trinity seminarians he has accompanied to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of Holy Trinity Seminary)

Diocesan

# The Gift of Priesthood

*Priests of the Arlington Deanery share their experiences*



**Monsignor Joseph S. Scantlin, P.A.**

**Parish:** Most Blessed Sacrament, Arlington  
**Other:** Dean of the Arlington Deanery  
**Ordained:** May 23, 1959

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

**A.** It's the gift of the Lord Jesus to his people, and I'm a part of that. I help bring that about through my ministry.



**Father Philip Boagteng Brembalm**

**Parish:** St. Joseph, Arlington, Ghanaian Community, Hospital Ministry  
**Ordained:** July 18, 1988

**Q.** How have you experienced the gift of priesthood?

**A.** It has been a blessing, a great joy to be of service to others in working out their salvation, and at the same time working out my salvation. I cannot recall anytime I've regretted it. I believe it has been a great blessing to me throughout the 11 years I've been a priest.

**Editor's Note:** This is the third in an ongoing series featuring priests from the different deaneries in the diocese sharing about aspects of their ministry. Interviews were compiled by John English



**Father Michael Ciski, TOR**

**Parishes:** St. Maria Goretti, Arlington  
**Ordained:** November 18, 2000

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

**A.** I find Texas to be a very active Catholic community. There is a desire here for people to express and live their faith. When you work with that, and you see the desire they have partaking in the sacraments, it gives you a more intense desire to be a part of their lives.

**Father Jim Gigliotti, TOR (Not Pictured)**

**Parish:** St. Maria Goretti, Arlington  
**Ordained:** May 10, 1980

**Q.** What part of your priestly duties do you find the most rewarding?

**A.** Other than the Eucharist, I would have to say it is hearing confessions. I am just fascinated with the basic goodness of people, and how they struggle with the tension between sin and grace. I hear a great love for the Lord, and I would say that you fall in love with people all over again, because they are being honest; they are being humble, and they really desire to be in alignment with the Lord. There is just something about human nature when people are honest and hopeful that is very inspiring. It is such a privilege to see the working of God's grace in the soul of a penitent.



**Father George Foley**

**Parish:** St. Jude, Mansfield  
**Ordained:** November 30, 1958

**Q.** How have you experienced the gift of priesthood?

**A.** I think the simple answer would be the enjoyment of dealing with the sacraments of baptism, first Communion and marriage, and the joy that first Communion gives to the families of people; the joy of seeing the faces of the kids and their parents and just the whole joyful act of first Communion.

**Father John Pacheco (Not Pictured)**

**Parish:** St. Matthew, Arlington  
**Ordained:** May 23, 2009

**Q.** How do you nourish your relationship with God?

**A.** One naturally says prayer. However, to me, one of the best ways that I see the presence of God is the people that I see daily and the parishioners I encounter. You see the presence of God every day, and every time I see that, it keeps me aware of what my vocation is, and what I was called to do as a priest.



**Father Thomas J. Craig**

**Parish:** St. Vincent de Paul, Arlington  
**Ordained:** June 26, 1982

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

**A.** I want for people to remember that God loves us no matter what. I am always surprised when people find that so astounding. Despite whatever we do to keep God away, God still loves us and keeps calling us back. Reminding people of that is a great way of beginning a person's healing process.



**Father Daniel P. Kelley**

**Parish:** St. Joseph, Arlington  
**Ordained:** December 9, 1995

**Q.** How do you find Christ in others?

**A.** I guess the most profound way that I encounter Christ in the people around me is by sitting and listening to them in the sacrament of reconciliation, or in the context of their coming and meeting with me in my office. It can also be a couple preparing for marriage, or visiting someone in their sickbed in the hospital or in their homes. For me, the most profound face of Christ I encounter is at those moments when people don't see me, Dan Kelley, but see the presence of the Church and Christ in their lives.

**Father Charles Addai-Kankam (Not Pictured)**

**Parish:** St. Vincent de Paul, Arlington, Ghanaian Community  
**Ordained:** July 15, 1996

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

**A.** I feel that I am drawing people to Christ. If I succeed in bringing somebody close to Christ, that is my joy.



**Father Polycarp Nguyen, CMC**

**Parish:** St. Jude, Mansfield  
**Ordained:** November 30, 1958

**Q.** What part of your priestly duties do you find the most rewarding?

**A.** The most important thing in the priesthood is the celebration of the Eucharist. It is the most important thing in my life, because as a priest, we need to sacrifice ourselves to honor the Eucharistic body of Christ in ourselves.

**Father Cyprian Mercieca, TOR (Not Pictured)**

**Parish:** St. Joseph, Arlington  
**Ordained:** June 3, 1961

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

**A.** I want to see them turn to Christ. I want to help them to know Christ. I want to help wake people up that we are drowned by so many messages that are contrary to the Gospels, and many, many Catholics have fallen hook, line, and sinker for what the world considers to be true, and this filters into the Church. I want people to know what the Church teaches, and that what the Church teaches is for our salvation.

**Father Allan Hawkins (Not Pictured)**

**Parish:** St. Mary the Virgin, Anglican Usage  
**Ordained:** June 29, 1994

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

**A.** For me, it is in the sheer goodness of so many of them, and their good humor. Their willingness to endure and be patient is where I see it most.



## Diocesan

# Diocese to screen documentary on life of Archbishop Fulton Sheen Aug. 12 in Keller

**Producers hope to spread awareness of Sheen's work, canonization cause**

By Tony Gutiérrez  
Associate Editor

For generations of American Catholics, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen shared an ancient message of truth through the most up-to-date forms of mass communication, becoming one of the country's first "televangelists" with his show, *Life is Worth Living*.

In an effort to introduce the late archbishop and his teachings to a new generation, the Sheen Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting his works and promoting his cause for canonization, will release a documentary about his life, titled *Servant of All*, which will be screened at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church's Formation building at 2016 Willis Ln., in Keller.

"Our goal was to reintroduce Archbishop Sheen to the modern world," said Monsignor Stanley Deptula in an interview with the *North Texas Catholic*. Msgr. Deptula is a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, Archbishop Sheen's home diocese, and executive director of the foundation. "We tried to focus on the key aspects of his life into a one-hour film and rekindle the love people have for Archbishop Sheen."

Fulton Sheen was born May 8, 1895 in El Paso, Illinois, and ordained a priest in 1919. Father Sheen began his broadcasting career in the 1930s with a weekly radio program. After being ordained auxiliary bishop of New York in 1951, he started his television program. The popular program won him an Emmy and lasted until 1958. In 1966, he was appointed bishop of Rochester, New York, and he was later appointed archbishop of a titular see, freeing him to focus on his evangelization work. Archbishop Sheen died Dec. 9, 1979. In 2002, Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, of Peoria officially opened the cause for Fulton Sheen's canonization.

"Many people love him for different reasons. Some love him for his work with modern media, others for his missionary work. For me, Fulton Sheen THE model of modern diocesan priesthood. His love of Our Lady, daily devotion to the Eucharist, and his zeal for souls challenges me to be a better priest," said Msgr. Deptula.

The documentary also includes interviews with people who tell how Archbishop Sheen continues to influence them today. One story Msgr. Deptula remembered vividly was of a traveling nurse who was an admirer of Archbishop Sheen. He had been driving through Peoria at night and saw church spires and decided to pull over on the chance that it might be the church Fulton Sheen served as a priest. The church happened to be the cathedral, which would normally have been closed at night, but the foundation was using it that evening for filming. When the traveler walked in, he was interviewed for the documentary.

"We happened to be filming when that man happened to stop by. We had a lot of what we would call 'Fulton Sheen' moments," Msgr. Deptula said. "The real producer of the film was someone outside of space and time."

Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, who serves on the foundation's advisory board, said he remembers Archbishop Sheen for his teaching ability, and even used some of the archbishop's tapes when he taught RCIA classes as a parish priest.

"He was a great teacher and evangelist and used modern media before it was popular," Bishop Vann said. "I'd recommend if people could, to obtain copies of his shows and watch them for themselves. It was the highlight of my grandparents' week to watch him on television on *Life is Worth Living*. He played a pivotal role in explaining the Catholic faith that made it understandable to all kinds of people."

Bishop Vann, who saw *Servant of All* at a bishops meeting, said he thought the film was very pow-

erful and hoped viewers would leave with a "renewed appreciation for his life and ministry and its current relevance for us."

The screening, which is being co-sponsored by the diocese's Catechesis Department and Catholics Respect Life Office, will encourage those present to consider screening the film in their own parishes.

"He was the first to use modern forms of communications to catechize literally hundreds of thousands of people, so I wanted to offer this to the catechists of the diocese as a reminder of what a great catechist he was, and the way he taught," said Lucas Pollice, diocesan director of Catechesis. "He taught in a way that was faithful to the Church's teachings, but he made it relevant to the modern world, which is what

Vatican II has called us to do."

Pollice added that the screening would also bring awareness to the canonization cause.

