

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Pope celebrates Mass, tells Lourdes pilgrims that Mary leads to Christ



Pope Benedict XVI blesses a pilgrim during his final Mass at the Lourdes shrine in southwestern France Sept. 15. (CNS photo/Regis Duvignau, Reuters)

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

LOURDES, France — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass for 150,000 international pilgrims at the Marian sanctuaries of Lourdes and told them that humble prayer to Mary was a true path to Christ.

The pope said Mary had appeared at Lourdes to invite everyone who suffers, physically or spiritually, to “raise their eyes toward the cross of Jesus” and recognize a love that is stronger than death or sin.

“The power of love is stronger than the evil that threatens us,” he said Sept. 14.

The pope traveled to Lourdes, a town in the French Pyrenees, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mary’s appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl.

After days of rain and cool weather, sunshine broke through the clouds over the pilgrims who filled a grassy field near the sanctuaries. They applauded as the pontiff processed to an altar covered with a sail-shaped canopy.

In his sermon, the pope placed himself among the pilgrim population, saying he, too, had come to pray at the feet of Mary, “eager to learn from her alongside little

SEE POPE, P. 15

“It took each teacher, each staff member, as well as each student and each parent, working very hard, to take us to this level of academic achievement.”

— Dr. Cindy Cummins, St. John’s principal

Dept. of Education names St. John’s only Tarrant County Blue Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings announced Tuesday, Sept. 9, 320 schools as 2008 No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools. St. John the Apostle Catholic School was the only Tarrant County school, public or private, to receive this award in 2008. It is among four private schools and 26 public schools in Texas to be named, and one of 50 private schools in the United States to receive the award.

St. John the Apostle School was selected due to academic excellence under the category of “schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.”

“We are thrilled to receive this wonderful news,” says Dr. Cindy Cummins, St. John’s principal. “It took each teacher, each staff member, as well as each student and each parent, working very hard, to take us to this level of



St. John the Apostle Pre-K students signal that their school is “#1”

academic achievement.”

Joanne Levie, 30-year staff member, cried when the announcement was made. “I’m so proud. This just confirmed what I knew all along.”

Students began to cover the campus with blue ribbons im-

SEE ST. JOHN’S, P. 15

USCCB Pro-Life Activities spokesperson McQuade to address two seminars on Faithful Citizenship at Most Blessed Sacrament, Oct. 16

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Bishops, will present two seminars on Faithful Citizenship, Thursday, Oct. 16, at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington. The seminars, sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth’s Offices of Adult Catechesis and Respect Life and the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas, will be offered to deepen understanding and awareness of the unique and profound ties between our civic and moral obligations for the upcoming election and beyond, according



to event organizers.

The first seminar will be for priests, religious, and parish staff members and will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 16. McQuade’s first talk, “Faithful Citizenship: Living Out Our Baptism in the Public Square,” will be followed by a short intermission and a second talk, “Building the House of Human Rights from the Ground

Up.” After each talk there will be an opportunity for questions. According to a news release on the presentations, “This seminar will give an in-depth look at Faithful Citizenship and how we as Catholics can have a positive influence in the public square through our voices and our vote. It will provide priests and parish ministers the tools to effectively teach and im-

plement the bishops’ message in parishes.” A continental breakfast will be provided. Those wishing to attend must RSVP by contacting Josie Castillo at (817) 560-3300 ext. 255 or at jcastillo@fwdioc.org by Monday, Oct. 13.

McQuade will present a second seminar from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 16, “Truth, Dialogue and Jacob’s Well: A Scriptural Model for Faithful Citizenship.” This presentation will be open to the general public. McQuade will use the powerful story of Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well as a context for describing the practical and spiritual tools needed to be persuasive in the public square through dialogue, witness, and action that are both

effective and compassionate. No RSVP is required, say organizers, and all are invited to attend.

Deirdre McQuade serves the USCCB as the assistant director for policy and communications for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities and is their primary spokesperson on abortion and related life issues. In addition to overseeing the Second Look Project and other multi-media ad campaigns, she has appeared in Catholic and secular media to speak up for the sanctity of all human life.

For questions or more information contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 560-2452, x 260 or Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at (817) 560-2452, x 257.

We approach fall with gratitude for saints who have gone before us in faith, remembering the gift of life

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Fort Worth,

I would like to offer some reflections for the month



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

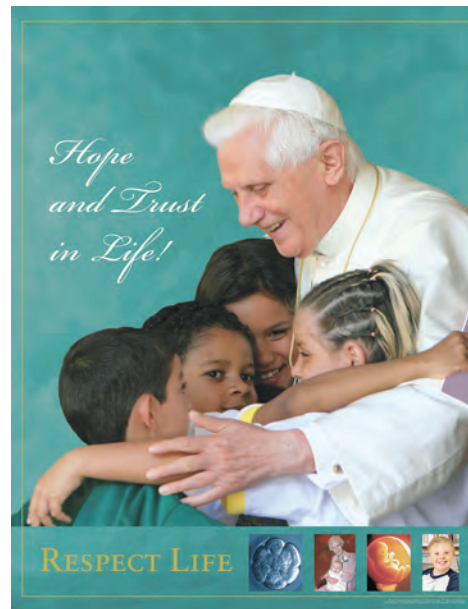
of September based on some of the Saints' feast days in this month and the upcoming days.

On Sept. 3 we celebrated the feast day of St. Gregory the Great. He was born in Rome around the year 540. A brief knowledge of the history of this time tells us that this was the time of great chaos in society with the fall of the Roman Empire. The only force that offered any strength and stability was the Church. St. Gregory was reluctantly elevated to the See of Peter on September 3, 590, and the *Liturgy of the Hours* notes that "he was elevated to the Chair of Saint Peter and he proved to be a true Shepherd by carrying out his office, helping the poor, spreading and strengthening the faith. He wrote extensively on moral and theological subjects."

Especially in light of his teaching office, it is important to reflect on the ministry and role of all of our catechists in our diocese, whom we acknowledge on Catechetical Sunday. All involved in this vital ministry in all of its many areas spend countless hours in preparation, teaching, and many other tasks in our parishes, schools, and other facets of diocesan life. They deserve recognition and thanks for this apostolic work and ministry, and can help us live and reflect the words of St. Gregory the Great on his relationship with the Lord when he said "because I love Him, I do not spare myself in speaking of Him."

Sept. 26 is the feast day of two physician brothers in the early Church, Saints Cosmas and Damian. They were known for their gratuitous care of the sick and are patrons of physicians, surgeons, druggists, barbers, and the blind. I want to especially mention them because their feast day is an important day for our Third Order Regular (TOR) Franciscans who are so much a part of the life of our local Church. The international headquarters of the TOR Friars (known as the "Gen-

October brings us also to Respect Life month, and the *North Texas Catholic* will be carrying more on this, including a letter by Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell and myself for both of our dioceses for this important month.



This poster is part of the materials for the U.S. bishops' 2008-09 Respect Life program, distributed by the Office of Pro-Life Activities, which has as its theme "Hope and Trust in Life," centered around Pope Benedict XVI's message during his celebrated visit to the United States in April. (CNS)

eralate") is located in the Church of Saints Cosmas and Damian in Rome, on the edge of the Roman Forum. On this day, let us especially pray for and thank the TOR Friars for their ministry and presence in our diocese.

Sept. 27 is the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul. He was born in Gascony, in France, in 1581 and died in Paris in 1660. The *Liturgy of the Hours* notes concerning his life that "He founded the Congregation of the Mission to supervise the formation of priests and to give support to the poor. With the help of St. Louise de Marillac, he also founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity." His descendants today, the Vincentians and the Daughters of Charity and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, carry on his mission and vision of care for the poor in the name of Christ.

I can say without hesitation that the life of the Church in present day Texas owes a debt of gratitude to one of St. Vincent's spiritual heirs, Bishop John Marie Odin, CM. He labored in Texas in the very early and difficult years in the life of the Church here, from 1840 to 1861. We have inherited a legacy and life of the Church here that is owed in no small measure to his life and apostolic zeal and love of Christ. Local Catholic historian Dr. Patrick Foley notes that, even though Odin was later appointed as Archbishop of New Orleans during the difficult time of the Civil War and Reconstruction, "his greatest legacy was that of building the faith in 19th century Texas."

On Oct. 4 we celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. He was born in Assisi in 1182, and "after a carefree youth, he renounced his paternal wealth and committed himself to God. He led a life of evangelical poverty and preached the love of God. He established a rule, which a number of his companions followed and which gained the approval of the Holy See. Subsequently, he founded an order of nuns and a society of laypersons who

practiced penance while living in the world. He died in 1226" (*Liturgy of the Hours for Oct. 4*).

There is much interest in St. Francis these days because of the current interest in ecology and the environment. Important as these may be, we should never overlook the fact of the life of St. Francis as an intense love of Christ, which resulted in a true spiritual reform of the Church.

It was important for Francis to have his first rule approved by the Bishop of Rome, so that his "Little Brothers" and their way of life would be a part of the Church, and never apart from her.

His emphasis on penance, the love of the Crucified Christ, and the presence of Christ in the Eucharist should never be overlooked in favor of a more politically current emphasis.

Our diocese is blessed by many members of the Franciscan family. If your parish or religious education

programs or retreat/spirituality programs are served by someone of the Franciscan family in our diocese, please thank them and thank the Lord for them.

St. Francis himself says "O how happy and blessed are those who love the Lord and do as the Lord himself said in the Gospel: You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart and your whole soul, and your neighbor as yourself. Therefore, let us love God and adore him with pure heart and mind." (From a letter written to all the faithful by St. Francis of Assisi.)

October brings us also to Respect Life month, and the *North Texas Catholic* will be carrying more on this, including a letter by Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell and myself for both of our dioceses for this important month.

God bless you and thank you always.
+Kevin W. Vann



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Priests for Life returns to roots, drops plan to have its own seminarians

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — In what the founder of Priests for Life Father Frank Pavone called a return to its roots, the organization has decided not to seek church recognition as a society of apostolic life that would accept and ordain its own seminarians.

Instead, Priests for Life and the related Missionaries of the Gospel of Life will continue to help priests, seminarians, and lay Catholics around the country become "more effectively pro-life" within their own parishes and communities, said Fr. Pavone in a telephone interview Sept. 9.

"We got it right the first time," he told Catholic News Service, noting that he founded Priests for Life in 1991 as a way to "infuse the existing structures" of the church and society with the pro-life message.

Priests for Life and the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life will be one entity, "without the founding of a canonically distinct community," said a joint statement from Priests for Life and the Diocese of Amarillo.

Fr. Pavone, who was originally ordained as a priest of the New York Archdiocese, was incardinated in the Diocese of Amarillo in March 2005 and became the first member of the new Missionaries of the Gospel of Life the following year. He will remain a priest of the Amarillo Diocese, he said.

"It seems best that the association remain focused specifically and exclusively on the pro-life work itself, and leave to dioceses and religious communities the specific task of forming men for the priesthood," said a Sept. 8 news release from the organization. "Priests for Life is always working, however, to supplement that training, both before and after ordination, with specialized training in the many facets of the pro-life movement."

In a Sept. 8 letter to supporters, Fr. Pavone said the pro-life movement was "entering yet another phase of this battle."

"We are closer to victory than ever before, and now is the time to redouble every effort and to push over the finish line," he said. "Now is the time to cut off any 'dead wood,' any projects that aren't bearing fruit, any expenditures and efforts that are not actually moving us toward the goal of ending abortion, and any bureaucracy in our struc-

"A big central headquarters isn't necessary. A small one suffices. I don't want to divert all kinds of attention and resources to building anything that may prove superfluous.

We're closer to victory than ever before."

—Fr. Frank Pavone
Founder, Priests for Life

tures that is hindering rather than advancing the mission."

Fr. Pavone said the organization would "vastly scale down the building projects that we have in the works." The Missionaries of the Gospel of Life broke ground in August 2006 for a new house of formation and international headquarters in Amarillo.

"A big central headquarters isn't necessary. A small one suffices," the priest said. "I don't want to divert all kinds of attention and resources to building anything that may prove superfluous. We're closer to victory than ever before. The focus now needs to be getting the job done, not setting up more structures for plans to get it done in the next generation."

Fr. Pavone said he also planned to dedicate himself to finding ways to collaborate with other pro-life leaders and organizations.

"Gathering leaders for retreats and strategy sessions, and building bridges of communication and collaboration that didn't exist before, continues to be one of the most important things in which I am involved," he said. "These efforts for unity are bearing fruit and many leaders have approached me about how we can harvest that fruit and begin more joint efforts, rather than just pursuing, on parallel paths, the work of our individual organizations."

Fr. Pavone also announced a series of new online training programs for clergy and laypeople, which he said would provide "simple 'how-to' resources for getting the pro-life job done."

*Responding
to God's Call*

The joy of being a Catholic priest

I should have titled this the "Joy of Being Catholic," because I hope that this article will help you see the joy we should all have in living our Catholic faith.

Most of my days are 12 to 16 hours long. I don't punch a time clock; it just starts the moment I wake up. I am on a learning curve I often think is mathematically impossible. The pressures of leadership are immense. I juggle about 30 tasks at any given moment, and I hope at the end of the day I can say that at least one was completed. Every day seems to include a real emergency of someone in dire need of a priest's heart and hand. And at the end of the day I am exhausted. This is not only my typical day, it also describes the schedule of most priests I know. So why is the priesthood still appealing?

In one sense it may have a heroic dimension, much like that of a soldier who engages the battlefield, but ours is a spiritual battlefield. A priest is called to shepherd souls, to be an instrument of God's divine grace to be poured into the lives of the faithful as well as the lost. On the other hand, a priest is called to represent the faithful before God and to call out to God to plead for mercy. These are most notable in the sacraments of Eucharist and reconciliation.

A priest is consecrated and ordained into the sacrifice and victimhood of Christ in which he becomes an "alter Christus," another Christ, in the Mass. As a priest I see that time is short; people are in dire need of Christ in their lives; and the devil is working overtime to see to it that Christ is never made known

The joy of my priesthood is not that different from the joy we should all share by being active members of our parishes. Joy comes at seeing God's mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation wipe away all the sins of a person in a single moment as God replenishes the soul with his grace. It is a joyous occasion to participate in the baptism of a child as a child is sanctified and made a temple of the Holy Spirit by which God's grace will be ever present.

to them. So, we must work overtime too. This is the life of a priest. But God's joy accompanies us too.

The joy of my priesthood is not that different from the joy we should all share by being active members of our parishes. Joy comes at seeing God's mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation wipe away all the sins of a person in a single moment as God replenishes the soul with his grace. It is a joyous occasion to participate in the baptism of a child as a child is sanctified and made a temple of the Holy Spirit by which God's grace will be ever present. I am filled with joy during each Mass with the local community and the whole Church, as I consecrate and share in the adoration and reception of our Lord in the Eucharist.

I am filled with joy each time I officiate at a wedding,



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.

sharing the beginning of the lives of a new couple, husband and wife, as they become a new family in Christ.

It is a joyous moment for me when a seminarian has traveled years in answering his calling to the priesthood and is ordained a priest, as well as when a seminarian concludes that priesthood is not for him but that God wills him to move forward to another way of loving and serving God and his people.

I have joy in knowing and living the Catholic faith, even as I spend much time in prayer and in studies to deepen my faith and my relationship with God. I have joy in being present as the priest, the guardian of souls, for my family and friends. I have joy imagining the many great things God has in store for our diocese and trusting in the guidance of our bishop, Kevin Vann, to shepherd us into the future. I have joy in gathering regularly with fellow priests for downtime and camaraderie.

In the end, the priesthood will be most fulfilling for those men called to this ministry. The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few. We are at a critical moment in our diocese. We are blessed to have too many Catholics. We are bursting at the seams! Yet, we cannot start new parishes when we do not have resident priests in the parishes we already serve. Few single men are listening to their calling by God to consider the priesthood. When we collectively direct our energy toward God and the salvation of souls, I believe that the idea of giving oneself to the priesthood will once again be a household honor among men and the sisterhood a path in life to be admired among women.

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.

Carmelite Auxiliary anniversary luncheon and Mass to be held Oct. 9

Members of the Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns have issued an invitation to join them in commemorating their 25th anniversary Thursday, Oct. 9, at noon at The Catholic Center, 800 W. Loop 820 S. in Fort Worth.

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann, followed by a membership meeting and box lunch. Reservations are \$10 per person. Those wishing to attend are asked to mail their payment to Nancy Dalton, 3613 Lands End, Fort Worth 76109.

Rosary / prayers with focus on patriotism, elections to be held at cathedral

A patriotic rosary will be offered Monday, Sept. 29, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth. Each decade of the rosary will include a spiritual reflection written by a significant leader in American history.

According to organizers of the event, "As our nation continues to search for new leadership, we must pray for the election of a morally good president and government leaders who will act according to the revealed will of God and the foundational principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States."

For more information, call the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center at (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805.

Beginning Experience weekend to be held Oct. 24-26

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The next weekend session will be offered Oct. 24-26 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, next to Nolan Catholic High School.

The program is designed to help those grieving the loss of a spouse to put closure on the past and to create a new beginning in the present. The ministry, although rooted in the Catholic tradition, is open to people of all faiths.

For more information or to register, call metro (972) 601-4091 or e-mail to dfwbe@hotmail.com.

Annual Life Chain to be held in multiple Metro locations, Oct. 5

The 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 Metro area Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The first Sunday of October is traditionally designated as Life Chain Sunday.

Life Chain participants will be given signs to hold, displaying to passersby the pro-life message while praying for mothers and their unborn children. The event was started in 1987 by a small pro-life ministry in Yuba City, California. The movement has spread throughout the United States and Canada, with thousands of participants each year. It calls upon the general public to embrace the sanctity of human life and opposes the exploitation of women through abortion.

The designated areas and phone numbers for this year's Life Chain event are listed as follows: Fort Worth — 3524 Alta Mesa Blvd., (817) 297-1557; Arlington — Pioneer Parkway at Fielder Road, (817) 457-9564; Azle — Hwy. 199 at Pearson Lane, (817) 594-7994; Burleson — Alsbury Blvd. at Renfro St., (817) 295-8139; Carrollton — Frankford and Josey, (972) 492-2029; Cleburne — West Henderson St. in front of the stadium, (817) 558-9805; Keller — 377 and Tarrant County Parkway, (817) 337-1721; Lake Cities/Southlake/Grapevine — Southlake Blvd. at Village Center Dr., (817) 329-0402; Mansfield — Hwy. 287 at Hwy. 157, ask for Kathi at (817) 335-9258; North Richland Hills — Rufe Snow at I-820 (Chick-Fil-A), (817) 847-6376.

For additional information, visit the Life Chain Web site at www.LifeChain.net.

Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Avenue in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Oct. 4, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

Calix meetings focus on enhancing spiritual growth through sharing Eucharist, discussion, and fellowship.

For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105.



Matthew Kelly to speak at parishes in Arlington Oct. 18, 19



Matthew Kelly

Matthew Kelly, a best-selling author and internationally recognized speaker on the Catholic faith, will offer presentations at two Arlington parishes in October. Kelly, a native of Australia, will speak at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, on the topic "Becoming the Best Version of Yourself."

Kelly will also speak on the topic, "Is Catholicism Still Relevant?" at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m.

In 1993, at the age of 19, Kelly began his Catholic ministry. Over three million people in more than 50 countries have now at-

tended his talks, seminars, and retreats. According to organizers of his presentations in Arlington, "millions more have been touched by his writings and presence on radio and television programs... with a message that is both timely and timeless."

Kelly's books include his New York Times bestseller, *The Rhythm of Life: Living Every Day With Passion and Purpose*, as well as 11 other titles, which have been published in a dozen languages and have sold more than one million copies worldwide.

For more information about Matthew Kelly, visit his Web site at www.matthewkelly.org. For more information about his appearance at St. Maria Goretti Church, call John Cox at (817) 274-0643 ext. 226. For more information about his appearance at St. Vincent de Paul Church, call Marilyn Dietrich at (817) 478-8206 ext. 204.

Brother Paul McMullen, TOR, to be honored for 50 years as vowed religious

Brother Paul McMullen, TOR, will be honored at a celebration of his 50 years of vowed religious life as a member of the Third Order Regular (TOR) of St. Francis of Assisi. The celebration will take place at St. Bartholomew Church, 3601 Altamesa Blvd. in Southwest Fort Worth, Sunday, Oct. 5, with evening prayer led by Bishop Kevin Vann, beginning at 5 p.m. A reception will follow in the parish hall. All are invited to attend.

Br. McMullen currently serves as pastoral administrator of St. Bartholomew Church. During his 14 years within the Diocese of Fort Worth he has also served at St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, St. Matthew Church in Arlington, and St. George Church in Fort Worth.

A native of Ashville, Pennsylvania, and the eldest of nine children, Br. McMullen made his first vows on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4, 1958. He served as a member of his order's General Council in Rome from 1971-1977, and again from 1989-1995. He has also served within his religious order as a treasurer, vocation director, retreat center director, associate director of formation, and regional minister for his province.

For more information about the celebration at St. Bartholomew Church, contact the parish office at (817) 292-7703.

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 annual White Mass Oct. 16. The White Mass, traditionally held for all physicians, nurses, health care workers, and for pastoral care ministers and students, will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton, 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 Katie White at kwhite@hsc.unt.edu.

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.

Trophy Club a host site in national Rosary Rally

Trophy Club will serve as a host site for the second annual Rosary Rally to be held Saturday, Oct. 11. The rally is scheduled to begin at noon at the clock tower at the main entrance of Trophy Club.

Last fall, the Rosary Rally was launched to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Mary's appearance in Fatima, Portugal. The national goal was to host 1,000 rallies, but more than 2,000 cities participated. Organizers have declared the goal of 3,000 rallies around the country on Oct. 11.

According to organizers, the intent of the rally is to publicly honor God and to ask Mary to intercede for special graces for America. "The timing for a Rosary Rally could not be better, in particular, with the elections on the horizon," said Pat Rampellini, local coordinator for the Rosary Rally in Trophy Club.

Rampellini said participants need only bring a rosary. For more information on the rally, to find another location, or to lead a rally, call (866) 584-6012, or visit www.americaneedsfatima.org.

Marriage Encounter weekend to be held Oct. 10-12 at CRC

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Oct. 10-12 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street 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.

"It is a great opportunity for a weekend away to deepen, renew, and refresh your marital love," according to Marriage Encounter materials.

Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call Kathy or Terry Telger at (817) 294-2749. More information is also available online at www.ntexasme.org.

NTC deadlines for submission

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

Items for the Oct. 10 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Items for the Oct. 24 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

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

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), a doctrinally based Catholic Scripture study program covering all of the major biblical books in a five-year cycle, will be offered at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr. in Fort Worth, beginning Oct. 6 and concluding in May of 2009.

According to promotional materials for the program, CSS "nourishes a deeper love for Christ and for his Church. It is a five-year program divided into five one-year studies. CSS is appropriate for persons with any level of Bible understanding; beginning or intermediate or truly versed!" Program materials also note that "CSS has as its foundation the teaching of the Catholic Church and is open to all people who have an interest in Scripture and the Catholic Church."

CSS sessions will be held weekly and will include class discussion; program materials provide for daily reflection and questions. Weekly Monday sessions will begin Oct. 6 and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Women's weekly Monday evening groups will begin Oct. 6 and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Men's weekly Tuesday evening groups will begin Oct. 7 and will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All groups will meet in the parish Pastoral Center.

The CSS program, now used by thousands of Catholics in parishes throughout the country, began in 1985 when several Catholic women within the Diocese of Fort Worth asked their retreat director, Sister Marie Therese Wright, SSMN, (1917-2002) for a program similar to a national ecumenical study called Bible Study Fellowship (BSF).

Sr. Marie Therese responded by writing a Scripture study program patterned after BSF but using Catholic doctrine. A letter from Bishop Kevin Vann on the CSS Web site affirms the his personal support for the program. Bishop Vann writes that, in learning about CSS, "I was especially happy to see how something which started here in Fort Worth, as a response to a felt need for a greater love of Sacred Scripture, has gone so far beyond the borders of our Diocese."

For more information about CSS at St. Andrew Church, call Alice Curran or Michele Salcedo at (817) 927-5383. Childcare is available by calling (817) 924-6581. The CSS Web site may be found at www.catholicscripturestudyinc.org.

