

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE INSTALLED — Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, applaud moments after Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien was installed as the new archbishop of Baltimore at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen Oct. 1. Archbishop O'Brien, former head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, succeeds Cardinal William H. Keeler, who headed the Baltimore Archdiocese for 18 years. (CNS/Paul Haring)

Congress urged to 'stand up for children' by overturning SCHIP veto

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A top official of Catholic Charities USA called on Congress to "stand up to the president for our nation's children" by overturning President George W. Bush's veto of expanded funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP.

Candy Hill, senior vice president for social policy at the Alexandria, Virginia-based organization, spoke at a telephone news briefing Oct. 2, the day before Bush vetoed the legislation that has received wide support from religious, health care, labor, and consumer groups.

It was the fourth veto of Bush's presidency; he has said expanding the program by \$35 billion would be a step toward

socialized medicine and could lead many families to drop their private health insurance in favor of coverage by SCHIP.

"Because the Congress has chosen to send me a bill that moves our health care system in the wrong direction, I must veto it," Bush said in his veto message. "I hope we can now work together to produce a good bill that puts poorer children first, that moves adults out of a program meant for children, and that does not abandon the bipartisan tradition that marked the enactment of SCHIP."

The Senate approved the legislation by a veto-proof vote of 67 to 29 Sept. 27. But supporters of the legislation said they hoped to find 19 votes in the House to
SEE CATHOLIC OFFICIALS..., P. 15

Episcopal bishop resigns, says he will become Catholic

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Saying that God is calling him to become a Catholic, the Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande asked his fellow bishops to accept his resignation Sept. 25.

The request, required by church law, came from Bishop Jeffrey Steenson during an executive session on the closing

day of the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops meeting in New Orleans. He also said he intended to seek release from his Episcopal ordination vows by the end of the year.

The consent of a majority of the House of Bishops is required for a bishop to resign before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 72 or being declared
SEE EPISCOPAL BISHOP..., P. 8

Catholic school tuition assistance is one of many programs aided by Sharing in Ministry

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Providing a Catholic school education for their children was always a priority for Rachel and Tim Smith (names changed for privacy).

"It's something we discussed while going through our engagement encounter," remembers the mother of four and longtime member of St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth. "We wanted a big family," she said, and for their children to attend Catholic schools. "I hoped to give my youngsters all the benefits I didn't have."



Raised in a family of five children, Rachel never attended a Catholic school because her parents couldn't afford the tuition. But her husband graduated from

St. Andrew's and knew firsthand the difference a Catholic education can make.

"We wanted to surround our children with people who put God first in their lives," Rachel explains. "Faith should be a day-to-day experience. Not something that just happens on Sunday."

Thanks to the tuition assistance program funded by Sharing in Ministry, the Smiths have watched two offspring graduate from Catholic elementary school and high school. Two younger children still attend St. Andrew's.

"We both have health prob-
SEE SHARING..., P. 12

Primitive but effective, soup pots continue to feed earthquake victims in Peru

By Patricia Zapor

SANCLEMENTE, Peru (CNS) — A system of feeding thousands of people along Peru's central coast through a network of open soup pots in the streets would have seemed primitive two months ago.

But after an Aug. 15 earthquake flattened more than 70,000 homes in the region 130 or so miles south of Lima, the "ollas"

that feed people in their neighborhoods are a welcome indication that there is at least some kind of system at work.

For the first 10 days after the quake, the people of San Clemente might as well have been 130 miles to the west, on an island in the Pacific Ocean.

"We had no help at all for the first 10 days," explained Saravia Atuncar, a member of St. Martin

de Porres Parish in San Clemente. He and other parishioners met with two U.S. reporters and representatives of Catholic Relief Services-Peru in a church hall Sept. 26 to explain how the community has coped with the disaster.

The town of 25,000 people had about 1,500 houses destroyed in the magnitude 8 earthquake
SEE QUAKE SURVIVORS..., P. 13

LIFE CHAIN —

Three-year-old Will Crawford gives a thumbs up to Father Michael Kmietek, CFR, at the Life Chain location on Hwy. 377 in Keller. At least 17 communities within the Diocese of Fort Worth participated in the 20th annual National Life Chain Oct. 7. The observance, which takes place each year on the first Sunday in October, is an opportunity to give a prayerful, peaceful witness to the tragedy of abortion. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen) **See story, p. 2**



Catholics link hands and hearts with other Christians in 20th annual national Life Chain, prayerful pro-life witness Oct. 7

Story and Photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Correspondent

Veteran pro-life volunteer Dennis Helgeson has only missed the event twice in the past 10 years.

Trini Phillips became a first-time participant after deciding, "one hour is nothing compared to what's going on."

Fourteen-year-old Nicole Stevens added a little technology to enhance her silent protest. The teenager hoped listening to the rosary on her iPod would help drown out the roar of nearby traffic.

Their backgrounds and experiences are different, but all three Catholics shared a common purpose Oct. 7 as they stood shoulder-to-shoulder with other pro-life Americans during the 20th annual National Life Chain. In an effort to create a visual, peaceful, and powerful statement, thousands of participants lined sidewalks in 1,300 communities across the country for one hour on an autumn Sunday afternoon to pray for an end to abortion.

Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth joined members of other Christian denominations at 17 different urban and rural locations. Carrying signs that

read, "Abortion Hurts Women," "Jesus Forgives & Heals," and "Abortion Kills Children," the protesters drew attention to an issue that many Americans choose to ignore, according to Larry Stevens, a local Life Chain organizer.

"This is the only national pro-life event that takes place coast to coast," said Stevens, as he handed out posters at Loop 820 and Rufe Snow Drive in North Richland Hills. "Are we going to save a baby today? I don't know. This is largely to remind people of what's going on and to get them more involved in pro-life activities. It does make a difference."

These young people were among those showing their support of adoption, their opposition to abortion, and the availability of pardon and reconciliation from Jesus and his church, as they stood along Rufe Snow Drive in North Richland Hills, along Rufe Snow Drive, Oct. 7.

Father Michael Kmiotek, is one of several Franciscan Friars of the Renewal who joined parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, Oct. 7, as they took part in the ecumenical Life Chain prayerful demonstration along Hwy. 377 in Keller. Here he shares a happy moment with 3-year-old Will Crawford and his parents.



Parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle and St. John the Apostle parishes join other Christians in prayer before beginning their public, ecumenical witness to the value of human life in North Richland Hills, along Rufe Snow Drive, Oct. 7.



More than 200 Life Chain participants, most of them parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, braved hot, humid weather to stand outside a busy shopping center on Hwy. 377 in Keller. They were joined by several members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, a New York-based religious order that opened a friary in Fort Worth several months ago. Father Michael Kmiotek, who walked along the sidewalk greeting families in the crowd, called the turnout "phenomenal."

"After seeing things in the media, you'd never think so many people were pro-life, but they are, and this is a good sampling of that," he explained. "It's great to see so many kids out here too. This is a beautiful, silent witness."


Since his arrival, the priest has

noticed something special about the diocese.

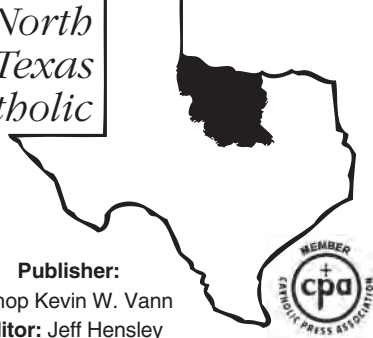
"People are on fire for Christ here," Fr. Kmiotek added.

No doubt that enthusiasm contributed to the impressive showing of local Catholics at many Life Chain locations. And, despite the controversy and divisiveness that surrounds the abortion issue, participants in northern Tarrant County say they experienced very few negative comments or gestures from passing motorists. Many drivers showed their support by giving a thumbs up or honking the car horn.

"We can't be silent on this issue," said Brian Cox, a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner and veteran of two other Life Chain events. "We're out here hoping to change the hearts of people."



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Diocesan / International



Army Lt. Ivan Yau, representing the military diocese of Australia, recites a prayer at the World Youth Day cross during a service aboard the HMS Broome at the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Cairns, Australia, Sept. 22. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Waters over Great Barrier Reef become open-air chapel for World Youth Day cross

By Dan McAloon

CAIRNS, Australia (CNS) — The navy patrol boat HMAS Broome took a break from security operations along Australia's northern border to transport the World Youth Day cross, icon, and aboriginal message stick to the aqua blue waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

The trip fulfilled another milestone in the epic journey that is taking the symbols around the Australian continent for a year before World Youth Day, July 15-20, in Sydney.

Anchored off Fitzroy Island, nearly 14 miles east of Cairns in the Coral Sea, the HMAS Broome became a rocking open-air chapel for a prayer service Sept. 22. Deacon Matt Ransom, officiating for the Cairns Diocese, began the service quoting the Book of Genesis about God creating the waters teeming with swarms of living creatures.

Deacon Ransom said the Book of Genesis could be describing the abundance of life forms on the Great Barrier Reef and in its surrounding waters.

"People who spend even a few hours exploring the reef become conservationists for life," he said, noting that warming sea temperatures and climate change posed the greatest threat to the reef's biodiversity.

Deacon Ransom told the gathered pilgrims that since the World Youth Day cross had been brought to Cairns, he had witnessed "the depths of God's forgiving love" and its effects on the local people.

"I have seen people touching the cross and afterward they are glowing, their pain is gone. As humans, if we do not turn to the cross to take our pain, then we take it out on our environment," he said.

He led the group in a prayer for "an ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the earth."

At the service, army Lt. Ivan Yau offered a prayer for God's blessing on men and women

serving in the armed forces.

"By your powerful spirit shield them from all harm. Uphold them in good times and bad ... and hasten the day when the human family will rejoice in lasting peace," he said.

Representing Australia's indigenous people at the service was 16-year-old Kim Reys, a member of the Yidinji clan, whose members traditionally have lived in the area from the southern plateaus outside Cairns to the reefs of the Coral Sea.

Reys held in her hands the message stick made by Sydney's Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. A message stick is a traditional form of greeting used by one indigenous people when entering another people's country. The World Youth Day stick, decorated in totems of the whale, eagle, and footprints, extends an invitation for all indigenous Catholics to come to World Youth Day in Sydney.

The tradition of the message stick was revived by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference in 2006 when it sent several message sticks journeying throughout the dioceses to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's 1986 address to the indigenous people at Alice Springs.

The message sticks were to remind the church of the unfinished justice work in reconciling white and black Australians with a brutal past in which the indigenous people were dispossessed of their traditional lands and removed to institutions under a policy of assimilation. The legacy continues for aboriginal people who are still largely marginalized by white society and whose life expectancy is 17 years less than the rest of the population.

Reys said she will be going to World Youth Day with other pilgrims from the Cairns Diocese because "as an indigenous young person I want to feel the spirit and meet up with other indigenous people. It's something I'm really looking forward to."

Responding to God's Call

Vocation awareness — Does anything good come from celibacy?

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Other Christian denominations

can't understand it.

Catholics are often bewildered by it, and yet, celibacy remains as the norm for the priesthood and religious life.

In this column and the next, I hope to give you some positive benefits for the Church to maintain such a practice.

First, however, you need to know that celibacy has played a large role in the history of many of the great religions. For other religions, celibacy is most closely connected with asceticism, a practice of self restraint from worldly desires to live a more peaceful, holy, and uncomplicated life.

Although celibacy has never been a norm for our older Jewish brothers, the Essene sect that existed near the Dead Sea from 200 B.C. to 68 A.D. was a monastic community of Jewish men that practiced celibacy and ritual baptisms in order to remain in a purified state of holiness with God. Today, both Jews and Christians alike have been blessed by the scribes of the Essene community who have

left us a gold mine of the oldest known and near complete Old Testament text as well as biblical commentaries, apocryphal writings, and other texts that describe their practices, rituals, and community.

Another world religion, Hinduism, has always looked favorably upon celibacy because it helps bring a detachment from this world and is considered a means to bliss or enlightenment. Mahatma Gandhi, who helped lead India to independence in 1947 after a lifetime of peaceful demonstrations, was a Hindu who took on the vow of celibacy in 1906 at the age of 37 even though he was married and had children.

Lastly, Buddhism as a world religion has most recently been headline news as thousands of celibate Buddhist monks in Burma (Myanmar) protesting in the streets have been leading the charge to demand better living conditions and freedoms, seeking progress toward democracy for the Burmese people.

So if other cultures and religions can see the good of celibacy, then why is our own culture so baffled by it?

While I think that Americans can see the good of living an ascetic, simple life, the choice of a lifetime vow of celibacy just seems to go too far for most people. They would be right if there was no meaning to celibacy, but celibacy has been full of meaning throughout the Church's history. Speaking of celibacy, Jesus said that some "have renounced marriage

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations, is shown walking out of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster following his ordination to the priesthood in May 2002.

Even then, he appeared to be inviting people to ask if they were being called to a vocation.

Part 1 of 2

for the sake of the Kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:12). St. Paul, in reference to his own celibate state in life, writes, "Indeed, I wish everyone to be as I am" (1 Corinthians 7:7).

Jesus chose a celibate life to be able to give himself over completely to the Father as a holy sacrifice and to devote himself completely to the salvation of mankind through his ministry. So, celibacy, in our Christian tradition, really gains its value in Christ himself.

Now to directly answer, "Does anything good come from celibacy?" the truth is that the greatest good in the world came from someone who chose celibacy as a way of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Most of the saints throughout the Church's 2,000 year history have followed this path of the life of celibacy for the greater glory of God and for the greatest good of the Christian community. I pray that as Catholics and Christians we come to see the great good of celibacy and the religious life of priests, brothers, and sisters as a great calling from God and that any parent would be honored to have a son or daughter who heralds the Good News of Jesus Christ with such passion and love for God and neighbor.

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

Beginning Experience weekend 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. 26-28 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

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 about the Beginning Experience ministry or to register, call the Catholic Renewal Center at metro (972) 601-4091 or e-mail the Fort Worth/Dallas Beginning Experience team at dfwbe@hotmail.com.

'40 Days for Life' campaign currently underway in diocese, across nation

Local Catholics are joining members of other religious traditions in observing "40 Days for Life," a nationwide ecumenical campaign designed to call attention to the sanctity of life at all stages. The campaign began Sept. 26, and it will continue through Nov. 4, according to a flyer from Catholics Respect Life, a pro-life organization within the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Throughout the period of this campaign, participants will hold a vigil Monday through Saturday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. outside the Planned Parenthood abortion center, located at 301 S. Henderson Street in Fort Worth, where they will pray for an end to abortion. Those participating are also encouraged to fast and pray throughout these 40 days.

It is expected that more than 80 cities in 32 states will take part in this "largest simultaneous pro-life mobilization in history," states the flyer. Catholics Respect Life has volunteered to organize the local efforts.

The pro-life organization is also looking for volunteers to act as shift leaders or to lead prayer during the vigil. To volunteer, call Gisele Ferguson at (817) 605-9269, or call the Catholics Respect Life office at (817) 623-2430.

Presentation to be offered on Vatican II at Most Blessed Sacrament

The diocesan Office of Adult Catechesis and RCIA will host a catechetical presentation entitled "Vatican II Almost 50 Years Later: Catching the Spirit of Vatican II with John Paul II and Benedict XVI" Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 2100 North Davis Drive in Arlington. The program, to be given in the parish hall from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., will be presented by Douglas Bushman, director of the Institute for Pastoral Theology at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida.

Bushman "will help us to know and understand the spirit and implementation of Vatican II, especially from the writings and teachings of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, and how this spirit can motivate and shape the mission of catechesis and evangelization in the church today," said Lucas Pollice, diocesan director of Adult Catechesis and RCIA. According to Pollice, the event is a "perfect presentation for those involved in catechesis at all levels and for anyone desiring to learn more about the legacy of Vatican II and the New Evangelization."

Bushman, a theologian, holds a licentiate degree in sacred theology granted by the pontifical faculty of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He has received national recognition for his work to develop the teachings of Vatican II, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI.

For more information about the presentation, contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 560-3300 ext. 260 or e-mail to lpollice@fwdioc.org.

Deaf Ministry Program discontinues interpreting services at Sacred Heart

The Deaf Ministry Program has announced that it has discontinued offering interpretation for the deaf and hearing impaired at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls, effective Oct. 7.

The persons requesting such support service have relocated, and there is no longer a need for the interpreted Mass, according to Mary Cinatl, director of the diocesan Deaf Ministry Program. "However, if the need should again arise," Cinatl says, "the Deaf Ministry Program will gladly reinstate such services."

For more information on Deaf Ministry services within the diocese, call the Mary Cinatl at (817) 284-3019 (voice and TTY), or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org — go to Pastoral Services, and then click on Deaf Ministry.

Study series on the Mass to be offered at St. Andrew's

"Yes, I'm Catholic! The Mystery of Faith," a study series focusing upon the Mass, will be offered at St. Andrew Church, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Each Monday evening program will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

"Introductory Rites: We Gather as the Body of Christ," will be held Oct. 29 and will be presented by Bishop Kevin Vann. "Liturgy of the Word: We Come to Hear the Word of God," presented by Dr. Toni Craven, a professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, will be offered Jan. 28.

"Liturgy of the Eucharist: We Come to Share in the Supper of the Lord," will be offered March 31 and will be presented by Mary McLarry, former director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Worth. "Concluding Rites and Review of the Series," led by Father Tom Stabile, TOR, associate pastor of St. Andrew Church, will be offered April 28.

"The content of the liturgy is divinely given," states promotional materials about the series. "It involves the whole personality both as an individual and as a member of the assembly. Come and deepen your understanding and experience an opportunity to enrich your own participation in our eucharistic liturgy."

Childcare is available 24 hours in advance; to reserve, call (817) 924-6581. To register for the series, call (817) 927-5383

Correction

In the Sept. 28 issue of the *North Texas Catholic*, the story on the airport chaplaincy conference mentioned that Bishop Vann was once a seminarian in Rome. In actuality, Bishop Vann had already been ordained to the priesthood prior to pursuing his graduate studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, also known as the Angelicum, in Rome. The *NTC* regrets this error.

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



TEACHER HONORED — Holy Trinity School teacher Krystyna Plut, shown here with some of her fifth grade students, (others, clockwise from front, left) Claire Wilson, Zachary Wiegand, Mercedes Molina, Thomas Gatt, David Walsh, and Laura Cook, recently was awarded the Patty Holyfield Teaching Award for Excellence in Geoscience. Sponsored by Brookhaven College's Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute, the Miles Foundation and the Dallas Geological Society, the award is given each year to a North Texas educator who demonstrates creativity in teaching Earth Science. A teacher at Holy Trinity School in Grapevine for 10 years, Plut has converted her passion for environmental conservation into an eighth grade science unit, "What Should I Do With My Land?" that helps students understand the value and importance of natural resources.

