



NEWSMAGAZINE North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Nolan Vikings kick off golden year



1961-2011—Nolan Catholic High School students have a good reason to start off the new academic year with cheers, shouts and applause. Founded in 1961 by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the Marianists, the Catholic secondary school is celebrating 50 years of growth and innovation with tailgate parties, special projects and class reunions. Exhibiting some of the school's festive mood are (top row left to right) David laPointe, Brianna Grimmert, Jaycee Weber, Cierra Guerin, Julius Powell, Stefan Puente, Maggie Kleiser. (bottom row left to right)- AnnElise Corpany, Maggie Puente, Abby Cook, Zoe Pfifer, Jenna Hagan, and Julie Spurlock.

Nolan's halls (fewer than today's vastly enlarged campus) first filled with students in 1961, spurred by the prayers and work of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the Marianists

1961 to 2011: Nolan celebrates Jubilee

**Story and Photos
by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen**

'It's a golden time to be a Viking'

Just ask the Nolan Catholic students who packed the gym on Aug. 15 to kick-off the high school's 50th anniversary celebration with a pep rally. The teens, dressed in Nolan's trademark blue and grey uniforms, stood and cheered from the bleachers as Principal Cathy Buckingham announced some of the activities that will showcase the school's five decades of history.

“When you go back to your parishes and communities, you'll be ambassadors of Nolan Catholic High School and our celebration of 50 years of Viking tradition”

— Nolan Catholic Principal Cathy Buckingham

“When you go back to your parishes and communities, you'll be ambassadors of Nolan Catholic High School and our celebration of 50 years of Viking tradition,” she said, challenging the already enthusiastic student body. “It's going to be a fantastic year!”

The school's colorful heritage dates back to 1961 when the Marianist Brothers, together with the Sisters of St. Mary of

Namur, decided to launch a new era of Catholic secondary education in Tarrant County. Built on property donated by the Amon G. Carter Foundation, the venture combined Our Lady of Victory Academy for girls with Laneri High School for boys. For a short time, the newly organized secondary school was known as Our Lady of Victory but was renamed Msgr. Robert

M. Nolan Catholic High School in 1963 by the Bishop of Dallas-Fort Worth Thomas K. Gorman. Same sex classrooms and separate administrations were maintained until 1969 when the school became fully co-educational.

Today, Nolan Catholic is a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth and continues to flourish under the direction of the Society of Mary (the Marianists).

The college preparatory high school has maintained a faith-based curriculum and high academic standards throughout its history but has changed in size and appearance. Pat Pierret, director of alumni relations and a 1978 alumna, surprised her young listeners when she described a time when the school had no air conditioning or football field. The

SEE NOLAN, P. 18

Our Shepherd Speaks

We are all the result of a thought of God, willed, loved, and necessary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the great highlights during the month of August in the life and liturgy of the Church is the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary on Aug. 15.

The Assumption of Mary is a very important event in salvation history because it not only reveals to us some important truths about who Mary is as Mother and Model of the Church, but Mary's Assumption also reveals a great deal about ourselves and the great destiny to which we are called in Christ.

First, the Assumption of Mary reveals that Mary, at the end of her earthly life, is assumed by Christ body and soul into heaven and it is one of the four Marian dogmas solemnly defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950. In other words, Mary enjoys the full fruits of the Resurrection immediately at the end of her earthly life. This is because Mary, from the moment of her Immaculate Conception until the end of her life on earth, was free from the stain of Original Sin and never chose to cooperate with sin and evil all throughout her life. Therefore, since Mary never sinned, she was to never suffer the fruits of sin: death or corruption of the body. As St. Paul proclaims,

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
— 1 Corinthians: 55-57

Instead, Mary is the first to experience the fullness of the Resurrection of the body merited by the death and resurrection of her Son. Mary, who is the Mother and Model of the Church, is for us a sign of the hope and glory that awaits all of us who have faith and trust in Christ and strive to overcome sin in our own lives. As Pope Pius XII taught:

Christ overcame sin and death by his own death, and one who through Baptism has been born again in a supernatural way has conquered sin and death through the same Christ. Yet, according to the general rule, God does not will to grant to the just the full effect of the victory over death until the end of time has come. And so it is that



Bishop Kevin Vann

the bodies of even the just are corrupted after death, and only on the last day will they be joined, each to its own glorious soul.

Now God has willed that the Blessed Virgin Mary should be exempted from this general rule. She, by an entirely unique privilege, completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body.

— *Munificentissimus Deus*, 4-5

Thus, the Assumption, along with and closely connected to the Immaculate Conception, is in the person of Mary a shining testimony to the dignity of the human person and the destiny to which each and every person is called in Christ. Mary reveals to us that only in Christ is the true meaning of life revealed, and only in Him do we find fullness of life and love. As the culture of death in many ways surrounds us, Mary is the great sign of the dignity and glory of the human person as redeemed by Christ. Mary, being full of grace and the love of God from the moment of her conception to the end of her earthly life, shows us in a powerful way that the human person is no mere accident of biological processes, but as Pope Benedict proclaimed in his Inaugural Homily, "We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

This beautiful teaching of our Holy Father that each of us is willed, loved, and

necessary, is also the theme of this year's Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet which will be held Sept. 24 at the DFW Airport Hyatt Regency Hotel. I would like to take this opportunity as we reflect together on the great dignity of the human person revealed in Mary's Assumption to invite you to this very important event in the life of our Diocese. The Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet is the main fundraiser for our Diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office and the Banquet helps to fund and continue many of the outstanding Respect Life programs in our Diocese such as respect life education, assistance, and personal mentoring to mothers in crisis pregnancies through Gabriel Project "angels," critical post-abortion healing retreats offered through Rachel's Ministries, and education, formation, and leadership training offered through our Youth for Life programs. Not only will your presence at the Pro-Life Banquet be a powerful witness to the Gospel of Life, but your generous support will also allow us to continue the tireless work for life through our Catholics Respect Life Office. We are especially blessed this year to have as our keynote presenter Catholic writer and scholar George Weigel who is best known as the author of the biography of Pope John Paul II *Witness to Hope* and is one of the more influential and popular Catholic scholars and writers in the Church today. Please join me and many others from all around our Diocese to support the Catholics Respect Life Office and to affirm and celebrate the great gift of life! To register for the Banquet, visit the Diocesan website at www.fwdioc.org and click on the "Pro-Life Banquet" icon.

These summer days are also the time when many of us are returning to school as either students or teachers. I want to take this opportunity especially to thank all of the principals, teachers, and staff in our Catholic schools who work so hard to spread the gift of Catholic education to so many students and families in our Diocese. I also want to thank so many of you who are also involved as catechists in the religious education programs in our parishes. Your gifts of teaching and witnessing the Catholic faith are crucial to the life and mission of the Church. Thank you for your generous service to spreading the Faith!

At the same time, I cannot stress enough the importance of ongoing faith formation for not only those who are involved in teaching in our schools or ministries in our parishes, but for each and every Catholic, even adult Catholics. As Pope John Paul II has taught us, "No one in the Church

of Jesus Christ should feel excused from receiving catechesis" (*Catechesi Tradendae*, 45).

One of the great opportunities we have in North Texas for ongoing faith formation and ministry training is the annual University of Dallas Ministry Conference which will be offered Oct. 28-29 at the Dallas Convention Center. Sponsored by the Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, the University of Dallas Ministry Conference is an outstanding opportunity for all Catholics to come and join other local Catholics in learning more about their Catholic faith. This year, the Conference has as its keynote speaker the Archbishop of Chicago, Francis Cardinal George, who is also the author of two excellent books that are very much worth reading: *The Difference God Makes: A Catholic Vision of Faith, Communion, and Culture and God in Action: How Faith in God Can Address the Challenges of the World*. The Conference will offer breakout sessions featuring many other dynamic nationally known speakers and some of our popular local talent as well for ministry formation for a wide variety of ministries such as RCIA, Youth Ministry, Religious Education, and Marriage and Family, as well as numerous sessions offered for ongoing adult faith formation such as apologetics, liturgy and sacraments, prayer and spirituality, and parenting and Catholic family life. I encourage both parish ministers and parishioners alike to register and to come and take advantage of this unique faith formation opportunity. There is more information in this issue of the *North Texas Catholic* and you can also find more information on the Conference website at www.udallas.edu/udmc for English and www.udallas.edu/udmc/espanol for Spanish.

May God continue to bless you and your families as we begin another school year, and may we especially in this month of the Assumption entrust ourselves to the intercession and maternal care of Mary who is our Mother and Model of faith. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us!

Kevin W. Vann

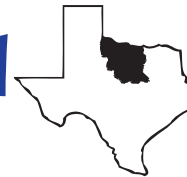
+Bishop Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD
Diocese of Fort Worth



The University of Dallas coverage planned for this issue will appear instead in the October issue. Summer schedules and a staff change in the Communications Office of the university, made it necessary to postpone coverage of this jewel of Catholic higher education in Irving.



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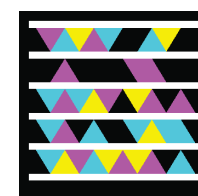
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OK, it's still hot. But fall has to come...

Once decades ago, when I was a sacker and checker at a grocery store just off the square in Denton, summer stretched into October. Temperatures remained in the mid-90s until late in the month. One hot day, as a co-worker and I carried groceries out to customers' cars, he turned to me, glanced toward the season's first Blue Norther, rolling toward us with its promise of cooler weather, and said, with great seriousness; "This is a moment we'll long remember." Frank, who was 17, was right.

Right now there are four groups of young people and their sponsors on pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Madrid, celebrating Mass with Pope Benedict XVI, rejoicing in and deepening their faith in concert with other Catholic young people, literally from around the world. To see pictures of the group of Jovenes who traveled from our diocese to Madrid being blessed before they headed for flights out of DFW Airport, see **Page 17** or in Spanish on **Page 25**. Rest assured, those are memories that will last for decades.

And we can well imagine that the crowd of more than 500 who gathered at this year's Religious Appreciation Dinner at St. Francis of Assisi in Grapevine August 2, will long remember the honor accorded the priests, nuns, and brothers, deacons and their wives and the contribution by the Western Metroplex Chapter of the Knights of Columbus to the education and formation of seminarians, as well as to the Deaf Ministry of the diocese. Acts of kindness and charity are always remembered, not only by us, but by God, the giver of all good gifts. You can read about this occasion on **Page 13**.

Remembering, and appreciating the good of others is a major component of who each of us is as a human being and a child of God. The combined memories of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur celebrating their jubilees of 50, 60, and 75 years at St. Andrew's August 6 would fill countless volumes with tales of kindness, compassion, and love of the Lord. Multiply those memories by the number of lives touched, and the volumes would reach to the sky. 255 years of combined service, a record of goodness worthy of recognition. You can read about their great legacy of service on **Page 14**, and about their newest novice on page 15. And while you're on **Page 15**, you can't miss the portrait of the incredibly large group of seminarians currently in formation for priestly service for our diocese. They are posing with Bishop Vann and Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of Vocations, in the newly refurbished church of St. Peter the Apostle in Lindsay. North Texas' own painted church is decorated in the Beuronese style, and will celebrate the completion of its most recent restoration with a Mass Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

Postings on the **Bishop's Blog** at www.fwdioc.org will let you know about his latest musings on saints, church architecture, the reactions of those first touring the holy places of Europe, only to realize they are right there with the physical remains of the saints, reinforcing the reality of memories created centuries ago by those who lived heroic lives of faith, enflashing the mercy and goodness of our God. And remember, you can always get more news from the NTC at www.fwdioc.org/ntc.

Jeff Hensley
Editor



A family visits a memorial at the Pentagon dedicated to victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in Arlington, Va., near Washington Aug. 18. Sept. 11 this year marks the 10th anniversary of the attacks that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people at the Pentagon and in New York City and Shanksville, Pa. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Pentagon Memorial pays solemn tribute to victims of 9/11 attacks

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — The Pentagon Memorial pays somber tribute to the 184 people who lost their lives at that spot 10 years ago, but it also is a place that conveys a sense of life moving on.

It is different from other sites of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks: the field in Shanksville, Pa., or the empty spot where the huge twin towers of the World Trade Center once stood in New York City.

The Pentagon Memorial, dedicated in 2008, is adjacent to the enormous facility housing the Department of Defense and its more than 26,000 employees. It is alongside a busy Washington highway and under the flight path of the nearby airport. Cars and trucks are almost always whizzing by, or crawling along, depending on the time of day.

There is no ground zero sense of something missing, since the damaged side of the Pentagon was repaired within a year, and there is no sense of being set apart from the rest of the world as in the rural Shanksville setting.

On an evening nearly a month before the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, a worker cleared gravel from the base of one of the stainless steel benches symbolizing those who died when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the side of the Pentagon.

"It's hard to be here. It brings sadness to me," said Nyeaneati Y Smith, a 65-year-old Liberian native who has been working a few nights a week at the Pentagon Memorial for the past three years. He makes sure the grounds are clear, water is flowing in the fountains under each bench, and lights underneath each bench are lit.

The memorial is open 24 hours a day, and Smith said family members and friends of those killed tend to visit the site late at night. Seeing them huddled

in sadness is particularly hard for him.

Pointing to the benches, lined up in chronological order according to the victim's date of birth, from ages 3 to 71, Smith said he often thinks how these people just came to work or got on a plane that day and "didn't plan to die."

"These people didn't deserve this," he said.

Before he could get back to his job at hand, a group of tourists asked him some questions. Nine-year-old triplets from Chicago wanted to know why the benches face opposite directions. He explained that the 59 benches facing away from the Pentagon represent those who were on the plane and the 125 facing the other way are for those who were inside the Pentagon. Individual names are engraved at the end of each bench.

One of the triplets also asked about where the plane hit and Smith pointed to the different shade of stone that makes up a large section of the building's side.

Part of the stone from the Pentagon's damaged limestone walls is incorporated in a border at the entrance of the memorial with the inscription "September 11, 2001 9:37 a.m." — marking the exact time the hijacked plane crashed, almost an hour after the first plane hit New York's World Trade Center and about 20 minutes before the plane crashed in Shanksville.

Kristen O'Shea, mother of the triplets and a 12-year-old girl visiting the memorial, has a personal connection with the attacks of Sept. 11. A former flight attendant with United Airlines, O'Shea was pregnant with the triplets and on bed rest during the fall of 2001. A co-worker and friend of hers was on United Airlines Flight 175, the second plane to hit the World Trade Center.

O'Shea can't help feeling that she could have easily been on that flight.

Briefly

Church, National, International,

At opening of exhibit on rescue, Chilean miners say God was with them

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The dramatic and uplifting story of survival and a rescue that captivated the world one year ago unfolds in "Against All Odds: Rescue at the Chilean Mine," a new exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington.

The exhibit opened Aug. 5, exactly one year after the mine collapse in Chile, in which all 33 miners survived and were rescued 69 days later.

The technical skill of the rescuers can be seen in the drill bit that cut through nearly one-half mile of rock, and the Fenix rescue capsule constructed by the Chilean navy in consultation with NASA. That capsule was named for the phoenix, the legendary bird that is a symbol of rebirth.

But the human spirit and faith that helped the miners endure is also on display, in the form of a small Bible, about the size of a hand, labeled Santa Biblia ("Holy Bible"), and the exhibit notes, "Miner Jose Henriquez, a committed Christian, read from this Bible when he led the men in daily prayer."

Displayed next to the Bible is a scuffed blue miner's helmet, with earphones on the side, and in the front of the helmet, scrawled with a black marker, are the words, "GRACIAS DIOS" ("Thank God.")

That helmet belongs to miner Carlos Barrios, who also is seen in the exhibit in a large photo displayed behind the rescue capsule. As he emerges to the surface, smiling and waving, he has a simple white rosary around his neck.

At an Aug. 3 press preview for the exhibit, Barrios was among four of the rescued miners who stood together, holding a Chilean flag with the number "33" written on the white star. Different in age, build, and looks, they shared a bond as brothers, fellow miners, and survivors.

Media reports at the time said the men had prayed together underground, and had requested religious items when they made contact with the surface, and built small shrines to Mary in the mine as they waited together to be rescued.

Above ground, family members, friends, and neighbors prayed together for the miners' safety, their prayers joined by concerned people around the world, including Pope Benedict XVI.

At the press briefing, the miners helped introduce the Smithsonian exhibit about their survival and rescue, and answered reporters' questions through interpreters. Barrios was asked about the words he had written on his helmet, and how the miners' faith helped them survive. "The miners, they never thought they were 33. They were 34, because God was with them," he said.

Asked if he felt like a different man since the mine collapse and rescue, Barrios said, "I've changed regarding family. We are closer to our families, and also our faith in God. Many of us were not believers or close to God (before the collapse), but down there, I think we were with him."



A Somali child stands in front of a war-devastated cathedral in the old section of Mogadishu, Somalia, Aug. 18. Some 12.4 million people in the Horn of Africa — including Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti — are affected by the worst drought in decades, according to the United Nations. Tens of thousands of people have already died. (CNS photo/Feisal Omar, Reuters)

Bishops offer appeal to help fund CRS response to East African famine, drought

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The ongoing drought and famine afflicting Somalia and other East African nations is "a humanitarian crisis that cries out for help to Christians throughout the world," said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services in a joint statement.

"CRS can use all the help we can offer in this current tragic situation," wrote Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, and Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., CRS board chairman. "Through CRS our generosity could literally feed thousands and provide them clean water, shelter, and other life-saving goods."

CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas aid and development agency, estimates that more than 12 million people are in urgent need of aid in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. The drought has resulted in failed crops, deaths of livestock, and critical shortages of food and water.

"There are parents whose little children have died, and children who have been orphaned. They are suffering from hunger, thirst, disease, and drought," the prelates said in a statement issued from Baltimore, home to CRS headquarters. "We see millions of people being forced from their homes, leaving behind what meager possessions they had, and walking for days over rough terrain" to find sustenance.

In Ethiopia, CRS officials said the

agency is expanding its food distribution program to 1.1 million people and is working with local partners to provide livelihood support, water, and sanitation. In Somalia, CRS is supporting local partners to assist highly vulnerable, displaced families with basic necessities, such as food packages, support to clinics, therapeutic feeding, and shelter.

In Kenya, CRS is working both to assist newly arrived refugees with hygiene, sanitation promotion and protection, and also to provide water, sanitation, and supplemental feeding to drought-affected Kenyan communities.

Misiones Salesianas, the Spanish Salesians' mission office in Madrid, said Aug. 10 it would send 200,000 euros (about \$284,000) to provide relief in famine-stricken areas. It said both refugee camps and Salesian centers "are overcrowded, with thousands arriving every day to receive food and water."

The U.S. government announced Aug. 8 it will give an additional \$105 million in humanitarian assistance to nations in the Horn of Africa region, bringing its total commitment for this fiscal year to \$564.5 million to help those in need.

The money is being used for health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, economic recovery, humanitarian coordination, community-based education and anti-malnutrition measures, and water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya.

