

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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ABOVE: Pope Benedict XVI, followed by Czech Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, blesses well-wishers in the Church of Our Lady of Victory in Prague, Czech Republic, Sept. 26. (CNS photo/Petr Josek, Reuters)

Bishops sit below a giant image of St. Wenceslas during Mass celebrated Sept. 28 by Pope Benedict XVI in the place of the saint's martyrdom, Stara Boleslav, Czech Republic. (CNS photo/Petr Josek, Reuters)

Pope urges Czechs to regain values that inspired fight for freedom

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the peaceful revolt that brought down the country's communist regime, Pope Benedict XVI urged people in the Czech Republic to rediscover the spiritual and moral values that sustained their struggle for freedom.

In gatherings Sept. 26-28 with political, social, cultural, and reli-

gious leaders as well as the Catholic faithful, the pope delivered a message of hope meant to inspire both the country's majority of nonbelievers and the minority Catholic community.

Central to his message was that no society, no matter how democratic, could ever maintain a healthy and ethical sense of freedom without guidance from the truth found in God and the wisdom of faith.

The pope's trip to Prague,

Brno, and Stara Boleslav was his 13th trip abroad and his seventh to Europe. The fact that more than half of his apostolic journeys so far have been to Europe reflects his deep concern for revitalizing the continent's Christian heritage.

"True freedom presupposes the search for truth — for the true good — and hence finds its fulfillment precisely in knowing and doing what is right and just," the pope said during a meeting

SEE POPE, P. 2

Recession drives 10 percent more to seek Catholic Charities assistance

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WOODBIDGE, Va. — In a time of recession, Sondra knows she and her 4-year-old daughter Hope could be on the street.

Forced to flee an abusive relationship with her husband, Sondra, 45, who asked that her last name not be used, had nowhere to turn. Her time at the emergency shelter was limited. While Sondra had a job as a custodian at a local church, there was no way she

could afford an apartment. There was no chance of moving back home, even if she and her husband could reconcile; their home had gone into foreclosure.

Enter St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Residences in Woodbridge, Virginia. It's where Sondra and Hope now have a home.

It's a peaceful, cozy, and, most importantly, safe place where they can enjoy dinner every evening. It's where they can read and play and learn together.

For Sondra, the new home is a godsend, far better than her old life — the one that revolved around smoking crack and binge drinking mixed with beatings by her husband.

"I love it here," she said.

A program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, the residence brings stability to nine single mothers and their children, most of whom have escaped domestic violence. The

SEE CHARITIES, P. 14

Bishops say health reform should include all immigrants

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Though Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, concedes there's no political will in Washington to include illegal immigrants in health care reform, he believes it's the country's moral obligation to ensure that everyone in the nation receives proper medical care.

That includes those who enter the country illegally, he told Catholic News Service in mid-September.

"I agree that there is a special problem with those who have entered here without the permission of the United States, and that has to be looked at," said Bishop Murphy, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. "But that's a problem unto itself."

Most U.S. Catholic bishops who have spoken publicly about health care reform have expressed

the opinion that one of the richest countries in the world should find a way to guarantee that everyone within its borders has access to medical care, from conception to natural death.

Several Hispanic bishops met with members of the House and Senate Sept. 17 to convey their concern that immigrants — legal and illegal — might be left out of health reform.

Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, said that in addition to President Barack Obama's pledge not to provide government-funded care to people in the country illegally, concerns have been expressed that even legal immigrants might be left out of the system.

Bishop Soto said the exclusion of government-supported insurance for undocumented immigrants is an issue with which the bishops might disagree, but could concede as a political necessity. But the legislation "has

SEE BISHOPS, P. 21



Fr. Stephen Jasso, TOR, receives the *Ohtli* award from the Institute for Mexicans Abroad. Alberto Bernal, alternate consul for the Mexican Consulate in Dallas, presents the award at the consulate.

Fr. Jasso honored for work with Mexican immigrants

On Sept. 15, Father Stephen Jasso, TOR, pastor of All Saints Parish in Fort Worth, received the *Ohtli* award from the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior) organization. Alberto Bernal, alternate consul, presented the award to Fr. Jasso at a ceremony held in Dallas at the Mexican Consulate.

Award recipients are nominat-

ed by the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) and are presented annually by the Mexican government to a person who lives outside of Mexico but works for the benefit of Mexican citizens living outside of their country.

Bishop Kevin Vann, who accompanied Fr. Jasso to the award

SEE ALL SAINTS, P. 2

Pope urges Czechs to share light of Gospel with others

FROM PAGE 1

Sept. 26 with diplomats and political, civil, religious, and cultural leaders in Prague's presidential palace.

Under the soaring gilded stucco ceilings of the palace, the pope reminded his audience that the country's hard-fought freedom must be properly used. Leaders in society have the duty to encourage citizens to seek the truth and goodness, he said.

"Jointly we must engage in the struggle for freedom and the search for truth, which either go together, hand in hand, or together they perish in misery," the pope said.

He urged people "to apply their faith respectfully yet decisively in the public arena" so that the truth and wisdom of faith could light the path of human progress.

"Far from threatening the tolerance of differences or cultural plurality, the pursuit of truth makes consensus possible, keeps public debate logical, honest, and accountable" and ensures a society that is united and dedicated to the common good, he said.

The Czech Republic represents a unique challenge for the church. Some 60 percent of the population claims to profess no religious belief — making it the most secular country in Europe.

The largest faith community on the landscape is the Catholic Church, but Catholics are still only 30 percent of all inhabitants, and only a small percent say they are active members of the Church.

The pope told journalists aboard the papal flight to Prague "that normally those who determine the future are the creative minority," and he said this applies to European countries like the Czech Republic.

"The Catholic Church must see itself as a creative minority that has a heritage of values that are not passe but are alive and relevant," he said.

At a welcoming ceremony at Prague's airport, the pope said the impact of 40 years of an atheist totalitarian regime could not be underestimated. The flame of faith has been kept alive thanks to the many "courageous martyrs whose fidelity to Christ spoke far louder and more eloquently than the voice of their executioners," he said.

At an outdoor Mass Sept. 28 to celebrate the feast of St. Wenceslas, the patron saint of the Czech Republic, the pope said bearing witness to the Gospel was not easy.

"It is not enough to appear good and honest: One must truly be so. And the good and honest person is the one who does not obscure God's light with his own ego, does not put himself forward, but allows God to shine through," the pope



Young people in traditional dress pray before the start of Mass with Pope Benedict XVI in Brno, Czech Republic, Sept. 27. The papal Mass drew an estimated 120,000 people and included pilgrims from the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Germany and Poland. (CNS photo/Petr Josek, Reuters)

said in his homily.

Sometimes it seems there is little motivation to put Christ first when so many people who exclude God from their lives and show no respect for others end up reaching the highest pinnacles of power or achieve great success, he said.

But "one need only scratch the surface to realize how sad and unfulfilled these people are," and history points to many powerful figures in history who all of a sudden were stripped of their power, he said.

Some 40,000 people assembled for the outdoor Mass in a large field in Stara Boleslav. The town, 15 miles northeast of Prague, represents the spiritual heart of Bohemia and the origin of Czech statehood. Every year on Sept. 28 patriotic sentiment and religious devotion merge as citizens take part in a pilgrimage to Stara Boleslav, where St. Wenceslas, a 10th-century prince credited with bringing Christianity to the Czech people, was murdered by his brother.

The Mass seemed like a mini-World Youth Day celebration as past youth day theme songs were sung and thousands of young people cheered and waved the flags of various countries. Many slept overnight in tents and some even came by water on rafts from a small town three miles away.

After the Mass, the pope told the young people that Christ "knocks on the door of your freedom and asks to be welcomed as a friend." While young people are often led astray by "illusory visions" of happiness, he said, only Christ can satisfy the human



Pope Benedict XVI prays in front of the Infant of Prague statue at the Church of Our Lady of Victory in Prague, Czech Republic, Sept. 26. (CNS photo/Petr Josek, Reuters)

desire for happiness and meaning in life.

Addressing students and scholars at Prague's Hradcany Castle Sept. 27, the pope said education is not merely "the accumulation of knowledge or skills" and must include forming the human conscience so that the individual seeks to live a virtuous and ethical life.

The pope highlighted his concern for families and children during his visit Sept. 26 to the Church of Our Lady of Victory, where he venerated the Infant of Prague.

Kneeling before the 18-inch-high statue, which draws 2 million pilgrims a year, the pope gave a special blessing for all the children of the world and appealed for increased attention to children in difficulty. The holy infant recalls the beauty of childhood, he said.

"Yet how many children are neither loved,

nor welcomed, nor respected. How many of them suffer violence and every kind of exploitation by the unscrupulous," he said.

There was not much public sign of the pope's presence in Prague, with few posters and very little fanfare along the routes taken by the papal motorcade. Much of the city had emptied out for the three-day holiday weekend, perhaps spurred by dire warnings of traffic snarls during the papal visit.

But the papal visit drew Catholics from all over the Czech nation and from neighboring Austria, Slovakia, Germany, and Poland, specifically for the outdoor Mass Sept. 27 in the Moravian diocese of Brno, some 140 miles southeast of Prague. Local organizers said 120,000 people attended the event, making it the largest Mass ever celebrated in the Czech Republic.

Gathered on a mowed hayfield at the airport, the jubilant crowd waved flags and cheered when the pope's plane landed. Some pilgrims wore colorful traditional dress, while others sported backpacks and pedaled bicycles to get to the event.

The pope's homily focused on hope and how "the only certain and reliable hope is founded on God."

"History has demonstrated the absurdities to which man descends when he excludes God from the horizon of his choices and actions, and how hard it is to build a society inspired by the values of goodness, justice, and fraternity," he said.

The country is free of oppression, but people still need to be freed "from the evils that afflict the spirit," and saved from the poverty of isolation, despair, and egoism, he said.

During a vespers service Sept. 26 in Prague's St. Vitus Cathedral, the pope encouraged the Catholic community to bear witness to the Gospel even though it was not easy to do so in a country still scarred by atheism and often seduced by hedonistic consumerism and cultural relativism.

Monsignor Tomas Roule, secretary to Prague's archbishop, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, told Catholic News Service that the younger generations are getting used to the idea of being open about their faith.

He said those who have not experienced communism's hostility toward and persecution of religion are finding "it's now coming to be normal to believe" in God. He said people see how easily and openly Christians in the United States express their beliefs and that proves to Czech Christians that faith is nothing out of the ordinary or to be ashamed of.

Fr. Jasso's service to Church and Fort Worth community is honored

FROM PAGE 1

ceremony and reception, praised the priest — a native of Waco whose parents were born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico — for his years of tireless efforts to assist immigrants with their most basic needs.

"Fr. Jasso is such a role model for all of us, as priests," said the bishop. "He is truly an icon, and a source of encouragement and inspiration. He is a credit to his religious community and to our diocese."

Fr. Jasso, 77, an Army veteran of the Korean War, joined the Third Order Regu-

lar Franciscans in 1957, and was ordained to the priesthood in Rome in 1965 after completing theology studies in Rome at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the *Angelicum*).

He served as a missionary in Peru and also served in Mexico as religious superior of his congregation during the 24 years he spent in pastoral ministry while in Mexico. He was director of the IFEM (Instituto Franciscano de Espiritualidad en Mexico) for eight years and earned an MBA from the College of High Graduates (Colegio de

Graduados en Alta Dirección) in Mexico in 1993. He has served as pastor of All Saints Church since 1994.

A writer for the Fort Worth Spanish newspaper *La Estrella*, Fr. Jasso has served in a leadership capacity within the Diocese of Fort Worth; as a board member for several civic organizations; and has participated in numerous leadership summits in Washington, D.C. He currently serves as a member of the advisory board of Congresswoman Kay Granger and of the Salud Council of John Peter Smith Hospital

in Fort Worth. He was named an Outstanding Texas Role Model by Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief in April 2002.

"I am very happy to have received this award and even happier with God to have Bishop Vann present with me on such a special day in my life," said Fr. Jasso, upon receiving the *Ohtli* award, which means "path" in the Nahuatl language. "I thank the other leaders who [during the past 15 years] we've been working with to help the community ... and I thank my parishioners who have also joined me here today."

Diocesan

Sacred Heart celebrates fourth annual Family Day in the Park in Muenster



"Balloonytick Betty" amazes young and old with her balloon art. She has an impressive list of animals and other things that she sculpts into shape with balloons.

Sacred Heart Church in Muenster held its fourth annual Family Day in the Park Sunday, Sept. 20, sponsored by the parish's Unity and Fellowship Committee. The event's purpose is to draw members of the Muenster community together for a day of fun and fellowship, committee members said.

After a week of bountiful rain, sunshine greeted participants on Sunday. About 450 people gathered in the Muenster Park including Bishop Kevin Vann of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Father Ken Robinson, pastor of Sacred Heart, led the meal prayer before everyone feasted on the covered dish meal.

The Muenster High School

Honor Society served the drinks, and St. Anne's Society dished up the desserts. Snacks and treats were offered throughout the day: Boy Scouts from Troop 664 spun cotton candy, and the Muenster High School cheerleaders served snow cones.

Children bounced, slid, climbed, and bounced again on four different bounce houses. Many rode around the Park on a train driven by Herbie Schmidlkofer.

The children were able to have their faces painted by Sacred Heart cheerleaders, and bingo games were offered to everyone.

Muenster's First Baptist Church held a "Basketball Throwdown" open to everybody.

Responding to God's Call

Come join 40 Days for Life

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

So you say you haven't been part of the Pro-Life movement? Do you also say you just don't get it? Do you say that it's not for you? Do you say that it's too controversial? To stand up for principles of faith and truth is to be an adult; not to do so is to play games and politics, whether you're coming from the left or the right.

The 40 Days for Life campaign (www.40daysforlife.com) is a Christian grassroots movement designed to make a direct impact, through prayer and fasting in a public manner, against the abortion industry that has claimed the lives of almost 50 million unborn babies since the legalization of abortion on January 22, 1973. A health care industry that was founded on Christian principles of healing through prayer and medicine has turned against the health of women and exploited them when they are most vulnerable, legally murdering their children and mortally wounding the mothers' psyches.

I wrote a poem in 2005 that, in part, speaks of this reality and our lack of response:

*With no help and no support from you,
then just what is a young pregnant mother to do?
So many pregnant mothers turn to the only hands they see,
people who convince them,
"It's only a fetus and not a baby in thee."*

This year in our city 10,000 precious babies were created by God's hand, these precious babies came to life even when they were unplanned. 10,000 precious babies were murdered in the name of choice, but their mothers are left to silent suffering and years without a voice.

But many of you consider yourselves somewhere in between the pro-life and pro-choice movements. I suppose that you think that abortion should be limited or a last resort (86 percent of Americans last year, according to the Knights of Columbus and Marist Poll, hold this position) or performed only in the case of incest, rape, or when the mother's life is endangered, or not at all (60 percent). However, I ran across another poll that may make you think twice about washing your hands like Pontius Pilate. I seek peace here, but let's test your thoughts. Would you consider abortion in the following situations?

1. There's a preacher and wife who are very, very poor. They already have 14 kids. Now she finds out she's pregnant with her 15th. Considering their poverty, and the excessive world population, would you consider recommending she get an abortion?
2. The father is sick with tuberculosis. They have 4 children. The first is blind, the second had died, the third is deaf, and the fourth has TB. She finds she's pregnant again. Given the extreme situation, would you consider recommending abortion?
3. A white man raped a 13-year-old black girl and she got pregnant. If you were her parents, would you consider recommending abortion?
4. A teenage girl is pregnant. She's not married. Her fiance is not the father of the baby, and he's very upset. Would you consider recommending abortion?

In the first case, you have just killed John Wesley,

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.

one of the great evangelists in the 19th century. In the second case, you have killed Beethoven. In the third case, you have killed Ethel Waters, the great black gospel singer. If you said yes to the fourth case, you have just cast your vote for the murder of Jesus Christ!

God may very well have placed in our midst great doctors to cure many diseases, leaders to resolve global controversies, or priests to pastor our churches, but they were aborted because you and I did not lend a helping hand to women in need. Can your conscience let you sit on the sidelines any longer?

Events like the 40 Days For Life have helped me to see much more than I could 10 or 20 years ago, and others are getting the message, too.

For the first time, I see young men stepping up to be spiritual leaders and fathers in the support of mothers and unborn babies. College students from every college in the Metroplex are banding together to discuss real-life issues as they testify to the culture of death that surrounds them. Many families have come to the sidewalks adjacent to the abortion mills to give public witness through silent prayer that abortion is not the answer and to ask God to help us support unwed mothers and to create a culture of life that sees unborn children and all human life as invaluable and with inalienable rights. Stop judging and see for yourself. Sure, you have fear, but I assure you, God yearns to reveal to you many bundles of joy. Jesus, I trust in you!

I invite you to join the 40 Days for Life campaign that runs Sept. 23 through Nov. 1. It has already changed my life. May the Spirit of the Lord call you to have a change of heart and to give prayerful public witness too.

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

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

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

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

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

Couple to Couple League offers Natural Family Planning classes

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

To register for a course starting Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, contact Andrew and Samantha Mudd at (817) 284-5117. Visit www.cclfdw.org for more class dates and information.

Cursillo weekends to be held in October at the Cursillo Center

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

Separate Cursillo weekends for men and women will be held this coming October. The men's Cursillo will be held Oct. 8-11 and the women's Cursillo will be held

Our Lady of Victory School kicks off its 100th anniversary

Our Lady of Victory School, located at 3320 Hemphill Ave., Fort Worth, will kick off its 100th year celebration at its annual fall festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. All are invited for a day full of entertainment, games, food, and prizes for all ages. For more information, visit the school Web site at www.olvf.com or call (817) 924-5123.

