

Capitol prayer service calls for end to hatred of immigrants



Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, joins faith leaders during an immigration prayer service on Capitol Hill in Washington Sept. 15. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Outside the Capitol Sept. 15 bishops of three denominations led a brief prayer service for an end to hate, particularly hatred toward immigrants.

"We must clearly say shame, shame, shame on those who depend on our immigrant brothers and sisters, use them and often abuse them, and then turn against them with their racism and hatred," said Bishop Minerva Carcano of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Method-

ist Church.

"The current environment dehumanizes our fellow human beings and diminishes us as a nation," said Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the migration committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Prince Singh of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, New York, said that as an immigrant himself (from India), he takes very seriously the Christian call to treat one another with love. He prayed that the nation would be proud of "how we treat the most vulnerable among us, espe-

cially at a time of hate."

Meanwhile, elsewhere on Capitol Hill, 47 radio talk show hosts held a two-day broadcast capping a lobbying effort aimed at cracking down on illegal immigration and derailing efforts to approve comprehensive immigration reform.

A day before the prayer service, speakers from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups, and others sought to temper news coverage of the lobbying and talk-show event with a teleconference denouncing the

SEE IMMIGRANTS, P. 2

USCCB, CHA officials encouraged about Obama's address on health care

Catholics continue to insist on amendments to protect the unborn

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's pledge to continue the ban on the use of federal funds for abortion and to maintain conscience protections for health care workers in any health reform legislation was welcomed by two officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the president of the Catholic Health Association.

Speaking with Catholic News Service Sept. 10, hours after Obama addressed a joint session of Congress and a nationwide television audience, Kathy Saile, director of domestic social development in the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, said the president's address offered an encouraging sign that the administration has been listening to concerns raised by the bishops and pro-life organizations about abortion funding in any reform legislation.

Citing the bishops' long-standing belief that all Americans must have access to quality, affordable health care, Saile said the president's speech must be followed up with the appropriate changes in legislation currently pending in both houses of Congress.

As currently written, the leading piece of legislation in

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the House, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, known as H.R. 3200, allows for federal funding of abortion. Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said Sept. 16 that the Senate Finance Committee legislation made public that day by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., has "the same unacceptable language on abortion" as H.R. 3200.

Acknowledging that "serious significant details need to be ironed out," Saile said Sept. 10 that "we need to look at actual language that fixes provisions

SEE HEALTH, P. 25

Catholics Respect Life and associated programs have been welcomed into the diocese's Respect Life Office

The diocese has announced that as of September 15, the very active pro-life apostolate known as Catholics Respect Life (CRL) has been incorporated into the Catholics Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Chanacee Ruth-Killgore serves as director of the diocesan office.

In a letter sent to priests and pastoral administrators of the diocese, Bishop Kevin Vann credited the CRL organization and its leadership — Angela and Bob Walters and the organization's numerous

volunteers — with having developed "an extensive outreach with a wide range of ministries."

Through the many programs and ministries developed under the Walters' leadership, the bishop wrote, "Catholics Respect Life has not only generously served our Catholic community, but they have also served the Fort Worth community as a whole.

"I am also pleased to announce that Angela and Bob Walters and the former board of directors of Catholics Respect Life will contin-

ue in their ardent efforts to defend life through their integral roles on the Advisory Committee to the Catholics Respect Life [diocesan] Office," added Bishop Vann.

The numerous pro-life ministries that are already in place will continue as an integrated part of the diocesan office, the bishop said. These ministries, which include the Gabriel Project, Rachel Ministries, Youth for Life, Sidewalk Prayer and Advocacy, 40 Days for Life, and Civic Action, will continue, with Betsy Kopor

employed full-time by the diocese in her work with Rachel Ministries. Rachel Ministries offers an opportunity for healing to women and men suffering the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion.

Debra Heron, who works with Gabriel Project, a parish-based outreach to mothers experiencing crisis pregnancies, will continue in her role, employed part-time by the diocese, and Sue Laux will continue to serve Youth for Life, with its peer-based outreach, pursuing the goal of helping youth

become more pro-life, as a part-time employee of the diocese.

With the change, the CRL apostolate, which was formed in 2001 and is based at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (SEAS) Church in Keller, will cease to exist as a separate non-profit 501(c)3 entity.

The SEAS office will remain open for now, said Ruth-Killgore, noting that the diocese is seeking a larger space from which services of education and assistance to women in crisis pregnancies can

SEE RESPECT, P. 9

Cardinal, priests discuss what guides decisions on Catholic funeral

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In his homily at Sen. Edward Kennedy's funeral Aug. 29, Father Mark Hession explained the pastoral purpose of the liturgy.

"In the Catholic tradition, the Mass of Christian burial weaves together memory and hope," said the senator's Cape Cod, Massachusetts, pastor. "The worship of the church locates us precisely between a past we reverently remember and a future in which we firmly believe."

As Kennedy's family mourned, millions of people around the world watched a memorial service Aug. 28 and the next day's funeral and burial. The latter services included the participation of prominent church leaders, including the archbishop of Boston, yet some critics said the fact that the Massachusetts senator had a Catholic funeral was a scandal to the church.

"Has the potential to be a scandal that will make Notre Dame's Obama Day a walk in the park," said an editorial by LifeSite News, a pro-life Web site.

The Catholic Action League of Massachusetts said of the funeral Mass: "This morning's spectacle is evidence of the corruption which pervades the Catholic Church in the United States."

Robert Royal, president of the Faith and Reason Institute in Washington, said television coverage of Kennedy's funeral Mass "has spread the image of the church honoring a well-known Catholic, passionately disrespectful of life. The damage may be irreversible."

He said he disagrees with those who say Kennedy should have been denied a Catholic funeral. However, he added, "could the church have commended him to God in a way that paid respect to the 50 million aborted souls who were not here to watch the spectacle? She could have, and it's a tragedy for the church and America that she did not."

Participating in Kennedy's funeral rites



Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley presides over the prayers of final commendation during the funeral Mass for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Boston Aug. 29. (CNS photo/Brian Snyder, Reuters)

were two cardinals and priests from at least four dioceses. Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston presided at the funeral, and Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, the retired archbishop of Washington, presided at the burial.

In a Sept. 2 posting on his blog on the archdiocesan Web site, www.bostoncatholic.org, Cardinal O'Malley acknowledged the controversy over Kennedy having a Catholic funeral, but said marginalization of people over even an issue as important as abortion is the wrong path.

"Given the profound effect of Catholic social teaching on so many of the programs and policies espoused by Sen. Kennedy and the millions who benefited from them, there is a tragic sense of lost opportunity in his lack of support for the unborn," Cardinal O'Malley wrote.

Nevertheless, Cardinal O'Malley said, he strongly disagrees with those who said the church should not have permitted Kennedy a public Catholic funeral.

He noted that the details of the senator's correspondence with Pope Benedict XVI in

his last weeks revealed an acknowledgement of "failing to always be a faithful Catholic, and his request for prayers as he faced the end of his life."

"The Holy Father's expression of gratitude for the senator's pledge of prayer for the church, his commendation of the senator and his family to the intercession of the Blessed Mother, and his imparting the apostolic blessing, spoke of His Holiness' role as the vicar of Christ, the good shepherd who leaves none of the flock behind," he wrote.

Cardinal O'Malley later said, "At times, even in the church, zeal can lead people to issue harsh judgments and impute the worst motives to one another. These attitudes and practices do irreparable damage to the communion of the church. If any cause is motivated by judgment, anger or vindictiveness, it will be doomed to marginalization and failure."

Msgr. Anthony Sherman, executive director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Kennedy's funeral at the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was well within the guidelines of the church's Order of Christian Funerals.

"It was basically a regular Catholic funeral," he said. Even the two brief remembrances by Kennedy's sons and a eulogy by President Barack Obama were appropriate and did not overshadow the liturgical emphasis on prayer for the deceased, he said.

Besides Msgr. Sherman, a canon lawyer at The Catholic University of America in Washington was among those who said having a Catholic funeral Mass for Kennedy was perfectly appropriate under church law.

Canon 1184 provides several conditions under which Catholics must be "deprived of ecclesiastical funerals." They include: "notorious apostates, heretics, and schismatics; those who chose the cremation of their bodies for reasons contrary to Christian faith"; and "other manifest sinners who cannot be granted ecclesiastical funerals without public scandal of the faithful."

The commentary accompanying the code text notes that "funerals may not be denied to someone who gave a sign of repentance before death," such as summoning a priest. It notes that the conditions are rarely met to deny a "manifest sinner" a

funeral that would cause public scandal.

Jesuit Father Robert J. Kaslyn, dean of Catholic University's School of Canon Law, said in deciding whether someone is denied a Catholic funeral under Canon 1184 the church presupposes that the deceased was not a "manifest sinner."

Canon 213 says that "the Christian faithful have the right to receive assistance" from the church, "especially the word of God and the sacraments." Father Kaslyn said given that right, when a question of denying a funeral arises, "the value in denying a funeral would have to outweigh the value in granting one."

He compared the pastoral issue to the question of whether couples seeking a church marriage should be denied the sacrament if it's not clear that they are sufficiently faithful. In addressing the question, Father Kaslyn paraphrased Pope John Paul II, saying that "to judge the presence or absence of sufficient faith is almost impossible, and therefore the church should presuppose that if a couple is willing to go through the preparation process that is sufficient."

"Trying to say whether someone is or is not a sinner is just as difficult," he said. "In dealing with the conscience of an individual, are we to presume that an individual has not received spiritual guidance?"

In the case of Kennedy, Cardinal O'Malley presided over the funeral, with decisions about the liturgy made by the principal celebrant, Jesuit Father J. Donald Monan, chancellor of Boston College, according to a statement from the Archdiocese of Boston.

"There never was any question that Sen. Kennedy was entitled to a Catholic funeral," the statement said. "The senator was a regular communicant at parishes in Washington, D.C., and in Massachusetts. The purpose of the funeral liturgy is to pray for the soul of the deceased person. Our prayer is inspired by our hope in God's mercy and forgiveness. Sen. Kennedy, like any person, was imperfect and in need of God's mercy."

Father Kaslyn said the church doesn't consider a funeral a reward to be withheld based upon what others believe to have been the condition of the deceased's soul. It instead is an occasion for prayers for the deceased and comfort for the survivors, Father Kaslyn said. "We're trusting to God's mercy, leaving the judgment to God."

While many families have a story of a relative who was denied a funeral in decades past because of divorce or suicide, that's not the current practice. The commentary in the *Code of Canon Law* specifically says people in irregular marriages or people who committed suicide are not included among those who are automatically denied funerals, "since deprivation of a church funeral not infrequently causes as much if not more scandal than granting it."

Said the USCCB's Msgr. Sherman, "The judging game is very dangerous."

Cardinal O'Malley said in his blog that the way to change abortion law is to change people's hearts. "We will not change hearts by turning away from people in their time of need and when they are experiencing grief and loss."

Immigrants...

FROM PAGE 1

sponsors as hate-fostering extremists.

Heidi Beirich of the Southern Poverty Law Center noted that her organization lists the Federation for American Immigration Reform, known as FAIR, as a hate group, based in part upon the history of FAIR's founder and current board member, John Tanton. FAIR organized the lobby days and talk-radio event.

"Over the decades, Tanton has repeatedly described contemporary immigrants as inferior. He has questioned the 'educability' of Latinos and written that 'for European-American society and culture to persist requires a European-American majority, and a clear one at that,'" said an article on FAIR on the law center's Web site. The center also cites Tanton connections to white supremacist, Ku Klux Klan, and Holocaust denial leaders.

Tanton's own Web site includes a response to some of the law center's charges, noting that his activism to reduce immigration grew out of environmental concerns that the population is growing too fast. It does not address most of the charges made

by the law center.

Frank Sharry, director of the organization America's Voice, which hosted the teleconference, said, "Washington has to stop being bullied by a very small but very vocal minority of people that like to scream and yell, but offer no solutions to some of our country's most pressing problems."

"We can fix these problems, including our broken immigration system, by working hard and looking at the facts, not by preying on people's fears," he concluded.

At the prayer service, Yvette Schock of the United Methodist Church said the event was organized partly to call attention to the background of FAIR, "because they are often quoted in the mainstream press as if they are mainstream and middle-of-the-road."

Dale Schwartz, chairman of the public policy committee of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, told of being struck at another interfaith prayer service by the commonality of teachings to care for one's neighbors found in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

"The theme of being kind to one's neighbors runs through the great religions of Western society," he said.

Diocesan / International

Pope ordains bishops, emphasizes spirit of service to church

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ordaining five new bishops, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged a spirit of service and warned against careerism in the church.

"We know how life in society and not infrequently even in the church suffers because many of those called to a position of responsibility work for themselves and not for the community," the pope said at a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Sept. 12.

He said the church is not something that belongs to its highest officials.

"The church is not our church, but (the Lord's) church, the church of God," he said. "We do not bind men to ourselves; we do not seek power, prestige, or admiration for ourselves. We lead people to Jesus Christ and thus toward the living God."

The pope said being faithful to the ordained ministry should be an experience of self-sacrifice, and therefore "liberating for the minister himself and for those entrusted to him."

In addition to fidelity, Christ asks prudence and goodness from his ministers, he said. The essential virtue of any priest is to be imprinted by the truth of Christ, which requires an open mentality and a setting aside of prejudices, he said.

"We should not allow our-

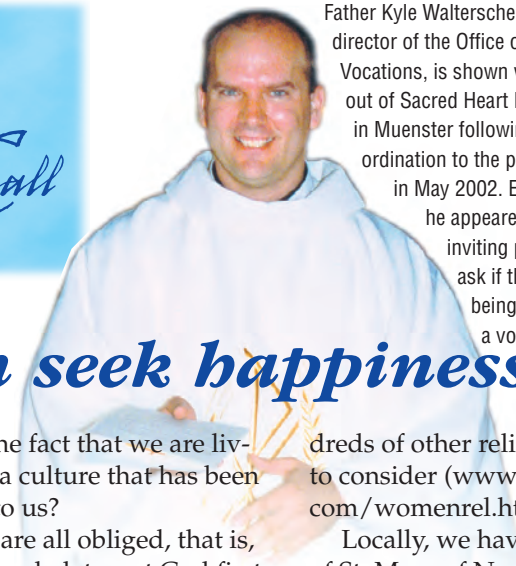


U.S. Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, prefect of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature at the Vatican, right, lays hands on newly ordained Archbishop Pietro Parolin during an episcopal ordination in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Sept. 12. Pope Benedict XVI ordained five new bishops at the Mass. Archbishop Parolin was named in August as the apostolic nuncio to Venezuela. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

selves to be guided by the little window of our personal cleverness, but by the great window that Christ has opened on the whole truth," he said.

During the two and a half-hour liturgy, the pope ordained five Vatican officials who have recently been promoted to new positions. The group included three relatively young Italian prelates who will serve as the pope's diplomatic representatives.

*Responding
to God's Call*



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

Young women seek happiness

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Can we not presuppose that young women in college seeking a degree also believe that in some real way their career path will lead to an inner satisfaction, fulfillment, and happiness?

It would be my hope that this, in fact, does happen, but I must add that real fulfillment, satisfaction, and happiness within any career must be put in the context of putting God first. As Jesus has said, the greatest commandment is "to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all of your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:28-31).

To illustrate the internal conflict that young women are facing today, I give you the example of a young, beautiful, married, and godly woman I met this week. She was so convinced that her career alone would complete her happiness that she was seeking an abortion, even as she fully acknowledged, in answer to my questions, that she was carrying a baby in her womb that was given to her by God and that her husband very much wanted as an addition to their family.

This is not to single her out for criticism, but rather, I cite this real situation to help you to begin to see the pervasive culture in this country, a culture of death and blindness to the reality of God's many beautiful gifts to the world. She was completely oblivious to these gifts and was ready to destroy her marriage and the miraculous gift from God growing within her, the gift of a child. When are we going to wake up and come to terms

with the fact that we are living in a culture that has been lying to us?

We are all obliged, that is, commanded, to put God first, but culturally speaking, the majority of Catholics are not doing this. The end does not justify the means. A career path that destroys relationships and people is not only unjustifiable, in the end it will not bring the happiness that one seeks.

However, I believe that women can have a joyful career while also putting God first. For women who choose marriage, it is our duty as a church community to help women embrace God through their vocation of marriage and motherhood (or the possibility thereof), while helping companies see the invaluable gift of keeping them in the workforce, thereby accommodating their particular needs as mothers.

All three of my sisters and all three of my brothers' spouses have done remarkably well in finding this balance between career and family while putting God first.

But there is another option that I want to chisel into your minds: the possibility for our young single Catholic women to go for that career while choosing to enter the religious life as sisters in convents who give exceptional witness to Christ's love in the workforce. For example, Father James Hart, the chancellor of our diocese, has a sister, Sister Edith Hart, who has chosen such a path, having joined the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan, several years ago and who will soon complete her residency to become a medical doctor.

In this regard some of our young single women may want to reconsider the idea of a career altogether, and simply put God fully front and center by joining a cloister such as the Carmelite cloister of nuns in South Arlington (www.carmelnuns.com). For other young women, the idea of a career rings true to their heart, and so we have hun-

dreds of other religious orders to consider (www.vocations.com/womenrel.html).

Locally, we have the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur here in Fort Worth who have been in Texas since 1873 and who have generously laid down their lives for Christ to bring forth the faith that we have so often taken for granted here in North Texas (www.ssmnwestern.com). Their ministry extends into education, social justice, pastoral ministry, nursing, and missions. Sister Yolanda Cruz (e-mail: sycruz@sbcglobal.net), their Vocations director and a good friend of mine, is excited about their future as they have three sisters who are in the process of transferring to their order and two young women who have completed their year of aspirancy and are beginning their postulant year.

If we truly desire a regeneration of sisters in our diocese, then you must do your part to pray and to promote a culture of life for young women to consider that God may be calling them to the beautiful life of sacrifice and love for Christ and his Church, a life of service based in the mutual support of a religious community. Now that's satisfaction, fulfillment, and happiness! So, to get started, we need 10 women to join the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur by next August. Now who is going to help promote them?

Young discerning women can join them every first Friday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., beginning in October. Also, for general discernment, single women are welcome to join the diocesan women's monthly discernment the third Monday of each month at St. Patrick Cathedral from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information please see the announcement on the next to the last page of this paper.

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

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Steve Kellmeyer to speak at St. Joseph Parish, Sept. 26

Catholic theologian and historian, Steve Kellmeyer, will present "Martin Luther and the Reformation" Saturday, Sept. 26, at St. Joseph Parish, 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington.

Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., and a light supper will follow with the presentation to begin at 7 p.m. Childcare will be available on a first-come basis.

There is no charge for this event. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 472-5181.

Red Mass to be celebrated Sept. 28 at St. Patrick Cathedral

The third annual Red Mass for judges, public officials, attorneys and their spouses, as well as their staffs will be held Monday, Sept. 28. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth. A reception will be held immediately following the Mass at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

The Red Mass is offered to invoke divine guidance and strength while initiating the legal year. It is celebrated in honor of the Holy Spirit as the source of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and fortitude, gifts which should shine forth preeminently in the dispensing of justice in the courtroom, and in the individual lawyer's office.

The Red Mass has been traditionally identified with the opening of the Sacred Roman Rota, the supreme judicial body of the Catholic Church. The inauguration of the Red Mass in the United States occurred in New York City on October 6, 1928.

For more information regarding the Red Mass, contact Robert Gieb at (817) 336-5681.

SHSp Sisters to host 'Come and See' weekend Oct. 9-11

The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate ask, "Have you ever wondered what life in a convent is like and how the sisters live, work, and spread the Gospel?" In an effort to increase vocations to the religious life and to the community, the sisters will host a "Come and See" weekend Oct. 9-11 at their Motherhouse, 300 Yucca St., San Antonio.

Women, ages 18-45 will have the opportunity to experience life in a convent setting. During the weekend guests will participate in community prayer, small group sharing, discernment themes, personal reflection, Emmaus Walk, recreation, and other activities with the sisters.

Registration for the "Come and See" weekend is available on-line at www.shsp.org, under "What's New?" or by contacting Sister Gabriel Hession, SHSp, at (210) 533-5149 or sghession@hotmail.com.

Mother - Daughter Tea to be held Oct. 25

The Mother-Daughter Tea will be held Sunday afternoon, Oct. 25, from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. All young ladies, ages 10-13, their mothers, grandmothers, or any other special woman in their lives are invited to enjoy and celebrate the gifts of being female.

"Join us for an afternoon in a tea house complete with tea pots and cups, a delicious lunch, and dessert," urge program organizers. "Other women will be your hostesses and speakers as we share our life experiences and the satisfaction of being female, as well as the special gifts and qualities we have received from our Creator to function in this role. This session will explain the physical, emotional, and psychological changes that occur in becoming a woman from a faith-based perspective."

The ticket cost is \$12.50 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096. Due to a limited amount of space available, reservations are being accepted on a first call basis.

White Mass announced for health care professionals

The Medical Association of Catholic Students from the University of North Texas Health Science Center will host the fifth annual White Mass Wednesday, Oct. 21. The White Mass, traditionally held for all physicians, nurses, health care workers, and for pastoral care ministers and students, will be celebrated at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will be the main celebrant.

"Traditionally, health care workers wore white attire. In the church, white symbolizes hope and comfort to the ill and hospitalized," note event organizers. Participants in the liturgy are invited to wear their white coats.

For more information, contact Miriam Garcia at migarcia@hsc.unt.edu or (409) 549-1624.

Catholic Charities to offer Adoption Orientation in Dallas

Catholic Charities of Dallas will hold an Adoption Orientation Monday, Sept. 28, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The program will offer an opportunity to gain additional information regarding the practices and philosophies of adoption through Professional Counseling and Children's Services.