Resolving the US debt crisis: Christian groups weigh in on solutions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After President Barack Obama signed the Budget Control Act Aug. 2 to raise the nation's debt ceiling, a collective sigh of tentative relief was immediately followed by plenty of speculation and analysis of what the country should do next.

Although much of the discussion relied on the opinions of economists and politicians, religious groups bypassed the usual pundits to consider how Jesus would react to the country's financial fiasco.

And apparently he could have differing takes on ways to solve the debt crisis, according to two different Christian groups.

The Circle of Protection, a faith-based group which includes the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops, has been urging Washington's lawmakers not to cut funding for programs for the poor and couches its members' concerns with the question: "What would Jesus cut?"

Another faith-based group, Christians for a Sustainable Economy, has argued that federally run programs for the poor do not always provide the best solution and are urging the government to put more focus on financial stewardship and economic responsibility.

In a letter to President Obama, the group said the Circle of Protection doesn't "speak for all Christians." Its members raised their own question about the most Christian way to respond to the debt crisis, asking: "Whom would Jesus indebted?" and

pointing out the "the good Samaritan did not use a government credit card."

The arguments of both groups have merit, according to Patrick Clark, an assistant professor of theology at Jesuit-run University of Scranton, Pa. Clark posted an Aug. 8 blog entry on the opposing Christian responses to the economic crisis on <http://catholicmoraltheology.com> — a site which posts comments from North American Catholic moral theologians.

He called the Circle of Protection's approach "more urgent," though, saying public spending on poverty and global health programs is "a sliver of discretionary spending and essentially irrelevant to America's long-term debt."

"If religious people do not make this case," he said, "it is difficult to determine what distinctive message they offer."

John Carr, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, has been keen on making the case for those in need and has been disappointed with the government's recent solutions.

In an Aug. 3 statement, the day after the president signed the debt deal, he said the budget debate "demonstrated the partisan, ideological, and dysfunctional polarization that dominates Washington."

The unfinished business of trimming the U.S. budget now falls on the shoulders of a super committee — a bipartisan congressional group of 12 — whose

number alone has an apostolic ring to it. Members of the committee, whose names were finalized Aug. 11, have until Nov. 23 to recommend \$1.5 trillion in deficit reductions during the next 10 years.

They can recommend further cuts in discretionary spending, changes to entitlement programs, including Medicare and Social Security or increases in tax revenue.

Jesuit Father John Kavanaugh, a professor of philosophy at St. Louis University, wrote in the Aug. 1 issue of *America* magazine that the economic situation is "dangerous, but it need not be fatal."

He said compromise could still happen if House Speaker John Boehner,

R-Ohio, and Obama "muster allies within their parties who will seriously address our dangerously inequitable distribution of wealth, our illusions of endless entitlements, the diminishment of the middle class, the increasing misery of the jobless and the poor, the socialism that benefits those too big to fail, and belt-tightening for those too small to care about, and the 1,000-page morass of hidden loopholes and exemptions called a tax code."

The priest said this kind of work will take time, imagination, intellect and heart. "But most of all, it will take courage to stand up to the nasty rhetoric and nutsy intransigence that haunts our political life."

St. Bartholomew says goodbye to parish administrator Br. Paul McMullen



Photo courtesy of Arkansas Catholic

Brother Paul McMullen, TOR, welcomes applause from St. Bartholomew parishioners at an enthusiastic going away reception held in his honor in the parish hall July 18. Br. Paul had served as parochial administrator of St. Bartholomew in Southwest Fort Worth since 2003. Father Jim Pemberton is the new pastor at St. Bartholomew. Br. Paul is currently on sabbatical, but plans to return to Fort Worth where he can continue to be of service to the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Corpus Christi Cathedral music director to lead Pueri Cantores choirs singing at New York Mass honoring Sept. 11 victims and families

Editor's Note: This story is adapted from a press release sent to the NTC by the American Federation Pueri Cantores.

NEW YORK — As the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks approaches, many are planning their own unique ways of commemorating this sad event in U.S. history. For youth and teen singers who are members of the American Federation of Pueri Cantores and their leaders, Sept. 11 will be remembered in song and prayer in New York City.

Approximately 300 young singers between nine and 18 years old from Catholic parishes and schools throughout the United States will be singing at the Mass of Remembrance at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City on Saturday, Sept. 10. Lee Gwozdz, music director at Corpus Christi Cathedral in the Diocese of Corpus Christi will unite choirs from around the country — and several choirs from Canada — to honor the victims and families of Sept. 11.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan invited Pueri Cantores to be a part of the Mass on Sunday where the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the United Nations, Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, will preside.

Some singers participating in the remembrance Mass have been directly affected by the attacks on Sept. 11, said Gwozdz. "For them this concert is a way to remember their loved ones lost."

Jan Schmidt, executive director of the American Federation Pueri Cantores added, "This Mass remembers a historic and tragic event in our history, and we specifically wanted to honor the children of the victims. Many

times they have been overlooked, and now some of them are adults themselves with children of their own."

All parish and Catholic school choirs are encouraged to join American Federation Pueri Cantores at this special event and can locate more information at www.pcchoirs.org.

Pueri Cantores was founded internationally in 1944 and in the United States in 1953. Currently, Pueri Cantores will host 13 regional student choral festivals this year for Catholic parish and school choirs.

Gwozdz joined the Pueri Cantores movement six years ago. "I loved the mission that Pueri Cantores was built on. The youth are the Church of today and Pueri Cantores has the power to inspire them," he said.

Many singers traveling to New York will experience the grandeur of St. Patrick Cathedral for the first time. The choirs will sing from the front pews providing a logistical challenge, Gwozdz said. With the organs in the rear of the church, an offsite rehearsal location, and no rehearsal time at the church, Gwozdz said he is relying on the Holy Spirit to guide them through.

For this unique service two pieces have been chosen to highlight the memorial service. "Pie Jesu" written by Mary Lynn Lightfoot was originally created for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. "This piece reflects the prayers of eternal life and grace of all lost," said Gwozdz. The second piece, "America the Beautiful," will be the ending song for the choir. The version that will be sung had been commissioned by the American Federation Pueri Cantores for their July 4, 2008, performance in front of the White House.

Briefly

Local & State

Sacred Heart teacher Sr. Lillian Marie Reiter elected Benedictine Prioress



Photo courtesy of Arkansas Catholic

Little Rock Bishop Anthony B. Taylor was present June 20 at Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, Arkansas, when Sister Lillian Marie Reiter, OSB, was elected prioress. The new prioress has spent the past 52 years as a Catholic elementary school teacher, including the last 13 years at Sacred Heart School in Muenster.

Editor's Note: This story is reprinted with permission from the ARKANSAS CATHOLIC newspaper, serving the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas. It has been adapted to better reflect the local nature of the story.

LITTLE ROCK — When Muenster native Sister Lillian Marie Reiter, OSB, was 5 years old, she said her teacher shared information with students about priests — particularly how they would bring Holy Communion to the sick. Sister Lillian Marie said the teacher then asked the class if anyone thought they had a calling to be a religious one day.

Sr. Lillian Marie thought this would be a great fit, raising her hand.

"I thought about being a ballet dancer, but my parents didn't have the money," she said.

In similar fashion, God seems to have other plans for her teaching career at Sacred Heart School in Muenster. She's had to put it on hold after being elected prioress June 20 of the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters at Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She replaces Sister Mary Anne Nuce, who completed two three-year terms.

"I don't know how to say how I felt," Sr. Lillian Marie said of being named prioress. "It's not really a job I want, but I feel that is what God wants me to do. I will do the best I can; it's what God is asking of me now."

After a secret ballot vote by the more than 30 nuns at Holy Angels Convent, Sr. Lillian Marie, 69, was chosen and accepted the position from Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, who was present at the election.

As prioress, Sr. Lillian Marie said she will "work with the sisters and

help them out in whatever way they need."

"(I will) appoint them to missions that will help serve the Church and bring God to other people," she said. "If they ask me for help, we'll work together as a family."

According to a press release, Sr. Lillian Marie is the fourth sister from Texas to be elected prioress at the convent.

Growing up the second of six children in Muenster, she looked after her brothers and sisters while helping on the small family farm where "God was number one" in their lives.

After graduating from the eighth grade in 1955, she entered the former Holy Angels Academy with the intention of becoming a nun. Sr. Lillian Marie took her first vows in 1958 and perpetual vows in 1963.

In 1959, she received her first teaching assignment for first- and second-graders at St. Michael School in West Memphis. This sparked a 52-year career, teaching in schools in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

"(I enjoyed) the enthusiasm of the children and their willingness to learn and live," said the new prioress. "The uniqueness of each child ... You see God in each one."

She received her bachelor's degree in education in 1970 from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. For the past 13 years, Sr. Lillian Marie has been teaching at Sacred Heart.

Still learning the ins and outs of the position, she doesn't have any solid plans for the future, but said she's most looking forward to serving her fellow sisters.

"(I will) try to bring them closer to God, because we could all use growth in that area," said Sr. Lillian Marie.

Texan Miss Teen USA will use platform to promote girls' self-esteem, modesty

BROWNSVILLE — When Danielle Doty, Miss Texas Teen USA, arrived in the Bahamas to compete in the Miss Teen USA pageant, she surrendered to God's plan for her life, the Harlingen native said.

"I let go and let God," Doty told *The Valley Catholic*, newspaper for the Diocese of Brownsville, in a telephone interview from New York City where she will attend the New York Film Academy and study broadcast journalism. "I was there, I had prepared, I had worked out, gotten in shape and from that point on, it was really in God's hands. I knew he would do what was best."

Doty, a parishioner at St. Anthony Church in Harlingen, was crowned Miss Teen USA 2011 July 16 at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas.

"As soon as they called my name, I think you just go on pause," Doty said a couple of weeks after her win. "You don't hear anything, you're not thinking of anything. You're just taking in the moment."

As Miss Teen USA, Doty will promote several charitable alliances, including plans to expand the charitable organization that she

started called Modest is Hottest, which teaches girls about self-respect and self-esteem.

"I want girls to know that people will like you and you will have friends when you are comfortable in your own skin," she said.

Doty graduated from Harlingen High School South in May, finishing in the top 10 of her class. She is the daughter of Kevin and Liz Doty.

Doty was baptized, received her first Communion and was confirmed at St. Anthony Church. Her faith has given her the courage to face many challenges throughout her life, said her mother.

"We brought up both of our children with the belief that with God in your life, you will make the right choices and you will always have someone with you," Liz Doty said.

Danielle Doty said that she feels a responsibility to make the most of this blessing that the Lord has bestowed upon her. She feels called to help others, especially girls.

"His putting this in front of me is giving me an open door to take full action," Doty said. "It's not for me by any means."

Teachers arriving in Fort Worth from Notre Dame's ACE program



Photo courtesy of the University of Notre Dame

Editor's Note: This story is adapted from a press release sent to the NTC by the University of Notre Dame.

While students and teachers return to school, one group of teachers from the University of Notre Dame has traveled the farthest to get to their classrooms.

Six young teachers at three schools — Ana Hernandez and Cornelius Rogers at St. George School, Anne Christine Barbera and Karla Garcia-Huerta at St. Rita School, and Brendan Apfeld and Megan Osterhout at All Saints — traveled from South Bend, Indiana, where they participate in the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) teacher formation program. They will live in community in a house in Fort Worth, pursuing graduate degrees in education and experiencing school life far from their university's Golden Dome and football stadium.

"ACE has become a leading provider of teachers to Catholic schools in the United States, and we're blessed with highly talented young people who want to go wherever the needs are in order to sustain and strengthen Catholic education," says Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, who co-founded

ACE in 1993.

The Diocese of Fort Worth is one of 26 dioceses around the country that welcome ACE teachers to work in Catholic schools — often schools with limited resources in economically stressed areas. Despite facing frequent financial challenges, Catholic schools nationwide have a well-documented track record of educating students for the common good, providing educational opportunity vital to civic society and preparing leaders for the Church and the community.

Fr. Scully attributes the success of Catholic schools largely to leaders and teachers who care for their students individually and as part of a faith-filled community.

"The three inseparable pillars in ACE's formation of teachers are professional service, community life, and spiritual growth," Fr. Scully says.

The two-year teacher formation initiative for recent college graduates incorporates personal development and vocational discernment alongside a rigorous curriculum leading to a Master of Education degree. The curriculum includes summer studies on the Notre Dame campus and two years of teaching.

Diocese

Cardinal George to deliver English keynote for UDMC Oct. 28-29

By North Texas Catholic Staff

The University of Dallas Ministry Conference, co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, will be held Oct. 28-29 this year. Cardinal Francis George, OMI, of Chicago will deliver the English keynote speech for the conference, and Father Alejandro Ortega Trillo, author of *Vicios y virtudes (Vices and Virtues)*, will deliver keynote address in Spanish.

The 2011 conference is expected to bring in more than 6,000 faithful participants, building on the success of the 2010 conference that brought an attendance of more than 5,000. Organizers emphasize that the conference is not just intended for ministry professionals, but any Catholics who desire to learn more about their faith.

The conference will also feature special musical performances throughout the weekend, including one by Tony Melendez, who was born without arms and learned to play his guitar using his feet.

Cardinal George was installed as archbishop of Chicago in 1997, named a cardinal in 1998, and served as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2007-2010. He is also the author of *The Difference God Makes: A Catholic Vision of Faith, Communion, and Culture*. According to the conference's website, Cardinal George will deliver his keynote Friday, Oct. 28, offering theological and pastoral insights on the

developing and growing reality of lay ecclesial ministry and the implications for the Church, and reflecting on the bishop's relationship to the lay ecclesial minister and offer his insights on the future of this leadership and service, underscoring a fruitful collaboration between ordained and lay ministers.

The Spanish language keynote will be presented by Father Alejandro Ortega Trillo. Fr. Ortega was ordained to the priesthood in 2000 and earned a licentiate in philosophy from the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome. He has specialized in moral theology and bioethics. During his keynote on Saturday, Oct. 29, he will be addressing how to "know yourself, accept yourself, and rise above."

The conference will also include a Vietnamese track, led by Father Anthony Dao, who will offer four sessions on different aspects of the Eucharist.

Other conference speakers include *National Catholic Reporter* senior correspondent and CNN senior Vatican analyst John Allen, Jr.; Father Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, and the author of numerous books, including *Secularity and the Gospel: Being Missionaries to our Children*, and *Our One Great Act of Fidelity: Waiting for Christ in the Eucharist*; Lucas Pollice, director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth, and Marlon De La Torre, director of Children's



Composer and musician Tony Melendez plays guitar and sings during Mass at the "One Spirit, One Church" conference at St. Mark's High School in Wilmington, Delaware, in 2009. Melendez will perform at the UDMC.



Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, immediate past president of the USCCB, delivers the homily during Mass at the start of the bishops' meeting last fall. Cardinal George will deliver the English keynote at this year's UDMC.

Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Pollice will offer a session on the meaning of human suffering, and another on the need for confession. De La Torre will offer a session in English on how not to teach the Catholic faith, and another on how to teach Catholic doctrine through C.S. Lewis's classic *The Screwtape Letters*. De La Torre will also offer a session in Spanish on the biblical roots of the Mass, and another on seven fundamentals of effective apologetics.

De La Torre said his session on how not to teach the Catholic faith will cover the "do's and don't's of effective Catholic teaching."

"It's our responsibility as faithful Catholics to transmit the faith," he added. "This will be a good workshop for catechists across the board."

Individual registration, which includes entrance to both days, is \$65 before Sept. 16, \$80 before Oct. 14, and \$100 on the days of the event. Group rates for 20 or more for the two days are priced at \$45 per person before Sept. 16 and \$65 per person before Oct. 14.

To register for the conference, or for more information, visit the conference website at www.udallas.edu/udmc, or call (214) 295-4269, or (972) 721-4077.

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Fort Worth to host Catholic Charities USA Gathering and Poverty Summit

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Finding innovative ways to help the poor and needy in America become more self-sufficient is the focus of the 2011 Catholic Charities USA Gathering and Poverty Summit hosted for the first time by Catholic Charities Fort Worth on Sept. 18-21 at the Omni Hotel in Downtown Fort Worth.

Keeping with the theme, "Think & Act Anew," the annual conference will bring together Catholic Charities workers from around the U.S. for one purpose, according to Heather Reynolds.

"We're going to try to find innovative ways to solve poverty," says the local Catholic Charities CEO who expects 500 participants. "We want attendees to go home with new ideas, templates for future work, and creative skills to reduce poverty."

Catholic Charities USA hopes to cut poverty statistics in half by 2020.

Bishop Kevin W. Vann will celebrate the conference's opening liturgy on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 2:45 p.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral. Following the Mass, a two-day Poverty Summit kicks-off with remarks by Catholic Charities USA President Rev. Larry Snyder. The first of its kind meeting is open not only to Catholic Charities providers, but also its national partners engaged in reducing poverty. Designed to inspire and motivate a national movement to reduce poverty, the summit includes an address by Mark Shriver, senior vice president of Save the Children; a panel discussion aimed at helping participants learn how to create economic opportunities for poor and disadvantaged people led by experts David Beckmann, president of

We're going to try to find innovative ways to solve poverty. We want attendees to go home with new ideas, templates for future work, and creative skills to reduce poverty.

— Heather Reynolds

Catholic Charities Fort Worth, Inc., CEO

Bread for the World; Andrea Levere, president of the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED); and Nan Roman, president and CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Individual registration for the Sept. 18-19 Poverty Summit is available for \$250/person and covers all materials and meals.

Reynolds says the conference presentations tap into different elements of poverty and were chosen to help people re-imagine the way America looks at the underprivileged and underserved. One keynote address, expected to engage the audience of social workers, comes from an unlikely source. Colleen Barrett, president emeritus of Southwest Airlines, Co., is credited with helping to create the "culture of fun" marketing strategy that made the low-fare carrier a success with passengers.

"She's going to walk through with us how Catholic Charities organizations can create cultures that bode well for our mission and vision as well as our end goal of eliminating poverty," Reynolds enthused.

Another conference speaker, Elisabeth Von Trapp, will use songs and stories to recount how

her grandparents, Maria and Baron Von Trapp, fled Nazi-occupied Austria and resettled in Stowe, Vermont, in the early 1940s with their children. Their adventure became the screenplay for the movie *Sound of Music*.

Reynolds said she will recount how her family escaped, traveled to the US, and arrived "on Ellis Island and how the Catholic community welcomed her family with open arms."

The conference's varied schedule of presentations and activities offers something for everyone.

"Some of it will teach us innovative ways to end poverty for clients. Some of it will be a reflection of our faith and celebration of the Eucharist, and some of it, like Elisabeth Von Trapp's talk, is a good story designed to refresh our spirit as we all go back to our organizations," Reynolds explains. "That's critical in our line of work."

In addition to inspirational speakers, Catholic Charities employees will benefit from issue-specific workshops covering everything from sustaining programs and performance

measurement to communications, advocacy, and funding opportunities. Conference participants will also have the opportunity to explore some of the inventive programs offered by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Worth that have made it one of the leading agencies in the country.

