



North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

Vol. 22 No. 13

August 25, 2006



MASS AT MOUNTAIN PASS — Father Patrick Hungerbuehler celebrates Mass during the annual shepherd festival on the Gemmi Pass between the Bernese Oberland and the Valais in Switzerland July 30. The annual festival is an opportunity for shepherds and farmers from both sides of the pass to meet and socialize. (CNS photo/Pascal Lauener, Reuters)

As displaced Lebanese return home, CRS coordinates assistance

By Cindy Wooden

ROME (CNS) — As those displaced by the fighting in Lebanon returned to their hometowns, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and other international aid agencies were sending assessment teams throughout southern Lebanon and were meeting to coordinate their efforts.

David Snyder, spokesman for CRS in Beirut, said in a telephone interview Aug. 17 that “90 percent of the people” housed in shelters during the monthlong fighting “left within the first 48 hours of the cease-fire,” which began Aug. 14.

“Many shelters are down to a handful of people,” said Snyder. CRS is the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency.

After providing shelter, food,

clothing, and medicine in the shelters, CRS and the other aid agencies are shifting their focus to meeting the needs of those returning, many of whom are going back to houses destroyed or damaged, without electricity and clean water.

“Everyone is trying to figure out what to do next,” Snyder said. “Close coordination is essential” so that efforts are not duplicated and “no one is left out in the shuffle.”

While CRS is working in partnership with Caritas Lebanon, the largest local humanitarian organization in Lebanon is not participating in the coordination efforts.

The Shiite Muslim movement Hezbollah, in addition to having a militia and a political wing, for

SEE CRS HAS ASSISTED..., P. 22

A year after hurricanes, Southern dioceses still trying to recover

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Southern dioceses from Texas to Alabama are still reeling from the swath of destruction left by last year’s hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi, both hit hard by Hurricane Katrina Aug. 29, have taken steps toward recovery, but full-scale restoration is still a long way off as thousands of residents no longer have a place to live, churches and schools remain damaged, and community service programs are no longer operational.

The coastal area of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama, is also in the midst of recovery. Church structures have been repaired, but residents of the small fishing village of Bayou La Batre, Alabama, are still living in trailers and trying to salvage what they can from destroyed homes and fishing livelihoods.

Farther west at the Texas-Louisiana border, the impact of Hurricane Rita, which slammed the area Sept. 24, is evident in ongoing repair work. In the dioceses of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, and Beaumont, there has been a flurry of repairs of homes, schools, and churches,

but in a storm-devastated area of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Louisiana, repairs are only just beginning.

“The needs are still as great as ever,” said Margaret Dubuisson, communication director for Catholic Charities in New Orleans. “If anything, the needs are greater as people come home or attempt to come home.”

The agency continues to provide immediate relief with food, medical care, and shelter, but it is also inundated with long-term recovery needs from counseling to housing. The agency has been involved in gutting destroyed

SEE ONE YEAR..., P. 18

Pope prays that Mideast cease-fire will hold

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI prayed that the U.N.-brokered cease-fire agreement approved by Israel and Lebanon would hold and that humanitarian aid quickly would reach those in need.

“Recent developments let us

hope that the clashes will cease and that humanitarian assistance for the populations will be assured quickly and effectively,” the pope said Aug. 13, about 17 hours before the cease-fire went into effect.

The U.N. Security Council
SEE POPE PRAYS..., P. 22

FDA’s move toward approving over-the-counter sales of Plan B criticized

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A move by the Food and Drug Administration toward making the morning-after pill available over the counter could damage women’s health and put more pressure on pharmacists conscientiously opposed to dispensing the drug, according to the U.S. bishops’ pro-life spokeswoman.

The FDA announced July 31 that it would work with Duramed, a subsidiary of Barr

Pharmaceuticals that manufactures the drug marketed as Plan B, to develop a “framework for moving emergency contraception medication to over-the-counter status” for women 18 and older.

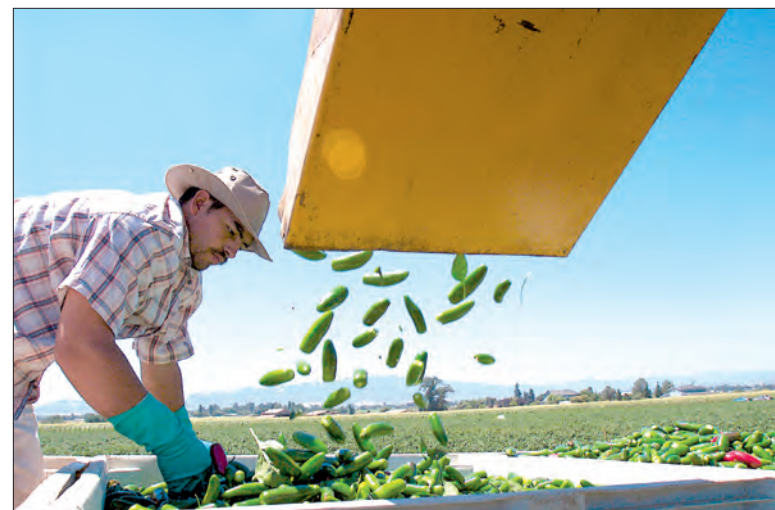
Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, criticized the FDA’s decision in a July 31 statement.

Plan B uses large doses of birth-control pills to prevent

conception up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. “But even its proponents admit that it works both before and after conception,” McQuade said, adding that many women are “unaware of [the pills’] abortifacient action.”

“Making this powerful, abortifacient drug available without a doctor’s oversight could place women and their newly conceived children at risk,” she said.

“Women for whom the drug is
SEE OVER-THE-COUNTER..., P. 29



LABOR DAY — Eduardo Alvarez sorts jalapeno peppers as they are harvested from a field in Gilroy, California, Aug. 11. George Chiala Farms of Morgan Hill, California, which owns the field, lost much of its spring strawberry crop because of a shortage of workers. Some California farmers were pointing to tighter border security and competition for workers from other business sectors for the shortage of farm laborers, according to a recent report in *Ag Alert*, a weekly publication of the California Farm Bureau Federation. Labor Day, a day on which to reflect upon the dignity of all who labor, will be celebrated Sept. 4 this year. (CNS photo/John Stubler)

Bishop Vann announces the diocese will not appeal court decision to release portions of seven priests' files

He characterized the decision as

'a turning point in the journey toward healing and reconciliation'

The following article is the printed version of Bishop Kevin Vann's opening statement to a press conference at The Catholic Center, Aug. 11. Bishop Vann was announcing his decision not to appeal a July 25 court decision allowing the release of portions of the personnel files of seven priests accused of sexual misconduct. For more information, please go to the diocesan Web site: www.fwdioc.org

When I arrived here in the Diocese of Fort Worth a year ago, I inherited a vibrant and dynamic local Church, a dedicated group of priests, deacons, and religious, as well as faithful parishioners. I have also encountered other people's pain and suffering from sexual abuse that has yet to heal. That pain was endured by young Catholics years ago and exacerbated through past decisions within our Church.

I wish to begin by offering my personal and heartfelt apology to those who have suffered abuse by members of the clergy. It is a sin — and a crime. In fact, such abuse is doubly painful for those of you who have suffered it. For it not only took your innocence and your childhood, in some cases it destroyed your Faith. Thus our entire Church has lived with this sadness — the victim-survivors, our faithful priests, and our loyal parishioners alike — who desire and pray that this terrible pain be replaced by healing and reconciliation.

Today marks a turning point toward that healing and reconciliation.

In response to the scope of the sexual abuse issue, in June of 2002, just a few miles from here, the Catholic Bishops of the United States put their names onto an unprecedented and historic document. It is the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which was reviewed and refined by the Holy See.

The Charter committed Bishops to the following:

- Zero tolerance of any sexual abuse of minors;
- The removal from ministry of a priest or deacon when even a single act of abuse of a minor



Bishop Kevin W. Vann at the podium in the conference room of The Catholic Center, Aug. 11. Bishop Vann made his statement to the press, then entertained questions from radio, television, and newspaper reporters present for the news conference. (Photo by Chris Kastner)

has been established;

- Stringent reporting procedures to church and civil authorities following allegations of abuse;
- Openness and transparency in the Church's response;
- A strong sexual abuse prevention program to reduce the likelihood of such abuses occurring in the future.

We in the Diocese of Fort Worth have been found to be in full compliance with the Charter through three independent audits conducted by the Gavin Group.

Our diocese implemented *Called to Protect*, a comprehensive state-of-the-art sexual abuse prevention program that applies to children, youth, clergy, employees, and volunteers who serve in the diocese.

What our Church has learned is that we must be ever vigilant and each and every one of us must truly live our Faith.

Which brings me to my decision that I am announcing today.

Several weeks ago, Judge Len Wade of the Tarrant County District Court, after carefully re-

viewing the personnel records of the seven priests accused of sexual abuse of minors, ordered that portions of those personnel records be released to the public. Intervenors in the case — the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* — had requested those records be released. The diocese had raised at the outset concerns about the protection of the rights of all the parties involved. On July 25, Judge Len Wade sufficiently answered those concerns.

I am announcing today that the diocese will not appeal the judge's decision to release portions of the priests' personnel records to the public.

In reading through these records it is evident to me that as a Church — now operating under the Charter's stringent requirements — we could have acted more promptly, forthrightly, and with greater compassion to those who came forward with allegations. In that review it also became clear to me that any ambiguity with regard to the status of these seven priests must be resolved. That is why in one of these


cases, that of Philip Magaldi, I am further announcing today that I have revoked all of his priestly faculties.

As some matters are still pending in the courts, I am prevented from commenting specifically on any of these cases or on the specific details inside these seven priests' personnel files. However, it is my fervent hope that my decision not to appeal the Court's ruling will mark a turning point for the Diocese of Fort Worth and for our community at large.

Now, I want to say a few words to our priests here in this diocese. You have been truly faithful to your vows and extraordinarily dedicated in your devotion to your mission. Cases such as these seven do not reflect in any way on your strength of character or your faithful exercise of priestly ministry.


Also, to Catholics throughout the diocese, I wish to express my appreciation for your faithfulness and loyalty throughout these years. I share with you the desire for justice for those who have suffered and the desire for healing and reconciliation for us all.

Finally, I again ask that anyone who has either witnessed or has suffered sexual abuse by anyone who serves the Church to come forward so that we can continue the healing process.



15 Years in a Row

North Texas Catholic



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Editorial Office: 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108, (817) 560-3300; FAX (817) 244-8839.

Circulation Office: Wilma Adrian, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108, (817) 560-3300.

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC (USPS 751-370) (ISSN 0899-7020) is published semi-monthly, except for the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly, by the Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, 800 West Loop 820 South. Subscription rates are \$20 for one year, \$38 for two years, \$55 for three years. Periodical postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *North Texas Catholic*, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

Deadline for information for the *North Texas Catholic* is noon of Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. The *NTC* is published two times a month on Friday, except for the months of June, July, and August when it is published one time each month.

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Diocesan

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church prays for peace

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Right:
Father
Assaad
ElBacha
kneels in
prayer,
begging
God for a
halt to the
war in the
Middle
East.

Below: Father Assaad ElBacha (right) reviews prayers and hymns with a parishioner prior to the service. Some of the liturgy's prayers were spoken in English and some in Lebanese.

The impassioned prayers spoken by Father Assaad ElBacha during an Aug. 2 worship service captured just how serious the conflict between Israel and Lebanon has become for members of his congregation. Kneeling before the altar at Our Lady of Lebanon Church in Lewisville, the pastor didn't merely ask for peace. He begged for it.

"Our country is under attack and undergoing war. We're begging you, God, for peace," implored the priest, whose parish is home to many Lebanese-American immigrants. "We beg you for a cease-fire. Please take care of the suffering people in Israel and Lebanon. And protect this great country we're in now."

A cease-fire went into effect Aug. 14, but the long-term chance for peace remains unclear.

Fear and worry have permeated the small, close-knit faith community since war erupted between the two countries in July. Many of the 150 families who belong to the Maronite Rite Catholic parish have relatives living in the battle zone.

Church member Soumaya Moussa came to the evening gathering to pray for her brother, who is a furniture maker. With no one left in his village and no work to do, he took his family to safety in the mountains. Still, she continues to worry about him and her other three siblings.

"Believe me. I don't sleep," says Moussa, who stays up nights to watch live coverage of the war on an international news channel she receives via satellite dish. "We're all affected by the war. We all have extended family who still live in Lebanon."

Antoinette Nicholas hopes the bombing attacks don't affect her family in Beirut.

"We pray for our country here and Lebanon," says the Lewisville resident, who moved to Texas 29 years ago. "I hope God gives the people strength. We're praying for everybody. I hope God answers our prayers."

To help them cope with the continuing crisis, Fr. ElBacha encourages his flock to pray, to remain tolerant of others, and to appreciate life in America.

"We're all upset about what's going on in Lebanon, but what can we do? Nothing," the priest says, acknowledging the frustration many in his congregation feel. "We must turn our face to God and pray."

In his homilies, Fr. ElBacha reminds former residents of Lebanon not to bring the troubles of the Middle East to this country.

"As leader of the church, I try to teach them to pray and have respect for this country," says the pastor, himself a native of Lebanon. "As immigrant people, we left our country to seek freedom, practice our faith, and have a better life. We don't need to bring the conflict of the Middle East to this beautiful country. The United States opened its heart and arms to us."

When the fighting started, 25 parish families were vacationing with relatives in Lebanon. All were safely evacuated by the U.S. government.

"We're also very thankful to America for sending a ship loaded with desperately need-

Above: Members of the Marincel family pray for peace in Lebanon.

Right: Women of Our Lady of Lebanon Parish — (l. to r.) Margaret Fedele, Nada ElGhreichy, Soumaya Moussa, Antoinette Nicholas, and Guatha Moussa — visit in the church foyer prior to the liturgy.

ed supplies of food, medicines, and other aid," Fr. ElBacha added.

Described by its pastor as traditional and conservative, Our Lady of Lebanon Church attracts Christian immigrants from Syria, Iraq, Jordan, India, and South Africa, as well as some Texans who are Roman Catholic. Established in 1993, the Eastern-rite church is part of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles.

The Maronite Eastern Catholic Church traces its origin to the work of St. Maron who founded a monastery east of Antioch in the fourth century. Later, monks moved to the mountains in what is today Lebanon. Despite Arab invasions and persecution, Maronites have preserved the teachings of their faith without schism or heresy. Like other rites within the Catholic Church, they possess their own hierarchy, spiritual heritage, and liturgical calendar but remain in communion with the pope, the successor of St. Peter. All rites of the Catholic Church are equally valid.

"Every Catholic person can participate in an Eastern or Western rite. It fulfills the Sunday obligation," Fr. ElBacha explains. "We share the same

dogma and faith."

Today Maronites make up 17 percent of the population of Lebanon, and, by law, the president of that country is always a Maronite. Lebanon is the only Christian country in the Middle East, and church communities around the world are reaching out to help victims of the conflict.

A special collection Aug. 5 and 6 at the Lewisville parish will benefit Caritas Internationalis — a federation of 162 Catholic social service, relief, and humanitarian organizations now working in the war-torn area.

"In South Lebanon, on the [Israeli] border, we have many villages that are Catholic," the pastor says, referring to the area hardest hit by air strikes. "Two dioceses are Catholic in south Lebanon, and those bishops have made an appeal to the dioceses here to help their people."

In a celebration of unity and support, Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann visited Our Lady of Lebanon Church on July 22 where he concelebrated the Maronite liturgy with Fr. ElBacha. Bishop Vann returned again Aug. 15 to celebrate a Mass for peace on the feast day of the Assumption of Mary in

the parish.

Speaking of Bishop Vann's July visit, Fr. ElBacha said, "He arrived without fanfare, a caring shepherd who came to minister to his flock and bring comfort to a worried and grieving community."

During his July 22 homily, Bishop Vann told Our Lady of Lebanon parishioners that he was familiar with the Maronite Rite and their spiritual leader Bishop Robert Shaheen of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon.

"He also expressed an awareness and appreciation that throughout our 400-year history, Maronites always have remained faithful to Rome and the pope, and have never strayed from adherence to true Catholic doctrine," Fr. ElBacha added.

Bishop Vann's demonstration of concern comforted parishioners like Giro Constantine, who is the only member of his large family living outside Lebanon. The 28-year-old stays in contact with his parents and siblings through e-mail.

"Coming together in prayer helps everybody," said Constantine, after attending the prayer service. "This is what we need to do to deal with the situation."



Bishop Vann to celebrate All Schools Liturgy Aug. 30

Intense planning is underway for the largest gathering of Catholic school students in the history of the Diocese of Fort Worth — an All Schools Liturgy, set for 11 a.m. Aug. 30 at the Fort Worth Convention Center Arena in downtown Fort Worth.

All 19 Catholic school communities in the diocese — some 6,000 students and 600 school staff members — will gather as one faith community under the event's theme, "We Are Called." Bishop Kevin Vann will lead the special liturgy, which will be concelebrated by many of the priests of the diocese.

In keeping with the theme, each student and staff member will be asked to write down one way in which they are called to make a difference in the world. These expressions of service will be put in a common basket and offered during the Mass.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our students to understand that they are a vital part of a larger Catholic community," said Catholic Schools Superintendent Don Miller. "We want to effectively demonstrate for them the interconnectedness of their schools in the church's mission," he added.

The Remnant Band is to perform before and after the liturgy.

For more information about this Catholic schools event, contact Tessa Ross at (817) 560-3300 ext. 280 or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

Recovery program for divorced, separated to be held at St. Andrew's

Rebuilding, a 12-week recovery program for those who are separated or divorced, will be offered beginning Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. in the Pastoral Center at St. Andrew Parish, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth.

The program is designed to provide a safe, Christian environment to promote healing, growth, and hope for the future. Each week, trained facilitators who have experienced the pain, loss, and trauma of divorce, help those who are just starting the journey toward healing. It is based on the healing program suggested by Dr. Bruce Fisher and Dr. Robert Alberti in their book *Rebuilding: When Your Relationship Ends*.

For more information, call Alice Curran or Michele Salcedo at (817) 927-5383.

Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

Bishop's Pro-Life Banquet to be held Oct. 21 in Grapevine

All are invited to attend the Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet, an event benefiting Catholics Respect Life, a pro-life ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The banquet will be held Oct. 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Outdoor World, DFW, 2401 Bass Pro Drive in Grapevine.

The featured keynote speaker will be Father Bernard Murphy, CFR, who serves as the superior of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal religious order, based in New York City. Fr. Murphy, seen regularly on Eternal Word Television Network's "Parables" program, and other members of his religious order pray regularly at abortion centers in New York City, offering care and services to women in need. Fr. Murphy has conducted retreats and parish missions throughout the world.

A silent auction will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Tables of ten may be reserved at a cost of \$3,000, with the option to spend the evening with Bishop Kevin Vann, Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann, or with Fr. Murphy. Tables also may be reserved at a cost of \$400; individual seats may be reserved for \$45 each.

For more information or to reserve seats by the Oct. 9 deadline, call (817) 623-2430.

Partners in Ministry sessions beginning

Partners in Ministry, a nine-month Catholic study and spirituality program facilitated by Sisters Kay Kolb and Pat Miller, SSND, is underway at two locations in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The monthly sessions began Aug. 19 at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington, and are to begin Aug. 26 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane in Grapevine. Each session is held from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Partners in Ministry, according to program materials, is "designed to foster a prayerful awareness of God, as well as provide opportunities for educational and personal growth." Topics to be covered include "Scripture: Who Do YOU Say That I Am?"; "Baptism: Anointed and Belonging, Personal Discipleship in Following Jesus"; "Eucharist: My Body, My Blood, My People"; and "Forgiveness and Healing in Troubled Times: What Helps? What Prevents?"

Future sessions at St. Vincent de Paul Church will be held Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, and March 17. Other upcoming dates at St. Francis Church will be Sept. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 11, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, and March 24. The entire group will meet together for the Dec. 2 at the Catholic Renewal Center for a prayer day; the group will also gather for an overnight retreat held April 27-28.

For more information about the program or to register, visit the Web site at www.ministriesoutreach.org, or call (940) 382-3594.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



PROMOTING RECYCLING — Timothy Sullivan, a sixth grader at Holy Trinity School in Grapevine, was recently invited to speak to the Colleyville Rotary Club regarding the proper recycling of batteries. The youngster has initiated a recycling program at Holy Trinity and hopes to raise awareness in the North Tarrant County area of the need to properly dispose of batteries.

Program to help couples preparing for marriage validation

A day of preparation for couples seeking to have their marriage validated within the Catholic Church will be offered Saturday, Sept. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by the diocesan Family Life Office. The one-day session, entitled "Today ... Tomorrow ... Forever," will be held at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth.

Topics to be discussed will include "Marriage as a Sacrament," "Commitment," "Communication," "Conflict Resolution," and "Intimacy." Time will be set aside for couples to strengthen their relationships with regard to these topic areas, as well as to focus upon their individual relationships. This program is a marriage enrichment opportunity and is open to all interested married couples who wish to deepen their sense of mutual love and commitment.

For more information or to register, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or ext. 256 or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

Couple to Couple League to offer NFP classes

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the symptothermal method of Natural Family Planning. The group finds Natural Family Planning to be safe, healthy, and effective, and indicates that many couples who use NFP "grow in love and respect for one another as they learn to appreciate God's design for marriage."

New classes will begin in September at three locations in the diocese. To register for a class starting Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 S. Cherry Lane in Fort Worth, contact Bill and Mary Kouba at (817) 370-9193. To register for a class beginning Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 714 North Main in Muenster, contact Gary and Mary Endres at (940) 759-4810. To register for a class starting Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 2255 N. Bonnie Brae Street in Denton, contact Kent and Lori Wolf at (940) 482-7120.

Because the class consists of four meetings at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a class starting at least four months before their wedding.

JustFAITH program to begin Sept. 6 at St. Andrew's

A new season of JustFAITH, a program that integrates personal spirituality with social justice issues, will begin Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Pastoral Center at St. Andrew Parish, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth.

Described as a challenging, life-changing, and intense journey, JustFAITH seeks to bridge one's faith with action, based on the call of the Gospel. The program provides participants with an opportunity to learn about the biblical tradition, the historic witness of the church, Catholic social teaching, and the relationship between spirituality and justice.

JustFAITH participants will meet weekly for 30 weeks and also participate in retreats and immersion experiences. The program's main focus is domestic and international poverty, with topics focusing on the preferential option for the poor, causes of hunger, racism, nonviolence, consumerism, and third-world issues, to name a few.

There is no charge for the program, except for the cost of books. For more details, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383 or acurran@standrewcc.org; Luan Ibarra at (817) 263-5472 or luanx2002@yahoo.com; or Ruth Martin at (817) 295-1209 or ruthmartin7@mail.ev1.net. More information also may be found online at www.justfaith.org.

NTC deadlines for submission

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 to be considered for publication in the Sept. 8 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Aug. 30. Items to be considered for publication in the Sept. 22 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Byzantine Benedictine Retreat to be held in Dallas

The first Dallas Byzantine Benedictine Retreat will be held Sept. 27 through Oct. 1 at The Catholic Conference Center in Dallas. This monastic retreat will emphasize the Byzantine (Eastern-rite) Catholic approach to Benedictine spirituality. The retreat will be led by a Byzantine Catholic bishop and a Benedictine nun. It will include three daily Offices done in Byzantine chant, daily Byzantine Liturgy, and two daily classes in Byzantine-Benedictine spirituality.

For information, e-mail to dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com or call (214) 339-8483.

GriefShare is being offered at St. Paul's

The bereavement program GriefShare is underway on consecutive Thursday evenings at St. Paul the Apostle Church, located at 5508 Black Oak Lane in the River Oaks area of Fort Worth. The first session began Aug. 3; however, each session is self-contained, so participants may join the program at any time. The last Thursday evening session will be held Oct. 26. All sessions will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the church.

Each evening will include a video featuring the presentations of experts on grief and recovery. A guided discussion is held following each video session, and participants are welcome to listen without speaking.

All are invited to attend the sessions at no cost. For more information, contact Leticia Adams at (817) 966-6400 or (817) 599-0329, or Deacon Ron Aziere at (817) 738-9925 or via e-mail to ron@stpaulfw.org. More information may be found on the program's Web site at www.griefshare.org.

Series on elder caregiving being offered at St. Michael's

St. Michael Church is hosting a series in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County for persons dealing with elder care issues. Practical information and tools to prepare and assist caregivers will be offered.

