

40th Anniversary Mass draws more than 6,000 to celebrate Christ in his Church in North Texas



(Photo by Thanh Nguyen)



Gathering from every corner of the diocese, rural and urban, representing every social and ethnic group, the Church of Fort Worth was well represented in the 6,000 plus Catholics gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary Mass, Aug. 9 in the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena. (Composite photo by Donna Ryckaert)

“In this day which truly the Lord has made, we come together as a family, as a communion of Faith, to give thanks to God for the blessings of these 40 years of faith. We set out once more in a journey full of hope, but one in which we must always look to the Lord to know how to follow and where to go, and how to journey together as a people of faith.”

— Bishop Kevin Vann in his homily to the 40th Anniversary Mass assembly

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen Correspondent

Rosemary Cortez interrupted the five-week long vigil she’s kept at her niece’s hospital bed for a good reason. Wanting to connect with other believers and surround herself in prayer, the St. Vincent de Paul parishioner came to a special eucharistic liturgy held in the Fort Worth Convention Center Aug. 9 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

The uplifting music and majestic pageantry of the Mass, celebrated by Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, comforted the dis-

traught aunt who watches her 15-year-old niece battle a spine infection and paralysis at Cook Children’s Medical Center.

“My family is going through a difficult time, and I want to model to my daughter, Victoria, that we should be thankful for what we have and pray for the things we need,” Cortez explains. “And I wanted to do that in the spirit of community.”

Bishop Vann has selected *Communio* — our communion with one another in the Body of Christ and our wider communion with the universal Church — as the

theme for the jubilee year.

“In this day which truly the Lord has made, we come together as a family, as a communion of Faith, to give thanks to God for the blessings of these 40 years of faith,” the bishop said in a homily heard by more than 6,000 Catholics who gathered from across the 28-county diocese for the milestone event. “We set out once more in a journey full of hope, but one in which we must always look to the Lord to know how to follow and where to go, and how to journey together as a people of faith.”

Bishop Vann recalled for the audience the year 1969, when Bishop John J. Cassata, then auxiliary bishop of the combined Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth, was named the first bishop of Fort Worth. It was a time of highs and lows in the country. Man landed on the moon and social unrest disrupted society and the Church. There was war and a search for peace.

“Yet, in the midst of all of that, new life was beginning,” he continued. “The Diocese of Fort Worth, resting on a foundation laid years before in Texas, began

SEE 40 YEARS, P. 14

Bishop Vann encourages support for life in public debate over health care reform bill

Bishop Kevin Vann addressed the following brief letter to the Catholics of the diocese Aug. 20:

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

As Catholics in these United States, we have an obligation to be informed, and involved in, the current debate on health care reform. We cannot absent ourselves, and our convictions, from the current historical and critical time. We must be “at the table” at this moment in time, and engage this debate and formation of health care policy with our voices for the protec-

tion of life, the protection of conscience, and the necessity of health care reform, so that it is accessible in this country which has so many blessings. At the same time, our voices cannot be shrill or strident, like much of the e-mail and blogs these days.

With my background in health care (I was a medical technologist before entering the seminary) and as the Bishops’ Conference liaison to the Catholic Health Association, I know firsthand of the public statements of these groups in the defense of life and their hard and diligent work in Washington at this very moment.

Yet, it is not up to these groups

alone. Every Catholic has the obligation to contact their senators and representatives about this matter and not just leave this to the Bishops’ Conference, individual bishops, or other groups alone. However, this must always be done in a clear, yet respectful tone.

I would encourage you to go to the USCCB Web site (usccb.org), and read the words of Bishop William Murphy or Cardinal Rigali on these matters. For example, Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Center says that “genuine health care reform that protects the life and dignity of

SEE BISHOP, P. 17

Eunice Kennedy Shriver remembered as a woman of faith and action



Eunice Kennedy Shriver attends a meeting of Democrats for Life at the Massachusetts Statehouse during the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston. Shriver founded the Special Olympics and was a member of one of the most prominent American Catholic political families of the 20th century. (CNS photo/Gregory L. Tracy, PILOT) See story, p. 25

Msgr. Charles King reflects on life spent serving as a priest

Pope Benedict XVI declared a "Year for Priests" beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19 and will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests on June 19, 2010. The NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC celebrates the spiritual leaders of the Diocese of Fort Worth with a series of profiles on priests and their vocations beginning with this visit with Msgr. Charles B. King, dean of the North Deanery.

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

The first time Mary Wolfe ever heard Father Charles King preach was on All Saints Day in 1988. The articulate, thoughtful, and "incredibly brilliant" priest made such an impression upon her and her family that she has never forgotten that occasion, she says.

"It was the first Mass he said when he was assigned to our parish [St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills]," she remembers. "He talked about how much he loved his vocation, how he had never lost the joy of that calling."

Little did she know that the earnest spiritual leader would become the pastoral secretary's "wonderful boss" of more than 21 years. "He's very saintly," she says. "He prays every day. His love for God is the most important thing in his life. His mission has been to bring as many people to God [as he

can]. He's never crabby. And he's totally honest." She laughs. "For instance, if he sends out a personal card to someone, he uses his own stamp. He would never use one that belongs to the parish!"

It's true that Charles Bernard King, Jr., who has served the Diocese of Fort Worth as a priest for nearly 53 years, is considered "one of a kind" by many of his brother priests who know him well and by thousands of admiring current and former parishioners.

Born and raised in Wichita Falls, he was nurtured by devoutly Catholic parents and encouraged by priests of his home parish, Sacred Heart Church, where the young "Charlie King" began assisting as an altar server while a grade school student at the Academy of Mary Immaculate.

"My father and mother's example had a profound impact on my life," he says. "My vocation to the priesthood really started with them in our home where my younger sister and I lived with them in Wichita Falls, and the years I spent at Sacred Heart serving Mass, attending Benediction, and saying the rosary on Sunday afternoons."

As a young man discerning his future, he thought about a religious vocation for the first time. "It suddenly dawned on me,"



Msgr. Charles King

Msgr. King recalls. "I thought, 'I like working with people, and the people I've seen working the best with people are priests. What would it be like to be a diocesan priest?'"

That question led him to Gregorian University in Rome the following September, where the 22-year-old began studies as a seminarian for the Diocese of Dallas, following his graduation *cum laude* from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He was ordained in December of 1956, and his first assignment was to St. Pius X parish in Dallas in September of 1957.

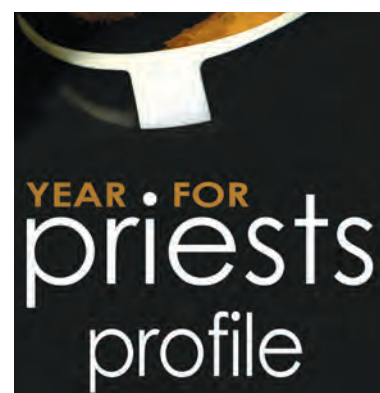
He loved "every minute" of his first several years of priesthood, he says. Driving the two-door 1956 Dodge coupe that "sort of became my trademark," the young Fr. King developed marriage preparation programs, was active as a leader in the Christian Family Life movement, and taught religion classes to Catholic school students while also teaching inquiry classes to adults. "That became a real love in my life, the programs we developed for bringing people into the Church,"

he says. He soon found himself accepting invitations to speak at area churches, explaining the implications of Vatican II and enjoying the potluck dinners and dialogue.

"For me it was fascinating and a learning experience, to be a part of that dialogue, and it led to me becoming the ecumenical officer for the diocese. From 1965 until this day I've been involved in ecumenism," he says. "My prayer is always, 'that we all may become one.'"

The following years included assignments in teaching and summers spent working to attain graduate degrees in religious education and in pastoral counseling at Loyola University in Chicago. He served as rector at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas until he was asked in March of 1969 to come back to Fort Worth to serve as pastor of St. Andrew Church, which was in the planning stages, shortly before the Diocese of Dallas and the Diocese of Fort Worth became two separate entities in August of 1969. It was his first assignment as a pastor, and he "absolutely loved" his ten years at the church, recalls Msgr. King.

"Every place I was assigned, the people were wonderful, and I loved being with them," he says. Those assignments included nine years in Wichita Falls at his home parish of Sacred Heart Church, following a devastating tornado that hit Wichita Falls in 1979, and 12 years at St. John's. "It was wonderful to be back in Wichita Falls and to be active in the community again, and especially to try to help repair the devastation



CNS graphic/Emily Thompson
Adapted by Tony Gutiérrez/NTC

after the tornado," he says. The energetic pastor plunged into the leadership roles he relished, working to establish and develop interfaith organizations to provide disaster relief, food pantries, and other services.

He came to his current parish — Immaculate Conception Church in Denton — in 2000, a community of approximately 1,500 families. Thanks to his leadership, and his commitment to serving the needs of the growing Hispanic community, the parish is now comprised of about 4,000 families.

At the request of Bishop Kevin Vann, Fr. King — who became a "monsignor" in 1973 — was given the highest of honorary titles by Pope Benedict XVI in May of 2008: *Protonotary Apostolic*.

A sobering bout with bile duct cancer in 2007 led to six months of radiation and chemotherapy. Fortunately, the only apparent lasting effect of his illness is the need for regular blood transfusions.

His schedule is full, his days and nights filled with unending responsibilities to the people of his parish and beyond, but he continues to be known for his disciplined approach to lengthy daily prayer, which keeps him grounded in the purpose of his mission to serve the Church. "It's been all joy," he says, simply. "I feel so fortunate."

Catholic Schools Office announces free/reduced-price lunch and milk programs

The diocesan Office of Catholic Schools has announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children who are unable to pay for meals served under the National School Breakfast, Free Milk, or Commodity School programs.

The following parochial schools will participate in the National School Lunch Program: All Saints, St. George, Our Mother of Mercy, and Our Lady of Victory, all in Fort Worth; Sacred Heart, Muenster; Notre Dame Elementary, Wichita Falls; and St. Mary's, Gainesville.

St. Maria Goretti School in Arlington will participate in the free and reduced-price milk program.

Under current guidelines, applicants for the free and reduced-price

lunch program must list the Social Security numbers of all adults living in the household. All incomes must also be listed by source, such as Social Security, wages, child support, and pension.

Everyone wanting to participate in the program must apply again this year at their respective schools, including children who had tickets for the last school year. A child must be registered in school before an application will be accepted. Participants will be notified within one week after applying if their children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches or milk.

In the operation of child-feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.



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Diocesan

Scott Hahn speaks at Legatus monthly chapter meeting



Bishop Kevin Vann stands with Fort Worth Legatus President Chuck Milliken (left) and Dallas chapter President Dan Hennessy.

Scott Hahn, well-known theologian and author, spoke at the Fort Worth Chapter of Legatus' monthly meeting at the Fort Worth Club on Friday, August 14.

Hahn, a well-known orator and teacher who has given many talks nationally as well as internationally, spoke about his book, *Hail Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God*, following a Vigil Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Patrick Cathedral with Bishop Kevin Vann presiding and members of the Dallas Chapter of Legatus as special guests.

Hahn is currently a professor of theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville, and is also the founder and director of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. In 2005, he was appointed as the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

At its May 14 meeting, the chapter inducted two couples into its membership: Mr. and Mrs. Keith Leslie and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Marrou. The Legatus Mass and induction ceremony was held at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth with Cathedral Rector Father Richard Flores presiding and Chapter President Chuck Milliken presiding over the induction. Special guests included Mr. and Mrs. John Hunt. Mr. Hunt is the executive director of Legatus



Scott Hahn

based in Naples, Florida.

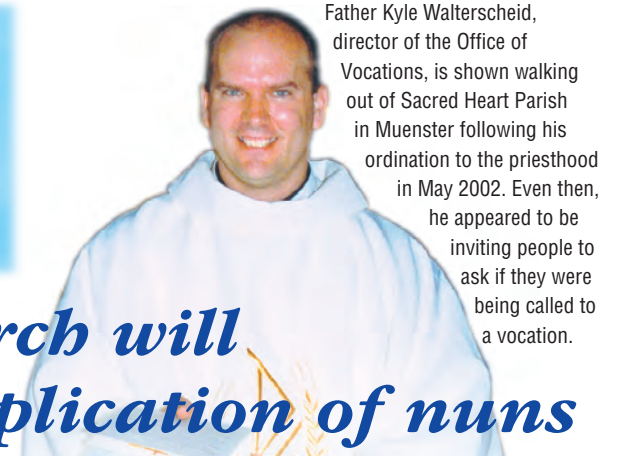
Since the inception of Legatus in May of 1987, its mission has been to bring Catholic business leaders and their spouses together monthly to "study, live, and spread their faith." *Legatus*, Latin for "ambassador," assists its members in the challenge of balancing responsibilities of family, Church, business, and community.

The Fort Worth Chapter, one of over 60 chapters around the world, was formed in June of 2006. Each monthly event begins with the sacrament of reconciliation, a Rosary, and Mass, followed by a dinner and a speaker with topics including apologetics, family, spiritual growth, and ethics. Members must be active Catholics in good standing and must meet certain business requirements. For more details, visit www.Legatus.org, or contact chapter membership chair Sam Saladino at (817) 529-0444.

Correction

The article on vocations in the, special section on the 40th Anniversary, neglects to mention and honor the first deacons ordained for the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1978 under Bishop John Cassata. One large group of deacons for both the Diocese of Fort Worth and the Diocese of Dallas had been formed in one class at the University of Dallas. Several other deacons were formed elsewhere, including the Texas Formation Program in Longview, all for the Diocese of Fort Worth. Many of these deacons are still active in the diocese.

Responding to God's Call



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

A stronger Church will require a multiplication of nuns

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

We do not have the time to sit back and let the status quo be sufficient if we desire to have stronger parishes, schools, and families. We need a multiplication of nuns and we need them now!

Like the multiplication of loaves in the Bread of Life discourse in our Sunday Gospels in August, we can, in a real sense, see that the sisters who have served our Church, our diocese, and our parishes have been the bread of Christ that fed the hungry multitude for generations as they fed us the Word of God, catechized us, disciplined us, led us to holiness, and nursed us back to health when we were ill. Can you believe that we have sisters who have served our diocese 50, 60, and even 70 years?

The dire reality is that in 1960 there were about 180,000 sisters serving the church in the U.S., and today there remain about 60,000 sisters, with the majority in their retiring years, still laboring away. You may ask, "Why has the sisterhood dwindled?" To that I will provide some brief explanations, but more than that, I want to help young single women today to see the doors of sisterhood as a real, satisfying possibility that, if called by God, will bring great joy, fulfillment, and service to the next generation of Catholics, Christians, and even non-Christians.

I have had a great number of people approach me with their concerns for the future of the religious sisters. The near universal sense of Catholics who grew up with

nuns in the classroom is that they have a great admiration for them. Most begin to gleam with happiness as they remember the nuns who taught them, even the ones who got in trouble a lot and were disciplined by nuns with rulers or paddles, a pinch on the neck, or the infamous note to the parents.

But many things changed in the Church in the '60s and '70s. For many centuries the most educated of all women were nuns, as they were vital contributors to medical health care, education, and even many of the sciences. However, one could say that the internal structure had become too restrictive upon the individual members of the religious communities. Often a systemic problem existed that frustrated their attempts to gain personal maturity, as they often lacked the freedom to make their own decisions, forced instead to take on whatever duties their superiors ordered them to.

Contrast that with the many new opportunities that were coming available to women at the same time in the work force. Careers for women were no longer the lower salaried jobs, as opportunities opened up to climb the career development ladder in the fields of their choice. Overnight, culturally speaking, secular career opportunities for women replaced dreams of becoming a nun.

To remain a nun in that time period had to be most difficult. Depending on the religious community, as many as half of the sisters left their communities during this time period. When someone leaves the family to live elsewhere, it is always difficult, and for the religious sisters, it would be no different.

In this regard, I am sure that many of the nuns felt that someone had let the air out of their tires even as much excitement came with the many changes of Vatican II.

The motivation for entering the religious life would soon

be different from the motivations required to remain in the community. At some point in each community the sisters would have to face their own identity crisis. Hardest hit, I suppose, would have been the teaching sisters and later the sisters involved in hospitals, nursing, and health care. Why? For the teaching sisters, most Catholic schools, with few exceptions, required that one had to be a sister, brother, or priest to teach, but now one could teach and not be a vowed religious person. Nursing would likewise be hit hard. Today, I suspect, these two fields — teaching and health care — still attract the largest groups of single women among the many career options available.

You and I cannot wish single women back into the convent, but as God often tests us under trial for a greater good, women do, in fact, have many great opportunities to give themselves unto the Lord (to become sisters) while serving in these two capacities mentioned above, as well as many other fields of service.

Let us pray together for the master of the harvest to send out more laborers into the harvest as the harvest is abundant and the laborers are few. Can we not ask our Lord to send us 20 women to commit to the religious life for our diocese, to break open new doors in the next five years, or pray to the Lord that He send 100 women in the next 10 years? That's my prayer and I hope you make it your own too.

Please see the announcement in the back inside cover to learn more about the Women's Monthly Discernment night the third Monday of each month at St. Patrick's Cathedral or go to www.fw-dioc.org/vocations and click on Vocation Events.

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

Catholic Scripture Study to be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Catholic Scripture Study International will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning Sept. 9 and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 10, and at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish Thursday mornings from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 10 and Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 14.

CSSI is one of the fastest growing Catholic Bible studies in the church today, according to promotional material. CSSI provides an in depth study of one book of the Bible each year during a course of 25-28 lessons. Each class consists of small group discussion of study questions and a video lecture given by a Catholic priest. Written by scholars such as Dr. Scott Hahn, Mark Shea, Steve Ray, and others, this year's study will focus on St. Paul's letter to the Romans.

For information on the classes to be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington, contact: Rhea at (817) 466-2340; for classes at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 2100 N. Davis Dr., Arlington, contact Eileen at (817) 265-4484. To learn more about the CSSI program visit the Web site www.cssiprogram.net.

'Late Nite Catechism 2' to be presented at Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd Catholic Community in Colleyville will host a showing of the Off-Broadway comedy "Late Nite Catechism 2 - Sister Strikes Again" Saturday, Sept. 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are \$45 each and must be purchased in advance at Good Shepherd or online at the parish Web site, www.gsc.net.

"Late Nite Catechism 2 - Sister Strikes Again" is a witty performance about the myths and realities of Catholicism. The performance features an irrepressible nun who teaches to a roomful of "students" (audience). All proceeds will benefit the Good Shepherd/Holy Trinity Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund.

For more information, contact Ann LaBarge at (817) 251-2451 or jalabarge@verizon.net. Good Shepherd Catholic Community is located at 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor® Walk

The Fort Worth Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will hold its annual nationwide Friends of the Poor® Walk on Saturday, Oct. 3, to celebrate service to the poor, and to encourage all to become Friends of the Poor®. Pledges made on behalf of registered walkers in a given community will benefit those most in need in that same community.

The Fort Worth Diocesan Council encourages all to participate in the Friends of the Poor® Walk locally — as walkers, "pledgers", volunteers, or all three. "The people of the Fort Worth Diocese have always been generous in their support of the Society," states Rosanne Veaser, Walk Captain.

To register as a walker, to pledge support for a walker, or for more information, visit the Web site at www.svdpfriendsofthepoorwalk.org. To volunteer, call (817) 451-0551.

Free concert to be offered at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, will host a free concert Saturday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. The concert is being sponsored by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Youth Ministries and Our Lady Of Grace High School and will feature composer and pianist Eric Genius. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 431-3857.

Cursillo weekends to be held in October

A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ. Many who have gone through this experience have found it helpful in developing a deeper Christian spirituality, enabling them to be a positive force for Christ in the world.

Separate Cursillo weekends for men and women will be held this coming October. The men's Cursillo will be held Oct. 8-11 and the women's Cursillo will be held Oct. 22-25. Both weekends will be held at the Fort Worth Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th Street in Fort Worth. The weekends will be presented in English.

For more information, call Florence Marcucci at (972) 291-6817 or e-mail mamarcucci@sbcglobal.net.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



CARMELITE AUXILIARY — The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, represented by Francie Allen (left), president, and Nancy Dalton, Treasurer, are shown presenting a \$25,000 check to Mother Maria at the Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington. Also pictured are Sister Frances Therese and Sister Teresa Agnes. Proceeds from the auxiliary fundraising activities, dues, and donations make this annual gift possible.

NTC publication deadlines

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

Items for the Sept. 4 issue must be received by noon on Aug. 27. Items for the Sept. 18 issue must be received by noon on Sept. 9.

Stephanie Wood to speak at Magnificat breakfast Sept. 19

Stephanie Wood Weinert, a longtime talk-show host for EWTN's Global Catholic Radio Network who also serves as the vice president of operations for Family Life Center International, will be the guest speaker during Magnificat's fall prayer breakfast. Sponsored by the Grapevine chapter in North Texas, the breakfast will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Highway 121, Lewisville, on Saturday, Sept. 19. Magnificat is a national ministry to Catholic women.