Red Mass to be celebrated Oct. 19 at the cathedral

The 2007 Red Mass, offered for judges, attorneys, law school professors and students, government officials, and those of all faith traditions who work in any capacity within the legal profession, will be celebrated at 6 p.m. Oct. 19 at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside as the celebrant and homilist. A reception will follow in the Fort Worth Convention Center.

According to the event's organizers, the Red Mass is offered to invoke divine guidance and strength while initiating the legal year. It is celebrated in honor of the Holy Spirit as the source of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and fortitude.

Red Masses are held in Catholic churches across the country each fall, including the annual Red Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C., on the first Monday in October. This Mass is attended by the Justices of the Supreme Court; members of Congress; members of the president's Cabinet; diplomats; and, at times, the President of the United States. (see story, p. 21)

Cathedral parking will be available in the lot adjacent to the cathedral, between 12th and 13th streets. For more information about the Red Mass, contact Robert Gieb at (817) 336-5681 or by e-mail to rgieb@flash.net.

'Theology of the Body' workshop to be offered at St. Maria Goretti

"Whether you're married, engaged, or single; teen, young adult, or older adult, it's important to know what it means to be made in God's image and likeness," states promotional material for a "Theology of the Body" DVD series to be offered at St. Maria Goretti Parish, 1200 S. Davis Drive in Arlington. The 4-week series will begin Oct. 19, with food and drinks being served at 6:30 p.m. and the program starting at 7 p.m.

Based on an eight-part DVD series by Christopher West, four weeks of the program will be presented this fall, and the remaining four parts will conclude in the spring. "Christopher West unpacks John Paul II's 'Theology of the Body,' translating it into a language everyone can understand," information from the parish states. "The human body is a 'theology,'" the material explains, "because it is meant to be a sign of God's own life and love in the world." Each week of the series may be taken independently of the others.

The cost is \$5 per person for the study guide and \$5 per person each week for pizza and drinks. To register or for more information, contact John Cox, director of faith formation at St. Maria Goretti, at (817) 274-0643 ext. 226 or by e-mail to jcox@smgparish.org. The deadline for registration is Oct. 14.

'Parental Survival Course' to be offered Oct. 27 in Keller

Dr. Ray Guarendi, a clinical psychologist, will speak at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, located at 2016 Willis Lane in Keller, Oct. 27. Dr. Guarendi will present a program entitled "Parental Survival Course: Turning Trials to Triumphs" from 9 a.m. to noon.

Described by event organizers as an "extremely entertaining" presenter, Dr. Guarendi, the father of 10 children of his own, will provide practical advice to parents. He can be heard locally on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. on Catholic radio station KATH 910 AM.

Tickets to the event at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church are \$10 per person or \$20 per family. To order tickets, contact Frank Laux at (817) 939-8594, or for more information, visit online at www.sjcktc.org.

Marriage enrichment, validation program to be offered in two locations

A one-day marriage enrichment program, entitled "Today ... Tomorrow ... Forever," will be offered Nov. 10 at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 600 Davey Drive in Burkburnett, and Nov. 17 at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth. The program, sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at each location.

Topics to be discussed will include "Living the Sacrament of Marriage," "Commitment," "Communication," "Conflict Resolution," and "Intimacy." Time will be set aside for couples to strengthen their relationships with regard to these topic areas, as well as to focus upon their individual relationships.

This program, open to all interested married couples who wish to deepen their sense of mutual love and commitment, is also an opportunity for couples seeking to have their marriage validated within the Catholic Church.

To register for the Burkburnett session, call Marie King at (940) 569-1222. For more information or to register for the Fort Worth session, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or ext. 256, or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth to offer vocation retreat Nov. 17

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth will host a Come and See Retreat Day for single Catholic women, ages 16 to 35, who are discerning a vocation to the religious life. The retreat will take place Saturday, Nov. 17, at the sisters' convent, located at 1814 Egyptian Way in Grand Prairie.

For more information or to register, call Sister Mary Paul Haase, CSFN, at (972) 642-5191 or e-mail to mpaul@icgrandprairie.org.

Series on Catholic Social Teaching continues at St. Michael's

St. Michael Church, located at 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford, is currently hosting a series on Catholic Social Teaching. The Thursday evening sessions, being offered through Oct. 25, take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. By participating in these seminars, according to information from the parish, participants will gain a better understanding of current social justice issues, possible solutions, and how their faith is calling them to action.

The next program will be presented Oct. 18 by Bishop Kevin Vann; his topic will be "Abortion and Capital Punishment." On Oct. 25, Ralph McCloud, diocesan director of Community and Pastoral Services, will speak on "Political Responsibility."

Reservations are requested. To make a reservation or for more information, call Martín Peña, director of social outreach/pastoral care at St. Michael Parish, at (817) 283-8746 ext. 30 or e-mail to mpeña@smchurch.org.

Retrouvaille weekend Oct. 19-21 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. 19-21 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.

Mt. Carmel Center to offer morning of reflection Nov. 14

Mount Carmel Center, an institute of Christian spirituality located at 4600 West Davis in West Dallas, will host a morning of reflection Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to noon. The program, entitled "All Carmelite Feast Day: Embracing the Treasure," will be led by Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD. The retreat will explore the Carmelite charism as exemplified by the saints of the order, including Elijah, Teresa of Jesus, John of the Cross, and Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

Participants must register prior to Nov. 7. The suggested donation for the program is \$25. For more information, call Vicky at (214) 331-6224 ext. 314.

People and Events

DCCW Assembly to be held Oct. 25

With the theme "Bringing Light to Women in OUR World," the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will hold their biennial DCCW Assembly Oct. 25 at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 9th Street in Wichita Falls.

Keynote speaker Kay Keglovits, a parishioner at St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington who is described in promotional materials as a "dynamic and faith-filled presenter," will focus upon "Spirituality and Women" in her presentation to the assembly.

Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the assembly Mass.

Reports from officers will be heard during the day; workshops will be offered; and participants will vote upon bylaw changes that have been proposed and distributed to members.

Each parish has been asked to contribute a \$25 gift or gift certificate, to be offered in a silent auction in order to raise funds for the Fort Worth chapter of the DCCW. The \$20 registration fee for the day includes lunch and assembly materials; the fee is \$25 if received after Oct. 15.

According to the mission statement for the national organization, the council "acts through its membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW (National Council of Catholic Women) programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the church and society in the modern world."

For more information about registration for the assembly, contact Betsy Kalina at (817) 275-0787.

Singles Silent Retreat will be held at Montserrat Nov. 16-18

A silent retreat for singles will be held at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, located at 600 N. Shady Shores Road, Lake Dallas. The retreat will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, and continue through lunch on Sunday, Nov. 18.

Father Nathan Stone, SJ, will serve as retreat master for the weekend. Ordained to the priesthood in 2000, he is an author and speaker and has been leading individuals and groups in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for the past 10 years.

Participants in the retreat weekend will be given the opportunity for private prayer and reflection on topics offered by the retreat master. Mass and the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation will also be available.

The retreat is open to singles of all ages, including those who have been separated, widowed, divorced, or never married. Payment for the retreat is based on a sliding scale, and payment options are available. To make a reservation, call Montserrat at (940) 321-6020, or e-mail to retreat1@airmail.net. More information about Montserrat can be found online at www.montserratretreat.org.

Holy Spirit Novena to be offered at St. Maria Goretti Parish

St. Maria Goretti Parish, located at 1200 South Davis Drive in Arlington, invites all to participate in praying the Holy Spirit Novena at Masses beginning Thursday, Oct. 25, and continuing through Friday, Nov. 2.

Novena prayers will be offered after the homily at the parish's regular daily Mass at 8 a.m. and at an additional 6:30 p.m. Mass on weekday evenings. On Saturday, Oct. 27, the parish will celebrate a special 8 a.m. Mass with novena prayers, and all regular weekend Masses will include the novena prayers. The novena will conclude with the 6:30 p.m. Mass on the feast of All Souls, Nov. 2.

Mass cards for the novena are available at the parish; a donation of \$5 is requested. All are invited to remember a loved one or a friend or relative in need of prayer. For more information, contact Cindy Alford at (817) 274-0643.

Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser to be held Oct. 27

The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls will hold the 11th annual Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall.

A live auction is planned, and a spaghetti dinner and soft drinks will be served at no charge.

Sacred Heart Parish is located at 1501 9th Street in Wichita Falls. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 723-5288.

Date is changed for Skinner Memorial Run / Walk

The date has been changed for the 14th annual Judi K. Skinner 5K/1-Mile Fun Run/Walk, hosted by St. Andrew School, 3304 Dryden Road in Fort Worth. Originally scheduled for Oct. 13, the event will now be held Saturday, Oct. 27. The 5K will begin at 8 a.m., and the 1-mile run will follow at 8:10 a.m.

A pancake breakfast will be served in the school cafeteria at 8:30 a.m.

The race is a memorial to Judi K. Skinner, a dedicated parent who was instrumental in the development of the St. Andrew's Spirit Club. Skinner lost her battle with aplastic anemia in 1993.

For the 5K run, awards will be given to the winners of designated age groups as well as the overall winners. All participants in the 1-mile run will receive a ribbon.

All entry forms previously received will be valid for the new date. Entry fees are \$15 per person or \$45 per family through Oct. 15. After that date, the cost will be \$20 per person or \$50 per family. Entry forms are available through the St. Andrew School Web site at www.standrews.org, or by calling the school office at (817) 924-8917.

Sisters of St. Mary invite women to 'Come and See' Oct. 21

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be hosting a "Come and See" program Sunday, Oct. 21, at OLV Center, 909 West Shaw Street in South Fort Worth. Single women, ages 18 to 45, are invited to attend and to learn more about life as a religious sister. The day will begin with Mass at 10:30 a.m. in the convent chapel, followed by dinner with the sisters, a presentation, and time for sharing.

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in Fort Worth are members of an international congregation of Catholic religious women founded in Namur, Belgium, in the early 1800s. Recently, they are finding themselves part of a national trend of having young women seriously considering — and increasingly choosing — life as a religious sister. The sisters have noted an increase in the number of inquiries locally over the past five years. Three women, as pre-candidates, are in the initial stage of membership, and four sisters are discerning transition into the congregation.

For those persons interested in a more extended visit with the sisters, inquiries are welcome regarding a "Come and Stay Weekend," Oct. 19-21. For more information, contact Sister Margaret Miller, SSMN, at smarmg@airmail.net or call her at (817) 429-4009. More information may also be found online at www.ssmn.com.

St. Francis Village to hold fall festival

St. Francis Village, a retirement community located at 4070 St. Francis Village Road in Crowley, will hold a fall festival Saturday, Oct. 13, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include what event organizers promise will be a "huge" garage sale; homemade baked goods as well as ceramics, homemade quilts, craft and holiday items, and original art work will also be available for purchase. Many items will be priced at \$5 or less.

Lunch will be available for purchase between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the PAX Community Center, located in the Village.

For more information, call (817) 781-5278.

St. Michael Parish to host craft sale Oct. 13-14

St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford, will host its 27th annual craft sale Saturday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 14, 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.



CDA HABITAT HOUSE — Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas state board — (l. to r.) Eve Trevino, state treasurer, Corpus Christi; Carolyn Malik, second vice state regent, Shiner; Carolyn Bachmann, state regent, Scotland (Diocese of Fort Worth); Sheila Martinka, first vice regent, Pasadena; and Peggy Rosales, state secretary, Austin — attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the Wichita Falls Habitat for Humanity. Catholic Daughters from throughout the state are participating in this five-week building project, which began Sept. 8 and will continue until Oct. 20 with the dedication ceremony. This home, the second Habitat House project for CDA, will make a lifetime difference for the beneficiaries of the project, the Karen Lewis family.

Lay Carmelites invite others to join twice monthly gatherings

"Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and Mary?" ask the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (Lay Carmelites). The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of this deeper relationship to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. The next scheduled gatherings will be held Oct. 14 and Oct. 28.

Those interested are asked to gather at 1:45 p.m. in the rectory chapel of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth. Formation will take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the school building. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

Viking Run set for Nov. 3 at Gateway Park in Arlington

Bring the entire family to the first annual Viking Run, to be held Saturday, Nov. 3, at Gateway Park in East Ft. Worth. The 1-mile timed run/walk will start at 8 a.m., with the 5K run/walk following at 8:30 a.m. A warm-up will take place at 7:30 a.m. An awards ceremony is planned immediately following the 5K Race.

The run will benefit Nolan Catholic High School Project Graduation. This program provides an alcohol- and drug-free set of celebrations for Nolan's graduating class.

Join us for food, music, and lots of fun, encourage organizers. Those interested in participating may register online at www.vikingrun.com or at the park on race day beginning at 6:45 a.m. Race information packets are available at Luke's Locker, 1540 S. University Drive in Fort Worth, (817) 877-1448. For more information, contact Mary Berger by e-mail to Mary@racetimeproductions.com.

University Catholic Community at UTA to offer retreat Nov. 3-4

The University Catholic Community (UCC) at the University of Texas at Arlington will hold a retreat the weekend of Nov. 3-4. The retreat, to be held at the UCC Campus Ministry building, located at 1010 Benge Dr. in Arlington, will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday and will conclude after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday.

The retreat, which will focus on the theme of "Love," will offer time for praise and worship, individual quiet time, music, workshops, and reflections from guest speakers. Retreat participants will also take part in a service project on Sunday.

Dinner on Saturday and breakfast, and lunch on Sunday will be provided. All are asked to bring a bedroll for an overnight stay.

To register or for more information, call the UCC at (817) 480-1155 or e-mail to webmaster@utacatholics.org. Online registration is available at www.utacatholics.org.

St. George School to host fall carnival Oct. 13

Everyone is invited to come and join in the fun and festivities at the St. George School Fall Carnival Oct. 13 from noon to 8 p.m.

Carnival games for people of every age, pony rides, and a "Spook House" are among the planned activities. A wide variety of foods will be available to enjoy, including ethnic dishes, roasted corn on the cob, funnel cakes, hamburgers, and hot dogs. Entertainment will include folklorico dancers and dragon dancers.

St. George School is located east of downtown Fort Worth off of Belknap Street at 824 Hudgins Avenue. 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

St. Mary's in Henrietta to host barbecue

The 28th annual parish barbecue will be held at St. Mary Church, 105 Barrett Street in Henrietta. The event will be held Oct. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the parish hall. Meal options will include brisket, chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, beans, and a wide variety of desserts. Take-out orders are available at the "drive through" location at the hall.

Meals will be sold for \$8 per adult; children ages four to 10 may eat for \$4 per child; children ages three and under may eat free of charge. Proceeds from the event will benefit the parish building fund. For more information, call (940) 538-4214.

Faith and Fiction group to meet Oct. 18

"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. 18, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be *Peace Like a River*, by Lief Enger.

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 dates and topics include the following: Nov. 15, *Possession*, by A. S. Byatt; Dec. 13, the film "Joyeux Noel," directed by Christian Carion; Jan. 17, *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak; Feb. 21, *84 Charing Cross Road*, by Helene Hanff; and March 27, *Wuthering Heights*, by Emily Bronte.

To ensure good conversation, space will be limited. To reserve a spot or for more information, call the Catholic Renewal Center at (817) 429-2920 or e-mail to danluby@udallas.edu.

Diocesan

As director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Father Kyle Walterscheid has enthusiastically accepted his call to be a

Fisher of Men

Story by Michele Baker
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

Right: Father Kyle Walterscheid speaks to the youth of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington, during a recent BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) program. Fr. Kyle is a frequent visitor and speaker at the weekly youth gathering.



Below: Father Kyle Walterscheid and youth of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington join hands in prayer at a recent BASIC youth meeting.



Ordinarily warm and gregarious, diocesan Director of Vocations Father Kyle Walterscheid at first appears hesitant to talk about himself. He manages to get out the basics: born and raised in Muenster; the youngest of seven children; Catholic school education, kindergarten through 12th grade.

However, once the subject turns to the church, to his call, to the priesthood, Fr. Kyle's initial shyness disappears. His eyes shine. He becomes animated and relaxed. Within minutes, anyone listening can see that this man is uniquely qualified to be a fisher of men and women.

"It's not promoted," he explains, when asked what challenges a vocations director must face. "We're not supporting it enough as parishes and as parents. I think parents so often get scared to even think about their son or their daughter choosing the religious life."

Why? "I don't know exactly why," Fr. Kyle admits. "I don't have that statistic."

Facts and figures carry weight with this former engineer who lived with a call that began long before he knew how to respond to it.

"I felt called to the priesthood in high school and was not exactly excited about it," he remembers. "I loved seeing what was happening on the altar — I was an altar server from [the] third grade all the way through high school. I liked it. I liked being part of the Eucharist and part of the Mass and [being] a server for Father. That was always the highlight

of any given day or weekend for me. And I felt called to the priesthood, but I didn't know what in the world that meant. I just felt like that was what I should be.

"And I didn't want it," Fr. Kyle admits. "So I kept it all inside and went through college at UT Arlington. Studied civil engineering.

"At that point — when I finished my bachelor's — I was really feeling called, really feeling pulled toward priesthood," Fr. Kyle continues. "I was praying about it, but I still just couldn't do it."

So he earned his master's while working for the Texas Highway Department, and as his career began to take on new dimensions and responsibilities, the pressure to make some important decisions about his future grew stronger.