The orientation will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 6303 Kenwood Ave., Dallas. All racial and ethnic backgrounds and members of all Christian faiths are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Linda T. Christianson at (214) 526-2772 or (800)-BabyDue.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



ST. RITA PRINCIPALS — St. Rita Parish held a "Candle Light" ceremony Aug. 21 honoring Charlene Hymel and Kathleen Krick. The ceremony bid farewell to Hymel as she left St. Rita School to become the new associate school superintendent for the Diocese of Fort Worth. Hymel served as principal at St. Rita School from 2003 to 2006. The parish welcomed Krick as the new principal of St. Rita School. Krick is a former teacher at St. Rita's and at Nolan Catholic High School. Krick also served as administrator for Nolan.

NTC publication deadlines

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

Items for the Oct. 2 issue must be received by noon on Sept. 23. Items for the Oct. 16 issue must be received by noon on Oct. 7.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet Sept. 24

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families and Friends regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held Sept. 24 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth.

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

Retrouvaille to celebrate 25th Anniversary Nov. 13

Retrouvaille, a ministry to help troubled marriages, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Anyone who has experienced this ministry is invited to attend a Mass to be celebrated, Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing, Fort Worth. A reception, hosted by Holy Family, will follow in the parish hall.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 737-6768.

Yoga / Meditation Retreat to be held at CRC, Oct. 16-18

A Yoga/Meditation retreat will be offered at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., in East Fort Worth, Oct. 16-18. The retreat will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday and will conclude Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.

The retreat, led by certified yoga instructor Janie Portele, is designed for students of all experience levels. The cost, which includes lodging, vegetarian meals, and classes, is \$167, if paid by Sept. 21; after that date, the cost is \$197.

For more information or reservations, call (254) 968-8917 or e-mail to yoga@our-town.com. More information may also be found online at www.stephenville.com/yoga.

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.

Mass For Children Who Died Before Baptism scheduled for Oct. 10

Mass for Children Who Died Before Baptism will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann Saturday, Oct. 10, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 West Magnolia, east of Hemphill in Fort Worth. The Mass, sponsored by Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas and Catholics United for Life of North Texas, will begin at noon. A reception with a light lunch will be held in the parish hall following the Mass.

The intention of the Mass is to help the healing process for parents who have lost children through miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion. Relatives and friends of these parents are also invited to attend. Individual flowers will be provided for parents to place at the Virgin Mary's altar during the Prayers of the Faithful in memory of their children, should they wish to do so.

Reservations are requested, but not required. For more information and reservations, call (817) 738-1086, mail to 3704 Myrtle Springs Rd., Fort Worth, 76116, or e-mail mubcare@gmail.com.

Marriage Encounter weekend to be held Oct. 9-11 at CRC

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Oct. 9-11 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St. in East Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of marriage vows, and strengthening the couple's faith. "One year or fifty! No matter how long you've been married, a Marriage Encounter Weekend is a great way to breathe new life into your relationship. And it's just for the two of you (no group sharing)," according to Marriage Encounter materials.

Reservations are required. To make a reservation, e-mail mereregistration@sbcglobal.net. More information is also available online at www.ntexasme.org.

Cursillo weekends to be held in October

A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ.

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

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

Respect Life Holy Hour changes to third Monday

The Holy Hour sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth will change in October from the first Monday of every month to the third Monday of every month. It will still be held from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth.

The hour will begin with a rosary and be followed by eucharistic adoration. All are invited to come and pray for an end to abortion and all offenses to the sanctity and dignity of human life.

For more information, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of Respect Life for the Diocese of Fort Worth, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257.

Natural Family Planning classes to be offered at various locations

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the symptothermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding.

To register for a course starting Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. in the Sacred Heart High School Library, 153 E. Sixth St., Muenster, contact Scott and Vickie Green at (940) 759-4475. To register for a course starting Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 Ninth Street, Wichita Falls, contact Jacob and Lauren Morath at (940) 544-2515. To register for a course starting Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, contact Scott and Amy Rustand at (817) 581-6266.

Visit www.ccldfw.org for more class dates and information.

Study series on Evangelium Vitae to be offered at St. John's

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth will host a four-part study series on *Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life*, by John Paul II beginning Oct. 7. The study sessions will take place each Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Parish located at 7341 Glenview, North Richland Hills.

Each session will have a guest speaker, followed by small group discussions and time for fellowship and socializing. Each participant will receive a copy of *Evangelium Vitae* as well as the study guide. The cost of the series is \$5 per person.

For more information or to register, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of Respect Life, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257 or cruth-killgore@fwdioc.org. Advanced registration is recommended, but not required.

Diocesan

John Paul II Institute's Catechetical School sponsors 'JP II and Pizza Too!' lecture series with Douglas Bushman

'JP II and Pizza Too!' Schedule

Douglas Bushman, STL, will cover Pope John Paul II's teachings on a variety of subjects one Tuesday night a month at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church's Formation and Ministry Building, located at 2016 Willis Lane in Keller.

The topics to be covered include John Paul's teachings on:

Sept. 29 — "Vatican II and the New Evangelization"

Oct. 20 — "The Meaning of Life in Christ"

Nov. 17 — "Man in the Image and Likeness of God"

Dec. 15 — "God the Father, Rich in Mercy"

Jan. 19 — "The Holy Spirit and the Renewal of the Inner Man"

Feb. 16 — "The Vocation to Work"

March 16 — "The Vocation to Love and Suffering"

April 20 — "The Faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary"

The format for the evenings will be as follows:

6 p.m. Pizza Dinner for \$4 per person
6:30 p.m. Presentation
8:15-9 p.m. Questions and Discussion

Douglas Bushman, STL, will kick off "JP II and Pizza Too!", a series of monthly presentations that delve into the writings and teachings of the late pontiff, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller. The series is sponsored by the Catechetical School of the Pope John Paul II Institute of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Bishop Kevin Vann has invited Bushman, director of the Institute of Pastoral Theology at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida, and a nationally-known speaker and expert on the writings of Pope John Paul II, to present this series to celebrate the inaugural year of the diocesan Pope John Paul II Institute.

"It is the bishop's desire that all Catholics in the diocese may come to a greater understanding of the great legacy of teaching, wisdom, and spiritual insight that John Paul II has left the Church and how this can inspire our Catholic faith and our ability to live out our daily lives as Catholics," said Lucas Pollice, diocesan director of

Catechesis.

This series of talks begins with the presentation Sept. 29 and will continue with presentations on the third Tuesday of each month from October through April at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Bushman holds a Licentiate degree in theology granted by the Pontifical Faculty of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. His work in pastoral theology and the master's program he directs are recognized nationwide as faithfully developing the teachings of Vatican II, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI. In addition to appearing regularly on Catholic radio and television, he has written numerous articles in Catholic magazines, and is the author of several books, including *In His Image: Program of Renewal through Education*.

Pollice, says that the casual and friendly atmosphere makes this series of presentations perfect for the ongoing formation of young adults and adults of all ages. The series is also perfect for Catholic schoolteachers, catechists, lay ministers, and parish



Douglas Bushman

staffs who wish to further their continuing education in the faith, he added.

The schedule for the evening includes a pizza dinner at 6 p.m. Bushman's presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by discussion and a Q&A session, with the conclusion of the evening expected at 9 p.m. There is a \$4 per person charge for adults who wish to participate in the pizza dinner. For more information, or to RSVP for the event, contact Lucas Pollice, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 260 or at lpollice@fwdioc.org.

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Diocesan

Services for hearing-impaired now available at SVDP

Technology has now been incorporated into the Sunday liturgy to welcome and include hearing-impaired parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington. CART, which stands for "Communication Access Real Time Translation," is the process whereby spoken words are translated instantaneously into English with the help of specialized computer software and a trained reporter.

"Not all deaf persons choose to sign," said Mary Cinatl, director of the Diocese of Fort Worth

Deaf Ministry Program. "CART allows these persons to have access to the liturgy by reading the spoken word."

On the last three or four Sundays of each month, a court reporter in Reno, Nevada, dials into the sound system at St. Vincent's during the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Ushers secure the connection and other volunteers set up the keyboard and laptop computer that allows hearing-impaired members of the congregation to read the words of the liturgy as soon as they are spoken.

"We can actually 'hear' the service, the readings, the announcements, and especially the homily," said Joan O'Connor, a parishioner who was instrumental in initiating the service at St. Vincent's. "Father Tom (Craig) and Deacon Charles (Castleberry) often riddle their homilies with jokes, and it's such a pleasure to 'hear' them and laugh along with the rest of the community!" O'Connor said that the service helps her to feel especially welcome in her parish. Coming to weekly Mass "makes me feel like I've truly come home," she added. "I am so encouraged."

"Fr. Tom Craig was instrumental in getting the ball rolling on this project," said Cinatl. "He was excited about the new technology and how it would bring some folks, who might otherwise be marginalized, to the parish community." The staff at St. Vincent's works with the Deaf Ministry



St. Vincent de Paul parishioners Patricia Baumgartner (left) and Joan O'Connor sit in the special section of pews reserved for those using CART services during Mass. O'Connor was instrumental in initiating CART services at the Arlington parish.

Program and the Utah Captioning Company to make sure that songs, readings, and prayers are coordinated, and that all the necessary equipment works flawlessly each week.

"It takes a village," said Cinatl. "St. Vincent's is a special place where all are welcomed. With such support services, non-sign-

ing, hearing-impaired persons can participate in the Sunday liturgy and then leave, nourished by words from the homilist."

For more information about services for the deaf and hearing-impaired, contact Cinatl at (817) 284-3019, ext. Voice/TD or (817) 591-0186 (VP) or via e-mail at mcinatl@fwdioc.org.



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40 Days for Life to be held Sept. 23-Nov. 1

A peaceful, 40-day international prayer campaign with a focus upon bringing an end to abortion, called "40 Days for Life," will be held within the Diocese of Fort Worth from Sept. 23 through Nov. 1.

Across North America and other parts of the world, hundreds of thousands of campaign participants will join in taking a peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion, say campaign organizers.

The three key components of

the campaign include prayer and fasting; community outreach; and, most importantly, a sustained prayer vigil, which will be held without ceasing during the 40-day time period on the sidewalk on Daggett Avenue across the street from the Planned Parenthood abortion facility located at 301 S. Henderson St. near downtown Fort Worth.

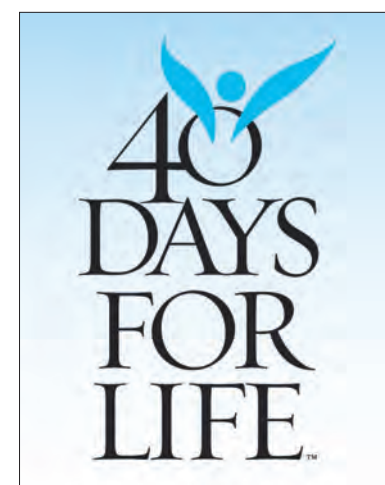
A kick-off rally for the event will be held Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the sidewalk location, said Jeff Williams, local director of the campaign. Bishop Kevin Vann and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal of Fort Worth and several other area clergy representing a variety of religious denominations will be present at the rally, he said.

"The rally will begin promptly at 7 p.m., and will last about an hour," he added. "People can stay after the rally itself to pray and to sign up for time slots for prayer outside the clinic through Nov. 1."

Individuals and groups from churches, schools, or other organizations are urged to attend the rally and to participate in the campaign, he said.

Guadalupe Radio, which offers Catholic programming in English at 910 KATH and in Spanish at 850 KJON, both on the AM dial, will broadcast live coverage of the rally, with on-air interviews of participants conducted by Angela Walters, an advisory committee member for the diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office, Williams said.

"Throughout the Bible, God



has used 40 days or 40 years to transform his people, and with the help [of campaign participants] we will pray that He transforms the hearts of his people here in our own community," said Williams. As part of that life-changing effort, campaign participants are asked to fast and pray, he explained.

"We ask people to pray and to fast throughout the 40 days," said Williams. "The type of prayer and fasting is left up to the individual and can be done at home. It can be as simple as one short prayer each day, or fasting from something that is important to you, as a sacrifice."

For more information, to receive regular updates, or to sign up for a vigil time slot, visit the Web site at www.40daysforlifefortworth.com.

Participants in the kick-off rally are asked to park along South Adams Street and the surrounding side streets. Participants may not park in Planned Parenthood's parking lot or along Daggett Street.



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St. John School provides over 16,233 volunteer hours

According to officials at St. John the Apostle School in North Richland Hills, the students, faculty, and staff performed 16,233 hours of volunteer service to the Northeast Tarrant community and beyond during the 2008-2009 academic years.

St. John School had 302 students and 38 faculty and staff making a positive difference in the community through a variety of projects, officials said, including: providing friendship and entertainment to seniors at area nursing homes; raising funds for the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, and a variety of other non-profit organizations; writing and sending Christmas cards to Meals on Wheels recipients; collecting and sorting items for the St. John Food Pantry and Baby World, serving those who need

“We are always striving for a high level of service to our community,” said Principal Cindy Cummins. “Service is an integral part of providing a Catholic education. We believe that you do not have to be an adult to make a positive impact on our world.”

— Principal Cindy Cummins

assistance making ends meet; and sending cards and care packages to U.S. military men and women overseas.

In addition, 14,534 items were donated from the students, faculty, and staff to the St. John Food Pantry.

“We are always striving for a high level of service to our community,” said Principal Cindy Cummins.

“Service is an integral part of providing a Catholic education. We believe that you do not have to be an adult to make a positive impact on our world. At SJS, beginning in our pre-kindergarten program, service becomes foundational to the core values our students carry with them throughout their lifetimes.”

St. John the Apostle School was the only school in Tarrant County to receive a 2008 National Blue Ribbon Award. It is located at 7421 Glenview Dr. in North Richland Hills. Students come from all parts of the Northeast Tarrant County community.

For more information, visit the school’s Web site at www.stjs.org.

Transportation options available for UD Ministry Conference attendees

The Diocese of Fort Worth will provide transportation options for those who wish to attend the University of Dallas Ministry Conference Oct. 23-24.

The ministry conference at the Dallas Convention Center, 650 E. Griffin St. in downtown Dallas, will replace the Ministry Formation Days that have been held in various parts of the diocese in previous years. It is a collaborative effort from the Dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas and an opportunity to bring in nationally-known speakers and music artists, including Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington, D.C., and John Michael Talbot.

Transportation options include charter buses on Saturday, Oct. 24, leaving from Our Lady of Lourdes

Church in Mineral Wells, and Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls, and a limited number of school buses leaving from Nolan Catholic High School available on an “as needed” basis. The diocese will also provide two-day Trinity Railway Express passes for the train from Arlington, Fort Worth, North Richland Hills, Hurst, and Irving, among other locations.

Registration for any of these options must be completed by Friday, Oct. 2. For more information, contact your parish coordinator for the ministry conference. All transportation arrangements need to be made through individual parish coordinators. If there is not a parish coordinator available, contact Kevin Prevou at kprevou@fwdioc.org.

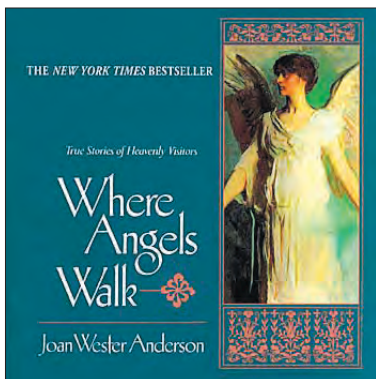
Author of angelic-encounter books to speak at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort Worth Sept. 28

The Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center is sponsoring an evening with Joan Wester Anderson — also known as “The Angel Lady.” She will speak at St. Mary of the Assumption Church at 509 W. Magnolia Ave. in Fort Worth at 7 p.m. Sept. 28. Her talk is entitled “An Evening with Angels.”

Anderson will present the same talk the next day at St. Monica Church at 9933 Midway Rd. in Dallas.

Anderson is a mother of five and a nationally-recognized author of more than 15 books on angels including her first — *Where Angels Walk: True Stories of Heavenly Visitors* — that sold over 2 million copies while on the *New York Times* Bestseller list. She has appeared on numerous television programs, including *Mother Angelica Live*, *Good Morning America*, *20/20*, *NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw* and hundreds of radio talk shows throughout the country.

Joan will not only talk about her encounter with angels following a dramatic rescue of her son, but also how angels take many forms including healings, miracles, and heavenly visitations — “all events that convey a single, urgent, and loving message,” say event organizers in a press release. “The stories told



A copy of Anderson’s book, *WHERE ANGELS WALK: TRUE STORIES OF HEAVENLY VISITORS*, which sold more than 2 million copies while on the *NEW YORK TIMES* Bestseller list.

with her warmth and charm will reveal the care of a loving God who touches the most intimate parts of our hearts.”

Some of Anderson’s books will be available for purchase and she will be available to sign books. The evening will begin with a Rosary at 7 p.m. followed immediately by the talk. For more information, contact the Queen of Peace message line at (817) 244-8191 or call (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805, or visit the Queen of Peace Center’s Web site at www.queenofpeacecenterdallas.org.



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Diocesan

Respect Life Office seeks to expand services to Spanish speakers

FROM PAGE 1
continue to be offered.

"We are very excited to be joining the official diocesan Respect Life office," said Angela Walters. "Bob and I will continue to work with Catholics Respect Life and with the diocese to expand its ministries and its volunteerism."

The annual Bishop's Pro-Life Banquet, scheduled this year for Saturday evening, Sept. 26 at the Hilton-Fort Worth, will continue to be one of the principal means of funding the work of the office, said Ruth-Killgore. She will, she said, be consulting with the diocesan Development Office in seeking ways to increase funding for pro-life ministries.

Ruth-Killgore also said the office will actively seek to expand its services to Spanish speakers, especially in sidewalk counseling in front of abortion clinics. The office is looking for bilingual speakers, Killgore said, because "It's the easiest wall people can throw up" against counselors' efforts to educate them about the child they are carrying, saying "they [those seeking abortions] can't speak English." The CRL Office is also looking for more Spanish-speaking volunteers for Rachel Ministries, said Ruth-Killgore, explaining that the healing ministry relies upon effective one-on-one communication.

"We are also working on the

addition of a ministry for 'end of life issues,'" she added, "to educate on Church teaching regarding end of life decisions and to help people wade through the often confusing and overwhelming amounts of information and paperwork."

A large part of all pro-life efforts takes place at the parish level, said Lucas Pollice, director of the Catechesis Department of the diocese, which encompasses the diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office. Accordingly, the bishop has asked pastors and pastoral administrators of each of the parishes of the diocese to convey their parish's Respect Life coordinator's contact information to Ruth-Killgore. These individuals will be contacted with updates,

events, and helpful information "designed to build a culture of life in our diocese," wrote Bishop Vann.

"It is my hope that this will be a smooth transition for all those whom this ministry serves," he concluded in his letter to pastors. "I believe that this will enable Catholics Respect Life to continue to grow as well as enable our diocese to better meet the needs of our community and to build a true culture of life in North Texas."

The mission of the Catholics Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth is, as set forth in the bishop's letter:

To serve the parishes and families within the Diocese of Fort Worth through education, pastoral care, prayer and wor-

ship and to work in union with parishes and families to change public policy and legislation in an effort to restore the dignity due to every human life from conception to natural death. Through these acts we hope to stand as a united community and answer the appeal made by John Paul II in *The Gospel of Life*, "... in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life" (*The Gospel of Life*, no. 5).

For more information or assistance with pro-life ministries, visit www.fwdioc.org or www.catholicsrespectlife.org. The diocesan office may be reached by calling (817) 560-3300 and the Catholics Respect Life office at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church may be reached at (817) 623-2430.

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Morrell...

FROM PAGE 13

absorption, where the linear ticking of seconds disappears and our feelings of anxiety are balanced by a sense of peace.

Being mindful of the sacredness of time encourages us to be mindful of God, and nurtures awareness. Engaging in the rituals of our faith, surrounded by sacred symbols drawn from our ordinary lives — bread, wine, water, oil, flame — reassures us that all of life is sacred. The rhythm of the liturgical year

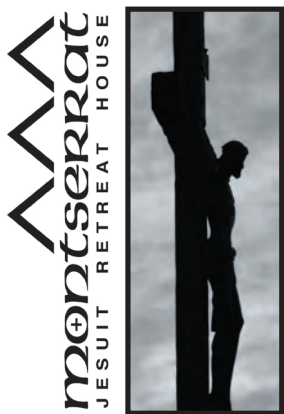
reminds us that life must have a meaningful rhythm, as well.

We may turn also, to the wisdom of the saints, like Benedict, whose Rule included a construct of time that allowed for a necessary balance of prayer, work, and leisure. For St. Benedict, the ordinary was so charged with the sacred that he wrote, "Regard all utensils as if they were the sacred vessels of the altar." Benedict wove within the lives of his monks, times of prayer throughout the day. When hearts and minds are so often turned toward God, an

awareness of God at all times and in all places grows.