Every person who registers for the conference receives a free scarf produced by Catholic Charities' newest business initiative, WORN. The socially-conscious enterprise hires local refugee women to make high quality, high fashion scarves, and the supplemental income they provide empowers their families to rise above poverty. Omni Hotels is underwriting the gift.

Reynolds said she and her staff are really excited by the opportunity to share their agency's innovative programming with the 500 people attending the Poverty Summit and National Gathering of Catholic Charities USA.

Local site visits include trips to the Children's Assessment Center, the CASA Housing project, and a visit to East Lancaster Ave. where guests will observe homelessness outreach in action. Catholic Charities staff members are also giving workshops that showcase the agency's groundbreaking efforts in parish involvement and providing employees with a living wage.

The Catholic Charities executive director considers the conference a "call to action." She invites anyone interested in the poverty summit to come and learn about the issues, even if it's just for one day. Registration details are available at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

"We have this incredible national convening in our own diocese, and we all need to take great advantage of that," Reynolds adds.

Catholic Charities launches WORN campaign to benefit refugee women

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Their stories of survival are as detailed and vivid as the colorful scarves they weave.

Mae was born in a jungle and watched rebels burn her village home before escaping to a refugee camp. Pretaal's large family was forced to leave their homeland for Nepal where a bamboo and leaf covered hut became their shelter. She remembers never having enough to eat. Abigail fled Burma for Malaysia but doesn't like to talk about the years of persecution and struggle. The memory is too painful.

These resilient newcomers to the U.S. are some of the 22 home-based artisans helping Catholic Charities change the face of poverty in Fort Worth. Armed with skeins of alpaca, and acrylic wool blend yarn, the talented, industrious women are the engine behind WORN — a new, socially conscious business started by the agency earlier this year. Workers hired for the project use their knitting skills to craft fashionable scarves which are then marketed by Catholic Charities. A woman who produces six scarves a week over the course of a month earns enough income to pay

her family's rent. Many of the knitters involved in WORN are unemployable outside the home because they cannot afford childcare.

"This is all about standing against poverty and standing up for opportunity for women," said Heather Reynolds, the CEO of Catholic Charities Fort Worth, Inc., who introduced the line of upscale neckwear during a fashion show held July 28 at the Brownstone restaurant in the West Seventh area west of Downtown Fort Worth.

Priced from \$68 to \$118, the wraps come in a variety of styles and tints from warm gold and black to vivid teal, purple, and orange. Catholic Charities' launch of the winter apparel coincided with a record-breaking summer heat wave across North Texas. Selling scarves with temperatures in the triple digits isn't easy, Reynolds admitted.

"I know it's hard to envision, but it will be cold again someday," promised the executive director, who encouraged the audience to support Catholic Charities by purchasing a scarf. "We're so proud to have started this social enterprise. But the only way a business can survive is if people buy from us."

The latest venture, WORN, grew from an idea suggested by Abbi Martin Ice, a Catholic Charities employee who worked in Refugee Services.

"She described the refugee homes she would go into and how they were filled with beautiful handiwork and scarves," Reynolds explained. "Abbi's idea was that we hire these refugee women to make scarves and then sell them to the community. It sounded like a winner to me."

Developed with help from a fashion advisory committee and a solid business plan, WORN began producing merchandise in January and is already showing early signs of success. Catholic Charities hoped to sell 550 handmade scarves in local boutiques and through its website www.wornforpeace.com during 2011.

"We have already sold more than 700 scarves," Reynolds announced to the cheering crowd.

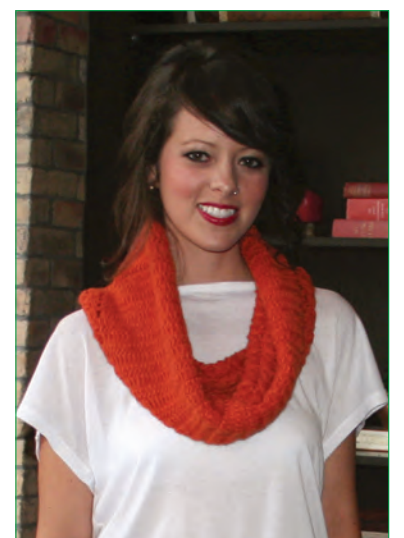
The Catholic Charities CEO told the roomful of supporters that creative programs like WORN are key to pulling families out of poverty and giving them hope. Only one percent of the world's refugees find new homes. The U.S. resettles 70 percent of those displaced persons.

"And we're blessed to serve them,"



ABOVE: Catholic Charities Fort Worth CEO Heather Reynolds introduces the WORN campaign July 28 at the Brownstone restaurant in the West Seventh area of Fort Worth.

RIGHT: Melissa Ice models an orange upscale cowl-necked scarf at a fashion show unveiling the new product line. Ice came up with the idea behind WORN.



continued Reynolds, who says her early experiences with refugee families is forever imprinted on her heart. "We do everything from greeting them at the airport, to teaching them English and helping them get jobs. WORN allows us to take this to the next level."

Diocese

Fr. George Montague to lead Magnificat prayer breakfast for men and women on Sept. 17

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following announcement has been provided by Magnificat.

Marianist Father George Montague, a priest, professor, and award-winning author whose work has taken him to six different continents, will be the featured speaker at a special Magnificat prayer breakfast for men and women on Sept. 17. The gathering starts at 9 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn at 785 State Hwy. 121 in Lewisville.

Magnificat is a Catholic women's organization with 75 chapters active in the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. The first breakfast was held in 1981.

Fr. Montague, 81, is co-founder of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciples in San Antonio. His latest book, *Mary's Life in the Spirit: Meditations on a Holy Duet* was released June 6.

Fr. Montague was born and raised on a ranch near the small Texas town of Bandera, but his subsequent studies, missionary work, book tours, and speaking engagements have taken him to Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East.

"I fell in love with the Lord while attending Marianist Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, and entered the Marianists in 1945," he said. "I left aside my journalist ambitions when I entered religious life, but God used the gift for his service in the 25 books I have written so far.

"I have used many of my childhood memories," he continued, "especially of ranch life, in my teachings and writings. So as I live out the golden years of my life, I am amazed how God uses everything, even our mistakes and sins, to weave a beautiful tapestry. During this life we see only the back side. Won't it be wonderful when he shows us the front side!"

Fr. Montague became involved in the Charismatic Renewal movement after being "graced with an experience of the Holy Spirit on Christmas Eve 1970." The Holy Spirit has been the topic of many of the books he has written, including the influential *The Holy Spirit: Growth of a Biblical Tradition*, which has gone through five printings, and *Christian Initiation and Baptism in*

the Holy Spirit: Evidence from the First Eight Centuries, which he co-authored with Kilian McDonald. The work prompted 70 theologians to gather to discuss the book in a 1995 meeting in Boston.

The Magnificat breakfast will feature Fr. Montague's personal testimony, the theme of which will be "God's providence in our lives," he said. "God makes all things work together unto good for those who love Him."


Fr. Montague will also discuss his new book, *Mary's Life in the Spirit: Meditations on a Holy Duet*. He said it is a review of the life of Mary, the Mother of God, from the viewpoint of her union with the Holy Spirit.

"When we contemplate the work of the Holy Spirit through the lens of Mary, we see wondrous things and invitations to grace in our own lives," said Fr. Montague.

The Magnificat breakfast is sponsored by the Grapevine chapter. Tickets are \$18, and can be purchased through Sept. 13 at the following Catholic bookstores: Keepsakes Catholic Books and Gifts, Lakewood Center, Arlington; Little Angels Catholic Store, 600 E. Sandy Lake Rd., Coppell; Catholic Art and Gifts, 2761 Valwood Pkwy., Farmers Branch; and St. Anthony's Bookstore, 3121 McCart Ave., Fort Worth. Tickets can also be purchased by contacting Nanci Ferri at (817) 498-7980.

During the breakfast, there will Eucharistic Adoration, and confession will be available at the conclusion of the breakfast until about 2 p.m.

For more information about the Magnificat breakfast, visit the diocesan website at www.fwdioc.org, and click on the "calendar" link.

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Notice about Rudolf J. Renteria

Most Reverend Kevin Vann announced that, 10 December 2010, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI decreed that Reverend Rudolf J. Renteria is dismissed *ex officio et pro bono Ecclesiae* from the clerical state, and is released from all obligations of the Sacred Priesthood, including that of celibacy. Bishop Vann petitioned the Holy See, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, for the laicization of Renteria after the Diocese established that credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor existed against him.

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Catechesis

The ministry of catechesis is one of the most crucial ministries in the Church, handing on Christ's teaching

By Lucas Pollice

Last month, I had the great privilege of attending the St. John Bosco Catechetical Conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville. It was a fantastic week of networking and collaborating with catechists and catechetical leaders from literally around the world who are working tirelessly in the vineyard of the Lord in handing on the faith to those the Lord has entrusted to them. The ministry of catechesis is one of the most crucial ministries in the Church and is certainly part of the Lord's commissioning to the Church to "baptize all nations in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them all that I have commanded you" (*Matthew 28:19-20*). I thought that this would be a great opportunity to reflect upon catechesis in the life and mission of the Church, and that in reality, we are all called to be catechists in one way or another and to hand on the very Person of Christ.

What is catechesis? Catechesis comes from the Greek meaning "to echo." It is the mission entrusted to the Church by Christ to "echo" or to faithfully hand on what Jesus has revealed to us through his Incarnation, his life and mission, and the Paschal mystery of his death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. In fact, through catechesis, it is not so much what we hand on but Whom. As John Paul II simply but profoundly states in his letter on catechesis *Catechesi Tradendae*: "At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, 'the only Son from the Father... full of grace and truth.'" (*Catechesi Tradendae and from this point on CT, 5*) Here we see the essence of what catechesis is: the handing on of the person of Christ, and truth He reveals and the life of grace He offers to us. First and foremost, catechesis must hand on the truth of Christ and who He is; the full revelation of the Father and the full revelation of our own humanity destined for eternal glory. For it is only in the truth of Christ that we can come to know true freedom and the fullness of human life: "For I came that they might have life and have it abundantly" (*John 10:10*). This truth about Christ in turn leads us to his life, a life of abundant grace found especially in the celebration of the sacraments and most profoundly in his real presence in the Eucharist.

As catechists, we are the instruments the Lord uses to echo this truth so that others may come first to know Him and then have communion and life through Him.

"[Catechesis] is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions and words and of

the signs worked by Him...Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity" (*CT, 5*).

Thus as catechists, we hand on not our own teaching, but Christ's teaching. What a profound gift it is to be the instrument Christ chooses to use to bring his grace and truth to those entrusted to us! In order to be true and effective catechists we must have the humility to know and understand our role of instrumentality. With this precisely in mind,



Pope John Paul beautifully lays forth the role of the catechist:

Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me". Saint Paul did this when he was dealing with a question of prime importance: "I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you". What assiduous study of the word of God transmitted by the Church's Magisterium, what profound familiarity with Christ and with the Father, what a spirit of prayer, what detachment from self must a catechist have in order that he can say: "My teaching is not mine"!

— *Catechesi Tradendae, 6*

This indeed is a tall order and we don't do it perfectly! But, if we as catechists are to more faithfully echo the person and teaching of Christ, then we ourselves must see that we are immersed into his mystery in our own lives by contemplating and pondering

the mystery of Christ through prayer, the sacraments, and our own personal study and ongoing "faith, seeking understanding" and conversion of heart. The more we are rooted in Christ, the more perfect and clear will be our echoing of Christ and his truth. We see in Mary, who was the first catechist, the first to echo Christ and his truth, a profound living example for us who catechize. For often in the Gospel do we see Mary "pondering these things in her heart" (*Luke 2:19*). She allowed the mystery and truth of Christ to so penetrate her being that she was able to perfectly reflect the light of her Son. As John Paul explains:

Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of "learning him". In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother.

— *Rosarium Virginis Mariae, 14*

Thus, it is especially when we ponder with Mary the mystery of her Son through the Rosary that we sit at the "school of Mary" and come to a deeper knowledge and communion with her Son. Through the Rosary we join with her in pondering in our own hearts the saving truth of Jesus Christ and come into a more intimate communion with Him. This is why the Rosary is above all a Christ-centered prayer in which we learn

Christ with and through the intercession of his mother. Therefore, devotion to the Rosary can be a powerful spiritual tool in helping us come to a deeper knowledge of Christ so that we may be ever more faithful in "echoing" Christ through our ministry of catechesis.

May we all entrust ourselves to the maternal intercession of Mary who was for us the model catechist and the first to hand on the Person of Christ. As Pope John Paul II powerfully prays:

May the Virgin of Pentecost obtain this for us through her intercession. By a unique vocation, she saw her Son Jesus "increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor." As He sat on her lap and later as He listened to her throughout the hidden life at Nazareth, this Son, who was "the only Son from the Father," "full of grace and truth," was formed by her in human knowledge of the Scriptures and of the history of God's plan for his people, and in adoration of the Father. She in turn was the first of his disciples. She was the first in time, because even when she found her adolescent Son in the temple she received from Him lessons that she kept in her heart. She was the first disciple above all else because no one has been "taught by God" to such depth. She was "both mother and disciple," as St. Augustine said of her, venturing to add that her discipleship was more important for her than her motherhood. There are good grounds for the statement made in the synod hall that Mary is "a living catechism" and "the mother and model of catechists."

May the presence of the Holy Spirit, through the prayers of Mary, grant the Church unprecedented enthusiasm in the catechetical work that is essential for her. Thus will she effectively carry out, at this moment of grace, her inalienable and universal mission, the mission given her by her Teacher: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

— *Catechesi Tradendae 73*



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.

VOICES of the CHURCH

opinions, stories, wisdom, and personal voice

Bishop Vann issues statement opposing HHS contraceptive, abortifacient mandates

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following statement by Bishop Kevin Vann, titled "Position Statement on (HHS) Contraceptive Mandates, and Lack of Sufficient Conscience Protections" was released Aug. 9.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF TEXAS are joining together to oppose the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate that all medical insurance and care plans pay for preventive services including contraceptives and abortifacients, with only a narrow and insufficient conscience protection and exemption clause for religious organizations.

FIRST AND FOREMOST,

we, the Catholic Bishops of Texas as well as the Bishops of the United States, believe this mandate violates the moral and religious convictions of providers and employees in order to participate in an organization's health care plan. The language in the HHS mandate for the exemption of religious institutions and organizations in regard to the use of contraceptives is not broad enough to protect our Catholic hospitals and institutions.

CATHOLIC HOSPITALS PLAY

an indispensable role all across our country in providing care to the most vulnerable in our society and should be protected and allowed to provide this critical care without compromising our conscience and moral beliefs. As it stands, the HHS mandate, while it may offer some good services, would constitute a grave violation of the right to freedom of conscience for millions of Americans and seriously threaten the good work and mission of our Catholic hospitals and other health care institutions. As Pope John Paul II teaches in *Evangelium Vitae*:

CHRISTIANS, LIKE ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL, are called upon under grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law... What is at stake therefore is an essential right which, precisely as such, should be acknowledged

and protected by civil law. In this sense, the opportunity to refuse to take part in the phases of consultation, preparation, and execution of these acts against life should be guaranteed to physicians, health-care personnel, and directors of hospitals, clinics and convalescent facilities. Those who have recourse to conscientious objection must be protected not only from legal penalties but also from any negative effects on the legal, disciplinary, financial, and professional plane. (74)

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (CHA) has also strongly opposed this HHS mandate because of the inclusion of contraception and the inadequate conscience protections for religious institutions. You may find the statement from CHA on their website at <http://www.chausa.org/>.

SECONDLY, THE MANDATING OF CONTRACEPTIVES

to be universally made available under the guise of preventive care is seriously flawed and misleading. Contraception is almost always prescribed for personal and lifestyle reasons, and not for any type of preventive medicine. In addition, contraception poses serious health risks to women such as a significantly increased risk of breast cancer and heart disease which are the very health conditions and diseases that HHS is trying to prevent.

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO REVIEW THE TEXAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ACTION ALERT and then join me, the other bishops of Texas, as well all bishops in the United States, in objecting to the HHS mandate.

The Texas Catholic Conference Action Alert with detailed suggestions for response before Sept. 30 can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.txcatholic.org/index.php/public-policy/action-alert-archive>

Pius XII Revisionism:

When will history be allowed to prevail?

By David Mills

No matter how much evidence in his favor his supporters present, Pope Pius XII's critics seem to have declared a permanent open season on him for what they claim is his failure to respond to the Nazis the way his critics think he should have responded to them. He's an easy target for anti-Catholics, who only have to memorize the phrase "Didn't do enough to oppose the Germans" and maybe one or two bits of alleged evidence, and they can throw out a serious charge that will leave most people nodding their heads in agreement.

It's not, of course, fair. The fair-minded person would suspect something is up, in fact. The attacks only began 18 years after World War II ended, and five years after Pius died, in a play by a leftwing playwright. It's as if you turned 40 and suddenly found high school teachers you never had denouncing you as a cheater, even though you had a drawerful of glowing references from teachers who'd actually taught you.

Before that, the press and Jewish leaders had praised Pius for his actions. Even during the war, the *New York Times* described him as "a lonely voice in the silence and darkness enveloping Europe."

Many Jewish leaders had praised him too. For example, when he died in 1958, Israel's representative at the United Nations declared, "During the 10 years of Nazi terror, when our people went through the horrors of martyrdom, the Pope raised his voice to condemn the persecutors and to commiserate with their victims. The life of our time has been enriched by a voice which expressed the great moral truths above the tumults of daily conflicts. We grieve over the loss of a great defender of peace." That was Golda Meir, who later became prime minister of Israel.

That Pius XII didn't do enough to oppose the Nazis is now something "everyone knows." But only because people will keep saying it no matter what. It's as if you went for coffee after Mass and a man at the urn said, "Oh, you're the guy who cheated in high school," and went to get gas on your way home and the clerk told you that you ought to return your degree.

Just two months ago, the *New York Times Book Review* tossed out the charge, for example. The review is one of the most influential book reviews in the country. A lot of librarians use it to decide what books to order for their libraries. It gives books a kind of secular imprimatur.

In a review of an English historian's

It's as if you turned 40 and suddenly found high school teachers you never had denouncing you as a cheater, even though you had a drawerful of glowing references from teachers who'd actually taught you.

book on the papacy, the newspaper's former executive editor declared both Pius XI and Pius XII Hitler's "compliant enablers." The book Bill Keller was reviewing, John Julius Norwich's *Absolute Monarchs*, claimed that they "together cleared the way for the unobstructed advance of Nazism — and of its treatment of the Jews."

Fortunately, Pius XII has his defenders, and they've been working very hard for several years now. One of them, a historian named William Doyno, has recently found yet more evidence in Pius's favor. When he was made pope in 1939, a newspaper called *The Jewish Veteran* ran an editorial titled "Hail Pope Pius XII!"

His election, it said, was "a great shock" to Italian anti-Semites but "a source of great satisfaction to the Jews." The new pope "is known as a staunch friend of Jews and on several occasions expressed his strong opposition to the persecution of Jews in Germany and Italy." Because he had been "known as a vigorous champion of the Vatican's anti-Nazi policy, the anti-Semitic Fascists tried hard to prevent Cardinal Pacelli's election. Their failure demonstrates the lack of influence of anti-Semites in the princes of the Catholic Church."