Diocesan Singles Mass at St. Bartholomew Church

The annual Diocesan Singles Mass, sponsored by the Fort Worth Diocesan Singles Council, will be celebrated at St. Bartholomew Church, located at 3601 Altamesa Blvd. in Fort Worth, Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. The Mass will be followed by a reception and dance with music provided by a DJ. All are asked to bring canned goods to contribute to the parish food pantry.

For more information or to volunteer assistance with the Mass, welcoming, or food preparation, contact Elizabeth at (817) 294-5989.

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father Victor Cruz, HGN, has been assigned as the full-time chaplain at the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University, Denton, effective Oct. 1.

Father Jacob Peter Alvares, SAC, has been assigned as priest in residence at St. George Parish, Fort Worth, effective Oct. 1.

Father Balaji Boyalla, SAC, has been assigned as priest in residence at Holy Family, Fort Worth, effective Oct. 1.

People and Events

St. John's to offer 'Five Love Languages for Children'

"The Five Love Languages for Children" will be presented at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the North and South Meeting Rooms of the church. The presentation is based on the book by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell, M.D.

Ellen Hays will be presenting ways to identify your child's love language. "Each child, like an adult, learns to receive and express love best through one of five different communication styles," say materials provided by the parish. "This truth can work against parents who speak another love language than their children. However, when properly prepared, moms and dads can use this information to meet their children's deepest emotional need."

The parish invites all to this free event made possible by the combined efforts of the parish's Adult and Family Ministries, Child Care Center, Moms Group, and school. Childcare is available if reservations are made by Friday, Oct. 10, by e-mailing mpelzel@stjts.org or calling Meg Pelzel at (817) 691-9680.

Catholic Cub Scout retreat scheduled

The 11th annual Catholic Cub Scout retreat will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Worth Scout Ranch, located near Palo Pinto, about 50 miles west of Fort Worth. Cub Scouts are invited to stay overnight on either Friday or Saturday night for a spiritually enriching program with many optional activities. Cub Scout families from every Pack are encouraged to participate.

The retreat will include an opportunity to work on Catholic religious emblems, an historical reenactment, craft activities, games, songs, storytelling, and participation in a Mass at the Worth Ranch chapel. The retreat cost is \$12 without breakfast, \$14 with breakfast, or \$20 for the entire weekend, including Friday and Saturday night. Information and applications are available on the Catholic Committee on Scouting Web site at www.bsaccs.org.

Knights sponsor ecumenical pro-life rally Oct. 18

The Knights of Columbus, Council #13470, will sponsor an ecumenical pro-life rally Oct. 18 in the James Miller Community Center at St. Joseph Church, 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd. in Arlington. The rally will begin at 10 a.m.

The council planned the event for October as a way of marking national Respect Life month. Members of all area Christian churches are invited to participate in the rally, which will feature several guest speakers.

For more information, contact Phil Hoffman at (817) 274-6703 or (817) 676-1633 or e-mail to PHoff83183@aol.com.

Catholic Scout retreat scheduled

The 48th annual Catholic Boy Scout retreat will begin Friday, Oct. 10 and conclude Sunday, Oct. 12, at noon. The retreat will be held at Worth Scout Ranch, located near Palo Pinto, about 50 miles west of Fort Worth.

This year's retreat will explore the myths, legends, and reality of the Holy Grail and will compare these legends with the search for faith. Father Anh Tran, diocesan Scout chaplain and pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine, will participate in the retreat and preside at the Saturday evening Mass.

Cost for the weekend is \$20 per participant. Information and applications are available on the Catholic Committee on Scouting Web site at www.bsaccs.org.

St. Paul Parish to hold 'Fun Fest' Oct. 4

St. Paul the Apostle Church will host its annual fall festival Saturday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The "Fun Fest" will feature games, food, rides, music, and contests the entire family will enjoy.

According to event organizers, "the primary purpose of the event is to reach out to the community and raise funds for the children's junior, and senior high ministries." St. Paul Church is located at 5508 Black Oak Lane in River Oaks.

For more information, contact James Grudosky at (817) 232-4607.

St. Augustine Men's Purity Group meets at three locations

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly at three locations within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The group offers meetings at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller, in Room 213; at the Padre Pio House, 1301 Paxton in Arlington; and at Immaculate Conception Parish, 2255 North Bonnie Brae Street in Denton. Those men interested in attending one of the upcoming sessions are asked to consult the group's Web site, www.samprg.com, for specific meeting dates and times.

For more information, e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com or call the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office at (817) 431-3857.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet Oct. 23

The next monthly meeting of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to "come join us for prayer and sharing."

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

Holy Redeemer, Aledo, to host Golf Tournament Oct. 11

Holy Redeemer Parish in Aledo, will sponsor a golf tournament Saturday, Oct. 11 at Canyon West Golf and Sports Club, 200 Canyon West Dr., Weatherford. A shotgun start is scheduled for 8 a.m. with check-in starting at 7 a.m. The entry fee is \$80 per person, which includes lunch, awards, and range balls. Sponsorships are available with a deadline date of Oct. 1. Extra lunch tickets may be purchased for \$15 per person. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the new church building.

For more information and to register, contact Cliff Valentine at (682) 365-8733.

St. Rita International Fair to be held Oct 4

St. Rita Catholic Community invites all to its 30th Annual International Fair to be held Saturday, Oct. 4. This celebration of multicultural cuisine, entertainment, and games will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by the celebration of the Mass at 5 p.m. The church is located at 5550 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. For more information, call (817) 451-9395



UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS, IRVING — The University of Dallas has announced it has started construction on a new 298-bed residence hall to help accommodate the increased number of students enrolling in its undergraduate program. According to information provided by UD, the university welcomed its largest freshman class last year and this year's class is comparable in size. The University of Dallas has its main campus in Irving, an international campus near Rome, Italy, and satellite campuses in North Richland Hills and Frisco. Pictured above is an architectural rendering of the new campus facility.

Mothers and daughters invited to tea

The annual autumn Mother-Daughter Tea will be offered Sunday afternoon, Oct. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Road in Southwest Arlington. All girls between the ages of 10 and 13 and their mothers, grandmothers, or any other special women in their lives, are invited to attend the event.

"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."

Kathy Stojak, coordinator of the tea, encourages parents to consider participation in the event. Reservations, at a cost of \$12.50 per person, may be made by calling Kathy Stojak at (817) 773-8096; space is limited, so reservations will be accepted on a first call basis.

St. Ann's Men Club sponsors golf tournament in Burleson Oct. 18

St. Ann's Men's Club will host the organization's first golf tournament Saturday, Oct. 18, at Southern Oaks Golf Club, 13765 Southern Oaks Dr. in Burleson. Tee-off is at 1:30 p.m. with a four-man scramble format.

Entry fee for individuals is \$60 and includes lunch following the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive and "closest to the pin" on par three holes.

Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase a statue of St. Joseph for St. Ann Church. The deadline for registration is Oct. 10.

For more information about registration and sponsorships, call Michael Hall at (817) 426-5858.

St. Jude Church, Mansfield, hosts annual fall festival Oct. 4

St. Jude Church will host its annual fall festival Saturday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The festival will take place at the church, 500 E. Dallas, in Mansfield.

According to organizers, the festival will offer "something for everyone," including a wide variety of ethnic foods, games and rides for all ages, a cake walk, petting zoo,

pony rides, silent auction, and a hot rod show.

Entertainment will include performances by members of the Ballet Folklorico, as well as performances by country musicians and Christian musicians. "Grupo Neon" will provide music from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 473-6709.

St. Maria Goretti 'Kountry Karnival' to be held Oct. 4-5

St. Maria Goretti School, 1200 S. Davis Drive in Arlington, will host its annual Kountry Karnival festival Oct. 4-5. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

This year's western theme is "Kick-in' It Up at the Kountry Karnival." The festival will feature live entertainment throughout the weekend and will include a midway of games and activities for all ages, including inflatables, bingo, and a silent auction. International food items, baked goods, and art and craft items will be available for purchase.

Event organizers extend an invitation for all to join the school community for a celebration of "fun, faith, and, fellowship." For more information, contact the school office at (817) 275-5081.

St. Andrew's festival to be held Oct. 12

St. Andrew School's annual fall festival will take place Sunday, Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the St. Andrew School grounds, 3305 Dryden, in the TCU area of Southwest Fort Worth.

Organizers promise "a lot of fun for the whole family," featuring a cake walk, 3-on-3 basketball, carnival games, confetti eggs, seven big inflatables, and much more. All are invited to enjoy a Los Vaqueros Mexican dinner in the school gym.

For more information, call Anne Mason at (817) 447-1010.

St. George Harvest Dance to be held Nov. 1

The altar society of St. George Parish in Fort Worth will sponsor a Harvest Dance Saturday, Nov. 1, from 8 p.m. to midnight. The event will be held at the National Hall, 3316 Roberts Cut-off Road in Fort Worth.

"Come join the fun," suggest organizers. Music will be provided by the Czech and Then Some Band. Activities will include a harvest fruit pull and cakewalk, and door prizes will be distributed. Klobase sandwiches, kolache pastries, and nachos will be available for purchase.

The cost is \$12.50 per person. For a reservation, call Joan at (817) 838-3106, Janet at (817) 232-8844, or Mary at (817) 838-8120.

St. Jude Thaddeus to host fall festival Oct. 26

The 43rd annual St. Jude's Church fall festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall located at 600 Davy Dr. in Burkburnett.

The event, St. Jude's main fundraising event of the year, features a turkey and German sausage dinner with all the trimmings. In addition to the all-you-can-eat-meal, home-baked goods, games for the kids, a silent auction will be part of the festivities. A drive through for carry-out dinners as well as free delivery in Burkburnett will be available by calling (940) 569-8116.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Children under five years old will be admitted free.



GIRL SCOUT TROOP #3003 — The sixth grade Girl Scout Troop #3003 from St. Andrew School spent an afternoon, Sept. 12, creating flag artwork cards to be sent inside care-boxes to soldiers serving in Iraq. The artwork was based on flag quilt painting by African-American artist Faith Ringgold. The girls also learned about the religious meaning behind the 13 folds of the flag ceremony. Pictured above (left to right) are Emily B. and Jamie S.

Diocesan

Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to papal household, to speak in Grapevine Oct. 4

Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap, will serve as the keynote speaker at the Magnificat Breakfast Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Embassy Suites Outdoor World, 2401 Bass Pro Drive in Grapevine.

Following the breakfast, the sacrament of reconciliation will be offered from noon to 2 p.m. The breakfast is sponsored by the Grapevine chapter of the Magnificat international ministry for Catholic women. All men and women of the diocese are invited to attend at a cost of \$18 per ticket.

Fr. Cantalamessa, a Franciscan Capuchin priest and a native of Ascoli Piceno, Italy, was appointed by Pope John Paul II in 1980 to serve as a full-time Preacher to the Papal Household. In this capacity, Fr. Cantalamessa preaches a weekly sermon during Advent and Lent in the presence of the pope, the cardinals, bishops, and prelates of the Roman Curia and the general superiors of religious orders. He also serves as the Spiritual Confessor for Pope Benedict XVI and is a frequent presenter at international and ecumenical conferences and rallies.

Fr. Cantalamessa was formally invited to the Diocese of Fort Worth by Bishop Kevin Vann, who asked the papal preacher to speak at the breakfast and to also provide a day-long retreat for priests of the



Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher of the papal household. (CNS photo/Gregg McIntosh, THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC)

diocese Friday, Oct. 3.

"The year 2008 is a year of preparation for the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Fort Worth," wrote Bishop Vann in an April 30 letter to Fr. Cantalamessa. "Your presence would be a blessing for all of us as we look forward to a future of hope in Christ who makes all things new, as Pope Benedict recently reminded us during his visit to this country."

More information about Fr. Cantalamessa may be found on his Web site at www.cantalamessa.org. Tickets to the breakfast are available at several area Catholic bookstores, listed at www.prolifedallas.org, or by contacting Nancy Ferri at (817) 498-7980. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Sept. 29; no tickets will be sold at the door.

Marriage Matters program to be offered Oct. 25 at St. Vincent de Paul Church

Marriage Matters, a seminar on Catholic teaching and truths regarding marriage and sexuality, will be offered Saturday, Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Southwest Arlington.

The seminar, presented by the diocesan offices of Family Life and Adult Catechesis, is designed for the benefit of clergy, married or engaged couples, catechists, marriage preparation staff members and volunteers, and singles of all ages, from teens to adults. The day will include presentations by Sister Renee Mirkes, OSF, who serves as the director of the Center for NaProEthics in Omaha, Nebraska.

Sr. Mirkes serves as a national consultant on issues related to ethics in medicine, philosophy, and theology. She will address

the social and moral challenges of contemporary society and the ways that these challenges impact marriage. She will also speak on the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, and the Catholic Church's understanding of love and life within marriage. In addition, Sr. Mirkes will discuss personalism and the nature of human sexuality, including details on Pope John Paul II's understanding of the gift of self.

With registration prior to Oct. 15, the seminar is \$10 per person and \$15 per couple and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Without prior registration, the cost is \$15 per person or \$20 per couple. Members of the clergy and vowed religious are invited to attend free of charge. For more information about the seminar, contact Suzanna Ordoñez at (817) 560-2452 x256.

Ministry Formation Day, set for Oct. 11, Sacred Heart, Muenster, — one of only two for '08-'09

Author and speaker Marcelino D'Ambrosio will offer the keynote presentation at the first of two Ministry Formation Days to be offered by the diocese for the 2008-2009 school year. The first day will be offered Saturday, Oct. 11, at Sacred Heart Church in Muenster and will feature D'Ambrosio, a specialist in the interpretation of Scripture and tradition with a doctorate in historical theology from the Catholic University of America. His address will focus on the day's theme, "Encountering the Living Word!"

Registration and a light breakfast will begin at 8 a.m.; opening prayer and welcoming remarks will be offered at 9 a.m. D'Ambrosio will make the keynote presentation in two sessions — in English and in Spanish. Three breakout sessions will be offered prior to and after the lunch.

Breakout sessions will include topics such as "Integrating Spirituality Across the Secondary/High School Curricula," "Challenges of our Culture in Catechesis," "The Road to Emmaus: An Overview of RCIA," "How to Plan Music for Liturgy," "Effective Methods for Teaching Youth," and a workshop, "Collaborative Ministry in a Parish," presented by Father Ken Robinson and a panel of parishioners from Sacred Heart Church, Muenster.

"This annual event is an opportunity for ministry leaders, catechists, Catholic school



MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO, a specialist in the interpretation of Scripture and tradition with a doctorate in historical theology from the Catholic University of America, will present his keynote address on the theme of the day, "Encountering the Living Word!"

educators, and all parishioners to benefit from the experience and inspiration offered by our presenter, our workshop leaders, and our exhibitors," said Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry, coordinator of the event. "Ministry Formation Day helps participants to grow in their Catholic faith and to cultivate excellence in their own ministries."

Ministry Formation Day, will be offered twice during the 2008-2009 school year. The second MFD will be presented Saturday,

Jan. 10, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth.

Early registration for the Oct. 11 event is \$25 and includes breakfast, lunch, and materials. After Sept. 29 the cost is \$30. Partial scholarships are available; parishioners may register as individuals or as members of a parish group. For more information about Ministry Formation Day in Muenster, call Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-3300 x 261, e-mail to kprevou@fwdioc.org, or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org and click on "Faith Formation."

FALL 2008 & SPRING 2009 - SPIRITUAL TOURS FROM DFW
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 ++++++
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 Fatima, Seville, Cordoba, Granada, Madrid, Toledo: Mar 13-21 - \$2,299
-HOLYLAND/EGYPT - 5nts Jerusalem, 4nts Cairo: Mar 12-22 - \$2,399
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Cardinal DiNardo to lead TCC-sponsored Pilgrimage for Life Nov. 24 in Huntsville

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, will lead the Pilgrimage for Life in Huntsville, Texas, Nov. 24. According to information provided by the Texas Catholic Conference (TCC), Catholics from around the state are invited to participate in the event, which begins at 9 a.m. Nov. 24 with the celebration of Mass at St. Thomas Church, 1323 16th St. in Huntsville.

At 10:30 a.m., pilgrims will participate in a mile-long prayerful procession, led by the cardinal. Members of the procession will gather at an abortion referral center — the Huntsville Health Center at 2405 Ave. I in Huntsville — and will process to the site of the Texas Death Row, at the Huntsville Prison, 815 12th St. in Huntsville. The pilgrimage will conclude at the prison at noon.

Pilgrims may also choose to stay at St. Thomas Church for



Cardinal DiNardo is one of the concelebrants at the vigil Mass for life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21, 2008. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

fullness of Church teaching on the life and dignity of the human person, from conception to natural death.

"As Catholics we embrace and recognize human dignity in people at all stages of life," said TCC executive director Andrew Rivas. "This pilgrimage embodies the Catholic teaching that all life is sacred, and encourages us to remember and pray for a Culture of Life."

The Texas Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Texas. The primary purpose of the conference is to encourage and foster cooperation and communication among the dioceses and the ministries of the Catholic Church in Texas. For more information on the Pilgrimage for Life, visit www.txcatholic.org and click on "Pilgrimage for Life" on the events page.

adoration and guided reflection on the Stations of the Cross and on Catholic Social Teaching.

According to press materials, the pilgrimage hosted by the TCC is designed to promote reflection, prayer, and hope for

Annual memorial Mass for infants set for Oct. 11

A Mass for children who have died prior to baptism will be held Saturday, Oct. 11 at noon, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Ave. in Fort Worth. The Mass, sponsored by Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas and by Catholics United For Life of North Texas, will be followed by a light luncheon reception in the parish hall.

According to Chuck Pelletier, president of the two sponsoring organizations, "The intention of the Mass is to help the healing process for parents who have lost children through miscarriage, still birth, or abortion." Close relatives and friends of parents whose children have died are also invited to

"The intention of the Mass is to help the healing process for parents who have lost children through miscarriage, still birth, or abortion."

—Chuck Pelletier

attend. Individual flowers will be provided for parents to place at the altar during the Mass, should they wish to do so.

Reservations for the Mass are requested, but not required. For more information and for reservations prior to Wednesday, Oct. 8, call (817) 738-1086 or e-mail to mubcare@charter.net.

St. Michael's offers seminar on suffering three Tuesdays in October

A three-week seminar on the mystery and theology of suffering will be offered at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford, on three consecutive Tuesday evenings in October: Oct. 16, Oct. 23, and Oct. 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the church.

Father Tom Kennedy, associate pastor at St. Michael's, will lead the Oct. 16 session, titled "Final Blessings." The program will address issues such as the pastoral care of the dying, Catholic teaching about life after death, and the final sacraments.

Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, long-time chaplain at Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, will lead the Oct. 23 session, "Theology and the Mystery of Suffering." The program will include discussion about emotional, psychological, spiritual, and physical suffering, and the impact of faith and hope in the

midst of pain.

Msgr. Phil Johnson, pastor of St. Michael's, and Joanne Werner, director of liturgy and music for the parish, will present the Oct. 30 seminar, "Liturgy of Christian Funerals." The session will address the church's message in the celebration of funerals; the participation of family members in the funeral liturgy; and important aspects within the celebration of a Christian funeral.

According to the seminar's organizers, "The presenters will offer teachings of the church on the mystery of suffering and current theological and spiritual development in this area. Through these presentations we hope to offer a theological and pastoral answer to the question of suffering." For more information about the seminars, contact Martin Peña at (817) 283-8746, ext. 30.

Knights of Columbus

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Standard and Poor's recognized the Knights of Columbus Insurance program as the highest capitalized company from all North American insurance companies last year. In times of financial distress and financial success, we believe it makes sense to do business with the best company to facilitate the transition of the most important endeavor of one's life. Our agents are available to refer or meet with the appropriate professionals to help plan the successful transition of a personal or business estate.

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The Order has helped families achieve financial security and stability through its life insurance, annuity and long-term care insurance programs since 1882. The Order's insurance program annually receives the highest possible ratings from both A.M. Best (A++, Superior) and Standard & Poor's (AAA, Extremely Strong), and is backed by an investment program that fully complies with Catholic social doctrine. Participation in the benefit program is limited to members, their spouses and children under age 18.

The Knights of Columbus offers a professional career opportunity with restricted territories to field agents representing our product portfolio of permanent life insurance, term insurance, annuities and long term care insurance products for members, their families and businesses.

If you would like to learn more about membership, our insurance benefits, a college internship or a professional career opportunity and have a background in sales or an entrepreneurial type business, in the Diocese of Fort Worth, please contact my office at (972) 599.2803, Metro (817) 265.2967 or send an e-mail to John.Regan@kofc.org

Why Join the Knights of Columbus?

Imagine being part of an organization that fills your heart and your mind with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference.

Knights are Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their Church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is supporting your local Catholic Church, while enhancing your own faith. Membership is about protecting and enhancing your family life.

I don't have time to join another organization; why should I join the Knights of Columbus?

As a Knight, you can choose the projects with which you wish to be involved within your own parish community. The Order is dedicated to family life and the many benefits it offers. From insurance to scholarships, to service and social activities, all are open to the whole family.

How to Join?

Contact your local parish office. Often your parish will have its own local council and you might ask your parish priest or parish office, who to contact. Ask a friend in the Knights for help or call 1.800.524.3611 and ask for Fraternal Services.

St. Philip's, Lewisville to offer Grief Recovery program beginning Oct. 14

St. Philip the Apostle Church, 1897 W. Main St. in Lewisville, will host a six-week education and support program for any person experiencing and coping with significant loss, such as the death of a loved one, divorce,

life-threatening illness, or loss of employment.

The program will begin Tuesday, Oct. 14, and will continue each Tuesday evening through Nov. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Education Wing at St. Philip's. The program is offered free of charge.

Participants may register by calling Deacon Ray Lamarre at (972) 219-1686, or by visiting the parish Web site at www.stphilipcc.org, and clicking on the Grief Recovery Seminar link.



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New Holy Trinity rector Father Olson shares vision for seminary

Fort Worth's own Very Rev. Michael Olson was officially installed as rector of Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving Sept. 12. Father Olson, former vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Worth, was named to replace outgoing rector, Bishop Michael Duca of Shreveport, Louisiana, in May.

Holy Trinity Seminary is the main college-level seminary used by dioceses throughout Texas. Fr. Olson, a former formation director and adjunct professor in moral theology at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, shared his vision for Holy Trinity with the *North Texas Catholic* this past week.

NTC: What is your vision for the seminary?

Fr. Olson: "Holy Trinity Seminary is a college seminary. My vision is keeping with the program of priestly formation according to the USCCB in accordance with *Pastoris Dabo Vobis*, a document Pope John Paul II made 15 years ago for priest formation today.

"For college seminaries, the focus is for human formation: growth in healthy life, psychological and emotional make-up, integrity and theological virtues. My vision is for them to grow in the likeness of Christ, to be shepherds of His Church.

"I represent Bishop Farrell, and by extension, the bishops of Texas and Arkansas to make sure all their requirements are met."

NTC: How is the seminary program different now than when you were in formation for the priesthood yourself?

Fr. Olson: "I think that dioceses across the board are doing a much more thorough job of screening candidates for entrance into the seminary than in my time. In many ways ... we're getting younger candidates, people out of high school, maybe after a year in college.

"They're still growing, as any healthy human being grows at 18-22, a collegian's age ... Instead of being discouraged by the scandal the Church has gone through in recent years, they are encouraged in being a part of the solution in restoring integrity in the leadership of the Church in those areas where it has been hurt."

NTC: In your opinion, why have vocations increased in recent years?

Fr. Olson: "Our enrollment at Holy Trinity Seminary is up by six men. [I attribute it to] God's grace, people praying about vocations and parents encouraging vocations. Bishop Vann is making vocations a priority and something to be aware of and encourage people to do."

NTC: What is a typical day in the life of a seminarian like?

Fr. Olson: "Here at Holy Trinity, the weekday begins with Morning Prayer at 6:30, followed immediately by Mass, then breakfast, then classes at the university. Of course there's Evening Prayer.

They take classes with other University of Dallas students, with men and women they'll be serving as priests someday. In the late afternoon they have formation classes in the life and spirituality of a priest and engage once a week in a form of pastoral ministry supervised by people who have experience in the field.

"They're required to have a spiritual director or guide to help them with their discernment in being called to be a priest. They participate in physical upkeep, both inside and outside the seminary, and recreational sports and games. Built into their calendar is a free weekend every month. Usually Saturday is our day off. [Ultimately,] our graduates will go on to major seminaries throughout the United States and Rome."