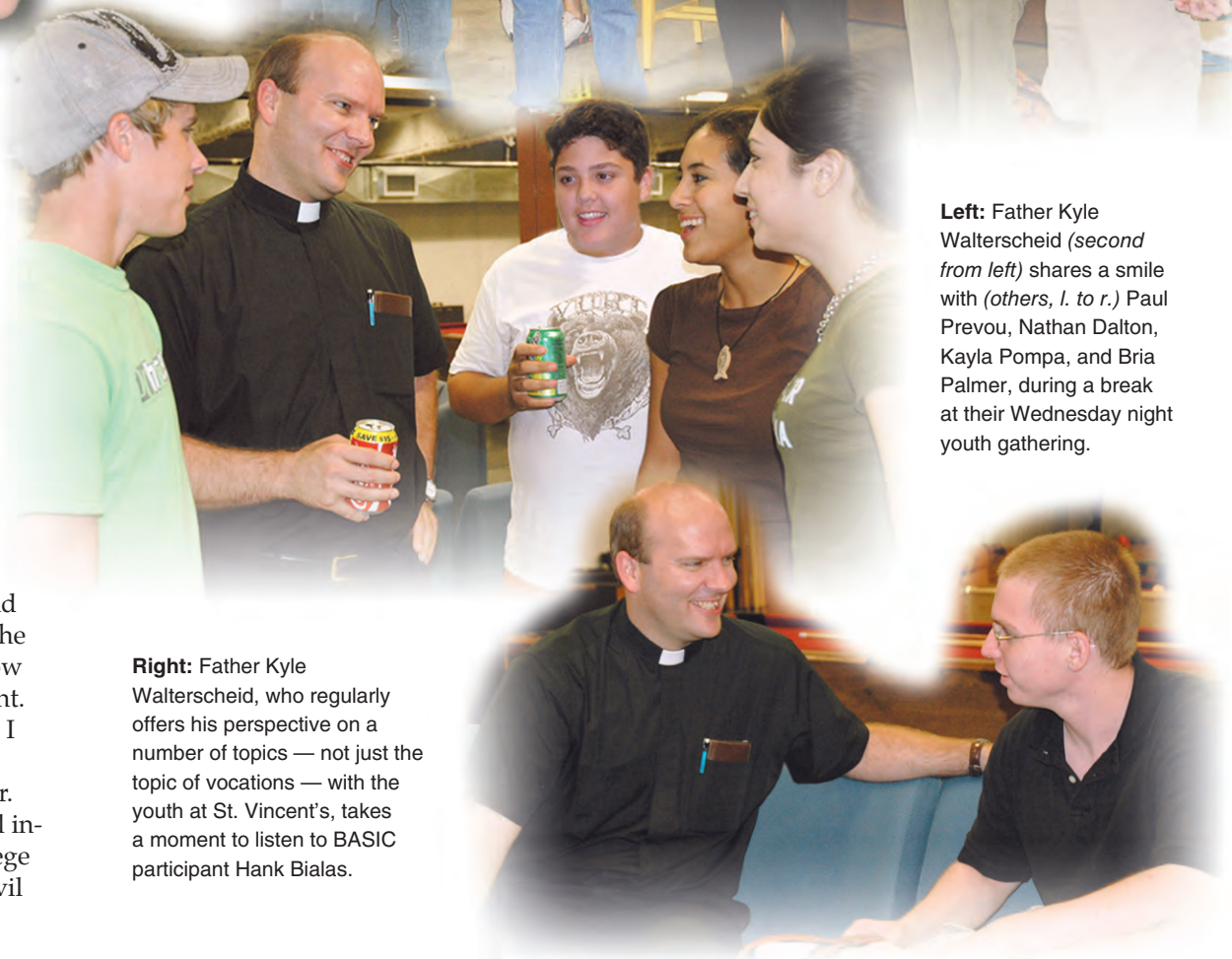
"What was happening in my life in the professional realm probably pushed it, because a fork was coming in the road," he recalls. "One of my best friends and I were wanting to partner up in engineering to do consulting work. And it was driving a split in me that said choose left or right. The fork was coming closer and closer. I didn't want to tell my friend what was happening, but I

finally just had to stop everything we were doing one day and say, 'I've really got to have a long talk with you.'"

"So we did," Fr. Kyle goes on. "I had a long talk with him, and he thanked me for my honesty. Then he said, 'I've always been able to see that you would be a good pastor.'"

His friend's observation left Kyle speechless. "I was shocked that anyone would see that in me," he says, "because I didn't see that in myself. I saw myself as an engineer, not as a leader. People saw me as a leader because I was successful in engineering, but I didn't think I had the tools for leadership, and I think that weakness and vulnerability is the reason I didn't pursue the call. I didn't realize the leadership was there, because I'd never used it. I was using the area of talent that I thought I was

Right: Father Kyle Walterscheid, who regularly offers his perspective on a number of topics — not just the topic of vocations — with the youth at St. Vincent's, takes a moment to listen to BASIC participant Hank Bialas.



Left: Father Kyle Walterscheid (second from left) shares a smile with (others, l. to r.) Paul Prevou, Nathan Dalton, Kayla Pompa, and Bria Palmer, during a break at their Wednesday night youth gathering.

best designed for. I thought that was engineering." Now Fr. Kyle laughs. "I think God just had his humor and said, 'Well, I want you to do this because you're good at it so that you'll be able to use those skills in another area.' And that's kind of how I've taken it, that I've used those skills in different ways in what I'm doing today."

And so, five years after his ordination, it comes back to facts and figures.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a devoted community of the faithful to guide that child to a vocation to the priesthood or religious life and, according to Fr. Kyle, the faithful have to take their role much more seriously.

"I've done statistics on this — see, the engineering thing comes out," Fr. Kyle grins. "God is consistent in calling men and women to the reli-

gious life."

While visiting various portions of the diocese in the last year, Fr. Kyle has surveyed the people he meets about the call to religious life. He has found that more than 20 percent of the high school-age youth believe God is calling them to consider religious life.

The statistics have shown this "20 percent everywhere I've gone, every youth ministry, every parish that I've visited," Fr. Kyle says. "It's consistently the same, whether it's a small group or a large group.... And then 5 percent, or better than 5 percent, of all teenagers will end up saying, 'I have a strong inclination [that] God's calling me to consider religious life.' One in 20," he emphasizes.

"That tells me that God is consistent in his calling throughout the generations," says Fr. Kyle. "It's there."

Fort Worth Diocese releases new Victim Outreach / Safe Environment brochure

The diocesan offices of Victim Assistance Ministry and the Safe Environment Program have released a new brochure, available for distribution in parishes, schools, and other diocesan programs. The brochure is now available in English and is being printed in Spanish and Vietnamese.

Entitled "Recognize, Respond, Refer," the new brochure provides continuity with themes emphasized in the Teen Safe Environment training materials used in the Fort Worth Diocese. The themes focus on the importance of recognizing signs of sexual misconduct (Recognize); responding with care and concern to anyone who has suffered abuse and respecting the rights and boundaries of all persons (Respond); and referring individuals to sources of help and healing in the event of abuse (Refer).

The new brochure also describes Fort Worth's Safe Environment Program and reviews the requirements for training and compliance with the diocese's Code of Conduct.

"This new brochure reflects the commitment already made by thousands of adults, teens, and children who have received Safe Environment education in our parishes and schools," says Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator for the diocese. "It also serves as a reminder of the church's commitment to ongoing healing and safety for all persons."

In his introduction to the new brochure, Bishop Kevin Vann writes: "This pamphlet highlights the policies and procedures which all members of the community are expected to uphold in their participation in the church. As the bishop of Fort Worth, I ask you to be aware of,

and actively support, these high standards of conduct.... I ask for your prayers and commitment to continue promoting and sustaining this culture of safety."

To order copies of the brochure for parishes, schools, or diocesan programs, contact Ruth Smith, director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 180 or Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 201. For answers to questions regarding Safe Environment Programs, contact Ruth Smith. To report sexual abuse to the diocese or to ask about how to report abuse to the state or civil authorities, call Judy Locke. For more information on Victim Outreach and Safe Environment Programs, visit online at www.fwdioc.org and click on the box on the right marked "Victim Outreach/Safe Environment Program."

Diocesan safe environment program is much appreciated by survivor of abuse

By Nicki Prevou
Staff Writer

For one local catechist, the Diocese of Fort Worth's commitment to protecting children from sexual abuse in any setting, whether in their church, their school, or in their own homes, is appreciated, as she says, "more than I can ever express."

The catechist, who wishes to remain anonymous in order to protect her family's privacy, explained that she and her sister were victims of sexual abuse by two different stepfathers during their childhood. Now the mother of two daughters, one in middle school and one in college, she has received extensive professional counseling. A participant in safe environment training opportunities at two different parishes in the diocese, she fully understands the need to discuss unpleasant realities as a painful, but necessary part of the training.

"The training sessions have been a really valuable opportunity for me," the catechist reflected. "I gained a lot of insights that I had not had before, into the mind and motivations of a predator. When I first received the safe environment training, I also benefited from the leaders' emphasis upon the fact that sexual abuse is not the victim's fault. Just hearing that said in a church setting, it made a difference for me, all these years later [after the abuse]."

The training about awareness of potential boundary violations, offered to children and teens in

religious education and youth ministry programs, "would have made a difference" for her in her own situation, she said. "The whole concept of being abused by someone you know was never addressed in my church or in my school when I was growing up," she explained. "'Stranger danger' was discussed, but inappropriate touching was a taboo subject when I was a child."

As a survivor of abuse, the catechist said, "I think it is necessary to address this issue with all ages. If there's no opportunity for conversation about it, then the children who are experiencing abuse think they are out there by themselves. That's why I didn't report my abuse as a child, because no one was talking about it in my church or in my school. When you are going through it yourself, you are in a vacuum; you are in a bubble. Until it is brought up by an adult in your school, or especially in your church where everything is so personal, you can't accept that it is really OK to report it."

Safe environment training is accurate in asserting that children of divorced parents are especially vulnerable to predators, she noted. "My mom turned a blind eye to the abuse out of financial necessity. My stepfather was a schoolteacher and a teacher in religious education programs within various denominations, and he was also a leader in Scouting organizations."

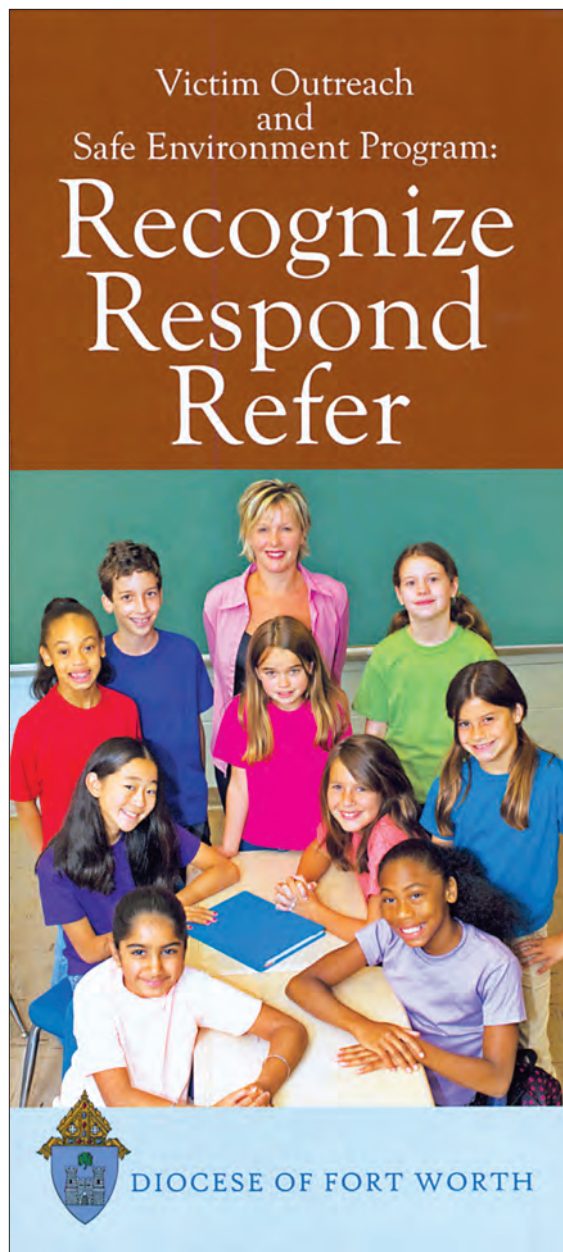
The training sessions addressed sexual abuse in what the

catechist called "an incredibly accurate way, from my perspective. Also, the information that I received was a source of encouragement to me. I didn't know that I was still able to report my stepfather's actions. It was very hard for me to do, but after participating in the training, I made the decision to report his abuse to the proper authorities. I knew my former stepfather was still teaching in a school setting."

The decision to report the abuse, she said, "made me feel better, because I was truly able to close that chapter in my life and to say that I have done what I needed to do to help others."

Her decision to become a Catholic several years ago has also helped her in her healing process, the catechist said. "Coming into the Catholic Church has really helped me, because I found that in other churches, there didn't seem to be a realization that suffering really does happen. There seemed to be an attitude that if something bad happens to you, it's because you didn't pray hard enough."

Her Catholic faith and the "excellent" safe environment training she has received "have helped me to realize, once and for all, that the abuse was truly not my fault," she said. "My abuser used his free will and made wrong decisions. The knowledge that I've received from the Catholic Church has put things into perspective and helped me to make sense of what happened to me. I want to use that knowledge to help our young people to be safe."



A new Victim Outreach/Safe Environment brochure (pictured at left) has been made available by the Diocese of Fort Worth. Entitled "Recognize, Respond, Refer," it highlights the policies and procedures which all members of the local church are expected to uphold.

Holy Rosary School in Arlington to host fall festival Oct. 20

Holy Rosary School, located at 2015 S.W. Green Oaks Blvd in Arlington, invites everyone to a day of "exciting games, delicious food, and fabulous entertainment" at the school's annual fall

festival Saturday, Oct. 20. The festival will begin at 11 a.m. and will conclude at 4 p.m.

For more information, call the Holy Rosary School office at (817) 419-6800.

Make plans now to celebrate World Marriage Day Feb. 10

World Marriage Day is celebrated nationally on the second Sunday in February. This year it falls on Feb. 10.

The day honors the husband and wife as the head of the family, the basic unit of church and society, according to information from the diocesan Family Life Office. "It salutes the beauty of [the couple's] faithfulness, sacrifice, and joy in daily married life."

For ideas on how to incorporate

the observation of World Marriage Day into the parish liturgical celebrations, download the package from the Internet at www.wmd.wwme.org, clicking on "WMD: Clergy/Family Life Package."

For more information on programs promoting marriage and family life, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or ext. 256, or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

NTC deadlines for submission

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

Items for the Oct. 26 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 17. Items for the Nov. 9 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

National

Episcopal Bishop Steenson, former rector of St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, says he will become Catholic

FROM PAGE 1

incapacitated. The bishops did not act on the request, however, because Episcopal Church law also requires prior notification of all diocesan standing committees.

"It is indeed painful to lay down this ministry, but I realize that an effective leader cannot be so conflicted about the guiding principles of the church one serves," Bishop Steenson said in a statement to the House of Bishops. "I hope my decision will encourage others who believe they can no longer remain in the Episcopal Church to respect its laws and withdraw as courteously as possible for the sake of the Christian witness."

In an earlier letter to the bishops, the 55-year-old Bishop Steenson, who has headed the diocese based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, since January 2005, said his "conscience is deeply troubled about where the Episcopal Church is heading, and this has become a crisis for me because of my ordination vow to uphold its doctrine, discipline, and worship."

The resignation came as the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church, the U.S. branch of the Anglican Communion, was meeting in New Orleans to consider a response to conflicts with the worldwide communion on issues such as the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of openly homosexual bishops.

Lengthy excerpts from the bishop's Sept. 21 letter were published by Episcopal News Service and *The Living Church*, a weekly magazine dedicated to the promotion of "orthodox,



Episcopal Bishop Jeffrey Steenson of the Diocese of the Rio Grande has asked his fellow bishops to accept his resignation and said he will become Catholic. His request came on the closing day of the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops meeting in New Orleans Sept. 25. He is pictured in an undated handout photo. (CNS photo/courtesy of Bishop Steenson)

catholic Anglicanism within the life of the Episcopal Church."

Bishop Steenson told *The Living Church* in an interview to be published in a forthcoming edition, "I believe that the Lord now calls me" toward the Catholic Church.

"It amazes me, after all these years, what a radical journey of faith this must necessarily be," he added. "To some it seems foolish; to others disloyal; to others an abandonment."

Catholic Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, New Mexico, whose archdiocese also is based in Albuquerque, welcomed Bishop Steenson into the Catholic Church in a statement and said he had "been in dialog with

him for several years ... this is not a sudden change of heart for him."

"Bishop Steenson had always hoped that there would somehow be a union with the Anglican church and Rome; however, it appeared to him that this union was never going to happen," the archbishop added. "I believe he will be entering a period of discernment about his immediate future."

Less than a week before his Sept. 21 letter, Bishop Steenson helped arrange for members of the diocese's Pro-Cathedral Episcopal Church of St. Clement in El Paso, to buy the cathedral property for \$2 million and sever all ties to the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

He told members of the congregation in a Sept. 16 letter that he agreed "with the leadership of St. Clement's about where the Episcopal Church seems to be heading."

But as a bishop he said he was obliged to uphold "the perspective of the Episcopal Church ... that all real and personal property of a congregation is owned not by the local congregation but by the diocese and Episcopal Church."

Bishop Steenson would be the third Episcopal bishop this year to resign his post and join the Catholic Church. The others were former Bishop Dan Herzog of Albany, New York, and former Bishop Clarence C. Pope of Fort Worth, whose resignations were formally accepted Sept. 25 by the House of Bishops. Bishop Steenson is the former rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in downtown Fort Worth.



KOREAN MEMORIAL — Cardinal Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul, South Korea, blesses a memorial to Maryknoll's Korean mission work at the Maryknoll Society Center in Maryknoll, New York, Sept. 30. The granite replica of the gate to the city of Pyongyang was a gift from the Korean Catholic Church. It contains the names of the many Maryknollers who have served there during the past 80 years. (CNS photo/Octavio Duran)

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Diocesan

Local delegates attend NCCW convention in Columbus, Ohio

Kathy Thome is, in her own words, "passionate" about the work of the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) and all that the council has to offer to Catholic women in every part of the diocese. "DCCW provides women with the opportunity to grow spiritually, to develop leadership skills, and most of all, to nurture family values," the longtime parishioner at St. Thomas the

Apostle Church in Fort Worth explained, noting that she has been active in DCCW since moving to Fort Worth in 1978.

Thome, who currently serves as the director of the San Antonio Province of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW), actively networks with the DCCW members in each of the five Texas dioceses she represents. That means putting many miles on her car and many long-distance

minutes on her phone bill, admitted Thome, who travels often across the Diocese of Fort Worth and to the Archdiocese of San Antonio as well as the dioceses of Amarillo, Dallas, and Lubbock — all of which are under her directorship.

Recently, Thome also traveled to Columbus, Ohio, along with six other representatives from the Fort Worth DCCW, to attend the National Council of Catholic Women Biennial Convention Sept. 20-23. Father Ivor Koch, former pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls, accompanied the local group in his role as moderator for the San Antonio Province.

Local delegates to the convention also included Joyce Brown-Thomas from Our Mother of Mercy Church in Fort Worth, Connie Soto of St. George Church in Fort Worth, Marie Brown of St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington, and Judy Shaw and Nan Ruddy, both of Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls.

"We all had a wonderful experience at the convention," said Thome, adding that the theme of the convention, "Bringing Light to Our Global Society," was especially meaningful to her because of the NCCW's long-standing partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the U.S. bishops' relief and development agency.

"We work very closely with CRS and with many other important ministries, as well," explained Thome, noting that since 2005, NCCW members from all over the country have donated more than \$44,000 to assist Our Mother of Mercy School in Beaumont, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Rita.

CRS was just one of the many highlighted organizations presenting workshops at this year's convention, according to a report from Catholic News Service. Kim Mazyck, a representative from CRS, delivered a talk on "Global Poverty: A View from the Field." Other workshop presenters focused on Catholic action for social change and spirituality; the work for justice; the health impacts of climate change; domestic violence; and Marian spirituality. Other topics included Catholic teaching and the death penalty, and how a sexualized culture harms marriages, families, and young people.