Weinert, the oldest of eight children and a convert to Catholicism, will give her personal testimony at the Magnificat breakfast and speak on the call of Christian womanhood.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$18, and can be purchased through Sept. 15 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.

For more information on Magnificat, contact Anita Delagarza at (682) 429-2456.

Catholic Scripture Study to be offered at St. Mark's

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), a doctrinally based Catholic Scripture study program, will be offered at St. Mark Church, 2800 Pennsylvania Drive in Denton, beginning Sept. 14.

According to promotional materials for the program, CSS "has been formally endorsed by Bishop Vann, and has been a blessing to Catholics at over 200 parishes around the world." Participation in the sessions, according to event organizers, will help Catholics to "learn the Word of God from a uniquely Catholic perspective, [to] be able to defend your Catholic faith, and [to] develop friendships with like-minded believers."

CSS sessions will be held weekly and will include class discussion; program materials provide for daily reflection and questions. Weekly Monday sessions will begin Sept. 14 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday evening groups will begin Sept. 16 and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information about CSS at St. Mark Parish, call Jim Hawk at (214) 552-8935. The CSS Web site may be found at www.catholicscripturestudyinc.org.

Catholic Renewal Center to host retreat with Br. Joseph Schmidt

The Catholic Renewal Center will host a retreat featuring Brother Joseph Schmidt. "Praying Our Feelings with St. Therese of Lisieux" will be held Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Overnight accommodations are optional and meals will be provided. The cost for the retreat is \$100.

Program material states, "Social violence is destroying our world and feelings of hurt and violence are destroying our souls. Many saints have spoken in favor of Gospel peace, but St. Therese of Lisieux gives a way to peace with her life example. The retreat is designed to explore St. Therese's 'Way' that will help bring some degree of peace."

Br. Joseph will be leaving in October for Nairobi, Kenya to conduct retreats and serve as a spiritual director for young men in the Brothers' scholastic house. Organizers encourage all to take this final opportunity to experience a retreat with Br. Joseph.

For more information and reservations, contact the Catholic Renewal Center at (817) 429-2920. The reservation deadline is Sept. 8.

Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet to be held Sept. 26

The Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Hilton, Fort Worth, 815 Main Street, Fort Worth. The silent auction will open at 5 p.m. and the seated dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.

This year's keynote speaker will be Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV, Superior General of the Sisters of Life.

For more information on the pro-life banquet or to reserve tickets call (817) 623-2430 or visit www.catholicrespectlife.org.

Documentary on the Eucharist to be presented at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

"You Shall Believe..." a documentary film on the Eucharist will be presented at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Thursday, Sept. 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Discussion time with Australian journalists Ron Tesoriero and Mike Willesee will follow the film.

Mike, a senior investigative journalist, and Ron, a lawyer, have been researching claimed supernatural events in the Catholic Church for a number of years. Their work became the basis for the making of the Television Program broadcast internationally on the Fox network in 1999, "Signs from God. Science tests Faith." They are currently researching "the blood of Christ" through science and through history. What they have to say will touch the hearts and minds of all that hear them, according to program materials.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.youshallbelieve.com or contact the parish office at (817) 431-3857. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller.

'Wildcat Run' to be held at St. Andrew School Sept. 19

St. Andrew School invites all to participate in the Wildcat Run 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run event Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning at 7 a.m. The annual race is a continuation of the legacy of the Judi K. Skinner run. Fees for the race are \$20 per person or \$50 per family through Sept. 4 and \$30 per person or \$75 per family Sept. 5 through race day. All fees include a commemorative T-shirt and a pancake breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus.

For more information, call the school office at (817) 924-8917. St. Andrew School is located at 3304 Dryden Rd., Fort Worth.

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Fr. Ray Mullan has been named parochial administrator of Jesus of Nazareth Parish, Albany, and Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Breckenridge, effective July 20. This assignment is made without prejudice to his role as pastor of St. Mary Parish, Graham and St. Theresa Parish, Olney.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT — Andy Eller of BSA Troop 615 at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington has completed an Eagle Service Project to benefit Catholic Charities in Fort Worth. For his project, Andy organized a clothing drive held at St. Maria Goretti Church during the month of July. Andy and his scout volunteers delivered 54 bags of clothing and baby items to Catholic Charities. Pictured above: (left to right) Eric Eller, Henry Weber, Chris Bindel, Jesse Lopez, and Andy Eller.

Diocesan

Knights of Columbus donate \$181,000 to Bishop Vann at dinner for priests and religious

Story and Photos by
Amy Yancey
Correspondent

The 14th annual Priest and Religious Appreciation Dinner was held recently at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington in which a check for \$181,000 was presented to Bishop Kevin Vann from the diocese's Knights of Columbus Western Metroplex Chapter benefitting the Deaf Ministry and Vocations.

"This is a very important event that clergy members look forward to every year while helping to support a vital ministry," said Bishop Vann.

The event, which was sponsored by the Knights' diocesan chapter on Aug. 11, had a better-than-expected turnout with 470 people in attendance, including nearly 70 clergy members. The money presented to Bishop Vann this year was raised during last year's local Knights' fund-raising events combined with funds coming from the Knights of Columbus State Charities. To date, more than \$1.6 million has been raised from this annual event for the Deaf Ministry and Vocations.

"Once again, the bishop not only inspired us but also showed just how much he enjoys visiting everyone," said Patrick Henz, chapter president and chairman of the event. The Western Metroplex Chapter is the umbrella organization for all Knights of Columbus councils in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

The silent auction began at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets were \$20 per person. Silent auction items included several gift baskets, golf items, Texas Rangers



Leaders of the diocesan Knights of Columbus sit with their wives at the 14th annual Priest and Religious Appreciation Dinner. From left to right are Joyce and Dennis Helgeson, Fort Worth diocesan deputy, Debbie and Dennis Stark, immediate-past president for the Western Metroplex Chapter, and Connie and Jack Schooley, District 24 deputy, which oversees four councils in Arlington.

tickets, and handmade items, all of which were donated by Fort Worth area parishioners.

Several clergy members were honored during the event, including seminarians and those who have served 25 years or more in the clergy. A presentation by the Deaf Ministry rounded out the evening.

"This event is the ultimate ecclesiastical ice breaker," said Msgr. Joseph Scantlin, pastor of

Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington, who was honored for serving 50 years as a priest. "It helps us to get to know each other as parishioners."

Bishop Vann also received a special presentation from the "Knights on Bikes" organization, which is nationally based in Fort Worth: a scaled down Vespa motorcycle and a helmet to match the vest he received as a gift during last year's event.



Father Richard Flores, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, speaks with transitional Deacon Alfredo Barba from Immaculate Conception Church in Denton. Dcn. Barba is set to be ordained to the priesthood Sept. 8.

"This is a beautiful event to see the diocese together like this," said Father Isaac Orozco. "It's a powerful statement of what families should be doing — getting together."

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USCCB asks Catholic Charities of Fort Worth to welcome record number of refugees this year

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has asked Catholic Charities within the Diocese of Fort Worth to welcome a record number of refugees to the Metroplex this year. Because new security measures have been implemented in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy, the State Department is now allowing larger numbers of refugees to escape life-threatening conditions in their own countries by taking refuge in the United States. Approximately 54,000 refugees will come to this country in 2009.

Burmese refugees are pouring in from holding camps in Thailand and Malaysia. Bhutanese citizens are coming from camps in Nepal, and Iraqis are arriving from camps in Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan, said Tory Cheatham, director of Immigration and Refugee Services for Catholic Charities of Fort Worth.

Cheatham estimates that as of

Sept. 30, the end of the agency's fiscal year, Catholic Charities will have served approximately 500 refugees; that number will increase to about 650 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Because the recession has hit other states so severely, a number of agencies in those areas have been forced to turn incoming refugees away, she explained.

"A great number are being diverted to Texas and to us in Fort Worth, as the bishops have asked us to accept more than our usual number," she said. "We value being a responsive agency to needs. It means hard work for us, but we'll do our share to help provide a place for these refugees to come."

It is a tremendous challenge to provide such a large number of individuals and families with new homes where they can live in dignity, as well as safety, said Cheatham. "Here at Catholic Charities, we desperately need the help of the Catholic community to partner with us in welcoming those who are com-

ing to the Fort Worth area," she said. "One of the most significant ways to help is to donate items to assist refugees in outfitting their new homes."

The new arrivals step off the airplane with a plastic bag containing a few essentials, and little else, said Cheatham. Anyone who can assist with donations of furniture, dishes, household items, linens, towels, and personal hygiene items is asked to give as generously as possible. Those who are able to donate cash or items or to volunteer assistance to arriving refugees are asked to contact Amy Board at Catholic Charities at (817) 920-7733, ext. 271 or at board@ccdofw.org.

"The refugee program is a program of protection," said Cheatham. "Even if it is a struggle [for refugees] to adapt to their new lives here in the States, it is much safer than being in their own countries or in the refugee camps. We want to do as much as we can to make sure that people are safe."

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Diocesan

Seventh annual Pro-Life Boot Camp inspires area high-schoolers to

Fight for Life

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

The teenagers attending the Youth for Life (YFL) Boot Camp July 24-29 at the University of Dallas sat motionless as Jill Stanek described what it was like to watch an aborted baby die in her arms.

While working the night shift at Christ Hospital in Chicago, the registered nurse saw a co-worker carrying a very premature baby boy to the soiled utility room to die. The infant, the size of a fist and fully formed at 21-22 weeks of development, was aborted because he had Down Syndrome.

"When she told me what she was going to do, I couldn't bear the thought of this suffering child dying alone," says Stanek, a labor and delivery nurse. "So I cradled and rocked him for the 45 minutes he lived. He didn't move much because he was using all of his energy to breathe."

After his heart stopped beating, the caretaker tied his little hands together with a string, wrapped him in a shroud and took him to the morgue.

"Feelings of helplessness came flooding back to me," says Stanek who had watched another child die in a car accident years earlier. "Once again I was in a situation where a baby was dying and there was nothing I could do to save him."

The cruel reality of infants born alive after late-term abortions shocked many in the young audience including Liz Radford. As president of the pro-life group at Our Lady of Grace High School in Roanoke, the high school junior thought



Fr. Frank Pavone visits with teens after his Saturday evening presentation at the Youth for Life Boot Camp held at the University of Dallas.

she was pretty well informed about the abortion issue.

"Jill Stanek's story is something I didn't know and it was very disturbing," she said. "It makes you realize how wrong [abortion] is and how hard we need to pray."

Stanek was one of several speakers who offered personal testimonies and information to the more than 90 teenagers — 31 from the Diocese of Fort Worth — who attended the seventh annual Youth for Life Boot Camp. Sponsored by the Fort Worth Catholics Respect Life and the Dallas' Catholic Pro-Life Committee of North Texas, the weeklong camp provided opportunities for group worship, community service projects, and public prayer outside local abortion facilities.

Keynote speaker for the event was Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, who discussed the myths that surround the abortion controversy. Fr. Pavone, who travels to at least four states each week promoting pro-life efforts, told the *North Texas Catholic* he welcomes the opportunity to talk with young people. He believes the younger generation is why the pro-life movement is winning.

"They're survivors," the priest pointed out. "They know

they were not legally protected when they were in the womb and that provides a very strong personal motivation to be involved in this cause."

Today's teenagers and young adults grew up with ultrasound images of themselves before birth. For them, there's a connection between life inside and outside the womb.

"That continuity is the foundation of the pro-life movement," said Fr. Pavone, who uses popular Internet Web sites like Facebook and YouTube to reach tech-savvy teens. "Young people are a joy to work with because they eagerly take the pro-life perspective we offer them and put it into practice."

Matthew Hunter said attending the YFL boot camp will make him a more committed pro-life volunteer.

"The more I learn, the more I want to end abortion," said the Nolan Catholic High School freshman who credits his mother, Tricia, for introducing him to pro-life activities. He

also participated in the "spiritual adoption" of unborn babies while a student at Holy Family School in Fort Worth.

Hunter said hearing the true life experiences of people who have witnessed the horror of abortion has a greater impact than just reading about studies or statistics. Jill Stanek's story, and her decision to stay at the hospital and work to change its abortion policy, impressed the 14-year-old. The nurse's tenacity, which eventually brought the plight of abortion's tiny victims to public attention and helped pass the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, gave Hunter an example to follow.

"We need to increase awareness and take action," he de-



Janet Stanek, a registered nurse who has become a national advocate for the protection of victims of late-term abortions, speaks to teens at the camp about the need to increase awareness of such atrocities.

clared. "Not many people know what's going on inside clinics. Our generation is key. The more we know, the more we can impact change."



Teens from the Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas join in prayer for the ability to defend all stages of life during a presentation during the Youth for Life Boot Camp.

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THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL

Catholic Pro-Life Banquet

Benefitting the Ministries of Catholics Respect Life of the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Catholics Respect Life

Catholics Respect Life is committed to advancing the Culture of Life. It is our mission to serve the parishes and families within the Diocese of Fort Worth through Education, Pastoral Care, Prayer and Worship and to work in union with parishes and families to change Public Policy and Legislation in an effort to restore the dignity due to every human life from conception to natural death. Through these acts we hope to stand as a united community and answer the appeal made by John Paul II in The Gospel of Life, "...in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life."

To carry out this work we have established several ministries which work together to foster a Culture of Life and to serve the needs of the people within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet is our primary fundraiser. Our help is desperately needed and so is yours. With every year our ministry has grown, so have the needs within our community. We strive to meet these needs, but we need your help. We need volunteers with generous hearts, but we also need your generous financial support. Be part of the action and join us for the Bishop's Banquet and help us make a difference in Life.

Please visit our website:
www.CatholicsRespectLife.org

Catholics Respect Life Ministries

PRAYER - In our ministry efforts, we acknowledge that the foundation must be continuous heartfelt prayer for the success of pro-life efforts and for the conversion of hearts from abortion and the culture of death.

GABRIEL PROJECT - Is a parish-based outreach to mothers experiencing a crisis pregnancy which utilizes trained volunteers called "Gabriel Angels" who offer spiritual guidance, emotional support, and practical help when necessary.
Helpline 800-545-5935

RACHEL MINISTRIES - Offers an opportunity for healing to women and men suffering the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. They offer hope and healing through a variety of programs and services. Individual and group support is available.
Helpline 817-923-4757

YOUTH FOR LIFE - Is a peer-based outreach designed to help today's youth become more pro-life.

SIDEWALK PRAYER & ADVOCACY - An ongoing prayerful presence outside Fort Worth abortion centers for the conversion of hearts.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE - Starting September 23rd, a 40 Day campaign of Fasting and Prayer, Community Outreach and a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week prayer vigil outside of Planned Parenthood Fort Worth.

CIVIC ACTION - Works to educate voters and restore laws that protect life from conception to natural death.

PARISH RESOURCE - Helps to facilitate pro-life activities in the parish and create a network for the Parish Coordinators within the Diocese of Fort Worth to promote a Culture of Life in the Parish.

Fort Worth Friars of the Renewal make final vows

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant
Photos by Jason Spoolstra

Brother Mariano, a longtime parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, formerly known as Jonathan Demma, took his final vows as a member of the Christian Friars of the Renewal (CFR) religious order during a joyous celebratory Mass, held Aug. 2 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan.

The former Texas A&M engineering student was joined in New York by his parents, Michael and Alana Demma, also of St. Elizabeth, and by his five brothers, their spouses and children, his grandmother, and many other relatives and friends, including Bishop Kevin Vann.

Br. Mariano, 28, who joined the order over five years ago, has lived and worked at the Sacred Heart of Jesus friary behind Our Mother of Mercy Church on Terrell Avenue for the past year and a half. The friars came to Fort Worth in 2007 at the request of Bishop Vann. Members of the friary operate St. Benedict's Mission in downtown Fort Worth to assist those in need. Brother Patrick, formerly Barry Crowley of

County Cork, Ireland, who also spent the last year and a half serving in the Diocese of Fort Worth, took his final vows with Br. Mariano.

"[Br. Mariano] helped to renovate the building, and to get the friary and the downtown mission going," said Michael Demma, who said that he was "thrilled" to have his son living in the Fort Worth area for nearly two years. Br. Patrick, 32, has been "like a son" to the

Demma family during his stay in Fort Worth, added Demma.

"Mariano has now been assigned to the CFR mission in the South Bronx, offering service in one of the most destitute sections of New York City," he said. "And Br. Patrick is now back in a community in Ireland. They will be missed in Fort Worth, but they know that they are following God's plan for their lives and their ministry."

Br. Mariano poses with Bishop Vann at St. Crispin's friary in the Bronx, where a Holy Hour and musical talent show was held on Saturday, Aug. 1 for friends and family members of the friars. Bishop Vann delighted the appreciative audience by "jamming" with the friars on the keyboard.



Hundreds of friends and family members gathered in Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan to attend the Aug. 2 Mass and final vows ceremony of Br. Mariano, Br. Patrick, and other members of the religious order.



ABOVE: Br. Mariano receives the embrace of a brother CFR following his profession of his final vows.

LEFT: Fr. Bernard Murphy, CFR, extends his hands in blessing over Br. Mariano (left) and Br. Patrick. The two had just come forward to declare their intention to make their final vows as members of the Christian Friars of the Renewal.

Special Collection: Operation Rice Bowl

Parish Name	Parish Location	Rice Bowl Feb - March 2008	Rice Bowl Feb - April 2009
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	0.00	0.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	0.00	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	276.26	401.60
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	320.00	351.98
St. Joseph	Arlington	1,960.60	1,101.51
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	2,262.79	3,384.95
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	1,169.27	850.71
St. Matthew	Arlington	990.80	306.06
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	1,664.85	1,727.05
Vietnamese Martyrs Community	Arlington	0.00	0.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	151.64	458.86
St. Michael	Bedford	1,765.89	1,605.57
St. Jerome	Bowie	0.00	0.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	0.00	0.00
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	347.79	258.59
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	85.55	134.64
St. Ann	Burleson	0.00	0.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	987.36	423.40
Holy Rosary	Cisco	0.00	204.50
St. Joseph	Cleburne	206.59	0.00
Holy Angels	Clifton	975.50	183.21
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	3,117.55	4,525.78
Holy Cross	The Colony	0.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	0.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	214.00	0.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	19.98	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	0.00	74.50
Immaculate Conception	Denton	2,451.56	1,034.73
St. Mark	Denton	1,252.50	1,485.85
St. Mary	Dublin	0.00	120.05
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	0.00	136.50
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	2,055.71	1,618.00
Christ the King	Fort Worth	703.00	1,429.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	817.00	703.50
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	437.00	1,462.95
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	1,066.84	1,425.50
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	0.00	39.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	696.81	761.60
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. George	Fort Worth	360.00	802.62
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	635.76	180.10
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	65.00	320.50
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	1,108.65	788.15
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	82.29	574.58
St. Rita	Fort Worth	821.75	738.02
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	955.75	677.35
St. Mary	Gainesville	282.37	118.63
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	39.24	15.25
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	103.00	150.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	2,923.50	2,023.27
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	3,491.61	0.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	59.80	25.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	1,815.27	1,012.00
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	1.77	0.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	873.89	739.39
Santa Rosa	Knox City	0.00	0.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,156.00	2,036.05
St. Peter	Lindsay	731.01	400.78
St. Jude	Mansfield	0.00	165.22
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	359.25	145.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	0.00	0.00
St. William	Montague	161.44	95.76
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	278.50	0.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	679.31	1,317.26
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Oney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	0.00	0.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Quanah	0.00	0.00
St. Rita	Ranger	380.50	123.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	199.91	0.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	71.23	76.93
Sacred Heart	Seymour	1,047.18	688.53
St. Brendan	Stephenville	630.98	462.10
St. John	Strawn	0.00	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	0.00	0.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	0.00	90.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	396.11	384.88
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	394.37	308.61
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,472.18	1,944.48
St. Mary	Windthorst	1,500.03	1,785.41
		50,074.19	44,378.46

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

Diocesan

Special Collection: Catholic Relief Services

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American Bishops' Overseas Appeal

Parish Name	Parish Location	Catholic Relief March 2008	Catholic Relief March 2008
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	331.00	426.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	0.00	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	1,096.15	976.44
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	3,648.23	3,486.85
St. Joseph	Arlington	3,540.12	3,148.94
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	2,866.00	2,401.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	257.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	569.60	249.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	1,684.00	1,992.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	2,170.00	1,785.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	890.00	675.00
St. Michael	Bedford	3,054.50	3,332.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	0.00	185.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	0.00	189.17
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	586.55	625.85
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burk Burnett	351.00	390.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,341.00	1,822.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	2,406.50	3,487.58
Holy Rosary	Cisco	118.00	83.76
St. Joseph	Cleburne	462.00	0.00
Holy Angels	Clifton	454.00	0.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	4,844.85	2,198.58
Holy Cross	The Colony	422.00	1,248.41
Sacred Heart	Comanche	199.00	109.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	36.00	116.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	1,039.35	977.02
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	61.00	81.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	1,244.00	2,024.00
St. Mark	Denton	4,560.62	2,707.07
St. Mary	Dublin	815.00	505.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	77.00	66.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,572.83	1,797.28
Christ the King	Fort Worth	0.00	402.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	2,114.00	2,821.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	577.00	608.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,742.00	2,338.03
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	1,696.00	1,135.25
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,300.00	2,788.50
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	238.00	297.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	218.00	195.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	4,786.45	5,098.31
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	6,259.93	8,307.14
St. George	Fort Worth	784.04	714.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,675.00	1,833.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	380.00	306.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	3,954.00	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	791.55	958.65
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,127.35	85.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	700.00	101.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,976.00	1,778.15
St. Mary	Gainesville	349.00	379.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	75.00	260.25
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	925.90	689.40
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	30.00	31.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	2,753.00	2,673.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	974.64	516.87
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	59.00	62.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	5,370.30	4,192.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	184.70	132.01
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	3,896.75	2,983.46
St. Peter	Lindsay	2,521.00	1,315.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	1,365.15	1,694.51
St. Mary of the Assumption	Margaret	0.00	20.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	138.00	138.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	110.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	97.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	1,465.00	1,774.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	62.00	135.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	140.25	100.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	559.00	610.75
St. Mary	Quanah	134.00	95.00
St. Rita	Ranger	61.00	91.70
St. Joseph	Rhineland	402.00	329.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	75.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	115.00	85.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	422.00	198.00
St. John	Strawn	116.00	116.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	177.00	416.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	2,283.00	1,688.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	466.00	582.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	1,155.58	1,623.60
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	1,186.00	873.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,182.00	980.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	502.55	848.00

102,259.44 92,592.53

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

Kimbell Art Museum to display Michelangelo's first painting

By Nora Hamerman
Correspondent

Picture one of the most venerable Christian saints, in a cosmic struggle against evil; add a famous engraving that circulated all over Europe; join this to the talents of a 12-year-old youth, the future great sculptor of the Pieta and painter of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel, then learning to draw and mix colors; and throw in a dash of unlikely survival and detective work enhanced by modern technical analysis. Put it all into a panel, barely 13 inches by 18 inches, and you have "The Torment of St. Anthony," the first painting of Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), recently purchased by the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, and on view until Sept. 7 at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Kimbell announced Aug. 19 that the painting would go on display in Fort Worth Sept. 26.