NTC: Do you see Holy Trinity Seminary eventually becoming a school for graduate studies?

Fr. Olson: "I don't anticipate that happening during my time as rector. We're going to maintain our focus right now, which is as a college seminary."

NTC: How has your experience working at St. Mary's prepared you for your role as rector?

Fr. Olson: "It introduced me to the needs of seminaries of today, the requirements of the particular ministries of priest formation. It's helped me to grow as a listener [helping the young men with discernment, and taking part in the discernment] on the part of the Church. When a young man discerns the priesthood, the Church discerns if he has a vocation, so it is the rector's job to discern if this young man has a vocation."



"Instead of being discouraged by the scandal the Church has gone through in recent years, [the seminarians] are encouraged in being a part of the solution in restoring integrity in the leadership of the Church in those areas where it has been hurt."

— Very Rev. Michael Olson



TOP: Bishops Kevin Vann and Kevin Farrell of Fort Worth and Dallas stand with Father Michael Olson after his installation as rector of Holy Trinity Seminary. **ABOVE:** Transitional Deacon Cruz Caledron, holds a book containing the profession of faith and oath of fidelity while Fr. Olson takes the oath as rector. (Photos by Tom Rietmeyer)

NTC: Do you have any plans you'd like to implement in the seminary?

Fr. Olson: "Right now I am still learning. We do have plans to do some physical renovations at the seminary itself; the dining hall and student lounge for upkeep and to improve the physical environment."

NTC: How are you enjoying your time as rector?

Fr. Olson: "I'm very much enjoying this work. I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my experience in this ministry. I'm humbled by the bishops' trust, and impressed by the caliber of young men today and their decisions to enter and discern formation at the college level."

Holy Trinity Seminary to host Seminarian Welcome Dinner Oct. 7

Holy Trinity Seminary will host its annual Seminarian Welcome Dinner Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard Street in Dallas. This will be the first year the seminary's new rector, the Very Rev. Michael Olson, will lead members of the Catholic community in welcoming new and returning seminarians. Father Olson served as vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth until he was appointed rector of the seminary, beginning July 1.

Bishop Michael Duca of the Diocese of

Shreveport will serve as the keynote presenter at the dinner, say event organizers. Bishop Duca, who was ordained bishop in Shreveport May 19, served as rector of Holy Trinity Seminary from 1996 until his appointment this spring.

Bishop Kevin Vann and Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell will also be present at the dinner. Bishop Vann will offer his services in the "priest prize package" auction at the event. Msgr. Charles King, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Denton, Father Dennis Smith, assistant pastor

for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, and Father James Flynn, assistant pastor of St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, will also participate as donors of priest auction packages.

The welcome dinner raised \$200,000 for the seminary in 2007. Members of Catholic organizations within the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas each year sponsor tables and provide exciting options for door prizes and for silent and live auctions.

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with

a cash bar and reception, and will include "Bishop Duca's Wine Cellar," which will offer guests the opportunity to select top dollar wine bottles at \$25 per try. Evening prayer with the seminarians will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the dinner, keynote presentation, and live auction will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. For more information about the event, sponsoring a table, or to purchase reservations at \$100 per ticket, call the seminary at (972) 438-2212 or pay online at the seminary Web site at www.holytrinityseminary.com.

Dialogue on immigration brings light of the Gospel to complex topic

By John English
Correspondent
Photos by Stephen English

The topic of immigration was the focus of a recent dialogue on the Church's teachings that also shed light on the adversities and dangers immigrants encounter trying to make it into the United States.

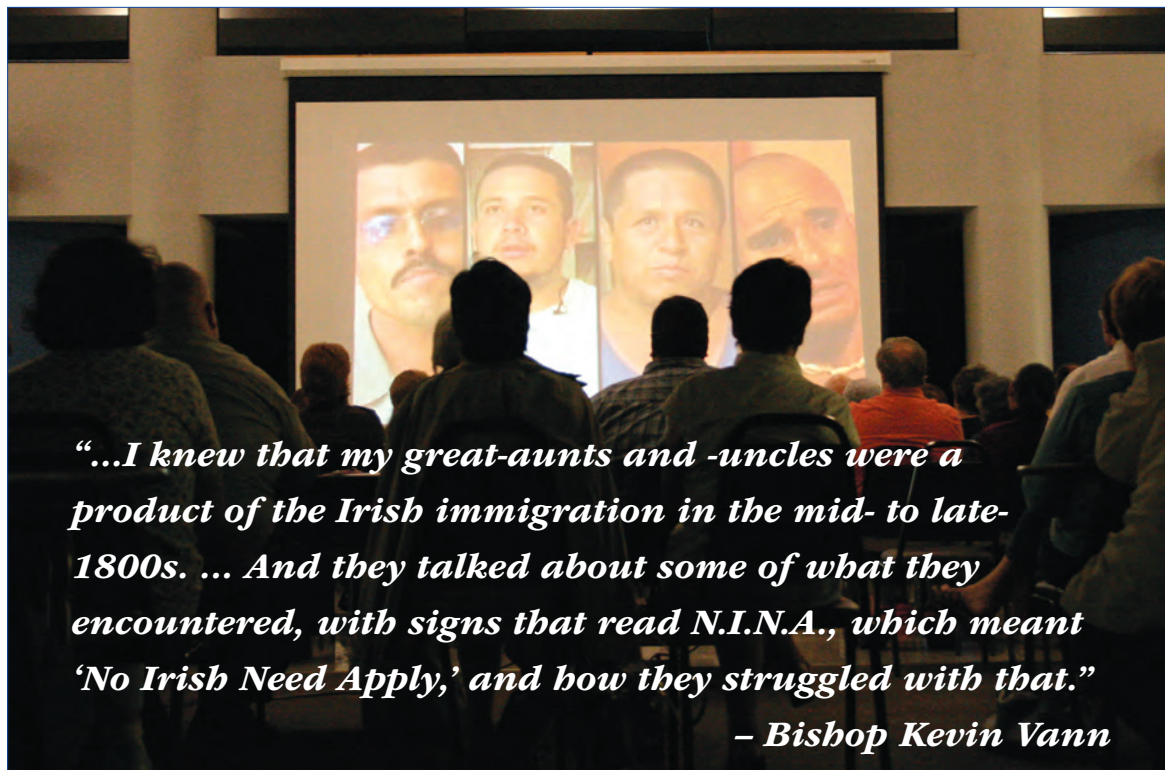
More than 100 people turned out on Sept. 8 at St. Andrew Church for the dialogue, as priests, ministry leaders, representatives from Catholic Charities, and Bishop Kevin Vann spoke and answered questions for three hours on the issue.



TOP: Participants watch a video about Mexican immigrants' difficulties.

ABOVE: Members of the panel (from left) Martin Peña of St. Michael's, Sharon Darnell of Catholic Charities, Sr. St. John Begnaud, SSMN, Fr. Carmen Mele of the Fort Worth Diocese, Fr. Stephen Jasso, TOR, of All Saints Church, and Xergio Chacin of Catholic Charities spoke to participants about immigration issues.

BELOW: Bishop Kevin Vann speaks to those attending the "Catholic Dialogue on Immigration."



"...I knew that my great-aunts and -uncles were a product of the Irish immigration in the mid- to late-1800s. ... And they talked about some of what they encountered, with signs that read N.I.N.A., which meant 'No Irish Need Apply,' and how they struggled with that."

– Bishop Kevin Vann

At the completion of the half-hour long video "Dying to Live," which explored the stories of several Mexican immigrants striving to get into the United States and the difficulties they faced, a panel

of priests and church representatives held a question and answer session.

Luan Ibarra, a member of the St. Andrew's Peace and Justice Task Force, organized the dialogue

"The purpose of this is education," Ibarra said. "We want to make people in the pews aware of Catholic Social Teaching, the dignity of man, and how it all ties into immigration.... We want to make sure that when we look at somebody who looks a little bit different than we do, that we still see the Lord in them."

Brother Paul McMullen, TOR, pastoral administrator of St. Bartholomew Parish, served as the moderator of the dialogue and said one of his goals for the evening was to debunk some of the misconceptions regarding the issue.

"First of all, I think that as Catholics, we have to take it from the perspective of the church," Br. Paul said. "We get

so much misinformation from politicians and the press, and some of these talk shows that get into all kinds of things like scare tactics. I think it's important for us to be aware of what the church is saying and what the facts are."

Br. Paul said immigrants come to this country for a variety of reasons: needing work, being hungry, feeling they have no future in their own country, and feeling destitute.

Bishop Vann drew on his own Irish-Catholic heritage as an example of the immigrant background all Americans share.

"Growing up in Springfield, Illinois, I knew that my great-aunts and -uncles were a product of the Irish immigration in the mid- to late-1800s," Bishop Vann said. "They scraped around and earned a living ... and they talked about some of what they encountered, with signs that read N.I.N.A., which meant 'No Irish Need Apply,' and how they struggled with that."

Andrés Aranda, director of Hispanic Ministries for the diocese, said he felt the dialogue was important, given the ethnic makeup of the diocese itself.

"I think this is great," Aranda said. "We have 50 percent of Catholics in the diocese that are Hispanic, so this is very important to me."

Audience members were provided with a list of Bible verses that address immigration issues, including *Hebrews 13:2*, *Exodus 23:9*, and *Zechariah*

7:10, and Sister St. John Begnaud, SSMN, addressed some of the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

"Social justice is broad," Sr. St. John said. "It has to do with policies practiced by us as a society. The examinations of conscience I grew up with didn't talk much about that. If it had, we would have recognized much earlier the social injustice of segregation and the laws that supported it."

Sr. St. John then cited the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in reference to equality and social justice, then used the Parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate the teaching.

Garrett Sauve attended the dialogue at the invitation of Br. Paul and said he felt it was important to discuss the topic at this time. "I've been interested in immigration issues, and I've worked with immigrants at various points in my life," Sauve said. "I always think that dialogues are important when it comes to immigration. I think the answer to dealing with immigration is complex and encompasses multiple issues ... I think to take care of the issue of immigration, you have to address the reasons why people come here."

Anita Cook, a parishioner at St. Bartholomew's on hand for the dialogue, said she believes that people should try to remember something very important when the topic of immigration comes up.

"Some people seem to only be concerned about how this issue affects them," Cook said. "They don't stop and think, 'Hey, these are human beings.'"

The video "Dying to Live" addressed that issue, discussing the constant dangers immigrants confront from bandits, harsh weather conditions, lack of food and water, poisonous snakes, and a host of other pitfalls that cause many who risk their lives to die before they ever reach the United States.

Ibarra said she will continue to pursue justice for immigrants and said if there was one thing she would like for visitors to take away from the dialogue, it would be that they remember the teachings of their faith.

"Everybody has the right to be treated as a human being, regardless of where they come from," she said.

Catholic Charities offers invitation, support for families with

Love to Share

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

Five year-old "Lucy" loves to sing along with 'Hannah Montana.' She tenderly hugs her stuffed animals, giggles with joy at the prospect of ice cream, lavishes affection on her dogs, and exudes pure little girl charm.

"Sam," her 9-year-old brother, looks forward to playing in his first soccer game. He, too, loves ice cream, Sponge Bob, and general silliness. He especially likes to play with his foster brother, who is also nine. Sam's eyes are anxious. He holds his thin shoulders stiffly while waiting to see if he meets with the approval of a new acquaintance, but he grins widely when his foster father, his "Big Daddy," calls his name.

Antoinette Johnson, lead foster family case manager for Catholic Charities since 1992, says that these children, who have lived with foster parents Tom and Sharon for several months, are thriving in their new home, thanks to the stable, loving environment.

"Children in foster care have seen too much, and at an early age," says Johnson. "With Tom and Sharon, these children are doing amazingly well. We wish we could clone Tom and Sharon. We need a lot more foster families right now."

The couple, longtime members of a Fort Worth parish, had three young adult children and one 12-year-old son in their blended family when they first considered signing up with a foster care agency. Both were experienced educators and social workers, and they were aware of the urgent need for more families to help care for abandoned, neglected, and abused children.

"We began fostering with one agency in 2002," says Sharon, explaining that their youngest son, Dalton, came to them through the agency and was adopted at the age of three and a half. "Then, we began fostering with Catholic Charities,

and we've gotten tremendous support through them. Catholic Charities does a great job."

Kristina Bates, a family case manager with Catholic Charities, works intensively with the couple to make sure that any issues that arise with the children's emotional or physical health, transportation, or school situation, are immediately addressed and resolved. Catholic Charities, says Bates, makes sure that all foster parents are offered 24-hour crisis support, along with day-to-day treatment services and quarterly meetings with the team of caring adults who work together to ensure the children's progress.

"I talk to them almost every day," says Bates. "We're in communication all the time. They're always willing to do anything for the kids, and they participate in classes, counseling, everything we offer to help our families." All foster children's expenses are covered, explains Bates, noting that every foster family also receives 14 days of respite care per year, giving them a day off from time to time, paid for through the agency.

Tom, one of 10 children, grew up in a tightly-knit, loving family with a strong connection to St. George Church and school in Fort Worth. His own mother was in foster care in South Texas as a child, and his parents regularly welcomed other children into the family, he says. Three of his sisters and a brother went on to adopt children of their own. Tom and Sharon have provided foster care to a total of ten children in the past six years.

"It's what we were taught to do," Tom says, simply. "There are so many kids who just need someone who will be there for them. You become a foster parent because you think you can make a difference."

Catholic Charities staff members are eager to meet prospective foster parents, says Johnson. Single or married adults of all faith traditions and ethnic backgrounds, with or without children of their own, between the ages of 25 and 60, are welcome to apply to join the foster care program. Criminal background checks, interviews, and classes are conducted over an approximate three-month time period before an individual or couple is licensed to provide foster care.

"When you do become involved with Catholic Charities,

you find you are part of a network of families who become a community," says Sharon. The families with children in foster care come together for classes and for social gatherings, she says. "We know each other; we help each other with childcare; we bounce ideas off of each other. We really enjoy each other. We have a lot in common."

And Catholic Charities is passionate about providing the services that make it possible for foster families to care for children who need help, says Anne Mason, director of development and public relations for the agency.

"It's wonderful to hear foster parents talk about the improvement they see in the children they care for," says Mason. "We're giving them a chance, and that is why Catholic Charities is committed to providing foster care for the children, and committed to doing it well. There are hundreds of thousands of children [across the country] being removed from their homes every day. They deserve a chance. And Catholic Charities is here for them."

Catholic Charities is in need of foster parents for children of all ages. The agency also seeks adults to serve as trained respite care providers; their expenses are paid by the agency. For more information about how to serve as a foster parent or respite care provider, contact Aimee Bentley at Catholic Charities at (817) 413-3925 or e-mail to abentley@ccdofw.org.



Nine year-old Dalton, foster brother to "Sam" and "Lucy," smiles as the three children make music together on the family piano.



Tom, known as "Big Daddy" to his foster children, spends time each night playing with the children.



"Lucy" sits with her foster mother, Sharon, as they work together on homework from the Catholic school the children attend.



Five year-old "Lucy" plays with her dolls in her foster parents' comfortable Fort Worth home.



"Sam" plays on a warm September evening. He is looking forward to playing in his first soccer game.

Family Matters conference addresses family planning, breast cancer



TOP: Amy Rustand, shown with her 9-month old son Leo, came with husband Scott to attend the Family Matters conference. The Rustands teach Natural Family Planning courses in the diocese.

ABOVE: Dr. Angela Lanfranchi offered the presentation "Understanding Breast Cancer Risks" at the conference.

TOP RIGHT: Steve Kellmeyer, director of adult formation at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine, offered two presentations at the Sept. 6 conference.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Amber Pilkington discussed the psychological effects of dealing with infertility and the harm caused to women and to families when they resort to measures such as egg and sperm donation and in vitro fertilization.

BOTTOM LEFT: Angela Walters, director of the Catholics Respect Life organization, welcomes participants to the day-long conference, held at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth.

Story by Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant
Photos by Francine Sustaita

Approximately 80 Catholics, representing 20 parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth, gathered Sept. 6 for a day-long seminar that several participants called a "profound" learning experience.

Family Matters: Women and Family Issues From a Catholic Perspective," held at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth was presented by Bishop Kevin Vann and by the Catholics Respect Life organization.

"...The importance of this, was to help Bishop Vann facilitate pro-life activities in the diocese," explained Angela Walters, director of Catholics Respect Life. "We wanted families to understand the ramifications of artificial and chemical contraception, IVE, sperm and egg donation, and abortion."

The effects of these issues on all individuals "and upon the family's body, mind, and soul are significant within our culture," said Walters. "We brought in speakers to talk about theology, biology, psychology, breast cancer, and family planning."

Bishop Vann offered Mass at the beginning of the day of intensive presentations and dialogue, chatted with seminar participants at an informal breakfast, and thanked them for attending as he led the opening prayer.

"It is so important to take time to study and to reflect upon these issues, as you are doing today," the bishop said. "As we meet and encounter each other within this culture, we must engage that culture with the love of Christ in the fullness of the Gospel. By participating in this program today, we can become better informed about these very serious issues and become messengers of the Gospel of Life."

Steve Kellmeyer, director of

adult formation at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine presented on the topics of "Family Planning Theology and the Freedom of Choice," and "Humane Vitae's 40th anniversary," offering insights into the "perfect exchange of persons," that occurs between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The total self-giving within the divine nature of each person within the Holy Trinity is important to remember as married couples make decisions about family life, said Kellmeyer. "We should always, as a family, be in the image and likeness of God," he reminded his listeners. "God meant, from the beginning, that we participate in his divine nature. God is the original family planner." Kellmeyer is also an author, lecturer, Catholic radio host, and the founder of Bridegroom Press, a Catholic publishing company.

In her presentation, Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, clinical assistant professor of surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey and co-founder of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, cited multiple scientific studies showing that breast cancer rates have increased in the United States by 40 percent over the past 35 years due to the legalization of abortion and the widespread use of chemical contraceptives.

The shocking reality is that terminated pregnancies, as well as the steroids found in chemical contraceptives, dramatically increase women's exposure to estrogen, which leads to a significantly higher risk of breast cancers, explained Dr. Lanfranchi.

"I'm learning so much," said Jon McHaney, who, like his wife, Emelie, is an educator of special needs children. The couple, parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton, took careful notes throughout the day. "We've been married for three years, and we have been getting more and more interested in natural family planning issues."

"Steve Kellmeyer gave an excellent presentation," added Emelie McHaney. "One thing he said really struck me: some decisions are so important, they require prayer and fasting. I am going to really be thinking about that."

Andrew Gill, a 29 year-old professional counselor resid-



ing in Irving, attended the seminar with his mother, Joanne Gill, a longtime parishioner at St. Stephen Church in Weatherford. "There are a lot of misconceptions in my generation," mused Andrew Gill. "We're still trying to uncover the cultural distortions. I learn a lot from coming to these kinds of programs. Like me, a lot of people in my age group have an eagerness to know the truth about these issues."

Participants in the day did, in fact, learn a great deal of new and vitally important information, said Angela Walters. "And yet, it was all in-depth, not just surface facts," she noted. "Our presenters authenticated, for example, the fact that natural methods of family planning are much more effective and



healthier for a family than artificial methods. That is so important for people to know."

Taped presentations from the Family Matters seminar will soon be offered on the Catholics Respect Life Web site at www.catholicsrespectlife.org. For more information, call the organization's office at (817) 623-2430.

Viewpoints

The Rosary points us to Jesus, using the words of Scripture; it is a powerful, historical prayer

By Lucas Pollice

On Oct. 7 the Church celebrates the great Feast of the Holy Rosary.

This feast was established by St. Pius V on the anniversary of the naval victory won by the Christian fleet at Lepanto on Oct. 7, 1571, which preserved Europe from the attack of Muslim Turks. The victory was attributed largely to the help and intercession of Mary, whose aid was invoked through the praying of the Rosary.

The Rosary has been a part of the Catholic tradition for over 800 years, and is one of the most identifying devotions of our faith. It has been prayed and recommended by countless saints, and most recently was known to be the favorite devotion of our late Pope John Paul II, who asked Catholics to pray the Rosary daily and devoutly as a powerful spiritual tool for conversion and peace.

Unfortunately, the Rosary is often misunderstood by many non-Catholics, and there are even many Catholics who do not really know why the Rosary is such an effective and powerful prayer. Many non-Catholics dismiss the Rosary as non-scriptural and as a vainly repetitious prayer. Often times, Catholics may say the Rosary, but do they pray the Rosary? All of this, of course, is due to the fact that many simply do not know this great devotion, or may just misunderstand what the Rosary is all about.

First, the Rosary is a very scriptural prayer. In fact, almost all of the prayers we say in the Rosary are explicitly scriptural. For example, the Hail Mary is a very scriptural prayer. We begin with the words of the Angel Gabriel from *Luke 1:26*: "Hail you who have been filled with grace, the Lord is with you." We then repeat the words of Elizabeth who, filled with the Holy Spirit, greets Mary as the mother of her Savior in *Luke 1:43*: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Thus, the "Hail Mary" is very much rooted in Scripture and acknowledges Mary as both the Immaculate Conception and the Mother of Christ. We also say the "Our Father" which is the scriptural prayer that Jesus himself has given us. In addition, of the 20 mysteries of the Rosary on which we meditate, 18 of them are explicitly from Scripture, recalling the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ as revealed in the Gospels. Thus, the prayers of the Rosary are both drawn from Scripture and draw us into Scripture!

Second, the Rosary is by its nature a Christ-centered or Christocentric prayer in which we meditate upon and contem-

When we pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, we are led into a deeper communion with the mystery of Christ, of who He is, and his saving mission and power.

Detail of a file photo of a rosary draped around a crucifix marking a grave at Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury, New York. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC)



plate the Person of Jesus Christ. When we pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, we are led into a deeper communion with the mystery of Christ, of who He is, and his saving mission and power. The Joyful Mysteries draw us into the mystery of the Incarnation. The Luminous Mysteries reveal the mysteries of Christ's Messianic mission of his public ministry. The Sorrowful Mysteries unlock for us the merciful love of the passion and Cross of Christ. And finally, the Glorious Mysteries bring us into communion with the saving and transforming power of the Resurrection. Thus, through the Rosary, we come into a deeper and more intimate knowledge and communion with Christ, and through it are able to better imitate his virtues and wisdom.

There is an even more profound aspect to the Rosary in the fact that we join our prayers and meditation with the prayers and intercession the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through the Rosary we do not pray on our own, but with and through Mary who is able to lead us to an even more intimate knowledge of Christ. Thus, we do not pray to Mary, but we pray to Christ in and through Mary. Her prayers and intercession are always to lead us into a deeper communion with her Son.

We see this most profoundly at the wedding feast at Cana. Mary is involved only to bring about the manifestation of the mystery of her Son so that we may believe and that we may "Do whatever he tells you" (*John 2:5*). Mary, being the Mother of Jesus, also has an intimate knowledge of Jesus that surpasses all others, and through our prayers and meditation joined with hers through the Rosary, she is able to bring us to a much more profound relationship with her Son. Therefore, when we pray the Rosary, we truly sit at the "school of Mary" in which we are brought more closely to Christ. As Pope John Paul II so beautifully explains:

Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not

just a question of learning what he taught but of "learning him." In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother... Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to "read" Christ, to discover his secrets and to understand his message.

This school of Mary is all the more effective, if we consider that she teaches by obtaining for us in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even as she offers us the incomparable example of her own "pilgrimage of faith." As we contemplate each mystery of her Son's life, she invites us to do as she did at the Annunciation: to ask humbly the questions which open us to the light, in order to end with the obedience of faith: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). (Rosarium Virginis Mariae, On the Most Holy Rosary, 14)

Thus, the Rosary becomes a particularly efficacious tool in our spiritual life that enhances and confirms our union with and knowledge of Christ. Far from being a distraction from Christ, the Rosary, second to the Mass, is the most powerful way in which we can achieve union with Christ.