The delegation from the Fort Worth Diocese attending the NCCW convention included (l. to r., front) Father Ivor Koch, San Antonio Province moderator; Joyce Brown-Thomas, Fort Worth DCCW president-elect; Connie Soto, Central/East Deanery president; Kathleen Thome, San Antonio Province director; (back) Judy Shaw, San Antonio Province secretary/treasurer; Nan Ruddy, Fort Worth DCCW secretary; and Marie Brown, Fort Worth DCCW Community Concerns chairperson. The convention was held in Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 20-23.

"Involvement in DCCW gives women the opportunity to be of service at the local and at the national and international level, as well," Thome said, reflecting on several workshops which proposed that Catholic Social Teaching be used as the foundation for legislative advocacy and a faith-filled approach to citizenship.

In the convention's keynote, popular author and motivational speaker Matthew Kelly examined the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of the human person with his presentation on "Becoming the Best Version of Yourself," according to Catholic News Service.

Kelly urged people to practice "carefree timelessness."

"Spiritually, we need to reconnect ourselves with our God. Our lives are being kidnapped by the urgent. But the most important things are hardly ever urgent," he said.

Asking the assembly to consider what God wants of us, Kelly suggested, "Most believe God wants them to do the one thing they don't want to do, the hardest thing ... but that's not true," he said. "God has an amazing dream for you, to be the best version of yourself, to inspire you to become the best version of yourself, to do things that draw out the best version of the best person we can be," he added.

"The primary purpose of work is that we develop character. We become a better version of ourselves when we work hard, and that helps us live the dream, by challenging and encouraging

each other to become the best version of ourselves," he said, according to Catholic News Service.

Kathy Thome's frequent participation in the national conventions has provided her with valuable resources that she always enjoys bringing back to share within her home diocese, said Thome. "It has now been 10 years since NCCW made the commitment in a resolution to address violence toward women in our society," she explained. "Locally, we have been working on the issue at the parish and the diocesan levels for the past 10 years, and I am bringing a great deal of new information back from the convention which I will be sharing at our upcoming assembly."

Catholic women of the diocese may join DCCW through their parish or through individual memberships, said Thome, and all members are encouraged to attend the general assembly, which will be held in Wichita Falls, Oct. 25, at Sacred Heart Church.

"It's wonderful to be a part of an organization where everyone shares one common goal," reflected Thome. "Empowering and supporting women in their faith, that's really what this organization is all about."

For more information about the DCCW General Assembly or for more information about DCCW membership, contact Betsy Kalina at (817) 275-0787.

Contributing to this story were Laura Troiano and Nicki Prevou.

Father Charles Becker to speak at St. Mary's Oct. 16

The Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center will host a program entitled "The Blessed Mother Speaks to the Apostles of the Last Times" Oct. 16 at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Ave. in Fort Worth. The

event will begin at 6:45 p.m. with the recitation of the rosary. Mass will follow, and the presentation, given by Father Charles Becker, will be offered after Mass.

Fr. Becker, who has made over 40 pilgrimages to Medjugorje,

has made frequent appearances on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

For more information on the presentation, call (817) 244-7733, (817) 558-9805, or (817) 244-8191.

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Viewpoints

Vatican II's Legacy: *The Call to Faith, Evangelization, and Holiness*

By Lucas Pollice

On Oct. 11 we celebrated the 45th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. This great council convened by Blessed Pope John XXIII is one of the most profound movements of the Holy Spirit in the history of the Church.

We are still very much living in the wake of the Council, and in many ways, the dust is still settling even after almost half a century. But what do we know about Vatican II today and what is its legacy? Let's take a brief look at just a few of the more profound contributions of Vatican II to the life and mission of the Church.

1. THE IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH:

Undoubtedly one of the great contributions of Vatican II would be its teaching on the very mission and identity of the Church. From this flows the powerful Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, meaning "Light to the Nations." *Lumen Gentium* teaches us nothing new about the Church, but gives us a greater insight and understanding of the Church's identity and mission: to be the visible presence and instrument of Christ, to be the great "sacrament" of salvation that brings in a real, living, and tangible way the very presence of Jesus Christ and his mission of salvation to the world. As *Lumen Gentium* states: "Since the Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race, it desires now to unfold more fully to the faithful of the Church and to the whole world its own inner nature and universal mission." (1) This does not mean that there is an eighth sacrament, but that the Church itself is the sacrament, the one visible instrument who Christ himself established to be his saving presence and vehicle of grace working in the world. It is through the Church that the seven sacraments flow, and it is also within the Church that we as the People of God are also called to be instruments of salvation through our faith, witness, and holiness. This sacramentality of the Church stands as the very foundation of the Council's vision of the mission and identity of the Church.

Vatican II was and is all about bringing each person into a deeper communion with Christ. This should also be the ultimate goal of anything we do in the Church!

2. THE ROLE OF THE LAITY IN THE CHURCH:

Flowing directly from this vision of the mission of the Church as the sacrament of salvation also comes the Council's teaching on the role and mission of the laity. This also is one of the greatest contributions of Vatican II. The laity through baptism are intimately joined to the triple mission of Christ as priest, prophet, and king, and are prepared by Christ and called by him to be his witnesses of the Gospel especially and uniquely in the secular culture. As *Lumen Gentium* states:

But the laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God. They live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. In this way they may make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of a life resplendent in faith, hope, and charity. (31)

Thus, the Council empowers the laity to be a living witness and presence of Christ in the ordinary places in the world where only they can be the effective witnesses of Christ. The role of the laity is very crucial if the new evangelization envisioned by the Vatican II is going to be successful and

this role must be realized and lived daily by the lay faithful.

3. THE ENRICHMENT OF FAITH:

This is another theme that is at the heart of the vision and mission of Vatican II and one that was also very much emphasized by Pope John Paul II. The enrichment of faith resides on two principles that were set forth by Pope John XXIII at the beginning of the Council: *ressourcement* and *aggiornamento*. *Ressourcement* means that to be effective in teaching, spreading, and living the Gospel, we must return to and have direct contact with the sources of the faith: Sacred Scripture, the Church Fathers, Sacred Tradition, and the spirituality and writings of the saints. The council brought to the forefront in its teaching this richness of faith found in these sources that should always be at the heart of our journey of faith seeking understanding.

At the same time but not opposed to the idea of returning to the sources of the faith is *aggiornamento* which means "opening up" and is a missionary openness to the modern culture and the world. Thus, strengthened and empowered by the truth of Christ, the Church is called to go out into the world and engage the culture in a dialogue of faith, bringing the teachings of Christ into the world and shaping and influencing the modern culture. This vision of the Council Fathers is the foundation of the "new springtime of evangelization" in which the faith is to be renewed, enriched, and more faithfully lived through effective catechesis, evangelization, and works of charity.

4. THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS:

This is the key to understanding Vatican II. The universal call to holiness is the main focus and motivation of the Council Fathers. All of us, no matter our calling or state in life, are called to be holy, to be like Christ, and to live forever in his presence and love. No person is exempt from this ultimate and high calling. As *Lumen Gentium* states: "Thus it is evident to everyone, that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity; by this holiness as such a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society." (40)

Thus, all that Vatican II taught and did — the reform of the liturgy, the teaching on the mission and identity of the Church, the focus on the enrichment of faith — all of that was to bring about more profoundly the holiness of the Church and each of its members. Vatican II was and is all about bringing each person into a deeper communion with Christ. This should also be the ultimate goal of anything we do in the Church! If we learn anything from Vatican II, it is that the goal of any activity, planning, catechesis, or work in the Church should be holiness! Let us not forget this call to holiness each and every day of our lives.

In celebration of the 45th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II, my office has invited Professor Douglas Bushman, STL, director of the Institute for Pastoral Theology at Ave Maria University, to speak on October 16th at 7 p.m. at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington. Professor Bushman will be discussing the great legacy of Vatican II and the New Evangelization, especially in light of the writings and witness of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, who were two of the great minds who influenced the Council. If we really want to know Vatican II, we need to understand the Council through these two great giants of the Church. I invite everyone to come and learn more about this great movement of the Holy Spirit in the Church that not only happened almost 50 years ago, but is still very much working and unfolding in our midst today.



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

Elders Have a Gift

to offer the young – their faith

By Mary Morrell

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it.

— Proverbs 22:6

Last week I went to dinner with friends, who ordered their perfect meal from the senior menu. I attempted to do the same, but was looked at with furrowed brow by the server. “M’am, you have to be a senior to

order from this menu.”

I proudly pulled my license from my pocket and said, “Here’s my proof.”

The young man tried to hide a snicker. “Fifty-five is not a senior in this restaurant,” he said, and proceeded to turn the menu over so I could order something else.

“Well, it is by AARP standards,” I muttered under my breath.

Who would have thought I’d be at a place where I was proud to be 55 years old?

It’s not the case for many my age or older who often feel a terrible competition from the younger generation.

I think many of us seniors would benefit from having a fairy godmother of our own, perhaps an older version of Cinderella’s, a little bent here and there, with a few brown spots and definitely a knee problem. She would, unashamedly, wear purple dresses and red hats and eat ice cream sundaes when everyone else is eating sherbet. Children, especially, would love to be around her because she would be real, authentically herself, and fully aware of the hard-earned wisdom she had to share with others.

And rather than appear when we need help finding our Prince or Princess Charming, she would appear to us senior folks when we focus too much on how good we used to

As ancient cultures knew well, the special gift of elders is not in knowing everything but in being able to tell the stories.... There is wisdom in these stories, and that places seniors among the greatest treasure our parish families have.

look or feel, or how we never accomplished our dreams or maybe even now, feeling that we have no purpose in life.

It’s then that our fairy godmother would do one of those, Cher “snap out of it!” routines, and remind us in no uncertain terms that we are “all that” and more, especially when it comes to having a purpose in the lives of our families, and especially, in the life of our Church.

My 25 years of work in religious education has shown me that, in many ways, our children are hurting and our families are hurting, and in that hurt they need their faith. But, for many families, faith and religion receives just a tiny portion of their attention, if any at all.

So what happens to our children? What legacy is being left to them and their relationship with God and the Catholic family to which they belong? There is a real disconnect for them, a loss of their sense of roots and an emptiness that comes from a lack of tradition and ritual.

How are they to come to know God, to learn to love God, and to learn to love an imperfect Church without someone to guide them?

I believe that seniors are an integral part of the solution. Seniors are the elders of the Church, the wise ones, the people who must share their story with the younger generation, so they may share the story

with their children, keeping the cycle of faith and love alive and well in the American Church and in their homes, as well.

Mary was such an elder, one who guided, sustained and comforted the faithful of her time by her presence and holy example. She must be our example, too.

Children may be the future of the church but without elders guiding them through the present with our witness and our wisdom, the future will continue to look bleak, especially the future of the Church as we know it.

As ancient cultures knew well, the special gift of elders is not in knowing everything but in being able to tell the stories — whether it is the story of your family or the story of the parish, the stories that have happened over the many years of our lives, leaving us with gray hairs and wrinkles and bad knees and worse eyesight, or most importantly, the story of our faith. There is wisdom in these stories, and that places seniors among the greatest treasure our parish families have.

Tell the story of your Catholic faith to a child today. You can give them no greater gift.

Mary Regina Morrell is the associate director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. She and her husband are the parents of six sons and live in Colonia, New Jersey.

ETHICAL BLIND SPOTS

By Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

When I traveled to Auschwitz a few years ago, one question played over and over in my mind: Did they know? Did the German people know what was happening in this camp near their own border, in their own occupied territories? With the trains coming and going year after year, with the long lines of prisoners and the billowing smokestacks, did they just turn a blind eye to the atrocities? Had they become desensitized to the point that they could no longer see the carefully choreographed death operations nearby?

Some concentration camps, like the one in Dachau, were set in comfortable suburbs right inside Germany itself, and the townsfolk could stroll past them during their daily routine. The grass in those suburbs continued to grow as green as anywhere else, young people got married, babies were born, men went to work, and life went on.

Walking through a place like Dachau or Auschwitz, one wonders: Could it ever happen again? Could a similar scenario play out today in middle-class America? Most would instinctively say “no” — after all, we live in a more enlightened time and culture. A more perceptive eye, however, can discern troubling parallels. Nowhere are these parallels more evident than in the bioethical issues of our day. Our society, in fact, faces virtually the same temptation that Germany did: the temptation to normalize certain well-scripted death operations in the midst of polite society.

If we look within our own culture and within our own time, we will see that suction machines have replaced smokestacks, and that fertility clinics and women’s health centers have replaced the barbed wire. Unborn humans and embryonic children are now dispatched with the same desensitized ease as camp inhabitants once were, and ne’er a word is mentioned in respectable society. Our great universities, which need to serve as a moral voice, remain mute or even foster such evil, as does the press, and few dare mention the pall of death that quietly permeates the air.

We need look no further than the Planned Parenthood clinics which are dotted across our country. Future generations are likely to be appalled by the statistics: nearly 2 million deaths per year. They are sure to wonder about a people that ended the lives of their own children at the rate of 1 every 23 seconds through elective abortion. They are sure to ask, “How could they?” and, “Did they know?”

We need look no further than the fertility clinics pres-

SEE FR. TAD, P. 22

Sharing in Ministry helps diocese in forming Catholic leaders through diocesan lay ministry formation program

FROM PAGE 1

lems and medical bills, so there's no way we could pay the full cost of tuition," says the grateful mom, who volunteers at the church and school to repay the generosity embodied in their tuition grants. "I wish more people could benefit from this program the way we have."

The \$100,000 from Sharing in Ministry given to Catholic school parents demonstrating financial need, coupled with money raised through the Bishop's Scholars Fund, is part of an initiative by the Diocese of Fort Worth to make a Catholic school education affordable and accessible to those who want it. People of the diocese have had the option of receiving a Catholic school education for more than 100 years. Continuing to provide Catholic youngsters with a quality, faith-based learning environment is one of the objectives outlined in the 2007-2008 Sharing in Ministry appeal.

The ongoing appeal, with the goal of raising \$2.7 million, supports a variety of charitable, educational, and spiritual ministries in the diocese which individual parishes could not provide for themselves.

"Once a year, the church asks every family in the diocese to make a pledge in support of ministries and programs that serve thousands of their fellow Catholics in parishes throughout the diocese," says Pat Miller, director of the Office of Stewardship and Development. "Continuing these programs ensures that we have a vibrant and healthy church for future generations."

Online giving is available at the diocesan Web site — www.fwdioc.org — for parishioners who have not had an opportunity to fill out a pledge card in church. Deacon formation, family life outreach, increased services from Catholic Charities, and grants to needy parishes and schools are among the programs made pos-

sible by donations to the diocesan appeal.

"Tuition assistance and the grant money given to schools for operating expenses and major improvements demonstrate the commitment Bishop [Kevin] Vann and the diocese has toward the ministry of Catholic schools," says Catholic Schools Superintendent Don Miller, referring to the impact Sharing in Ministry has made in the lives of students.

While the Catholic classroom isn't the only place where catechesis and evangelism takes place, the continuing success of the Catholic school system is vital to the church's future. U.S. Catholic bishops, recognizing the value of Catholic education to the church and nation, have asked each diocese to make its schools available, affordable, and accessible.

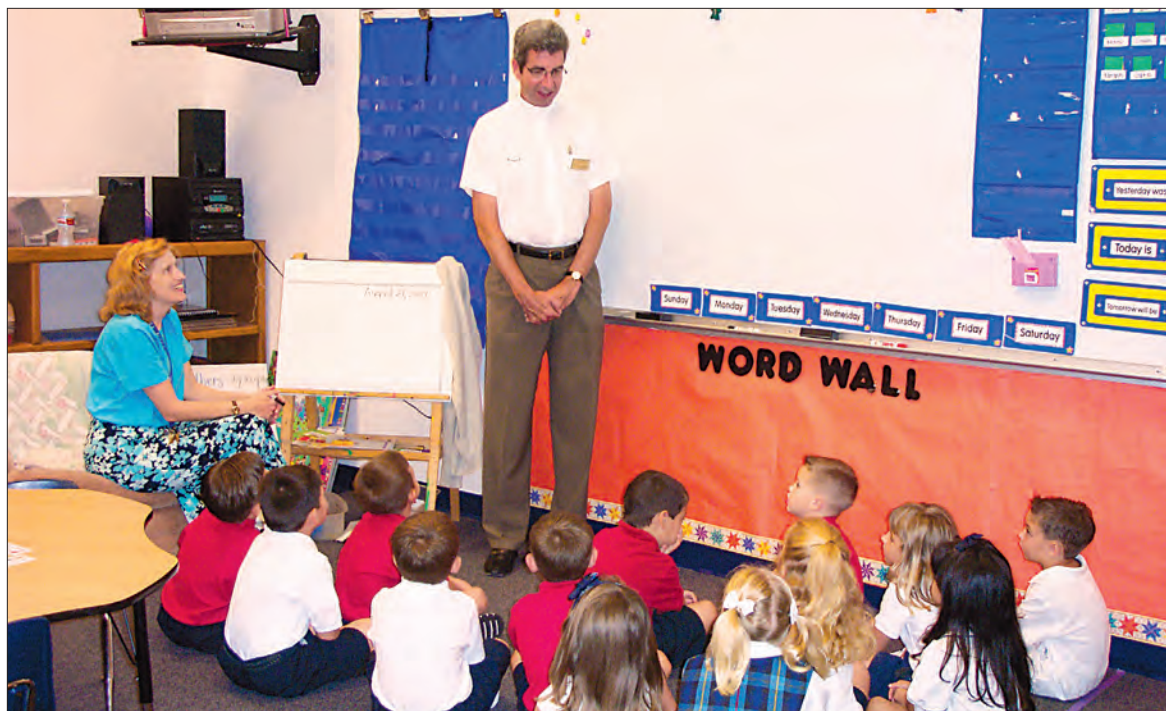
"And we're making an effort to do that," Superintendent Miller points out.

The generosity of parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Worth provided 633 families with need-based scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year. There are currently 6,659 students enrolled in 19 diocesan elementary and secondary schools. Those numbers will increase when Our Lady of Grace High School joins the list of diocesan schools after it receives accreditation this fall, Don Miller said.

Money from the Bishop's Scholars Fund and Sharing in Ministry allowed the Catholic Schools Office to distribute \$436,000 in tuition assistance to qualifying families. Requests for tuition assistance, however, totaled more than \$2 million.

"We're working to increase [tuition assistance] to \$600,000 next year," he adds. "We want as many children as possible to experience a Catholic school education."

And many classroom teachers who provide that education



Father Tim Thompson greets youngsters at Immaculate Conception School in Denton on the first day of school. Sharing in Ministry helped 633 families throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth this school year with tuition assistance. Catholic Schools Superintendent Don Miller hopes to increase tuition assistance funding next year, so that as many children as possible can experience a Catholic school education. (Photo by Elaine Schad)

benefit from another Sharing in Ministry funded program. Each summer, the Light of Christ Institute (LCI) offers a certification course designed specifically for Catholic school religion teachers. Participants attend class from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. every day for two weeks.