Catholics Respect Life Director Chanacee Ruth-Killgore said she admired Fulton Sheen for his spiritual adoption prayer for children in danger of abortion.

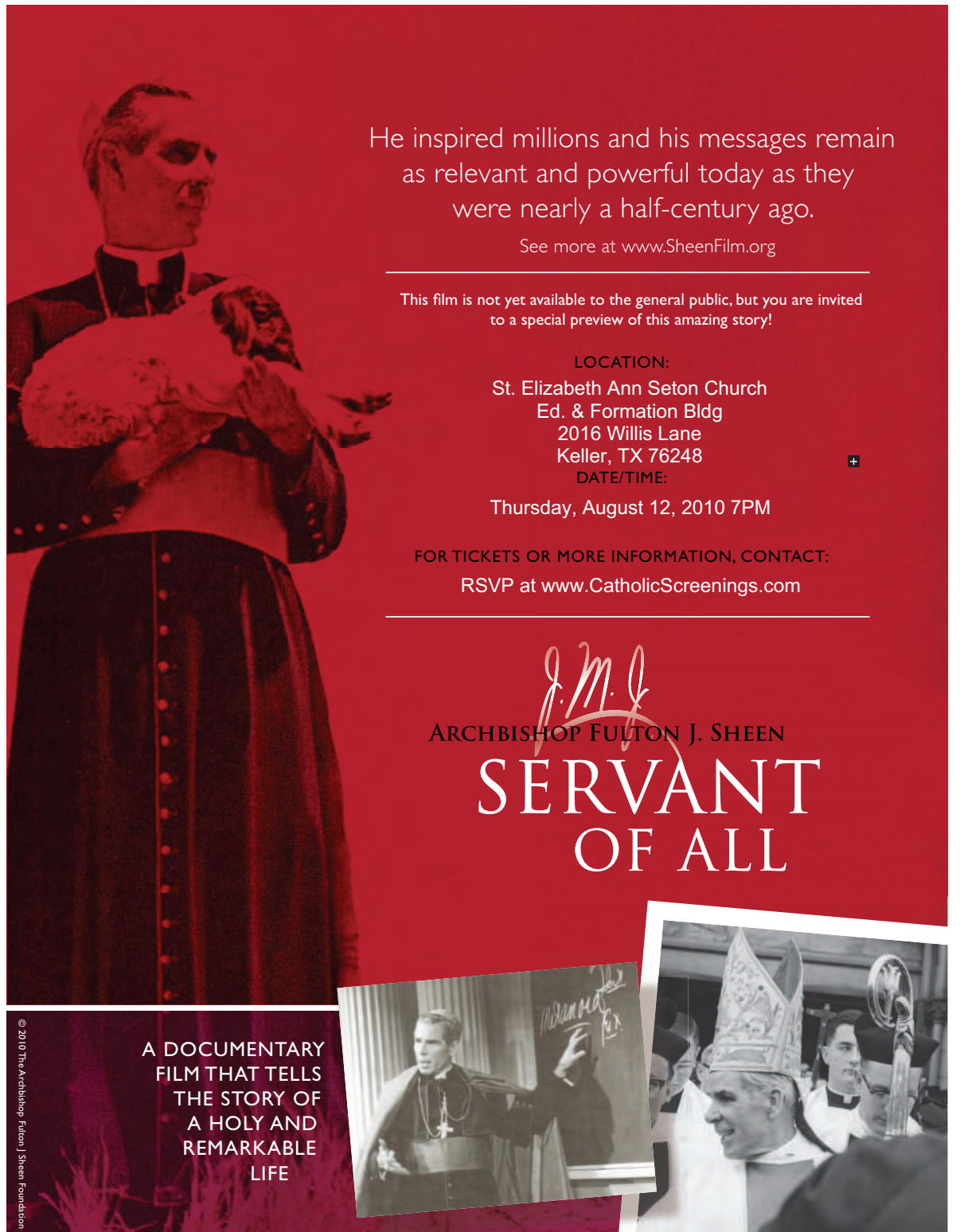
"When people have the faith, and fullness of truth, that can only lead to a defense of the sanctity of life," she said. "You can see that in Fulton Sheen."

For information about the screening Aug. 12 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, contact the Lucas Pollice at [lpollice@fwdioc.org](mailto:lpollice@fwdioc.org) or at (817) 560-2452 ext. 260, or Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at [cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org](mailto:cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org), or at (817) 560-2452 ext. 257. To RSVP for the screening, visit [www.catholic screenings.com](http://www.catholic screenings.com). For in-

**Archbishop Fulton Sheen's Prayer to Spiritually Adopt an Unborn Child**

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
I love you very much.  
I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child  
I have spiritually adopted,  
who is in danger of abortion.*

formation about the documentary, visit [www.sheenfilms.org](http://www.sheenfilms.org). For information about Fulton Sheen's ministry, or the canonization cause, visit the Sheen Foundation's website at [www.archbishopsheencause.org](http://www.archbishopsheencause.org).



He inspired millions and his messages remain as relevant and powerful today as they were nearly a half-century ago.

See more at [www.SheenFilm.org](http://www.SheenFilm.org)

This film is not yet available to the general public, but you are invited to a special preview of this amazing story!

LOCATION:  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
Ed. & Formation Bldg  
2016 Willis Lane  
Keller, TX 76248

DATE/TIME:  
Thursday, August 12, 2010 7PM

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
RSVP at [www.CatholicScreenings.com](http://www.CatholicScreenings.com)

*J.M.F.*  
ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN  
**SERVANT OF ALL**

A DOCUMENTARY FILM THAT TELLS THE STORY OF A HOLY AND REMARKABLE LIFE

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## Scripture Readings



August 1, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23  
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-14, 17
- 2) Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11  
Gospel) Luke 12:13-21

By Jean Denton

There's plenty in the press these days about the world's financial wizards blithely making more and more millions of dollars for themselves without regard to the current economic crisis. It's impossible not to ask the question: How much does one person need? Maybe these wizards plow their gains back into the economy, though. Nope. Their modus operandi is to invest the gain ... to make yet more millions.

This weekend's Gospel cautions against a life concentrated on storing up riches in order to rest, eat, drink and be merry. In explaining his parable of the rich man, Jesus poses this question, in effect: What happens when you've saved up all this wealth but die with nothing that matters to God?

His warning is for more than the mega-rich financial wizards. The drive, or at least the

temptation, to store up wealth, prestige or simply "disposable income" bubbles up in all of us in some form. For those who find some success at it, it can become difficult to get off the wealth-building track and back on to a matters-to-God track.

Our friend Fred was a good man. An Ivy League grad, he was a talented, creative professional who rose to the top levels of his field. He became a division director of his firm and was highly regarded among his peers. His adult daughter followed right along in his footsteps. Fred was well-liked. He wasn't selfish or greedy, but he was pursuing a path to success he'd been on since he entered college.

He'd served on the board of his professional organization for many years. A month before Fred was to assume the presidency of the group he e-mailed board members that he must step down because he couldn't commit to the travel required of the position. Personal matters made it necessary for him to be close to home.

That December his friends and colleagues received a photo Christmas card from him and his wife in their new home — with eight young special-needs foster children. Everything they had once stored away for themselves had been brought out and redeemed for a new life dedicated to something that undoubtedly matters to God.

### QUESTIONS:

If you take an inventory, what among the "wealth" you've stored up do you think would qualify as something that matters to God? What changes can you make in your lifestyle and pursuits to invest in God's concerns?

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*"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."*

— Colossians 3:2

## Choose the good no matter the cost, says pope at general audience

VATICANCITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI urged young people to be inspired by St. Maria Goretti's courage and strength and to always choose the good no matter what it costs.

This young virgin and martyr was "a girl who, despite being very young, knew how to show strength and courage against evil," the pope said during remarks in Italian at the end of his weekly general audience July 7.

The 11-year-old girl was repeatedly stabbed by a young neighbor after she refused his sexual advances. She died in the hospital the next day, July 6, 1902, after forgiving her attacker.

The day after the church celebrated her feast day, the pope called on young people to pray to St. Maria to help them "always choose the good, even when it comes with a price."

Speaking before a packed crowd in the Paul VI audience hall, Pope Benedict delivered his last weekly general audience talk for the month of July.

The pope was scheduled to leave for the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, by helicopter July 7. All private



Pope Benedict XVI uses holy water to bless a statue of St. Annibale Di Francia before his general audience at the Vatican July 7. The 18-foot statue is in a niche on an exterior wall of St. Peter's Basilica. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

mental in helping develop the theology concerning Mary, the mother of God, being free from original sin from the moment of her conception. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became dogma of the Catholic faith in 1854.

The Scottish theologian also taught that freedom is only authentic and constructive when it is part of the truth, the pope said.

When freedom has no basis in truth, then "freedom tragically becomes the source of destruction of a person's inner harmony, a source of abuse of power by the strongest and most violent, and the cause of suffering and mourning," he said.

Before the start of the general audience, the pope blessed an 18-foot-tall marble statue of St. Annibale Di Francia, founder of the Daughters of Divine Zeal and the Rogationist Fathers. The statue is in a niche outside St. Peter's Basilica with other statues representing founders of religious orders.