The series began Aug. 7, but each program is self-contained and persons need not attend all sessions. The remaining seminars will be held Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford, continuing through Oct. 2. There will not be a seminar on Sept. 4 due to the Labor Day holiday. Sessions topics still to be covered include "Aging, Mental Health, Depression, and Drugs," "Caring for the Caregiver," "End of Life," and "Grief and Loss."

For more information or to RSVP for one of the sessions, contact Martin Peña, director of social outreach and pastoral care, at (817) 283-8746 ext. 30.

Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family

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 Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Sept. 2, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

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 or Tim S. at (817) 735-1519.

People and Events

Rachel's Vineyard retreat, Sept. 15-17, to offer post-abortion healing

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held Sept. 15-17 in Fort Worth.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats offer a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath. The retreat team provides the confidential support needed to help participants work through feelings of anger, shame, guilt, and grief, so that they may be open to experiencing the healing love and mercy of God.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and former participants in the abortion industry — anyone who has been hurt by abortion — are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757; e-mail to forgiven@racheltx.org; or visit the Rachel's Vineyard Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Bishop Vann to speak on Holy Orders at Scout event Sept. 16

Bishop Kevin Vann will offer a presentation on the sacrament of Holy Orders Saturday, Sept. 16, at 10:15 a.m. in the gym at St. John the Apostle Parish, 7341 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills.

During the program, Bishop Vann will address questions and topics found in chapter 7 of the Ad Altare Dei Scout Manual. All candidates for the Boy Scout Religious Award are invited to participate in the discussion. Adult Scout leaders and all others interested in the topic are also welcome.

For more information, contact Charlie Levitt at (817) 498-9252.

Ministry invites those distanced from church to 'Come Home'

Come Home ministry extends an open invitation for Catholics who are currently disconnected from the church to consider "coming home" to their Catholic faith. Sessions will begin Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the Pastoral Center at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Participants will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Tuesday evening through Oct. 24.

The parish's Come Home team is composed of parishioners, some of whom have themselves returned to the church; parish staff, and members of the clergy. Contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383 or acurran@standrewsch.org for more information.

Domestic violence seminar to be held at St. Andrew's Sept. 9

"Confronting Domestic Violence: A Deliberate Decision to Affirm Life" is the title of a seminar to be held Saturday, Sept. 9, in the pastoral center at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth.

The seminar, presented by Kathy Lee Dunham Hakala, RN, a faculty member of Baylor University School of Nursing and a member of St. Andrew Church Parish Nurses, will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. A light breakfast will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Information from the parish describes the seminar as "an educational offering for those who want to know more about domestic violence and how to help individuals and families that experience this potentially fatal cycle."

To register or for more information, contact the parish at (817) 927-5383, or e-mail to acurran@standrewcc.org or msalcedo@standrewcc.org.

Golden anniversary celebration for married couples planned

A diocesan celebration honoring couples blessed with 50 years or more of married life will be held Sunday, Oct. 15, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, located at 861 Wildwood Lane in Grapevine. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the special Mass which will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the church.

Couples who have been married 50 years or more by the end of the year are invited to renew their marriage vows and to receive an anniversary blessing from the bishop. A reception with cake and punch will follow immediately afterward in the parish Family Life Center. Couples who were married prior to 1957 and want to be part of this special celebration are asked to call their parish office and to give their names, address, and date of marriage. Parishes are asked to submit this information to the diocesan Family Life office prior to Aug. 30.

For more information, contact the Family Life office at (817) 560-3300 or e-mail to dstojak@fwdioc.org or sordonez@fwdioc.org.

Cub Scout, Boy Scout retreats planned for Oct. 6-8

The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Fort Worth has announced that the annual Catholic retreats for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be held in October at Worth Ranch, near Palo Pinto.

The theme of this year's Boy Scout retreat is "Ave Maria." The retreat, to be held Oct. 6-8, will include both indoor and outdoor events. Father Anh Tran, chaplain for the Catholic Scouts of the diocese, will offer the sacrament of reconciliation and Mass during the weekend. The cost for the retreat is \$20 per person.

The ninth annual Catholic Cub Scout Retreat will be held at Worth Ranch Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cub Scouts will also have the option to stay overnight Friday and/or Saturday to participate in retreat activities. Cub Scout families from every scouting pack are encouraged to participate in the retreat, which will include a "Get to Know You" program; work on the religious awards available to Cub Scouts; a historical reenactment; a craft activity; and hiking. The cost is \$12 for Cub Scouts without overnight accommodations; other options range from \$14 to \$20.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.bsaccs.org or call Tom Moore at (972) 539-0257 for information about the Boy Scout retreat; for information about the Cub Scout retreat, call Jeremy Stephens at (972) 436-8162.



SERRA HONORS MSGR. SCHUMACHER — The Arlington-Metro Serra Club met June 19 to honor Msgr. Joseph Schumacher with a dinner at a local Italian restaurant. A Serra Club chaplain for many years, Msgr. Schumacher recently retired from his duties as chaplain, as well as from his position as vicar general for the diocese and pastor of St. Matthew Church in Arlington. Father Jim Pemberton has accepted the position of chaplain for the organization. Msgr. Schumacher (third from left) poses for a picture with the newly elected Serra board members, (others, l. to r.) Jim Vredenburg, Bob Kubiak, Bruns Watts (president), Richard Kolkka, Pam Nolan, Xavier Carrillo, Dan Singel, and Jack Hammon.

Czech Heritage Day to be held Sept. 16

A Czech Heritage Day, celebrating the 96th anniversary of the SPJST Lodge #92, will be held Saturday, Sept. 16, at 4 p.m. at the National Hall, 3316 Roberts Cut-off Road in Fort Worth.

Program highlights will include accordion music from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; the Memory Makers Czech Choir from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and a Parade of Costumes at 6:20 p.m. Music will be provided by the Jodie Mikula Orchestra from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The Youth Club Kitchen will be open from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The cost of admission is \$8; children ages 12 and under, are admitted free with a paid adult.

A traditional Czech dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children ages 12 and under.

For more information, call (817) 624-1361.

Reunion for former St. Joseph Hospital employees set for Sept. 30

All former employees, physician staff, nursing and allied health students, volunteers, and friends of St. Joseph Hospital are invited to attend the annual reunion picnic Saturday, Sept. 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Arts Pavilion in Trinity Park in Fort Worth. Come "see old friends and share your experiences," suggest picnic organizers.

Participants are asked to bring their own food and drinks, and a chair if desired.

For more information, call Connie Dankesreiter at (817) 244-3311 or e-mail to cdank@swbell.net.

Tea party to celebrate gifts of being female, Oct. 8

A tea party, offered especially for girls ages 10 to 13, and their mothers, grandmothers, or other female friends and relatives, will be held Oct. 8 from noon to 4 p.m. at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth.

The Sunday afternoon program, sponsored by the diocesan offices of Family Life and Natural Family Planning, is an opportunity for women across the generations to celebrate the gifts of being female. The Catholic Center will be transformed into a tea house, where tea or soda and a light lunch will be served, and female speakers will share personal stories of celebrating their femininity and the gifts received from God to function in this role. Discussion from a faith-based perspective will concentrate on the physical, emotional, and psychological changes that occur in young women during the adolescent years.

"If you are a parent looking for a way to talk about these subjects with your daughter who is approaching adulthood," says Deacon Dick Stojak, director of the Family Life Office, "perhaps this is the opportunity for both of you to listen, talk, and share your thoughts and feelings. It is our hope that by sharing this afternoon, both mothers and daughters will better appreciate themselves and each other because of who they are as women, and come to understand and expect the respect needed for their role in God's plan for creation."

The cost is \$12.50 per person. Space is limited, so reservations will be accepted on a first-call basis. To make a reservation call Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096 or Nancy Novak at (817) 656-9633.

St. Catherine of Siena's Autumnfest planned for Sept. 23

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 1705 E. Peters Colony Road in Carrollton, will host its 20th annual Autumnfest Saturday, Sept. 23. The family-fun event with a carnival-like atmosphere will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For early risers, a 5K and a one-mile Fun Run will kick off the day, with registration to take place from 7:45 a.m. to 8 a.m. Later, all are invited to come enjoy games, arts and crafts, a silent auction, music, entertainment, and great food, according to festival organizers.

For more information, call the parish office at (972) 492-3237 or visit online at www.stcatherine.org. St. Catherine of Siena's Autumnfest planned for Sept. 23.

Nolan Catholic to host alumni barbecue Sept. 15

Nolan Catholic High School will host its annual Homecoming Alumni BBQ from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Sept. 15, at Hartnett Arena, located on the Nolan campus at 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

The event includes a full-service barbecue dinner catered by Dickey's Barbecue Pit in Coppell, as well as activities for children and guided school tours. Homecoming T-shirts will be awarded to the first 100 alumni to arrive.

All Nolan Catholic graduates and their families are invited to attend the barbecue and the following football game at no charge. Reservations are requested by Sept. 1. Contact Julie Greene, alumni/special events coordinator, at (817) 457-2920 ext. 1557 or via e-mail at alumni@nolancatholic.org.



SERVICE AWARDS — Members of the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas — KJZT Junior Division Society #104 of Abbott recently received service awards for collecting eyeglasses for Lions Club International. The donated eyeglasses are to be repaired by LensCrafters and then distributed to the needy. Accepting award certificates are (l. to r., front) Carly Pustejovsky, Payton Pustejovsky, Mallory Ballew, (back) Morgan Ballew, Sherry Pustejovsky, and Alyssa Ballew. (Photo by James Bezdek)

Diocesan / State



LITURGY FOR AFRICA — A Mass for Africa was celebrated June 25 at St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, during which prayers were offered for those in Africa who have lost their lives and for those who are still suffering from war, disease, and famine. Father Vincent Elsen, OFM, presided at the liturgy, and the St. Joseph Catholic Community African Choir (above) led the assembly in song. A reception followed in the parish community center, allowing those in attendance, who came from a variety of cultural backgrounds, to exchange personal stories. St. Joseph Parish plans to host similar Masses in the future in celebration of the area's African Catholic community. Dates for upcoming liturgies will be Sept. 17 and Dec. 17. For more information, call Bibe Mulenda at (817) 721-0329 or call the parish office at (817) 472-5181.

Holocaust Museum Houston to host Rwandan exhibit

"Through the Eyes of Children: The Rwanda Project," a photo exhibition offering stunning images of survival and a new beginning for children from Rwanda in the years since the 1994 genocide, will be on view at Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline Street, in Houston's Museum District, from Sept. 15 through Feb. 18, 2007.

What is so unusual about the exhibit is that all of the photos were taken by children—survivors and orphans of the Rwandan genocide

—most of whom never saw a camera before the project started.

A special opening reception will be held at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 13, with Rwanda Project coordinator and award-winning photojournalist Kristen Ashburn, who has been working with the children in Rwanda and who will talk about her experiences there. Admission is free.

For more information about Holocaust Museum Houston, call (713) 942-8000 or visit www.hmh.org.

Msgr. Charles King to mark 50th jubilee with Habitat for Humanity project

Msgr. Charles King, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church (ICC) in Denton for the past six years, is preparing for a special milestone. This December, the much-loved spiritual leader will celebrate 50 years of priesthood. In typical altruistic fashion, he is choosing to mark the occasion through a parish service project involving the sponsorship and building of a house with the Habitat for Humanity organization in Denton County.

Having recently completed work on a new church building for the growing number of families who call ICC home, Msgr. King's hope is to involve the parish in a variety of service work, reaching out to others in the larger, Denton-area community. He has a special interest in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps low-income families to build and purchase their own homes.

Through involvement with the Denton Rotary Club, of which Msgr. King is a former

president, he met a representative from Habitat for Humanity of Denton County, who pointed out to Msgr. King that approximately 60 percent of homes built in Denton County by Habitat for Humanity are made available to Catholic families.

This comment turned a spark into a flame, as the pastor and ICC parishioners formed a steering committee and set a goal to raise \$65,000 to begin building. Construction is expected to commence in September. Additionally, 10 percent of all money raised will go to the Habitat for Humanity International organization to build a house in Guatemala, where ICC has a sister parish and partner in mission work.

Teams of parishioners have been raising cash and obtaining in-kind donations, for such things as air conditioners, light fixtures, lumber, and electrical items. The teams will work together as volunteers in building the house, which is scheduled for completion in December, in time for Msgr. King's golden

anniversary of ordination, Dec. 16. The parish and Habitat for Humanity of Denton County will dedicate the house in honor of Msgr. King.

The opportunity for ICC parishioners to grow together while serving others is exciting to Msgr. King. "Helping people gets people involved. I'd love to see us get 200 to 300 people involved," explained Msgr. King, expressing his hope that the project will show the community that the parish has an interest outside its own walls. "I hope it can serve to unite," he said, as he reflected on his hopes for future ambitious projects, such as a parish outreach center that would be home for a St. Vincent de Paul house and a counseling center.

For more information about plans for the ICC Habitat House, to be built in honor of Msgr. King's 50th anniversary, contact the parish at (940) 565-1770.

Contributing to this story was Abigail Caperton.

LIMEX class about to form; few openings left

Only a few openings remain for those wanting to enroll in the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX) graduate studies program, being offered this fall in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Through this extension program, administered by Loyola University of New Orleans, stu-

dents may earn certification or a master's degree in the field of religious education or pastoral studies. The fully accredited Catholic university program can be completed on a part-time basis over the course of three-and-a-half to four years. It is designed for lay persons involved in or preparing for diocesan or parish ministries;

Catholic school teachers and administrators; and members of the clergy who are interested in continuing their theological and ministerial education.

For more information, contact Terri Casey at (817) 560-2452 ext. 260, e-mail to tcasey@fwdioc.org, or visit online at www.loyno.edu/lim or www.fwdioc.org.

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Men's Retreats

September 7-10
 October 5-8
 October 12-15

Women's Retreats

Aug. 31-Sept. 3
 September 14-17
 September 21-24

Other Retreats

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 Divorced/Separated/Widowed
 October 5-8 Lawyers & Spouses
 October 16-20 Dallas Priests
 October 20-22 Physicians & Spouses
 October 26-29 Dallas Deacons

We have other dates available for any other groups wishing to have a retreat or group meetings.

A retreat is a chance to get away from the routine of your life and look at how God has loved you. It's a chance to look at how you have responded to that love and how you will respond to it in the future. The Spiritual Exercises are not group-oriented but aimed at personal renewal and growth. The conferences are given to stimulate and facilitate personal reflection and prayer. Therefore, an atmosphere of silence is essential to the retreat.

Diocesan

Special Collection Operation Rice Bowl

Parish Name	Parish Location	Rice Bowl Feb - March 2005	Rice Bowl March - April 2006
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	0.00	0.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	46.71	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	439.22	413.78
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	0.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,088.75	2,903.26
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	2,216.41	959.96
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	997.76	961.79
St. Matthew	Arlington	771.50	1,491.15
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	614.80	715.79
Vietnamese Martyrs Community	Arlington	0.00	0.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	119.29	251.30
St. Michael	Bedford	1,090.55	1,624.70
St. Jerome	Bowie	53.70	153.17
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	0.00	0.00
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	94.92	37.56
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	297.74	83.93
St. Ann	Burleson	0.00	0.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	419.84	275.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	87.00	155.10
St. Joseph	Cleburne	0.00	557.98
Holy Angels	Clifton	0.00	175.20
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	937.54	1,758.24
Holy Cross	The Colony	0.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	0.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	262.39	0.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	141.12	283.24
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	22.30	37.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	909.82	1,389.21
St. Mark	Denton	723.11	553.40
St. Mary	Dublin	0.00	472.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	0.00	0.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	917.51	1,000.00
Christ the King	Fort Worth	2,360.00	1,166.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	795.00	339.50
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	100.00	622.31
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	804.16	1,628.41
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	489.62	457.98
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	1,022.26	244.45
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	22.00	149.72
St. George	Fort Worth	0.00	1,048.50
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	604.33	1,036.10
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	143.06	0.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	419.25	675.00
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,170.23	1,076.26
St. Rita	Fort Worth	579.91	185.35
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,078.42	1,173.28
St. Mary	Gainesville	271.03	330.53
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	0.00	0.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	412.55	1,369.38
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,099.04	2,030.79
St. Mary	Henrietta	150.74	230.18
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	0.00	380.00
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	63.67	107.47
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	287.16	685.66
Santa Rosa	Knox City	0.00	0.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	719.18	1,245.00
St. Peter	Lindsay	704.36	991.87
St. Jude	Mansfield	0.00	0.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	144.00	75.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	0.00	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	133.24
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	0.00	44.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	135.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	183.02	401.35
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	100.63	0.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	0.00	151.72
St. Mary	Quanah	0.00	0.00
St. Rita	Ranger	0.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	0.00	104.17
St. Boniface	Scotland	183.00	215.85
Sacred Heart	Seymour	715.39	712.82
St. Brendan	Stephenville	0.00	129.85
St. John	Strawn	0.00	0.00
St. John	Valley View	7.64	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	0.00	0.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	0.00	368.15
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	905.59	657.16
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	1,140.16	360.01
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,220.78	1,505.41
St. Mary	Windthorst	1,780.08	1,681.98
		33,063.04	39,967.21

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



CARE CENTER SING-ALONG
— Parishioners of St. Mary Church in Henrietta host a monthly sing-along at a local nursing home, the Henrietta Care Center, on the first Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. The parish Youth Choir, led by Kealey Bullinger (left), provided the music, singing, and storytelling throughout the summer. Youth choir members (others, l. to r.) Leah Bullinger, Audrey Gallagher, Tabnee Fennell, and Lauren Gallagher are shown at a recent gathering. The center is located at 807 West Bois D'arc in Henrietta, and all are welcome to join in the sing-along.

Franciscan Father Richard Rohr to speak at meeting of pastoral counselors in Argyle

Noted Catholic author and lecturer Father Richard Rohr, OFM, will lead a workshop on

using the Enneagram in spiritual discernment and clinical assessment. Fr. Rohr will give his presentation at the annual meeting of the Southwest Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Pastors, spiritual directors, and mental health practitioners are welcome to attend the meeting, which will be held Sept. 29-30 at Briarwood Retreat Center in Argyle.

and will continue through Saturday afternoon. He will explore ways in which the Enneagram — an ancient tool for spiritual assessment — can contribute to clinical, pastoral, and spiritual assessment by helping caregivers correct distorted images of self and God through the process of spiritual discernment. Fr. Rohr will also help participants understand how practices for spiritual discernment may enhance clinical assessment for psychotherapy and spiritual direction.

Fr. Rohr, a Franciscan of the New Mexico Province, is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he presently serves as founding director.

Prior to Sept. 15, the registration fee for the pre-conference workshop is \$45; the Fr. Rohr workshop is \$90. Participants will be eligible for CEUs from the National Board for Certified Counselors. For more information, contact Duane Bidwell, vice president of the Southwest Region, at d.bidwell@tcu.edu or visit www.aapc.org.

A pre-conference workshop, "Professional Ethics and Morality: Practice Dilemmas for Pastoral Counselors," will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 29 at the retreat center. Fr. Rohr's workshop will begin Friday afternoon

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August 2006

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Viewpoints

Transitions, an inevitable part of our faith walk

By Dan Luby

The house is silent, waiting. The dining room table seems to stretch out forever, gleaming darkly in the morning light at my back. The steady buzz of a newly purchased box fan in an upstairs bedroom creates a border for the silence that pulses in the empty rooms.

I sit at the table, finally still after several days of inefficient but well-intentioned racing back and forth, from room to room, from job to job. The refrigerator and pantry have been scrubbed and re-stocked. New dishes, freshly washed, are stacked in the cabinet. A cleaning professional, called in to deal with the carpet stains and the dust under the refrigerator and the dull sinks, has made everything shine. Two nests of hornets lurking beneath the patio cover have been dispatched, but only after a brief skirmish resulting in a harmless but startling sting and the indignity of a heart-pounding retreat. There are maps of the city and a list of useful numbers in a basket by the phone, and four identical key rings with newly cut keys lie on the kitchen counter.

It is Saturday morning, and I am waiting in this quiet, empty house for the arrival of four young adults who are coming to the Diocese of Fort Worth as part of the ECHO/Faith Formation Leadership Program, a partnership between the diocese and the University



Viewed in the light of faith, transitions of all kinds, ordinary and inconsequential ones, as well as once-in-a-lifetime momentous ones, can become spiritual exercises, strengthening our habit of trust, deepening our reliance on God.

of Notre Dame. For the next two years these four graduate students will work full time in parishes of our diocese, putting into practice the studies they are undertaking in Notre Dame's theology department.

I have met them all earlier in the summer. I am confident they will bring great blessings to the people they serve and to the whole church. I have seen their uniformly impressive résumés. They are bright, generous, energetic, talented people. I know they are eager to get started in the parishes which will be their ministerial homes for the next two years.

I know they are nervous, too, as they speed along shimmering interstates toward Fort Worth, squeezed into cars bulging with clothes and books and computers and CDs, photos of people they love, and directions to their new house.

Wedged in with all the stuff in

suitcases and spiffy plastic boxes and hastily packed trash bags, they are laden too with the emotional aftershocks of college days suddenly over, uncertainty about relationships now put to the test of long distance, worries over unfamiliar challenges, dreams about the adventures that lie ahead.

I am anxious, too, as I sit in the morning-lit dining room waiting for them to arrive, from far off Pennsylvania and Illinois, from Missouri and Michigan. Will they find the work as appealing and energizing as they hope? Will they and their parish mentors have the right chemistry? Will they like living in this new part of the country, with its different culture and accents? Will they be equal to the demands of living in community, of new levels of independence and responsibility? Will they decide that no sane person should live in a place as hot as it is today and turn their cars around and go home?

Transitions are always a challenge, whether they represent fears realized, or changes we have longed for and worked hard to bring about. The new job, the foreclosed mortgage, the degree completed, the soul mate lost — as much as we plan and strategize, as many contingencies as we build into our calculations, transition always brings us to a point at which we have let go of the familiar world we have known, where we understand our role and know what to expect from life, but have not yet fully grasped the world we are moving to, so that the only constant is difference, the only certainty, uncertainty.

Transition cannot be rushed or avoided entirely. It must be endured, patiently if we have that gift, frantically if not, but always in its own time. It is often the house of anxiety. Just as often, it is also the birthplace of creativity and new life.

Viewed in the light of faith, transitions of all kinds, ordinary and inconsequential ones, as well as once-in-a-lifetime momentous ones, can become spiritual exercises, strengthening our habit of trust, deepening our reliance on God.

My steps echo in the hall as I walk once more to the front door, checking the street again for cars, willing them to arrive. A small black Hyundai slows down, passes the house, then turns around, and stops at the driveway.

Smiling, nervous, I step out to welcome the future.



Dan Luby is the director of Christian Formation for the diocese. In May, for the third time, his column received first place honors among regular columns on spiritual life in the Catholic press of the U.S. and Canada. Dan's column earned the same recognition in 2001 and again in 2003. Dan and his wife, Theresa, have two children, Kate and Peter.

Just a walk in the park on a summer day

By Jeff Hensley

Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge is a jewel of short mountains tucked away in a corner of Southwestern Oklahoma, less than three hours from Fort Worth, a little over an hour north of Wichita Falls. It is a corridor of mountains with a broad valley running between, and one of my favorite places for a day trip to escape into an entirely different environment.

When I traveled there a few weeks ago, it was in the middle of our choking heat wave, and despite rising early and beginning my exploration of the nooks and crannies of its creeks and reservoirs around 9 a.m., by the time I hit the trail of my longest walk, it was noon, and the temperature was creeping past 100 degrees.

I'd examined the map board at the trailhead and determined I might manage

the eight-mile loop trail, but also figured out which of its two legs to take to see the flattest and prettiest parts of the territory it covered in case I had to double back.

Because I thought I might encounter the driver of the other car in the unpaved lot, I threw a couple of extra bottles of water into my day pack and more fruit and grain bars than I thought I needed, too, just in case they were in trouble on the trail.

And so I set out in the heat, thinking I'd know when to turn back so as not to get into trouble myself. I was wrong.

As I followed along the trail as it kept company with a beautiful, shaded creek, made into a series of small lakes by low check dams, it got increasingly warm, and I got increasingly tired. But my desire to push on further got the better of my good judgment, and I found myself three or four miles out a by now rough and rock-strewn

trail, beyond my energy and facing the same distance back to the trailhead, my car, and my supply of cool air, courtesy of the vehicle's air conditioner.

In my own defense, I think I'd picked up a small stomach bug that had my stomach rumbling and had also left me more drained than I normally would have been.

As I turned on my heels and headed back, I found myself trudging rather than walking. Each patch of shade provided a brief and welcome resting place, and the occasional clouds — up to this moment when I needed them, a great rarity — refreshing beyond what I would have expected. I found myself praying for more of the clouds and that the light breeze would continue as well.

