



A tapestry showing St. Damien de Veuster hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Pope Benedict XVI canonized the 19th-century Belgian missionary who ministered to people with leprosy in Hawaii. Four others (whose tapestries, along with St. Damien's are pictured above) were also canonized during an Oct. 11 Mass inside St. Peter's Basilica. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pope canonizes Father Damien, four others as models of Christian love

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Calling them “shining examples” of Christian love, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed five new saints, including Father Damien de Veuster, the 19th-century Belgian missionary who ministered to people with leprosy in Hawaii before dying of the disease.

At a Mass Oct. 11 overflowing with pilgrims from around the

world, the pope also canonized Sister Jeanne Jugan, a French nun whose Little Sisters of the Poor continue to assist the elderly in the United States and more than 30 other countries.

After brief biographies of the five were read aloud, the pope pronounced a solemn decree of canonization and proclaimed them models of holiness for the whole church. Relics of the new saints were placed on the altar as

St. Peter's Basilica was filled with a sung “Alleluia.”

In his homily, the pope said the newly canonized had typified the Christian vocation of radical conversion and self-sacrifice made “with no thought of human calculation and advantage.”

“Their perfection, in the logic of the faith that is sometimes humanly incomprehensible, consists in no longer placing themselves at
SEE CANONIZATION P. 24

Major concerns remain unresolved in health reform bills, bishops say

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—None of the major health reform bills before Congress adequately addresses the concerns raised by the U.S. bishops in the areas of abortion, conscience protection, immigrants, and affordability, said the heads of three major committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Oct. 8.

One of those major bills passed the Senate Finance Committee Oct. 13 in a 14-9 vote. The measure, proposed by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee chairman, must now be combined with a version from the Senate health committee.

Efforts in the last several weeks to amend the Baucus bill to prohibit coverage of abortion funding and include a conscience protection clause for health care workers failed.

In their Oct. 8 letter to all members of Congress, Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City said: “If final legislation does not meet our principles, we will have no

choice but to oppose the bill.”

“Much-needed reform of our health care system must be pursued in ways that serve the life and dignity of all, never in ways that undermine or violate these fundamental values,” they added. “We will work tirelessly to remedy these central problems and help pass real reform that clearly protects the life, dignity, and health of all.”

The three chair the USCCB committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Pro-Life Activities, and Migration, respectively.

The bishops reiterated their earlier calls on Congress to ensure that any health reform plan:

— Exclude mandated coverage of abortions and incorporate long-standing federal policies against taxpayer-funded abortions and in favor of conscience rights.

— Make quality health care affordable and accessible to everyone.

— Include effective measures to safeguard the health of immigrants, their children and all of society, with legal immigrants given “comprehensive, affordable”
SEE BISHOPS, P. 9

Sisters of Life Superior General tells story of her call at Bishop's Pro-Life banquet



Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, S.V., served as keynote presenter at the 2009 Catholic Pro-Life Banquet, held Sept. 26 in downtown Fort Worth.

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

For Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, years of defending and serving human life began with a question.

Looking into the eyes of a newborn niece, the doting aunt, who would become Superior General of the Sisters of Life in New York City, noticed the infant's emerging personality and recalled how doctors had advised her sister to abort the pregnancy because of advanced maternal age.

“Out of nowhere came a thought — which I now recognize as inspiration,” the speaker told listeners attending the Bishop's Annual Catholic Pro-Life Ban-

quet. “I addressed the child's mother and said, ‘Kathleen, when Caitlin is 13, what are we going to tell her we did to protect the lives of the unborn?’ At that moment I was recruited for the cause of the culture of life.”

An academic/clinical psychologist and published author of numerous articles on family intervention and mother/child relationships, the former college professor left her position at Columbia University to help the late Cardinal John O'Connor of New York establish a new religious community of sisters. Founded in 1991, the group of consecrated women, known as the Sisters of Life, take a fourth vow to
SEE BANQUET, P. 9

3,500 registered for first UD Ministry Conference hosted by dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas

More than 3,500 participants from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas have already registered to attend the University of Dallas Ministry Conference to be held Oct. 23-24 at the Dallas Convention Center, located at 650 E. Griffin St. in Dallas.

Featured speakers include Washington D.C. Archbishop Donald Wuerl and CNN's senior Vatican commentator, John Allen. A concert by popular Catholic musician John Michael Talbot will also be part of the program.



On-site registration will be available for individuals. For more information, see page 6.

Synod of Bishops for Africa

Synod official highlights growth of church in Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Statistics released during the October Synod of Bishops for Africa illustrate significant growth among African Catholics and point toward a hopeful future for the continent, according to a leading Vatican official.

The numbers indicate growth in the Catholic population, the number of church-run organizations providing health and education services, and even in the number of African martyrs, said Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, secretary-general for the Synod of Bishops, in a report read to the synod's first general assembly Oct. 5.

The number of African Catholics increased by more than 62 million people from 1994, the year in which the first African synod was held, to the end of 2007. The rate of growth among Catholics during that period, about 60 percent, was almost twice as high as the rate of growth among the general population in Africa, which was about 33 percent.

The church in Africa saw a rise in the number of bishops, priests, deacons, people in consecrated



Pope Benedict XVI leads the opening session of the Synod of Bishops for Africa in the synod hall at the Vatican Oct. 5. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

life, and laypeople. The number of priests increased by 49 percent, seminarians by 44 percent, and lay missionaries by 94 percent.

Archbishop Eterovic referred to this recent growth as "many gifts bestowed on the church in Africa," and thanked God for

"the great dynamism witnessed in the statistics."

He lauded 521 pastoral workers who gave their lives in Africa from 1994 to 2008. These African martyrs include 248 victims of the 1994 Rwandan conflict and 40 seminarians murdered in Burundi

in 1997.

"Undoubtedly, the pastors of the particular churches will recognize candidates for canonization, not only to increase the number of African saints but also to obtain more intercessors in heaven," Archbishop Eterovic said.

The statement also called attention to an increase in the number of Africa's charitable, medical, and educational organizations. There are 53 Caritas programs and 42 justice and peace commissions that offer the African population a wide variety of services in the areas of economic justice, peace-building, and human development.

At the end of 2007, there were 16,178 pastoral health care institutions on the African continent. They include hospitals, orphanages, rehabilitation centers, clinics, marriage-counseling centers, houses for the elderly and disabled, and multiple centers that respond to different needs.

African Catholic schools serve more than 19 million students, ranging from preschool to high school. Higher institutions of learning have more than 54,000 students; about 11,000 of those students are enrolled in ecclesiastical studies.

Archbishop Eterovic said the data on these organizations was a "laudable, important testimony to many Christians, above all to Catholics who work tirelessly."