The special summer session, which accommodates the busy schedule teachers have during the academic year, is just one of the ways the Light of Christ Institute helps form and educate Catholic leaders. Developed more than 10 years ago, the lay ministry formation program takes three years to complete and offers the two highest levels of Catechetical Certification available through the Diocese of Fort Worth.

There are three levels of certification: Echoes of Faith is the primary tool to achieve the Basic Catechetical Certification and is achieved by working with a parish's director of religious education and the Echoes of Faith program.

LCI offers the other two levels of catechetical certification. An advanced certification is achieved by participating in the first two

Pedro Moreno (right), director of the Light of Christ Institute, leads a discussion during an LCI class at The Catholic Center Oct. 4. LCI, the diocesan lay ministry formation program, benefits from donations made to Sharing in Ministry. (Photo by Joan Kurkowsky-Gillen)

and a half years of the program, which is offered in both English and Spanish in several locations around the diocese. The highest level of certification involves a practicum, which is done in the final semester of the three-year program. There are also opportunities of specialized study in other areas of pastoral ministry, such as hospital ministry, the Marriage Tribunal, prison ministry, or marriage preparation.

"People who have completed the Light of Christ program serve more effectively because they are more knowledgeable of who Jesus Christ is in their own lives," says Pedro Moreno, the institute's director since 1998. "And the closer they get to Jesus Christ, the better they can reflect the light of Christ to others."

The program is not designed for those interested in graduate-level theological studies. It is primarily an adult catechetical formation program that has as its goal the development of a solid Catholic foundation for all those who minister to our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Fort Worth, according to Moreno.

"It's an opportunity to get the basics right," Moreno continues. "We're here to make sure the foundation is firm. Adult-level catechesis prepares people to be good servants."

More than 1,000 parish staff members, lay ministers, and Catholic school teachers have graduated from the Light of Christ Institute since its inception. Completing the course is also a prerequisite for the deacon formation program.

Sharing in Ministry supports

the Light of Christ Institute and provides scholarships for participants who can't afford the tuition. No one is denied access to the formation program because of financial difficulty.

"This is the only adult formation program that's diocesan sponsored," Moreno adds. "It's a rewarding experience, with some people going on to pursue biblical studies, degree programs, or ordained ministries."

Bill Ross, a eucharistic minister and lector at St. Andrew Church, decided to enroll in the Light of Christ to learn more about his faith. Recently retired from Lockheed-Martin, the former religious education teacher enjoys the convenience of a morning class held at The Catholic Center in West Fort Worth each Thursday.

"It's given me a great overview of what's going on in the church," says Ross, who attends the sessions with his wife, Tessy. "Last year we studied the Old and New Testaments with Sister St. John [Begnaud, SSMN] and that was very enlightening."

With his interest in the Bible rekindled, the retiree decided to enroll in the Catholic Biblical School—a four-year program offered at the University of Dallas. After completing his coursework at the Light of Christ Institute and UD programs, Ross is considering becoming a high school religion teacher.

"The idea is to get people more involved in catechesis and evangelization, and I think [LCI] does that," Ross says. "It's a wonderful way to make new friends and hear interesting speakers while personally growing in faith."



Quake survivors aided by neighborhood-based distribution networks

FROM PAGE 1
that killed 519 people in the region and left 18 dead in San Clemente.

Like neighboring communities, San Clemente lost electricity, water, and sewer services. Many roads were blocked by debris and downed power poles, Atuncar explained.

At the time of the earthquake, he was at a meeting in that same church hall, which was undamaged. Half of his home collapsed, and the other half is so damaged it's uninhabitable, Atuncar said. But he, his wife, children, and grandchildren were uninjured.

Although relief supplies — food, water, tents, blankets, medicines — arrived in the area relatively quickly, there was no system for making sure everyone got a share, he said. People who lived near where the trucks stopped rushed in and got supplies. Those who lived farther away, or didn't hear that a truck had arrived, or couldn't get there in time, were out of luck.

After a while, Atuncar said, people became desperate for food.

"They attacked the trucks when they came through," he said. Since then, organizations such as Caritas, the Catholic Church's relief and development arm, have helped overcome the inertia that gripped government agencies that initially couldn't sort out who was responsible for what.

Nearly six weeks after the earthquake, heavy equipment had arrived in San Clemente just that week to remove the tons of debris that had been cleared by hand up to that point, said Atuncar. For most people, the only paying jobs in the area are through the government's

rebuilding program, removing debris for about \$4 a day.

Mariana Pileo Guerra, another St. Martin parishioner, described the system organized by agencies such as Caritas for getting hot meals to people whose existence still revolves largely around clearing debris and surviving. CRS, the U.S. church's overseas aid agency and part of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of Catholic relief agencies, is among the donors providing the staple supplies.

Neighborhood meal-cooking networks are one element, established primarily through churches and their local contacts. Large soup pots are set up every few blocks in the streets, for a rotation of cooks to put together meals to be shared.

Using food supplied through organizations such as Caritas, different women cook soups over a wood fire. When it's ready, the neighbors show up with their bowls. That day, the "olla" nearest St. Martin was filled with a hearty-looking, rich-smelling chicken noodle soup.

The Peruvian civil defense institute reported Oct. 1 that more than 2,700 "ollas" were operating in the four provinces affected by the quake.

Pileo said the next step will be a more formal kind of dining room, meant to serve more people with heartier meals that have been prepared in a kitchen in a house or other structure. These dining rooms, or "comedores," will serve about 200 people each, she said.

There, meals also will be cooked by the beneficiaries, she said. As food becomes more generally available, people will be expected to contribute vegetables. As more people return to work, they'll be asked to pay a



SOUP POTS IN PERU — Residents of San Clemente, Peru, gather Sept. 26 for their midday allotment of soup, cooked in an open pot on the street. The system of providing food through a network of neighborhood "comedores," or common pots, with staples provided by relief agencies such as Caritas Peru and Catholic Relief Services, continues to be the main source of meals for thousands of families nearly two months after an Aug. 15 earthquake. (CNS photo/Patricia Zapor)

token amount of money for their meals, she said.

Similar neighborhood-based distribution networks are being used to provide staples for families.

"We're looking to expand what we can offer people," Pileo said. Currently, water, canned tuna, rice, pasta, sugar, oil, and beans are the main commodities available. "We hope to add cooking gas, chickens, eggs, and fruit soon."

But recovery will continue to be slow.

Normally the land around San Clemente grows cotton and corn, but the earthquake damaged many of the wells used for

irrigation. In other wells, water levels dropped dramatically. The timing of the quake in late winter, just as crops were being planted, was a complication.

"We've lost the season for both crops," said Edilberto Guerra Olivares, another member of St. Martin's relief committee.

"People have to rebuild their houses and can't put in any time on the farms," he said.

Atuncar said a major concern for the parish now is how reconstruction will work. The Peruvian government has talked of loans to rebuild, but every few days the amount of those supposed loans changes—first about \$2,000, then \$1,300, then \$3,000. And there's

still no sign of any money.

"It's all an illusion," Atuncar said.

Guerra said the people of San Clemente are beginning to talk about developing sustainable industries in their town, which was in one of the poorest parts of Peru before the earthquake. Young people who get any education typically leave San Clemente, he explained, and the most common form of employment is manual labor on a day-to-day basis.

"We know we need some form of stable economic activity," he said, maybe something like skilled handicrafts. "We know this, but we don't know how to proceed."

Indian priest says his cure was miracle through Blessed Mother Teresa

GUWAHATI, India (CNS) — The sainthood cause of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta could cross its last hurdle if the Vatican approves an allegedly miraculous cure that a priest claims he experienced on the 10th anniversary of her death.

Salesian Father V.M. Thomas says Mother Teresa's intercession was responsible for the disappearance of a half-inch kidney stone in his lower ureter, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. The stone disappeared in an unexplainable manner after Fr. Thomas celebrated Mass and prayed to Mother Teresa Sept. 5, the day before he was scheduled for surgery.

UCANews reported that Archbishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati gave the agency

a copy of the priest's files and medical records and, according to the priest's notes, the surgeon affirmed "the disappearance of the calculus (stone) was beyond medical explanation."

Fr. Thomas, 56, was associated with Mother Teresa from 1979 until her death in 1997.

The priest had been suffering from severe abdominal pain since Feb. 13. Medical examinations in a Guwahati hospital revealed he had renal colic and calculi, and doctors advised him to take medicine to help dissolve the kidney stones. But recurring pains took him to at least four other hospitals elsewhere.

On July 26, surgeons in Guwahati advised surgery, but Fr. Thomas wanted to wait. On Aug. 27, he met doctors again after

he said he was overcome with "excruciating" pain.

He was admitted to a hospital in Guwahati Sept. 4. Tests confirmed the presence of the stone, and doctors set Sept. 6 for its surgical removal.

Fr. Thomas said that on the morning of Sept. 5, before preparations for his surgery, his doctor allowed him to leave the hospital to celebrate Mass at Shishu Bhavan, a home for abandoned children that Mother Teresa had started in Guwahati. At the Mass, he asked those present to pray for him, especially through the intercession of Mother Teresa.

The priest later affirmed his belief that Mother Teresa's miraculous intercession caused the stone to disappear.

Surgical preparation began

late Sept. 5, but on the afternoon of Sept. 6, when the final presurgical x-ray was taken, the doctors could not locate the stone. A repeat X-ray also proved negative. The chief surgeon then ordered another ultrasound by the same radiologist who did the Sept. 4 tests, but that also proved negative.

Subhash Khanna, the surgeon who treated the priest, said in his case summary that Fr. Thomas was under his treatment for three months. He was diagnosed as having lower ureteric calculus with diabetes and hypertension, the records showed.

The surgeon further noted that on Sept. 5 the priest went to Shishu Bhavan to celebrate Mother Teresa's feast day. On his return, the priest had a feeling of

well-being and slept peacefully, Khanna reported.

Repeated investigations prior to the scheduled surgery left the doctors surprised, because "the calculus was no longer there in the ureter, and moreover he had not passed out the calculus in urine," the doctor confirmed. "So the operation was canceled."

In the case summary, which the surgeon signed Sept. 11, he stated: "It indeed seemed like a miracle and unique incident as the stone, which could not be dissolved with medicine, just vanished on that particular day."

According to standard Vatican procedure, a miracle that occurred following Mother Teresa's beatification Oct. 19, 2003, would be required for her to be declared a saint.

Myanmar's bishops call on Catholics to pray for their country

BANGKOK, Thailand (CNS) — The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar called on Catholics to pray for their country as street demonstrations by Buddhist monks against the military government escalated.

In a statement issued Sept. 26, the bishops said the church had been praying for the country, and, though it is not involved in party politics or the current protests, Catholics "are free to act as they deem fit."

The Asian church news agency UCA News in Bangkok obtained a copy of the statement signed by Archbishop Charles Bo of Yangon, general secretary of the bishops' conference, and Archbishop Paul Zingtung Grawng of Mandalay, president of the conference.

Journalists reported that security forces in Yangon were breaking up the demonstrations, beating and arresting protesters. The reports said several thousand



A group of monks sit in protest after being halted by riot police and military officials as they attempted to proceed to the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar, Sept. 26. As many as 200 orange-robed monks were arrested outside the pagoda after leading protests against the military junta. (CNS photo/Reuters)

Buddhist monks and students rallied Sept. 26 at the famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, despite a ban on public gatherings of more than five people and a nighttime curfew imposed the day before.

Monks have been demonstrating in Yangon and other cities against spiraling inflation, corrup-

tion, and the government's continued suppression of democracy.

Government officials in Myanmar, formerly Burma, warned the monks to halt the protests after a reported 100,000 people joined marches in Yangon Sept. 24, but some media reported that 100,000 marched again Sept. 26 and several people were killed.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Sales of pope's book on Jesus hits 2 million copies worldwide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two million copies of Pope Benedict XVI's book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, have been sold worldwide. The first volume of the book was published in German, Polish, and Italian in mid-April, and in English in May, followed by dozens of other translations. The book, Pope Benedict's first as pope, highlights what the Bible says about Jesus, what the moral implications of his teachings are, and how reading the Scriptures can lead to a real relationship with Jesus. The 400-page book has been the number one book on the Catholic Best-Sellers List for the past three months, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association. It shot to the top slot starting with the association's August list, which reflected June sales. *Jesus of Nazareth* also ranked among the top 10 hardcover nonfiction books on the *New York Times* Best Sellers' list after its English release and stayed on the list for several weeks.

Clearing quake debris still the main focus of life in Peruvian towns

PISCO, Peru (CNS) — Six weeks after an earthquake flattened 80 percent of the adobe brick homes in Pisco, the town on the Pacific coast 140 miles south of Lima had only just started to rumble consistently with the more welcome sound of heavy equipment hauling away tons of rubble. The otherwise flat terrain around Pisco was growing new hills, composed of broken adobe bricks, scraps of roofing material, windows, furniture, and other unsalvageable remains of what had been a city of 116,000 people before the magnitude 8 earthquake on Aug. 15. Caritas Peru, the Catholic Church's relief organization, reported a national death toll from the quake of 519 people, with another 1,800 injured. More than 70,000 homes were destroyed, and 33,000 more were damaged. Pisco, Ica, Chincha, San Clemente, San Andres, and other shattered towns shake with seismic aftershocks only rarely now. But earthquake cleanup and repair are pretty much the only activity in town. Many of the farms and fishing boats that normally provide jobs in one of the poorest regions of Peru still sat idle in late September. The farmers and fishermen who eventually will repair them had first to focus on getting their damaged homes in order, explained Walter Blake of Catholic Relief Services in Peru, the U.S. church's overseas aid agency and part of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of Catholic relief agencies. Eighty percent of the fishing boats in the nearby town of San Andres were put out of commission, he said.

OCP publishes Spanish-language guide to prayer, Bible readings

PORTLAND, Oregon (CNS) — Hoping to fill a gap in worship resources available to Hispanic Catholics, OCP in Portland has published a new Spanish-language guide to prayer and the daily Lectionary readings called *Palabra, Vida, y Fe (Word, Life, and Faith)*. Published twice a year, the book includes Scripture readings, reflections, saints' profiles, and more for every day of the week. The second edition, available now, covers July through December 2007. "Catholic bookstores are packed with missals and weekly devotionals in English, but very few such resources exist in Spanish," said Pedro Rubalcava, director of Hispanic ministries at OCP. "Of the few available, none covers half the year in one book, or contains extensive catechetical and prayer sections like the ones in *Palabra, Vida, y Fe*." More information is available on the Web site at www.ocp.org, or by calling (800) 548-8749.

Catholic Charities USA honored for its fiscal accountability

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (CNS) — The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance has given its seal of approval to Catholic Charities USA, recognizing that it meets all standards for charity accountability. The alliance, a national charity watchdog group formed in 2001 through the merger of the National Charities Information Bureau with the Council of Better Business Bureaus' Foundation, reviews standards for governance and oversight, fiscal responsibility, truthfulness in representation, and willingness to disclose information to the public before granting the seal. "We are proud to receive this widely recognized and extremely reputable seal that symbolizes our commitment to accountability," said Father Larry Snyder, president of the Alexandria-based Catholic Charities USA, in a statement. Catholic Charities also was named earlier in 2007 as the eighth most fiscally responsible charity in the nation by Charity Navigator, which describes itself as "America's premier independent charity evaluator."



The Most Reverend Kevin Vann cordially invites you to attend

The Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet

In Conjunction with the Diocesan Department of Catechesis Benefiting the Ministries of Catholics Respect Life and the Diocese of Fort Worth

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 5:00 pm
Embassy Suites Outdoor World, DFW
2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine
Featuring Keynote Speaker

Dr. Alveda King

Pastoral Associate, Priests for Life
National Spokesperson for the "Silent No More Awareness Campaign"



Dr. Alveda C. King founded King for America, Inc. "to assist people in enriching their lives spiritually, personally, mentally and economically." She has continued her long-term work as a civil rights activist, speaking out on issues that face society today. She is an accomplished actress, songwriter & author.

She is the daughter of the late slain civil rights activist Rev. A. D. King and his wife Naomi Barber King, and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She is the grateful mother of six children and a doting grandmother.

Alveda currently serves as the Priests for Life Director of African American Outreach; she serves with the African Humanitarian Christian Fellowship and the Judeo-Christian Coalition for Constitutional Restoration; she is a Senior Fellow of the Alexis de Tocqueville Institute; and she works with the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and the Coalition Of African American Pastors. Dr King is a former member of the Georgia State House of Representatives.

Reservation Options (tables seat 10)

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www.catholicsrespectlife.org

Catholic officials encourage Congress to override SCHIP veto

FROM PAGE 1

reach the two-thirds needed to overturn a presidential veto. The original House vote Sept. 25 was 265-159.

In a statement after the veto, Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, said Bush's action was "the wrong decision at the wrong time."

"Census figures released only a few weeks ago showed that the number of children in America without health insurance is going up — reaching 8.7 million in 2006 — and this legislation would have taken an important step in

reducing that number by extending health insurance coverage to several million more poor children," he added.

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, also condemned the veto and urged Congress to override it.

"Reauthorizing SCHIP represents a humane and pro-life opportunity: ensuring that millions of children — born and unborn — receive the health

care they need and deserve," she said.

"One person should not stand in the way of bipartisan compromise or the will of the American people," Sr. Carol added. "It is now time for Congress to do what is right for our nation's children and vote to override the president's veto."

At the Oct. 2 news briefing, Hill was joined by Catholic Charities officials from Chicago and Trenton, New Jersey, and by Hebron Morris, a former client of Catholic Charities in Chicago whose wife and two children are enrolled in SCHIP. As a

veteran, Morris receives health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Morris said he has been "continuously employed" by a nonprofit organization, but his salary is "below the necessary level to provide proper medical care to my family."

"Without this program, I don't know what I would have done for my family," he said of SCHIP.

Joyce Campbell, director of community and government relations for Catholic Charities

"From our perspective, today is one of those defining moments in our nation's evolution ... when Congress and the president either accept or reject the obligation of government to provide for the common good, in this case the common good of our nation's most vulnerable children."

— Sister Catherine Pinkerton



PROTESTING VETO — Children protest U.S. President George W. Bush's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, in front of the White House in Washington Oct. 1. Catholic Charities USA officials have vowed to fight to overturn the SCHIP legislation that the president vetoed Oct. 3. (CNS photo/Jim Young, Reuters)

of Trenton, said agencies like hers hear about the importance of SCHIP from "those living day to day, paycheck to paycheck" around the country.

"It is unreasonable to think that at a time when we know housing costs are going up and many working poor families are housing-burdened, that there would be an expectation that they could afford to pay for health insurance," Campbell said.

In the days leading to Bush's veto, a variety of Catholic and other religious groups urged the president to let the SCHIP legislation become law.

Catholics United, a group

dedicated to promoting Catholic Social Teaching on justice and the common good, held a mock funeral for compassionate conservatism in front of the White House Sept. 28.

Franciscan Father Joe Nangle of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Arlington, Virginia, said it was "offensive to basic Catholic values" for Bush to veto the SCHIP legislation.