It was a very dicey experience as I found my muscles not getting enough blood sugar, forcing me to nibble constantly on the four fruit and grain bars while I rationed my

four half-liter bottles of water. Despite what I believe was my very realistic fear that I would not make it back to the trailhead, I did. My energy and ability to walk with longer strides increased as I neared my car and the end of this little adventure, my blood sugar restored by the bars and the just right amount of spring water.

As I prayed desperately for strength, for the clouds, the breeze, and the grace of God to complete what should have been an uneventful hike, I couldn't help but reflect on how God had provided just what I needed in these difficult circumstances, and nothing more.

I really should mention that on an earlier walk, I stumbled on a dozen wild turkeys that I followed through woods until I came upon three white-tailed deer and a buffalo, his legs folded under him like the paws of a sitting cat. It is a wildlife refuge, after all.

Making Bad Law into a bad memory

By Gail Quinn

Thirty-three years ago, the Catholic bishops of the United States accurately labeled *Roe v. Wade* and its companion decision, *Doe v. Bolton*. They called those Supreme Court abortion decisions *bad morality, bad medicine, and bad public policy.*

To this day the bishops continue to speak out against *Roe v. Wade*, which gave two human beings (a mother and an abortionist) the legal right to kill another human being, the mother's child in the womb. That license was granted throughout the nine months of pregnancy, for any reason or none.

It seems strange, in retrospect, that the voices of others who identified *Roe v. Wade* as bad law did not garner much attention at the time. Later court decisions based themselves on *Roe*, and abortion became more and more entrenched in American culture and law. Because law is the great teacher, many began to think of abortion as morally acceptable — after all, there was no law against it.

Perhaps the worst U.S. Supreme Court abortion decision was *Casey v. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania* in 1992. Here the Court said that *even if Roe had been wrongly decided, and even if the Court might not reach the same decision today, it would not reverse its 1973 decisions because (a) its own stature and authority would be questioned, and (b) women had come to order their lives around abortion's availability. And so the Court reaffirmed that children, prior to birth — or even during birth — could continue to be killed by abortion.*

But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Legal experts, even those who support legal abortion generally, point to ROE as indefensible. People's attitudes are shifting to a pro-life position. And perhaps most importantly, the new generation of young people are much more pro-life than are older Americans.

What has been the result of three decades of legal abortion? Millions of unborn children have been deprived of life, many brutally. Countless women and others carry the grief and guilt of having caused the death of their children.

Abortion has cheapened our respect for human life right across the board. If you can take the life of one, you can justify taking the life of another. It has coarsened our culture with its ethic of acceptable killing.

And, as has long been clear, legalized abortion has poisoned the politics of our nation, becoming the centerpiece of what many now call "the culture war."

But there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Legal experts, even those who support legal abortion generally, point to *Roe*

as indefensible. People's attitudes are shifting to a pro-life position. And perhaps most importantly, the new generation of young people are much more pro-life than are older Americans.

In a few weeks I will retire from the day-to-day task of working to reverse *Roe v. Wade*. But I am not retiring from the challenge. I plan to be involved in other ways.

So much still needs to be done, the pressure needs to be kept up, and everyone willing to lend a hand is needed. Together, you and I can turn

this law that is bad morality, bad medicine, and bad public policy into nothing but a bad memory. *Gail Quinn, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, will retire Aug. 31.*



The mixer
that helped
create our bond
wasn't something
that took place in
the student ballroom

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

He was my favorite student ever, but it wasn't until sometime after the harvest gold KitchenAid mixer that he became my son.

The mixer had come into our lives inconspicuously in the '70s, during an intense holiday-cookie-baking season. The electric mixer I already owned — just a few months old, and not a name brand — died an early death after being introduced to my mom's potica recipe.

While working the elastic, thickening, bread-like mixture, the motor overheated, and smoke interjected itself into the aromas emanating from my otherwise delicious-smelling kitchen. (Apparently "extreme-bread-kneading" was not in that mixer's specs; its mission statement did not include the phrase "will work for dough.")

When I returned my small appliance to the department store, the manager looked at it, put it aside, and announced, "We'll just replace it." Then he picked up a heavy box that contained a shining new KitchenAid mixer. He handed it to me.

I had paid way less than \$50 for my now-broken no-name mixer, and the one he was exchanging it for was valued three to four times that much. Was I getting a bonus for dried-up cake batter on the mixer's feet? Was this a factory rebate for red-food-color-stained plastic beaters?

Instantly my well-tuned, Catholic-school-trained fairness-and-honesty-meter intervened, and I heard these words come from my mouth: "But that new one cost much more than mine did." The store manager smiled wryly before answering.

"Well, I bet this one was on sale for that amount sometime or another," he said.

That was how I walked out of the store after the greatest financial transaction of my life. I owned a spanking new mixer — a KitchenAid! — in the fashionable color that matched my '70's kitchen: harvest gold. God was good.

That mixer was on my countertop for 23 years, beating eggs for pizzelles, creaming butter for birthday cake frosting, or, when turned on too high, spreading a snow-like covering of sifted flower everywhere. It was a dream mixer.

My favorite student Richard was a dream too, except the time he yelled at me and walked out the door. He had come to TCU from Panama. He was a photographer with an artist's eye and a poet's heart. When he first arrived, in 1993, he joined my staff and quickly took on the routine of eating lunch with me every day. Like our own children when they are young, he had found a place of security and comfort. Also like our own young families, I knew those times would not last forever.

He worked with my yearbook staff at TCU for five

SEE HAMER, P. 30

Catholic Daughters of the Americas' national convention held in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS)—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas pledged to take actions ranging from supporting U.S. troops and their families to assisting victims of human trafficking in resolutions approved during their biennial national convention in Minneapolis July 17-21.

Nearly 900 members from local and state courts (chapters) in the United States and several other countries attended the meeting.

Claudia R. Bosch of Dickinson, North Dakota, first vice national regent and convention chairman, was elected national regent for the next two years. She succeeds M. Joan McKenna of Boston in that post.

In the keynote speech, Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, head of Sisters of Life, spoke about the spiritual and emotional experiences of working to prevent abortions and assist pregnant women. The late Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York founded the Sisters for Life in 1991. In 2004 his successor, Cardinal Edward

M. Egan, officially recognized the group as a religious institute of diocesan right, that is, an order under the authority of the local bishop.

In a business session the convention participants passed resolutions that:

— Affirmed the organization's "primary focus" on spirituality reflected in service.

— Adopted the Smile Train — an organization devoted to surgical repair of cleft lip and cleft palate — as a national charity.

— Called on its state legislative chairwomen to promote legislation creating umbilical-cord stem-cell banks as a resource for stem-cell research and therapy.

— Committed the organization to promote environmental awareness and Catholic teaching on respect and care for the environment.

— Called on members to "pray that the dignity of the illegal immigrants and their families be respected" and that the public debate on immigration and the status of undocumented workers

in the United States "be marked by prudence and compassion."

— Urged members to pray for the safety of U.S. military personnel and seek out ways to assist the families of troops who are stationed overseas.

— Asked members to pray for victims of human trafficking, most of whom are women and girls, and assist them legislatively, financially, and in other ways.

The convention also affirmed its support for the Apostleship of the Sea, which provides pastoral ministry to seafarers, and urged the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to continue its support of that ministry.

It asked the national regent to keep members updated on the work of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, formed in 1903, has about 90,000 members in 1,400 courts throughout the world.

Contributing to this story was Chris Williams.



TEXAS CDA REPRESENTATIVES — Texas CDA members (l. to r.) Duchess Collins of Sugar Land, Terri Burto of New Braunfels, and Libby Ramirez of Victoria, attended the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Biennial National Convention in Minneapolis July 16-21. At the convention, Collins and Ramirez were elected to posts on the national board.

Two Texans elected to national board at CDA convention

Two Catholic Daughters from Texas were elected to the National Board of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at its 51st Biennial National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, held July 17-21. Libby Ramirez of Victoria was elected national regent-elect, and Duchess Collins of Sugar Land was elected one of nine national directors.

Of the nearly 900 participants representing various states, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Guam, more than 100 were attendees from Texas, and included delegates, alternates, members, clergy, spouses, and guests. The theme of the convention was "Women of Faith and Vision."

Clergy from Texas attending the convention included Father Donald Ruppert, Texas State Court clergy consultant of East Bernard, and Father Roy Oggero of Sugar Land.

Texas State Regent Olga Samaniego of El Paso accepted a certificate for the state for winning second place in its division in the national newsletter contest. Texas was also awarded certificates for outstanding participation in the following Circle of Love cat-

egories: Education, Leadership, Quality of Life, National Charitable Projects, and Legislation. The state regent also accepted a plaque for the state for having instituted the most new courts and a certificate for participation in Read Across America.

In addition to Olga Samaniego, Texas CDA officers in attendance included First Vice State Regent Carolyn Bachmann, Scotland, of the Diocese of Fort Worth; Second Vice State Regent Sheila Martinka, Pasadena; State Secretary Carolyn Malik, Shiner; and State Treasurer Peggy Rosales, Austin.

The convention offered CDA members the opportunity to listen to keynote presentations and reports from various regions of the country; to elect new members to the national board, and to debate, amend, and pass resolutions, including pledges to take actions ranging from supporting U.S. troops and their families to assisting victims of human trafficking. The officers and members of New Mexico State — site of the 2008 Biennial National Convention — presented preliminary plans for the next convention and invited all to attend.



CDA OFFICERS — Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mother Seton #2513, celebrated the installation of officers and 21 new members with a Mass July 15 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller. Bishop Kevin Vann presided, and concelebrants included Court Chaplain Father Dennis Smith and Father Gary Geurtz. CDA officers, standing with Bishop Vann (center) and Fr. Smith (right of bishop), are (others, l. to r.) Darlene Sullano, financial secretary; Cruz Y. Rivera, vice regent; Angela M. Gallegos, regent; Jane Savoy, district deputy; Dorothy Hess, recording secretary; and Tunie Burke, treasurer. More than 130 people, including representatives from other local CDA courts, attended the following luncheon, which was hosted by the Knights of Columbus, San Juan Diego Assembly. To learn more about CDA, contact Cruz Rivera, membership chair, at (817) 605-1741.

CART services for deaf and hard of hearing available

For those people of the Diocese of Fort Worth who are deaf or hard of hearing but who do not use sign language, CART (Computer Assisted Real-time Translation) services are provided at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 2100 North Davis Drive in Arlington, at the weekly 10 a.m. Sunday Mass.

CART services involve the transcription of what is being said during the Mass being projected onto a screen so that

deaf or hard of hearing persons may read it. A pew will be reserved for those persons needing this support service.

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane in Grapevine, also has a CART service-supported Mass on the first Sunday of the month, September through May, at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Mary Cinatl at mcinatl@fwdioc.org or by calling (817) 284-3019 (voice and TTY).

Seminarian Welcome Dinner benefiting Holy Trinity Seminary to be held Oct. 10

Bishop Kevin Vann recently announced an increase in the number of men studying for the priesthood this fall. Current plans indicate 25 candidates — the largest number ever. Part of this increase is represented in seven college students who will be studying at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, according to a seminary press release. This continues a long tradition of priestly formation in the Diocese of Fort Worth, going back more than four decades. Currently, 20 Holy Trin-

ity alumni serve in the diocese, the press release states.

The annual Seminarian Welcome Dinner is an opportunity to show support for new and returning seminarians at Holy Trinity Seminary. The event will be held Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the Westin Park Central Hotel, 12720 Merit Drive in North Dallas. The evening will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by evening prayer at 7 p.m. A live auction will include items such as a dinner for six, hosted by Bishop

Kevin Vann in his home. The event will conclude at 10 p.m.

All proceeds are used to help in funding seminary programs, renovations, and operations. According to press materials, \$80,000 in funds were raised at last year's event.

Tickets are \$75 each; the cost is \$1,000 for a sponsored table of 10. The deadline to purchase is Sept. 1. For more details or to purchase tickets or sponsorships, call (972) 438-2212 or visit online at www.holytrinityseminary.com.

Group works in churches to bring awareness of, tips on energy cuts

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Interfaith Power & Light sounds like the name of a public utility, complete with monthly bills. But it's not.

Interfaith Power & Light, active in 21 states and the District of Columbia, works at educating churches and their members about how to make a dent in global warming. It's part of the organization's way of caring for God's creation, and the work is done on many fronts.

"The focus is mitigating climate change but through congregations ... making congregations the model of behavior for individuals through conservation, new technologies; making congregations more energy-efficient; and then having it filter down to the individuals to make changes in their lifestyles and make their lives more energy-efficient," said Tim Kautza, science and environmental education specialist for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, a member of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light.

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light operates on several levels, said its director, Father Charles Morris, pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in the Detroit suburb of Wyandotte, Michigan.

One is a Web site with an online shopping cart where customers can order compact fluorescent lights and power-saving appliances at a discount. "They're making it a little bit easier" for consumers to be energy-conscious, Kautza said of the Michigan group.

St. Elizabeth spent \$5,000 on an energy audit in 1997 and recouped the expense within a year by implementing the audit's energy-saving recommendations, according to Fr. Morris.

"We can save money as well as make a sacramental witness of our deepest values, with our care of creation," Fr. Morris told Catholic News Service in a telephone inter-

view from the church rectory.

He recalled being pastor of another parish in the Archdiocese of Detroit where the church was "built in 1885 when coal was three bucks a ton."

"We had to keep the church at 40 degrees" because of the cost to heat it, he said. "We had to have daily Mass in an anteroom."

At St. Elizabeth, "we have four solar [power] systems in the rectory," Fr. Morris said: a solar thermal unit for the hot water, cutting natural gas usage in half; a 1.1-kilowatt photovoltaic unit; a 400-watt solar-wind hybrid turbine—it's a hybrid "because of the vagaries of Michigan's climate," he said; and a solar attic fan.

"You can finance on-site renewable [energy] to reduce your ecological footprint," he noted.

Fr. Morris' next project is the old parish grade school, two rooms of which are still used weekdays for a preschool. "We have to heat the whole building because of the two classrooms. We've signed a contract with Johnson Controls for 20 percent discount on labor and 30 percent discount on equipment to zone out the rooms" not being used, he said.

In California, 76 Catholic parishes are part of the 384-church California Interfaith Power & Light, said Jessica Brown, the group's outreach coordinator. When not working as the conservation group's outreach coordinator, Brown is taking master's-level studies in social and cultural ethics at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California.

Public policy and education are the California group's goals. It has secured commitments from 200 churches — half of them Catholic, Brown said — to show "An Inconvenient Truth," a documentary on climate change featuring former Vice President Al Gore.

At the state level, the group is working to pass a bill mandating

reductions in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010. California Interfaith Power & Light is working with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Dioceses of Oakland, San José, and Stockton on getting word on climate change out to all their people, Brown said. And in Washington, California Interfaith Power & Light is working with the state's congressional delegation on bills that would require the federal automotive fleet to be more fuel-efficient.

One of the newer Interfaith Power & Light affiliates is Texas Impact, formed by the state's Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian leaders to address social issues.

Bee Morehead, Texas Impact's executive director, said she sees value in church participation.

"We're in kind of a polarized situation in this country. Any issue that is ... the least little bit hard gets polarized so quickly," she told CNS.

"If we do it right — and there's plenty of room to do it wrong — faith communities are one of the few remaining voluntary institutions in our community where we can come together to talk seriously about hard issues that have impact on the whole community," she said.

Texas' inconvenient truth, as Morehead puts it, is that "the fossil fuel industry has made Texas the seventh largest economy in the world. It's driven by a thing that is now understood to hurt and kill people.... Who wants to hear that? It would be like going to a church in West Virginia that is full of coal miners and saying that coal-fired power plants are killing children with asthma."

Interfaith Power & Light affiliates are also active in Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia.

NCCW General Assembly set for Sept. 21-23

The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) will hold its 2006 General Assembly at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Sept. 21-23. The assembly will open Thursday, Sept. 21, with Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee and will close Saturday, Sept. 23, following the assembly banquet. Installation of new province directors will take place at the closing business session on Saturday.

With the theme "Yes, Lord, Your Servant is Listening," the

conference will offer participants from more than 5,000 affiliated Catholic women's organizations in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States the opportunity to attend a wide variety of workshops and listening forums, and to participate in leadership and training sessions. Sister Amy Hoey, a Sister of Mercy and former staff member to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Department of Family, Laity, Women, and Youth, will offer a keynote presentation based upon the U.S. bishops' document "Co-workers

in the Vineyard of the Lord," which supports lay ministry as a vital part of the Catholic Church's mission to share the Gospel message with the world.

The cost of registration is \$285, and includes all sessions, materials, and the awards reception; the registration deadline is Sept. 1. Room rates range from \$119 to \$139, depending upon the number of occupants. For more information or to register, visit the NCCW Web site at www.nccw.org or call the NCCW office at (703) 224-0990.



CARMEUNITES RECEIVE DONATION — Carmelite Auxiliary officers (foreground, l. to r.) Ann Carminati, 2006-2007 president; Kathy Thome, 2005-2006 president; and fundraising chairpersons Connie Meyer and Carole Weaver, are shown presenting a \$15,000 check to (background, l. to r.) Reverend Mother Maria and Mother Ann Teresa of the Carmelite Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in Arlington. Proceeds from the auxiliary's recent fundraising activity, "Angels on Broadway," made this yearly gift to the nuns possible. The local auxiliary is able to help with many of the living expenses of the Arlington cloister through this annual fundraiser and other fundraising efforts.

Catholic ecumenists rename national organization

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers has changed its name to Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.

The acronym NADEO, familiar to those in ecumenical circles, now becomes CADEIO.

Father Robert B. Flannery of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, the association's president, told Catholic News Service by e-mail July 26 that the name change was adopted at the association's recent annual general assembly.

He said the purpose was to communicate better the nature of the organization, as Catholic, and the work of its members, most of whom are responsible for interreligious as well as ecumenical work.

Ecumenism refers strictly to relations between or among Christian churches in the search for Christian unity. When any

partner in a dialogue or joint effort is a member of a non-Christian religion such as Judaism, Islam, or Buddhism, the relationship is called interreligious, not ecumenical.

Fr. Flannery said the name change was also made to be sensitive to the national ecumenical associations from other Christian traditions that use the name of the denomination in their titles, such as the Lutheran Ecumenical Representative Network and the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.

He said that at the assembly the association also changed its bylaws so that all four top officers will be elected by the assembly. Previously the assembly elected only the president, who would then appoint the rest, with the approval of what was then called the executive committee — now renamed the association's board of directors.

Memorial Mass for Bishop Cassata to be celebrated Sept. 8

This September will mark 17 years since the death of Bishop John J. Cassata, first bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Bishop Cassata served the people of local church from August 1969 through September 1980.

Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate a memorial Mass for Bishop Cassata on the anniversary of his death, Sept. 8. The Mass will be celebrated at noon at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth. Priests of the diocese are invited to concelebrate.



Bishop John J. Cassata

All people of the Diocese of Fort Worth and beyond are welcome to attend.

Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters leave legacy of compassionate care

By Mary E. Manley, Correspondent

Editor's Note: Since this article was written, one of the sisters who played a significant role in the ministry at United Regional Health Care System and who is quoted in this story, Sister Ancilla Sojka, has died. Her obituary appears on the next page.

The large white cross atop the United Regional Health Care System (URHCS) 11th Street Campus will remain a bright beacon for Wichita Falls residents and wayfarers alike, even after the departure of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN). It will also serve as a reminder of the sterling legacy of the sisters in Wichita Falls.

July 31 marked the official last day of active duty for the CSFN contingent of six nuns who have been based in pastoral care at this campus and have served at the URHCS 8th Street campus as well. Sisters Irena Asztemborska, Geraldine daSilva, Miriam Stepniowska, Ancilla Sojka, Virginia Melan, and Michaela Tomkowiak are in the midst of new life journeys, working from either their mother house in Grand Prairie or engaged in pastoral work elsewhere.

Since Jan. 1, 1935, when Bethania Hospital was opened, Sisters of the Holy Family have made great strides in bringing exemplary pastoral and health care to the people of Wichita Falls. Just over seven decades ago, the intrepid order of sisters began making their impact as they worked diligently to fulfill what came to be their mission statement: "To provide access to a continuum of health care services delivered in a spirit of Christian compassion and love, regardless of religion, race, or economic status."

Nan Ruddy, whose parish family ties, both through her family and her husband's, go back further than Bethania's Depression-era creation, attested to the sisters being faithful to their mission. She recalled their hallmark being the "personal touch with which they served, particularly since their service was built upon life vocation rather than being just a job."

Ruddy said their vocational commitment has made all the

difference in how they have related to people, going above and beyond the call of duty. Their commitment was obvious in joyous times as well as in the highly stressful situations that come with ministering in a hospital setting. She added that she believed the quality of their service to others, regardless of their religious persuasion, was particularly impressive to non-Catholics.

"It is unimaginable that the sisters won't be walking the halls anymore, scarcely fathomable what their absence will mean. Our community has lost more than we realize," Ruddy said.

Judy Shaw, local Sacred Heart Parish worship coordinator and receptionist, and septuagenarian Walter Brady, fellow lifelong parishioner, concurred with Ruddy. Both remembered the nuns as a constant presence in good times, and in tragedy, giving moral and spiritual boosts along the way, including providing holy Communion to those in the hospital.

Pat Saulsbury, seasoned Bethania/URHCS pastoral care representative, recently reported many inquiries to her office about the nuns' departure. Many people, she said, expressed concern and sadness, along with prayers, heartfelt goodbyes, and much sharing of memories regarding the Bethania Sisters, as they are fondly called.

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth were founded in Rome in 1875 by Polish native Frances Siedliska, also known by



RECEPTION FOR SISTERS — Two public receptions were held for the departing Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN), highlighting 71 years of service to the community of Wichita Falls. On July 30, approximately 150 friends honored the sisters at a reception at Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls. Pictured at this gathering are (l. to r.) Father Ivor Koch, Sr. Miriam Stepniowska, Sr. Ancilla Sojka, Sr. Virginia Melan (kneeling), Sr. Irena Asztemborska, Sr. Geraldine daSilva, Sr. Michaela Tomkowiak, and Father John Swistovich. As many as 250 persons came to bid the nuns a fond adieu at an Aug. 8 reception hosted by URHCS at the Woman's Forum. Phyllis Cowling, URHCS president/CEO, welcomed everyone and shared her organization's high regard for the sisters. (Photo by Mary E. Manley)



her title Blessed Mother Mary of Jesus of the Good Shepherd. Ultimately established worldwide, the nuns came to the United States in 1885.

Fifty years later, the sisters were assigned to Wichita Falls, then a growing Northwest Texas hub for people who made their livelihoods largely in the fields of farming, ranching, manufacturing, and oil production. The congregation assumed ownership of the former Hargrave-Walker Hospital and started with five sisters and a handful of lay staff. Over the next six years, they managed to serve about 6,000 patients and attend to the needs of 2,000 babies.

Over the years the hospital made expansions in 1943, 1947, 1954, and 1959, bringing an impressive level of health care, higher education for staff, and community service enhancements continuing through the present day.

The nonprofit hospital was named Bethania which means "House of Affliction." It was chosen to bring to mind "the qualities so beautifully exemplified in Christ's own relationships with his contemporaries: friendliness, compassion,

sympathy, and hospitality," according to Sr. Ancilla.

Over the decades, CSFN ministries have included nursing, radiology, patient relations, food service, medical records, pharmacy, and administration, and, most recently, ongoing pastoral care provided by the latest cadre of nuns.

In October 1997, Bethania Regional Health Care Center and Wichita General Hospital affiliated, and the CSFNs became a co-founder of the new hospital, United Regional Health Care System or URHCS.

Today, with a population of well over 100,000, URHCS is Wichita Falls' largest private employer. The system is the largest health care provider outside of the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex to the southeast, Oklahoma City to the north, and Amarillo to the northwest, and serves some 200,000 people in Wichita Falls and in seven surrounding counties, according to Kim Maddin, URHCS director of community relations.

Phyllis Cowling, URHCS president/CEO, expressed deep respect for the nuns and sincere sympathy for the impact their departure will have

Below, and background, left: The 11th Street complex — once known as Bethania Hospital and now part of the United Regional Health Care System of Wichita Falls — was where the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth spent many hours ministering to the sick. Bethania was opened by the sisters in 1935. In late June, the congregation announced it would end its relationship with URHCS, effective July 31, to serve other diocesan and order ministerial needs.

on the community. She said she is already addressing the need for their spiritual legacy to be memorialized concretely on the URHCS site. The memorial design is still undetermined, but will be well-placed for all to appreciate, she said. The historic Bethania Chapel will become interdenominational as part of new pastoral services being developed, Cowling said.