Ethnic tensions in the church must be overcome, say African bishops

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Catholics in Africa have to overcome lingering ethnic and racial tensions within their own church communities in order to be credible witnesses to the Gospel and powerful agents for change, said a number of African bishops.

Part of the solution lies in a radical change of heart and greater emphasis on the church's vision of diverse peoples belonging to the same family of God, many bishops said in speeches Oct. 6 at the Synod of Bishops for Africa.

Cardinal Polycarp Pengo of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, said, "Questions like selfishness, greed for material wealth, ethnicity resulting in ethnic conflicts, and others, which are the root causes of the lack of peace in many African societies, must be confronted without fear or favor and be followed up with specific pastoral directives."

He said he was saddened by allegations that priests have been involved in these conflicts either by their failing to act "or even by direct commission."

"In this synod we must have the courage to denounce even against ourselves things like the misuse of the role and practice of authority, tribalism, and ethnocentrism," as well as religious leaders being guilty of political

The faithful need to achieve a better understanding of how the sacraments bring them closer to Christ and to one another.

— **Bishop Michael Bhasera Masvingo, Zimbabwe**

partisanship, he said.

If the church in Africa can overcome its divisions and demonstrate real unity and communion, then it can speak with more authority about reconciliation, justice, and peace, said Cardinal Pengo.

Bishop Sithembele Anton Sipuka of Umtata, South Africa, said racial tensions still exist among parishioners and seminarians.

The tensions manifest themselves "in the lack of communion and cooperation between racial groups," he said, such as in not being able to get black, white, and other Catholics to come together to diocesan events like pilgrimages and ordinations.

"There are also indications that in our seminaries students of other races, especially white students, do not feel at peace with

black students," he said.

Bishop Sipuka said the principles of democracy and equality in post-apartheid South Africa have not filtered down to the people. In day-to-day life, "people still operate under the old system, perceiving themselves as still different and even enemies of each other," he said.

It has been easier to change the nation's institutions than the people's mentality, he said.

But with its primary focus on changing hearts, the church can make a significant contribution to overcoming racial barriers and fostering peaceful coexistence, he said.

Bishop Martin Munyanyi of Gweru, Zimbabwe, said reconciliation is needed both in the nation and the church because "we see simmering tension in some of our parishes due to language and ethnic differences."

The bishop also acknowledged church failures in the area of justice, including sometimes failing to pay employees a just wage and situations in which priests misuse church resources.

Another problem needing correction is that "some church practices tend to have a bias against the girl child. For example, the girl is punished while the boy is not," he said.

Bishop Michael Bhasera of

Masvingo, Zimbabwe, said it is very "painful when Catholics turn against fellow Catholics in conflicting political, social, economic, or regional scenarios."

The tensions can be overcome with better pastoral attention to educating everyone about the meaning of the church as a family of God, he said.

The faithful need to achieve a better understanding of how the sacraments bring them closer to Christ and to one another, said Bishop Bhasera.

"Sacramental bonds can be stronger than the biological bond that binds families" and can draw people of different ethnic and tribal origins closer together by being "bound by one blood, the blood of Christ," he said.

Bishop Lucas Abadamloora of Navrongo-Bolgatanga, Ghana, said there is a sense of racial discrimination even within the universal church.

He said the principle of the universal family of God is not experienced by many bishops, priests, and laity from Africa who travel to the United States, Europe, and other parts of the world.

"Our experience of the church in Europe and America and even by some of our brother bishops and priests suggests that we are second-class family members or that we belong to a different

church," he said.

"The impression is created that we need them, but they do not need us," he said.

"Theory of fraternity and community is strong, but the practice is weak," he said, adding that the synod should address this problem and find ways so that "all belong and feel at home" in the church.

Cardinal Emmanuel Wamala, retired archbishop of Kampala, Uganda, warned the synod that a lack of education, especially of current and future political leaders, is leaving the continent's countries vulnerable to continuing corruption and exploitation.

"In most countries in Africa, the politics we are experiencing is godless politics," he said, and "it is this style of leadership which breeds conflicts."

"A new breed of dictators is replacing the former ones," he said. These new "mild dictators" practice a kind of "political engineering" in which they proclaim to be fighting for the rights, development, and well-being of the people, but in reality pursue other, more selfish, interests.

Cardinal Wamala said the solution lies in evangelizing future leaders through education in the family and schools regarding the values espoused by Catholic Social Teaching.

Boy Scouts from Troop 32 begin compiling 90-year history



Standing in front of the Knights of Columbus Council 759 Hall in Keller, the Historians of Boy Scout Troop 32 began their journey during October 2009 to publish their troop's history. Standing from left to right Grayson B., Randall M., Trey D., John Ryan. Kneeling are Brandon C., Enoc M., Michael M., Kyle H.

Boy Scout Historians of Troop 32, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 759 in Keller, have started a quest to organize and distribute their almost 90-year history. Articles, stories, and pictures of troop activities and events since the troop's formation will all be compiled onto a CD to be given out to all members of the troop.

During the next six months, "We will also organize a reunion for all Scouting alumni of Troop 32," says Grayson, Jamboree troop historian.

One of the goals of the historians for May of 2010 is to plan, coordinate, and run a celebration recognizing the 100th anniversary

of Scouting.

According to Kyle, Troop 32 historian, "The historians will also be designing a patch and neckerchief slide for this event."

From organizing upcoming events to celebrating the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts in 2010, to archiving and documenting articles and pictures, the Historians of Troop 32 have embarked on an innovative journey to make the history of their troop easily available to all its members.

For more information, Scouts/Scouters, alumni, or friends may contact Troop 32 Historian Advisor John Ryan at thetexaswebguy@yahoo.com or call (817) 939-5673.

Responding to God's Call

Evangelism first begins in our homes

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

When I am invited to someone's home, more often than not, it takes less than five minutes to know whether or not God's peace resides there, as it becomes self-evident.

For children, as well as for adults, the home is to be a safe haven from the rest of the world. It is to be a place of serenity and security, family and faith, friendship and prayer, charity and hospitality. I often say that we can't control what goes on in the world, but we do have the power to create a spiritual place we call home for our family. So, what are ways to make our home spiritual and a safe haven?

Scripture should be the first staple in the home. The Bible should be placed in a prominent place in our home, such as at the dining room table. We ought to consider having Bible quotes on various wall hangings, on magnets on the refrigerator, and maybe something like a quote of the day chosen from among the family for all to commit to memory before everyone disperses for the day.

Prayer should be another staple in the home. Vatican II documents state that the family is the domestic church. Since the family is the first church children will know, it is important that prayer be the heart of the home. Families can all learn a morning prayer of consecration and a night prayer of thanksgiving to be mindful of the steadfast protection God gives to those who love and serve Him.