Subiaco Academy to host Discovery Weekend Oct. 30 - Nov. 1

Subiaco Academy, a Catholic college preparatory, residential, and day school for young men located in western Arkansas, is hosting a Discovery Weekend for prospective students and their parents from Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. The Discovery Weekend is open to those in grades 7-10 and all activities are free.

Visiting students will have an opportunity to experience dorm life, join in activities with current students and take the placement exam. Activities for parents include information sessions with faculty and current parents, classroom visits, campus tours, and other fun activities. Families also have the option of visiting at any time at their convenience on weekdays or weekends.

Established in 1887 by the Benedictine priests and brothers of Subiaco Abbey, the academy offers a challenging college preparatory curriculum for young men in grades 8-12 with emphasis on honors and Advanced Placement courses plus a Learning Resource Center with focus on ADD, ADHD, and Dyslexia.

The Academy is located on Arkansas Highway 22 approximately 45 miles east of Fort Smith, Arkansas. For more information about the Discovery Weekend or to reserve a place, contact the admission office at (800) 364-7824 or e-mail admissions@subi.org.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth

White Mass announced for health care professionals

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

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

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

Golden Anniversary Celebration to be held Oct. 11

The Family Life Office will host the fourth annual Golden Anniversary Celebration Sunday, Oct. 11, for all couples who have been married 50 years or more by the end of 2009. The celebration will take place at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth.

Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at a special Mass that will begin at 3 p.m. and will include an opportunity for participants to renew their marriage vows and receive an anniversary blessing. A reception with cake and punch will be held in the Family Life Center following the Mass.

All couples married before 1959 and wishing to be part of this special celebration, are asked to call the parish office and leave their names, address, and date of marriage with the parish secretary.

NTC publication deadlines

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

Submit items to jrusseau@fwdioc.org. Items for the Oct. 16 issue must be received by noon on Oct. 7. Items for the Nov. 6 issue must be received by noon on Oct. 28.

St. Paul's to host parish mission Oct. 10-15

St. Paul the Apostle Church, 5508 Black Oak Lane, Fort Worth, invites all to their upcoming Parish Mission. "Jesus says: 'Come to Me! There's Always More!'" will be presented by Sister Joan Rodrigues, DLJS, Sister Gabriel Mary, and Sister Regina Marie, members of the religious community Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, located in Prayer Town near Amarillo. The sisters will be at St. Paul Parish the weekend of the Oct. 10-11.

The presentation will begin on Sunday at 7 p.m. and will end at 9 p.m. On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, Oct. 12, 13, and 15, the schedule will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. and Mass at 6:30 p.m. with the retreat to continue from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. "Youth Nite" (junior and senior high students) to be held Wednesday, Oct. 14, will begin with a meal in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m. and will end at 8:30 p.m.

For more information, call the parish office at (817) 738-9925.

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

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

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

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

Mother - Daughter Tea to be held Oct. 25

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

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

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

Blessed Karl's feast day to be celebrated at St. Mary the Virgin Parish

St. Mary the Virgin Parish, 1408 N. Davis Dr., Arlington, will celebrate the feast day of Blessed Karl, Emperor of Austria, with singing of Solemn Vespers and Benediction, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21. Pope John Paul II beatified Blessed Karl Oct. 3, 2004.

A reception will be held following the service. All are invited to participate. For more information on the celebration, contact the parish office at (817) 460-2278.

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

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

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

Respect Life Holy Hour changes to third Monday

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

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

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

Nolan Catholic High School's Homecoming set for Oct. 16

All Nolan Catholic High School alumni are invited to join their former classmates for this year's Homecoming celebration Friday, Oct. 16, on the school grounds at 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Nolan is extending a special welcome to this year's reunion classes of 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004.

Former Nolan students are encouraged to bring their family members for a free pre-game alumni barbecue dinner to be served at 5:30 p.m. The first 100 alumni at the dinner will receive an alumni T-shirt. Children in attendance will enjoy special activities including Viking face "tattoos" compliments of the junior varsity cheerleaders, according to information from the school.

From 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., current students will be giving tours of the school; alumni are encouraged to come and see how much the campus has changed and has stayed the same. At 7:30 p.m., the football game will begin, with the Nolan Catholic Vikings taking on Gainesville State. At halftime, there will be a special ceremony inducting members of the NCHS into the 2009 Hall of Fame.

For more information or to RSVP for dinner by Oct. 13, call (817) 395-0249 or e-mail alumni@nolancatholic.org.

Retrouvaille to celebrate 25th Anniversary Nov. 13

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

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

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father Alfredo Barba has been assigned as parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, Denton, effective Sept. 8.

Father Mark Hoa Tien Le, CMC, has been assigned as parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish, Fort Worth, effective Sept. 13.

Diocesan

Catholic Charities Fort Worth seeks to provide homes for unaccompanied refugee minors

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

For most American parents, the prospect of being driven from their homes — their children's day-to-day routines shattered, their stable lives torn apart by the terrors of civil war and guerilla attacks — is a nightmarish scenario, a situation too terrifying to imagine.

More horrific still is the thought that such violence could separate one's family forever, leaving their children alone and defenseless. And yet, across the globe, approximately 10 million children have lost their homes and their families through wars waged against civilians in countries such as Burundi, the Congo, Sudan,



Terri and Bernie, shown here with their daughter Nadia, look at their foster daughter's school yearbook while attending a training meeting for foster families of refugee children.

Somalia, and Eritrea.

These orphaned children who often live without protection in overseas refugee camps, waiting to be placed in a permanent home in another country, are called "unaccompanied refugee minors" (URM) by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). The commission defines these unattached children as youth who are under 18 years of age and have been separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult.

In the 2004 book, *Making It Home*, published by the International Rescue Committee, 14-year-old Joyce Ihuju recounts how her parents were killed in her presence by violence initiated by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in her home country of Sudan when she was four years old. Joyce came to live in a crowded refugee camp in Uganda after years spent searching for food and safety. Now living among other orphans, she writes. "I'm not sure of my next destination or what will happen to me tomorrow." She says. "I spend all my time doing lots of housework and gardening and I have no time for playing. By the end of the day my body is aching and I am exhausted. Whenever I'm asked about my family life and background, I burst into tears."

Faith Lamb, URM director at Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Worth, has heard stories like Joyce's far too many times, she says. Catholic Charities staff members, she adds, are committed to helping children like Joyce to find a loving new home, a



Staff members from Catholic Charities, representing Indian, Kenyan, Burmese, and Sudanese cultures, participate in a panel at a recent training meeting. Panel members discussed their cultural traditions as a way of helping current and prospective foster families to understand the variety of ways that culture impacts behavior.

sense of permanence, and the chance to feel safe again.

"Catholic Charities [in Fort Worth] is one of 19 programs in this country that have been asked to provide resettlement services to unaccompanied refugee minors," she says. "We help our licensed foster families to provide specialized care that includes English as a Second Language, trauma and grief counseling, cultural activities, legal assistance, independent living skills, job training, and intensive case management.

Terri and Bernie, who live approximately 100 miles outside of Fort Worth, are "thrilled," they say, to be one of the seven homes currently licensed through Catholic Charities of Fort Worth to offer foster care. The parents of five children, with two teen girls still living at home, have recently opened their home to a teenage girl from Burma.

"We're often asked, 'Why not [foster] American children, since there's plenty of need here in this country?'" says Terri. "Our answer is that American children have a safety net of social services that these foreign children do not have. Even toddlers in foreign countries are at times left to look after themselves as best they can. The Bible tells us to look out for widows and orphans, and that's what we feel called to do.

"The need is great," Terri adds. "It's worth it to us to travel all the way ... to Arlington to be at our [training] meetings, because this is so rewarding to us to reach out in this way."

While another seven homes are currently in the process of

becoming licensed, more foster homes are still needed for approximately 30 additional children, says Lamb.

"More specifically, we are also working to place children who have been victims of rape or sexual abuse. This includes victims of human trafficking," she says. "We expect to have about 40 children in our care in the Metroplex by the end of the year. We're working hard to give these children — who have suffered so much more than we can imagine — a future filled with hope."



Jennifer Anderson, a recruiter for the Catholic Charities URM program, leads a group of foster parents in discussing issues facing the refugee children in their care.

To become a Catholic Charities Unaccompanied Refugee Minor foster parent for either long or short term care, applicants must be between 21 and 65 years of age and may be single, legally married, or legally separated and must undergo a complete background check. There is no expense to the foster family. For more information about how to assist as a donor, volunteer, or foster parent in the URM program, contact Jennifer Anderson at (817) 534-0814 ext. 2236 or by e-mail at janderson@ccdofw.org.

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'JP II and Pizza Too!' Schedule

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

The topics to be covered include John Paul's teachings on:
Oct. 20 — "The Meaning of Life in Christ"
Nov. 17 — "Man in the Image and Likeness of God"
Dec. 15 — "God the Father, Rich in Mercy"
Jan. 19 — "The Holy Spirit and the Renewal of the Inner Man"
Feb. 16 — "The Vocation to Work"
March 16 — "The Vocation to Love and Suffering"
April 20 — "The Faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary"

The format for the evenings will be as follows:
6 p.m. Pizza Dinner for \$4 per person
6:30 p.m. Presentation
8:15-9 p.m. Questions and Discussion

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Fr. John Hampsch to lead 'Healing the Family Tree' conference

Father John Hampsch, CMF, a best-selling author and worldwide lecturer, will be the featured speaker at a conference on "Healing the Family Tree" hosted by the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center from Friday, Oct. 23 to Saturday, Oct. 24 at the old Immaculate Heart of Mary Church building located at 100 E. Pafford St. in Fort Worth.

"Are you not feeling well spiritually, emotionally, or physically? Have you ever wondered if sins of past generations could be impacting your life?" ask members of the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center in a press release.

The two-day conference will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday with a Mass followed by the talk. The conference talks and family tree healing Mass and prayers will resume on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No registration is required for the conference.



Fr. John Hampsch, CMF

During the conference, Fr. Hampsch will address such topics as: why people should be concerned about family healing; scriptural references of fathers' sins being passed down generations and whether mothers convey sins' effects to their offspring; when illness is not a punishment for personal or ancestral sin; what other reasons there are for sickness;

and how sin can be transmitted through generations.

Fr. Hampsch will then guide participants through a step-by-step healing process to clean up the effects of any sin in their lives that result from the sins of past generations, according to event organizers.

Fr. Hampsch is a member of the Claretian Missionaries. Listed in *Who's Who in Religion In America*, he has served as parish priest, seminary professor and rector, college professor, lecturer, writer, and editor. His main interest is bringing Jesus to the hearts of people through the mass media. For more information about Fr. Hampsch, visit his Web site at www.claretiantapeministry.org.

For more information, call (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805 or visit the center's Web site at www.queenofpeacecenterdallas.org.

Fort Worth imam to speak at Interfaith and Ecumenical Affairs Commission assembly at St. Bartholomew Oct. 18

The Fort Worth Diocesan Interfaith and Ecumenical Affairs Commission will hold its semi-annual assembly on Sunday, Oct. 18 at St. Bartholomew Church, 3601 Altamesa Blvd., starting at 2:30 p.m. The commission has announced that its guest speaker for this assembly will be Ahmad Azzaare, the resident imam of the Islamic Association of Tarrant County located in the Arlington Heights area of Fort Worth.

Azzaare was originally scheduled to speak at the May 3 assembly, but the event was canceled because of concerns about the swine flu.

The assembly will be open to visitors from parishes throughout the diocese and will help to open better lines of communication with Islamic groups and Muslims throughout the diocese, organizers say.

Born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1969, Azzaare graduated from Ain Shams Medical School in Cairo in 1994. He practiced medicine during his residency as an infectious disease and emergency physician at Helwan Governmental Hospital in the governorate of Helwan for seven years.

Azzaare memorized the entire *Quran* by the time he was 13 and started the duties of an imam and teaching Arabic by the time he was 16. He studied Islamic jurisprudence, the *Seerah*, or life,

of the Prophet Muhammad, and the *Tafseer* and *Tajweed* schools of thought for *Quran* interpretation at Al-Qiraa'at Institute, affiliated with Al-Azhar Islamic University in Cairo for two years. He also studied the science of *Hadeeth* and its terminology at the International Institute for the Sciences of Quran & Hadeeth (IISQH) in Cairo for two years.

From 1997 to 2001, the Egyptian government sponsored Azzaare to travel to different countries to preach Islam and lead *Taraaweeh* night prayer. He moved to the U.S. in 2002 to work as a resident full-time imam at the Islamic Center of Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska. He moved to Fort Worth to take his current position in 2007.

Following his presentation, Azzaare will answer questions from those present at the assembly.

Each parish in the diocese is

asked to appoint a representative from the parish to serve as the pastor's representative in Ecumenical and Interfaith activities and these representatives serve as the Parish Interfaith and Ecumenical Representative (PIER) to the diocesan assembly. Reports from representatives serve as models for other parishes in their efforts to initiate or become involved in activities beyond the parish community.

For more information, contact Monsignor Charles King, director of the diocesan Interfaith and Ecumenical Affairs Commission, at (940) 565-1770.



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Deaf Ministry celebrates Mass with chaplain in Muenster



In September, members of the Deaf Community visited Father Ken Robinson, chaplain to the Deaf Ministry Program, at his parish, Sacred Heart, to celebrate Mass in Muenster. This annual road trip promotes both deaf awareness in outlying parishes and camaraderie among deaf community members.

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Found in Time

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



This photograph of the Catholic Carpenters Club of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Fort Worth was taken in 1949. Club officers were President Guillermo Leza, Secretary Pedro Reyes, and Treasurer José Ortega. In the Sept. 18 issue of the *North Texas Catholic*, readers were asked for information about this picture. In the front row (from left to right) are: Don Florencio Ortega, unknown, Jesus Jaso, José Velasquez, Cayetano Rosales, Pedro Reyes, Guillermo Leza, unknown, Claudio Mata, and José Vasquez. Seated in the second row (from left to right) Marcelo Ortega, Juan Lerma, Fr. Antonino Bandrés, CMF, Salvador Salinas, Juan Castillo, and Nicolas Vasquez. Standing in the third row (from left to right) are: José Ortega, Gregorio Vasquez, Valentín Castillo, Gerardo Muñoz, unknown, and Francisco Jacobo.

Story by Susie Reyes

To the exclamations of "Wow," and "That's my dad," and "Do you remember?" this past week, the telephone lines were burning and the conversations have been lively (Twittering is just not the method of communication among us, but e-mail has helped tremendously!).

We — a busy group of former and current parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Fort Worth — sat in our homes, now located across the city, looking at the wonderful picture of our fathers, grandfathers, and uncles that was published in the Sept. 18 issue of the *North Texas Catholic*. That experience brought a moment of breathlessness, but also kindled the warm memories of the early 1950s at our home parish of IHM.

Martha Tracy, now a parishioner at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, shared that she was filled with joy at the flood of memories of her father, Francisco Jacobo, who appears in the back row "looking so young." Personally, the appearance of this picture was all the more exciting to me when I was told that my brother-in-law was busy snatching up

copies of the newspaper so that all his grandchildren could see their great-grandfather, Pedro Jacobo Reyes, and great-great-grandfather, Jesus Jaso, in the picture, among the neighborhood men in front of the old Catholic church in South Fort Worth.

Lifelong IHM parishioner Julia Maldonado, 81, verified from her own collection of photographs that the men were indeed members of the Catholic Carpenters Club of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Fort Worth, and the photograph was taken in 1949, soon after the arrival of Father Antonino Bandrés, CMF. IHM parishioner Eddie Castillo adds that these men were also members of the very active IHM Holy Name Society. The tools they are holding in the picture and the bare wood behind the men helps our group of IHM historians to conclude that they were busy that evening building *puestos* (booths) for the regularly scheduled *jamaicas* (festivals).

The carpenters' club also built the small living quarters — seen in the photograph — onto the back of the church for Fr. Antonino Bandrés, the Claretian priest and IHM pas-

tor who is dressed in black and seated among the men in the photo. This group of men performed many tasks at the church to make it a viable and alive community of prayer and conviviality for those who lived in "Southside." In the early 1950s, these men contributed to make sure that Padre Bandrés had living quarters, that fundraisers like the regular *jamaicas* could take place, gave their time ushering and collecting monies at Sunday Masses, and set an unspoken example of working for the church.

Former IHM parishioner Ana Maria Jacobo Steckley writes from her home in Miami, "I actually cried when I received the copies of the [NTC] paper from my sister... the majority of those men pictured worked at the Texas Steel Company. [Several] of our dads sent their girls to Our Lady of Victory School... Many of us went on to college and advanced degrees. These were the men who were a constant presence in our lives as we grew up. All of them were hard-working breadwinners and good fathers. That's our legacy!"

Editorial Assistant Nicki Prevou contributed to this story.

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St. Andrew parishioner enters novitiate for Paulist Fathers

Clark Sample, a parishioner of St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, has entered the novitiate of the Paulist Fathers with two other men during a Mass at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C.

The novitiate is the first year of formation as a Paulist priest. The three men will spend the next year learning about and living in the Paulist community at the college and discerning their vocation to the priesthood.

The members of the 2009 novice class will make their first profession in the community next fall when they commit themselves to live according to the Paulist constitution for the following 12 months and begin priestly academic studies.