We might heed the words of St. Teresa of Avila, whose wisdom shows through a poem both simple and profound in its grasp of time: Let nothing upset you, let nothing startle you. All things pass; God never changes. *Mary Regina Morrell is a writer for RENEW International in Newark, New Jersey and a former associate director of religious education for the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. She and her husband are the parents of six adult children and live in Colonia, New Jersey.*

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Diocesan

Life Chain announces prayer locations for Oct. 4 gathering

The 22nd annual Life Chain, a peaceful gathering of people praying for unborn children and publicly displaying pro-life messages, will take place at numerous locations in the Fort Worth area Oct. 4 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The designated areas and phone numbers for the Life Chain are as follows:

Azle: Highway 199 at Pearson Lane, 2 to 3:30 p.m. — Pastor Joe Bruce (817) 594-7994

Arlington: Pioneer Parkway at Fielder Road, 2 to 3 p.m. — John Gleason (817) 457-9564

Burleson: Alsbury Blvd. at Renfro Street, 2 to 3 p.m. — Gimarie Menchaca (817) 295-8139

Carrollton: Frankford at Josey, 2 to 3:30 p.m. — Paul Kramer (972) 492-2029

Cleburne: West Henderson Street in front of the stadium, 2 to 3 p.m. — Robert Battle (817) 556-3848

Comanche: Central at Austin Street 2 to 3 p.m. — Pastor David Browder (254) 893-3930 or (254) 592-9460

DeLeon: Highway 6 at Highway 16, 2 to 3 p.m. — Pastor Ray Seckinger (254) 734-5146

Denton: 1200 University Drive at the bank lot, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. — Cheryl Spooner (940) 594-8870

Dublin: Highway 377 at Highway 6, 2 to 3 p.m. — Pastor Ray Seckinger (254) 734-5146

Flower Mound: Highway 2499 at Forest Vista, Sunday, Oct. 26, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. — Myra Jean Myers (972) 539-6770

Fort Worth: 3560 Alta Mesa Blvd., 2 to 3 p.m. — Julie Vecera (817) 297-1557

Gainesville: Grand Avenue at Belcher, 2 to 3:30 p.m. — Catherine Bezner (940) 665-4364

Keller: Route 377 between FM 1709 and Watauga, 2 to 3 p.m. — Alana Demma (817) 337-1721

Lewisville: Main at Interstate 35, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. — John Lance (972) 436-2273

Lindsay: Highway 82 between Ash and Pecan Streets, 2 to 3 p.m. — Stan and Stephanie Stoffels (940) 727-8663

Mansfield: Highway 287 at Highway 157 (Cooper Street), 2 to 3 p.m. — Kathi Miller (817) 335-9258

Mineral Wells: Highway 180 at Garrett Morris Parkway, 2 to 3 p.m. — Sharon Walls (940) 325-8920

Muenster: Highway 82 at Muenster Park, 2 to 3:30 p.m. — John Bezner (940) 634-1434

North Richland Hills: Rufe Snow at Interstate 820 (Chick-fil-A), 2 to 3 p.m. — Larry Stevens (817) 847-6376

Southlake/Grapevine: Southlake Blvd. (FM 1709) at Kimball and Carroll Avenue, 2 to 3 p.m. — Mary Solis (817) 329-0402

Wichita Falls: Midwestern Parkway at Kemp Blvd., 2 to 3 p.m. — Mike Bahr (940) 224-3221

Additional information on the Life Chain can be found on the Web site at www.lifechain.net.

Special Collection: Catholic Home Mission Appeal

Parish Name	Parish Location	Home Mission April 2008	Home Mission April 2009
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	276.00	355.10
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	66.00	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	1,075.92	1,147.00
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	3,230.69	2,417.64
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,623.61	2,360.27
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	2,076.00	1,983.95
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	261.00	279.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	428.00	628.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	1,091.00	1,134.00
Vietnamese Martyrs Community	Arlington	2,318.00	0.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	744.00	643.00
St. Michael	Bedford	3,185.00	2,353.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	205.00	178.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	201.19	278.04
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	438.10	467.50
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	337.00	305.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,621.00	1,282.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	2,501.00	2,587.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	0.00	101.30
St. Joseph	Cleburne	918.59	779.88
Holy Angels	Clifton	493.00	33.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	1,762.41	1,916.50
Holy Cross	The Colony	1,006.77	1,471.19
Sacred Heart	Comanche	172.00	208.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	0.00	25.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	965.34	806.05
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	72.50	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	892.29	1,155.25
St. Mark	Denton	2,102.07	2,316.47
St. Mary	Dublin	504.00	500.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	0.00	71.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	0.00	1,443.67
Christ the King	Fort Worth	384.00	375.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,778.00	1,856.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	493.00	0.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	5,379.00	1,674.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	1,051.50	1,218.50
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,573.50	1,984.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	394.00	215.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	319.00	188.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	3,710.20	3,555.80
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	5,023.13	6,358.00
St. George	Fort Worth	970.00	0.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,524.60	747.28
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	418.00	216.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	2,046.50	5,508.50
St. Paul	Fort Worth	885.70	1,138.90
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	869.67	394.35
St. Rita	Fort Worth	413.00	284.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,783.17	1,400.43
St. Mary	Gainesville	736.40	672.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	288.00	149.22
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	516.35	562.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	2,114.27	1,035.24
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	2,043.00	1,806.10
St. Mary	Henrietta	70.00	75.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	772.65	539.65
Korean Martyrs	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	25.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	53.00	85.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	3,759.00	3,472.15
Santa Rosa	Knox City	92.00	154.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,913.14	3,758.99
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,965.40	1,270.35
St. Jude	Mansfield	1,141.73	1,218.10
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	140.00	25.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	0.00	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	190.25	142.87
Sacred Heart	Muenster	1,946.00	1,332.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	86.00	87.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	193.00	182.22
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	642.71	742.29
St. Mary	Quanah	141.00	188.00
St. Rita	Ranger	0.00	47.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	289.80	243.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	127.00	53.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	83.00	45.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	184.20	327.00
St. John	Strawn	0.00	83.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	171.00	260.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,925.00	1,666.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	584.00	500.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	959.42	1,203.40
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	845.00	864.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,049.45	682.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	478.00	348.00

88,083.22 80,183.15

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

Lost in Time

‘The Catholic Carpenters Club of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Ft. Worth’



This undated photograph shared by the Diocese of Dallas historical archives was labeled as “The Catholic Carpenters Club of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Ft. Worth.” There is currently no information available about this club. If you or someone you know may have information about this organization or photo, contact Editorial Assistant Nicki Prevou at nprevou@fwdioc.org.

Diocesan

70 years of love

Sister Devota Sweeny, SSMN, has received blessings throughout her life of giving to those around her as an educator and a nun

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

The parents of little Mary Ruth Sweeney, born in Wichita Falls on Aug. 27, 1921, decided from her first day of life that she was born for a special purpose.

When her mother's attending doctor could not find any signs of life in the premature newborn, he turned to his nurse, who happened to be the baby's aunt. "Stillborn," he told her. "You know what to do."

The baby's aunt, however, was determined to resuscitate the baby. She argued with the doctor until he gave in to her insistence that he clear the baby's mouth and lungs of fluid. "That's the way I began," says Mary Ruth, now known as Sister Devota Sweeney, SSMN. "The doctor said, 'No, she's too small, too weak; she'll never make it.' And yet here I am, 88 years later!

"It seems that I had a reason for being here," she said.

Her parents were "blessed" with five more healthy children over the next few years, she recalls, but tragedy struck the family when little Mary Ruth was almost 11 and her youngest sister was just 17 months old.

Her father, a successful oil scout, died suddenly of an obstruction in the intestine at the age of 40. "Our priest gave him Holy Communion while he was on the operating table," says Sr. Devota. "He knew he was going to die, so they brought all of us children to the hospital to see him and so he could speak to each one of us. He told me, 'Help Mother.'

"My mother was a very courageous woman," Sr. Devota muses. "It was the Depression at that time in this country, and times were hard. She was so strong for us."

As the little girl, in obedience to her father's dying wish, worked alongside her mother

for the next several years — caring for the younger children, and assisting at the family's home parish of Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls — her mother's devout Catholic faith and the example of her school teachers, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, helped to form Sr. Devota's religious vocation.

"I thought, as a very young child, 'I want to give my whole life to God,'" she recalls. "When we children would play together, I was always the teacher, and I would dress up like a sister with my five younger siblings. I wanted to become a sister of St. Mary of Namur, to be a teacher like the sisters who had taught me and my family."

Mary Ruth entered the Our Lady of Victory Convent in Fort Worth during her senior year of high school, in February of 1939, and took final vows and received her habit after six months of postulancy. Named Sr. Mary Devota Sweeney after a paternal aunt, she became a beloved teacher of first- and second-grade students, and later, a principal, at Catholic schools in Beaumont, Fort Worth, Sherman, Dallas, Houston, and Hollister, California. She received her degree in elementary education at Our Lady of the Lake University in 1947 by attending classes during the summers.

Considered a gentle but effective leader by her sisters within her congregation, Sr. Devota eventually served in leadership positions at the international level at the congregation's motherhouse in Belgium, and as the provincial within her own province (the Western Province of the United States, whose motherhouse is in South Fort Worth), for six years, as well. "During that time, I worked with the architect to plan Notre Dame High School [in Wichita Falls]," she says. "That was fun!"

Her success in innovative building design at Notre Dame led to assignments from Bishop Thomas K. Gorman all across the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth, she explains, laughing as she recalls years of intensive work with architects to design Bishop Lynch, Bishop Dunne, and Nolan Catholic High Schools in the 1950s and 1960s. "I loved the work and the



Sr. Devota (to the immediate left of the Holy Father) and her own sister, Sr. Amata Sweeney, CFSN (on his right) met with Pope John Paul II in Rome during their golden jubilee year in 1989. Through the years, Sr. Devota had a private audience with John Paul on three separate occasions and one with Pope Pius XII.



ABOVE: Sr. Amata Sweeney, CFSN, and Sr. Devota received special blessings in celebration of their 70 years of religious life during liturgies held in August in Wichita Falls at their home parish of Sacred Heart Church and at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. **BELOW:** The sisters, accompanied by relatives, are shown receiving a blessing from Fr. Hoa Nguyen, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, during an Aug. 30 parish Mass. (Photos by Sister Clara Vo, SSMN)

bishop kept me at it for several years," she says.

Later, the tiny, energetic nun spent several years in Houston and in Corpus Christi, serving as a principal, a parish educator, and retreat center administrator.

Eventually returning to her hometown of Wichita Falls in the late 1990s, she joined the sisters there in ministry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church and at Notre Dame School. She now assists in the religion department as a volunteer at the school, she says.

"I talk with the school children, and I concentrate on helping them to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus, and I help to prepare them for Mass," she explains. "The students and teachers are so good. I ask God every day to bless the teachers who are working so hard to help our children!"

Having celebrated 70 years of religious life at anniversary



celebrations held in Fort Worth and in Wichita Falls in August, Sr. Devota says that a "special blessing" is the opportunity to share that milestone with her own sister, Sr. Amata Sweeney, who also joined religious life in 1939 as a Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

"There have been so many, many of those kinds of blessings over these past many years,"



Sr. Devota, serving her congregation at the international level in Belgium, 1952.



Mother Devota served as provincial of her congregation from 1958-1964.



Sr. Devota on her 50th anniversary of religious life, 1989.

she reflects. "Even today, I often meet some of my [former] pupils. It's wonderful to meet those children, all grown up now. Five of the boys I taught became priests, and several became nuns.

"I guess they were right," she says, laughing. "I guess I was meant to be here. It's good to be able to celebrate these 70 years of life as a sister."

Viewpoints

God allows evil to happen so that a greater good can come from it

By Lucas Pollice

The other night I was watching a National Geographic special on the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. As I once again watched in shock the events of that day unfold, I found myself asking a question most of us have asked at some time in our lives: How can God allow such an evil to take place in our world?

One of the greatest and strongest arguments against the existence of God is the problem of evil and suffering in the world. If God is all-powerful, and all-good, then how can there be evil in the world? This is a question that every person of faith faces and must come to grips with, therefore, this is probably one of the most universal and difficult of all the questions in the area of evangelization and apologetics.

"There is not a single aspect of the Christian message which is not in part an answer to the question of evil," (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 309). This is one of the most profound and sweeping statements in all the *Catechism*. It is also the only complete sentence that is highlighted in the entire *Catechism*. While evil seems to be the greatest argument against Christianity, there is not a single aspect of the Christian message that in some way does not shed light on the question of evil and suffering. After all, Christ came into the world to destroy evil, and he accomplished it by suffering through the greatest of evils, the death of the Son of God. Hence, we come across the greatest of all paradoxes: From the greatest evil, the death of Christ, blossoms the greatest good, the redemption of humanity from sin and death.

Here is one of the most common arguments: "If God is the Creator of all things and evil is a thing that exists, then God is responsible for its existence. Therefore the all-good God of Christianity cannot exist." First, we need to define exactly what is evil. Evil is not a being, or an entity, or a thing. God does not create evil. But that does not make evil any less real. Rather, evil is the pri-

From the greatest of all evils, the death of the Son of God, emerged the greatest of all goods, the redemption of the human race. Evil and suffering are a part of reality brought about by sin. But Christ is the definitive answer to the question of evil. Jesus shows us that evil and suffering do not have the last word, but that there is a good that is greater and beyond any evil or suffering: the love of Jesus Christ!

vation of a due good, and suffering is our experience of evil. In addition, there are two types of evil:

MORAL EVIL: Moral evil is the voluntary choice of a creature created with free will that is against God who alone is good. Moral evil is sin. Only angels and human beings are capable of committing moral evil because both are created with free will, so they will be able to freely love God and share in his divine life. By choosing against God, angels and human beings are deprived of Good itself: God. Sin is the greatest of all evils because it is the rejection, and therefore the privation of the greatest good. Moral evil results in the loss of communion with God. The *Catechism* states:

Angels and men, as intelligent and free creatures, have to journey toward their ultimate destinies by their free choice and preferential love. They can therefore go astray. Indeed, they have sinned. Thus has moral evil, incommensurably more harmful than physical evil, entered the world. God is in no way, directly or indirectly, the cause of moral evil. He permits it, however, because he respects the freedom of his creatures and, mysteriously, knows how to derive good from it. (311)

PHYSICAL EVIL: We also experience physical evil in this world, such as sickness, storms, accidents, etc. Again, these evils are not created by God, but are in our world because God in his infinite wisdom chose to create a world that is good, but one that has not yet reached perfection. God does not create or will physical evil. However, in his providence, he does tolerate and allow physical evil. As the *Catechism* explains:

But why did God not create a world so perfect that no evil could exist in it? With infinite power God could always create something better. But with infinite wisdom and goodness God freely willed to create a world "in a state of journeying" toward its ultimate perfection. In God's plan this process of becoming involves the appearance of certain be-

ings and the disappearance of others, the existence of the more perfect alongside the less perfect, both constructive and destructive forces of nature. With physical good there exists also physical evil as long as creation has not reached perfection. (310)

Thus, evil, as a privation of a good and not a created reality, is not created by God. Therefore we can dismiss the thought that God is the source of evil. However, this leads to another problem of evil as related to an all-good, omniscient, and all-powerful God. Granted that God is not the origin and cause of evil, how could an all-powerful and omniscient God allow evil to happen and tolerate it when he could prevent it or even eradicate it? This is one of the great mysteries of our faith, but it is also enlightened by faith.

The answer lies in God's providence and his eternal and wise plan. This is where it is so evidently true that God's ways are not man's ways and man's ways are not God's ways. Why does God not prevent or eradicate evil? Who says that that is the best thing? God in his wise providence tolerates and allows (not wills or creates) evil to happen, but only that good may come from it. This is where faith and trust kick in. We can ponder and philosophize this for the rest of our lives, but at some point, faith and trust must kick in and embrace the belief that God in his wisdom and providence would never allow or tolerate evil unless He is able to bring good from it. We may never know why we experience evil in our lives until we reach heaven and finally see things clearly and see the good that came from evil in our lives. As the *Catechism* again states:

We firmly believe that God is master of the world and of its history. But the ways of his providence are often unknown to us. Only at the end, when our partial knowledge ceases, when we see God "face to face," will we fully know the ways by which — even through the dramas of evil and sin — God has guided his creation to that definitive sabbath rest for which he created heaven and earth. (314)

Ultimately, the Cross of Jesus Christ is God's answer to evil! God's plan and providence concerning evil is answered in the death and Resurrection of Christ. "Oh *felix culpa!* Oh what happy fault that gained us so great a Redeemer!" From the greatest of all evils, the death of the Son of God, emerged the greatest of all goods, the redemption of the human race. Evil and suffering are a part of reality brought about by sin. But Christ is the definitive answer to the question of evil. Jesus shows us that evil and suffering do not have the last word, but that there is a good that is greater and beyond any evil or suffering: the love of Jesus Christ! The *Catechism* beautifully states:

In time we can discover that God in his almighty providence can bring a good from the consequences of an evil, even a moral evil, caused by his creatures ... From the greatest moral evil ever committed — the rejection and murder of God's only Son, caused by the sins of all men — God, by his grace that "abounded all the more," brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption. But for all that, evil never becomes a good. (312)

Therefore, as we remember the horrific events of 9/11 and continue to experience evil in our world and in our own lives, we must ever more earnestly strive for holiness and conversion from sin and continue to trust the providence of God and know that in the end, despite the evil and suffering we may experience, the Lord will always ultimately lead us to goodness and love. As St. Paul so powerfully states:

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— ROMANS 8:35; 38-39



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

Stopping Intentional

blindness

By Theresa Notare

It seems I'm constantly at the eye doctor monitoring my poor eyesight. This life-long condition has caused me to reflect on other ways I have been short-sighted or blind. As I struggle to have clear vision in my life, I have to contend not only with my own faults, but also with false cultural messages that promise easy answers to all our desires:

"Want sexual freedom? Use contraception."

"Want a relationship without the hassle of commitment? Live together."

"Want a baby with your own genes even though you are 45? Pay a surrogate-mother to do it for you."

"Don't want to be pregnant right now? Get an abortion."

False cultural messages are repeated so much that eventually they take up residence in our interior homes, causing us to think that they are okay. One of the more insidious things false messages can do is to masquerade as necessary parts of basically good things, for example, that "women's healthcare includes access to abortion." Let's talk about this last point.

Civil law is the great educator of a people. If something is legal, many of us presume it must also be good. When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1973 that abortion was a constitutional right, it taught that the human being in the womb is of no value. The pre-born person was, in fact, "disposable." Roe v. Wade led many people to miss the humanity of children who are aborted. The horror

Abortion advocates sometimes complain that abortion practice is stigmatized and practitioners are shunned by other physicians. There's a reason for that: killing is not health care. If American law enshrines abortion as a standard practice in health care, it will forever change the identity of that healing profession and further blind Americans to the humanity of the preborn person.

that abortion initially signaled to the majority of people in 1973 slowly eroded over time. Today, some people can't understand why there is a fuss over abortion's legality. A type of social blindness has occurred.

A similar phenomenon is poised to happen with regard to health care. In the public debate over much-needed health care reform, the lie that abortion is a "needed medical procedure" and "part of woman's reproductive health care" is being promoted by many legislators. However, abortion is not health care. It is the intentional killing of a pre-born person, of someone who deserves to be seen as a patient and not a disease.

The health care profession exists to care for people—all people no matter their size, social status, economic bracket, race, ethnicity, or level of physical or mental capacity. Abortion advocates sometimes complain that abortion practice is stigmatized and practitioners are shunned by other physicians. There's a reason for that: killing is not health care. If American law enshrines abortion as a standard practice in health care, it will forever change the identity of that healing profession and

further blind Americans to the humanity of the preborn person.

As followers of Jesus we should see as Jesus sees, recognizing God's image in our brothers and sisters. Since we have been given this clear vision, we must take action—protect the vulnerable, support health care professionals, and hold them true to their noble call to heal when possible and always to provide care. We must also make our voices heard. Learn more about health care reform at www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Visit www.usccb.org/pro-life and choose "Action Alert! Health Care Reform" to send an e-mail to Congress. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or call the local offices of your representative and senators. Contact information can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. Act now, urging our elected representatives to promote life-affirming health care, not abortion. Let's not be blind to the good we can do! Theresa Notare, PhD, is the Assistant Director of the Natural Family Planning Program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC.

Embrace every moment as

Sacred Time



By Mary Morrell

At times relax outdoors where you can walk and see the sky; your prayer will suffer no loss because of this; it's necessary that we bear our weakness and not try to constrain our nature. Everything amounts to seeking God, since it is for him that we search out every kind of means, and the soul must be led gently.

—St. Teresa of Avila

It has always been my habit to stay up late at night, beyond the time when everyone else has gone to bed. It stemmed from having lots of little children in the house and very little quiet time, except when 12 little feet were tucked under the blankets.

So it is not unusual to find me at the piano, practicing a choral piece at 3 a.m. What I still find amazing is that I can sit down at the piano at midnight, and, in what seems like only an hour, will get up to make some tea and discover it is almost daybreak.

Absorbed in something I love, there is often no sense of time.

Yet, earlier in the day, when I was trying to meet a deadline at work, with a dozen other responsibilities hanging over me, time seemed to be mocking me, an ever-present reminder that I may never accomplish all that needs to be done.

Time is a funny thing. It seems to move faster as we get older. And as it pulls us along, often at a pace that seems out of control, we struggle to be masters of those precious moments, sensing that, in addition to life and faith, time is one of the greatest gifts we have.

Time embraces life and nudges it to fullness; the flower from seed to petals; the butterfly from larvae to graceful wings; the child from embryo to adulthood. And within the womb of time rest the experiences, the formative encounters, which make us unique individuals.

Perhaps, most profoundly, time provides the opportunity for forgiveness, for do-overs, for loving better; for surely, one of the deepest losses we face is the loss of time with a loved one. And when that loss is spurred by death, our lives are never the same.

Still, in the face of our mortality and heavily engaged in the temporal affairs of our lives, we often find the moments of our days slipping away, unnoticed and unfulfilled because we are caught up in too many things. It seems our lives are no longer organic, integrated with the world created by our God. In a world ruled by human technology, goals and objectives, our rhythms are no longer aligned with the rhythm of the seasons. We have become foreigners in a land created for our well-being, yet we wonder how our days have gotten so out of control.