The challenge however, is the temptation to say the Rosary but not pray the Rosary. The goal of this powerful devotion is to draw our hearts and minds into the heart and mind of Christ through the intercession and help of Mary. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* so wisely states, "If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain" (2562). Indeed the Rosary can become vainly repetitious prayer, if we do not

take the time to open wide our hearts to the power and fruits of this indispensable devotion and the mysteries it contains. As Pope John Paul II again states:

The Rosary... is an exquisitely contemplative prayer. Without this contemplative dimension, it would lose its meaning, as Pope Paul VI clearly pointed out: "Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas, in violation of the admonition of Christ: 'In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their many words' (Matthew 6:7). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord. In this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are disclosed" (Rosarium Virginis Mariae, On the Most Holy Rosary, 12).

Finally, Pope John Paul II asked all Catholics to pray the Rosary and pray it often, especially for peace in the world and peace in families. As we also celebrate Respect Life month in October, the Rosary is a powerful tool against the culture of death as particularly manifested in the hideous crime of abortion which takes over a million innocent lives each year in our country. The presence of the peaceful recitation of the Rosary before abortion clinics has saved the lives of many children and brought about the conversion of many mothers who sought an abortion.

From Sept. 24 to Nov. 2, the 40 Days for Life Campaign will be praying continuously in front of abortion clinics throughout the country. This is an opportunity for all Catholics to make a public stand for life, and to pray the Rosary for the end of abortion. To get involved in the campaign or for more information concerning the Fort Worth chapter of 40 Days for Life, visit the Web site www.40daysforlife.com/fort-worth or contact Laura Barker at 40daysforlifefortworth@gmail.net.

Mary, Queen of the Rosary, pray for us!



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.

Agenda Driven Science

is it really science?

By Susan Wills

When scientists no longer pursue truth for its own sake, but use the tools of science to give credibility to a political agenda, no good can come of it. A public policy based on falsehoods will be seriously flawed, and science itself will be undermined.

A case in point is the Aug. 15 report of the American Psychological Association (APA) Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion. Despite scores of credible, wide-scale studies showing abortion-related mental health problems, the task force concluded that they "reviewed no evidence sufficient to support the claim that the observed association between abortion history and mental health was caused by the abortion per se, as opposed to other factors." Naturally, the media reported this oddly nuanced, narrow conclusion as "there's no evidence that abortion causes mental health problems."

To get to such a conclusion, the task force begins by ignoring the nature of abortion — the violent slaying of a child — as if such an act has no inherent mental health implications. Instead, they see abortion as just one of several options for coping with an "unwanted" pregnancy. The key to abortion-related mental health, in their view, is the "unwantedness" of the child, as if this were an immutable property inherent in human DNA.

Various pretexts are used to undercut or exclude studies demonstrating abortion-related mental health problems, including about 40 foreign studies automatically ex-

To get to such a conclusion, the task force begins by ignoring the nature of abortion — the violent slaying of a child — as if such an act has no inherent mental health implications.

cluded on the alleged ground of "cultural variation." In one, Soderberg et al. (1998) interviewed 854 Swedish women in depth, one year after abortion. Summarizing this study, Priscilla Coleman, Ph.D. states: "50-60 percent of the women experienced emotional distress of some form, (e.g., mild depression, remorse or guilt feelings, a tendency to cry without cause, discomfort upon meeting children), 16.1 percent experienced serious emotional distress (needing help from a psychiatrist or psychologist or being unable to work because of depression), and 76.1 percent said that they would not consider abortion again."

A New Zealand study by Fergusson et al. (2006) evaluated a cohort of about 500 girls who underwent periodic mental health assessments to age 25. Abortion was found to increase the risk of every harmful effect studied. Among girls who had abortions between ages 15 and 18, for example, 78 percent had major depression, compared to 35 percent who had been pregnant but did not abort, and 31 percent who had not been pregnant. The APA task force nit-picked the study for "small" sample size, and for not controlling for the "wantedness" of the pregnancies.

A study by Mika Gissler et al. in Finland examined suicide and other causes of death

in the year following birth, abortion, or miscarriage. The suicide rate among women who aborted in the previous 12 months was nearly six times higher than among women who had given birth (34.7 versus 5.9 suicides per 100,000 women). Post-abortion women had higher mortality from all causes (accidents, violence, and physical health) than those who'd given birth. The task force discounted these tragic findings by arguing that the miniscule risk of death directly "caused" by the abortion procedure is smaller than the miniscule risk of death from full-term labor/delivery (due to complications of pregnancy in mothers who already had health problems).

The APA's biased report should have no place in science or public policy. It may fool some people unfamiliar with abortion aftermath, but not the tens of thousands who've suffered after abortion, who've counseled them, or simply read their heartbreaking stories on the Internet.



Susan Wills is assistant director for education and outreach, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to www.usccb.org/prolife.

OK, let's just say, strictly for the sake of argument...

Claymation was used to describe the work of Creation. Let's see where things go from there...

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Natalie and Sam, my grandchildren, were watching Wallace and Gromit's "Curse of the Were-Rabbit," when they discovered a problem.

The movie characters had entered a scary house, and later had to break a window to get out. Sam thought about this and told his mom. "I'm troubled because I don't know how they went into the house without a key."

Their mother, Meredith, explained it was just a movie and not real, so the characters didn't need a key, but Sam and Natalie countered that it was "a real movie, so how did they get into the house at all, if they had to break a window to get out?"

"Curse of the Were-Rabbit" is an Oscar-winning film created with stop-action and plasticine clay characters that were moved slightly for each frame, and filmed one frame at a time.

Filmmakers produced 30 frames each day, and it took 25 frames to make one second of film: about a second of film per day. "Curse of the Were-Rabbit" took five years to produce.

So, that afternoon Meredith was chatting with two of her children, who were born about the same time production began on the animated movie they were watching.

Meredith explained how the movie was made, but the kids still pondered the improbability of characters walking freely into a room they later broke out of.

"I explained that they weren't supposed to put this much thought into watching a movie like this," Meredith told me. "But if only the filmmakers had sculpted a key! That would have made my explanations easier!"

Sam and Natalie are 7- and 5-year-olds with penchants for deep thinking, and they are developing thoughtfulness and empathy, qualities that, like clay figures, evolve with time.

Sam is a second-grader with curiosity, intensity, and a healthy sense of guilt. He gets that from his great-grandmother, Big Kate. She was Catholic and Italian. You do the math.

Frequently Sam realizes ahead of his parents when he has done something wrong, so he preemptively applies the consequence they might give — like less time playing computer games.

Nattie, a kindergartener, is zanier than Sam, but has his sense of right and wrong, such that if she has a bad day or argues with her mother, she spontaneously confesses to her dad. Natalie is prissy, wears frilly clothes and speaks in a way that combines zany with pensive.

SEE HAMER, P. 30

Diocesan

St. Joseph's celebrates 20 years



By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

On a September afternoon filled with prayer, laughter, reminiscing, and expressions of profound gratitude, members of St. Joseph Parish in Arlington gathered to celebrate the parish community's 20th anniversary and to watch as Bishop Kevin Vann dedicated a new statue of St. Joseph the Worker on the church's grounds.

"It was an incredible day," said Deacon Dean Hermann, pastoral administrator for the parish since 2001. "Everything went great, and everybody had a wonderful time.

It was a glorious, multi-cultural celebration." Prayers in English, Spanish, Filipino, French, Swahili, and Ghanaian languages were offered during the Sept. 7 afternoon Mass, statue dedication, and reception. A crowd of over 1,700 current and former parishioners, staff members, and visiting priests attended the gathering, which was held in the light-filled, spacious church. A charted timeline of the church's growth and a vivid photo display covered the west wall of the parish auditorium, where parishioners once gathered for Sunday liturgies before the present church was built.

The statue depicts a fatherly St. Joseph, tenderly instructing an intently listening young Jesus. The sculptor, St. Joseph parishioner Guillermo Becerra, installed the statue in May, and the now-retired Father Jim Miller, founding pastor of St. Joseph's, blessed the statue on June 1 when he returned to the parish to celebrate his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Parishioners' recollections of the early beginnings of the parish community were videotaped

at the celebration, said Deacon Hermann. "When they first started out, it was a small group of Catholics meeting for Mass [moving among] a few different schools in the area," he said. "People enjoyed having the chance to remember those early days."

ABOVE: Bishop Kevin Vann (center) is joined on the altar at the anniversary celebration by two altar servers and by (left to right), Deacon Dean Hermann; Fr. Raynalla Gindu; Fr. Philip Brembah; Fr. Vincent Elsen, OFM; Deacon Jim Harvey; Fr. Jim Miller; Fr. Jim Harrison, OFM; Msgr. Joe Schumacher; and Fr. Cal Giesen, OFM.

LEFT: Bishop Vann, joined by sculptor Guillermo Becerra and Deacon Dean Hermann, smiles after the dedication of the outdoor statue of St. Joseph the Worker.

BOTTOM LEFT: Fr. Jim Miller, with his trademark brown paper bag, pulls out a prop during his homily at the Sept. 7 anniversary Mass.

BOTTOM: Fr. Jim Miller (front), Deacon Dean Hermann (center) and Deacon Jim Harvey sing as they process into St. Joseph Church at the anniversary Mass.



Pope points to Mary's role in deepening our love of Jesus

FROM PAGE 1

Bernadette."

Then he made a point he has consistently emphasized when speaking of Marian devotion: that Mary turns one's gaze to Christ.

He noted that Mary's first gesture to St. Bernadette was to make the sign of the cross — an initiation into the mysteries of faith in Christ, he said.

"Mary comes to remind us that prayer which is humble and intense, trusting and persevering, must have a central place in our Christian lives," the pope said.

"Prayer is indispensable if we are to receive Christ's power," he said.

At Lourdes, he said, Mary also revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, a person conceived without sin. In this way, she is "beauty transfigured, the image of the new humanity," he said.

This special grace inspires people by reminding them that they are "marked by sin but saved in hope," the hope of salvation that allows them to face daily life, he said.

"This is the path which Mary opens up for man. To give oneself fully to God is to find the path of true freedom," he said.

Many came to the papal Mass in wheelchairs or on stretchers, part of a perennial pilgrimage of the sick who travel to Lourdes for spiritual or physical healing.

The assembly was multicultural and multilingual, and the liturgy featured readings, prayers, and responses in 10 languages, including Chinese.

Two young Catholic pilgrims from Myanmar said they had traveled halfway around the world to experience the "spirit of Lourdes" that they had heard about for years.

Zen Huai Mang, 23, said she was also seeking a personal turning point.

"I heard that Mary has done some wonderful things for sick people. I'm hoping for something positive in my own life, too," she said. Like many other pilgrims, she bathed in Lourdes water during her stay and said she felt "newborn" afterward.



St. Bernadette Soubirous is pictured in this undated photo provided by the Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes in Lourdes, France. (CNS photo/Durand, courtesy of Sanctuaries of Our Lady of Lourdes)

Mang and her friend waited for five hours in the cold to see Pope Benedict when he arrived in Lourdes Sept. 13 and were back for a prime spot at the Mass the next morning.

She said her impression of Pope Benedict was that of "a very spiritual man" who shared their devotion to Mary. She said the pope may seem a bit remote at times to young people, but added quickly, "I think he's lovely."

At the Angelus blessing following Mass, the pope spoke about the motives that lead some 6 million people to Lourdes every year. The main reason, he said, is that they feel they can entrust to Mary their most intimate thoughts.

"That which many, either because of embarrassment or modesty, do not confide to their nearest and dearest, they confide to her who is all pure, to her Immaculate Heart: with simplicity, without frills, in truth," he said.

"Before Mary, by virtue of her very purity, man does not hesitate to reveal his weakness, to express his questions and his doubts, to formulate his most secret hopes and desires," he said.

Arriving in Lourdes following a two-day stop in Paris, the pope immediately joined in the jubilee pilgrimage established to



People in wheelchairs attend a special Mass for the sick celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at the Basilica of the Rosary at the Lourdes shrine in southwestern France Sept. 15. (CNS photo/Regis Duvignau, Reuters)

mark the 150th anniversary of the apparitions.

Cheered by tens of thousands who packed the streets of the mountain town, the pope first stopped at the parish church where St. Bernadette was baptized, then visited the small house — a former prison not much bigger than a cell — where the girl and her family lived in the mid-19th century. There, he kissed her rosary and said a prayer.

Next the pope went to the grotto at the base of a rocky cliff, where Bernadette experienced 18 apparitions of Mary from Feb. 11 to July 16, 1858. Like millions of pilgrims each year, he paused to take a drink of water from the spring she discovered there, a spring said to have miraculous powers.

Later that night, the pope closed a torchlight evening procession in Rosary Square. Addressing the overflow crowd of pilgrims, he paid tribute to simple devotion.

At Lourdes, he said, Mary stirred hope and love "by giving pride of place to the sick, the poor, and the little ones."

"In this shrine at Lourdes ... we are invited to discover the

simplicity of our vocation: It is enough to love," he said.

The traditional nighttime procession stems from St. Bernadette's habit of lighting a candle when Mary would appear to her. Today, the pope said, the light from pilgrims' torches represents a powerful symbol against the darkness of sin.

The procession expresses the mystery of prayer in a form that everyone can grasp, like a luminous path in the dark, he said. It should also remind Christians of those who suffer, he said.

"We think of innocent victims who suffer from violence, war, terrorism, and famine; those who bear the consequences of injustices, scourges and disasters, hatred and oppression; of attacks on their human dignity and fundamental rights; on their freedom to act and think," he said.

The pope remembered those experiencing family problems, illness, unemployment, or loneliness, as well as difficulties related to immigration. Those who have suffered or died for Christ must not be forgotten, either, he said.

He described Lourdes pilgrimages as leading to a spiritual place

"between heaven and earth." Pilgrims may come secretly hoping to receive some miracle, he said, but more often leave with a different kind of spiritual experience and a changed outlook.

"A small flame called hope, compassion, tenderness now dwells within them. A quiet encounter with Bernadette and the Virgin Mary can change a person's life," he said.

On the plane carrying him to France, the pope told journalists his April 16 birthday fell on the feast of St. Bernadette, and for that reason he felt very close to her.

At Lourdes, he said, people encounter Mary and find that "the mother's love" is what provides true healing for all sickness and suffering.

"I think this is a very important sign for our era," he said.

The pope returned to the Lourdes Mass site in the evening of Sept. 14 to close a eucharistic procession. After kneeling and praying in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, he told pilgrims that the respect Catholics show the Eucharist reflects the awareness that Christ is truly present.

St. John the Apostle School's Blue Ribbon recognition the result of teamwork

FROM PAGE 1

mediately in recognition of this honor.

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement

to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests and schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of

their state on state tests or in the case of private schools, such as St. John the Apostle, achieve in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

A total of 413 schools nationwide can be nominated. This number is determined based on the number of K-12 students and the number of schools in each

state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) submits private schools' nominations. The schools are invited by Secretary Spellings to submit an application for possible recognition as a No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon School.

Principal Cindy Cummins and

faculty member Marla Tatum will fly to Washington, D.C., to be honored at an awards ceremony Oct. 20-21. St. John the Apostle School is planning a month of celebrations to thank the faculty, staff, students, parents, and parishioners for their roles in helping the school achieve at such a high level.

Diocesan pilgrims travel to Australia for World Youth Day

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

More than 100 teens, young adults, and adult leaders representing 10 parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth are still reflecting upon the powerful memories they made during their pilgrimage to the 2008 World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney, Australia, July 15-20.

The theme of the international celebration, attended by Pope Benedict XVI and held every three years, was from Acts 1:8: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

Indeed, say the North Texas pilgrims, the journey to Australia — despite hours of grueling travel, miles of walking, occasional glitches in food distribution, and minimal sleep — was a true experience of the Holy Spirit's power and grace in bringing 400,000 Catholics from 170 nations together in a spirit of joy and unity.

Their pilgrimage experience, Bishop

Kevin Vann told the Texas travelers in special Masses and blessing ceremonies held prior to their departures, was one that will profoundly affect their lives forever. "You, our young people, represent who we are in the universal church, as you are sent forth to be witnesses to your faith," the bishop told WYD travelers at a Mass celebrated June 29 at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton. "You will bring your stories from this journey back to serve as an encouragement and inspiration to the rest of us, here in the Diocese of Fort Worth."

April Fisher, a 20-year-old parishioner from Immaculate Conception, called the opportunity to attend World Youth Day "a dream" that she has cherished for years. "I'm so excited to be able to go," she said. "My family is so happy for me to have this chance."

The bishop blessed a second group of pilgrims at a July 5 Mass and reception at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. "We're never a solo affair; we all belong to a great family of God, and you will experience that sense of family on this journey you're about to undertake," Bishop Vann told the assembly. "I know that you will return to be ever more fervent disciples of Christ."

Another group from the diocese, comprised of 14 teens and adults from St. Peter the Apostle Church in Fort Worth, also traveled to Sydney, led by Norma Valdez, the parish youth minister. Valdez laughed as she recalled three years of intensive fundraising. "We sold tamales, we had burrito breakfasts, we worked at the Fort Worth Zoo, we served and cleaned up at parish celebrations," she said. "And yes, it was absolutely worth it!"

Valdez said the group from St. Peter's spent 14 days in Sydney sightseeing and taking advantage of special spiritual opportunities, such as a visit to the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop, who was beatified in 1995 and is expected to become canonized as the first Australian saint.

According to group leaders, a highlight for all the Texas pilgrims was their participation in the mornings of cat-

echesis provided in the days leading up to the WYD papal Mass. "We got to listen to different bishops from all over the world as they talked to us and answered our questions," said 18-year-old Brad Eckstrom, a St. Peter's parishioner. "Also, a really special aspect of those gatherings was the day that we had Jesse Manibusan, a Catholic musician who is known all over the world, come to lead the music for our group. He was phenomenal. Our group knows him from DCYC [Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference] and we felt so proud to say that he is from our diocese." Manibusan and his family are members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine.

Elizabeth Victory, a parishioner at St. Patrick Cathedral, coordinated her fifth WYD pilgrimage this year, working on fundraising activities and holding planning meetings for her group of parishioners from the cathedral and from St. Ann Church in Burleson for months prior to their July 10 departure. "I always become so inspired by the people I meet on each pilgrimage," she said.

This year's journey offered the opportunity to make even more new friends, said Victory. En route to Sydney, her group stopped on July 11 to participate in the "Aloha Spirit Youth Day" offered in Waikiki, Hawaii. The day included a Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu, cultural activities, and prayer services, including a sunset rosary on the beach.

Bryan Webb said the special times his group spent attending Masses, catechetical programs, prayer services, and liturgical music concerts during their 22 days in New Zealand and Australia added up to too many memorable moments to count. Webb, coordinator of youth ministries at Holy Family of Nazareth Church in Vernon, St. Joseph Church in Crowell, and St. Mary Church in Quanah, led a group, made up of members of five parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth. They had "a great experience, one that our youth will never forget," he said. "We're busy now, planning a



Fr. Hoa Nguyen, pictured (far left) with his delegation from the Diocese of Fort Worth, concelebrated Mass with Fr. Vincent Curtain, SM, pastor (far right) of St. Patrick Church in Akaroa, New Zealand, where the group attended catechetical events prior to their journey to WYD in Sydney.



ABOVE: Pilgrims from St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, and St. Andrew Kim Church in Dallas pose in front of the Sydney Opera House.



World Youth Day 2011 will be held in Madrid, Spain, August 15-21. For more information and photographs from World Youth Day 2008, check the official World Youth Day Web site at www.wyd2008.org/.



Pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Worth prepare to cross the Sydney Harbor Bridge as they walk toward the Mass site on Saturday afternoon, July 19.



Brother Mariano Demma, CFR, a member of the delegation sponsored by St. Maria Goretti's, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's, and St. Andrew Kim's, sings with a member of the Sister of Life congregation at the Sisters of Life "Love Life" venue in Sydney.



WYD pilgrims April (left) Fisher and Christine Wintz receive blessed crosses from Bishop Kevin Vann at the June 29 send-off Mass held at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton.



ABOVE: Over 400,000 pilgrims gathered at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney July 19-20 to participate in the overnight vigil and WYD Mass.

LEFT: Catholic musician Jesse Manibusan poses with pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Worth at a catechetical site in Sydney.

RIGHT: The WYD delegation from St. Peter the Apostle Church in Fort Worth poses with a new friend, an aboriginal man from Sydney.



Nick Fuentes and Salyna Baca, parishioners at Holy Family Church in Vernon, bow their heads in prayer while waiting for the Saturday evening vigil service to begin.



Youth from St. Ann Church in Burleson and St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth walk toward the site of the WYD vigil and Mass on July 19-20.



Thousands participated in the July 18 Stations of the Cross, held at sites throughout Sydney. Approximately 500 million television viewers around the world watched the live re-enactment of Jesus' passion and death.



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Diocesan / State



Carmelite Father Joseph Kattakkara, pastor of St. Mary Church in Fannett, shows Beaumont Bishop Curtis Guillory, Sept. 16, where the roof was ripped off the church by Hurricane Ike. When the storm hit Sept. 13, the entire roof was torn off by the 100 mph winds, leaving only the plywood decking. (CNS photo/Sarah Dupre, EAST TEXAS CATHOLIC)

Special Collection: Catholic Communication Campaign

Parish Name	Parish Location	Communication Campaign August 2007	Communication Campaign May 2008
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	114.00	181.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	151.00	146.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	514.10	20.00
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	2,149.57	2,956.50
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,451.90	2,211.94
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,458.00	1,791.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	169.00	250.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	369.00	406.50
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	425.24	0.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	0.00	2,031.00
Holy Trinity	Azie	566.00	582.00
St. Michael	Bedford	1,783.00	2,634.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	0.00	0.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	281.88	319.23
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	542.24	442.94
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	286.25	225.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,434.00	1,095.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	1,746.00	1,666.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	111.00	312.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	583.92	823.02
Holy Angels	Clifton	185.00	468.80
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	705.00	1,032.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	325.00	135.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	0.00	155.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	0.00	29.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	803.25	712.88
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	0.00	87.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	1,037.00	434.00
St. Mark	Denton	1,924.25	1,854.81
St. Mary	Dublin	297.00	388.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	58.00	83.04
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,447.11	0.00
Christ the King	Fort Worth	267.00	0.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,403.00	1,606.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	304.00	430.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,431.00	0.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	899.00	666.58
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	1,582.00	1,667.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	252.00	307.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	36.00	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	3,128.69	3,008.39
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	4,573.16	3,840.89
St. George	Fort Worth	695.00	0.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	918.00	903.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	308.00	0.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	2,782.00	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	813.55	937.15
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	539.00	505.86
St. Rita	Fort Worth	97.00	0.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,625.26	1,580.55
St. Mary	Gainesville	227.78	289.75
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	217.91	57.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	2,903.00	1,336.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,403.00	0.00
St. Mary	Hennetta	40.00	35.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	443.00	924.87
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	49.50	59.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,658.00	2,939.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	36.00	0.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,727.15	2,456.89
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,731.55	1,608.74
St. Jude	Mansfield	890.60	1,304.50
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargee	10.00	25.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	482.72	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	99.70	85.10
Sacred Heart	Muenster	4,453.00	2,708.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	71.00	156.78
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	215.00	639.81
St. Mary	Quanah	112.00	0.00
St. Rita	Ranger	50.00	54.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	73.00	209.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	47.00	109.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	114.00	165.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	154.47	151.00
St. John	Strawn	56.00	115.00
St. John	Valley View	0.00	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	259.00	221.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,669.00	1,572.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	542.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	927.04	257.00
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	672.25	0.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	521.00	561.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	534.00	407.30

68,409.04 57,913.82

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

Additional credible accusations of abuse of a minor by priest now deceased are lodged with Diocese

Editor's Note: The following news release was issued by the Diocese of Fort Worth Tuesday, Sept. 12:

As a follow up to a Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth news release issued on September

8, 2008, diocesan officials have received two additional credible accusations of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest against deceased Benedictine Order priest Father Francis A. Zimmerer.

The new credible accusations occurred on separate occasions while Father Zimmerer served as the parish administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, located at 1305 Deer Park Rd. in Decatur, from January 1975 through May 1981. Both victims were minors at the time.

The new credible accusations were lodged after the diocese's announcement last week that a credible accusation was received on August 25, 2008 that a now 42-year-old man living out of state was abused in 1978 by Father Zimmerer, a member of the Benedictine Order based in Subiaco, Arkansas, when the victim was an 11-year-old member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church.

The Fort Worth Catholic Diocese has offered counseling to all the victims. To reiterate, the diocese's Safe Environment Program requires a safe environment for children and youth. Likewise, Article 12 of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," requires that dioceses establish "safe environment" programs and gives the necessary elements of such a program.