Speaking on behalf of her congregation, Sr. Ancilla expressed confidence that United Regional will continue to honor the CSFN ministry. She said the sisters' prayers on behalf of the expanding hospital and the people it serves will continue, unceasingly.

Wichita Falls has been called "The City that Faith Built." Undoubtedly, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth have been instrumental in furthering this motto. As noted on a large bulletin board in the current pastoral care office, they have long been about the business of "Bringing Healing by Building Faith, Hope, and Courage." Their legacy demonstrates they have never settled for less.

See related story on Father Aidon Donlon's ministry, next page.

Diocesan

Father Aidon Donlon will carry on Catholic ministry at URHCS

By Mary E. Manley, Correspondent

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

— John 3:16

Father Aidon Donlon, SAC, claims this Scripture as his favorite, one that has guided him in his 51 years as a priest, 31 of them as hospital chaplain in Wichita Falls. Fr. Donlon first began his service in this city as spiritual leader of the former Bethania Hospital, which evolved into United Regional Health Care System's (URHCS) 11th Street campus.

When asked why he had chosen this Scripture, Fr. Donlon responded, "Because it reminds me of the Lord's love being so great that he came to save and redeem every one of us."

The headline on an August 2005 Wichita Falls *Times-Record News* article about Fr. Donlon reflects how convincingly he has embraced this belief. The article, recognizing Fr. Donlon's golden anniversary as a priest and his seasoned chaplain service, was labeled with the headline "In the spirit of love." The Pallotine father has come to be recognized for his kind, Christ-like ways and his ecumenical stance in this community of 100,000.

Cindi Majewski, URHCS medical records director, has witnessed his unfailing compassion with patients, their family members, and staff alike, regardless of denomination, a compassion she has witnessed since he first came to Bethania in 1975. In fact, Our Lady Queen of Peace parishioner Majewski noted that the priest had been instrumental in her conversion to Catholicism.

Knights of Columbus Council #1473 representative Mike Brown is another OLQP parishioner and devoted fan of Fr. Donlon. Brown, the lay spearhead for the annual Father Donlon Vocations Dinner, said, "Fr. Donlon exemplifies what being a Catholic priest, hospital chaplain, and KC member are all about. He is a true follower of Christ."

Joann Riddle, former nurse, and Rick Hutchings, Sacred



Father Aidon Donlon, SAC

(Photo by Mary E. Manley)

Heart business manager, who have known Fr. Donlon since he first came to the city, spoke highly of the Irish priest and his contribu-

tions. Sacred Heart parishioner Riddle, concurred with Hutchings in recalling the white-haired priest's continual support, guidance, and friendship through the good times and the rough on their life journeys.

Fr. Donlon was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, June 2, 1929. His father was a lawyer, and his mother, a school teacher. His three brothers, Brendan, Kevin, and Angus, also became priests.

The Roscrea native entered the Society of the Catholic (SAC) Apostolate, or Pallotine Fathers, in January 1948. He was ordained in August 1955 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and came to the United States in 1956. Before coming to Wichita Falls, he led churches in Lubbock; Denver City, Texas; and Ely, Nevada, and was chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Muskegon, Michigan. In October 1994, he was named to the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher.

Recently, Fr. Donlon confirmed that, even after the sisters depart, he will remain to serve the many folks who depend on him. "That is," he said, with his typically Irish droll wit, "if they will have me."

"It's a long way to Tipperary," as the British World War I anthem goes, yet, in coming to know Fr. Donlon, it is clear he has claimed Wichita Falls as his home, and that there is no other place he would rather be. In the words of his devoted longtime assistant, Pat Saulsbury, there are countless supporters of this beloved man, who wouldn't have it any other way.

Sister Ancilla Sojka, CSFN, who served in hospital ministry in Wichita Falls, dies

Sister Mary Ancilla Sojka, 81, died of congestive heart failure Aug. 7 in Wichita Falls. She was a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth for 66 years. Memorial liturgies were celebrated at the congregation's provincialate in Des Plaines, Illinois, Aug. 10, and on Aug. 11 in the chapel at United Regional Health Care System in Wichita Falls. A funeral Mass was celebrated at the sisters' convent in Grand Prairie Aug. 12; interment was at Sutherland Memorial Park in Grand Prairie.



Sister Ancilla Sojka, CSFN

Sr. Ancilla was born in Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 7, 1924. Baptized with the name Dolores Ursula, she was the oldest of three children and the only daughter born to parents Peter and Elisabeth (Wrzesinska) Sojka. She attended Nazareth Academy in Des Plaines, a girls' school operated by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the congregation that she joined as an aspirant in August 1940. She became a novice in August 1942 after graduating from high school, and was given the name Sister Mary Ancilla. She pronounced final vows Aug. 5, 1950, in the congregation's Sacred Heart Province.

Sr. Ancilla spent much of her early life in the congregation in the teaching ministry, having earned an undergraduate degree from De Paul

University in 1958. She served as a teacher and administrator in various Catholic schools, and went on to earn a graduate degree in education in 1975 from Sienna Heights College. She later pursued studies in Gerontology and Nursing Home Management, and became a licensed nursing home administrator in 1978, serving for eight years as administrator of Nazarethville, the congregation's home for the aged in Des Plaines.

Having served from 1982 to 1989 as a pioneer in the congregation's mission efforts in the Philippines, Sr. Ancilla was considered a leader within her religious order and came to Texas in 1992 to serve as provincial superior within the Blessed Frances Siedliska Province. In this role, she became a board member of Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler and of Bethania Hospital

in Wichita Falls, and was involved in the subsequent mergers at both hospitals.

Following her term as superior, Sr. Ancilla chose to stay in Texas and to take an assignment in pastoral care at United Regional Health Care System in Wichita Falls, where she continued to serve until recently. "Her life was spent [in] the service of others, and we are all blessed to have known her and to have been the undeserving beneficiaries of her incredible love and service," wrote Phyllis Cowling, the hospital's chief executive officer, in a statement released to hospital staff after Sr. Ancilla's death.

"Sr. Ancilla was always interested in people, finding joy and energy in her interaction with them," wrote Sr. Teresa Mika, CSFN. "Her genuine interest in people generated an enormous list of friends, here in Texas, throughout the country, as well as around the world. She is remembered for her quick wit and sense of humor."

She is survived by a brother, Walter Sojka, of Chicago; two nieces, Susan Accardi and Adrienne Jaworski; several great-nieces and great-nephews; several cousins; and her religious sisters. Memorial gifts in her honor may be made to Nazarethville Home for Aging Seniors, 300 N. River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016.



CAMPUS MINISTRY GROTTTO — A new Grotto at the University of North Texas/Texas Woman's University Catholic Campus Ministry Center was recently dedicated in memory of Marianist Father Bob Lewandowski, who served the Catholic community from 1990 until his death in August 2003. The construction of the grotto, which was funded by students, alumni, and local businesses, was carried out by present and former students under the guidance of Eric Gray (left), campus minister. Gray is shown with a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard on the occasion of the grotto's dedication.

Honored Graduates

THE COLONY THE COLONY HIGH SCHOOL



Jamie Wright
Valedictorian

The Colony High School valedictorian Jamie Wright attends Holy Cross Church in The Colony. She is a member of the youth group and youth softball team. She has served as a church office volunteer and nursery babysitter. As a member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered at the local library, elementary school carnivals, the community Easter egg hunt, and the school's marching band clinic. Jamie is the daughter of James and Kathleen Wright. She will attend the University of Texas at Dallas.

DENTON DENTON HIGH SCHOOL



Kaitlin Burke
Valedictorian

Denton High School valedictorian Kaitlin Burke is a member of St. Mark Church in Denton. There, she was involved in the Life Teen youth program and served the parish as a lector, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and a Vacation Bible School volunteer. Her community service projects included work with the Children's Cumberland Home, the Nelson Center for Mistreated and Misguided Children, and the Mildred Hawk Elementary School Library. The daughter of Patrick and Denise Burke, Kaitlin plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station.

OUR LADY OF GRACE HIGH SCHOOL



Robert Lavery
Outstanding Senior Award

Robert Lavery received the Outstanding Senior Award for Our Lady of Grace High School in Denton. At St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, Robert was an altar server and a member of the parish Vocations Committee. Community service projects included Katrina Relief, Pro-Life Rally and rosaries, and the Christian Community Action. The son of Robert and Katherine Lavery, Robert will attend the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

Blessing of Graduates

Before you were even formed, God knew you. While in your mother's womb, God named you. At your birth, God's breath filled you with life. Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time. And so we pray,

God of our beginnings, We thank you for the gifts of these graduates;

Their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words.

Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward into the world that awaits, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence.

Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit.

Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness while they help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light.

We ask this blessing upon each of them, In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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FORT WORTH AMON CARTER- RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Laura Saucedo
Valedictorian

Laura Saucedo, 2006 valedictorian for Amon-Carter Riverside High School in Fort Worth, is a member of St. George Parish in Fort Worth. She has served as a lector, religious education teacher, and youth group member. In addition to her parish activities, Laura has performed weekend school clean-ups, volunteered at the Fort Worth Zoo, helped with school blood drives, and collected toys, teddy bears, and coats for children in need. She will attend the University of Texas at Arlington. Laura is the daughter of José and Julia Saucedo.

CASSATA HIGH SCHOOL



Amy Lynn Price
Valedictorian

Cassata High School valedictorian Amy Lynn Price spent 184 hours doing volunteer work at St. Andrew School in Fort Worth. Her hours included preparing labs, assisting in experiments, grading assignments, and assessing inventory. She also volunteers with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and has earned the Presidential Scholarship from Texas Wesleyan University as well as the Leo Benavides Award presented by Tarrant County Challenge. Amy is the daughter of Patrick Price.

CROWLEY NORTH CROWLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Daniel Joseph Runyan
Valedictorian

North Crowley High School valedictorian Daniel Joseph Runyan is a member of St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, where he was part of the youth group and participated in the Youth 2000 retreats. He has done volunteer work at a local hospital and donated graphic designs to various non-profit organizations. He also took advantage of volunteer opportunities with the Key Club at North Crowley High. The son of Michael and Mary Runyan, Daniel will attend the University of Texas at Austin.

DENTON CALVARY ACADEMY



Katie Lira
Salutatorian

Denton Calvary Academy salutatorian Katie Lira is a member of St. Mark Parish in Denton. She participated in the Life Teen program and served as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. She will attend Texas Woman's University in Denton. Katie is the daughter of Ralph and Susan Lira.



Erika Metzler
Outstanding Senior Award

Erika Metzler received the Outstanding Senior Award for Our Lady of Grace High School in Denton. A member of St. Mark Parish in Denton, she has served as a eucharistic minister, lector, Life Teen member, confirmation retreat youth leader, and was a participant in the 2005 World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany. As a member of Regnum Christi, a Catholic ministry group working with churches and charities for children, she took part in five-day mission trips to Atlanta, Georgia, and Chicago, Illinois. She has been recognized for giving more than 100 hours in community service. Erika is the daughter of Michael and Tamera Metzler.

RYAN HIGH SCHOOL



Alessandra Maria Masciarelli
Valedictorian

Alessandra Maria Masciarelli achieved the honor of valedictorian for Ryan High School in Denton. A member of St. Mark Parish in Denton, she has been a Life Teen member, participating in parish clothing and canned food drives. Additional service projects include delivering food to elderly residents and adopting a family for Christmas. Alessandra is the daughter of Filippo and Alice Masciarelli. She will attend the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

ERA ERA ISD



Katie Metzler
Valedictorian

Era ISD valedictorian Katie Metzler is active at St. Mary's Parish in Gainesville, where she has been a lector, Sunday school teaching assistant, usher, Children's Liturgy of the Word teaching assistant, and a member of the youth group. Community service projects include volunteer work at Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and Relay for Life. She also assisted with roadside clean up, fixed a house for Katrina evacuees, and served as a Players in Progress coach. The daughter of Karl and Kathy Metzler, Katie will attend the University of Texas at Dallas.

BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Alexandra Villanueva
Salutatorian,
National Hispanic Scholar

National Hispanic Scholar Alexandra Villanueva was the Bethesda Christian School salutatorian for the class of 2006. She is a member of St. Stephen Parish in Weatherford, where she participates in youth group Bible studies, attends post-confirmation religious education, and plays in the church band. Outside of parish life, she volunteered with the Center of Hope Food Shelter and served on the student council. She will attend Texas A&M University in College Station. Alexandra is the daughter of George and Elsa Villanueva.

C.F. BREWER HIGH SCHOOL



Jeffrey Thomas Tate
Valedictorian

Jeffrey Thomas Tate, C.F. Brewer High School valedictorian, is a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Fort Worth, where he has delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to needy families and served as a teacher's aide for Religious Formation of Children. He has been an active volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, and GM-UAW Because We Care. Jeffrey will attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. He is the son of Garland and Sharon Tate.

Honored Graduates

NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Jessica Ann Joseph
Valedictorian
National Merit Finalist

National Merit Finalist Jessica Ann Joseph achieved the honor of valedictorian for Nolan Catholic High School. At St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, she served as a Communion minister, religious education teacher's aide, and was a fall festival volunteer. In addition to her parish involvement, Jessica volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and was a part of the Christian Ministry Leadership Team. The daughter of George and Laly Joseph, Jessica will study chemistry at Texas A&M University in College Station.



Robert Sparks
Appointment to the United States Air Force Academy

Robert Sparks, the son of Bob and Sandra Sparks, has been appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. A member of St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, Robert was an active volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

*Blessed
are the
peacemakers;
they shall be
called
children of
God.*

Matthew 5:9



Joe Richard Kilianski III
Salutatorian

Nolan Catholic High School salutatorian Joe Richard Kilianski III is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine. During summers, he worked at Holy Trinity School assisting the maintenance director in painting classrooms, painting the gym, assembling scaffolding, patching drywall, and moving and assembling furniture. An Eagle Scout with the Silver Palm, he supervised the construction and installation of superior quality podiums for Holy Trinity School for his Eagle service project. Joe plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station. He is the son of Dr. Joe Kilianski Jr. and Helene Kilianski.



Cory Zebian
Appointment to the United States Naval Academy

Cory Zebian, the son of Bob and Rita Zebian, has been appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. As a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Community in Colleyville, Cory served as a cross bearer and lector. Additional volunteer projects include work at GRACE Food Bank and community events through Nolan Outreach with elementary school children.

NORTH SIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Bich Dieu
Valedictorian

Bich Dieu achieved the honor of valedictorian at North Side High School in Fort Worth. A member of Christ the King Church in Fort Worth, Bich participated in the Sunday School program there. Service projects included work with the Tarrant County Food Bank, North Side Interchurch Agency, Trinity Trash Bash, Cowtown Clean Up, Mayfest, North Side Recycling, and the Boys and Girls Club. Bich is the daughter of Kinh Dieu and Loan Dancj and will attend Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

SOUTH HILLS HIGH SCHOOL



Michael Andrew McKinney
Salutatorian

South Hills High School salutatorian Michael Andrew McKinney is a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth. He served as a middle school youth group assistant for four years, was a member of the YSN high school youth group, participated in the Youth Praise Band, and was a member of the confirmation team. Community service activities include Camp Fort Worth, The Pines Catholic Camp support staff, and the YES (Youth Encouraging Service) Committee. The son of David and Linda McKinney, Michael will attend the University of Texas at Arlington.

GRANBURY HIGH SCHOOL



Eric Robert Mueller
Appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy

Eric Robert Mueller, the son of Robert and Hilary Mueller, has been appointed to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. At St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Granbury, Eric served as a Youth Council member, usher, altar server, and, for his Eagle Scout project, landscaped the front of the church. Outside of parish life, he was involved with Junior Leadership in Granbury, Habitat for Humanity, and Scouts Roadside Cleanup.

MUENSTER HIGH SCHOOL



Abby Crystle Endres
Valedictorian

Muenster High School valedictorian Abby Crystle Endres is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster, where she participated in the religious education program, was involved with the Sacred Heart youth group, served as a lector and eucharistic minister for the youth Mass, and was a youth retreat volunteer. In addition to her parish activities, Abby served her community through numerous institutions and organizations such as the St. Richard's Villa Nursing Home, Muenster Memorial Hospital, the National Honor Society, and Keep Muenster Beautiful. Abby is the daughter of Monte and Jacque Endres. She will attend the University of Texas at Austin.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Joelle Ruth Fuhrmann
Valedictorian

Joelle Ruth Fuhrmann, valedictorian of Sacred Heart School in Muenster, is a member of Sacred Heart Parish. She served as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, music minister, and volunteer for various parish events. She was a Hugh O'Brian Ambassador and Counselor, a member of the Keep Muenster Beautiful Board, a volunteer lifeguard, Red Cross swimming instructor, volunteer chemistry and math tutor, a participant in the Shattered Dreams Program, and was active with the Community Outreach Program. Joelle will study engineering at the Texas Tech University Honors College. She is the daughter of Francis and Cathie Fuhrmann.



David A. Walterscheid
Salutatorian

Sacred Heart High School salutatorian David A. Walterscheid is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster, where he has been an altar server and a volunteer for various parish and school functions and repair and maintenance projects. In addition to his parish activities, he assists with local trash clean-up and serves as a referee for the Youth Soccer Association. David is the son of Anthony Jay and Jeannene Walterscheid. He will attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

MUNDAY HIGH SCHOOL



Kaitlyn Marie Sosolik
Valedictorian

Munday High School valedictorian Kaitlyn Marie Sosolik is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Rhineland, where she participates in the church choir, is a lector for Youth Sunday, and is an altar server. Community projects included membership in the Community Life Involvement Council for four years, picking up trash with CLIC and the Purple Cloud Band, and donating blood to the Red Cross. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Bobby and Debbie Sosolik. She will attend Angelo State University in San Angelo.

STEPHENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Cheri Ann Spellmeier
Salutatorian

Cheri Ann Spellmeier distinguished herself as salutatorian for the Stephenville High School graduating class of 2006. She is a member of St. Brendan Parish in Stephenville, where she has served as a religious education teacher and lector. In addition to her parish activities, Cheri Ann has been a nursing home volunteer, NYSP Camp counselor, and a Stephenville Park and Recreation basketball coach. She will major in education and math at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. Cheri Ann is the daughter of Robert and Cheryl Spellmeier.

WINDTHORST HIGH SCHOOL



Faryn Stallcup
Valedictorian

Windthorst High School valedictorian Faryn Stallcup is a member of St. Mary Parish in Windthorst. She has served as a member of the youth ministry, Youth Ministry Leadership Board, and as a greeter. Additional activities included Bible School volunteer, Christmas park decoration, coaching little league basketball, and participating in the summer library program. Faryn is the daughter of Robert and Gina Stallcup. She will attend Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls.



Danielle Veitenheimer
Salutatorian

Danielle Veitenheimer achieved the honor of salutatorian for the Windthorst High School graduating class of 2006. She is a member of St. Mary Parish in Windthorst, where she has been involved with the Youth Leadership Board, youth group, youth choir, and served as a eucharistic minister and greeter. Other service projects include Nursing Home Ministry, Bible School volunteer, fire department volunteer, town clean-ups, Christmas park decoration, and coaching little league basketball. Danielle is the daughter of Charles and Mitzi Veitenheimer. She will attend the University of North Texas in Denton.

Our Father guides actions of Camp Fort Worth participants

By Jeff Hedglen, Director, Camp Fort Worth

Our Father who art in heaven.... Thus begins the prayer most Catholics have known since they were children. Two thousand years ago Jesus taught the multitudes how to pray, and in the process gave us this famous prayer. This summer more than 180 teenagers and 60 adults put the words of the Our Father into action as they do every year at Camp Fort Worth.

These 240 people represent 23 parish communities from Dublin, in the southern area of the diocese, to Quana, in the far north-west corner. They gathered at St. Matthew Parish in Arlington in June and at Notre Dame High School in Wichita Falls in July.

The goal of Camp Fort Worth is to put our faith into action. We do this by doing service ministry during the day at places like Boys and Girls Clubs, nursing homes, Hope Tutoring, Mission Arlington, and Faith Mission. We also build baby beds from scratch that are donated to local pregnancy centers, and we do a lot of sprucing up at the place that

hosts us.

There is a lot of sweat, tears, smiles, and laughter behind all of the work, but the faith in action does not stop at the work site. After we are cleaned up from the day's work, we move to our evening program that is filled with faith sharing, powerful worship, and solemn prayer experiences. Interwoven with these moments are the deep and lasting friendships that are formed. These friendships develop into more than just being "camp buddies"; they are a very real experience of the Body of Christ, for they are formed in the midst of service to Jesus and his body.

Above: Cory Osborne of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Carrollton; Joseph Crowley of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Arlington; and Dave Mallari of St. Mark Parish, Denton, prepare wood for use in building infant cribs at St. Matthew Parish in Arlington. (Photo by Adrienne Newcomb)

Each year at camp we take as our theme the prayer that Jesus taught us. Every morning at breakfast the campers are given a button with one phrase of the Our Father on it. The idea is to reflect on this part of the prayer as they go about their day work-

ing and praying. At the end of the day we strive to connect the events of the day with the Scripture of the day.

What follows are some reflections from this summer's campers on the ancient prayer made new each day as we say...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...

The singing at Camp Fort Worth has made worshipping God very special to me. Worship time was a good way to just wind down from the hard work we had been doing that day and to praise God and to thank him. It was also a time to lift up the Lord and sing about how holy, magnificent, and glorious he is. When you sing, you pray twice, so I know we all did a lot of praying. Singing for God was very meaningful to me at CFW!

— Heather Myers, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Arlington

Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

Every time I pray those simple words, it is a constant reminder that it is up to not only me, but my fellow Christians, to help implement God's will of love to others here on earth, as we believe God's will is done in heaven. Everywhere I turned at CFW, I saw people doing just that. Whether it was making breakfast [in] the wee hours of the morning or painting stripes in a parking lot or even just simply making new friends, God's will was put into action every day. It is our responsibility as children of God to do what St. Francis once said, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words." Camp Fort Worth is a great way for us, as youth, to use our talents to do just that and make a difference in the world.

— Nicole Bayer, Sacred Heart Parish, Muenster

Above: A Bible surrounded by candles that are arranged in the shape of a cross becomes a focus point for contemplation at an evening prayer service at Camp Fort Worth in Arlington. (Photo by Adrienne Newcomb)

Give us this day our daily bread...

During our week at CFW, we are given the chance to be a helping hand in the community. To many, we are the daily bread of Christ as we entertain and teach children, visit the elders, clean and fix up a school, make cribs for [the children of] underprivileged parents, and help the people who don't have all the opportunities we do. But in the end, they become our daily bread. By working with them, we see what Jesus went through every day: healing, teaching, feeding, and listening to the children of God. As we do all these things, we come closer to Christ.

— Chris "Turtle" Frankie, St. Joseph Parish, Arlington

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us...

Asking for forgiveness is a challenge that we must all accept. At camp, we received the sacrament of reconciliation and were absolved. The ambiance of trust, love, and service was a sign of God's daily presence at camp.

— Carlos Hernandez, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Carrollton

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

I think it means [that] when we fall God will bring us back to him. I thought of that when I was at Faith Mission. The people there were giving their testimonies, and really it was inspiring, because the message that I got out of that was [that] we all are tempted, and if we fall, God really will deliver us from evil — all we have to do is ask for it.

— Charles Short, St. Rita Parish, Fort Worth

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever...

Focusing on that verse all day really enforced the mission for Camp Fort Worth, putting faith into action. It helped me look back on the week and realize that everything we'd done was for God's glory.

— Alyssa Trutter, St. Ann Parish, Burleson

Patti Kavanaugh from St. Rita Parish in Fort Worth is a parent of campers. She said: "My daughters have attended Camp Fort Worth for many years. As their mother, I see Camp Fort Worth as the single most faith-building experience of their teenage years. They return from CFW with faith renewed, absolutely glowing with the Holy Spirit."

It is exactly this glow of the Spirit that we need to share with the world.

As we hand out the camp

crosses at the closing ceremony, we always say, "Take it home." This is the singular challenge of CFW. It is one thing to have a great faith building experience in the midst of friends away from home, but it is another thing to continue to live this change back home and at school.

If we can accomplish this, God's name will be hallowed, his will, will be done, everyone will have their daily bread, trespasses will be forgiven, temptation and evil will be avoided, and truly, the kingdom, the power, and the glory will be our Father's forever and ever.