That is a pretty ringing endorsement. Great shock, staunch friend, strong opposition, vigorous champion: This isn't the picture of Pius XII people like Keller and Norwich draw. Nothing like it. The exact opposite, in fact.

It's a fair judgment, I think, to go with the editors of *The Jewish Veteran*, Golda Meir, and all the many other witnesses to Pius XII's courage and wisdom, and not with critics like Keller and Norwich.

David Mills is the executive editor of FIRST THINGS (www.firstthings.com). William Doyno's article can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/DoynoPiusXII>.

VOICES of the CHURCH

opinions, stories, wisdom, and personal voice

Parents make very real sacrifices, but our sons and daughters are only on loan from God...

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Probably John would not have climbed out his first grade classroom window if it had been higher than the ground floor. At least I am hoping that is the case.

In all the years I had known my little boy — six, not counting the prenatal one when he was decidedly easier to control — he'd always possessed a mind of his own. I knew that characteristic would lead him to be a wonderful, self-assured adult, and that he would have strength of character to follow his own mind, and not the collective mind of the crowd.

But that day, in the first-grade classroom, John came upon what was his very first chance to do that. He made a decision that went completely against the actions of the crowd.

Another first-grader in the classroom had become sick, and John's teacher instructed everyone else to leave. "Exit quickly and in an orderly fashion," was what the teacher said, so John did that. He walked (in an orderly fashion) to the classroom wall, where a window was open, and climbed out onto the playground.

I wasn't there, and I don't know if the events that followed were good or bad. I do know that was the only "first" in John's life that I had not photographed. His teacher's expression had to have been, at the very least, amusing, if not amused. But, realistically, if I had been there, I would have behaved in a much less orderly fashion than she preferred.

So, I guess it is fortunate I did not get to react to any of this while it was happening, but I did get to hear about it later. "My teacher said to leave as fast as we could," John explained, innocently, "and I was right next to the window.

"I left the fastest of everyone."

John spoke the final six words with big eyes and pride, as though he was saying, "I finished all of my broccoli."

John's teacher of course, took him to the principal, who did whatever principals did to wayward first graders, and afterward phoned me. Calmly, this gentleman, who knew John and our family very well, said, "How do you expect me to keep a straight face when I have to discipline John for climbing out a window?" He followed that with the reflection that if he had been there he might have done the same thing.

John grew up to be a firefighter. And I am so proud of him. He is a strong Catholic husband and father, and a youth leader, but also he is someone who slides down poles, climbs in buildings, and rappels out of windows for a living.

How often, I wonder, do we watch our



(NTC photo / Kathy Cribari Hamer)

Cistercian Brother Ambrose Strong, lies prostrate before the altar during the ordination liturgy at Cistercian Chapel in Irving August 14, as his Mother, Terry, and father, Garland join in the prayers of the liturgy. That day two Cistercians were ordained to the diaconate, and their son Brother Ambrose who grew up in Holy Family Parish in West Fort Worth, and fellow ordinand, Brother Thomas Esposito were ordained to the priesthood. Brother Ambrose is the third prostrate man from the near side of the picture. More coverage will be available online at fwdioc.org/ntc and in the next issue of the *NTC*.

kids do the very things that are a prediction of their lives to come?

Last Sunday I watched the ordination of a young man who went to Nolan Catholic High School with some of my children — a few years after John graduated.

Michael Strong, now Cistercian Father Ambrose Strong, was said to be a handsome, lovable kid, and a young man whose elementary school yearbook quoted him as saying he wanted to be a doctor, win the lottery, and be active in the Church.

Perhaps it was the Church that won the lottery.

I watched Michael's mother, Terry, as her son experienced the ordination liturgy, and the emotion showed on her face. She sat inches from him as he lay prostrate, in prayer. "It was the culmination of what he had worked so hard for," she said. "It was very humbling."

Kneeling on the floor that day, photographing the four young men who lay there, I watched in admiration of the parents, who had given their children a fertile place to find vocations.

It's a sacrifice," I realized, in my heart. The sacrifice is a gift to God, of the child you gave life to in so many different ways. I imagined there to be good feelings and sad ones, feelings of loss as well as of winning (the lottery).

In my maternal heart I also visualized living sacrifices, gifts we daily give to God, and He to us, during the bad times that require his constantly-flowing help.

When bad things happen, we give the children, in fact, back to Him, because that's where they came from. We give them, not in the traditional sense of an ordination, but in a

prayerful sense. In the desperate times in our children's lives, those are when we do — or should — pass the blessed beings back to the Father who loaned them to us in the first place.

Giving our children back to God is an act of faith and trust, and in return for giving back the precious souls He entrusted to us, God sends grace, to help us and our children through those times.

"As they lay there," Terry Strong said of her son Michael, now Fr. Ambrose, "I was hoping all of them were comfortable. And I thought of Michael 'laying down his life.' And I realized he is one person in my family I don't have to worry about."

When John climbed out the window of his first grade classroom, it was in no way a bad time, but instead a moment I treasure, because of the honesty of it, the simple sincerity, and the humor that memory left in my heart. I also cherish the moment because it is now a clear image for me of what John was, and what he was to become.

Just imagine: our heavenly Father already knew, then and there, that a grown up John would be strong, that he would have a mind of his own, that he knew exactly where he was going, no matter what, and that he would be great at climbing into and out of windows.

Kathy Cribari Hamer and her husband are members of St. Andrew Parish near TCU in Southwest Fort Worth. In May 2009 her column received the second place award for best family life column from the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada for the second time in two years. In 2005, Kathy's column received the first place award in the same category.

FDA to finally inspect our meds — how often?

By Jeff Hensley
Editor, *North Texas Catholic*

The other evening I happened on a news brief in the *Star-Telegram* telling us that 80 percent of our prescription drugs are now being made in India and China. But the article offered the good news that the FDA had, after decades of negotiation, been able to assure that these plants would — after many cases of tainted drugs — be subject to FDA inspection — about every two years.

All of this points to someone (or lots of someones) in the regulatory end of government not paying attention to the good of the public. It seems the ideas of the 1920s, the ideal of laissez-faire government, or literally, "leave it alone" government, have dominated far too much of our thinking.

At the basis of all that government does, according to that body of thought known as Catholic Social Teaching, is the value of the individual human being, made in the image and likeness of God.

Respect for the human person, governance in the interest of the common good, subsidiarity (or allowing the family or local institutions to handle what is in their spheres, rather than having national governments intervene inappropriately), protection of the unborn and the poor, the elderly and disabled, the presence of mediating institutions like the Church, voluntary organizations, and labor unions to buffer the bigness of government and business, all of these are elements of Catholic Social Teaching.

Government has a number of legitimate functions on behalf of the citizens of the country. We need government to build highways, help regulate the economy, administer justice, assure the purity of air, water, food, and medicine, assure that the rights of minorities are not trampled upon by majorities who may wish them harm, without giving undue favor to minorities.

For its part, the government must act under the supervision of elected leaders, and with input from all citizens, not only powerful lobbying groups, to carry out its legitimate functions — on behalf of us all.

But somewhere along the way, all these elements of building a just and good society have been thwarted, the dialogue has broken down. Government has lost much of our trust, and government seems not to trust the expressed will of its people.

Balance, is the missing element. Only by God's grace and persistent citizen effort will balance be restored.

Features

Jesus shows Himself in the Anawim

By Jeff Hedglen

For the longest time I didn't understand the first Beatitude. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). For the life of me I could not figure out why being poor in spirit was a good thing. I figured quite the opposite had to be true, after all isn't the spirit a good thing? If so, why would it be a blessing to be poor, to not have much of it?

The answer came to me as I was preparing to give a retreat on the Beatitudes. In my study leading up to the event I discovered a Hebrew word: Anawim. This word literally means utterly and totally dependent. In Old Testament times and at the time of Jesus, it referred to the poor, the widow, and the orphan. These groups of people were the ones with the least power in that society. They were utterly and totally dependent on others for their wellbeing.

Some other definitions of Anawim are: bending oneself down; to be humble, meek, and gentle. Some scholars define the word as "beggars before God" humbly acknowledging their need of divine help. In other words, those who know their need for God

Thus the Anawim are the "poor in spirit" that Jesus says are blessed. They are not just the widows, orphans, and materially poor, they are all people who are utterly and totally dependent on God.

I encountered one particular group of the Anawim in the year 2000 on a trip to Israel. I went with Catholic Relief Services on a trip especially designed for youth ministers. We spent a lot of time in the West Bank visiting with the Palestinians. One of the days we visited a tiny, extremely poor village in the Hebron Valley.

The people we encountered were the most abject poor I have ever seen. They had very little housing, if any. They had a few goats, and very meager supplies. We toured their

tiny village and spoke to them about the seemingly hopeless life they were living. As the tour was winding down, one of the women opened a crude outdoor stone oven and proudly, with a huge smile on her face, offered us fresh baked flat bread.

All of us on the trip looked at each other with a bit of horror. We had just come from a big lunch in a neighboring town; it didn't seem right for us to eat what must have been a major part of their daily food budget.

We, of course, accepted the gesture with deep gratitude, and in this moment I realized I had just seen the Gospel story of the poor woman who put all the money she had in the temple treasury. For out of the abundance of their hearts these people broke bread with us.

In a very real way the Beatitudes of the Christian Gospel came to life through the actions of an impoverished Palestinian Muslim community. To say that this rocked my world is an understatement. It is a scene very much like this that I imagine Jesus had in mind when he said blessed are the poor in spirit, and the kingdom of heaven is theirs; for that day I think I saw the Kingdom come alive in these people's eyes.

I walked away from that experience a changed person.

Not only was I amazed at the general attitude of happiness of the extremely poor people in Hebron, I was struck by my all too frequent lack of contentment in the midst of plenty. Surely I was missing something that these people possessed.

We are all called to hate material poverty and love the poor, yet at the same time we are called to choose poverty by living simply, by laying down the burden of unneeded possessions and ambitions. With these actions and attitudes we can become more and more utterly and totally dependent on God. We can become the Anawim, the poor in spirit, and the Kingdom of heaven will be ours.

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.



Members of the Bavarian folk dance group Goalschnalzer perform in front of Pope Benedict XVI during a special audience at the pope's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, July 31. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)



The Jesuits have sold the 7th-century St. Cuthbert Gospel — believed the oldest intact book produced in Europe — to the British Library for \$14.7 million. The pocket-size Latin translation of the Gospel of St. John was found inside the coffin of St. Cuthbert, bishop of Lindisfarne, when the saint's grave was opened in 1104. (CNS photo/courtesy of British Library)



A young person roller skates Aug. 12 as members of the Missionaries of Charity walk through Madrid's Buen Retiro park ahead of the Aug. 16-21 World Youth Day gathering in Madrid. (CNS photo/Andrea Comas, Reuters)

Cross-Words

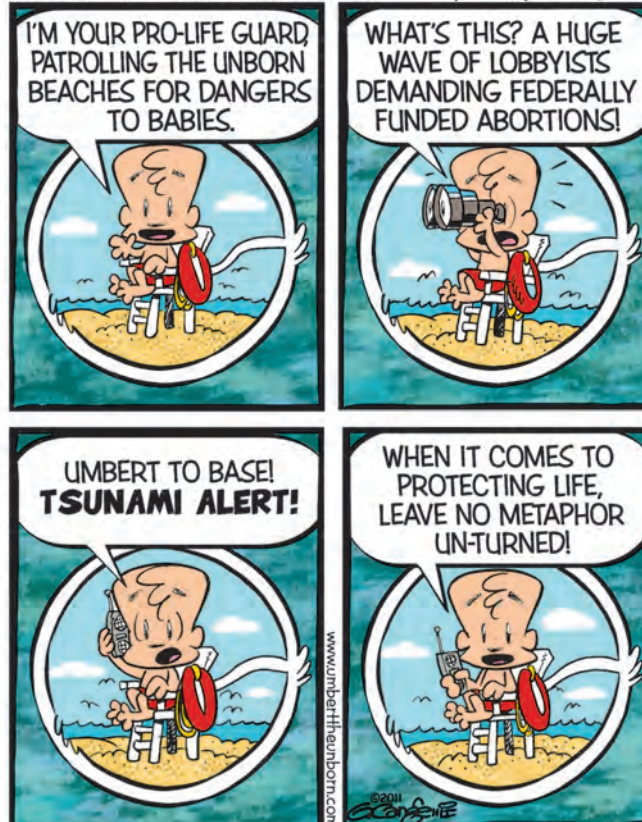
By Mark Simeroth

Across & Down:

1. Mountain of God (Exodus 3:1)
2. Small green fruit
3. Waterway
4. Happening
5. Dock

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



The FLOCK by Jean Denton



Vocations

Responding to God's call

Knights of Columbus raise more than \$190,000 to show

Appreciation

for clergy and religious at annual dinner



In an emotional high point of the evening, members of the Catholic Deaf Community of Fort Worth's Sign Choir showed their appreciation to the Knights by interpreting the song "Lean On Me."

Story by Michele Baker / Correspondent
Photos by Wendy Pandolfo

The Western Metroplex Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, which encompasses the entire Diocese of Fort Worth, raised just over \$190,000 for vocations and presented the check to Bishop Kevin Vann at its annual Religious Appreciation Dinner Tuesday, Aug. 2 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine. The event, now in its 16th year, drew more than 400 people including more than 100 priests, sisters, deacons and their wives, seminarians, and brothers. As is common when it comes to gatherings of the Knights of Columbus, the evening was punctuated by an overarching spirit of fraternal welcome.

"The purpose of this evening is threefold," said event chairman Pat Henz in an interview. "To show our appreciation to the clergy, to present Bishop Vann with our charity check, and to kick off our fundraising for the next fraternal year."

Appreciation began the moment priests and religious entered the building. At the sign-in table, each received a small gift; there were drawings for door prizes, and at different times during the festivities various groups were recognized.

Henz, who is a Fort Worth police officer, served as master of ceremonies for the evening's program. A personable man of deep faith, he proved he's not above doing a bit of schtick when the opportunity arises: telling jokes using the names of priests from the diocese or comparing police officers and priests (Both wear uniforms. People come to them for help. People seek their advice. And, like priests, cops are looking for a confession.). Yet in the midst

of all the good natured ribbing, the councils' devotion to vocations remained ever present. In a memorial slide show honoring those priests and religious who had gone to their eternal reward in the last year; in acknowledging the priests and sisters who celebrated Golden, Platinum, even Diamond Jubilees; even in a proclamation by the City of Grapevine declaring August 2, 2011 "Religious Appreciation Day."

"It is through your hard work that this evening is possible," said Mark Evans, State Warden for the Knights of Columbus, who was on hand to present Bishop Vann with the check. "We must support our priests, deacons, religious, and the future of our Church," he exhorted.

Bishop Vann concurred in his remarks. "We are blessed with an increasing number of seminarians," he said, "which means an increase in the cost of seminarian education."

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has made vocations a priority and the Western

Metroplex Chapter has taken this call to heart. Each individual council "adopts" at least one seminarian and provides him with a stipend for the year.

"They've done so much for me," said Maurice Moon, a third year philosophy student at St. Joseph Seminary in Covington, Louisiana. "They're like a bunch of fathers. They're willing to help out financially but also with encouragement. I love the Knights."

Then there's the Pennies for Seminarians program.

"The Pennies for Seminarians Fund is a fund started by the Knights of Columbus that goes into an account used for special needs of seminarians that are not covered by the diocese," said Father Kyle Walterscheid, diocesan director of Vocations, in an e-mail, pointing out that as the Vocations director, he administers this fund. It has proved helpful in paying for things like eyewear, dental emergencies, even car repairs. This year's Pennies



Pat Henz (LEFT), the evening's master of ceremonies, and Ken Brazier (CENTER), the Knights' Western Metroplex Chapter president, present Bishop Kevin Vann with a check for \$190,026 to help support seminarians' education and the diocese's Deaf Ministry.



Diocesan Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid (FAR RIGHT) introduces the diocese's incoming seminarians (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Timothy Patrick, Joe Sandoval, Sam Maul, Matthew Di Giovanni, and Eugene Flynn.

for Seminarians program raised \$3,800, which was presented to Fr. Walterscheid during the Appreciation Dinner.

And, as if all this weren't enough, the reach of the annual gift to the vocations program extends even further into the community of the faithful in, perhaps, a surprising way.

"Since 1972 the Knights of Columbus have been important in championing the cause for deaf ministry," explained Connie Martin, diocesan coordinator of Deaf Ministry. "We remain very grateful for their support." It has been a local custom for several years now for a modest portion of the Knights' contribution to vocations to be earmarked to help the Office of Deaf Ministry. Members of the Catholic Deaf Community of Fort Worth's Sign Choir showed their appreciation to the Knights by interpreting the song "Lean On Me." It proved to be an emotional high point in the celebration.

The evening ended with a silent auction to begin the fundraising efforts for the current fraternal year. Asked at the end of a very full night if they felt appreciated, priests, deacons, religious, and seminarians alike responded with a resounding, "Yes. Very."



Diocesan Deaf Ministry Coordinator Connie Martin thanks the Knights of Columbus for the money they raised in support of Deaf Ministry.



Sisters Sr. Mary Consilia Mackiewicz, CSFN, (LEFT) and Mary Michael Dittoe, SSMN, stand as nuns are recognized at the dinner.



Albert and Dena Olivias from St. Matthew Parish browse items for the silent auction, kicking off a new year for fundraising.

Four Sisters of St. Mary of Namur celebrating jubilees are honored at Aug. 6 Mass at St. Bartholomew for their

Legacy

of passing the faith they live to all they serve

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Neither illness nor 100 degree temperatures could keep Richard and Kim Le from attending the Aug. 6 Jubilee celebration celebrated by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur.

The Dallas couple buckled their two young children into a car and traveled to St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth to honor someone very special. Sister Ginny Vissing, who was celebrating her golden anniversary as a religious, is the prayer partner helping Richard battle Lou Gehrig's disease.



Provincial Superior Sister Patricia Ste. Marie, SSMN, of the congregation's Western Province, welcomes supporters to the Mass.



Msgr. Michael Olson, rector of Holy Trinity Seminary, served as homilist for the Mass, thanking the sisters for the "living and vibrant faith" they passed on to all those they served.

"She prays with him every day over the phone," his wife explains. "It helps him spiritually. We ask for healing."

Daily conversations with Sr. Ginny encourage the young husband and father.

"It keeps me going," he admits. "So I wanted to come here and show our appreciation."

The Le's family joined a large audience of friends and relatives at a Mass that recognized four Sisters of St. Mary of Namur for their years of service to the Church, the Catholic schools, and society's poor.

Leading the procession up the aisle were Sister Mary Michael Dittoe (70 years), Sister Teresa Honkomp (60 years), and Sister Virginia (Ginny) Vissing (50 years). Sister Alice Hunter, a 94-year-old who professed her religious vows 75-years-ago, was unable to attend the Mass and reception.