In addition, not a bite of food should enter our mouths

without a prayer. We can recite traditional prayers before and after meals, or we can pray spontaneously. Either way, we ought to give God thanks for our lives before each meal and to give Him thanks for the food that will nourish our bodies so that we may continue to carry out his will.

The household should all come together each evening to pray together. I'm not talking an hour here, but from five to 15 minutes every day. We can pray the rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or pray a novena for a specific need. Children need to clearly know what is to be expected in the home. In praying together daily as a family, parents will notice that their children will naturally yearn to get the chance to lead prayer or to be recognized that their prayers are important too, thus building them up to be spiritual warriors and evangelizers for the next generation.

The third staple is to have established rules of the house. Parents need to be aware that rules and things permissible and non-permissible pertain to both verbal and non-verbal communication. If we are constantly caught up into work, foul language, gossip, or sinful vices, then this infects our children. While we often want our children to grow up to be just like us, God may think that's not such a good idea when we are not living our life according to Christ and the Church.

So, parents, you are responsible for establishing clear expectations, rules, and regulations for daily living, starting first by your own example. These regulations may include leisure time, cleaning and chore time, study time, prayer time, meal time, as well as times for family meetings or preparing for special events, seasons, and occasions.

There should also be regular time set aside for quality family time, time to do things together, ranging from games

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.

and projects, to movies and sports. There is truly a need for parents to bond with their children, even more so with their teens, listening, as well as lending advice, faith perspective, and our own experience, to share the struggles and the concerns of their children.

Lastly, a new staple to building a spiritual home is filtering and monitoring the home from everything electronic. Yes, this may be the toughest job of them all. If we desire God's peace to fill our home, then we are obligated to filter what is permitted in the home. Along with electronic filters, TVs and computers ought to be located only in public spots of the house and not in individual rooms.

The average parent today has lost their authority over their teenager, allowing them to think they actually have individual rights in regard to electronic gadgets (and a whole lot more). Not so! Everything should be considered a privilege (positive reinforcement) and not a right; a privilege that can be taken away (negative reinforcement) when a rule has been broken or an irresponsible behavior has occurred. As a rule of thumb, if you can't monitor it or don't have time to monitor it, then it doesn't belong in your home!

When you evaluate your home, you ought to be able to say that your home is a safe haven from the rest of the world, a place that others can come and visit and enter into a little place of paradise. When your home speaks to others that you are serving the Lord by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that may be the best evangelization you could ever do. And it won't take five minutes for them to see that Christ resides in your home!

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

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White Mass announced for health care professionals

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

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

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

Couple to Couple League offers Natural Family Planning classes

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

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

St. George Altar Society to host Harvest Dance Nov. 7

St. George Altar Society will host a Harvest Dance featuring music by Czech and Then Some band. The dance will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 p.m. to midnight at National Hall, 3316 Roberts Cut-off Rd., Fort Worth.

The event will also include the annual "Harvest Fruit Pull" and cakewalk. The kitchen will sell Klobase sandwiches, kolache pastries, and nachos. Ticket cost is \$12.50.

For more information and to make reservations, contact Joan at (817) 838-3106, Janet at (817) 232-8844, or Mary at (817) 838-2120.

29th annual craft fair to be held at St. Michael Parish Nov. 7-8

The Ladies Bazaar Workshop Group will hold its 29th annual craft fair in the Great Hall Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Rd., Bedford.

DCCW General Assembly to be held Oct. 28

The Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) will hold its 20th General Assembly Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 9th St., Wichita Falls.

Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will follow. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate Mass at noon.

For more information, contact Joyce Brown-Thomas at blessedone_2@netzero.net or (817) 483-9838.

St. Mary of the Assumption to host fall carnival Oct. 25

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, 509 W. Magnolia Ave., Fort Worth, will hold its annual fall carnival Sunday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary of the Assumption Parish was established in 1909 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 923-1911.

St. Rita School to host fall festival Oct. 30

St. Rita School will host its Fall Fun Fest Friday, Oct. 30, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the parish gym. All are invited to wear their Halloween costume and enjoy an evening of fun and games.

For more information, contact the school office at (817) 451-9383. St. Rita Parish is located at 5550 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary to host 'Magi's Bazaar' Nov. 7

The Altar Society of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church will host its 13th annual Magi's Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the parish hall at 1106 Avenue F in Cisco.

The bazaar will feature a variety of handmade holiday gifts and decorations in a transformed parish hall decorated for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Gift baskets, stockings, garlands, wreaths, and birdhouses are some of the handmade items to be featured, as well as many homemade delicacies and a chili lunch.

For more information, contact Paulette Foster at (254) 725-6204.

The event will again offer the "Coffee Corner" where guests can sit and relax for awhile and then continue shopping. For more information, contact Joanne Sauter at (817) 282-7331 or the parish office at (817) 283-8746.



ST. PETER SCHOOL — The formal installation of National Junior Honor Society officers was held Sept. 29. Current members are planning activities for the year that include fund raisers and service projects to benefit the school and community. Pictured above are (back row left to right) Chase Yandell, president; Molly Gribble, vice president; Sydney Jongewaard, treasurer; and Jose Torres, secretary; (front row) Andrew Steed, Jonathan Martinez, Teresa McGee, Jonathan Hernandez, and Micaela Hannah.

NTC publication deadlines

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Submit items to jrusseau@fwdioc.org. Items for the Nov. 6 issue must be received by noon on Oct. 28. Items for the Nov. 20 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 11.

St. Ann Parish, Burleson, will host Harvest Festival Oct. 31

St. Ann Parish, 100 SW Alsbury Blvd., Burleson, will host a Harvest Festival Costume Ball Saturday, Oct. 31. Festivities will begin immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass.

The evening will offer refreshments and entertainment for all

ages including candy for the kids and a costume contest. This event will be held outside if weather permits, or in the parish hall.

For additional information, call the parish office at (817) 295-5621.

Sacred Heart, Seymour, to celebrate Polka Mass Nov. 8

The Catholic Community of Seymour will celebrate with neighbors Sunday, Nov. 8, beginning with a special 10 a.m. Polka Mass at Sacred Heart Church on North Cedar Street in Seymour.

Following the Mass, a Czech Olde World dinner with Bohemian sausage, turkey and dressing with all the trimmings, and kolaches, will be served at Sacred Heart Mosler Hall until 1:30 p.m. A silent auction will be held during the meal. A country store of baked goods, kolaches, and Bohemian sausage will also be a highlight of the event.

Sacred Heart Church is located two-and-a-half hours from the Fort Worth area going on 199 west to Jacksboro and then 114 west to Seymour. For more information, contact the parish office at (940) 889-5252.

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Burkburnett, to host fall festival Oct. 25

The 44th annual St. Jude Thaddeus Parish fall festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall, 600 Davy Dr., Burkburnett.