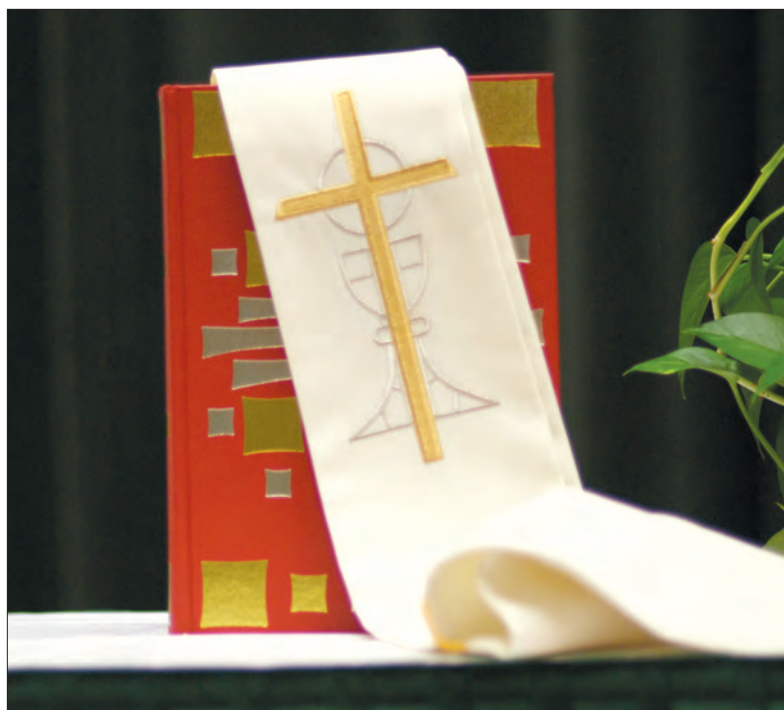
How, then, can we reclaim time as a good?

There is a lesson in all the religions of the world. Sacred time.

Sacred time has the feel of those experiences of

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The Book of Gospels and the deacon's stole are symbols of the ministry of the deacon. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Candidates and their wives met for classes two weekends each month for most of each year during seven years of intensive formation. Sangote 'Uluapano and his family, (above) share in an activity during the deacon candidates' Family Day of Prayer, held Aug. 15. Pictured to the right are Jim and Sue Bindel, participating in the same activity. (Photos by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Candidates Bill Johnson and Jim Crites, (left), enjoy a humorous moment during a class. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)

Thank You's

It is a long journey for deacon candidates, but they travel with a capable crew. Ann Healey and Judy Locke, director and associate director of the Diocese of Fort Worth Deacon Formation Program, are clear in acknowledging their teaching staff from the diocese, the University of Dallas, and Holy Trinity Seminary. They commend pastors and volunteers from parishes, who provide peer support groups, which Healey and Locke call "integral pieces of the formation."

Monthly gatherings always include Mass, and the program thanks Deacon Don Warner, director of Permanent Deacons; Deacon Rueben Castañeda; Mary McLarry and Joan Grabowski who plan liturgies and provide music; and Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, the program's spiritual formation director.

On Sept. 26, 32 men will fill the role of

Christ the

By Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

When Jesus gathered his first group of friends, he got mostly fishermen. This time he got a farmer, oilman, butcher, painter, pilot, and musician. He found executives, maintenance specialists, financial wizards, computer geniuses, a physician's assistant, and a man who drives an 18-wheeler.

They are a diverse, creative, and unselfish group with a commonality of desire: to represent Jesus on

earth, and to serve his people.

This month, 32 men will be ordained at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, to the Holy Order of Deacon for the Diocese of Fort Worth. At their Sept. 26 ordination, they will have completed seven years in preparation, and unlike the apostles, they will not drop everything, but maintain full-time professions, adding the dimension of an expanded life in Christ's service.

Eldon Gray, from St. John the Baptizer Parish in Bridgeport, was an active RCIA team leader, but felt called to learn more about his faith. He attended the Light of Christ Institute (now the John Paul II Institute School of Lay Ministry), then entered the Deacon Formation Program.

"As I went along, I kept praying to decide whether to keep going," he said. "Every day I prayed, 'If you want me to do this, I will do it; if not, I won't.'"

"Finally the answer came, very clearly. I was praying and reading the Scripture passage where Jesus was talking to Peter. Jesus asked, 'Peter do you love me? Feed my lambs... Peter do you love me? Tend my sheep.' I was concentrating, putting myself into the reading.

"The third time I read the passage, I felt Jesus turned to me and said, 'Eldon, do you love me? Feed my sheep.' I realized, 'Yes, I was called to be a deacon.'"

Preparation for the diaconate is a commitment that includes both husband and wife, and requires two weekends each month — one for the whole class, one for small groups — nine months each year.

"For me and my wife these four years have been a big bless-

ing for us," said Rigoberto Leyva, originally from Baja California, Mexico, now at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mineral Wells. "We got to know each other a lot better — to work on the marriage more. Also we got to find where God wants us to be.

"We are happy and excited — I'm more nervous than she is. You answer this call but you don't know what is going to happen... You are following the voice of God."

This class is a blend of cultures, with Anglo and Hispanic participants, and one couple each from the Vietnamese and Tongan communities, according to Ann Healey, Ph.D., director of Permanent Deacon Formation. Healey has just completed 25 years in this position.

"There is one class, with two tracks. Courses are taught in both English and Spanish. All the spiritual and marriage enrichment groups, liturgy, and theological reflection groups are bilingual," she said.

"When the program begins there are concerns about a possible language barrier," Healey explained, "until the men begin to admit, 'Maybe I can learn a little Spanish,' or 'I think I can learn English.'"

"By the end of the program, some of the men who studied in Spanish are proclaiming the Word in English, and vice versa."

Some candidates and wives studied languages on their own time, said Laura Sweeden, wife of Barry Sweeden of Immaculate Conception Church in Denton. "Barry and I went to Spanish classes and got to where we could have a casual conversation," she



Father Tim Thompson, pastor of St. Mark Parish in Denton, and candidate Walter Stone discuss guidelines for Stone's parish internship program at St. Mark's. Deacon candidates gathered in November 2008 to meet with their prospective supervisors before entering into their parish internships for the first six months of 2009. (Photo by Jeff Hensley)



The Permanent Deacon Formation class

the Servant

as they are ordained to the permanent diaconate

said.

But the relationships couples built were anything but casual. Meeting twice monthly they became like extended families. "It was loving," Laura said. "Something happens in the second year. You open up to everyone, trusting them with your innermost feelings."

"A lot of us have heavy burdens," said Pam Gray, Eldon's wife. "We believe the Lord allows us to go through these hard times so we, as deacons and wives, can learn to recognize burdens in our families and neighbors, and just listen to them."

"If we could take what we get from those weekends and spread it to the world, it would be great," Laura said. "I think that's what we're supposed to do."

"I see myself as having so much farther to go," Barry Sweeden said. "We're each on a journey, our own spot. As much as I know I'm being called to the diaconate, I also know I'm just a tool for God."

"I look forward to serving the people of Immaculate Conception and being involved in some ministries," Barry said. "Deacon Popo's (Gonzalez) example of Christ the Servant has given me inspiration, and Monsignor (Charles) King has been a special mentor, as he lives and loves his vocation."

"It's hard to tell if you are doing something you want to do, or God wants you to do," said Bruce Corbett, from St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, who will be assigned at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington. "But as I started the program, I kept getting affirmation — like an old friend said, 'You are not the same person we knew.' The Lord was

changing me and preparing me to go forward."

"I feel most of all humbled," said José Aragón, of St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, who will be assigned at St. Jude Parish in Mansfield. "When I graduated from college or passed my CPA test, I felt pride. With this, what I feel is a call from God. Taking that responsibility to help people is humbling. "God is using me to do something for him."

"To be a deacon requires the heart of a servant and the disposition to serve, said Healey. "No one can teach you to serve — we can make you a better servant."

"It is like a three-legged stool," said Judy Locke, associate director of Permanent Deacon Formation, "including ministry of the Word, the sacraments, and charity. If God calls you to the permanent diaconate, you have an attraction to all three."

"I cannot explain," said San-gote 'Uluapano, who moved to the United States from Tonga in 1980, "but it is a calling inside me. God has different ways of asking you to be his servant. It was the way I was raised... It seems to me I was 'forced' to my faith when I was a kid. I was lucky to be brought up like that."

'Uluapano has 10 family members who are members of religious orders, and his daughter Lola is a candidate here with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. His family members sang in the Tongan choir at the diocese's 40th anniversary liturgy.

Gelasio García, is a longtime facilities manager at St. Mary's School in Gainesville. He lives across the street from the parish, and wants nothing more than to

live and serve right where he is. But while a candidate, he faced one of the toughest obstacles of his life.

"One night I was trying to cross the street. It was raining, and a Honda was driving by with the lights out. He hit me; I hit the windshield and rolled over the car, off the back and rolled down the street several times. I thought, 'This is it for me.'

"But I woke up in the hospital, and said, 'God's not finished with me yet!'

"I broke my left knee, nearly lost my left eye, had 12 stitches on one side of my head and 11 stitches on the other. I missed eight classes and did not know if I would be able to catch up. But a retired priest, Father Don Brennan, OSB, a theology teacher, offered to tutor me, and I caught up.

"People asked me, 'How come you had to go through that?' I said, 'Jesus didn't have to die on the cross, but he did — out of love for us.'

"When I was going through this I was thinking, 'My Lord, is there something I'm not doing right? Do you want me to wake up to something I have done, or do you want others to see the strong faith you have put in my heart?'

"A lot of things happened because of the accident, but I never felt a response from God. I think he wants me to serve as a deacon here at St. Mary's, so I'm gonna do it!

"I've got my alb, I've got my stole, and I've got my dalmatic," said Gelasio, who is about to make history.

"I am the first deacon of the whole Cooke County. And I'm ready to be ordained."



John Ban Nguyen (foreground), makes his Profession of Faith, in the presence of his wife, Mary, his fellow candidates, and Bishop Kevin Vann during the Family Day of Prayer. Candidates for Holy Order are required by Canon Law to make and sign a Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Kittie and Scott France, joined by their daughters Jenny and Kate, discuss their hopes for his ministry as a deacon during candidates' Family Day of Prayer. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Bruce and Toni Corbett, (left), and Vince and Pat Blake discuss their studies during a Scripture class. (Photo by Ann Healey)



of 2009. Not pictured: Scott France. (Photo by Wendy Pandolfo)



Piedad Sánchez and his granddaughter share an affectionate moment during the August Family Day of Prayer. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Bishop Vann institutes Jesús Estéban Cárdenas to the Ministry of Acolyte Sept. 14, 2008. (Photo by Wendy Pandolfo)

Diocesan

JOSÉ ARAGÓN

Born in Juarez, Mexico and raised in El Paso, José Aragón has lived in Grand Prairie since 1991 and works as an auditor for the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of the Inspector General. He and his wife, Patricia, have two children and are members of St. Joseph Church in Arlington. During his internship at St. Jude Church in Mansfield, José has served as a confirmation catechist, eucharistic minister, lector and a Boy Scout Religious Award counselor. He and Patricia have also served as a marriage sponsor

couple. José has found the spiritual growth he's experienced during his deacon formation period to be most significant for him while wife Patricia has been most deeply affected by fellowship with the other candidates' wives. After José's ordination, the couple looks forward to returning to active parish ministry.



By Michele Baker, Correspondent
Photos by Kathy Cribari Hamer

Permanent Deacon Class of 2009

WILLIAM ARCHER

William Archer was born in Newport News, Virginia, and raised primarily in Wichita Falls where he has lived since 1958. He works as a sales manager for Beacon Lighthouse, Inc. and belongs to Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls where he has completed his internship. His parish and community activities have included adult Bible study, RCIA, working with mentally challenged people with the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC),

and taking holy Communion to hospitals and care centers. One of the most significant aspects of his deacon formation period has been his work in hospice care. After he is ordained, William looks forward to serving in the parish where he is most needed.



MARCELINO CARRANZA

Marcelino Carranza nació y fue criado en Michoacán, México, y ha vivido en Fort Worth desde que llegó a Texas en 1978. Trabaja como pintor en la compañía C & W Company Mfg. Él y su esposa Eva tienen siete hijos y son feligreses de la iglesia en Fort Worth, Immaculate Heart of Mary, en la cual Marcelino terminó su pasantía. Sus actividades allá han incluido trabajar como acólito, lector, catequista de adultos en RCIA, y ser miembro en el Consejo pastoral. Reflexionando sobre sus cuatro años de formación para el diaconato,

Marcelino ha encontrado que su labor durante la pasantía ha sido lo más significativo para él, mientras su esposa Eva dice que *Los ejercicios espirituales de San Ignacio* han sido especialmente reveladores para ella. Después de su ordenación como diácono, la pareja espera servir al Señor y a la iglesia lealmente.



TOMÁS DÍAZ

Texas native Tommy Díaz was born and raised in Sidney and is employed as a teller at Comanche National Bank. He and his wife, Scarlett, have four children and are parishioners at Sacred Heart in Comanche. Tommy completed his internship at St. Brendan Church in Stephenville and his participation in parish and community activities has included lector, eucharistic minister, jail ministry, Men's Club, and service on the parish council. For Tommy, one of the most significant aspects of his deacon formation

was reaching outside of his comfort zone and serving in different areas of ministry. His wife, Scarlett says that the formation process has helped her to realize that she is part of a bigger Body of Christ working toward the same goals. Once Tommy is ordained the couple looks forward to starting a new journey with God.



TOM BATES

Tom Bates was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and raised in New Orleans. He came to Texas in 1975 and has lived in Trophy Club since 1987. He is employed as a systems development manager at Abbott Laboratories. Tom and his wife, Diane, belong to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine and have three children. Tom completed his internship at St. Michael Church in Bedford. His parish and community activities have included facilitating Stations of the Cross, preaching, presiding at Communion services and Benediction, teaching confirmation classes,

and assisting with baptisms, marriage preparation, and funerals. The most significant aspect of deacon formation for Tom has been the deepening of his relationship with his wife and with the Lord. Diane says that learning and growing with other couples in formation has been particularly meaningful for her. After Tom's ordination, they look forward to serving their parish community.



JOHN CLARK

Born and raised in New Orleans, John Clark came to Texas in 1990 and has lived in Fort Worth ever since. He is employed as a service delivery executive at IBM. He and his wife, Terry, have four children and are parishioners at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller where John completed his deacon internship. His parish and community activities were quite varied, ranging from liturgical ministries such as lector, acolyte and eucharistic minister to volunteer work at the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth, McFadden Boys' Ranch in Roanoke, and Baylor Hospital.

John found the Scripture study aspect of his deacon formation training to be most significant for him. His wife, Terry, says that the family-like relationship deacon formation community members have formed has been especially meaningful to her. After John's ordination, the couple looks forward to proclaiming the Gospel through word and service to others.



SCOTT FRANCE

Scott France was born in Irving, and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. He returned to Texas in 1997 and has lived in Aledo since 1998. He is a senior vice president for Triad Financial. He and his wife, Kittie, have two children and are parishioners of Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo where Scott completed his internship. His parish and community activities include serving on the pastoral council as well as volunteer work with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Center of Hope. During his formation, Scott has found

one of the most significant aspects to be "Opening myself to realize that ministry is a part of my work, play, and celebration." His wife, Kittie, says that the new friends she's made have been particularly meaningful to her. After Scott's ordination, they each look forward to a life of service and peace in the Church.



JAMES BINDEL

Born and raised in Wichita Falls, James Martin Bindel has lived there since his return to Texas in 1993. He and his wife Susan have six children and attend Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls where Jim is completing his internship. His participation in parish and community activities has included visiting the homebound and those in hospitals, RCIA, lecturing, Interfaith Ministries, and speaking with high school youth. During his formation period, Jim has found the bond that he and his wife have developed with the other candidates

and their wives to be most significant. Susan says that she's been especially moved by the journey and the prayers and support of so many people. After Jim's ordination they each look forward to sharing the richness of their call to service by giving back to God and the community that has prayed for and supported them through their formation.



BRUCE CORBETT

Bruce Corbett was born and raised in Bangor, Maine. He came to Texas in 1988 and has lived in the Fort Worth area since 1994. Retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Bruce is currently employed as a chaplain at Harris Methodist Hospital. He and his wife, Toni, belong to St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills and have one child. Bruce completed his internship at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth. His activities included RCIA sponsor, Stephen Minister, lector, Tribunal auditor, and religious education. During his formation, Bruce has been

most struck by how he has moved from knowing his faith to "coming to know the faithful." Wife Toni says that she has been moved by seeing Christ so powerfully at work in everyone involved in the formation program. After Bruce's ordination, they each look forward to serving and worshipping with the faithful in the parish to which Bruce is assigned.



GELASIO GARCÍA

Nacido y criado en Guanajuato, México, Gelasio García llegó a Texas en 1970, cuando se estableció en su presente hogar de Gainesville. Trabaja como gerente de instalaciones en el colegio de Saint Mary. Él y su esposa, Yolanda, tienen dos hijos y son feligreses de la iglesia Saint Mary, en Gainesville. Gelasio culminó su pasantía en la parroquia Immaculate Conception, en Denton. Sus actividades parroquiales han incluido el ministerio eucarístico, servir en capacidad de acólito, y participar en variados talleres y ministerios dentro del programa de formación para el diaconato.

Gelasio siente que uno de los aspectos más importantes de su formación ha sido el aprendizaje verdadero del servicio con humildad, cómo Jesucristo sirvió y no fue servido. Su esposa Yolanda ha experimentado un renovado sentido de fe, fortaleza y esperanza. Mientras tanto, a medida que se acerca el día de ordenación, los García esperan repartir su tiempo entre el servicio a la iglesia y a su familia.



VINCENT BLAKE

Vincent Blake was born in Windthorst, and raised in Wichita Falls. He moved to Charlie, Texas, in 1970 and has lived there ever since, working as a farmer and rancher. He and his wife, Pat, are parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls and have six children. Vince completed his internship at Our Lady Queen of Peace and his parish and community activities have included RCIA, altar server, eucharistic minister, and lector. One of the most significant aspects of the formation program for Vince has been

that although the candidates come from diverse backgrounds and cultures, they have a common bond. Pat has found that participating in the formation program along with her husband has been especially meaningful for her. After Vincent's ordination, the couple looks forward to serving God through his people and his church.



JAMES CRITES

A native of Munster, Indiana, James Crites came to Texas in 1987 and has lived in Fort Worth since 1995. He is employed by DFW International Airport as an executive vice-president. He and wife, Tye, have two children and are parishioners at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller where Jim completed his internship. His parish and community activities have included marriage preparation, RCIA, hospice, caring for the sick, parish partnering, service at liturgies, and assisting in the administra-

tion of sacraments. Jim has found that serving others in need has been especially significant to him during his formation training, while wife, Tye, says that forming new friendships has been particularly meaningful for her. After Jim's ordination the couple looks forward to embarking on this new journey of faith.



MARTÍN GARCÍA

Martín García nació y creció en Guadalupe, México. Llegó a Fort Worth en 1995 y trabaja en el área de mantenimiento de la iglesia All Saints, donde él y su esposa Elizabeth son feligreses. La pareja tiene tres hijos. Martín terminó su pasantía en All Saints. Sus actividades parroquiales han incluido el servicio como acólito, la asistencia a reuniones del Consejo pastoral, y la presentación de charlas a varios grupos parroquiales. A través de su formación, Martín encuentra que el mayor conocimiento de las escrituras

sagradas ha sido lo más importante para su crecimiento espiritual. Elizabeth siente, sin embargo, que conociendo a los demás le ha sido particularmente relevante. Después de la ordenación, Martín y Elizabeth planean continuar sirviendo a la comunidad con dedicación y esfuerzo, donde se necesite más.



JESÚS ESTEBAN CÁRDENAS

Nacido y criado en México, Jesús Esteban Cárdenas llegó a Texas en 1980 y trabaja como carnicero en Weatherford. Él y su esposa, María del Rosario, son feligreses en la iglesia de Saint Stephen, en Weatherford, y tienen un hijo. Esteban completó su pasantía en la parroquia de Saint Thomas, en Fort Worth. Sus actividades en la parroquia y en la comunidad

incluyen ser catequista, lector, ministro de la eucaristía, y ministro de cursillos y de la prisión. Durante sus cuatro años de entrenamiento para la formación del diaconato, Esteban siente que lo más significativo para él ha sido el tener la seguridad de haber sido llamado por Dios a este ministerio tan importante. Su esposa Rosy explica que ha sido particularmente

grato el presenciar un cambio positivo en su esposo. Después de la ordenación a diácono, ambos aspiran a servir a Dios con fidelidad en todos los aspectos de sus vidas.



WENDELL GEIGER

A native of Akron, Ohio, Wendell Geiger came to Texas in 1970 and has lived in Fort Worth since 1992. He works as a physician assistant at Texas Christian University. He and his wife, Margie, have three children and are parishioners of St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Fort Worth. During his internship at St. Peter's, Wendell's parish and community activities

have included both pastoral and liturgical responsibilities. He feels that one of the most significant aspects of his formation process has been a deeper development of faith and conversion. Margie says that she found the friendship of women of like mind in the program and the biblical studies that have been a part of the deacon formation program to be especially mean-

ingful. Following Wendell's ordination, the Geigers look forward to a greater commitment to Christ and responding to his call to service in the Church.



Diocesan

GLEN ELDON GRAY

Born and raised in Graham, Glen Eldon Gray comes from a family of proud Texans who have lived here since 1836. Eldon works as a drilling superintendent in the oil and gas industry. He and his wife, Pamela, have lived in Bridgeport since 1994, have two children, and belong to St. John the Baptist Parish where Eldon completed his internship. His parish activities included assisting with weddings, baptisms, and confirmations, and serving as acolyte for Sunday Masses at St. Mary Church in Jacksboro and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in

Decatur. One of the most significant aspects of the deacon formation program for Eldon has been a greater understanding and deepening of his faith through prayer and service. Pam says that experiencing Ignation spirituality has had an important effect on her. After Eldon's ordination, they each look forward to serving the Body of Christ in their parishes.