Monsignor Michael Olson, rector of Holy Trinity Seminary, celebrated the Mass with Bishop Kevin Vann presiding. He expressed gratitude for the sisters' collective 255 years of religious life.

"We give thanks not only for the quantity of years, but the dedication of each of these individual sisters who have given themselves one day at a time in a series of present moments," Msgr. Olson said during his homily. "Today we celebrate not only looking back, but also looking forward."

The celebrant described how many of the elementary schools started or staffed by the religious community became the building blocks for higher institutions of learning in North Texas. Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Edward Schools led to the formation of Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas.

Our Lady of Victory Academy established Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. The Academy of Mary Immaculate helped build Notre Dame High School in Wichita Falls and the Our Lady of Victory Junior College was the forerunner of the University of Dallas.

"These institutions you formed were imbued by your mission to love God," he said. "Your generosity and an apostolic heart permitted them to proclaim and pass on the Gospel in a new way."

But the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur have more than just a legacy of institutions to show for their life's work and dedication.

"There is the living and vibrant faith of the people you have educated and the poor you have clothed," Msgr. Olson continued. "The love of God that bears fruit and lasts is the heart of your charism."

Sr. Mary Michael was 18 years old when she joined the Western Province of her religious order in 1941. She spent many years teaching school in Texas and California before parish work sent her to Knox City, Rhineland, and Crowell.

"I just pray that some way or another I've helped to spread the kingdom of God," she says. "I'm grateful God has embraced me all these years. And I'm grateful to be a sister of St. Mary."

Sr. Ginny watched many Wichita Falls youngsters grow up first as a teacher, then as director of religious education at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish — a post she's held for 30 years.

"There's always a deep satisfaction when you help people with their faith," she said. "I do a lot of singing with children in the music ministry. It's my life and I love that."



ABOVE: SSMN Sisters Teresa Honkomp (LEFT), Mary Michael Dittoe (CENTER), and Ginny Vissing genuflect before the altar at the opening procession of the Mass commemorating their jubilees.

BELOW: Bishop Kevin Vann smiles with Sr. Ginny (CENTER) and her sister Rosemary Tobin (RIGHT) as they look at a picture of Sr. Ginny when she took her first vows.



Sr. Teresa, who enjoyed the company of her brothers Edward and Bud Honkomp at her jubilee celebration, says her fondest memories are the years spent teaching children.

"You can almost see the wheels moving in their minds," explains the veteran educator who taught every class from first through eighth grades. "And I loved teaching religion."

During the Mass, Bishop Vann said he was privileged to be a part of the religious community's special day and thanked them for making him feel at home in the diocese.

"Your religious vows and dedication to community life has brought light, the love of Christ, and the glory of God to all those students and people who have crossed your paths during the years," he added. "They're grateful and I'm grateful."



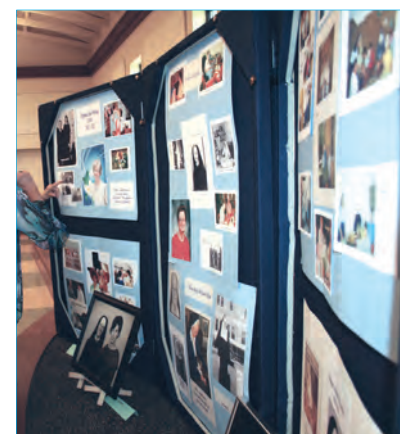
Sister Ginny Vissing, SSMN, poses with Richard and Kim Le and their family. Sr. Ginny has been offering spiritual comfort for the Dallas couple since Richard was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease.



Sister Teresa Honkomp, SSMN, (CENTER) enjoys the company of her brothers Edward (LEFT) and Bud Honkomp, and cousin, Mary Jo Owens (SEATED).



Sister Mary Michael Dittoe, SSMN, is greeted by Father Carmen Mele, OP.



A trifold display board shows pictures from the jubilarian nuns' 255 collective years of service.

Sister Lola 'Ulupano enters novitiate for Sisters of St. Mary of Namur

By **Tony Gutiérrez**
Associate Editor

Taking her first vows as a novice for the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur's Western Province at Our Lady of Victory Center in Fort Worth July 3, Sister Lola 'Ulupano, a member of the Tongan community from St. Michael Church in Bedford, became the congregation's first novice in 10 years.

Sr. Lola, the daughter of Deacon Sangote 'Ulupano at St. Michael, is currently in Brazil where she is in formation with other novices from the SSMN Brazil Province, and one from Canada.

"We are very proud of her for answering 'yes' to God's call," said Dcn. 'Ulupano. "She has been discerning since she was a kid, and finally had a chance to enter the novitiate."

Born the second of six children in Tonga in 1979, Sr. Lola remained in Tonga to care for her paternal grandparents when her family

moved to the United States. When she turned 19, she joined her family in the U.S. and immediately expressed a desire to serve God as a religious.

Dcn. 'Ulupano, who was ordained with the diocese's deacon class of 2009, looked in the phone book to find a community for his daughter to join. The first community wasn't based in the area and didn't offer a formation process, but the second community they found was the Sisters of St. Mary. After attending several "Come and See" events with the sisters, Lola spent the next eight years volunteering with the sisters while immersing herself in the culture and learning English.

"It's a beautiful story because she felt a call. The first door didn't open, but the second one did," said Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, the Vocations director for the province. "She's been a blessing for us, a true joy. Lola came in and immediately immersed herself in the spirit and the charism of our community."



Photos courtesy of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, Western Province
Above: Sister Lola 'Ulupano poses with parishioners from St. Michael Church in Bedford, including members of the Tongan community.

Right: Sr. Lola embraces Sister Patricia Ste. Marie, provincial for the SSMN Western Province after making her vows as a novice. Seated at the right is St. Michael Pastor Emeritus Monsignor Phil Johnson (far right), and Sr. Lola's father, Deacon Sangote 'Ulupano.

During this pre-candidacy stage, Lola earned a GED from Cassata High School and an associate's degree in education from Tarrant County College.

Dcn. 'Ulupano, who serves the Tongan community at St. Michael, said that his daughter entering the novitiate has encouraged future vocations among the community.

"For them [the Tongan Community], it's a great thing. They support me and they

supported her," Dcn. 'Ulupano said. "When they see this, they see it can be done for their children — they see they could become priests or sisters."

Sr. Yolanda, who also serves as Vice-Chancellor for Women Religious and Parish Services and associate Vocations director for women for the Diocese of Fort Worth, sees Sr. Lola's entering the novitiate as a sign of hope and growth.

"She brought a life to the province with her sharing and her presence," Sr. Yolanda said enthusiastically. "It's hopeful for us to have had Lola come in as a novice and knowing we have other young women at the present pursuing the Sisters of St. Mary."

Diocese of Fort Worth Seminarians for 2011-2012



Photo courtesy of Michael's Studio

FRONT ROW (L TO R): Diocesan Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid, Bishop Kevin Vann; **SECOND ROW (L TO R):** Nghia Nguyen, Eugene Flynn, Keith Hathaway, Deacon Manuel Holguín, John Martin, Ronald Mercado, Gary Picou; **THIRD ROW (L TO R):** Khoi Tran, Michael Greco, Maurice Moon, Tom Kelley, James Wilcox, Michael Galbraith, Stephen Hauck; **BACK ROW (L TO R):** Timothy Patrick, Michael Mooney, Joe Sandoval, Matthew Di Giovanni, Sam Maul, Daniel Cochran, Justin Conover, Thomas Jones.

World Youth Day vocations fair helps young people put God first

By Gretchen R. Crowe
Arlington Catholic Herald
Diocese of Arlington,
Virginia

MADRID (CNS) — As pilgrim Mark Horn mingled among hundreds of young people in an auditorium full of priests and women and men religious, the words he had just heard from Father Robert J. Barron cascaded through his mind.

It is through God that true happiness can be found, Fr. Barron told Horn and an auditorium full of English-speaking pilgrims during a vocations fair sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at St. Francis Borgia Parish in Madrid Aug. 17, part of World Youth Day activities.

Fr. Barron, who runs the Chicago-based Word on Fire ministry, was “spot on,” said the 24-year-old Horn of the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota.

“I thought the talk was what a



Pilgrims from Weslaco, in the Diocese of Brownsville, pray during the opening service of the U.S. bishops' vocations fair in Madrid Aug. 17.

lot of young people need to hear,” Horn said. “There’s no illusions. The way to happiness ultimately is about God and not me and does require sacrifice.

“Any person who’s serious about their spiritual life ... does look to the cross for inspiration,” he added.

Horn was not alone in grasping Fr. Barron’s message that

each person is called to a vocation in life that requires putting God first and ego second.

Stephen Yang of Arcadia, California, said the priest’s talk opened his mind to a new way of thinking about a vocation.

“The word vocation was always obscure to me,” he said.

“I would hear it and think it means priesthood or consecrated

life, something other than being married or single. But now I know fully that it includes both single and married life.”

Yang said the day’s events inspired him to seek out regular Eucharistic Adoration when he returns home so he could continue to discern his vocation.

The fair began with exposition of the Eucharist and prayer with Boston Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley. Activities unfolded throughout the day and included a concert as well as opportunities for young people to mingle with religious women and men.

Fr. Barron stressed to the young people gathered the importance of distinguishing between the “ego drama” and the “theo drama” — between putting self first or God first. He recalled St. Thomas Aquinas, who suggested the four primary ways that people choose themselves over God are wealth, pleasure, power, and honor.

“Everybody in this room has

an ultimate concern,” Fr. Barron said. “If it is anything other than God, your life is disordered, your life is off-kilter, and you find yourself within the context of the ego drama.”

Vocation, he said, is about finding the place where a person can worship God alone, devoid of all distractions.

“Vocation is all about finding that place and erecting the altar to the true God alone,” he said.

Once free of the attachment to wealth, pleasure, power, and honor, “you are ready to become a conduit of the divine life,” he said.

Fr. Barron suggested that the faithful use the image of Christ on the cross as an example to follow and as a reminder to let go of the things of the world.

“Love what He loved,” he said. “He loved doing the will of the heavenly Father. Because He’s free ... that’s why He’s able to respond to the divine will. The exact same thing’s true of you.”

Serra Club of Fort Worth honors seminarians and their families at annual dinner



Photo courtesy of Ron Thompson / Serra Club of Fort Worth

The Serra Club of Fort Worth hosted its annual “Seminarian Appreciation Dinner” Aug. 8 at St. Bartholomew Church in Southwest Fort Worth. Liturgy of the Hours was prayed at 6 p.m. followed by a reception and dinner honoring the diocese’s seminarians and their families. Most of the Diocese of Fort Worth’s 29 seminarians were able to attend with their families. The evening included a “Seminarian News Clip.” Also in attendance were Bishop Kevin Vann, diocesan Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid, and members of the diocesan Vocations Office. In the picture above, Bishop Vann poses with seminarian Joe Sandoval (right), and his parents, Deacon Larry Sandoval and Tammy Sandoval of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller at the Serrans’ dinner in honor of seminarians and their families.

Friars of the Renewal hold triannual meeting, elect new leaders

Editor’s Note: This is adapted from a press release sent to the NTC by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

The Community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal recently held their Community Chapter at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. Community Chapters are an assembly of all finally professed friars and are held every three years in order to elect leaders and to evaluate the life and work of the community.

Seventy-six finally professed friars living and serving in Texas, as well as New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, Central America, Ireland, and England gathered for their five-day chapter assembly. Through the generosity of Father Douglas Mosey and the staff at the seminary, the friars enjoyed

the accommodations needed not only for their daily deliberations, but time for prayer and fraternal recreation. The community’s novices and other simply professed friars worked in the kitchen.

The friars were spiritually prepared for their assembly by a day of recollection provided by Father Thomas Caserta, from the Diocese of Brooklyn. The five-day assembly was made up of formal presentations together with discussions and proposals, yet each day the friars set aside time for personal and common liturgical prayer. Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration was held in the seminary’s newly constructed church.

On the final day of the Chapter, the friars elected those who would be

responsible for leading the community for the next three years. Father Mariusz Koch was reelected as Community Servant (superior) and Father Richard Roemer was chosen as Community Vicar. Fathers Anthony Marie Baetzold, Fidelis Moscinski, and Luke Mary Fletcher, and Brother John Joseph Brice were elected as Council members.

Also on the final day, simply professed members and the Sisters of the Renewal celebrated the conclusion of the Chapter with prayer and a festive meal.

The Friars of the Renewal have a house in East Fort Worth, and run St. Benedict’s Mission, a poverty outreach center. For more information, visit their website at www.cfrtexas.org.

Celibacy is whole-hearted response to God’s love, cardinal says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — While priestly celibacy is increasingly misunderstood and even under attack, the discipline continues to be a call to a whole-hearted response to God’s love, said Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.

“The celibacy of priests, as well as of bishops, has been put into question today with growing virulence because of sexual abuse, including of minors, committed by clerics,” the cardinal told the bishops of Brazil. Publicity of the abuse cases has led to “generalized suspicion of the clergy,” he said.

“The living and important tradition of celibacy in the Church has been belittled and even put into question,” he added.

Cardinal Ouellet was in Brazil in May to lead a retreat for the country’s bishops. Over the summer, the independent Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*, published the cardinal’s talks, which were focused on the word of God and the identity of bishops. The text of his reflection on celibacy was published Aug. 7.

“Even if the contemporary revolutions in the field of sexuality and the media have made the practice of chastity in celibacy more difficult,” he said, it cannot be denied that celibacy has given a strong and concrete witness to the fact that faith in Christ gave birth to new lifestyles and institutions.

“Part of the mission of the baptized called to consecrated life is giving witness that the covenant God wanted with his people is not only an ideal, but a reality,” the cardinal said.

Although different from a vocation to marriage, he said, the call to celibacy also should lead to “real happiness and unequalled joy,” because it is a loving and complete response to the love of God.

Celibacy is not primarily about “availability and service,” but is part of the “nuptial and sacramental context of the covenant between Christ and his Church. With his celibacy, the bishop certifies that God is love and that he expects his creatures to respond with love to love,” Cardinal Ouellet said.

Mood changes as pope, young people reflect on suffering in Way of Cross



Young people carry the World Youth Day cross during the Way of the Cross led by Pope Benedict XVI in Plaza de Cibeles in Madrid Aug. 19.



Pilgrims pray during Eucharistic adoration being led by Pope Benedict XVI at the World Youth Day prayer vigil in Madrid Aug. 20. Pilgrims endured 30 minutes of heavy rain during the vigil.



Priests hear confessions in Parque del Retiro during World Youth Day in Madrid Aug. 17. Pilgrims could take advantage of the 200 temporary open-air confessionals constructed in Madrid's equivalent of Central Park.

By Cindy Wooden and Gretchen R. Crowe
Photos by Paul Haring
Catholic News Service

MADRID—The mood at World Youth Day changed dramatically late Aug. 19 as Pope Benedict XVI and hundreds of thousands of young people turned their thoughts to suffering.

The vividly painted, graphic statues that illustrated each station of Jesus' passion and death were accompanied by meditations focused on individuals, groups, and nations enduring serious suffering today.

Many young people—even those blocks away, watching on Jumbotrons—read along in special prayer books included in pilgrim backpacks.

Ryan Titzer, a 17-year-old parishioner of St. Timothy Parish in Chantilly, Virginia, described the “pasos” as “3-D Stations of the Cross.”

“They show such reality in the way they depicted the scenes,” he said. “I had to get a picture of every single one to show my parents, just because they were incredible looking.”

“It’s different then seeing a painting or a picture of him,” he added. “You could see the pain on Jesus’ face, and it just made it more real.”

Many of the young people sacrificed their time and comfort by arriving hours early and standing in the hot sun to stake out a place near the papal platform in Plaza de Cibeles or in front of one of the station-statues set up along a main street leading to the plaza.

The meditations included prayers for the defense of human life, for peace in the Holy Land and other areas where there is conflict, for the victims of natural disasters, for the unemployed, for those who suffer racial discrimination or religious persecution, for those with alcohol or drug addictions, and for the victims of sexual abuse.

A cross was carried from one station-statue to another by young people from countries

or situations where there is suffering. They included Iraqis, immigrants, recovering drug addicts, unemployed, and people from Rwanda and Burundi.

A local woman, tissue in hand, leaned out of her shutter-flanked balcony to watch the progress of the cross.

The “paso” depicting the ninth station, “Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments,” included a prayer for victims of sexual abuse.

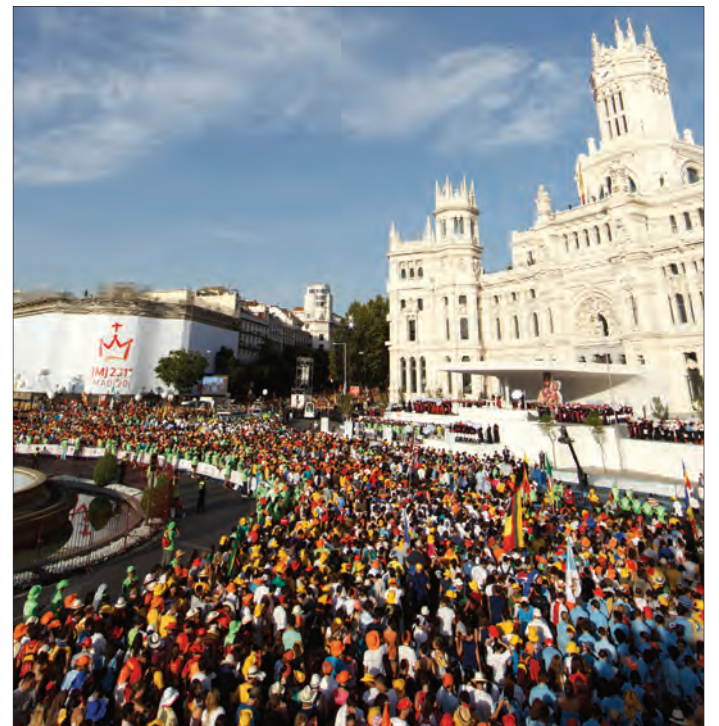
Lauren O’Reilly, from County Wexford in Ireland, said that the abuse allegations have been especially hard on the Irish priests “that are so good.”

“People in Ireland are losing their faith, especially young people,” she said. “It’s nice to see all of us coming together to see that people still have faith.”

In his remarks at the end of the service, Pope Benedict acknowledged that everyone knows suffering, but he urged the young people to focus on Christ’s suffering out of love for all humanity and to imitate that love by committing themselves to alleviate the suffering of others.

Pope Benedict said meditating on Christ’s passion and death should lead Christians to ask, “What can we do for him?”

“Christ’s passion urges us to take upon our own shoulders the sufferings of the world, in the certainty that God is not distant or far removed from man and his troubles,” because Christ became human himself, enduring suffering and death, the pope told the young people.



Pope Benedict XVI leads the Way of the Cross in Plaza de Cibeles during World Youth Day in Madrid Aug. 19.