The panel, as Michelangelo described it to his biographer Condivi 65 years later, was an exercise for the aspiring artist who had been walking around Florence drawing the most celebrated works of the past. The lad did not merely copy and "colorize" a 1475 engraving by the German printmaker Martin Schongauer; he transformed the design into his first painting, using hues of lavender and acid green that later appeared in the Sistine ceiling. And according to another Michelangelo biographer, Vasari, the work was created when he was apprenticed to the Florentine artist Ghirlandaio in 1488. According to press information from the Kimbell, a facsimile of the Schongauer engraving will accompany the Michelangelo painting.

St. Anthony Abbot, born into a rich family around 251, is revered by Christians as the father of monasticism. Taking literally the Lord's words, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven; and come, follow Me," Anthony gave away the family estate and went to the Egyptian desert to live in contemplation and prayer.

St. Athanasius, Anthony's friend, described the temptations the saint endured in his *Life of St. Anthony*. After a nightlong combat with the devil, a friend found Anthony prone on the floor of his cave, near death.

"When he began to come to himself, though not yet able to stand, he cried out to the devils while he yet lay on the floor, 'Behold! Here I am; do all you are able against me: nothing shall ever separate me from Christ my Lord.' Hereupon the fiends appearing again, renewed the attack, and



"The Torment of St. Anthony" (Courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

alarmed him with terrible clamors and a variety of specters, in hideous shapes of the most frightful wild beasts, which they assumed to dismay and terrify him; till a ray of heavenly light breaking in upon him chased them away, and caused him to cry out, 'Where were you, my Lord and my Master? Why were you not here, from the beginning of my conflict, to assuage my pains!'

"A voice answered: 'Anthony, I was here the whole time; I stood by you, and beheld your combat: and because you have manfully withstood your enemies, I will always protect you, and will render your name famous throughout the earth.'"

Schongauer was the first artist to depict the demons hoisting the long-suffering saint into the air. What Michelangelo added to Schongauer's spiny image was the "ray of heavenly light" — the power of Christ's redeeming love to dispel evil. This appears in the landscape he painted below the grotesque onslaught, where a ship, symbolizing the human soul, sails serenely through waters between sunlit mountains. It illustrates Christ's promise to Anthony that "I will always protect you."

The landscape in the Kimbell panel shows the gifted young artist adapting an older Florentine master for his own ends. It quotes from a unique detail in the background of a Ghirlandaio's altarpiece, the "Adoration of the Magi." Metropolitan Museum

curator Keith Christiansen told the *Catholic Herald*, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, that in 1487, when he was not yet apprenticed to Ghirlandaio but had a kind of "gofer" role in the studio, the 12-year-old Michelangelo collected the payment for the "Adoration." Ghirlandaio was one of the first artists to use such a harbor scene to symbolize the Virgin Mary's role as the safe refuge of the Christian soul.

Is this really the panel described by Michelangelo's biographers? The proof presented at the New York exhibit is compelling. Cleaning has revealed the artist's typical palette and changes to the design, revealed by infrared reflectography, rule out any chance it is a copy. If it is less skillful than Michelangelo's first sculptures — well, he was only 12.

The brilliantly colored scales Michelangelo added to Schongauer's monsters give a further clue. Michelangelo told Condivi that "he would not paint anything without consulting nature, and so he went to the fish market, to study the form and color of the scales and eyes and every other part of the fish."

St. Anthony would have smiled. When asked how he could spend his life in solitude without the companionship of books, he replied that nature was his great book.

Nora Hamerman teaches art and catechesis at Christendom's Notre Dame Graduate School in Alexandria, Virginia.

Honor Graduates

As you enter a new phase of your life, the dawning of adulthood, the gathering light beyond you hold shadows of the future, shapes of things to come. The light will help to reveal what lies before you, and the light you carry within, the Light of Christ, will help you determine how you will respond to all that lies ahead.

May you walk boldly and humbly by the light of the Gospel, so that at the end of the long day of your lifetime, as the sun is setting, you will be able to look back and say "I was faithful to God, to family, and to my responsibilities to those God called me to love and to serve."

Begin with your goal in mind, and no matter how often you are drawn aside by distractions, the light of Christ, alive in your heart will show you the way to the Kingdom.

ARLINGTON

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



Paul Ashour
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

Paul Ashour, a home-schooled student from Grand Prairie, is a National Merit Scholar. He attends St. Joseph Parish in Arlington where he sings with the 9 a.m. Mass choir and has worked as a Vacation Bible School volunteer and altar server. As a member of Totus Tuus, the local Catholic home-school youth group, he has served as president and second vice president. Paul is the son of Titus and Diane Ashour. He will attend Texas A & M University in College Station.

DUBLIN

DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL



Linda Anna-Maria Volleman
VALEDICTORIAN

Dublin High School Valedictorian Linda Anna-Maria Volleman is a parishioner at St. Mary Church in Dublin where she has been a member of the youth group, a CCD teacher, VBS teacher, eucharistic minister, and a participant in Camp Fort Worth. In addition to her parish activities, Linda has been involved with Christmas in Action, Relay for Life, National Honor Society, Thanksgiving canned food drives, and coordinator for blood drives. The daughter of Carl and Engeline Volleman, Linda will attend Baylor University in Waco.



Courtney June Freeman
SALUTATORIAN
OUTSTANDING SENIOR
AWARD

Salutatorian Courtney June Freeman of Cassata High School was recognized with an Outstanding Senior Award. She attended Tarrant County College in the Spring of 2009 to receive dual academic credit. Her community service hours includes work with Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Worth and Cook Children's Hospital where she worked with preschool aged Cystic Fibrosis patients. Courtney plans to major in nursing at U.T.A. She is the daughter of Donna and Keith Butler.



NOLAN CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL



Cortni Breen
MARIAN AWARD

Cortni Breen received the Marian Outstanding Senior Award for Nolan Catholic High School. She is a member of St. Andrew Parish where she served as a Vacation Bible School teacher. Cortni has been involved with numerous organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Locks for Love and the Stephen Breen Memorial Foundation. Cortni Breen is the daughter of Jim and Kathy Breen and will attend St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.



Anne Conover
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

National Merit Finalist Anne Conover is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish where she has served as a eucharistic minister. She volunteered at the Rocky Top Therapy Center and, as an active participant in her parish youth group, was a part of Challenge, ECVD, and Regnum Christi. Anne will attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. She is the daughter of Chris and Edita Conover.



Angela Ferreira
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

Angela Ferreira, a graduate of Nolan Catholic High School, is a National Merit Finalist. At her home parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, she served as a teen leader for Vacation Bible School for five years. In addition to her academic activities with the National Honor Society and the Nolan Catholic High School Ambassadors, she volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Angela is the daughter of Mark and Susan Ferreira. She will attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana this fall.



Gregory Hodges
CHAMINADE AWARD

Nolan Catholic High School graduate Gregory Hodges received the Chaminade Award for Outstanding Seniors. He earned more than 260 service hours during his high school career. In addition to his church activities as altar server, eucharistic minister, and Deacon Peer Review Group member, Gregory has been active with the Trinity Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and built a prayer garden at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington — his home parish — for his Eagle Scout project. The son of Sharon and Charles Hodges, Gregory will attend the University of Texas in Austin.

"To Show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much we put in the doing, that makes our offering something beautiful for God."

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

COMANCHE

COMANCHE HIGH SCHOOL



Laura Gracia
SALUTATORIAN

Comanche High School Salutatorian Laura Garcia is the daughter of Jose and Guadalupe Garcia. As a life-long member of Sacred Heart Parish in Comanche, she has served as a eucharistic minister, lector and CCD teacher. In addition to her parish involvement, Laura has worked for numerous causes including Santa's Helpers, Relay for Life, Adopt-A-Highway trash clean up, Cinco de Mayo, the John Wesley Harding Day Town Festival, and the Comanche Community Clinic. She will attend the University of Texas at Arlington this fall.

FORT WORTH

CASSATA HIGH SCHOOL



Peyton Honor Coughlin
VALEDICTORIAN
OUTSTANDING SENIOR
AWARD

Cassata High School Valedictorian Peyton Honor Coughlin received an Outstanding Senior Award from her graduating class. A member of University United Methodist Church where she was part of the Youth Group, Peyton worked on the Cassata High School Yearbook staff. She plans to attend University of Texas at Arlington in the Fall. Peyton is the daughter of Sean Coughlin and Portlan Sinku.

FORT WORTH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS



John S. Maksimik, Jr.
SALUTATORIAN

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts Salutatorian John S. Maksimik, Jr. is the son of Coletta and John Maksimik. An active member of St. Bartholomew Parish, he has served as an acolyte, a member of the confirmation preparation ministry, YSN high school religious education participant, and Camp Fort Worth participant. Outside of parish life, John has been involved with the National Honor Society, the Red Cross, and the Special Olympics. He will attend Texas A & M University in College Station.



Jessica Chung
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

Jessica Chung, the daughter of Joseph and Maria Chung, is a National Merit Finalist from Nolan Catholic High School. Jessica played piano for the LifeTeen choir at St. John the Apostle Parish for three-and-a-half years. In addition to serving as a North Richland Hills Teen Court member and occasional attorney, she earned over 60 service hours with Habitat for Humanity. Jessica will attend the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.



George Elkind
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

National Merit Finalist George Elkind graduated from Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. As a member of the Nolan Catholic High School Theatre Troupe, he performed in community shows throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. The son of Peter Elkind and Catherine Colquitt, George plans to major in Radio/TV Studies at Northwestern University.



Chase Hattersley
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

Chase Hattersley, a graduate of Nolan Catholic High School, is a National Merit Finalist. He attends St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington. Chase has participated in Camp Fort Worth and was a River Legacy Parks volunteer. He plans to attend the University of North Texas in Denton. Chase is the son of Dan and Lisa Lamers and the late Kevin Hattersley.



Victoria Kilianski
VALEDICTORIAN

Nolan Catholic High School Valedictorian Victoria Kilianski is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine where she was an altar server. Her community service involvement included Work Week at the Pines Catholic Camp, providing general assistance with moving, cleaning and organization for Dawson Middle School in Carroll, and serving as a science tutor. Victoria is the daughter of Joseph and Helene Kilianski. She will double major in biology and biomedical science at Texas A & M University in College Station.

Honor Graduates



Amber Nortman
SALUTORIAN

Lindsay High School Salutatorian Amber Nortman is a member of St. Peter Church. Parish activities include participation in youth group as a teen leader, membership in St. Peter's youth choir, confirmation class aide, and volunteering for parish functions. In addition to her church involvement, she has tutored elementary school children, volunteered with the Medal of Honor Program, and helped with the Keep Lindsay Beautiful trash pickup. Amber is the daughter of Danny and Linda Nortman. She will attend Texas A & M University in College Station.



Susan Matassa
SALUTORIAN
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

Nolan Catholic High School Salutatorian Susan Matassa is a National Merit Finalist. As a member of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, she has been a member of the choir throughout her high school career. In addition to her ministry at church, she participated in 40 Days of Life Prayer, was a Big Brothers, Big Sisters volunteer and a Nolan Catholic High School Ambassador. The daughter of Alex and Theresa Matassa, Susan plans to major in Materials Engineering at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

LINDSAY
LINDSAY HIGH SCHOOL



Nick Bezner
VALEDICTORIAN

Lindsay High School Valedictorian Nick Bezner is a member of St. Peter Parish in Lindsay. He has served as a teen youth group leader and eucharistic minister. He earned over 120 service hours performing a variety of tasks from serving as a church camp volunteer to cleaning the school during the summer months. The son of Andy and Susie Bezner, Nick plans to attend Texas A & M University in College Station.

MUENSTER

SACRED HEART
HIGH SCHOOL



Joe Hesse
OUTSTANDING SENIOR
AWARD

Joe Hesse of Sacred Heart High School in Muenster received the Outstanding Senior Award for his graduating class. As a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Church, he has been an altar server for nearly ten years and helped remove, repair and reinstall the communion rails and altar for the church. For his Eagle Scout project, he did beautification and landscaping for a local pro-life outreach organization. Joe is the son of Bert and Christy Hesse and will attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

MUNDAY

MUNDAY HIGH SCHOOL



Robert Lee Dillard, Jr.
VALEDICTORIAN

Munday High School Valedictorian Robert "Rob" Lee Dillard, Jr. is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Rhineland. He has served his parish community as an altar server, lector, eucharistic minister, CCD teacher's aide, and Junior Youth volunteer. An accomplished athlete in several sports, Rob plans to major in sports medicine at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He is the son of Robert and Janet Dillard and the grandson of Billie Jake and Dot Myers of Rhineland.

POOLVILLE

POOLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Hannah Renee Henson
VALEDICTORIAN

Scholar athlete Hannah Renee Henson was the valedictorian for Poolville High School. Active in a wide range of sports throughout her high school career, she earned regional and district recognition in tennis her junior and senior years and was recognized as an academic all district athlete in basketball, volleyball, track, and tennis all four years. Hannah is a member of St. Stephen Parish in Weatherford and the daughter of Tony and Diana Henson. She will attend Weatherford College this fall.

NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL



Mark Andrew Szczerba
SALUTORIAN

Salutatorian Mark Andrew Szczerba graduated from Notre Dame High School and belongs to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish where he participated in the Ministry Formation Day and was a youth group volunteer. School and community service involvement included Key Club, Teens Make A Difference, volunteer work for the Hotter'n Hell Hundred Bike Race, and running lights and sound for the school drama department. Mark was also a member of the Student Council and the National Honor Society. He is the son of Arthur and Maria Szczerba.



Stephanie McCauley
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

Stephanie McCauley, a Nolan Catholic High School graduate, was a National Merit Finalist. As a dancer, she performed for numerous community events including Mayfest and Grapevine Main Street Days. The daughter of Michael and Richelle McCauley, Stephanie will attend Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.



Madeline Ross
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

Madeline Ross, a Nolan Catholic High School graduate, is a National Merit Finalist. She attends St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington and has played the French Horn for the St. Joseph Choir. The daughter of Michael and Carol Ross, Madeline plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled
as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.*

Amen. Prayer of St. Francis

WICHITA FALLS

NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL



Jason Murphy
VALEDICTORIAN

Notre Dame High School Valedictorian Jason Murphy is a member of Floral Heights United Methodist Church in Wichita Falls. He regularly plays the piano or alto saxophone for worship services and volunteers to run the sound board there. He has been a member of Key Club for four years, a participant in Teens Make A Difference Day for the Wichita Falls Nonprofit Organization, and assisted with bingo nights at the state hospital. The son of Michael and Barbara Murphy, Jason plans to attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

WICHITA FALLS
HIGH SCHOOL



Stephanie Hernandez
SALUTORIAN

Wichita Falls High School Salutatorian Stephanie Hernandez is the daughter of Elsa and Felipe Hernandez. In addition to her participation in Bible Study and work as a CCD helper at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Stephanie was active with the National Honor Society Community Service Academic Success project. She will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.



Elizabeth Mengis
NATIONAL MERIT
FINALIST

National Merit Finalist Elizabeth Mengis is a graduate of Nolan Catholic High School. As a member of St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, she was an altar server and Vacation Bible School group leader for four years. Additional service hours took her to Cook Children's Hospital where she served as a junior volunteer. Elizabeth is the daughter of Christopher and Janet Mengis. She will attend Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

JUSTIN
NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL



Jennifer Ryan
VALEDICTORIAN

Northwest High School Valedictorian Jennifer Ryan belongs to Good Shepherd Catholic Community where she has served as a lector, Vacation Bible School volunteer and altar server. Community service hours include volunteer work at Children's Medical Center in Dallas and the Relay for Life. Jennifer is the daughter of Kathryn and Robert Ryan. She will attend Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts.



Kalyssa Michelle Pollard
VALEDICTORIAN

Sacred Heart High School Valedictorian Kalyssa Michelle Pollard is the daughter of John and Cheryl Pollard. An active parishioner at Sacred Heart Church, she has been a member of the youth group, a music minister, lector, church volunteer, and eucharistic minister. In addition to her parish activities, Kalyssa has volunteered with Keep Muenster Beautiful and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She will attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.



Samantha Jo Wimmer
SALUTORIAN

Sacred Heart Catholic School Salutatorian Samantha Jo Wimmer belongs to Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster where she served as a eucharistic minister and a Vacation Bible School volunteer with a passion for teaching young children about God. She made baby blankets for ABBA, served as a referee for Muenster youth basketball games, and was a member of the board of Keep Muenster Beautiful. Samantha is the daughter of Wayne and Tammy Wimmer.



Lari Dee Welch
SALUTORIAN

Lari Dee Welch, Munday High School Salutatorian, is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Rhineland where she was an altar server, CCD teacher aide, and a youth volunteer. Her school activities included a variety of sports including cheerleading, basketball, and track as well as academic pursuits as a member of the National Honor Society and a participant in UIL Academics. Lari is the daughter of Larry and Annelie Welch and the granddaughter of Billie Jake and Dot Myers of Rhineland. She will study speech pathology at Texas Tech University.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Viewpoints

Year of the Priest reminds us of the role of clergy in the life of the Church

By Lucas Pollice

Let us take a more detailed look at each.

In June, Pope Benedict XVI decreed that June 2009 to June 2010 be the Year of the Priest. This upcoming year provides for us many ways to celebrate the priesthood and to thank our priests for their lives of service and dedication to us and to the Church.

In commemoration of the Year of the Priest, I am offering a two-part column on the Sacrament of Holy Orders so that we can better appreciate and understand the great gift of the priesthood that has been established by Christ himself to continue his work of teaching, sanctifying, and governing the Church.

The sacrament of Holy Orders is called the sacrament of "apostolic ministry." Christ entrusted the apostles with the ministry of teaching, ministering, and governing his people. It is through this sacrament that this "apostolic ministry" has been handed on throughout the history of the Church. Men who are ordained with the sacrament of Holy Orders come to share in apostolic ministry and thus through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit teach, minister, and govern with the authority of Christ.