Amen

Left: The parking lot at St. Matthew Parish in Arlington gets new paint. (Photo by Adrienne Newcomb)

Left: Campers coax smiles out of youth at Hope Tutoring in Arlington during an outdoor activity. (Photo by Adrienne Newcomb)

Below: At Faith Mission in Wichita Falls, Chelsea Hermes of St. Peter Parish in Lindsay and Emily Bialas from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington sort donated food items. (Photo by John Shaffer)

Below: Rico Gomes of St. Bartholomew Parish in Fort Worth serves food at Faith Mission in Wichita Falls. (Photo by John Shaffer)

Below: Meredith Torres from St. Matthew Parish in Arlington helps a student at Hope Tutoring. (Photo by Adrienne Newcomb)

Camp Fort Worth experience spurs youth into action

On Tuesday at Camp Fort Worth in Wichita Falls, Ryan Morgan, from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington, went with his group to one of the five the Boys and Girls Clubs we ministered to at camp.

While he was there he realized that the air conditioning, if there was any, was not working very well. Plus there were only two small fans, so the place was very hot. He shared later that he had decided that when he got back home, he was going to save his money and buy a box fan and mail it to this Boys and Girls Club.

Then he said, "What if every church represented here at

camp sent them a fan?" Everyone thought this was a great idea, and we decided to take up a collection in the small group sharing time later in the week.

When all was said and done, we raised \$625 and purchased four large commercial-grade fans and two box fans, and delivered them to the clubs that needed them most. On Thursday, Ryan was wearing his DCYC 2006 T-shirt with the theme emblazoned on it, "Be the Fire That Sparks the Change." Ryan had lived the theme and sparked a change that is blowing through the Boys and Girls Clubs today and for years to come.

Right: Each day campers received buttons with a different phrase from the Lord's Prayer and were asked to reflect on it as they went about their daily tasks.

Matthew 6:9 Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name

Matthew 6:10 Thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

Matthew 6:13 Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory now and forever Amen.

Above: Youth attending Camp Fort Worth at Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls kick up their heels during an evening worship and praise session. Prayer is a strong component of the Camp Fort Worth experience, energizing the young people to accomplish Christ's work at the various service projects to which they are assigned during the week. (Photo by John Shaffer)

Right: For a Camp Fort Worth service project, Kaylen Short cleans desks for the new school year at Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls. (Photo by John Shaffer)



One year after Katrina and Rita the re-building continues



Dan Voelkel, left, and Rob Mittelbronn of Norman Voelkel Construction look over blueprints for the renovation of St. Clement of Rome Church in Metairie, Louisiana, July 25. After the church sustained extensive flood damage from Hurricane Katrina, the parish relocated Masses to an adjacent gymnasium. The parish plans to reopen the church for Mass in August. (CNS photo/Mike Crupi, CATHOLIC COURIER)

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homes, remodeling apartments for the elderly, and helping establish new communities.

"We don't build levees, but if we did, we'd be right out there," Dubuisson told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview.

The New Orleans Archdiocese was hit with \$120 million in uninsured losses alone and is in the midst of the arduous process of repairing wind- and flood-damaged schools and churches. Six churches have been permanently closed and 23 have closed temporarily. A number of churches are still undergoing repairs, and 24 churches and one mission that sustained extensive flooding damage have reopened. Sixteen schools are still closed, and 21 have remained open while being repaired.

Although the archdiocese has filed paperwork with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the hopes of being reimbursed for costs associated with the rebuilding of schools and other non-worship facilities, it is unclear how much the archdiocese will eventually receive. FEMA will not pay to rebuild church buildings.

THE BILOXI DIOCESE suffered property damage of \$70 million and only half of the damage is covered by insurance. Thirteen churches were damaged, and three of them will not reopen. The future of one church is currently undetermined. Five are using temporary locations until their buildings can be repaired, and four have been in use while undergoing major repairs.

Katrina also destroyed five schools and damaged 10. The

diocese consolidated six schools into three and has been doing repair work on 10 schools that remain open.

The new school year in the Biloxi Diocese started in early August, and according to Mike Ladner, diocesan superintendent of schools, crisis management plans have been finalized, buildings have been modified — with electrical outlets placed higher off the floors and away from future flooding — and school officials have been advised to take school records with them to a dry place in the event of another hurricane.

In Biloxi and other areas, many are taking to heart what they would do differently in the face of a hurricane, but they are also hoping just to get their lives back to where they were prior to the storms.

THAT'S THE CASE IN TEXAS, as well, where Karen Gilman, editor of the *East Texas Catholic*, Beaumont's diocesan newspaper, noted that nearly a year later "life is not back to normal."

Although Rita was overshadowed by Katrina, its destruction can't be dismissed by local residents now accustomed to the ever-present blue tarps marking signs of repair. In Beaumont, one church closed because of hurricane damage and five closed temporarily for ongoing repairs. One Catholic school closed but will reopen for the upcoming school year.

Just prior to Hurricane Rita, the Louisiana dioceses of Houma-Thibodaux and Lake Charles were busy assisting Katrina evacuees. Although Katrina inflicted minimal damage on the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese, Rita

flooded more than 10,000 homes. As a result of both hurricanes, seven Catholic schools and eight parishes in the diocese were damaged, but have since been repaired and are currently functional.

IN THE LAKE CHARLES DIOCESE, Rita caused severe damage in several counties, and its strong wind and storm surges essentially flattened the civil entity of Cameron Parish, a region that includes five parishes and five mission churches, nine of which had been temporarily closed because of storm damage.

Currently, three damaged churches are in the very early stages of repair, after gaining approval from the local government, the Army Corps of Engineers, and FEMA. For the past several months, the mission chapel of St. Patrick, a mission of St. Mary of the Lake Church in Big Lake, has been the only church in Cameron Parish safe enough to have Masses on a regular basis.

"It's still a very difficult time for many people," said Morris LeBleu, director of communications for the diocese and editor of its diocesan newspaper, *The Southwest Catholic*. He noted that only about 5 percent to 6 percent of the residents of Cameron Parish have returned.

On July 23, for the first time since Hurricane Rita, a Sunday Mass was celebrated at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron. Parishioners brought their own chairs and prayed together in the empty shell of the church.

"It was good to see the church and be in it and worship," LeBleu said, even if it will be a long time before parishioners will actually be inside the church as it once was.



Workers from Palm Harbor Homes in Austin move a modular house into position in a housing development in New Orleans Aug. 17. The lot is owned by St. Peter Claver/Ujamaa Community Development Corporation. It is an example of what the Catholic-run Providence Community Housing initiative wants to do with 196 blighted properties it has acquired from the city of New Orleans. Providence hopes to build, rehab, or operate 7,000 housing units in the next five years. (CNS photo/Peter Finney Jr., CLARION HERALD)

Catholic initiative offers hope to families

By Peter Finney Jr.

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — This was one serious crane. With the power of a few levers and pulleys, the crane plucked a 41,000-pound modular housing unit from the ground Aug. 7 and carefully deposited it on a raised wooden platform prepared a few days earlier to accept it.

In a matter of minutes — like an oversized tower of Legos — another New Orleans family was on the road home.

As president of Providence Community Housing, a Catholic-run post-Katrina housing initiative, Jim Kelly anticipates sights such as this over the months ahead will produce a commodity that has been in short supply since last August — hope.

Providence was among 22 nonprofit and private developers that won approval Aug. 1 to rehabilitate about 2,000 blighted properties that have been seized by the city of New Orleans because their owners have failed to pay taxes.

Providence applied for and was conditionally awarded 196 properties in all. Those property owners have been mailed letters giving them 60 days to redeem the properties by paying back taxes and liens, but it is unlikely many will do so because the lots have lain dormant for years.

Some are vacant lots and some are houses that are in such bad condition they probably will be demolished to allow a complete rebuild with fast-track modular construction, Kelly said.

"I don't believe the healing process can truly begin until we put people back into their own homes or their new homes or apartments," said Kelly, who is also CEO of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of New

Orleans.

"Pre-Katrina, we were in the business of hope," he said. "Post-Katrina, our business has taken on a much greater scale and a greater sense of urgency. We need small victories. It's about small victories and it's about hope."

The modular houses set into place on two side-by-side lots Aug. 7 were actually placed on property owned by St. Peter Claver/Ujamaa Community Development Corporation, which had acquired the lots from the city within the last year. "But this is a wonderful example of what will happen with the 196 properties," Kelly told the *Clarion Herald*, newspaper of the New Orleans Archdiocese.

To get this first project rolling, mayoral candidate Rob Couhig and partners Sam LeBlanc and David Loeb, through their company, Traditional New Orleans Homes, purchased the modular units, and Providence bought the homes from them with financing from Chase Bank and Fannie Mae. The home design has been approved by the Preservation Resource Center.

Kelly admitted this is a complex arrangement.

"This is a pilot project," Kelly said. "We're all trying to figure out how we're going to make this happen. But everyone's donating a lot of time."

A Texas modular house construction factory, Palm Harbor Homes in Austin, built the two three-bedroom, two-bathroom, 1,350-square-foot homes, and they were transported in two sections. Within two weeks, the homes will have full electrical and water hookups, and they should be ready to be occupied. They will sell for about \$100,000,

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Katrina and Rita



Sister Vera Butler talks with a resident just returning to his neighborhood six months after Hurricane Katrina. She is the 2006 recipient of the Lumen Christi Award from the Catholic Church Extension Society, (CNS photo/Nancy

Irish-born Presentation nun honored for work with poor

CHICAGO (CNS)—An Irish-born Presentation sister who was well acquainted with the hard times faced by many New Orleans residents long before last year's hurricanes is the 2006 recipient of the Catholic Church Extension Society's Lumen Christi Award.

Sister Vera Butler, who has lived in New Orleans since 1990, directs a daily lunch program on the outskirts of the city and is executive director of the Tulane/Canal Neighborhood Development Cooperative, which helps first-time homeowners and works in other ways to improve the quality of life for people living and working in the area.

The national Lumen Christi Award, Latin for "light of Christ," is presented annually by the Chicago-based society to recognize outstanding missionary work in America.

The award is to be presented to Sister Vera, along with a \$10,000 gift to the nun and \$25,000 to the New Orleans Archdiocese, from Catholic Extension at a Sept. 23 Mass and dinner in Chicago.

In a statement, Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans praised Sister Vera for "her deep and visible faith in God, her undaunted dedication to the mission of the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary 'to do justice in the way of Jesus'

and her boundless energy and creativity."

"Sister Vera Butler is a catalyst for thousands of Catholics and other Christian men and women of faith throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans to make the important connection in their lives between faith and service," he added.

Sister Vera, the director of outreach ministries at St. Joseph's Church, also makes frequent visits to the elderly and helps them manage their bills.

When Hurricane Katrina struck, she walked the streets of New Orleans, offering sandwiches and cold drinks to anyone she happened to meet, along with hope, reassurance and optimism.

Sister Vera said she accepted the award "in the name of all the people here in New Orleans who have lost everything and yet who still tell me that they are blessed, because they have been able to experience God through the generosity of others."

Catholic Extension, the leading supporter of Catholic missions in the U.S., has raised and distributed more than \$400 million over its 100-year history. The organization funds church construction, religious education and seminary formation, outreach ministries, evangelization, salaries, and operating expenses.

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Kelly said.

Another Ujamaa lot around the corner and closer to St. Peter Claver Church will receive its modular house in the near future.

"It's very good quality," Kelly said. "They do schools and even mansions this way. Right now because of the cost of materials and the scarcity of labor in New Orleans, the price break is about equal [to regular construction]. But you can get these homes done quicker, because, in New Orleans, how do you find labor?"

Providence, a nonprofit corporation, hopes to restore, rebuild, or develop 7,000 housing units — both single-family homes and apartments — over the next five years. It is concentrating first on two neighborhoods that it considers "important to the rebirth of the city," Kelly said.

"We're not only thinking about housing in those areas, but we'll also try to do business development, health care, education, and other activities," he said. "We've got a whole lot of things we're trying to do, and we'll see which ones take off."

Door-to-door post-Katrina counseling critical to recovery

By Peter Finney Jr.

NEWORLEANS (CNS)—The long haul is here.

Every day, teams of counselors and social workers with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans visit hurricane-devastated neighborhoods and go door-to-door asking people simple questions related to complex problems.

Behind every door is a Katrina survivor with his or her sobering story. The stories haven't changed much since Katrina hit nearly a year ago, and that is perhaps the saddest indicator of a community in the midst of a collective mental health crisis.

By early July, social workers and counselors with Catholic Charities' Louisiana Spirit outreach program, had personally visited 65,000 people and reported spikes in domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, depression, and suicidal tendencies.

Now the program is in danger of elimination because the Federal Emergency Management Agency is refusing to pay for certain previously approved and budgeted services, leaving Catholic Charities with a \$20,000 daily shortfall and an uncertain future.

A recent report by *The New York Times* noted that the annual suicide rate in New Orleans tripled in the four months after Hurricane Katrina — from fewer than nine a year per 100,000 residents to 26 per 100,000.

Dr. Elmore Rigamer, medical director of Catholic Charities in New Orleans, said he isn't in a position to contradict the apparent threefold increase in the suicide rate, but he does know from the firsthand evidence gathered by his team of 140 Louisiana Spirit workers that the community's

mental health is teetering.

"The level of anxiety and people feeling overwhelmed and saying 'I don't know if I can take this' is up," said Rigamer, who is a psychiatrist.

Many people have been "stymied by the insurance companies and by the hopelessness of the hoops they have to jump through to get funds. It's sort of an urbanwide malaise," he told the *Clarion Herald*, the New Orleans archdiocesan newspaper.

The Louisiana Spirit program is changing lives the old-fashioned way — by reaching out to people instead of waiting for them to come forward for help.

Every day Louisiana Spirit regional director Heidi Nuss colors in a map with a yellow marker to indicate where a team has been. Social workers provide an empathetic ear and emotional support, and then leave the person with an updated resource list for agencies that can provide needed services. If during the conversation the person looks distraught, Louisiana Spirit can send a counselor to the person's home within 24 hours for up to five visits.

"No other program sends a licensed counselor to your door to come to see you," Nuss said, adding that there is no eligibility criteria to get the counseling. "All you have to do is say, 'I want to talk to somebody.' That's the eligibility."

Tracy Cormier, the children's team clinical manager, said she has witnessed an increase in nightmares and "regressive" behavior such as children wanting to sleep with their parents. But she said there is a critical lack of psychiatric resources in New Orleans: Only 10 beds are available for adolescents needing psychiatric help, and there is no

"respite" program that would allow children to get away from angry parents.

"We are seeing an increase in domestic violence, which transfers to kids," Cormier said.

Catholic Charities also has two related programs to help people deal with post-Katrina realities. Counseling Solutions — which was in place before Katrina — provides counseling, paid through insurance coverage or on a sliding-scale basis, at five locations throughout the archdiocese. Director Bill Swann is attempting to set up group sessions of the program at local churches.

Another program is Katrina Aid Today which offers long-term case management for Katrina victims. The program is funded through a grant provided by the United Methodist Church and Catholic Charities USA.

"It's very individualized help that will help someone get on the road to recovery," said director Joseph Mahoney, noting that clients may need help with Katrina-related paperwork or they might need referrals to other agencies or counseling and support services.

The program has helped 1,000 clients since January and is expected to run through next October. Because there is a waiting list, only people over age 55 or who have a disability are currently being advised.

According to Rigamer, not everyone who is depressed needs to see a medical professional, but he advises those with depressive moods to "connect with someone."

Another key to recovery, he said, is to have a plan. "You can't get out of depression if you remain passive and you can't get moving."

Archbishop Hughes reflects

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during the next five years.

Archbishop Hughes said in hindsight he might have done a few things differently after Katrina. If another major hurricane were to strike, he would try to use as many local offices or churches as possible and not make a long-term commitment to another location, as church officials did with the Baton Rouge Diocese. But he said he is incredibly grateful to Baton Rouge Bishop Robert

W. Muench for providing such a warm welcome. "It was faith in action, and for some it was long-term faith in action," he said, smiling.

He also noted that the experience of Katrina deepened his faith. In the months following the storm, his prayers each day were often for the hurricane survivors.

"I cannot read the Scriptures without all kinds of imagery really taking on a richer meaning," he said. "There was a light and a darkness in what

we went through; water is both destructive and then life-giving; the significance of the flood and the original flood; the meaning of exile and then return from exile."

He said after Katrina he would look at his calendar and see what he was expected to do and what he was actually doing and would say to himself, "What I'm involved in — touching the lives of people — is far more important. There is something freeing about that."

Complex end-of-life issues brought into clarity by speakers at Catholics Respect Life Bioethics Seminar

Story by Amy Yancy
Photos by Michael Demma

A seminar entitled "End of Life Issues: Bioethics from a Catholic Perspective" was presented Aug. 4 and 5 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine. This second annual bioethics seminar, sponsored by Catholics Respect Life, a pro-life ministry within the Diocese of Fort Worth, addressed such complex issues as quality of life, advanced medical directives, living wills, and healthcare proxies. The seminar was hosted by Bishop Kevin Vann.

For the first part of the seminar, Bishop Vann invited the clergy of the diocese to an evening session, Aug 4, which focused on awareness of today's complex end-of-life issues in an effort to assist them in their duties as pastoral counselors.

The following day's full-day seminar was open to all participants with an interest in the topic.

Speakers included Dr. John M. Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, based in Philadelphia, as well as Father Michael Olson, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

The event began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Vann. During opening remarks, he noted that although certain circumstances surrounding end-of-life issues may change across the centuries, the heart of the issue is still the same.

"We as Catholics must be united in a common voice regarding end-of-life issues," Bishop Vann said. "We as members of the Catholic faith must share the same view."

Dr. Haas gave participants, who ranged from members of the clergy and social workers to nurses, doctors, and caregivers, an overview of what role the National Catholic Bioethics Center plays in regard to end-of-life issues. Dr. Haas touched on such subjects as advance medical directives, living wills, health care proxies, and determination of death.

"Our concern, no matter what we're doing, is preserving the integrity of life in the image of God and through the blood of Christ," Dr. Haas said. "To me, there is no more difficult thing to deal with than end-of-life issues."

Dr. Haas received his doctorate in moral theology from the Catholic University of America



Above: Dr. John Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, visits with Joan Bridges at the Bioethics Seminar held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine Aug. 4-5.



Right: Father Michael Olson, diocesan vicar general, speaks on end-of-life issues at the seminar.

and his STL in moral theology from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree and has studied at the University of Munich and the University of Chicago Divinity School. Before assuming the presidency of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, he was the John Cardinal Krol Professor of Moral Theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and adjunct professor at the John Paul II Institute for Studies of Marriage and Family. Dr. Haas is currently a consultant to the Committee for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

During his talk, Fr. Olson addressed quality of life assessment, hospice, and end-of-life decisions.

"We must reflect on this subject matter in light of our current culture," Fr. Olson said. "We've used death to address many social problems, including poverty — abortion; crime — capital punishment; and Medicaid — assisted suicide. Human life is a gift that prepares us for the ultimate life. We are custodians of life, but this doesn't mean we have to do everything in our power to prolong it."

Fr. Olson touched on "ordinary" and "extraordinary" means in dealing with end-of-life issues. Ordinary care, he explained, included a standard of care, including medicine, surgery, and nutrition. Extraordinary means includes such things as experimental surgery and procedures. Fr. Olson, who has a Master of Divinity degree and an MA in theological studies from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, is currently a doctoral candidate in moral theology at the Academia

Alfonsiana of the Lateran University in Rome. He recently served as a member of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research at the University of Texas Medical Center in Houston.

"These definitions [of ordinary and extraordinary care] mean different things to different people," Fr. Olson said. "Ethicists, medical professionals, and legal professionals all have different definitions of ordinary and extraordinary means. That is why it is so im-

portant to prepare yourself for a holy death."

The seminar provided ways to prepare for a holy death, including a patient discussing their wishes with their physician and providing designated proxies.

Bishop Vann provided closing remarks and a prayer.

For more information regarding end-of-life issues, visit www.CatholicsRespectLife.com.

Contributing to this story was Michael Demma.

Above: Bishop Kevin Vann addresses the assembly at the annual Bioethics Seminar. He emphasized that "We as Catholics must be united in a common voice regarding end-of-life issues."



Above: Tables are filled in the St. Francis of Assisi parish hall as seminar participants listen to presentations on bioethics.

Diocesan

With grateful thanks to God, Father Lambert Leykam, OFM, celebrates 50 years as a priest

STORY BY NICKI PREVOU / PHOTOS BY DONNA RYCKAERT

Surrounded by family members and hundreds of friends on June 29, Father Lambert Leykam, OFM, reveled, with his customary enthusiasm, in a day filled with joy and special memories. The famously-jovial Franciscan priest celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a Mass and reception held at his longtime home, St. Francis Village in Crowley.

"I wanted to have my jubilee Mass on the actual anniversary date of my ordination," said Fr. Leykam. "I am fortunate that so many of my family members and special friends were able to come from far away to join me for the occasion." His sister-in-law, nieces, and their families, along with a priest-cousin and an aunt, all made the journey from other states in order to join in the Mass of Thanksgiving, and to proudly pose for innumerable photographs with the beaming jubilarian.

Father Tom Keller, an associate pastor with the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri, and a close friend from Fr. Leykam's years of ministry as chaplain to the Poor Clares cloistered nuns at the Monastery of St. Clare in Oakville, Missouri, served as homilist at the Mass. Fr. Keller, giving credit to Fr. Leykam for the influence the older priest had upon his own vocation, offered his warm, humorous, and tender reflections on Fr. Leykam's 50 years of service as a faithful — and constantly smiling — pastor in parishes, nursing homes, and schools in

Above: Father Tom Keller, associate pastor of the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis in St. Louis, Missouri, offers the homily at Fr. Leykam's jubilee Mass, sharing stories of his mentor's 50 years as a Franciscan priest.

Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, and Illinois.

"I thank God for the many times I was given the privilege of the miracle of changing bread and wine to Christ's body, blood, soul, and divinity," wrote Fr. Leykam in his jubilee program. "Over 20,000 times. I thank God, too, that he used me to teach, take care of the sick, preach, anoint, marry, and bury over 1,000 people in my lifetime."

Those early years of ministry included teaching and coaching basketball for children and youth, working as a chaplain with young juvenile

delinquents, and serving in a nursing home while in residence as pastor at Little Flower Church in Monroe, Louisiana. "Our school, rectory, and the sisters' houses were old army barracks," recalled Fr. Leykam. "They were years that we had nothing, but truly had everything that counted.... How good it is to have the Franciscan family."

His dedication and faithful witness to Franciscan spirituality has been a welcome gift to the residents of St. Francis Village, a retirement community referred to by its 534 residents as "a little piece of heaven"

near Fort Worth. Fr. Leykam, chaplain at the village since 1998, is a well-loved presence at the community's daily Mass, numerous classes, potluck dinners, weekly Bible studies, and other activities.

"He's been a really outstanding chaplain here," said Judy Chesser, who also came to St. Francis Village in 1998. "He's so understanding, compassionate, and kind. No one here is a stranger to him. He visits our residents when they go into nursing homes, and he says Mass for us six days a week. We just love him."

"I have to hug him every

time I see him!" exclaimed Naomi Ashlock, who has lived at the village since 1995 and who teaches ceramics to her fellow residents. "I'm a Baptist, but he is so wonderful, he just shares God's love with everyone equally, whether they are Catholic or not. He is so friendly and loving. He comes to visit our classes and always has a smile for everyone."

"There is nowhere else that I would rather be than right here at this time of my life," reflected Fr. Leykam, as he thanked the gathering for their good wishes, gifts, and prayers. "God love and bless you all."

Left: Father Lambert Leykam, OFM, speaks to the "standing room only" crowd gathered in the chapel at St. Francis Village in Crowley at his June 29 golden jubilee celebration.

Below: (L. to R.) Father Tom Keller, Deacon Julio Perez, Father Lambert Leykam, and Father John Leykam join in prayer. "I thank God that he gave me the grace to be ordained a priest," wrote Fr. Leykam in his jubilee program. "Only with God's help have I come to this, my golden jubilee."

Left: Father John Abts, OFM, who joins Fr. Leykam in residence at St. Maximilian Kolbe Friary at St. Francis Village, speaks at the reception following the liturgy, announcing the gift of a trip to Ireland for Fr. Leykam.

Below: Fr. Leykam embraces a great-nephew at the sign of peace.

Above: Maxine Leykam (center), widow of Fr. Leykam's brother Keith, is joined by daughters Shannon Feltmann (left) and Mary Loren Post (right) in bringing up the gifts at the Jubilee Mass.