The pope prayed that Christ’s love would “increase your joy and encourage you to go in search of those less fortunate. You are open to the idea of sharing your lives with others, so be sure not to pass by on the other side” of the road “in the face of human suffering, for it is here that God expects you to give of your very best: your capacity for love and compassion.”

“The different forms of suffering that have unfolded before our eyes in the course of this Way of the Cross are the Lord’s ways of summoning us to spend our lives, following in his footsteps and becoming signs of his consolation and salvation,” the pope said.

The harsh wood of the cross, he said, is a sign of the self-giving love that will give eternal life to all who ask.

“The cross was not a sign of failure, but an expression of self-giving love,” the pope said. The cross “teaches us to love what God loves and in the way that he loves. This is the good news that gives hope to the world.”

Bishop Vann blesses juvenes group traveling to Madrid for World Youth Day



After months of intense preparations, a group of about 30 juvenes, members of the diocese’s Hispanic young adult ministry, under the direction of Andres Aranda, delegate for Hispanic Ministry, gathered at the diocesan Catholic Center Aug. 10 to celebrate Mass, sing a few joyous songs of praise, and receive a blessing from Bishop Kevin Vann, before heading to DFW Airport to join the hundreds of thousands of other youth and Young Adults from around the world gathering in Madrid to join Pope Benedict XVI for World Youth Day. (PHOTOS BY JUAN GUAJARDO / NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC)





Senior Kelsey Hattersly, a/k/a Victoria the Viking mascot, leads the crowd in rousing cheer as students head out to the gym for a pep rally kicking-off Nolan Catholic's 50th jubilee anniversary. She is joined by (left to right) cheerleader Andrea Borrego, drumline members Jordan Mack and Katie Veltman, Ellen Bittenn and cheerleaders Katie Frederick, Adrienne Crawford and Clarissa Cruz.



(LEFT) Father Richard Villa, S.M. tells students they are part of an important milestone in their school's history during an address announcing the start of a nine-month long celebration that marks Nolan Catholic's 50th anniversary. (RIGHT) Nolan upper class members respond vigorously, showing their support of the anniversary celebration.

Nolan Jubilee Pep Rally fires up students

FROM PAGE 1

building had no D or E halls, and the large gathering space known as the Commons once served as a combined cafeteria/library and later as a combined cafeteria/dance studio.

Although Nolan now boasts a multi-purpose center complete with a large arena for athletic events, spirited pep rallies are still held in the smaller, original gym.

"Viking tradition has always prevailed over the years," Pierret pointed out. "That's obvious today with all of you in here cheering and getting ready to celebrate our 50th anniversary."

With 10,000 graduates, part of Nolan's legacy is the impressive number of alumni who send their youngsters to the school. Freshman Abby Pfaff is a third generation Viking. She is the granddaughter of Pat Vader '64 and Judy Parnell Vader '65 and the daughter of Emily Vader Pfaff '90.

Kathryn Rhadigan, 50th anniversary project coordinator and Nolan parent, hopes the celebration draws former students,

like the Vaders, back to the campus for a visit.

"I think there's something to interest everybody. I'm really excited about the tailgates we're having for each of the five decades of classes," she said, explaining the first home football game on Aug. 26 will honor members of the classes who graduated during the 2000s.

In addition to class reunions, Nolan is planning specialty reunions for graduates who were involved in theater, ecology, band, and other clubs.

"They'll get to interface with current students at those reunions," Rhadigan promised.

Current and future generations of Vikings also will benefit from two special projects designed to commemorate the school's jubilee. An existing hallway in the school is being renovated with glass cases to house Nolan memorabilia and historic artifacts.

"There are bits and pieces of history everywhere in the school, but it's not in one central location," the coordinator said. "There's an old cheerleader uniform here and an old program there. We want

to pull it all together in one place — like a museum — so we have a retrospective of where we've been."

Organizers are also planning a centrally-located prayer garden that can serve as a place of reflection for students and visitors.

"These special gifts are for other generations," Rhadigan added.

The nine-month long anniversary celebration will conclude with a June 2, 2012 family Mass, picnic, and concert. For Zoe Pfeifer, the best part of being a Nolan student during the school's 50th anniversary is the excitement and activity.

"I'm looking forward to meeting all of the alumni and learning about the memories they created at Nolan," the junior said.

Principal Cathy Buckingham encourages alumni to visit their alma mater, so they can enjoy the sense of community that makes Nolan Catholic such a very special place for their students and alumni.

"I think if they come back and attend some of these events they will see how Nolan has grown and matured," she said. "They'll be proud to say, 'this is my school.'"

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

August 15 - 50th Anniversary Pep Rally

August 26 - Salute to the classes of the 2000s

6 p.m. Tailgate Reunion & BBQ Dinner

7:30 p.m. Football Game-Halftime Recognition

SEPTEMBER

September 9

Salute to the classes of the 1990s

6 p.m. Tailgate Reunion & BBQ Dinner

7:30 p.m. Football Game-Halftime Recognition

September 16

Salute to the classes of the 1980s

6 p.m. Tailgate Reunion & BBQ Dinner

7:30 p.m. Football Game-Halftime Recognition

September 23

Salute to the classes of the 1970s

6 p.m. Tailgate Reunion & BBQ Dinner

7:30 p.m. Football Game-Halftime Recognition

OCTOBER

October 7

Salute to the classes of the 1960s

6 p.m. Tailgate Reunion & BBQ Dinner

7:30 p.m. Football Game-Halftime Recognition

October 21

Homecoming Game / Doskocil Stadium / 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

December 6

6 p.m. Christmas on Campus

7 p.m. Fine Arts Christmas Concert

JANUARY

January 14

5 p.m. Spirit Leaders Reunion

Cheerleaders, Royelles, Norsemen & Mascots

7 p.m. MEB Memorial Basketball

January 19

Viking Day of Prayer

11 a.m. Chaminade Liturgy

12:30 p.m. Reunion of Chaminade & Marian Award Winners and Esto Dux Recipients

January 21

Faculty & Staff Reunion

5 p.m. Mass / 6 p.m. Dinner

FEBRUARY

February 5

Student Council Reunion

11 a.m. Mass / 12 p.m. Luncheon

February 11

MARDI GRAS AT COWBOYS STADIUM

MARCH

March 3

5:30 p.m. Theatre Reunion

7 p.m. Spring Musical

March 11

Academic Champions Reunion

11 a.m. Mass / 12 p.m. Luncheon

APRIL

April 18

7 p.m. School Board Reunion

April 22

Ecology Reunion

11 a.m. Mass / 12 p.m. Luncheon

MAY

May 6

5 p.m. All Sports Reunion & Legacy Dinner

May 20

Golden Viking Reception

Honoring the OLV Class of 1962
Commencement, Class of 2012

JUNE

June 2

Grand Finale Celebration Event
Family Mass / Family Picnic, Concert & Activities

40 Days for Life campaign to be held in Fort Worth Sept. 28 to Nov. 6

North Texas Catholic Staff

Members of Fort Worth's pro-life community will be uniting with people in hundreds of cities throughout the world for the 40 Days for Life campaign, the largest and longest coordinated pro-life mobilization in history, Sept. 28 to Nov. 6. This is the fourth year 40 Days for Life has been held in Fort Worth.

"Recognizing that 'with God all things are possible,' people of faith are praying that this effort will help bring an end to the tragedy of abortion," says a 40 Days for Life flyer.

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign that has already mobilized more than 400,000 people worldwide, saved more than 4,300 lives from abortion, seen 13 abortion facilities close, and led to the conversion of 52 abortion workers, including Abby Johnson, the former director of a Planned Parenthood facility in Bryan and author of *UnPlanned*, a memoir detailing her experience working for the abortion provider. Johnson, who came into the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Austin on Easter of this year, helped kick off last year's 40 Days for Life campaign in Fort Worth.

40 Days for Life is made up of three components:



Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer / North Texas Catholic archives

An unidentified woman at last year's 40 Days for Life kick-off rally Sept. 22 holds her baby while joining other participants in prayer.

Prayer and Fasting — believers throughout the Fort Worth metro area are invited to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer and fasting for an end to abortion;

Peaceful Vigil — participants take a stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 301 S. Henderson St. in Fort Worth;

Community Outreach — help take a positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of the area through media efforts, advocacy, and public visibility.

To learn how to participate in 40 Days for Life, or for more information, e-mail local coordinators at 40daysforlifeforth@gmail.com or visit the website at www.40daysforlifeforth.com.

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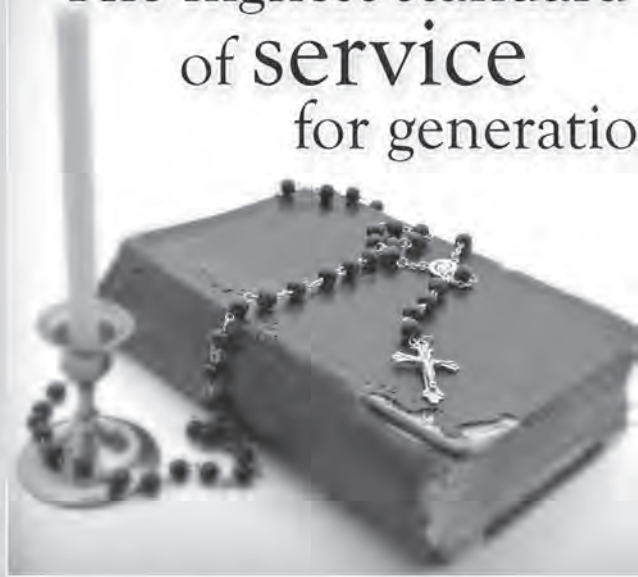
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HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY SEMINARIAN WELCOME DINNER

The annual Holy Trinity Seminary Seminarian Welcome Dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, at The Fairmont Hotel in Downtown Dallas. This fundraising event will allow the Catholic community and the seminarians to be able to come together to visit. There will be a live auction of "priest prize packages", a silent auction, the popular wine pull, on-site raffles, and an angel tree. Registration begins at 5 p.m. To register, visit www.holytrinityseminary.com and click "Seminarian Welcome Dinner" or call (972) 438-2212.

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Starting with the photograph immediately below and going counter-clockwise, these images show the step-by-step process David Gappa goes through to build his glass artwork.



I firmly believe that all of us have been given a palette, and it is our responsibility to multiply those talents.... I'm just glad and honored to be a part of such a worthy cause.

**— David Gappa
Award-winning glassblowing artist**

Gappa ...

FROM PAGE 28

community. Recently, he volunteered to teach art classes for the children in St. Elizabeth's Home School organization this year.

Jeff Hedglen, youth and young adult minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth has known Gappa for 20 years. He was Gappa's youth minister as he took part in the parish youth group, confirmation classes, and on youth mission trips for six years.

"I think what most stood out to me about his faith life, is he is a person who has not wavered in his commitment to his faith," Hedglen said. "Even his art is an expression of his faith."

When Gappa was a teen, Hedglen and the kids in his Confirmation group noticed Gappa's creativity and passion for art. On one retreat, Hedglen set up a table filled with random items and junk, and he had the Confirmation candidates make their prayer partner a gift using only those items. Gappa melted down a collection of crayons to make his prayer partner a one-of-a-kind candle.

"Everyone wanted to make sure David was their partner," Hedglen said with a laugh.

After becoming an architect, Gappa continued working extensively with glassblowing, even going to Italy, Austria, and Japan to work with glassblowing masters. While working at Quorum, he would be an architect by day and a glassblower by night and on Saturdays. But he was paying a price for his passion, Gappa admitted.

"The hours that [I was] working in Quorum and also at *Vetro* were really beginning to take a toll," Gappa said. As *Vetro* was beginning to become successful, the number of evening and weekend hours the work required became "extremely grueling," said Gappa, adding that he also

had to balance spending time with his wife and three daughters. "My eldest daughter at some point asked my wife, 'Is Daddy going to come home this week?'"

Wanting to dedicate more time to his family and his art, Gappa resigned from his job at Quorum in 2008 and became a full-time glassblower, just as the economy was falling into a recession.

"It was an extreme leap of faith," Gappa said. "I'm very blessed that it worked out."

And now Gappa and his staff at *Vetro* are spreading those blessings. The past few weeks, Gappa has spent more than 35 hours making a unique pro-life related glass sculpture depicting a low relief of a profile of a child's head for the upcoming Bishop's Seventh Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet. He will donate the piece for inclusion in the silent auction; proceeds go directly to fund the pro-life ministries operating under the diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office.

In the early years of the banquet, he also made two glass art pieces he presented as a gift to the bishop.

"That's typical of ... the kind of person he is," said Jim Tamulevicz, a St. Bartholomew parishioner who has known Gappa since he was a child, recalling that as a Boy Scout, Gappa's Eagle Scout project had taken the form of an artful revamping of the landscaping at St. Bartholomew's. "Definitely he's grown up very strong in his faith."

Although his gift to the banquet took nearly a full work week, plenty of manpower (glassblowers usually work in teams for large projects), and seven days of babysitting the work until it cured properly, Gappa says he's glad he could contribute to his Church and the pro-life movement.

"It's vitally important," he says of supporting the pro-life movement.

"I firmly believe that all of us have been given a palette, and it is our responsibility to multiply those talents...." Gappa said. "I'm just glad and honored to be a part of such a worthy cause." It's exciting, he said, to be able to "contribute in the best way that I feel I can."



Respect Life

At all stages

Nationally-renowned author and theologian George Weigel to deliver keynote for Bishop's Seventh Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet Sept. 24

By **Juan Guajardo**
Correspondent

The diocesan Office of Catholics Respect Life will host the Bishop's 7th Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet on Sept. 24 at the Hyatt Regency DFW. The event is the major fundraiser for the various ministries encompassed by the Catholics Respect Life Office, including Youth For Life, the Gabriel Project, and Rachel Ministries.

According to Catholics Respect Life Director Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, the event coordinator, guests can expect a silent auction, a raffle, dinner, a short talk by Bishop Kevin Vann, and a keynote talk by George Weigel, noted Catholic theologian, author, and columnist.

"We were very blessed," Ruth-Killgore said. "We had hoped to be able to get [George Weigel] ... and his schedule and our schedule fit."

Weigel, who is probably most well-known for his biography of Pope John Paul II, *Witness to Hope: The Biography of John Paul II*, is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a member of the editorial board of the magazine *First Things*, and author of 19 other books on faith topics. Weigel is the latest in a series of well-known speakers invited to address the banquet, including Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, co-founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Catholic author; Mother Agnes Mary, SV, superior general of the Sisters of Life; and Father Mitch Pacwa, a prominent Catholic author and frequent host on EWTN and EWTN radio.

"He is very well known and respected," Ruth-Killgore said of Weigel. "People have seen him on the media... he is also the go-to guy for the media when they have questions about Catholicism and things like that. Like when John Paul II died, he was very much a media fixture because people were coming to address him for questions."

Ruth-Killgore said the bishop's banquet started as a reception and fundraiser for the then-apostolate Catholics Respect Life, which became the Catholics Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Fort Worth in 2008 with the guidance of Bishop Vann.

Eventually, organizers brought in speakers, and the event grew into a banquet that has seen attendance continually increase. Last year, approximately 650 guests attended, and the silent auction alone raised about \$17,000, Ruth-Killgore said.

"It is an amazing show of support," she added.

This year's silent auction will feature religious items, various gift baskets, artwork, event tickets, gift certificates, a unique pro-life related glass artwork piece made by prominent local glass-blowing artist David Gappa, and 30 days of four-times-a-day 30-second radio spots on Guadalupe Radio (KATH-AM 910), and a silver cross necklace with pearls.

Kevin O'Brien, assistant director for parish and school services for the diocese, played a role in helping with resources for online registration and processing of gifts. He said the banquet plays a major role in how much help pro-life ministries like Rachel Ministries (which helps women with post-abortive healing), the Gabriel Project (which helps mothers going through crisis pregnancies), and Youth for Life, (which educates youth on almost everything pro-life through rallies and camps) can provide.

"So the banquet is extremely important to the program itself and to the diocese as well," O'Brien said, adding that the pro-life movement is a high priority for Bishop Vann. "Through people being really generous at the banquet allows us to truly fulfill the charge that the bishop has put forward to the office. It allows them to get resources that they need to go out and to continue to save children and to save lives and to really pull the wool from the heads of the people that have been confused and convinced that these aren't children, that these aren't lives."

The proceeds from the banquet go directly to the ministries of Catholics Respect Life, Ruth-Killgore said. Funds from the banquet provide support in a variety of ways from educational materials for Youth For Life, to material and monetary support for Gabriel Project mothers, to scholarships for women looking for post-abortive healing through Rachel's

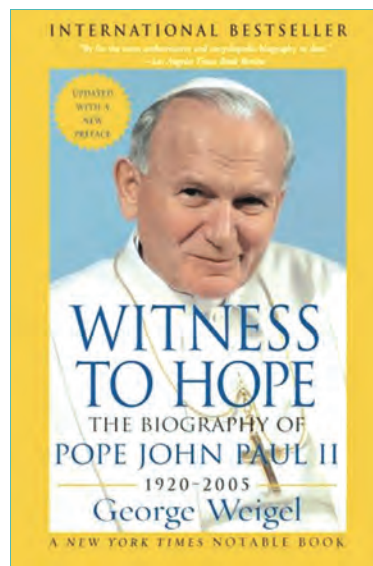
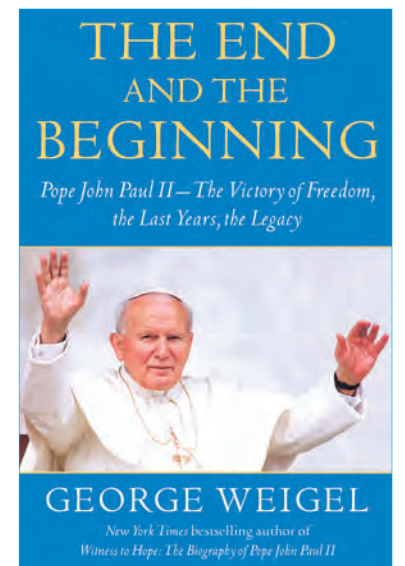


Photo courtesy of Ethics and Public Policy Center



CNS Photo / Paul Haring



CNS Photo

LEFT TO RIGHT: This is the cover of George Weigel's biography about Pope John Paul II, *WITNESS TO HOPE*. • George Weigel, a biographer of Pope John Paul II, is pictured in Rome Jan. 12. Pope John Paul II deeply influenced generations of Catholics who knew him in life, but his most enduring legacy — his teaching — is something that will continue to impact the Church for centuries, Weigel said. • This is the cover of *THE END AND THE BEGINNING: POPE JOHN PAUL II — THE VICTORY OF FREEDOM, THE LAST YEARS, THE LEGACY* by George Weigel.

Ministries' weekend retreats.

"All of our programs and ministries benefit from this," Ruth-Killgore said.

Tickets start at \$75 for an individual guest. After the

registration deadline, September 16, ticket prices will rise to \$100 per individual. To register, visit www.fwdioc.org and click the "Bishop's 7th Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet" ad on the

left. To volunteer, help with gift baskets, or donate needed items to the silent auction, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at (817) 560-2452, ext. 257, or Jeannie Ruth at (817) 240-5379.



