

# North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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**POPE MEETS ISLAMIC LEADERS** — Pope Benedict XVI shakes hands with the Kuwaiti ambassador to the Vatican, Ahamad Abdulkareem Al-Ibrahim, before a meeting with ambassadors of Islamic nations and Italian Islamic leaders in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 25. The pope assured Muslims that he respected them and was committed to dialogue. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

## Pope expresses respect for Muslims, pledges to continue dialogue

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Meeting with Islamic ambassadors and representatives, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his deep respect for Muslims, pledged to continue dialogue, and said Islamic and Christian leaders should cooperate to curb violence.

"Faithful to the teachings of their own religious traditions, Christians and Muslims must learn to work together, as indeed they already do in many common undertakings, in order to guard against all forms of intolerance and to oppose all manifestations

of violence," the pope said.

"As for us, religious authorities and political leaders, we must guide and encourage them in this direction," he said.

The unprecedented encounter at the pope's summer residence Sept. 25 was designed to soothe Muslim resentment over a recent papal speech that cited a historical criticism of Islam and the concept of holy war. The pope later distanced himself from the quoted material and said he was sorry Muslims had been offended.

Addressing the Islamic rep-

resentatives at Castel Gandolfo, the pope alluded only briefly to the earlier speech. Instead, he focused on assuring Muslim communities that his papacy was not backtracking on the dialogue opened by the Second Vatican Council and developed in large part by his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

The pope expressed his "esteem and profound respect" for Muslim believers and said he wanted to continue to build bridges, especially between Muslims and Christians. Productive  
**SEE REGENSBURG SPEECH..., P. 14**

## After long struggle, Catholic radio is finally a reality in North Texas

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

Bill Schnieders greeted the news with the exuberance of a Texas lottery winner.

"I'm so happy!" he cried out with excitement. "Finally ... finally ... finally! It's been a long, hard struggle to get where we are, but it's finally happening. Catholic radio is here, and it's going to stay!"

Schnieders, a member of St. Michael Church in Bedford, was reacting to an announcement from the Guadalupe Radio

Network (GRN) that it would begin broadcasting in the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex Oct. 1. The Midland-based company, which owns eight radio stations in West and Central Texas and one in New Mexico, signed a long-term lease with Border Media Partners to assume control of KJON 850 AM and KXEB 910 AM. Formerly the home of liberal talk radio Air America, the 910 AM frequency will now offer 24-hour-a-day programming from the EWTN Global Catholic Radio Network and

the Ave Maria Radio Network. A daily local program, featuring topics pertinent to North Texas Catholics, will debut on the station in January.

KJON 850 AM, previously a Tejano music station, is providing Spanish-language Catholic radio from sunrise to sunset. The new Metroplex stations give Catholic radio access to one of the largest audiences in the country, with the potential of reaching 4.5 million people. Approval of the venture is expected to come from the  
**SEE GUADALUPE RADIO..., P. 3**

### OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

## Cardinal Keeler praises progress in pro-life efforts, mourns developments harmful to life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although there are signs of hope and progress in pro-life efforts, other developments in the past year "are regressive and harmful in their effects on human life," Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said in a message marking Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1.

The cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, compared the atmosphere in the U.S. now to 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court, in its *Roe v. Wade* decision, found "a constitutional 'right' to abortion."

"Today, in the same way, powerful groups in our society would ignore basic facts to promote a narrow and divisive view of the human person—a view in which

human life is a mere problem, or even an object of research and exploitation, rather than the divine mystery it truly is," he said in the Sept. 26 statement.

Among the signs of progress mentioned by Cardinal Keeler were the "enthusiastic involvement in pro-life education and activism" by young people and the growing number of them "committed to living chastely until marriage, a trend that has contributed substantially to the continuing decline in abortions."

Other encouraging signs include growing public sentiment against "the policy of virtually unlimited abortion," and especially against partial-birth  
**SEE CARDINAL KEELER..., P. 12**

## Religious leaders push against late immigration bills

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious leaders joined senators from both parties in a final push to prevent the passage of immigration bills that House leaders threatened to add to last-minute legislation, including a federal appropriations bill, in the days before the congressional recess

for midterm elections.

As the Senate considered legislation to which some immigration measures had been attached, Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange, California, said at a Sept. 26 press conference in Washington that "this is not the time to make political points." He

**SEE BORDER FENCE..., P. 13**



**NEW U.S. CITIZENS** — Some of the more than 8,700 new U.S. citizens from 100 countries recite the Pledge of Allegiance while being sworn in as citizens at a naturalization ceremony in Los Angeles Sept. 22. About a half-million immigrants became naturalized citizens last year in the United States. The top five countries they represented were Mexico, India, China, the Philippines, and Cuba. (CNS photo/Lucy Nicholson, Reuters)

# The call to proclaim The Gospel of Life in our words and deeds is one that applies to us each and all

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Fort Worth,

This past week

the priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth and I met at the



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

bi-teral Assembly in Denton.

Our guest speaker was Mr. John Carr, of the staff of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He gave very thorough and excellent presentations on the challenges which face all of us to live the Gospel of Life in this Western culture, a culture which can be violent and very much opposed to the values of the Gospel and the proclaiming of the Gospel by the Church.

Mr. Carr spoke on a number of aspects addressed in *Faithful Citizenship*. This is a publication of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and is currently in the process of revision. Complementary publications to this would certainly be *Evangelium Vitae* (The

**I** think ... of the witness of so many at the various pregnancy and pre-natal care centers throughout our Diocese, and the heroic witness to life of the workers and volunteers. Through prayer (such as praying the rosary at abortion centers), counseling, care, hospitality for the mothers, families, and others, they truly live the Gospel of Life in a visible way.

*Gospel of Life*) by Pope John Paul II, and *Living the Gospel of Life, A Challenge to American Catholics*, a publication of the U.S. bishops conference that was published before *Faithful Citizenship*.

One of the points that Mr. Carr made is that our commitment to life is something that should not just be relegated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, for example, or a parish pro-life or justice committee, thinking that we have done what we should. It needs to call forth a personal commitment from each and every one

of us.

I think, for example, of the witness of so many at the various pregnancy and pre-natal care centers throughout our Diocese, and the heroic witness to life of the workers and volunteers. Through prayer (such as praying the rosary at abortion centers), counseling, care, hospitality for the mothers, families, and others, they truly live the Gospel of Life in a visible way.

There are many other ways, as well. The Gospel of Life in its fullness is to always be part of our

response in Faith to the Lord of Life for each of us.

The resource packet provided by the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the USCCB gives us much to think about in this month of October, dedicated to Respect Life, when it says, "Living with a heart open to God's will has enormous implications. Different people will realize that God calls them to different things. For an adolescent, it may mean resisting peer pressure to take part in drinking or unchaste activity. For the single adult, it could require offering personal time in service of a needy person. A businessman may find that honesty and fairness requires a certain course of action. A married couple could realize that they should have another child. A frightened pregnant woman may understand that she needs to ask for help to resist the temptation to abortion. The sick person might have to accept his illness and join his suffering to that of Christ .... Doing God's will is not always easy. We usually have plans for our lives. It is good to have plans, but never at the expense of our growth in relationship to God...."

The week in Denton was a great occasion to spend time with our priests in prayer, study, and recreation. I thank them for their kindness to me, their advice, and encouragement. They are faithful servants of the Lord in our parishes and so many aspects of diocesan life.

God bless you always...

## Second Look Project launches 'Supreme Court Countdown' partial-birth abortion campaign

WASHINGTON — As the United States Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments in cases challenging the federal partial-birth abortion ban Nov. 8, the Second Look Project hopes to raise public awareness of this issue with a five-week campaign entitled "Supreme Court Countdown: Partial-Birth Abortion."

"Six years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court invoked its *Roe v. Wade* decision to strike down state laws against partial-birth abortion," said Deirdre McQuade of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, who oversees the Second Look Project. "Now that the court is taking a second look at the horrendous practice of partial-birth abortion, this new campaign will help remind the public and our elected officials how much is at stake."

**O**n Monday, Oct. 2, the Second Look Project began sending a fact or quote on partial-birth abortion each weekday to Congress, news media, and opinion leaders.

On Monday, Oct. 2, the Second Look Project began sending a fact or quote on partial-birth abortion each weekday to Congress, news media, and opinion leaders. The correspondence is to continue through Nov. 8, when oral arguments are scheduled.

Building on the project's "Roe Reality Check" postcard campaign of 2005, which educated Congress and others on critical facts regarding the *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision, the new Supreme Court Countdown campaign will send 27 "e-cards" by e-mail. These facts will also be posted on the project's Web site.

The Second Look Project helps people make informed decisions based on fact rather than emotion. While abortion has been legal in the United States for three decades, polls continue to show that many people do not have very basic information about abortion, such as when during pregnancy is an abortion legal or why it is generally performed. For more information on the Second Look Project, visit [www.secondlookproject.org](http://www.secondlookproject.org).



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# Guadalupe Radio Network begins broadcasting Catholic programming on KJON 850 AM and KXEB 910 AM

FROM PAGE 1

Federal Communications Commission in 60 days.

GRN executives tried to purchase a radio station in the Metroplex earlier this year, but fundraising efforts fell short of the needed \$4.9 million. At the same time, Radio Xavier, which broadcast a local Catholic program on KSKY 660, lost its Sunday morning time slot. Dave Palmer, the show's host and Radio Xavier's general manager, joined GRN, where he continued his efforts to bring Catholic radio back to the Metroplex.

"Things were always going on behind the scenes," says Palmer, explaining that GRN never gave up hope of launching a station in North Texas. "We're not going to own these stations, but it's a good deal," said Palmer, referring to the fact that they are entering into a long-term lease of the two stations.

GRN says it will need \$550,000 to fund the stations during the critical first year of operation. Calling the project a "leap of faith," the new station manager of KXEB 910 AM says the company is counting on listener support and sponsors willing to underwrite programming.

"There's no advertising or commercials, but businesses can sponsor programs," Palmer continues. "The rules are different for non-profit companies."

The veteran broadcaster is looking forward to hosting a new local radio show that will feature noteworthy activities of church ministries and organizations. Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann and Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann support the undertaking and are expected to occasionally visit the studios to participate in programming.

"My goal is to let the community know what's going on with pro-life activities, social justice causes, and groups like the Knights of Columbus and Serra Club," Palmer says, promising "if people send in information,



**Left:** Veteran radio broadcaster Dave Palmer, shown hosting a Radio Xavier Catholic radio program in November 2005, looks forward to hosting a new Catholic radio show that will feature noteworthy activities of local church ministries and organizations. (Photo by Diana Pearson)



**Left:** Guadalupe Radio Network President Len Oswald describes his network's efforts as "radio for the soul." "We do this to save souls," he says, adding that Catholic programming is pro-family, pro-life, and promotes strong values. "I know a lot of people in DFW were praying for this effort," Oswald says. "Those prayers were heard, and God opened these doors for us." (NTC file photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

we'll put it on the air."

Although eager to disseminate information about area events and parish news, the Guadalupe Radio Network says its primary mission is evangelization. According to company executives, the arrival of full-time Catholic radio in the Metroplex allows millions of North Texans the opportunity to hear the truth about the Catholic faith in the comfort of their cars, homes, and offices.

"It's radio for the soul. We do this to save souls," says Guadalupe Radio Network President Len Oswald, who hopes to retain some of KXEB's liberal-oriented Air America audience. "Catholic programming is pro-family, pro-life, and promotes strong values. I don't think Air America touched on those things, so changing the format of KXEB 910 AM is a win-win situation for us."

Now home to the largest English-language and Spanish-language Catholic radio stations in the United States, according to Oswald, the Metroplex will set the standard for the rest of the country when it comes to faith-inspired programming. The influence and availability of Catholic radio is growing, Oswald asserts.

"In 1999, there were seven Catholic radio stations in the United States. That's grown to 140 to 150 stations in the past six and a half years," Oswald adds. "What we're doing in Fort Worth and Dallas is happening in other



**Left:** Bishop Kevin Vann is interviewed by Dave Palmer at the KSKY studios last November. At the time, Radio Xavier, which broadcast a weekly Catholic radio program on KSKY, was the first inroad to Catholic programming in the Metroplex. Radio Xavier eventually lost its time slot at that station and went off the air. Recently, Guadalupe Radio Network announced that it has leased two AM stations in order to bring Catholic radio back to the Fort Worth/Dallas area. (Photo by Diana Pearson)

parts of the country."

Catholic radio accurately addresses church issues that are often twisted or misrepresented in the secular media. Oswald used the controversy surrounding Pope Benedict XVI's use of a 14th century quote on Islam by Christian emperor Manuel II Paleologus to illustrate his point. The pope's comment and the reaction by some in the Muslim community received overwhelming coverage from the TV networks, but they never told the full story.

Catholic radio was one of the few timely sources able to set the record straight.

"That's what these radio stations will do. They will get the word out about what the Catholic

Church believes," Oswald says. "That's ultimately one of our goals. People will hear the truth. It will explain negative situations involving the church in a truthful manner."

Bringing Catholic radio into the Fort Worth-Dallas market was a hard-fought battle made possible through prayers and fasting, the company president says. Other business opportunities didn't work out, "but what did happen is much better."

"I know a lot of people in DFW were praying for this effort," he adds. "Those prayers were heard, and God opened these doors for us."

Bill Schnieders did more than just pray. The Bedford parishioner and a group of other business peo-

ple, have met to discuss the possibility of Catholic radio in North Texas for more than 10 years.

"It's a unique form of evangelization that Pope John Paul II called for a long time ago," says Schnieders, who recalls gathering in Dallas' St. Monica Church with other Catholics to work on the project. "We just tried to get things rolling and keep the idea alive."

Catholics need a good, strong voice in the Metroplex, and radio will do that, he insists.

"There are some bedrock things about Catholicism that are unchangeable, and we need to get that out to the world," he adds. "I know Catholic radio has been credited with many strong stories of reversion and conversion. It's there when people need it."

## NTC deadlines for submission

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

Items to be considered for publication in the Oct. 20 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Items to be considered for publication in the Nov. 3 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

## World Communications Day to focus on media's influence on children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has asked the Catholic Church to focus on the influence the mass media has on the world's children when it marks World Communications Day in 2007.

"Children and the Media: A Challenge for Education" is the

theme chosen by the pope, said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

In a Sept. 29 statement, Archbishop Foley said the theme "underlines the need for parents and educators to realize the important formative influence

of the media in the lives of children."

In most dioceses, World Communications Day 2007 will be celebrated May 20. A papal message on the theme is expected to be published Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of writers and journalists.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Beginning Experience offers help to those grieving loss of spouse

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The next weekend session will be offered Oct. 20-22 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, next to Nolan Catholic High School.

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

For more information, call metro (972) 601-4091, e-mail to dfwbe@hotmail.com, or visit online at www.beginningexperience.org.

## Fr. Gary Geurtz to celebrate 25th jubilee

Father Gary Geurtz will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood Saturday, Oct. 14, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller. A catered reception will be served after the parish's 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate the parish's 11 a.m. Mass Sunday, Oct. 15, as part of the observation of the anniversary. A barbecue for the Knights of Columbus and their families, honoring Fr. Geurtz, will follow the liturgy.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, priests are invited to share in a Holy Hour with Fr. Geurtz on the actual anniversary date of his ordination. For more information, call St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish at (817) 431-3857.

## Young adults invited to attend Theology on Tap series

Theology on Tap, a nationally recognized lecture series for young adults ages 21 through their 30s, has returned to the Diocese of Fort Worth. Although the series began Oct. 3, there are three presentations still to be given. The place to be is Hyena's Comedy Night Club, 605 Houston Street in downtown Fort Worth, Tuesday evenings, Oct. 10, 17, and 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Theology on Tap is best known for its dynamic speakers and the opportunity for young adults, either single or married, to engage in discussion on theology and other faith-related topics. Each evening will start with a few minutes to meet and greet fellow young adults from around the Metroplex area, prior to the speaker taking the stage. After the speaker's presentation, a question and answer session will be held on the night's topic.

Upcoming speakers and topics will be Oct. 10, Deacon Mike Moeck, "Being Catholic in the Workplace"; Oct. 17, Sister Gabriela Martinez, SSMN, "Mary and the Rosary"; and Father Kyle Walterscheid, Paul Combest, and Nicole Bernal, "Why Do Catholics Do That?"

More information may be found online at www.fwdioc.org or by contacting Paul Combest, director of Young Adult Ministry, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 267 or by e-mailing to pcombest@fwdioc.org.

## Retrouvaille weekend Oct. 20-22 to offer help for hurting marriages

A Retrouvaille weekend, part of a program which offers help to married couples who are struggling in their relationship, will take place Oct. 20-22 in the Metroplex area. Offered through the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Retrouvaille is a three-month process which combines a live-in weekend with post-weekend follow-up sessions.

Through the Retrouvaille program, couples who are distanced in their relationship learn how listening, forgiveness, and communication are powerful aids for building a loving and lasting union. All names and conversations will be kept confidential.

To register or for more information, call (800) 470-2230, or visit online at www.retrouvaille.org.

## White Mass for those in medical professions set for Oct. 24

A White Mass will be celebrated for medical and health professionals of all faiths Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. at All Saints Church, 214 N.W. 20th Street in North Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside with Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, chaplain at Cook Children's Medical Center, serving as concelebrant. Music will be led by members of Remnant Catholic Apostolate.

The White Mass is traditionally held for medical and health professionals on or around the feast of St. Luke, patron saint of physicians. The Mass is sponsored by the newly re-established St. Luke's

# People & Events

## of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



**SECULAR FRANCISCAN** — The Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order has a new brother, as Clark H. Jones was professed into the order Sept. 15 at St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington. Jones is pictured (left) making his profession before (others, l. to r.) Carol Lieser, SFO, master of formation; Josh Molitor, SFO, minister; and Chuck Lieser, SFO, vice-minister; with Father Carl Szura, TOR, spiritual advisor of the fraternity looking on. Fr. Szura was celebrant for the eucharistic liturgy, which was attended by Jones' family, other members of the Immaculata Fraternity, and five visiting members of the St. Clare Fraternity of Crowley.

## St. Joseph Covenant Keepers to present 'Fathering Amidst the Storm' Nov. 4

The St. Joseph Covenant Keepers, an international network of Christian men focusing on St. Joseph as an ideal role model, will host a program entitled "Fathering Amidst the Storm" at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller. Steve Wood, founder of the St. Joseph Covenant Keepers and host of the Eternal Word Television Network's "The Carpenter's Shop," will give the presentation, set for Saturday, Nov. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wood, a husband and father of eight, will offer key information for Catholic men about children, discipline, faith formation, teenagers, purity, marriage, and the media.

This event is for men only. The charge for admission is \$10. For tickets or for more information, call Andrew Hightower at (817) 490-8919.

## Fr. John Dear, SJ, to speak on 'Nonviolence of Jesus' Oct. 28

"Jesus, Bearer of God's Peace and Justice: A Workshop of the Nonviolence of Jesus" will be presented Saturday, Oct. 28, by Jesuit Father John Dear at the Catholic Renewal Center in East Fort Worth. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m., with coffee and pastries being served. The program will begin at 9 a.m., and the day will end with the celebration of the Eucharist at 4 p.m.

Fr. Dear, author of several books including *Jesus the Rebel: Bearer of God's Peace and Justice*, has served as director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a U.S. interfaith peace organization. According to a workshop brochure, he has traveled to war-ravaged zones around the world, been arrested some 75 times for various peace initiatives, and has given thousands of lectures on living a life of peace and justice.

"Father Dear will remind us of our call to discipleship as he shares with us his own journey of Gospel peacemaking," states the brochure. "Through our reflections and discussions, this workshop will invite us to transform our homes, workplaces, churches, communities, and, especially, our hearts into places where peace and loving justice will preside.

The program is being co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the diocesan Office of Peace and Justice.

The cost is \$25, which includes lunch. Make check payable to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, and send it to: John Dear Workshop, Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth 76103. For more information, call Sister Anselma Knabe at (817) 429-2920 or visit online at www.fwdioc.org.