The community-wide annual event is the parish's main fund raiser for the year. The festival will offer an all-you-can-eat turkey and German sausage meal with all the trimmings. The cost of the dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages five-12. Children under the age of five eat free. Dinners may also be purchased conveniently at a drive-through in front of the parish hall from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. In addition to the dinner, the event will feature home-baked goods for sale and a silent auction.

For more information, call (940) 224-1937.

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

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

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

Nolan band to hold 'Parking Lot Flea Market' Oct. 24

The Nolan Catholic High School Viking Band will hold its first annual Parking Lot Flea Market Saturday, Oct. 24, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations are also being accepted for the event. Donations may be dropped off Friday, Oct. 23, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Nolan Catholic Hartnett Arena. Tax deduction receipts will be given at drop-off.

For more information, contact John Schock at (817) 939-5394. Nolan Catholic High School is located at 4501 Bridge St. in Fort Worth.

St. Peter School to host fund raising event Nov. 14

St. Peter School will host its 14th annual "Viva Las Vegas" fund raising event Saturday, Nov. 14, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Lockheed Martin Recreation Center, 3400 Bryant Irvin, Fort Worth.

The evening will include refreshments, music, and silent and live auctions. All proceeds will benefit St. Peter School through capital improvements and tuition assistance. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Guests must be 21 to attend.

For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the school office at (817) 246-2032.

Holy Family Parish to hold fall festival Oct. 24

Holy Family Parish, 6146 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth, will host its 2009 fall festival with a "Collegiate Pep Rally" theme Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Over 20 national and state universities will be represented at the event. The event's highlights will include bounce houses for all ages, cakewalk, face painting, festival food, and children's games.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Holy Family School office until Wednesday, Oct. 21, or on the day of the festival. Prices are as follows: wristband (offers unlimited access to most games) \$15 in advance; \$18 at festival; tickets, 10 for \$4.50 or 20 for \$9 in advance; 10 for \$5 or 20 for \$10 at the festival.

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

Courage group meets twice monthly

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for Catholics striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality, meets the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month.

For more information, e-mail to CourageDFW@Catholic.org or call (972) 938-5433.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet Oct. 22

The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry With Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, Their Families, and Friends regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held Oct. 22 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth.

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



ST. RITA INTERNATIONAL FAIR — Parishioners and guests enjoyed a performance by a group of dancers at the International Fair held at St. Rita Parish Oct. 3. Guests were treated to various ethnic foods as well as entertainment and games for all ages.

People and Events

Bushman discusses 'New Evangelization' at first JP II and Pizza Too! monthly lecture

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Keli Veda grew up fascinated by Pope John Paul II.

"He's the only pope I'd ever known," says the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner who was a year old when Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected pontiff. "When I was little, I actually thought popes lived forever because there was never a new one."

To learn more about the impact the late Holy Father had on the Church and society, the 28-year-old attended the first session of "JP II and Pizza Too!" offered Sept. 29 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller. The series of monthly lectures is designed to help adults of all ages develop a better understanding of the legacy Pope John Paul II left the Church through his writings and teachings.

"I thought this was a great way to start learning about his life and what he did," explains Veda, who plans to attend the series until its conclusion in April. "It was interesting to find out why popes do what they do."

Sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth's new Pope John Paul II Institute, "JP II and Pizza Too!" is part of the ongoing 40th anniversary celebration in the diocese. Douglas Bushman, director of the Institute of Pastoral Theology at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida, and a recognized expert on the writings of Pope John Paul II, will present the series of programs, which began with a discussion of the pontiff's thoughts on Vatican II and the new evangelization. The next lecture, which will take place Oct. 20 at St. Elizabeth, will explore John Paul's teachings on "The Meaning of Life in Christ." A \$4 pizza dinner precedes each presentation.

In his well-resourced, scholarly presentation, the professor told the audience when Karol Wojtyla became pope in 1979, his impact on the study of theology was immediate.

"This man produced so much literature — encyclicals, pastoral letters, homilies, addresses — he was difficult to keep up with," said Bushman,



Professor Douglas Bushman, director of the Institute of Pastoral Theology at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida, discusses Pope John Paul II and his "New Evangelization."

who was a graduate student at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland at the beginning of the papacy. "Half of my adult life was spent under the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, and for all that time I've had the privilege of reading, following his lead, and now teaching a course on him."

He also pointed out that in order to understand John Paul II's years as pope, devotees of the late Holy Father must read Vatican II documents. As a 42-year-old, the auxiliary bishop of Krakow participated in the historic gathering of Church leaders.

"From the get-go, he dedicated his entire pontificate to the implementation of the Second Vatican Council," the speaker explained. "The first indication John Paul II gave of his commitment was the double name."

The name John Paul was originally adopted by the Polish cardinal's predecessor, Cardinal Albino Luciani, whose pontificate lasted 33 days.

"When Cardinal Wojtyla was elected pope, he decided the inspiration behind the double name, John Paul, was prophetic and he made it his own," Bushman said. "Pope John XXIII convoked Vatican II and Pope Paul VI concluded it, so the double name points to Vatican II."

Throughout his extraordinary, voluminous creation of verbal material, John Paul II constantly referred to the Second Vatican Council, and he encouraged theologians, pastors, and the faithful to read and study its documents.

"It's as if John Paul understood that the gift of Vatican II

was a gift to the entire Church," the college professor added. "We have his authoritative interpretation and implementation of Vatican II, but we also have an exhortation for all of us to read the texts and allow them to speak to us and form our faith."

In the second part of his two-hour lecture, Bushman discussed the new evangelization advocated by Pope John Paul II. Many people think the term is something that came to the Holy Father later in his papacy.

"But in his first pilgrimage to Poland in 1979, he explicitly said the New Evangelization is rooted in the Second Vatican Council," the speaker disclosed.

What makes the renewal of Vatican II so challenging, Bushman said, is that there is nothing new. The Church's documents, creed, sacraments are the same.

"We're the ones who are supposed to change," Bushman said.

John Paul II was always going beyond the external, visible, institutional, organizational aspects of faith to the heart-to-heart relationship and the personal self-giving between God and his people.

"We are the ones who must engage in conversion and the fruit of that conversion is the new evangelization," he pointed out. "There is an essential continuity in the Church's life, mission, and identity. It's more a question of deepening our participation in the mystery of the Church."

What has changed is people's ability to travel and the new forms of media and communication.



Bushman shares with audience members at the pizza dinner preceding his lecture.

"We have [John Paul II's] authoritative interpretation and implementation of Vatican II, but we also have an exhortation for all of us to read the texts and allow them to speak to us and form our faith."

— Douglas Bushman

"All of these things can be harnessed and put in service to the new evangelization," Bushman stated.