DIocese OF FORT WORTH

THE BISHOP'S 7th ANNUAL

Catholic PRO-LIFE BANQUET

SATURDAY, September 24, 2011
Hyatt Regency DFW

DINNER
SILENT AUCTION
RAFFLE
& EXHIBITS

EACH OF US
willed
loved
necessary
Benedict XVI, Inaugural Homily

Inspirational
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



George Weigel
Author
Columnist
Catholic Theologian

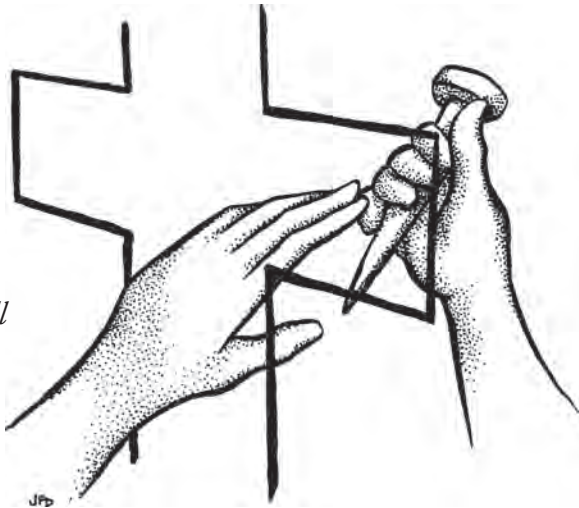
Join the Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann
and Keynote Speaker George Weigel
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Word = Life

Readings Reflections

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault..."

— Matthew 18:15a



September 4, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
- 2) Romans 13:8-10
Gospel) Matthew 18:15-20

By Jeff Hedglen

To start a new life in America with me in 1994, my German-born wife left a lot behind, the most important being her family and friends. The distance has made it a struggle to stay in touch.

One of her childhood friends tracked her down a few years ago and after not seeing each other for almost 20 years, they met up when Monika returned to Germany for a visit. They picked up where they had left off, and when the visit was over they agreed to stay in touch.

After Monika came home, she began to exchange e-mails with her friend, but her friend pulled more of the weight in the friendship. Monika often would take weeks to respond to an e-mail while her friend always replied immediately, only to again wait weeks for a reply.

After a few months of this, the friend sent a rather stern e-mail calling Monika on the carpet for being a lazy friend.

This was hard for Monika to hear and even harder for the friend to say. But even Monika admitted that she was not being the kind of friend she wanted to be. From that time forward, Monika put more effort into the friendship, and now, although living on different continents, they are very close friends.

Calling out a friend when you feel they have wronged you, themselves, or another is not an easy thing to do, but it is exactly what this Sunday's readings demand. Through Ezekiel, God tells us that we must try to dissuade the wicked from their ways, and if we fail we are responsible for them.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault." St. Paul gives us added direction when he says, "Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another."

All the readings reveal to us our responsibility for one another. We all need people in our lives who will hold us accountable, and we, in turn, need to hold others accountable. We do not walk this planet alone, we do not sin alone, and we do not heal alone. Fulfilling these Scriptures' challenge takes courage. But if the words are motivated and spoken in love, although we might hurt feelings, we will help the person grow.

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever been called to account by someone or called out someone else? What was the experience like? Why do you think God made us our brothers' and sisters' keepers?

"Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?"

— Sirach 28:3



September 11, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Sirach 27:30 to 28:7
Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12
- 2) Romans 14:7-9
Gospel) Matthew 18:21-35

By Sharon K. Perkins

Every Tuesday morning at our parish church, the daily Mass is immediately followed by prayers and anointing for healing. For the most part, the handful of people who stay afterward for prayer are those who are facing surgery or who struggle with chronic illness. They leave the church much comforted and strengthened, and in many cases they are blessed with physical healing. Both the hurts and the healings are visible and public.

Then there are the weekend Masses when the church is full four times over, and almost every pew is a silent witness to the invisible pain of souls scarred by strife and resentment, often among the very family members sharing the pew with one another. Even as one's lips pray for healing through the familiar words of the Lord's Prayer — "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us" — the heart, convinced of the rightness of one's cause, holds tightly to anger as both weapon and shield.

Today's readings, from Sirach to the psalm to the Gospel, address this misguided and sinful human tendency to preserve one's self through anger, unforgiveness, and the withholding of love from another. St. Paul admonishes all of us who persist in such folly that, "none of us lives for oneself ... we live for the Lord." It is the Lord himself who has consistently modeled for us the power of compassionate forgiveness, "pardoning all our iniquities and healing all our ills." And we — as Jesus illustrates by way of a parable — are to do the same.

The English poet William Blake once wrote, "It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend." How true that is! Enemies can be held at arms' length; friends and family have the power to hurt us repeatedly and when we are the most vulnerable ("seventy times seven times" is not beyond the realm of possibility!). But Christ's death and resurrection for us make possible the death to self that forgiveness requires, so that we, too, can be raised up, strengthened, and healed.

QUESTIONS:

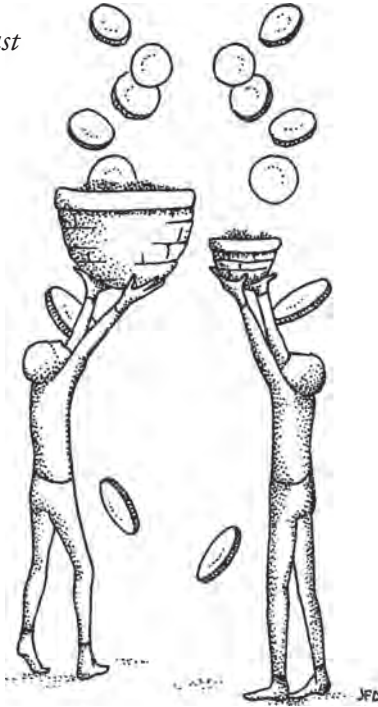
Is there someone in your life against whom you harbor anger or resentment? How can you, through prayer and through practice, bring the forgiving love of God into that situation so that both of you can be healed?

Word = Life

Readings Reflections

“What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?”

— Matthew 20:15



September 18, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 55:6-9
Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
- 2) Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
Gospel) Matthew 20:1-16a

By Jeff Hensley

The Scriptures this weekend emphasize the great mercy of our God, offering hope to those not yet joined to Him.

This is made clear in the Isaiah reading which pleads, “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way. ... For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.”

The Gospel parable demonstrates God’s generosity when the laborers who have been at work only an hour receive the same day’s wage as those who have labored the whole day. Those who worked all day but were paid last grumble. The owner of the vineyard ultimately responds, “Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?”

About 30 years ago, I was the editor of *Utreya*, the magazine of the Cursillo movement in the U.S. For those unfamiliar with this lay renewal movement, Cursillo is a “short course in Christianity” that originated in Spain and began in the U.S. in 1957. The first U.S. Cursillo, or “Short Course in Christianity,” was actually held in Waco.

One article I ran in *Utreya* was written by a Hispanic cursillista who happened to be from North Fort Worth. In it, she addressed the lack of hospitality being shown some young men living in her neighborhood who had come here looking for work.

She encouraged her fellow cursillistas to welcome them, reach out to them, and invite them to take part in church activities instead of reacting with hostility to these newcomers.

Within about six years of the article’s publication, most of those people she had sought to include in the life of her neighborhood and church had become naturalized U.S. citizens with the help of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

The initial hostility toward these immigrants reminds me of the laborers’ anger in today’s readings. Their resentment toward these laborers who received God’s great generosity made them reject them and kept them from perceiving them as their neighbors.

I wonder if it’s not possible that many today reject some who are their neighbors who have come here simply seeking the reward of a day’s labor, enough to feed, clothe, and house themselves and their families.

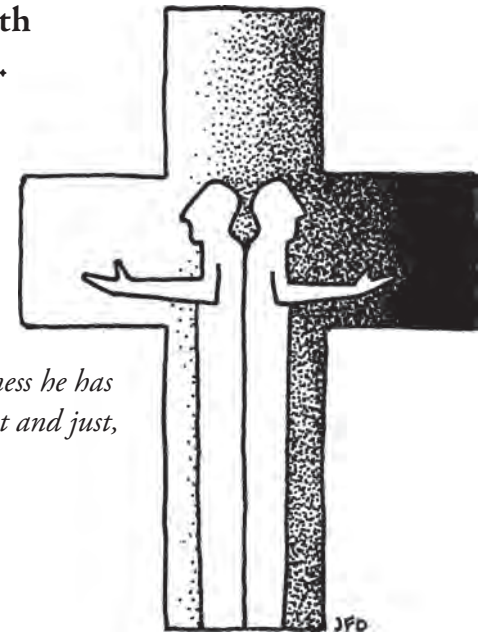
QUESTIONS:

Do you know people who have turned from lives of great sin to embrace God? What can we learn from these who come late to the eucharistic banquet?

September 25, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Ezekiel 18:25-28
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
- 2) Philippians 2:1-11
Gospel) Matthew 21:28-32



“If he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life.”

— Ezekiel 18:27

By Jean Denton

Two men, two mission trips to the same place.

“Jack” and “James” were both successful, mid-career businessmen, financially well-heeled. They belonged to the same church. Jack was the first to travel with a parish group on a mission to Latin America. He was “blown away” by the Third-World conditions he experienced for the first time. His eyes were opened to the lived reality of poverty and oppression.

On his last day there, he broke down in sobs. Overwhelmed by the unbelievable need of the people surrounding him, he promised always to remember their struggle. He was changed, he said, and vowed to live differently and work to help these people and their community.

Several years later, James visited the same poor village. He was just as incredulous as Jack to see the difficult circumstances the people there faced every day. “I have a hard time getting my head around it,” he remarked. “But I just don’t know what can be done to help.”

However, when he got home, James immediately began making plans for his next trip to the mission. He plotted useful roles he could play in projects to help develop the village. He contributed more to the aid fund and started looking for new financial resources. He reached out to his personal network to find people who could provide technical expertise.

Jack, on the other hand, seemed to leave the whole experience behind once the emotion had passed. Although still a faithful churchgoer, Jack soon became disengaged from the mission project and continued a lavish personal lifestyle.

The mission coordinator was disappointed. “[Jack] seemed so moved by what he saw at the time, but it hasn’t seemed to change his life,” he noted.

The distinct responses of these two men to a graced moment of invitation to serve God mirrors Jesus’ parable in this weekend’s Gospel: Two men are asked to “work in the vineyard.”

One, saying the right thing, agrees to go but fails to act on his promise. The other isn’t so quick to obey, but realizes his responsibility and chooses to serve his father.

Jesus’ message is that he doesn’t want lip service or empty promises. He wants conversion of heart and commitment to God and the service of his people.

QUESTIONS:

What competing interests have caused you to fail to act on promises you made to serve God? How can you strengthen your commitment to Jesus’ Gospel?

Nuestro Pastor Habla

Cada uno de nosotros es el resultado del pensamiento de Dios — querido, amado, y necesario

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Una de las grandes celebraciones del mes de agosto en la vida y liturgia de la Iglesia es la del 15 de agosto, solemnidad de la asunción de María. La *Asunción de María* es un evento muy importante en la historia de la salvación, ya que no sólo nos revela algunas verdades importantes acerca de quién es María como Madre y modelo de la Iglesia, sino que también la *Asunción de María* nos revela mucho acerca de nosotros mismos y del gran destino al que estamos llamados en Cristo.

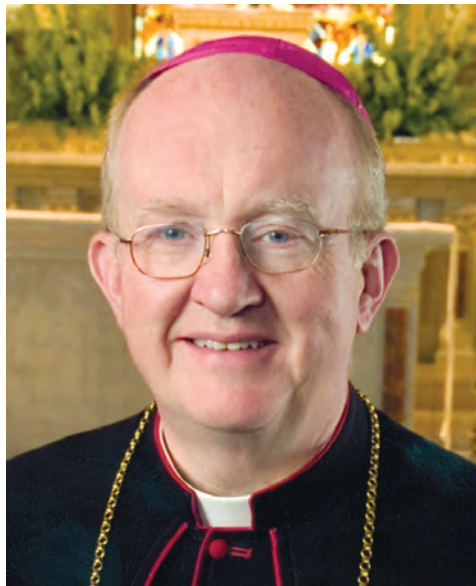
En primer lugar, la *Asunción de María* revela que María, al final de su vida terrenal, es llevada por Cristo al cielo en su cuerpo y alma. Este es uno de los cuatro dogmas Marianos, y fue solemnemente definido como tal por el Papa Pío XII en 1950. En otras palabras, María disfruta de la plenitud de los frutos de la resurrección inmediatamente al finalizar su vida terrenal. Esto es porque María, desde el momento de su *Inmaculada concepción* hasta el final de su vida en la tierra, está libre de la mancha del pecado original, y durante toda su vida, jamás eligió cooperar con pecado o mal alguno. Por lo tanto, ya que María nunca pecó, no sufriría jamás los frutos del pecado: muerte o corrupción del cuerpo. Como San Pablo proclama,

*¿Dónde está, oh muerte, tu victoria?
¿Dónde está, oh muerte, tu aguijón? El
aguijón de la muerte es el pecado, y la
Ley lo hacía más poderoso. Pero demos
gracias a Dios que nos da la victoria por
medio de Cristo Jesús, nuestro Señor.*

— 1 Corintios 15, 55-57

En cambio, María es la primera en experimentar la plenitud de la resurrección del cuerpo merecido por la muerte y la resurrección de su Hijo. María, quien es Madre y modelo de la Iglesia, es para nosotros un signo de la esperanza y gloria que nos espera a todos nosotros que tenemos fe y confianza en Cristo y luchamos por superar el pecado en nuestras vidas. Como nos enseñó el Papa Pío XII:

*Cristo, con su muerte, venció la muerte
y el pecado; y sobre el uno y sobre la otra
reporta también la victoria en virtud de
Cristo todo aquel que ha sido regenerado
sobrenaturalmente por el bautismo.
Pero por ley general, Dios no quiere
conceder a los justos el pleno efecto de
esta victoria sobre la muerte, sino cuando
haya llegado el fin de los tiempos. Por
eso también los cuerpos de los justos se
disuelven después de la muerte, y sólo en
el último día volverá a unirse cada uno*



Monseñor Kevin Vann

con su propia alma gloriosa.

Pero de esta ley general quiso Dios que fuera exenta la bienaventurada Virgen María. Ella, por privilegio del todo singular, venció al pecado con su concepción inmaculada; por eso no estuvo sujeta a la ley de permanecer en la corrupción del sepulcro ni tuvo que esperar la redención de su cuerpo hasta el fin del mundo.

— *Munificentissimus Deus*, 4-5

Así, la *Asunción*, junto con y estrechamente vinculado a la *Inmaculada concepción*, es en la persona de María un brillante testimonio de la dignidad de la persona humana y del destino al que se llama a cada persona en Cristo. María nos revela que sólo en Cristo se puede encontrar el verdadero significado de la vida, y sólo en Él podemos encontrar la plenitud de la vida y del amor. Como la cultura de la muerte nos rodea de tantas maneras, María es el gran signo de la dignidad y gloria de la persona humana que ha sido redimida por Cristo. María, llena de gracia y del amor de Dios desde el momento de su concepción hasta el final de su vida terrenal, nos muestra de una manera poderosa que la persona humana no es mera casualidad de procesos biológicos, pero como fue proclamado por el Papa Benedicto en su *Homilía inaugural*, “No somos el producto casual y sin sentido de la evolución. Cada uno de nosotros es el fruto de un pensamiento de Dios. Cada uno de nosotros es querido, cada uno es amado, cada uno es necesario”.

Esta hermosa enseñanza de nuestro Santo Padre que cada uno de nosotros es producto de la voluntad y el amor de Dios y, por lo tanto, todos somos necesarios, es también el tema del *Banquete anual del obispo en apoyo de las actividades pro-vida*, que se celebrará el 24 de septiembre en el

Hotel Hyatt Regency del Aeropuerto DFW. Me gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad al reflexionar juntos sobre la gran dignidad de la persona humana, revelada en la *Asunción de María*, para invitarlos a este evento muy importante en la vida de nuestra diócesis. El banquete anual en apoyo de las actividades pro-vida es la actividad principal para recaudar fondos para nuestra *Oficina diocesana católica de respeto a la vida*. La ayuda económica que proporciona este banquete anual sirve para apoyar y continuar, de manera financiera, los programas que promueven el respeto a la vida en nuestra diócesis. Programas como la educación para la vida; asistencia y orientación a las madres en embarazos de crisis a través del *Proyecto Gabriel* “ángeles”; retiros de sanación ofrecidos por el *Ministerio Raquel* para las mujeres que sufren por una crisis post-aborto y la educación, formación y entrenamiento en liderazgo que se ofrece por medio del programa *Jóvenes a favor de la vida*. Su presencia en el banquete de pro-vida no sólo será un testimonio poderoso del *Evangelio de la vida*, sino que su apoyo generoso nos permitirá también continuar con la labor incansable por la vida a través de nuestra *Oficina diocesana católica de respeto a la vida*. Estaremos bendecidos de manera especial este año al tener como nuestro expositor principal al escritor católico y gran académico George Weigel, quien es conocido como el autor de la biografía del Papa John Paul II *Testigo de la Esperanza* y hoy es uno de los más populares e influyentes estudiosos católicos y escritores en la Iglesia. ¡Únase a mí y a muchos otros de toda nuestra diócesis en apoyo de la *Oficina diocesana católica de respeto a la vida* para afirmar y celebrar el gran don de la vida! Para registrarse en el banquete, visite el sitio web de la diócesis en www.fwdioc.org y haga clic en el ícono *Pro-Life Banquet*.

Estos días de verano son también el momento cuando muchos de nosotros regresamos a la escuela como alumnos o profesores. Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para dar las gracias a todos los directores, profesores y personal no docente en nuestros colegios católicos que trabajan arduamente para difundir el don de la educación católica a muchos estudiantes y familias en nuestra diócesis. También quiero dar las gracias a tantos de ustedes que también están involucrados como catequistas en los programas de educación religiosa en nuestras parroquias. Sus dones de enseñanza y ser testigos de la fe católica son cruciales para la vida y la misión de la iglesia. Gracias por su servicio generoso en la propagación de la fe.

Al mismo tiempo, no puedo enfatizar demasiado la importancia de la formación continua en la fe para no sólo los que están

involucrados en la enseñanza en nuestras escuelas o en ministerios en nuestras parroquias, pero para cada católico, incluso los católicos adultos. Como nos ha enseñado el Papa Juan Pablo II, “en la Iglesia de Jesucristo nadie debería sentirse dispensado de recibir la catequesis” (*Catechesi Tradendae*, 45).