## Faith and Fiction group to discuss novel by Kim Edwards Oct. 26

"Faith and Fiction: Conversations on Spirituality and Imagination," a venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on the journey of faith, will meet Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, a novel by Kim Edwards.

Those planning to participate are asked to read the book, reflect on it in light of personal experiences, and come to the session with questions, insights, or observations to share. A potluck supper will be served at 6:15 p.m., and the discussion will take place from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Future meeting dates and the topics of discussion are as follows: Nov. 16, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce; Dec. 14, "The Remains of the Day," a film directed by James Ivory; Jan. 18, *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Fyodor Dostoevski; and Feb. 15, *Stones from the River*, by Ursula Hegi.

To ensure good conversation, space will be limited. To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Dan Luby at (817) 560-2452 ext. 259, or by e-mail to dluby@fwdioc.org.

## Marriage program offered for military couples

The Military Marriage Enrichment Weekend, a private program designed to help married military couples deal with the readjustment process following return from combat, will be offered Oct. 27-29, from 6 p.m. Friday evening through 6 p.m. Sunday evening, at the American Airlines Training and Conference Center, located at 4501 Highway 360 South, MD 929, in Fort Worth. The center is an ADA-compliant facility.

According to program materials, the goal of the Military Marriage Enrichment program is to create strong families by building marriages able to withstand the challenges of life before and after deployment. Military Marriage Enrichment Weekends are conducted by a team of trained couples, most with military or combat experience, who share from real life situations. There are no group discussions.

The program is provided free to participants who are legally married; at least one spouse is a member of the military (active, reserves, Guard, or retired due to injury); recently combat deployed; returned from combat deployment at least six months (recommended); and have been wounded during deployment (seriously wounded are also accommodated).

The program includes two nights lodging, six meals, and all supplies. Reservations and completion of a registration form are required. Space is limited to 10 couples. Priority will be given to wounded service personnel. For registration or more information, visit the Web site at www.marriagemanagement.org; e-mail to mmc1001@comcast.net; or call (817) 465-1001.

## Workshop on 'How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk' set for Nov. 4 at Holy Family

The Singles Ministry at Holy Family Church will host a workshop on "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk/Jerkette (The Way to Follow Your Heart Without Losing Your Mind)" Saturday, Nov. 4. The program will begin at 10 a.m. in the parish's Family Life Center, located at 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth.

The session, to be presented by Deacon Dick and Kathy Stojak of the diocesan Family Life Office, will examine the five bonding elements of a relationship. "These dynamic elements," according to a workshop announcement, "are directly related to one another, must be developed in a specific order, and must be kept in balance." The workshop will tie Christian values to the process of forming friendships and dating.

For more details or to RSVP, contact Monica Molina via e-mail to mmolina@holymfamilyfw.org or call (817) 737-6768.

## Women's tea, auction to be held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Nov. 5

All women are invited to attend a benefit tea and auction Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by The Mothers with Young Children Ministry (MYC) of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 861 Wildwood Lane, in Grapevine. The annual event, which will be held in the parish's Family Life Center, enables MYC to provide Christmas gifts to local needy families and assist them in covering basic needs such as utility bills and groceries.

MYC is comprised of Christian mothers who share similar goals for their families and children. The group supports both recreational and pastoral activities that minister to its members, St. Francis Parish, and the community.

A silent auction and a live auction are planned, and tea sandwiches and hot tea will be served. Auction items will include a two-night weekend stay at the Gaylord Texan, a two-hour cruise on Lake Grapevine, and a party for 15 kids at KidzMuze Museum.

There is no admission fee. For more information, contact Wendy Cronin at (972) 906-9982 or e-mail to wendyacronin@comcast.net.

## St. Augustine Men's Purity Group meets weekly

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 Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller.

For more information, visit the group's Web site at www.sampg.org or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com or call the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office at (817) 431-3857.

## People and Events

### World Youth Day at Six Flags set for Oct. 29

On Sunday, Oct. 29, children and youth of the diocese, along with their adult leaders and family members, are invited to gather for the annual World Youth Day (WYD) celebration, to be held at the Six Flags over Texas theme park in Arlington. Bishop Kevin Vann will join Bishop Charles Grahmann of Dallas in celebrating the youth-oriented liturgy with the theme "Catholic to the Core." Thousands of Catholics from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas gather each year for this World Youth Day celebration.

A special feature of this year's event will be a presentation by the Drum Café, a San Diego group with South African roots. The group will lead WYD participants in drumming activities designed to emphasize the use of drums as a means of communication and unity among people of all cultures. Those planning to attend the 5 p.m. youth Mass, to be held in the Music Mill Amphitheatre at the theme park, may enjoy a day of rides, food, exhibits, and fun from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the park. Local Christian bands will also perform throughout the day at the park's amphitheatre.

Discounted tickets and transportation opportunities are available through local youth ministers. For more information, contact Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Adolescent Catechesis, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 261, or via e-mail to kprevou@fwdioc.org.

### Mt. Carmel Center announces two upcoming programs

Two programs will be offered in October at Mt. Carmel Center, 4600 West Davis Street, Dallas. "Morning of Reflection: The Life and Works of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity," a program led by Father Juan De Bono, will be held Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity of the Carmel, from Dijon, France, was a Discalced Carmelite, born in 1880. She died in 1906 and was beatified in November 1984. She is known for her patronage on behalf of orphans and the chronically ill. Reservations are requested by Oct. 7.

"You Don't Say: Old Heresies in Contemporary Times," a mini-retreat to be held Oct. 20-21, will be presented by Father Jerome Earley, OCD. The retreat is a study of the major heresies the church battled during its early history and how those same heresies are still reflected in today's society. Topics include abortion, stem-cell research, and more. The retreat is available for overnight residents at a cost of \$100 or for commuters at a cost of \$50. Fees include conferences and meals. Registration and a non-refundable deposit of \$25 for residents and \$15 for commuters must be received by Friday, Oct. 13.

To RSVP for all programs, call Vicky at (214) 331-6224 ext. 314.

### Our Mother of Mercy Parish announces upcoming events

Our Mother of Mercy Parish has announced three upcoming events with the OMM parish and school community. All are invited to attend the annual Our Mother of Mercy Carnival, a fundraising event and benefit for the OMM School. The carnival will be held on the parish grounds at 1001 E. Terrell Sunday, Oct. 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All are invited to also attend the annual Friends and Family Day, to be held Saturday Oct. 28, at the 10 a.m. Mass. Finally, the annual Gospelfest is scheduled to be held Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m.

For more information about these events, contact Joi Bernard at (817) 565-6717.

### English Cursillo weekend for women to be offered Oct. 19-22

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

A Cursillo weekend for women, which will be presented in English, will take place Oct. 19-22 at The Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th Street in Fort Worth.

For more information, contact Mary Jean Nagy at mjnagy@fred-hall-dfw.com or (817) 226-1110.

### Bishop Vann to lead young adult pilgrimage during Lent 2007

Bishop Kevin Vann and Father Michael Holmberg, associate pastor at St. Michael Church in Bedford, will lead a Rome pilgrimage designed especially for young adults March 10-18, 2007, during the Lenten season. The trip, sponsored by the young adults' organization of St. Michael Church, is described by organizers as a spiritual, educational, and cultural journey, with opportunities for worship at historical venues, tours guided by local experts to artistic and architectural treasures, and free time to explore Rome.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit numerous sites, including the catacombs, basilicas, and the Vatican museums. Bishop Vann will celebrate Mass in places such as St. Peter's Basilica and at the tomb of St. Francis in nearby Assisi.

All young adults of the diocese, their family members, and friends are invited to participate. The cost is \$2,500 per person for double occupancy. Space is limited. For program details or for registration forms, visit the pilgrimage Web site at [www.travelillum.com/trc/hfw](http://www.travelillum.com/trc/hfw), or contact Barbara Boone at (817) 283-8666 ext. 55, or via e-mail to Boone@udallas.edu.

### St. Andrew School Fall Festival set for Oct. 8

St. Andrew School will hold its annual fall festival Sunday, Oct. 8, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the school grounds, located at 3304 Dryden Road in South Fort Worth.

"Come out and enjoy an old fashioned family day, with fun for all ages," encourage festival organizers. Activities will include a cakewalk, confetti eggs, a three-on-three basketball tournament, and much, much more.

For more info, call the school office at (817) 924-8917.

### Texas A&M Catholic campus ministry is searching for alumni

St. Mary's Catholic Center, which provides campus ministry to the students of Texas A&M University in College Station, is in the process of trying to locate former students who are "Aggie Catholics." Aggies, their parents, and friends, or individuals just wanting to learn more about Catholic campus ministry at Texas A&M are invited to contact the center.

Those who make contact will be entered in a drawing for a "Football Surprise" package, which includes two tickets to a Texas A&M football event in Austin the day after Thanksgiving, motel accommodations, and a barbecue dinner.

For more information, call St. Mary's Catholic Center (888) 240-TAMU or visit online at [www.aggiecatholic.org](http://www.aggiecatholic.org) between Monday, Oct. 2, and Tuesday, Oct. 31.



**SACRED HEART GROWTH** — The Sacred Heart Parish in Seymour is well underway with a long-awaited building project — a new multipurpose building. The parish's "Hope for our Future" capital campaign kicked off five years ago. Now, after many community fellowship dinners to raise funds, the financial goal of \$525,000 is within reach, and the dream is about to become a reality. The 8,700-square-foot building, shown here with the framing nearly completed, will house eight classrooms, offices, a conference room, library, gift shop, waiting room, two supply rooms, and restroom facilities.

### St. George School to host carnival Oct. 14

Everyone is invited to come and join in the fun and festivities at the St. George School Carnival Oct. 14 from noon to 8 p.m.

Carnival games, where everyone is a winner, are among the planned activities. A wide variety of foods will be available to enjoy, including eggrolls, Mexican food, hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, and more. A "Drive for the Kids" program, sponsored by Dodge, will help in raising funds for the school.

St. George School is located east of downtown Fort Worth at 824 Hudgins Ave. The carnival will take place on the school grounds, in the 800 block of Karnes between 121 Airport Freeway and Maurice. For more information, call the school office at (817) 222-1221.

### Lewisville Knights to host youth Soccer Challenge Oct. 7

A local competition of the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge, sponsored by the Lewisville Knights of Columbus Council 9884 and Greater Lewisville Area Soccer Association, will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, in Flower Mound at Gerault Park Field #2 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The district competition will follow on the same day from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The competition is designed for players to demonstrate their skill with the penalty kick. Each player will be allowed three practice kicks, followed by 15 consecutive shots at the goal from the penalty line (12 yards from the goal). The goal will be divided into a series of five scoring zones.

Part of a national competition, the Soccer Challenge is open to all youth, ages 10 through 14 as of Sept. 1, in communities within the Lewisville ISD area. Proof of age is required.

Full details can be found on the Greater Lewisville Area Soccer Association (GLASA) Web site at [www.glasasoccer.org](http://www.glasasoccer.org).

### St. John Fall Fest to be held Oct. 6-7

Knights of Columbus Council 8512 of St. John the Apostle Church has announced that the parish's Fall Fest '06 will be held Oct. 6-7 on the parish grounds, located at 7341 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills. The festival will be open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, and will continue from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Among the many activities will be a full array of bounce houses, a six-on-six soccer tournament, crafts, food, live entertainment, and a silent auction. A Knights council press release guarantees fun for the whole family.

For more information, call the parish office at (817) 284-4811.

### St. Michael Parish to host craft sale Oct. 14-15

Parishioners of St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford, will host the parish's 26th annual craft sale Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Crafts, decorative accessories, gifts, floral designs, and items for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas will be available for sale. All are encouraged to attend and to do early Christmas shopping. Proceeds will be distributed among local charitable organizations.

For more information, contact the parish at (817) 283-8746.

### St. Stephen Bazaar to be held Oct. 21

The annual St. Stephen Bazaar will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at St. Stephen Church, 1802 Bethel Road in Weatherford. A variety of food, games, and crafts will be available.

Proceeds from the event will benefit various parish organizations.

All are welcome to join in the fun. For more information, call the church office at (817) 596-9585.

### St. Mary Parish will host carnival Oct. 15

St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 West Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth, will host its annual fall carnival Sunday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Highlights will include music by DJ Luz Y Sonido Tecate and a performance by the Ballet Folklorico Centeotl.

All are welcome to join in the fun. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 923-1911.

### Holy Rosary School to hold fall festival Oct. 14

Affordable family fun, food, and entertainment will be offered at the Holy Rosary Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 14, according to a school press release. The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the school grounds at 2015 S.W. Green Oaks Blvd. in Arlington.

Highlights will include games for all ages, a wide array of food, a crafts bazaar, Christian music, and other local entertainment.

For more information, call the school office at (817) 419-6800.

### St. Mary Church, Henrietta, to host barbecue Oct. 15

The 27th annual barbecue dinner benefiting St. Mary Church of Henrietta will be held Sunday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the parish hall, located at 105 S. Barrett Street, on Highway 82. Carry-out plates will be available.

The menu will include brisket and chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, beans, dessert, and tea or coffee.

All are invited to attend. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 3 through 10; children under the age of 3 eat free. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 538-4214.

**Editor's Note:** THE NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC did not receive notification of this honor graduate until after the 2006 honor graduates had already been published. We are happy to be able to offer recognition at this time.



**Adam Christian Hertel**  
Valedictorian  
Seymour High School,  
Seymour

Adam Christian Hertel achieved the honor of valedictorian for Seymour High School. Adam is a member of Sacred Heart Church in Seymour, where he has served as an RCIA sponsor, eucharistic minister, and usher. The son of Sharon and Greg Hertel, Adam is now attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He is a pre-med major with the goal of becoming a physical therapist.

# Ministry Formation Day in Wichita Falls

Faithful gather in mutual support, sharing cultures, reaffirming call to ministry

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
MARY E. MANLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

On Sept. 23, some 200 participants representing the North and Northwest deaneries of the diocese, ushered in fall's first day by taking part in the annual diocesan Ministry Formation Day (MFD) at Notre Dame High School in Wichita Falls.

Father Anthony Basil Taylor, vicar for ministries of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, gave the keynote address. As pastor of Oklahoma City's Sacred Heart Parish, Fr. Taylor works with a Catholic community that has evolved from being primarily Anglo to being 93 percent Hispanic, making it one of the largest predominantly Hispanic parishes in the city. Easily communicating in both English and Spanish, he offered a seasoned cross-cultural perspective, also drawing from his expertise as a doctor of biblical theology.

After jovially informing his audience about his Fort Worth roots, Fr. Taylor set a more serious tone, elaborating on the event theme of "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Fr. Taylor said that, once a person has a healthy self-acceptance allowing them to recognize their God-given gifts, talents, and personal limitations, they are better able to discern Jesus' identity and mission, and how these affect their own distinctive purpose in serving the Lord. Catechetical formation throughout a person's developmental life stages, he said, is critical in shaping their identity so that it aligns with

their specific mission.

Breakout sessions in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese were offered by diocesan and local presenters. Topics covered age- and culture-specific ministries, as well as areas of broader focus, such as contemporary moral issues, resources for hurting families, life transitions, evangelization, applications of psalms, faith and the movies, and even Advent/Christmas preparation. "Keeping Children Safe," the diocese's safe environment training program, was also offered.

Twenty-one exhibitors were present, making available a variety of wares and providing information and resources.

Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, diocesan associate director of Children's Catechesis and Catechetical Ministry, served as emcee for the general sessions, and Notre Dame High School students were designated as "helping hands" to guide attendees to session sites around the campus.

An opening trilingual prayer service was coordinated by Debbie Neely, director of the Midwestern State University (MSU) Catholic Campus Center. She led prayers in English, assisted by Francisco Salas, MSU Catholic Student Organization president, in Spanish, and Loc Dinh, local Immaculate Conception of Mary parishioner, in Vietnamese.

Centered on the gym floor, a large display with a font of flowing water and an upright cross situated in a rock/stone base was a major visual element of the day. During the prayer service, in a commu-

nity-unifying ceremony, Father Hoa Nguyen, pastor of Wichita Falls' Sacred Heart Church, blessed the water. Parishioners representing various churches processed forward carrying vessels with water from their own communities to be poured into the flowing fountain.

University of Dallas student Felix Romero and nine other young adults from the parishes of St. John the Baptizer in Bridgeport, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Decatur, and St. Mary in Jacksboro, attended MFD to gather information and ideas to help them in the process of forming a tri-parish young adult group to serve their peers in Jack and Wise Counties. "Our main goal in coming today," said Romero, "is to further unify our group, learn from others, and build up our faith."

Loc Dinh, a health care professional, observed, "It's a learning time for me as a catechist to gain more knowledge of how catechetical process works. Here, there are a lot of people in adult formation who serve as brothers and sisters to provide mutual support," he said. "MFD gives me an opportunity to share my culture as well as [to become] enlightened [about] other cultures."

First-timers Mary Ann and

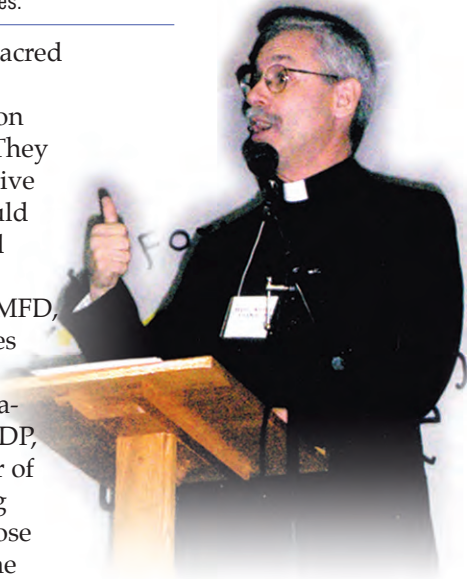
Below: In a symbol of unity, representatives of various parishes bring forth vessels of water to pour into a single flowing fountain.



Above: Several of the young adults in attendance sought resources to help them in their formation a tri-parish young adult group in Jack and Wise counties.

Frank Hall, representing Sacred Heart Parish in Seymour, expressed their appreciation of their MFD experience. They found the event "informative and educational" and would encourage others to attend future such programs.

In reviewing the latest MFD, which is offered three times a year in various areas of the diocese, event coordinator Sister Elvira Mata, MCDP, diocesan associate director of Hispanic Youth and Young Adults, said, "We hope those who attended MFD had the opportunity to gather as the church of God for worship, fellowship, continued growth, and enrichment."



Above: In his keynote address, Father Anthony Basil Taylor stressed the importance of catechetical formation during all stages of life.

## Save the dates for upcoming Ministry Formation Days

The sponsors of Ministry Formation Day (MFD) are the diocesan offices of Children's Catechesis, Media Library, Adult Formation, Hispanic Pastoral Services, Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, Worship, Catholic Schools, Peace and Justice, Marriage and Family Life, Light of Christ Institute, Marriage Tribunal, Pastoral Planning, Stewardship and Development, and Finance.

MFD will also be offered Saturday, Jan. 6, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. For more information,

contact Kevin Prevou at kprevou@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 261, or Paul Combest at pcombest@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 267.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Mineral Wells will host MFD Saturday, March 3. For details contact Joe Rodriguez at jrodriguez@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 115, or Andrés Aranda at aaranda@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 258.

MFD information also may be found on the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org), by clicking on the topic Faith Formation.



Above: In a full Notre Dame School gymnasium, Ministry Formation Day keynoter Father Anthony Basil Taylor reviews the day's program with emcee Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN. Some 200 people participated in the Wichita Falls event.

## Diocesan

# 'Building on Our Past — Envisioning Our Future'

*Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish celebrates 50th anniversary with eye toward future church home*

Story and Photos by  
Mary E. Manley  
Correspondent

With its motto "Building on Our Past — Envisioning Our Future," the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish building campaign is moving forward to make those words become reality. And when they bear fruit in the parish's first formal church sanctuary, they will mark a highly significant milestone in the parish's 50-year journey.

Among the persevering pilgrims who will most appreciate having that new home will be 50 founding members of the Wichita Falls parish. The 50 were among 640 parishioners present in the Notre Dame High School gymnasium Sept. 16 celebrating the parish's 50th anniversary.