The attentive, 60-member audience, which included former students of the lay theologian, asked Bushman to explain on several points during a question and answer session that followed the formal lecture.

Joe Christensen, a graduate student at the University of Dallas, came to the program because of his interest in John

Paul II and the speaker's reputation as an authority on the evening's topic.

"Professor Bushman's comments on the Theology of the Body and his advice to look back at (the Book of) Genesis to understand the modern world with new eyes is something I hadn't heard before," the literature student said. "He has a unique way of connecting the dots which helps people understand what John Paul II accomplished."

'JP II and Pizza Too!' Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

Feb. 16 — "The Vocation to Work"

March 16 — "The Vocation to Love and Suffering"

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

The format for the evenings will be as follows:

6 p.m. Pizza Dinner for \$4 per person

6:30 p.m. Presentation

8:15-9 p.m. Questions and Discussion

UD Ministry Conference information at a glance

More than 3,500 participants from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas have already registered to attend the University of Dallas Ministry Conference to be held Oct. 23-24 at the Dallas Convention Center, located at 650 E. Griffin St. in Dallas. The annual conference, co-sponsored this year for the first time by the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, will be the only Roman Catholic ministry conference to be held in either diocese during the 2009-2010 school year. All Catholic schools in both dioceses will be closed on Friday Oct. 23 so that administrators, teachers, and staff can participate fully in the conference.

The conference will feature 56 speakers, 60 exhibiting organizations, keynote presentations and breakout sessions in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese; live Christian music, a free concert with Catholic musician John Michael Talbot, and a Mass on Saturday concelebrated

by Bishop Kevin W. Vann, Bishop Kevin J. Farrell of Dallas, and Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio of Tyler.

For more information and a detailed schedule, visit the UDMC Web site at www.udministryconference.com or call (972) 518-1600.

Para español llame al (972) 265-5811.

DATES

- **OCTOBER 23:** Conference sessions designed for clergy, Catholic school teachers, religious educators, and catechetical leaders will be offered in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Nametags for Catholic school teachers and administrators will be mailed prior to the event.

- **OCTOBER 24:** Conference sessions for Catholics of all backgrounds and areas of interest will be offered in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

LOCATION

The UDMC Conference will be held at Hall C/Ballroom C at the Dallas Convention Center, located at 650 E. Griffin St., Dallas. Garage parking is \$10 per day. Parking fee must be paid in cash only. Concessions are available during the day for snacks and meals.

REGISTRATION

Online registration ends Oct. 20; all group registration opportunities also end Oct. 20. After that date, individual registrations will be available onsite at the registration booth located in Lobby C. Conference registration rates range from \$35 for a one-day pass with pre-registration to \$75 for a two-day pass with a walk-in registration.

LODGING

Participants may arrange for reser-



ations at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, located at 300 Reunion Blvd. in downtown Dallas. The hotel reservations office may be contacted at (214) 651-1234. Participants in the UD Ministry Conference will receive discounted rates.

Our Mother of Mercy, diocese's only African-American church celebrates 80th anniversary

Our Mother of Mercy Church, Fort Worth's only predominantly African-American Catholic church, will celebrate its 80th anniversary on Oct. 25. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate the 80th Anniversary Mass at 10 a.m. A chocolate and champagne reception will immediately follow with Ralph McCloud providing the keynote remarks.

Ralph McCloud, the former mayor pro tem of Fort Worth and director of Community and Pastoral Services for the Diocese of Fort Worth, is now the national director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development under the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. McCloud maintains close ties with Our Mother of Mercy, where he was a parishioner for many years.

The Mass and reception are the culmination of eight months of celebrations honoring the church and its associated school. Other events included special church history presentations, church dinners, a Walk for the Poor, the parish's first ritual baptism, a '70's [and '80's] dance, and a fall festival benefiting Our Mother of Mercy School.

Founded in 1929, Our Mother of Mercy was started by Bishop Joseph Patrick Lynch of the Diocese of Dallas and the Josephite Society of Priests. Because it was originally developed as a small church ministering to African-American Catholics, Our Mother of Mercy's pastor and parishioners received many threats from

local Ku Klux Klan members. Despite this early turmoil, the church and school persevered. Eighty years later the church now counts over 200 registered parishioners and nearly 100 students in its school.

Regarding the impending final celebrations, Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD, the church's pastor, states that he "finds great joy in celebrating four score years of [Our Mother of Mercy] sharing the good news with each other and our extended family."

Our Mother of Mercy is located at 1007 East Terrell Ave. in Fort Worth. For more information on the celebrations, call the 80th



Ralph McCloud

Anniversary chairperson, Judy Bell, at (817) 726-2507.

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Diocesan

Jorge Montenegro named diocesan internal auditor

Jorge Montenegro, CPA, has been named parish auditor for the Diocese of Fort Worth. He will serve as the diocesan internal auditor, working to ensure compliance with diocesan standards in parishes, schools, and other entities.



Jorge Montenegro

Montenegro, born in San Jose, Costa Rica, has lived in the United States for 10 years. A former resident of Los Angeles and of Cincinnati, he and his wife, Patricia, and son, Santiago, have lived in the Metroplex since 2006 and are parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine.

A graduate of the University of Costa Rica with a licentiate in accounting, Montenegro is certified through the American Institute of Internal Auditors. He has 15 years of auditing experience with major corporations,

including his most recent position as an internal auditor with Mission Foods.

Montenegro can be reached by calling The Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300 ext. 113 or via e-mail at jmontenegro@fwdioc.org.

Lost in Time



This photograph of then-Bishop John J. Cassata meeting students at an airport was found in diocesan files. If you or someone you know has information about this group of students or photograph, contact NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC Editorial Assistant Nicki Prevou at nprevou@fwdioc.org.

Fr. John Hampsch to lead family healing conference Oct. 23-24

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

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

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

During the conference, Fr. Hampsch will address such topics as: why people should be concerned about family healing; scriptural references of fathers' sins being passed down

generations and whether mothers convey sins' effects to their offspring; when illness is not a punishment for personal or ancestral sin; what other reasons there are for sickness; and how sin can be transmitted through generations.

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

For more information about Fr. Hampsch, visit his Web site at www.claretiantapeministry.org.

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

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Diocesan

New Chapel of Christ the Teacher at College of St. Thomas More will provide students and local residents a sacred space for

Prayer and Worship

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

For Rebecca Schivone Smith, the Oct. 5 dedication of the Chapel of Christ the Teacher at the College of Saint Thomas More was a longed-awaited event.

"I'm happy that after this much time there's a new building that represents the faith of the college properly," says the former student, who graduated from the small, Catholic liberal arts school 10 years ago. "I remember when the chapel was the size of a closet in the back room of a house."