During the blessing, the pope said a prayer about vocations and charity toward the poor and orphans.

audiences were to be suspended during the summer period, according to Vatican Radio.

The pope was to continue reciting the Angelus every Sunday in the courtyard of the papal villa, and the weekly general audience was to resume Aug. 4.

During his audience talk, the pope highlighted the life and teachings of Blessed John Duns Scotus, a 13th-century Franciscan

theologian from Scotland.

Among his many great contributions to the development of Christian thought were his writings on the mystery of the Incarnation, the pope said.

Blessed Scotus argued the Incarnation was not a direct result of Adam's sin but was "a part of God's original plan of creation in which every creature, in and through Christ, is called to be

perfected in grace and glorify God forever," the pope said.

The Incarnation was predestined and would still have come about even if original sin had never occurred, the theologian said. Because there was original sin, however, Christ redeemed humanity with his passion, death, and resurrection, Pope Benedict said.

Blessed Scotus was funda-



## Scripture Readings



August 8, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Jean Denton

In this weekend's Gospel Jesus says, "Light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return." In other words, live every day for God's approval.

Our friend Dale was a model of such living.

When he retired from a long newspaper career, Dale and his wife Sherry immediately began travel plans, and friends all over the country invited them to visit.

Their friends loved Dale and Sherry greatly because we knew they loved us. They liked to go and do and socialize. Never seeking the spotlight, they hosted and "guested" equally well. They seemingly lived all 40-plus years of marriage with the vigor and excitement that most people put into the first two.

With vigor — and a good bit of physical labor — they built a home where their children and grandchildren regularly returned. They cared for

Dale's elderly mother.

Dale was fully engaged in civic matters of the city where he worked his entire career. As a journalist, he held local leaders accountable and looked out for "the little guy." Committed to assuring a quality higher education for local young people, he was instrumental in the establishment of a branch of the state university in the community.

Dale and Sherry anticipated his retirement as the beginning of a new adventure. But he had been retired only a few months when he got his cancer diagnosis. For the next year they kept hope and gamely fought his disease. But it moved too fast. This wasn't what they'd planned.

The day after Dale's passing Sherry told me she was gratified by letters from friends expressing their affection for him. Then the newspaper sent her hundreds of e-mails it had received from readers recounting Dale's influence on the community and countless individuals.

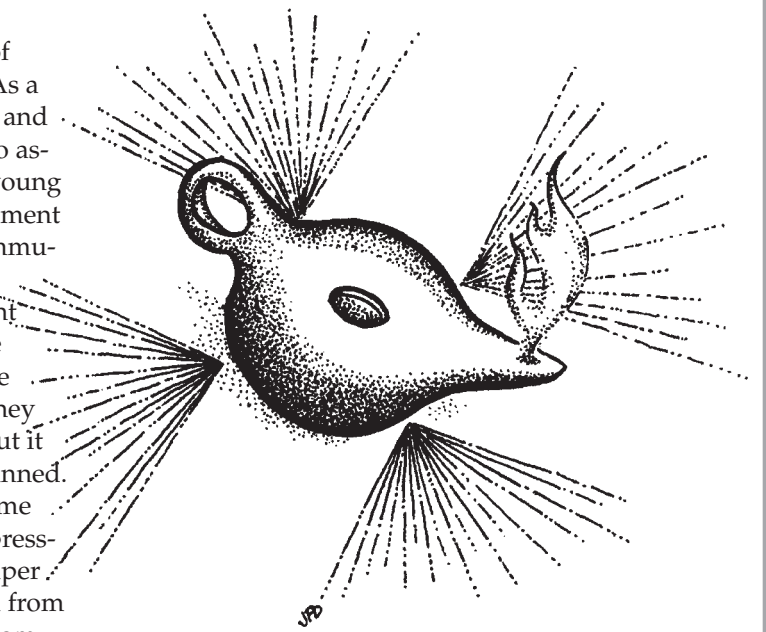
"I'm so thankful for our friends and for always being close to our boys," she said, "but I had no idea how much people appreciated what Dale stood for and what he did with his life."

Dale's way was the way Jesus called us to live: in the present moment. He was vigilant, accepting with joy all that came his way and with faith living every day for the love of God and others. Would that we all might live so well.

### QUESTIONS:

How would you live your life differently if you knew Jesus were coming to judge you today? What keeps you from acting this way every day?

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**"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival."**

— Luke 12:37

## Families' communion reflects the life of the **Trinity**

By Jeff Hedglen

The scene was postcard perfect, on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean with waves rolling in with a powerful, steady rhythm. The beach was filled with revelers splashing about in the waves and building sand castles and warming themselves in the glow of the sun. It was a perfect day and a perfect setting for a family reunion.

Three generations of my mother's side of the family gathered to reconnect. We are spread all over the country from California to Rhode Island, and as a result we do not see each other as much as we would like. One of the unique things about family is that it doesn't take long to pick up where you left off. There were cousins there that I have only seen a handful of times and some second cousins I barely remember meeting, but we hit it off like old friends.

It really was striking how quickly we connected and were able to share about faith and life. It brought to mind something I read in John Paul II's *Theology of*

**B**ecause we are an image of the Trinity, the family has a special role to play in our lives. They are called to be the people who forgive us no matter what, who support us no matter what, who love us in spite of our weaknesses, and who celebrate us in our strengths.

*the Body*, namely, that we are made in the image of God who is a communion of persons. The family we are born into is an image of that communion of persons. It is exactly this kind of unity I felt at the reunion.

This imaging of the Trinity is the only way I can explain the fast connection between the members of the family. This experience even extended to my wife, who met a lot of these people for the first time. She quickly bonded with my relatives, as if she had been one of

the family her whole life.

This reality of being a communion of persons and the family as an image of this communion is very much at the core of what it means to be a product of the loving creation of God. In the Trinity we have the Father completely emptying himself into the Son, a free and total gift of self. In return the Son does the same to the Father. All exchanges of love produce fruit, and this eternal exchange of total self-gift is born of the Spirit.

In a similar way a man and woman come together in love and their total gift of self to each other produces the fruit of children. Over time these children have children and these children have children, and the next thing you know you're having a family reunion.

The exchange of love and gift of self that happen in the context of family is unique. Sure we have many kinds of relationships in our lives, friends, co-workers, business associates, but it is in the family where the most intimate of communions can exist.

This is not to say that family relationships are free of pain and difficulties. I myself have said things to my siblings that I would never dream of saying to other people, but in a particular way even this is tied to the faith dimension of our unity. The bond we have as family is a blood bond for sure, but it goes even deeper. Because we are an image of the Trinity, the family has a special role to play in our lives. They are called to be the people who forgive us no matter what, who support us no matter what, who love us in spite of our

weaknesses, and who celebrate us in our strengths.

It might not always work out exactly this way, because though we are an image of the Trinity, we are as yet an imperfect reflection of what is possible. Our imperfection should not stop us from striving to achieve our potential as families. Not only has God given us a model to follow, He has also given us the grace we need to strive for this ideal.

On the last day of the reunion, some of us went for a late night stroll on the beach. As the unseen waves crashed, and the water rushed toward our bare feet, I had a calming sense of the power of God. The grace and mercy of family connections were washing over me like the waves on the shore. Washing away the distance of time and strengthening the communion of these persons.

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

# The sacraments communicate God's grace to us

By Lucas Pollice

**A**s we look forward to year two of *Why Catholic?* exploring the Celebration of the Christian Mystery, we need to start with a deeper look at exactly what a sacrament is and why they are so important in the life of the Church.

Has anyone ever said or done something for you that really showed you that they loved you? Sometimes it may just be heart-felt words of love or appreciation, or perhaps it was a special gift or something that the person went out of their way to do for you. If you think about it, love and friendship are almost always expressed to us through some sort of sign or words.

It's not any different with our relationship with God. It is a relationship of love and gift of self like any human relationship, where love is expressed through words, signs, and actions. As we have already seen, prayer is absolutely necessary in the Christian life. It is through prayer that we lift our hearts up to God, and through our words and actions express our love.

But just as we desire to communicate our love to those we love and to God, even more so does God desire to communicate his love and share his life with us. Far from being a distant and indifferent God, as some may assert, He is rather a very passionate God Who loves us with a love that far exceeds any stretch of our imagination.

In fact God's love for us reminds me of the many romantic movies that we are all so familiar with. It usually goes something like this: A man meets a woman and they fall madly in love. After a short time of blissful love and companionship, something tragic happens that seriously endangers the relationship, and they find themselves far apart. Finally, it is usually the man that comes to his senses, realizes his great love, and then will do anything to get his girl back ... risking his life chasing her in a car to the airport before she leaves or riding wildly through town on a motorcycle and bursting into the church to passionately express his love for her the moment before she gets married, etc.