The word "order" comes from the Roman tradition meaning a recognized governing body. To receive orders or to be ordained means to become a member of that body. Thus, bishops, priests, and deacons, through the sacrament of Holy Orders are consecrated or set apart by Christ to be his instruments in teaching, guiding, and ministering to his Church.

Holy Orders is also one of the sacraments in service of the communion of the Church. While it confers great authority and responsibility, it is an authority which serves the People of God, faithfully dispenses the graces of the sacraments, and preserves the communion and oneness of the Church by faithfulness to the truth revealed by Christ. Holy Orders is not about power and prestige, but it is about being a sign and presence of Christ who washed the feet of the apostles.

The sacrament of Holy Orders has three degrees or levels of participation: the *episcopate* (bishops), the *presbyterate* (priests), and the *diaconate* (deacons).

EPISCOPAL ORDERS

The episcopate (bishop) is the highest degree of Holy Orders, that is, bishops possess the fullness of Holy Orders and share fully in the apostolic ministry. They are the high priests of the Church and the New Covenant. By receiving the fullness of the apostolic ministry, they are the direct successors of the apostles. Within the Catholic Church there is a real and historically unbroken line of apostolic succession from the apostles themselves to the bishops today. As successors of the apostles, the bishops, in communion with the Pope, receive the authority from Christ himself to teach, minister and govern the Church. Thus, they are the authoritative teachers and interpreters of the Word of God passed on through sacred Scripture and sacred Tradition. They are the ministers of the sacramental life of the Church and have the authority to perform all of the sacraments, including ordaining other bishops, priests, and deacons. They also have the authority to govern the Church both spiritually and materially.

Most bishops are the leaders of what is called a *diocese* or a local church comprised of several parishes. He is the shepherd of his diocese; he teaches, ministers, and governs his local church. All bishops and their diocese are in communion with the Pope who is the Bishop of Rome. Thus while each bishop shepherds his own diocese, the Church is one through communion with the successor of Peter, the Pope.

While all bishops possess the fullness of Holy Orders and the apostolic ministry, there are different levels of bishops that denote different levels of governance in the Church. In other words, some bishops have greater responsibilities than others.

1 *The Pope:* The Pope is the successor of Peter and has universal and supreme authority in the Church. Like Peter, he is given by Christ the keys to the kingdom and has the power to bind and loose in the name of Christ. He is the visible center of unity and communion in the Church, and has authority over all of the other bishops, who are all in communion with him. All new bishops are appointed by him and are ordained with his blessing. The Pope preserves and maintains the visible and spiritual communion of the Church.

2 *Cardinals:* The cardinals are the highest level of bishop. The word "cardinal" comes from the Latin word meaning "hinge," as they are

considered the hinges or ambassadors of the Pope. Cardinals wear the red zucchetos (skullcaps) and in almost all cases assume a very great responsibility in the Church. Many of them work in the Roman Curia which is the Pope's governing offices at the Vatican. It is very similar to the president's cabinet containing the heads of specific governing offices and advisors. Many of the other cardinals are the head of a very large archdiocese such as New York or Chicago. The cardinals are also responsible for electing a new Pope. For most of the history of the Church, while not strictly necessary, the Pope has been chosen from the cardinals.

3 *Archbishops:* Archbishops shepherd a large diocese called an archdiocese. An archdiocese is also the metropolitan or principle diocese in a certain region that oversees other dioceses. Thus, the archbishop of a diocese has certain oversight and authority over the bishops in the dioceses of his region. For example, the Archdiocese of San Antonio oversees the dioceses of Amarillo, Lubbock, Fort Worth, Dallas, San Angelo, and El Paso. Unless an archbishop is a cardinal, he wears a violet zucchetto.

4 *Bishops:* Bishops shepherd a diocese and also wear the violet zucchetto. Some bishops as well as archbishops may not head a diocese but are in charge of a department or organization within the Church.

Bishops also have and wear special symbols that point to their unique role and mission.

- The *miter* or the cone-shaped headdress: The miter is a sign of his authority and points towards heaven from which his authority comes. This "crown" of authority is not to lord over the People of God, but to serve the faithful in bringing them to the truth of Christ.
- The *crozier* or shepherd's staff carried by the bishop: The crozier is a symbol that he represents Christ the Good Shepherd, and that he, like Christ, shepherds his flock towards heaven.
- The *ring* worn by the bishop: The ring is a sign of authority and in generations past was used to seal letters and was the authoritative stamp of the bishop. However, the ring also symbolizes the bishop being wed to the Church and accepting the Church as his bride. The bishop's role is to protect and serve his unblemished Bride, the Church.

PRESBYTERATE ORDERS

The presbyterate (priesthood) is the

second degree of Holy Orders. While they do not possess the fullness of Holy Orders and the apostolic ministry, through the bishop they do *share* in the apostolic ministry and ministerial priesthood. They act as the associates of the bishop, assisting him in preaching and administering the sacraments in his diocese. The authority and ministry of priests is intrinsically connected to the bishop and comes from him. Priests receive their sacramental authority from the bishop, however, they cannot ordain other priests or bishops, and can only perform the sacrament of Confirmation with delegation or explicit permission from the bishop.

DIACONATE ORDERS

The diaconate is the third degree of Holy Orders. Deacons fundamentally differ from bishops and priests in that they do not possess the apostolic ministry or ministerial priesthood. However, they are still ordained through the sacrament of Holy Orders and are given a special gift of and grace of the Holy Spirit to preach the Word of God and act in service to the People of God. Thus, the main function of the deacon is to assist the bishops and priests in preaching, at the altar, and in serving the faithful through various ministries. Because deacons do not share in the ministerial priesthood, they can only baptize and witness marriages.

There are two types of deacons in the Church, transitional and permanent. A transitional deacon is a man in his final year of preparation for the priesthood. Thus, the diaconate is the transition between the lay state and the priesthood. A permanent deacon is a man who is ordained a deacon without the intention of becoming a priest. A permanent deacon may be married and serves a unique role in that he lives in the secular world, but also has an ordained role in the Church.

Next month, we will look at the signs and effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders as well as discuss celibacy in the priesthood and the reservation of Holy Orders to men alone.



Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCIA for the diocese. Lucas holds a degree in theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and has a master's degree in theological studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He is an adjunct professor of theology with the Cardinal Newman Institute in Fort Worth. Lucas and his wife, Mary, have five children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, Christian, and Julia.

Sometimes prayer

seems to bounce back

By Mary Morrell

"Answer when I call, my saving God." Psalm 4:2

Yesterday was one of those days. You know the kind, when your mind is pulled in every direction; 10 people have already asked you for something, and it's only nine o'clock in the morning.

So I decided to take a break and call my husband, though I can't remember why.

I dialed his cell number from my office phone and, wouldn't you know, as soon as I got through my cell phone started to ring. I hung up on his call and answered my phone.

"Hello?"

I heard a woman's voice but then she hung up on me. I was really annoyed.

It sounded like my co-worker. I had called her yesterday from my phone so maybe she was just returning my call. I decided to try my husband again before checking with my co-worker. I dialed his number and was interrupted by another call on my cell.

"Hello?" I said sharply.

"Hello?" I heard her reply, but nothing more, so I hung up.

God, this is so annoying, I thought.

I looked at the in-coming call location: work. It has to be her, I thought.

As I reached to phone my husband one more time, it suddenly became embarrassingly clear — I had been calling myself.

My cell number and my husband's both begin with the same four numbers and, being mentally fragmented, I dialed the wrong number.

Now I could chuckle, but my husband laughed out loud when I told him.

Renowned Rabbi Abraham Heschel has said, "A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair."

I think he considered it right up there with the time I cooked my glasses on the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

He suggested the phone call story would make a good column, but I reminded him that I needed a spiritual connection.

That's when he hit me with, "Well, sometimes talking to God is like talking to yourself. You don't get an answer and all you hear is the sound of your own voice."

I was speechless for a few seconds. There was a lot to unpack in what he was saying, not the least of which was wondering if he was speaking from experience.

Certainly, I have had a fair share of emails from people who would empathize with the words of Dolly Parton's song, Hello God.

She asks the question, "Hello, God, are you out there? Can you hear me, are you listenin' any more? Hello God, if we're still on speakin' terms can you help me like before?"

I imagine King David would emphasize, as well.

So many of his psalms seem to be asking, "Are you listening to me?"

One of my favorites is Psalm 13, when David asks, "How long, Lord? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I carry sorrow in my soul, grief in my heart day after day?"

This is a man on the edge, but one who is confident enough in God's love to hold

God's "feet" to the fire. Without fear, he entreats God, "Look upon me, answer me, Lord, my God!"

Still, in spite of his painful situation and the lack of God's response, David ends his psalm by saying, "I trust in your faithfulness. Grant my heart joy in your help, that I may sing of the Lord, 'How good our God has been to me!'"

Renowned Rabbi Abraham Heschel has said, "A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair."

David was a religious man. We may have trouble believing it because we see, with human eyes, the magnitude of David's sins. But God saw something more. In spite of his sinfulness, his great accomplishments and his periods of trials and deep turmoil, David depended on God. It was through his darkest periods that David developed a trust and hope in God that would sustain him throughout his life.

David's psalms are encouragement for us because they are songs of faith in a God who is always listening and always responding, even when it seems like we are talking to ourselves.

Mary Reginam Morrell and her husband are the parents of six adult children, all boys, and live in Colonia, New Jersey. Mary works for RENEW International.

UNSUNG 'SAINTS' ABOUND IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

By Margaret McGettrick
Director of Education
Texas Catholic Conference

On July 26, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI prayed with the faithful gathered near his chalet at Les Combes where he was spending a vacation. Being the feast day of Sts. Joachim and Anna, parents of the Virgin Mary and grandparents of Jesus, Benedict XVI invited people to "pray for grandparents who, in families, are the depositories and often witnesses of the fundamental values of life. The educational role of grandparents is always important, and becomes even more important when, for various reasons, parents are unable to ensure an adequate presence alongside their children as they are growing." He entrusted all the grandparents of the world to the protection of Sts. Joachim and Anna.

It has become an increasing trend that more and more grandparents are becoming "recycled parents" by taking on the daily responsibilities of raising their grandchildren. In her book *Grandfamilies: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*, Katy Abel writes, "So much for spoiling them rotten, then sending them back to their parents. Grandparenting is not what it used to be. At a time when most expect to enjoy the fruit of their life's labor, growing numbers of senior citizens find they are saddled with a burden they never expected to bear: caring for their own children's children."

According to a 2000 U.S. Census Bureau report, 2.4 million grandparents had primary responsibility for their co-resident grandchildren younger than 18; among grandparent caregivers, 39 percent had cared for their grandchildren for 5 or more years.

The joy that grandchildren bring to our lives is very enriching, but for those who are raising their grandchildren, other factors seem to bring a variety of challenges. In a *Time* magazine article, "Recycled Parents," Deborah Edler Brown writes: "Isolation is a common complaint among second-time parents, social lives dwindle, late-life dreams get put on hold, while the expenses of child-rearing create new financial challenges. One grandfather came out of retirement when he acquired three new mouths to feed. Now 75, he works nights and sleeps during the day with a 30-mile commute. There is also emotional fallout; fear of losing a child to dysfunctional parents, grief at losing the grandparent role and anger at the adult child who won't parent. And there is the simple reality of age."

How do our schools welcome and work with these new grandparents? While dining recently with my *comadre*, Virginia Sanchez, our conversation centered on this very topic. Virginia has been working at SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic School in Corpus Christi for the past 30 years and remarked on how much she admired one woman at the school. The woman experienced health issues, financial pressures, and the loss of her husband while trying to provide her grandchildren with a Catholic education. She was an example of whom Benedict XVI described as a "witness of the fundamental values of life." The SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School community in turn reached out to the woman with tuition assistance and moral support, as well as food and gifts when she had no money for Christmas.

The late Karl Menninger once said "The central purpose of each life should be to dilute the misery in the world." What wonderful examples of unsung "saints" we have in these truly holy people.



The handbell choir from St. Andrew Church Fort Worth performs prior to the anniversary Mass. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)



Caribbean students from the Catholic campus community at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls performed before Mass. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)



Bishop Vann sings the eucharistic prayer, *Misa Luna*, that was commissioned for the anniversary Mass. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)

40 years of life has brought phenomenal growth in numbers and d

COMM

FROM PAGE 1
her journey of faith."

Forty years later the Diocese of Fort Worth has experienced explosive growth in numbers, diversity, and ministries offered to more than 600,000 Catholics living in North Texas. Part of the growth of the flourishing faith community has been the recent dramatic rise in vocations to the priesthood. Many of the 32 men currently in formation took time from their studies to attend the anniversary Mass.

"We're participating, like most people here, by our presence," said first year collegiate seminarian Daniel Cochran. "I think it's important for people to see how many seminarians there are. It's a sign of vibrancy in the diocese."

Seminarian Ronald Mercado agrees. "This is a very jubilant moment for us," says the 36-year-old

pre-theology student whose interest in the priesthood was sparked by his parish's participation in the chalice program. "My hope for the future of the diocese is that we not only increase vocations to the priesthood and religious life but also promote the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage which is the first vocation."

Seminarians, who helped serve the Mass, led the procession into the convention center arena which was transformed into a place of worship with help from a backdrop of religious-themed banners created by local Carmelite nuns. Members of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree stood as honor guards for the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, 65 deacons, 30 diaconate candidates, about 90 priests, and

12 bishops from New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Archbishop José Gómez of San Antonio and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston also participated.

In a display of ecumenism, representatives of the Anglican Communion—including Bishop Jack Iker and several priests—participated in the procession. During the presentation of offertory gifts, Bishop Iker gave Bishop Vann a hand-painted icon of St. Michael the Archangel to commemorate the jubilee.

Providing music before and during the Mass were Fort Worth's St. Andrew Parish hand bell choir, singers from the African community of Arlington's St. Joseph Parish, the Tongan community of St. Michael Church in

Bedford, and a Caribbean group from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. A special eucharistic prayer, *Misa Luna* was commissioned for the 40th anniversary and composed by Peter Kolar.

"It's a blessing that you're here today," Bishop Vann said, acknowledging the crowd of worshippers. "Thanks to all of you [who] made this celebration possible and do so much with the Gospel and live the faith here in North Texas."

Among the invited guests were members of Bishop Cassata's family. The late bishop's crosier and matching chalice were used for the special liturgy.

"We came to celebrate this occasion and honor my great uncle," said Judd Fruia, who was three years old when his uncle became



Bishop Kevin Vann is joined on the altar by his fellow bishops and by seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Worth. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

Members of the African Choir of St. Joseph Church, Arlington, sing prior to the Mass. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



AT LEFT, CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:

- Kristel Vogel of Sacred Heart Parish, Muenster, offers intercessory prayers in German. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)
- Sr. Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, proclaims one of the readings for the Mass in Spanish. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)
- Joan Grabowski of St. Rita Church, Fort Worth, sings the responsorial psalm. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)
- LeRoy Terrio offers intercessory prayers in American Sign Language. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)

CASSATA FAMILY — FAR RIGHT, SECOND FROM BOTTOM:

Michael Fruia (far left) and Judd Fruia (far right), great-nephews of Bishop Cassata, attended the Mass with their wives and children. Both families reside within the Diocese of Fort Worth. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

LEFT CORNER

Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, Tony Milburn, Carmen Hildman, James Cuff, and Ann La Posta process into the arena. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)

BELOW, CENTER:

Members of the Knights of St. Peter Claver participated in the Mass. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

BELOW:

Karen and Robert Nguyen, members of Our Lady of Fatima Church, bring the offertory gifts to the altar. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)



iversity, and yet we are one Body of Christ celebrating

UNIO

the first bishop of Fort Worth.

Now a resident of Highland Village, Fruia recalled when Bishop Cassata had the garage of his home converted into a chapel, and the family would gather there for Mass.

"I would be his altar boy," the nephew reminisced. "It enhanced our family's spirituality. We keep a picture of him, dressed in his vestments, in our home."

Steve Landregan, a local church historian and the archivist of the Diocese of Dallas remembered the discussions that led to the birth of the Diocese of Fort Worth. At the time, the boundaries of the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth touched Texarkana, Shreveport, and went beyond Wichita Falls.

"They were trying to make smaller dioceses so the bishops could be closer to the people,"

Landregan explained.

Growth in two competing metropolitan areas was another factor. When Thomas K. Gorman was named coadjutor bishop of Dallas in 1952, he recognized the importance of Fort Worth and set up a hyphenated diocese with a co-cathedral. He recommended the diocese split into two entities after announcing his retirement in 1969.

Bishop Cassata's placement in Fort Worth as auxiliary bishop eased the transition.

"Parishioners were delighted. I think the people of Fort Worth always felt shortchanged," Landregan continued. "They were always overshadowed by Dallas."

Over the years, Jeanette Seifert, a member of St. Mary Church in Dublin, has watched the Diocese of Fort Worth grow in stature and numbers. When she moved to

Stephenville in 1967, there were about 65,000 Catholics living in the 28-county area.

"Back then if you told someone you were Catholic you were considered dirt," she said, remembering the prejudices that once defined rural society, "so things have definitely changed."

In recent years, outreach to Catholics living in outlying areas has improved and Seifert anticipates even greater developments in the future. The diversity demonstrated during the 40th anniversary Mass through music and language is one of the diocese's great strengths. Another is leadership.

"Bishop Vann is a real people person, and he's been wonderful for the diocese," she added. "It's nice to be part of a diocese that's growing."



Catholics representing parishes from across the diocese served as members of the anniversary Mass choir. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

The diocese would like to extend special thanks to Kenneth Copeland Ministries and its employees for the donation of the use of the stage, the blue backdrop for the altar and the Carmelites' banners, and videotaping equipment, display screens and their technical services in a grand gesture of ecumenical cooperation.



Francisco Lariz and Ana Saldivar, in traditional dress, pray during the liturgy. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

Bishops from Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas process from the convention center arena at the conclusion of the liturgy. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)



priests, deacons, and (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)



Archbishop José Gómez (L.) and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (R.) address the congregation at the conclusion of the Mass. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)



RIGHT ABOVE: Bishop Vann, holding the crosier given to Bishop Cassata 40 years ago, receives the applause of the congregation at the conclusion of the liturgy. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



Bishop Vann greets Sisters of St. Mary of Namur Roberta Hesse, St. John Begnaud and Mary Helen Fuhrmann during the recessional. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



BELOW: Parishioners from the far northwest corner of the diocese traveled for three hours by bus to attend the anniversary celebration. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

BELOW, CENTER: Bishop Vann greets St. Andrew parishioner Bob Connelly as he leaves the convention center arena following the liturgy. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

RIGHT CORNER: Seminarian Joe Keating, joined by girls from St. Mark Parish, Denton, examines one of the ministry banners on display at the anniversary reception. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



Parishioners from throughout the diocese attended the Jubilee Mass and brought their own

STORIES TO TELL

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

Jimmy Parker was there on the day the Diocese of Fort Worth was formally instituted. In fact, he had a special seat.

First he drove Bishop John Cassata's parents from the airport, after their arrival from Houston. Then he sat with them in the first row of St. Patrick Cathedral, when they watched their son assume his seat as the diocese's first ordinary.

"Watching Bishop Cassata take the oath was the most wonderful thing to see," said Parker, a St. Andrew parishioner who has been active in the Knights of Columbus and Serra Club for more than three decades. "That day meant a lot to me."

"It was good that they began our diocese, because of the number of people it could serve," said St. Andrew parishioner Bob Connelly, legendary supporter of Catholic Scouting and other ministries, "not just Fort Worth, but other places like Wichita Falls, Breckenridge, Vernon... I thought it was a worthwhile thing, because of the number of people we were serving."

"At the 40th anniversary, the thing that impressed me most — that gave me goose bumps — was the multicultural and inclusive nature of it," said St. Patrick parishioner Robert Devine, an international affairs consultant, who volunteered in the diocesan Peace and Justice ministry under Bishop Joseph Delaney. "The liturgy reflected the universality of our faith."

"It's been fun to watch the families grow up here," said Dr. Chris Hull, a St. Andrew parishioner, whose family has actively supported the diocese for more than 25 years. "It's been interesting to see all the priests come and go and to see the bishops change. Bishop Vann's leadership is phenomenal. It's such an open presence."

GIFT OF LOVE

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth gave Tom Byrd a wonderful gift — his wife.

"I've been in the diocese



Longtime members of the diocese (left to right) Bob Connelly, Robert Devine, Jimmy Parker, and Chris Hull reminisce together at the reception following the anniversary Mass.



Grand Knight Tom Byrd (right), and Dexter Patterson, both members of Knights of St. Peter Claver Council 89 at Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Fort Worth, visit together at the reception.

since I've been married," the Our Mother of Mercy parishioner said. "I've been married 37 years; I've been a Catholic 35 years."