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth encourages anyone who has suffered sexual abuse by a priest or anyone who serves the church to contact Victim Abuse Coordinator Judy Locke at (817) 560-2452, Ext. 201 or Father Hart at (817) 560-2452, Ext. 104.

Call me today to make sure your family is protected.



Sean T. Farson, CIC, LUTCF
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INTERNATIONAL
NEWSBRIEFS**Pope says Western efforts to marginalize religion would be disastrous**

PARIS (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI warned that Western cultural efforts to marginalize religion and believers would bring disaster for humanity and ultimately “play into the hands of fanaticism.” The pope made the remarks Sept. 12 in an address to academics at the College des Bernardins, a medieval landmark confiscated during the French Revolution and recently reacquired by the church for scholarly events. Vatican officials said the pope had worked long and hard on this speech, which took up one of his favorite topics, the relationship between faith and reason. He warned that if modern culture tries to drive the question of God into the realm of the merely subjective and unscientific, that would be “the capitulation of reason, the renunciation of its highest possibilities, and hence a disaster for humanity, with very grave consequences.”

At Paris Mass, pope urges Catholics to reject idols of money, power

PARIS (CNS) — Celebrating Mass in the center of Paris, Pope Benedict XVI urged Catholics to rediscover the power of the Eucharist and reject the modern idols of money and power. About 250,000 people filled the sunny Esplanade des Invalides Sept. 13 for the liturgy, which was broadcast live on French national television. It was an unusual public display of the faith in a country that prides itself on secularism. As the 81-year-old pontiff arrived in his popemobile, he was greeted by cheers and a panorama of fluttering yellow flags. Many of the young people in attendance had spent the night in the square, after praying at a candlelight vigil. In his sermon, he recalled the preaching of St. Paul against the temptation of idolatry in the early Christian era and said the question was still relevant today. “Has not our modern world created its own idols? Has it not imitated, perhaps inadvertently, the pagans of antiquity?” he said.

Pontifical Council for the Family president says Catholic families lead by example

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian Cardinal Ennio Antonelli said his first priority as president of the Pontifical Council for the Family is to help faithful Catholic couples and their children proclaim by their example the church’s teaching on marriage and family life. “The first priority is to build up Christian families,” said the cardinal, who was named president of the council in June. “We must care for normal families first, so that they become a sign for others,” he said. “Without examples, how can we persuade others?” The cardinal met Sept. 18 with reporters, to introduce himself as the new council president and to present plans for the Jan. 14-18 theological and pastoral congress on family life and the World Meeting of Families in Mexico City.

Latvian priest to be honored posthumously for helping Jews in WWII

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The family of a Latvian priest posthumously named as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, received a medal honoring his work in Riga, Latvia, Sept. 26. Cardinal Janis Pujats of Riga was to attend the ceremony to honor Father Kasimir Vilnis at the Israeli Embassy in Riga. Father Vilnis’ name also will be inscribed on the Wall of Honor at the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Father Vilnis was born in Nautreni, Latvia, in December 1907. His parents, Petris and Eugenija, were farmers. He was ordained in Riga in 1933. As a parish priest in Riga Father Vilnis risked his life during World War II to help Jews fleeing from the Nazis. He hid Jews in his church and in houses belonging to the church, according to testimony by survivor David Packin, who was rescued by Father Vilnis and later escaped to the United States.

Vatican newspaper says financial crisis shows ‘new economy’ has failed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current financial crisis pummeling the United States and beyond is a sign that the so-called “new economy” and its risky investments have failed, the Vatican newspaper said.

The booming growth of financial markets did not correspond to real growth or concrete development for society because it created an artificially robust gross national product, said a Sept. 24 article in *L’Osservatore Romano*.

The only real growth registered in this crisis has been “the commissions, profits of the banks, and bonuses for the managers,” it said.

The article, with the headline “A costly illusion,” was written by Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, an Italian economist and professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy.

The U.S. financial meltdown has been blamed on “the greed of managers and lack of regulations. But curiously, no one ever refers to the indirect responsibility of the government’s economic policy” which, he wrote, tried to cover the lack of any real economic development with a booming Wall Street.

He said the U.S. government’s proposed bailout may stave off any worst-case scenario for its troubled financial markets, but it will not repair the root causes of the crisis.

“Despite various attempts, the Western world does not know how to map out a model of development that is capable of guaranteeing stable wealth,” the article said.

The West has “not succeeded with its new economy project, it did not succeed with accelerating growth in Asia by transferring

low-cost production (there), and it did not succeed after inventing a boom in the GNP through risky financial models that were poorly conceived and badly regulated,” it said.

“In order to maintain this sham GNP, the banks financed things that were not guaranteed” and that should not have been financed, like the subprime loans, it said. Financial institutions created an “economic growth out of debt and, therefore, (created something) very risky,” it added.

The article said the lesson to be learned is that nations cannot build a healthy economy or experience real development if it is not based on “balanced demographic growth.”

It said the world economy also needs to be run responsibly and transparently with precise rules.

Hurricane Ike reminiscent of 1900 storm that razed Galveston’s Catholic orphanage

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — When Galveston Island, was pummeled by Hurricane Ike Sept. 13, it may have called to mind stories of the Sept. 8, 1900, hurricane, or the Great Storm as it was called, that devastated the area.

The 1900 storm, considered the worst natural disaster in the nation’s history, took the lives of more than 6,000 people. Among the dead were 10 sisters and 90 children from St. Mary’s Orphans Asylum, opened by the Sisters of Charity on Galveston Island in 1874.

The orphanage began as a place to care for children orphaned during the yellow fever epidemic in 1867. First located inside a hospital the sisters also ran, it was moved to beach-front property. It consisted of two buildings located behind sand dunes along the beach; there was a two-story dormitory for boys and a two-story dormitory for girls.

During the storm the sisters brought all the children into the girls’ dormitory because it was a newer and stronger building. In the first floor chapel, the sisters sang the children a French hymn, “Queen of the Waves.”

As the storm intensified, they brought the children to the second floor and used pieces of clothesline to attach themselves to the smaller children. But with wind speeds of more than 120 mph and a storm surge at least 15 feet high, the girls’ dormitory



Sisters of Charity and children on the balcony of one of the buildings of the St. Mary’s Orphans Asylum fronting the beach in Galveston, prior to the Sept. 8, 1900, hurricane. (CNS/courtesy Catholic Archives of Texas, Austin)

collapsed, killing the sisters and all the children except three boys who managed to get out of the house and rode out the storm clinging to the top of a tree.

A report about the storm published by the *Galveston County Daily News* noted that the sisters were “buried wherever they were found, with the children still attached to them.” One sister died with two small children in her arms.

St. Mary’s Orphans Asylum reopened in Galveston in 1901 and remained there until it closed in 1967.

Members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word sing “Queen of the Waves” every Sept. 8 in honor of the sisters and others who died in the storm.

On Sept. 8, 1994, a Texas historical marker was placed at the site of the former orphanage. Descendants of two of the survivors participated in the marker

dedication on Galveston’s Seawall Boulevard.

The very existence of Galveston’s seawall is the result in part of the work of Father James Kirwin, rector of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Galveston during the 1900 storm. The cathedral, dedicated in 1847, survived the storm intact.

The priest played a key role in the city’s post-hurricane recovery. According to the Texas State Historical Association, he helped organize a public safety committee to restore order after the disaster, and he also drafted an edict putting the city under martial law.

The priest, a native of Ohio, also supervised the burying of the city’s dead and served on a relief committee that helped survivors of the flood. He initiated plans to build a seawall to protect Galveston from future floods and delivered the opening prayer when its cornerstone was dedicated in 1902.

Catholic social agencies mobilize in Hurricane Ike relief efforts

By Jonah Dycus
THE TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD
Newspaper of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

HOUSTON (CNS) — In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Texas Catholic social agencies have swiftly mobilized to offer assistance to those affected by the storm, which hit the region Sept. 13.

In mid-September, staff members and volunteers from Catholic Charities visited coastal communities such as Texas City, Dickinson, and Bacliff, as well as Houston, to provide assistance to those in need. They were continuing those efforts in the coastal area.

"Our goal is to take care of the immediate, basic needs by supplying water, canned goods, diapers, those kinds of items," said Yolanda Gutierrez, on-site supervisor for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

"Since we also work with refugee resettlement, some of our staff and volunteers are also working with those families and individuals off-site to see how we can help," she told *The Texas Catholic Herald*, the archdiocesan newspaper. "Down the road, we will conduct case management for people who have lost their homes."

By coordinating relief efforts, Catholic Charities USA has opened a warehouse specifically for the purpose of delivery of goods to distribution sites.

"We are focusing on Galveston County, and the needs of far-reaching communities who have limited access to government sponsored PODs (point of distribution)," said Jim Gajewski, Catholic Charities vice president of program services.

"We see our niche reaching out deeper into communities, the pockets of disenfranchised who are impoverished and don't have the means to get to these PODs," he said.

Gajewski added that the Catholic agency was working closely with the Galveston County Evangelical Lutheran Church as well as Catholic parishes and other agencies.

Catholic Charities planned to continue its efforts in the field into the foreseeable future, as long as supplies lasted and the needs remained.

"We are taking it day to day; we really have to be flexible and keep our ear to the ground," Gajewski said. "As long as the need is out there, we want to be providing for those needs."



Damaged neighborhoods surrounded by floodwaters are seen from a U.S. Air Force helicopter conducting search and rescue operations Sept. 14 after Hurricane Ike struck Galveston, Texas. The hurricane hit the Texas and Louisiana coasts Sept. 13, causing extensive damage and flooding. (CNS photo/Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr., U.S. Air Force handout via Reuters)

Catholic Charities was out at St. Christopher Parish in Houston Sept. 20 distributing water and MREs, which stands for "meals ready to eat."

James Rodriguez and his family waited in line for their allocation.

"It's tough right now. We don't have electricity, so we can't cook anything," said Rodriguez, who is a house painter. While he expected to be busy soon, he had been unable to work the week following the storm as potential clients waited for insurance companies to assess damage.

"You never want to complain as long as you're eating," Rodriguez said. "I appreciate Catholic Charities for feeding us tonight."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul suffered damage to all of its program locations, but officials were trying to maximize their resources to help others through their "Arms Wide Open" project.

"We are not used to being the victim. Trying to serve our neighbors and being a victim at the same time has been a little distracting and challenging, but it's good for us that our work is ministry," said Wendy Garaghty, the society's executive director.

During her interview with *The Texas Catholic Herald*, Garaghty was in the midst of acquiring a truck trailer housing a barbecue smoker.

"We have about 2,000 elderly clients in our program, so our mission right now is to go door-to-door of homes to visit and make sure everyone is OK," she said. "We will bring them all of

the essentials, as well. We also have some formula, because we have a lot of clients with newborns."

St. Vincent de Paul was partnering with Houston Food Bank and other entities, which have been continuously shipping out food boxes. On the north side of town, Garaghty said, her team of Vincentians and volunteers had to wait for flooding to subside before they could make their way into the community.

"Unfortunately, the poor that we serve are in those flood areas that didn't evacuate because they weren't in the evacuation area, but they experienced flooding because of the bayous overflowing," she said. "We couldn't even get to our facilities until late afternoon Sunday. Then we started assessing, 'Oh goodness, look at what we lost, we have to build our infrastructure real quick.'"

Local organizations were relying on St. Vincent de Paul councils across the nation and state — including Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas — who have been trucking food into the Galveston-Houston area.

Garaghty said she is always inspired to see so many people working together to assist others through a time of trial and devastation.

"To be able to go in and bring health and comfort to people in need ... we always walk away better people having met these individuals we serve," she said. "Our spirituality grows as well as the persons we are visiting. We don't preach the Gospel, but we certainly see God everywhere we go."

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Bishop Malooly says sanctity of human life 'crucial' to just society

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — The new bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington said he intends "to build a supportive and trusting friendship" with U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware and other public officials to help them and all citizens "understand how crucial the sanctity of human life is to a just society." Bishop W. Francis Malooly made the comments in a statement Sept. 10 after leaders of the U.S. bishops' conference had issued their own statement in response to Biden's comments Sept. 7 on "Meet the Press" regarding church teaching on abortion. Addressing the people of his diocese, the bishop said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement explained "the truth of the matter in a clear and concise way. As your bishop, I want you to understand our church teaching, embrace it, and promote it." The bishop, who was installed Sept. 8 as the ninth bishop of Wilmington, then included the statement from Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, head of the doctrine committee, before concluding: "It is my intention to build a supportive and trusting friendship with Sen. Biden and as many public officials as I can."

USCCB strongly supports draft HHS regulations protecting conscience

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Proposed regulations protecting the conscience rights of individuals and health care institutions are especially needed in light of the "growing hostility on the part of some professional organizations and advocacy groups" to those rights, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in public comments to the Department of Health and Human Services. The comments came in a six-page letter Sept. 12 to Brenda Destro in the HHS Office of Public Health and Service from Anthony R. Picarello, USCCB general counsel, and Michael F. Moses, associate general counsel. Expressing "strong support for the proposed rule," the USCCB letter noted that an earlier leaked version of the HHS proposal had prompted "negative public reaction ... by pro-abortion groups and some editorial writers." It said, "The adverse reaction demonstrates, at best, a deplorable lack of understanding about the federal legislative rights of conscience on which the proposed regulations are based, at worst outright hostility to those statutory rights."

Prayers offered at Capitol for poverty to become a campaign issue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The needs of poor and marginalized people deserve the same attention from government officials as the current needs of Wall Street's failing financial firms, said a group of religious leaders. Praying outside the U.S. Capitol Sept. 16, Catholic, Protestant, Islamic, and Jewish leaders invoked the words of the prophet Micah in calling upon candidates for public office in the Nov. 4 election to join with Americans of faith concerned about the growing poverty in the U.S. to work for justice for the poor. "We religious people need to be as strong as we can be here in America," said Rabbi Steve Gutow, executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, at the start of an hourlong program. "We need to build an army of faithful who wish to take our view of God's message into the vineyards of public life and to the public square." Rabbi Gutow, who coordinated the service with Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, said that the growing poverty in America threatens to undermine the spirit of justice promised by God. The prayer service closed an effort titled "Fighting Poverty With Faith: A Week of Action."



The U.S. bishops adopted *FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP: A CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY* in November 2007 as a blueprint on how Catholic social teaching should affect political participation by Catholics. The story below on the life issues and the story on the environment on the opposite page are two in an ongoing Catholic News Service series about how the stands of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates stack up with *FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP*.



For a wide range of educational and other resources to help share Faithful Citizenship, go to www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

Obama is for 'right to choose;' McCain 'amendment to Constitution;' other life issues are not as clear cut

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — On few topics do presidential candidates Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain diverge as sharply as on abortion. But on other life issues — embryonic stem-cell research, assisted suicide, and the death penalty — the differences are not always easy to ferret out.

On abortion, McCain's campaign Web site said the Republican candidate "believes *Roe v. Wade* is a flawed decision that must be overturned" as "one step in the long path toward ending abortion." Obama's Web site says the Democratic nominee "will make safeguarding women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority" and that he "opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn that decision."

In their 2007 document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*, the U.S. Catholic bishops

"The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed."

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility

stress the importance of the life issues.

"The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human

life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many," the document says. "It must always be opposed."

Martin Shaffer, a political science professor and dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, said the impact of the life issues "may be murky at best given that neither candidate has been known nationally as a leader in either direction on those issues."

"Although John McCain's selection of Sarah Palin for his ticket is in part an attempt to make connections to voters on the life issues, neither presidential candidate is crystal clear and consistent on these issues," Shaffer told Catholic News Service Sept. 17.

On stem cells, neither McCain nor Obama fully embraces the bishops' unequivocal opposition to any stem-cell research that in-

volves the destruction of human embryos.

McCain "opposes the intentional creation of human embryos for research purposes" and "will strongly support funding for promising research programs, including amniotic fluid and adult stem-cell research and other types of scientific study that do not involve the use of human embryos," according to his Web site.

Obama believes "we owe it to the American public to explore the potential of stem cells to treat the millions of people suffering from debilitating and life-threatening diseases," his campaign site says.

But both candidates voted for — and Obama co-sponsored — the Stem-Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, which President George W. Bush vetoed and the U.S. bishops had strongly opposed. The legislation would have permitted the destruction of so-called "spare embryos,"

unused after fertility treatments, for use in embryonic stem-cell experiments.

Phyllis Zagano, senior research associate in the religion department at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, and a columnist on Catholic issues, said she believes the life issues "will play a very big role in the election, not only for Catholics but for all people of religious faith."

But because both candidates would permit embryonic stem-cell research and McCain has said he would allow abortions in cases of rape, incest, and danger to the mother's life, "for people for whom life issues are primary, I honestly don't know how it will fall," she told CNS Sept. 18.

Zagano said, however, that the combination of Palin's "appeal to the middle of America" and McCain's stronger position on abortion will likely mean that religiously motivated voters "will fall more on the McCain side."

USCCB, CRS urge presidential nominees to ponder world poverty issues

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services in a telephone press conference Sept. 23 called on the major parties' presidential candidates to lay out their foreign policy strategies in relation to the world's poor and overseas assistance.

The campaigns of Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain have failed to adequately address the global food crisis, the increasing role of the U.S. Defense Department in humanitarian work, the refocusing of U.S. foreign assistance, and how the government should help the poor adapt to climate change, said Bill O'Keefe, senior director for the advocacy department of

the Baltimore-based CRS.

The Obama and McCain campaigns also have failed to sufficiently articulate if their foreign policy programs would promote religious equality, strengthen international law, support a safe haven for foreign refugees, or actively pursue a comprehensive resolution between the Israelis and Palestinians, said Stephen Colecchi, director of the Office of International Justice and Peace for the USCCB.

"This topic is timely considering that this Friday night (Sept. 26) the candidates will be debating foreign policy," O'Keefe said. "These are critical issues that are crying out for attention."

Both campaigns are currently focused on the domestic economic crisis and the Bush administration's proposed bail-

out of U.S. financial institutions, which could cost taxpayers \$700 billion or more if it's approved by Congress.

With approximately \$38 billion currently being spent on foreign aid — which includes costs for foreign embassies and diplomatic missions — both men argued that money spent to address global poverty is a minimal expense in the federal budget compared to the proposed bailout of U.S. financial institutions.

"There is no doubt the next administration and Congress has tough financial problems they will have to deal with," O'Keefe said. "But there is a missed opportunity by the candidates to demonstrate their own leadership (on these matters) and to prove to the voters they can think

comprehensively and broadly about comprehensive issues. The person who can demonstrate they can do that is more likely to win the election."

If the U.S. government would invest in a solution to poverty in foreign countries, those nations would become better trade partners, Colecchi said.

Nations with fewer poverty issues also tend to be more peaceful countries and more peace in the world would reduce "the amount that we have to spend on defense," he said.

The USCCB and CRS representatives used the Sept. 23 press conference as a way of reaching out to the candidates to urge them to address these issues in their campaigns.

The USCCB also has submitted its November 2007 *Faithful*

Citizenship statement — which address these and other moral issues — to both campaigns and has sought a meeting with each candidate to discuss the topics face to face, Colecchi said.

O'Keefe also urged Catholics to bring up these issues with the candidates at campaign events and write letters to the editors at a variety of publications as a way of gaining support for moral concerns.

Ultimately, Catholics have the power to vote for the candidate they believe has best addressed these moral issues of conscience, he said.

Colecchi said the U.S. Catholic bishops are calling for a new style of politics that focuses "more on the pursuit of the common good than on the demands of narrow special interests."

Campaign '08: Bettering environment may depend on political climate, say pundits

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The difficulties posed by the fouling of the environment — which takes in a wide array of issues such as climate change, freshwater availability, vehicle emissions, and pesticides and potentially fatal bacteria in crops — are daunting for any president to tackle.

As Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain battle it out for the presidency, Catholic and other faith-based activists are studying the political environment to see how they can leverage environmental issues into policy come Jan. 20 and beyond.

In July, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, together representing more than 86,000 vowed men and women religious, jointly resolved to “seek concrete ways to curb environmental degradation, mitigate its impact on the poorest and most vulnerable people and restore right relationships among all God’s creation; and to foster a consciousness of care for God’s creation among all our members, colleagues, institutions, and those whom we serve.”

According to a report by the Commission to Engage African-Americans on Climate Change, African-Americans are more than twice as likely as whites to live in cities where the so-called “heat island” effect is expected to make temperature increases more severe. At the same time, more blacks will be “fuel poor” as energy demand rises because of higher air-conditioning loads, population growth, and urbanization.

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference, as a member of the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, is involved in developing a climate change position paper that will include a section on recommendations for education and research.

The Iowa-based rural life conference also will conduct “Raise Your Voice” workshops in dioceses for a year starting this fall to increase knowledge about climate change and its effects, and to demonstrate how Catholics can affect local, state, and federal policy through work with the media and elected officials — “with an emphasis on the federal level,” said conference science and environmental education specialist Tim Kautza.

One such federal effort will



Pope Benedict XVI and two priests look out over a pond on the grounds of Kenhurst Study Centre in Kenhurst, Australia, in mid-July. He told young people at World Youth Day that concern for sustainable development, justice and peace, and care of the environment are of “vital importance for humanity.” (CNS photo/L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO, CPP)

surely be the proposed Climate Security Act, which would set a limit on greenhouse gas emissions and allow entities to buy and sell rights to emit such gases. Not enough time remains for the current Congress to pass it, said Paul Gorman, executive director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, of which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is a member, but he said frank discussion with lawmakers kept the bill from being weakened.

Under the measure 10 percent of the revenues that would come from selling U.S. carbon emissions credits would provide assistance for poor nations affected by global warming. “Unless we can engage with developing nations, you’re not going to have agreements to curtail global warming,” Gorman said, adding that \$200 billion-\$300 billion in revenue was at stake.

Yet retiring Sen. John Warner, R-Va., a co-sponsor of the measure, excised that provision “under a lot of pressure from

Republicans in the Senate and the White House,” Gorman told Catholic News Service. “When people in the faith community heard about this, there was really very, very fierce concern. They got together with Warner and with (Sens. Joseph) Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)... and said, ‘If you take out a provision like this, faith groups are not going to be able to support this bill.’”

Warner backed down and reinserted the provision. Why?

“For the first time in the 18 years I’ve been working on this, it was the first time the religious community was unified,” Gorman said. “They were really committed to doing something about an actual piece of legislation, and they were able to constitute a significant political force and threat. The Senate committee got the message. They were really surprised.”

Added Gorman, “We were coming from authentic moral principle, we had done our homework and we made the case.”

In 1990, in the first paragraph of his World Day of Peace message, Pope John Paul II said that peace was threatened not only by war and aggression, but also by “lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources, and by a progressive decline in the quality of life. The sense of precariousness and insecurity that such a situation engenders is a seedbed for collective selfishness, disregard for others, and dishonesty.”

Pope John Paul’s successor, Pope Benedict XVI, continues to preach on environmental themes.

“The concerns for nonviolence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity,” he said in Sydney, Australia, in July for World Youth Day. “They cannot, however, be understood apart from a profound reflection upon the innate dignity of every human life from conception to natural death: a dignity conferred by God himself.”

Although many point to Pope John Paul’s message as the joining of Catholic social teaching to environmental issues, U.S. Catholics can point to antecedents in the 1975 pastoral letter *This Land Is Home To Me* by 25 bishops of the Appalachian region, and the 1980 pastoral on rural issues, *Strangers and Guests*, by 72 bishops of the Midwest.

Since then, the U.S. bishops collectively, individually and in regional groupings have addressed environmental justice issues, including the USCCB’s 2001 statement, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*.

“Caring for God’s creation means not only saving the animals and trees, but protecting humanity as well. Of particular concern to the church is how climate change and the response to it will affect poor and vulnerable people here at home and around the world,” said Cecilia Calvo, project coordinator of the environmental justice program of the USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, in an online essay posted at the bishops’ *Faithful Citizenship* Web site.

The bishops’ 2007 document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*, Calvo added, “urges Catholics to consider environmental issues before going to vote.”

Obama’s campaign platform calls for the creation of 5 million new “green-collar” jobs. Other planks in his platform include increasing to 10 percent by 2012, and to 25 percent by 2025, the amount of electricity coming from renewable sources; weatherizing 1 million homes annually; making greater efforts at energy efficiency; prioritizing the construction of the Alaska natural gas pipeline; and developing and deploying “clean coal” technology — although environmental advocates scoff at the concept, saying that mining practices and emissions from coal-fired plants means there’s no such thing as clean coal.