MAURICIO HERNÁNDEZ

Mauricio Hernández nació y creció en la ciudad de México. En 1990, se mudó a Graford, donde ha vivido hasta hoy en día. Es supervisor de producción en la compañía Texas Packaging, en Mineral Wells. Él y su esposa, Ofelia, tienen cuatro hijos y pertenecen a la parroquia Saint Stephen, en Weatherford, donde Mauricio completó su pasantía. Sus actividades parroquiales y comunitarias han incluido dar clases para celebrar el bautismo y enseñar el catecismo para adultos, ser miembro del Consejo pastoral, y participar en retiros para la preparación del matrimonio. Durante sus cuatro años de formación como

diácono, Mauricio ha encontrado que el llamado del Señor y la preparación para servir a sus hermanos en Cristo ha sido el aspecto más significativo de su entrenamiento. Ofelia explica que poder compartir con sus hermanos en Cristo ha sido particularmente revelante para ella. Luego de la ordenación de Mauricio, la pareja espera continuar caminando como peregrinos, con la ayuda de Dios.



TERRY HOWARD

Fort Worth native Terry Howard is employed as a senior cost analyst at Progressive Incorporated and is a member of St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth where he completed his internship. His participation in parish and community activities has included serving as lector, eucharistic minister, and parish finance council member as well as working as an adjunct instructor at Tarrant County College's Northeast campus. Terry says that one of the most significant experiences

he's had during his deacon formation process has been participating in a summer field placement program involving mentoring HIV patients and youth in state correctional facilities. Following ordination, Terry looks forward to serving the Diocese of Fort Worth.



JUAN C. JASSO

Nacido y criado en Tamaulipas, México, Juan C. Jasso llegó a los Estados Unidos en 1974. Ha vivido en Texas desde el 2000 y trabaja para General Motors. Él y su esposa, Isabell, tienen dos hijos y son feligreses de la iglesia de Saint Matthew, en Arlington, donde Juan terminó su pasantía. Sus actividades parroquiales y comunitarias han incluido el ministerio de los enfermos y los mayores de edad, el servicio como acólito, lector y ministro eucarístico, y la participación en Ultreya. Durante sus cuatro años de formación para el diaconato, Juan experimentó el nacimiento de sus tres nietos

y dice que esto es uno de los aspectos más significativos de su formación, junto con el reconocimiento de la voluntad de Dios en su vida. Su esposa Isabell exclama que ser testigo del crecimiento de fe en su esposo durante el proceso de formación le ha sido especialmente revelador. Después de la ordenación, los Jasso esperan poder servir mejor a Dios y a su comunidad.



WILLIAM JOHNSON

Arlington native William Johnson works as an assistant vice president in the Information Technology Services Department at DFW International Airport. He and his wife, Liz, have two children and two grandchildren and belong to St. Joseph Parish in Arlington. Bill completed his internship at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in North Arlington. His parish involvement has included serving as acolyte, eucharistic minister, lector, hospital minister, and assisting with sacramental preparation. In addition to his church activities, Bill has volunteered for the women's shelter, night shelter, hospice,

and the United Way. He feels that one of the most significant aspects of his formation has been the opportunity to work and worship with such a diverse group of men and women who have been called to serve the Lord. Liz says the close friendships they have formed with so many faith-filled Catholics has been particularly meaningful. After Bill's ordination, the Johnsons look forward to taking a vacation.



MATÍAS LAGUNAS

Nacido y criado en México, Matías Lagunas se mudó a Euless en 1997, donde ha vivido hasta ahora. Trabaja como agente de recuperación de pérdidas para la compañía Triad Financiera. Él y su esposa, María, tienen dos hijos y son feligreses de la iglesia Saint Matthew, en Arlington, donde culminó su pasantía. Sus actividades parroquiales y comunitarias han incluido

presencia en otros le ha causado un impacto increíble. Después de la ordenación, Matías y María esperan poder servir a Dios y a sus feligreses a través del amor de Cristo.

PATRICK LAVERY

Patrick Lavery was born and raised in New York and came to Texas in 1994. He and his wife, Mary, have two children, live in Grapevine, and are parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. Pat is retired from American Airlines. He completed his internship at Good Shepherd Parish where his participation in parish and community activities has included federal prison ministry, parish advisory council, lector, eucharistic minister, greeter, Men's Club and visiting the sick. One of the aspects

of the four-year deacon formation that Pat has found most significant is that God, indeed, has a sense of humor! Wife Mary says that prayer has been an important part of this process for her. Following Pat's ordination, the couple looks forward to their new assignment and the people they will meet.



RIGOBERTO LEYVA

Nacido y criado en Baja California, México, Rigoberto Leyva llegó a Texas en 1991 y ha vivido en Mineral Wells, donde trabaja como chofer desde 1993. Él y su esposa, María Edith, tienen tres hijos y son feligreses de la iglesia Our Lady of Lourdes, en Mineral Wells. Durante la pasantía en la iglesia Our Lady of Lourdes, sus actividades incluyeron la asistencia en las variadas necesidades de la comunidad y el apoyo que le prestó al pastor. Rigoberto siente que uno de los aspectos más significativos de sus cuatro años de formación para el

diaconato ha sido su crecimiento personal y espiritual. Su esposa, María Edith, dice que la expansión de su conocimiento del amor de Dios en su familia y su comunidad ha sido especialmente significativo para ella. Después de la ordenación, Rigoberto y María Edith esperan poder continuar su educación para servir mejor a la comunidad.



JOHN BAN NGUYEN

John Ban Nguyen was born and raised in Bui Chu, Vietnam. He came to Texas and has lived in Grand Prairie since 2001 where he works as an avionics tech at American Eurocopter LLC. He and his wife, Mary, are parishioners of Vietnamese Martyrs Church in Arlington and they have seven children. John completed his internship at Vietnamese Martyrs and his activities have included visiting the sick and the elderly of the parish, working with the Vitas Program for Hospice Home Care, and helping with the parish's Summer Festival.

Both John and Mary Nguyen cite personal change as being one of the most significant aspects of the deacon formation program for them. Following John's ordination they each look forward to helping their children put more trust in God and increasing their faith while helping others in God's larger family.



ALFONSO RAMÍREZ

Nacido y criado en México, Alfonso Ramírez llegó a Texas y ha vivido en Pilot Point desde 1998. Trabaja como músico en Dallas, y él y su esposa, Olga, tienen cuatro hijos. Feligrés en la iglesia de Saint Thomas Aquinas, en Pilot Point, Alfonso terminó su pasantía en la iglesia de la Immaculate Conception, en Denton. Sus actividades parroquiales y comunitarias han incluido servir como ministro eucarístico, lector, acólito, ministro de prisiones y ministro de enfermos. Para Alfonso, uno de los aspectos más significativos de sus cuatro años de formación para el diaconato ha

sido conocerse a sí mismo, conocer lo que Dios quiere de él y aprender lo que debe pedirle a Dios. Su esposa, Olga, dice que la posibilidad de aprender y crecer juntos espiritualmente ha sido especialmente enriquecedora durante este proceso de formación. Después de la ordenación, Alfonso y Olga esperan poder servir a su comunidad de la mejor manera posible.



JOSÉ PIEDAD SÁNCHEZ

José Piedad Sánchez nació y creció en México. Llegó a Texas en 1971 y trabaja para Tyson Foods, Inc. Él y su esposa, Ester, tienen cinco hijos. Son feligreses de la iglesia Holy Family, en Vernon, donde Piedad terminó su pasantía. Actividades parroquiales y comunitarias durante su formación han incluido la preparación del boletín de la parroquia, el servicio como acólito durante la misa y el transporte de la comunión a los mayores de edad. José Piedad siente que ha encontrado el verdadero

significado de la vida en el servicio a otros durante su formación para el diaconato. Su esposa, Ester, también explica que a ella la ha ayudado a convertirse en una persona más humilde. Después de la ordenación, cada uno espera poder servir a Dios y a su comunidad con más amor y dedicación.



LAWRENCE JOSEPH SANDOVAL

Born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Lawrence Joseph Sandoval has lived in Fort Worth since 1994 and works as a captain for Southwest Airlines. He and his wife Tamara Marie are parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller and have three children. Larry completed his internship at Good Shepherd Church in Colleyville. His parish work included leading the Catholic Scripture Study, working with the youth group, serving as a eucharistic minister, and volunteering at Christ Care. He volunteered at St. Benedict's homeless ministry, Presbyterian Night Shelter,

Texas Youth Commission, Pilots for Kids, and Vitas. One of the most significant aspects of formation for Larry has been serving the homeless and spending time with the other candidates and their wives. Tammy says that getting to know the other couples has been particularly meaningful for her as well. Following Larry's ordination, the couple looks forward to serving God's people in a deeper way.



LYNN SOWERS

Lynn Sowers was born and raised in Pineville, Louisiana. He came to Fort Worth in 1975 and works as a software engineer at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. He and his wife, Ellen — both converts to Catholicism — are members of St. Peter the Apostle Church where Lynn completed his internship. Active in parish life, he has been a lector, eucharistic minister, acolyte, and worked with RCIA. Still, Lynn feels that his most significant experiences during the deacon formation program have centered around meeting people in need as he volunteered to serve

in hospice, grief facilitation, and hospital visits. His wife, Ellen, says that the spiritual growth, marriage enrichment, and lasting friendships that come from formation have had special meaning for her. After ordination Lynn and Ellen look forward to family time and a well-deserved vacation. The couple has one child, Fort Worth police officer Russell Sowers.



WALTER JOHN STONE

Born in Chicago and raised in Knox, Indiana, Walter John Stone has lived in the DFW area since 1985. He works as a senior program manager at EDS, an HP Company. He and his wife, Diana, have three children and are parishioners of St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills. Walter completed his internship at St. Mark Church in Denton. His parish and community activities have ranged from young adult ministry, RCIA, lector, and catechist, to volunteer work for the Texas Youth Commission, Texas State School in Denton, and campus ministry.

He feels that the relationships he formed during his internships have been especially significant. Wife Diana says that Scripture study during the deacon formation program has been particularly meaningful for her. After Walter's ordination, they each look forward to the beginning of a new journey in their lives and the people they will meet on that journey.



BARRY SWEEDEN

Barry Sweeden was born in Austin, and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. He returned to Texas in 1988, taking up residence in Hickory Creek. He works as an international accounts manager for Fuji Photo Film USA. Barry and his wife, Laura, have three children and nine grandchildren. They are parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church in Denton where he completed his internship. His community activities included work at the Denton State School, Texas Youth Commission, Hope, Inc., and helping area homeless. For Barry

one of the most significant aspects of his deacon formation has been the growth he has experienced in his prayer life. Laura says that growing together in faith with her husband has been especially meaningful. After Barry's ordination, the Sweedens look forward to serving the community and continuing to grow in faith.



REYES TELLO

Nacido y criado en Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, México, Reyes Tello ha vivido en Fort Worth desde 1991, donde es autónomo, trabajando como técnico de aire acondicionado. Él y su esposa, Bárbara, tienen tres hijos y son feligreses de la iglesia Saint Bartholomew, en Fort Worth. Reyes finalizó su pasantía en Saint Bartholomew. Sus actividades parroquiales han incluido el ministerio de la liturgia, grupos parroquiales de oraciones, y ser líder de grupo para el próximo programa ¿Por qué ser católico? Uno de los aspectos más significativos de su formación

para el diaconato ha sido el mejor conocimiento de Dios a través de los feligreses que ha encontrado durante su entrenamiento. Su esposa, Bárbara, dice que aprender a apoyar a su esposo en sus ministerios le ha sido revelador durante esta formación. Después de la ordenación, Reyes y Bárbara esperan poder servir a Dios a través de su iglesia.



SANGOTE 'ULUPANO

Born and raised in Tonga, Sangote 'Ulupano came to Texas in 1985 and settled in Euless where he lives with his wife, Fuatapu. The couple has six children and are parishioners of St. Michael Church in Bedford. Sangote works in facility maintenance for American Airlines at DFW International Airport. He completed his internship at St. Michael where his

activities included eucharistic minister, sacramental preparation for children and adults, lector, and serving as a liaison for the Tongan community. For Sangote one of the most significant aspects of the deacon formation program has been the time spent during his internship serving the people of St. Michael's. His wife, Fuatapu says that her relationship with Sangote has



NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Bishops urge united Catholic voice on key elements of health reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sounding many of the same themes, bishops around the country are urging Catholics to contact their members of Congress about the need for health care reform and the importance of keeping abortion out of any final plan. "If ever there was a need for the united Catholic voice to be heard clearly and strongly, now is the time," said Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Charleston, South Carolina, in an Aug. 26 letter that he asked priests to post in their parish bulletins. "Our representatives and senators need to hear our voice and we have a voice that is credible because it ... is a moral voice and one that has centuries of experience in health care," he added. Many of the bishops' comments quoted extensively from earlier letters on health reform by Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, and Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, who chair the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development and on Pro-Life Activities, respectively. Those letters stressed the need for a health care system that is accessible and affordable for all; that covers everyone from conception to natural death; that does not erode current federal policy against funding abortions; that preserves freedom of conscience for providers and institutions; and that controls costs and applies them equitably among payers.

Priest says LA will suffer if his anti-gang jobs program shuts down

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Both the city and the county of Los Angeles will suffer if a nationally acclaimed gang-intervention program has to shut down, even temporarily, said the Jesuit priest who founded the program more than two decades ago. Homeboy Industries, whose motto is "Nothing stops a bullet like a job," dodged its own bullet of meeting the next payroll when the City Council voted Aug. 14 to negotiate a \$340,000 contract with the organization, paying for it with money from a U.S. Justice Department gang-reduction grant. "Homeboy is really a consequential place," Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, who started Jobs for a Future in 1988 that morphed into Homeboy Industries, told *The Tidings*, Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper. "There are 12,000 folks who walk through our doors here during the year — 8,000 gang members. There's no place like it on the planet, and we've been around for 22 years," he added. "Since 1992 we've been offering wraparound services, and it's made a difference. Gang-related homicides have decreased steadily since then, and we're one of the essential reasons for that. A lot of other places do parts of what we do in terms of comprehensive services, but we do it in a way that's kind of writ large."

Springfield, Massachusetts Diocese to close 19 parishes and reconfigure others

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — The Springfield Diocese announced parish reconfigurations and 19 parish closings during Aug. 29-30 weekend Masses. Diocesan officials held a press briefing Aug. 27 in Springfield, detailing the changes. The information was embargoed until the evening of Aug. 29 so parishioners would have the opportunity to learn of the changes in their own parishes. Springfield Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell met with the pastor of each parish that will be affected and wrote a letter for each parish to be read at the Masses. "There's going to be hurt, and I wish there weren't," the bishop told reporters. "But, at the same time, we are a pilgrim people. And church is meant to be a pilgrim people. Church is meant to be people on the move." Msgr. John J. Bonzagni, director of the diocese's Pastoral Planning Office, said the changes are needed because of a change in demographics, a decline in the number of clergy and financial pressures.



Marta Waisman holds a photo of her daughter Gabriela, who lost her life in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on the eighth anniversary of the attacks Sept. 11. Nearly 3,000 people perished in New York, Washington, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, in the attacks. (CNS photo/Robert Sciarrino, pool via Reuters)



Pentagon staff and family members of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks attend a ceremony marking the eighth anniversary at the Pentagon. (CNS photo/Jim Young, Reuters)

Virginia Jones of Rochester, New York, pauses to read the inscription at the Flight 93 temporary memorial outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, Sept. 11. (CNS photo/Jason Cohn, Reuters)



'He's still with us' in spirit, says woman who lost husband on 9/11

By Michael C. Gabriele
Catholic News Service

WESTFIELD, N.J. — The phone rang. Diane Starita held her breath and sank to the floor at her home in Westfield.

The voice on the other end of the line was her husband, Anthony. He told her he was trapped on the 106th floor of the north tower of the World Trade Center, surrounded by smoke and flames, desperately trying to find a way out.

The brief conversation took place Sept. 11, 2001, following the deadly impact of American Airlines Flight 11 at 8:46 a.m.

"Somehow he found a working phone," she recalled in an interview with *The Catholic Advocate*, newspaper of the Newark Archdiocese. "He said: 'I'm still here,' meaning he was still in the building. He told me he loved me."

And then the line went dead.

Anthony M. Starita, 35, was one of 685 Cantor Fitzgerald Securities employees — and 12 Westfield residents — lost on that dreadful day.

Two planes hijacked by terrorists brought down the trade center's twin towers and killed close to 3,000 people. Others died when a third hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon and a fourth crash-landed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Passengers and crew members on that flight led a revolt that brought down the aircraft, which U.S. officials said was likely headed to the U.S. Capitol.

The anniversary of the attacks is "a day for us to be together as a family," Diane Starita said during an emotional interview Aug. 25 at Holy Trinity Church in Westfield.

In the late 1990s, she and her husband — along with their children, Kaila and Jason — moved from Staten Island, New York, to Westfield and became parishioners at Holy Trinity Parish.

"We've all gone on with our lives, but it's amazing how easily you're brought back to the memories of that day," Diane Starita said. "My children and I have a good life, but there are times when it's hard for me to be 'in the moment.' Anthony's missing, but he's still with us."

"We've been blessed to share Diane's burden," said Msgr. Joseph P. Masiello, Holy Trinity pastor. "She's allowed us into her heart and her life. Anthony was a man who was dedicated to his family. Through our faith, we come to live with rather than fight against the tragedies of life, and hopefully ever more peacefully."

Holding back tears, Msgr. Masiello said the days following Sept. 11 were overwhelming.

"The human side of me wanted to run away and hide," he confessed. "Everyone was afraid. The fear of the unknown was almost as devastating as the initial loss."

He cited Deacon Thomas A. Pluta as being his "tower of strength" during this period of turmoil.

As he confronted his fears, Msgr. Masiello began to pray, reciting the words of Jesus found in the Gospel of Matthew: "Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

"I was humbled by the goodness of our people here at Holy Trinity," Msgr. Masiello said. "I'm proud to be the pastor of this parish."

"The community took care of us," Diane Starita said, expressing her gratitude. "That was the only way we survived. Eight years ago I was just trying to function; just trying to make it through to the next minute. My brother once told me to 'learn to make friends with the demons.' I have no answers. I know some day I'll be reunited with Anthony."

She said her most difficult task in the wake of Sept. 11 was to tell her children that their father would not be coming home. Eventually, her husband's remains were found at Ground Zero.

Though it takes its toll, each year she welcomes the opportunity to tell her story and share her experiences, as a tribute to her husband, as a solemn bearer of history.

"But then, I wake up on Sept. 12 and feel relieved that I got through it again," she said.

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSBRIEFS

Delegates representing several religions visit Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland to pray for peace Sept. 8. Up to 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, died in the former Nazi death camp during World War II. Among the Catholics participating in the service was Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz (at right in bottom photo), Pope John Paul II's former personal secretary and current archbishop of Krakow. (CNS photo/Grzegorz Kozakiewicz, Reuters)



Religions, dialogue can lead to path to peace, say religious leaders

KRAKOW, Poland (CNS) — Religious faith and dialogue can lead humanity away from the abyss of war, hatred, and fear and point to the path to peace, said leaders representing Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and other religions around the world at a congress in Poland.

"Religions don't want war and don't want to be used" as an excuse for or to justify war, the leaders said in a final written statement released Sept. 8.

To say a war is waged in the name of God is blasphemy and "humanity will always be defeated by hatred and terror" when it turns to war to solve its problems, it said.

The statement and appeal for peace came during the final ceremony of the Sept. 6-8 international congress in Krakow, which was dedicated to "Faiths and Cultures in Dialogue."

Some 300 leaders representing the world's major religions took part in the gathering, which was organized by Krakow's archbishop, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, and the Rome-based Community of Sant'Egidio.

The congress focused on the

70th anniversary of the start of World War II and reflected on the horrors of war with a pilgrimage to the former concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The encounter also paid tribute to the interreligious efforts of Pope John Paul II, who was the archbishop of Krakow before his election as pope.

"The bitter lesson of the Second World War is often forgotten and yet it was a huge tragedy in human history," that showed to what horrendous depths humanity could sink, said the meeting's final statement.

The world today needs spiritual guidance as it is disoriented by the current economic crisis and "an often soulless, faceless globalization," it said.

God is the source of peace in the world and spirituality and dialogue will point the way to a life and a world of peace, it said. Without dialogue, the world "will be a slave to hatred and fear," it added.

In a long-distance greeting via satellite linkup, Pope Benedict XVI told the interreligious leaders that the world's religions in particular have a duty to fight against violence and extremism.

Religions must promote forgiveness and reconciliation, he said from the Italian city of Viterbo Sept. 6. The key to future peace is the ability to transmit to younger generations a culture and style of life that is marked by love, solidarity, and respect for others, he said.

Among the hundreds of participants and numerous speakers at the international congress in Krakow was Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington.

He spoke Sept. 7 about how the pope's social encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, offered important guidelines for finding ethical solutions to the current economic crisis.

Joshua DuBois, special assistant to U.S. President Barack Obama and head of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, was one of a handful of speakers during the closing ceremonies.

He cited several excerpts from Obama's June 4 speech in Cairo, Egypt, including this statement: "The people of the world can live together in peace. We know that is God's vision. Now that must be our work here on earth."

Swiss Catholic bishops oppose proposal to ban construction of minarets

FRIBOURG, Switzerland (CNS) — The Swiss Catholic bishops' conference said it opposed a proposal to ban the construction of minarets in Switzerland. A statement on the conference's Web site said the ban would hinder interreligious dialogue and that Swiss building codes already regulate the construction and operation of minarets, the high, slender towers attached to mosques. The statement said that, "as bishops and Swiss citizens, we are pleased that there are no longer any special articles relating to religion in the constitution, and we wish that no new ones should be introduced." It said the bishops' opposition to the proposal "is based on our Christian values and the democratic principles in our country." The ban was proposed by the Swiss People's Party, the largest party in the Swiss parliament. Supporters of the initiative see minarets as political symbols and signs of an increasing Islamic presence in Switzerland. The proposal will be put to a nationwide referendum Nov. 29.