However, the founders came not only to rejoice in the parish's golden jubilee, but also to witness Bishop Kevin Vann's blessing of the property on which the parish's new sanctuary will be built. Despite the blustery hot wind that prevailed during the ceremony earlier that Saturday, many participants joined Bishop Vann, Father John Swistovich, pastor, and Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus representatives, on the vacant land where the new church will rise. There a large sign reads, "Future Home of Our Lady Queen of Peace." The property is directly across the street from Notre Dame Elementary School, whose old gymnasium has served as the church sanctuary since the parish originated as a mission 52 years ago.

According to John Spyra, OLQP business manager, the official groundbreaking is projected to take place some time in the first half of 2007. He indicated that just over \$2,000,000 has been raised thus far in the \$5,000,000 project. Once 65 percent of the goal has been secured, he said, ground will be broken. Architectural plans for the brick building show seating for 1,000 people,

**Below:** A Knights of Columbus honor guard stands watch during the ceremony at which the future site of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish is blessed.



with facilities to accommodate as many as 1,500. The plans are to be finalized as early as January. Renovation of the existing Notre Dame Elementary School facilities will accompany the building of the new church.

After the initial blessing ritual, the 6 p.m. OLQP Mass was celebrated by Bishop Vann, with Fr. Swistovich concelebrating. In his homily, Bishop Vann spoke of the persistence and patience believers are called to exemplify, often against great odds and with no knowledge of what the future holds. These qualities, he said, help them to better align themselves with the Lord's true identity and his plans.

Bishop Vann commended OLQP parishioners for having shown themselves faithful to that calling for the last 50-plus years. As a symbol of the continuing presence of Christ in the parish through time, Bishop Vann carried the same staff that the late Dallas Bishop Thomas K. Gorman had used when he had first dedicated the parish.

Shortly after Mass, Bishop Vann and Fr. Swistovich were joined at the gala by Msgr. John Brennan, OLQP's original parochial vicar. Msgr. Brennan expressed his delight at being back with the first parish to which he was ever assigned, still retaining "many fond memories of his happy years there."

After a catered meal and congratulatory words from both Fr. Swistovich and Bishop Vann, State Representative David Farabee presented a State of Texas Proclamation and Wichita Falls Mayor Pro Tem Ray Gonzalez offered a City of Wichita Falls Proclamation, graciously affirming the planned new building. Vicki Cluley, event coordinator, delivered a tribute to OLQP

founding members, and one of them, Betty Janota, cut an elaborate anniversary cake. The jubilee celebration concluded with a dance with live music.

In a later interview with the *North Texas Catholic*, Janota recalled how small the Catholic community had been when it began and shared her pride in its growth. The German native and octogenarian has volunteered in numerous parish ministries over time. "It is a beautiful, friendly parish," she reflected. "I consider it my home, and its members are my family."

Another founding member, Wendell Carroll, attended the then-Our Lady Queen of Peace School as a third grader. Carroll shared nostalgic recollections of his years as a young parishioner, when interviewed by the *North Texas Catholic*. He spoke of experiencing many cultural changes over the last half-century in the OLQP setting and is representative of many still there who have a strong, even bittersweet, attachment to bygone days. Yet, Carroll, as patriarch to a third generation of OLQP parishioners, confirmed that he welcomes the anticipated building's increased space and improved facilities for ministry.

OLQP is currently housed at 4040 York Street, at the corner of Lansing Boulevard. During the gala program, Fr. Swistovich imparted some parish history:

The 10-acre property on which OLQP is now situated was purchased in October 1951 with the goal of building the church and accompanying school. The land at that time was populated by a horse, calf, and chickens in an orchard of apple and plum trees. An

**Below:** Father John Swistovich (right), accompanied by Bishop Kevin Vann and Deacon Don Warner, leads prayer at the future site of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.



**Right:** At the 50th anniversary gala, Bishop Kevin Vann greets Betty Janota, one of the founding members of the parish.

**Below:** Decorated with blue, gold, and white balloons, the Notre Dame High School gymnasium is filled to capacity with more than 600 parishioners and guests attending the OLQP anniversary celebration.



elementary school was built, and OLQP evolved as a mission to Wichita Falls' oldest parish, Sacred Heart Church. In 1954, Mass was first celebrated in the school gym. On April 6, 1956, OLQP became a parish. Although planning for a new sanctuary began in 1973, Catholic education and other outreach ministries took precedence, and the parish elected to renovate the gym into an appropriate worship space. This would be the first in a series of delays. Remodeling took place in 1985.

Ultimately, with parish growth expanding from a few hundred people to nearly 1,200 registered households today, the facilities have become outdated and unsuitable for pastoral services, programs, and anticipated future needs,

stated Fr. Swistovich, who has pastored OLQP since 2001.

The parish mission statement reads: "Our Lady Queen of Peace is a welcoming and diverse family of faith, living the sacraments (God's gifts to us) and proclaiming the Gospel through Scripture and tradition, so that we may grow in holiness and love to serve one another. Our mission is to nurture a close personal relationship with our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ, through word, prayer, and example centered in the Eucharist."

A new sanctuary will offer testimony to the efforts of OLQP parishioners to offer their best to building a faith community that welcomes new members and extends the Catholic faith to generations of the faithful yet to come.



**NCCW ASSEMBLY** — Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of Milwaukee celebrates Mass Sept. 21 for the opening of the National Council of Catholic Women's general assembly at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee. The liturgy was concelebrated by Bishop Raphael M. Fliss (left) of Superior, Wisconsin, and visiting priests. More than 800 women attended the Sept. 21-23 assembly. (CNS photo/Sam Lucero, CATHOLIC HERALD)

## At largest NCCW assembly ever held, participants seek ways to draw younger members

MILWAUKEE (CNS)—About 850 women attended the biennial general assembly of the National Council of Catholic Women Sept. 21-23, making it the largest general assembly the group has held.

Under the theme "Yes, Lord, Your Servant Is Listening," the women attended workshops promoting leadership and recruiting younger members.

"We try to satisfy [younger members] by creating events that are fun for them," said Carlotta Lawton of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, in an interview with

the *Catholic Herald*, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper. "We make sure we reach out in events that help their lives. When we have activities, we want to make them fun."

Lawton said some of the newer activities implemented in her diocese to attract younger members include golf outings, knitting groups, a fashion show, and Christmas craft bazaar.

One way to get younger members involved in the NCCW, according to Lawton, is to ask them to start a program in their parish.

## Priesthood Sunday will be celebrated nationwide Oct. 29

Priesthood Sunday, a one-day celebration of the priesthood, will be marked Oct. 29. Catholics are asked to show their support for their priests on this date with prayer, celebration, and dialogue.

"Priesthood Sunday was established in 2003 to provide a way for Catholic communities to express appreciation for the devoted priests who serve them so faithfully..." according to a press release from the USA Council of Serra International.

The lay faithful are asked to develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring both the priesthood and their own priests. Special liturgies, celebrations, and the opening of a dialog between priests and lay people are encouraged. The Priesthood Sunday Web site, located at [www.priesthood.org](http://www.priesthood.org), has many resources available for downloading. Printed materials may be obtained by calling 1 (888) 777-6681.

"Our priests give of themselves every day in so many different ways. It is an honor to

recognize them in a manner in which entire parishes may join together in an outpouring of appreciation," says Gary Davis, president of the USA Council of Serra International.

## Sister Jane Frances Dunnam, SSMN, a 'natural born' teacher, dies at age 96

Sister Jane Frances Dunnam, 96, a professed religious of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, died Saturday, Sept. 23, at Our Lady of Victory Center in Fort Worth. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at OLV Center; interment was in the family plot at Grove Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Born Zelma Cecilia Dunnam Sept. 11, 1910, in Sulphur, Oklahoma, Sr. Jane Frances grew up in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas, where her father worked as an architect. The fifth of eight children, Zelma became a Catholic at age 12 as a result of an older sister's influence and her own education at Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy in Dallas.

She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Mary in 1928 and taught in the primary grades in the congregation's schools. Her work included assignments at Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy and St. Edward School in Dallas; St. Joseph School in Sherman; St. Xavier School in Denison; St. Ignatius and Our Lady of Victory schools in Fort Worth; and schools in Hollister and Porterville, California.

"She was truly a 'natural born' teacher," said Sister Joan Markey, SSMN. "She was a perfectionist,



Sr. Jane Frances Dunnam, SSMN

and she was known for her very high standards. She will always be remembered for her devotion to her students in all of the schools in which she taught."

Sr. Jane Frances was a gifted artist and seamstress, and was especially known for her beautiful calligraphy work. She studied at the Art Institute in Colorado Springs in the early 1940s, and as a result of her own outstanding work, was given special permission to examine the medieval manuscripts in the institute's archives.

"Her artistic masterpiece was the spiritual bouquet she created for the Golden Jubilee of Bishop

Lynch [of Dallas]," said Sr. Joan. "The bishop was so impressed with it that he requested that Sister create another card to be sent to Pius XII from all the bishops of Texas."

Earl Johnson, a nephew residing in Dallas, recalled his aunt as the "glue" who held her spread-out family together with frequent letters. When his parents were severely injured in a car accident in 1968, "Aunt Zelma" returned immediately from California to assist with medical care and the tasks associated with the family business, he explained. "She really loved her family," added Johnson. "She came from a family of redheads, and she herself was a redhead. She was so thrilled when my three daughters all turned out to have red hair, as well!"

Sr. Jane Frances is survived by her nephew Earl Johnson and his wife, Patricia, of Dallas, and by numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, and their families in California, Alaska, Michigan, and Texas, and by the sisters of her community. Memorial gifts in her honor may be made to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, 909 W. Shaw Street, Fort Worth 76110.

## Cardinal Newman Institute continues lecture series

The Cardinal Newman Institute will continue its fall lecture series Friday, Oct 6, at 7 p.m. with a presentation of "Contemplative Prayer: Carmelite Spirituality and the Catholic Spiritual Tradition for the Laity" by Father Jerome Early, OCD. The program will take place in the chapel at St. Joseph Church, 1927 S.W. Green Oaks Blvd. in Arlington.

The series will continue Oct.

20 at 7 p.m., when Dr. Thomas Watts of the University of Texas at Arlington will present a program on "End of Life Issues and the For-Profit Social Policy Sector: A Troublesome Ethical Mixture." This program will be held in the cafeteria at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Dr. in Arlington.

The final lecture will be offered Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. by Dr. James Pat-

rick, chancellor of the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth. He will speak on "Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman: An Exemplar Witness for Truth and a Man for Our Time" at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1408 N. Davis Drive in Arlington.

All are invited to attend. A reception will begin each evening. Donations will be accepted. For more details, call (817) 277-4859.

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# Diocesan / National

## Speaker says new 'culture of poverty' sweeping U.S.

By Julie Carroll

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — A new "culture of poverty" is sweeping the United States at a "phenomenal and frightening" rate, a speaker told Catholic Charities workers at the Catholic Charities USA annual gathering, held in Minneapolis Sept. 14-17.

Generational poverty, in which two or more generations

of a family have lived in poverty, is becoming an epidemic in this country, said Allison Boisvert, justice and charity minister at Pax Christi Parish in Eden Prairie.

Social workers need to understand this new culture of poverty if they are to be effective advocates for those they serve, declared Boisvert, who herself emerged from generational poverty and worked for Catholic

Charities for 22 years.

"There is a language of the poor, a psychology of the poor, a worldview of the poor," Boisvert said. "Everything about them, from the condition of their teeth to the way in which they love, is suffused and permeated by the fact of their poverty."

Boisvert said at a young age she became acquainted with social service agencies as a consumer.

"I began to use all of the social and psychiatric, health care, and juvenile justice systems," she said. "I moved through the process as if it were some kind of warped matriculation."

When welfare officials learned about Boisvert's heroin addiction, they gave her two options: clean up her life or risk losing her children. Boisvert chose to clean up her life.

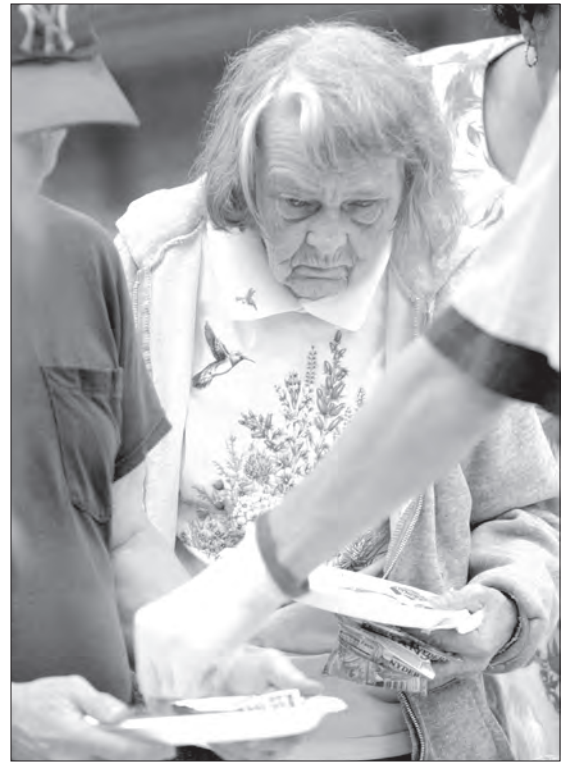
"Like so many recovering types, I went into the business that cured me, and I worked with the generationally impoverished in many forms," Boisvert said. "But I've also watched the development and the final institutionalization of a permanent underclass in the richest country in the world."

"To be impoverished in the richest country in the world is to be an internal alien, another culture that is radically different from the one that dominates society," Boisvert continued. "The generationally poor are usually as confined by their poverty as if they lived in a maximum security prison."

Poverty topped the agenda at this year's Catholic Charities USA conference and was the theme of a new policy paper detailing the agency's plans to address what is a growing problem in the U.S.

After several years of decline, recent indicators have shown an increase in the number of people living in poverty in the United States, said Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA president.

Catholic Charities statistics reveal some disturbing trends, Fr. Snyder said. "For the first time since we have gathered data, over 50 percent of people



**INCREASED POVERTY** — Flo Nichols waits to be served during a parish social ministry-sponsored cookout for the poor, unemployed, and homeless at St. Patrick Church in Bay Shore, New York, Sept. 5. The nation's poverty rate was a major topic at the Catholic Charities USA annual meeting in Minneapolis Sept. 14-17. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC)

that we serve now live below the level of poverty in this country," he said.

A family of four earning less than \$20,000 per year in 2006 is classified as poor, according to U.S. government measurements.

Catholic Charities agencies across the nation are feeling the strain, Fr. Snyder added.

Since 2003, he said, the number of people for whom Catholic Charities has provided emergency services — such as food, clothing, temporary shelter, and assistance paying utility bills and prescription medication costs — has increased by about 30 percent.

"Our work is not done," Fr. Snyder told conference attendees.

In her keynote address, Cokie Roberts, senior news analyst for National Public Radio, spoke about the Catholic Church's political influence at the national level.

Roberts, a Catholic, praised the church's efforts to help the poor.

"It seems to me that your issues are actually the ones that Jesus talked about," Roberts told conference participants. She challenged Catholic Charities to educate parishioners about the "preferential option for the poor,"

a Catholic social teaching that puts the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

"The parishes do wonderful work in terms of actually helping the poor with soup kitchens and with collections and with people volunteering, and it's always just wonderfully heartwarming to see the children bringing up their toys to give to poor children," Roberts said. "But how about teaching it? How about having all of those people who are in those parishes every Sunday hearing about the preferential option for the poor?"

Catholics need to be educated about Catholic social teaching so they can influence public policy through their voting, Roberts said.

"I say get this poverty report into the parishes," she said. "Organize those armies of compassion, because that's where they are."

Also during the conference, Catholic Charities USA presented its 2006 Vision Award to John Carr, secretary of the Department of Social Development and World Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The annual Vision Award recognizes an individual whose life and work personifies Catholic Charities USA's vision for the new millennium. Carr, a former legislative coordinator for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, was recognized for helping to apply Catholic social teaching to issues related to poverty, racism, welfare reform, and other social issues on the personal and public policy levels.

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# Viewpoints

## Celebrating another's triumph in a world gone mad with competition; what a joy!

By Dan Luby

Late again, he longs for invisibility as he scuttles diagonally across the brightly lit gym, through rows of book-laden publishing company tables, past displays of religious articles and teaching aids. Scanning the almost-filled rows of seats, he searches in vain for an empty spot on an aisle.

After a Himalayan climb to the cheap seats, he settles into his chair and focuses his attention on the speaker, a friend from out of town whose expertise in all things catechetical has brought him to this gathering of five hundred or so Catholic school teachers and administrators.

At the conclusion of the opening talk, the speaker switches from instructional mode to storytelling. He talks with feeling and bright memory of a fourth grade music teacher whose enthusiasm infected him with a love of choral singing that continues to this day. Then he asks the group to swap, in twos and threes, their own stories of teachers who



*Amidst all the teachers cheering for one of their own, the applauding visitor notices in particular one member of the audience turned toward the impromptu honoree.*

had a strong positive effect on them.

The crowd erupts in a buzz of conversation. Everyone, it seems, is eager to talk about a teacher who touched them.

The speaker closes the exercise by asking for a few volunteers to share with the big group a summary of their stories of inspiring, life-affirming teachers. A wireless microphone is passed around, and teachers from people's past are named proudly and thanked gratefully.

A woman on the front row turns to face the steep pitch of the arena seats.

She tells her colleagues that the inspiring teacher she wants to name taught, not her, but her daughter. She thanks the teacher both as a mother whose child had been encouraged and enthused by a generous and loving spirit, and as an adult who was herself inspired by example to become a pre-school teacher.

This paragon of the teaching profession, she tells the listening crowd, is present among us this morning. Pausing just long enough to let the anticipation build, she turns slowly toward one side of the arena.

"Sandy," she says with a grin, "I love you." The crowd claps and whoops, as the newly famous pre-school teacher, who has been coaxed into standing to receive the plaudits of her peers, looks pleased, if slightly embarrassed by all the fuss.

Amidst all the teachers cheering for one of their own, the applauding visitor notices in particular one member of the audience turned toward the impromptu honoree.

It is the principal of the school where the teacher works. Her hand punches the air in triumph like a football coach whose team has just scored the winning touchdown. A megawatt smile shines like a spotlight, and her whole demeanor registers the pleasure and satisfaction of a colleague's success.

Two insights strike the happy observer about this brief moment in a long and rich day of information communicated and experiences shared.

The first is what it reveals about the impact that loving, enthusiastic adults can have on young people. While only some of us have the particular constellation of gifts and expertise and character which are required for a successful career in teaching, all of us have the capacity to be welcoming and encouraging to young people. All of us can give each other gifts of patience and presence and affirmation as we move through the school of virtue which is the life of faith. It is a responsibility of which it's good to be reminded from time to time.

The second insight is how valuable it is, and how life-affirming, to give ourselves over to embracing the growth and success of others. In a world so deeply immersed in the spirit of zero sum competition, in which for me to win, you have to lose; and in which so much personal and communal energy is devoted to dividing people into good guys and bad guys, us and them, that is no small challenge. It is both a pleasure and an inspiration to see one person find such joy in the triumph of another.



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

## New TCC Director Rivas calls us to 'be Catholic'

By Andrew Rivas

It is with a good deal of excitement and nervousness that I begin to write my first Capitol Comments article for the Catholic newspapers in the state of Texas. I am very excited because there is such a wide variety of important issues that Catholics have to be engaged with today, and I am nervous because there is so much at stake as we approach the upcoming election season and then the beginning of the new session of the Texas Legislature in January.

As citizens of the United States and of Texas, it is our constitutional right to participate in the public dialogue and political processes that will set the course for our nation's future in the years to come. As Catholics, however, it is not only our right, but it is also our responsibility to speak out and contribute our love and moral values to the public debates that are unfolding over the next several months. As followers of Christ, we are called to prayer and action in order to help build a culture of life. That means that we have to do what we can to,

- Stop the destruction of human life,

*It is with a good deal of excitement and nervousness that I begin to write my first Capitol Comments article for the Catholic newspapers in the state of Texas.*

especially of innocent life;

- Bring an end to the poverty that affects the lives of so many of our friends and neighbors;
- Support families facing serious challenges when it comes to education, healthcare, housing, and passing on spiritual beliefs and moral values to their children;
- Promote the values of justice and peace so that we can overcome the hate

and violence that plagues our country and countries around the world; and

- Live out our biblical mandate to love our neighbors and welcome the strangers among us, whether they are documented or undocumented.