More than 100 faculty members, students, alumni, and benefactors watched as Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann consecrated the worship space located at 3020 Lubbock Ave. near the campus of Texas Christian University. The Mass of Consecration included the sacred rites of purifying the walls with holy water and anointing the altar with chrism, filling the room with the fragrance of incense.

Part of a cluster of buildings in the TCU area, the chapel



Students, faculty, and benefactors offer praise after the 125-seat chapel is consecrated by Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann.

represents where the focus of philosophy and theology must be in Catholic tradition — Christ the Lord and teacher, the bishop said in his homily. Echoing the thoughts of Jesuit theologian Father Karl Rahner, he reminded the congregation that theology is best done, "on its knees."

"Please bring here daily your daily studies, schedules, class preparation, lecture preparation, worries, and concerns to engage in a listen-response with the greatest Professor of all," he advised the assembly of educators and students. "After all, do not the Gospel writers tell us that as his disciples gathered around

Him, He began to teach them?"

The spire of the chapel points heavenward as a reminder of the purpose and goal in life, the bishop observed, adding that the new chapel symbolized, "learning and teaching is indeed woven together and bound together with prayer and contemplation."

Completed in May, the 120-seat sanctuary is contemporary in style but features traditional, ecclesiastical details such as brick banding and a zinc roof. Electric lanterns, placed just below the steeple, welcome evening worshippers. Bells, which ring hourly, also announce the

chapel's presence in the neighborhood.

Architect Joe Self of Firm 817 designed the building with help from Dr. James Patrick, the college's chancellor.

"On this happy occasion, I thank all those who made this chapel a reality — our benefactors for their generosity, the Board of Visitors for their encouragement and support, the Fellows, tutors, and staff for making the college a place of good learning and always holding themselves honored to teach from the heart of the Church," Dr. Patrick expressed in a note

of appreciation. "I also want to thank our students for going into the world to be an honor to this college and the republic."

In addition to morning prayer and a 10 a.m. Sunday Mass, the chapel offers 24-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 12:10 p.m. on Thursday through 12:10 p.m. on Monday. The adoration program is popular not only with students but also local residents like Trino Sanchez who attended the dedication.

"It's grown so beautifully, and there have been so many blessings," says Sanchez, one of the many "adorers" who began praying at the college when the chapel was housed in a converted bedroom. "At two or three in the morning I'll be here, and two or three people will come in for 20 minutes."

The new chapel is a way of reaching out to the many students and homeowners who live in the TCU neighborhood.

"Sometimes people wander from the street not understanding we have this available," says Sanchez. "We want them to know it's a place where they can come for blessings."



ABOVE: Choir soloist Kimberly Depatie leads the congregation in song.



ABOVE: Bishop Vann consecrates the altar in the new chapel with holy oil as Deacon Don Warner looks on.

RIGHT: Local young adults Angela Harris of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington, and Carl Storrie of St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, sing at the Oct. 5 dedication ceremony.



Dr. James Patrick, chancellor of the college, (in red) welcomes a guest before the start of the Mass of Consecration.



Bishop Kevin Vann prepares to enter the Chapel of Christ the Teacher at the College of St. Thomas More.

Respect Life!

Archbishop Gomez, other Hispanic bishops meet with Latino legislators, others in Congress on policy issues affecting Hispanics

WASHINGTON—At a series of meetings at Capitol Hill, a delegation of Hispanic Bishops discussed with Democrat and Republican legislators of both houses, four areas of deep concern and offered principles of Catholic social teaching to help in the current debates.

Archbishop José Gomez of San Antonio led the Sept. 17 delegation, representing the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The bishops are keenly aware of the substantial contributions Hispanic communities make to the prosperity and well-being of the United States," said Archbishop Gomez. "Yet those same communities suffer under the weight of a broken immigration policy, as well as lack of access to quality education, adequate medical care, and economic opportunities."

Archbishop Gomez summarized the purpose of the meeting.

"We met with our political leaders of both parties to re-affirm the principles of Catholic Social Teaching about the dignity of all human beings from conception to natural death and the centrality of the common good. We offered these principles grounded in social ethics and our religious heritage as constructive guidelines for achieving a just and equitable resolution of the public policy debates around these key issues," he said.

"We met with our political leaders of both parties to re-affirm the principles of Catholic social teaching about the dignity of all human beings from conception to natural death and the centrality of the common good...."

—Archbishop José Gomez
Archbishop of San Antonio

"We join with other Hispanic leaders and all people of good will in raising our voices to affirm as clearly as we can the basic principles of social justice for all," Archbishop Gomez added.

Other members of the delegation included Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, New Mexico; Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California; Bishop James Tamayo of Laredo; Bishop Carlos Sevilla of Yakima, Washington; and Auxiliary Bishop Edgar Da Cunha of Newark, New Jersey.

A summary of the topics raised

Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., shares a light moment with Sen. Ted Kaufman, D-Del., Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., and Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., during a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington Sept. 17. They discussed a range of topics including health care and immigration reform. In the foreground is Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, and Archbishop José H. Gomez of San Antonio. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



by the bishops with legislators follows.

1. HEALTH CARE AND IMMIGRATION. The U.S. bishops have for decades been in favor of health care reform that is truly universal and respects the life and dignity of all, including the poor and legal immigrants. Health care legislation must allow all legal immigrants, regardless of income level, to participate in any new health care system and oppose any ban that would prevent them from participating for five years. Such legislation must also support the inclusion of pregnant women and children, regardless of their legal status.

2. JUST IMMIGRATION REFORM. The U.S. Bishops support just immigration reform, which contains several core elements. This would include broad-based legalization

through a program that provides an opportunity for "earned" permanent residency and a new worker program that includes a living wage. The U.S. Bishops support family-based immigration reform and a restoration of due process protections lost in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. The U.S. Bishops also support addressing the root causes of migration and the inclusion of the DREAM Act and AgJOBS in reform legislation.

3. HISPANICS AND POVERTY (HOUSING). The U.S. Bishops support a national housing policy that includes preservation and production of quality housing for low income families, the elderly and other vulnerable people. The U.S. Bishops also call for an end to abusive lending penalties

and urge Congress to fund the National Housing Trust Fund, which will preserve or produce 1.5 million rental homes in the next ten years and 200,000 new housing choice vouchers annually for 10 years.

4. HISPANICS AND EDUCATION. The U.S. Bishops encourage the federal government to promote programs that keep students in school, include Catholic students and teachers in federal education program, especially reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, reauthorize the D.C. Scholarship program to assist low income students in the District of Columbia to receive financial assistance to attend private schools, and support funding for students to attend community colleges where many Hispanic youth are educated.

Bishops find health care reform bills at present fatally flawed

FROM PAGE 1

able, and timely access to health care coverage" and an adequate safety net provided to others.

"We sincerely hope that the legislation will not fall short of our criteria," the USCCB leaders said.