Well, our God is that same passionate lover, and the story of salvation history is much like that romantic movie we all know so well. Even after man sinned and turned away from him, God shows even more his passionate and undying

**A** sacrament is a visible sign instituted by Christ that gives sanctifying grace. It is a unique moment in which, through visible and tangible signs, words, and actions, God imparts upon us the gift of his life and love. It is through these signs that we come to know in a real and intimate way his love and how his life and love are transforming, healing, and strengthening us.

love for us. He sets out on his plan to save us and does whatever it takes to get us back, even in giving up his own life, so that we could know his love and share in his life.

Even now, God desires that we know in a real and intimate way his great and undying love and the great dignity and worth that he sees in each and every one of us. He desires to express his love for us in a way that we can know, feel, and understand. We can come to know this love especially through the special signs, words, and actions of God, that we call the sacraments. But even further, He not only desires to show us his love, but He wants to share his very life with us, and that life has healing and transforming power which heals us from sin and restores us as his sons and daughters. Thus, the sacraments are special moments in our lives through which God communicates his love and gives us grace to respond to it.

A sacrament is a visible sign instituted by Christ that gives sanctifying grace. It is a unique moment in which, through visible and tangible signs, words, and actions, God imparts upon us the gift of his life and love. It is through these signs that we come to know in a real and intimate way his love and how his life and love are transforming, healing, and strengthening us. To better grasp an understanding of what a sacrament is, let us look in more detail at each part of the definition.

## SACRAMENTS IMPART TO US SANCTIFYING GRACE

The goal of the sacraments is to communicate to us God's very life and love which we call grace. Grace is absolutely necessary to the spiritual life because without it we are spiritually dead. God created our human nature to live in intimate communion with Him. Our human nature needs and depends upon his grace in the same way that our bodies rely on oxygen; without it we would be physically dead.

We call the grace given to us in the sacraments sanctifying grace because it transforms us and makes us holy and more like God. The word sanctify-

ing comes from the Latin word *sanctus* (which means holy) and literally means "to make holy." This is because God's love is effective—that is to say that when we come into contact with his love and life, it does something to us. He fills us with his life to heal us from the wounds of sin and enables us to live a full human life freed from slavery to sin and in the light of his love. With his grace, we spiritually breathe again, and once again become spiritually alive. The sacraments continue to communicate God's grace to us throughout all of our lives, continuously transforming us to become more like Christ, healing and strengthening us against sin, and enabling us to live a life of faith, hope, and especially love. Thus, they are in a sense road signs to heaven, because through the graces communicated to us through them, they keep us on the "narrow path" of salvation as we continue on our pilgrim journey towards heaven.

## THE SACRAMENTS ARE INSTITUTED BY CHRIST HIMSELF

The sacraments are not an invention of the Church, or of a pope, but are rather of the will of Christ Himself. He instituted specific signs and actions and entrusted them to the apostles and their successors to be the unique and powerful way in which He would communicate his life and love to us. Thus, the sacraments have their origin in Christ. The Church, being faithful to his will, continues to manifest and hand on through both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition each of the sacraments in the life of the Church.

We can clearly see the origins of some of the sacraments in the life and ministry of Christ himself revealed to us through Scripture. Other sacraments are not necessarily seen in the life and actions of Christ, but are seen through the epistles of St. Paul and other scriptural writings as already manifest in the apostolic Church of the New Testament. All seven of the sacraments are at least implicitly revealed in Scripture and have been handed on through Sacred Tradition from the very beginning of the Church's life and mission.

## THE SACRAMENTS ARE VISIBLE, TANGIBLE SIGNS

Each sacrament is a visible, tangible, natural sign that not only makes present sanctifying grace, but also communicates to us and gives meaning to what God's grace is accomplishing in us. His grace is effective in us whether we realize or understand it or not. However, he desires that we know in a real and concrete way what He is doing to us so that we can not only know his love and grace, but also so we can respond to and accept his grace making it even more effective in our lives. The signs of each of the sacraments are something that is visible and tangible to our senses, something that we can see, touch, taste, or hear. These signs make visible and tangible to us what God is doing to us invisibly and spiritually.

These sacramental signs are natural signs, such as water, oil, bread, and wine that have universal meaning so that all peoples of all times, places, and cultures can know and understand. For example, water is used in the sacrament of Baptism. If you ask someone from any time, place, or culture what they associate with water, you will almost always get the same answers: Water is universally associated with washing and cleansing, as bringing about an essential for life, and the quenching of thirst. Thus, water as the sign of baptism, communicates to us in a visible, real, and tangible way that God is washing us and cleansing us from sin, bringing us into a new life with Christ, and satiating our thirst for union with God.

Sacramental signs are always accompanied by words and actions that also bring forth the life and power of the signs. In the same way that Christ revealed his transforming and healing power through both words and actions, He works through the signs and words of each of the sacraments, filling us with his life and grace, and transforming us with his power.



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

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

# La diócesis propone requerir cursos de Planificación familiar natural en la preparación para el matrimonio

**E**l método de ovulación Billings. El método sintotérmico, de pareja a pareja. El modelo Creighton de fertilidad. Esos seudónimos hacen que la *Planificación familiar natural* (NFP, por sus siglas en inglés) suene, por no decir más, un poco difícil.

Pero de veras no lo es, dice Marlon De La Torre, director diocesano de *Vida familiar*. “No es tan difícil”, explica De La Torre. “No se tiene que ser científico ni biólogo”.

En una entrevista esta semana, Tony Abadie, coordinador diocesano de *Planificación familiar natural*, comentó: “Es divertido porque nadie de veras lo define, pero la NFP simplemente utiliza las señales obvias de la mujer en cuanto a su fertilidad, para averiguar si es fértil o infértil cualquier día del mes. Esto es opuesto al método del ritmo, que es solamente una estimación aproximada sobre la fertilidad”.

Y los hechos no mienten, Abadie explica. Los tres métodos de planificación familiar natural se enseñan en la diócesis: Billings, sintotérmico y Creighton tienen el 99 por ciento de efectividad en cuanto a resultados en espaciar la reproducción o conseguir embarazos. Y todos están de acuerdo con las enseñanzas de la Iglesia en cuanto a la santidad de la vida, el matrimonio y la famosa encíclica papal *Humanae Vitae*.

“Opuesto a la contracepción”, continuó, “es verdaderamente planificación familiar porque permite lograr o posponer la concepción, mientras que la contracepción solamente admite hacer una cosa. Además, no viola el pacto que Dios nos dio porque las personas que usan la NFP de todos modos están viviendo íntegramente sus matrimonios; todavía se dan de si mismos completa y válidamente uno al otro”.

Los beneficios provienen más allá de lo inmediato, sin embargo, y eso es lo que ha estimulado a la *Oficina de la vida familiar* y al obispo Kevin Vann a incrementar la promoción de la NFP y considerar hacerla un requerimiento educacional para las parejas comprometidas que quieren casarse dentro de la diócesis, añadió Abadie. También pronto será un componente de las clases *Pre-Cana*, con participantes recibiendo “datos aislados de la ciencia detrás de NFP, para que, esperemos, se animen a tomar la clase”, comentó.

“En el pasado hemos tenido mucha educación; nunca hemos requerido su estudio”, Abadie explicó. “Ahora estamos

en ese momento crucial diciendo, ‘OK, a la hora de la verdad, necesitamos presionar al público; necesitan aprender ya’.

“Aplaudo la propuesta de eventualmente hacer obligatorio el estudio de la NFP para la preparación del matrimonio en la diócesis, porque es importante que las parejas entiendan el valor de su amistad, el valor de su amor mutuo como cónyuges”, dijo De La Torre, director de *Vida familiar*. “Y la NFP es uno de los pilares clave en el crecimiento continuo del amor a Dios, porque es el respeto mutuo de sus cuerpos, y en especial del cuerpo de la mujer”.

La meta del obispo Vann es pedirle a todas las parroquias que requieran la NFP para las parejas comprometidas, Abadie dijo. Actualmente la diócesis está trabajando para alcanzar esa meta con el comienzo del *Programa piloto de la parroquia (Pilot Parish Program)*, que requiere que ciertas parroquias requieran clases de NFP para las parejas comprometidas. Estas ayudarán a Abadie y al comité de NFP a asegurarse que el programa a través de la diócesis esté funcionando sin problemas. Actualmente, 13 parroquias requieren clases de NFP antes del matrimonio.

“En los próximos cinco años, estaremos expandiendo el programa a más y más parroquias, tratando que todas se suban a bordo, hasta que la diócesis completa requiera el estudio de la NFP”, Abadie explicó.

Y se ha visto de primera mano que el estudio de la NFP trae muchos benefi-

cios a las parejas. Para Abadie, quien no usaba la NFP en su matrimonio, le ha traído paz, virtud y mejor comunicación en su matrimonio.