Now, what we are called to do does not easily fit into the political framework that most of us have grown up with. Any sincere Democrat, Republican, or Independent is going to be uncomfortable with some portion of the Catholic perspective on how to deal with the list above. But, Christ did not call us to be sincere Democrats, Republicans, or Independents, and don't get me wrong. If you have a political affiliation, I hope you are sincere about it. Rather let me remind you that Jesus called us to love one another. Our Savior's words and his example mean that we cannot be indifferent or cynical about our civic responsibilities.

The upcoming elections and the new legislative session provide us with important opportunities to bring together our faith and our experiences. This dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic in our society, and we must therefore raise

our voices, share our values, and use our votes to shape society, strengthen our nation, and even renew our Church. And, if you don't believe me then let me humbly remind you what Pope John Paul II said not too long ago in *Ecclesia in America*.

For the Christian people of America, conversion to the Gospel means to revise "all the different areas and aspects of life, especially those related to the social order and the pursuit of the common good." It will be especially necessary "to nurture the growing awareness in society of the dignity of every person and, therefore, to promote in the community a sense of the duty to participate in political life in harmony with the Gospel."

*Andrew Rivas is the new executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference. He most recently served as policy advisor for the US-CCB for more than four years, concentrating on federal legislation that impacted criminal justice, agriculture, and environmental issues. Prior to that he worked for Catholic Charities USA and the Senate Commerce Committee. He has a law degree from the Catholic University of America. The Texas Catholic Conference is the administrative and lobbying arm of the bishops of Texas.*

# 'Hey, mister, you were once an embryo!'

By Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk

**E**mbryonic stem-cell researchers typically marshal several arguments to encourage public approval and funding for their research, which requires the direct destruction of 5- to 7-day old human embryos. One argument runs like this: "Well, that's your feeling about embryos, your narrow religious viewpoint, and you shouldn't impose that on me. Your sentiments about embryos are different than mine, and we're all entitled to our own sentiments and opinions."

This pervasive argument has embedded itself in the modern American mind to a remarkable degree, and has been used quite effectively to justify embryonic sacrifice by many researchers. At its root, advocates take a scientific question and turn it into a religious one. Once it falls into the category of religious mystagogy, it can be dismissed out-of-hand as irrelevant to public policy and discourse.

Embryonic stem-cell researcher Dr. Doug Melton at Harvard recently took exactly this tack when he spoke with *The New York Times*: "This is all about differing religious beliefs. I don't believe I have the right to tell others when life begins. Science doesn't have the answer to that question; It's metaphysical." With that sleight of hand, he sought to transform embryology into theology. The fact is, of course, that the statement, "a human embryo is a human kind of being" does not depend on religion any more than the statement "a cow embryo is a cow kind of being" does.

Science, quite apart from any narrow, dogmatic religion, affirms dogmatically that human embryos are human beings, rather than zebra or cow beings. Science, quite apart from religious dogma, affirms dogmatically that every person walking around in the world was once an embryo. This scientific dogma admits of no exceptions and is absolute.

So while science makes it clear that human embryos are human beings, religion steps

**A**n agitated man across the aisle blurted out to the mother, "Isn't there something you can do to shut up that baby?" There was an awkward moment ... when suddenly her daughter turned to the man and said, "Hey mister, you were once like him." The man seemed to be caught off guard by the little girl's logic....

in after that fact to speak to the question of whether it is correct that all human beings should be treated in the same way, or whether it is OK to discriminate against some in the interests of others. Yet even here, religion is not necessary to understand the real moral issue. For example, we don't need religion to understand that discriminating against some classes of humans based on their skin color is wrong. Similarly, we don't need religion to understand that discriminating against some classes of humans based on their size or young age is wrong. To grasp these truths, all we need is some honesty and a moment of clear thinking.

**E**mbryos, of course, are remarkably unfamiliar to us. They lack hands and feet. They don't have faces or eyes for us to look into. Even their brains are lacking. They look nothing like what we are used to seeing when we imagine a human being. But they are as human as you and me. When we look at a scanning electron micrograph of a human embryo, a small cluster of cells, sitting on the point of a sewing pin, we need to ask ourselves a very simple question: "Isn't that exactly what a young human is supposed to look like?" The correct answer to that question doesn't depend on religion or

theology, but on embryology. Embryos seem unfamiliar to us on first glance, and we have to make an explicit mental effort to avoid the critical mistake of disconnecting from who we once were as embryos.

**I** remember flying in an airplane one time, seated a couple of rows away from a mother who was holding her newborn baby as he was crying loudly. The pressure changes in the cabin seemed to be causing terrible pain in his ears, and despite his mom's best efforts, he continued to cry loudly and uncontrollably.

He had a little 4-year-old sister in the next seat, who was also trying to help her mom to calm the boy down, but again, to no avail. After a few minutes, an agitated man across the aisle blurted out to the mother, "Isn't there something you can do to shut up that baby?" There was an awkward moment where the young mother started to blush, and didn't know what to say, when suddenly her daughter turned to the man and said, "Hey mister, you were once like him." The man seemed to be caught off guard by the little girl's logic, and he calmed down for the rest of the flight. Her impeccable reasoning reminded him where he came from and put him in his place.

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Big Kate offers counsel from the Family Archives



By Kathy Cribari Hamer

**M**om, I did something Big Kate might not approve of." The voice on the phone was my daughter Julie.

Julie was born in 1980, so she was just six years old when her grandmother died. Still, Gammy has continued to influence all her offspring and grandchildren — I think because she had strength, pre-feminism feminism, and a can-do, will-do attitude that seeped into our lives.

Mom was a realtor, and proud of that designation. When she got her first real estate license, I helped her study for the exam, reading the words, while she spouted definitions. Today, just as I remember the answers in the *Baltimore Catechism*, I can recite definitions from Mother's first real estate test.

Even more clearly, I recall the occasion when, as a realtor of some standing, Big Kate learned an error had been made in a contract, and a house sale was probably going to "fall through."

**"F**all through" was terminology more forbidden than swearing, and the news of it potentially happening was worse than spilling ink on the carpet or denting the car.

My mom said the words "fall through" as though the syllables were laced with venom. She held the phone with red knuckles, and when she finally set it down, you could bet she would immediately dial again, in a chain of conversations that were like a lifeguard jumping in to save a swimmer whose head had bobbed above the water the third time.

Mother would not let a deal fall through. The time I clearly remember, I heard her speaking with the person who was responsible for preparing the faulty contract, and Mom enunciated her directions: "Of course you are going to have to re-write the papers," she instructed, her tone steady and commanding.

**"I** don't care if you have to re-build the building."

So, when Julie called and said, "Mom, I did something Big Kate wouldn't approve of," I felt trepidation.

"We ordered baseball jerseys at school," Julie said. She teaches at Grand Prairie's Whitt Elementary, and they were buying faculty shirts with names on the back.

"Mine is cute," Julie said, veering into details that distinguish her both as an artist, who notices every nuance, and a middle child, who enjoys telling them.

"They are green and white striped, and each teacher has her grade on the back, but mine has a paint palette, the music teacher has notes, and coach just has a number, because he says that's what sports are about anyway, and...."

SEE HAMER, P. 22



**RESPECT LIFE POSTER** — This poster design is included in the 2006 U.S. bishops' Respect Life program packet. The annual Respect Life program, which began Oct. 1 this year, is observed in virtually all U.S. Catholic dioceses with a combination of education, prayer, service, and advocacy activities. (Photo provided by USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities)

## Democrats announce second bill aimed at reducing number of abortions

By Carol Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Just six days after a group of Democrats from the House of Representatives announced legislation aimed at reducing the number of abortions in the United States, a second bill with the same goal was presented by another House Democrat.

The proposed legislation, Pregnant Women Support Act, was unveiled during a Sept. 20 press conference on Capitol Hill by Rep. Lincoln Davis, D-Tennessee.

The bill has the support of the U.S. Catholic bishops, unlike the similar legislative proposal, Reducing the Need for Abortion and Supporting Parents Act, announced Sept. 14 by Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio. The newest legislative proposal does not include expanded contraception access, a component of Ryan's proposal which drew objections

from the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman.

In a statement distributed at the press conference announcing the Davis bill, Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said she "applauds constructive initiatives to support women and their children, both born and unborn."

"Everyone can agree that no woman should choose abortion due to economic duress," she said, adding that her office looks "forward to working with Congressman Davis to accomplish these goals through initiatives that respect the dignity and lives of both mothers and their children."

Both bills were prompted by a legislative proposal known as the 95-10 Initiative announced last year by several Democratic members of Congress and the organization Democrats for Life of America. The proposal seeks to reduce abortions by 95 percent over a 10-year period through legislation encouraging adoption; funding pregnancy prevention, prenatal care, and day care; and prohibiting insurance practices that discriminate against pregnant women.

Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life, hailed the latest measure at the press conference, saying it unites Democrats and Republicans in an effort to support pregnant women.

She noted that, no matter what side of the abortion debate people are on, people believe "something must be done" about the abortion rate, and many feel that it is "time to move beyond the tired debate of who's right and who's wrong."

The bill includes 14 provisions

that call for expanding coverage to pregnant women and unborn children through Medicaid and state-sponsored children's insurance programs. It also seeks to remove pregnancy from health insurance companies' "pre-existing condition" lists to enable pregnant women to more easily obtain health care coverage.

The proposal calls for adoption tax credits, grants for low-income college students who are parents, increased funding for domestic violence programs, and free home visits by registered nurses for new mothers.

Davis described the bill as "legislation America has been waiting for" and noted that whether members of Congress are "pro-choice or pro-life, this is legislation we can all support."

The bill is backed by 14 Democratic representatives and co-sponsored by one Republican, Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey, who noted that any of the provisions of the bill could "stand alone as good pieces of legislation," but stressed that taken together the bill will "meet many of the unmet needs of pregnant women."

Many of the representatives on hand to announce the Davis legislation made remarks similar to those expressed during the unveiling of the Ryan legislation, saying the proposal would help the country move beyond the abortion debate and do something to help women. They also commended themselves for finding common ground on an often contentious issue.

Neither bill has been introduced yet in the House, and there is no companion legislation in the Senate.

## Cardinal Keeler asks Catholics to ensure that truth is told about pro-life issues

FROM PAGE 1

abortion, he said, and "increased opposition, particularly among committed Catholics, to the use of the death penalty."

But Cardinal Keeler also cited negative developments, including approval by the Food and Drug Administration of the RU-486 abortion pill, which has led to "emergency room visits for blood transfusions, emergency surgery, or treatment for serious, sometimes lethal, infections" for "hundreds of American women."

He also criticized FDA approval of over-the-counter sales of Plan B, the "morning-after

pill," which can cause abortions and puts women at risk of bleeding disorders and ectopic pregnancy.

On stem-cell research, the cardinal said "the genuine and growing promise of treatments using adult stem cells is often downplayed or ignored, while exaggerated or even fraudulent claims are made for avenues that require destroying early human lives."

He said a stem-cell initiative on the Missouri ballot this November "makes the usual irresponsible claims for 'miracle cures' from embryonic stem cells,

and adds its own cynical twist: While claiming to ban human cloning, it would actually elevate the cloning of human embryos for destructive research to the status of a constitutional right."

Cardinal Keeler called on Catholics to be educated and motivated "to ensure that truth—the scientific and medical truth, and the profound truth about the dignity of each human person—will increasingly inform and guide our society's decisions about human life."

Contributing to this story was Regina Linskey in Washington.

## Catholic organizations back bill to help disabled avoid nursing homes

By Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and two other national Catholic organizations have backed proposed federal legislation that would enable many people with disabilities to live in their communities instead of in nursing homes.

The legislation would help those with disabilities use Medicaid resources to choose independent living, with reliance on community-based services, over Medicaid-funded institutionalized care.

In a joint letter to key House and Senate sponsors of the bill,

the heads of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Policy, the Catholic Health Association of the United States, and the National Catholic Partnership on Disability urged passage of the Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act, known as MiCASSA.

"With the services that MiCASSA would make available, more people with disabilities will be able to move from institutional care to lives of independence in their communities," the Catholic leaders said. "The legislation will give them the choices and control over their lives they deserve. It will also increase the ability of

people with disabilities to fulfill the duty we all share, to contribute to the common good through work, service, and participation in the community."

Signing the letter were Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, New York, chairman of the domestic policy committee; Jerald D. Freewalt, chairman of the disability partnership's board of directors; and Sister Carol Keehan, a member of the Daughters of Charity and president and CEO of the CHA.

The letter, sent Sept. 13 and released a week later, followed a meeting in Washington of officials of the three Catholic orga-

nizations and representatives of Adapt, a national grass-roots disability advocacy organization.

About 30 members of Adapt—which has long advocated shifting federal Medicaid funding to community-based services as a cost-effective way of enabling many people with disabilities to live independently instead of being forced into nursing homes—visited USCCB headquarters July 27 and occupied the main lobby for an hour to call for the bishops' support of MiCASSA. At that time the conference had not taken a stand on the proposed legislation.

The July demonstration ended after Nancy Wisdo, USCCB associate general secretary, promised that the USCCB would study the legislation and meet again later with Adapt representatives. Wisdo suggested broadening the conversation to include repre-

sentatives of the CHA and the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, two other key Catholic organizations that engage in public policy advocacy on health and disability issues.

In their Sept. 13 letter the representatives of the Catholic organizations said, "Our faith calls us to work for the full inclusion of all persons with disabilities in society and in the church."

The letter recalled the bishops' 1978 "Pastoral Statement on People With Disabilities," which called on all people to work for improved living conditions for those with disabilities and seek to ensure that they can achieve the fullest possible measure of personal development.

The services that MiCASSA would make available would help achieve those goals, the letter said.

## Diocesan / National

# Fiestas Patrias celebration recognizes parish commitment to Hispanic catechetical formation

Story and Photos by  
Mary E. Manley  
Correspondent

This year's Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 17, at St. William Church in Montague was a doubly special day, combining the recognition of catechetical ministries with a traditional Hispanic celebration in support of those ministries.

Fiestas Patrias, a "patriotic holiday" recalling Mexico's call for independence from Spain, was commemorated at the 12:30 p.m. Mass, and a major celebration was held later in the parish hall. A total of \$2,050 in support of Spanish-language catechesis was raised at the gathering, with proceeds benefiting the catechetical needs of Hispanics — not only the Hispanic population in the four parishes of Montague and Clay counties, but elsewhere as well, with St. William Parish acting as the service hub.

Margarita Luna, along with Gregoria Salinas and Bertha Morales, oversaw the Fiestas Patrias celebration fundraiser, now in its second year. More than 200 people representing area towns and parishes attended the event, according to Luna, pastoral associate for Henrietta's St. Mary Parish and the three other parishes which



**Above:** The queen of this year's Fiestas Patrias, Julisa Diaz (left), and last year's queen, Thalia Salinas, bring forth the offertory gifts at the special parish celebration. Baltazar Lozano was crowned Fiestas Patrias king for the second year.

**Right:** St. William Parish choir members prepare to lead the congregation in song.

Father Steve Berg pastors — St. William, Montague; St. Jerome, Bowie; and St. Joseph, Nocona.

Fr. Berg celebrated the Mass in Spanish with music provided by area musicians. In his bilingual homily, Fr. Berg compared the bond of identity which Christians share with the bonds created by Mexican people as they celebrate their common cultural ties through such things as the celebration of the Fiestas Patrias.

**Right:** Father Steve Berg, pastor, distributes Communion during the liturgy at St. William Parish Sept. 17.



The cultural activities that followed Mass included a meal of Mexican dishes, lively music, and a raffle — all in a festive atmosphere. As emcee, Luna welcomed everyone and later explained the value of the day's commemoration of Diez y Seis de Septiembre (Sept. 16), Mexican Independence Day.

The event's highlight was the ceremonial crowning of young parishioners who had sold the most raffle tickets to

raise money for catechetical materials and programs to better serve the Hispanic community-at-large.

Fr. Berg expressed much pride in the members of the Hispanic community, some who have made their lives in Henrietta, Nocona, Montague, and Bowie for as many as 15 to 20 years or more. "I am constantly renewed by their love for God and generosity in participating in church," said Fr. Berg, adding that the



**Above:** Margarita Luna, pastoral associate of parishes in Montague and Clay counties, speaks to the congregation.

RCIA program has brought more than 80 people into the church in the last four years.

The pastor said he is proud of the Guadalupanas (Hispanic altar society) in their financial support for scholarships for those who wish to attend college, showing they are a "forward-looking community, with great hopes for its young." Fr. Berg also commended Luna for encouraging others in her ministerial work.

## Border fence would send wrong signal to world community, says Bishop Barnes

FROM PAGE 1

said Congress was faced with "a stark moral challenge," as well as a complicated economic, political, and cultural issue.

"We cannot accept ineffective proposals which masquerade as solutions," Bishop Soto said. He was among religious leaders and politicians who insisted that any broad immigration legislation must include measures to enable foreign workers in the country to meet labor demands legally and to provide a path for illegal immigrants to "come out of the shadows" and regularize their status.

Jewish, Baptist, and evangelical Protestant leaders also put immigration proposals emphasizing enforcement into a moral context.

"Thirty-six times the Bible tells us to treat strangers as we treat ourselves," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. "It is its most common

command."

The Rev. Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, said immigration legislation that only deals with enforcement is "a political issue with profound moral and ethical implications."

At the same press conference, Sens. John McCain, R-Arizona; Ted Kennedy, D-Massachusetts; Arlen Specter, R-Pennsylvania; Ken Salazar, D-Colorado; and Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, all argued for holding out for a comprehensive immigration law that includes a guest worker plan and provisions that would allow the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country to legalize their status.

Several enforcement bills were put on the table in September by House members who had blocked efforts to move forward on a comprehensive immigration bill passed in May by the Senate. The House had earlier passed a

bill with only strict enforcement measures. It had been expected that the two vastly different bills would go to a joint House-Senate conference committee over the summer and that a compromise version would emerge.

Instead, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wisconsin, House Judiciary Committee chairman, and other committee chairmen held a series of field hearings around the country during the summer that focused largely on enforcement. Supporters of comprehensive legislation, including Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, criticized the hearings as one-sided.

When Congress returned to work after Labor Day, Sensenbrenner resurrected parts of the original House bill as three separate pieces of legislation, which passed Sept. 21. A fourth, expanding enforcement authority against people who build cross-border tunnels, was attached to the Defense Department

appropriations bill and also passed.

As of Sept. 28 it was unclear whether any of the other bills would survive to be considered by the Senate. Of the three, the one calling for 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexican border seemed to have the most chance of being attached to another bill, perhaps to the spending authorization measure for the Department of Homeland Security.

In a Sept. 26 letter to the Senate, Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, California, chairman of the bishops' migration committee urged senators to oppose the Secure Fence Act, which had been attached to legislation dealing with military tribunals.

The bill calls for 700 miles of fencing along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexican border at a cost of at least \$2 billion.

The fence law "would create more problems than it would solve," said Bishop Barnes in his letter. "We fear it would lead to

increased exploitation and deaths of migrants attempting to enter the United States and an increase in smuggling-related violence directed at Border Patrol agents and others.

"We also are concerned that granting virtually unbridled authority to the Department of Homeland Security to prevent illegal entry into the United States ... could result in human rights abuses against migrants and adversely impact local border communities."

In addition, the bishop said, "we believe that the fence ... would send the wrong signal to our peaceful neighbor Mexico and to the world community.... A border fence might be viewed in this hemisphere and overseas as a sign of fear, weakness, and isolation, not strength and engagement. It would also undercut our moral authority to request other nations to accept war refugees, for example, or other vulnerable populations."