Una de las grandes oportunidades que tenemos en el norte de Texas para continuar nuestra formación en la fe y nuestro entrenamiento para ministerios en la Iglesia es la conferencia anual para los ministerios de la *Universidad de Dallas* que se ofrecerá el 28 y 29 de octubre en el *Centro de convenciones de Dallas*. Patrocinado por la diócesis de Fort Worth y Dallas, la *Conferencia de ministerios de la Universidad de Dallas* es una excelente oportunidad para todos los católicos a unirse a otros católicos locales en aprender más sobre su fe católica. Este año, la conferencia tiene como su orador principal el arzobispo de Chicago, Francis Cardinal George, quien también es el autor de dos excelentes libros: *The Difference God Makes: A Catholic Vision of Faith, Communion, and Culture* y *God in Action: How Faith in God Can Address the Challenges of the World*. La conferencia ofrecerá sesiones individuales con muchos otros oradores dinámicos, conocidos a nivel nacional, y algunos de nuestro talento local popular, para la formación de los que sirven en una amplia variedad de ministerios, como *RICA*, pastoral juvenil, educación religiosa/catequesis y pastoral matrimonial y familiar. También se ofrecerá numerosas sesiones de formación en la fe para adultos, con cursos sobre apologética, liturgia y sacramentos, oración y espiritualidad, vida familiar católica y la crianza de los hijos. Animo a ministros parroquiales y parroquianos por igual a registrarse y a venir para aprovechar esta magnífica oportunidad para la formación en la fe. Hay más información sobre este tema en esta edición del *North Texas Catholic*, y también pueden encontrar más información en el sitio de la conferencia en www.udallas.edu/udmc en inglés y www.udallas.edu/udmc/espanol para la información en español.

Que Dios los siga bendiciendo a todos ustedes y sus familias al comenzar otro año escolar, y especialmente en este mes de la *Asunción* nosotros mismos podemos confiarnos a la intercesión y la atención maternal de María quiere es nuestra Madre y modelo en la fe. María, Reina del cielo, ruega por nosotros!

+ Kevin W. Vann

+ OBISPO KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD
DIOCESIS DE FORT WORTH

Jóvenes posan bajo la mirada beatífica de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, antes de salir a la *Jornada mundial de la juventud* en Madrid



Después de meses de intensa preparación, un gran grupo de jóvenes de la diócesis, bajo la dirección de Andrés Aranda, el delegado de los ministerios hispanos, se reunió en el Centro Católico el 10 de agosto. Allí cantaron alegres canciones de alabanza y recibieron la bendición del obispo Kevin Vann antes de salir hacia el aeropuerto DFW para sumarse a centenas y miles de jóvenes de alrededor del mundo quienes convergieron en Madrid para unirse a la *Jornada mundial de la juventud* del Papa Benedicto XVI. (Fotos de Juan Guajardo)



Noticias

de la Iglesia

En Misa de apertura peregrinos de JMJ comienzan 'días que ustedes nunca olvidarán'

Por Gretchen R. Crowe
Catholic News Service

MADRID — Un día sin nubes se convirtió en una noche entintada mientras miles de peregrinos participaban en la Misa de apertura de la *Jornada mundial de la juventud*, celebrada por el cardenal Antonio Rouco Varela de Madrid en la plaza de Cibeles.

Protegidos del calor por sombrillas blancas y chorros de suave rocío, docenas de obispos y sacerdotes se reunieron en y alrededor del altar improvisado para celebrar la Misa para peregrinos que representaban sus patrias con banderas, sombreros especiales, camisetas y banderines.

El cardenal dijo en su homilía que la *Jornada mundial de la juventud* es inseparable del beato Juan Pablo II, “el Papa de los jóvenes” cuyo recuerdo ellos celebraban con la Misa. La relación que el Papa Juan Pablo tuvo con los jóvenes fue “sin precedente”, continuó, “una relación hasta entonces desconocida entre la iglesia y sus jóvenes: directa, inmediata ... imbuida con fe en el Señor Jesucristo, entusiasta, esperanzada, alegre, contagiosa”.

Esta tradición ha continuado con el Papa Benedicto XVI, dijo, quien no vaciló en destacar el amor del beato Juan Pablo por los jóvenes durante su homilía para la beatificación de su predecesor en mayo.



El Papa Benedicto XVI encabeza la ceremonia de bienvenida para la Jornada mundial de la juventud en la Plaza de Cibeles de Madrid el 18 de agosto (foto CNS/Paul Haring)

La *Jornada mundial de la juventud* inspira un nuevo encuentro con el Señor, dijo el cardenal: “Él es el único que puede entenderte y llevarte a la verdad, dando la vida que nunca termina, felicidad, verdadero amor”.

Los jóvenes buscan a Cristo, dijo.

“Dejarse encontrar por Él es clave para el éxito de cualquier *Jornada mundial de la juventud*”, dijo. “Será el éxito de ustedes. Los jóvenes del siglo 21 necesitan, aun más que generaciones previas, encontrar al Señor mediante el

único sendero que ha comprobado ser eficaz espiritualmente: el humilde y simple peregrino buscando su cara”.

En comentarios después de la Misa el cardenal Stanislaw Rylko, presidente del *Pontificio consejo para el laicado*, dio la bienvenida al público diciéndole que el evento para el cual habían estado esperando y preparándose había llegado finalmente.

“Estos serán los días que ustedes nunca olvidarán”, dijo, “días de descubrimientos y decisiones importantes que serán

decisivos para su futuro”.

Reflexionando en las palabras de San Pablo que forman el tema de la *Jornada mundial de la juventud*: “Arraigados y edificados en Cristo, firmes en la fe” (Col 2:7), el cardenal reconoció el reto de vivir este llamado.

“Esto es muy exigente porque contiene un plan de vida definitivo para cada uno de nosotros”, dijo.

“La fe es como una raíz que es nutrida por la sangre vital de la palabra de Dios y los sacramentos”, añadió. “Es el cimiento, la piedra en la cual la vida es edificada, la

brújula confiable que guía nuestras selecciones y da dirección clara a nuestras vidas”.

En un mundo donde tanta gente rechaza a Dios, dijo el cardenal Rylko, la *Jornada mundial de la juventud* demuestra que la fe católica vive.

“Ustedes han venido a decirle a viva voz al mundo — y en particular a Europa, que está dando señales de estar muy perdida — su firme ‘¡Sí!’”, dijo. “Sí, la fe es posible. Es, de hecho, una aventura maravillosa que nos permite descubrir la magnitud y la belleza de nuestras vidas”.

Los peregrinos se alinearon en la calle durante horas antes de la Misa. Muchos jugaban baraja, leían, escribían en sus diarios y hasta dormitaban, esperando que el evento comenzara.

El padre oblato Richard Hall, pastor de la *Iglesia San Juan de los lagos* en San Antonio, dijo que la Misa de apertura, la cual unió a todos los peregrinos que asistían a la *Jornada mundial de la juventud* por primera vez, era lo que él y su grupo de peregrinos habían estado esperando.

“Estar aquí, comenzando la experiencia con Misa (es lo que es) tan maravilloso de nuestra Iglesia”, dijo el padre Hall. “No importa donde uno esté, uno puede celebrar la liturgia en cualquier idioma (que uno hable) o en cualquier país del que uno provenga”.

Miss Teen USA usará plataforma para promover autoestima, modestia de niñas

BROWNSVILLE (CNS) — Cuando Danielle Doty, *Miss Texas Teen USA*, llegó a las Bahamas para competir en el certamen *Miss Teen USA Pageant*, ella se rindió al plan de Dios para su vida, dijo la nativa de Harlingen.

“Solté y permití que fuera Dios”, dijo Doty a *The Valley Catholic*, periódico de la *Diócesis de Brownsville*, en entrevista telefónica desde la Ciudad de Nueva York. “Yo estaba allí, me había preparado, había ejercitado, poniéndome en forma y, desde ese punto en adelante, todo estaba realmente en manos de Dios. Yo sabía que Él haría lo que fuera mejor”.

Doty, feligresa en la *Iglesia de St.*

Anthony en Harlingen, fue coronada *Miss Teen USA 2011* el 16 de julio.

“Tan pronto como llamaron mi nombre, pienso que entré en pausa”, dijo Doty un par de semanas después de su victoria. “Uno no escucha nada; uno no está pensando en nada. Uno está sólo hablando en el momento”.

Después de ganar el título *Miss Teen USA*, Doty pasó de ser residente de Harlingen a vivir en la Ciudad de Nueva York.

Doty fue bautizada, recibió su Primera Comunión y fue confirmada en la *Iglesia de St. Anthony*. Su fe le ha dado la valentía de enfrentar muchos retos durante toda su vida, dijo su madre.

Viñedo de Raquel ofrece un retiro para la sanación del aborto desde septiembre 30 a octubre 2

Ministerios de Raquel ofrece su retiro de fin semana en Español para la sanación después del aborto desde el 30 de septiembre hasta el 2 de octubre. Este retiro está diseñado para aquellas personas que están lidiando con sentimientos de amargura, culpabilidad y dolor después del aborto, para encontrar esperanza y sanación. Ven y experimenta la misericordia, perdón y la sanación del amor de Dios en compañía de otras personas que entenderán por lo que estás pasando.

Para más información,

por favor llama a nuestra línea confidencial en Español al: 817-923-4757 ó puedes enviar

un e-mail a misericordia@racheltx.org. Tu confidencialidad será estrictamente respetada.

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 Stephen Berg.

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

Events Calendar

Around the Diocese and region

September Dates

3

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

10 a.m. - A monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery. Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth. For information, contact Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 431-5369.

10

GABRIEL PROJECT SPANISH EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - St. Rita Church, 5550 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. For information, contact Debra Heron at dheron@fwdioc.org or for Spanish, Patricia Gutierrez at (817) 874-3412

13 & 15

JUSTFAITH MINISTRIES

7 p.m. - St. Michael Parish, 3713 Harwood Rd., Bedford. For information, contact Barbara Boone at (469) 524-8780 or e-mail st.michaeljustfaith@gmail.com.

15

DCCW LUNCH MEETING

9:30 a.m. - St. Andrew Parish Hall, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. For information, contact Kathy Thome at (817) 236-8518.

17

ST. ANN MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Lunch 11:15 a.m.; Tee Off, 1 p.m. - Hidden Creek Golf Course, 555 Hidden Creek Parkway, Burleson. For information, visit the website www.mystann.com or contact Mike Hall at (817) 426-5858.

CZECH HERITAGE DAY AND CELEBRATION 101

3:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. - SPJST Lodge 92, 3316 Roberts Cut Off Rd., Fort Worth. For information, call (817) 624-1361

22

FORT WORTH DIOCESAN MINISTRY WITH LESBIAN AND GAY CATHOLICS, OTHER SEXUAL MINORITIES, FAMILIES, FRIENDS

7 p.m. - Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Father Warren Murphy at (817) 927-5383 or Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370.

Would Jorge Luis Aguilera Garcia please contact Meg Hogan at (817) 560-3300

24

2011 BISHOP'S ANNUAL CATHOLIC PRO-LIFE BANQUET

5 to 10 p.m. - The Hyatt Regency, DFW. For information, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at (817) 560-2452 ext. 257.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FRIENDS OF THE POOR® WALK

Mass - 8:15 a.m.; Registration - 9 a.m. - St. Joseph Church, 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington. For information, or to register online, visit www.svdpusa.org

BRIGHT LIGHTS OF BROADWAY SHINE ON COLLEYVILLE

8 p.m. - Good Shepherd Parish, 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville. For information, contact Kathy Guarino at (817) 488-4750 or kathyguarino@verizon.net for Sarah Luter at (817) 421-1387 or sarah.luter@yahoo.com.

25

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY AUTUMNFEST

5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run - 8:30 a.m.; Festival - 9 a.m. - St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1705 E. Peters Colony Rd., Carrollton. For more information, contact the parish office at (972) 492-3237.

27

DEAF MINISTRY BEGINNING AND ADVANCED SIGN LANGUAGE

7 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Ln., Keller. For information, contact Connie Martin at (817) 560-2452 ext. 305 or cmartin@fwdioc.org.

CARMELITE AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

12:00 p.m. - Shady Oaks Country Club, 320 Roaring Springs Rd., Westworth Village. For information, call Connie Meyer at (817) 319-9136.

29

DIOCESAN RED MASS

6 p.m. - St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. For information, contact Robert Gieb at (817) 336-5681 or rgieb@flash.net.

30

RACHEL'S VINEYARD SPANISH RETREAT WEEKEND

Healing retreat following an abortion - Friday evening through Sunday, for information, call (817) 886-2856.

Classifieds

Director of Operations for St. Francis Village

St. Francis Village in Crowley has an immediate opening for a Director of Operations. Qualifications include practicing Catholic with a bachelor's degree in business administration or health care administration plus at least seven years experience in a multi-unit residential environment, or a master's degree in these fields with additional work in gerontology and five years experience. Experience in assisted living or retirement communities considered a plus. Responsibilities include over site for all operational and fiscal aspects of a retirement community of 500+ residents, ensuring all facilities and supporting infrastructure are fully functional at all times. Facilities encompass residential housing units, offices, common facilities, streets, water system, sewer system, maintenance and landscape shops, and a nine-hole golf course. Send résumé and cover letter to marchogan@sbcglobal.net.

Director of Childcare Ministry Position

St. Andrew Catholic Church is searching for a director of Childcare Ministries. This includes parish nursery services and The Learning Center (formerly PDO) programs. Early learning childcare, preschool teaching experience and computer skills as well as budgeting and expense management is required. Working with paid staff, volunteers, the Childcare Advisory Board, families and children requires good interpersonal skills. The position requires leadership, supervisory skills and an ability to unite all involved in a common purpose and vision for the Ministry. The hours are 25 hours per week, which are flexible, with some weekend and evening work required. Applications will be accepted through Monday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m. The preferable start date for this position is September 16, 2011. Send résumé and cover letter to resume@standrewcc.org.

Part-Time Youth Activity Coordinator

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, is seeking a part-time youth activity coordinator who is creative compassionate and flexible with an understanding of youth culture to work with young people from grades 7 to 12. This person will interface closely with the pastor and other staff members to provide a positive environment for young people to grow and flourish within the parish community. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and fully formed in Church teachings. Other qualifications include undergraduate degree in related field or two to five years experience in youth ministry. Applicant must be willing to continue personal development and fully participate in the diocesan safe environment program and uphold its Code of Conduct. Send a résumé and a cover letter to YAC Job Search, Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 2100 N. Davis Dr. Arlington, TX 76012 (Attn: Becky Lucas) or e-mail to blucas@mostblessedsacrament.org. Application deadline is Sept. 2.

General Construction Services

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.

Official Assignments

List of Clergy and Other Appointments, by Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD

Rev. Raphael Eagle, TOR, has been appointed as "priest in residence" at St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, Texas, effective August 15, 2011 while continuing his ministry at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas.

Rev. Jonathan Wallis has been appointed as Chief Ecumenical Officer and as "Censor Librorum" of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, effective upon his return from graduate studies in Rome.

Rev. Daniel Kelley has been appointed as Chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Worth for a period of three years, effective August 2, 2011 and is without prejudice to his appointment as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, Texas.

Rev. Thomas Craig has been appointed as Chairman of the Diocesan Mission Council for a period of three years, effective August 5, 2011, and is without prejudice to his appointment as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington, Texas.

Rev. Karl Schilken as Episcopal Delegate/Judge Instructor for instruction and oversight of cases involving the "Special Faculties" issued by the Congregation for the Clergy of March 17, 2010, effective August 5, 2011, without prejudice to his appointment as Pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills.

Rev. Armando Flores Rodríguez, priest of the Diocese of Celaya, Mexico ministering here with permission of his Diocesan Bishop, as Parochial Vicar of St. George Parish, Fort Worth, Texas, effective August 8, 2011.

Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, has been appointed as Vice Chancellor - Parish Services and Women Religious, effective August 1, 2011.

Mr. Peter M. Flynn has been appointed as Vice Chancellor - Administrative Services, effective August 1, 2011.

Good Newsmaker

Like the glass he molds, award-winning glassblowing artist David Gappa forges his talents to

GIVE THEM BACK TO GOD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JUAN GUAJARDO / CORRESPONDENT

BACKGROUND: An orb created by heating glass to mold it.

When David Gappa took a glassblowing class at the University of Texas at Arlington 16 years ago, he didn't imagine it would someday become his career.

He was, after all, studying for his master's in architecture.

"I was able to take two semesters of glassblowing" at UTA, Gappa explained. The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner is now a master glassblower, but at first he said, "I just looked at it as pure enjoyment. It was something that allowed me to escape from the drafting table for a few hours every few weeks."

After getting his master's, Gappa went on to become an architect with Quorum Architects in Fort Worth for the next 10 years. But his passion for glassblowing didn't fizzle out.



ABOVE: Artist David Gappa holds glass in the furnace so that he can properly shape it.

BELOW: David holds a piece of artwork that he is donating to the Bishop's Seventh Annual Catholic Pro-Life Dinner's silent auction.



Gappa explains. "Art first and foremost must be beautiful. There is an order and design to well thought-out art, and I think it's our role and our talent to make sure that [God's] vision is achieved."

Gappa's belief that he is the steward of his God-given gifts is readily apparent in the way he goes about creating his art and tending his studio, say his friends and fellow Catholics.

On a recent 100-degree Friday evening, Gappa made good use of his talent by sweating it out in his non-air-conditioned studio filled with gas furnaces blasting at over 2,000 degrees and annealing ovens simmering at lower but equally uncomfortable temperatures, as he carefully molded a piece of molten glass into a lighting ornament for a client, eventually calling it a day at 10 p.m.

One way Gappa expresses his gratitude for his God-given gifts, is by sharing them with the

SEE GAPPA, P. 20



COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Glass bulbs hang from the ceiling of David Gappa's Vetro glass studio. • A vase designed in David's studio. • "Spiritus" shows red glass figurines flying. • David's piece "Bestowment" is based on Scripture and the figurines represent the three Wise Men.



It continued burning steadily, and soon after joining Quorum, he got together with a group of other artisans to form a co-op studio in Grapevine known as *Vetro*, Italian for glass.

Now, Gappa is the owner of that studio and gallery (which last year was named the best art gallery in DFW by WFAA-TV). He's become a nationally renowned glassblowing artist, his art has won awards by the dozens and been displayed in numerous art galleries including the Arlington Museum of Art, and the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, among others. He has done commissioned works for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders in Fort Worth, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Center for Brain Health in Dallas, the Harris Methodist Dream Home, and various churches around the diocese, including St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Carrollton and Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. All the while, he's continued to combine his Catholic faith with his passion for art in the service of others.

In fact, Gappa says the two are inextricably tied together, and it's what makes his art unique. Several of his major art pieces are based on Scripture. "Bestowment," an intricate sculptural piece depicting three red glass figures gracefully floating in front of an ethereal collection of turquoise and gold colored plates, is based on the journey of the three Wise Men to see the Christ child. "Seed of Faith," another sculptural piece, is based on the parable of the Sower. The piece shows two masterfully crafted tree trunks, one whose roots are choked by thorns, and one whose roots are stuck in rocks. In the center of the piece stands a healthy and blossoming tree, planted in fertile soil, with a hand tending to its roots.

"I firmly believe, [for] me in particular, or any artist in general, [we] have been gifted with responsibility to create and to fulfill God's vision,"