Catholic leaders say Orissa convictions strengthen Christians

BHUBANESWAR, India (CNS) — Catholic leaders in India's Orissa state say the convictions of six people for offenses committed during last year's anti-Christian violence have convinced Christians that justice is within their reach. The Sept. 7 convictions on charges of riot and arson have "strengthened our people's morale," said Archbishop Raphael Cheenath of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, whose archdiocese includes Kandhamal, the district where much of the violence occurred. The archbishop spoke to the Asian church news agency UCA News. Father Ajay Singh, a social activist working among victims of the violence, agreed that the court verdicts "emboldened" Christians to pursue court action against their attackers. "However, they have lots more challenges to face," the priest told UCA News. Christian lawyers and social workers say witnesses have become uncooperative in court following threats to their lives. They report that gunmen comb villages for people named as witnesses in cases related to the anti-Christian violence. The predominantly tribal district of Kandhamal was at the center of four months of violence that left about 90 people dead and 50,000 displaced.

US priest buys high, sells low to help Guatemalan coffee growers

SAN LUCAS TOLIMAN, Guatemala (CNS) — In the 17 years since he started buying coffee from the hundreds of families who farm the hills overlooking Lake Atitlan, Msgr. Gregory Schaffer has seen the coffee industry's highs and lows. The market peaked in the late 1990s and crashed in the early 2000s, causing thousands of farmers to abandon their lands and migrate in search of work. None of that affected the farmers selling to Msgr. Schaffer, a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, who has worked in the San Lucas Mission for nearly 47 years. While small coffee farmers throughout Latin America have struggled to make ends meet growing the world's second-most-traded commodity — behind petroleum — the indigenous coffee growers of San Lucas Toliman have received superior prices from Msgr. Schaffer. The \$2.10 per pound they are paid is double what they might receive selling to middlemen and about 35 percent more than they would receive by selling both fair-trade and certified-organic beans. "We started this not by looking at the market. We started by asking the farmers what they thought their coffee was worth," said Msgr. Schaffer, 74. "We asked, 'How much do you need to have a decent life?' That's how we set our price."

Scripture Readings



September 27, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Numbers 11:25-29
Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-14
- 2) James 5:1-6
Gospel) Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

By Jeff Hensley

As I tried to think of good and holy people who had followed the advice of James to seek justice and avoid the selfish greed that would cause us to treat those who work for us unjustly, I came up with a fairly long list of names.

I found many still on the list when I added the requirement, spoken of in the psalm, of scrutinizing our behavior before God, even humbly imploring him to reveal our unrecognized sins, so that we might correct our behavior.

Some were men, some women, some lay people, and some priests and deacons, along with, a number of religious sisters and brothers.

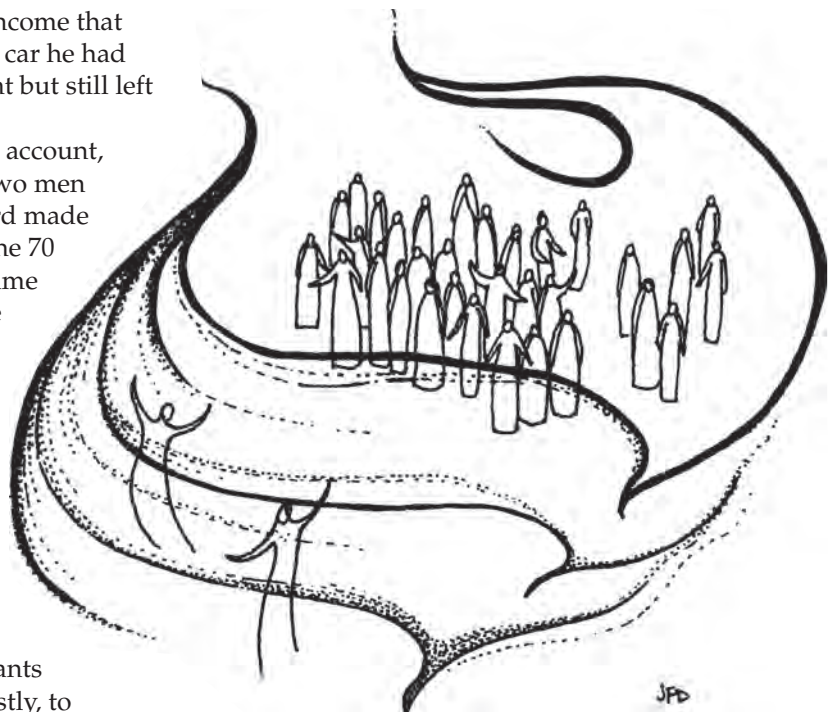
But particularly prominent were four priests of varied ages who had given up wealth and public acclaim and the privileges that go along with these things.

Each had been highly successful. Two had family money. Another previously had been

at the top of his field, attaining an income that allowed him to drive a fancy sports car he had thought would bring him fulfillment but still left him wanting something more.

In this weekend's Old Testament account, the Spirit of the Lord came on the two men who were not present when the Lord made his presence known to Moses and the 70 elders gathered in the tent. In the same way, God had come to each of these priests, calling them out from their positions of privilege to pursue the higher good of serving God and his people. They responded by forsaking material wealth and the freedom to pursue personal gain so that they might speak God's words to all people, encouraging others to grow in holiness and charity.

Jesus calls all of us to be his servants where we are, to act humbly and justly, to seek the personal holiness that the psalm and the Gospel speak of, to speak and live his words. And when we act as his disciples, he will treasure us as he treasured his first disciples to whom he said, "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward."



"Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"

— Numbers 11:29d

QUESTIONS:

Do you know men and women who strive to live lives of holiness in service to God and others? What steps can you take to move toward a more just and holy life?

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Take time out daily for silent prayer to hear God's voice, says pope

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — People need to carve time out of their busy day to dedicate to silent prayer or meditation in order to hear what God has to say, said Pope Benedict XVI.

The faithful also have to remember not to become completely caught up in their daily activities and concerns, forgetting that Jesus should be the focus of their lives, he said at his weekly general audience Sept. 9.

Continuing a series of audience talks about influential Christian writers from the Middle Ages, the pope focused his catechesis on the life of St. Peter Damian, an 11th-century monk, cardinal, and doctor of the church.

Living an austere, secluded life in a cloister, St. Peter Damian determined that "the hermetic life was the apex of Christian life" because it allowed one to be free from the ego and from worldly concerns, said the pope.

Monastic life offers an important lesson to all Christians — that it is important to learn



Pope Benedict XVI visits the room where the conclave was born at the Palace of the Popes in Viterbo, Italy, Sept. 6. After Pope Clement IV died in 1268, the cardinals meeting in Viterbo could not elect his successor. The election dragged on, ultimately lasting 33 months. It was not until city officials locked all of the cardinals in the meeting room, reduced their diet to bread and water and took the roof off the meeting hall that the cardinals elected Pope Gregory X. (CNS photo/Alessia Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

how to achieve an inner silence in order to listen to God's voice, he said.

The faithful must take time out of their day to seek out a

quiet place, "a sort of sitting parlor, where God can speak to us," he said.

One can learn God's word and the right path to take in life

through quiet prayer and meditation, he said.

St. Peter Damian taught that Christ must be at the center of monastic life; Christ must be

heard in one's voice, be served in one's life and felt in one's heart, said the pope.

All Christians, not just contemplative religious, must cultivate this intimate union with Christ, Pope Benedict said.

"We shouldn't let ourselves be completely absorbed by our daily activities, problems, and worries, forgetting that Jesus must truly be at the center of our lives," he said.

The pope flew to the Vatican by helicopter from Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, to lead the general audience in the Paul VI hall before about 8,000 pilgrims from around the world.

The pope greeted visiting bishops and well-wishers with his right hand, showing he was recovering greater use of his wrist, which he had broken in a fall July 17. The cast and wires used to stabilize the break had been removed Aug. 21.

At the end of the general audience, the pope flew back to the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, where he was spending the final weeks of his vacation.

Scripture Readings



October 4, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 128:1-6
- 2) Hebrews 2:9-11
Gospel) Mark 10:2-16

By Jeff Hedglen

Having a master's degree in theology and working for the church can get me in trouble, or at least scoffed at, from time to time. Awhile back, my wife and I were having a light-hearted discussion about "bedroom" matters with a group of married friends.

I put forth the idea that the consummation of marital love is symbolic of the total self-giving of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit among each other and suggested this is a primary reason for the sacrament of matrimony. When we give ourselves to each other out of love, we mirror the Trinity.

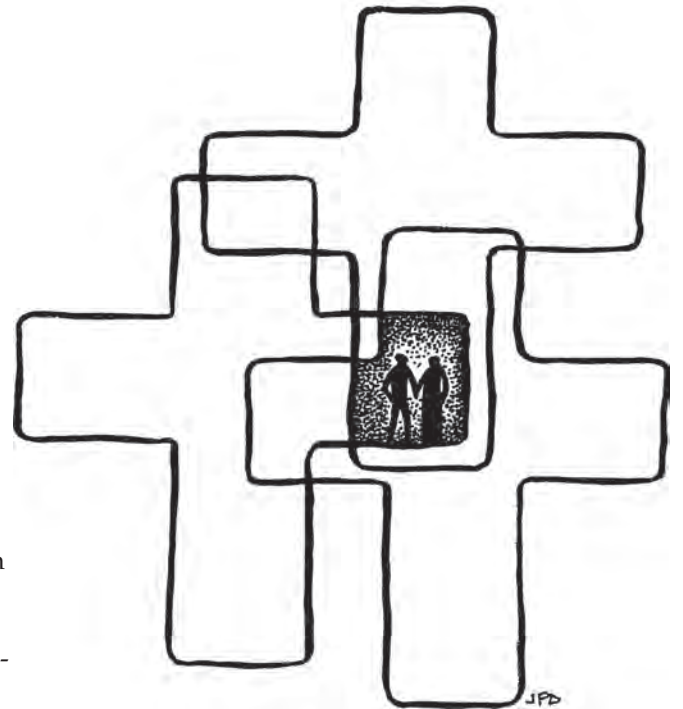
One person laughed and said, "I never think about that at such times." I shrugged it off and we moved on to other topics, but the comment stayed with me.

Our society has reduced sex to a selling point for material goods and a recreational activity for the partaking of any and all. The problem with this is that God has a much deeper and more fulfilling purpose for marriage, in and out of the bedroom.

This weekend's readings speak of the origins of marriage. Both Genesis and Mark remind us that "a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh." To emphasize this, Mark adds, "So they are no longer two but one flesh."

God did not intend for humans to be alone. We are at our best when we are in community. Pope John Paul II explained this idea in depth in his work *Theology of the Body* in which he speaks of a "communion of persons." He says we are created to be like the Trinity — persons in communion with each other. The most excellent expression of this is the sacrament of marriage, but extended family and friends fit into this communion as well.

In a society that has warped the gift of marital love, the church stands as a beacon of light calling us to a more perfect understanding of how we share ourselves whether we are single or married. We were never meant to be alone; we have been made to live like God does, in union with each other.



"The Lord God said: 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'"

— Genesis 2:18

QUESTIONS:

How does our society make it difficult to be a communion of persons?

What are ways we can be more united with the people in our lives?

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Got questions? **Why Catholic?** has some of the answers

By Jeff Hedglen

When I was 21 years old I became the youth minister at my parish. I was young and excited about my faith and my new job. I have been Catholic all my life and active in the church, especially as a teen, so this was a dream come true. I knew I did not know all there was to know about the Catholic faith, but this became shockingly clear one day in confession with my pastor and new boss.

After the confessing part, he said, "OK, say an Act of Contrition." I said "What is that?" He looked at me, smiled, and said "No wonder our youth don't know much about the faith; our youth minister doesn't either." It was not a reprimand as much as a statement of fact. In that moment I realized that I had a lot to learn, not just to be a good youth minister, but to be a good Catholic.

It is my guess that there are a lot of Catholics out there who cannot answer some basic questions about our faith. Hopefully everyone reading this can name the seven sacraments and the four

A master's program in theology is not everyone's cup of tea, but we are getting ready to start **Why Catholic?** throughout the diocese. I encourage you to dive into the program and investigate your faith.

WHY CATHOLIC?
JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

Gospels. Maybe you can't explain how three persons can share one divinity, but I am guessing you can at least name the persons of the Trinity.

When we move past these, things can get a bit fuzzy. It would not surprise me in the least to find out that there are more people who know the date and who was involved in the "Immaculate Reception" than know the same information on the Immaculate Conception. Additionally, I'll bet there are more people who

can describe in detail the Hail Mary Pass from Roger Staubach to Drew Pearson in the 1975 Cowboys game than can explain how to say a Rosary.

In preparation for this article, I asked some people if they knew the four marks of the Church. The typical response is "OK one of them wrote a Gospel, was there a pope named Mark... um... I can't think of any others." I admit it's a bit of a misleading question because the "marks" of the Church are not names but distinguishing

characteristics.

The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Our faith has been around a long time, and there is so much information that no one can learn and memorize it all. But that day when I walked out of confession as a young youth minister, I was determined to learn, not only the Act of Contrition, but all I could about my faith. A few years later I began a master's of theology program at the University of Dallas. That course of study changed my life.

Class after class answered question after question, but for each question answered, three more arose. I was lost in a swirl of words I had never heard, books that were hard to read, and lectures that raced by so fast that I was afraid I might start a fire with my paper and pen. But through it all my heart was singing. Yes, it was hard and challenging, but it was a joy to learn so much about what I had believed all my life.

I can't completely put into words how learning more about what the Church teaches has impacted my life, but my experience

of Mass has changed, my prayer life is enriched, my reading of the Bible is more fruitful, my relationships with friends are deeper, and my marriage is more deeply sacramental than ever.

A master's program in theology is not everyone's cup of tea, but we are getting ready to start **Why Catholic?** throughout the diocese. I encourage you to dive into the program and investigate your faith. Don't worry about what you do and don't know, just be open to learning more. The Holy Spirit will take care of the rest.

And by the way, Immaculate Conception is Dec. 8, and it is the celebration of Mary being conceived without the stain of Original Sin.

For more information about **Why Catholic?** call your parish office or visit www.whycatholic.org.

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.

El padre Alfredo Barba es ordenado y recibe a su esposa, la Iglesia, mientras se conforma

a la imagen de Cristo

Historia y fotos por
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Corresponsal

‘La fe no conoce fronteras,’ dijo Monseñor Kevin Vann, Obispo de Fort Worth, en su homilía de la liturgia de ordenación del Padre Alfredo Barba este pasado 8 de septiembre. Palabras que fueron transmitidas desde la parroquia de *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* en Fort Worth hasta la parroquia de *Santa Ana Nopalucan* en el estado de Tlaxcala en México.

Es la ordenación de más alta tecnología en la historia de la Diócesis de Fort Worth. Una multitud de cámaras grabaron la liturgia, no solo para la historia, sino para compartir la riqueza espiritual con la familia y amigos del nuevo sacerdote.

“Un amigo mío, Joaquín, dijo que podríamos grabar y transmitir la ordenación a mis padres”, dijo el Padre Alfredo, “y podrían proyectarlo en la pared de la parroquia, o en una pantalla grande”.

Así pues, por medio de la transmisión en vivo a través del internet, los padres del Padre Alfredo, Alfredo Barba Maravilla y Sara Rodríguez Sánchez, sus hermanas María y Florina, y su hermano Oliverio, su abuelo Marcellino Barba, y la gente en su parroquia, estuvieron presentes en su ordenación.

“La tecnología moderna de hoy nos une a todos como un pueblo de fe, y de hecho una Iglesia que es una, santa, católica, y apostólica”, dijo Monseñor Vann. “Esta tecnología es un recordatorio visible para nosotros hoy que la fe no tiene fronteras, no tiene límites”.

El Padre Alfredo vino a Texas hace un año, después de siete años en el *Seminario conciliar de México*, Ciudad de México, y un año en el *Seminario hispano*. Junto con Amado Vallejo, comenzó su internado en la parroquia *Immaculate Conception* en Denton.

Pero fue en la Misa diaria de la parroquia de *St. Mark* donde conoció a Joe y Teresa Escobar, con quienes comenzó una amistad y quienes le sirvieron de apoyo durante el año antes de su día de ordenación, en la fiesta del *Nacimiento de la bienaventurada Virgen María*.

“Alfredo se sentía como en su casa con nosotros”, dijo Joe Escobar. “Estamos bien unidos a él. No podríamos estar más orgullosos de él ni siendo él nuestro propio hijo”. Los Escobar, sentados en la banca correspondiente a los familiares durante la ordenación, asistieron al padre Roberto Strittmater y a monseñor Charles King, párroco del nuevo sacerdote en *Immaculate Conception*, al revestirlo en sus nuevos ornamentos sacerdotales.

Después de la ordenación, a través del Internet, el Padre Alfredo pudo también hablar directamente con sus propios padres, en México.

El día comenzó en oración. “Alfredo probablemente pasó ocho horas ante el Santísimo Sacramento”, dijo Joe Escobar.

“Es un hombre muy espiritual.

“Por la mañana cuando estaba en oración, estaba muy tranquilo, muy calmado”, dijo el Padre Alfredo. “No estaba nervioso por la mañana. Pero más adelante, si. En verdad, quise llorar”.

Habló y oró con el Padre Rogelio Alcantára, director espiritual en el *Seminario hispano*, que viajó de la Ciudad de

México para el acontecimiento. También visitando desde México estaba el Padre Marco Antonio Aguilar, párroco de la iglesia donde vive la familia del Padre Alfredo en su pueblo de Tlaxcala.

El Padre Rogelio y el Padre Alfredo se hicieron amigos en la ordenación diaconal del joven sacerdote el pasado mes de abril. “Comenzamos a hablar sobre la misión de nuestra vida sacerdotal”, dijo el Padre Rogelio en una entrevista después del día de la ordenación, “porque nuestra misión es la santificación del pueblo por medio del ministerio, por ejemplo con los sacramentos”.

“Pero la misión no es sólo compartir la santidad de Dios por medio de los sacramentos, sino también ayudar al pueblo a crecer en esta santidad de vida.”

En su homilía de ordenación, Monseñor Vann le dijo al entonces Diácono Alfredo la misma cosa. “Su tarea, su llamada, su vocación como sacerdote es

hacer una realidad viva de las palabras, ‘Dios está con nosotros.’

“La vocación sacerdotal es vivir como alter *Christus*, un ícono de lo sagrado para todos los que pasan a través de tu camino, dijo el obispo. “Su ministerio sacerdotal será... una realidad viva, especialmente en los sacramentos, pero más especialmente en la Eucaristía, donde traerás la presencia viva de Jesucristo a todos los que vengan por tu camino, para recordarles que de hecho, Dios está presente todavía”.

“Cuando estaba postrado”, dijo el Padre Rogelio, pensaba, “ahora es el momento. Se postra en el piso como un hombre ordinario... pero cuando este se levanta de nuevo, es como Cristo entre nosotros. ... Dios abrió su corazón, para poner algo de él en el hombre, y este hombre está para otros, él no es sacerdote para si mismo.”

VEA P. 23



El diácono Alfredo Barba se postra ante el altar durante la Letanía de santos, justo antes que el obispo Kevin Vann lo ordena sacerdote.

El padre Barba abraza al monseñor Charles King, su supervisor en la iglesia *Immaculate Conception*, después de su investidura.

Fr. Barba abraza Fr. Rogelio Alcantara, his spiritual director from Seminario Hispano after offering a blessing for him.

El padre Barba bendice al padre Marco Antonio Aguilar, el pastor de su parroquia de Santa Ana Nopalucan en la estado de Tlaxcala.

En el momento de la ordenación, el entonces diácono Alfredo Barba se postra ante el altar durante la Letanía de santos y antes de la imposición de manos por parte del obispo Vann.



América



Teresa y Joe Escobar, quienes han apoyado al padre Barba—actuando como sus padres adoptivos desde que llegó a los Estados Unidos hace un año—lo ayudan con la investidura durante su ordenación.



Durante la misa de ordenación, el padre Barba levanta la mirada hacia el Cuerpo de Cristo alzado por el obispo Kevin Vann durante la consagración de la Eucaristía.



El padre Barba lee la primera intercesión durante la consagración de su ordenación. Fue la primera vez que tuvo la oportunidad de participar en la consagración.

DESDE P. 22

“La postración es apenas el principio”. dijo el Padre Alfredo sobre el *Ritual de ordenación*.

Esa acción, acompañada por el canto de la *Letanía de los santos*, es seguida por la imposición de manos, el revestirse con los ornamentos sacerdotales y la unción de las manos con el Santo Crisma”.

“Mucha gente me pidieron oraciones”, dijo el nuevo Padre. “Al póstrame en el piso, pedí la misericordia de Cristo por toda esta gente. Intenté recordar cada nombre, pero no podía hacerlo. Pero pedí, ‘Muy bien, que se abran los cielos. Reciba estas oraciones’. Todos estaban rezando. Usted podía oír esto. Fue bueno”.

“Es una gran cosa que esta oración le estaba pidiendo a todos los santos, pidiéndole la intercesión a toda esta gente santa que estaban presentes con nosotros en este momento”.

“La imposición de las manos fue asombrosa”, dijo el Padre Alfredo. “Porque desde San Pedro al principio que lo recibió

de Cristo — y sin interrupción — es el mismo poder que la Iglesia le está comunicando al sacerdote.

“Y el resto de los sacerdotes comunican el mismo poder que ellos libremente recibieron. Usted puede ver la comunión alrededor del obispo, del obispo en el centro y de los sacerdotes alrededor. El nuevo sacerdote está en la puerta, listo para entrar”.

“Durante la Plegaria Eucarística”, dijo el Padre Alfredo, “el obispo me dio la oportunidad de leer la primera intercesión. Fue la primera vez que había leído las palabras. Tuve la oportunidad de participar en la consagración. Era asombroso.