**PAPAL MEETING** — Pope Benedict XVI meets ambassadors of Islamic nations and Italian Islamic leaders in a room at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 25. The pope assured Muslims that he respected them and was committed to dialogue. (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

## Regensburg speech may be providential for renewed dialogue, says papal spokesman

FROM PAGE 1

dialogue, he said, will be based on mutual knowledge, which "with joy recognizes the religious values that we have in common and, with loyalty, respects the differences."

He said historical animosities should be left behind. The lessons of the past, he said, should help Christians and Muslims seek "paths of reconciliation" that lead to respect for individual identity and freedom.

In that regard, Pope Benedict cited Pope John Paul on the important issue of reciprocal respect for religious rights, quoting from a speech the late pope delivered to Muslims in Morocco: "Respect and dialogue require reciprocity in all spheres, especially in that which concerns basic freedoms, more particularly religious freedom."

The pope said that in the current world situation it was imperative that Christians and Muslims join to promote human dignity and the rights that flow from that dignity.

"When threats mount up

against people and against peace, by recognizing the central character of the human person and by working with perseverance to see that human life is always respected, Christians and Muslims manifest their obedience to the Creator," he said.

The pope closed his talk by recalling that Muslims worldwide were about to begin the spiritual month of Ramadan, and he prayed that they be granted "serene and peaceful lives." When he finished, he was warmly applauded.

The meeting, arranged with unusual urgency by the Vatican, was a formal audience and not a closed-door exchange of opinions. In attendance were ambassadors from 22 predominantly Muslim countries and 19 other Islamic representatives based in Italy.

After words of welcome by the head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, French Cardinal Paul Poupard, the pope delivered his talk in French; the Vatican immediately made available translations in Arabic,

English, and Italian. Afterward, the pope greeted those present individually, then posed for a photo and left the hall.

The papal talk was broadcast live on the Arab television network Al-Jazeera.

Before the meeting, the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said the encounter was a sign that dialogue was returning to normal after a moment of misunderstanding. The spokesman said the pope's speech Sept. 12 at the University of Regensburg in Germany might even turn out to be "providential" for dialogue.

"We hope the tension and suffering of the past days make everyone understand the urgency of a renewed dialogue that is positive, trustworthy, capable of looking at problems in depth, and ready for 'self-criticism,' as the pope said," Fr. Lombardi stated.

"If this happens, the speech in Regensburg, with its intellectual courage ... will have been fruitful, perhaps even providential," he said.

## Missionaries of Charity waiting for China to OK home, says superior-general Sister Nirmala Joshi

By Anto Akkara

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — The Missionaries of Charity congregation, founded by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, is close to realizing one of her unfulfilled dreams — a home in China.

"We are waiting for them (China) to tell us when to come," Sister Nirmala Joshi, superior-general of the congregation, told Catholic

News Service in September.

Speaking to CNS at the motherhouse in Calcutta, Sr. Nirmala said that following the election of Pope Benedict XVI, China invited the Missionaries of Charity to open a home for the elderly as a step toward improving relations with the Vatican.

At the invitation of the Chinese government, Sr. Nirmala visited Qingdao in July 2005 and was

shown the building where the order has been invited to run the home for the elderly and the handicapped.

"We are ready, but the final decision is not in our hands, as it is linked to China-Vatican relations," said Sr. Nirmala. "We have not pursued this, but Mother [Teresa] has not forgotten her dream and is working it out from heaven."

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

### Pope says church's approach to other religions must be tolerant, open

ROME (CNS) — Believing that each person is created in the image of God, the Catholic Church hopes all people will come to know the Gospel, but its primary approach to other religions and cultures must be one of tolerance and openness, Pope Benedict XVI said. During a Sept. 28 meeting at his summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, Pope Benedict welcomed Hans-Henning Horstmann as Germany's new ambassador to the Vatican. Faith, the pope told him, increases people's commitment to the common good, which is marked by defending the life and dignity of all people, including those of other faiths and cultures. "The church does not impose itself," the pope said. "It does not force anyone to accept the Gospel message, because faith in Jesus Christ, whom the church proclaims, can only happen in freedom. For this reason, encounters with others must be marked by tolerance and cultural openness."

### Orthodox patriarch hopes pope's trip to Turkey calms tensions with Islam

ISTANBUL, Turkey (CNS) — Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople said he hopes Pope Benedict XVI's November trip to Turkey will help calm recent tensions with Islam and advance his church's struggle for religious rights. Patriarch Bartholomew, meeting with a group of reporters at his headquarters in Istanbul Sept. 28, said the visit also would underline the pope's commitment to ecumenical dialogue at a time when Catholic-Orthodox theological talks are resuming. The 67-year-old patriarch acknowledged that the pope's recent speech in Regensburg, Germany, had caused problems with Muslims in Turkey and elsewhere, but he said that only intensified the importance of the upcoming papal visit. "It's an opportunity to cultivate dialogue and to remove misunderstandings. The circumstances at this moment make this visit more interesting, more necessary, and more important than at any other moment," he said.

### Concerns rise over lack of 'net neutrality' in new telecom bills

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the era of regulated utilities, residents and businesses alike knew what the charges would be for electricity, natural gas, and telephone service. With an unregulated Internet, though, individuals seeking Internet content, and businesses and organizations hoping that users will click on their sites may wind up paying huge fees to Internet service providers before much longer. Current telecommunications bills working their way through Congress have no safeguards for "net neutrality," which allows any user equal access to any Web site. Net neutrality — short for network neutrality — is the policy of keeping the Internet open to all lawful traffic by requiring that cable and telephone companies operate their Internet networks in a nondiscriminatory manner. It bars those companies from prioritizing Internet traffic to benefit their own content. With no safeguards for net neutrality, religious groups, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, fear that Internet service providers will discriminate against them and charge them if they want to get the same level and speed of service they now receive for their online sites when someone types in their Web address.

### Sex abuse expert says church raised abuse prevention bar for everyone

NEW YORK (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church's response to its child sexual abuse problem has raised the bar on sex abuse prevention for all U.S. organizations that serve children, said Monica Applewhite, an expert in abuse prevention strategies. Writing in the Sept. 25 issue of *America*, a national Catholic magazine published by Jesuits, Applewhite said that when the U.S. bishops issued their "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" in June 2002 "the 'industry standards' for child protection changed." "Formerly unwritten rules, like not allowing a sexual offender to work with children and defining specific boundaries for ministry relationships, were now clearly articulated — not just for the Catholic Church, but for everyone," she wrote. Applewhite is president of the religious services division of Praesidium, a Texas-based organization that provides abuse-prevention training programs for churches, schools, and other organizations that serve children and youths.

National / International

# Historian says archives erase claims church did not oppose Nazism

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Documents now available from the Vatican Secret Archives will allow scholars to rewrite history and erase claims the church was not a staunch opponent of Nazism, fascism, and other forms of totalitarianism, said a Jesuit historian.

Jesuit Father Giovanni Sale, historian of the Jesuit journal *La Civiltà Cattolica*, said documents relating to the 1922-1939 pontificate of Pope Pius XI will have an impact on political and religious history.

What emerges is an even clearer picture of the church as being "steadfast in the fight against totalitarianism, against fascism, against Nazism, but also against communism," he said in a Sept. 18 interview with Vatican Radio.

After years of preparation, the Vatican archive office Sept. 18 opened up to researchers all the documentation from Pope Pius' pre-World War II pontificate.

The documents were considered especially sensitive because they covered the period in which Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII, served as

nuncio to Germany and then as Vatican secretary of state.

A 1999 book, *Hitler's Pope*, accused Cardinal Pacelli of having pro-German feelings that colored his World War II policies as pope, while a 2001 book, *The Popes Against the Jews*, claimed top church officials had a hand in fomenting anti-Semitism in the 20th century.

Vatican historians have repeatedly rejected such claims as false.

Fr. Sale said now that the pre-World War II documents are available, scholars "will have the possibility to truly rewrite important pages of 20th-century history — this time based on solid and documented foundations."

He said certain positions that were "often fruit of ideological prejudices" could now be corrected.

A Sept. 20 article in the Italian Catholic daily *Avvenire* detailed some of the contents found in the newly available archives by citing a full series of notes written by Cardinal Pacelli concerning the impending 1938 visit of Adolf Hitler in Rome to meet with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

The Vatican secretary of state

wrote of his alarm that Mussolini planned to parade the German leader upon his arrival along the Via della Conciliazione leading to the Vatican.

He urged officials to tell Mussolini such a plan would "greatly disappoint" and "vex" the pope. The cardinal also asked whether such "glorification pushed to such excess of an avowed enemy" was in violation of the 1929 Italy-Vatican concordat that guaranteed Vatican sovereignty.

The cardinal also wrote to the Italian bishops, urging them to decline attending any ceremonies honoring Hitler's visit to Rome and saying "the Holy Father wishes [the bishops to] abstain from accepting" the invitations.

Cardinal Pacelli's notes also detail his criticism of Austrian bishops who announced they were in favor of the 1938 "Anschluss" — Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria — saying those bishops showed "a lack of faith and loyalty" to the church. In a different note he added that Hitler was "the greatest persecutor of the church."

Just before Hitler arrived in Rome in early May 1938, Pope Pius XI left the Vatican for Castel

Gandolfo and, in an audience there, said "very sad things" were happening "far away and nearby" as a new cross was being planted in Rome, "and it's not the cross of Christ."

The current prefect of the Vatican Secret Archives, Father Sergio Pagano, said in a Sept. 17 article in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, that the documents offered "a fascinating survey" of the Vatican's diplomatic dealings at such a crucial time in history.

The meticulous notes Cardinal Pacelli took in his almost daily meetings with the pope are so "very precious," he wrote, that

the archives will also be publishing them in a 10-volume series starting next year.

Such richness in detail, wrote Fr. Pagano, will allow historians interested in the figure of Pope Pius XII "to draw, we believe, substantiated ideas and motives in [their] analyses of the character and efforts of the then-secretary of state and future pope."

An official at the Vatican archives told Catholic News Service that in the first week after the 1922-1939 archives were opened, between 55 and 60 scholars from all over the world were going through the documents each day.



## 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of America The Immaculate Virgin





Beginning on the Feast of the North America Martyrs September 26, 1956, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem (Mildred Neuzil) at a Precious Blood Sisters Convent in Indiana. The Immaculate Virgin continued to appear to Sister there and at a cloister in Ohio. One may summarize the basic elements of the revelations by The Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of "Our Lady of America," as:

- Our Lady of America expressed Her thanksgiving and encouragement to the U.S. Catholic bishops for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Washington, D.C.;
- Our Lady of America stated Her desires that Her children honor Her by the purity of their lives, and She wishes that America be the country dedicated to Her purity;
- Our Lady of America often emphasized Her desire that the National Shrine of The Immaculate Conception be made a place of special pilgrimage where She wishes to be honored as Our Lady of America, The Immaculate Virgin, with a statue of this likeness placed in this Shrine at Washington, D.C.;
- Our Lady of America stated Her desires to make the whole of America Her shrine by making every heart accessible to the love of Her Son, Jesus;
- Our Lady of America asked Her children to reform their lives, for sanctification from within, so that when God looks at the heart of each, it resembles the Heart of His Divine Son, Jesus;
- Our Lady of America asked for acts of penance and self-denial, and for family prayer of The Rosary so that Her children will recognize The Indwelling Most Holy Trinity;
- Our Lady of America stated that peace is from within, not from without; peace will come when Her children are purified and cleansed from defilement, when Her children can recognize, adore and love The Divine Indwelling Trinity more.

The next Procession of this statue of Our Lady of America is at The Shrine of The Most Blessed Sacrament, Hanceville, AL, on October 7th, 2006 1:00PM, Feast of The Most Holy Rosary

**By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, Oh Mary, deliver us from evil.**

**Our Lady of America Center**  
 PO Box 445, Fostoria, Ohio 44830  
[www.OurLadyOfAmerica.com](http://www.OurLadyOfAmerica.com)

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**ILLUMINATED BIBLE** — This is an illustration on an inside page of the Pentateuch volume of *The Saint John's Bible*, the third in a series of full-color volumes recently published by Liturgical Press. The volume features text and illustrations of the first five books of the Old Testament — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy — known as the Torah in Judaism. When completed in 2007, *The Saint John's Bible* will be composed of seven volumes: Gospels and Acts, Psalms, Pentateuch, Historical Books, Prophets, Wisdom Literature, and Letters and Revelation. The \$4 million project began in 1998 when the Benedictine monks of St. John's Abbey commissioned one of the world's foremost calligraphers, Donald Jackson, to serve as artistic director and illuminator. Jackson is senior scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office. (CNS)

## TRIDENTINE MASS


### LATIN INDULT MASS

5:30 P.M. SUNDAYS

## ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

509 W. MAGNOLIA, FORT WORTH

HIGH MASS SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAYS  
 LOW MASS FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS



## Scripture Readings



October 15, 28th 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 Jeff Hensley

It has been my pleasure to know a large number of men better than myself. They have been doctors, lawyers, meat inspectors, mechanics, engineers, and insurance salesmen. Like growing to like vegetables and fish, this observation of the virtue of others is one of the great privileges of growing into maturity (or at least getting gray hair).

One of my virtuous friends, the meat inspector, died only a couple of weeks ago. Ralph was one of the finest men I have ever known. He was also one of the gentlest, most courteous and wisest of men. Humble, good humored, he epitomized for me the manly maturity all males hope to grow into.

And he had a godly wisdom that came forth in good humor. He didn't talk a great deal, nor was he taciturn, but when he spoke, you knew that what he said would be like him, reliable,

sound, and grounded in his love of God and common-sense wisdom.

This week's Scriptures speak much of the value of wisdom and how, when pursued above all other goals, it brings us all good things besides.

In the reading from Mark for this weekend, we have the rich young man coming up to Jesus asking what he must do to enter into eternal life. Jesus asks him if he knows the commandments and lists off six of the 10. The young man replies that he has kept them from his youth. Jesus then asks him to measure up to a higher standard, to sell all his many possessions and give the money to the poor. The young man turns on his heel and goes away sad, knowing he cannot part with his riches.

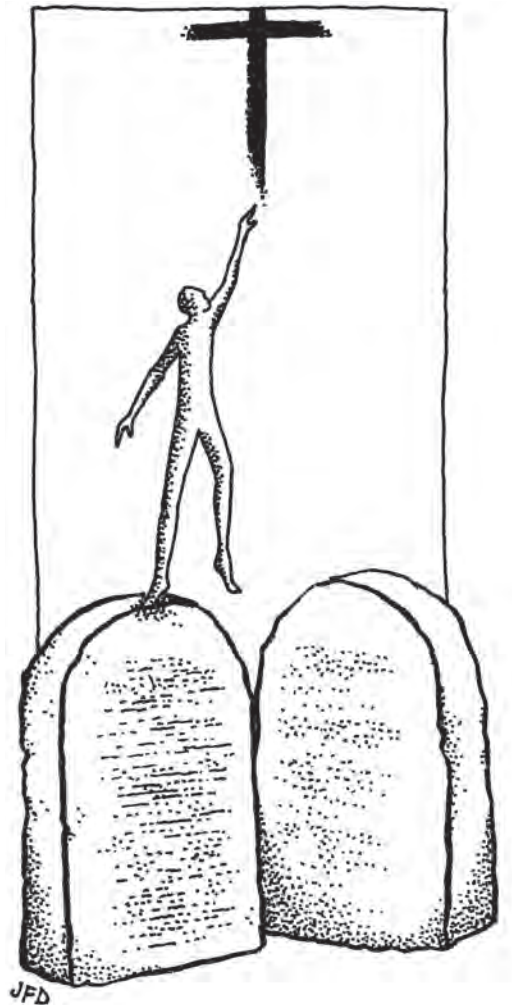
Though I can't know for certain that the virtuous men I have known would be able to meet this higher standard, I do believe they are not so full of the love of money that they would have no chance of complying with Jesus' call to leave their possessions behind to follow him — should he ever make that request of them.

**"How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"**

— Mark 10:23b

### QUESTIONS:

Are there possessions or honors or positions that own you rather than you owning them? If Jesus called you to give them up for the sake of the Gospel, do you think you could?



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## Christians must ask God's help when faith is in doubt, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must have the courage to ask God for help and encouragement when their faith is troubled or shaken by uncertainty, Pope Benedict XVI said.

It is often difficult to understand what God is teaching or asking of his children, the pope said during his Sept. 27 weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

But, he said, people must find "the courage to say, 'I don't understand you, Lord. Listen to me. Help me understand.'"

Christians have "the right, so to speak, to ask Jesus for an explanation," the pope said, and asking for further clarification "is the true way to pray and speak with Jesus."

Not only does this show that believers realize their own limited ability to understand God's greater plan, but it also demonstrates their faith in receiving "enlightenment and strength" from God who can grant them, he said.

In an address to some 30,000 pilgrims from all over the world, the pope continued a series of talks on the apostles, this time



Pope Benedict XVI, flanked by his bodyguards, arrives at his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sept. 20. Security around the Vatican was discreetly increased following vague threats made by extremist groups on Internet sites. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters)

reflecting on the life and example of Thomas.

Even though Thomas is mostly remembered for having doubted the risen Christ was alive and among the apostles, Pope Benedict said the faithful can still "take heart from the life of Thomas," who shows that there is comfort available in times of uncertainty and that "doubt can lead to spiritual growth."

The pope recalled Thomas' courage and loyalty when he wanted to accompany Jesus on

a dangerous journey back to Bethany where the people there had tried to stone Jesus.

It was Thomas who said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him," which reveals "a precious lesson" in Christian living, the pope said.

It not only means one should be ready to sacrifice one's own life for Christ, but also more importantly means one should "never leave Jesus' side," since being Christian means living together with Jesus, he said.

Thomas shows the faithful they should not be afraid to ask Christ for help in understanding his words, said the pope.

After Jesus told his disciples "Where I am going, you know the way," it was Thomas who asked, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

The pope said Jesus used that occasion to reveal that he himself was the way, the truth, and the life.

Lastly, he said, the "doubt-

ing Thomas" helps the faithful learn that a true, mature faith in God does not rest upon having tangible or visible proof: Only after Thomas put his hand on Jesus' wounds did he believe Christ had risen from death and proclaim, "My lord and my God."

The pope said this is one of "the most splendid professions of faith in the New Testament" because it shows Thomas touching a man and then proclaiming his faith in God, "whom he neither saw nor touched."

Jesus, in fact, underlines what true faith is when he responded, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Before returning to his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, at the end of the general audience, the pope reminded everyone that Sept. 27 marked World Tourism Day.

He said he hoped tourism would increasingly "foster dialogue and mutual respect of cultures" so as to become "an open door to peace and living together in harmony."



## Scripture Readings



October 22, 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 Beverly Corzine

For years my mother, Elsie, had grown fabulous vegetable gardens and shared her crops with friends and neighbors. In her last four years as an amputee, her longest trek outside was to visit the mailbox or to struggle to the edge of my father's grave. Many would have characterized her as a prime example of a pack rat, especially those left with the enormous task of sifting through her 30 years of living in the same house. We wondered why she saved her insulin bottles, bags of peach seeds, or an enormous stock of canned goods.

My mother's empty house presented me with the haunting challenge of learning about her from the artifacts she left behind. Elsie's standard answer for saving things had been "there might

come a time when they might come in handy."

"Beverly, do you want this?"

"Mom, where did Grandma get this ring?"

"Mom, you have to look in this box; you won't believe it!"

I was the court of last resort, deciding what to save and what to toss.

One of the most extraordinary treasures we found during that sad week was every letter and card that our children or I had written to her and my dad over the 19 years I had been married.

The scope of this correspondence covered our writing each other two or three times a week — no free long distance back then! It was a chronicle that recorded births and deaths, joy and sadness, faith and hope. I had no idea I was writing an account of 19 years of ordinary time.

The readings for this weekend speak to us about suffering and redemption. In Mark's Gospel we hear James and John readily answer, "We can" when Jesus asks them if they can drink the cup he will drink. At times we may be tempted to wonder with a bit of superiority how they could possibly misunderstand the import of Jesus' question.



**"From the cup I drink of  
you shall drink..."**

—Mark 10:39c

Like James and John, we have vowed to drink the cup Jesus offers us without knowing where the journey will lead us, but knowing that what we leave behind may be a message of redemption.