Byrd's conversion to Catholicism came naturally: "I married a Catholic school girl," he said, adding she was an OMM schoolgirl. Our Mother of Mercy Parish and School hold a revered place in diocesan history, having been founded in 1929, by Bishop Patrick Lynch as Fort Worth's parish for the African-American community.

The Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, the United States' only African American, Catholic fraternal organization, played a big part in the 40th anniversary celebration. The liturgy was multi-cultural in music and participation, with additional participation from other fraternal groups, including the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre and the Knights of Columbus.

Dexter Patterson, a lifelong Catholic originally from Tulsa, processed with the Knights of Peter Claver, and said he was happy to be part of the grand celebration. "I grew up in a

Catholic church," he said, "and was baptized when I was six years old. This was a wonderful event — very extravagant, very organized. I learned a lot and met a lot of people. The diocese did a good job."

"I enjoyed this celebration as much as I did Bishop Vann's ordination when he came here," Byrd said. The Knights were part of that one, too, and that was special. Seeing all the different Catholics all together at one time is wonderful.

"And seeing all the bishops here — I enjoyed it very much."

TASTE OF HOME

Juliana Mfleg came from Micronesia to the United States and Texas, where she has worshipped at Arlington's St. Maria Goretti Parish for 10 years. But at the diocese's 40th anniversary she thought she had gone to heaven.

"The occasion was so beautiful," she said, at the reception. "I'm so grateful to God to be able to come here and see so many priests and religious — it's just like heaven."

Some 90 diocesan priests, 11 bishops and archbishops, and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston concelebrated



Margaret Mary Akintolayo (left) and Juliana Mfleg, both of St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington, express their delight in the anniversary celebration.

ed the anniversary liturgy with Bishop Kevin Vann. Also vested were 65 diocesan deacons, 30 seminarians, as well as a number of Anglican priests and their Bishop Jack Iker.

"The anniversary was a landmark," said Margaret Mary Akintolayo, of SMG. "Forty years is like a generation. We could look back on 40 years and look forward to the future." Akintolayo is originally from Nigeria, came to America in 1970, then returned to Nigeria where she taught high school for 16 years and her children finished school. Back in the States, she lived in Washington, D.C., 10 years, and the past 15 have been in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"I love my parish," she said. "The pastor is wonderful, everyone is friendly, holy, and beautiful. St. Maria Goretti reminds me of the churches in Nigeria. It is like going home."

"Our diocesan anniversary celebration was once-in-a-lifetime — a beautiful thing! And our bishop is wonderful — a very holy father."

PICTURE OF HISTORY

With camera in hand, Rosie Steinman makes memories for all the people she cares about — but her own memories do not need photos.

Steinman is a charter member of Fort Worth's St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, which was built in 1937, designated to serve the Fort Worth neighborhood with the greatest number of Czechoslovakian families. Steinman remembers the dedication, but she also remembers her family helped clear the land for the church, still standing in its original location, on Azle and Macy Streets.

At the anniversary, Steinman photographed memorable moments, she said, and her favorite was when Lucille Kuballa proclaimed the prayer of the faithful in Czech. Kuballa is a member of Seymour's Sacred Heart Parish, where she has been choir director for some 50 years.

Steinman, the only member of her family who attended the celebration, appreciated the multicultural liturgy, especially the inclusion of her Czech heritage.

Keyna Harris from St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills is acquainted with Steinman from Sokol, a Czech organization, and she said she enjoyed the liturgy's music. "I like to go to a lot of parishes,



Rose Steinman and Keyna Harris pause at the anniversary reception to chat about their shared Czech heritage.

with all different choirs," she said.

Steinman, who came from a family of eight children, remembers when St. Thomas's first Mass was celebrated, Aug. 8, 1937. "It was in a house; there were 60 people there, and I was with Mother and Daddy."

At the anniversary liturgy, she recorded more memories — especially of the woman who read the prayer of the faithful in Czech.

"It thrills me to death that I heard the prayer in Czech," Steinman said, "and that I understood it!"

VOICE OF THE SPIRIT

The songleader knew the responsorial hymn well, had heard and sung it many times, frequently as a communion hymn, she said. She was accustomed to singing it in a straightforward way, as written.

At the Diocese of Fort Worth's 40th anniversary, however, Joan Grabowski sang the song's refrains as she had never done before. Her rendition brought tears to worshippers' eyes, became, as one attendee said, "a moment of conversion," and, lyrically, presented a facet of one the diocese's many rich cultures.

Grabowski, of St. Rita Parish, SEE PROFILES, P. 17



Joan Grabowski (left) receives hugs and praise from Brittany Hines at the anniversary reception. Grabowski led a stirring rendition of the "Taste and See" responsorial psalm at the anniversary Mass.

Sacred items from diocese's past enrich 40th anniversary celebration

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

For long-time residents of North Texas, the 40th anniversary celebration held Aug. 9 was an opportunity to witness the reverent use of several sacred items from the diocese's rich history.

"The cathedra, also known as the bishop's episcopal chair, which has been used at St. Patrick Cathedral since the 1920s, was moved to the Fort Worth Convention Center for the celebration," said cathedral historian Kay Fialho. "The chair, used by Bishop Vann when he was ordained as the third bishop of the diocese, had also been taken to the Convention Center for the ordination of Bishop Delaney in 1981."

The altar and ambo used at the August 9th celebration were designed by the well-known University of Dallas professor and artist Lyle Novinski, added Fialho. "They were designed by Novinski in the 1960s after the reforms of the Second Vatican Council," she explained. "When priests began saying Mass while facing the congregation, that altar was used at St. Patrick until the renovation of the cathedral several years ago, when it was replaced by the present marble altar." Msgr. Joseph Erbrick, pastor of the cathedral at the time, asked Novinski to design the altar and ambo to match the episcopal chair, she said.

Other familiar items in use at the Aug. 9 celebration included two elaborate prayer benches, also known as "predieux," one of which was used by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston during the anniversary Mass, said Fialho.

"Msgr. Joseph O'Donohoe, pastor of the cathedral from 1940 to 1956, had the prayer benches made in Mexico City in 1951," she said. "He had six of them specially made, in the rococo style he admired. Eventually, he gave one of the benches to [radio and television personality and theologian] Archbishop Fulton Sheen, when Bishop Sheen was traveling

I was very happy and very proud of our history when I saw these beautiful items being used during the anniversary Mass.

— Kay Fialho
St. Patrick Cathedral
Historian and Archivist

through Fort Worth."

"The large silver repository used on the altar to hold the Blessed Sacrament [during the anniversary Mass] was purchased in Mexico by Msgr. O'Donohoe, as was the large, sterling silver censer used by Bishop Vann at the Mass," Fialho noted. Msgr. O'Donohoe listed the censer in the cathedral inventory by describing it as a 'large censer of solid silver, hand hammered and chiseled. Fine workmanship. Modern. Made in 1942 especially for St. Patrick's in Puebla, Mexico.'

Msgr. O'Donohoe had close ties to Mexico, said Fialho, who has given tours of the cathedral and studied its history for more than 30 years. "He was fluent in Spanish and had relatives there. Most of the religious articles — like the chalices and other sacred vessels — were purchased in Mexico, as well as three of our beautiful statues," she said.

The elaborate chalice, decorated with ivory figures, was used during the Mass by Bishop Vann. It was made to match the bishop's crosier, which was presented to Bishop Cassata at the Oct. 21, 1969 Mass that was held at St. Patrick Cathedral to mark the establishment of the new Diocese of Fort Worth, said Fialho.

"I was very happy and very proud of our history when I saw these beautiful items being used during the anniversary Mass," she said. "These special things should all be taken care of, protected, and used. They are an important part of our history as a diocese."

Bishop Vann encourages Catholics to speak up on health care plans before Congress – civilly

FROM PAGE 1

all is a moral imperative and a vital national obligation." One can also access Cardinal Rigali's recent statements, action alerts, news releases, and other information as well on this site. Our own *North Texas Catholic* is treating this

very matter in this issue. This is a providential moment to live the Gospel of Life in a concrete and visible way. On a related note, as we wish Bishop Aymond well in his new role as Archbishop of New Orleans, and as we pray for him, we should also read his

recent statement on these matters, released just yesterday.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Kevin W. Vann

+ Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann
Bishop of Fort Worth

Cardinal Rigali criticizes abortion provisions in House health reform bill

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Although amendments to a House health care reform bill made some "helpful improvements" in protecting life and conscience, some "unacceptable features" remain that must be removed, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee told House members Aug. 11.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, who heads the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the health reform bill approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee July 31 would make a "radical change" in U.S. abortion policy by making abortion a mandated benefit in the public health insurance plan that would compete with private insurers and by allowing the expanded use of federal funds to pay for abortions.

He said the committee "created a legal fiction, a paper separation between federal funding and abortion" through which those in the public plan and in private insurance plans that cover abortion would pay an out-of-pocket premium of at least \$1 a month to cover abortions beyond those eligible for federal funds under the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment, enacted into law in various forms since 1976, prohibits federal funding of abortions except in cases of rape, incest, and danger to the mother's life.

Cardinal Rigali said the separation of funds in the reform bill "is

Cardinal Rigali said the committee "created a legal fiction, a paper separation between federal funding and abortion" through which those in the public plan and in private insurance plans that cover abortion would pay an out-of-pocket premium of at least \$1 a month to cover abortions beyond those eligible for federal funds under the Hyde amendment.

an illusion" because "funds paid into these plans are fungible, and federal taxpayer funds will subsidize the operating budget and provider networks that expand access to abortion."

In addition, he said, "those constrained by economic necessity or other factors to purchase the 'public plan' will be forced by the federal government to pay directly and specifically for abortion coverage ... even if they find abortion morally abhorrent."

The cardinal had praise, however, for amendments to the bill that stipulate that health reform legislation will not pre-empt certain state laws regulating abortion and will not affect existing federal conscience protections on abortion.

He also thanked the commit-

tee for approving an amendment "prohibiting governmental bodies that receive federal funds under this act from discriminating against providers and insurers who decline involvement in abortion."

Cardinal Rigali's comments came in an Aug. 11 letter to each House member. He urged that attention be paid to the priorities and concerns for health reform outlined in an earlier letter from Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

The U.S. bishops "have long supported health care reform that respects human life and dignity from conception to natural death; provides access to quality health care for all, with a special concern for immigrants and the poor; preserves pluralism, with respect for rights of conscience; and restrains costs while sharing them equitably," Cardinal Rigali said, reiterating points from Bishop Murphy's letter.

"Much-needed reform must not become a vehicle for promoting an 'abortion rights' agenda or reversing long-standing policies against federal funding and mandated coverage of abortion," the cardinal said. "In this sense we urge you to make this legislation 'abortion-neutral' by preserving long-standing federal policies that prevent government promotion of abortion and respect conscience rights."

Profiles...

FROM PAGE 16

with Rendell James, immediate-past music director at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, improvised a setting of Psalm 34 "Taste and See" composed by James Moore. They did it in Gospel style.

"I had never met Rendell before the dress rehearsal,"

Grabowski said, "when he sat down at the piano and started rocking it out with this Gospel swing. It electrified me and I just started singing." James was choir director for the diocesan anniversary Mass.

"Before we began, I was a little intimidated," Grabowski said. "All the bishops were sitting behind me, and until then, the music had been so beautiful, and very Western European, and

very classical. I thought, 'This is gonna stick out...' Plus, the day before, at the rehearsal, Rendell had played it in double time, twice as fast as I'd ever heard it. But when he began, at the anniversary Mass, he was playing it slowly.

"Well, okay! I thought. 'I was really excited. I just went off and did that improvisation thing.

"The improvising is the Holy

Spirit component."

At the anniversary celebration reception, Grabowski paused every few minutes for children to hug her, or for someone to thank her for the music.

With humility she always answered the same way: "I'm glad you were blessed."

"When I sing I have no idea what it's going to be. The Holy Spirit says, 'Why don't you go high here; why don't you go low

here.... Why don't you emphasize this word here....'

"That's when I know it's not me, that it's the Holy Spirit. I mean yes, I'm the vessel, and the Holy Spirit works through me, but when people say 'I was crying,' or 'I was so touched,' that's me and the Holy Spirit. That's not just me.

"And that's the part that is so fun," the beloved vocalist said, "I can't do that just by myself."

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Cuban-American confirmed as ninth U.S. ambassador to the Vatican

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic theologian Miguel Diaz was confirmed by the U.S. Senate Aug. 4 as the ninth U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. A professor of theology at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota, and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, Diaz is the first Hispanic to serve in the post. Diaz issued a statement through St. John's University Aug. 5, saying he was grateful to President Barack Obama "for the confidence he has invested in me" and to the Senate for its vote. "I am honored to be given the responsibility of representing the people of the United States to the Holy See," he said in the statement posted on the Web site of St. John's University. "I very much appreciate the support of all those who have reached out to me and to my family with their prayers and best wishes during this process." He also said he planned to move his family to Rome and present his credentials to Pope Benedict XVI as soon as possible. His wife, Marian, directs Companions on a Journey and CORAD: Heart Speaks to Heart at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. The couple have four children.

Do all to be in Jesus' presence, Archbishop Gómez tells clergy conference

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Catholic clergy and laypeople must imitate the spirit that led friends of the paralyzed man in the Gospel account to do "everything they could so that the man could be in the presence of Jesus," because "real joy comes when we make Jesus the center of our lives." That was the message from Archbishop José H. Gómez of San Antonio to participants in the recent annual conference of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy, a support and education organization for U.S. Catholic priests and deacons. Archbishop Gómez called the story — in Chapter 9 of Matthew's Gospel, the paralyzed man was lowered through a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching — a "graphic example" of healing. Christ told the man, "Have courage, child, your sins are forgiven." Why, the archbishop asked, is this pardon the first gift Christ gave the man? After all, it prompted the Pharisees to anger and an accusation that Christ was blaspheming. "What does forgiveness have to do with making the man walk again? Sin is a real disease that makes us spiritually blind, deaf, mute and lame. We are disabled so that we cannot perform the works of mercy. Sin is a disability making us unable to reach out to God or our neighbor," he added.

Agencies say number of college graduates volunteering is on the rise

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Across the country, hundreds of college graduates are opting to spend their first year out of school doing community service either in response to the tight job market or simply from a desire to do some good. The Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, which places volunteers in rural and urban areas in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, accepted 101 volunteers at the start of the 2009-10 service term, a 40 percent increase from the previous year. Teach for America and the Peace Corps also have tracked big surges in volunteer numbers since the nation's economic downturn began in the fall of 2008 — about 40 percent for Teach for America and 16 percent for the Peace Corps. Smaller programs such as the Downtown Chapel in Portland, which sponsors a summer internship among the neighborhood's poor and homeless, also are attracting more helpers. Jeanne Haster, director of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, said the job market has prompted some young people to follow a path of service. But she also credited the generosity of this generation, which has grown up doing service work.

Bishops' new Web site offers details, background on health reform views at usccb.org/healthcare

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a Web site that seeks to clarify its position on the health care reform debate and to help Catholics add their voices to the discussions.

The Web site at www.usccb.org/healthcare features videos addressing various aspects of the health reform debate, answers to several frequently asked questions, copies of bishops' documents and letters to Congress, facts and statistics about Catholic health care in the United States, and links to send messages to members of Congress.

The bishops also plan to offer specific "action alerts" on the site when Congress returns to work on health reform legislation in September.

The site urges Catholics to tell Congress that "health care reform should:

— "Include health care coverage for all people from conception until natural death, and continue the federal ban on funding for abortions.

— "Include access for all with a special concern for the poor.

— "Pursue the common good and preserve pluralism, including freedom of conscience.

— "Restrain costs and apply costs equitably among payers."

"Abortion is the opposite of health care; it kills the patient. We can't support reform if it is going to turn doctors against some of their patients."

— Richard M. Doerflinger
in a video on the Web site

In one of the videos on the USCCB site, Kathy Saile, director of domestic social development in the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, notes that the bishops have not taken a position for or against any particular piece of health reform legislation.

"A lot is happening in Congress. It changes daily, but our principles and criteria remain consistent," she said.

"The bishops are right at the center of the debate," Saile added. "But the debate is going to continue in Congress for several more months. There will be lots of opportunities to call, to e-mail, and to continue that dialogue with

members of Congress."

In other videos, Richard M. Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, explains why the bishops are insisting that any health reform legislation be "abortion-neutral."

"Abortion is the opposite of health care; it kills the patient," he said. "We can't support reform if it is going to turn doctors against some of their patients."

At the same time, Doerflinger said, the bishops' goal is not to "advance the pro-life cause" through health reform legislation. "We just want to preserve all major existing policies and provisions, so that (reform legislation) doesn't forge new ground against the life of the unborn."

The Catholic Health Association has a similar message on its Web site at www.chausa.org.

"CHA has not endorsed any of the health care reform bills, but our message to lawmakers is clear: Health reform should not result in an expansion of abortion, and it must sustain conscience protections for health care providers who do not want to participate in abortions or other morally objectionable procedures," it says.

The association also has detailed information about its "vision for U.S. health care" on a separate Web page at www.ourhealthcarevalues.org.



Catholic Bonita Digal and two of her daughters walk at the Saliasabi slum in Bhubaneswar in India's Orissa state July 19. They are among the thousands of Christians who were forced to flee their homes last year during anti-Christian violence. (CNS photo/Anto Akkara)

U.S. religious freedom watchdog adds India to its watch list

By Carmen Blanco
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Increasing violence against religious minorities, particularly Christians, and the government's inadequate response to that violence in 2008 prompted the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to add India to its 2009 watch list of countries where conditions of religious freedom require close monitoring.

The announcement was made Aug. 12, although the commission's annual report was released in May. Earlier, the commission requested a visit to India to discuss religious freedom conditions with government officials, religious leaders, and activists, but the Indian government did not issue visas to the U.S. delegation. Indian officials also failed to offer an alternative date to meet, as requested by the commission.

Leonard Leo, chairman of the commission, told Catholic News Service Aug. 13 that commission members were encouraged by Indians' "democratic society and their growing relations with the U.S., but there are serious problems that require attention, and they can't choose to stick their heads in the sand rather than have constructive discussions about the situation in Orissa," the state in eastern India where the violence occurred.

The commission designated India as a "country of particular concern" in 2002 and 2003 following a sharp rise in communal violence against religious minorities after Hindu nationalist organizations gained support in communities. A combination of

inadequate protection of religious rights and the 2002 and 2008 violence against Muslims and Christians led to India's placement on the watch list this year, said the commission.

In making its announcement, the commission included extensive background on India's history of violence toward religious groups, although it noted that "India is a multiethnic, multireligious, multilingual democracy of more than a billion people that boasts the vibrant representation of all the world's major religions." It noted that the country has an independent judiciary and media and numerous government watchdog groups.

"In practice, however, India's democratic institutions charged with upholding the rule of law, most notably state and central judiciaries and police, lack capacity and have emerged as unwilling or unable to consistently seek redress for victims of religiously motivated violence or to challenge cultures of impunity in areas with a history of communal tensions," the report said.

The commission recommended that India change certain laws that might undermine freedom of religion and put in place measures to prevent communal violence. The commission also suggested that India address the existing violence in two specific areas: Gujarat and Orissa states.

After a Hindu religious leader was murdered in 2008, a violent campaign began in Orissa. The attacks targeted Christians and resulted in at least 40 deaths and more than 60,000 Christians fleeing their homes.

"The inadequate police response failed to quell the violence, and early central government intervention had little impact," the report said. "Mass arrests following the Orissa violence did not translate into the actual filing of cases. Also, efforts continue to lag to prosecute the perpetrators of the 2002 Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat, in which over 2,000 were killed, the majority of whom were Muslim."

Failure to provide timely justice to victims has contributed to a feeling of impunity, the report said. For example, it said, it was not until this year that India's Central Bureau of Investigation announced an investigation into one high-profile riot that occurred in 1993.

India's National Commission for Minorities found that during the 2002 riots the Indian government not only failed to prevent the attacks against religious minorities but that government officials participated in the violence, the U.S. report said.

The restricted freedoms and rights of religious minorities in India, especially in Orissa, are also a cause of concern for the minorities commission and the United Nations, the religious freedom report said, citing India's quota system as one factor worsening tensions between Hindus and Christians.

It said the quota system was established to give dalits, or members of low castes once considered "untouchables," a share of government jobs. However, dalit Christians and Muslims are not receiving the same benefits from the system as their dalit Hindu counterparts, the report added.