Above: Fr. Leykam (left) is presented with a gift certificate for new golf shoes by two members of his regular foursome: (others, l. to r.) Father Cal Giesen, OFM, and Father Vincent Elsen, OFM. Not pictured, but also present was Bill Bowen, another regular member of the foursome.



LEBANESE RETURN — A Lebanese family displaced by the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah waits in a van on the way to southern Lebanon from Beirut Aug. 14. Thousands of Lebanese refugees headed back toward their homes Aug. 14 as weapons fell silent under a U.N.-brokered truce to end more than four weeks of fighting between Israel and the Hezbollah militia. (CNS photo/Sharif Karim, Reuters)

Maronite bishops call for power to be in hands of Lebanese government

BKERKE, Lebanon (CNS) — Lebanon's Maronite Catholic bishops criticized their nation's split in political authority and called for power to be in the hands of the Lebanese government.

"The hardships endured by the Lebanese during this war, which lasted over a month, have taught them that the double-headed political decision-making cannot go on and that a sole political decision-maker — the government that has the full trust of the democratically elected House of Representatives — must be in a position of authority, to avoid the dilution of responsibility and further catastrophes that would crush the country," the bishops said in a statement issued after an Aug. 16 meeting in Bkerke, headquarters of the Maronite church in Lebanon.

Hezbollah — a political movement and a militia — remains strong in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah militia members have said they will not disarm, and the movement controls seats from southern Lebanon in the

country's parliament.

The bishops also noted that, although the Lebanese have welcomed the cease-fire in the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict, they remain concerned that U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which sought an end to the fighting, remains open to various interpretations. They did not elaborate.

French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, Pope Benedict XVI's special envoy to Lebanon, participated in the Aug. 16 meeting before he returned to Rome after a three-day visit. Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir, Maronite patriarch, gave Cardinal Etchegaray a message of gratitude to present to Pope Benedict.

The bishops also expressed their gratitude to U.S. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, for his visit to Lebanon as well as to all the Catholic organizations worldwide that provided "such generous" help to the hundreds of thousands of Lebanese displaced by the war.



AID TO LEBANON — A worker from Doctors Without Borders helps move medical supplies across the Litani River, north of the port city of Tyre, in southern Lebanon Aug. 7. The only road that had crossed the river between Tyre and Sidon was destroyed by Israeli bombardment, essentially sealing the city from the rest of the country. (CNS photo/Zobra Bensemra, Reuters)

CRS has assisted more than 85,000 displaced from the war in Middle East

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decades has operated a charitable network, which was expanded as soon as Israel reacted to the militia's kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers and its killing of others.

Snyder said a U.N.-related relief agency sent an assessment team into the Shiite neighborhoods of south Beirut as soon as the fighting ended, and the team was told that Hezbollah needed no help with its relief and reconstruction efforts.

White House spokesman Tony Snow told reporters in Washington Aug. 16 that Hezbollah reportedly was to receive more than \$150 million from Iran to help its reconstruction efforts, provide relief supplies, and give cash payments to those impacted by the fighting.

Snow said Hezbollah knowingly invited "billions of dollars of destruction into Lebanon ... and now they're saying, 'Oh, we'll give you a little tiny, itty-bitty, fractional, tiny sliver of that money back in terms of cash payments.' I'm sure the people will accept the cash, but they're probably not all going to be all that deluded about the nature of the people who are delivering it."

Snyder said that even if Hezbollah is using aid to try to win the hearts of the Lebanese people, it is not the role of Caritas Lebanon and the international agencies to use their aid as a counterentente-ment.

"If Hezbollah is in one area handing out blankets, we don't need to," he said.

"The needs are way too big

for one organization to handle, no matter how much money it has," he said.

As many as a million people are on the move in Lebanon, returning to their homes and trying to move back in or seeking other shelter as they try to repair their houses.

In an Aug. 15 statement, CRS announced plans for an emergency response and rehabilitation program of at least \$10 million for the Middle East region, including the Gaza Strip, northern Israel, and Lebanon.

CRS said it has assisted 85,000 out of the more than 900,000 people displaced from the war between Israel and the Hezbollah militia. The war left more than 1,200 dead in Lebanon and northern Israel.

Pope prays for peace to prevail in Middle East

FROM PAGE 1

Aug. 11 passed a resolution calling for a cease-fire and for sending a 15,000-member international peacekeeping force into southern Lebanon.

Under the terms of the resolution, Lebanon also would send 15,000 of its own troops to the area to disarm the Hezbollah militias, and Israel would withdraw its troops from the Lebanese territory it invaded in an attempt to stop Hezbollah from firing rockets and mortars into Israel.

Although Israel, Lebanon, and Hezbollah accepted the cease-fire agreement, they each did so with conditions.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered for the recitation of the Angelus Aug. 13 in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, Pope Benedict said, "Everyone hopes that finally peace will prevail over violence and the force of weapons."

Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir, patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church, told Vatican Radio Aug. 12 that there was a "strange atmosphere" in Lebanon after the U.N. Security Council vote but before

Israel, Lebanon, and Hezbollah agreed to halt hostilities.

The Lebanese, he said, were feeling both "desolation" and hope.

While everyone hoped for a quick end to the fighting, the destruction created in a month of bombardments and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese will make recovery difficult, the cardinal said.

"I hope that all those who were forced to flee can return soon, but unfortunately they will not find their houses, because everything has been destroyed. I think that initially we will have to shelter them in prefabricated houses or in tents until we can help them rebuild their houses," he said.

A few hours before the Security Council adopted the cease-fire resolution Aug. 11, the Vatican's representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva decried not only the loss of life and destruction the fighting caused, but also its threat to peaceful coexistence among Lebanese Muslims, Christians,

and Druze.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi told the Human Rights Council, "The violence of these weeks is destroying a promising model of national conviviality, built over centuries, where a plurality of communities, even of very different religious convictions, learned that the only way to live in peace and security and to use their human resources in a creative way is dialogue and close cooperation."

The archbishop also denounced the fact that during the fighting little was done to ensure the safe conduct of relief supplies for "the suffering populations whose right to life, food, health, water, [and] housing" was being denied.

"Peace is the basic condition for the respect and enjoyment of all human rights," Archbishop Tomasi told the council.

"The Holy See is deeply convinced that no just and durable solution can be reached by recourse to terrorism or armed conflict, and only dialogue is the way to peace and to the safeguarding of human rights," he said.

National / International

Pope discusses Middle East, morality in wide-ranging interview

By John Thavis

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a lengthy TV and radio interview, Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to fighting in the Middle East and said he hopes to travel to the Holy Land “in a time of peace.”

The pope also explained some of the priorities of his papacy, saying he was convinced the church needs to frame its moral teachings in a positive way and shed the image of an institution that always says “no.”

The interview with German media was broadcast Aug. 13, eight days after it was recorded at the pope’s summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. It was aired in advance of the pope’s scheduled visit to his native Bavaria region of Germany Sept. 9-14. Translations of the German transcript were made available by the Vatican.

The pope addressed a wide range of topics, including ecumenical cooperation, the role of women in the church, and the unifying function of the papacy. He also offered some personal insights into the burdens of being pope.

“It really is tiring,” he said of his schedule. But the 79-year-old pontiff said he enjoyed the continual encounters with bishops, politicians, and other personalities “who want to talk to me personally.”

Despite having to live behind the Vatican walls, he said, “to tell the truth, I’m not that lonely.”

Seated on a gilded throne, the pope looked at ease as he fielded questions from four reporters, including a correspondent from Vatican Radio’s German program.

Asked about the situation in Lebanon, the pope said everyone has to realize that “war is the worst solution for all sides.” He expressed concern about the Christian community in Lebanon and warned of the danger of the emigration of Christians from the entire region.

“I’d like to visit the Holy Land, and I hope to visit it in a time of



POPE WAVES

— Pope Benedict XVI waves to those gathered for his general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Aug. 2. The pope called for a lasting political solution between Israel and Hezbollah to stop more “spilling of innocent blood.” (CNS photo/Alessandro Bianchi, Reuters)

peace,” he said.

The pope said that although he’s never felt strong enough to plan many long trips he would do so if he feels he can “communicate a message.” He confirmed that he would visit Brazil next year for a meeting of Latin American bishops, saying his presence there would help “strengthen the hope that’s so alive in that part of the world.”

Asked why, during a recent visit to Spain, he didn’t specifically address hot-button issues like gay marriage or abortion, the pope said he wanted to present a positive message and not over-emphasize the negative.

“Christianity, Catholicism, isn’t a collection of prohibitions: It’s a positive option,” he said.

“We’ve heard so much about what is not allowed that now it’s time to say: We have a positive idea to offer, that man and woman are made for each other,” and that marriage develops as a “joyful and blessing-filled encounter between a man and a woman,” he said.

When the church does oppose social or political developments, he said, it should “say it first in a positive way” and make sure people understand, for example, that marriage between a man and a woman “is not a Catholic invention” but a value shared by all cultures.

The pope said the church’s

basic challenge in modern society is to try to bridge the gap between technological progress and morality.

“I believe that the real problem of our historical moment lies in the imbalance between the incredibly fast growth of our technical power and that of our moral capacity, which has not grown in proportion,” he said.

“That’s why the formation of the human person is the true recipe, the key to it all, I would say, and this is what the church proposes,” he said.

He said teaching “know-how” is never enough.

“If we only teach how to build and to use machines and how to use contraceptives, then we shouldn’t be surprised when we find ourselves facing wars and AIDS epidemics. Because we need two dimensions: simultaneously we need the formation of the heart,” he said.

In the battle against AIDS and other social ills, the pope suggested that the church’s role is misrepresented or misunderstood as a negative one.

“We offer treatment, treatment to AIDS victims too, and we offer education, helping to establish good relationships with others. So I think we should correct that image that sees the church as spreading severe ‘nos,’” he said.

The pope said a basic problem

afflicting Western society was a new wave of secularization and a loss of the sense of the sacred. Some African and Asian cultures, he said, are “horrified” by the West’s rational approach and its coldness toward God.

He said the church needs to underline that “believing is beautiful” and show that the Christian faith in the West is an integrating force in society and not part of “the trash of history.”

On internal church matters, the pope said he planned to hold consistories regularly, convening cardinals to “discuss current problems together and look for solutions.” He said his frequent one-on-one talks with bishops also favor a mutual exchange.

Everyone knows the pope is “not an absolute monarch,” he said, but there’s a strong awareness that the church needs a unifying figure that can “guarantee independence from political powers” and make sure Christians don’t identify too much with nationalism.

The pope addressed several other topics:

— He said women have always had an important role in the church, but said the faith does not allow women’s ordination as priests. While noting that women today carry out important functions at the Vatican, he noted a juridical problem: Church law says the power to make legally

binding decisions is limited to sacred orders.

“So there are limitations from this point of view, but I believe that women themselves, with their energy and strength, with their predominance as it were, with their ‘spiritual power,’ will know how to make their own space,” he said.

“And we will have to try and listen to God so as not to stand in their way but, on the contrary, to rejoice when the female element achieves the fully effective place in the church best suited to her,” he said.

— On the number of saints in the church, the pope said he had deliberately “decentralized” the beatification process, leaving such ceremonies to local church leaders so that local figures could inspire Catholics of that specific country or region. Those canonized, or declared saints, should be examples for the whole church, he said.

The idea is to motivate people with models of holiness, without overloading them with too many figures.

“I can imagine some wonderful films” about the lives of saints, he said.

— Speaking about relations with the Evangelical Church in Germany and about ecumenism in general, the pope said a priority today is for Christians to work together to clarify and put into practice “ethical directives” in society. Moreover, Christians must also “witness to God in a world that has problems finding him,” he said, demonstrating their belief that “humanity is not an evolutionary product that turned out badly. We are the image of God.”

— Addressing a question about the role of humor in the life of a pope, he said: “I’m not a man who constantly thinks up jokes. But I think it’s very important to be able to see the funny side of life and its joyful dimension and not to take everything too tragically. I’d also say it’s necessary for my ministry.”

House passes bill to protect Pledge of Allegiance from federal court rulings

By Ben Gruver

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. House of Representatives July 19 passed the Pledge Protection Act sponsored by Rep. Todd Akin, R-Missouri.

It bars federal courts from ruling on constitutional issues surrounding the phrase “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I am thankful for the support of the House Republican leadership displayed during the passage of the Pledge Protection

Act,” Akin said in a statement. The measure passed with a 260-167 vote, but The Associated Press reported it was not a certainty the Senate would take up its version of the measure.

“Anything that can be done to protect the Pledge of Allegiance with the words ‘under God’ is a good thing,” Pat Korten, spokesman for the Knights of Columbus, told Catholic News Service July 21.

The Knights have been at the forefront of legal action to fight

efforts to eliminate the words “under God” from the pledge. The fraternal organization was a part of the successful 1954 effort to persuade Congress to add the reference to the pledge.

In 2002 the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco declared that it was unconstitutional to recite the pledge in public schools if the reference to God remained in it. In 2004 the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the decision. But a new case was later filed in the 9th Circuit, and the

Knights currently are working to defend the pledge in that court.

In June, the Knights filed a brief asking the court to reject the latest effort by a California atheist, Dr. Michael Newdow, and several other parents to have the Pledge of Allegiance declared unconstitutional. The Knights were given permission to join the case as a defendant.

The brief was filed by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty on behalf of the Knights. Joining in the brief were six individual

Knights and their families.

“The words ‘under God’ were not a newly minted phrase or idea that Congress added to the pledge in 1954 to achieve the effect of steering individuals to religion,” said the brief. “Instead, they were added as a self-conscious effort to echo and reaffirm a political philosophy that has animated this country throughout its history, and that is reflected in seminal documents like the Declaration [of Independence] and Gettysburg Address.”

Scripture Readings



September 3, 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

About a year ago I received in the mail the unexpected gift of a rare book I had been searching for but didn't have the means to purchase. Touched by the sender's thoughtfulness, I planned to acknowledge the gift with a note, but I was in the middle of a particularly hectic week and didn't write immediately — although I thought often about doing so. I thought about it so often, in fact, that a month later I was sure I had mailed a thank you when I actually hadn't! Sadly, even my best intentions and most convincing notions did not translate into action.

For many people living in today's print and digital culture, the words of Jesus are so easily available through weekly sermons, spiritual books, theology courses, Web sites, and Bible study classes that "hearing" the word requires relatively little effort. Those plentiful and accessible words are there for the taking, to choose and consume at will, like so many other bits of

information.

Unfortunately, Christians can easily deceive themselves into thinking that transformation and conversion have been completed by religious osmosis, like tasks on a checklist, through this simple consumerism of words. The great delusion is that our uncomplicated, eye-ear encounter with the "Good News" of the Gospel is substituted regularly for a more vital formation of hearts and hands.

Hypocrisy, the sin against which Jesus teaches in today's Gospel, can be a natural outcome of this sort of self-deception. An abundance of spiritual reading material or one's frequency of Mass attendance, while admirable, may sometimes disguise a heart that is far from the Lord. While it's easy to compare myself favorably to the Pharisees of Mark's Gospel, the plain truth is that on this score, we are often more alike than different.

Thankfully, exposing my self-deception is the first step to healing. Living out the word that I've heard, on any given day, in some concrete way, is the cure for hypocrisy. And allowing God to move me from good intentions to fruitful action is the key to discipleship.



"Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves."

— James 1:22

QUESTIONS:

What is one "word" of Jesus that you have heard repeatedly and done little or nothing to bring about? In what way have you behaved as a hypocrite?

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Life is full of struggles, pope says, but believers possess hope

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Life is full of struggles and difficulties, but believers survive and even thrive by always keeping in mind the fact that life on earth is simply a prelude to eternal life, Pope Benedict XVI said.

With only 4,000 people requesting free tickets to the Aug. 16 audience, Pope Benedict was able to hold the gathering in the courtyard of his summer villa at Castel Gandolfo, rather than return to the Vatican for the morning.

The pope told his guests he wanted to continue focusing on the assumption of Mary, celebrated the previous day.

"The assumption evokes a mystery that interests each one of us," he said, because the fact that Mary lives with God in heaven is a reminder that God created each person for eternal life with him.

Unfortunately, he said, people often are so overwhelmed by the daily events of their lives that they forget "this consoling spiritual reality, which constitutes an important truth of faith."



Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful during his weekly general audience at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 16. In his talk, the pope said that despite life's difficulties believers can take consolation that God created each person for eternal life with him. (CNS photo/Dario Pignatelli, Reuters)

"There are those who live today as if they will never die or as if everything will end with death," the pope said. "Some behave as if human beings have total control

over their destinies, as if God did not exist, sometimes going so far as to deny that there is any space for him in our world."

However, Pope Benedict said,

such thinking leads to a sense of confusion and emptiness, because the meaning of life becomes too limited.

"Only openness to the mystery

of God, who is love, can assuage our hearts' thirst for truth and happiness; only the prospect of eternity can give authentic value to historical events and, especially, to the mystery of human fragility, suffering, and death," the pope said.

Contemplating Mary's assumption and knowing that we, too, are destined for eternity fills believers with peace and serenity even when life becomes difficult, he said.

At the end of the brief audience, Pope Benedict noted that Aug. 16 was the first anniversary of the death of Brother Roger Schutz, founder of the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé, France, who was killed by a deranged woman during a prayer service.

"His witness of Christian faith and to ecumenical dialogue was a precious lesson for entire generations of young people," he said. "Let us ask the Lord that the sacrifice of his life would contribute to consolidating the commitment to peace and solidarity of all those who have the future of humanity at heart."

Scripture Readings

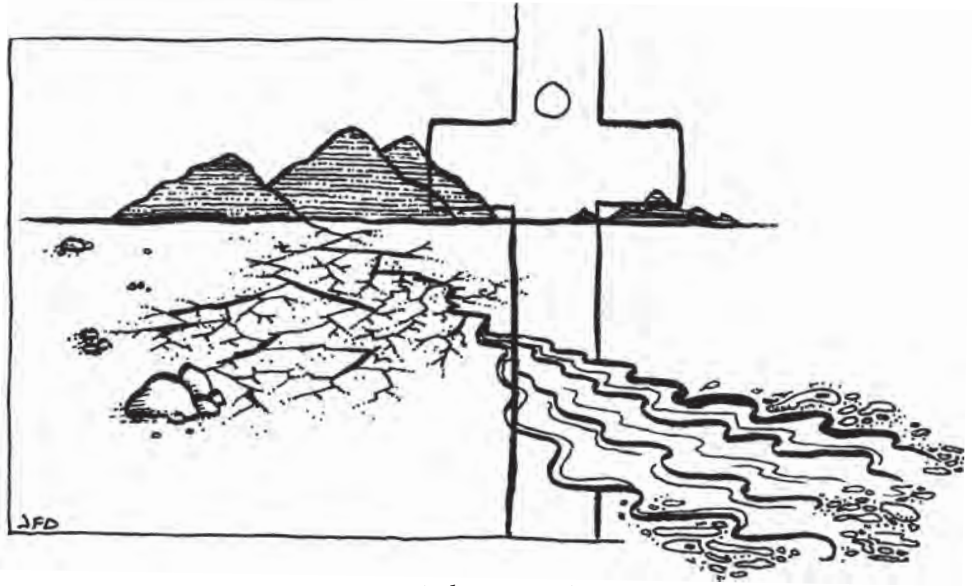
Word
to
Life

September 10, 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

“Streams
will
burst
forth
in the
desert.”

— Isaiah 35:6c



By Jeff Hensley

Crossing Terlingua Creek in Big Bend National Park to get to the trail that leads up the side of Santa Elena Canyon can be a harrowing experience. It was late July a couple of years ago when I was making my way across the cobblestone streambed. Contrary to weather patterns in our part of Texas, this was at the end of the rainy season in the Big Bend, and the creek was running quite strong.

With the current lapping a few inches above my knees, I found it necessary to keep my eyes fixed on the far shore to which I was headed. Eyes on the goal, I inched my way across. It wasn't lost to me that this was a spiritual lesson about dealing with trying circumstances. Eyes on the problem: panic. Eyes on the goal: calm resolve. I got the message.

And that seems to be the lesson in the Isaiah

reading today. “Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication.”

I had followed in the footsteps, almost literally, of a young man with a walking staff who had gone before me, taking off up the trail on the other side about 20 minutes earlier.

After I'd made my way across the stream and up the side of the canyon, following the trail in the 110-degree heat a couple of miles and back, I found the fellow still on the far side of Terlingua Creek. He said he'd been swimming, but his

clothes were dry.

I suspected he'd kept an eye out for my welfare, and once across the creek again I invited him to share some lunch with me. Unsought protection like that should not go unrewarded, I thought.

He turned out to be a Danish architecture instructor, teaching at a Virginia university. He brought forth a bottle of blueberry juice to share along with the sandwiches and grapes I provided. We had a nice meal and visited over a broad range of topics here where a stream of friendship had indeed burst forth in the desert.

QUESTIONS:

How have you experienced God's provision in trying circumstances?

What can you do the next time you face a crisis to remain calm and trust

God for the outcome?

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Summer heat and visions of H, E, double-hockey-sticks

By Jeff Hedglen

Recently I found myself short of breath, weak at the knees, sweating uncontrollably, and in fear of losing control of my bodily functions if not passing out cold. All of this, and I was just trying to make it into Kroger from my car on a 106 degree day in the Texas summer.

As I traversed the sweltering concrete, unsure if the lines I was seeing were heat waves or parking space markers, all I could conjure in my mind was the sweet, sweet memory of air conditioning.

Though I had only moments ago turned off my truck, it seemed like years since I had felt the cool artificial breeze of air flowing over cold coils, that comfort inducing, life sustaining, temperature reducing, respiratory elixir.

This summer has not broken any records, but for some reason it seems so much hotter than any I have ever experienced. Maybe

I keep having visions of a red, horned, pitchfork-wielding, flaming man, too comfortably at home in a lawn chair in my yellow, withering back yard.

Through this haze I was reminded of a time I came across a sign outside a local church on a typical hot summer day that read something like:

*“If you are not a Christian,
this is as cool as it's going to get.”*

it's because I watch the news more often and see the five-day forecast with all 100 degree-plus temperatures, or maybe it's just that I am older and affected by the heat more. But whatever the cause, the heat is getting to me.

I think the fact that my outdoor thermometer has not seen the 70s – even at 4 a.m. or that my brand new A/C unit cannot

cool my house to under 80 before 7:00 p.m. has warped my brain a bit. I keep having visions of a red, horned, pitchfork-wielding, flaming man, too comfortably at home in a lawn chair in my yellow, withering back yard.

Through this haze I was reminded of a time I came across a sign outside a local church on a typical hot summer day that

read something like: “If you are not a Christian, this is as cool as it's going to get.”

As you might have guessed, all this heat has got me thinking about hell. I have heard it described a number of ways. A former deacon at my church said hell was choosing yourself while on earth and receiving just that for eternity. Hell is classically said to be the total absence of God. In the New Testament, hell is often referred to as an unquenchable fire called Gehenna. And the Old Testament says that the wicked will “receive a punishment to match their thoughts” (Wisdom 3:10).

Any of the above is not a scene I long to endure for eternity. Yet just because I do not long for hell doesn't mean it doesn't exist, nor does it mean that I should totally ignore it. I think that keeping the reality of the possibility of hell, whatever form it may take, in mind, is a good exercise to engage in from time to time. In other words, I do not get into my bathing suit and lay out on a 106 degree day, yet the time I do spend in the sun reminds me how

awesome the A/C is inside.

I am in no way suggesting we should spend hours contemplating the horrors of a life devoid of God. If you have hours of time to spend contemplating, by all means spend this time on the unfathomable, awesome, unending love of God most perfectly displayed in the person of Jesus.

Nevertheless, hell is just as real as heaven, and it is a place I do not want to spend eternity. Being reminded of this gives me incentive to redouble my efforts to make it to a cool place for the long forever. It's kind of like making that special effort to find a parking space in the shade. it doesn't take away from the reality of the temperature, but it is an act of faith that with a bit of effort on my part I can lessen the pull of the “heat” in my life and be focused on seeking a cooler climate — both now and forever.

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.

Monseñor Vann anuncia que la Diócesis no apelará decisión judicial de dar a la luz pública porciones de los expedientes de siete sacerdotes

Caracterizó la decisión como un cambio crucial hacia la sanación y reconciliación.