McCain’s campaign platform does not get into as many specifics as Obama’s, but does advocate a target for greenhouse gas emission cuts: returning emissions to 2005 levels by 2012, with subsequent benchmarks in 2020, 2030, and 2050, at which point emissions would be 66 percent below 2005 levels. McCain embraces the “cap and trade” process found in the proposed Climate Security Act.

“The key feature of this mechanism is that it allows the market to decide and encourage the lowest-cost compliance options,” the McCain campaign’s Web site says. McCain’s energy platform further calls for market-based solutions, technological advances, and international engagement to combat climate change.

“As the science has become clearer, the Congress and the current president have become more engaged in climate change. Most of those science questions are answered,” said Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. “Congress needs to — and the current and future president need to — think about ways in which we can mitigate climate change.”

The next president “will need to demonstrate some fairly serious and significant leadership in terms of the environment, but significantly, in term of climate change,” Misleh added.

“Someone has to be able to designate through very concrete ways that we need to put less greenhouse gases into the atmosphere,” he told CNS. “Besides the regulations and public policy changes, they also need to include clear measures that will protect poor people from the effects of climate change, both at home and abroad.”



October 5, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:9, 12-16, 19-20
- 2) Philippians 4:6-9
Gospel) Matthew 21:33-43

By Jeff Hedglen

When I was in grade school I had a lot of friends. We played together every day at recess and spent the night at each other's houses on weekends. We built forts in the woods, told ghost stories, talked about girls, and played a lot of sandlot whiffle ball. We were inseparable.

Something mysterious happened in the summer between grade school and middle school. Part of my group of friends found other friends. They became the popular crowd, and I was left in the dust with the rest of the group. I did not understand what had happened. I didn't feel any different, and my old friends in the new popular crowd didn't look any different. It seemed arbitrary, but for some reason I had been rejected by them.

This feeling of rejection stayed with me until my family moved to Texas. I was given a new start. There was a whole new set of people who didn't know my history of being rejected. I got

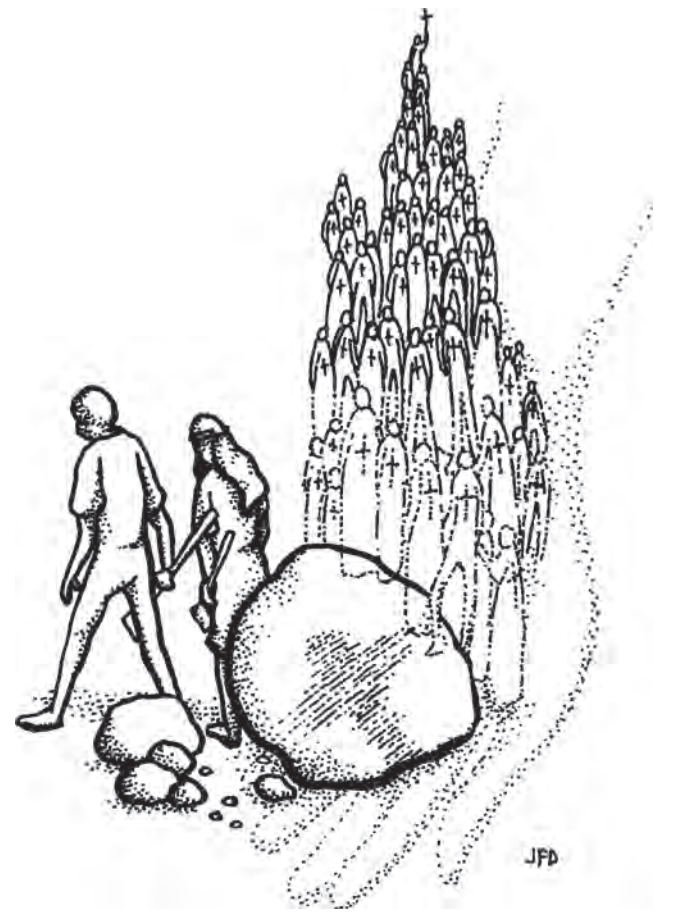
involved in church and school activities and soon found that I was being included instead of abandoned, invited instead of left out, sometimes even leading instead of following.

In my previous life in Michigan I didn't know what I could become because rejection had stifled my spirit in a powerful way. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would lead teenagers to deeper faith for more than 20 years, play in a band before 3,000 people, or be a published columnist.

I could not dream it, but God never doubted.

As today's readings show us, God protects and upholds that which he created for good. What others underestimate, and even reject, God raises up to new heights. When others saw a poor shepherd boy, God saw King David. When others saw simple fishermen, God saw the foundation of a new church. When I saw only rejection, God saw the future.

God always believes in us, no matter what. Nothing can shake his faithfulness. We may be broken, wounded, depressed, lost, exhausted, empty, or rejected, but God stays at our side, always loving, always encouraging, and always believing we are a cornerstone.



"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes."

— Matthew 21:42

QUESTIONS:

Have you ever seen God raise up someone others have underestimated?

How have you seen the faithfulness of God?

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Cross shows true love does not exist without suffering, says pope

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — God's love poured out on humanity through the cross of Jesus offers healing and salvation to all people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Sept. 17 weekly general audience, the pope reflected on his Sept. 12-15 trip to France, which he said had brought him many blessings.

"By a happy coincidence," he said, Sept. 14 when he visited the Marian sanctuaries at Lourdes was the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, "the sign of hope par excellence because it is the testimony of maximum love."

"In Lourdes, at the school of Mary, the first and perfect disciple of the crucified one, pilgrims learn to consider the crosses of their lives in the light of the glorious cross of Christ," he said.

Pope Benedict told a packed Vatican audience hall: "The cross reminds us that true love does not exist without suffering; there is no gift of life without pain. Many learn that truth in Lourdes, which is a school of faith and



Pope Benedict XVI greets people as he arrives at the College des Bernardins in Paris, where he spoke on faith and culture to 700 French intellectuals and artists Sept. 12. In his Sept. 17 audience at the Vatican, he referred to his remarks on the topic. (CNS photo/Benoit Tessier, Reuters)

hope because it also is a school of charity and of service to one's brothers and sisters."

He said that at his Sept. 15 Mass with the anointing of the sick at Lourdes, "I wanted to

meditate on the tears of Mary at the foot of the cross and on her smile, which illuminates Easter morning."

By appearing to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, he said,

Mary "opened in the world a privileged place for encountering divine love, which heals and saves."

"In reality, we are all pilgrims" on earth, he said. "We need a moth-

er to guide us. And at Lourdes, her smile invites us to move forward with great trust because God is good, God is love."

Pope Benedict said that by starting his trip in Paris, meeting government officials, cultural leaders, young people, and religious, he had an opportunity to pay homage to the contributions of French Catholicism to European culture.

"It is interesting that it was precisely in that context that there matured the need for a healthy distinction between the political sphere and that of religion according to the famous saying of Jesus, 'Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's,'" he said.

While Roman coins were stamped with the face of the Emperor Caesar, requiring a monetary tribute to him, the pope said, "In the heart of man there is the imprint of the Creator, the one Lord of our life. Authentic secularism is not doing without the spiritual dimension, but knowing that it is the radical guarantee of our freedom."

Scripture Readings



October 12, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle A. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 25:6-10a
Psalm 23:1-6
- 2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Gospel) Matthew 22:1-14

By Jean Denton

In the "First Principle and Foundation" of his spiritual exercises, St. Ignatius Loyola explained that God's gifts are presented to us so that we can come to know him more easily and better return his love.

He added, "We appreciate and use all these gifts of God insofar as they help us develop as loving persons."

This is the twofold message in today's Gospel parable about the banquet God places before us: We must recognize the richness of his gifts and also reverence them. The first part of the story shows people simply ignoring the gifts; the second part shows people partaking in the banquet but with a total lack of appreciation for what they are offered and no clue as to what to do with it.

As Ignatius suggests, how we respond to the particular gifts God offers each of us is the foundation of our lived faith.

If she were in the parable, my friend Jackie

**"You are at my side with your rod
and your staff that give me courage.
You spread the table before me."**

— Psalm 23:4-5

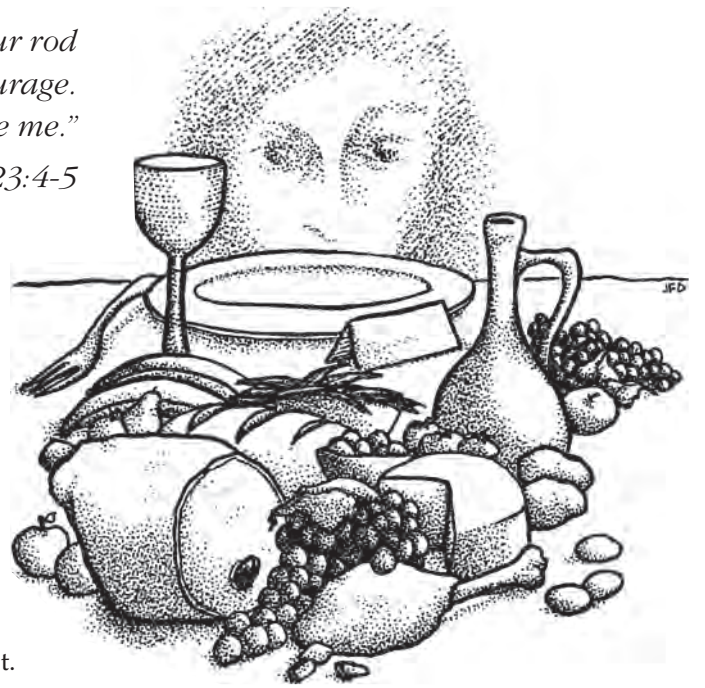
probably would not have been on the original invitation list. She wasn't born into privilege and wasn't academically gifted. Struggling through school, she watched others go to college while she worked to pay bills and tuition for courses in various professional programs. She was repeatedly disappointed by being turned down for admission or missing the final cut. Test-taking was a particular obstacle.

Last month her decade-long persistence paid off as she completed a medical technician program and passed the certification test.

But throughout her long personal struggle, she took every opportunity to give what she had — in ministry to youth, caring for family members, offering support to friends, and celebrating the lives and accomplishments of other people.

I guess you could say she was sort of sneaking food.

So as Jackie continued to hang near that banquet hall, when she finally got invited in, she was dressed for the occasion. She donned her



sacrificial love for her family; she sported deep friendships and spiritual growth she'd nurtured in teens; she wore her favorite perseverance and good grace that somehow kept her from resenting others' gifts; she was dressed in her continuous relationship with her church community — it was practically painted on; and she brought her abiding love for her host.

QUESTIONS:

What gifts has God put on the banquet table he's spread in your life?

How have you revered them — or failed to?

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Home: it's family and a sense of belonging, like Church

By Jeff Hedglen

For all but 30 days of my life, I have always had a place to call home.

Many years ago I was seeking a roommate to help make ends meet. While I waited for the right person, I put my things in storage and lived out of my car and on the couches of my friends and family. Besides that month, there has always been a roof over my head, food in my stomach, clothes on my body, and family around me.

For me, home is much more than food, shelter, and clothing. Home is also an experience of belonging. The "home" I grew up in, I experienced in at least eight different structures we lived in, in three different states. The things that made it home were always there: Mom, Dad, my two sisters and two brothers, along with the same couch that got rattier as time went by, but the pull-out bed was always somehow magically comfortable when it was shared by a sleepover friend.

When I look back to those

No two churches are the same, and no two parish communities are the same, but they all have one thing in common:

They are places people go to find God, and in God there is belonging and the deepest sense of home.

younger years, I distinctly remember quilts that my grandmother made on all the beds, furniture that spanned decades, times that we spent around the one television in the house while popcorn popped in the kitchen, trees to climb in the backyard, and sharing a room with my brother. Somehow this cocktail of memories makes up a lot of what it means to me to be home.

Home, though, is not just caught up with childhood memories of people, places, and possessions; in my teenage years my friends were the main contributors to my

feeling of comfort and belonging. The connections I had with them seemed more real than anything I had experienced up until then. We would joke and philosophize about everything trivial and unanswerable. We would share dreams and long for independence. Most of all, we traveled the sometimes unfriendly and always awkward road through adolescence, together. This was as much home for me as snuggling under grandma's quilt.

Church is another place that has brought me the experience of home. Everything from the

varied human connections I have had at church to the supernatural experience of the sacraments, home has always been caught up in encountering God. No matter where I am or how I am feeling, being in a church brings that familiar feeling of home. No two churches are the same, and no two parish communities are the same, but they all have one thing in common: they are places people go to find God and in God there is belonging and the deepest sense of home.

The Scriptures tell the story of a young man who had grown tired of his home. He wanted to go out on his own. Though I imagine this was a very difficult thing to do, his father allowed him to leave with his inheritance. In a few months the young man was out of money and found himself longing to be back home in his father's house.

He does return home, and he is greeted by the father with much joy and celebration. The son who has stayed at home becomes jealous of this party

being thrown for his rebellious brother. "Why was I never given a party?" he asks his father. In reply his father informs him that all that is at the home, has always been there for him. All he had to do was ask.

This story reveals some important truths about what it means to be home. First, home is a place we can leave. Second, home is a place we can return to. Third, home is a place to be enjoyed and not taken for granted.

The places we call home do not always live up to the ideal experience of belonging. There are certainly parts of my story that are not wrapped in quilts and fresh baked cookies. I know that home is not always perfect, but it is still a place I long to be because I know in the truest of homes is the truest of fathers, always calling me back to a place where I belong. 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.

Nos acercamos al otoño expresando nuestra gratitud a los santos que nos han precedido en la fe, y recordando el regalo de la vida

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en el Señor,

Quisiera ofrecer algunas reflexiones para el mes de septiembre, basadas en algunas de las Fiestas de los Santos para este mes y días siguientes.



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann

El 3 de septiembre celebramos la fiesta de San Gregorio Magno. Nació en Roma alrededor del año 540. Un breve conocimiento de la historia de ese tiempo nos dice que era una época de gran caos en la sociedad por la caída del Imperio Romano. La única fuerza presente que pudo ofrecer buena influencia y estabilidad era la iglesia. San Gregorio fue elevado, renuente, a la Sede de San Pedro el 3 de septiembre de 590; la Liturgia de las Horas observa que "lo elevaron a la silla de San Pedro y demostró ser un verdadero Pastor realizando su oficio, ayudando a los pobres, difundiendo y consolidando la fe. Escribió extensivamente sobre temas morales y teológicos." Especialmente a la luz de su oficio magisterial, es importante reflexionar sobre el ministerio y el oficio de todos los catequistas en nuestra diócesis, a quienes les rendimos un reconocimiento el Domingo Catequético. Todos los que están involucrados en este ministerio vital, en todas sus ramas, pasan incontables horas preparándose, enseñando, y en otras tareas en nuestras parroquias, escuelas, y otras facetas de la vida diocesana. Son merecedores de nuestro reconocimiento y agradecimiento por este trabajo y ministerio apostólicos, y pueden ayudarnos a vivir y reflexionar sobre las palabras de San Gregorio Magno sobre su relación con el Señor cuando dijo "porque lo amo, no me prevengo de hablar sobre El."

El 26 de septiembre es el día de la fiesta de dos hermanos médicos de los comienzos de la iglesia, los Santos Cosme y Damián. Se conocían por su cuidado gratuito de los enfermos y son los santos patronos de médicos, cirujanos, farmacéuticos, barberos y ciegos. Quiero mencionarlos de forma especial porque su día de fiesta

Octubre nos trae el mes de Respetar la Vida, y nuestro periódico nos traerá más información sobre esto, incluyendo una carta del Obispo Farrell y yo para ambas diócesis durante este mes tan importante.

es un día importante para nuestros Franciscanos Regulares de la Tercera Orden (TOR), una parte importante en la vida de nuestra iglesia local. La jefatura internacional de los frailes TOR (conocida como "la Casa General") está situada en la Iglesia de los Santos Cosme y Damián en Roma, al borde del Foro Romano. En este día, roguemos de manera especial por los frailes y demosle gracias a Dios por el por el ministerio y presencia de los TOR en nuestra diócesis.

El 27 de septiembre es el día de la fiesta de San Vicente de Paúl. Nació en Gascoña, Francia, en 1581 y murió en París en 1660. La Liturgia de las Horas observa, referente a su vida, que "fundó la Congregación de la Misión para supervisar la formación de sacerdotes y para dar ayuda a los pobres. Con la ayuda de Sta. Luisa de Marillac, también fundó la Congregación de las Hijas de la Caridad." Sus descendientes hoy, los Vicentinos y las Hijas de la Caridad y la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul, continúan su misión y visión de cuidar a los pobres en el nombre de Cristo. Puedo decir sin vacilar que la vida de la iglesia actual en Texas tiene una deuda de gratitud a uno de los herederos espirituales de San Vicente: el Obispo Juan Marie Odin, CM. Trabajó en Texas en los primeros y difíciles años de la vida de la iglesia aquí, a partir del 1840 hasta 1861. Nuestra Iglesia ha heredado un valioso legado que se debe a su vida, celo apostólico y amor de Cristo. El Dr. Patrick Foley observa que, aunque Odin fue designado más adelante como Arzobispo de New Orleans durante la época difícil de la guerra civil y de la reconstrucción, "su legado más grande fue la de construir la fe en el Texas del siglo XIX."

El 4 de octubre celebramos el día de la fiesta de San Francisco de Asís.



Este cartel es parte de los materiales para el programa "Respetar la Vida" de los obispos de EEUU, distribuido por la Oficina de Actividades en Pro de la Vida. Esta oficina tiene como lema "Esperanza y confianza en la vida", centrado en el mensaje del papa Benito XVI durante su celebrada visita a los Estados Unidos en abril. (CNS)

Nació en Asís en 1182, y "después de su juventud despreocupada y cómoda, renunció a sus riquezas paternas y se dedicó a Dios. Llevó una vida de pobreza evangélica y predicó el amor de Dios. Estableció una regla de vida, que sus compañeros siguieron y que ganó la aprobación de la Santa Sede. Posteriormente, fundó una orden de monjas y una sociedad para laicos que practicaban penitencia mientras vivían en el mundo. Murió en 1226. Actualmente hay mucho interés en San Francisco debido al énfasis moderno en la ecología y el medio ambiente. Importantes como éstos pueden ser, no debemos pasar por alto el hecho de que la vida de San Francisco es de un amor intenso por Cristo, que dio lugar a una verdadera reforma espiritual de la iglesia. Era importante para Francisco que su primera regla fuera aprobada por el Obispo de Roma, de modo que sus "pequeños hermanos" y su manera de vida fueran una parte de la iglesia, y nunca apartado de ella. Su énfasis en la penitencia, el amor a Cristo crucificado, y la presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía no se deben pasar por alto para favorecer el énfasis actual de algunos que tiende a ser más político. Nuestra

diócesis es bendecida por muchos miembros de la familia franciscana. Si su parroquia o programas educativos o programas religiosos de retiros espirituales son servidos por alguien de la familia franciscana en nuestra diócesis, agradézcanselo por favor y agradezcan al Señor por ellos. San Francisco mismo dice "O cuán felices y bendecidos son los que aman al Señor y hacen como el Señor mismo dijo en el evangelio: Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón y con toda tu alma, y al prójimo como a ti mismo. Por lo tanto, amemos a Dios y adorémosle con pureza de mente y corazón. (De una carta escrita a todos los fieles por San Francisco de Asís.)"

Octubre nos trae el mes de Respetar la Vida, y nuestro periódico nos traerá más información sobre esto, incluyendo una carta del Obispo Farrell y yo para ambas diócesis durante este mes tan importante.

Dios los bendiga y les agradezca siempre.

+Kevin W. Vann
Obispo de Fort Worth

En Francia, el Papa Benedicto muestra las muchas dimensiones de su ministerio

Por John Thavis
Catholic News Service

LOURDES, Francia — Ser papa no es un trabajo unidimensional, un hecho que fue claramente evidente durante la visita de cuatro días del Papa Benedicto XVI a Francia.

Llegando a París el 12 de septiembre, el Papa primero estuvo en un encuentro político importante que intentó edificar sobre la nueva apertura demostrada hacia la iglesia por el presidente Nicolas Sarkozy.

Después, en una breve reunión con los judíos, él pudo poner en una cápsula de 20 elegantes líneas el respeto de la iglesia por el judaísmo y su firme rechazo del antisemitismo.

Esa noche el Papa se deslizó hacia su rol académico y ante 700 académicos e intelectuales pronunció una conferencia sobre la influencia del monacato en la civilización occidental.

Él luego cambió el paso y dirigió vísperas en la catedral Notre Dame con sacerdotes y religiosos, enfatizando que, aunque sus filas puedan estar angustiándose, el rol de ellos en la iglesia no ha perdido nada de su valor y, de hecho, es irremplazable.

Finalmente, se paró afuera y energizó a una muchedumbre de 40,000 jóvenes que esperaban, arrancando rugidos de aprobación cuando dijo que la iglesia los necesita y que tiene confianza en ellos.

Fue un comienzo arrollador y demostró una versatilidad pastoral notable de parte del pontífice

de 81 años de edad.

Al día siguiente, después de celebrar la Misa en París para una muchedumbre más grande de lo esperado, fue a Lourdes y mostró otro lado de su rol como pastor universal, un lado mariano.

No es secreto que, como teólogo y obispo, el Papa Benedicto no estuvo siempre cómodo con la devoción mariana y los reclamos de apariciones. Pero a través de los años él ha ampliado sus opiniones, diciendo en el 2002: "Mientras más viejo soy, más importante es para mí la madre de Dios".

Así que en Lourdes los peregrinos escucharon al académico papa predicar el valor de la "oración humilde e intensa" como el rosario. Dijo a sus oyentes que la devoción a María no es una forma de "infantilismo piadoso", sino una expresión de madurez espiritual.

Cuando bebió del manantial de Lourdes, que muchos peregrinos creen es fuente de curaciones milagrosas, él estaba demostrando que el cristiano vive por señales y símbolos simples así como por ideas teológicas.

Era de esperarse que el viaje del Papa a Lourdes fuera comparado a la emotiva visita del Papa Juan Pablo II al santuario en el 2004. Enfermo e inestable, el fenecido papa tuvo que pedir ayuda en el altar; ese fue su último viaje al extranjero.

El Papa Benedicto no fue un testigo personal del sufrimiento como su predecesor, pero no dejó duda que el ministerio a

los enfermos es una medida del catolicismo.

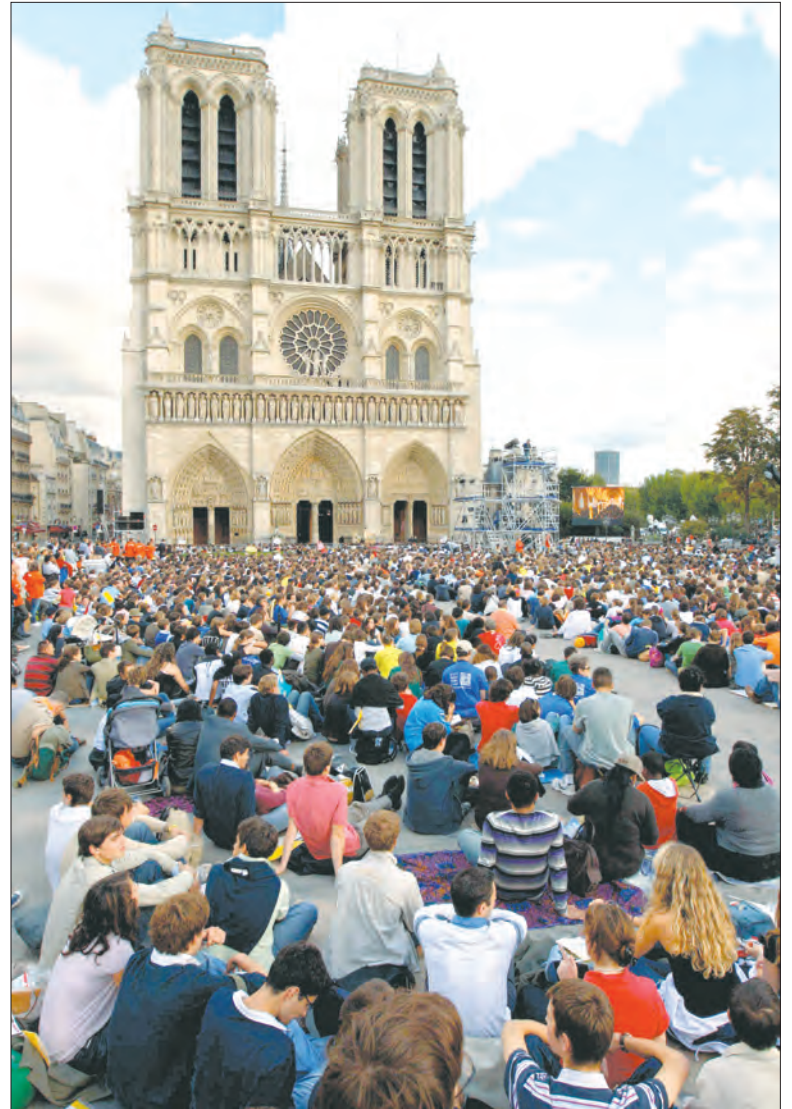
En su Misa con miles de personas enfermas el 15 de septiembre, el día final de su visita, él agradeció a los católicos en Lourdes y en todo el mundo que, como voluntarios donan su tiempo y esfuerzo para ayudar a los enfermos.