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Vatican newspaper says Allied governments did little to stop Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a lengthy article, the Vatican newspaper said the U.S. and British governments had detailed information about the Nazi plan to exterminate European Jews during World War II, but failed to act for many months and even suppressed reports about the extent of the Holocaust. The newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, contrasted Allied inaction with the quiet efforts undertaken by Pope Pius XII to save as many Jews as possible through clandestine assistance. The article, published Aug. 13, reviewed historical information in support of an argument frequently made by Vatican experts: While critics have focused on Pope Pius' supposed "silence" on the Holocaust, little attention has been given to documented evidence that the U.S. and British governments ignored or minimized reports of extermination plans. The article quotes heavily from the diary of Henry Morgenthau Jr., U.S. secretary of the treasury during the war, who said that as early as August 1942, administration officials "knew that the Nazis were planning to exterminate all the Jews of Europe."

Encyclical brings light to Economy of Communion movement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Walking through the downtrodden areas of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and seeing the stark differences between the lifestyles of the "haves" and the "have-nots" pushed Chiara Lubich to question the effects of capitalism. Her thoughts and actions sparked the Focolare Movement, which in 1991 birthed a new business philosophy called the Economy of Communion, which promotes operating a business both to make a profit and benefit society. Pope Benedict XVI's social encyclical praises such alternative business thinking, because its top priority is not to rack up large profits solely for a company and its employees. "Once profit becomes the exclusive goal, if it is produced by improper means and without the common good as its ultimate end, it risks destroying wealth and creating poverty," the pope wrote in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*). He emphasized that mankind is more important than capital and put the highest price on the integrity of every human person. He said that in recent decades "a broad intermediate area has emerged" between companies that are solely profit-based and those that are nonprofit: companies that "do not exclude" profit but consider it "a means for achieving human and social ends." Worldwide, there are 754 businesses involved in the Economy of Communion initiative.

Bishop D'Antonio who headed Honduran prelature in '60s, '70s dies at age 93

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — U.S. Bishop Nicholas D'Antonio, who once headed a prelature in Honduras but found safe haven in the Archdiocese of New Orleans during a Honduran government crackdown on religious activities, died Aug. 1 at age 93. (The prelature became the Diocese of Juticalpa in 1987. Juticalpa is Fort Worth's sister diocese.) His funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 7 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. Burial was in St. Anthony's Garden behind the cathedral. The bishop died at the Chateau de Notre Dame nursing home in New Orleans where he had been living since 2001. Bishop Nick, as he liked to be called, was born in Rochester, New York, July 10, 1916. He was raised in Baltimore and had dreams as a teenager of becoming a professional boxer. But he entered the seminary instead and became a Franciscan priest. He was ordained in 1942 and served 30 years as a missionary in Latin America, learning firsthand the struggles of the poor. People would come to him writhing in pain from impacted or rotted teeth, and Bishop D'Antonio became the dentist of last resort. "I used a pair of pliers and would go down the row, bang, bang, bang, pulling out their teeth," he said in a 1997 interview. "A dentist from Johns Hopkins was so impressed he taught me the technique of tooth extraction, and I was able to give injections. If you help people who are sick, they are so grateful."

Scripture Readings



August 30, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm 15:2-5
- 2) James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Gospel) Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

By Sharon K. Perkins

Last week our three regional parishes held a Vacation Bible School which utilized the parish site's community garden as the central focus. The children loved getting close up and personal with the various vegetables, herbs, and flowers, using their senses to connect in new ways with God's creative goodness — and in the process they learned how bountifully the fresh garden produce helped to feed the hungry when given to local food pantries.

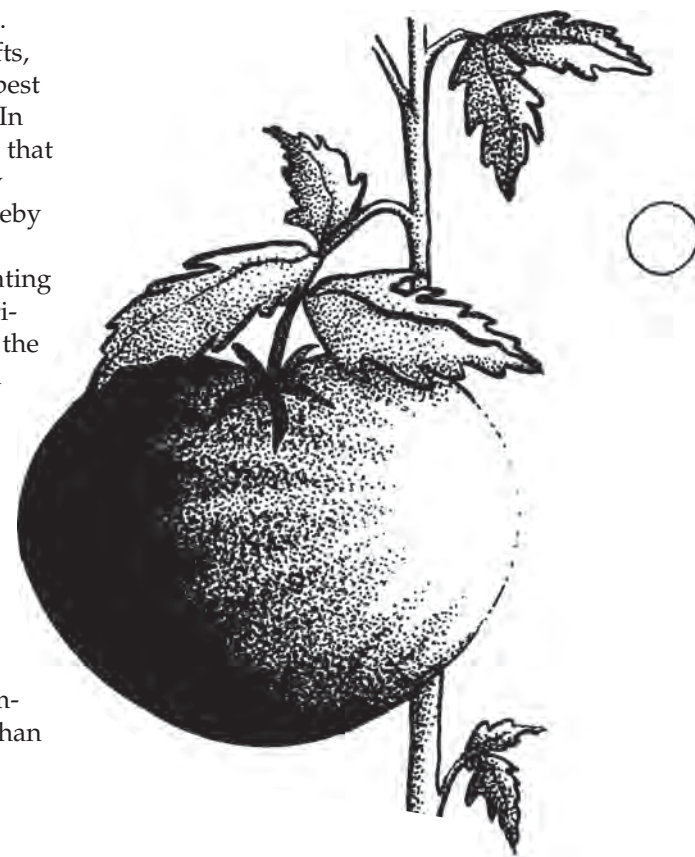
During one of those mornings, I was assigned the job of photographer. So before the children arrived, I took several close-ups of the vegetables waiting to be picked. The warm, sun-ripened cherry tomatoes proved too much for me to resist: I popped three of them into my mouth before remembering that I hadn't washed them first. It didn't matter. Standing there with the morning dew (and the organic compost!) soaking my shoes, I praised God while savoring some of

the most delicious tomatoes I had ever eaten.

Today's readings remind us that God's gifts, presented for our use and delight, are often best received and appreciated in their simplicity. In the first reading, the Law was understood as that sort of gift to God's people, best observed by not adding to or subtracting from it and thereby making it burdensome.

In the Gospel, Jesus notes that in exaggerating their traditions of food purification, the Pharisees had allowed their hearts to be dulled to the one who had provided the food. This in turn had the effect of making genuinely religious people hypocritical and less attentive to the real suffering of those around them.

Which brings us to another principle of gift-giving: The joy of God's gift is multiplied when its recipients share it with others. The psalmist calls it doing "justice" — and it brings the giver into the "presence of the Lord." The garden of God's good and perfect gifts, when received with grateful simplicity and tended properly, provides more than enough for all to receive their fill.



"All good giving and every perfect gift is from above."

— James 1:17

QUESTIONS:

What is one gift from God that you have forgotten to simply appreciate?
Recall a time when you experienced the joy of sharing one of God's gifts with another.

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God awaits people willing to bring Christ into the world, pope says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Respecting human freedom, God waits for Christians, especially priests, to say "yes" to his desire to bring Christ to the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience Aug. 12, the pope continued his new series of talks about the Year for Priests and connected the topic to the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 15.

Some 4,000 people gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo and in the square outside the villa to participate in the audience.

Pope Benedict said there is a special connection between priests and Mary that comes from the mystery of the Incarnation.

"When God decided to become man in his Son, he needed the freely given 'yes' of one of his creatures. God never acts against our freedom. Something truly extraordinary occurred: God made himself dependent on the freedom, on the 'yes' of one of his creatures," he said.

The pope said, "The 'yes' of Mary was the door through which God could enter the world and



Pope Benedict XVI greets a woman and child in Aosta, Italy, July 24. The pope visited the Italian city for a prayer service during his vacation in the Italian Alps. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

it means that he took her into his life and she became part of his very existence, the pope said. In the same way, priests are called to make Mary a part of their lives, he added.

Mary's special relationship with priests is based on the fact that they are similar to Jesus in giving their lives for the salvation of others and because, like Mary, "they are committed to the mission of proclaiming, witnessing to, and giving Christ to the world," Pope Benedict said.

Entrusting his mother to his disciples, Jesus gave all of them — but especially priests — the person who was most precious to him, the pope said.

become human. So Mary was truly, deeply involved in the mystery of the Incarnation and our salvation."

Pope Benedict also said that

before dying Jesus saw his mother and his "beloved disciple" at the foot of the cross. The disciple obviously was someone special, but he also was a symbol of all those who

follow Jesus and, particularly, of priests, he said.

When the Gospel says that the disciple, presumably St. John, took Mary into his home,

Scripture Readings



September 6, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146:7-10
- 2) James 2:1-5
Gospel) Mark 7:31-37

By Jeff Hedglen

I heard a story once about an obviously homeless man sitting on the steps of a church on a Sunday morning. He was wrapped in a dirty blanket, wore a hat and scarf and was hunched in a corner shielding himself from the cold.

As parishioners came up the steps they looked at him and hurried into the church. Inside there was some murmuring about the situation on the steps, but no one took any action.

As the service was about to begin the back doors of the church opened, and the man who had been sitting on the steps now slowly made his way down the center aisle. He sat in the first pew and readied himself for the service. The murmuring grew but still no one did a thing.

When it was time for the homily the priest said there was a visiting missionary who was going to give the message. At that point the man from the steps rose from his place in the first row and took his place at the ambo. He began to preach on *James 2:1-5*:

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here, please," while you say to the poor one, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?

This Sunday's readings challenge us to look past ourselves and to put on the mind of Christ who is bigger than all obstacles. It is one thing to have a strong faith, but it is another thing altogether to put that faith into action. Jesus did not just say powerful words, he did powerful things. We are called to walk in his footsteps.



"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?"

— James 2:5

QUESTIONS:

How have you seen people being the hands and feet of Christ in the world? What are some of the things that hold people back from putting their faith into action?

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Fall approaches, and with it a **Focus on Learning**

By Jeff Hedglen

As a child I always found this time of year to be bittersweet. The freedom of summer is fading away, and another school year is looming in the way too near future. Yet friends I had not seen all summer were also in my future, and if I am honest, I spent a lot of time nagging my mom about how bored I was all summer. Of all the feelings late August memories brings to mind, one that is missing is anticipating joy for all the learning that was about to come my way.

School being mandatory can certainly take some of the fun out of learning, but it for sure squashes the idea that getting an education is not just a great thing, it is a blessing. Not only that, failure to make the most of the chance to use the gift of our intellect is squandering that blessing.

Whenever I speak this way to the youth at my parish, I can feel the eyes roll and the collective sighs are almost as powerful as the moon's gravitational

This year "back to school" is not just for the kids. The fall semester is calling all adults to inquire, to discover, and to answer the question **Why Catholic?**

WHY CATHOLIC? JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

pull. Nonetheless, studying and learning are a great way to honor God, especially when you are school-aged because your primary job at that age is to learn.

Sure learning can be tough, but that doesn't make it useless. I am the first to admit that once we got past basic math, I was as lost as a freshman on the first day of high school. But I also know that my time in math class was not a total waste. I learned the value of linear thinking, and I received great problem solving skills, even if I still don't see how A plus B

could ever equal C.

This year "back to school" is not just for the kids. The fall semester is calling all adults to inquire, to discover, and to answer the question *Why Catholic?* If you have not heard, the diocese is embarking on a four-year program for adults to learn and share about what the Church teaches and believes. The program is called *Why Catholic?* and it seeks to help all of us deepen our understanding of why we are Catholic and what we believe as Catholics.

Strictly speaking it is not a "back to school" situation for

adults because the program is not classroom based, rather it is conducted in a small group sharing setting. But the sharing will be around the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Each fall and spring for the next four years, you will have the opportunity to study and share about the creed, the sacraments and liturgy, morality, and prayer. By Easter of 2013, we all should have a better idea of what the Church teaches, and our connection with these teachings will be deeper and more penetrating than ever before.

I cannot tell you how many times a fellow Catholic has told me that they have no idea what to say when their faith is challenged by a non-Catholic. These people are usually flabbergasted because the Protestant can quote the Bible to support what they believe, and even sometimes quotes the Bible to say how Catholics are wrong. Too many times we Catholics have no idea where our beliefs can be found in the Bible.

It is time for this to end. We may not be able to convince a

non-Catholic to change religions, but we sure should be able to explain why we believe what we believe and give some solid reasons for these beliefs.

Why Catholic? is a good place to start. It might be hard for you to carve out one night a week for six weeks. It might stress you out to join a group to "share" about your faith. It might push you beyond your comfort zone to study some theology, but I can guarantee one thing: If you join a *Why Catholic?* group and participate fully, the worse thing that will happen is that you will learn something new, but there is a pretty good chance that, just like the old "back to school" days, learning in the context of community will not only flex your intellect it will enrich your life.

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.

40 años de vida han traído consigo un crecimiento fenomenal en número y diversidad, pero aún así somos un solo cuerpo de Cristo celebrando

COMMUNIO

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Corresponsal

Rosemary Cortez interrumpió su larga vigilia de cinco semanas al lado de la cama de hospital de su sobrina por una buena razón.

Queriendo conectar con otros creyentes y rodearse de oración, la feligrés de San Vicente de Paúl vino a una liturgia eucarística especial llevada a cabo en el Centro de convenciones de Fort Worth, el 9 de agosto, para celebrar el 40º aniversario de la diócesis de Fort Worth.

La música animadora y la majestuosidad de la Misa, celebrada por el obispo de Fort Worth, el monseñor Kevin Vann, confortaron a la entristecida tía que está viendo como su sobrina de 15

años batalla con una infección y parálisis de la espina dorsal en el Cook Children's Medical Center.

"Mi familia está pasando por un momento difícil, y quiero darle un ejemplo a mi hija, Victoria, que debemos ser agradecidos por lo que tenemos y pedir por las cosas que necesitamos", Cortez explicó. "Y quise hacer esto en espíritu comunitario".

El monseñor Vann ha seleccionado el *Communio* — nuestra comunión de unos con otros en el Cuerpo de Cristo y nuestra comunión más amplia con la Iglesia universal — como el tema para el año del jubileo.

"En este día que el Señor ha proclamado, venimos unidos como familia, en comunión de fe, para dar gracias a Dios por las bendiciones de estos 40 años de fe," dijo el obispo en un sermón escuchado por más de 6000 católicos que llegaron de los 28 condados de la diócesis para este acontecimiento histórico. "Emprendemos una vez más un viaje lleno de esperanza, pero uno en el cual debemos mirar siempre al Señor para saber cómo seguir y hacia dónde ir, y cómo viajar, unidos como un pueblo de fe."

El monseñor Vann recordó para la audiencia el año 1969, cuando nombraron al monseñor Juan J. Cassata, el entonces obispo auxiliar de la diócesis combinada de Dallas-Fort Worth, como primer obispo de Fort Worth. Era una época de altas y bajas en el país: el aterrizaje en la luna y un malestar social afectando a la sociedad y a la Iglesia. Había guerra y una búsqueda de la paz.

"Todavía, en medio de todo esto, comenzaba una nueva vida", continuó el monseñor. "La diócesis de Fort Worth, descansando

sobre unos cimientos establecidos en los años anteriores en Texas, comenzó su viaje de fe".

Cuarenta años después la diócesis de Fort Worth ha experimentado un crecimiento explosivo en números, diversidad, y en ministerios ofrecidos a más de 600,000 católicos que viven en el norte de Texas. Parte del crecimiento de la floreciente comunidad de fe ha sido la reciente alza dramática de vocaciones al sacerdocio. Muchos de los 32 hombres actualmente en formación salieron de sus estudios por un rato para asistir a la Misa de aniversario.

"Estamos participando, como la mayoría del pueblo aquí, con nuestra presencia", dijo el seminarista de primer año Daniel Cochran. "Pienso que es importante que el pueblo vea cuántos seminaristas hay. Es muestra de la intensidad de vida en la diócesis".

El seminarista Ronald Mercado concuerda. "Este es un momento de mucho júbilo para nosotros", dice el estudiante de pre-teología de 36 años, cuyo interés en el sacerdocio fue despertado por la participación de su parroquia en el programa del cáliz. "Mi esperanza para el futuro de la diócesis es que no sólo aumentemos las vocaciones al sacerdocio y vida religiosa pero que también podamos promover la santidad del sacramento del matrimonio que es la primera vocación".

Los seminaristas, que ayudaron a servir en la Misa, estuvieron al frente de la procesión en el Centro de convenciones, transformado en un lugar de oración con la ayuda de banderines religiosos creados por las hermanas Carmelitas. Miembros del cuarto grado de los

Caballeros de Colón sirvieron como guardia de honor para los *Caballeros y damas del Santo Sepulcro*, *Caballeros y damas de San Pedro Claver*, 65 diáconos, 30 candidatos al diaconado, 80 sacerdotes y 12 obispos de Nuevo México, Texas, Luisiana, Oklahoma y Arkansas. El arzobispo de San Antonio, el monseñor José Gómez y el Cardenal DiNardo de la arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, también participaron.

En una demostración de ecumenismo, representantes de la *Comunión Anglicana*, incluyendo al obispo Jack Iker y varios sacerdotes, participaron en la procesión. Durante la presentación de las ofrendas durante el ofertorio, Iker le dio al monseñor Vann una iconografía pintada a mano de San Miguel Arcángel, para conmemorar el jubileo.

Proporcionando la música antes y durante la Misa estuvieron el coro de campanas de la parroquia de *St. Andrew* de Fort Worth, cantantes de la comunidad africana de la parroquia de *St. Joseph* de Arlington, comunidad tongana de la Iglesia de *St. Michael* en Bedford, y un grupo caribeño de la *Midwestern State University* en Wichita Falls. Una plegaria eucarística especial, *Misa luna*, fue comisionada para el 40 aniversario y fue compuesta por Peter Kolar.

"Es una bendición que ustedes estén aquí hoy", dijo el monseñor Vann, reconociendo a los miles de devotos. "Gracias a ustedes que han hecho esta celebración posible y hacen tanto con el Evangelio y viven la fe aquí en el norte de Texas".

Entre los invitados había miembros de la familia del Obispo Cassata. Utilizaron el báculo y el



Estudiantes de Midwestern State University en Wichita Falls ofrece su música antes de la Misa. (Foto por Thanh Nguyen)



Miembros del coro africano de la iglesia de Saint Joseph en Arlington cantan para la congregación antes de la Misa de aniversario. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



A LA IZQUIERDA

• Kristel Vogel ofrece oraciones de intercesión en alemán. (Foto por Thanh Nguyen)



• La hermana Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, ofrece oraciones de intercesión en español. (Foto por Thanh Nguyen)



• Joan Grabowski de la iglesia de Saint Rita en Fort Worth canta el salmo responsorial. (Foto por Donna Ryckaert)



A LA IZQUIERDA

• LeRoy Terrio ofrece oraciones de intercesión en lenguaje de signos americano. (Foto por Thanh Nguyen)

ABAJO Y A LA IZQUIERDA:

Los Caballeros y damas del Santo Sepulcro salen en procesión de la arena al concluir la liturgia (Foto por Thanh Nguyen)

ABAJO:

Miembros de los Caballeros y damas de San Pedro Claver participaron en la Misa. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

ABAJO:

Karen and Robert Nguyen, miembros de la comunidad vietnamita, llevan las ofrendas del ofertorio al altar. (Foto por Thanh Nguyen)





El obispo Vann canta la oración eucarística, *Misa Luna*, comisionada especialmente para la Misa de aniversario. (Foto por Thanh Nguyen)



El obispo Kevin Vann es acompañado en el altar por sus pares obispos y por sacerdotes y seminaristas de la diócesis de Fort Worth. (Foto por Donna Ryckaert)



Católicos representando parroquias de la diócesis sirvieron como miembros del coro del aniversario. (Foto por Donna Ryckaert)



Francisco Lariz y Ana Saldivar, miembros de la comunidad mexicana, en traje tradicional, rezan juntos durante la liturgia. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

cáliz del obispo para esta liturgia especial.

“Vinimos al celebrar esta ocasión y ha honrar a mi tataratío,” dijo Judd Fruia, que sólo tenía tres años cuando su tío se convirtió en el primer obispo de Fort Worth.

Ahora residente de Highland Village, Fruia recordó cuando el obispo Cassata convirtió el garaje de su casa en capilla, y cómo la familia recurría allí para la Misa.

“Sería su monaguillo,” dijo el sobrino recordando el pasado. “Realizó la espiritualidad de nuestra familia. En casa guardamos un cuadro de él en sus vestiduras”.

Steve Landregan, historiador y archivista de la diócesis de Dallas, recordaba las conversaciones que llevaron al nacimiento de la diócesis de Fort Worth. En aquel

momento los límites de la diócesis de Dallas-Fort Worth llegaban a Texarkana, Shreveport, y más allá de Wichita Falls.

“Intentaban hacer diócesis más pequeñas para que los obispos pudieran estar más cerca del pueblo”, explicó Landregan.

El crecimiento de dos competitivas zonas metropolitanas fue otro factor. Cuando nombraron a Thomas K. Gorman como obispo coadjutor de Dallas en 1952, él reconoció la importancia de Fort Worth y fue entonces cuando se creó una diócesis escrita con guión (Dallas-Fort Worth) y con una nueva co-catedral. También recomendó la división de la diócesis en dos entidades independientes después de anunciar su retiro en 1969.