Clark Sample

Originally from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Sample is the oldest of three children and was a member of St. Michael Church in Houston. He



graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in government and a minor in business.

Prior to entering the Paulist novitiate, Sample, 26, lived in Fort Worth working in the oil and gas industry, and was a member of St. Andrew Church. He first met the Paulists while attending St. Austin Church in Austin.

Legal professionals mark beginning of Judicial year with Red Mass

By Mary Lynne Hill
Special to the
North Texas Catholic

Judges, law professors, attorneys, and a wide range of legal practitioners joined Bishop Kevin Vann Sept. 28 at St. Patrick Cathedral as he celebrated the annual Red Mass marking the opening of the judicial year.

"The Red Mass is a wonderful opportunity to open our hearts, minds, and law practices to the Holy Spirit's guidance and support. We had a great turnout this year, and I hope to see even more Catholic and non-Catholic colleagues at next year's Mass," said Dr. John F. Murphy of Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

Following the Red Mass, there was a reception in the Fort Worth Convention Center, organized by local attorney Robert Gieb and other volunteers.

During his homily, Bishop Vann recalled that when he came to Fort Worth in 2005, he spoke with Gieb about celebrating an annual Red Mass. Bishop Vann had studied Canon Law at the Angelicum (Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas) in Rome, and for years was involved in the work of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, and the Tribunal of Second Instance in Chicago. As a legal practitioner himself, Bishop Vann had a special interest in the tradition of the Red Mass.

Gieb responded that he thought it would be a great contribution to the local legal community.

"It is always worthwhile to have an occasion when attorneys,

judges, and other public officials can come together in the public prayer of the Church to ask for wisdom and guidance from God, who is the source of all peace and justice. The Red Mass provides that opportunity," said Gieb.

As a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, celebrants wear red to symbolize the tongues of fire that descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost. In the Mass, they request guidance for those involved in the conduct of the legal profession, including judges, prosecutors, attorneys, law school professors and students, along with government officials. The Mass provides the opportunity to honor the sacred role of the administration of justice in society, while encouraging these public servants to ponder what guides their decisions in their daily work.

Celebrated annually in the fall, the Red Mass generally coincides with the opening of the judicial year of the United States Supreme Court, which convenes the first Monday in October.

The national Red Mass has been held at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington, D.C., since 1953. Sponsored by the John Carroll Society, it is attended by Supreme Court justices, members of Congress, the cabinet, diplomatic corps, other government departments, and oftentimes the president. These participants, of varied religious traditions, attend only in their capacity as private citizens, rather than as civic officials. This year's gathering is scheduled for Oct. 4.

The first recorded Red Mass

As a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, celebrants wear red to symbolize the tongues of fire that descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost. In the Mass, they request guidance for those involved in the conduct of the legal profession, including judges, prosecutors, attorneys, law school professors and students, along with government officials.

was celebrated at the Cathedral in Paris in 1245. Within a hundred years, the tradition had spread throughout Europe, particularly to England, where all members of the bench and bar, who also wore red robes, attended the annual event. The first Red Mass in the United States was held at the Church of St. Andrew in New York City in 1928. Currently, the Red Mass is celebrated in more than half of the states of the U.S. The Diocese of Dallas will celebrate a Red Mass on Nov. 8.

Special Collection: Catholic Communications Campaign

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St. Jerome	Bowie	0.00	49.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	319.23	175.67
St. John the Baptist	Bridgeport	442.94	482.81
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	225.00	267.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,095.00	1,284.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	1,666.00	1,773.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	312.00	106.31
St. Joseph	Cleburne	823.02	842.70
Holy Angels	Clifton	468.80	62.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	1,032.00	1,050.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	135.00	261.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	155.00	100.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	29.00	34.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	712.88	828.31
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	87.00	33.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	434.00	359.00
St. Mark	Denton	1,854.81	1,236.11
St. Mary	Dublin	388.00	416.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	83.04	72.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	0.00	1,073.79
Christ the King	Fort Worth	0.00	1,033.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,606.00	1,517.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	430.00	673.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	0.00	1,618.21
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	666.58	755.50
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	1,667.00	2,849.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	307.00	79.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	0.00	239.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	3,008.39	3,110.04
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	3,840.89	4,144.00
St. George	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	903.00	1,002.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	0.00	202.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	0.00	3,139.50
St. Paul	Fort Worth	937.15	740.50
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	505.86	481.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	0.00	150.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,580.55	1,243.55
St. Mary	Gainesville	289.75	283.05
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	57.00	219.50
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,336.00	1,103.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,142.00	1,497.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	35.00	15.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	924.87	487.10
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	59.00	66.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,939.00	1,774.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	0.00	108.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,456.89	2,949.93
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,608.74	1,002.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	1,304.50	899.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	25.00	0.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	0.00	227.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	85.10	38.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	2,708.00	1,920.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	156.78	116.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	639.81	511.00
St. Mary	Quanah	0.00	195.00
St. Rita	Ranger	54.00	125.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	209.00	147.80
St. Boniface	Scotland	109.00	73.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	165.00	48.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	151.00	102.00
St. John	Strawn	115.00	101.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	221.00	369.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,572.00	1,590.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	542.00	476.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	257.00	943.24
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	0.00	435.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	561.00	858.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	407.30	554.00

59,650.82 66,513.85

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

Respect Life Month

Where do we go from here?

The challenge of building a culture of life

By Cardinal Justin F. Rigali
Chairman of USCCB
Committee on Pro-Life Activities

The effort to restore legal protection for unborn children faces new challenges, as we deal with a new Administration and Congress that support “abortion rights.” Many are asking: Where do we go from here?

We first need to recall why we are here, why we Catholics became involved in these tough battles. We begin with the dignity of each human person.

Each and every one of us has intrinsic and immeasurable worth. That is because God created each of us in his image by the outpouring of his infinite and unconditional love. In return he asks only that we share that love with others, beginning with those most in need — the poor, vulnerable, and despised of this world.

This intrinsic God-given human dignity is the basis for all inalienable human rights — beginning with the most basic right, the right to life. It is most basic because it is the condition for all the others. First we must live, then we can talk about living well.

The right to life is the core element of other rights. All other earthly rights involve something more than life itself — but without life, they are nothing.

That “something more” is vitally important. The defense of life reaches its fullness when it expands to defend the entire range of human flourishing. This is all one vision, and ultimately one issue — the dignity of the human person. In the words of St. Irenaeus, *Gloria Dei vivens homo* — the glory of God is man fully alive.

To keep that vision constantly before our eyes, to remember why we are here and to gain the strength to move forward, we need to begin all our efforts with prayer.

In defending the right to life, our first duty is to oppose the direct taking of innocent human life — any human life, at any stage. As Pope John Paul II confirmed in his encyclical on *The Gospel of Life*, “the direct and voluntary killing of an innocent human being is always gravely immoral” (*Evangelium Vitae* 57). Abortion and euthanasia are preeminent concerns of the Church for reasons that are intrinsic to these issues, as well as reasons that are situational.

Intrinsically, these acts always constitute the direct taking of a human life when it is most innocent and defenseless. And they are willed and carried out by those most called to defend human life — members of the healing professions, and of one’s own family. To undermine these two havens of life is to make a culture of life impossible.

Situationally, these issues are the places where those committed to a conditional and selective vision of human rights have planted their flag in our time. They want to draw lines between the important and unimportant members of society, between persons and “nonpersons.” In a different time or place the forcing issue might be slavery, racism, or anti-Semitism — today abortion and related issues force us to decide whether we

mean what we say in speaking of inalienable human rights, inherent in simply being human.

In particular, the Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision has made abortion the battleground over our tradition of inherent human rights, and has polarized our society as nothing else has. Later efforts to use law as a weapon against other innocent human lives — against newborn children with disabilities, for example, or against the sick and elderly through a “right” to assisted suicide — have cited *Roe* as their inspiration and precedent.

Thus in promoting a culture of life, we must give priority to defending innocent unborn boys and girls from direct attack. We must also make it clear how this effort stands for the dignity and well-being of everyone, before and after birth.

In defending conscience rights in health care, for example, we stand with the unborn child, and also with the women and men of our healing professions whose freedom of conscience is at risk — and with women who will lose access to basic life-affirming health care if those who truly care about them and their children are forced out of medicine.

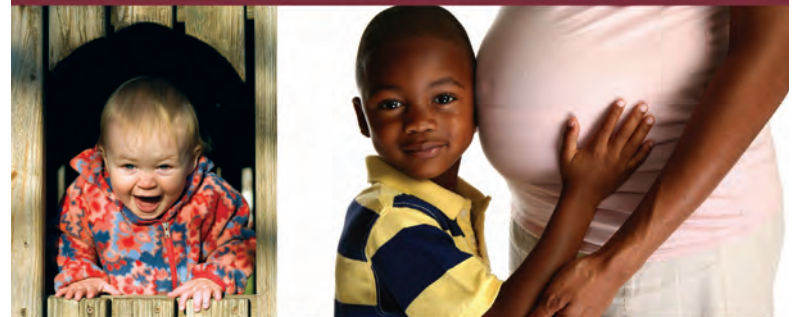
In sending tens of millions of postcards to Congress against the radical “Freedom of Choice Act,” we have helped stop extreme legislation that would treat ready access to abortion as a goal overriding respect for unborn children or for the well-being of pregnant women.

By insisting that the federal government promote only morally sound stem-cell research, we defend the life of embryonic children — and also the health of patients endangered by the many risks of attempted embryonic stem-cell treatments, and the health of women whom some want to exploit as “egg factories”



EVERY CHILD
BRINGS US GOD'S SMILE

POPE BENEDICT XVI



RESPECT LIFE

Respect Life Poster 2009, copyright © 2009, USCCB

for attempts at cloning human embryos for stem cells.

And the “Pregnant Women Support Act” will provide a wide range of assistance, so women can bring their children to live birth and receive a helping hand as they parent the child or make an adoption plan.

Of course, helping those in need is not only the task of government. The dedicated efforts of Catholics at pro-life pregnancy centers, maternity homes, hospitals, retirement homes, and parish-based support networks for pregnant women and children, as well as prayer and assistance efforts outside of abortion facilities, are needed now more than ever.

Our task is to change hearts and minds, including our own. All our good works in the areas of public policy, education, and pas-

toral care must be undergirded by our prayers and sacrifices offered up to the Lord of Life. Through his saving power, and with the prayerful intercession of our Blessed Mother, we can build a culture of life.

The defense of human life at its most vulnerable stages is an essential duty of those inspired by the Gospel. Our prayers and efforts in this cause should open us up to defending the rights and meeting the needs of human beings all along life’s spectrum. Having said “no” to attacks on innocent human life, we need to affirm a great “yes” to the full range of human living and flourishing.

Cardinal Justin F. Rigali is Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Assisted Suicide: Death by ‘Choice’?

By Rita L. Marker
Executive Director
International Task Force on
Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Across the country assisted suicide is being promoted as a “choice” that should be available. This promotion, however, is just the first step of a strategy developed by assisted-

suicide advocates to achieve their goal of death on demand.

Assisted suicide means deliberately and intentionally providing an individual with the means to commit suicide. It means that doctors would provide lethal overdoses of drugs to patients so they can end their lives.

In 1994 Oregon voters approved the “Death with Dignity

Act,” transforming the crime of assisted suicide into a “medical treatment.” In the years that followed, similar laws were proposed in more than 20 states. Each and every one failed until November 2008, when Washington State voters adopted a law virtually identical to that in Oregon.

Deceptively soothing phrases like “death with dignity” and “aid

in dying” gave some people the impression that they were voting for compassionate care, for better pain control, and for the right to forego medical treatment that was overly burdensome and unwanted. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Today, a pharmacist in Oregon or Washington can dispense a lethal prescription, accompanied

by instructions to take it with a light snack and alcohol to cause death. And health insurance can pay for that prescription.

Concerns about health care costs are currently reaching a boiling point. If assisted suicide is added to the cauldron, the final result can be doubly lethal. Making assisted suicide a medical treat-

SEE DEVALUED, P. 21

Viewpoints

Why Catholic? allows us to delve deeper into our faith and share it with others

By Lucas Pollice

In the coming weeks, all of the parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth will begin studying, discussing, and applying to their lives the teachings of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* through the *Why Catholic?* adult faith formation series. This is truly a unique and historical event in the life of our diocese.

Imagine, literally thousands of adult Catholics coming together in the communion of faith to more deeply know, understand, and live their Catholic faith. This is truly an occasion for Catholics in North Texas to rediscover the richness of their faith, and to open wide the doors of their hearts and minds to Christ. It is an opportunity that must be embraced and one that must not be squandered.

As we embark on this journey of faith in the *Why Catholic?* program, I would like to reflect on the powerful words of Pope Benedict XVI given at the beginning of his ministry as the successor of Peter:

At this point, my thoughts return to 22 October 1978, when Pope John Paul II began his ministry here in St. Peter's Square. His words on that occasion constantly echo in my ears: "Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!"

The pope was addressing the mighty, the powerful of this world, who feared that Christ might take away something of their power if they were to let him in, if they were to allow the faith to be free...The Pope was also speaking to everyone, especially the young. Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that he might take something away from us? Are we not perhaps afraid to give up something significant, something unique, something that makes life so beautiful? Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom?

And once again the pope said: No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful, and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in

As Catholics, we can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines as we watch the culture of death, moral relativism, and hopelessness surround us and threaten so many lives. By opening our hearts and minds to the teachings of the Church, we can truly be transformed by the truth and grace of Christ. But we have to choose to open wide our hearts and minds in faith to what Christ desires to teach us and to more profoundly be open to where He might lead us in the light of his truth.

this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation.

And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ — and you will find true life. Amen.

— Homily at the Mass for the Inauguration of the Pontificate, April 24, 2005

Pope Benedict's words so beautifully call us to completely open ourselves to Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life so that we may truly find fullness of life. However, our modern culture presents for us a strange dualism. On the one hand it seeks to solve and understand the deepest meaning of the universe, the world around us, the purpose and meaning of life, and our existence as human beings. But at the same time, it often presents a culture of fear, and of hopelessness and death.

As Pope John Paul II so powerfully expressed in his first encyclical letter in 1979, *The Redeemer of Man*: Christ is the answer! He is the one who comes to reveal to us the fullness of truth, the truth about God and the truth about ourselves. He is the answer only if we open ourselves fully to him.

Pope John Paul II not only taught this but he *lived* it. He showed us that there is nothing to fear in embracing Christ, no matter what life throws at you. His life witnessed to us that only in Christ is it possible for a humble man from Poland to take the world by storm. His life was evidence that one could face the fears and tragedies of life, even an assassin's bullet, and still experience and express the love of God. He proved that through Christ, love and peace could conquer the seemingly invincible evil of Communism. And finally, in his last days, he witnessed to the world

that only in Christ is death the beautiful sleep through which we awaken into eternal life.

Following his example, *what is there to be afraid of? What do we have to lose?* We must open wide the doors to Christ and to the beauty and power of his truth, so that we may truly find the meaning of life. This is the message and mission that we must all take to our modern culture: in Christ there is only life and truth! Coming into contact with the truth of Christ and believing it is like breathing pure oxygen, and once you get a breath of it, you do not forget it.

Many people have given in to the temptation of watering down the truth, either through fear of proclaiming it or lack of understanding it. They have abandoned or forgotten the richness of the 2,000 plus years of Christian Tradition handed down through the Church. Many adult Catholics do not know their faith, and are missing out on the beauty and true freedom that is Catholicism because of the fear of embracing the truth and embracing Christ. In many catechetical circles, Catholicism has lost its radiant beauty and power and has become quite benign, and often taken the form of a purely cultural phenomenon. The time has come at the dawn of the New Evangelization envisioned by Pope John Paul II to reclaim this beauty and power of the Catholic faith especially in the areas of catechesis and evangelization. The time has truly come: *"Do not be not afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!"*

Why Catholic? affords us just this opportunity to bring this New Evangelization to our own diocese, and most importantly to our modern culture that desperately needs the love and truth of Christ. *Why Catholic?* provides all of us the chance to dig deeper into the truth of Jesus Christ and, for many of us, rediscover the richness and beauty of the Catholic faith and the life He offers us through his Church so that we can more effectively be Christ's witnesses in the world today.

As Catholics, we can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines as we watch

the culture of death, moral relativism, and hopelessness surround us and threaten so many lives. By opening our hearts and minds to the teachings of the Church, we can truly be transformed by the truth and grace of Christ. But we have to choose to open wide our hearts and minds in faith to what Christ desires to teach us and to more profoundly be open to where He might lead us in the light of his truth. Are we willing to conform our lives to Christ? Are we willing to let go of sin, selfishness, and our own blindness? Are we, like Mary at the Annunciation, willing to completely surrender ourselves to Christ? Imagine if thousands of us were able to do this within our diocese, the impact we could have in the lives of our families, our parishes, and ultimately in our culture.

This is the unique opportunity of grace that *Why Catholic?* is presenting to us. The question is: will we respond? Will we, like Peter, step out upon the water in faith with our eyes fixed upon Christ? We again are reassured by those beautiful words of Pope John Paul II: *"Do not be afraid, open wide the doors to Christ!"*

I strongly encourage everyone to become involved in *Why Catholic?* in their parishes. I also challenge you to not just view this as just another "program" or "Bible study." This is a profound opportunity of grace to allow the truth of Christ to transform our hearts and minds so that we can become the transparent witnesses of Christ to a world that very much needs witnesses of hope and truth.