El siguiente artículo es la versión escrita de las palabras de apertura de la conferencia de prensa ofrecida por Monseñor Vann, Obispo de la Diócesis de Fort Worth, en el Centro Católico el pasado 11 de agosto. Monseñor Vann anunció la Diócesis no apelará decisión judicial del 25 de julio que dictamino que se darían a la luz pública porciones de los expedientes de siete sacerdotes acusados de conducta sexual inapropiada. Para más información visite la página de Internet de la Diócesis localizada en: www.fwdioc.org

Cuando hace un año llegué aquí a la Diócesis de Fort Worth yo heredé una Iglesia local vibrante y dinámica, un grupo dedicado de sacerdotes, diáconos, y religiosos y religiosas, así como feligreses fieles. También me he encontrado con el dolor y sufrimiento, que todavía tiene que ser sanado, de personas abusadas sexualmente. Ese dolor fue soportado por jóvenes católicos hace años y se vio aumentado por las decisiones tomadas dentro de nuestra Iglesia.

Deseo comenzar ofreciendo mi personal y más sentida disculpa a los que han sufrido abuso por los miembros del clero. Es un pecado y un crimen. De hecho, tal abuso es doblemente doloroso para ustedes que lo han sufrido. Pues no solo tomó su inocencia y su niñez; en algunos casos destruyó su fe. Así es que nuestra Iglesia entera —las víctimas-sobrevivientes, nuestros fieles sacerdotes, y nuestros leales feligreses también—ha vivido con esta tristeza y desea y ruega por que este terrible dolor sea sustituido por la sanación y la reconciliación.

Marcamos hoy un cambio crucial hacia esa sanación y reconciliación.

En respuesta a la amplitud del asunto de abuso sexual, en junio del 2002, a solo algunas millas de aquí, los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos pusieron sus nombres en un documento sin precedente e histórico. Son los *Estatutos para la protección de niños y jóvenes*, que fue revisado y refinado por la Santa Sede.

Los Estatutos comprometen a los obispos a lo siguiente:

- Cero tolerancia de cualquier abuso sexual de menores;
- Remoción del ministerio de un sacerdote o diácono cuando se establezca la ocurrencia de tan solo un acto de abuso sexual contra un menor;



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann, Obispo de la Diócesis de Fort Worth, en el podio del salón de conferencias del Centro Católico el 11 de agosto. Monseñor Vann hizo sus declaraciones en una conferencia de prensa donde respondió a preguntas de varios reporteros de la prensa, radio y televisión que estuvieron presentes. (Foto por Chris Kastener)

- Rigurosos procedimientos de divulgación a las autoridades eclesásticas y civiles después de alegaciones de abuso;

- Franqueza y transparencia en la respuesta de la Iglesia;

- Un fuerte programa de prevención de abuso sexual para reducir la probabilidad de ocurrencias de tales abusos en el futuro.

Nosotros en la Diócesis de Fort Worth, según tres auditorías independientes conducidos por el Grupo Gavin, hemos sido evaluados y encontrados en plena conformidad con lo establecido en los *Estatutos para la protección de niños y jóvenes*.

Nuestra Diócesis implementó "Llamados a Proteger", un programa avanzado y comprensivo para la prevención del abuso sexual que se aplica a los niños, jóvenes, clero, empleados y voluntarios que sirven en la Diócesis.

Lo que nuestra Iglesia ha

aprendido es que debemos estar siempre alertas y cada uno de nosotros necesita vivir su fe verdaderamente.

Lo cuál me trae a mi decisión que estoy anunciando hoy.

Hace varias semanas, el Juez de Distrito del Condado de Tarrant, Len Wade, después de repasar cuidadosamente los expedientes de los siete sacerdotes acusados de abuso sexual de menores, ordenó que porciones de estos expedientes se hicieran públicos. Como partes interesadas en este caso legal — el *Dallas Morning News* y el *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* —habían solicitado la difusión pública de estos expedientes. La Diócesis había, desde el principio, elevado sus preocupaciones sobre la protección de los derechos de todas las partes involucradas. El 25 de julio, el Juez Len Wade respondió suficientemente a esas preocupaciones.

Estoy anunciando hoy que la Diócesis no apelará la decisión

fue claro para mí que cualquier ambigüedad referente al estado clerical de estos siete sacerdotes deberá ser resuelto. Es por esto que a principios de esta semana, en el caso de Philip Magaldi, he revocado todas sus facultades sacerdotales.

Como algunos casos todavía están pendientes en las cortes, no puedo comentar respecto a ninguno de estos casos o respecto a detalles específicos que se encuentren dentro de los expedientes de trabajo de estos siete sacerdotes. Sin embargo, es mi ferviente esperanza que mi decisión de no apelar el dictamen de la Corte marque un cambio crucial para la Diócesis de Fort Worth y para toda la comunidad.

Ahora, deseo decir algunas palabras a nuestros sacerdotes aquí en esta Diócesis. Ustedes han sido verdaderamente fieles a sus votos y extraordinariamente dedicados en su devoción por su misión. Casos como los de estos siete no reflejan de manera alguna sobre la fuerza de su carácter o el ejercicio fiel de su ministerio sacerdotal.

También, a los Católicos de toda la Diócesis, deseo expresar mi aprecio por su fidelidad y lealtad a través de estos años. Comparto con ustedes el deseo de justicia para todos los que han sufrido y el deseo de que todos seamos sanados y reconciliados.

Finalmente, una vez más le pido a cualquier persona que haya atestado o sufrido abuso sexual por cualquier persona que sirva en la Iglesia que se presente de modo que podamos continuar el proceso de sanación.

Día de Formación Para Ministerios: "¿Quien dicen ustedes que soy yo?"

Acompañenos para un día de magníficos conferenciantes, oportunidades para compartir y establecer relaciones de amistad con otras personas que también ejercen ministerios como el tuyo. También tendremos actividades de grupos, exhibidores y mucho más...

Notre Dame
Catholic HS,
Wichita Falls



23 de
septiembre de
2006
8:30 to 3:00

Conferenciante Principal: Padre Tony Taylor

Inscríbese en: www.fwdioc.org Comuníquese con su parroquia o llame al 888-560-3370 extensión 257. Si no puedes llegar a Wichita Falls no dejes de asistir en Fort Worth el 6 de enero próximo o a Mineral Wells el 3 de marzo del año entrante.

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Una reflexión que los padres pueden compartir con sus hijos

Meditando en el regreso a la escuela

Por Pedro A. Moreno, OPL
Director, Instituto Luz de Cristo

Las vacaciones de verano de millones de estudiantes llegaron a su final. Ya no se puede ir a la cama a las dos de la madrugada por estar viendo películas o por estar paseando por el Internet. No se puede seguir durmiendo hasta el mediodía ni volver a tomar una siesta por la tarde. Se acabó el tiempo de diversión. Comenzó el tiempo para que nuestros jóvenes vuelvan a tomar sus respectivas cruces para seguir creciendo y madurando. Cruces que darán buenos frutos.

Las cruces a las que me estoy refiriendo son varias. Las cruces de volver a dormir temprano para despertarse temprano, las cruces de regresar al estudio y lectura de los libros y las cruces de las diversas tareas escolares. También me refiero a las cruces de la buena alimentación y ejercicio diario, no solo dulces, comida rápida, y descanso.

Creer y madurar no es fácil. Ninguna de estas dos realidades puede ocurrir sin soltar algunas lágrimas o pasar por algunos momentos difíciles. Todo crecimiento, sea físico, mental, emocional, cognoscitivo, espiritual o de cualquier otro tipo, será siempre un crecimiento que trae diversos dolores. Nacer, crecer y madurar, en fin la vida misma, siempre traerá alegrías y dolores. El dolor es desagradable pero Dios nos ha dado todo lo necesario para poder manejar estos dolores.

Un ejemplo de crecimiento y maduración difícil y dolorosa es el de la langosta. Este animal de aguas saladas tiene un caparazón sólido y fuerte. Su caparazón lo protege de la hostilidad de las aguas saladas. Mientras la langosta crece su caparazón se queda igual. Llega un momento donde ya no cabe la langosta en su caparazón y la deja a tras, la langosta lleva a cabo una muda o cambio. Al soltar el caparazón su piel queda expuesta, sin protección alguna a las aguas intensamente salinas hasta el momento en que se vuelva a desarrollar un nuevo caparazón.

Esto es un proceso doloroso para la langosta. Solo tienen que imaginarse como se sentirían si alguien le echara sal a una herida abierta. La piel expuesta a las aguas intensamente salinas del mar es para la langosta una situación muy dolorosa pero necesaria para su continuado crecimiento y existencia. Y como si esto fuera poco recordemos también que esta muda de caparazón ocurre varias veces en la vida de la langosta.

Al comenzar este año escolar invito a todos a que seamos buenas langostas. Sigamos creciendo y madurando y cuando se nos presenten cruces o dificultades no las miremos como tropiezos, o calles sin salida. Mírenlas como oportunidades para crecer y madurar. Mírenlas como oportunidades para mudar de caparazón con la ayuda de todos los que nos aman y rodean.

No olvidemos que Cristo mudó su caparazón. A ese día lo llamamos Pascua de Resurrección, un día que todavía nos está dando muy buenos frutos. Un día que nos sigue llenando de esperanza.



Pedro Moreno es director diocesano del Instituto Luz de Cristo. Sus escritos espirituales han recibido múltiples premios de la Asociación de Periodismo Católico de los Estados Unidos y Canadá. Vive en el noroeste de Fort Worth con su esposa Maria Mirta y sus tres hijas Maria, Patricia y Mirangela. Pedro es Laico Dominicano.

En momentos que libaneses desplazados regresan a su hogar, CRS coordina los esfuerzos de asistencia

Por Cindy Wooden

ROMA (CNS) — En momentos en los que las personas desplazadas por la lucha en Líbano regresan a su respectiva población de origen, la asistencia de Catholic Relief Services (CRS, en inglés) y otras agencias de ayuda internacional enviaban grupos de expertos para que evaluaran la situación en todo el Líbano y sostenían reuniones para coordinar sus esfuerzos.

David Snyder, vocero de CRS en Beirut, dijo en una entrevista por teléfono el 17 de agosto que "el 90 por ciento de las personas" que se alojaban en refugios durante la lucha que duró un mes "dejaron los refugios durante las primeras 48 horas de cese al fuego", que empezó el 14 de agosto.

"En muchos refugios el número de personas se puede contar con la mano", dijo Snyder. CRS es la agencia de asistencia internacional y desarrollo de los obispos de Estados Unidos.

Después de brindar protección, comida, ropa y medicinas en los lugares de refugio, CRS y las otras agencias de ayuda cambian ahora su foco de atención hacia las necesidades de las personas que regresan, muchas de las cuales retornan a casas destruidas o dañadas, que carecen de fuerza eléctrica y de agua sana.

"Todos tratan de saber cuál es el siguiente paso", dijo Snyder. "Una coordinación estricta es esencial" para que no se dupliquen los esfuerzos y para que "ninguna persona quede abandonada en la confusión".

Mientras CRS trabaja junto con Caritas del Líbano, la organización local humanitaria más grande del Líbano no participa en los esfuerzos de coordinación.

El movimiento de Jezbolá de musulmanes chiítas, además de contar con un ala militar y política, por décadas ha dirigido una red de ayuda caritativa, que fue aumentada tan pronto Israel reaccionó después de que la milicia secuestró a dos soldados israelitas y mató a otros.



Familias libanesas desplazadas regresan a la región del sur del Líbano el 15 de agosto. Servicios Católicos de Socorro y otras agencias de ayuda internacional enviaban equipos de expertos para que evaluaran la situación en todo el Líbano y sostenían reuniones para coordinar los esfuerzos. (Foto CNS/Ammar Awad, Reuters)

Snyder dijo que un equipo de expertos de una agencia de asistencia de las Naciones Unidas fue enviado para evaluar la situación en los barrios chiítas del sur de Beirut tan pronto como terminaron las acciones. A ese equipo se le dijo que los Jezbolá no necesitaban ninguna ayuda con sus esfuerzos de asistencia y de reconstrucción.

El vocero de la Casa Blanca, Tony Snow, les dijo a los periodistas en Washington el pasado 16 de agosto que los de Jezbolá recibirían más de \$150 millones

de Irán como ayuda para los esfuerzos de reconstrucción, para dar artículos de asistencia y dar dinero en efectivo a las personas alcanzadas por la lucha.

Snyder dijo que aunque los de Jezbolá usan la ayuda que dan para tratar de ganarse el corazón del pueblo libanés, no es el papel de Caritas del Líbano ni de las agencias internacionales usar su ayuda como contrapeso.

"Si los de Jezbolá en una zona determinada reparten cobijas, nosotros no necesitamos hacerlo", dijo.

La primer celebración de aniversario de oro el domingo, 15 de octubre, St. Francis de Assisi en Grapevine

La Diócesis de Fort Worth y la Oficina de Asuntos Familiares invitan a todos las parejas que tienen 50 años o más de casados a su primer Celebración de Aniversario de Oro el domingo, 15 de octubre. La celebración se llevará a cabo en la Iglesia de St. Francis de Assisi en Grapevine.

Monseñor Vann, obispo de Fort Worth, será el celebrante de la Misa que empezará a las 2:30 p.m. Durante la celebración de la Santa Misa las parejas tendrán la oportunidad de renovar sus votos matrimoniales y recibirán una bendición especial de aniversario. Habrá una recepción

con pastel y bebidas inmediatamente después de la misa en el centro familiar de la iglesia. Si ustedes se casaron antes del 1957 y desean formar parte de esta celebración especial, favor de hablar con la secretaria de su iglesia dejando sus nombres, dirección y fecha de la boda.

En amplia entrevista el Papa discute Oriente Medio, moralidad

Por John Thavis

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — En una larga entrevista de radio y televisión el Papa Benedicto XVI hizo un llamado a terminar el combate en el Oriente Medio y dijo que él tiene la esperanza de viajar a Tierra Santa “en tiempos de paz”.

El papa también explicó algunas de las prioridades de su papado diciendo que está convencido que la iglesia necesita delinear sus enseñanzas morales de una manera positiva y despojarse de la imagen de una institución que siempre dice “no”.

La entrevista con los medios alemanes fue difundida el 13 de agosto, ocho días después de que fue grabada en la villa de verano del papa en Castel Gandolfo, Italia. Ésta fue transmitida con antelación a la visita del Papa a su región nativa de Baviera, Alemania, programada para el 9 al 14 de septiembre. El Vaticano puso a disponibilidad traducciones de la transcripción alemana al italiano y al inglés.

El Papa trató una amplia gama de tópicos, incluyendo la cooperación ecuménica, el rol



Periodistas alemanes entrevistan al Papa Benedicto XVI el 5 de agosto en su residencia veraniega de Castel Gandolfo en Italia. La entrevista sería transmitida el 13 de agosto pero el Vaticano se adelantó con una transcripción de los comentarios del Papa sobre el Medio Oriente. (Foto de CNS/L'OSSEVATORE ROMANO)

de las mujeres en la iglesia y la función unificadora del papado. Él también ofreció algunas opiniones personales sobre las cargas de ser papa.

“Es realmente agotador”, dijo él de su programa. Pero el pontífice de 79 años de edad dijo que él disfruta del encuentro continuo con obispos, políticos y otras per-

sonalidades “que desean hablar personalmente conmigo”.

Al preguntársele sobre la situación en El Líbano, el papa dijo que todos tenemos que darnos cuenta que “la guerra es la peor solución para todos los bandos”. Él expresó preocupación por la comunidad cristiana en El Líbano y advirtió sobre el peligro de la emigración de cristianos de la región completa.

“Yo quisiera visitar Tierra Santa y tengo la esperanza de visitarla en tiempos de paz”, dijo él.

El Papa dijo que aunque él nunca se ha sentido lo suficientemente fuerte como para planificar muchos viajes largos él lo haría si él creyese que puede “comunicar un mensaje”. Él confirmó que visitará Brasil el año próximo para una reunión de los obispos latinoamericanos, diciendo que su presencia allí ayudaría “a fortalecer la esperanza que está tan viva en esa parte del mundo”.

Al preguntársele por qué durante una visita reciente a España él no trató específicamente asuntos volátiles como el matrimonio homosexual o el aborto, el Papa dijo que él deseaba presentar un mensaje positivo y no acentuar demasiado lo negativo.

“El cristianismo, el catolicismo, no es una colección de prohibiciones: es una opción positiva”, dijo él.

Cuando la iglesia sí se opone a desarrollos sociales o políticos, dijo él, ésta debe “decirlo primero de una manera positiva” y cerciorarse que la gente entienda, por ejemplo, que el matrimonio entre un hombre y una mujer “no es invención católica”, sino un valor compartido por todas las culturas.

El Papa dijo que el reto básico

‘Creo que el verdadero problema en nuestro momento histórico está en el desequilibrio entre el crecimiento increíblemente rápido de nuestro poder técnico y nuestra capacidad moral, la cual no ha crecido en proporción’.

—El Papa Benedicto XVI

de la iglesia en la sociedad moderna es intentar cerrar la brecha entre el progreso tecnológico y la moralidad.

“Creo que el verdadero problema en nuestro momento histórico está en el desequilibrio entre el crecimiento increíblemente rápido de nuestro poder técnico y nuestra capacidad moral, la cual no ha crecido en proporción”, dijo.

“Si enseñamos solamente cómo fabricar y utilizar máquinas y cómo usar los anticonceptivos entonces no debe sorprendernos cuando nos encontramos enfrentando guerras y epidemias del SIDA”, dijo él.

En la batalla contra el SIDA y otras enfermedades sociales el Papa sugirió que el rol de la iglesia es mal representado o malentendido como uno negativo.

“Ofrecemos tratamiento a las víctimas del SIDA, y ofrecemos educación, ayudando a establecer buenas relaciones con los demás”, dijo él.

Todos saben que el papa “no es un monarca absoluto”, dijo él, pero hay una fuerte conciencia de que la iglesia necesita una figura unificadora que pueda “garantizar la independencia de los poderes políticos” y cerciorarse que los cristianos no se identifiquen demasiado con el nacionalismo.

Él dijo que las mujeres han tenido siempre un rol importante en la iglesia, pero dijo que la fe no permite la ordenación de las mujeres como sacerdotes.

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NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, former nuncio to U.S., dies at age 76

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Colombia-born Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, who served for seven years as the Vatican's nuncio to the United States, died Aug. 2 in Rome in a hospice run by the Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan. Announcing his death, the Vatican said Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, would preside over his Aug. 5 funeral Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Archbishop Montalvo, 76, was reported to have been suffering from lung cancer. A career Vatican diplomat, the archbishop arrived in Washington in January 1999 after six years of service as the president of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, which trains priests to become Vatican diplomats. Conversant in Spanish, French, English, Italian, and German, his background included service in countries torn by violence and in nations where church-state tensions were high. Before stepping down this past February as nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Montalvo had traveled throughout the country, not simply participating the liturgies marking the installation of new bishops, but also getting to know U.S. Catholics and the situation of the church in the country. His tenure in the U.S. included a period of great challenges to the Catholic Church in the U.S., particularly as the clerical sex abuse scandal unfolded. In addition, the United States and the Vatican had serious differences over the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Church has room for those struggling with homosexuality, speakers say

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The church makes room for men and women who struggle with homosexual temptations, a priest and a psychologist told a group in St. Louis July 28 at the annual conference of Courage at St. Louis University. Courage is a ministry that provides spiritual support for men and women with same-sex attractions who are striving to live chastely in accord with Catholic teaching. Father John Harvey, a moral theologian and founding director of Courage, and Peter Rudegear, a clinical psychologist, addressed some 80 clergy and youth ministers from St. Louis during part of the July 27-30 conference. The speakers noted that a goal is to assist those who come to the church seeking help. They also promoted Encourage, an organization helping parents, spouses, and children of people living in a gay lifestyle. "Courage is a support group," said Fr. Harvey, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales. "People need the help of God and the help of a group."

Cardinal George of Chicago leaves hospital after bladder surgery

MAYWOOD, Illinois (CNS) — Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago left Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood Aug. 15, after undergoing surgery for bladder cancer July 27. The cardinal, dressed in a black clerical suit and using crutches, appeared at the door of the Stritch School of Medicine at the hospital shortly before 11 a.m., flanked by archdiocesan aides. He stopped to speak briefly to reporters gathered there. "I'm extremely grateful to those who have remembered me in their prayers before the Lord," said the 69-year-old cardinal. "In bringing me before the Lord, they had to bring themselves before the Lord and I hope that deepened their relationships." Colleen Dolan, director of the archdiocesan communications department, said Cardinal George has received good wishes and promises of prayers from people in at least 85 countries.

U.S. churches key in integrating immigrants into U.S., says study

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic and Protestant churches are major channels for integrating Mexican immigrants into U.S. society and helping them participate in political life, said a new study by the Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute. They also help Mexicans reaffirm their national identity in their new world and help immigrants advance their social and political concerns in the U.S., said the study, entitled "Invisible No More: Mexican Migrant Civic Participation in the United States." Churches "appropriate symbols and patterns of worship from migrants' hometowns in Mexico but tie the worship to the issues that migrants face in the United States and build capacities to address these proactively," it said. As an example of how the Catholic Church is promoting Mexican immigrant social and political agendas, the study cited the U.S. bishops' campaign for comprehensive immigration reform. The study was released Aug. 17 by the Washington-based Wilson Center, a nonpartisan think tank, and is based on research papers presented at a conference last November. The papers discussed how churches and other U.S. organizations were helping Mexicans become part of U.S. society.

Priest says Pope John Paul I's cause will be at Vatican by year's end

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the 28th anniversary of Pope John Paul I's brief pontificate approached, one of the priests working on his sainthood cause said the paperwork would be sent to the Vatican by the end of the year.

Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice, Italy, was elected Aug. 26, 1978, to succeed Pope Paul VI. As Pope John Paul I, he served just over a month, dying Sept. 28.

The diocesan phase of his cause for sainthood formally opened in 2003 in his home diocese of Belluno and Feltre, Italy.

Vatican Radio reported that Msgr. Giorgio Lise, vice postulator of the cause, said Aug. 17 that 170 witnesses already had been interviewed about the late pope's life and ministry, and the last remaining interviews would be conducted by early November.

A formal biography and the witnesses' testimony will be sent to the Congregation for Saints' Causes by the end of the year, he said.

The postulators already had forwarded to the Vatican information about a southern Italian man who believes he was cured of cancer through the interven-



SAINTHOOD CAUSE MOVES FORWARD

— Pope John Paul I walks at the Vatican during his 33-day papacy in 1978. The late pope's sainthood cause is moving forward, with paperwork expected to be sent to the Vatican by the end of the year. (CNS photo/Arturo Mari, L'OSSEVATORE ROMANO)

tion of Pope John Paul, Msgr. Lise said.

The monsignor said the congregation found the material about the alleged miracle "interesting" and asked for more information, which was sent.

"We are awaiting their response, but we are optimistic," Msgr. Lise said.

Vatican Radio said that on average the congregation takes 10 years to complete its historical and theological examinations of the submitted material, but approval of Pope John Paul's beatification, a major step toward sainthood, could come more quickly if the miracle is recognized.

Over-the-counter sales of Plan B would be detrimental to minors, says bishops' attorney

FROM PAGE 1

dangerous would not have the benefit of any clinical advice to alert them to the risks."

McQuade also said FDA approval of over-the-counter sales would "place additional pressure on pharmacists who conscientiously object to dispensing drugs that kill humans at their earliest stages of development."

Barr Pharmaceuticals originally had sought approval for over-the-counter sales of Plan B to anyone 16 or over. Then-FDA Commissioner Lester M. Crawford announced in August 2005 that the agency would not grant such approval and set a 60-day period for comment. Crawford resigned his post that October.

Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, acting FDA commissioner, said in a July 31 letter to Duramed that the agency had received approximately 47,000 comments, and "we concur with the overwhelming majority of the comments ... that it is not necessary to engage in rulemaking to resolve the novel regulatory issues raised by your application."

In a comment on behalf of

the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Mark Chopko, USCCB general counsel, said over-the-counter sales of Plan B "would be injurious to many — children and adults, as well as health care providers and professionals."

Chopko said any effort to restrict over-the-counter sales of the morning-after pill to those over the age of 16 would be doomed to failure.

"We believe, as we stated in previously filed comments, that permitting the over-the-counter sale of Plan B would be detrimental to minors [and adults] notwithstanding any effort to limit marketing to adults," he wrote.

"As a practical matter," he added, "a minor could procure the drug indirectly through a nonparental adult, or might obtain it directly as a result of lax enforcement by the pharmacy, misrepresentation, or theft."

In his letter to Duramed, Von Eschenbach said the issues remaining to be resolved in discussions with the pharmaceutical company include the marketing, education, distribution, and monitoring of over-the-counter

sales of the drug.

Under Duramed's plan, the over-the-counter version of Plan B "would not be available at gas stations, convenience stores, etc., but only to those pharmacies agreeing to (1) keep the OTC version of the drug behind the pharmacy counter and (2) dispense the drug only upon the production of a valid photo identification card establishing the age of the consumer," the FDA official said.