### QUESTIONS:

What have you left to others that someday may provide comfort or wisdom when they are in need? Who has left you keys to redemption?

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## Do we **boldly** follow God, or are our actions fine print ?

By Jeff Hedglen

In the 1960s, the Beach Boys sang "Everybody's gone surfin', Surfin' U.S.A." Forty years later these words have never been truer. Every day millions of people surf the waves of the Internet superhighway looking for the perfect site. It's no longer surfin' USA but surfing WWW. somethingorother.com. But, just like in the ocean, sometimes you have a wipe out. My wife and I recently had one of these, and it cost us some money and a bit of our time

Yes, we got caught in an Internet scam. We were buying something online, and in our haste to get our stuff, didn't read enough of the fine print. Later that day we saw that our order was cancelled and that the \$19.99 processing fee was non-refundable — and we found out that we were automatically signed up for a monthly service that was to cost \$15 a month. Every phone number associated with the site was answered by the same

Of course it's not just Internet scammers who are hard of spiritual hearing. There are people in many walks of life who are ... just not getting very good reception right now...

answering machine that said no one was there to take the calls and to please contact them via the online tech support. The online tech support was cur-

rently out of service.

A little research let us in on the secret. This company basically gets you to order stuff, declines your order, keeps your 20 bucks and signs you up for a \$15 a month service you don't even need. It is all legal, even if the fine print (once we found it) was in a 6-point font and grayed out on the page so it was barely readable. We were furious. After a lot of work we got the \$15 a month service cancelled. We settled down and realized this was a lesson learned. From now on, before buying from a strange company, Google it for reviews.

After the anger and lessons were over, I got to wondering about what type of people would do this kind of thing. I was flabbergasted that these people set this whole thing up just to rip people off. I had read about these kinds of things and seen these scams on the news, but I hadn't stopped to think about the people committing the fraud. It wasn't long before I was feeling bad for them, and I wasn't exactly sure why.

Then I picked up the Sept. 22 issue of the *North Texas Catholic*, and there on the front page was a headline that read: "Pope urges a religious values revival for society going 'deaf' to God." There was the answer to my question. People who are deaf to the voice of God in their lives could do this kind of thing. Of course it's not just Internet scammers who are hard of spiritual hearing. There are people in many walks of life who are either just not getting very good reception right now or have turned off the frequency altogether.

Pope Benedict XVI said in his address: "Put simply, we are no longer able to hear God — there are too many different frequencies filling our ears." When this happens "we naturally lose our ability to speak with him and to him. And so we end up losing a decisive capacity for perception," meaning that a lack of God in our lives limits our ability to see and understand things.

He went on to basically challenge believers: "Belief in God

is not something that removes people from the world, but draws them closer to a sense of responsibility and justice." The words of the pope struck a deep chord in me. If people are deaf to the voice of God in their lives, could it be that the people who are called to bring the Word to life are not speaking loud enough — or at all? I believe that God is always transmitting to everyone, very often through us. If people are not tuning in, we need to help them find the frequency he is on. We do this in two important ways. First we ourselves need to tune in, and second we need to live what we hear.

Benedict XVI is calling for a revival of religious values. In other words the motivation of our lives should be easily recognizable to all, not hidden in the fine print. 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](mailto:jeff@stbartsfw.org).

# El llamado a proclamar el Evangelio de la Vida a través de nuestras palabras y acciones nos corresponde a cada uno de nosotros

Queridos amigos en la Diócesis de Fort Worth,

**L**a semana pasada, me reuní con los sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Fort Worth en la Asamblea



MONSEÑOR KEVIN W. VANN

del Presbiterio de Otoño en Denton. Nuestro orador invitado fue el Sr. John Carr, miembro del personal de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos. El Sr. Carr presentó excelentes ponencias detalladas sobre los desafíos que enfrentamos todos para vivir el Evangelio de la Vida en esta cultura occidental, una cultura que puede ser violenta y muy opuesta a los valores del Evangelio y de la proclamación del Evangelio por parte de la Iglesia.

El Sr. Carr habló sobre diversos temas abordados en *Faithful Citizenship (Ciudadanía basada en la fe)*, una publicación de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos la cual está en proceso de revisión. Algunas publicaciones que complementan a ésta son, por supuesto, *Evangelium Vitae (El Evangelio de la Vida)* del Papa Juan Pablo II y *Living the Gospel of Life, A*

**P**ienso, por ejemplo, en el testimonio de tantos en los diversos centros para embarazadas y de atención prenatal por toda la Diócesis, y en el heroico testimonio de vida de los trabajadores y voluntarios. Mediante la oración (por ejemplo, rezando el rosario en los centros de abortos), asesoramiento, cuidados personales, hospitalidad para las madres, las familias y demás personas, ellos viven en verdad el Evangelio de la Vida visiblemente.

*Challenge to American Catholics (Vivir según el Evangelio de la Vida, un desafío para los católicos estadounidenses)*, una publicación de la conferencia de obispos de Estados Unidos que precedió a *Faithful Citizenship*.

Uno de los puntos en que hizo hincapié el Sr. Carr fue que nuestro compromiso a la vida es algo que no debe relegarse a la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl, por ejemplo, ni a un comité a favor de la vida o de justicia en una parroquia bajo la premisa de que hemos hecho lo que debíamos hacer. Requiere un compromiso personal de

cada uno de nosotros.

Pienso, por ejemplo, en el testimonio de tantos en los diversos centros para embarazadas y de atención prenatal por toda la Diócesis, y en el heroico testimonio de vida de los trabajadores y voluntarios. Mediante la oración (por ejemplo, rezando el rosario en los centros de abortos), asesoramiento, cuidados personales, hospitalidad para las madres, las familias y demás personas, ellos viven en verdad el Evangelio de la Vida visiblemente.

También hay muchas otras formas de hacerlo. El Evangelio

de la Vida, en toda su plenitud, siempre debe estar integrado a nuestra respuesta de Fe a nuestro Señor dador de vida de cada uno de nosotros.

El paquete de recursos proporcionado por la Secretaría de Actividades a Favor de la Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, nos da mucho para reflexionar durante este mes de octubre, dedicado a respetar la vida, cuando dice, "Vivir con el corazón receptivo a la voluntad de Dios conlleva implicaciones enormes. Distintas personas se darán cuenta de que Dios las llama

para hacer distintas cosas. Para un adolescente, tal vez quiera decir resistir la presión de compañeros para participar en actividades que impliquen beber o realizar actos impúdicos. Para un adulto soltero, podría requerir ofrecer tiempo personal para prestar servicio a una persona necesitada. Un hombre de negocios podría encontrar que la honestidad y la justicia requieren ciertas medidas de acción. Una pareja casada podría darse cuenta de que debería tener otro hijo. Una mujer embarazada temerosa podría entender que necesita pedir ayuda para resistir la tentación del aborto. La persona enferma podría tener que aceptar su enfermedad y unir su sufrimiento con el de Cristo [...]. Hacer la voluntad de Dios no siempre es fácil. Por lo general tenemos planes para nuestra vida. Es bueno tener planes, pero nunca a expensas de nuestro crecimiento en una relación con Dios [...]"

Esta semana en Denton fue una gran ocasión para pasar tiempo con nuestros sacerdotes en oración, estudio y recreación. Les agradezco a ellos por ser tan bondadosos conmigo y por sus consejos y ánimo. Son sirvientes leales del Señor en nuestras parroquias y en muchos aspectos de la vida diocesana.

Que Dios les bendiga siempre...

## El Papa expresa respeto por musulmanes, promete continuar diálogo

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italia (CNS) -- Reunido con embajadores y representantes islámicos, el Papa Benedicto XVI expresó su respeto profundo por los musulmanes, prometió continuar el diálogo y dijo que los líderes islámicos y cristianos deben cooperar para contener la violencia.

"Fieles a las enseñanzas de sus propias tradiciones religiosas, los cristianos y musulmanes deben aprender a trabajar juntos, como ya lo hacen de hecho en muchos esfuerzos comunes, para protegerse contra todas las formas de intolerancia y para oponerse a todas las manifestaciones de violencia", dijo el Papa.

"En cuanto a nosotros, autoridades religiosas y líderes políticos, debemos guiarlos y animarlos en esta dirección", dijo él.

El encuentro sin precedente el 25 de septiembre en la residencia de verano del Papa fue diseñado para calmar el resentimiento musulmán debido a un discurso

papal reciente que citó una crítica histórica del islamismo y el concepto de la guerra sagrada. El Papa luego se distanció del material citado y dijo que él lamentaba que los musulmanes se habían ofendido.

Dirigiéndose a los representantes islámicos en Castel Gandolfo, el Papa se refirió sólo brevemente al discurso anterior. En vez, él se enfocó en asegurarle a las comunidades musulmanas que su papado no retrocedía en el diálogo que fue abierto por el Segundo Concilio Vaticano y que fue desarrollado en gran parte por su predecesor, el Papa Juan Pablo II.

El Papa expresó su "aprecio y respeto profundo" por los creyentes musulmanes y dijo que él desea continuar edificando puentes, especialmente entre musulmanes y cristianos. El diálogo productivo, dijo él, estará basado en el conocimiento mutuo, el cual "con alegría reconoce los valores religiosos que tenemos en común



El Papa Benedicto XVI se reúne con los embajadores de naciones Islámicas y líderes Islámicos italianos en su residencia de Castel Gandolfo en Italia el 25 de sept. El Papa aseguró a los Musulmanes que el los respeta y que está comprometido a dialogar. (CNS foto/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

y que, con lealtad, respeta las diferencias".

Él dijo que las animosidades históricas deben ser dejadas atrás. Las lecciones del pasado, dijo él, deben ayudar a los cristianos y los musulmanes a buscar los "senderos de la reconciliación" que llevan al respeto por la identidad

individual y a la libertad.

En cuanto a eso el papa Benedicto citó al Papa Juan Pablo sobre el asunto importante del respeto recíproco de los derechos religiosos.

La reunión, coordinada por el Vaticano con rara urgencia, fue una audiencia formal y no

un intercambio de opiniones a puerta cerrada. En asistencia estuvieron los embajadores de 22 países predominante musulmanes y otros 19 representantes islámicos basados en Italia.

La charla papal fue difundida en vivo por la red televisiva árabe Al-Jazeera.

# Todo en familia durante rito en la capilla

Por Moises Sandoval  
Catholic News Service

Aquí en la cordillera de la Sangre de Cristo en Nuevo México, donde mi esposa y yo vivimos parte del año, las opciones para asistir la Misa dominical son un viaje de 20 millas a la ciudad pequeña de Las Vegas o uno de 12 millas por una estrecha carretera que sube y baja por cerros montosos y sigue valles tortuosos hacia la aldea de Mora. No obstante, el segundo domingo de cada mes hay una tercera opción, un servicio de Comunión presidido por el Diacono Leroy Martínez en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, a unas siete millas de nuestra casa. Allí vamos ese domingo, porque ofrece algo que no encontramos en las grandes parroquias de Las Vegas o Mora o en cualquier otro lugar.

Fui bautizado y confirmado en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, mi parroquia cuando era joven. Allí también mis padres fueron bautizados y se casaron, como también mis abuelos en ambos lados de la familia. Estar allí suscita muchas memorias: el escalofrío que sentía durante las Misas de la Semana Santa al oír las matracas que reemplazaban a las campanitas que suenan para la consagración, las liturgias alegres de la primavera y el verano, y las charlas con familia, amigos y vecinos en la resolana después de la Misa. Cuando la parroquia se cerró en 1957, reducida a ser capilla de Nuestra Señora de Los Dolores en Las Vegas, se abandonó la antigua iglesia, reemplazada después por una linda capilla, mantenida muy bien por la comunidad.

La capilla casi se llena para el servicio de Comunión. Recientemente, un hombre desconocido me tocó el hombro antes de empezar la ceremonia y me preguntó: “¿Es usted Moisés Sandoval? Yo soy Francisco Gallegos. Éramos compañeros de clase en la primaria.” Ya han pasado 60 años, pero muchos en la congregación saben quien soy y quienes eran mis padres y abuelos. Aquí y allá en la congregación veo unos familiares: Agustina Perea, hija de uno de los hermanos de mi abuelo, ya con casi 90 años, y su sobrina, Mary Ann, ya con más de 60 años, quien siempre ha vivido con ella. Tienen un ranchito y lo mantienen en la aldea de Manuelitas. De vez en cuando, mi primo José Perea, sirve como lector. Siento un gran sentido de paz al darme cuenta de todos los lazos que nos unen.

Media docena de músicos, tocando varios instrumentos y cantando himnos tradicionales en español e inglés, empiezan el servicio, semejante a la Misa menos la consagración. Las lecturas de las escrituras siguen, cada una recitada por un miembro de la congregación. Después de leer el evangelio, el Diacono Martínez, un hombre sereno y pensativo, da una homilía muy bien preparada. En el vestíbulo al terminar, varias mujeres nos dan las gracias por venir y nos ofrecen una tasa de café y un pan dulce.

Afuera, en la resolana, nadie muestra prisa de despedirse, divirtiéndose conversando con familia, amigos y vecinos. El Diacono Martínez habla de las diferentes comunidades que visita mensualmente para presidir los servicios de Comunión. Algunos los siguen de comunidad a comunidad. La semana próxima, dice Francisco Gallegos, el servicio de Comunión será en Rociada Arriba. El y su esposa nos invitan a participar. Aquí donde las parroquias siempre han servido un territorio muy grande, laicos (o actualmente diáconos) siempre han dirigido liturgias en muchas capillas.

La transición experimentada por Sapello hace casi medio siglo ahora viene a muchas parroquias por todo el país, debido al reducido número de sacerdotes. Lo que disfrutamos en Sapello demuestra que la fe puede seguir siendo vibrante y fuerte.



## El Cardenal Keeler aclama ‘avances verdaderos’, apenado por desarrollos dañinos a la vida

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Aunque hay muestras de esperanza y progreso en los esfuerzos pro vida, otros desarrollos en el último año “son regresivos y dañinos con sus efectos sobre la vida humana”, dijo el cardenal William H. Keeler, de Baltimore, en un mensaje marcando el 1 de octubre como el Domingo de Respeto a la Vida.

El cardenal, presidente del Comité Sobre Actividades Pro Vida de los obispos estadounidenses, comparó el ambiente en Estados Unidos ahora al de 1973, cuando la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos, en su decisión Roe v. Wade decretó “un ‘derecho’ constitucional al aborto”.

“Hoy, del mismo modo, los grupos poderosos en nuestra sociedad ignoran los datos básicos para promover una opinión estrecha y divisiva de la persona humana — opinión en la cual la vida humana es un mero problema o hasta un objeto de investigación y explotación, en vez del misterio divino que en verdad es”, él dijo en la declaración del 26 de septiembre.

Entre las señales de progreso mencionadas por el cardenal Keeler están la “participación

entusiástica en la educación y en el activismo pro vida” de los jóvenes y el creciente número de ellos “comprometidos a vivir castamente hasta el matrimonio, tendencia que ha contribuido substancialmente a la continua reducción de abortos”.

Otras señales que animan incluyen el creciente sentimiento público contra “la política del aborto virtualmente ilimitado” y especialmente contra el aborto de nacimiento parcial, dijo él, y la “creciente oposición, particularmente entre los católicos comprometidos, al uso de la pena capital”.

Pero el cardenal Keeler también citó desarrollos negativos, incluyendo la aprobación por la Administración de Alimentos y Drogas (FDA) de la píldora abortiva RU-486, que ha llevado a “visitas a salas de emergencia para transfusiones de sangre, cirugía o tratamiento de infecciones serias, a veces mortales”, para “centenares de mujeres estadounidenses”.

Él también criticó la aprobación de la FDA de las ventas sin receta médica de Plan B, la “píldora de la mañana siguiente”, la cual puede causar abortos y pone a mujeres en riesgo de desórdenes de sangrado

y de embarazos ectópicos.

En cuanto a la investigación usando células madres el cardenal dijo: “La genuina y creciente promesa de los tratamientos que usan células madres de adultos es poco considerada o ignorada, mientras se hacen reclamos exagerados o hasta fraudulentos a favor de métodos que requieren la destrucción de vidas humanas tempranas”.

Él dijo que una iniciativa sobre las células madres en la papeleta electoral de Missouri este noviembre “hace los reclamos irresponsables comunes de ‘curaciones milagrosas’ usando células madres embrionarias y añade su propio toque cínico: mientras reclama prohibir la clonación humana, en realidad elevaría al estado de derecho constitucional la clonación de embriones humanos para la investigación destructiva”.

El cardenal Keeler invitó a los católicos a educarse y a motivarse “para asegurar que la verdad — la verdad científica y médica y la verdad profunda sobre la dignidad de cada persona humana — informe y dirija cada día más las decisiones de nuestra sociedad sobre la vida humana”.

## Dirigentes religiosos se oponen a proyectos de ley sobre inmigración de último momento

Por Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Dirigentes religiosos se unieron a senadores de ambos partidos en un esfuerzo final para evitar la aprobación de los proyectos de ley sobre inmigración con que los dirigentes de la Cámara amenazaron como añadidura a la aprobación de última hora de piezas legislativas, incluyendo un proyecto de ley federal de asignación, solamente a unos cuantos días en que el Congreso entrara en receso para las elecciones de medio periodo.

Mientras el Senado consideraba piezas legislativas a las que se habían adjuntado algunas medidas sobre inmigración, el obispo auxiliar Jaime Soto de Orange, California, dijo en rueda de prensa del 26 de septiembre en Washington: "Este no es el momento de lograr algunos puntos políticos". Dijo que el Congreso encaraba "una situación moral rigurosa", como también asuntos complicados de economía, política y cultura.

"No podemos aceptar propuestas poco efectivas con las que se disfracen soluciones que no se han encontrado", dijo el obispo Soto. El obispo se encontraba entre el grupo de dirigentes religiosos y políticos que insistían en que una legislación completa e inclusiva debería contener medidas que les permitieran a los trabajadores extranjeros que están en el país que cumplieran con las demandas laborales en forma legal y de abrir el camino para que los inmigrantes

ilegales "puedan salir de las sombras" y regularizar su estado.

Dirigentes judíos, y protestantes bautistas y evangélicos propugnaban para que en las propuestas sobre inmigración no se enfocara la coerción sino bajo un contexto moral.

En la misma rueda de prensa, los senadores John McCain, Republicano de Arizona, Ted Kennedy, Demócrata de Massachusetts, Arlen Specter, Republicano de Pennsylvania, Ken Salazar, Demócrata de Colorado, y Lindsey Graham, Republicano de Carolina del Sur, todos estuvieron de acuerdo en no aceptar menos que una ley completa y total de inmigración en la que se incluya un plan de trabajadores huéspedes y cláusulas mediante las cuales se les permitiera a los inmigrantes ilegales, que ya están en el país y cuyo número se calcula que llega a la cifra de 12 millones, que puedan legalizar su estado migratorio.

En una carta del 26 de septiembre dirigida al Senado, el obispo Gerald R. Barnes de San Bernardino, California, presidente del comité de inmigración de los obispos de Estados Unidos exhortó a los senadores para se opusieron a un proyecto de ley en el que se pide la erección de un muro o cerca de 700 millas de extensión dentro de las 2.000 millas que se extiende la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos, y que tendría un costo mínimo de doscientos mil millones de dólares.

Con la ley del muro "se crearían más problemas de los que se podrían resolver", dijo el obispo Barnes en su carta. "Tememos que conduciría a un aumento en la explotación en contra de inmigrantes y de su muerte cuando intenten ingresar a los Estados Unidos, además del aumento en la violencia debida al tráfico ilegal en contra de agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza y otras personas involucradas.

"También nos preocupa que el otorgarle autoridad prácticamente omnímoda al Departamento de Seguridad del Territorio Nacional para evitar la entrada ilegal a los Estados Unidos ... podría resultar en abusos en contra de los derechos humanos de los inmigrantes y tendría un efecto negativo en las comunidades que viven a lo largo de la frontera".