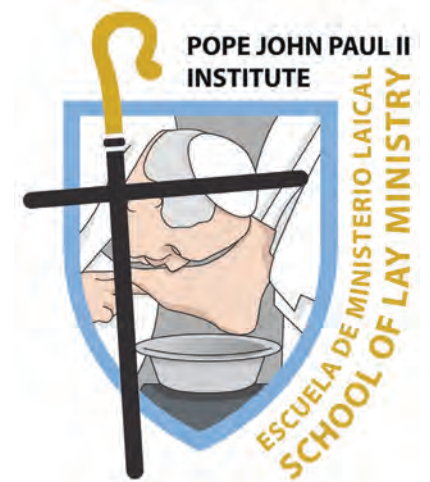
“Hay bastante que ha cambiado en nuestro matrimonio”, comentó.

De La Torre, quien también practica la NFP, está de acuerdo en que los beneficios se extienden más allá del espaciar la reproducción.

“La hemos practicado desde que nos casamos”, dijo. “Y por naturaleza la NFP de veras me ayuda—de un lugar determinado—a respetar a mi esposa aún más, a darle mayor dignidad, a entregarle más respeto como hija y mujer de Dios. ¿Por qué? Porque me deja verla de manera diferente, no solo físicamente. La veo como mi mejor amiga”.

La semana nacional de concientización sobre la planificación familiar natural, una iniciativa de los Obispos de los Estados Unidos, comienza el 25 de julio y termina el 31 de julio. Ya Abadie ha colocado anuncios en los boletines parroquiales y ha programado una entrevista por radio el 26 de julio en el canal KATH 910 AM, para el comienzo de la semana de concientización. Y también está buscando la posibilidad de expandir la evangelización no solamente a los feligreses, sino también a los sacerdotes.

Abadie también invita a cualquiera que esté interesado en la NFP, o en enseñarla, a visitar el sitio Web de la diócesis: <http://www.fwdioc.org/ministries/familylife/>.



## La Escuela de ministerio laical acepta inscripciones de estudiantes nuevos

La Escuela de ministerio laical del instituto Juan Pablo II está aceptando inscripciones de estudiantes nuevos. Los fieles que deseen entrenamiento intensivo para el ministerio laical, y aquellos ministros que quieran entrenamiento actualizado, pueden comunicarse con el Padre Carmelo Mele, O.P., al Centro Católico (teléfono: 817-560-3300; email: [cmele@fwdioc.org](mailto:cmele@fwdioc.org)). Mayor información y la solicitud están disponibles también en el sitio web diocesano: [http://www.fwdioc.org/MINISTERIOS/INSTITUTO\\_PJP2/ESCUELA\\_MINISTERIO\\_LAICAL/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fwdioc.org/MINISTERIOS/INSTITUTO_PJP2/ESCUELA_MINISTERIO_LAICAL/Pages/default.aspx).

El programa de dos años comenzará en septiembre.

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El cupo es limitado, favor de registrarte antes del 12 de Septiembre, 2010.

# Marlon De La Torre, nuevo director de la Oficina de la vida familiar, es puente entre dos culturas

Por Michele Baker  
Corresponsal

Marlon De La Torre, quien se une a la organización de la Diócesis de Fort Worth como director de la *Oficina del matrimonio y la vida familiar*, es la imagen del típico muchacho norteamericano. Hijo de un vendedor y una madre que no trabajaba, creció ayudando en la finca de su abuelo durante los fines de semana, días feriados y vacaciones, mientras estudiaba mucho en la escuela, jugando basquetbol y tratando de distinguirse.

“Mi madre sabía que la educación era clave para todos nosotros”, De La Torre recuerda. “Aunque ella no había estudiado más allá del bachillerato cuando mis hermanos y yo éramos jóvenes, insistía que leyéramos, estudiáramos, y tratáramos de sacar las mejores notas. Este siempre era su discurso de motivación para nosotros”.

Lo inesperado en el cuento de De La Torre es que no forma parte del medio oeste bucólico norteamericano, sino toma lugar en la frontera entre California y México.

“Nací en Calexico, California, y crecí en El Centro”, comentó De La Torre. “Es tan cerca de la frontera con México, que no hay casi ninguna diferencia distinguible entre los dos países. Casi todos hablábamos dos idiomas, y coexistíamos en un ambiente culturalmente mezclado”. Con la familia extendida de su madre viviendo en la cercana avenida Nuevo León, en México, De La Torre creció no tanto viajando entre dos mundos, sino acogiendo la manera en que diferentes aspectos de dos mundos aparentemente desiguales se unían para él.

“No voy a decir que no habían tensiones”, De La Torre interpone rápidamente. “Por ejemplo, en una familia tradicionalmente mexicana como la mía, el hijo mayor—ese soy yo—típicamente se quedaría en casa y cuidaría de la familia después del bachillerato; sin embargo, yo quería ir a la universidad. Mi madre se encantó con el prospecto, pero mi padre solamente consintió.

Animado por Dennis Jacobelli, su mentor y entrenador de basquetbol durante el bachillerato, De La Torre siguió adelante con



Marlon De La Torre, en su oficina en el Centro Católico, dirigirá programas que promueven la preparación para el matrimonio y validaciones del matrimonio, *NFP*, y *Respeto por la vida*. (Foto por Tony Gutiérrez, NTC)

la idea de continuar su educación. Le pidió a Jacobelli que le recomendara universidades católicas, y decidió ir a la universidad *The Franciscan University of Steubenville* en Ohio.

“Era la más lejos de casa”, De La Torre explica con naturalidad total. “Y yo quería expandir el

rango de mis experiencias”.

Cuando había terminado su licenciatura de Filosofía y Letras en teología; otra licenciatura de Ciencias, especializando en la salud mental y servicios sociales; y una esposa, las experiencias que De La Torre había abarcado claramente se habían ampliado. Mientras él y su esposa Amy le dieron la bienvenida a tres hijos—el primero, Miguel, ahora de 11 años, luego Gabriella, de 8, y María, que tiene 5—De La

Torre continuaba expandiendo sus horizontes con una maestría en Teología y catequesis, y otra en Administración educativa. Al mismo tiempo, comenzaba su carrera en la Iglesia.

“El señor Jacobelli me inculcó un amor profundo a la Iglesia. Era un hombre fuertemente católico, mi modelo a seguir. Vivía su fe y era un auténtico ser humano”, dijo De La Torre.

Fidelidad a Dios y pasión en su fe son características que De La Torre continúa manteniendo mientras inicia sus responsabilidades como director de la *Oficina del matrimonio y la vida familiar* aquí en la Diócesis de Fort Worth. Administrará programas en ambos idiomas — español e inglés — otra vez uniendo dos partes de un hombre que pertenece completamente a su unión.

“Lo veo como una alianza entre dos culturas en la cual la fuerza unificadora para ambas es el catolicismo. Esta oficina es representativa de la dinámica de nuestra fe que es una— sagrada, católica y apostólica”, explica De La Torre. “Mi respuesta es hacer estas cosas coexistir en un lugar. Nuestra fidelidad como católicos es nuestra unificación”.

Después de todo, la “torre” en De La Torre quiere decir “puente”.


**DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH**  
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*"Te doy gracias porque fui formado de manera tan admirable"*  
 Salmo 139:14

## ‘Empezando una vida nueva’ grupo de apoyo para separados, divorciados y viudos

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

caminarán con usted hacia el futuro, perdonar, adquirir aceptación y más. *Empezando una vida nueva* comenzará el lunes, 16 de agosto, de las 7 p.m. a las 9 p.m., en el nuevo salón parroquial de la iglesia *Todos los Santos*, 214 N.W. 20th St., Fort Worth. Si desea inscribirse o desea más información, favor de hablar con Carmen Zacarías al (682) 472-8517.

## Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

Si usted o alguien que conozca es víctima de conducta sexual inapropiada por parte de cualquier persona que trabaje para la iglesia, sea voluntario, empleado, o miembro del clero, puede reportarlo de las siguientes maneras:

- Llamar a Judy Locke, Coordinadora de asistencia para víctimas, al número (817) 560-2452, Ext. 201, o, mandarle correo electrónico a

jlocke@fwdioc.org

- Llamar al número de emergencia para el abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900

- o Llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canciller/moderador de la curia, el padre James Hart

## Mecanismo para reportar abuso

Llamar al Ministerio de familias de Texas Servicios de protección (Servicios de protección de niños) al número: (800) 252-5400.

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Llama al (817) 560-3300 ext. 257....o visita la página [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) (Bishop's Pro-Life Banquet)

## International

# Un obispo exhorta a EEUU que se trate la inmigración como asunto humanitario y no económico

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El obispo Gerald F. Kicanas de Tucson, Ariz., vicepresidente de la Conferencia de obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos, les dijo a los legisladores, en Capitol Hill, que los problemas de inmigración no deberían analizarse como asuntos económicos sino como asuntos humanitarios.

El obispo Kicanas hizo sus comentarios el 14 de julio frente al subcomité de *Inmigración, ciudadanía, refugiados, seguridad de la frontera y derecho internacional de la cámara*.