I conclude with these powerful and challenging words of Pope John Paul II:

Catholics of America! Always be guided by the truth — by the truth about God who created and redeemed us, and by the truth about the human person, made in the image and likeness of God and destined for a glorious fulfillment in the Kingdom to come. Always be convincing witnesses to the truth. Stir into a flame the gift of God that has been bestowed upon you in baptism. Light your nation — light the world — with the power of that flame! Amen.

— Homily in Orioles Park in Camden Yards, October 8, 1995



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.

Some things you just have to

do for yourself

By Mary Morrell

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

— Proverbs 3:5-6

Last week I met my husband for lunch so he could take a break from remodeling a customer's bathroom. While we were waiting to be served he took the instructions for a new pedestal sink out of his pocket to read.

As I've seen him do often, he sat there shaking his head, typical of his being disgusted with the quality of directions, and passed the paper over to me to read.

"Can you believe this?" he asked, saying something about a missing mounting bracket and screws.

I scanned the pages to find information about the screws, but what caught my eye was a box with the words, "Water supply not included."

I read it twice.

My first thought was, "They can't be serious! Is there really someone who would think that the water came with the sink?"

But obviously, if there wasn't someone like that, the company wouldn't bother to include the disclaimer. I've seen some bizarre warnings and disclaimers on products before but this one rated high on the list for stating the obvious.

The promise of getting the whole package is popular in our culture. The pace of our lives is often overwhelming so

Like the plumber who needs to connect the sink to a water source not provided in the box, we need to connect our lives to God. We have the resources but no one can force us to use them.

getting everything you need in one living room package, one communications bundle, one cell phone/calendar/GPS is inviting, allowing us to have it all with very little effort.

It's too bad life isn't that convenient.

But life doesn't come in a box with instructions, or with all parts included for that matter.

It seems to come in bits and pieces, thrown to the four winds and falling where they may.

It requires that we put our energy into a journey that may, or may not, uncover bits of the puzzle. Adding to the challenge is the reality that we can never see the big picture, so how are we to put the puzzle together?

We climb mountains, praying God won't move them between the time we close our eyes to sleep and the moment we put our feet on the floor the next morning. We mine the darkness of our hearts and souls looking for treasures to bring to light. Sometimes we are successful but just as often we get lost.

If we pick up some wisdom

along the way, we learn the value of detours and crafting pieces to fit when there are none. After all, we can't take life back to the store because it seems the parts aren't there or it's too hard to put together.

But we have the tools we need to get where we're going — prayer, Scripture, and the Eucharist. I recently read a quote attributed to Monsignor Ronald Knox, someone I don't know, but whose thought appealed to me: "The day's food for the day's march ... that is what Holy Communion is meant to be."

Like the plumber who needs to connect the sink to a water source not provided in the box, we need to connect our lives to God. We have the resources but no one can force us to use them.

Some things we have to do for ourselves. *Mary Reginam Morrell and her husband are the parents of six adult children, all boys, and live in Colonia, New Jersey. Mary works for RENEW International and is the former associate director of Religious Education for the diocese of Metuchen in New Jersey.*

Contraception:

The Fine Print

By Susan E. Wills

The teaching of the Catholic Church on human sexuality is profound and uplifting. Married love is meant to mirror the love within the Trinity — to be faithful, selfless, permanent, and life-giving. And isn't that what everyone really wants out of marriage?

But rather than encouraging this kind of love, contraceptives have helped many people to engage in sexual relationships that are unfaithful, selfish, short-term, and altered to be sterile, not life-giving. Such uncommitted relationships cannot only damage our ability to love as we're meant to love, but very often lead to other problems — contributing to the 3 million unintended pregnancies, over one million abortions, and 19 million new cases of sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States each year.

Almost 90 percent of sexually-active American women "at risk" of becoming pregnant are using contraception. This prevalence is understandable because, for 50 years, we've been told they are "safe and effective" at preventing unintended pregnancies and (in the case of condoms) STDs. But if they are so "effective" and so prevalent, how to explain such high levels of unintended pregnancies and STDs? Something doesn't add up.

One need only look at a report like Contraception Counts (2006) from the Guttmacher Institute, a research institute which supports abortion and contraception, to see there is no correlation between better access to contraception and lower abortion rates.

CONDOMS

Last year, Guttmacher reported a 17.4 percent pregnancy rate for condom-users over a 12-month period. But that's an average which includes pregnancies among women in their late 30s and 40s, who have lower fertility and more experienced use. Teenagers are another story: Almost one in four low-income teens (23.2 percent) who rely on condoms will become pregnant in a year. If these teens cohabit (and are therefore more sexually active), almost three in four (71.7 percent) who rely on condoms will become pregnant within a year.

Condom failure rates in protecting against STDs are even worse. This is partly because a healthy woman can only become pregnant during a six-day window in each menstrual cycle, but she can contract an STD any day of the month. Also, while the risk of contracting an STD may appear low from one exposure, each additional exposure increases the risk until STD transmission becomes all but certain.

A fundamental reason why increased access to contraceptives fails to reduce unintended pregnancies is a well-documented fact of human behavior called risk compensation. Those who mistakenly believe that contraception protects them from pregnancy and STDs are more likely to become sexually active at an earlier age and to engage in riskier activity, such as having more

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Camp Fort Worth

At annual Camp Fort Worth, North Texas teens learn how to be

CHRIST'S BODY ON EARTH

By Jeff Hedglen
Camp Fort Worth Director

Each year at Camp Fort Worth the youth and adults that attend seek to put their faith in action. This year as an added point of focus we adopted St. Teresa of Avila's great challenge to live the mission of the Church:

"Christ Has No Body"

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world,
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.*

With these words as inspiration more than 250 people were sent out to work at nursing homes, homeless shelters, and Boys and Girls Clubs. We also built, from scratch, 20 baby cribs that will be donated to local pregnancy centers. We did a lot of painting, cleaning, and other chores at our host sites of Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth and Our Lady Queen of Peace Church and Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls.

Camp Fort Worth (CFW) is a service camp that is sponsored by St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Worth. CFW has been serving the diocese for 11 years. The week-long camp brings youth and adults together from all over the diocese. This year 19 parishes were represented from Vernon to Dublin and all points in between.

Each day the campers rotate to a different work site. In this way they get to experience five distinct forms of service ministry. In addition to the work that is done at CFW, the campers

attend daily Mass, receive the sacrament of reconciliation, give praise and worship to God in song, have small group sharing about the day, and have various prayer experiences. Through all of these activities the faith of the participants comes alive in new ways. What follows are some reflections from campers on how they were the hands and feet of Christ at camp this summer.

This was my fourth visit to Camp Fort Worth so I wasn't expecting anything new, just the normal help the community, praise and worship time, and some good food. Instead I got a lesson straight from God. Each day we have a segment of the Our Father that we're suppose to tie in with the events of the day. It was Tuesday and the verse was "Give us this day our daily bread." I've never really had a better experience than when I was working on the baby beds we make at camp and realized that these beds are for babies being born into this world with families that were unable to afford a baby bed. God was already making sure that they were taken care of. God's love is truly amazing.

— Christina Flores, Immaculate Conception, Denton

Volunteering has always been a part of my summer whether it has been teaching swimming lessons or helping at Vacation Bible School, but volunteering at Camp Fort Worth actually brings it into a whole new light. When I was told I would be making baby beds, I thought that sounded pretty fun, but when the leaders told us to really think about and pray for the babies that will someday be sleeping in those beds, it really brought meaning to this service.

— Chloe Schneider, Sacred Heart, Muenster

One night as the entire camp



Mark Jimenez of San Mateo Mission in Fort Worth speaks with an elderly woman at her bedside. One of the work sites for campers involves volunteering at a local nursing home.

stood together singing "How Great Is Our God" I felt really emotional and just closed my eyes and raised my hands, completely surrendering myself to the Lord, tears coming down my face. I felt an arm around my shoulder and saw several campers around me, their eyes closed and hands in the air as well. I returned to CFW this year as a member of the Alumni Team, expecting to help and support the campers, yet here they were helping me. Through that simple action I realized just how great our God is.

— Lauren Pohl, Holy Redeemer, Aledo

I was told at camp this year that we are here to be the hands and feet of Christ to those that we are ministering to. I saw this most especially one day at Faith Mission, a homeless outreach with a drug rehabilitation program. We were eating lunch with the clients when one of the campers offered to do the dishes with one of the gentleman who is currently going through the Faith Mission program. This camper was literally being the hands and feet of God by being willing to do this gross and sweaty job, but while they were working, the client shared his story about how he became addicted and what helped him to decide to turn his life around.

As the camper walked out of the dish-washing area, I could tell that he was changed. He seemed to realize that it could very well be one of his friends at Faith Mission in a few years. Even though we were supposed to be the hands and feet to the people we were serving, they ended up being God's hands and feet back to us.

— Kendall Stewart, St. Mark, Denton

After my confirmation my faith life seemed to stop. I didn't like going to church and I started to sin more. When I first arrived at camp I was not happy, but when I saw my cousins and friends, that began to change. Things really turned around at my first work site, baby beds. I started to open up because I love working with my hands. The next day I



CFW team member Katy Stolzer of St. Mark Church in Denton washes the feet of Nicole Stevens of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller during the leaders' retreat held prior to the teens' camp.

opened up more at the nursing home. I think that really changed me. The elderly lady I was with was so nice; we had so much fun, and she reminded me of my great-grandma who raised me. When I gave her a hug goodbye she told me that she loved me.

Now I am a youth leader at my parish; I love spending time with my family, and I go to Mass every Sunday.

— Sarah Sanchez, San Mateo, Fort Worth



Kyle Brandt of St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth makes a new friend at one of the Boys and Girls Club locations in Wichita Falls during the July service camp.



Camper Caroline Axford of Good Shepherd Church in Colleyville shows off her ability to apply sealant to picnic tables. Several hundred tables were donated to Boys and Girls Club locations in Fort Worth this summer.



A group of CFW teens leads a worship service for clients at Faith Mission shelter in Wichita Falls.

Diocesan

Bishop visits Celaya, Mexico, hopes to establish ties between dioceses



Bishop Vann stands with a group of seminarians from San Miguel de Allende in Nuestra Señora de la Luz (Our Lady of the Light) Parish. To his left is Fr. Rogelio and his right is the Father Raul Ruíz, pastor of the parish.



Bishop Vann meets with the mayor of Catalan (center), Father Rogelio Segundo, and a group of families who have ties to the Fort Worth area.



Bishop Vann stands outside of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows) Parish in Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato.

By Juan Guajardo
Correspondent

The Diocese of Fort Worth is considering establishing ties with another diocese, this one in Mexico, adding to its current group of mission efforts in Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala, and Vietnam.

For five days in July, Bishop Kevin Vann visited the Diocese of Celaya, as part of the continuing efforts to establish a relationship between the two dioceses. While in Mexico, Bishop Vann celebrated daily Masses, attended meetings with clergy and seminarians, met with members of the laity, and traveled to different cities within the diocese.

A relationship between the dioceses is beneficial for both, said Andrés Aranda, diocesan delegate for Hispanic Ministry. For one, Celaya has expressed interest in sending a couple of priests to the Diocese of Fort Worth for three years of service, he said. Sending local priests and seminarians to Celaya to study Spanish or for an immersion experience is another tentative goal of the project.

The Diocese of Fort Worth would also provide help for the



Bishop Vann greets parishioners following Mass held in Celaya. Behind him is Father Rogelio Segundo, director of pastoral services for migrants and their families for the Diocese of Celaya.

Diocese of Celaya, Aranda said. A parish-to-parish mission effort is being discussed, said Deacon Len Sanchez, chair of the diocese's Mission Council. The mission effort would allow parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth to travel to Celaya to help the parishes there.

"The idea is to establish a relationship so that this movement lasts — not that we'll go and work hard for just a little bit, for a day or two. We want a relationship," Dcn. Sanchez said. "The mission is the relationship between them and us, not the nails nor tables we might use."

Bishop Vann and Dcn. Sanchez are optimistic about the possibility. Bishop Vann said he hopes the effort will result in a strengthening of faith in both dioceses and that perhaps it can provide a "bridge to the families that are separated," referring to immigrants from the Mexican diocese who find

work in the North Texas area to be able to send money home to their families.

"I hope there can be a consciousness of another diocese, that we can share their life," Bishop Vann said. "So much history of the Church in Texas is connected to the life of the Church in Mexico. So it's realizing part of our history a little better and how our being Catholic means we are not by ourselves but are united with our brothers and sisters based in other countries."

Celaya is a city of 415,000, according to a 2005 estimate from the *Instituto nacional de estadística y geografía* (National Institute of Statistics and Geography). The heavily commercial and industrial city is located about 160 miles northwest of Mexico City and 30 miles west of Querétaro. According to a 2004 census, the diocese itself covers approximately 3,386 miles and has a

little more than 1,500,000 people, 88 percent of whom are Catholic.

The idea to establish ties first arrived from Mexico in 2005, when Father Rogelio Segundo and Bishop Lázaro Pérez Jiménez — both of Celaya — came to Fort Worth to inquire about the possibility of a relationship between the dioceses. The late Bishop Joseph Delaney was too ill to go to Celaya, and the effort was delayed. Communication between the two local churches picked up once again in 2006, when Bishop Jiménez and Fr. Segundo came and further discussed the idea. In February 2009, Fr. Segundo, Aranda, and Bishop Vann met once again to develop a set of goals for the relationship and planned Bishop Vann's visit to Celaya.

Despite the distance between the two dioceses, they share some similarities, Bishop Vann said.

"I enjoyed making the connections," Bishop Vann said. "We have a lot of people from Celaya, so I went down there. The bishop of Celaya and Fr. Rogelio approached the diocese here about a relationship with Celaya because we have so much in common. Many members of the Hispanic community in our diocese are from Celaya."

On the trip, Bishop Vann met with the relatives of some of the families from Fort Worth. Many of the families in both dioceses are separated, as the husbands often come to the U.S. to find work.

The wives and children stay behind, struggling to provide for themselves since the money sent back isn't always enough, Bishop Vann said.

Bishop Vann hopes that the relationship will bring the laity closer to the reality of the immigration debate and bring more understanding for the situation of immigrant families.

"I really think in these days when immigration is such a concern, this helps us see the human face [of immigration]," Bishop Vann said.

A lot of progress still has to be made before the relationship is official. Bishop Vann, with the input of the Office of Mission Outreach, will begin communication with Bishop Jiménez of Celaya. Once both sides consent, a diocesan team will begin to study the needs of Celaya and then develop a plan to establish the mission effort. Dcn. Sanchez said the idea is still in the early stages of development, but hopes that it can be as successful as other mission efforts, especially the one in the Diocese of Juticalpa in Honduras, where a steady mission effort has prospered for more than 10 years.

"The vision of the [mission] council is to be able to assist a lot of countries, as many places as we can; the mission is always to seek out and help," Dcn. Sanchez said. "Where we go, or when we get there, that's another thing."

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Canonization of Father Damien to end long journey for Edinburg priest

EDINBURG, Texas (CNS) — When Blessed Damien of Molokai is canonized Oct. 11 by Pope Benedict in St. Peter's Square, a Texas priest who played a major role in the long process will be there. Father Emilio Vega Garcia, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Church in Edinburg, was the postulator for the cause of canonization of Blessed Damien for 10 years, from 1997 to 2007. The postulator is the primary promoter or lead investigator for a proposed saint's cause in Rome. "If Fr. Emilio hadn't been here to help the process, who knows?" said Patrick Downes, editor of the *Hawaii Catholic Herald*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Honolulu. "It may not have happened. Father Emilio was a major figure in the process." Fr. Garcia, a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and a native of Spain, takes a more humble approach on his role as postulator. "It was part of my ministry," he said. "It was a great honor to present Father Damien's cause. He is not only a hero in Hawaii and his native Belgium but for all of humanity."

Parents of disabled children speak out on health reform proposals

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seventeen parents of children with disabilities gathered on Capitol Hill Sept. 15 to speak out against proposed government health care reform plans that they said could mean the difference between life and death for their children by limiting access to doctors and rationing health care. The parents, many with their children by their side or holding large photos of their loved ones, joined together as the Healthcare for Gunner Coalition to let President Barack Obama and Congress know that it will be their children and their families who could suffer and be denied critical care under current proposed legislation. Joined by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Washington, the mother of a child with Down syndrome, and Trent Franks, R-Arizona, who was born with a cleft palate, coalition members presented a horrific picture of a future where the weak, vulnerable, elderly, and the unborn are given lowest priority. "We have to make sure that health care legislation doesn't leave this important group behind," said McMorris Rodgers. "We have to make sure that health care reform does three things: improve the health care in America, lower the costs, and help vulnerable persons." Franks, whose late brother had Down syndrome, warned of the dangers presented by the current health care reform bill, H.R. 3200. "We run into one reality: the rationing of care because you have to decrease the costs," said Franks. "There is always, always rationing and restrictions, which fall on the most weak."

Knights of Columbus leader named to Vatican bank supervisory panel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The head of the Knights of Columbus has been named by Pope Benedict XVI to a five-member council that supervises the activities of the Vatican bank. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who heads the 1.7 million-member fraternal organization, was among three new council members announced by the Vatican Sept. 23. Leaving his post on the council was Virgil Dechant, who stepped down as head of the Knights of Columbus in 2000. The pope also named a new president of the council, Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, an Italian banker and a professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, and a new vice president, Renaldo Hermann Schmitz, a retired German business manager. The Vatican bank, known formally as the Institute for the Works of Religion, was established in 1942 and is used by Vatican agencies, church organizations, bishops, and religious orders around the world. It offers currency exchange services and interest-bearing accounts and, like all banks, has an investment portfolio.