"Is this what 'compassionate conservatism' means — turning our backs on those who need our help the most?" asked Chris Korzen, executive director of Catholics United.

Sister Catherine Pinkerton, a

Sister of St. Joseph, represented the national social justice lobby Network and Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good at a Sept. 26 press conference on Capitol Hill with Protestant, Jewish, and other Catholic leaders, as well as several U.S. senators.

"From our perspective, today is one of those defining moments in our nation's evolution, this moment when Congress and the president either accept or reject the obligation of government to provide for the common good, in this case the common good of our nation's most vulnerable children," she said.

Bishop Wenski advocates in Washington for undocumented students, refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Florida, advocated on behalf of undocumented students hoping to attend college and people seeking refugee status or asylum in separate appearances Sept. 19 in Washington.

In a statement at the National Press Club, Bishop Wenski, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy and a consultant to their Committee on Migration, urged quick passage of the Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors Act, known as the DREAM Act.

He called on elected officials to "resist the voices of dissension and fear this time, and vote for the DREAM Act," which would allow young adults who are in the U.S. illegally through no fault of their own to attend college at in-state tuition rates and to become permanent residents.

Later that day, Bishop Wenski told a Senate subcommittee that Congress must correct the unintended consequences of recent changes in immigration law language relating to the issue of

"material support." Provisions of the USA Patriot Act and Real ID Act bar anyone who has provided "material support" to "terrorist organizations" from entering the United States.

By criminalizing broadly defined "material support," the laws prohibit the admission of people who have, even under coercion, provided any kind of financial, physical, and material aid to members of a wide range of organizations involved in armed resistance to any national government, including pro-democracy groups.

In his National Press Club talk, Bishop Wenski said the Catholic Church, "as a provider of education to thousands of children and young adults nationwide ... has witnessed the suffering of young persons who through no fault of their own reside in an undocumented status and are denied access to legal status in this country and an opportunity to continue their education."

The DREAM Act, he said, "would give these young people

The Catholic Church ... has witnessed the suffering of young persons who through no fault of their own reside in an undocumented status and are denied access to legal status in this country and an opportunity to continue their education.

— Bishop Thomas Wenski

an opportunity to meet their potential and to fully contribute to our society. This is not only good for them but good for our country."

Bishop Wenski also challenged the assertion that the legislation would provide an amnesty.

"These children are in an undocumented status not because of their own choice or decision,"

but because they were dependent on their parents, he said.

"Should we forsake these young people because we lack the political will and courage to provide them a just remedy?" the bishop asked. "By investing in these young people, our nation will receive the benefits for years to come. It is also the right and moral thing to do."

Addressing the Human Rights and Law Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee in the afternoon, Bishop Wenski cited particular cases of vulnerable refugees who have been unable to enter the United States because of the "material support" bar.

They include a Somali woman whose husband and daughter were killed in front of her and who later paid a ransom to have her kidnapped son released; a Sierra Leonean man who was forced to fix rebels' cars to protect his family; and a Colombian youth forced to dig graves by a paramilitary group.

"Congress must direct this administration, as well as future ones, with clear and unambigu-

ous language regarding the 'material support' bar," the bishop said. "Such language should include a removal of the bar if an individual provides support to a terrorist group under duress," including the threat of death.

Bishop Wenski said that although the bishops applaud Congress' role in protecting the U.S. public from outside threats "we can rescue bona fide refugees from persecution without inhibiting our ability to prevent terrorist attacks."

"The issue of 'material support' has seriously undermined the effectiveness of the U.S. refugee protection regime in offering safe haven to those who flee terror and persecution in this world," he said. "We need not shrink from our responsibilities to the world refugees in order to obtain security for the American people."

The Catholic Church, through its Migration and Refugee Services, assists an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 refugees each year and is the largest agency resettling refugees in the United States.

Scripture Readings



October 21, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Exodus 17:8-13
Psalm 121:1-8
- 2) 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
Gospel) Luke 18:1-8

By Jeff Hensley

We too often tend to think and form opinions about people on the basis of stereotypes. If we were to think of any of our contemporaries acting or writing like the characters in this weekend's readings, we'd picture religious fanatics. Who would not think so? Consider: the steadfastness of Moses, hands raised to God in supplication as Joshua fought in battle below him; and Paul's admonition to Timothy, charging him to "preach the word, to stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient — correcting, reproving, appealing — constantly teaching and never losing patience."

And so some are. But the stereotypical fanatics these images bring to mind are not the types from Scripture. An adherence to Scripture that ignores the central role of love of God and neighbor produces distortions of the Gospel.

When I read this week's passages, four men I know rather well came to mind. One is a priest

who shines with intensity in his love of God, his word, and his people. Another is a young man, a counselor, whose gentle persistence and love of God's word and his people is inspiring. The third is a layperson who teaches from the Scriptures and church teaching, and is impelled to reach out to others with the good news at all times. The fourth is a Protestant layman and conference speaker, dead for about 10 years now, who had all these same characteristics, such that once, when I sat down with him in a college cafeteria at a conference, he proceeded to ask a stranger at the other end of the table, "Friend, do you know Jesus?" in such a way that he gave no offense. Such was the sweet, genuine nature of his character and approach.

None of these guys are anything alike, except in their love of God, his word, his people (and those not yet counted among his people), and his church. One is an introvert. The three extroverts are about as different in personality and appearance, tone of voice, and so on, as three individuals can be. But each projects God's love from the uniqueness of his own personality and demeanor.

But how I wish I were as motivated and empowered by the love of God, his word, and others as each of these is. Growing in love is a goal worth striving for.

QUESTIONS:

Do you have examples around you of such men and women, made alive by the word of God and love of God and his church? Where might you spend more time to come into contact with such folk?



"My help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth."

— Psalm 121:2

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Poverty must be tackled by overhauling social structures, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Handouts to the poor are not enough; poverty must be tackled by overhauling social structures that deny people basic human rights, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

"It is not enough to give alms and help the poor on a case-by-case basis," he said, citing the teachings of St. John Chrysostom.

The saint saw that a new structure, based on the Christian vision of the human family, is needed, the pope said.

Pope Benedict returned briefly to the Vatican from his papal summer villa south of Rome for his Sept. 26 audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope continued a catechesis he began Sept. 19 that focused on the life and writings of St. John Chrysostom, the fourth-century doctor of the church and archbishop of Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey.

Pope Benedict said St. John Chrysostom was one of the great forefathers of the church's social doctrine, and with St. Paul the Apostle, he fostered the idea of a city built upon the primacy of the person.



Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful as he passes through the crowd before leading his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 3. (CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS)

St. John Chrysostom "corrected the traditional Greek vision of the polis, the city, in which large segments of the population were excluded from the rights of citizenship" and were trapped in poverty and slavery, the pope said.

St. John Chrysostom proposed a new kind of city inspired by Christian values, a city that had "a Christian soul and face" and in which "all people are brothers and sisters with equal rights," the

pope said.

A consequence of being part of the same human family is that people are then responsible for others and have a duty to act in solidarity and help those in need, he said.

Pope Benedict told some 20,000 pilgrims gathered in the square how St. John Chrysostom showed that God gave people four steps to get to know God, whom the saint called "a tender father, doctor of souls, mother,

and affectionate friend."

People can first find God in his creation of nature, he said. In contemplating the beauty of creation, "creation almost becomes like a ladder for climbing up toward God, for getting to know God," the pope said.

The pope said that, according to St. John Chrysostom, "we are weak for climbing, our eyes are weak" and may not see God, so God then helps people get closer to him by "sending fallen man, the

stranger, a letter," which is his word written in the sacred Scripture.

Reflecting on how nature and Scripture complement each other, the pope said by reading Scripture "we can decipher creation, and creation shows us the reality of sacred Scripture."

The third step, Pope Benedict said, is God becoming flesh and "really becoming God with us, our brother until his death on the cross."

Finally, God acts through the Holy Spirit and transforms reality and individuals, the pope said.

The pope asked young people to look to St. Vincent de Paul, who founded many charitable organizations and whose feast day is celebrated Sept. 27.

The pope asked that St. Vincent's example of charity encourage all young people to dedicate their future to offering "generous service" to others. He also asked newly married couples to foster "constant attention to the poor" in their new families.

At the end of the audience the pope greeted Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, whom he had named a member of the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops earlier in the day.

Scripture Readings



October 28, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
Psalm 34:2-3, 17-19, 23
- 2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Gospel) Luke 18:9-14

By Sharon K. Perkins

Years ago when I worked providing pastoral care in a psychiatric hospital, I learned about healthy and unhealthy behaviors which were observed by the hospital staff as markers of a patient's progress or regression.

One of the more unfavorable signs was "attention-seeking" behavior. Usually it meant that the patient, insecure and fearful, would eschew desirable tools of self-reliance for more manipulative means to get his or her emotional needs met by the staff, often at the expense of other patients.

Outside the confines of the hospital, there's a maxim that's frequently used to describe complainers who persist until they eventually get their way: "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." When employed by those who believe that silent suffering is preferable to whining, the saying implies that relentless complaint and protest are devices used by the selfish, the immature, and the egocentric.

It also implies that attention and service are in

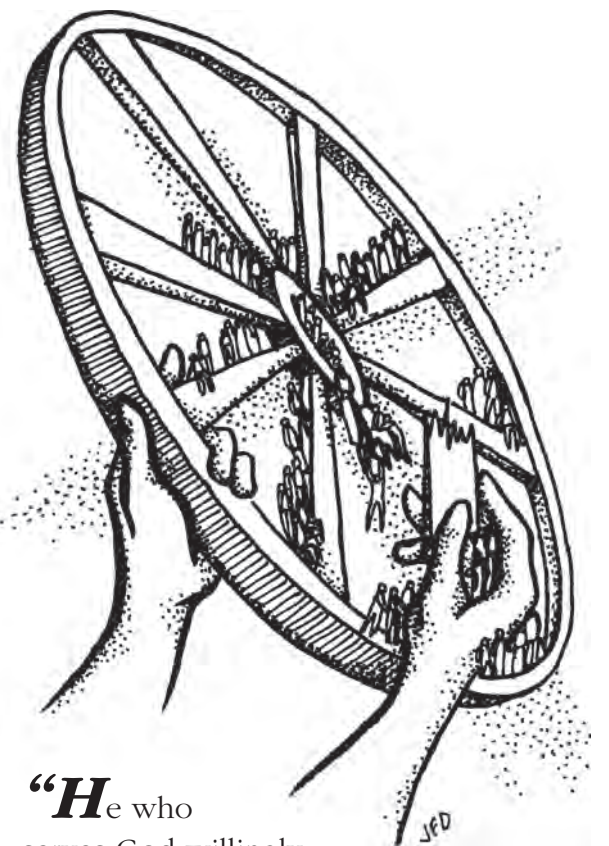
short supply — so one should compete for them in any way one can. But sometimes "the squeaky wheel" really needs greasing. There are people whose situations are dire and whose complaints are truly justified. And — as indicated in today's readings — those complaints are heard, and answered, by a God who "knows no favorites" but nonetheless responds with justice to the cries of widows, orphans, and the poor. And there doesn't seem to be any shortage of God's attention to those in distress; there's plenty to go around.

In today's Gospel Jesus offers a parable that illustrates two kinds of attention-seekers. The Pharisee, taking the more conspicuous position in the temple, trusts in his own devices by pointing out, at the expense of others, what he has done to deserve God's notice. But the tax collector, admitting his sinfulness and trusting in God's compassion, prays in a way that truly gets God's attention.

In his plea for mercy he avoids both extremes — he neither boasts of his virtue nor suffers in silence — but he approaches God with an attitude of confident humility. When taken with Luke's previous story of the complaining widow and the dishonest judge, this parable teaches the importance of meek but persistent prayer. To God's ears, a cry for help from a contrite heart is heard — and in God's world, the squeaky wheel really does get the grease.

QUESTIONS:

Who is a person in my life to whom I can demonstrate love more clearly?
How? What are some concrete ways I can cultivate in my heart a deeper love for God?



"He who serves God willingly is heard."

— Sirach 35:16

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Jesus should be visible in 'Our Space'

By Jeff Hedglen

Working with youth and young adults is sometimes a challenge, especially when it comes to keeping up with modern technologies. It is in these areas that my age really shows. For instance, I, for the life of me, do not understand the popularity of the cell phone text message. I have a phone — call me!

My work with these age groups has led me to the world of MySpace and Facebook.

Initially I did not understand the big deal. What could these personal networking sites offer a person except a way to waste time? But then about a week after I opened my MySpace account I heard from a friend I had not connected with in more than eight years. Now all of a sudden, I was searching through MySpace looking for other people from my past.

Additionally these services are a great way for me to contact and keep up with the people in my programs. I get feedback from teens from a

How Jesus lives inside of us is a mystery; the fact that He lives inside us should not be one. All too often we shy away from revealing ourselves as followers of Christ.

Myspace message much quicker than e-mail, and I have the opportunity to gaze into their world by what they include on their personal Web sites.

In addition to the caution everyone should take when putting information about themselves up on the Web, it is important to remember that the information put on these personal networking sites is a statement to the world about who you are and what you believe. If it is really "your space," it should reflect who you are.

Yet I am often surprised

when I visit sites of people I know through church and see nothing church-related on their site. This causes me to wonder why their faith life is missing from their virtual expression of themselves. Maybe they are not as serious about their faith as I think they are, or maybe they, for some reason, do not want to show their faith to the world.

The epidemic of closet Christianity is not reserved to the World Wide Web. It is also in evidence in the unplugged parts of existence. In Colossians 1:27 Paul speaks of the mystery

of "Christ in you, the hope for glory." Yes, the reality of Jesus living inside of us is a mystery, but that doesn't mean that the fact that Jesus lives inside you should remain a mystery.

Another way of saying that is this: How Jesus lives inside of us is a mystery; the fact that He lives inside us should not be one. All too often we shy away from revealing ourselves as followers of Christ. When we do this we are skipping fifty percent of the Church's mission. As Catholics we are called to grow in our faith and to show our faith. Thus if we have faith, others should know that we do. In the words of St. James: "So also, faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:17).

We prove our faith by showing it through various works. One of the most basic works is to let our faith be seen by the people we come into contact with, be that surfing the Web, the school hallway, or the grocery aisle at Wal-Mart.

When I was in college, I kept a small button on my backpack

that read I ♥ Jesus. That little one-inch button sparked more conversations in the student union building than I could have imagined. The other thing that it did was keep me honest about my faith. If I was advertising that I loved Jesus, I knew I had to live up to it.

Showing your faith can be as simple as a phrase or two in the "about me" section of MySpace that says God and faith are important to you. A bumper sticker or Christian desk calendar are also simple ways to let people know you are a believer.

We all have "MySpace" whether it is on the computer, at work, school, home, or on the go. If it really is MySpace and you are his, shouldn't your space be his space too?

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at jeff@stbartsfw.org.

Obispo aboga en Washington por estudiantes indocumentados, refugiados

WASHINGTON (CNS) — En presentaciones separadas el 19 de septiembre, el obispo Thomas G. Wenski, de Orlando, Florida, abogó en Washington en favor de los estudiantes indocumentados que tienen la esperanza de asistir a la universidad, y de las personas que buscan el estado de refugiado o asilo.

En una declaración en el Club Nacional de Prensa, el obispo Wenski, presidente del Comité sobre Política Internacional, de los obispos estadounidenses, y consultor de su Comité sobre Emigración, pidió la aprobación rápida de la Ley de Desarrollo, Socorro y Educación de Menores Extranjeros, conocida como la Ley DREAM.

Hizo un llamado a los funcionarios elegidos a “resistir esta vez las voces de disensión y temor y votar a favor de la Ley DREAM”, la cual permitiría que adultos jóvenes que están ilegal-

mente en Estados Unidos sin ser culpa suya asistan a la universidad con matrículas para residentes del estado y se conviertan en residentes permanentes.

Más tarde ese día el obispo Wenski dijo ante un subcomité del Senado que el congreso debe corregir las consecuencias no intencionadas de los cambios recientes en el lenguaje de la ley de inmigración, referentes al asunto de “apoyo material”. Las cláusulas de la Ley Patriota de Estados Unidos y la Ley de Identificación Verdadera prohíben la entrada a Estados Unidos de cualquier persona que haya provisto “apoyo material” a “organizaciones terroristas”.

Al criminalizar lo que se ha definido ampliamente como “apoyo material”, las leyes prohíben la admisión de personas que hayan provisto, hasta bajo coerción, cualquier clase de ayu-

da financiera, física y material a miembros de una amplia gama de organizaciones involucradas en la resistencia armada contra cualquier gobierno nacional, incluyendo los grupos pro-democracia.

En su charla del Club Nacional de Prensa, el obispo Wenski dijo que la Iglesia Católica, “como proveedora de educación para millares de niños y adultos jóvenes en toda la nación ... ha sido testigo del sufrimiento de jóvenes que sin culpa suya viven en un estado de indocumentados y se les niega acceso al estado legal en este país y a una oportunidad de continuar su educación”.

La Ley DREAM, dijo, “daría a estos jóvenes una oportunidad de lograr su potencial y de contribuir completamente a nuestra sociedad. Esto no es bueno sólo para ellos, sino que también es bueno para nuestro país”.

Sacerdote indio dice que su curación fue milagro mediante madre Teresa

GUWAHATI, India (CNS) — La causa de santidad de la beata madre Teresa de Calcuta podría pasar su último obstáculo si el Vaticano aprueba una alegada curación milagrosa que un sacerdote reclama haber experimentado en el 10mo aniversario de la muerte de ella.

El padre salesiano V.M. Thomas dice que la intercesión de madre Teresa fue responsable de la desaparición de una piedra del riñón de media pulgada que él tenía en su uréter bajo, informó la agencia asiática de noticias eclesiológicas UCA News. La piedra desapareció de manera inexplicable después que padre Thomas celebró la Misa y oró a madre Teresa el 5 de septiembre, el día anterior a la cirugía que tenía programada.

UCANews informó que según las notas del sacerdote y los ex-

pedientes médicos, el cirujano afirmó que “la desaparición del cálculo (piedra) estaba más allá de una explicación médica”.

Padres Thomas, de 56 años de edad, estuvo asociado con madre Teresa desde 1979 hasta la muerte de ella en 1997.

Después de meses con dolores abdominales, padre Thomas fue admitido en un hospital en Guwahati el 4 de septiembre. Las pruebas confirmaron la presencia de la piedra en el riñón y los médicos programaron el 6 de septiembre para su remoción quirúrgica.

Padre Thomas dijo que durante la mañana del 5 de septiembre, antes de las preparaciones para su cirugía, su médico le permitió salir del hospital para celebrar la Misa en Shishu Bhavan, hogar para niños abandonados que madre Teresa comenzó en Gu-

wahati. En la Misa pidió que los presentes oraran por él, especialmente mediante la intercesión de madre Teresa.