“Y yo podría ver a la gente cara a cara. Antes no podía - antes del sacramento, antes del misterio”.

“Ahora podría ver a ‘mi esposa’ cara a cara”, dijo poéticamente describiendo que un sacerdote es la imagen viva de Jesucristo, esposo de la Iglesia”.

“Es la misma esposa que nos fue dada a nosotros. Era

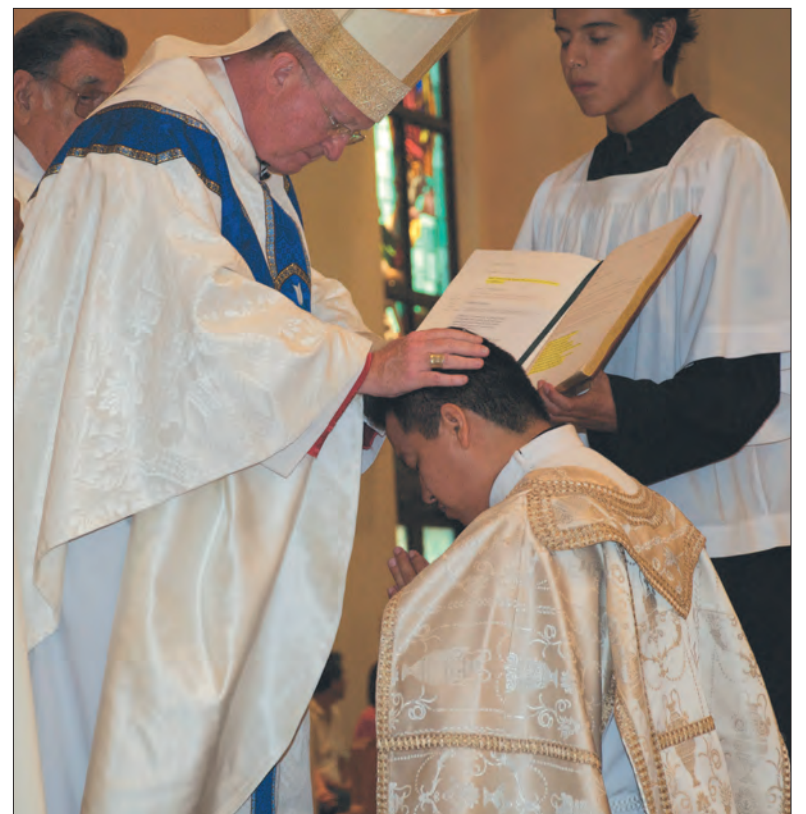
amor — libre, total. Sabemos — OK, ésta es ‘la mujer’. Es un poco romántico, si usted puede imaginarse, en ese momento, lo estás compartiendo todo”.

El próximo día, el 9 de septiembre, el Padre Alfredo presidió en su primera Misa en la parroquia de *St. Mark*, y el 10 de septiembre, en la escuela *Immaculate Conception*.

“No podría creer que estaba celebrando la Misa por primera vez”, dijo el Padre, impaciente por comenzar su vida sacerdotal. “Los otros sacerdotes trajeron sus vestiduras blancas, porque pensaron que usaría mi casulla blanca, pero elegí la verde.

“Éste es el *Tiempo ordinario!*” dijo el Padre Alfredo sonriendo ampliamente. “Aunque era mi primera Misa, es el *Tiempo ordinario*, y el tiempo ordinario en nuestras vidas es predicar el Evangelio, adorando a Dios y sirviendo al pueblo”.

“¡El *Tiempo ordinario* es bueno! Es bueno”.



El obispo Kevin Vann sobrepone sus manos al padre Alfredo Barba Rodríguez, invistiéndole con órdenes sacerdotales.

La ESCUELA DE MINISTERIO LAICAL del INSTITUTO PAPA JUAN PABLO II ha cambiado las fechas de comienzo y lugares del programa en español

La Escuela de ministerio laical del Instituto Papa Juan Pablo II ha cambiado las fechas de comienzo y lugares del programa en español. Habrá dos clases, cada una reuniéndose en el Centro católico. Una clase se reunirá los lunes, comenzando el 5 de octubre. La otra se reunirá el segundo sábado del mes, comenzando el 10 de octubre.

Para inscribirse en la Escuela de ministerio laical el aspirante debe comunicarse con el Padre Carmelo Mele, O.P., director, en el Centro católico. Se puede encontrar la solicitud

de inscripción si se la pide al párroco, si la encuentra en la página diocesana de Internet, o si llama al padre Carmelo. Se puede inscribirse hasta el día de la primera clase.

La Escuela de ministerio laical del Instituto Papa Juan Pablo II lleva adelante el trabajo del Instituto luz de Cristo de la Diócesis de Fort Worth. Intenta a formar a los laicos para el ministerio en las parroquias. Durante el año escolar de 2009-10, ELM ofrecerá clases de teología y de ministerio al nivel introductorio o “Competencia básica”.

Retiro de Rachel's Vineyard para sanación después del aborto

¿Estas sufriendo después de haber tenido un aborto? Los ministerios de Rachel's Vineyard te ofrecen un retiro espiritual el fin de semana del 30 de octubre al 1 de noviembre, para la sanación después de un aborto. Este retiro está diseñado para ayudar a encontrar esperanza y sanación a quienes están lidiando con sentimientos de sufrimiento, culpabilidad, vergüenza y dolor después de haber tenido un aborto. Te invitamos a que vengas a vivir el perdón, la sanación y la misericordia en el amor de Dios y en compañía de otras personas que comprenderán lo que estás viviendo. Para más información, favor de llamar al número (817) 886-4760. Estrictamente confidencial.



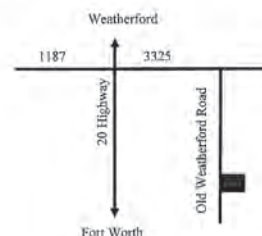
Iglesia Santo Redentor da Bienvenida a Ge'La

Te doy gracias, Señor, de todo corazón y proclamaré todas tus maravillas. Quiero alegrarme y regocijarme en tí, y cantar himnos a tu Nombre, Altísimo.
-Salmo 9:2-3

Tengo siempre presente al Señor: él está a mi lado, nunca vacilaré. Por eso mi corazón se alegra, se regocian mis entrañas y todo mi ser descansa seguro:
- Salmo 16:8-9

7:00 p.m.
8 de octubre, 2009

Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish
Address: 16250 Old Weatherford Road
Aledo - (817) 441-3500



Funcionarios de la USCCB y de la CHA confortados acerca del discurso del presidente Obama sobre cuidado de salud

Por Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — La promesa del presidente Barack Obama de continuar con la prohibición de uso de fondos federales para abortos y de mantener la protección de conciencia para trabajadores del cuidado de la salud en cualquier pieza legislativa de reforma de salud fue recibida con gusto por dos funcionarios de la Conferencia de obispos católicos de los EE.UU. (USCCB, por sus siglas en inglés) y por el presidente de la Asociación católica de salud (CHA, en inglés).

En charla con el *Catholic news service*, el 10 de septiembre, unas cuantas horas después de que el presidente Obama pronunciara su discurso ante las dos cámaras de la legislatura y el público televisivo de todo el país, Kathy Saile, directora de desarrollo doméstico social en el Departamento de justicia, paz y desarrollo humano de la USCCB, dijo que el discurso del presidente ofrecía una señal alentadora de que la administración ha estado prestando atención a preocupaciones presentadas por los obispos y organizaciones que se pronuncian a favor de la vida, acerca de fondos federales, en cualquier reforma legislativa.

En referencia a la convicción de largo tiempo de los obispos de que todas las personas de los Estados Unidos deben tener acceso a cuidado de salud que sea de calidad y asequible, Saile dijo que el discurso del presidente

Creemos que la incorporación de leyes federales esenciales y de larga vigencia de estos asuntos en cualquier nueva propuesta fortalecerá el apoyo para la reforma del cuidado de salud”.

— Richard Doerflinger
de la USCCB

debe continuarse con los cambios apropiados en la legislación, que en la actualidad está pendiente en ambas cámaras del Congreso.

En la forma como está redactada en la actualidad, en la principal sección de legislación de la Cámara, *America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009* (Decreto de opciones asequibles de salud en los Estados Unidos 2009, conocido como H.R. 3200), se permite el uso de fondos federales para procedimientos de aborto. Se continúa el trabajo sobre el tipo de lenguaje en el Senado sobre las medidas de reforma.

Aceptando que “los serios detalles significativos necesitan ser subsanados”, Saile dijo que “necesitamos fijarnos en el lenguaje que fija las estipulaciones que aparecen en proyectos de ley existentes”.

“Esperamos con entusiasmo trabajar con (Obama) para asegurarnos de que en lo que aparezca en el proyecto final de ley no estén aprobados fondos federales para abortos, no haya mandatos de pago para abortos y no se le haga requerimiento a las personas de pagar por el aborto de otras personas”, dijo Saile.

Richard Doerflinger, director adjunto del *Secretariado de actividades a favor de la vida*, que depende de los obispos, se hizo eco de Saile en una declaración dada a conocer el 10 de septiembre.

“Creemos que la incorporación de leyes federales esenciales y de larga vigencia de estos asuntos en cualquier nueva propuesta fortalecerá el apoyo para la reforma del cuidado de salud”, dijo Doerflinger, comprometiéndose a trabajar con el Congreso y la Casa Blanca para asegurarse que la legislación actual se enmiende.

La hermana Carol Keehan, hija de la Caridad, que es presidenta y presidenta ejecutiva de la *Asociación católica de la salud*, le dijo a *CNS* que a pesar de que todavía falta mucho por hacer en las enmiendas de la legislación, estaba satisfecha por la postura de Obama.

“Estuvimos complacidos al escuchar que no se usarán fondos federales para pagar por abortos, y que la protección de conciencia se mantendría”, dijo. “Estábamos satisfechos de escucharlo cuando dijo que este asunto seguiría adelante.”



“Las condiciones de hoy en día deshumanizan a nuestros semejantes y nos disminuyen como nación”, dijo el obispo John C. Wester, de Salt Lake City, director general de la comisión de emigración de la Conferencia de obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos. El obispo Wester habló en un servicio de oraciones en el Capitolio en Washington el 15 de septiembre. (foto CNS/Bob Roller)

El Papa sostendrá reunión con artistas en la Capilla Sixtina

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI ha invitado a cientos de artistas a una reunión con él en el Vaticano, en un intento de reavivar la especial relación histórica entre la fe y el arte.

A más de 500 personalidades del mundo del arte, del teatro, la literatura y la música se les ha pedido que se reúnan con el Papa bajo los legendarios frescos de Miguel Ángel en la Capilla Sixtina, el 21 de noviembre.

El arzobispo Gianfranco Ravasi, presidente del *Consejo pontificio de cultura*, dijo que la reunión iba a ser el primero de muchos otros programas dirigidos a llenar el vacío que se ha desarrollado entre la espiritualidad y la expresión artística durante el último siglo o algo más.

En rueda de prensa en el Vaticano, el 10 de septiembre,

el arzobispo Ravasi dijo que la separación se podría ver mejor en el arte y la arquitectura de muchas iglesias modernas, los que, dijo, “no ofrecen belleza y, antes bien, fealdad”.

El mismo dijo que la iglesia espera que el diálogo pueda ayudar a que los artistas vuelvan a adquirir “la trascendencia” que en un tiempo inspiró al pintor y escultor del siglo XVI, Miguel Ángel, a sus contemporáneos y a un sinnúmero de otros artistas de trabajos religiosos durante siglos.

La lista de invitados para el encuentro con el Papa se compone de personas que han sobresalido en las artes visuales, la arquitectura, la literatura, la poesía, la música y las artes de representación, incluyendo el teatro, la danza, la cinematografía y la televisión.

El padre jesuita Greg Boyle dice que LA sufrirá si su programa de empleos antipandillas cierra

LOS ÁNGELES (CNS) — Ambos gobiernos, municipal y del condado de Los Ángeles, sufrirán si un programa de intervención de pandillas, aclamado nacionalmente, tiene que cerrar aun temporalmente, dijo el sacerdote jesuita que fundó el programa hace más de dos décadas.

Industrias homeboy, cuyo lema es “Nada detiene una bala como un empleo”, esquivó su propia bala de pagar la próxima nómina cuando el *Consejo municipal* votó el 14 de agosto a favor de negociar un contrato de \$340,000 con la organización, pagándolo con dinero de una concesión de reducción de pandillas del Departamento de justicia de Estados Unidos.

“Homeboy es verdaderamente un lugar consecuente”, le dijo el padre jesuita Greg Boyle a *The*

Tidings, periódico arquidiocesano de Los Ángeles. En 1988 comenzó *Empleos para un futuro*, que se transformó en *Industrias homeboy*. Hay 12,000 personas que entran por nuestras puertas aquí durante el año, 8,000 miembros de pandillas.

“No hay lugar como éste en el planeta y hemos estado aquí durante 22 años”, añadió. “Desde 1992 hemos estado ofreciendo servicios generales y eso ha sido la diferencia. Los homicidios relacionados con las pandillas se han reducido establemente desde entonces y somos una de las razones esenciales de eso. Muchos otros lugares hacen parte de lo que hacemos, en términos de servicios abarcadores, pero lo hacemos de una manera que es típicamente más grandiosa”.

Describió la sede de *Homeboy* como “un símbolo tanto un lugar donde uno puede localizar ayuda concreta. Así que sería de gran consecuencia si tuviésemos que ponerle candado a esas puertas delanteras aun durante un tiempo”.

El sacerdote, de 55 años de edad, dijo que *Industrias homeboy* sirve como válvula de escape de vapor en la olla de presión de las pandillas de LA, siendo un lugar donde los miembros activos de las pandillas, junto con otros que salen de prisión que quieren redirigir sus vidas, tienen un lugar donde estar.

Dijo que hombres y mujeres jóvenes de más de 700 diferentes pandillas locales han usado los servicios de *Homeboy*, que incluyen manejo de casos, consejería de salud mental, entrenamiento de

y colocación en empleos, servicios legales, reuniones de 12 pasos, clases de educación y remoción de tatuajes.

¿Entonces cuál es exactamente el estado actual de *Industrias homeboy*?

“Simplemente estamos viviendo de nómina a nómina”, dijo padre Boyle. “Es una manera ter-

rible de vivir. Principalmente es la recesión. Construimos un nuevo lugar y nos mudamos hace unos dos años y ahora operamos un programa que es conmensurado con este lugar más grande. Pero para hacer eso, sabe usted, triplicamos nuestra nómina hasta unos \$300,000 cada dos semanas o \$9.5 millones anuales”.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

Health...

FROM PAGE 1

that are in existing bills."

"We look forward to working with (Obama) to ensure that what is in the final bill, that there is no federal funding (of abortion), no mandates (to pay for abortion) and no requirement of people to pay for other people's abortions," Saile said.

Doerflinger echoed Saile in a statement released Sept. 10.

"We believe that incorporating essential and long-standing federal laws on these issues into any new proposal will strengthen support for health care reform," Doerflinger said, pledging to work with Congress and the White House to ensure that current

legislation is amended.

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, told CNS that while much work remains on amending the legislation she was pleased by Obama's stance.

"We were gratified to hear that federal funds would not be used for abortions and that conscience protections would be maintained," she said. "We were pleased to hear him say we were going to move on now.

"There are too many people ... who need this kind of (health care) assistance. We believe it is long overdue. It is a moral and economic imperative and we were pleased to hear him put it in those terms," Sister Carol said.

Meanwhile, a group of pro-life legislators and organizations, led by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., challenged the president's position that health care reform legislation would not include abortion funding.

Calling Obama's statements to Congress misleading, Smith said during a Sept. 10 Capitol Hill news conference that an analysis of H.R. 3200 shows that funding for abortion remains in place.

"Despite what Obama said, the House bill would allow abortions to be covered by a federal plan and by federally subsidized private (insurance) plans," Smith said.

"President Obama must be held accountable for his words," Smith added. "If he intends to support the pro-life amendments that have thus far been deleted by pro-abor-

tion members of his party, we will welcome that. But the truth is that he seeks to cover up his intention to use the government-run public plan to send checks from the U.S. Treasury to abortionists around the country."

Joining Smith was Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., one of the authors of an amendment that would have ensured the federal ban on abortion funding would remain in place. The amendment was defeated in committee, however.

"Such an explicit exclusion is missing from this bill," Pitts said, pledging to reintroduce his amendment when the bill comes up for debate in the House.

"This is not about the legality or the illegality of abortion. It is about keeping the government out of the

business of promoting abortion as health care," Pitts said.

Joining the press conference were representatives of the National Right to Life Committee, Democrats for Life, Students for Life of America, 40 Days for Life and the Susan B. Anthony List, which promotes pro-life women for elective office.

Part of a coalition called Stop the Abortion Mandate, the organizations pledged to undertake a massive lobbying effort of members of Congress to prevent the expansion of federal funding for abortion.

A second coalition made up primarily of faith-based groups also pledged to "flood Congress" for 48 hours, starting Sept. 15, with messages supporting health care reform.

Father Allan Hawkins and Bishop Vann offered assistance in discernment process

Episcopal nuns, priest become Catholics after years of prayer

BALTIMORE (CNS) — After seven years of prayer and discernment, a community of Episcopal sisters and their chaplain were received into the Catholic Church during a Sept. 3 Mass celebrated by Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien.

The archbishop welcomed 10 sisters from the Society of All Saints' Sisters of the Poor when he administered the sacrament of confirmation and the sisters renewed their vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the chapel of their convent in suburban Catonsville, Maryland.

The Rev. Warren Tanghe, an Episcopal priest, also was received into the church and is discerning the possibility of becoming a Catholic priest.

In an interview with *The Catholic Review*, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, before their reception into the Church, Mother Christina Christie, superior of the religious community, said the sisters were excited about joining the Catholic Church. The women religious have been studying the church's teachings for years, she said.

Two Episcopal nuns who have decided not to become Catholic will continue to live and minister alongside their Catholic sisters. Members of the community range in age from 59 to 94.

"For us, this is a journey of confirmation," Mother Christina said. "We felt God was leading us in this direction for a long time."

The sisters hope to form the first diocesan institute in the archdiocese.

Diocesan institutes differ from religious communities of pontifical right, such as the Dominicans, whose governance model is under the authority of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies

of Apostolic Life. Members of a diocesan institute are overseen directly by a diocesan bishop.

Chancellor Diane Barr said the archdiocese is working with the Vatican in developing the diocesan institute. Whether or not the order will retain its name also is being discussed, she said.

Father Allan Hawkins, pastor of St. Mary the Virgin Church in Arlington, Texas, a parish of the Pastoral Provision, was involved in the sisters' discernment. "I was a priest associate of the order all the way back to the 1960s," he said in an interview Thursday with the *North Texas Catholic*, newspaper of the Diocese of Fort Worth. They had stayed in touch across the years, as he had made his own transition into the Catholic Church. About two years ago, he said, he and an associate travelled to offer assistance to the sisters in Catonsville in their discernment process. Subsequently, he said, he invited Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann to speak to the sisters, so that "they might have authoritative answers to their questions."

Bishop Vann, who had already been active in working with Anglicans discerning their relationship to the Catholic Church, has since been appointed vice delegate for the Pastoral Provision by Cardinal William J. Levada, the prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith.

One of the sisters, Katherine Grace, a former mother superior of the group offered a day of recollection on *Lectio Divina* for parishioners of St. Mary the Virgin Parish about 18 months ago.

Wearing full habits with black veils and white wimples that cover their heads, the sisters have been a visible beacon of hope in Catonsville for decades.

The American branch of a

society founded in England, the All Saints' Sisters of the Poor came to Baltimore in 1872. They have been at their current location since 1917.

In addition to devoting their lives to a rigorous daily prayer regimen, the sisters offer religious retreats, visit people in hospice care and maintain a scriptorium where they design inspirational religious cards.

Throughout its time in Baltimore the order has followed its charism, which focuses on hospitality. The order has ministered with Baltimore's poor, children with special needs and AIDS patients. Together with Mount Calvary Church, an Episcopal parish in Baltimore, the sisters co-founded a hospice called the Joseph Richey House in 1987.

Orthodoxy and unity were key reasons the sisters were attracted to the Catholic faith. Many of them were troubled by the Episcopal Church's approval of women's ordination, the ordination of a gay bishop and what they regarded as lax stances on moral issues.

"We kept thinking we could help by being a witness for orthodoxy," said Sister Mary Joan Walker, the community's archivist.

Mother Christina said that effort "was not as helpful as we had hoped it would be."

"People who did not know us looked at us as if we were in agreement with what had been going on (in the Episcopal Church)," she said. "By staying put and not doing anything, we were sending a message which was not correct."

Before deciding to enter the Catholic Church, the sisters had explored Episcopal splinter groups and other Christian denominations. Mother Christina



Sister Emily Ann Lindsey and Sister Margaret Muraki pray in the chapel at the Society of All Saints' Sisters of the Poor convent in Catonsville, Md., Aug. 24. The sisters are part an Episcopal order that will be joining the Catholic Church Sept. 3. (CNS photo/Owen Sweeney III, CATHOLIC REVIEW)

noted that some of the sisters had independently contemplated joining the Catholic Church without the others knowing. When they learned that most of them were considering the same move, they took it as a sign from God and approached Archbishop O'Brien.

"This is very much the work of the Holy Spirit," Mother Christina said.

The sisters acknowledged it has not been easy leaving the Episcopal Church, for which they expressed great affection. Some of their friends have been hurt by their pending departure, they said.

"Some feel we are abandoning the fight to maintain orthodoxy," said Sister Emily Ann Lindsey. "We're not. We're doing it in another realm right now."