Anita Rose and her daughter Salene, 3, who became residents in July of St. Margaret of Cortona transitional housing in Woodbridge, Virginia, read together Sept. 17. Sponsored by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, the housing program helps single mothers with needs such as financial education, employment, and transportation. (CNS photo/Dennis Sadowski)

Charities...

FROM PAGE 1

only transitional housing setting of its kind in the Arlington Diocese, the program helps women build self-sufficient lives.

Services such as financial education classes, employment counseling, and help with transportation and child care are some of the advantages for residents.

Sondra and Hope are among thousands of people who have turned to local Catholic Charities agencies for housing services when they had nowhere else to go during the current recession.

The need for housing services like the St. Margaret of Cortona program as well as emergency shelter and permanent housing jumped 12.4 percent in 2008 as the economic recession gained momentum, reported Catholic Charities USA in its 2008 annual survey of services.

Released Sept. 15 during a nationwide teleconference from the agency's Alexandria headquarters, the report shows that Catholic Charities agencies served nearly 600,000 people in need of some type of housing assistance in 2008.

Overall, the 142 Catholic Charities agencies responding to the survey — about 85 percent of the nationwide Catholic Charities network — reported serving more than 8.5 million people in 2008, a 10 percent increase from 2007.

Without being able to offer specifics, Father Larry Snyder, president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, said the demand for housing and other social services continued to climb as the recession deepened during 2009.

"We can only conjecture that

when we get the figures for 2009 it's going to be much, much greater," he said.

Fr. Snyder also said the recession is causing local Catholic Charities agencies to struggle with "many of the same challenges as our clients." Cuts in government funding for social services coupled with significant losses in donations of cash and goods are causing local agencies to scale back services, reduce hours of operation, lay off staff, freeze wages, and implement workdays without pay, he said.

"It is going to continue to put a great stress on our local agencies to continue to provide services," he added.

Overall, Catholic Charities agencies had revenues of more than \$3.9 billion in 2008. Two-thirds of the revenue came from local, state, and federal government sources.

Despite the challenges posed by the recession, Father Snyder expressed optimism that the agency will be able to make strides in its nearly 3-year-old campaign to reduce poverty by 50 percent by 2020.

"I actually think (the recession) gives us a greater opportunity to do that because when you look at the challenges that we have right now, one thing that should be very clear is that we can't just meet those challenges with what we were doing before," Fr. Snyder explained.

"Things have gotten so desperate it gives us the opportunity to really look at a solution that doesn't depend on... the social structures we had before, but to really redefine how we do it," he said.

A breakdown of the 8.5 million clients shows nearly half — 48 percent — were adults 18 to 64 years old, 29 percent were children and 13 percent were seniors. Ten percent were unknown.

Prepared by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, the survey revealed:

- Nearly 6.3 million people sought food services, a 3.8 percent decline from 2007.

- More than 3.6 million people — a 4.7 percent increase — received social services such as education, day care, programs aimed at at-risk populations, health care, and socialization, and neighborhood services.

- More than 1.7 million people — an 11 percent jump — received assistance with basic needs, such as clothing, utility payments, emergency financial needs, and prescriptions.

- Slightly more than 1 million people — a 7.3 percent decline — received various services that fall under what Catholic Charities USA calls strengthening families, including counseling and mental health, addiction, pregnancy, adoption, immigration, and refugee services.

- More than 330,000 people received disaster services, a decrease of 21 percent from 2007, but still nearly 60 percent more than in 2005.

- More than 67,000 people — a 35 percent spike — received employment services.

Overall, the statistics reflected the nationwide growth in poverty in 2008 reported Sept. 10 by the U.S. Census Bureau. Census data show that 39.8 million people — 13.2 percent of the population — lived in poverty last year, up from 37.3 million people, or 12.5 percent, in 2007.

INTERNATIONAL
NEWSBRIEFS

A woman and child sit outside a house damaged by a landslide in the town of Arayat, north of Manila, Philippines, Sept. 28. The Philippines appealed for international aid to help tens of thousands of people marooned by floods associated with Typhoon Ketsana. (CNS photo/Romeo Ranoco, Reuters)

Catholic organizations aid Philippine victims of flooding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic charitable organizations are stepping up to help victims in the Philippines after the worst flood in decades hit in late September.

"Many of the people who have lost everything are sleeping in schools right now," said Luc Picard, Catholic Relief Services' country representative in Manila, Philippines. "They're calling this the Katrina of the Philippines."

Picard told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 28 telephone interview that rescuers were still searching for survivors from the flooding and mudslides two days earlier. The flooding followed Typhoon Ketsana, or Ondoy, as it was referred to in the Philippines.

Brian Caulfield, editor of *Fathers for Good*, an initiative of the Knights of Columbus, said in a blog posting his wife's family was caught in the flood. He said his in-laws live a block from the river and said they had seen flooding that brought "8 feet of water into the house. With Ketsana, however, the water rose to 20 feet, forcing my in-laws to the second-floor bedrooms, then onto the pitched roof.

"With the water now touching the roof and the rain still slashing with 50-mile-per-hour winds, they were afraid of being washed away," Caulfield said. In order to survive, his wife's family created a raft out of a rope and bamboo poles to get to a neighbor's house, which was located on higher ground, he said.

Picard told CNS that after the

"Many of the people who have lost everything are sleeping in schools right now. They're calling this the Katrina of the Philippines."

— Luc Picard, Catholic Relief Services' country representative, Manila, Philippines

storm, approximately 100,000 families were sheltered in temporary housing, elementary schools, and churches. While some families will be able to go back home soon, others have lost everything, he said.

In a statement, CRS said it was providing immediate food aid, blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, and soap, among other basic necessities.

"With CRS' initial funding, we're helping 5,000 families through Caritas. All the food and other items being distributed are getting to people via Caritas," Laura Sheahen, CRS regional

information officer based in Cambodia, told CNS by e-mail.

Caritas is the umbrella organization of Catholic aid agencies. In a statement, the Caritas office in the Philippines said it was providing aid to a total of 10,000 families, or 50,000 people.

Paulinian Sister Rosanne B. Mallillin, Caritas Philippines' executive director, said: "The situation is very challenging. Many of our local social actions centers are still unable to reach the worst-hit areas because of the debris and the flooding. People are in need of food and clean water, as many of the water sources have been contaminated. We're also sending cooking utensils, sleeping mats, and bed sheets."

The equivalent of a month's rain fell in six hours, and, at one point, more than 80 percent of Manila was under water.

Impassable roads made rescue efforts challenging, and power and water supplies failed in some areas.

The government declared a "state of calamity" in Manila and 23 provinces.

Metropolitan Manila was the worst-hit in terms of flooding and damage, while Rizal had the highest number of casualties due to landslides and flash floods, said Caritas Philippines.

In the province of Pampanga, more than 200 villages were submerged. A landslide occurred in Arayat, affecting 174 families, who were temporarily housed in five evacuation centers, mostly schools and chapels, said Caritas Philippines.

Five life sentences given in murder of pastor last year in India

NEW DELHI (CNS) — Several leading Catholics in India said their faith in the country's judicial system is renewed after life sentences were issued to five people involved in killing a pastor last year in Orissa state. Father Babu Joseph, spokesman for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, said the judgment not only "restored our faith in the judicial system" but also brought "hope for the other pending cases" related to last year's violence in Orissa. The Asian church news agency UCA News reported that a fast-track court in Orissa issued five sentences of life imprisonment Sept. 23 for the murder of a Baptist pastor, the Rev. Akbar Digal, in Tatamaha village last August. In addition to the life sentences, the court also fined each of the five people convicted of the pastor's murder 5,000 rupees (\$104). The special court based in Phulbani, administrative center of Orissa's Kandhamal district, also sentenced six others to three years in prison Sept. 22 for an arson attack on a journalist's house in Kandhamal's Phiringia village in December 2007. Police arrested 11 people in that case, but the court acquitted five for lack of evidence. In 2008, predominantly tribal Kandhamal was the center of seven weeks of violence, unleashed by Hindu extremists, that left about 90 people dead and 50,000 displaced.

Archbishop urges Canadian MPs to back palliative care, not euthanasia

OTTAWA (CNS) — The president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has sent an open letter to members of Parliament, urging them to support good palliative care instead of assisted suicide or euthanasia. As debate approaches for Bill C-384, an act to amend the Criminal Code (Right to Die With Dignity), Winnipeg Archbishop V. James Weisgerber took aim at the "misleading and unclear" terms framing the debate. The bill is sponsored by Francine Lalonde, a Bloc Quebecois member of Parliament. Archbishop Weisgerber asked politicians to use "clear definitions" and to consider the "profound impact" such a bill would have on society. "Those wishing to reopen this debate are no doubt motivated by concern for the sufferings of others," he said in an open letter sent Sept. 23. "An unfortunate understanding of compassion has led them to suggest euthanizing the most vulnerable instead of providing them with proper care, effective pain control, and social, emotional, and spiritual support until their natural death." Without clear terms, the discussion can be "confusing and unhelpful," Archbishop Weisgerber said.

Catholic leaders at UN summit urge immediate action on climate change

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Climate change is more than an environmental concern; it is an issue of justice that merits immediate attention by world leaders. This was the message delivered repeatedly by Catholic participants in the Sept. 22 U.N. Summit on Climate Change in New York. "It is unfair that people in developing countries pay the consequences for problems that rich countries have created," said Elyza Peredo, director of the Solon Foundation in Bolivia, at a Sept. 22 press conference. As an example, she said Bolivia generates only 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, but melting glaciers caused by the warming effect of emissions worldwide endanger crops for small-scale farmers in communities throughout the country's Andes mountains. The proposals now under discussion at the United Nations set goals and targets for international investment in adaptation technologies to help countries withstand climate change. "We have 2020 targets and even 2050 targets, but it's necessary to act now to reduce the vulnerability of the poorest," said Rene Grotenhuis, president of CIDSE, a Belgium-based international alliance of Catholic development agencies.

Scripture Readings



October 11, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-17
- 2) Hebrews 4:12-13
Gospel) Mark 10:17-30

By Jean Denton

I'm looking forward to visiting my church's twin parish in Haiti in a few months. My standard explanation for traveling to the impoverished Caribbean island every couple of years is that I go there to find God. For me, Haiti is a little bit of heaven.

One wouldn't think so given the Haitians' daily struggle for survival without the barest necessities for living: potable water, food, electricity, basic medical care.

But in reading this weekend's Gospel about the rich young man who asks Jesus what is required to enter the kingdom of heaven, I think of my Haitian friends. In today's parlance, "They're there!"

The pastor of the parish in Cabestor, Haiti, helped me see why. He recently visited our church community in Virginia, and one evening over dinner I discussed with him how hard it is to be a pastor in Haiti.

He agreed, explaining that a continuous flow

of parishioners come to him for help, "They say, 'I'm hungry, I need money, my child is sick.' Sometimes I can help. But usually I can't. I don't have what they ask for — in Haiti there is no money, there is not enough food.

"They keep coming, but I tell them I can't provide those things," the priest said. "I remind them to look to God for help. They come to Mass, and they always keep faith in God because they know food and money aren't what they most need. They need the love of God, and they know God cares for them and their children."

Then he smiled wryly. "Here in the United States it's different," he said. "People have money. They have food. But they don't know what to do with it. They know it doesn't bring them faith," he explained. "They know they need something more, but they don't know how to find it. That's difficult too."

Guiding people to God, he said, "is different here."

Living in a wealthy society presents a particular difficulty. Jesus made this point to his disciples after the rich man went away. Attachment to worldly comforts and success is hard to break. One can forget a need that will come soon enough: the need for God.

"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

— Mark 10:23

QUESTIONS:

What material attachments are obstacles to your relationship with God?

When have you experienced a deep need for God that couldn't be fulfilled through your own resources?



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One must first believe in order to understand God's truth, says pope

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Understanding the divine mystery will never come from study alone — one must first believe in the Christian faith in order to understand it, said Pope Benedict XVI.

Theologians and Christians who wish to deepen their faith "cannot count on just their intelligence, but must cultivate a profound experience of faith at the same time," he said at his weekly general audience Sept. 23.

The pope's catechesis was dedicated to the life and teachings of St. Anselm of Canterbury, an 11th-century Benedictine and doctor of the church.

With "clarity and rigorous logic," St. Anselm's teachings aimed to help elevate people's minds toward the contemplation of God, said the pope.

According to the saint, people who wish to better understand the Christian tradition can carry out "a healthy theological quest" by following three steps, the pope said.



Pope Benedict XVI signs a book at the end of a meeting with academic leaders in Prague, Czech Republic, Sept. 27. The pope said his right wrist has still not fully recovered from being broken after he fell this summer, but that it has healed enough so that he can write again. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

First, one must have faith, he said, which is "a free gift from God to be welcomed with humility."

The second step is experience, which entails incorporating the

word of God in one's everyday life. The final step is "true understanding, which is never a result of ascetic reasoning, but of contemplative intuition," he said.

St. Anselm knew he could never penetrate the profound mystery and reality of God with limited human intelligence, said the pope. But the saint did wish to under-

stand what he could of God's truth, which his heart already believed in and loved, he said.

The pope cited St. Anselm: "Nor do I seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe so that I may understand," which shows that while faith comes before reason, reason can deepen faith.

The saint showed how the journey to understand God is never fully complete, at least here on earth, the pope said.

The pope said St. Anselm's teachings should encourage all Christians "to tirelessly seek an ever more intimate union with Christ through truth and life."

And he asked all priests, religious, and lay people to follow the saint's example by "loving the Church of Christ, praying, working, and suffering for the church without ever abandoning or betraying it."

The pope flew to the Vatican by helicopter from Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, to lead the general audience in the Paul VI hall before about 9,000 pilgrims from around the world, which included a group of 25 Chinese priests.

Scripture Readings



October 18, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Isaiah 53:10-11
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
- 2) Hebrews 4:14-16
Gospel) Mark 10:35-45

By Sharon K. Perkins

There's a proverb I've often heard people cite when they have to confidently make a quick but potentially risky decision: "It's easier to ask for forgiveness than for permission." I admit that I've had to fall back on this maxim myself occasionally. It gives me a sense of confidence (or is it bravado?) when the deliberating has been done; it's time for action, and I know that I'll ultimately be accountable for the risk.

In the Gospel, when James and John approached Jesus making the seemingly outrageous appeal to be seated at his right and his left hands, their request may have been delivered with a certain amount of bravado (thereby

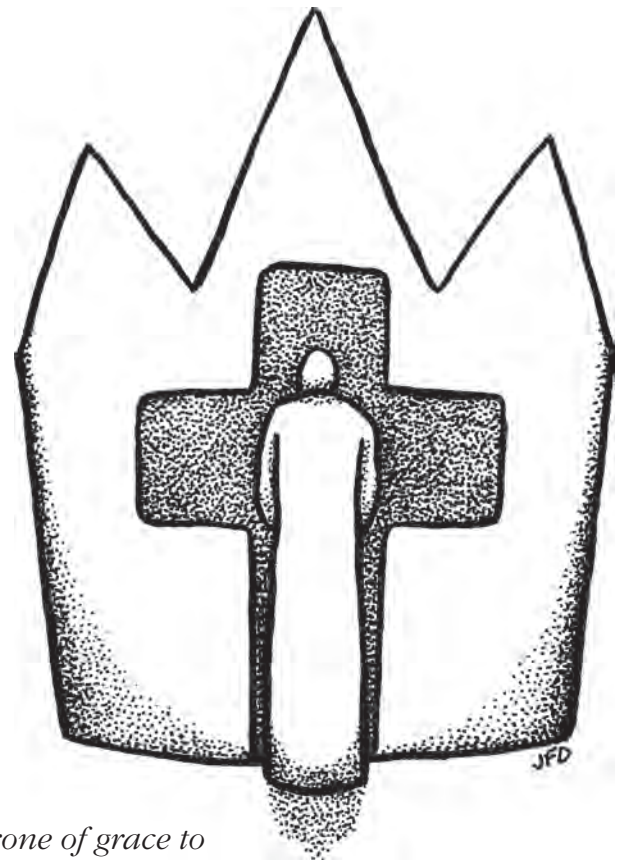
prompting indignation from the other 10 disciples). But Jesus did not dismiss them out of hand. Rather, he took advantage of a prime teaching opportunity.

The confidence to which the psalmist and the author of Hebrews refer is much more than bravado. I am reminded of the origins of the word "confidence" — coming from the Latin, *cum fidere* — meaning "with trust." In this sense, one's confidence is placed in God whose throne is grace and whose love is kind and merciful. According to the psalmist, it is precisely when we place our trust in God that God's mercy is upon us.

Jesus qualified James' and John's request by making clear that a share in his glory comes only when one places one's self at the service of others. The world often views servitude as weakness. But a disciple who places their confidence in the Son of God — a "high priest" who has been "tested in every way" and can sympathize with weakness — has the assurance that God's grace is poured out on them because of their trust.

"So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help."

— Hebrews 4:16



QUESTIONS:

In what area of your life are you most in need of God's mercy and grace right now? What is the greatest obstacle to your being the kind of servant Jesus describes?