Colocar al monseñor Cassata

como obispo auxiliar en Fort Worth facilitó la transición.

“La feligresía quedó encantada, pues muchos ciudadanos de Fort Worth se sentían a veces menospreciados”. Landregan continuó. “Siempre segundo, después de Dallas”.

A través de los años, Jeanette Seifert, feligrés de la iglesia St. Mary en Dublín, ha visto como ha crecido la diócesis de Fort Worth. Cuando ella se trasladó a Stephenville en 1967, había cerca de 65,000 católicos viviendo en 28 condados.

“En aquel entonces, si usted le decía a alguien que era católico, era considerado basura”, dijo al recordar los prejuicios que definían una vez a la sociedad rural, “así que las cosas definitivamente han cambiado”.

En años recientes, el ofrecimiento de servicios a los católicos que viven en áreas periféricas ha mejorado, y Seifert anticipa incluso mayores progresos en el futuro. La diversidad demostrada durante la Misa del 40º aniversario a través de la música y variedad de lenguas es una de las grandes fuerzas de la diócesis. Otra es el liderazgo.

“El monseñor Vann es una persona que se lleva muy bien con todas las personas del pueblo y ha sido maravilloso para la diócesis”, agregó Jeanette. “Es agradable ser parte de una diócesis que está creciendo”.

A LA DERECHA:

Obispos de Texas, Nuevo México, Louisiana, Oklahoma y Arkansas salen en procesión de la arena del centro de convenciones al final de la liturgia. (Foto por Donna Ryckaert)



ABAJO:

Michael Fruia (al final a la izquierda) and Judd Fruia (al final a la derecha), sobrinos-nietos del obispo Cassata, asistieron a la Misa con sus esposas e hijos. Ambas familias residen dentro de la diócesis de Fort Worth. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



El arzobispo José Gómez (a la izquierda) y el cardenal Daniel DiNardo de la arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston (a la derecha) se dirigen a la congregación en la conclusión de la Misa. (Foto por Donna Ryckaert)



El Obispo Vann, sosteniendo el báculo pastoral entregado al obispo Cassata hace 40 años, recibe los aplausos de la congregación al final de la liturgia. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



El obispo Vann saluda a miembros de la congregación de las hermanas de Santa María de Namur durante el himno del fin del oficio. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

ABAJO:

Miembros de la sección más al noroeste de la diócesis viajaron por tres horas en autobús para asistir a la celebración del aniversario. (Foto por Donna Ryckaert)

ABAJO:

El Obispo Vann saluda al feligrés de Saint Andrew Bob Connelly mientras se retira de la arena del centro de convenciones luego de la liturgia. (Foto por Donna Ryckaert)

Seminarista Joe Keating, acompañado por dos jóvenes de la iglesia de St. Mark, Denton, examina uno de los estandartes del ministerio mostrados durante la recepción del aniversario. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



El cardenal Rigali critica provisiones sobre el aborto en el proyecto de ley reformando el sistema de salud sometida a la cámara de diputados

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Aunque enmiendas al proyecto de ley en la cámara de diputados reformando el sistema de salud tuvo “leves mejoras” en la protección de la vida y de la conciencia, permanecen características inaceptables que necesitan ser eliminadas, comentó el presidente del comité pro-vida de los obispos estadounidenses el 11 de agosto.

El cardenal Justin Rigali de Philadelphia, quien dirige el comité de actividades pro-vida para los obispos, explicó que el proyecto de ley de salud aprobado por el comité de energía y comercio de la cámara de diputados el 31 de julio sería un “cambio radical” en la política de los Estados Unidos sobre el aborto. También haría del aborto un beneficio obligatorio del plan de seguro público, que competiría con los seguros privados, y permitiría el uso expandido de fondos federales para pagar por abortos.

Dijo que el comité “crearía una ficción legal, una separación artificial entre el uso de fondos federales y el aborto”, por medio de la cual los afiliados al plan público o a planes de seguro privados cubriendo el aborto pagarían por lo menos un dólar más al mes sobre la prima de seguro para pagar por abortos que no califican para fondos federales bajo la enmienda de Hyde.

La enmienda de Hyde, promulgada como ley en varias formas desde 1976, prohíbe el uso de fondos federales para abortos excepto

en casos de violaciones, incesto, o peligro a la vida de una mujer.

El cardenal Rigali dijo que la separación de fondos en la reforma del proyecto de ley “es una ilusión” debido a que “los fondos pagados a estos planes son consumibles, y los fondos federales de contribuyentes de impuestos subsidiarían los presupuestos y expandirían las operaciones de proveedores de servicios de aborto”.

Es más, explicó, “aquellas personas obligadas por necesidades económicas u otros factores a afiliarse al ‘plan público’, serían forzados por el gobierno federal a pagar directa y específicamente por la cobertura del aborto... aunque sea para ellos algo moralmente repugnante”.

Sin embargo, el cardenal halagó las enmiendas al proyecto de ley que estipulaban que las reformas legislativas de salud no tendrán precedencia sobre leyes estatales regulando el aborto, y tampoco afectarán protecciones federales de conciencia sobre el mismo en efecto hoy en día.

También agradeció al comité la aprobación de una enmienda “prohibiendo a organizaciones gubernamentales que reciben fondos federales bajo esta ley de discriminar contra proveedores y compañías de seguros que rechacen cualquier participación en el aborto”.

Los comentarios del cardenal Rigali fueron presentados a cada miembro de la cámara de diputa-

dos en una carta con fecha del 11 de agosto. Recomendó encarecidamente que pusieran atención a las prioridades y preocupaciones por la reforma de asistencia médica detallada en una carta anterior escrita por el obispo William F. Murphy, de Rockville Centre, Nueva York, presidente de los obispos en el Comité de justicia doméstica y desarrollo humano.

Los obispos estadounidenses “hace mucho tiempo han apoyado una reforma de asistencia médica que respete toda vida y dignidad, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural; que provea acceso a asistencia médica de calidad para todos, con preocupación especial por los inmigrantes y los pobres; que preserve el pluralismo, con respeto a los derechos de conciencia; y que reduzca los costos y los comparta equitativamente”, comentó el cardenal Rigali, repitiendo varios puntos de la carta del obispo Murphy.

“Una reforma tan necesaria no puede convertirse en vehículo de promoción de la agenda de ‘derecho al aborto’, o la revocación políticas existentes prohibiendo fondos federales y cobertura obligatoria del mismo”, explicó el cardenal. “En este sentido instamos a que esta legislación sea ‘neutral hacia el aborto’, y que así preserve los acuerdos federales existentes que impiden la promoción gubernamental del aborto y afirmen el respeto a los derechos de conciencia”.



Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, speaks Aug. 8 about his personal devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Knights' first International Marian Congress, held in Phoenix. (CNS photo/courtesy Knights of Columbus)

Festival especial honrando Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe atrae casi 22,000

GLENDALE, Arizona — Casi 22,000 personas atestaron *Jobing.com Arena* en el suburbio Glendale de Phoenix para un festival el 8 de agosto, honrando a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y presentando una reliquia especial: un pequeño pedazo de la famosa tilma de San Juan Diego.

Los Caballeros de Colón fueron anfitriones del evento, que fue seguido por el *Congreso internacional Mariano* de la organización fraternal, realizado del 6 al 8 de agosto. Durante el festival el caballero supremo Carl Anderson reflexionó acerca de la influencia sin par que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe ha tenido en las Américas.

“La presencia de ustedes aquí hoy es un testimonio del poder del mensaje de amor que Nuestra Señora trajo a este hemisferio”, dijo Anderson al público. “Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es la emperatriz de las Américas. Ella nos llama a la unidad dentro del mensaje del Evangelio de su hijo”.

Cuando María le apareció a San Juan Diego en 1531 en México, los misioneros españoles habían tenido poco éxito evangelizando a la población indígena. Después de las apariciones, millones de indígenas se convirtieron.

Su aparición de también hizo un llamado a los europeos y a las poblaciones indígenas para una nueva unidad en su hijo, dijo Anderson, llamado que todavía está en efecto hoy día para las Américas.

“Todos nosotros somos ciudadanos de un hemisferio cristiano”, dijo en español.

Anderson dijo que era providencial que el festival fuera realizado cerca de Phoenix porque la ciudad es un microcosmos del futuro del país. Es un futuro que requiere unidad entre católicos, sin importar su herencia cultural ni idioma, dijo.

“Recuerden esto: lo que nos une como familia cristiana, como hijos de una madre que nos ha protegido durante casi 500 años, es mucho más grande que cualquier cosa que nos divida”, dijo Anderson.

Una unidad compartida en la fe estuvo en exhibición durante todo el festival de cinco horas. Oradores y músicos de todo el globo entretuvieron y educaron a los feligreses.

Immaculee Ilibagiza habló en la arena sobre su confianza en Jesús y María durante las secuelas del genocidio ruandés de 1994. Acreditó su supervivencia durante esos días a la oración y a un rosario que le dio su padre.

Ella perdió a sus padres y a tres hermanos, así como tíos, tías y primos numerosos, en el frenesí de asesinatos que dejó más de 1 millón de personas muertas. A este millón les dispararon, quemaron vivos o destazaron a muerte con machetes.

Ilibagiza viaja el mundo, compartiendo un mensaje sobre el perdón.

Cubanoamericano confirmado como noveno embajador estadounidense ante Vaticano

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El teólogo católico Miguel Díaz fue confirmado por el senado de los Estados Unidos el 4 de agosto como el noveno embajador de los Estados Unidos ante el Vaticano.

Profesor de teología en el colegio *St. Benedict* en St. Joseph, Minnesota, y en la universidad *St. John* en Collegeville, Minnesota, Díaz es el primer hispano sirviendo en el puesto.

Díaz emitió una declaración a través de la universidad *St. John* el 5 de agosto, diciendo que estaba agradecido al senado por su votación y al presidente Barack Obama “por la confianza a que ha investido en mí”.

“Me honra que se me haya dado la responsabilidad de representar al pueblo estadounidense ante la Santa Sede”, dijo en la

declaración publicada en el sitio web de la universidad *St. John*. “Mucho aprecio el apoyo de todos aquellos que se han extendido hacia mí y mi familia con sus oraciones y mejores deseos durante este proceso”.

También dijo que planifica mudar a su familia a Roma y presentarle sus credenciales al Papa Benedicto XVI tan pronto sea posible. Su esposa, Marian, dirige *Companions on a Journey* and CORAD: *Heart Speaks to Heart* en el colegio *St. Benedict* y en la universidad *St. John*. La pareja tiene cuatro hijos.

Nacido en La Habana, Díaz, de 45 años de edad, proviene de un comienzo humilde. Su padre trabajaba como mesero y su madre trabajaba en la digitalización de datos. Fue el primer

miembro de su familia en asistir a la universidad.

Al momento de su nominación en mayo, Díaz prometió edificar relaciones normales con el Vaticano y continuar el trabajo de sus predecesores. “Deseo ser un puente entre nuestra nación y la Santa Sede”, dijo.

Durante las audiencias de confirmación realizadas el 22 de julio, Díaz dijo a los miembros del Comité de relaciones exteriores del senado que quería usar su trabajo académico acerca de la identidad y las culturas humanas para asegurar una amistad fuerte entre los Estados Unidos y el Vaticano. Dijo que estaba especialmente interesado en explorar la relación entre la religión y la identidad humana, tomando en consideración las influencias culturales.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

National / International

Washingtonians praise Shriver for being woman of faith and action



Eunice Kennedy Shriver poses with her husband, R. Sargent Shriver, at the Third Special Olympics European Games in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1990. (CNS photo/courtesy Special Olympics)

By Mark Zimmermann
Editor, CATHOLIC STANDARD
Archdiocese of Washington
WASHINGTON (CNS)

— Washington-area Catholics paid tribute to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the Special Olympics who died Aug. 11, praising her as a woman of faith and action.

Her spirit and determination, they said, could be seen in her lobbying for legislation in the halls of Congress and cheering on the sidelines for athletes with disabilities.

Msgr. John Enzler, now the pastor of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Washington, got to know her well when he was pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in the Washington suburb of Potomac, Maryland, from 1990 to 2004, and Shriver was often a daily communicant at the parish church and at other nearby churches.

He said she played a key behind-the-scenes role in establishing the inclusion program for students with special needs at Our Lady of Mercy School.

The priest said she left a three-fold legacy: "Her commitment that all people are children of God, a complete respect for life from conception to natural death, and behind all that a faith that God's always in charge."

In a 1995 interview with the *Catholic Standard*, Washington's archdiocesan newspaper, Shriver said that the faith of her mother, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was a guiding influence in her life.

"She had a lot of faith and seemed to be able to find an answer to everything in faith, and when she couldn't, she believed God loved her and would take care of her, whatever happened," she said.

Shriver's outreach to developmentally disabled children and adults began with a summer camp at her home in Potomac for 100 participants in 1963. She officially started the Special Olympics organization in 1968.

Francesca Pellegrino, a Blessed Sacrament parishioner who is the president and founder of the Catholic Coalition for Special Education, has a 17-year-old son, Alex, who has an intellectual disability. She noted that he began competing in the Special Olympics as an 8-year-old "who didn't know which side of the basketball court he was on. Now he's winning gold medals."

Special Olympians, Pellegrino said, learn to play as a member of a team, with the support of a community cheering them on and "the belief that everyone has something to offer and can achieve something."

Pellegrino praised Shriver's legacy in founding the Special Olympics.

"She has had a tremendous impact on me and on my son, and on the entire world. She's really changed the way the world perceives individuals with disabilities, making sure they're treated with dignity and respect," she added.

Edward Orzechowski, president of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, praised Shriver for her work on behalf of the Kennedy Institute, an agency of Catholic Charities.

The institute is a program founded 50 years ago by the Archdiocese of Washington with the Kennedy Foundation and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to educate youths and adults with developmental disabilities.

Besides being an active supporter of the institute, Shriver volunteered there as a physical education instructor in the mid-1960s.

"Few people have lived their lives with the tireless energy that Eunice Shriver did in her lifelong dedication to individuals with developmental disabilities," he said.

He said the institute's "ability to serve and work with those individuals, and their families, is largely due to Mrs. Shriver's very public compassion and advocacy on behalf of a group who had never before had a voice—or such a dedicated champion."

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said in a statement that he had "the privilege of working with her in the 1990s to develop what became a nationally recognized religious education program for young people with disabilities."

"Her strong faith, which motivated her and guided her work, was evident," he said, "and I cherish that time working with her and her commitment to assist children who had special needs grow stronger in their faith life."

He said she "dedicated her life to serving the most vulnerable among us."

"In a particular way, we recall her deep commitment to individuals with developmental disabilities as well as her advocacy on behalf of the unborn," he said.

"My prayers are with Sargent Shriver, the children and grandchildren, and with the entire Kennedy family at this difficult time," Archbishop Wuerl said. "We pray that they may find comfort and strength in Christ our Lord at this difficult time."

Special festival honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe draws nearly 22,000

GLENDALE, Ariz. (CNS) — Nearly 22,000 people packed Jobing.com Arena in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale for an Aug. 8 festival honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe and featuring a special relic — a small piece of St. Juan Diego's famed cloak.

The event was hosted by the Knights of Columbus and followed the fraternal organization's Aug. 6-8 International Marian Congress. During the festival, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson reflected on the unparalleled influence Our Lady of Guadalupe has had on the Americas.

"Your presence here today is a testament to the power of the message of love that Our Lady brought to this hemisphere," Anderson told the crowd. "Our Lady of Guadalupe is the empress of the Americas. She calls all of us to unity within the Gospel message of her son."

When Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico, the Spanish missionaries had had little success evangelizing the indigenous population. After the apparitions, millions of indigenous people converted.

Her appearance also called the Europeans and native populations to a new unity in her son, Anderson said, a call that is still in effect today for the Americas.

"We are all citizens of the Catholic hemisphere. *Todos nosotros somos ciudadanos de un hemisferio cristiano*," he said.

Anderson said it was providential the festival was held near Phoenix, because the city is a microcosm of the future of the country. It's a future that requires unity among Catholics, no matter their cultural heritage or language, he said.

"Remember this: What unites us as a Christian family, as children of a mother who has watched over us for nearly 500 years, is far greater than anything that divides us," Anderson said.

"And if we who live on the American continent have a shared past, we have a shared future as well: a future of unity in faith," he said.

A shared unity in faith was on display throughout the five-hour festival. Speakers and musicians from across the globe entertained and educated the crowd.

Immaculee Ilibagiza spoke to the arena about her reliance on Jesus and Mary in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. She credited her survival during those days to prayer and a rosary

given to her by her father.

She lost her parents and three brothers, as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, in the killing frenzy that left more than 1 million people dead. They were shot, burned alive or hacked to death by machetes.

Ilibagiza travels the world sharing a message about forgiveness.

Eduardo Verastegui, a popular Mexican model, singer and actor best known for his role in the pro-life movie "Bella," told the crowd about his conversion experience after leading a spiritually vacuous life in Los Angeles.

"I had everything in my life, but in my heart, I had nothing," Verastegui said. After feeling called to something greater, he vowed that he would never work in anything that would offend his faith, his family, or his Latino culture.

But for many attendees, the greatest draw was a small piece of St. Juan Diego's "tilma," or cloak. The relic was originally given to the archbishop of Los Angeles during a visit he paid to Mexico City in 1941.

When Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, she left her image on his cloak, which hangs in Mexico City's basilica.

Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted processed around the arena floor with the relic, flanked by a bevy of altar servers from across the diocese.

In remarks to the crowd, the bishop said that in a faith filled with so many truths, traditions and saints, Mary stands above the rest.

"The most beautiful of all the saints is the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe," he said. "Mary is exquisitely beautiful because of the glory of her son."

Then, Bishop Olmsted shouted, "Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!" The thousands in attendance took up the chant shouting, "Viva! Viva la Virgen!"

Patty Garcia came to the festival with 56 other Catholics from San Felipe de Jesus Parish in Nogales. She noted the "matachines" and the relic from the "tilma" as high points of the event.

"For us, the Virgin is someone who is alive. She's not an image," she told *The Catholic Sun*, Phoenix's diocesan newspaper. "She's someone who is with us and who carries us throughout our lives. That's our faith. That's our love for the Virgin Mother."

Contributing to this story was J.D. Long-Garcia.

Barba...

FROM PAGE 24
about the faith, because he is very, very spiritual. He is very strong. He is 89, and he was the strongest influence on my life.

"We had a good patio — a big space in the middle of all our houses — and my brother and all my cousins and all the children played soccer there, and hit the ball. But every evening at 6:30 my grandfather went out and prayed his rosary under a big tree. When we saw that, we kept quiet. 'Shhh. Our grandfather is praying. Shhh.' I think he was a good influence — for all of us, not just for me."

Barba's nine-year preparation for ordination began Monday Aug. 8, 2000 in Mexico City, and will end Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m., God willing, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in North Fort Worth.

In between, however, was a small yet significant event that happened while Barba was a university freshman, still dis-



Dcn. Barba (left) recesses out of the service following his formal promise of faith, obedience to the bishop, and celibacy at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton on April 3. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)

cerning a priestly vocation.

"When we finished our Saturday meetings, it was my custom before leaving the buildings of the seminary to enter into the chapel and pray a little bit. One day I was praying," he said, "and I lifted my eyes and saw the tabernacle, and the door was open — just a little bit.

"And I felt, 'Oh my goodness, this is the right way.' I can-

not explain what I felt. I felt all the emotions inside of me. And I decided to leave the university — finally. I thought, 'OK the university is not for me — this is the way.'

"Now I am hoping to do my best in everything. 'One day every time' right?" he laughed at his search for the correct English expression. "Here is my hope. I don't worry about the future. Just one day at a time.



Dcn. Barba (right) stands with his friend and fellow seminarian Amado Vallejo (left) and Dcn. Popo González from Immaculate Conception following the blessing of World Youth Day pilgrims in July 2008. Both Dcn. Barba and Vallejo took intensive-English classes at the University of North Texas in Denton. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

"When I was in the seminary, the last year, Bishop Vann told me something very, very special," Barba said.

"I was talking with him a lot about my plans. And he told

me, 'OK. Tell your plans to God. You'll make him laugh.'

"That's true! So after that I didn't make plans," the seminarian said decisively, smiling hugely, as always.

Family, friends praise former Philippine President Corazon Aquino at funeral Mass

By Catholic News Service

MANILA, Philippines — The daughter of former Philippine President Corazon Aquino said her mother's words as she lay dying — "Take care of each other" — were "not meant just for our family."

Through tears Kris Aquino-Yap delivered her family's message to more than 2,000 people who attended her mother's funeral Aug. 5 in the Manila cathedral, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

She spoke about her mother's work after her presidency and highlighted the foundation Aquino set up to finance vocational projects for poor women and scholarships for young people.