Eso destacó un tema clave del pontificado del Papa Benedicto, uno que ha enfatizado en encíclicas pero que a veces se pasa por alto: que la caridad personal, el amor en acción, es la más alta expresión de la fe en Jesucristo.

Otra diferencia entre el papa Benedicto y el Papa Juan Pablo surgió durante la visita. El fenecido Papa, en su primer viaje a Francia en 1980, criticó fuertemente la separación francesa de la fe, preguntando a los católicos: "Francia, la hija mayor de la iglesia, ¿eres fiel a la promesa de tu bautismo?".

El Papa Benedicto tomó un enfoque más suave aludiendo a los problemas pastorales pero manteniendo el enfoque en lo positivo, por ejemplo, ante la muchedumbre entusiástica de 260,000 personas en su liturgia en París. En su charla final ante los católicos franceses los elogió por su "fe firme" y dijo que había sido similarmente animado por la fuerte concurrencia de jóvenes a una vigilia en París.

Donde ofreció el consejo más educativo fue en su charla ante los obispos franceses. Tocó un punto doloroso cuando pidió a los obispos mostrar flexibilidad



Miles de jóvenes esperan la llegada del papa Benito XVI a la catedral de Notre Dame de París el 12 de septiembre. El papa dirigió un servicio de oración en la catedral, para luego reunirse con los jóvenes en la explanada frente a la catedral. (CNS foto/Charles Platiau, Reuters)

hacia los tradicionalistas que quieren aprovechar el cambio de reglas de él en 2007 sobre el uso del Rito Tridentino, el rito de la Misa usado antes del Concilio Vaticano Segundo.

En general, sin embargo, el Papa enmarcó su mensaje en términos optimistas. Fuere

hablando con políticos, trabajadores pastorales, académicos, enfermos o jóvenes, él enfatizó que la iglesia está en su hogar en Francia y que su voz, incluyendo la voz de la oración, debe continuar siendo escuchada.

Los obispos buscan que se ponga fin a las redadas aplicadas por inmigración

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Si los funcionarios federales de inmigración no pueden crear condiciones más "humanas" cuando aplican las redadas en contra de inmigrantes indocumentados, entonces "esta aplicación de redadas debe ser abandonada", dijo el obispo John C. Wester de Salt Lake City, presidente del Comité de Inmigración de los obispos de Estados Unidos.

Las redadas, llevadas a cabo por la división de coacción de Inmigración y Aduanas del Departamento de Seguridad del Suelo Patrio, "revelan, tristemente, las fallas de un sistema de inmigración gravemente defectuoso", dijo el obispo Wester en rueda de prensa del 10 de septiembre en las oficinas centrales de los obispos en Washington.

"El costo humanitario de

estas redadas es inmensurable e inaceptable en una sociedad civilizada", añadió. "Nuestra actual política de acción logra muy poco para resolver el problema de inmigración ilegal en este país; simplemente aparentan que lo hacen, con frecuencia a un precio alto de la integridad familiar y de la dignidad humana".

El obispo Wester hizo notar que después de que el Congreso no logró la aprobación de leyes completas de inmigración, el año pasado, el Departamento de Seguridad del Suelo Patrio empezó a llevar a cabo redadas masivas, especialmente en lugares de trabajo.

Una redada llevada a cabo en el mes de mayo pasado en la empacadora de carne más grande del mundo de alimentos autorizados por la religión

judía (llamada genéricamente "kosher"), en Postville, Iowa, dio por resultado el arresto de 389 personas y el expediente de cargos criminales en contra de 305 trabajadores. El obispo Ricardo Ramírez de Las Cruces, New Mexico, dijo en la rueda de prensa que el Departamento de Seguridad del Suelo Patrio había llevado a cabo redadas en Roswell, New Mexico, durante la misma semana en la que el Comité Administrativo de los obispos de Estados Unidos llevaba a cabo sus reuniones del 9 al 11 de septiembre.

El obispo Ramírez dijo que la asistencia fue "notoriamente baja" en la Misa anual especial que celebró en la diócesis el 7 de septiembre. "Hay miedo", añadió. "La gente tiene miedo hasta de ir a la tienda de comida".

"Muchas familias latinas tienen un estado legal mixto y temen que se les obligue a separarse", dijo el obispo James A. Tamayo de Laredo que también estaba presente en la rueda de prensa. "En la medida en que las familias se destruyen, también las comunidades se destruyen".

Las redadas, añadió el obispo Tamayo, "ponen en oposición a seres humanos uno en contra de otro de modo violento y aterrador".

El presupuesto de coacción de inmigración del Departamento de Seguridad del Suelo Patrio aumentará de \$9,7 mil millones que era en 2004 a \$15 mil millones en 2009, de acuerdo a Donald Kerwin, director ejecutivo de la Red Católica de Inmigración Legal. "Al presente, añadió, se han levantado 338 millas de cerca

fronteriza y se han añadido miles de agentes a la Patrulla Fronteriza que vienen a aumentar la fuerza existente de 17,000.

"El Departamento de Seguridad del Suelo Patrio detiene a 32,000 personas cada noche, la mayoría de ellas en 310 prisiones locales", dijo Kerwin, añadiendo que las redadas en los lugares de trabajo se caracterizan por "su frecuencia, su extensión, el juicio criminal de muchos de los arrestados y sus efectos devastadores en contra de las familias y de la comunidad".

Dijo que las personas a las que se señaló como criminales en Postville "fueron presionadas a aceptar un acuerdo con el fiscal so pena de sufrir cargos criminales más severos".

temas

elecciones 2008



Campaña 08: ¿Cómo dan la talla los planes de reforma médica de los candidatos?

Por Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Los dos candidatos presidenciales principales

están de acuerdo por lo menos en una cosa: la reforma de servicios médicos debe ser una alta prioridad para la próxima administración. Pero cuando viene a los detalles, desaparece gran parte del terreno común entre el senador republicano John McCain y el senador demócrata Barack Obama.

En su documento del 2007 sobre la responsabilidad política, "Ciudadanía Fiel", los obispos de Estados Unidos dijeron que cualquier esfuerzo de reformar el sistema de servicios médicos debe respetar la dignidad humana y proteger la vida humana; satisfacer las necesidades de los pobres y de los que no tienen seguro, incluyendo las mujeres embarazadas, los niños no nacidos, los inmigrantes y otras poblaciones vulnerables; proteger los derechos de conciencia de los católicos y de las instituciones católicas; y proveer cuidado eficaz y compasivo para aquellos que tienen VIH y SIDA.

"Todas las personas tienen derecho a servicios médicos sin importar dónde trabajan, de dónde vienen o cuánto dinero tienen", dijo Kathy Saile, directora de la Oficina de desarrollo social nacional en el Departamento de justicia, paz y desarrollo humano de los obispos, en un comentario sobre los servicios médicos y "Ciudadanía Fiel".

"Los servicios médicos de calidad deben estar accesibles a toda persona como parte del respeto básico por la vida y la dignidad humana", añadió.

Ambos, Obama y McCain, dicen que los planes de reforma de los servicios médicos esbozados en sus sedes de campaña en Internet y en discursos reducirían el número de estadounidenses que no tienen seguro, contendrían los costos ascendentes, mejorarían la calidad y el funcionamiento de los



Diagnosticada con cáncer de los riñones, Robin Salerno, de Wolcott, New York, gana mucho dinero como cocinera para satisfacer los requisitos de Medicaid, pero no lo suficiente para tener seguro médico privado. Salerno, fotografiada en su lugar de trabajo en junio, está dentro de los 47 millones de personas en EEUU sin seguro médico. (CNS Photo/Mike Cupri, CATHOLIC COURIER)

servicios médicos, evitarían que la cobertura de aquellos que tienen condiciones preexistentes sea cancelada por sus planes médicos y fomentarían cierto grado de flexibilidad estatal.

El plan de Obama requeriría que los patronos ofrecieran "cobertura significativa" a sus trabajadores o que paguen un porcentaje de su nómina a un nuevo programa público. Todo niño en Estados Unidos estaría cubierto y se requeriría que los aseguradores de salud mantengan a los adultos jóvenes hasta la edad de 25 años en el plan de sus padres mediante la cobertura familiar.

La pieza central de la propuesta avanzada por McCain es un crédito contributivo por servicios médicos para familias e individuos, apareado con la eliminación del trato favorable en los impuestos de los seguros médicos financiados por patronos. Cualquier persona que no use la cantidad entera del crédito contributivo para comprar seguro médico podría depositar los fondos sobrantes en una cuenta de ahorros de salud para ser usados durante otro año.

El debate sobre los servicios médicos es uno muy personal para gente como Robin Salerno, de Wolcott, Nueva York. Diagnosticada recientemente con cáncer suprarrenal, Salerno gana \$17,000 anuales trabajando seis días a la semana como cocinera y mesera en una cafetería local.

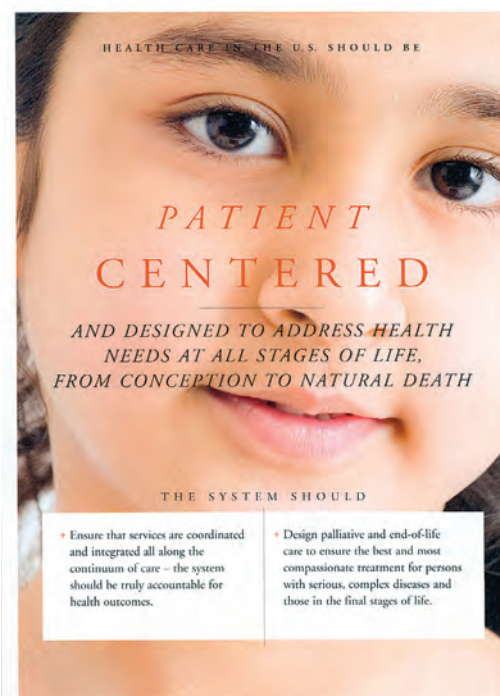
En noviembre del 2007, los obispos de EEUU adoptaron el documento FORMANDO CONCIENCIAS PARA UNA CIUDADANÍA EN LA FE: UNA LLAMADA A LA RESPONSABILIDAD POLÍTICA, como plan de acción conteniendo directrices del magisterio social de la iglesia para guiar la participación política de los católicos. Este reportaje es parte de una serie del Catholic News Service sobre el ajuste de las posiciones de los candidatos presidenciales demócrata y republicano a los principios presentados en CIUDADANÍA EN LA FE.

seguro, eficaz y de alta calidad, dice el documento Visión.

"Ninguno de los planes de reforma, según están actualmente, satisfacen nuestros principios para la reforma", dijo Lisa Smith, primera directora para relaciones gubernamentales en la Asociación médica católica en Washington. "No estoy diciendo que los planes no puedan llegar a esto, sino que todavía no han llegado".

Los planes de ambos, McCain y Obama, están actualmente "en forma de esbozo", sin "detalles suficientes para saber si harán una diferencia substancial" para reducir el número de estadounidenses que no tienen seguro de los 47 millones actuales. "Simplemente tendremos que esperar y ver", dijo a Catholic News Service el 14 de agosto.

Clarke E. Cochran, coautor de "El voto católico: Una guía para los perplejos", publicado recientemente por Orbis Books, dijo que ni el plan de Obama ni el de McCain satisfacen completamente los criterios establecidos por "Ciudadanía Fiel" y por el documento Visión de la CHA para la reforma de servicios médicos.



EACH OF US DESERVES A RESPONSIVE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER...
Many patients express frustration with their inability to participate in decision making, to obtain needed information, to be heard and to participate in systems of care that respond to their needs.
(INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE)



Encontrarán una extensa gama de recursos educacionales y demás para ayudar a compartir el mensaje de Ciudadanía en la Fe en el sitio de Internet www.faithfulcitizenship.org

La propuesta de Obama está más conforme al enfoque de los obispos sobre las necesidades de las poblaciones pobres, sin seguro y vulnerables y a su llamado a fortalecer Medicaid y Medicare, dijo Cochran a CNS en entrevista telefónica el 14 de agosto. Pero es "improbable que cualquier plan de Obama tendría protección para el no nacido", él añadió.

Cochran, ex profesor de Ciencias Políticas en la Universidad Texas Tech en Lubbock, ahora trabaja como vicepresidente para integración de misión en Covenant Health System en Lubbock. Él enfatizó, sin embargo, que él no hablaba como representante de Covenant.

Aunque ambos candidatos "hablan mucho sobre la contención de costos", Cochran dijo, ninguno de los dos atiende las razones subyacentes de los precios ascendentes ni tiene un plan eficaz para reducirlos. Ambos planes también son silenciosos en cuanto a la cobertura médica para los inmigrantes que están en el país ilegalmente y en cuanto a las protecciones de conciencia, añadió él.

Esta es una página del documento introducido esta primavera por la Asociación católica de salud (CHA), donde se presenta su visión para reformar el sistema nacional de atención médica. El documento, de 15 páginas, presenta varias directrices para la reforma, incluyendo principios estableciendo que la atención médica "debe estar disponible para todo el mundo" y "centrada en el paciente."

Campaña 08: Economía vista como factor prominente en elecciones estadounidenses

WASHINGTON (CNS) — La economía será un factor clave al elegir un presidente este otoño para Kathryn Hughes, residente de Ithaca, Nueva York, y su esposo, quienes están luchando financieramente para enviar dos hijos a la universidad y ayudar a otra hija que es madre soltera con tres hijos.

Como fiel feligresa de la iglesia católica Immaculate Conception en Ithaca, la madre, abuela y recién naturalizada ciudadana estadounidense de 43 años de edad ha seguido el llamado de su pastor a ejercer responsabilidad política en las elecciones nacionales de noviembre, la primera vez que ella emitirá un voto en una campaña presidencial.

“La economía nos ha afectado en todas las maneras”, dijo Hughes, natural de Gran Bretaña que se convirtió en ciudadana estadounidense en el 2006. “Somos la clase media y sentimos la presión”.

En su opinión las políticas económicas del presidente George W. Bush han ayudado a los ricos y en cierto modo han sido beneficiosas para los desesperadamente pobres, pero han ignorado las luchas de los estadounidenses de la clase media.

Durante años Hughes se ha sentido bendecida por la buena fortuna que ella y su esposo encontraron después de inmigrar en Estados Unidos en la década de 1990. Ambos encontraron empleos con paga decente y pudieron comprar una casa en una comunidad segura, donde ellos criaron a sus tres hijos.

Sin embargo, según la economía se agrió en años recientes y sus hijos entraron en la universidad, la pareja descubrió



Danielle Burlingame (arriba a la izquierda) y su madre Kathryn Hughes (a la derecha) posan con los niños de la primera — Genevieve, de 1 año de edad, Darren, de 3 años, y Katie, de 2 años — en un parque infantil cerca de su casa en Newfield, New York, el 27 de agosto. Burlingame es una madre trabajadora soltera, y dice que necesita toda la ayuda que pueda recibir de sus padres durante estos tiempos tan difíciles de la economía nacional. (CNS Photo/Mike Cupri, CATHOLIC COURIER)

que sus ingresos no pagarían las cuentas de matrícula, pero que ganaban demasiado dinero para recibir ayuda gubernamental.

“Así que ahora nosotros y nuestros hijos debemos entrar en deuda”, Hughes dijo. “También he tenido que reducir la brecha para mi hija, madre soltera de tres hijos, porque ella es madre de bajo ingreso que trabaja con pocos beneficios que no suman lo suficiente para echar gasolina en su automóvil para ir y venir del trabajo”.

En su documento del 2007, “Formando conciencias para la ciudadanía fiel: Un llamado a la responsabilidad política”, los obispos católicos estadounidenses dijeron: “Somos llamados a juntar nuestros principios y nuestras opciones políticas, nuestros valores y nuestros votos, para ayudar a edificar un mundo mejor”.

“Los obispos piden a los votantes católicos enfocarse no en preguntas políticas tales como ‘¿Está usted en mejor condición que lo que estaba hace dos o cuatro años?’”, dijo Thomas Shel-

labarger, asesor de política para asuntos urbanos y económicos en el *Departamento de justicia, paz y desarrollo humano* de la *Conferencia Estadounidense de obispos católicos*. “En vez, cada uno de nosotros debe entrar en la cabina de votación enfocado en las dimensiones éticas y morales de las políticas públicas que afectan a la comunidad completa”.

El impacto que la economía está teniendo en la vida familiar del clan Hughes y de millones como ellos en Estados Unidos es un asunto moral y una preocupación legítima para los votantes, dijo Shellabarger.

“La Iglesia Católica reconoce el increíble ajetreo de la vida familiar y las exigencias de trabajo que abruman a las familias”, dijo. “Muchos problemas apremiantes que enfrenta la vida familiar se deben a las amplias fuerzas sociales, particularmente la tensión económica. La decisión de un hombre y una mujer de casarse para levantar una familia es significativa, muchas consideraciones involucrando. No obstante, hoy día, sin un empleo

que pague un salario familiar, el matrimonio y comenzar una familia parecen imposibles”.

El salario mínimo es actualmente \$6.55 por hora o \$13,624 anuales, pero para una familia de dos la línea de pobreza es \$13,167 y para un padre y dos hijos la línea de pobreza es \$16,079.

Los ingresos anuales necesarios para pagar un alquiler de mercado justo nacionalmente para un apartamento estudio son \$19,320, mientras que \$22,360 son necesarios para uno de un dormitorio y \$26,520 son necesarios para uno con dos dormitorios, según un estudio realizado por la *Coalición nacional de vivienda de bajo ingreso*.

“El estudio concluye: ‘En ninguna comunidad en Estados Unidos hoy día puede alguien que consiga un trabajo a jornada completa al salario mínimo razonablemente esperar encontrar una unidad de alquiler modesta que él o ella pueda costear’”, dijo Shellabarger. Él señaló que el estudio añade: “Aunque los aumentos al salario mínimo planificados para los próximos dos años podrían poner la vivienda asequible más cercana del alcance de algunos hogares, estos no cerrarán la brecha entre las ganancias de jornada a tiempo completo en el salario mínimo federal y los ingresos necesarios para costear los alquileres que prevalecen en la mayoría de los mercados”.

Según la sede en Internet de la campaña del senador Barack Obama, nominado presidencial demócrata, si él es elegido presidente él doblaría los fondos para los programas para después de la escuela, ampliaría la Ley de licencia médica familiar, proveería a familias de bajo ingreso un

crédito contributivo reembolsable para ayudar con sus gastos de cuidado de niño y fomentaría los horarios flexibles de trabajo.

En su sede en Internet de campaña el senador John McCain, nominado presidencial republicano, hace un llamado para una *Comisión nacional para flexibilidad y selección en el lugar de trabajo*. Esta comisión sería un grupo bipartidista de trabajadores, patronos pequeños y grandes, representantes laborales y académicos que darían recomendaciones al presidente sobre cómo modernizar las leyes y los programas de entrenamiento laborales del país para ayudar a los trabajadores a equilibrar mejor las exigencias de sus empleos con la vida familiar.

El estado actual de la economía también ha hecho que Hughes limite las donaciones que ella hace regularmente a organizaciones que ayudan a alimentar y proveer ropa para los necesitados, una práctica que es altamente fomentada por la enseñanza católica.

“Desgraciadamente, los debates sobre la pobreza en muchos casos se tornan polarizados por divisiones ideológicas y partidistas”, dijo John Carr, director ejecutivo del departamento de justicia y paz de los obispos. “Esta temporada política las campañas necesitan moverse más allá de las opciones ideológicas falsas que a menudo paralizan la discusión nacional. La enseñanza y la experiencia católicas insisten que reducir la pobreza requerirá responsabilidad personal y responsabilidad social, mejores decisiones y comportamientos de los individuos y mejores políticas e inversiones por el gobierno”.

Iglesia se une a esfuerzo interreligioso para cambiar ley de inmigración

WASHINGTON (CNS) — La Iglesia Católica se ha unido a un esfuerzo interreligioso para cambiar la ley de inmigración estadounidense. Para prepararse para ese esfuerzo en el congreso siguiente, ésta también se está uniendo a Tour of the faithful, esfuerzo educativo durante septiembre y octubre para convencer a la gente de fe que apoye los cambios en la política de inmigración estadounidense.

“Estamos en un período oscuro”, dijo el obispo John C. Wester, de Salt Lake City, presidente del *Comité sobre migración* de los obispos estadounidenses, durante una llamada en conferencia el 9

de septiembre para anunciar el Tour of the faithful que visitará 17 ciudades.

“Nuestra actual política nacional de inmigración ... consiste en redadas de aplicación de la ley en lugares de trabajo” que resultan, entre otras cosas, en “la dislocación de niños ciudadanos estadounidenses de sus padres”, añadió.

“Como nación — una nación de inmigrantes, puedo añadir — no podemos aceptar el trabajo de los inmigrantes mientras socavamos su dignidad humana básica”, dijo el obispo Wester.

“A su vez, el asunto de la reforma de inmigración está recibi-

endo poca atención en la campaña presidencial y atención negativa en los medios”, añadió. Con el Tour of the faithful, dijo, “tenemos la esperanza de levantar nuestras voces para llamar la atención hacia este asunto importante durante los días y las semanas venideros de modo que un nuevo presidente y un nuevo congreso puedan atender estos asuntos a principios del 2009”.

La gira había de comenzar el 10 de septiembre con una vigilia de oración interreligiosa en el césped del capitolio de Ohio en Columbus.

Un evento será llevado a cabo el 27 de septiembre en Omaha,

Nebraska, como parte de la 10ma Conferencia Ciudadanía Fiel anual de la *Comisión de ministerio social* de la Arquidiócesis de Omaha en el *Instituto St. Cecilia* en Omaha, copatrocinador de la conferencia.

El ex presidente estadounidense Jimmy Carter está programado para hablar en un foro cristiano de inmigración el 9 de octubre en Lexington, Kentucky. La gira llegará a ciudades como Boston, Washington, Denver, Los Ángeles y Phoenix — así como a lugares más pequeños, tales como Lutz, Florida; Conway, Arkansas; y Kalamazoo, Michigan — antes de terminar en Chicago el 19 de octubre con

dos representantes nacionales y dos representantes estatales de Illinois hablando en un foro de candidatos sobre inmigración.

La inmigración es “el quintaesencial elefante en el salón”, dijo el reverendo Samuel Rodríguez, ministro de la Asamblea de Dios que es presidente de la *Conferencia nacional de liderato hispano cristiano*.

El asunto, añadió, “se esconde bajo la cubierta de un viejo término clintonesco, ‘No pregunto, no digas’”, añadió el reverendo Rodríguez. Entre la población inmigrante de Estados Unidos, dijo, “hay una cantidad increíble de angustia, inquietud y miedo”.

Ghanaian archbishop thanks diocese for hospitality

FROM PAGE 32
home to two million Catholics. Joining them for the Mass and an Aug. 30 benefit dinner was a second group of Ghanaian Catholics who worship at another location in the Metroplex, according to Deacon Dean Hermann, St. Joseph's pastoral administrator.

"Many of the Africans who came to the events were taught by the archbishop as kids," he added. "He's still a powerful father figure for them, although they've been living in this

country 10 to 20 years." Because of the basic schooling provided for them in Africa, many Ghanaians were able to come to the United States to further their education and become successful.