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We experience God together because God too is a **WE**

By Jeff Hedglen

I remember a pivotal moment in my faith journey. I was about 14 years old, and I was walking into Mass with my parents. We usually sat on the left side of the church, but I had seen some of my friends sitting on the right side, so when my family turned left I turned right and went to sit with my friends. My parents did not say a word; they seemed to know that sitting with my friends was important to me. Looking back on it now I see it as a living out of the Nicene Creed.

The statement of belief we recite every Sunday begins with the words "We believe." It is easy to pass over these words on our way to the more weighty statements of our faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but these are two important words.

The creed says "WE believe," not "I believe." The "we" is vital to our identity as Catholics. My parents must have known this to be true because they let me sit with the most important "we" at that time of my life. Having my

It is in the image of this Trinity where we find our most compelling reason for why it is not I, but WE who believe. We are created in the image and likeness of a God who is a WE.

friends next to me while at Mass helped me feel connected to what was going on. This same thing was true as a young adult. At that time of my life I was attending a different parish than my parents, so the friends I had really were my family.

I have been attending the same parish since 1981, and this gives me an even greater understanding of the WE of the creed. I love to watch the communion line, for in it I see my faith family on the way to receive the One who unites us all.

The importance of the WE in the creed also comes alive in the sacraments. Baptisms and marriages must have witnesses and are usually celebrated with all our closest friends and relatives. The sacrament of reconciliation, while it is experienced alone with the priest, reunites us to the Body whom we have wounded by our sin. And at Mass we worship, hear the Word, and receive Jesus as a community.

The WE extends beyond the sacraments when we experience trials in life and our faith com-

munity supports us, as well as when we gather with these same people to grow in faith through Bible studies, youth, young adult, and other ministries.

So when we say "We believe" it is a statement of the reality that we believe in God, not on our own, but with others. By "believe" we mean many things. Along with the statements of doctrine in the Nicene Creed, believe also means we meet Jesus, experience Jesus, grow in our faith in Jesus, share our experiences of Jesus, and live our lives for Jesus. And all of this meeting, experiencing, growing, sharing, and living is done with other people.

Yes we do have many personal encounters with Jesus in prayer and in the daily living of life. Our personal belief is vital to our relationship with God. Each of us must cultivate our own relationship with Jesus. For it is these one-on-one experiences that build us up for when we are back to the WE part of the believing.

The Church Fathers of the council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. could have highlighted our personal encounters with Jesus in

their defining statement of our beliefs, but even this early in Church history it was clear that the Church was not a haphazard collection of individuals believing in God in their own personal way, on their own, some place in the world.

The Gospels reveal a community of disciples. The Church itself was born in an upper room at a gathering of people when the Third Person of the Trinity filled the room, and them, with power, and the world was never the same.

It is in the image of this Trinity where we find our most compelling reason for why it is not I, but WE who believe. We are created in the image and likeness of a God who is a WE. With this as our starting point, it only makes sense that our believing in our Creator would take the same communal form that we are created in.

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.

Obispo Vann visita a México, considera vínculos con Celaya, Guanajuato



El obispo Vann se ve parado con un grupo de seminaristas de San Miguel de Allende. A su izquierda está el padre Rogelio y a su derecha el pastor de la parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Luz, el padre Raul Ruíz.



El obispo Vann se reúne con el alcalde de Catalán (al centro), el padre Rogelio y un grupo de familias que tiene lazos al área de Fort Worth.



El obispo Vann se encuentra afuera de la parroquia Nuestra Señora de los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows).

Por Juan Guajardo
Corresponsal
Traducido por Ana M. Fores

La diócesis de Fort Worth está considerando establecer vínculos con otra diócesis, esta vez en México, añadiendo así a misiones con diócesis en Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala y Vietnam.

Por cinco días en julio, el obispo Kevin Vann visitó la diócesis de Celaya, Guanajuato, marcando el comienzo de un esfuerzo por establecer una relación entre las dos diócesis. Mientras estaba en México, el obispo Vann celebró misas diarias, fue a reuniones con el clero y los seminaristas, se reunió con miembros del laicado y viajó a diferentes ciudades dentro de la diócesis.

Una relación entre las diócesis beneficiaría a las dos, comentó Andrés Aranda, director del *Ministerio hispano*. En primer lugar, Celaya ha expresado interés en enviar sacerdotes a la diócesis de Fort Worth por tres años de servicio, dijo. Utilizar a Celaya como lugar de estudio del español en una experiencia de inmersión total para sacerdotes y seminaristas de la diócesis de Fort Worth sería otra meta tentativa de este proyecto.

La diócesis de Fort Worth también proveería de ayuda a la diócesis de Celaya, explicó Aranda. Una labor misionera de parroquia a parroquia está bajo



El obispo Vann saluda a los feligreses después de la misa celebrada en Celaya. Detrás de él se encuentra el padre Rogelio Segundo, director de servicios pastorales para los inmigrantes y sus familias en la diócesis de Celaya.

discusión, dijo el diácono Len Sánchez, presidente del *Consejo misionero* de la diócesis. Esta misión permitiría a las parroquias dentro de la diócesis de Fort Worth viajar a Celaya para ayudar a las parroquias allá.

“La idea es establecer la relación para que dure este movimiento — que no sea que vamos a ir a echarle ganas por un día o dos. Queremos una relación”, comentó el diácono Sánchez. “La misión es la relación de nosotros con ellos, no los clavos ni las tablas que vamos a usar”.

El obispo Vann y el diácono Sánchez sienten optimismo en relación a esta oportunidad. El obispo Vann expresó su deseo que el esfuerzo resulte en un fortalecimiento de la fe en las dos parroquias y que tal vez pueda proveer un “puente para las familias que viven separadas”, refiriéndose a los inmigrantes naturales de la diócesis mexicana que encuentran trabajo en esta área del norte de

Texas y por eso pueden mandar dinero a sus hogares y a sus familias.

“Espero que se abra conciencia de otra diócesis, que podamos compartir en sus vidas”, sugirió el obispo Vann. “Mucha historia de la iglesia en Texas está conectada a la vida de la iglesia de México. De esta manera podemos asumir un poco mejor parte de nuestra historia, y cómo nuestro ser católico implica que no estamos solos, sino vivimos unidos a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en otros países”.

Celaya es una ciudad de 415.000 habitantes, según datos oficiales del *Instituto nacional de estadística y geografía de México*. Polo comercial e industrial, la ciudad está a 160 millas al noroeste de la ciudad de México y 30 millas al oeste de Querétaro. De acuerdo al censo de 2004, la diócesis en sí cubre aproximadamente 3.386 millas y sirve a un poco más de 1.500.000 personas, siendo el 88 por ciento católico.

La idea de establecer vínculos primero surgió en México en 2005, cuando el padre Rogelio Segundo y el obispo Lázaro Pérez Jiménez — los dos de Celaya — vinieron a Fort Worth con la idea de iniciar una relación interdiocesana. El difunto obispo Joseph Delaney estaba muy enfermo para viajar a Celaya, por lo que el proyecto no avanzó mucho entonces. La comunicación entre las dos diócesis se reinició en 2006, cuando el obispo Jiménez y el padre Segundo regresaron para continuar la discusión sobre esta idea. En febrero del 2009, el padre Segundo, Aranda, y el obispo Vann convinieron otra vez para desarrollar un grupo de metas para establecer esta relación y planear la visita del obispo Vann a Celaya.

A pesar de la distancia entre ellas, las dos diócesis son similares, dijo el obispo Vann.

“Disfruté de las conexiones”, exclamó el obispo Vann. “Tenemos muchos feligreses de Celaya, así que fui para allá. El obispo de Celaya y el padre Rogelio se aproximaron con la idea de una relación mutua entre Celaya y nuestra diócesis, ya que teníamos tanto en común. Si visitan a Fort Worth conocerán a muchos mexicanos de Celaya”.

Durante el viaje, el obispo Vann se reunió con parientes de algunas familias de Fort Worth. Muchas de las familias de ambas diócesis se encuentran separadas, ya que los esposos a menudo vienen a buscar trabajo en los Estados Unidos. Las esposas y los niños se quedan atrás, luchando para proveerse

por si mismos, ya que el dinero que les envían desde EE.UU. no siempre es bastante, comentó el obispo Vann.

El obispo Vann espera que la relación traiga al laicado más cerca de la realidad sobre el debate de la inmigración y que ocasione más comprensión de dicha situación.

“De veras pienso que en estos días cuando la inmigración muestra tanta inquietud, esto nos ayuda a ver su cara humana”, explicó el obispo Vann.

Todavía hay que adelantar mucho antes de oficializar la relación. El obispo Vann, con la asistencia de la *Oficina de asistencia misionera*, iniciará la comunicación con el obispo Jiménez de Celaya. Cuando los dos lados estén de acuerdo, un equipo interdiocesano entonces comenzará a estudiar las necesidades de Celaya y a desarrollar un plan para establecer una misión. El diácono Sánchez dijo que la idea todavía está en una etapa inicial de desarrollo; sin embargo, espera que pueda ser tan exitosa como otros esfuerzos misioneros, especialmente como el de la diócesis de Juticalpa, en Honduras, donde una labor misionera constante ha prosperado por más de 10 años.

“La visión del cónsul [de misiones] es poder asistir a tantos países, a tantos lugares que podamos; la misión es siempre para buscar y ayudar”, comentó el diácono Sánchez. “A donde llegamos o cuando llegamos, es otra cosa”.

Padre Jasso honrado en Dallas por ayudar a los inmigrantes

El pasado 15 de septiembre, el padre Esteban Jasso, TOR, pastor de la parroquia de *Todos los santos* en Fort Worth, recibió el Premio Ohtli del Instituto de mexicanos en el exterior. Alberto Bernal, cónsul alerno, le presentó el Premio Ohtli al padre Jasso en una ceremonia celebrada en el Consulado mexicano de Dallas. La Asociación nacional de oficiales electos latinos (NALEO por sus siglas en inglés) hace sus nominaciones para el premio, que son entregadas anualmente por el gobierno de México a personas que viven fuera de México pero que han dedicado su vida en abrir camino para beneficiar a los ciudadanos de México que viven fuera de su país.

Monseñor Vann, obispo de Fort Worth, acompañó al padre Jasso a la ceremonia de entrega de premios y recepción, y elogió al sacerdote — natural de Waco cuyos padres nacieron en San Luis Potosí, México — por sus años de incansables esfuerzos por asistir a inmigrantes con sus necesidades más básicas.

“El padre Jasso es un modelo para todos nosotros, como sacerdote,” dijo el obispo. “En verdad es un ícono, una fuente de estímulo y de inspiración. Es un crédito a su comunidad religiosa y a nuestra diócesis”.

El padre Jasso, 77, veterano del ejército de la Guerra de Corea, se incorporó a la Tercera orden regular de Franciscanos en 1957, y fue ordenado sacerdote en Roma en 1965 después de terminar sus estudios teológicos en la universidad de Santo Tomás Aquino (*La Angelicum*). Sirvió como



El padre Stephen Jasso recibe el Premio Ohtli del Instituto para mexicanos en el extranjero (*Institute for Mexicans Abroad*). Alberto Bernal, el cónsul alerno de México en Dallas, le presenta el premio en el consulado.

misionario en Perú y también desempeñó servicios en México como superior religioso de su congregación durante los 24 años que pasó de ministerio pastoral en México. Fue, por ocho años, director del *Instituto franciscano de espiritualidad de México (IFEM)* y ganó un M.B.A. del *Colegio de graduados en alta dirección de México* en 1993. Ha servido como pastor de la parroquia de *Todos los Santos* desde 1994.

Escritor para el periódico *La estrella*, el padre Jasso ha servido en el liderazgo de la diócesis de Fort Worth y también como miembro del consejo de varias organizaciones cívicas. El padre Jasso ha participado además en varias reuniones cumbres del liderazgo nacional en Washing-

ton, D.C. Actualmente sirve como miembro del comité consultorio de la congresista Kay Granger y del Consejo de salud del *John Peter Smith Hospital* en Fort Worth. El alcalde Mike Moncrief de Fort Worth lo nombró *Modelo sobresaliente de Texas* en abril del 2002.

“Estoy muy contento por haber recibido este premio e incluso más feliz con Dios por tener al obispo Vann presente conmigo en un día tan especial en mi vida”, dijo el padre Jasso al recibir el Premio Ohtli, que significa camino en la lengua náhuatl. “Agradezco a los demás líderes con quienes [durante los últimos 15 años] he estado trabajando para ayudar a la comunidad... y agradezco a mis feligreses que también me han acompañado aquí hoy”.



El 16 de septiembre en el Vaticano, el Papa Benedicto XVI saluda al clero al final de su audiencia general semanal en el salón de Pablo VI. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters)

Dios está presente en aquellos que responden al odio con amor, dice el Papa

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Cuando el amor de uno por los demás es tan grande que puede responder al odio con amor y perdón, Dios está verdaderamente presente en el corazón de esa persona, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

“Sin cierta apertura al amor, Cristo no puede entrar en nosotros”, dijo durante su audiencia general semanal el 16 de septiembre.

De hecho, esto es un indicador útil para saber si “estamos verdaderamente cerca de Dios, si Dios existe y vive dentro de nosotros” o no, dijo.

“Solamente el amor divino puede abrir nuestros corazones hacia otras personas y hacernos sensitivos a sus necesidades, hacernos pensar en ellas como hermanos y hermanas e invitarnos a responder al odio con amor y a la ofensa con perdón”, dijo el Papa.

El Papa enfocó su catequesis en la vida y las enseñanzas de Simeón, místico y monje que nació en el siglo 10. Era conocido como el “nuevo teólogo” y es santo en la iglesia ortodoxa.

Simeón dijo que la vida de un cristiano está marcada por una comunión íntima y personal con Dios, dijo el Papa.

Llegar a conocer verdaderamente a Dios no sucede leyendo libros, el Papa dijo, “sino de la experiencia espiritual y de una vida espiritual”.

Para conocer a Dios los fieles necesitan primero comenzar un viaje de “purificación interna que comienza con una conversión del corazón que viene de la fortaleza de la fe y del amor”, dijo.

Entonces los fieles tienen que experimentar “arrepentimiento profundo y lamentación sincera por los pecados de uno para poder alcanzar la unión con Cristo, quien es la fuente de la alegría y la paz”, dijo. Con esta purificación y conversión internas “el Espíritu Santo puede realmente presentarse en nosotros y guiarnos”, añadió.

Para Simeón la unión con Cristo no es algo extraordinario, sino el fruto del bautismo que es común para todos los cristianos, dijo el Papa.

“Inspirados por la vida de Simeón, pongamos mayor atención a nuestra vida espiritual, buscando la dirección que necesitamos para crecer en el amor de Dios”, dijo.

Al final de la audiencia general el Papa voló de regreso en helicóptero hasta la residencia Papal de verano en Castel Gandolfo, donde pasaría las semanas finales de sus vacaciones.

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

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

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

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

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

Retiro de RACHEL'S VINEYARD para sanación después del aborto

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

Celebración de aniversario de oro, 11 de octubre, en la iglesia de HOLY FAMILY

La diócesis de Fort Worth y su Oficina de asuntos familiares invitan a todas las parejas que tienen 50 años o más de casados a su cuarta Celebración de aniversario de oro el domingo, 11 de octubre. La celebración se llevará a cabo en la iglesia Holy Family, 6150 Pershing Ave. en Fort Worth. El Señor obispo Vann será el celebrante de la Misa que empezará a las 3 p.m. Durante la celebración de la santa Misa las parejas tendrán la

oportunidad de renovar sus votos matrimoniales y recibirán una bendición especial de aniversario. Habrá una recepción con pastel y bebidas inmediatamente después de la Misa en el centro familiar de la iglesia. Si ustedes se casaron antes del 1958 y desean formar parte de esta celebración especial, favor de hablar con la secretaria de su iglesia, dejando sus nombres, dirección y fecha de la boda.

Algunos obispos hablan de cuidado de salud y de inmigración con miembros del Congreso

Por Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Aunque creen que la iglesia está de acuerdo con el Congreso, cuando se trata de otros aspectos de cuidado de salud y de reforma de inmigración, una delegación de obispos hispanos salió de las reuniones, sostenidas con varios grupos de dirigentes de la Cámara y del Senado, preocupada de que quizá los inmigrantes quedarían fuera de la reforma de salud.

En rueda de prensa con periodistas, después de las reuniones matinales con los senadores y con grupos que representan congresistas hispanos, dos de los obispos dijeron que se sentían optimistas de que, por medio de la legislación sobre el cuidado de salud que se vislumbra, no se proporcionarían fondos federales para abortos y se incluiría protección de conciencia para trabajadores en cuanto al cuidado de salud. Esos dos han sido temas de preocupación para la Iglesia Católica mientras se le da forma a la legislación.

El arzobispo de San Antonio, José H. Gómez, dijo que el grupo de media docena de obispos hispanos les dijo a los miembros del Congreso que, además del no usar fondos para abortos e incluir una cláusula para alivio de conciencia, su preocupación era que la reforma de cuidado de salud debería ofrecer un plan general en el que todas las personas podrían participar y por el cual se brindaría cuidado de salud desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Dijo que quieren que en el plan se incluya a todos los inmigrantes, sea que estén en el país legalmente o no.

“Todos deberían tener una forma de participar”, dijo el arzobispo Gómez.