Jesuit Father Catalino Arevalo, Aquino's spiritual director, said it was precisely this concern for the country and its people that inspired Aquino to agree to run against dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 1986 election.

In his homily for the two-hour Mass, the theologian said the former president offered herself completely to God, to her country and its people, and to her family.

Following the 1983 assassination of her husband, opposition Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., she ran against Marcos in a disputed election that spurred the "people power" revolution that swept her to office. She served as president until 1992.

Father Arevalo had accompa-

nied the Aquinos through their struggles since the 1980s, when they lived in exile in Boston. He was with Aquino during her last days at Makati Medical Center, where she died Aug. 1 at age 76.

He recalled how her faithfulness impressed the late Korean Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan during his visit to Manila when she was president.

"She is pure of heart, with no desire for power," the Jesuit quoted Cardinal Kim telling him after a 45-minute meeting with the president.

He said the tributes people paid her following her death showed that her sacrifices and service did not go unappreciated.

Outside the cathedral, thousands more mourners stood in the rain-drenched grounds on a day the government declared a national holiday in honor of Aquino.

Thronged of people lined the streets or walked behind the hearse as it took Aquino's coffin to Manila Memorial Park, where she was to be buried next to her husband.

"Cory! Cory!" they chanted, in scenes reminiscent of her presidential campaigns. The streets were a sea of yellow T-shirts and confetti; yellow came to symbolize "people power." Fire trucks along the way blasted their horns and shot water into the air in tribute.

East Timorese President Jose Ramos-Horta, in Manila for the funeral, recounted how the frail

cancer-stricken Aquino insisted on seeing him when he visited the Philippines last year.

"I offered to go to her because she was a greater person, but she insisted on coming to my hotel," Horta said. This made him feel "humbled," he said.

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, wife of Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, offered her family's condolences to Aquino's children at the Aug. 2 wake. She cited "Aquino's generosity and support" during the six years Anwar spent in prison on what people have said were false charges.

Even Aquino's personal bodyguard, speaking publicly on the eve of the funeral, remembered how she would offer him a bowl of hot noodles that she herself had cooked at the end of a long day.

Aquino "made ordinary people feel special," said business leader Ramon del Rosario Jr. at the same gathering. "She treated the business community not as piggy banks to be shaken, but as a resource to be tapped," to make life better for people, he added.

He told former Cabinet members, politicians, civic and religious leaders who had joined Aquino's relatives and friends that the greatest tribute to Aquino is to abide by the tenets by which she lived.

"She deserves her rest," the business leader said. He also urged fellow mourners to defend the democracy that Aquino "worked so hard to restore."

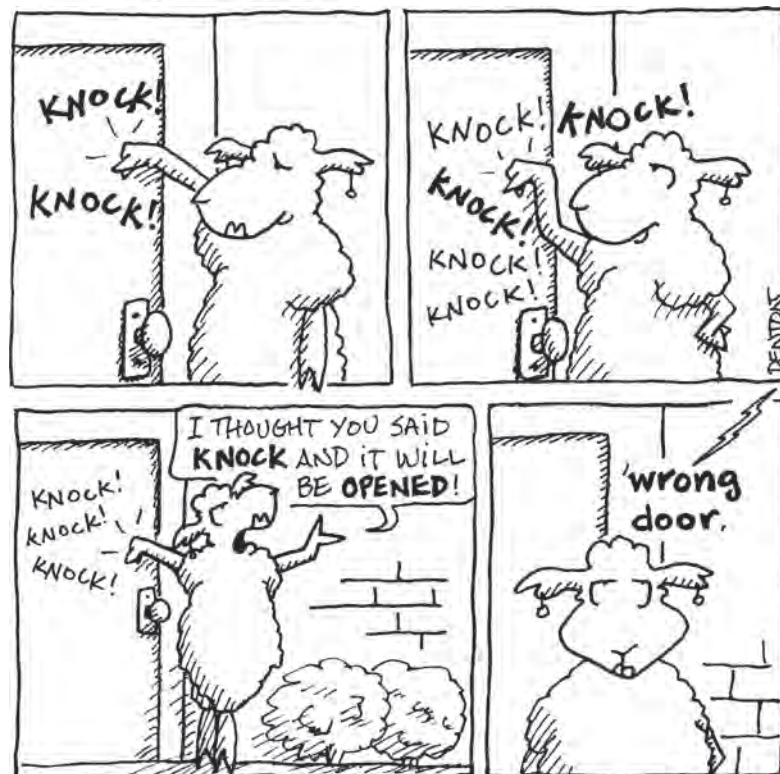


Dcn. Barba embraces Father James Pemberton, associate director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth and pastor of St. Mary's Church in Gainesville, during the service where he promised faith, obedience, and celibacy. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)

The FLOCK

By Jean Denton

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Calendar

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The diocesan Office of Catholic Schools has announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children who are unable to pay for meals served under the National School Breakfast, Free Milk, or Commodity School programs. Everyone wanting to participate in the program must apply again this year at their respective schools, including children who had tickets for the last school year. A child must be registered in school before an application will be accepted. More information on the policy and a list of the schools participating are listed on page 2 of this issue.

CSSI AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Catholic Scripture Study International will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning Sept. 9 and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 10, and at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish Thursday mornings from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 10 and Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 14. Written by scholars such as Dr. Scott Hahn, Mark Shea, Steve Ray, and others, this year's study will focus on St. Paul's letter to the Romans. For information on the classes to be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington, contact Rhea at (817) 466-2340; for classes at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 2100 N. Davis Dr., Arlington, contact Eileen at (817) 265-4484. To learn more about the CSSI program visit the Web site www.cssprogram.net.

SVDP MISSION

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, located at 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington, will host a parish mission Sept. 13-18. "Unlocking the Mysteries" will be offered on five consecutive evenings in the church's main sanctuary from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Redemptorist priests Father John Kuehner and Father Gan Nguyen will serve as presenters. Childcare will be available at no charge for children eight and under. A social with refreshments will follow each evening's presentation. For more information or to reserve childcare, call (817) 478-8206.

CURSILLO

A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ. Separate Cursillo weekends for men and women will be held this coming October. The men's Cursillo will be held Oct. 8-11 and the women's Cursillo will be held Oct. 22-25. Both weekends will be held at the Fort Worth Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th Street in Fort Worth. The weekends will be presented in English. Following a Cursillo experience, participants are encouraged to gather in groups on a regular basis to share with others, to pray and to offer one another encouragement. For more information, contact Florence Marcucci at (972) 291-6817 or mamarcucci@sbcglobal.net.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities and Their Families regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

COURAGE GROUP

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

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

To Report Misconduct

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

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

To Report Abuse

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

'LATE NITE CATECHISM 2'

Good Shepherd Catholic Community in Colleyville will host a showing of the Off-Broadway comedy "Late Nite Catechism 2 - Sister Strikes Again" at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 in the parish hall. Tickets are \$45 each and must be purchased in advance at Good Shepherd or online at the parish Web site, www.gsc.net. "Late Nite Catechism 2 - Sister Strikes Again" is a witty performance about the myths and realities of Catholicism. The performance features an irrepressible nun who teaches to a roomful of "students" (audience). All proceeds will benefit the Good Shepherd/Holy Trinity Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund. For more information, contact Ann LaBarge at (817) 251-2451 or jalabarge@verizon.net. Good Shepherd Catholic Community is located at 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville.

CSS AT ST. MARK, DENTON

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), a doctrinally based Catholic Scripture study program, will be offered at St. Mark Church, 2800 Pennsylvania Drive in Denton, beginning Sept. 14. CSS sessions will be held weekly and will include class discussion; program materials provide for daily reflection and questions. Weekly Monday sessions will begin Sept. 14 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday evening groups will begin Sept. 16 and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information about CSS at St. Mark Church, call Jim Hawk at (214) 552-8935. The CSS Web site may be found at www.catholicscripturestudyinc.org.

MAGNIFICAT

Stephanie Wood Weinert, a longtime talk-show host for EWTN's Global Catholic Radio Network who also serves as the vice president of operations for Family Life Center International, will be the guest speaker during Magnificat's fall prayer breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Highway 121, Lewisville, on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Magnificat is a national ministry to Catholic women, and the breakfast is being sponsored by the Grapevine chapter in North Texas. Weinert, the oldest of eight children and a convert to Catholicism, plans to give her personal testimony at the Magnificat breakfast. She also will speak on the call of Christian womanhood. Tickets for the Magnificat breakfast are \$18, and can be purchased through Sept. 15 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. For more information on Magnificat, contact Anita Delagarza at (682) 429-2456.

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

DISCERNMENT NIGHT

The Diocese of Fort Worth Vocations Office will sponsor a Women's Monthly Discernment Night designed specifically for single women ages 16 to 50 beginning Monday, Sept. 21, at St. Patrick Cathedral, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The evening will offer women the opportunity to pray together, share their vocational call, listen to God, break open the Word, and to share a meal together. For more information, contact the Vocations Office at (817) 560-3300 ext. 105. St. Patrick Cathedral is located at 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth.

EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE

"Call to Holiness," an evangelization conference featuring inspirational speakers from across the globe, will be held Sept. 11-12 at the George R. Brown Conference Center, located at 1001 Avenida de las Americas in downtown Houston. Conference presenters will share the message of how through evangelization, Catholics can respond to God's universal call to holiness. The conference will include a youth track emphasizing prayer and mission. For more information or to register, go to the conference Web site at www.cth2009.org or call (713) 391-2609.

NTC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the Sept. 4 issue must be received by noon on Aug. 26. Items for the Sept. 18 issue must be received by noon on Sept. 9.

ST. ANDREW'S FUN RUN

St. Andrew School invites all to participate in the Wildcat Run 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run event Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning at 7 a.m. The annual race is a continuation of the legacy of the Judi K. Skinner run. Fees for the race are \$20 per person or \$50 per family through Sept. 4 and \$30 per person or \$75 per family Sept. 5 through race day. All fees include a commemorative T-shirt and a pancake breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus. Awards for race participants will be distributed at the breakfast. For more information, call the school office at (817) 924-8917. St. Andrew School is located at 3304 Dryden Rd., Fort Worth.

CATHOLIC RENEWAL CENTER

The Catholic Renewal Center will host a retreat featuring Brother Joseph Schmidt. "Praying Our Feelings with St. Therese of Lisieux" will be held Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Overnight accommodations are optional and meals will be provided. The cost for the retreat is \$100. This retreat is designed to explore St. Therese's "Way" that will help bring some degree of peace. Br. Joseph will be leaving in October for Nairobi, Kenya, to conduct retreats and serve as a spiritual director for young men in the Brothers' scholastic house. Organizers encourage all to take this final opportunity to experience a retreat with Br. Joseph. For more information and reservations, contact the Catholic Renewal Center at (817) 429-2920. The reservation deadline is Sept. 8.

MINISTRY CONFERENCE

The third annual Ministry Conference, co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth, will be held Oct. 23-24 at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St., Dallas. This will be the only ministry conference held in the Dallas and Fort Worth Dioceses. Registration rates are as follows: Singles - two-day pass, \$60 per person in advance and \$75 per person at the door; one-day pass, \$35 per person in advance and \$50 at the door; Groups of 20 or more - two-day pass, \$40 per person in advance; one-day pass \$25 per person in advance. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

GRIEF MINISTRY

Help is available for those whose marriage has ended through death, divorce, or separation. Starting a New Life, a structured and confidential peer ministry sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office, was created to help persons work through the stages of grief and pain that accompany the loss of a spouse. A new session will begin Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington. All faiths are welcome. For information or to register, contact Helen Engle at (817) 261-9706 or e-mail to hengle@sbcglobal.net, or call Kevin Gamble at (817) 626-9382.

DEAF MINISTRY

Deaf Ministry offers special classes for students who are deaf or hearing-impaired at various parishes throughout the diocese. Students may choose to be mainstreamed into a regular religious education class with an interpreter, or they may choose to participate in special classes taught by deaf adults or hearing adults who use sign language. Deaf students can participate in their home parish by enrolling in religious education classes and contacting the Deaf Ministry Office for support services. Special classes for the deaf are offered on Wednesday evenings at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills. Parents and siblings are invited to join a sign language class that will be offered at the same time. The beginning sign class will focus on vocabulary development and conceptual signing. The Deaf Ministry Program also offers an RCIA class for deaf adults. The Deaf Community also offers special liturgies on the first Sunday of each month at 1:45 p.m. at San Mateo Church, 3316 Lovelle Ave., Fort Worth. For more information about the upcoming religious education classes for the deaf, or other activities and programs in the Deaf Ministry Program, contact Mary Cinatl, director of Deaf Ministry at (817) 284-3019, or visit the Deaf Ministry Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

DOCUMENTARY

"You Shall Believe..." a documentary film on the Eucharist will be presented at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Thursday, Sept. 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Discussion time with Australian journalists Ron Tesoriero and Mike Willesee will follow the film. Mike, a senior investigative journalist, and Ron, a lawyer, have been researching claimed supernatural events in the Catholic Church for a several years. Their work became the basis for the making of the television program broadcast internationally on the Fox network in 1999, "Signs from God. Science tests Faith." They are currently researching "the blood of Christ" through science and through history. What they have to say will touch the hearts and minds of all that hear them, according to program materials. For more information, visit the Web site at www.youshallbelieve.com or contact the parish office at (817) 431-3857. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller.

MOTHER - DAUGHTER TEA

The Fall Mother-Daughter Tea will be held Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25th, from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. All young ladies, ages 10-13, their mothers, grandmothers, or any other special woman in their lives are invited to enjoy and celebrate the gifts of being female. The ticket cost is \$12.50 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096. Due to a limited amount of space available, reservations are being accepted on a first call basis.

LAY CARMELITES

The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of a deeper relationship with Jesus and Mary to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. Those interested in participating are asked to gather at 2 p.m. in the chapel of The College of St. Thomas More, 3017 Lubbock in Fort Worth. Formation will take place in the college library from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

'THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE'

A film screening of "The Human Experience" will be held Friday, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 12, at the University of North Texas in the Lyceum Auditorium, University Union located on the third floor. Showtime will be 7 p.m. on both days and the cost of tickets for the showing is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. These screenings are sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth and the UNT/TWU Catholic Campus Ministries. For tickets and information contact, Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director, Respect Life, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257, cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org or Janet Wolf, Campus Minister, at (940) 566-0004, jwolf@fwdioc.org, or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org. To view the trailer, visit www.grassrootsfilms.com. The University of North Texas is located at 1155 Union Circle, Denton.

FRIENDS OF THE POOR@WALK

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Worth will hold its annual nationwide Friends of the Poor@Walk Saturday, Oct. 3. The event is being held to celebrate service to the poor, and to encourage kindhearted Americans all across the country to become Friends of the Poor@ as well. Pledges made on behalf of registered walkers in a given community will benefit those most in need in that same community. For more information, call (817) 451-0551. More information on the Friends of the Poor@Walk may be found on the Web site www.svdpfriendsofthepoorwalk.org.

SCOUT RETREAT

The 2009 Catholic Boy Scout Retreat will be held at Worth Ranch near Palo Pinto Friday, Oct. 9, through Sunday, Oct. 11. The retreat theme for this year is, "God's Great Commandments." Scouts are invited to gather together and discover the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament, and the two greatest Commandments of the New Testament. Check-in will be Friday evening after 6 p.m. Reconciliation and Mass will be held Saturday afternoon. The registration fee for the retreat is \$20 per Scout or Adult Scouter. Class "A" Uniform is required. BSA health forms and a copy of health insurance cards are required with the Unit or individuals. For more information, call Daniel Scott at (817) 293-4144 after 6 p.m. or e-mail daniel.scott@alconlabs.com.

CONCERT

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, will host a free concert Saturday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. The concert is being sponsored by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Youth Ministries and Our Lady Of Grace High School and will feature composer and pianist Eric Genius. For more information, contact St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish at (817) 431-3857.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL PICNIC

The St. Joseph Hospital ex-employees, physician staff, nursing and allied health students, volunteers, and friends will hold their annual picnic Saturday, Sept. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Arts Pavilion in Trinity Park. Attendees are responsible for their own food and refreshments. Organizers suggest attendees also bring a chair. For more information, contact Connie Dankersreiter at (817) 244-3311 or cdank@swbell.net.

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Good Newsmaker

Dcn. Barba studied theology in Mexico and English at UNT to become a priest who

Transcends Borders

By Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

"My friend Pedro in high school, he wanted to be a priest," Deacon Alfredo Barba said. **"And I wanted to be part of the army — a soldier. That was the plan."**

Born and raised in Tlaxcala, Mexico, Barba, who now lives at the St. Mark Parish rectory in Denton and serves across town at Immaculate Conception Parish, had an ordinary childhood, growing up with his father, Alfredo Barba Maravilla, his mother, Sara Rodriguez Sanchez, two sisters Maria and Florina, and one brother, Oliverio.

He grew up in a small town, attended public schools, had no childhood image of himself as a priest, and showed no hint of a vocation.

"Pedro told me his plans to be a priest," Barba said, grinning, "but I wanted to be a soldier because I liked the uniforms, the ranks, and the discipline. The roles changed. He went to the army! And I started the seminary after the first year of college."

God willing, Dcn. Barba will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Worth Sept. 8.

When he finished high school, Barba had enrolled at the University Metropolitan of Mexico, to begin studying physics and engineering. During that year he encountered a youth group and went with them on a retreat.

"I liked that, so I joined this



group, and later, we went to the seminary to celebrate 'young faithful day,' and we met a lot of seminarians." The seminarians provided students with information about the seminary, the priesthood, and the process of becoming a priest.

"But I didn't care about any of it," Barba said, explaining at that time he had his eye on a young lady at the university. "I took the seminary information and put it in my backpack."

"Of course!" he laughed, flashing his signature million-dollar smile, "Well, you know, I was 18 years old!"

A month later, reviewing his papers, Barba found the information and thought, "What is that??" I decided to know more about this process."

Dcn. Barba, a congenial 28-year-old, has an introspective side that belies his easy, smiling exterior. So he read every paper the seminary had given him, but this time he paid attention.

"Before I started the seminary I felt something empty inside of me," he said. "The study of physics was very interesting, but not so much that it became

my life — in physics, in teaching physics.

"Something was missing. Physics was not good enough."

What changed the college freshman's focus?

"When I read the information, I found some telephone numbers. I was calling maybe a couple of times and nobody answered me. I thought, OK, this is the last one, and finally when I called the fourth time, I found somebody."

"His name was Fr. Martín Hernandez, and this father asked me, 'OK, who are you?' 'Well, my name is Alfredo,' the young man replied, telling the priest he was calling vocations directors in the area.

Telling his story now, Barba restates his reply to Fr. Hernandez as though it still surprises him to hear it: "He asked, 'do you want to be a priest?' And I said, 'Well... yes!!'"

After that, Barba continued university classes and his part-time job, but also went to the seminary for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. meetings every Saturday. Fr. Hernandez guided him through that time and into his first year



ABOVE: Vocations Director Father Kyle Walterscheid meets with Dcn. Barba in his office.

LEFT: Dcn. Barba stands in prayer prior to his ordination to the diaconate April 18.

BELOW: Dcn. Barba speaks with Father Richard Collins, pastor of St. Mary Church in Henrietta, following the 40th anniversary Mass at the Fort Worth Convention Center August 9. (Photos by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



at the Seminario Conciliar de Mexico, where he would study for seven years.

"He explained to me what is the way of the fathers — the way the priests live. He explained, 'If you start seminary, you have to do this and this and this.' He explained all the process — what the seminarians have to do in the seminary and outside the seminary."

His eighth year was at Seminario Hispano, which provides formation for priestly vocations among Hispanic communities in the United States and Canada. Then, in the summer

of 2008, Barba moved to Denton for his pastoral year at Immaculate Conception Parish, and intensive English study at the University of North Texas.

Dcn. Barba's journey to the priesthood did not begin in childhood, like some of his classmates' did. "Some of my classmates in the seminary told me 'Well, I started when I was a child because I was an altar boy.'

"But I never served in the church as an altar boy.

"My grandfather, Marcellino Barba, taught me everything
SEE DEACON BARBA, P. 22

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

Inside... This issue of the NTC

The seventh annual Pro-Life Boot Camp brought 90 teens together to learn more about what they can do to help the unborn, hearing from national figures Father Frank Pavone and Janet Stanek. **6**

One of our own, Jonathan Demma, originally of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, took his vows as a Christian Friar of the Renewal brother in Manhattan, becoming Brother Mariano, Aug. 2. **8**

This year's honored high school graduates convey fresh enthusiasm for life and its challenges, achieving at a high level, even while responding to needs around them in service. **10-11**