“Las actuales leyes de inmigración que tenemos hoy en día fallan al no pasar el examen de dignidad para la persona humana”, dijo el obispo Kicanas, cuya diócesis se despliega a lo largo de la frontera entre Arizona y México. En referencia a la severa ley aprobada el 23 de abril en Arizona, pero de la que se

espera no entrará en vigor sino hasta el 29 de julio, el obispo dijo que era “solamente una curita, a menos que se hagan nuevas leyes federales”.

El obispo hizo una clara distinción entre los que vienen a los Estados Unidos a trabajar y los que vienen a hacerle daño a la nación.

“Desde una perspectiva moral, no podemos aceptar la fatiga de inmigrantes, sin darles nosotros protección”, dijo el obispo Kicanas.

En el testimonio que presentó, el obispo señaló varios puntos que se deben incluir en una reforma completa de inmigración.

En una nueva ley de inmigración, se debe “honrar el imperio de la ley y ayudar a restaurarlo, requiriéndoles a los 11 millones de (inmigrantes) indocumentados que paguen una multa, paguen impuestos atrasados, aprendan

inglés y se pongan al final de la fila”, dijo el obispo. “Creemos que este (es) un castigo proporcionado”.

El obispo dijo que la ley federal se debe hacer cumplir, y a los que no cumplan con ella, se les debe pedir cuentas.

El obispo Kicanas dijo que la reforma de inmigración ayudaría a que la nación estuviera más segura y (pudiera) enfocarse “en los que vienen a tratar de hacer nos daño”.

Entre otras personas que testificaron en la audiencia se contaba el reverendo Richard Land, presidente de la *Comisión de ética y libertad religiosa* de la *Convención bautista del sur*; Mathew Staver, director de la escuela de Derecho de la *Universidad Liberty*; y James Edwards, graduado del *Centro de estudios de inmigración*.

Todas estas personas, provenientes de puntos de vista religiosos

y políticos diferentes, llegaron a una conclusión unánime en el sentido de que la acción política que el Congreso adopte para nuevos inmigrantes debe incluir el requisito de competencia del idioma inglés y medios para asegurarles un camino de estado legal que se ganen.

Sin embargo, no estuvieron de acuerdo con la mejor solución para los 12 millones de inmigrantes ilegales que ya están en el país.

El obispo Kicanas dijo que por lo menos una medida debería de ser un programa de residencia temporal para los inmigrantes indocumentados que viven en los Estados Unidos “para forzarlos a que salgan de las sombras”.

El asunto de lazos familiares rotos por la acción política de las leyes de inmigración se debatió con frecuencia.

Un miembro del comité, el Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., le pidió al obispo su punto de vista sobre la separación de familias de inmigrantes, específicamente de los que toman parte en programas de trabajadores.

El obispo Kicanas dijo que basaba su respuesta en lo que la

iglesia enseña, y que es que las familias deben de conservarse unidas.

Lungren respondió: “Entonces, ¿deben de ser tratados (los inmigrantes) mejor que nuestros hombres y mujeres que están en las fuerzas armadas y que están separados de su familia?” El obispo replicó que las dos situaciones familiares no eran análogas.

Poco después de la pregunta de Lungren, la Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., señaló un caso del año 2007 en el que un hombre de la Marina de EEUU, Eduardo González — que estará de servicio en su tercer turno en el “USS Harry Truman” en el Golfo Pérsico— contemplaba una situación similar.

La esposa de González, que no es ciudadana de EEUU, está bajo investigación y contempla deportación para Guatemala.

En el tema de deportación en general, el obispo Kicanas dijo que la iglesia debería apoyar la decisión judicial de deportación de algunos individuos, pero que no estaba de acuerdo con una deportación masiva.

## La Diócesis de Fort Worth le invita a una Cena de Gala / Concierto - Musica Cristiana

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Andres Aranda: 817.291.4544  
aaranda@fwdioc.org



## El Papa se convierte en primera persona en inscribirse para Jornada mundial de la juventud 2011

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI se convirtió en la primera persona en inscribirse para la internacional *Jornada mundial de la juventud* que se reunirá en España el año próximo.

El Papa inició el proceso de inscripción durante una reunión el 2 de julio, con el cardenal Antonio Rouco Varela, de Madrid, y otros organizadores del evento. En una charla ante el grupo, el Papa dijo que la reunión ofrece a los jóvenes una gran oportunidad de conocer a Jesucristo y de aprender a confiar en la dirección de Él en sus vidas.

Ellos también podrán compartir sus valores y aspiraciones con otros de todo el mundo, unidos por “el deseo de edificar un mundo mejor inspirado por los valores del Evangelio” dijo.

La reunión internacional *Jornada mundial de la juventud* ha de ser realizada en la capital española del 16 al 21 de agosto de 2011.

El Papa Benedicto se unirá a los jóvenes para una vigilia el 20 de agosto y para una Misa el 21 de agosto.

El Papa le dijo al cardenal español que el evento “no es simplemente una reunión masiva, sino una ocasión privilegiada para que los jóvenes de su país y del mundo entero se permitan a sí mismos ser conquistados por el amor de Jesucristo, el hijo de Dios y María, el amigo fiel, el vencedor sobre el pecado y la muerte”.

Los organizadores en Madrid están fomentando la inscripción temprana porque eso le ayuda a predecir la asistencia y a planificar las actividades y acumular fondos para los eventos. Se le está pidiendo a los que se inscriban contribuir 10 euros a un “fondo de solidaridad” que permita que jóvenes de los países más pobres puedan participar.

La inscripción puede hacerse por Internet en <http://en.madrid11.com>.

**Beneficio: Becas para estudios pastorales de jovenes y adultos**

## Bolivia...

FROM PAGE 24  
public schools, Bishop Vann said that "education from a faith point of view is meant to help them in their lives." And the program's aim at breaking the cycle of poverty through education has yielded results, thanks to the more than 430 sponsors in the program.

At the school's November 2009 graduation, 54 students received their high school diplomas, Fr. Thames wrote in his regular letter to ETC sponsors. Furthermore, Fr. Thames' team is currently helping another 40 students at the university level, del Castillo said. A handful of those students plan to come back to Cabezas once they graduate, to help the school and community there, del Castillo added.

The challenge now is how to develop ETC into a "more formidable mission," Dcn. Sanchez said. During the trip, Bishop Vann, Fr. McKone, and Dcn. Sanchez spoke with Fr. Thames about ways to keep strengthening Educate the Children and gathering a larger base of support.

"We discussed quite a few things," Fr. McKone said. "One of the things we would like to see is really just an expansion of the mission philosophy throughout the diocese, that mission is part of the baptismal call we all share and the nature of the Church is missionary. So what we would like to see is some kind of mission committee or person or agent in each parish."

Fr. McKone was invited on the visit to get a unique look at Fr. Thames' project so he could possibly help Fr. Thames as a liaison to the diocese and promote Educate the Children on a more regular basis throughout the parishes. He will not be



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:**  
Fr. Thames shows his guests the farmland used to teach students agricultural principles. • A group of young students from the program sit on the floor during the bishop's welcoming. • Fr. Thames and Bishop Vann visit in the chapel. • A student shows off the skills he learned in clothes making to Dcn. Sanchez.



giving up his pastor's duties to do this.

"Having been there and seen it, I can now speak with a 'been there, done that' kind of viewpoint and promote the mission and solicit a response to him," he said.

It was Bishop Vann's second visit to Bolivia in three years.

"It was about time for me to go back again," Bishop Vann said, adding that they plan to

"continue to strengthen the connection between the Mission Council and Fr. Thames' ministry."

For more information on Educate the Children or how to get involved, e-mail Henry del Castillo, ETC coordinator at [delcasth@aol.com](mailto:delcasth@aol.com) or visit the ETC website at [www.fwdioc.org/MINISTRIES/MISSION-OUTREACH/BOLIVIA/Pages/edChild.aspx](http://www.fwdioc.org/MINISTRIES/MISSION-OUTREACH/BOLIVIA/Pages/edChild.aspx).

**"He [Fr. Thames] has a tremendous operation. It takes care of a lot of people who normally would not have the opportunity to get what they are getting now. He has certainly put a lot of extra effort into ETC. Fr. Thames' true philosophy is the way to conquer poverty is to educate the children."**

**— Deacon Len Sanchez, Mission Council chairman**

## Celebration...

FROM PAGE 1

The *All Things Possible* campaign, the bishop said, was a snapshot in time of one small part of the diocese's 40-year history. The rest of the history, he explained, went back to "the first missionaries in Texas, to the roots of our faith, wherever that may be, going all the way back to 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was made flesh.'"

The gathering at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church had the air of a final celebration, even though some parish drives were still in progress, and would continue into the fall. But, with a stated

goal of \$40 million, which the bishop had called a challenge in the current economic times, *All Things Possible* pledges had gone far beyond their goal and hit \$48.7 million.

"It is important to see that the donations, the sacrifices that are being made, in faith, are making a huge impact in our local diocese, and to know as well that of the \$48.7 million over \$20 million will be directed at local parish projects.

"That's your parish homes, my brothers and sisters," Bishop Vann said, "and what a blessing that is for all of us."