But they said they "remain apprehensive" at committee votes that defeated amendments that would have protected freedom of conscience and ensured that taxpayer money went to abortions.

"If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found, we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously," the bishops said.

"We remain committed to working with the administration, congressional leadership, and our allies to produce final health reform legislation that will reflect our principles," they added.

The Baucus bill does not include a public insurance option, which some health care reform advocates have pushed for. The 10-year, \$829 billion bill would

limit co-payments and deductibles and would help low-income families purchase coverage. It would set up exchanges that would allow people to shop for health insurance and would make most Americans buy some kind of coverage.

The only Republican on the finance committee to vote for the measure was Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine.

In the U.S. House lawmakers were working to finalize their own health care reform proposal, which includes a public plan. Action on the floor of both the House and Senate was expected in the coming weeks. Whatever legislation is passed by each chamber would then go to a conference committee, where differences in the two measures would be hammered out.

In separate statements released Oct. 13, the Catholic bishops of California and Pennsylvania echoed the concerns about reform bills raised in the letter to Congress by the USCCB committee chairmen about abortion, con-

science protection, immigrants, and affordability.

In the statement from the California Catholic Conference, Bishop Stephen E. Blaize of Stockton, conference president, noted that the U.S. bishops have been calling for universal health care for more than three decades.

"And it appears we are now closer to the reality than ever before. For that we are grateful," he said. "However, the bills that have either passed out of committee or are poised to do so have failed to adequately protect human life."

Bishop Blaize called on Catholics and all people of good will to join the bishops in urging senators and members of Congress "to protect basic human life and dignity in any national health care plan as they hammer out the details of this far-reaching and needed reform."

In a statement released by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the bishops there said that "health care is not just another issue for the church or for a healthy

society. It is a fundamental issue. Health care is a critical component of the Catholic Church's ministry."

The health care reform debate "presents our country with a unique opportunity to improve the health care system for all, especially those who lack affordable coverage and decent care. We believe that health care reform legislation can be drafted to truly protect human life and dignity," they said.

"Catholics have been leading proponents of health care reform for many years in America. If a final health care reform bill does not have respect for life at all stages of development, respect for consciences, affordability, and inclusion of all of society, the bishops will be forced to oppose it," they said. "Therefore, we pray that critical shortcomings in the current proposals will be remedied."

Echoing an earlier letter to members of Congress from three bishops, officials of the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed disappointment Oct. 14 that the Senate Finance Committee passed its version of health reform legislation without resolving problems related to abortion funding, conscience rights, affordability and legal immigrants.

Oct. 14, Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, said none of the committee-passed health reform plans "is consistent with long-standing and widely supported federal policies on abortion and conscience rights."

"Contrary to recent misleading comments from some sources, this (Baucus bill) and other health care reform bills appropriate their own funds outside the scope of the annual Labor/HHS appropriations bills, and so are not covered by the Hyde amendment that prevents those bills from funding abortion coverage," he added. "This legislation needs its own provision against such funding."

Bishop's Pro-Life Banquet honors Walters family, founders of Catholics Respect Life group

FROM PAGE 1

demonstrate their dedication to protecting human life.

"To know the truth of the dignity of the human person is truly a grace," Mother Agnes explained to the audience of more than 600 pro-life volunteers and supporters who came to the Sept. 26 fundraiser at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. "We are here tonight gathered together by this grace. Let us rejoice in the calling."

Money generated from the banquet, silent auction, and raffle benefits ministries administered through the Catholics Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth. These include the Gabriel Project, a parish-based outreach to mothers in a crisis pregnancy; Rachel Ministries, which offers post-abortion healing to women and men suffering emotional and spiritual pain; Youth for Life, a peer-based ministry for teens that encourages pro-life activity; sidewalk prayer and advocacy outside Fort Worth abortion facilities; 40 Days for Life, a 40-day vigil of fasting, prayer, and community outreach outside Planned Parenthood; civic action to restore laws protecting human life through voter education; and parish resources to help facilitate pro-life activities and a culture of life at the parish level.

One of the highlights of the evening was the personal testimony of a middle-aged mother who received help from the Gabriel Project. In a voice trembling with emotion, the Vietnamese immigrant woman recounted how she was forced to marry a man she didn't know while still in high school and then endured 17 years of physical abuse. When she became pregnant with her sixth child, she recalled, her alcoholic husband demanded an abortion.

"He said we had no money for another baby, and he wanted me to go to work," she explained tearfully. "I prayed God would help me and my children."

Sidewalk counselors, standing outside Planned Parenthood, rescued the mother and her unborn baby from the situation.

"They told me not to worry. They would send a woman — a Gabriel's Angel from Arlington — to help me," she continued. "With her help, I was able to get away from my abusive and alcoholic husband."

The child, a girl, was born Oct.

Founders of the original CRL organization, Angela and Bob Walters, were presented with the first annual Service to Life award at the banquet. They are credited with developing a wide range of programs that advanced the pro-life cause in Fort Worth and will continue those efforts as members of an advisory committee working with the new diocesan office.

4, 2004 on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Thunderous applause greeted the youngster as she walked onto the stage with help from her mother's "angel" Vicki Hauck.

"I thank God and you for the wonderful work of Gabriel Project," the Vietnamese woman said to supporters.

In addition to celebrating the success of pro-life work in the diocese, Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of the Catholics Respect Life Office, used the occasion to explain recent changes in the ministry. On September 15, the active pro-life apostolate known as Catholics Respect Life (CRL) was incorporated into the diocese's Respect Life Office, now the Catholics Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Founders of the original CRL organization, Angela and Bob Walters, were presented with the first annual Service to Life award at the banquet. They are credited with developing a wide range of programs that advanced the pro-life cause in Fort Worth and will continue those efforts as members of an advisory committee working with the new diocesan office.

Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann praised the couple and other CRL

organizers for their courage and visible commitment in starting the non-profit Catholics Respect Life group.

"The saying, 'Preach the Gospel. If necessary use words,' is something attributed to St. Francis," Bishop Vann remarked. "Catholics Respect Life has done that. It's been the spark and the flame that resulted in all of you being here this evening."

Taking a chance and trying something new is a risk, he pointed out.

"But, if it's for God, it will succeed and that's what happened. Angela and Bob have been good to me and so many people. They have concretely and in a visible way, lived the Gospel of Life."

Also recognized for "profound, gracious, and loving service to Catholics Respect Life" was Gabriel Angel coordinator Debra Heron, who received the Jim Finch Memorial Award. The award, established this year, honors the memory of the late Jim Finch, an ardent pro-life activist and one of the original founders of Catholics Respect Life who guided the organization's mission in its early days.

The quiet work of pro-life ministry in the diocese and elsewhere is beginning to produce hope that "a great creative, collaborative effort is underway," according to Mother Mary Agnes.