El obispo Jaime Soto, de Sacramento, California, dijo en la rueda de prensa que, además del no brindar cuidado de salud con fondos del gobierno a personas que estén en el país ilegalmente



El 17 de septiembre en Washington, el obispo James A. Tamayo de Laredo habla durante una reunión con los demócratas del Senado en el Capitolio. A la derecha está el obispo auxiliar Edgar M. da Cunha de Newark, New Jersey y el obispo Ricardo Ramírez de Las Cruces, New Mexico. Discutieron diversos temas, incluyendo reformas para la salud e inmigración. El arzobispo José Gómez, de San Antonio, se hallaba entre los presentes en la reunión y se reunió por separado con el senador republicano John Cornyn. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

— como el Presidente Barack Obama prometió en su discurso ante el Congreso el 9 de septiembre — se ha expresado preocupaciones de que, incluso, los inmigrantes legales quedarían fuera del sistema.

El obispo Soto dijo que la exclusión de inmigrantes indocumentados al seguro de salud sostenido por el gobierno es un asunto del cual los obispos pueden no estar de acuerdo, pero podría conceder que era una necesidad política.

“Nos damos cuenta que es un asunto que provoca mucha discusión”, dijo el obispo Soto. “Pero debe de haber algo así como una red de seguridad”. Si los inmigrantes indocumentados no pueden participar en el seguro de salud, añadió, “terminarán yendo a las salas de emergencia”.

Los obispos dijeron que salieron de las reuniones con la sensación de confianza que la reforma completa de inmigración empezaría pronto a progresar en medio del Congreso, una vez que

la legislación sobre el cuidado de salud se habría solucionado.

El grupo entero de obispos se reunió con senadores demócratas, la Conferencia hispana del Congreso que representa a los republicanos, y representantes hispanos del Congreso, representando a los demócratas. El arzobispo Gómez también se reunió en forma separada con el senador John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Entre otros obispos de la delegación se incluía al obispo Ricardo Ramírez de Las Cruces, Nueva Mexico.; al obispo James A. Tamayo de Laredo; al obispo Carlos A. Sevilla de Yakima, Washington; y al obispo auxiliar Edgar Moreira da Cunha de Newark, Nueva Jersey.

Santidad para fundador de Caballeros de Colón posible dentro de dos años

HARTFORD, Connecticut (CNS) — Carl Anderson, caballero supremo de los Caballeros de Colón, dijo que tiene la esperanza que la consideración de nueva evidencia de un posible milagro llevaría a la santidad del fundador de los Caballeros de Colón dentro de un plazo de dos años.

Anderson hizo los comentarios al *Catholic Transcript*, periódico de la arquidiócesis de Hartford, momentos antes que el arzobispo Henry J. Mansell, de Hartford, firmara los documentos que contenía la nueva información recolectada por el tribunal que está investigando la causa para la canonización del padre Michael J. McGivney.

Los documentos, que se man-

tienen secretos, fueron sellados el 22 de septiembre en presencia de unos 50 testigos y preparados para entregarlos al Vaticano.

Padre McGivney (1852-1890) fue el sacerdote de la arquidiócesis de Hartford que fundó los Caballeros de Colón en 1882 en New Haven. La causa para su santidad comenzó formalmente en Hartford en 1997.

Anderson dijo que la ceremonia marcaba “un día muy importante para la causa de padre McGivney porque es la conclusión de la evidencia y evaluación médicas (de) el milagro que se está entregando —o de lo que tenemos la esperanza que sea considerado un milagro — y entonces este es un paso muy importante para nosotros”.



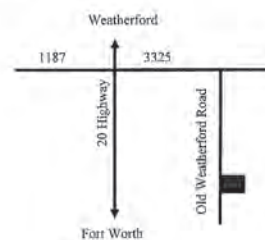
Iglesia Santo Redentor da Bienvenida a Ge'La

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

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

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

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



La Vida después de esta vida Un día de retiro para hombres y mujeres

En el Centro de Cursillos, 2221 NW 26th St., Fort Worth
domingo, nov. 8, 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Misa, confesión, reflexión, pláticas y oración en silencio

Venga e invite a sus amistades a este día de crecimiento en su vida de fe, basado en la enseñanza de la Biblia sobre el “más allá”, i.e. la vida después de la muerte, ahora que estamos en el mes de los difuntos.

Donación por persona es \$25. No hace falta registración previa. Registración el mismo día, de 7:30 — 8:30 a.m. Ayudaremos a los que no puedan dar esa donación. Para más información, llame a Martha Galván (817) 770-6522, o al Centro de Cursillos (817) 624-9411. Favor de traer su Biblia.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

National

Devalued elderly, ill, disabled – and even the able – may be granted ‘choice’

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ment gives it the status of only one among many options for the treatment of certain conditions. It is extremely affordable and can always be covered by health insurance. The force of economic gravity can lead to increased pressure on patients to request, and doctors to prescribe, assisted suicide. Patients in Oregon have already encountered that reality.

In May 2008, 64-year-old retired school bus driver Barbara Wagner received bad news from her doctor. Her cancer had returned. Then she got some good news. Her doctor gave her a prescription for medication that he said would likely slow the cancer's growth and extend her life. It didn't take long for her hopes to be dashed.

She was notified by letter that the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) wouldn't cover the prescribed cancer drug. It also informed her that, although it wouldn't cover the prescription, it would cover all costs for her assisted suicide.

Wagner said she told the OHP, "Who do you guys think you are? You know, to say that you'll pay for my dying, but you won't pay to help me possibly live longer?"

Wagner's case was not isolated. Other patients received similar letters. An OHP spokesperson said the letters were a public relations blunder. In the future, insurance officials will "pick up the phone and have a conversation" to avoid putting the decision in writing.

Both the Oregon and Washington laws limit assisted suicide to terminally ill, competent adults who must self-administer the lethal drugs. Yet personal autonomy and ending suffering were the two chief reasons given for permitting assisted suicide in the first place. Those reasons, in and of themselves, logically demand that the practice not be limited to terminally ill, competent adults who happen to be physically able to self-administer the drugs. Consider:

- If personal autonomy is the basis for permitting assisted suicide, why would a person only have personal autonomy when diagnosed (or misdiagnosed) as having a terminal condition?

- If assisted suicide is proclaimed by force of law to be a good solution to the problem of human suffering, then isn't it both unreasonable and cruel to limit it to the dying?

- Once assisted suicide is changed from a bad thing to be prevented into a good thing to be facilitated, isn't it easy to see how the early "safeguards" will come to be seen as obstacles to be surmounted?

- On what basis could one deny a good and compassionate medical "treatment" to those who are suffering from chronic conditions? Or to children? Or to those who never have been or are no longer competent?

- If a lethal dose of drugs is considered a good medical treat-

ment, isn't the requirement of self-administration both illogical and overly restrictive? What about the person who is physically disabled and unable to self-administer the lethal dose?

In fact, assisted-suicide leaders have acknowledged that laws like those in Oregon and Washington are only a "first step" in achieving their agenda of death, for persons of any age and for any reason.

Do we want to have a society where assisted suicide is common, where it is considered normal?

Do we want to go from a situation where, initially, people are horrified by assisted suicide, but then tolerate it and, finally, accept it? Do we want to see a time, in the not too distant future, when people feel guilty for not choosing assisted suicide?

Many people in Oregon and Washington, including those who voted for a "death with dignity" law, didn't have a clue about its implications. All of us need to help others know what legalized assisted suicide really means. That is the only way we can prevent its spread.

We must work to prevent assisted suicide from becoming the American way of death. Not only our lives but the lives of our children and grandchildren depend on it.

Rita L. Marker is an attorney and executive director of the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Bishop says failure to include immigrants will send them to ER, cost more

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to include at a minimum some kind of safety net for the undocumented," particularly if the goal of a nationwide health care reform plan is to improve the overall health of society, he said.

"We realize it's a very contentious issue," Bishop Soto said. "But there has to be some kind of a safety net."

If undocumented immigrants cannot participate in health insurance, he added, "they will end up in emergency rooms."

Bishop Murphy said Catholic hospitals will not turn illegal immigrants away if they don't have medical insurance, but he believes it will be more cost-effective if

the undocumented are given an opportunity to buy into an affordable health insurance plan.

On "the issue of health care, if it leaves out immigrants, it is doing what some people want it to do in terms of the unborn," he said.

"How can we say that we're a country of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all who come to our shores if we say, 'except the unborn.' Or, if we say, 'except the handicapped.' Or, if we say, 'except the new person,'" Bishop Murphy said. "Then we have not lived up to the high ideal of our country. And we have introduced a sense of injustice into a plan that should be just for all."

Chicago woman runs to raise funds to enter religious life

CHICAGO (CNS) — When Alicia Torres laced up her running shoes and tackled the 13.1 miles of the Chicago Half Marathon Sept. 13, her goal was to become a nun. Torres is not a runner and had never run a distance race. But she ran the race as part of an appeal to friends and strangers to help pay off more than \$90,000 in student loans so she can enter religious life. When Torres felt God calling her to this vocation, she realized there was one major obstacle in her path — \$94,000 in student loans that must be paid off to enter the Franciscan community she's

chosen. Most of her loans are held by private lenders so they can't be consolidated or the interest rates negotiated. The 24-year-old graduated in 2007 from Loyola University Chicago with a degree in theology and bioethics and works in the Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Facing this large debt and feeling God's call to her becoming clearer every day, Torres chose to do something public to seek help. She took the "nun run" vocation idea literally and decided to run a half marathon to call attention to her situation and to encourage donations.

CALL, Catholic Latino leaders group, hosts D.C. launch

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With several hundred guests for a reception at the Vatican Embassy Sept. 23, the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders, or CALL, launched its first national outreach effort at an observance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"To be a leader is to have a clear sense of identity," said Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, in welcoming CALL members and hundreds of others to the embassy. "What I wish for all Latino leaders is that you have a sense of identity and of very clearly belonging."

CALL was founded in 2007 under the guidance of then Denver Auxiliary Bishop Jose H. Gomez. Now the head of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archbishop Gomez was among about a dozen bishops and archbishops at the Sept. 23 event. Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of

"To be a leader is to have a clear sense of identity," What I wish for all Latino leaders is that you have a sense of identity and of very clearly belonging."

—**Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, welcoming CALL members and hundreds of others**

Baltimore, also attended.

Mario Paredes, chairman of CALL's board of directors, said the group came to Washington to introduce the organization to the leadership in the nation's capital.

Among the guests at the event were Janet Murguia, president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza; Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, several senior staff members of the U.S. Conference

of Catholic Bishops and Washingtonians active in politics, public policy, and cultural groups with ties to various Latin American countries. Many of the guests said they came out of curiosity, to learn about CALL.

Manny Garcia-Tunon, secretary of the organization, told Catholic News Service that the reception was intended to mark CALL's national presence. Though the group numbers fewer than 50 official members, Garcia-

Tunon said local chapters are being developed in Miami, San Antonio, Denver, Houston, and Phoenix, all of which will have events in October.

Garcia-Tunon, the vice president of his family's engineering and construction firm and an author and speaker on business topics, said the broad goal of CALL is simply to work with the church for the common good in the service of Latino communities. That starts with goals such as helping Hispanic youth get good educations to enable them to succeed in life, he said.

Promotion of the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage and supporting the Church in the promotion of vocations to religious life also are on the group's agenda. He said they also will be working in support of comprehensive immigration reform and health care legislation.

Membership in CALL is by invitation. Its activities so far have included a retreat in June led by Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley and a formal launch event in 2008, both in San Antonio.

Garcia-Tunon said he's been impressed at the "absolute fellowship" and camaraderie that characterizes all the group's activities, despite the sometimes very different perspectives of its members. Particularly on some political topics, he acknowledged that the views of Latinos of Cuban heritage in Miami, for example, are vastly different from those of Mexican-Americans from Western states. But the commonality of faith and Church teaching has gotten the members beyond such differences, he said.

"Regardless of the issues, we need to always make sure we use mercy and justice as our barometer," said Garcia-Tunon.

40 Days...

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ways; and no violence or vandalism of any kind. Furthermore, they will not approach anyone entering the facility; they will not interact with sidewalk counselors who may be present; they are encouraged to keep prayerful silence.



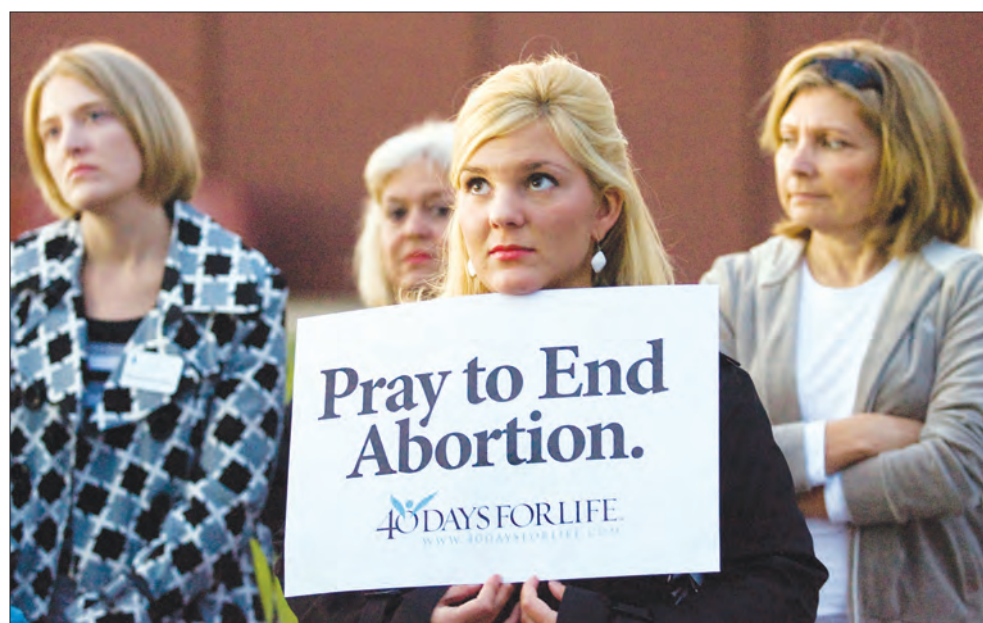
Father Louis Leonelli, CFR, speaks to the crowd from the back of a pickup during the first day of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. Fr. Leonelli encouraged people to invite their families, friends and — speaking to young adults — asked them to invite their dates too.

Williams' directive to the faithful was echoed by the words of the Rev. Scott Fisher, pastor of Metroplex Chapel in Euless.

"Our weapon is prayer and our demeanor must reflect the character of Christ," he said. "(We) must reflect his nature and his character. He is our model. Imitating Him must be the passion of our lives. Longing to see his Kingdom realized here on earth as it is in heaven must be our greatest desire."

"Tonight we stand together to embrace and wield the most powerful weapon on the planet — prayer," continued Rev. Fisher. "The apostle Paul instructed that though we live in this physical realm, our battle is spiritual and is not fought with physical weapons but is fought with spiritual weapons. Tonight we take up the weapon of united prayer. Men, women, boys and girls, Catholics and Protestants under the banner of Jesus Christ, praying for God to move in our community."

Father Louis



Christen Glennon (center) of Holy Family Parish in Fort Worth listens intently during the first day of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. At the left is Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, diocesan director of the Office of Catholics Respect Life.

Leonelli, CFR, made the point in his remarks that there is even more at stake than saving the unborn.

"The pro-life movement is more than saving lives," he said. "It is saving souls. We are here to not only precipitate an end to abortion but to help those around us more fully embrace the Gospel of Life."

As night closed around the faithful and the hour-long rally drew to a close, attendees once more prayed the prayer that Jesus taught. Then they went forth as they had gathered: in peace.

The 40 Days For Life 24-hour, 40-day prayer vigil in Fort Worth takes place this year between Sept. 23 and Nov. 1. To sign up for a time to participate in the sidewalk vigil or to learn other ways to join in the prayer efforts of those involved, visit the local 40 Days for Life Web site at www.40daysforlifefortworth.com.



An unidentified member of Knights of Columbus Council 14549 from St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington, silently prays during the rally.

Wills...

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sexual partners.

A 2002 article by Fitch et al. in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* discusses three "cohort studies" measuring the association between reported condom use and the presence of multiple STDs. None of the studies showed any STD risk reduction, even among those who reported "always" using condoms.

In the U.S., United Kingdom, Sweden, sub-Saharan Africa, and elsewhere, the same pattern has emerged: increased access to contraceptives has increased rates of STDs, but failed to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortions.

HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES

It is important to understand that hormonal drugs and devices are not "medications" given to cure a disease, where the benefit of restoring health makes some level of risk acceptable. Hormonal contraceptives are powerful steroids intended to disrupt a normal, functioning

reproductive system. The more successful they are at disrupting ovulation, the more risks they pose to a woman's overall health.

In 1960 the contraceptive pill was hailed as an "absolute godsend." Yet women taking the high-dose estrogen pill were almost nine times more likely to be hospitalized with blood clotting diseases and seven times more likely to die than women not taking the pill.

The World Health Organization has identified estrogen in combined oral contraceptive pills (COCs) as carcinogenic. Evidence of increased heart attack and breast cancer risk halted a trial of women taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) halfway through. But note that the dose of estrogen in HRT is 4-8 times lower than in many COCs.

Norplant (rods implanted under the skin), was once called "as perfect a method as you can have," but fell from grace when complications in removing the rods and Norplant's side effects — excessive bleeding, depression, weight gain, and strokes

— became known.

The progestins in all forms of hormonal contraception, taken daily or long-term, cause changes to the uterine lining, including "atrophy." Some researchers believe this can inhibit or prevent implantation of the week-old embryo, causing his or her death.

The popular Ortho Evra patch has been linked to 23 deaths of healthy young women from fatal blood clots, heart attacks, and strokes.