After evening prayer and dinner, the audience enjoyed *baile folklorico*, performed by the Our Lady of Guadalupe Dancers, who ranged from early elementary school age to adults. It was a flurry of twirling skirts and fancy footwork, with the audience applauding and photographing, capturing their own pictorial records.

The *All Things Possible* Campaign — the largest single effort to raise funds in the history of the diocese — was dynamic, said Pat Miller, diocesan director of Stewardship and Giving, "with 90 parishes and missions working together to meet specific diocesan and parish needs." More than 17,000 donors participated in the

campaign.

Some of those parishes went substantially beyond expectations, and were commended at the dinner, receiving awards for special categories of participation, such as highest percentage over goal or highest percent of participation by parishioners.

Also named were four pastors and administrators with multiple parishes that all exceeded their goals. The four were Deacon Rueben Castañeda, Father Baby George Pullambrayil, Father Sojan George, and Father Jack McKone.

"There will be photos in our album of the family of God that comes after us," Bishop Vann said. "And what a wonderful blessing

it is to have all of that. And as we go into the results of where we are now, I think there's another value this campaign is bringing to us.

"We worked hard and it's generating the funds for the future of our diocese, but I wonder if we cannot say as well, what a blessing it is that we have had something that unites all of our diocese together in one goal, one vision, and one mission, wherever we are in our 25,000 square miles, in one of the fastest-growing dioceses in our country."

He said the campaign's wonderful effort, "in this chapter of faith that is our diocese, brought us all together, to reflect on that fact that truly, with God, all things are possible."

# Calendar

## BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The next weekend session will be offered Aug. 6-8 in Fort Worth. The program is designed to help those grieving the loss of a spouse to put closure on the past and to create a new beginning in the present. The ministry, although rooted in the Catholic tradition, is open to people of all faiths. For more information or to register, call (972) 601-4091 or e-mail dfwbe@hotmail.com. More information may also be obtained by visiting the Web site at www.beginningexperiencedfw.org.

## ROSARY CONGRESS

The annual Rosary Congress, sponsored by Apostolatus Uniti and hosted by Holy Redeemer Parish, 16250 Old Weatherford Rd., Aledo, will be held Aug. 15-21. The upcoming congress is open to all ministries, all apostolates and groups in the diocese. For more information or to commit to a certain hour of Adoration, call Kim Ball at (817) 294-5579 or Cris Mendoza at (817) 732-4046. For a daily schedule of the week of the congress, visit "Rosary Congress- 2010" at www.apostolatusuniti.com.

## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Partners In Ministry and Spirituality a division of Ministries Outreach affiliated with the Catholic Renewal Center, will present "Searching for God in our lives—the 'new' old story," facilitated by Sisters Kay Kolb and Pat Miller, SSND, along with Ray and Christy Szempruch. All are invited to participate in an eight-month program. "PIMS" will meet one Saturday a month, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., from August through March at St. Andrew's Pastoral Center, 3312 Dryden Dr., Fort Worth. The cost of the program is \$10 per session plus the cost of selected books. Scholarships are available. For more information, call (940) 382-3594 or e-mail ebhouters@verizon.net.

## REBUILDING PROGRAM

Rebuilding is a divorced and separated recovery program that provides support in a safe and nurturing environment where healing can begin. The program offers a step-by-step process that can make divorce recovery easier and less traumatic. The next 12-week program will be held Monday evenings, Aug. 30 through Nov. 22, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. To register, call the parish office at (817) 927-5383. Childcare is available with reservations made at least 48 hours in advance. For reservations, call (817) 924-6581.

## HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Training for hospital ministry will be offered Sept. 11-12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. This training, sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth Hospital Ministry, is open to all who visit the home-bound or those in hospice or local hospital ministry. The program is designed to give participants basic knowledge, skills, and guidelines for care ministry, plus diocesan and local hospital guidelines for visiting the sick. For more information or reservations, contact Deacon Bruce Corbett at (817) 880-5479 or bcorbett@fwdioc.org.

## COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

## ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.sampg.com, or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com.

## To Report Misconduct

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

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

## To Report Abuse

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

## PRO-LIFE BANQUET

The sixth annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet will be held Saturday, Sept. 25 with keynote speaker, Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR. The annual event, benefitting the ministries of the Diocese of Fort Worth Catholics Respect Life Office, will take place at the Hilton Fort Worth, 815 Main St., Fort Worth. A silent auction will open at 5 p.m. and a seated dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Limited group seating is available. For more information, contact the Respect Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 257. Reservations can be made online at www.fwdioc.org.

## CURSILLO

A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ. Cursillo opens participants up to a deeper relationship with Christ and presents a method of Christian living to make a difference for Christ in the world. Separate Cursillo weekends will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 3 for women and Nov. 4-7 for men. Both weekends will be held at the Fort Worth Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th St. in Fort Worth and these weekends will be presented in English. For more information, contact Florence Marcucci at (972) 291-6817 or mamarcucci@sbcglobal.net.

## YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Renewed and Refreshed in Spirit-Alive Again, Young Adult retreat will be held Friday, Aug. 13 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, Aug. 15 noon at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. The cost of the retreat is \$25 for St. Vincent de Paul parishioners and \$40 for non-parishioners. Speakers for the retreat will be Jeff Hedglen and Jenny Pelze. For more information, contact Liz Schaufert at lischaufert@sdpcc.org.

## ST. PAUL'S BOOTH SPACE

St. Paul Church is accepting applications for booth space at its bazaar to be held Sept. 25 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$25 per space. For more information and an application, contact James at (817) 232-4607 or the parish office at (817) 738-9925. St. Paul Church is located at 5508 Black Oak Lane in River Oaks.

## CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

## MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families regularly meets the fourth Thursday of the month for prayer and conversation at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Aug. 26. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

## MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

The Vocations office sponsors a Men's Monthly Discernment the second Monday of each month for single men ages 16 to 50 and a Women's Monthly Discernment the third Monday of each month for single women ages 16 to 50. The groups meet at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, from 6 to 9 p.m., to pray together, share their vocational call, listen to God, break open the Word, and to share a meal together. For more information, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations at (817) 560-3300 ext.110 or kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.

## DISCERNMENT AT OLV

Single women, ages 18 to 45 are invited to come for an evening of prayer, supper, and sharing, hosted by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, the first Friday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Center, 909 W. Shaw St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, at (817) 923-3091 or syncruz@sbcglobal.net.

## DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Women interested in knowing about religious life are invited to a Come and See retreat Aug. 21 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The retreat will be held at Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth at 1814 Egyptian Way in Grand Prairie. To RSVP, contact Sister Mary Paul Haase, CSFN at (972) 642-5191 or (972) 262-5137 ext. 24 by Aug. 18. More information may also be found on their Web site at www.nazarethcsfn.org.

## NTC SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The *North Texas Catholic* is published once a month. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the Aug. 20 issue must be received by noon on Aug. 11. Send information to jruseau@fwdioc.org.

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The second annual Women of Faith/Women of Action Conference, sponsored by Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, will be held Saturday, Aug. 28 at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Norman, Oklahoma. The theme of this year's conference is "Moving Forward In Faith, Hope and Love." Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and close with Mass at 5:30 p.m. Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City will be the principle celebrant and homilist with Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa concelebrating at the closing Mass. Registration cost is \$40. A box lunch will be provided for \$10. For information, visit the Web site <http://okaccw.tripod.com/woa/index.html> or contact Chris Thomas at thomaschrisL@sbcglobal.net or call (405) 306-5187.

## NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding. To register for a course starting Aug. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 Ninth St., Wichita Falls, contact Jacob and Lauren Morath at (940) 544-2515. To register for a course starting Aug. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at Loreto House, 913 Avenue C, Denton, contact Tom and Laura Maisano at (713) 557-1110. Visit [www.ccldfw.org](http://www.ccldfw.org) for more class dates and information.

## ITALY PILGRIMAGE

Visit Venice, Florence, Assisi, and Rome Nov 10-20, 2010; \$2,599 per person from Dallas. Hosted by Father Phu Phan, pastor of St. Ann Parish, Canyon. Call (806) 655-3302 ext. 0 or 3 for a brochure.

## ST JOHN'S CHILDCARE

St. John's Child Care Center, located at 7409 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, is currently accepting enrollment for its fall programs. All programs will begin the week of Sept. 7. St. John's Child Care offers part-time and full-time care. For more information, check the Web site at [www.stjohnchildcare.com](http://www.stjohnchildcare.com), or call (817)595-2654.

## ST. JOSEPH REUNION

The annual picnic reunion of St. Joseph Hospital past employees, physicians, volunteers, and friends will be held Saturday, Oct. 2 at Trinity Park Pavilion #5 (adjacent to the train station in Trinity Park) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Connie Dankesreiter at [cdank@swbell.net](mailto:cdank@swbell.net) or (682) 518-8701.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Texas State Council and the Arlington Knights of Columbus Council #6269 will host the 36th annual Johnny Lopez Knights of Columbus State Golf Tournament Sept. 24, 25, and 26 at Pecan Valley Golf Course, 6400 Pecan Valley Drive, Fort Worth. The entry fee for the scramble is \$55 per golfer and \$110 per golfer for the two-day tournament. For more information, contact Marshall Webb at [marshall6269@aol.com](mailto:marshall6269@aol.com) or (817) 460-5586.