"You are in a good position in America, but be careful in dealing with money," Archbishop Sarpong warned the audience in his homily. "Choose to serve God. Understand the gift of Jesus by taking up the cross and following Him."

During the Mass, which in-

cluded music by both a visiting Ghanaian choir and St. Joseph's African choir, the archbishop thanked Bishop Kevin Vann for "accepting [the Ghanaian community] as his children" and allowing one of his priests, Father Philip Brembah, to work as a chaplain in North Texas.

Fr. Brembah, a diocesan priest from Kumasi, is assigned to St. Joseph Church where he helps with the weekend Mass schedule and serves the parish's African population. The Ghanaians pray together

each Sunday following the 11:45 a.m. Mass and celebrate a Mass in their native language and according to their own customs four times a year.

"It's a wonderful celebration," Deacon Hermann says of the joyous, rhythmic singing and traditional African garments that are part of the liturgy. "We're part of a global church, and we want everyone to feel welcome here."

Giving people the opportunity to pray in their own language is important, he says. "Praying in their heart language doesn't mean they don't come to the English Mass. They do," he adds. "It just helps meet their spiritual needs."

In gratitude for the friendship and love extended to the

Ghanaian community by the diocese and St. Joseph Church, Archbishop Sarpong presented Bishop Vann, Deacon Len Sanchez, and Deacon Hermann with liturgical stoles made in Ghana and decorated with African symbols. Vicki Hermann, Deacon Hermann's wife, was given a shawl made of kente cloth, and the entire congregation received white rosaries made in Africa.

"We're so honored to have the archbishop here," said Fr. Brembah, who began ministry at St. Joseph's less than a year ago. "This is a beautiful parish — not only the church itself but the people in it. It's wonderful to connect with other Ghanaians and pray for the work the church is doing in Ghana."

Archbishop Sarpong (center) accepts the hosts that are brought to him by a parishioner. Joining him on the altar are St. Joseph's pastoral administrator Deacon Dean Hermann (left) and Fr. Phillip Brembah, who serves as chaplain to the Ghanaian community at St. Joseph's. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



Hamer...

FROM PAGE 13
Once, after falling down, Nattie told her mother, "I have a scratch right here, on my fatherhead." Her parents queried her. "Your fatherhead?" they said. "Don't you mean your 'forehead?'"

"No," Natalie said, demonstrating the sign of the cross. "I mean, 'In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost.' My fatherhead."

Recently she learned there would be substitute teachers at school the following week, because her teacher was out of town. Natalie understood the gravity of this situation: would these teachers know what to do?

She prepared instructions for them: "Dear Substute," she wrote, "make shore you check are papers. Love Natalie." Nattie wrote this four times — one for each "substute." She decorated the notes with hearts — one containing a picture of God.

In the middle of this effort she called to her mother, who came to the table and found her distraught daughter amid dozens of sheets of paper thrown on the floor. (Natalie is wise and fancy, but not necessarily "green.")

The child was worried because her notes did not look neat enough. "I'm using my best handwriting, but it isn't working."

Last year at TCU, a sopho-

more dance major asked me to be advisor to a group she was instituting on campus. It would be a respect life organization, with life before birth as a theme; Melinda envisioned sub-themes of natural family planning and chastity.

I accepted her request because of the seriousness and responsibility in her heart. Melinda began the project, "Frogs for Life," and in one year, distinguished herself as a campus leader who upholds her values in non-confrontational ways.

This year, at the first meeting, I was impressed with the new membership: some 15 people, active with class loads and co-curricular activities, but with the same vision. "I think students understand that life, even when full of pain and suffering, is still a worthwhile experience," Melinda said, "and that we shouldn't abuse this fundamental privilege of existence."

I imagined the Frogs for Life as children — innocent and curious like Sam and Nat, and as the adults they will become: individual citizens, religious perhaps, parents. What amazed me was what I saw in them now, as young adults, who showed realism, high intelligence, and ideals.

One student, a junior comedic performer, said, "I love kids, but abortions to me used to feel like an 'over there' issue until a friend of mine had an abortion. It made me wish I could have told her something, because I would not have wanted her to have one."

A sophomore said simply, "I always knew creation of a person had science in it. But I grew to know there was also God in it."

Like Wallace and Gromit, we are all made of clay, constantly developing, maybe at one-people-second a day, but who knows how fast in God-seconds. And we are extraordinary, incredibly individual, every frame of every life a gift and a legacy, everyone worthy of protection.

After Sam and Nattie watched "Curse of the Were-Rabbit," Natalie listened to Sam's discussion about clay figures, doors, and keys, but only to the point where her creative brain moved past the mundane and into Nattie-land.

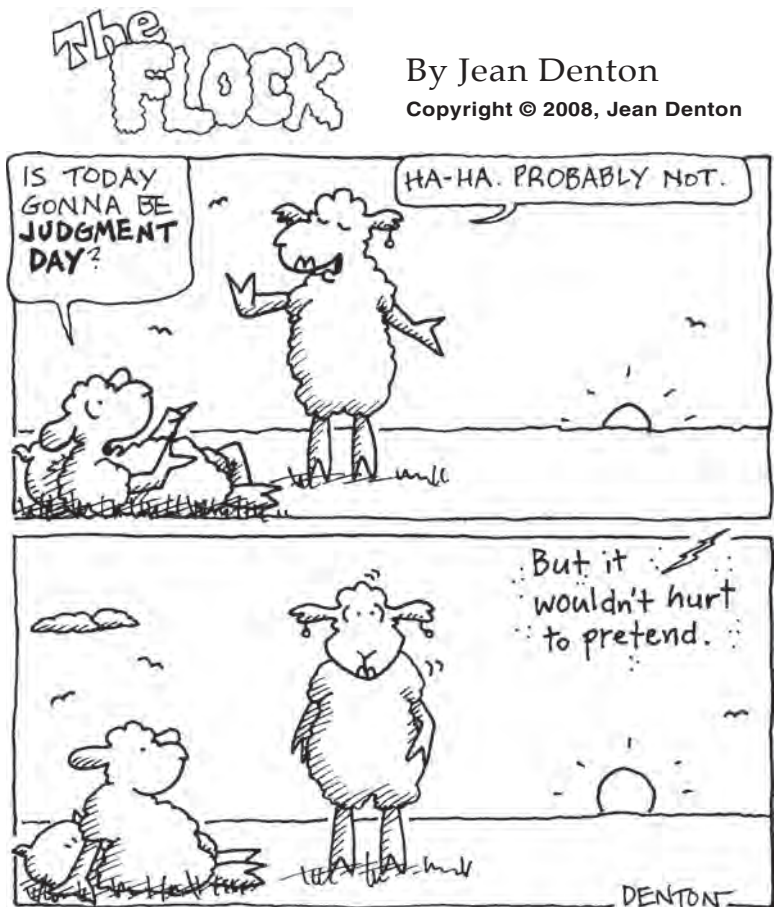
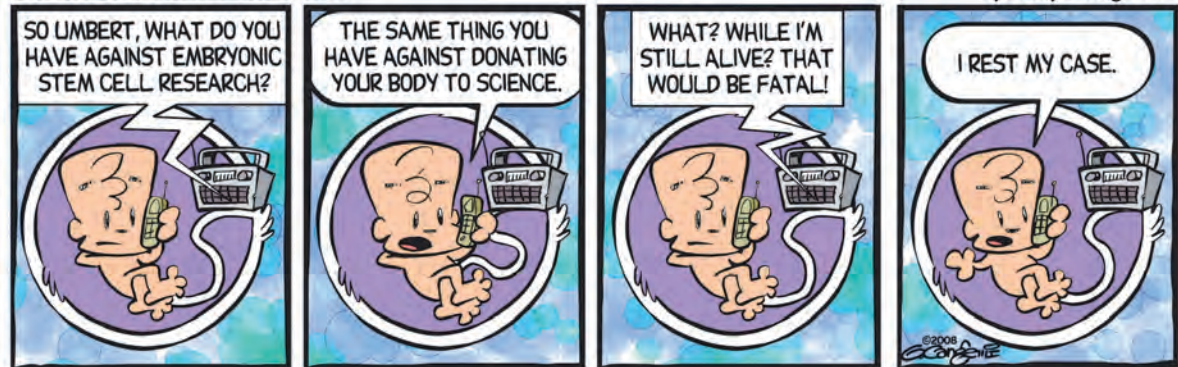
She was quiet, Meredith said, and finally switched to her light-hearted, zany self and announced: "I figured something out. 'Curse of the Were-Rabbit' is a movie about a rabbit, like Easter, but it's scary like Halloween. It's Easter-ween!"

With that Natalie skipped out of the room. Probably to play dress-up.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. In May, her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada at the Catholic Media Convention in Toronto. In 2005, Kathy's column was recognized with the first place award in the same category.

Umbert the Unborn



Calendar

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is a four-part series with dynamic speakers and engaging discussions on topical faith issues that is held in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere with young adults ranging in age from 21 to 30s. The next series will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at Los Vaqueros Restaurant in the historic downtown stockyards. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

MOTHER / UNBORN BABY

Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas and Catholics United for Life of North Texas will sponsor a Mass for "Children Who Died Before Baptism" Oct. 11 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 West Magnolia, Fort Worth. The Mass will be celebrated at noon followed by a reception with a light lunch served in the parish hall. 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. Reservations are requested, but not required. For more information and reservations, call (817) 738-1086, e-mail to mubcare@charter.net or mail to 3704 Myrtle Springs Road, Fort Worth 76116. Reservations are requested by Oct. 8.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Oct. 10-12 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street 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. For more information or to make a reservation, call Kathy or Terry Telger at (817) 294-2749. More information is also available online at www.ntexasme.org.

ECUMENICAL PRO-LIFE PRAYER

The Knights of Columbus Council #13470 St. Joseph The Worker in South Arlington will host an ecumenical pro-life rally Oct. 18 at 10 a.m. The rally, to be held in the James Miller Community Center at St. Joseph Church, 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington, will commemorate October's designation as Respect Life Month. All Christian churches in the area are invited to join in prayer and openness to the pro-life movement. For additional information, contact Phil Hoffman at (817) 274-6703 or (817) 767-1633.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Marriage Matters, a seminar for clergy, married or engaged couples, singles, catechists, marriage prep volunteers, and teens, will be offered Oct. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington. The program to be presented by Sister Renee Mirkes, OSF, PhD, the director of the Center for NaProEthics in Omaha, Nebraska, will examine the social and moral challenges of contemporary society within marriage, the Church's understanding of love and life in marriage, and will explore Pope John Paul II's understanding of the gift of self. For more information, contact Suzanna Ordoñez at (817) 560-2452 ext. 256.

MINISTRY FOR GAY / LESBIANS

The next monthly meeting of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy at (817) 927-5383, Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601, or Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370.

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 (Padre Pio House) in Arlington; and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton at 2255 Bonnie Brae Street. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.sampg.com, or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com.

To Report Misconduct

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

- **Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator,** (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jllocke@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

LIFE CHAIN

The 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. 5 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The designated areas and phone numbers for the Life Chain are as follows: Fort Worth, 3524 Alta Mesa Blvd., (817) 297-1557; Arlington, Pioneer Parkway at Fielder Road, (817) 457-9564; Azle, Hwy. 199 at Pearson Lane, (817) 594-7994; Burleson, Alsbury Blvd. at Renfro St., (817) 295-8139; Carrollton, Frankford and Josey, (972) 492-2029; Cleburne, West Henderson St. in front of the stadium, (817) 558-9805; Keller, 377 and Tarrant County Parkway, (817) 337-1721; Lake Cities/Southlake/Grapevine, Southlake Blvd. at Village Center Drive, (817) 329-0402; Mansfield, Hwy. 287 at Hwy. 157, ask for Kathi at (817) 335-9258; North Richland Hills, Rufe Snow at Loop 820 (Chick-Fil-A), (817) 847-6376. For more information, visit the Life Chain Web site at www.LifeChain.net.

CARMELITE AUXILIARY MASS

The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns invites all to join them in commemorating their 25th anniversary Oct. 29. Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop Kevin Vann, followed by a membership meeting and box lunch. The celebration will be held at noon at the Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in Fort Worth. Reservations are \$10 per person. Checks may be mailed to Nancy Dalton, 3613 Lands End, Fort Worth 76109. For more information, call Cathy Lancaster at (817) 714-8231.

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

MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES

Ministry With Families, a two-day leadership formation training program will be held Nov. 14 and 15 at Holy Family Church, 2330 Cheyenne St., Irving. The program co-hosted by parishes in the dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth and presented by the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers, is designed for clergy, religious, parish staff, lay leaders, teachers, and volunteers. The sessions will begin with a continental breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. with training being held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. The registration fee is \$70 per person or \$100 per couple and includes training manual and lunch. For more information, call Linda Moses at (972) 252-5521 or e-mail to Imoses@holymfamilychurch.net.

FLAG FOOTBALL

The diocesan Young Adult Ministry will host a co-ed Flag Football For Charity Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. The cost is \$22 per player with T-shirts and lunch included. Registration deadline is Oct. 24. All funds raised will benefit the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org or contact the individual parish young adult coordinator.

PUBLIC ROSARY

Holy Rosary School, 2915 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington, will host a public rosary Oct. 11. The rosary will be recited at noon in the Marian Garden. All are invited to participate. For more information, call Joyce Hoffman at (817) 274-6703 (home) or (817) 676-2036 (cell).

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

The Diocesan Offices of Adult Catechesis and Respect Life will present two seminars on Faithful Citizenship featuring Deirdre McQuade from the USCCB. The seminars will be held Oct. 16, at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Arlington. The first seminar is designed for priests, religious, and parish staff members and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Reservations are requested and may be made by contacting Josie Castillo at (817) 560-3300 ext. 255 or by e-mail to jcastillo@fwdioc.org Oct. 13. A second seminar entitled "Truth, Dialogue and Jacob's Well: A Scriptural Model for Faithful Citizenship," is open to the public and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 560-2452 ext. 260 or Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at (817) 560-2452 ext. 257.

GRIEF RECOVERY SEMINAR

St. Philip the Apostle Church will host a six-week education and support program for any person experiencing and coping with significant loss, such as death of a loved one, divorce, life-threatening illness, or loss of employment. The program will begin Oct. 14 and will continue each Tuesday evening through Nov. 18 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Church, Education Wing classroom 7/9, 1897 W. Main St., Lewisville. There is no cost for the program and materials will be provided. Pre-registration is requested and may be done by calling Deacon Ray Lamarre at (972) 219-1686 or going to the parish Web site at www.stphilipcc.org, and clicking on the Grief Recovery Seminar link to complete the registration form.

RETRouvaille

Retrouvaille is a program sponsored by the Fort Worth Catholic Family Life Office designed to heal and renew troubled or unhappy marriages. The next weekend program will be held Oct. 17-19. For more information or registration, call (800) 470-2230 or visit the Web site at www.retrouvaille.org. All names and conversations will be kept confidential.

LOVE LANGUAGES

In a collaborative effort of the Adult and Family Ministries, Child Care Center, Moms Group, and St. John the Apostle School, "The Five Love Languages for Children" will be presented at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, Oct. 14 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the North and South Meeting Rooms. The presentation, based on the book by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell, M.D., will offer ways to identify your child's love language. Childcare will be available with reservations made by Oct. 10 by contacting Meg Pelzel at (817) 691-9680 or via e-mail at mpelzel@stjs.org.

HOLY REDEEMER TOURNAMENT

Holy Redeemer Parish in Aledo, will sponsor a golf tournament Oct. 11 at Canyon West Golf and Sports Club located in Weatherford. A shotgun start will begin at 8 a.m. with check in starting at 7 a.m. Entry fee is \$80 per person, which includes lunch, awards, and range balls. Sponsorships are available with a deadline date of Oct. 1. Extra lunch tickets may be purchased for \$15 per person. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the new church building. For more information and to register, contact Cliff Valentine at (682) 365-8733.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, chaplain of Cook Children's Hospital and priest in residence at St. Bartholomew Church, will lead a Holy Land 10-day pilgrimage beginning June 9, 2009. Call Charles Gappa at (817) 294-1013 or (682) 552-1875 for a free brochure and early discounts.

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER / DANCE

The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council #10998, Wichita Falls, will host a scholarship dinner and dance Oct. 4 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at Sacred Heart Parish. Dinner, to include steak, baked potato, green beans, and salad will be served in the parish hall at 1501 9th St., Wichita Falls. The dance will begin at 8 p.m. with music provided by T-Bone Road band. Tickets for the event are \$15 per person, \$30 per couple, and \$150 for a table of eight. For more information, contact Mike Ryckoff at (940) 733-6453.

ST. ANN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

The newly formed St. Ann's Men Club is sponsoring a golf tournament Oct. 18 at Southern Oaks Golf Club, located at 13765 Southern Oaks Drive, Burleson. Tee-off time is 1:30 p.m. with a Four-Man Scramble. Entry fee is \$60 for individuals and \$100 for hole- sponsor, which will include signage on the tee box. Team sponsorships are also available; Bronze — \$250, includes one player; Silver — \$500, includes two players, and \$1,000, includes four-man team. Registration deadline for individual golfers is Oct. 10; deadline for all sponsors is Sept. 30. For information or to request an entry form, call Michael Hall at (817) 426-5858.

FR. KOCH FUNDRAISER

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will host the 12th annual Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser Nov. 1 at Sacred Heart Parish, 1504 10th St., 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.

ST. PAUL FESTIVAL

St. Paul the Apostle Church, 5508 Black Oak Lane in River Oaks, will host its annual fall festival Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The "Fun Fest" will feature games, food, rides, music, and entertaining contests. Proceeds from the festival will fund community projects as well as children's, junior high and senior high ministries. For more information, contact James Grudosky at (817) 232-4607.

Classified Section

YM DIRECTOR

Good Shepherd Catholic Community is seeking a full-time director for Comprehensive Youth Ministry and Young Adults. We are a large suburban parish within the Fort Worth Diocese. Qualities necessary for this position are an enthusiastic commitment to the Catholic Faith, energetic leadership style, competent computer skills, experience in developing large group activities, degree in education or theology necessary. The responsibilities for this job will include developing a core group of volunteers to work with youth and young adults; planning, coordinating, and implementing weekend retreats and evening programs, along with being responsible for advertising youth events and adhering to a budget throughout the year. Submit a résumé and application by Nov. 1 to Good Shepherd Catholic Community, 1000 Tinker Road, Colleyville 76034, attention Michael Vinez. Résumés and applications may also be sent via e-mail to mvinezgscc@yahoo.com. For more information, call (817) 421-1387. Applications may be obtained by visiting the Good Shepherd Web site at www.gscc.net/jobopp.html.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

ADVERTISE IN THE NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC (817) 560-3300

YOUTH MINISTRY

Holy Family of Nazareth Parish is seeking an experienced director of Youth Ministry. The director works in collaboration with the pastoral staff, implements a comprehensive youth ministry program for junior and senior high students, and co-coordinates a family-centered confirmation preparation program. Applicant should have strong leadership, administration, and communication skills with youth and adults, three to five years experience and a master's degree in theology or related field. Spanish speaking is a plus. Send résumé to info@holymfamilychurch.net or mail to Holy Family Catholic Church, 2330 Cheyenne St., Irving 75062.

ACCOMPANIST

Accompanist with experience at three-manual pipe organ needed for three weekend Masses at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth. Responsibilities include rehearsals with up to two choirs weekly, holy day Masses; availability for parish funerals, weddings, and major parish celebrations throughout the year is preferred. Applicant must be familiar with post-Vatican II Catholic liturgy. Send a résumé to Holy Family Church; Attn: Diane Kain, 6150 Pershing Avenue, Fort Worth 76107 or e-mail to dkain@holymfamilyfw.org. For more information, call (817) 737-6768 ext. 104

CEMETERY SPACES

Three cemetery spaces for sale in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Plaza Garden. Must sacrifice at \$1,200 each. This area permits double interment if desired. For information, call 1 (972) 242-3744.

ST. RITA INTERNATIONAL FAIR

St. Rita Parish, 5550 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth, invites all to its 30th annual International Fair to be held Oct. 4. This celebration of multi-cultural cuisine, entertainment, and games will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by the celebration of the Mass at 5 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 451-9395.

'KOUNTRY KARNIVAL'

St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis in Arlington, will host its annual Kountry Karnival the weekend of October 4-5. This year's western theme is "Kickin' It Up At The Kountry Karnival." There will be activities for all ages. For more information, contact the St. Maria Goretti School office at (817) 275-5081.

ST. ANDREW'S FESTIVAL

St. Andrew's annual fall festival will be held Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the St. Andrew school grounds located at 3305 Dryden at Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. The day's events will include a cakewalk, 3-on-3 basketball, carnival games, confetti eggs, several large inflatables, and a Los Vaqueros Mexican dinner to be served in the gym. For more information, call Anne Mason at (817) 447-1010.

ST. JUDE FESTIVAL

St. Jude Church, 500 E. Dallas, Mansfield, will host its annual fall festival Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The festival will feature ethnic food, rides for all ages, petting zoo, pony rides, a hot rod show, and a silent auction. Entertainment will include Ballet Folklorico of Fort Worth, Christian Youth Rock Group, a country band, and Grupo Neon, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 473-6709.

ST. GEORGE HARVEST DANCE

The St. George Altar Society will host its annual Harvest Dance Nov. 1 from 8 p.m. to midnight at National Hall located at 3316 Roberts Cut-off Rd., Fort Worth. Czech and Then Some Band will provide music for the dance. The evening will also feature the Harvest Fruit Pull and a cakewalk. Klobase sandwiches, kolache pastries, and nachos will be sold as well. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 831-4404.

Good Newsmaker

Ghanaian Archbishop Spong concelebrated the quarterly African Mass at St. Joseph's, bringing a message of hope and unity:

Come together for the sake of Mother Africa



Counter Clockwise from Top Left:

- Deacon Dean Hermann, pastoral administrator at St. Joseph's, joins the processional into Mass, with members of the Ghanaian community.
- Members of a second Ghanaian Catholic community in the Metroplex, dressed in matching liturgical garb, sing at the special liturgy.
- Members of the African Choir at St. Joseph's lead the congregation in singing in several of the languages spoken by the people of Ghana.
- Bishop Vann (center) smiles with Deacon Dean Hermann (left), Deacon Len Sanchez (right), and with Archbishop Peter Sarpong (far right) as the archbishop presents him with a liturgical stole, handmade in Ghana, and decorated with African symbols.
- A woman in African garb prays intently.



That was the emotional plea uttered by Archbishop Peter K. Sarpong, archbishop emeritus of Kumasi, Ghana, during a special Aug. 31 Mass concelebrated with Bishop Kevin Vann in Arlington's St. Joseph Church. More than 300 immigrants from Ghana and other African countries attended the liturgy to pray for peace and unity in their homeland.

Retired after serving the people of his diocese 38 years, Archbishop Sarpong visited St. Joseph's as part of a U.S. tour that included stops in Chicago, Detroit, Virginia, and the Bronx, New York. His mission here included asking the Ghanaian community to support Africa with their prayers and resources. He is currently raising money for a teacher-training center in the Kumasi Diocese.

For more than 20 years, the

75-year-old prelate has collected donations for an education fund, which he uses to start schools and assist needy children who could not attend class without such financial help. The archbishop is credited with founding six secondary schools, six vocational schools, a technical school, a seminary, hospital, and other institutions of learning in Ghana.

A world traveler, Archbishop

Sarpong is also known internationally for his strong opinions on peace and justice issues and his knowledge of African theology and sociology.

Many alumni from the schools he established traveled to Arlington to welcome the archbishop to Texas. Approximately 100 St. Joseph parishioners are natives of the West African nation, which is

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Bishop Vann and Archbishop Sarpong prepare to process into Mass from the narthex in the front of St. Joseph's.

Story and Photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Correspondent



Inside... This issue of the NTC

Catholic Charities links kids who need homes with foster parents who can provide emotional and physical support for them. Read about one of those loving foster families.

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Four groups of teens, young adults, and sponsors made it from our diocese to World Youth Day in Sydney for the spiritual pilgrimage of a lifetime. They brought back pictures ...

16-17

"Faithful Citizenship" offers a framework for looking at the elections. Read how the candidates' views line up with Catholic teaching on a few of the more vital issues.

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