Además, el obispo dijo: "creemos que el muro ... enviaría una señal equivocada hacia nuestro pacífico vecino de México y a la comunidad mundial. ... Un muro fronterizo podría ser visto en este hemisferio y a ultramar como señal de miedo, debilidad y aislamiento; no de fuerza ni de compromiso. También disminuiría nuestra autoridad moral para pedirles a otras naciones que acepten refugiados de guerra, por ejemplo, o a otros grupos vulnerables".

El Congreso aprobó el proyecto de ley de un muro fronterizo el 29 de septiembre.

## Recién nombrado secretario de estado reitera las prioridades internacionales del Vaticano

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) -- El recién nombrado secretario de estado, cardenal Tarcisio Bertone, dijo ante miembros del cuerpo diplomático que la ayuda a los pobres del mundo, la prevención de la guerra y el cultivo del respeto por los derechos humanos permanecen entre las más altas prioridades para el Vaticano en la arena internacional.

"Necesitamos un compromiso mundial a favor de los más desposeídos del planeta, los más pobres, la gente que con frecuencia busca en vano los medios de mantenerse a sí mismos y a su familia", dijo el cardenal Bertone el 29 de septiembre.

"La dignidad, la libertad y el respeto incondicional por cada uno de los seres humanos en sus derechos fundamentales, en particular el derecho de conciencia y religión, deben ser nuestra preocupación principal", dijo el cardenal Bertone.

El cardenal, que inició sus funciones de secretario de estado a mediados de septiembre, habló en su primer encuentro con el cuerpo diplomático acreditado ante la Santa Sede.

Dijo que era imposible no sentirse conmovido por el sufrimiento que aflige a tanta gente en el mundo y que "está frente ante nuestra vista cada día". Los diplomáticos deben trabajar para ayudar a que se produzca "un nuevo surgimiento de solidaridad", dijo, ayudando a aliviar el peso de la deuda extranjera que pesa sobre las naciones pobres,

y asegurándose de que "nunca más otra vez la gente, especialmente los infantes, mueran de hambre o enfermedades endémicas".

El cardenal les pidió a los diplomáticos que prestaran especial atención a "la violencia en todas sus formas que se ejerce sobre mujeres y niños, nacidos y por nacer".

"La defensa de la vida, desde el momento de la concepción hasta su fin natural, como también la defensa de la familia fundamentada en el matrimonio, son también temas esenciales en la vida social", dijo.

El cardenal Bertone presentó una lista de los temas gravemente cruciales, relacionados con los problemas mayores que existen, para hacer conexión entre las enseñanzas "proféticas" y "las necesidades concretas de la vida":

-- Defensa del orden social y los derechos humanos.

-- Condenación de la guerra, y su exclusión como medio de resolver diferencias entre los estados.

-- Seguridad como garantía necesaria de las estructuras sociales, políticas y económicas.

-- Desarme, del que dijo debería incluir todo tipo de armas y convertirse en realidad general, incluyendo el objetivo de "desarme unilateral" que tiene un gran valor ético.

El cardenal dijo que en relación a estos temas no habrá retirada posible en la investigación y reflexión por parte de los intelectuales de la iglesia y sus diversas dependencias.

## Orador dice que nueva 'cultura de pobreza' azota Estados Unidos

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) -- Una nueva "cultura de pobreza" está azotando Estados Unidos a una tasa "fenomenal y espantosa", dijo un orador a trabajadores de Caridades Católicas en la reunión anual de Caridades Católicas USA, llevada a cabo en Minneapolis del 14 al 17 de septiembre.

La pobreza generacional, en la cual dos o más generaciones de una familia han vivido en la pobreza, se está convirtiendo en epidemia en este país, dijo Allison Boisvert, ministra de justicia y caridad en la parroquia Pax Christi en Eden Prairie.

Los trabajadores sociales necesitan entender esta nueva cultura de pobreza si han de ser defensores eficaces de aquellos a quienes sirven, declaró Boisvert, quien emergió de la pobreza generacional y trabajó para Caridades Católicas durante 22 años.

"Hay un lenguaje de los pobres, una psicología de los pobres, una visión global de los pobres", dijo Boisvert. "Todo sobre ellos, desde la condición de sus dientes hasta la manera en que aman, está cubierto e impregnado por el hecho de su pobreza".

Boisvert dijo que a temprana edad ella se familiarizó con las agencias de servicio social como consumidora.

"Comencé a usar todos los sistemas sociales y psiquiátricos, de servicios médicos y de justicia para juveniles", dijo ella. "Me moví en el proceso como si éste fuese una cierta clase de matrícula distorsionada".

Cuando los funcionarios del bienestar social se enteraron de la adicción a la heroína de Boisvert le dieron dos opciones: limpiar su vida o arriesgarse a perder sus hijos. Boisvert eligió limpiar su vida.

La pobreza fue enfatizada en la agenda de la conferencia de Caridades Católicas USA de este año y fue el tema de un nuevo documento de política que detalla los planes de la agencia para atender lo que es un problema creciente en Estados Unidos.

Después de varios años de declive, indicadores recientes han demostrado un aumento en el número de personas que vive en la pobreza en Estados Unidos, dijo el padre Larry Snyder, presidente de Caridades Católicas USA.

Las estadísticas de Caridades Católica revelan tendencias preocupantes, dijo el padre Snyder. "Por primera vez desde que hemos recopilado datos, más del 50 por ciento de la gente que servimos ahora vive bajo el nivel de la pobreza en este país", dijo él.

Una familia de cuatro que gana menos de \$20.000 anualmente en

el 2006 se clasifica como pobre, según medidas del gobierno estadounidense.

Las agencias Caridades Católicas de toda la nación están sintiendo la tensión, añadió el padre Snyder.

Desde el 2003, él dijo, el número de personas a las cuales Caridades Católicas ha proporcionado servicios de emergencia -- tales como alimento, ropa, y refugio temporales y ayuda para pagar facturas de los servicios básicos y costos de medicamentos recetados -- ha aumentado por casi un 30 por ciento.

"Nuestro trabajo no está hecho", dijo Snyder a los asistentes de la conferencia.

En su discurso principal, Cokie Roberts, analista principal de noticias para Radio Pública Nacional, habló sobre la influencia política de la iglesia católica en el nivel nacional.

Roberts, católica, elogió los esfuerzos de la iglesia para ayudar a los pobres.

Los católicos necesitan ser educados sobre la enseñanza social católica para que puedan influenciar la política pública mediante su voto, dijo Roberts.

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## Diocesan / International

### Special Collection: Catholic University

Parish Name	Parish Location	Catholic University July 2005	Catholic University June 2006
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	86.00	94.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	0.00	77.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	411.41	379.19
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	1,957.00	2,074.21
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,024.80	1,178.47
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,984.00	1,429.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	437.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	599.00	12.25
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	566.00	686.50
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,339.00	0.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	474.00	528.00
St. Michael	Bedford	2,430.00	1,458.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	0.00	45.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	168.87	229.84
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	341.00	343.02
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	249.00	70.00
St. Ann	Burleson	500.00	950.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	1,635.00	1,188.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	0.00	67.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	345.26	390.29
Holy Angels	Clifton	229.00	0.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	805.00	750.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	212.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	69.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	38.00	47.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	602.00	630.55
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	70.00	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	383.25	441.00
St. Mark	Denton	1,881.64	1,613.07
St. Mary	Dublin	300.00	0.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	0.00	59.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,263.29	629.57
Christ the King	Fort Worth	0.00	173.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,469.00	110.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	118.00	1,539.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	1,602.34	2,194.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	0.00	760.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,147.00	1,910.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	223.00	0.00
Sari Mateo	Fort Worth	151.50	0.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	2,669.97	1,652.50
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	3,051.05	2,820.16
St. George	Fort Worth	0.00	0.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	877.00	732.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	365.00	0.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	2,416.79	2,606.85
St. Paul	Fort Worth	573.30	776.95
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	570.00	367.50
St. Rita	Fort Worth	60.00	92.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,150.82	1,268.35
St. Mary	Gainesville	0.00	154.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	130.40	83.80
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	320.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	995.00	1,426.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,304.00	0.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	0.00	85.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	410.71	182.00
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	59.00	43.20
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,826.70	2,913.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	55.00	0.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,927.82	2,857.11
St. Peter	Lindsay	691.00	822.70
St. Jude	Mansfield	249.00	284.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	30.00	20.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	258.46	387.16
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	64.78	0.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	941.72	0.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	81.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	100.75	85.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	218.00	192.00
St. Mary	Quanah	63.00	138.00
St. Rita	Ranger	0.00	30.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	94.00	0.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	83.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	60.00	25.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	242.51	0.00
St. John	Strawn	0.00	64.85
St. John	Valley View	40.00	1.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	173.07	536.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,362.56	1,341.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	123.50	0.00
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	702.00	536.25
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	543.00	662.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	167.00	279.53

53,761.27 45,921.87

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

## Pope endorses adult stem-cell research

By Carol Glatz

ROME (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI endorsed stem-cell research and therapy utilizing stem cells harvested from adults and umbilical-cord blood.

He also called for researchers and doctors to work more closely together in applying the latest research.

"The possibilities opened up by this new chapter in research are in themselves fascinating" because adult stem-cell studies have pointed to actual and potential cures of degenerative diseases that would otherwise lead to disabilities or death, the pope said at an audience for participants attending a Vatican-sponsored congress on stem-cell therapy.

"How can I not feel compelled to praise those who dedicate themselves to this research and those who support it and its costs," the pope said Sept. 16 to about 260 congress participants at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome.

Scientists, doctors, scholars, and bioethicists met in Rome Sept. 14-16 for an international conference sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life and the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations. The congress addressed the scientific possibilities and ethical implications in the use of stem cells.

The pope challenged the "frequent and unjust accusations of callousness" aimed against the church for its unwavering stance against the use of embryonic stem cells. The church has always been dedicated to curing diseases and helping humanity, he said.

The resistance the church shows toward embryonic stem-cell research is because the destruction of human embryos to harvest stem cells is "not only devoid of the light of God but is also devoid of humanity" and "does not truly serve humanity," the pope said.

No matter how promising the goals of such research may be, he added, the ends can never justify means that are "intrinsically illicit."

"There can be no compromise and no beating around the bush" when it comes to the direct destruction of human life — even when it is just a freshly conceived embryo, he said.

True progress entails the growth of the person which means boosting humanity's technical powers and strengthening its "moral capacity," he said.

Research using adult stem cells "deserves endorsement and encouragement when it happily merges scientific knowledge, the most advanced technology, and ethics that respect the human be-

*Research using adult stem cells "deserves endorsement and encouragement when it happily merges scientific knowledge, the most advanced technology, and ethics that respect the human being at every stage of life."*

— Pope Benedict XVI

ing at every stage of life," Pope Benedict said.

The pope also asked research centers which look to the church for "inspiration" to increase research in non-embryonic stem-cell studies and to strengthen ties with health-care providers in proposing new therapies.

During the congress, one researcher said that, while there are more than 70 different therapies that utilize adult stem cells, no cures have yet materialized using embryonic stem cells.

Umbilical-cord blood offers a complete cure for children with severe combined immunodeficiency, and it has shown positive results in brain reconstruction for some children starved of oxygen at birth, said Colin McGuckin, professor of regenerative medicine at the British University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Researchers have cultivated 20 different human tissues using blood from umbilical cords. Stem cells from bone marrow can make bone and cartilage as well as help regenerate blood vessels and revive damaged tissue, he said.

But despite the numerous success stories using adult stem cells, embryonic stem cells are still getting the bulk of the publicity and funding, said a number of participants.

According to Maureen Condit, an assistant professor of neurobiology and anatomy at the University of Utah, there is a legitimate fascination in finding out how a single cell develops into a complex, functioning human. Embryonic-cell study "represents a profound and

meaningful question for science and biology" she told Catholic News Service Sept. 15.

But money is also at the root of interest in embryonic stem-cell research, she said. Many who advocate for it "have a clear financial interest" in securing government funding, or "they hold patents, or they're stockholders in companies" that would generate a lot of money.

Scientists also have had to learn to spin their research when trying to secure grants and when they speak to the press, Condit said.

Scientists involved in adult stem-cell research are not getting their fair share of the limelight, she said, because they are in a field that is very large and diverse, but the "very small handful" of people actually working with embryonic stem cells "can get together and create a story that's much more unified and compelling."

Many adult stem-cell researchers are too busy helping patients and cannot spend the time or money advocating for their work, she said.

McGuckin agreed, saying he hardly ever goes to international meetings to promote his work because of the huge costs involved in travel. He said he was paying out of pocket for all his food and a portion of his travel expenses to attend the Vatican congress.

Getting government funding in the United Kingdom is difficult for nonembryonic studies because "almost everyone" on the panel that decides which projects get money "is an embryonic scientist," he told CNS.

Richard Doerflinger, interim director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said in his address that drumming up "fairy tales" is more widespread in the embryonic stem-cell field because researchers need to overcome moral objections to destroying life.

He cited cases in which researchers misrepresented their work in major publications ranging from the human-cloning hoax in South Korea to the debunked claim by Dr. Robert Lanza, a U.S. researcher, that stem-cell lines were harvested without harming human embryos.

But as those claims have failed to materialize, he said, "researchers have felt obliged to exaggerate and deceive more and more to maintain public trust and financial investments in their efforts."

Science needs to be absolutely committed to the objective truth, he said.

## Biking...

From page 24

Gigliotti, pastor of St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington.

"As we began, we didn't know what was in store for us," admits Britton, who pedaled 178 miles the first day. "I just tried to stay positive, reflect back on my training, and not let the mileage scare me."

Throughout the Aug. 13-17 trip, Britton and his companions were given opportunities to talk about autism to both large and small audiences. During stops to fix a bike tire or buy food, the "Dream Team" eagerly answered questions from curious small town Texans and handed out pamphlets provided by the Cure Autism Now

Foundation, a ridesponsor. As they approached more populated areas like Midland, Brownwood, and Mexia, the young cyclists were interviewed by reporters from local TV stations and newspapers. Carlsbad, New Mexico, welcomed the team into the city with a police escort, and the mayor offered free lodging and dinner at his motel.

"We met a lot of nice people along the way," says Britton, remembering the encouraging words expressed by a bandana-wearing motorcycle rider in Pridley, Texas. "I just hope we started some conversations. Everyone is affected by autism. It's an epidemic now that can't be ignored."

Buoyed by the prayers and good wishes of supporters, the athletes and their crew weathered

intense rains and bumpy roads. There was a time, Britton admits, when he was ready to put the brakes on the project and climb off the bike. Traveling from the Piney Woods of East Texas to the rougher terrain of West Texas, the team saved the greatest physical challenge for the final day of the trip. A stretch through the Guadalupe Mountains almost proved too much for Britton.

"I hit the wall," says the trained athlete, borrowing a term used by marathon runners to describe complete mental and physical exhaustion. "My whole mood and demeanor changed. I was upset and certain I was done. Nothing like that had ever happened to me before."

Britton isn't sure how he was

able to shake off the sudden malaise and re-program his attitude, but he likens the experience to a transformation he went through in high school. During his first couple of years at Nolan Catholic, the teen was a self-described troublemaker. He spent so much time in detention, his mother became friends with the dean of students.

"The people at Nolan turned me around," Britton explains. "Nolan taught me perseverance and gave me a belief in myself. Everybody I looked up to there, never let me give up."

The teachers he credits for shaping and molding his character don't work in Catholic education for the money.

"They believe in something else," he insists. "They helped me

turn my life around 180 degrees, and the same thing happened on the bike ride that last day. I was mentally and physically depressed, but something pulled me through."

Victorious over the summer heat, poor road conditions, and fatigue, the "Dream Team" was greeted home by a gathering of friends and family. Jennifer Ann was an eager member of the welcoming committee.

The young woman knows she is different. But she also knows her brother is doing something to help.

"She's the reason I did this," says Britton who received a grateful hug from his big sister. "I know she's proud of me, and that's all the thanks I need."

## Hamer...

From page 11

"How will my sainted mother not approve of all that?" I interjected. "As long as the neckline is not too low, the shirt passes the modesty test; if you don't wear it to Mass, you pass the 'dress respectfully in church' rule; and of course you can't accidentally put it on inside-out, because that's bad luck."

"I know that," Julie replied. "I've been in this family long enough to know the bad luck things. Actually that's what I'm worried about."

"Oh. You didn't already put it on inside-out, did you?? Aunt Ginny did that once, dressing for a family wedding, and she almost couldn't go because it was bad luck to turn it right. You know what she did?"

"She missed the wedding?" Julie asked.

"Not exactly. She took off the dress, shoes, and jewelry, and said loudly, 'I don't feel like going anywhere today.' Then she hung up the clothes, turned on the TV, waited awhile and said, 'Oh, maybe I'll go to the wedding after all.'"

"She cheated, Mom."

"True. But that didn't scare her like the bad luck did."

"Okay, I was ordering the school baseball shirt," Julie continued, "and I didn't know

which name to put on it! If I order one with my maiden name, it will be outdated in December. So I ordered it with my married name."

"Good, positive thinking," I smiled.

"But," Julie reminded, "Big Kate would frown on planning ahead like that. 'You know: 'don't count your eggs before they're hatched,' .... or is it 'don't count your chickens?'"

"Either way," I surmised, "unless they're dinosaur eggs, in which case you'd be better off counting them before they've hatched. At least that's what they learned in Jurassic Park."

"Well," she ignored me, "Gammy said things like that."

"I know," I continued for Julie. "If you spill salt, throw some over your left shoulder. Don't wear an opal unless it's your birthstone. Don't put shoes on the bed. Don't read at the dinner table."

"Big Kate was wise," Julie said.

"Indeed," I replied. "'When you want your house to seem clean, spray Pledge and dust the coffee table. If you want your husband to think dinner is ready, sauté onions.'"

"Always have three set of sheets, one on the bed, one in the linen closet, and one in the wash. Bake cookies for your kids' three o'clock snack. Remember to lock your doors."

"Her signature wisdom was, 'The child who is acting the least loveable is the one who needs your love the most.' And, 'I hope every one of you has a child exactly like yourself. You all deserve it.'"

"Our baseball shirts come in next week," Julie said. "And I am going to cover Matt's last name, 'Stahl,' with green felt and white letters that say, 'Hamer.' I'll remove the cover in January."

I figured that with the name 'Hamer,' on the back, I'd have to replace the shirt in three months; with 'Stahl,' it will last 100 years."

"One hundred years," Julie had said. A Big Kate comment. My mother had conviction strong enough to make anything happen. Things didn't fall through — not on her watch. Some people call it guts. Determination.

I think of it as faith.

"Great decision about the shirt," I said, grinning inside. "Big Kate agrees."



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew's, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. Her column is syndicated in a number of the best Catholic diocesan newspapers across the U.S. In May of 2005, her column received the first place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada.

## Fr. Tad...

From page 11

It demonstrated how all of us, even in our weakest moments, are deserving of respect. After we landed, I heard him offer a brief apology to the mother for his outburst against the helpless baby. In debates about embryos, when apparently learned men like Dr. Melton at Harvard begin discussing these tiny, helpless human creatures, they would likewise do well to ponder the little girl's rejoinder: "Hey mister, you were once like him."

Even though it is a fundamental embryological truth that you and I were once embryos ourselves, the advocates of this research are eager to portray human embryos as different from the rest of us, unable to make the grade, and hence fair game for destruction by those of us lucky enough to have already passed through those early and vulnerable embryonic stages ourselves. Will we permit radical injustices and ethical transgressions like these to become systemic and promoted as the societal norm? Will advocates be permitted to get away with confusing embryology and theology in the public square? Will the powerful, like Dr. Melton, be permitted to violate and instrumentalize the weak on our watch? These are questions with enormous implications for the future of our society.

Mr. Rogers, the famous children's TV personality, once gave a talk where he mentioned his favorite story from the Seattle Special Olympics. Here's how he described it: "Well, for the 100-yard dash there were nine contestants, all of them so-called physically or mentally disabled. All nine of them assembled at the starting line,

and at the sound of the gun, they took off. But not long afterward one little boy stumbled and fell and hurt his knee and began to cry. The other eight children heard him crying; they slowed down, turned around and ran back to him. Every one of them ran back to him.