# Classified Section

## TEACHER

Our Lady of Victory School is accepting applications for an open teaching position in middle school. General teaching strengths with an emphasis in language arts and literature is preferred. Experience is preferred. Send résumé to Tawilhua Mitchell at [tmitchell@olvfw.com](mailto:tmitchell@olvfw.com) or Fax to (817) 923-9621 or mail to Our Lady of Victory School, 3320 Hemphill Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller is seeking a committed, practicing, and vibrant Catholic for part-time coordinator of junior high religious education and youth ministry. The candidate should be a highly motivated, energetic, well-organized individual who is passionate about sharing the Catholic faith with seventh and eighth grade students. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in religious education or related field and at least one to three years experience in youth ministry. Send a résumé by e-mail to [dpetasky@seascc.org](mailto:dpetasky@seascc.org) or to SEASCC-JHCYM Search, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, TX 76248. Résumés should be sent no later than Aug. 1.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

St. Paul the Apostle Church in River Oaks/North Fort Worth is seeking a music liturgy director to lead the English music ministry. Qualified applicants must have experience with keyboard/piano, be voice competent, and knowledgeable of Catholic liturgy. Applicant must have the ability to work with administrative team to assist in the production of worship aids and programs. For more information, contact Father Tom Wigginton or Denise Coriddi at (817) 738-9925. Send résumé by e-mail to [denise@stpaulfw.org](mailto:denise@stpaulfw.org).

## PART-TIME POSITION

St. John Child Care in North Richland Hills is currently accepting applications for part-time employment for its fall programs. All programs begin Sept. 7. St. John's offer pre-service training, workshops and seminars. For more information, contact St. John's Child Care at (817) 595-2654.

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

General construction work/repairs inside and out including topsoil, sand, gravel, washed materials, driveways, concrete, backhoe, and tractor services. Custom mowing lots and acres. Call (817) 732-4083.

## CELEBRANT SINGERS CONCERT

St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington will offer a free concert featuring Celebrant Singers, an internationally-known Christian music group, Sunday, Aug. 8, at 7 p.m. A freewill offering will be accepted for their ministry. Immediately following their concert, Celebrant Singers will hold auditions for future ministry teams including a new group for the "over 40 crowd" next year. The new group, called Reprise!, will specialize in short term, 21-day outreaches in the U.S. and overseas. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 478-8206.

## CARDINAL NEWMAN COURSE

In recognition of Cardinal John Henry Newman's beatification by Pope Benedict XIV the Cardinal Newman Institute will offer a five-week course on The Life and Writings of John Henry Cardinal Newman in the library at the College of St. Thomas More (CSTM), 3013 Lubbock St., Fort Worth. The classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 28, Sept. 11, 18, and 25, and Oct. 9. The cost for the course is \$200. Additional information, including pre-registration, can be obtained by contacting the Institute at (817) 277-4859 or [cni.info@yahoo.com](mailto:cni.info@yahoo.com).

## YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Mary Queen Catholic Church has an opening for a full-time Youth Faith Formation Director. The responsibilities of this position will include coordination and implementation of annual sacramental preparation for confirmation, "Life-Teen and Edge" programs; direction of Scripture, Apologetics, and Catholic catechesis; planning/attending annual retreats, youth leadership training, spiritual formation; as well as coordination and support of Adult Core Teams. Prerequisites for the position must include basic certification from the Office of Youth Ministry (or equivalent), five years experience, strong communication skills, and proficient computer skills in Word, Excel, Publisher, and Power Point. Candidate must be team-oriented and self-motivated. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, résumé and references to Carla Martin, Office Manager, Mary Queen Catholic Church, 606 Cedarwood, Friendswood, TX 77546, Fax (281) 482-4886, or e-mail [carlamartin@maryqueenchurch.org](mailto:carlamartin@maryqueenchurch.org).

## SCHOOL NURSE

Our Lady of Victory School is seeking a part-time school nurse. Candidate must be Catholic, an RN or LVN with valid Texas license. Bilingual would be a plus. Experience is preferred. Send résumé to Tawilhua Mitchell at [tmitchell@olvfw.com](mailto:tmitchell@olvfw.com) or Fax to (817) 923-9621 or mail to Our Lady of Victory School, 3320 Hemphill Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110.

## MATH TEACHER

Sacred Heart School is currently seeking a full-time math teacher for the 2010/11 school year and beyond. Courses will include but not be limited to algebra, geometry, pre-calculus, calculus, and statistics. The successful candidate will hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree with a major or minor concentration in math. Preference will be given to the math major. Preference will also be given to the candidate who is technologically proficient and experienced in project-based learning. Optional assigned and related duties may include coaching (boys and girls), serving on various academic and social committees, and sponsoring classes and clubs. Submit a letter of interest, résumé, copies of transcripts, and three letters of reference to [rafaelrondon@ntin.net](mailto:rafaelrondon@ntin.net).

ADVERTISE IN THE  
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## Good Newsmaker

Fr. Robert Thames welcomed Bishop Vann and Mission Council representatives to Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Bolivia, to show them his simple mission philosophy at work: to break the cycle of poverty,

# EDUCATE THE CHILDREN

By Juan Guajardo / Correspondent

Photos Courtesy of Father Jack McKone / Mission Council member

**I**t was Father Jack McKone's first time to visit Bolivia, and he came away amazed, despite the six-hour flight to get there.

Along with Bishop Kevin Vann and Deacon Len Sanchez, Fr. McKone spent three days visiting the school operated by Father Robert Thames in Cabezas, Bolivia, and funded by the Educate the Children sponsorship program. Fr. Thames, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth, has spent the last six years ministering to the almost 400 children attending the school through funds and sponsorships sent from parishioners throughout the diocese and the U.S.

Through sponsorships, people in the diocese are able to provide a needy child in Bolivia with an education, food and lodging, and textbooks.

"It is amazing. You see how much is going on there," said Fr. McKone, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Quanah and a member of the diocesan Mission Council. "He's really got a great deal going on."

The bishop, Fr. McKone and Dcn. Sanchez went to meet Fr. Thames and to show support for his ministry but also to consider ways to strengthen and expand Educate the Children.

The group took a walking visit of the school run by Fr. Thames and his team, and they attended Mass, visited the orphanage operated by Fr. Thames' pastoral team and enjoyed a *folklorico* dance presented by some of the children in the Educate the



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Bishop Kevin Vann and diocesan Mission Council Chairman Deacon Len Sanchez are greeted by an assembly of students and supporters of the Educate the Children program in Cabezas, Bolivia. • Students perform traditional dances during the bishop's visit. • The program also teaches adults vocational skills. Here a man shows his wood-carving skills to the visitors. • Bishop Vann visits with a student. • Father Robert Thames, director of the program and a priest from the Diocese of Fort Worth, welcomes Bishop Vann, Dcn. Sanchez, and Mission Council member Father Jack McKone.

Children program. While there, they also met with the cardinal archbishop and auxiliary bishop from the Archdiocese of La Paz, who also expressed their support for Fr. Thames' work.

Moreover, they saw firsthand the systemic poverty of the heavily rural and impoverished region that relies mainly on an agricultural economy and were able to "experience what [Fr. Thames] experiences every day," said Dcn. Sanchez, chair-

man of the Mission Council.

"He has a tremendous operation," Dcn. Sanchez said. "It takes care of a lot of people who normally would not have the opportunity to get what they are getting now. He has certainly put a lot of extra effort into ETC. Fr. Thames' true philosophy is the way to conquer poverty is to educate the children."

To date, Educate the Children has had extensive success with schoolchildren in Bolivia.

Approximately 400 children are currently enrolled in the school, which provides education from grade six to 12. About 80 adults are involved in the adult education program provided there, and, upon completion, will earn the equivalent of a GED. In the six years that Nuestra Señora del Carmen has operated, about 400 to 500 students have attended yearly, said Henry del Castillo, ETC committee chairman. Because the region is so

remote, about half the students come and lodge at the dormitories at the school, he added.

The children's education is not just limited to formal schooling, but also includes vocational training in agriculture, clothes-making, and beekeeping "to try and channel them into some kind of career that can improve their lives," del Castillo said.

In a rural region with few  
**SEE BOLIVIA, P. 22**

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## Inside... This issue of the NTC

For Guy Thompson, who died this month, directing funerals wasn't just a job, it was a ministry. Read what those closest to him remember about him and how he impacted their lives.

**5**

Reflecting on his five years as bishop of Fort Worth, Bishop Kevin Vann shares his thoughts on prayer, cultural diversity, and Texas being his home. Check out what else he has to say.

**12-13**

As part of the NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC's ongoing coverage of the Year for Priests, priests from the Arlington deanery share their thoughts on what their ministry means to them.

**14**