Durante la tarde del 6 de septiembre, cuando la radiografía prequirúrgica final fue tomada, los médicos no podían localizar la piedra. Una repetición de la radiografía también comprobó ser negativa. El cirujano principal entonces ordenó otra prueba con ultrasonido, pero ésta también comprobó ser negativa.

Según el procedimiento estándar del Vaticano, se requeriría que un milagro ocurriera después de la beatificación de madre Teresa el 19 de octubre de 2003 para que ella fuera canonizada, o declarada santa. En casos de alegados milagros médicos el Vaticano hace que una comisión de especialistas médicos revise el caso.



El arzobispo Pietro Sambi, nuncio apostólico a los Estados Unidos, y el Cardenal William H. Keeler, el arzobispo jubilado de Baltimore, aplauden momentos después de que el arzobispo Edwin F. O'Brien fue instalado como el nuevo arzobispo de Baltimore, en la catedral Mary Our Queen (María Nuestra Reina), el primero de octubre. El Arzobispo O'Brien, director antiguo de Servicios Militares de las Arquidiócesis Norteamericanas, sucede al Cardenal William H. Keeler, quien fue director de la Arquidiócesis de Baltimore por 18 años. (CNS/Paul Haring)



Jóvenes se reúnen alrededor de la cruz y del icono de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud durante un servicio de oración a bordo del HMS Broome en la Gran Barrera de Coral, frente a la costa de Cairns, Australia, el 22 de septiembre. El HMS Broome y su tripulación escoltó un grupo de jóvenes católicos locales hasta un punto fuera de la costa, donde ellos sumergieron la cruz en el mar después de un servicio de oración. (Foto CNS/Nancy Wiechec)



Jose Alves sostiene carbón a principios de mayo en la Cooperativa Dignidad en Acailandia, Brasil, donde hace briquetas de carbón. Alves se escapó de condiciones parecidas a la esclavitud en una hornera de carbón y fue al Centro para la Defensa de la Vida y los Derechos Humanos de Acailandia. El centro provee ayuda legal y humanitaria a los trabajadores que han huido del trabajo forzoso. (Foto CNS/Barbara J. Fraser)

Piden al Congreso ‘defender niños’ derogando veto SCHIP

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Un alto funcionario de Caridades Católicas USA hizo un llamado al Congreso a “defender los niños” derogando el veto del presidente George W. Bush contra el financiamiento expandido para el Programa Estatal de Seguro Médico de Niños, conocido como SCHIP.

Candy Hill, primera vicepresidenta para política social de la organización basada en Alexan-

dria, Virginia, habló vía teléfono durante un informe noticioso el 2 de octubre, el día antes que Bush vetara la legislación que ha recibido amplio apoyo de parte de grupos religiosos, de servicios médicos, laborales y de consumidores.

Este fue el cuarto veto de la presidencia de Bush; ha dicho que expandir el programa por \$35,000 millones sería un paso hacia la medicina socializada

y podría llevar a muchas familias a dejar su seguro médico privado a favor de cobertura por SCHIP. “Ya que el Congreso ha escogido enviarme un proyecto de ley que mueve nuestro sistema de servicios médicos en la dirección incorrecta, yo debo vetarlo”, dijo Bush en su mensaje del veto.

El senado aprobó la legislación por una votación a prueba del veto de 67 a 29 el 27 de septiem-

bre. Pero los partidarios de la legislación dijeron tener la esperanza de encontrar 19 votos en la Cámara para alcanzar los dos tercios necesarios para derogar un veto presidencial. La votación original en la Cámara el 25 de septiembre fue de 265 a 159.

En una declaración después del veto, padre Larry Snyder, presidente de Caridades Católicas USA, dijo que la acción de Bush fue “la decisión incor-

recta en el momento incorrecto”. Añadió, “Las cifras del censo emitidas justo hace unas semanas demostraron que el número de niños que no tienen seguro médico en Estados Unidos está aumentando, llegando a 8.7 millones en el 2006, y esta legislación habría dado un paso importante para reducir ese número extendiendo la cobertura de seguro médico a millones de otros niños pobres”.

¡Cuidado con los falsos maestros!

Parecen ovejitas pero son lobos feroces

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

Falsos profetas y maestros han existido desde los tiempos del Antiguo Testamento y fueron anunciados por el mismo Cristo como un problema que perduraría. En el capítulo siete, versos quince y dieciséis del evangelio según San Mateo, el Señor nos advierte, "Cuidense de los falsos profetas: se presentan ante ustedes con piel de ovejas, pero por dentro son lobos feroces. Ustedes los reconocerán por sus frutos."

Algunos piensan que los falsos profetas son solo aquellos de otras religiones, o sectas, fuera de la Iglesia Católica. Están equivocados. Aunque es verdad que existen más far-santes religiosos fuera de la Iglesia, hay también muchos dentro de la Iglesia, y no es fácil identificarlos.

La identificación de estos falsos profetas es al principio muy difícil. El mismo Cristo nos avisó de que la única forma de conocerlos es por sus frutos. Esto significa que un falso profeta, maestro, catequista, servidor o servidora, ministro, líder, religioso o religiosa, no se dará a conocer como falso mensajero hasta que sea demasiado tarde y ya han hecho daño.

Solo después de que estos farsantes hayan regado su mala semilla, y esta mala semilla haya germinado y producido una matita, y esta matita haya crecido y después de crecer comience a florecer, y finalmente de sus flores se produzcan malos frutos, es que se sabrá que la semilla era mala y el, o la, persona que regó esa mala semilla era un falso profeta, maestro, catequista, servidor o servidora, líder, ministro, religioso o religiosa. Algunos ejemplos de lo que pueden ser los malos frutos son: divisiones, mentiras y continua presentación de falsas doctrinas, excesivo poder y control, manipulación, intimidación, crítica destructiva y falsas acusaciones.

Observen bien lo que les estoy diciendo. Es casi imposible saber quienes son los falsos profetas de manera inmediata. Lo que si se puede saber de manera inmediata es que parecerán como unas ovejitas inicuas, pacíficas y hasta llenas de Dios. Los falsos profetas no andan por el mundo con enormes letreros avisándole a los demás: "Cuidado, Soy Un Falso Profeta". Estos farsantes, en su mayor parte, ni saben que ellos mismos son falsos maestros y profetas haciéndole daño a la Iglesia. Ellos jurarían que están solo siguiendo las inspiraciones del Espíritu Santo y parecerán como personas buenas, honestas y hasta personas de mucha oración y santidad. Pero detrás de esta fachada hay un lobo, o loba feroz, que no siempre se da cuenta de ser un farsante.

Se que algunos lectores quisieran seguir estudiando y meditando sobre este tema de los falsos profetas, y para ellos, les ofrezco esta selección de versos bíblicos para que sigan estudiando: *Deuteronomio 18:20; Ezequiel 13:1-4; Mateo 7:21-23 y 24:11; Hechos 20:29-30; 2 Corintios 11:3-4 y 13-15; Colosenses 2:4-8; 1 Timoteo 1:3-7 y 4:2-4; 2 Timoteo 2:16-18, 3:1-5 y 4:3-4; Santiago 3:13-16; 2 Pedro 1:20-21, 2:1-15 y 3:14-16; 1 Juan 4:1-6; y Judas 1:3-16.*



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



El Papa Benedicto XVI saluda a los fieles durante su audiencia general semanal en la Plaza de San Pedro, el 26 de septiembre, en el Vaticano. En el discurso de las audiencias el Papa dijo que las limosnas para los pobres no son suficiente; la pobreza debe ser abordada recondicionando las estructuras sociales que deniegan a la gente los derechos humanos básicos. (Foto CNS/Tony Gentile, Reuters)

El Papa dice que el acatamiento de las leyes naturales éticas promovería la dignidad humana

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El fundamento de los derechos humanos, la democracia, y la cooperación entre los pueblos y religiones se ve amenazado por la creciente suposición de que no hay absolutos éticos, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

La falta de reconocimiento de que ciertos principios éticos y morales son naturalmente parte del ser humano tiene "consecuencias enormes y graves contra el orden civil y social", dijo el Papa Benedicto, el 5 de octubre, en una reunión que sostuvo con los participantes de la Comisión Teológica Internacional.

Los participantes de la comisión, nombrados por el Vaticano, han estado elaborando un documento sobre el fundamento de la ley natural moral y, específicamente, en la manera en la que esos principios forman la base de "una ética universal" que puede ser reconocida y compartida por todos los pueblos de todas las religiones.

"No es un tema exclusivo o predominantemente confesional (de fe)", dijo el Papa; pero es importante para todos los pueblos y

para su habilidad de convivir en paz y respeto mutuo.

El Papa Benedicto dijo que el informe de la comisión es una parte importante de un proyecto que ha venido siendo promovido por la Congregación de la Doctrina de la Fe a fin de estimular a las universidades, asociaciones y eruditos particulares "a que identifiquen conexiones y convergencias útiles para una profundización constructiva y efectiva de la doctrina del derecho natural".

La Iglesia Católica enseña que la ley natural, cuyas normas básicas se reflejan en los Diez Mandamientos, no constituye un conjunto de principios morales y éticos que hayan sido impuestos sino que representa lo correcto y lo incorrecto que en conjunto es parte de la naturaleza humana, y puede ser identificado por el uso de la razón humana.

Debido a que estos principios "son accesibles para cada una de las criaturas racionales", dijo el Papa, son una base segura para el diálogo y la cooperación entre los pueblos y para la edificación de las sociedades en las que la

dignidad humana y la libertad se ven protegidas.

Desafortunadamente, dijo el Papa Benedicto, en las sociedades modernas se ha perdido de vista la ley natural, y demasiadas personas están convencidas de que la sociedad o la mayoría de los ciudadanos de una sociedad son "la fuente definitiva de la ley civil".

"Y de esta manera, como consecuencia, el problema se convierte no en la búsqueda de lo que es bueno, sino en poder; o mejor dicho, el equilibrio de poderes", dijo.

"En las raíces de esta tendencia se encuentra el relativismo ético, que algunas personas, incluso, consideran como una de las condiciones principales de la democracia (erróneamente), pues el relativismo (según esas personas) garantizaría la tolerancia y el respeto mutuo", dijo el Papa.

A pesar de ello, dijo el Papa Benedicto, la historia ha demostrado repetidamente que la mayoría puede equivocarse y que solamente la razón y la apertura ante los principios morales, que son perennes, pueden garantizar una sociedad justa.

La Vida despues de esta vida Un día de retiro, mixto, para adultos

En el Centro de Cursillos, 2221 NW 26th St., Fort Worth
domingo, nov. 4, 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

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Venga e invite a sus amistades a un día de crecimiento en la fe, basado en la enseñanza de la Biblia sobre el más allá: i.e. la vida después de la muerte, ahora que estamos en el Mes de los difuntos.

Donación por persona es \$35. No hace falta registración previa. Registración el mismo día, de 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Ayudaremos a los que no pueden dar toda la donación. Para más información, llame a Martha Galván (817) 922-9514, o al Centro de Cursillos (817) 624-9411.

Dignatarios de la iglesia le llaman inflamatorio al actual debate sobre inmigración

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El tono actual que se usa en el debate de la reforma de inmigración “ha inflamado miedos y malentendidos entre algunos sectores del público de EEUU, y los ha llevado a una atmósfera polarizada y vitriólica”, dijo un dignatario de la iglesia de EEUU.

El obispo Gerald Barnes de San Bernardino, California, presidente del Comité sobre Inmigración de los obispos de EEUU, hizo notar que mientras “las voces de división y miedo son fuertes”... “la verdad acerca de la inmigración y los inmigrantes en este país finalmente prevalecerá”.

El obispo, en una declaración publicada el 27 de septiembre en Washington, dijo que los trabajadores inmigrantes, incluyendo los indocumentados, hacen contribuciones importantes para la

El obispo Gerald Barnes, en una declaración publicada el 27 de septiembre en Washington, dijo que los trabajadores inmigrantes, incluyendo los indocumentados, hacen contribuciones importantes para la economía de la nación por medio de su trabajo en labores agrícolas, obras de construcción y en la industria de servicio.

economía de la nación por medio de su trabajo en labores agrícolas, obras de construcción y en la industria de servicio. El Obispo culpó a los Estados Unidos por rehusarse “a reconocer estas contribuciones” y por relegar a los inmigrantes “a una clase permanente de trabajadores de segunda, sin derechos completos”.

La falla del Senado de los EEUU de aprobar una legislación de reforma completa de inmigración este verano, ha re-

trasado, pero no ha terminado, el intento de reparar el sistema de inmigración, según la opinión del obispo. El Obispo mismo dijo que la falta de acción sobre la reforma está sometiendo a la población inmigrante en toda la nación a redadas y otras medidas que dice “separan a las familias y conducen a la explotación y al abuso”.

“Estamos seriamente preocupados con acciones de aplicación (de la ley) que dividen familias

y tienen como objetivo las escuelas, las iglesias, los hospitales y los centros de servicio social en donde los inmigrantes reciben asistencia para sus necesidades básicas humanas”, dijo el obispo Barnes.

También dijo que la falla del gobierno federal en la aprobación de legislación para la reforma de inmigración ha causado que los gobiernos locales y estatales “llenen ese vacío federal”, lo que en consecuencia ha hecho que se

fabriquen “parches de normas de migración en toda la nación”.

El Obispo Barnes señaló cómo decretos locales se han puesto en oposición unos con otros, debido a que en algunas ciudades y condados se han aprobado propias medidas mediante las cuales se niegan los servicios a los que se encuentran de forma ilegal en el país. Las leyes estatales y locales que llevan como intención forzar a los inmigrantes indocumentados a que dejen el país, negándoles los medios de subsistencia, “no solamente constituyen una violación a la dignidad humana, sino que también dañan el bien común”, dijo.

Los obispos de Estados Unidos se reafirman en su punto de vista de que la sola aplicación de medidas a cualquier nivel “forzará más a los trabajadores inmigrantes indocumentados a permanecer en una clase furtiva de trabajadores de segunda, y de crear más miedo y sospechas en las comunidades de inmigrantes”, dijo.

Altos dignatarios del Vaticano abogan por los derechos de mujeres en la industria del turismo

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Se necesita hacer más para garantizar derechos iguales para mujeres en la industria del turismo, como también leyes más severas en contra de la explotación sexual que sufren en el turismo, dijo el secretario de estado del Vaticano.

El cardenal Tarcisio Bertone hizo un llamado para que se salvaguarde la dignidad de la mujer y se promuevan sus derechos, en una carta escrita con ocasión del Día Mundial del Turismo, que se celebró en todo el mundo el 27 de septiembre.

Tal fecha, auspiciada por la Organización del Turismo Mundial de las Naciones Unidas, fue dedicada al tema de “El Turismo Abre una Puerta para las Mujeres” y

tuvo la intención de promover la igualdad de géneros.

En una carta dirigida a Francesco Frangialli, presidente de la organización de turismo, el cardenal Bertone le enviaba saludos del Papa Benedicto XVI y su esperanza de que la celebración ayudara a lograr un desarrollo positivo en el turismo. Una copia de la carta fue dada a conocer por el Vaticano el 27 de septiembre.

El cardenal instó la aprobación de leyes nacionales y de acuerdos internacionales para combatir “cualquier tipo de explotación injusta (de mujeres) y la comercialización indecente de su cuerpo”.

“De hecho, es imperativa la denuncia del escándalo intolerable de cierta clase de turismo en

el que se humilla a las mujeres, reduciéndolas prácticamente a esclavitud”, dijo.

También les hizo un llamado a las instituciones a fin de que promuevan derechos iguales para la mujer en la industria del turismo, garantizándoles igualdad en el lugar de empleo, “libertad religiosa, respeto por sus necesidades relacionadas con la maternidad y pago de salario con compensación igualitaria”.

El cardenal Bertone dijo que a pesar del gran número de mujeres que participan en la industria del turismo, todavía existe “en muchos casos un techo muy bajo (en el que no pueden crecer) las mujeres”, que no les permite ocupar puestos altos, ejecutivos, ni de gerencia.

El Papa dice que enfatizar demasiado ‘lógica de la ganancia’ puede traer efectos ruinosos

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italia (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI dijo que enfatizar demasiado la “lógica de la ganancia” puede traer efectos ruinosos, según visto en la pobreza global y en la crisis ecológica.

El Papa habló sobre las exigencias de la justicia económica durante la bendición dominical del 23 de septiembre en su villa de verano en Castel Gandolfo, en las afueras de Roma. Más temprano esa mañana hizo comentarios similares durante una Misa en el cercano pueblo montañoso Velletri.

Dirigiéndose a cientos de peregrinos en el patio de su villa,

el Papa dijo que el dinero “no es ‘deshonesto’ de por sí, pero que más que cualquier otra cosa éste puede encerrar a la gente en un egoísmo ciego”.

Él señaló que el Papa Juan Pablo II había elogiado los elementos positivos de la economía global moderna, especialmente cuando ésta deja espacio para la libertad humana. Pero el Papa Benedicto dijo que su predecesor también entendía que el capitalismo no debe ser considerado como el único modelo económico válido.

“Las emergencias del hambre y ecológicas señalan hacia la creciente evidencia de que la lógica

de la ganancia, si es dominante, aumenta la desproporción entre el rico y el pobre y trae una explotación ruinososa del planeta”, dijo el Papa Benedicto.

“Por otra parte, cuando prevalece la lógica de compartir y de solidaridad, es posible corregir la ruta y orientarla hacia un desarrollo equitativo y sostenible”, dijo.

El Papa enfatizó que la justicia económica es cuestión de equilibrio. Obtener ganancias no está en contradicción con la justicia, dijo, pero la iglesia enseña que una distribución justa de los bienes toma prioridad.

Vaticano pide a los Estados Unidos, Corea del Norte, China, otros a ratificar tratado nuclear

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Vaticano hizo un llamado a los Estados Unidos, Corea del Norte, China, India, Paquistán y a otras naciones a ratificar el Tratado de Prohibición de Ensayos Nucleares.

“El clima del terrorismo causado por las organizaciones criminales no es eliminado por el temor que está vinculado con la amenaza del uso de armas de destrucción masiva por parte de los estados”, dijo monseñor Michael W. Banach, diplomático del Vaticano.

Ambos, el terrorismo y la amenaza de usar armas nucleares, “son una ofensa contra la familia humana”, dijo.

Monseñor Banach lideró la delegación del Vaticano a la Conferencia sobre Facilitar Poner en Vigor el Tratado de Prohibición de Ensayos Nucleares, realizada a finales de septiembre. El texto de su discurso ante la conferencia fue emitido el 3 de octubre por el Vaticano.

Aunque 177 naciones han firmado el tratado desde 1996 y 140 de ellos, incluyendo el Vaticano, lo han ratificado, otras 10 naciones deben ratificar el tratado antes que éste pueda entrar en vigor. Los organizadores de la conferencia están buscando particularmente la aceptación por China, Colombia, Egipto, Indonesia, Israel, Irán, Paquistán, Corea del norte, India

y los Estados Unidos.