Yaz birth control pills can produce some 40 unpleasant side effects including hair loss, depression, and emotional instability.

Progestin-only contraceptives — mini-pills, implants, and injections (DepoProvera) — can cause depression, weight gain, menstrual changes, headaches, and hot flashes, and loss of bone density.

Plan B, the progestin-only emergency contraceptive, was once predicted to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortions by half. But in 23 large and population-level studies, Plan B has shown no effect on rates

of unintended pregnancies and abortions. For the individual woman, its effectiveness is now estimated to be "quite substantially" lower than the 80 percent often claimed, and may be as low as 23 percent.

WHAT WORKS?

For married couples, Natural Family Planning (NFP) works! Yet, many married couples remain unaware that modern scientific methods of NFP enable them to space the birth of their children and, for sound reasons, limit the size of their family, in a way that is lovingly obedient to Jesus Christ and his Church, while avoiding the sin of contraception.

For single people, abstinence works! The steady decline in rates of unintended pregnancies and abortions in the United States has been driven primarily by more teens remaining abstinent: 16 percent fewer teens had ever had sexual intercourse in 2001, compared to 1991, and the percentage who were "sexually active" decreased almost 11 percent in that period.

Greater abstinence means

fewer abortions. Between 1984 and 2004 the abortion rate dropped more than 60 percent among girls under 18 and decreased almost 48 percent for girls 18-19. In the same period, abortion rates increased for women 30 and older.

There is now plenty of evidence that many school-based abstinence programs help teens postpone sexual activity.

Rather than protecting girls and young women, contraception risks their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Our daughters and sisters deserve to grow up healthy and free of preventable diseases that can last a lifetime. For their sakes, we must reject the contraceptive-based approach to reducing unintended pregnancies and abortions and support sound abstinence education.



Susan Wills, is Assistant Director for Education & Outreach in the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Calendar

RESPECT LIFE HOLY HOUR

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

UNBORN BABY MEMORIAL

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

PARISH MISSION

St. Paul the Apostle Church, 5508 Black Oak Lane, Fort Worth, invites all to their upcoming parish mission. "Jesus says: 'Come to Me! There's Always More!'" will be presented by Sister Joan Rodrigues, DLJS, Sister Gabriel Mary, and Sister Regina Marie, members of the religious community Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, located in Prayer Town near Amarillo. The sisters will be at St. Paul Parish the weekend of Oct. 10-11. The presentation will begin on Sunday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. and will end at 9 p.m. On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, Oct. 12, 13, and 15, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. and Mass at 6:30 p.m. with the retreat to continue from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. "Youth Nite" (junior and senior high students) will be held Wednesday, Oct. 14, and begin with a meal in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m. and will end at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 738-9925.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

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

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY MASS

The Family Life Office will host the fourth annual Golden Anniversary Celebration Sunday, Oct. 11, for all couples who have been married 50 years or more by the end of 2009. The celebration will take place at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at a special Mass that will begin at 3 p.m. and will include an opportunity for participants to renew their marriage vows and receive an anniversary blessing. A reception with cake and punch will be held in the Family Life Center following the Mass. All couples married before 1959 and wishing to be part of this special celebration, are asked to call the parish office and leave their names, address and date of marriage with the parish secretary.

FR. IVOR KOCH CHARITY

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly #1108 will host the 13th annual Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser Saturday, Oct. 17, at Sacred Heart Parish, 1504 Tenth 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.

To Report Misconduct

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

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

To Report Abuse

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

WHITE MASS

The Medical Association of Catholic Students from the University of North Texas Health Science Center will host the annual White Mass Wednesday, Oct. 21. The White Mass, traditionally held for all physicians, nurses, health care workers, and for pastoral care ministers and students, will be celebrated at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will be the main celebrant. "Traditionally, health care workers wore white attire. In the church, white symbolizes hope and comfort to the ill and hospitalized," note event organizers. Participants in the liturgy are invited to wear their white coats. For more information, contact Miriam Garcia at migarcia@hsc.unt.edu or (409) 549-1624.

BLESSED KARL FEAST DAY

St. Mary the Virgin Parish, 1408 N. Davis Dr., Arlington, will celebrate the feast day of Blessed Karl, Emperor of Austria, with singing of Solemn Vespers and Benediction, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21. A reception will be held following the service. All are invited to participate. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 460-2278.

CURSILLO

A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one's life in relation to Jesus Christ. The men's Cursillo will be held Oct. 8-11 and the women's Cursillo will be held Oct. 22-25. Both weekends will be presented in English at the Fort Worth Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th Street in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Florence Marcucci at (972) 291-6817 or mamarcucci@sbcglobal.net.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding. To register for a course starting Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, contact Andrew and Samantha Mudd at (817) 284-5117. Visit www.ccldfw.org for more class dates and information.

RETROUVAILLE ANNIVERSARY

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

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

NOLAN HOMECOMING

All Nolan Catholic High School alumni are invited to join their former classmates for this year's Homecoming celebration Friday, Oct. 16, on the school grounds at 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Nolan is extending a special welcome to this year's reunion classes of 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004. Former Nolan students are encouraged to bring their family members for a free pre-game alumni barbecue dinner to be served at 5:30 p.m. From 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., current students will be giving tours of the school. At 7:30 p.m., the football game will begin, with the Nolan Catholic Vikings taking on Gainesville State. At halftime, there will be a special ceremony inducting members of the NCHS into the 2009 Hall of Fame. For more information or to RSVP for dinner by Oct. 13, call (817) 395-0249 or e-mail alumni@nolancatholichs.org.

MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

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

DISCERNMENT AT OLV

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

SHSP 'COME AND SEE'

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

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

The Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament will host a Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women up to 50 years of age. The Discernment Weekend will take place Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. Anyone interested in learning more about religious life or in discovering if God is calling her to consecrated life is invited to contact the sisters at (361) 575-7111, iwbsvdoc@yahoo.com or visit www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information.

TASTE AND SEE FESTIVAL

Good Shepherd Parish, 1000 Tinker Rd., Colleyville, will host its third annual Taste and See Artistic Creations Weekend Saturday, Oct. 10, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 35 artists from North Texas will exhibit their gifts including woodworkers, painters, pottery, photography, and more. Taste wine and cheese, chili, Brats, and cookies while listening to live entertainment. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 421-1387.

PANAMA CANAL CRUISE

Deacon Patrick Burke, pastoral administrator at Christ the King Parish, Iowa Park, will be hosting a 14-day cruise visiting the Panama Canal and many exotic ports aboard the NCL Pearl April 10-24. The cruise cost begins at \$1,969 plus taxes from DFW. For more information and a brochure, contact Deacon Burke at (940) 691-7893 or e-mail pjburke47@yahoo.com.

OLV FALL FESTIVAL

Our Lady of Victory School, located at 3320 Hemphill Ave., Fort Worth, will kick off its 100th year celebration at its annual fall festival to be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. All are invited for a day full of entertainment, games, food, and prizes for all ages. For more information, visit the school Web site at www.olvfw.com or call (817) 924-5123.

NOLAN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Nolan Catholic High School will host its annual Columbus Day Golf Tournament Monday, Oct. 12. This year's fundraising event will be held at Woodhaven Country Club at 913 Country Club Lane in Fort Worth. Sponsorship levels vary and include: title sponsor; team sponsor; cart sponsor; and hole sponsor. Also available are individual player rates. The day's activities will begin with a shotgun start at 8 a.m., and include Closest to the Pin on all par three holes; Men's/Women's Longest Drives; Straightest Drive; and Putting Contest. Participants can register online at www.nolancatholic.golfreg.com. For more information on sponsorship and registration, visit www.nolancatholic.org/support/viking-club or call Nate Gumm at (817) 676-7743 or Jeanette Bradley at (817) 343-1515.

ST. THOMAS FESTIVAL

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

BURKBURNETT FESTIVAL

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

HILLSBORO FESTIVAL

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

OMM FALL FESTIVAL

Our Mother of Mercy Church and School will hold their annual fall festival Saturday, Oct. 17. Taking place on the grounds of the school, the festival will be filled with fun activities, food, games, and music for all. New this year to the festival is a karaoke contest, a biblical-related costume contest, and an outdoor Gospelfest. The entire event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and all are invited. For more information, call the rectory at (817) 335-1695.

OMM 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Our Mother of Mercy Parish, the diocese's only African-American parish, will celebrate its 80th anniversary during the month of October. Each weekend will bring different spiritual, community-serving, and family-bonding experiences for all to enjoy. The final celebration will be the 80th Anniversary Mass, Sunday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. Special guests include Bishop Kevin Vann and Ralph McCloud, who will return from Washington DC to be the featured speaker at the chocolate and champagne reception immediately following. For more information, call (817) 726-2507.

ST. ANDREW FESTIVAL

The St. Andrew School annual fall festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 11, on the St. Andrew's School grounds, 3305 Dryden Rd. at Stadium Drive in the TCU area, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Activities will include a cakewalk, three-on-three basketball, carnival games, confetti eggs, seven big inflatables and more, plus enjoy a Los Vaqueros Mexican Dinner in the gym. For more information, call Terri Guhl at (817) 346-4740 or visit the St. Andrew School Web site at www.standrewsch.org.

NBVM, PENELOPE

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Penelope will celebrate the centennial of their parish, Sunday, Oct. 11. The celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with a Mass of Thanksgiving by Bishop Kevin Vann and Father George Pullambrayil. A reception will follow in the parish hall. All are invited to participate in the celebration.

ST. ANN GOLF TOURNAMENT

St. Ann Men's Club will sponsor its second annual golf tournament at Hidden Creek Golf Course in Burleson. The Four-Man Scramble will be held Saturday, Oct. 24. Golfers will be treated to hamburgers at 11:15 a.m. and tee off at 1 p.m. Forms are available at www.stannburleson.com or contact Mike Hall at (817) 426-5858. Several different sponsorship levels are available. Individual fee to play is \$60.

HARVEST FEST COSTUME BALL

St. Ann Parish, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, will host a Harvest Festival Costume Ball Saturday, Oct. 31. Festivities will begin immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass. There will be refreshments and entertainment for all ages including candy for the kids and a costume contest. This event will be held outside if weather permits, or in the parish hall. All proceeds will benefit the St. Ann building fund. For additional information, call the parish office at (817) 295-5621.

GERMAN - CZECH MEAL

Holy Family Church, 2200 Roberts St., Vernon, will host a German-Czech Family Meal Sunday Nov. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The dinner will include German sausage, sauerkraut, German potatoes, chicken noodle soup, green beans, bread, tea, and dessert. The cost of the meal is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-10. Take-out and drive-through will be available by calling (940) 553-1921. Tickets are available in advance at the parish office from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 552-2895.

HOLY ROSARY BAZAAR

The Altar Society of Holy Rosary Church, Cisco, will host its 13th annual Magi's Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the parish hall at 1106 Avenue F in Cisco. The bazaar will feature a variety of handmade holiday gifts and decorations in a transformed parish hall decorated for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Other delicious draws include homemade pastries, pumpkin rolls, pecan pies, breads, candies, jams, and jellies with breakfast burritos, and a chili lunch. For more information, contact Paulette Foster at (254) 725-6204.

Classified Section

RECEPTIONIST

St. John the Apostle School is in need of a bilingual, part-time receptionist. Great personality is a must. Knowledge of Word and Excel is preferable. Hours are from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If interested, contact Debbie Proske at (817) 284-2228 or e-mail dproske@stjts.org.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

Good Newsmaker

Second annual 40 Days for Life campaign encourages participants to

Persevere in Prayer

By Michele Baker
Correspondent
Photos by Juan Guajardo

The Fort Worth kickoff rally for 40 Days For Life, an international, ecumenical prayer campaign to end abortion, took place Wednesday, Sept. 23 outside the Henderson Street Planned Parenthood facility near downtown. This 24-hour prayer vigil will take place from Sept. 23 through Nov. 1.

The gathering was unassuming at first. It began with a trickle of participants under barely twi-lit skies: clergy, laity, seniors, singles, young families

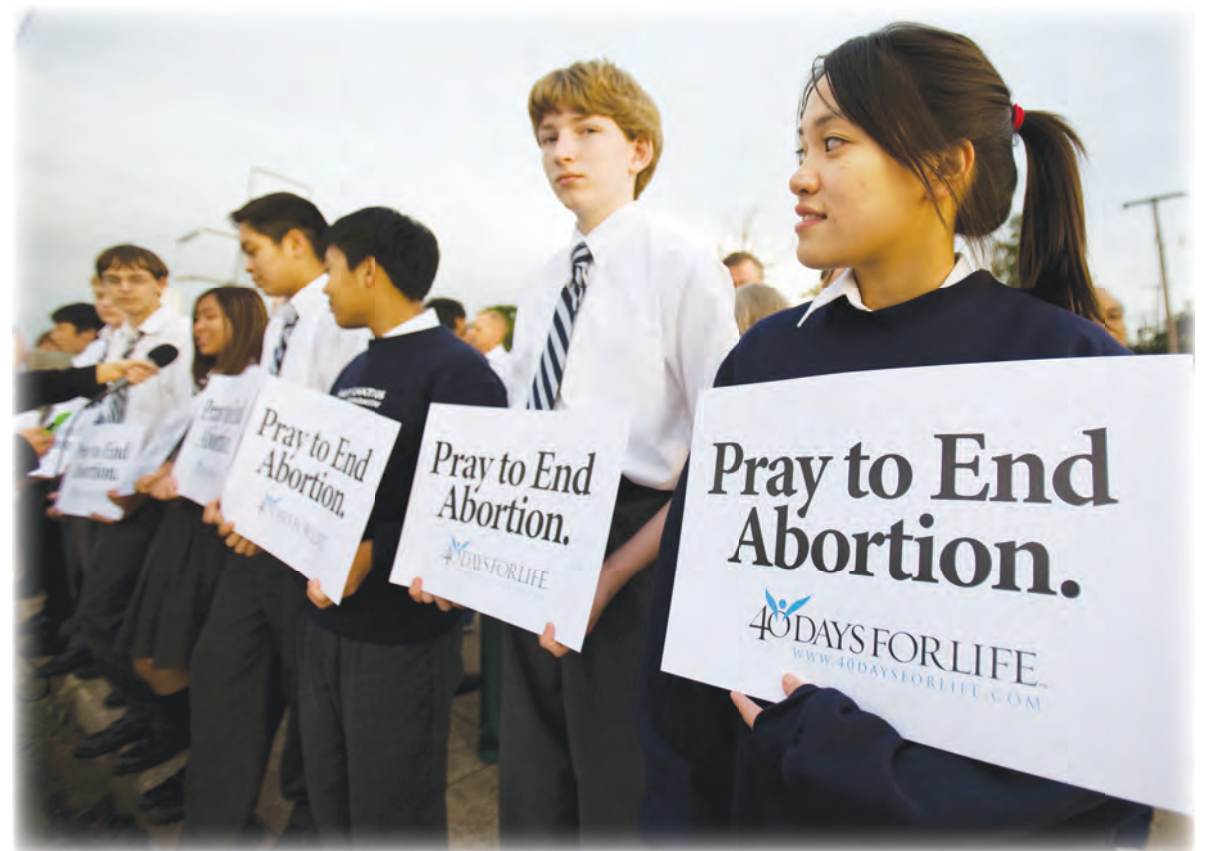
with babies in arms, and teenagers brimming with youthful zeal.

"Our school prays in front of an abortion clinic every first Saturday," said VyVy Nguyen of St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Fort Worth. "We heard about the 40 Days For Life event and thought it was cool. There are 10 of us here today. There would be more but everyone has the flu."

By 7 p.m., the narrow street of Daggett Avenue was swollen with people — nearly 400 by organizers' estimates — careful to stay off the grass and away from driveways, respectful of the space they occupied. A portable generator motor powering a public address system grumbled in the background as people gathered and greeted one another.

Finally, silence. The back of a pickup truck balancing a black music stand became a podium. Bishop Kevin Vann ascended the truck bed and gave the opening invocation. He prayed for strength, courage, and perseverance. He closed with the prayer that unites all Christians: "The Lord's Prayer."

Next, local campaign organizer Jeff Williams took to the makeshift platform and



VyVy Nguyen (far right) and John Nelson (center) from St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Fort Worth stand on the sidewalk during the first day of the campaign. Nguyen said students from her school regularly pray in front of an abortion facility.

reviewed the guidelines for the next 40 days. Every participant is required to sign a Statement of Peace, a pledge to be a prayerful witness to Christ's love.

"40 Days for Life is a focused prayer effort," explained

Williams in an interview. "We encourage our volunteers to pray and fast. The only way to end abortion is for us to pray. We are a witness to faith, hope, and love. This is a peaceful sidewalk prayer vigil, not a protest."

And so Williams reminded those gathered for the kickoff rally that participants must follow local assembly laws to the letter: no trespassing on Planned Parenthood property; no blocking drives or entry-
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Catherine Saldena holds her son, 4-year-old Adan, while listening to a speaker talk about the negative consequences of abortion.

Participants listen to a speaker during the rally to kick off 40 Days for Life. 40 Days for Life began its 2009 fall campaign by inviting speakers, including Bishop Kevin Vann, and holding a peaceful prayer vigil outside Planned Parenthood near downtown Fort Worth. About 400 people attended.

Jeff Williams, local director of Fort Worth's 40 Days for Life Campaign, spoke on rules for peaceful vigil and encouraged the crowd to fight for this cause.

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Camp Fort Worth has come and gone again, but the lessons learned by the young Church will go on, as they seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the world of need around them.

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