The agency wants to "learn more about your plan to routinely monitor these pharmacies" and is "very interested in learning how you plan on enforcing the restrictions if a pharmacy fails to comply with them," he added.

"If after our discussions we conclude that the [Duramed plan] isn't sufficiently rigorous to prevent the OTC version of Plan B from being used by young girls ... Plan B will remain prescription-only for women of all ages," von Eschenbach said.

In a news release, the FDA said it hopes the discussion process "can be wrapped up in a matter of weeks."

Disabled seek bishops' support for community living law

WASHINGTON (CNS)—More than 30 people in wheelchairs occupied the lobby of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for an hour July 27 in an effort to get USCCB backing for a federal law that would help many people with disabilities live in their communities instead of in nursing homes.

The demonstrators were members of Adapt, a national organization that fights for disability rights.

After demonstrating for an hour and meeting briefly with top USCCB officials, who agreed to a follow-up meeting, the group left.

Cassie James of Philadelphia, who led the group in several chants, told Catholic News Service that

Adapt "is fighting for real choice" for many people with disabilities who would be able to leave nursing homes if Medicare and Medicaid funding were not biased in favor of the institutionalization of those with disabilities.

The group was seeking support for the Medicaid Community-based Attendant Services and Support Act, which the demonstrators referred to by the shortened name MiCASSA. The bill has been introduced in both houses of Congress.

"It's time for change, not charity," James said.

She led the group in a back-and-forth chant:

"What do we want?"

"We want MiCASSA!"

"When do we want it?"

"We want it now!"

She also led them in a chant, "Our homes, not nursing homes!"

Kathleen Kleinmann, who has muscular dystrophy, told CNS she worked for Catholic Charities of the Pittsburgh Diocese as its Washington County director in 1986-87 but left to start her own nonprofit center for independent living there. The center "is now a \$6 million operation," she said.

Compared with nursing home care, "giving the basic services needed (for people with disabilities to live independently) is not expensive, but it is essential," she said. "The church could be in the

forefront."

She said Adapt was formed in 1982 to campaign for wheelchair access on buses. When it won that fight in 1990, it turned to the independent living issue. But she said the Catholic Church has not been giving that issue "the kind of response we think it deserves."

Philadelphian Eileen Sabel, who said her friends call her "Spitfire," described nursing homes as "death camps."

The demonstrators began gathering in the lobby of the bishops' national headquarters shortly before 1 p.m. Promptly at 1 p.m. they began singing "Amazing Grace" followed by chants for MiCASSA, for "change, not charity" and for "justice, not charity."

About 1:40 p.m. Msgr. David J. Malloy, USCCB general secretary, and Nancy Wisdo, USCCB associate general secretary, came in to meet with the group. Accompanying them were Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, USCCB secretary for communications, and Janice LaLonde Benton, executive director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, whose offices are next door to USCCB headquarters.

They listened as James and others described the concerns they wanted addressed and what they described as a lack of responsiveness from Catholic officials on the MiCASSA legislation, on which the USCCB has not taken a position. A couple of speakers also complained about the lack of handicap-accessibility in some Catholic churches.

Wisdo volunteered to set up a time to discuss the issues more fully, saying she would also like

to include the Catholic disability office and the Catholic Health Association in the discussion.

Benton, who has been with the Catholic disability agency since it was formed in 1982, said she would like to work with Adapt and assist it in getting the voices of the disabled heard more widely.

Msgr. Maniscalco told CNS later the demonstrators he talked with seemed to share a spirit of good will summarized by one woman who told him, "This demonstration is kind of a compliment to you because we think you can really make a difference on something like this."

"They really were looking for the church to assist them in a matter that's extremely important to them," he said.

During the demonstration Anita Cameron of Washington told CNS she grew up Catholic and got interested in social justice through the church.

"The Catholic Church has a long, long history of social justice," she said, but she finds it "disheartening" that the church does not pay more attention to the civil and human rights of those with disabilities. "We're participating members of society, too."

Bob Kafka of Austin, a national organizer of Adapt, said there has been a bias toward the institutionalization of the disabled in Medicare and Medicaid since the programs were established in 1965.

When the money gets short, states cut back first on the community-based programs that would free people with disabilities to stay out of nursing homes, he said.

"It's a civil rights issue," he added.

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 9

years, and after the first four, seriously disagreed with my handling of another student. On the last day of the semester, he paced my office, chastising me, comparing and contrasting my behavior with his father's. I was impressed with the respect he had for his dad, and equally dismayed about his estimation of me. I figured he would not be back.

That summer Richard studied abroad, spending the last weeks traveling. On his return, he phoned from the airport. "I went to the Vatican," he said. "It was so beautiful. I sat and prayed, and I thought a lot. I photographed the Pietá for you. I came home early. And I want to be on the yearbook staff again."

That night back in May when he yelled at me was the first and last time we ever exchanged negative words.

Richard moved away after college, and now works as a flight attendant. He visits. Sometimes he shares holidays. He collects crosses. My youngest daughters call him "Uncle Richard," just for fun, though he is the age of their oldest brother.

He loves to cook, and one year flew in just to help us bake

Thanksgiving pies.

On Mother's Day in 2000, my daughter gave me a new electric mixer (also a KitchenAid, but sky blue — the color love is, I think), and I could think of just one person to have my old one, the mixer with all the history.

So, on his next visit, Richard took my harvest gold KitchenAid mixer home with him. Months later he called, and in the conversation spoke of his life, what was happening, and what my gift had meant to him. As he mused, I wrote Richard's words on the back of an envelope that I saved.

"I've been doing a lot of thinking," he said. "Looking at myself from an outside point of view, and analyzing events from my past. I've been afraid to let go.

"I've struggled with a lot of things, and now I'm feeling a definite influence from God. 'Let go and let God.' I've been reading my Bible. I am being reminded of the good life I've had.

"I took your mixer and had it tuned up," he interjected, suddenly, and brightly. "I bought new beaters. It looks great and works so well! I was thinking how interesting it was that you gave it to me.

"It gave me a real sense of being humble and God taking care of me. It's like, 'Why do

you do all this for me, God?' And he answers, 'Because I love you.'

"The mixer was a push," he said. "A reminder from God saying, 'Everything is going to be all right.'"

My youngest daughter Abby was married last week, and "Uncle Richard" flew in, just like her two brothers did. It was as it should have been: Richard with his camera, a sense of protectiveness, pride, and love for his "sister" Abby, and with respect and mutual affection for his "mom," the person he chastised many years ago.

Richard and I never hang up the phone anymore without saying "I love you."

We all know every family has moments of confrontation and chaos. But we have harvest-gold-KitchenAid-mixer moments, too. Those are the ones we should save. And hand down.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew's, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. Her column is syndicated in a number of the best Catholic diocesan newspapers across the U.S. In May of 2005, her column received the first place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada.

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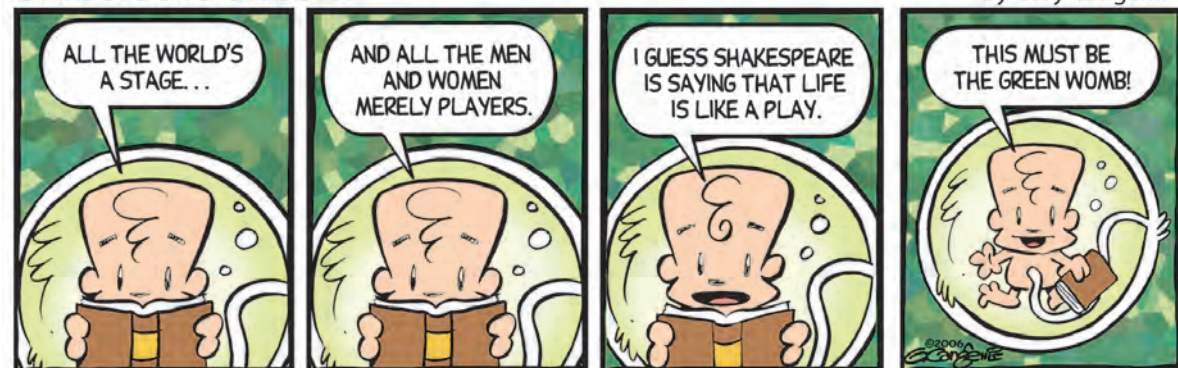
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Umbert the Unborn

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Calendar

MINISTRY FORMATION DAY

The dates have been set for this year's Ministry Formation Day gatherings. They are as follows: Sept. 23 at Notre Dame High School, Wichita Falls, contact Sister Elvira Mata at emata@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-3300 ext. 273; Jan. 6 at Nolan Catholic High School, Fort Worth, contact Kevin Prevou at kprevou@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-3300 ext. 261; and March 3 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mineral Wells, contact Joe Rodriguez at jrodriguez@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-3300 ext. 115.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

A diocesan celebration honoring couples blessed with 50 years or more of married life will be held Oct. 15, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane, Grapevine. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the special Mass which will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the church. Couples who have been married 50 years or more by the end of the year are invited to renew their marriage vows and to receive an anniversary blessing from the bishop. A reception with cake and punch will follow immediately afterward in the parish Family Life Center. Couples who were married prior to 1957 and want to be part of this special celebration are asked to call their parish office and to give their names, address, and date of marriage. Parishes are asked to submit this information to the diocesan Family Life office prior to Aug. 30. For more information, contact the Family Life office at (817) 560-3300 or e-mail to dstojak@fwdioc.org or sordonez@fwdioc.org.

MARRIAGE VALIDATION

A day of preparation for couples seeking to have their marriage validated within the Catholic Church will be offered Sept. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by the diocesan Family Life Office. The one-day session, entitled "Today ... Tomorrow ... Forever," will be held at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth. For more information or to register, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or ext. 256 or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

CENTERING PRAYER

"Centering Prayer: What it is and what it isn't" will be the focus of a talk and discussion by Father Robert Wilson, former chancellor of the Fort Worth Diocese, Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Family Life Center at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Drive, North Richland Hills. Fr. Wilson will describe the practice of Centering Prayer and lead a 20-minute session of silent prayer before his talk, which is sponsored by Contemplative Outreach-Fort Worth, a branch of Contemplative Outreach Ltd., founded by Trappist Abbot Thomas Keating. There will also be a question-and-answer period and a second 20-minute Centering Prayer session after the talk. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Kathleen Kelley at (817) 281-6218 or kkelley_2@charter.net, or Tom Uhler at (817) 874-2894 or uhler@sbcglobal.net.

CZECH HERITAGE DAY

Czech Heritage Day, celebrating the 96th anniversary of SPJST Lodge #92, will be held Sept. 16 at the National Hall, 3316 Roberts Cut-off Rd., Fort Worth. Admission is \$8 for adults. Children 12 years of age and younger are admitted free with a paid adult. A traditional Czech dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years and younger. Music will be provided by Jodie Milkula Orchestra from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. For additional information, call (817) 624-1361.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S GROUP

St. Augustine's Men's Purity Group, for men who struggle with sexual impurity issues on the internet and other sources, meet Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The meetings are held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Room 213, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller. For additional information visit the Web site at www.sampg.org, or e-mail to Mark at seamenspurity@yahoo.com.

To Report Misconduct

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

- Call **Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator**, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org
- Or call the **Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call **The Catholic Center** at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olsen.

To Report Abuse

Call the **Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services)**
1 (800) 252-5400

NOLAN HOMECOMING

Nolan Catholic High School will host its annual Homecoming Alumni Barbecue Sept. 15 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hartnett Arena on the campus. The event includes a full-service barbecue dinner catered by Dickey's Barbecue Pit, activities for the kids, homecoming T-shirts to the first 100 alumni to attend, and guided school tours. There will be no charge for the alumni and their families. RSVP requested by Sept. 1. Call Julie Greene at (817) 457-2920 ext. 1557 or e-mail to alumni@nolancatholicls.org.

UCCAA EVENT

The UTA University Catholic Community Alumni Association (UCCAA) will host a fall semester kick-off Mass and barbecue dinner Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the UTA Catholic Campus Center, located at 1010 Benge Drive in Arlington. All are welcome, and the UCCAA would like to extend a special invitation to all current and former UTA students and their families and friends. For more information, visit the Web site at www.utacatholics.org/alumni or e-mail to ucc_alumni@yahoo.com.

MAGNIFICAT BREAKFAST

The Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic Women, will host a breakfast Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. at the DFW Hilton Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 Hwy. 26 East, Grapevine. The breakfast will feature Tatiana performing "Struggles and Graces, My Journey of Faith." Deadline for ticket purchase is Sept. 20. For more information and tickets, call Lucy Gonzales at (972) 393-2518.

SCOUT RETREATS

The Catholic Boy Scout Retreat will be held Oct. 6-8 at Worth Ranch near Palo Pinto. The theme of this year's retreat is "Ave Maria." There will be indoor and outdoor events and Father Anh Tran will offer the sacrament of reconciliation and celebrate Mass. The cost for the retreat is \$20 per Scout or Scouter. The ninth annual Catholic Cub Scout Retreat will be held Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Worth Ranch also. The retreat will include a "Get to Know You" program, a historical re-enactment, a craft activity, a short hike around the parade ground area, and participation in Mass. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.bsaccs.org.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

"Confronting domestic violence - deliberate decision to affirm" will be presented by Kathy Lee Dunham, RN, Faculty, Baylor University School of Nursing, and member, St. Andrew Church Parish Nurses. This educational offering for those who want to know more about domestic violence and how to help individuals and families that experience this potentially fatal cycle, will be held Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth in the Pastoral Center For more information and to register, contact Alice Curran by e-mail at acurran@st.andrewsch.org, Michele Salcedo by e-mail at msalcedo@st.andrewcc.org, or call St. Andrew Church at (817) 927-5383.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning is safe, healthy, and effective according to The Couple to Couple League. CCL offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of NFP. Since the class consists of four meetings at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a class starting at least four months before their wedding. For more information or to register for a class starting Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 S. Cherry Lane, Fort Worth, contact Bill and Mary Kouba at (817) 370-9193. To register for a class starting Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 714 N. Main, Muenster, contact Gary and Mary Endres at (940) 759-4810. To register for a class starting Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 2255 N. Bonnie Brae, Denton, contact Kent and Lori Wolf at (940) 482-7120.

PRO-LIFE BANQUET

The Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet, benefiting Catholics Respect Life, will be held Oct. 21 at Embassy Suites Outdoor World, DFW, 2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine. The evening will feature Father Bernard Murphy, DFR, as the keynote speaker, a silent auction from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Ticket options include, Shepherd Table of 10 — Bishop Kevin Vann or Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann, \$3,000; Speaker Table of 10 — Father Bernard Marie Murphy, \$3,000; Angel of Life Table of 10, \$400; Individual, \$45. Reservation deadline is Oct. 9. Make checks payable to Catholics Respect Life, and mail to Catholics Respect Life, P.O. Box 1806, Keller 76244. For more information, call (817) 623-2430.

COME HOME MINISTRY

Come Home Ministry is an open door invitation that offers an exploration of return for Catholics who are currently disconnected from the church and who are considering "coming home." Sessions begin Sept. 26 and will be held each Tuesday through Oct. 24. Participants will meet in the Pastoral Center of St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Come Home team is made up of people who have themselves returned to the church, parish staff and clergy, and parishioners eager to help individuals again feel at home in the church. For more information, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383 or by e-mail to acurran@standrewsch.org.

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ICS SCHOOL OPENINGS

Limited openings are available for fall 2006 at Immaculate Conception School in Denton: Classes are underway at Immaculate Conception School for students ages three through grade eight. The school, located at 2301 North Bonnie Brae in Denton, is part of the 19-school Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth system and serves about 270 students from Denton and surrounding counties. ICS will offer full-day sections of three- and four-year-old classes with MWF, TTH, or M-F options. Extended care services are available until 6 p.m. daily. Openings remain in some grade levels for grades kindergarten through eight. For more information, call the school office at (940) 381-1155 or visit the school Web site at www.catholicsschooldenton.org

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held Sept. 15-17 in Fort Worth. Rachel's Vineyard retreats offer a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath. The retreat team provides the confidential support needed to help participants work through feelings of anger, shame, guilt, and grief, so that they may be open to experiencing the healing love and mercy of God. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and former participants in the abortion industry — anyone who has been hurt by abortion — are welcome to attend. For more information or to register, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757; e-mail to forgiven@racheltx.org; or visit the Rachel's Vineyard Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

AUTUMNFEST

All are invited to St. Catherine of Siena's 20th annual Autumnfest from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 23. Admission is free. Registration for the 5k run and 1 mile Fun Run will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 8 a.m. The family fun carnival will have arts and crafts, silent auction, games for the kids, food, entertainment, and music. For more information, call the parish office at (972) 492-3237 or visit the Web site at www.stcatherine.org

YOUNG SERRAN DANCE

The Young Serra Community of Dallas will host an End of Summer Dance. This event will take place Sept. 9 in St. Monica's School Cafeteria located at 9933 Midway Rd., Dallas, from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The \$10 admission includes two drink tickets. A barbecue dinner will be available for an additional charge. Music will be provided by DJ Ron Ruthven. All must be 21 years of age or older to attend. For more information, contact Adriana Fjeseth at (469) 522-0647 or by e-mail to afjeseth@sbcglobal.net or Cheryl Vaca at (972) 488-8578 or by e-mail to youngserracomunity@yahoo.com.

SCOUT PRESENTATION

Bishop Kevin Vann will conduct a presentation on the sacrament of Holy Orders Sept. 16, at 10:15 a.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, in the gym. Bishop Vann will address the questions/topics found in chapter 7 of the Ad Altare Dei Scout Manual. All candidates for the Boy Scout Religious Award are invited to participate in the discussion. Adult Scout leaders and anyone else that would like to hear the discussion are also invited. For more information, contact Charlie Levitt at (817) 498-9252.

Classified Section

CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth is seeking applicants for part-time (20 hours) campus ministry positions at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and the University of North Texas at Denton (UNT). This minister will support, encourage, and develop the faith of Catholic students through a variety of programs. Responsibilities include: administration of the campus facility, programming which includes sacramental preparation and coordination of retreats and the development of volunteer student leadership. Requirements for this position include: active participation in the Catholic Church, broad knowledge of church teachings and traditions, sensitivity to the needs and concerns of young adults in the college setting and interpersonal skills. A BA degree in theology or a related field or equivalent is required. Bilingual and bicultural English/Spanish is desired. Contact Steve Landon, director of personnel, for a required application at (817) 560-2452 ext. 154 or slandon@fwdioc.org or 800 W. Loop 820 S., Fort Worth, 76108. The latest date to apply for this position is Sept. 1.

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Frisco is seeking a full-time youth ministry coordinator. This person will assist the director of youth ministries in developing all aspects of youth ministry programs. St. Francis is a fast-growing parish with a strong vision for the future. Eligible candidates must be able to work with a ministry team to serve the mission of the parish and to work with young people in a variety of environments to build them up in their faith. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in youth ministry or a related field required. Some experience preferred. Competitive salary and benefits offered. Send resume and salary requirements to David Utsler, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 8000 El Dorado Pkwy., Frisco 75034 or by e-mail to dutsler@stfoafrisco.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sacred Heart parish, a growing, 700-family parish in Texarkana looking for an energetic, passionate Christian disciple as full-time Youth Minister. This position will be responsible for the direction of youth ministries, implementing the elements of evangelization, catechesis, liturgy, outreach, and fellowship. Familiarity with the U.S. bishops' "Renewing the Vision" is required. Bachelor's degree and Certification in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary and benefits. Resumes should be sent to YM Search Committee, c/o Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4505 Elizabeth St., Texarkana 75503, or e-mailed as an attachment to sh4505@aol.com.

NURSING HOME DIRECTOR

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is currently seeking a faithful, practicing Catholic who has the necessary qualifications and skills to operate St. Ann Nursing Home, a first-class Catholic nursing home in Oklahoma City. This position requires five years of experience operating a nursing home with a proven track record. Candidate must also have or be able to obtain the necessary license from the State of Oklahoma. We are seeking someone with excellent communication, team building, and managerial skills. Send resume and personal references to Mr. David Johnson, P. O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123; or fax to (405) 721-5210.

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New Orleans Archbishop Hughes reflects on Katrina's lessons, further challenges

By Peter Finney Jr.
Editor, *Clarion Herald*
Archdiocese of New Orleans

For New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina elicits tears and emotionally charged flashbacks.

The tears still come 12 months later when he speaks of encounters with Katrina survivors at a Baton Rouge shelter who shared with him their life-and-death stories, their enduring faith, and their raw anger.

When Archbishop Hughes walked into the shelter two days after Katrina inundated 80 percent of the city of New Orleans, a Red Cross representative asked him to speak to an inconsolable Lower 9th Ward resident.

The man told the archbishop about rushing to his attic with his wife after the levee burst and hacking a hole in the roof to escape the surging tide. When the man tried to lift his wife, she became paralyzed

In this Sept. 10, 2005, photo, Archbishop Alfred Hughes takes an overhead look at the floodwaters that inundated more than 80 percent of the residential area of New Orleans. Xavier University of Louisiana, which had severe flooding, can be seen in the distance. (CNS photo by Frank J. Methe, CLARION HERALD)



with fear and slipped from his grasp into the water.

"I dove down and grabbed onto her shirt, and she slipped out of her shirt. That was the last I saw of her," he told the archbishop.

Archbishop Hughes said the man was "consumed with anger" and could not eat. "He had a hard time even talking," he said. "I just tried to listen and tried to incorporate into a prayer some of the depression and anger and confusion he obviously was feeling."

A year later, the archbishop said he is aware of the high level of frustration, anger, and depression many survivors are experiencing because of the slow pace of recovery.

That is where the church can play a healing role, he told the *Clarion Herald*, archdiocesan newspaper of New Orleans.

"I know there's a lot of depression and free-floating anger that gets focused on anyone who is a convenient target," Archbishop Hughes said. "We're going to have a very important role as church to help people move from being victims to being victors, and that's going to be a challenge."

"Some people may choose to remain victims, but that paralyzes and polarizes," he added. "If we're going to be victors, we need to marshal our energies and positive attitudes and work together in accordance with our own abilities to try to accomplish something bigger and better."

To illustrate his point, he used the example of a woman he met at a shelter immediately after Katrina. The woman held

up a grocery bag telling him it was all she was able to rescue of her belongings.

"The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away. I guess we still need to try to bless the name of the Lord," she told him.

Archbishop Hughes described her words as "an extraordinary prayer."

"It was real. It was where she was, but it was coming out of her faith and a desire to reconnect with God," he said.

Katrina's devastation -- more than 1,500 deaths and the destruction of 200,000 homes in the metropolitan New Orleans area -- crossed all racial, ethnic, and economic lines. The archdiocese sustained \$225 million in damage to its properties -- \$145 million in flood damage and \$80 million in wind damage -- and \$120 million of that was uninsured flood loss.

Seven of the worst-hit areas in the archdiocese developed a pastoral plan that closed six

parishes and delayed the re-opening of 23 others until there is a pastoral need for some of them to reopen.

While the archdiocese has implemented its plan for the next 18 months, Archbishop Hughes expressed regret that the community-wide plan he helped develop as part of Mayor Ray Nagin's 17-member Bring New Orleans Back Commission was met with criticism and essentially shelved.

"I have said a number of times that we have to do everything we can -- and I commit the Catholic Church to doing this -- to make it possible for anyone who previously lived in New Orleans to come back. We need to develop a community that is more welcoming to people of different races and economic backgrounds."

One of the major initiatives backed by the archdiocese is Providence Community Housing, that hopes to renovate or build 7,000 housing units in the metropolitan New Orleans area. **See Archbishop Hughes... p. 19**



Left: New Orleans Archbishop Alfred Hughes, with arms around Melanie Ally and her son, Alan, discusses cleanup with Bishop R. Daniel Conlon of Steubenville, Ohio, at Ally's flooded New Orleans home Dec. 19. (CNS photo by Peter Finney Jr., CLARION HERALD)

Right: Archbishop Alfred Hughes embraces a woman at the St. Anthony of Padua Church shelter in Baton Rouge, Sept. 11, 2005. (CNS photo by Greg Tarczynski)



Inside... This issue of the NTC

In their 71 years tending to the health needs of the Wichita Falls area, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth brought medical care wrapped in the love of God. **12**

Our honor graduates amaze us with the variety of the services they've offered, the breadth of their interests, and the height of their achievements. **14-15**

Jeff Hedglen conveys a sense of this year's Camp Fort Worth experiences, shaped by phrases from the Lord's Prayer. **16-17**

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