The sisters have spent much of the last year studying the documents of the Second Vatican Council. They said there were few theological stumbling blocks

to entering the church, although some initially had difficulty with the concept of papal infallibility.

In addition to participating in ordinary Catholic Masses, the sisters are expected to receive permission to attend Mass celebrated in the Anglican-use rite, a liturgy that adapts many of the prayers from the Episcopal tradition. Mother Christina said several archdiocesan clergy members, including Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden, have stepped forward to learn how to celebrate the Anglican-use Mass.

The sisters expressed deep affection for Pope Benedict XVI. The pope exercises an authority that Episcopal leaders do not, they said, adding that the unity Christ called for can be found in the Catholic Church under the leadership of the pope.

"Unity is right in the midst of all this," said Sister Catherine Grace Bowen. "That is the main thrust."



Theresa and Joe Escobar, who have acted as Fr. Barba's surrogate parents since he arrived in the United States a year ago, help vest him at his ordination.



Fr. Barba looks up to the Body of Christ held by Bishop Kevin Vann during the consecration of the Eucharist at his ordination Mass.



Fr. Barba reads the first intercession during the consecration at his ordination, the first time he had the opportunity to participate in the consecration.

Father Barba...

FROM PAGE 28
ing reality of the words, 'God is with us.'

"The priestly vocation is a living *alter Christus*, an icon of the sacred for all who pass your way," the bishop said. "Your priestly ministry will be ... a living reality, especially in the sacraments, most especially in the Eucharist, to bring the living presence of Jesus Christ to all who come your way, to remind them that indeed, God is still present."

"When he was lying prostrate," Fr. Rogelio said, "I was thinking, 'Now is the moment. It's the man who went down as an ordinary man ... but when this man gets back up, he is like Christ between us. ... God opened his heart, to put something of him in the man, and this man is for others, he is not a priest for himself.'"

"The prostration is just the beginning," Fr. Alfredo said, of the ordination ritual. That action, accompanied by the singing of the Litany of the Saints, is followed by the laying-on of

hands, vesting, and anointing of the new priest's palms with holy chrism.

"Many people asked me for prayers," he said. "I went down onto the floor, and I asked Christ's mercy for all these people. I tried to remember every name, but I couldn't do that. But I asked, 'OK, open the heavens. Receive these prayers.' Everybody was praying. You could hear that. It was good."

"It is a great thing that this prayer was asking all the saints, all the intercession of these holy people who were present with us in this moment."

"The laying on of hands was amazing," Fr. Alfredo said. "Because from St. Peter, from the beginning, from Christ — without interruption — it is the same power the Church is communicating to the priest."

"And all the other priests communicate the same power they received freely. You can see the communion around the bishop, the bishop in the middle and the priests around.

The new priest is in the door, ready to go in."

During the Eucharistic Prayer, Fr. Alfredo said, "The bishop gave me the opportunity to read the first intercession. That was the first time I had ever read the words. I had an opportunity to participate in the consecration. It was amazing."

"And I could see the people face-to-face. Before that I couldn't — before the mystery."

"Now I could see 'my wife' face to face," he said, poetically describing that a priest is the living image of Jesus Christ, the spouse of the Church.

"It is the same wife that was given us. It was love, freely, completely. We know — OK, this is 'the woman.' It is kind of romantic, if you can imagine, at that moment, you are sharing everything."

The next day, Sept. 9, Fr. Alfredo presided at his first Mass at St. Mark Parish in Denton, and Sept. 10, at Immaculate Conception School.

"I couldn't believe I was celebrating Mass for the first time," he said, eager to begin his priestly life. "The other



Bishop Kevin Vann lays his hands on Fr. Alfredo Barba Rodriguez, ordaining him to the order of priest.

priests brought their white vestments, because they thought I would wear my white chasuble, but I chose the green.

"This is the ordinary time!" Fr. Alfredo smiled broadly. "Even though it was my first

Mass, this is the ordinary time, and the ordinary time in our lives is preaching the Gospel, worshipping God and serving the people.

"Ordinary time is good! It's good."

Pope greets Rome's Jewish community, plans to visit synagogue in the fall

By Sarah Delaney
Catholic News Service

VATICANCITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI has told the Jewish community of Rome that he plans to visit its synagogue in the near future, the Vatican has confirmed.

In a good will telegram to Chief Rabbi Riccardo di Segni marking the upcoming Jewish holidays, the pope said he would visit "with joy" the Rome synagogue sometime in October, after the end of the High Holy Days.

The telegram was made public by the Jewish Community of Rome and confirmed by Father Ciro Benedettini, vice director of the Vatican press office. Fr. Benedettini said that while no

date had been set, the visit would likely take place sometime in the fall.

In the telegram, the pope offered his "heartfelt best wishes" for the holidays of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot.

"I renew my cordial friendship while I wait to make, with joy, the visit to your community and synagogue at the end of your holidays," the pope said in the telegram. Such a visit, he said, "is animated by a real desire to show you that I and the whole Catholic Church are close to you."

Pope Benedict's predecessor, Pope John Paul II, made history when he became the first pope to visit the Roman synagogue in 1986.

Pope Benedict has made Catholic-Jewish relations a priority and has visited synagogues in New York and Cologne, Germany; he also visited Auschwitz, the Nazi death camp. During his trip to the Holy Land in May, he met with Holocaust survivors at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.

In his message, the pope said he hoped the Jewish holidays would prove to be "an occasion for a common and blessed gladness" and promised blessings and "constant encouragement" in the promotion of justice and peace.

Rabbi di Segni thanked the pope for "such a significant and important message" and said that plans were under way to organize the papal visit.

Pope says families should create 'spiritual terrain' for vocations

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI said Catholic parents should make sure to create a "fertile spiritual terrain" for priestly vocations as they educate their children in the faith.

The pope, speaking at a Sunday blessing at his summer residence outside Rome Aug. 30, said he hoped for a vocations revival in the Year for Priests, which began in June. The year marks the 150th anniversary of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests.

"When couples dedicate themselves generously to the education of their children, guiding and orienting them toward the discovery of God's design of love, they pre-

pare that fertile spiritual terrain where vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life arise and mature," the pope said.

He offered a prayer that in the Year for Priests, "Christian families may become small churches in which all the vocations and charisms given by the Holy Spirit will be welcomed and valued."

The pope said the history of Christianity features innumerable examples of saintly parents and families, including Blessed Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, who were beatified in 2001. The couple had four children, including two sons who became priests.

He returns to his Vatican residence at the end of September.

Calendar

RESPECT LIFE HOLY HOUR

The Holy Hour sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth will change in October from the first Monday of every month to the third Monday of every month. It will still be held from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. The hour will begin with a rosary and be followed by eucharistic adoration. All are invited to come and pray for an end to abortion and all offenses to the sanctity and dignity of human life. For more information, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of Respect Life for the Diocese of Fort Worth, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257.

UNBORN BABY MEMORIAL

Mass for Children Who Died Before Baptism will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann Saturday, Oct. 10, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 West Magnolia, Fort Worth. The Mass, sponsored by Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas and Catholics United for Life of North Texas, will begin at noon and a reception with a light lunch will be held in the parish hall following the Mass. The Mass is being offered to help the healing process for parents who have lost children through miscarriage, still birth or abortion. Relatives and friends of these parents are also invited to attend. Individual flowers will be provided for parents to place at the Virgin Mary's altar during the Prayers of the Faithful in memory of their children, should they wish to do so. Reservations are requested, but not required. For more information and reservations, call (817) 738-1086, mail to 3704 Myrtle Springs Road, Ft. Worth, 76116, or e-mail mubcare@gmail.com.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Oct. 9-11 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St. in East Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of marriage vows, and strengthening the couple's faith. Reservations are required. To make a reservation, e-mail meregistration@sbcglobal.net. More information is also available online at www.ntexasme.org.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life, Sept. 23 through Nov. 1, is a peaceful prayer campaign focused on bringing about an end to abortion through three key components: prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a constant, peaceful prayer vigil. The largest and most important component of the 40 Days for Life is the constant, 40-day, round-the-clock prayer vigil that will be kept outside of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic at 301 South Henderson St. in Fort Worth. All are invited to participate in this prayer activity. For more information on this and other activities during this campaign, visit the Web site at www.40daysforlifeforth.com.

WHITE MASS

The Medical Association of Catholic Students from the University of North Texas Health Science Center will host the annual White Mass Wednesday, Oct. 21. The White Mass, traditionally held for all physicians, nurses, health care workers, and for pastoral care ministers and students, will be celebrated at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will be the main celebrant. "Traditionally, health care workers wore white attire. In the church, white symbolizes hope and comfort to the ill and hospitalized," note event organizers. Participants in the liturgy are invited to wear their white coats. For more information, contact Miriam Garcia at mgarcia@hsc.unt.edu.

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

To Report Misconduct

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

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

To Report Abuse

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

'JP II AND PIZZA TOO'

The Catechetical School of the Pope John Paul II Institute of the Diocese of Fort Worth will offer a new series of monthly presentations beginning Sept. 29. "JPII and Pizza Too" will be presented by Professor Douglas Bushman at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller. The evening will begin with pizza at 6 p.m. followed by the presentation at 6:30 p.m. and then a Q & A period. There is a \$4 per person charge for adults who wish to participate in the pizza dinner. Reservations are requested. Contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 560-3300, ext. 260 or lpollice@fwdioc.org.

CURSILLO

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

RETROUVILLE ANNIVERSARY

Retrouville, a ministry to help troubled marriages, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Anyone who has experienced this ministry is invited to attend a Mass to be celebrated Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing, Fort Worth. A reception, hosted by Holy Family, will follow in the parish hall. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 737-6768.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The Fort Worth diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities and Their Families regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

COURAGE GROUP

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

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding. To register for a course starting Sept. 20 at 1 p.m. in the Sacred Heart High School Library, 153 E. Sixth St., Muenster, contact Scott and Vickie Green at (940) 759-4475. To register for a course starting Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 Ninth Street, Wichita Falls, contact Jacob and Lauren Morath at (940) 544-2515. To register for a course starting Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, contact Scott and Amy Rustand at (817) 581-6266. Visit www.cclfdw.org for more class dates and information.

A NIGHT WITH KELLMAYER

Catholic theologian and historian, Steve Kellmeyer, will present "Martin Luther and the Reformation" Saturday, Sept. 26, at St. Joseph Parish, 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington. Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., and a light supper will follow with the presentation to begin at 7 p.m. Childcare will be available on a first-come basis. There is no charge for this event. For more information, contact (817) 472-5181.

MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

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

DISCERNMENT AT OLV

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

SHSP 'COME AND SEE'

The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate will host a "Come and See" weekend Oct. 9-11 at their motherhouse, 300 Yucca St., San Antonio. Women, ages 18-45 will have the opportunity to experience life in a convent setting. During the weekend guests will participate in community prayer, small group sharing, discernment themes, personal reflection, Emmaus Walk, recreation, and other activities with the sisters. Registration for the "Come and See" weekend is available online at www.shsp.org, under "What's New?" or by contacting Sister Gabriel Hession, SHSp at (210) 533-5149 or ghession@hotmail.com.

ST. RITA INTERNATIONAL FAIR

St. Rita School, 712 Weiler Blvd. Fort Worth, will host its 31st annual International Fair Saturday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This daylong event will celebrate the multicultural community with a festival of ethnic foods, entertainment, games, silent auction, and activities for the whole family. The day will come to a close with the celebration of Mass at 5 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 451-9395.

HILLSBORO FESTIVAL

Our Lady of Mercy Church, 107 Crestridge Dr., Hillsboro, invites all to their fall festival to be held Sunday, Oct. 18. A turkey and sausage dinner with all the trimmings will be served beginning at 11 a.m. The cost for the dinner is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. All take-out plates are \$7. The festival will also feature games, entertainment, and an auction. For more information, call the parish office at (254) 582-5640.

ST. MICHAEL FESTIVAL

St. Michael Parish, 3713 Harwood Rd., Bedford, will celebrate its annual feast day Saturday, Sept. 26, from noon to 5 p.m. with entertainment, a cakewalk (with fresh-baked home-made goodies), games, silent auctions, food and more. All games and activities are free. A Mass, to be celebrated at 6 p.m. in the church, will wrap up the festival. The parish began with the dedication of its newly built church in 1985 and has continued every year to honor their patron saint, St. Michael the Archangel, and to celebrate its parish family. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 283-8746.

SVDP PARISH PICNIC

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington, will host its annual parish picnic Sunday, Sept. 27, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Women's Guild will host a silent auction. Items in the auction will include a getaway to the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine; golf at area courses; A Wall of Wine; dinners; Family Fun Packages; and many collectables and unique gift baskets made and donated by parish members. There will also be a bake sale presented by the Women's Guild. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (817) 478-8206.

ST. FRANCIS FESTIVAL

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood, Grapevine will hold its annual Community Fest fundraiser Friday, Oct. 2, and Saturday, Oct. 3. Friday night events will be held from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and include a catered Irish dinner, entertainment by Behan, Irish dancing by Col Ceather and the McGeggert Irish Dancers of North Texas. A silent and live auction will also be held. Childcare will be provided. Saturday's events will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Activities will include rock climbing, bounce houses, a book and plant sale, children's games, silent auction, and more. Members of the Grapevine Fire Department will be present for a meet and greet. The annual garage sale will begin at 8 a.m. Golfers are invited to sign up for the 6th annual St. Francis Golf Tournament to be held at the Riverchase Golf Club in Coppell Sunday, Sept. 27. Tee time is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Entry fee is \$75 per person and will include food and a gift bag. For more information contact Tom Tisdale at tel1942@tx.rr.com or Paul Bonzagni at Paul.Bonzagni@verizon.net. For more information about all events, log onto www.sfatx.org or contact the parish office at (817) 421-2685.

ST. THOMAS FESTIVAL

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 925 N. Chaucer, Pilot Point, will host its annual fall festival Sunday, Oct. 11. Dinner will be served beginning at 11 a.m. and consist of sliced brisket, German sausage, new potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, dessert, bread, condiments, and drink. The cost of the meal is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Events for the day will include a midway for the children, pony rides, adult and children competition games, crafts, sweet shop, silent and live auctions. For more information, contact the parish office at (940) 686-2088.

ST. ANN GOLF TOURNAMENT

St. Ann Men's Club will sponsor its second annual golf tournament at Hidden Creek Golf Course in Burleson. The Four-Man Scramble will be held Saturday, Oct. 24. Golfers will be treated to hamburgers at 11:15 a.m. and tee off at 1 p.m. Forms are available at www.stanninburleson.com or contact Mike Hall at (817) 426-5858. Sponsorship levels are Gold, \$1,000 — four players; Bronze, \$500 — two players; Silver, \$250 — one player; Hole Sponsor — \$100 offers signage on the golf course; and an individual fee to play is \$60.

FR. IVOR KOCH CHARITY

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly #1108 will host the 13th annual Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser Saturday, Oct. 17, at Sacred Heart Parish, 1504 Tenth Street, Wichita Falls. A free spaghetti dinner will be served beginning at 6 p.m. Activities will include a live auction. Proceeds from this event support the Knights of Columbus charitable activities. For more information, contact the parish office at (940) 723-5288.

SMG KOUNTRY KARNIVAL

The 34th annual Kountry Karnival will be held at St. Maria Goretti Parish, 1200 S. Davis Dr., Arlington, Saturday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This year's fiesta theme will feature a silent auction, trade show with several area vendors, bake sale, cake spin, bounce houses, a board walk full of games for the kids, talent show, live music, face painting, book fair, snow cones, and over seven different ethnic food booths. All proceeds will benefit St. Maria Goretti School. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 274-0643.

ST. JUDE FESTIVAL

St. Jude Parish, 500 E. Dallas St., Mansfield, will hold its annual fall festival Saturday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The dining experience will include various ethnic foods. The day's event will also feature games, bounce houses, petting zoo, pony rides, clowns, a train ride, a cakewalk, crafts, and the annual antique/hot rod car show. Entertainment will be provided by In His Hands, a youth rock group, followed by Thundercats, and Under Suspect, a rock adult group. The evening will end with Grupo Neon, a Spanish rock band. Silent auction items will be displayed for viewing all day. There is no charge for admission and parking. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 473-6709.

LEBANESE FOOD FESTIVAL

The 14th annual Lebanese Food Festival will be held Friday, Oct. 2, and Saturday, Oct. 3, from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church, 719 University Place, Lewisville. The festival will feature authentic Lebanese food, live entertainment, children's play area, craft booths, and Lebanese souvenirs. Admission and parking is free. For more information, call the parish office at (972) 436-7617.

PRO-LIFE GOLF PICNIC

A Pro-Life Golf Picnic will be held at Veteran's Park in Arlington Sunday, Oct. 4, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. All beginners and experienced players ages six and older are invited to participate. There will be a "Best Shots Doubles" game with food. The cost is \$7 per person and includes a new disc with a pro-life message. Proceeds will support Project Gabriel. For more information, call Dan at (817) 419-8227, or visit the Web site at www.protectlifedgc.webs.com.

BURKBURNETT FESTIVAL

The 44th annual St. Jude Thaddeus Parish fall festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the parish hall, 600 Davy Dr., Burkburnett. The community-wide annual event is the parish's main fund raiser for the year. The festival will offer an all-you-can-eat turkey and German sausage meal including potatoes, vegetables, sauerkraut, dessert, and drinks. The cost of the dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages five-12. Children under the age of five eat free. Dinners may also be purchased conveniently at a drive-through in front of the parish hall from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In addition to the dinner, the event will feature home-baked goods for sale and a silent auction. For more information, call (940) 224-1937.

SAN MATEO BREAKFAST

San Mateo Church, 2930 Pulido St., Fort Worth, will host a Sunday breakfast Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Guadalupana Society will serve a variety of breakfast burritos and drinks. For more information, contact Rachel Rodriguez at (817) 994-6228.

Classified Section

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Topsoil, sand, gravel, washed materials, driveways, concrete, backhoe, and tractor services. Custom mowing lots and acres. Call (817) 732-4083.

Good Newsmaker

Father Alfredo Barba is ordained and greets his bride, the Church, as he is

Conformed to Christ

Story and photos by Kathy Cribari Hamer Correspondent

"Faith knows no frontiers," Bishop Kevin Vann said in his homily at the Sept. 8 ordination liturgy for Father Alfredo Barba. While he was saying those words, they were transmitted from Fort Worth's Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish to the parish of Santa Ana Nopalucan in the Mexican state of Tlaxcala.

In the "highest tech" ordination the Diocese of Fort Worth has ever experienced, a myriad of cameras recorded the liturgy, not just for the historic record, but to share its rich spiritual tradition with the family and

friends of the new priest.

"A friend of mine, Joaquín, told me we could record and send the ordination to my parents," Fr. Alfredo said, "and they could project it on the wall, in the parish, on a big screen."

So, through streaming video, Fr. Alfredo's parents, Alfredo Barba Maravilla and Sara Rodriguez Sanchez, his sisters María and Florina, and brother Oliverio, his grandfather Marcellino Barba, and the people in his parish, were present at his ordination.

"The modern technology for this day brings us all together as one people of faith, and indeed one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church," Bishop Vann said. "This technology is a visible reminder for us today that the faith does not have any frontiers, does not have any boundaries."

Fr. Alfredo came to Texas a year ago, after seven years at the Seminario Conciliar de Mexico, in Mexico City, and a year at Seminario Hispano. Along with Amado Vallejo, he began an internship at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton.

But it was at a daily Mass

at St. Mark Parish that he met Joe and Theresa Escobar, who befriended and supported him through the year leading up to his ordination day, on the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary's birth.

"Alfredo felt at home with us," Joe Escobar said. "We're very close to him. We couldn't have been prouder if he was our own son." The Escobars, sitting in the family's pew at the ordination, assisted Father Robert Strittmater and Monsignor Charles King, the new priest's pastor at Immaculate Conception, in vesting him.

After the ordination, through the Internet, Fr. Alfredo was also able to speak directly to his own parents, in Mexico.

The day began in prayer. "Alfredo spent probably eight hours before the Blessed Sacrament," Joe Escobar said. "He is a very spiritual man."

"In the morning when we were praying I was very calm, very quiet," Fr. Alfredo said. "I was not nervous in the morning. But later, it increased every time. I wanted to cry, really."

He talked and prayed with Father Rogelio Alcántara, spiritual director at the Seminario Hispano, who traveled



Deacon Alfredo Barba Rodriguez lies prostrate before the altar prior to his ordination to the priesthood, while Bishop Kevin Vann (second from left) kneels with Deacons Len Sanchez (left) and Emilio "Popo" Gonzalez (right), and an altar server at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in North Fort Worth.

from Mexico City for the event. Also visiting from Mexico was Father Marco Antonio Aguilar, pastor of Fr. Alfredo's home parish in Tlaxcala.

Fr. Rogelio and Fr. Alfredo had become friends at the young priest's deacon ordination last April. "We started to speak about the mission of our priesthood life," Fr. Rogelio said in an interview after the ordination day, "because our mission is about all the sancti-

fication of the people through ministry, for instance through the sacraments.

"But the mission is not only to give the holiness of God through the sacraments, but to help people to improve this holiness in their life."

In his ordination homily, Bishop Vann told then-Deacon Alfredo the same thing. "Your task, your calling, your vocation as a priest is to make a liv-

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Fr. Barba embraces Msgr. Charles King, his supervisor at Immaculate Conception Church, after his vesting.



Fr. Barba embraces Fr. Rogelio Alcántara, his spiritual director from Seminario Hispano after offering a blessing for him.



Fr. Barba blesses Fr. Marco Antonio Aguilar, pastor of his home parish of Santa Ana Nopalucan in Tlaxcala.



Then-Deacon Alfredo Barba lays prostrate before the altar prior to his ordination.

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Accompanied by their wives, 32 men have spent long years preparing for their roles as permanent deacons. Read a bit about their spiritual journey of formation for service. **14-17**