One little girl with Down Syndrome bent down and kissed the boy and said, "This'll make it better." And the little boy got up, and he and the rest of the runners linked their arms together and joyfully walked to the finish line.

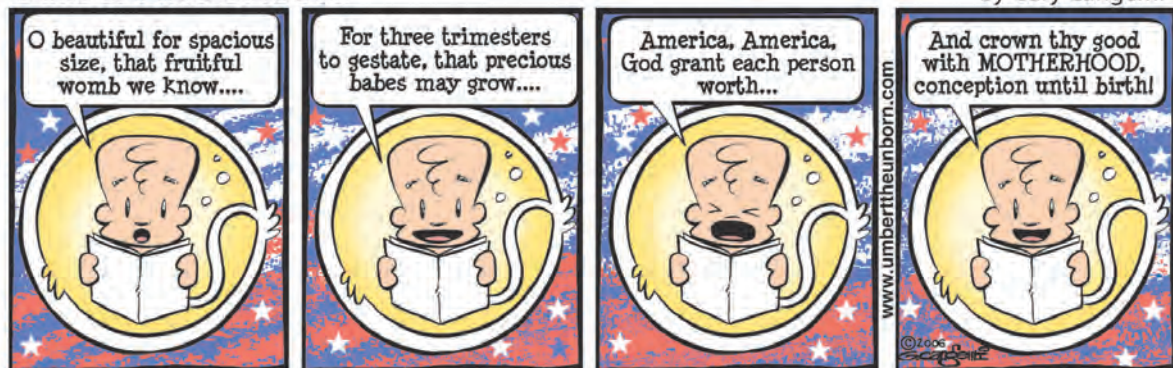
They all finished the race at the same time. And when they did, everyone in that stadium stood up and clapped and whistled and cheered for a long, long, time.

People who were there are still telling the story with great delight. And you know why. Because deep down, we know that what matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win too."

This beautiful story of everyone turning around and looking after the interests of the weakest and the most vulnerable reminds us of exactly the kind of society God wants us to build, one where every life, even the weakest embryonic life, is embraced as a gift and treasure of infinite and irreplaceable value. With God's help and our determined efforts, that is the kind of society we must aspire to build in the future.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as the director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.nbccenter.org](http://www.nbccenter.org).

## Umbert the Unborn



# Calendar

## PRO-LIFE BANQUET, OCT. 21

The Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet, benefiting Catholics Respect Life, will be held Oct. 21 at Embassy Suites Outdoor World, DFW, 2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine. The evening will feature Father Bernard Murphy, CFR, as the keynote speaker, a silent auction from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Ticket options include, Shepherd Table of 10 with Bishop Kevin Vann or Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann, \$3,000; Speaker Table of 10 with Father Bernard Marie Murphy, \$3,000; Angel of Life Table of 10, \$400; Individual, \$45. Reservation deadline is Oct. 9. Make checks payable to Catholics Respect Life, and mail to Catholics Respect Life, P.O. Box 1806, Keller 76244. For more information, call (817) 623-2430.

## WHITE MASS, OCT. 24

A White Mass, sponsored by MACS and the St. Luke Physician Guild of Fort Worth, will be held at All Saints Church Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. The celebrant will be Bishop Kevin Vann with Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, concelebrating. Participants are asked to wear a white coat as a symbol of the medical profession. For more information about the White Mass, contact MACS representative Ewa Oberdorfer at (817) 732-6720 or via e-mail at eoberdor@hsc.unt.edu. A reception will take place following the Mass at Joe T. Garcia's restaurant, 2201 N. Commerce Street. To RSVP for the reception at Joe T. Garcia's, call Dee at (817) 413-3930, by Oct. 20.

## RETRouvaille WEEKEND

A Retrouvaille weekend will take place Oct. 20-22 in the Metroplex area. Offered through the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Retrouvaille is a three-month process which combines a live-in weekend with post-weekend follow-up sessions. Through the Retrouvaille program, couples who are distanced in their relationship learn how listening, forgiveness, and communication are powerful aids for building a loving and lasting union. All names and conversations will be kept confidential. To register or for more information, call (800) 470-2230, or visit online at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

## GRIEF / LOSS SUPPORT

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The weekend retreat provides an environment and tools to help participants put closure on the past, and to create a new beginning in the present. The next BE weekend will be held Oct. 20-22 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. For more information, call metro (972) 601-4091 or e-mail to the Dallas/Fort Worth BE team at [dfwbe@hotmail.com](mailto:dfwbe@hotmail.com).

## MINISTRY FOR GAYS / LESBIANS

The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will offer an evening of prayer and conversation for lesbian/gay persons, their families, and friends Thursday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to join together for prayer and sharing. For additional information, contact Fr. Murphy at (817) 927-5383, Deacon Richard Griego at (817) 421-1387, or Dottie and Hank Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S GROUP

St. Augustine's Men's Purity Group, for men who struggle with sexual impurity issues on the Internet and other sources, meet Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The meetings are held in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller. For additional information visit the Web site at [www.sampg.org](http://www.sampg.org), or e-mail to Mark at [seasmenspurity@yahoo.com](mailto:seasmenspurity@yahoo.com).

## COURAGE D/FW

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

## 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](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org)
- Or call the **Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- Or call **The Catholic Center** at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olson.

## To Report Abuse

Call the **Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services)**  
1 (800) 252-5400

## CART SERVICES NEEDED

The Deaf Ministry Program provides CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) services at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington, each second through fifth Sundays. This support service allows hearing impaired persons, or late-deafened, non-signing persons, to have access to the spoken word at Mass each week. The Deaf Ministry Program is currently seeking CART Recorders who are willing and able to rotate this accommodating service to the deaf community. Although someone who is Catholic themselves would be the best candidate for the Sunday liturgy service, the ministry is willing to work with others who might be called to use their gifts to help this special population. Anyone interested in filling this need is asked to contact Mary Cinatl at the Deaf Ministry Office, (817) 284-3019, for more information. In-service as well as a modest stipend can be given for providing such service.

## FR. GEURTZ'S ANNIVERSARY

Father Gary Geurtz's 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood will be celebrated with a catered reception following St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish's 5:30 p.m. Mass, Oct. 14. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate the parish's 11 a.m. Sunday Mass as part of the observation of the anniversary. A barbecue for the Knights of Columbus and their families, honoring Fr. Geurtz, will follow the 11 a.m. Mass. Priests are invited to share in a Holy Hour in observance of Fr. Geurtz's anniversary at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17, which is the actual anniversary date of his ordination.

## 'COVENANT KEEPERS' SEMINAR

The St. Joseph Covenant Keepers will host a seminar for men entitled, "Fathering Amidst the Storm," Nov. 4 with Steve Wood, Founder of the St. Joseph Covenant Keepers and host of EWTN's "The Carpenter's Shop." In a series of three talks, Wood will offer key information for Catholic men about children, discipline, faith formation, teenagers, purity, marriage, and the media. The seminar will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$10. For more information or tickets, call Andrew Hightower at (817) 490-8919.

## Catholic Pilgrimages From DFW

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(817) 224-9700

## 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. Many who have gone through this experience have found it helpful in developing a deeper Christian spirituality. An English Cursillo weekend for women will be held Oct. 19-22 at the Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact Mary Jean Nagy at [mjnagy@fredhall-dfw.com](mailto:mjnagy@fredhall-dfw.com), or (817) 226-1110.

## THEOLOGY ON TAP SERIES

Theology on Tap, a lecture series for young adults ages 21 through their 30s, has returned to the Diocese of Fort Worth. Although the series began Oct. 3, there are three presentations still to be given. The series will be held at Hyena's Comedy Night Club, 605 Houston Street in downtown Fort Worth, Tuesday evenings, Oct. 10, 17, and 24, at 7:30 p.m. Each evening will start with a few minutes to meet and greet fellow young adults from around the Metroplex area, prior to the speaker taking the stage. After the speaker's presentation, a question and answer session will be held on the night's topic. Upcoming speakers and topics will be Oct. 10, Deacon Mike Mocek, "Being Catholic in the Workplace;" Oct. 17, Sister Gabriela Martinez, SSMN, "Mary and the Rosary," and Father Kyle Walterscheid, Paul Combest, and Nicole Bernal, "Why Do Catholics Do That?" More information may be found on the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org) or by contacting Paul Combest, director of Young Adult Ministry, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 267 or by e-mailing to [pcombest@fwdioc.org](mailto:pcombest@fwdioc.org).

## 'NONVIOLENCE' WORKSHOP

"Jesus, Bearer of God's Peace And Justice," a workshop on the nonviolence of Jesus, will be presented Oct. 28 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the Office of Peace and Justice for the Diocese of Fort Worth, this workshop will feature Father John Dear, a Jesuit priest, pastor, peacemaker, retreat leader, and author. Based upon his book, *Jesus the Rebel: Bearer of God's Peace and Justice*, Fr. Dear will call participants to reflect upon several stories of Jesus' life journey. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. The workshop will follow at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. with the celebration of the Eucharist. For additional information, contact Sister Anselma Knabe, SSMN, at (817) 429-2920 or visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

## SINGLES MINISTRY WORKSHOP

The Holy Family Church Singles Ministry will host the presentation "How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk/Jerkette (The Way to Follow Your Heart Without Losing Your Mind)" Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center. The session will examine the five bonding elements of a relationship. These dynamic elements are directly related to one another, must be developed in a specific order, and must be kept in balance. The session, presented by Deacon Dick and Kathy Stojak, of Family Life Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Worth, will tie in Christian values to the process of forming friendships and dating. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Monica Molina at by e-mail to [mmolina@holyfamilyfw.org](mailto:mmolina@holyfamilyfw.org) or by phone at (817) 737-6768.

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## ST. ANDREW SCHOOL FESTIVAL

St. Andrew School will hold its annual fall festival Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. All are invited enjoy an old-fashioned family day, with fun for all ages. Booths will include cakewalk, confetti eggs, and more. A basketball tournament will be included in the festivities. The festival will be held on the grounds of SAS, at 3304 Dryden Road, Fort Worth. For more information, call (817) 924-8917.

## YOUTH SOCCER CHALLENGE

A local competition of the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge, sponsored by the Lewisville Knights of Columbus Council 9884 and Greater Lewisville Area Soccer Association, will be held Oct. 7 in Flower Mound at Gerault Park Field #2 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The district competition will follow on the same day from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The competition is designed for players to demonstrate their skill with the penalty kick. Each player will be allowed three practice kicks, followed by 15 consecutive shots at the goal from the penalty line (12 yards from the goal). The goal will be divided into a series of five scoring zones. The Soccer Challenge is open to all youth, ages 10 through 14 as of Sept. 1, in communities within the Lewisville ISD area. Proof of age is required. Full details can be found on the Greater Lewisville Area Soccer Association (GLASA) Web site at [www.glasasoccer.org](http://www.glasasoccer.org).

## ST. MARY CARNIVAL

St. Mary the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Ave., Fort Worth, will host its annual fall carnival Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entertainment will include DJ Luz Y Sonido Tecate and the Ballet Folklorico Centeotl. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 923-1911.

## HENRIETTA BARBECUE

St. Henry Church of Henrietta will host its annual barbecue dinner Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the parish hall, located at 105 S. Barrett Street, on Highway 82. Carry-out plates will be available. The menu will include brisket and chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, beans, dessert, and tea or coffee. All are invited to attend. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 3 through 10; children under the age of 3 eat free. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 538-4214.

## OMM FALL EVENTS

Our Mother of Mercy Parish invites all to attend the annual Our Mother of Mercy Carnival, to be held on the parish grounds at 1001 E. Terrell Oct. 22 and the annual Friends and Family Day, to be held on Oct. 28, at the 10 a.m. Mass. The annual Gospel-fest will be held Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. For more information about the carnival, Gospel-fest, or Friends and Family Day at the parish, contact Joi Bernard at (817) 565-6717.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY

The annual World Youth Day at Six Flags is scheduled for Oct. 29. Bishop Kevin Vann will join Bishop Charles Grahmann of Dallas in celebrating the youth-oriented liturgy with the theme "Catholic to the Core." Discounted tickets and transportation opportunities are available through local youth ministers. For more information, contact Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Adolescent Catechesis, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 261, or via e-mail at [kprevou@fwdioc.org](mailto:kprevou@fwdioc.org).

## NEWMAN LECTURE SERIES

The Cardinal Newman Institute continues its fall lecture series to which all are invited. Dr. Thomas D. Watts of the University of Texas at Arlington will present "End of Life Issues and the For-Profit Social Policy Sector: A Troublesome Ethical Mixture," Oct. 20 in the cafeteria of St. Maria Goretti Church, located at 1200 S. Davis Dr., Arlington. Dr. James Patrick, chancellor of the College of St. Thomas More, Fort Worth, will speak on "Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman: An Exemplar Witness for Truth and a Man for our Time" Dec. 9 at St. Mary the Virgin Church, located at 1408 N. Davis Dr., Arlington. Each session will begin at 7 p.m. with a small reception. Donations are gratefully accepted.

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Knights of Columbus Council #11423 will sponsor its 12th annual charity golf tournament at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Fort Worth Oct. 8. The \$65 entry fee includes the green fee, golf cart, gratuities, and lunch. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each flights as well as the longest drive and closest to the pin on par threes. For more information and an entry form, call Mike Goodenough at (817) 429-5217 or Ray Geisler at (817) 451-5539.

## ST. GEORGE FESTIVAL

St. George School invites all to join the fun and festivities at its school carnival Oct. 14 from noon to 8 p.m. There will be food, games, and a "Drive For The Kids" program, sponsored by Dodge from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. St. George School is located east of downtown Fort Worth off Belknap at 824 Hudgins Ave. For more information, call the school office at (817) 222-1221.

## ST. MICHAEL CRAFT SALE

Parishioners of St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford, will host the parish's 26th annual craft sale Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 15 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Crafts, decorative accessories, gifts, floral designs, and items for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas will be available for sale. All are encouraged to attend and to do early Christmas shopping. Proceeds will be distributed among local charitable organizations. For more information, contact the parish at (817) 283-8746.

## HOLY ROSARY FESTIVAL

Holy Rosary School, 2015 S.W. Green Oaks, Arlington, will host its annual fall festival Oct. 14. Included in the festival activities will be a crafts bazaar, games and prizes for all ages, an array of food, and Christian music and other local entertainment. For additional information, contact the school office at (817) 419-6800.

## ST. STEPHEN BAZAAR

The annual St. Stephen Bazaar will be held Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at St. Stephen Church, 1802 Bethel Road in Weatherford. A variety of food, games, and crafts will be available. Proceeds from the event will benefit various parish organizations. For more information, call the church office at (817) 596-9585.

## 'KOUNTRY KARNIVAL'

St. Maria Goretti School, 1200 South Davis Dr., Arlington, will celebrate its 31st annual Kountry Karnival Oct. 7-8. For information about this event, contact the school office at (817) 275-5081 or Tom Braden at [tabraden@comcast.net](mailto:tabraden@comcast.net), Robert Nieto at [nieto96@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nieto96@sbcglobal.net), or Charles Eller at [c.eller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c.eller@sbcglobal.net)

## 'KNIGHTS' CHARITY DINNER

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus will sponsor the 10th annual Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser with a free spaghetti dinner and auction Oct. 21 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Sacred Heart parish hall, located at 1501 9th Street, Wichita Falls. The auction will feature various items including religious items from Sister Irene. Tickets may be purchased from any Fourth Degree Knight; at church office, 1504 10th Street; or at the door. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 723-5288.

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## Good Newsmakers



John Britton, framed by East Texas pines.

*From the East Texas Piney Woods to the Guadalupe Mountains, Nolan Catholic grad John Britton and his buddies cycled 870 miles across Texas out of love for his sister*

# Pedaling

*to raise funds and awareness*

*By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Correspondent*



John Britton and his sister Jennifer Ann pose with John's trusty bike, his personal transporter for the trans-Texas journey.

When Nolan Catholic High School graduate John Britton decided to bicycle 870 miles across Texas to raise money for autism, he tried to prepare for the unexpected. Washed-out roads, a swarm of moths, and a late-night encounter with a pickup full of rednecks were a few of the surprises that came his way, but the 20-year-old will tell you those problems were nothing compared to the challenges his sister faces every day.

"She inspires me," Britton says of his 24-year-old sibling Jennifer Ann, who was diagnosed with autism as a toddler. "After watching her cope with daily struggles, riding a bike across a state as large as Texas doesn't seem like such a difficult thing."

The Johns Hopkins University junior planned the cross-state excursion to pay tribute to his sister and promote awareness for a disease that touches more American families every year. Autism is a complex developmental neurological disorder that affects normal

brain function. It strikes individuals differently and is characterized by difficulties in communication and social interaction. Considered the fastest growing developmental disability in the country, according to the organization Autism Speaks, the disease occurs once in every 166 U.S. births.

John's mother, Judy Britton, noticed a problem with her first-born child when Jennifer Ann was almost three.

"She wasn't speaking well," remembers the former special education teacher. "She did everything on schedule except language skills."

A barrage of tests led to a diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Disorder, a form of autism.

"She has receptive language ability but is not able to express herself," says Judy, explaining that social situations are often difficult for her daughter. "Jennifer Ann loved being around other children. She just wouldn't interact with them."

Now an adult with autism, Jennifer Ann enjoys small social gatherings with people she knows.

More public settings, like a trip to the mall or traveling through an airport, can lead to problems, especially since the young woman appears to be a normal, healthy young adult.

"Being bombarded by too much stimuli affects her," Judy Britton explains. "People who suffer brain injuries have a lot of the same symptoms she has. The frustration level grows, and there can be outbursts. We had a lot of that with Jenny."

John and his younger brother, Mike, grew up understanding their sister required extra care and attention. Living with someone with a disability made them more compassionate individuals, their mom observes.

After Mike Britton, a Nolan senior, was voted homecoming king in September, he asked Jennifer Ann to escort him onto the football field, knowing his sister never had the opportunity to attend a homecoming dance or prom.

"I think they're more aware and sensitive to individuals who are physically or mentally challenged," adds Judy, explaining that her boys have formed friendships with some mentally challenged people they've met through Jenny. "That's a unique quality to see

in teenagers. They're not embarrassed to associate with people who are different. They just see them as friends."

When John announced plans last summer for a Jennifer Ann Ride for a Dream fundraiser, the concerned mom greeted the news with mixed feelings. The inherent danger of bicycling along the highways and byways of Texas shifted her maternal protective instincts into high gear.

"I didn't want him to do it," she admits. "But if people like John are able to bring a greater awareness of autism to the younger generation, maybe they will find a cure and ways to prevent this disease. They can make a difference, and that's kind of exciting to think about."

Convincing his mother that a

cross-state journey for autism was the perfect mix of adventure and advocacy, Britton found sponsors for the trip and raised money through private donations and a T-shirt sale. He also put together a team that included former Nolan Catholic High School classmate and fellow cyclist Daniel Henscheid, Matthew Walusimbi, Bryce Braden, Chelsea Sanders, Shawn Smith, and John's father, Charlie Britton. Following the bikers in a panel van that warned, "Caution — Bike Riders Ahead," the road crew provided water, snacks, and emotional support.

Before traveling to the Louisiana border by car to start the four and a half day journey, the troupe received a blessing from Father Jim

SEE BIKING, P. 22



John Britton, (left) and Daniel Henscheid, protected from the traffic by vehicles running interference in front of and behind them, make some miles across Texas.

John Britton, (right) with friends Shawn Smith (left) and Daniel Henscheid, (center) pose before Guadalupe Peak, at 8,749 feet, the highest mountain in Texas and the focal point of Guadalupe Mountains National Park in far West



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## Inside... This issue of the NTC

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Wichita Falls is celebrating its 50th anniversary even as plans go forward for the building of their first formal worship space — a new church at last! **7**

The four parishes of Montague, Henrietta, Nocona, and Bowie celebrated Fiestas Patrias in a big way recently to build community pride and raise money for catechesis. **13**

Pope Benedict XVI endorsed stem-cell research and therapy using stem cells harvested from adults and umbilical-cord blood at a recent Vatican-sponsored conference. **21**