Monseñor Banach dijo ante la conferencia, que la extensión del terrorismo y las crecientes tensiones internacionales debido a las aspiraciones nucleares de varios países hacen más urgente que nunca prohibir las pruebas de armas nucleares y reasumir el proceso del desarme nuclear.

El reclamo de una nación diciendo que está probando armas para asegurar la seguridad y la protección de su pueblo es un argumento que “no convence”, dijo. “De hecho, eso lleva a la proliferación de las armas, las cuales, dado su capacidad destructiva, pueden eliminar a la misma gente que ellos reclaman proteger y defender”.

El funcionario del Vaticano también catalogó como poco convincente el reclamo que es posible “desarrollar armas limpias o inteligentes, o sea, armas nucleares cuyos efectos mecánicos, térmicos y radiactivos sean limitados”.

“Todas las armas nucleares tienen efectos radiactivos indiscriminados que son dañinos a la vida y la salud de los seres humanos y del medioambiente”, dijo.

Monseñor Banach llamó la declaración de una prohibición general de pruebas nucleares “un deber de la comunidad internacional” y un paso decisivo hacia crear “una cultura de vida y paz”.

Diocesan / National

Special Collection: Catholic University

Parish Name	Parish Location	Catholic University June 2006	Catholic University June 2007
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	99.00	193.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	77.00	103.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	379.19	752.50
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	2,074.21	2,110.01
St. Joseph	Arlington	1,178.47	1,155.96
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,501.00	1,624.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	0.00	88.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	12.25	0.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	912.50	520.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	0.00	1,705.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	528.00	483.00
St. Michael	Bedford	1,468.00	1,372.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	45.00	28.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	229.84	305.56
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	343.02	538.06
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	222.00	197.00
St. Ann	Burleson	950.00	696.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	1,402.00	1,883.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	67.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	390.29	276.36
Holy Angels	Clifton	0.00	255.90
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	750.00	1,033.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	0.00	202.10
Sacred Heart	Comanche	0.00	102.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	47.00	0.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	630.55	540.96
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	0.00	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	441.00	487.00
St. Mark	Denton	1,613.07	1,755.16
St. Mary	Dublin	414.00	224.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	59.00	0.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	629.57	707.55
Christ the King	Fort Worth	173.00	285.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,649.00	1,642.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	208.00	240.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,194.00	1,397.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	760.00	681.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	1,910.00	2,524.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	0.00	397.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	249.00	156.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	1,652.50	2,865.93
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	2,820.16	3,670.76
St. George	Fort Worth	0.00	682.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	732.00	924.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	0.00	532.47
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	2,606.85	3,814.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	776.95	674.45
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	367.50	424.67
St. Rita	Fort Worth	92.00	157.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,268.35	1,303.58
St. Mary	Gainesville	154.00	163.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	83.80	276.50
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	34.00
St. Mary	Graham	320.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,636.00	794.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,107.06	1,193.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	85.00	0.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	182.00	465.79
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	43.20	57.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,934.00	2,268.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	56.95	70.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,857.11	2,206.88
St. Peter	Lindsay	822.70	1,112.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	284.00	339.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	20.00	0.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	387.16	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	0.00	65.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	22.00	611.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	81.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	157.00	71.42
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	197.00	151.00
St. Mary	Quanah	138.00	148.00
St. Rita	Ranger	30.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	121.00	0.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	15.00	77.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	25.00	45.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	444.05	87.10
St. John	Strawn	64.85	0.00
St. John	Valley View	1.00	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	536.00	465.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,341.00	1,429.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	172.00	947.03
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	536.25	601.00
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	662.00	665.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	279.53	436.00

49,717.93 56,486.70

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

At Red Mass, Archbishop Dolan prays that jurists will respect all human life

By Mark Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The belief that God created humanity with a special dignity is a cornerstone of Judeo-Christian tradition and has shaped the United States since its founding, said Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan at the 54th annual Red Mass in Washington.

And he prayed that belief would inspire jurists and government officials to recognize “the innate dignity and inviolability of every human life.”

In his homily at the Sept. 30 Mass, Archbishop Dolan quoted the nation’s second president, John Adams, who spoke of the “true map of man” as consisting of “the dignity of his nature, and the noble rank he holds among the works of God.”

That is “a map whose paths can only be walked with a reverence for life, a respect for others, a grasp of virtue, and a responsible civility,” the archbishop said.

The chief justice and five U.S. Supreme Court justices were among the 1,200 people in the standing-room-only crowd at St. Matthew Cathedral for the Mass, which seeks God’s blessings and guidance on the administration of justice.

The five Catholics now on the Supreme Court — Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Associate Justices Antonin G. Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel A. Alito Jr. — attended the Mass along with Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer, who is Jewish. The Mass is traditionally held the day before the first Monday in October, when the Supreme Court begins its new session.

Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, the principal celebrant at the Mass, welcomed “all who have come here today to pray, to pray for our nation and for those who work” in the legal fields. The concelebrants included Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien, who led the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services from 1997 to 2007 and was installed as archbishop of Baltimore Oct. 1.

Other dignitaries at the Mass included two former U.S. ambassadors to the Holy See: Jim Nicholson, who recently stepped down as U.S. secretary of veterans affairs, and Corrine “Lindy” Boggs, a former congresswoman from Louisiana.

The Red Mass takes its name from the red vestments worn by celebrants, representing the tongues of fire symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In his homily, Archbishop



RED MASS — Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan (top left) Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Chief Justice John G. Roberts walk down the steps of St. Matthew Cathedral after the Red Mass in Washington Sept. 30. The annual Mass is celebrated traditionally the Sunday before the new Supreme Court session begins. (CNS photo/Rafael Crisostomo, CATHOLIC STANDARD)

Dolan prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide jurists and other government officials to recognize the dignity of every human life.

“Perhaps a way to view our participation in this annual Red Mass in our nation’s capital,” Archbishop Dolan said, “is as our humble prayer for the red-hot fire of the Holy Spirit, bringing the jurists, legislators, and executives of our government the wisdom to recognize that we are indeed made in God’s image, that deep in our being is the life of God, and then to give them the courage to judge, legislate, and administer based on the consequences of that conviction: the innate dignity and inviolability of every human life and the cultivation of a society of virtue to support that belief.”

The Milwaukee archbishop said the belief that people have a special dignity and destiny is espoused not only in the Bible but by great philosophers throughout history.

It is “a soaring idea,” he said, that shaped and should continue to shape the United States “in the quest for independence itself, in the formation of a republic, in abolition and civil rights, in the conduct of war and the promotion of peace, in care for the other, in the strengthening of marriage and family, and in the promotion of a culture of life.”

Archbishop Dolan said that idea should continue to inspire the way Americans live their lives today, even when cultural influences stress taking another path.

“In a world where we’re often tempted to act like animals instead of like God’s icon, in a culture where life itself can be treated as a commodity, seen as a means to an end, or as an inconvenience when tiny or infirm, in a society where rights are reduced to whatever we have the urge to do instead of what we ought to do, we need all the wisdom and fortitude God can give us, as civic leaders, magistrates, [and] as ordinary citizens,” he said.

Archbishop Dolan closed his homily by quoting part of a prayer by Baltimore Archbishop John Carroll, who in 1789 became the nation’s first Catholic bishop: “We pray for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.”

In Washington, the Red Mass is sponsored by the John Carroll Society, a group of more than 1,100 Catholics from various professions and businesses who support religious, educational, and charitable activities in the archdiocese.

Diocesan

DelCastillo's efforts have been an effort to pay back into the lives of others

FROM PAGE 24
tion plan that would service 100 people per week."

After months of prayer, networking, presentations, and

his characteristic persistence, DelCastillo's dream was realized when he learned that local organizations, including the North Texas Central Council of

Governments (NTCCOG) and Workforce Solutions, would partner with the United Way in order to offer initial funding and operational support

Fr. Tad...

FROM PAGE 11
ent in every major American city. Future generations are sure to be scandalized by the numbers: in vitro fertilization making hundreds of thousands of embryonic humans, to be chilled in liquid nitrogen and turned into, in the words of one commentator, "kidsicles." They are sure to deplore the many other human embryos treated as objects, discarded as medical waste, poured down the sink, or experimented upon and strip-mined for their embryonic stem cells.

There is a certain banality about evil. It doesn't necessarily present itself in a monstrous or dramatic way. It can take the shape of simple conformity to what everyone else is doing, to what the leadership says is right, to what the neighbors are doing. The gradual encroachment of evil in our lives can be something we might not even notice because we are not paying attention; it can be something barely on the periphery of our consciousness.

The majority of those who collaborated with some of history's most terrible crimes and falsehoods need not be cast as inhuman monsters; instead, they were often like us. They were capable of giving and receiving sympathy and love; they could have beautiful feelings and noble ideals; heroism, loyalty, family, and culture could all co-exist with almost unbelievable evil.

During the Nazi years,

there often were no momentous decisions to be made for or against evil. People were concerned with their daily affairs, and on that level, Nazism seemed good: It seemed to bring prosperity, it made things work, it allowed people to feel good about themselves and their country. The moral issues — the ones that we now see as having been central — were carefully avoided.

When the full horror of Nazism was revealed at the end of the war, the German people responded, "We didn't know." When a local townsman was asked whether he knew what was going on in the camp, he gave a more complete answer. "Yes, we knew something was up, but we didn't talk about it, we didn't want to know too much." Primo Levi, a writer and a survivor of Auschwitz, described the German ethical blind spot this way:

"In spite of the varied possibilities for information, most Germans didn't know because they didn't want to know. Because, indeed they wanted not to know.... Those who knew did not talk; those who did not know did not ask questions; those who did ask questions received no answers. In this way the typical German citizen won and defended his ignorance, which seemed to him sufficient justification of his adherence to Nazism. Shutting his mouth, his eyes and his ears, he built for himself the illusion of not knowing, hence not being an accomplice to the things taking place in front of his door."

Martin Luther King Jr. used to say that what pained him

the most was the silence of the good. Albert Einstein, who fled Germany when Hitler came to power, articulated the same sentiment in an interview for *Time* magazine on Dec. 23, 1940. He stressed that sometimes it was only the Church and religion that could challenge the status quo as evil made inroads into a society:

"Being a lover of freedom, when the revolution came in Germany I looked for the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but no, the universities immediately were silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers, whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom. But they, like the universities were silenced in a few short weeks. Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I had never any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom."

The courageous, even daring question we must ask is, "What is our own response to the evil around us?"

Father Tadeuz 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.ncbcenter.org.

Tammy Dittmer, a 36-year-old Euless resident and the mother of a young son, says that the ability to utilize the service over the past year has been "life changing." "I didn't have a car, and I couldn't save enough money to purchase one, because I was paying \$28 a day in cab fare to get to my job" at a local discount store....

for what became known as the "HEB Transit Project."

The transportation service, offered free of charge to eligible residents, has now been operational for over a year and has provided over 2,000 rides during that time. American Red Cross vans provide transportation from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, to low-income workers in the HEB area. The service also takes riders to CentrePort at the D/FW Airport or to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission office on John T. White Road in East Fort Worth.

Tammy Dittmer, a 36-year-old Euless resident and the mother of a young son, says that the ability to utilize the service over the past year has been "life changing." "I didn't have a car, and I couldn't save enough money to purchase one, because I was paying \$28 a day in cab fare to get to my job" at a local discount store,

she recalled. "With all our bills, there just wasn't anything left over." Thanks to the assistance she received through the HEB Transit Project, Dittmer was recently able to purchase a 2004 Ford Taurus. "This experience — saving for, and buying my own car — definitely built up my confidence," said Dittmer, who now works as a full-time manager at an apartment complex.

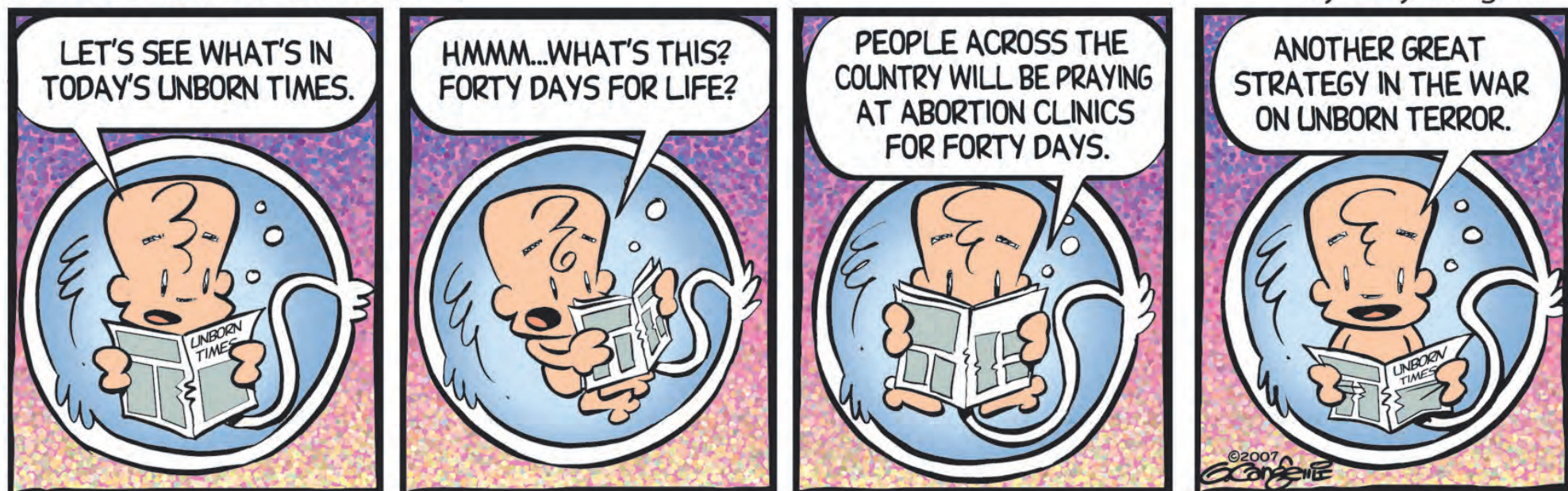
As for Henry DelCastillo, while he considers the HEB Transit Project "a tremendous success," he isn't content to rest upon his laurels. He is also passionate about his work with "Educate the Children," a Mission Council program of the Diocese of Fort Worth that partners with Father Bob Thames in serving children in Cabezas, Bolivia. DelCastillo has been to Bolivia twice to assist with the program, he said.

"Actually, my reasons for serving are very selfish," mused DelCastillo. "I just want to 'pay back' for all of the benefits and treasures I have received. The Holy Spirit has entered my life, and I while I thought I was the one in charge all these years, it's taken me until now to learn that [God] was the one who has always been in control. And I'm grateful. That's why I do what I do."

For more information about the HEB Transit Project, visit online at www.nctcog.org, or call one of the following participating organizations: Catholic Charities, (817) 534-0814; Christian Connection, (817) 283-8746; Mission Central, (817) 595-0011; NEED Center East, (817) 280-0286; St. John the Apostle Church, (817) 284-4811; Travelers Aid (D/FW Airport), (817) 574-4420; or Workforce Solutions Mid-Cities Center, (817) 399-7500.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



Good Newsmaker

When Henry DelCastillo retired, it was a bright day for families without transportation in Northeast Tarrant County, as he got to work and

GOT THINGS ROLLING

By Nicki Prevou / Staff Writer

Three years ago, after a 35-year career as a sales management executive at Mattel, Henry DelCastillo made the decision to retire.

"I made the choice to retire, even though my company wasn't ready for me to go," explained DelCastillo, who had also retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of colonel 10 years earlier after 36 years of continuous service. "I had decided that I wanted to move on."

He found himself filled with the same restless energy that had driven him from his home at age 17 and propelled him into a life of consistent achievement and impressive professional success. He was ready to search for something to fill his time.

"...After I stopped working, I found myself wondering, 'What am I going to do...?'" he admitted. "I don't play golf, I don't really have hobbies, and my grandchildren are grown. I realized that I needed to be involved in service."



ABOVE:

St. Michael Church parishioner Henry DelCastillo poses with one of the clients served by the HEB Transit Project. DelCastillo helped bring the transportation service into being as he advocated to provide public transportation for people without cars in the South Hurst-Eules-Bedford area in Northeast Tarrant County. A talk with Father John Robert Skeldon, then associate pastor of St. Michael's, opened his heart to entering a life of greater service as he moved into retirement.

The drive to be productive is a deeply ingrained personal characteristic, explained DelCastillo, a native of New York City. "I was a high school dropout. I joined the Army on a whim at 17. The Army got me

on the right path, and I began working toward my education," he recalled. "It took me 24 years to get my bachelor of science degree, but I did it. For years I was working, serving in the Army [Reserve], married,

raising my children, and going to school, all at the same time." DelCastillo settled in the Metroplex in 1971 with his wife, Ruth, and their two daughters. Having attended other area Catholic churches in the past,

DelCastillo found himself inspired by a meeting in 2004 with Father John Robert Skeldon, who was serving as an associate pastor at St. Michael Church in Bedford at the time.

"Talking with Fr. Skeldon was a turning point for me," reflected DelCastillo. "He was very instrumental in leading me into this life of service. I consider it something of an awakening."

After becoming a parishioner at St. Michael's, DelCastillo soon became involved in weekly Scripture studies, stewardship efforts, and the work of the Northeast Emergency Distribution Committee (NEED), an interfaith outreach program supported by the parish. As he personally interviewed NEED clients as a volunteer counselor, he was struck by the problems faced by individuals who lacked dependable transportation and were thus unable to find and maintain employment.

"A research project, 'Sites on Texas,' found that in 2004, 1,300 families with children in the South Hurst-Eules-Bedford (HEB) area did not have a vehicle at all," explained Nicole Foster, who serves as communications coordinator at St. Michael's. "Henry began conceptualizing a transporta-

SEE, P. 22



LEFT:

On a mission trip to Bolivia this past summer, Henry DelCastillo takes a turn cooking for the folks from the Diocese of Fort Worth who traveled there to offer support for the work of Father Bob Thames, a priest of Fort Worth who has worked in mission in Latin America for more than half of his 43 years of priesthood. DelCastillo is passionate about his work with "Educate the Children," a Mission Council program of the diocese. (Photo by Chris Kastner)

RIGHT:

DelCastillo, (Left) poses with Bishop Kevin Vann (Center) and Father Bob Thames in front of artwork of the Last Supper which decorates the altar of Fr. Thames' church in Cabezas, Bolivia. (Photo by Chris Kastner)



Inside... This issue of the NTC

Of varying ages and different Christian faiths, supporters of the pro-life message gathered in 17 different locations across the diocese Oct. 7 for the 20th annual Life Chain. **2**

It took many years and a process of discernment, before Father Kyle Walterscheid became a priest. Now, as director of Vocations, he encourages others to listen and discern God's call. **6**

Father Tad Pacholczyk challenges us by walking through the Nazi death camps and asking the dreaded question: Could it happen again? You may be shocked at his answer. **11**

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