In a well-crafted, thoughtful address, the evening's keynote speaker reminded listeners that each human life has its origins in the heart of God and deserves protection and respect from the moment of conception to natural death.

"Abortion and euthanasia kills the most vulnerable members of the human family," she said, adding, "No pregnant woman should feel she must choose between the life of her unborn child and her own well-being. It's an utter failure of love and community for a pregnant woman to feel that abortion is her only choice."

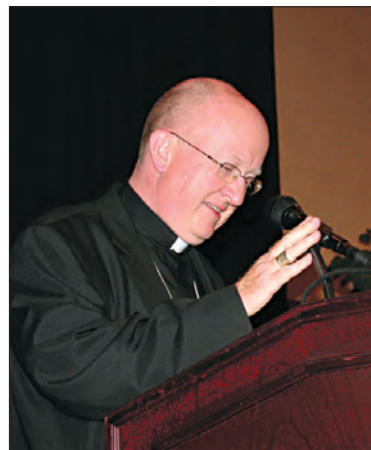
In closing, Mother Mary Agnes asked pro-life workers in the diocese to be ambassadors of love and messengers of mercy.

"Your acts on behalf of the sacredness and dignity of every human life are changing the climate of our culture," she continued. "It is our joy as Sisters (of Life) to build together with you, day by day, one heart at a time, a new culture of life and civilization of love."



ABOVE:

Bob Walters (left) and Angela Walters (right) receive the diocese's first annual Service to Life award from Bishop Vann. Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of the diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office, is at the bishop's right.



LEFT: Bishop Vann spoke to the crowd gathered for the banquet about health care reform and introduced Bob and Angela Walters before they were presented with the Service to Life award.



Dr. James Patrick, chancellor of St. Thomas More College, and pro-life leader Randy Bollig converse. Bollig and his wife Laurie are parents of Sister Amata Filia, who chats (below) with a banquet participant about the Sisters of Life. The Bolligs direct the Loreto House pro-life center in Denton.



Students from Our Lady of Grace High School in Roanoke, Effie Tjhai and Christina Nelson, look over the Youth for Life display at the banquet.

Respect Life!

Catholics take part in Life Chain events across diocese

By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

In the 1950s while Julie Vecera, a St. Patrick Cathedral parishioner and a registered nurse, was working at St. Joseph's Hospital, she saw something after a woman had a miscarriage that strengthened her convictions about the sanctity of human life.

"The tiny baby was in a lab bottle. It was only two and a half inches long with tiny fingers and fingernails. I knew it was a baby no matter how tiny it was," she said.

Vecera, as coordinator for the Fort Worth Life Chain, participated in one of 20 Life Chains that took place Oct. 4 across the 28-county Diocese of Fort Worth.

The Life Chain, an annual event held on the first Sunday in October, invites churches in each city and town across North America and several foreign countries to stand on designated local sidewalks and pray for one hour to raise awareness about the evils of abortion by holding one of the seven approved pro-life sign messages, according to one of the Life Chain Web sites at www.lifechain.org. The signs actually have prayers on the back, and participants are encouraged to pray those prayers or any other prayers of their choice, including the Rosary.

In 2008, over 1,400 cities and towns held Life Chains in more than 1,600 locations, and each chain is posted on the other Life Chain Web site at www.LifeChain.net.

Mike Bahr, coordinator of the Wichita Falls Life Chain and a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church there, said they advertised the event in the paper among a listing of church activities and sent out 220 flyers about the event to churches of many different denominations as well as notifying all the Catholic churches in the area.

"We pray for life and a new way of looking at things in this country," he said.

Several Life Chain coordinators in the Fort Worth Diocese said they often receive thumbs up or honks from supportive motorists, but when they do receive negative comments, they respond just by holding onto their signs in silence.

"The demonstration itself is very quiet and prayerful," Bahr said.

Sharon Walls, Life Chain coordinator in Mineral Wells and a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, said standing up for the lives of the unborn is very important to her because she and her late husband Rick adopted all three of their children.

"They could be dead. Of course, anyone born after 1973 could be dead," she said.

"It surprises me because I've known other people who have adopted children, and they don't know if they can take a stand," Walls said.

Alana Demma, a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, and coordinator of the Keller Life Chain, said she and her husband decided to get involved with the Life Chain after watching their youngest son, who was studying to be a Franciscan Friar, offer prayers and counseling to people outside an abortion clinic in Fort Worth along with other Franciscan friars and sisters.

"It was such a life-changing experience. We realized we had to do something more than just say we are pro-life," Demma said.

Elizabeth Victory, Cleburne Life Chain coordinator and parishioner of both St. Joseph Church in Cleburne and St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth, said in Cleburne, a Bible Church started the Life Chain, but now since many of those churches support the local crisis pregnancy center through tithing and actually running it, most of the people who participate in the Life Chain are Catholic.

"We appreciate what they do (with the pregnancy center.) This (the Life Chain) is our contribution," Victory said.



Father Simon Hoang Minh Dao, CMC, pastor of Immaculate Conception of Mary Church, Wichita Falls, joins in prayerful witness with others in the local Life Chain at the busy intersection of Midwestern Parkway and Kemp Blvd.



Joyce Durham, of Grace Community Church in Mineral Wells, has been bringing her dog Charlie to the Mineral Wells Life Chain for many years.



LEFT:

Members of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church youth group line up along State Highway 377 for the Life Chain in Keller.

RIGHT:

The group of 40 people taking part in the Cleburne Life Chain consisted of members from three churches: two from First United Methodist Cleburne, 10 from the Anglican Church of the Holy Comforter and 28 from St. Joseph Church in Cleburne, including about 10 young people.



Lindsay Life Chain gets big support from St. Peter parishioners

Story by Jenara Kocks Burgess
Photos by Bobbi Burgess

On Sunday, Oct. 4, motorists driving through Lindsay, a town of 1,000 on Highway 82 just west of Gainesville, could see people standing in the drizzle wearing jackets and holding umbrellas along with their pro-life signs on both sides of the road. They were spread out from the "Welcome to Lindsay" sign to the marker pointing the way to the school stadium.

The wet, almost cold weather did not keep Lindsay residents or other supporters of life across the Fort Worth Diocese from participating in the Life Chain.

The Life Chain is an annual event held on the first Sunday in October that invites churches in each city and town across North America and several foreign countries to stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for one hour, while holding one of the seven approved pro-life sign messages, according to one of the Life Chain Web sites at www.lifechain.org.

Lindsay Life Chain Coordinator Stan Stoeffels, who said he was not sure how turnout would be at the beginning of the event because of the cooler, wet weather, was excited when close to 150 residents participated, making it their biggest event ever.

"We actually ran out of signs," he said. "And I've already had a person volunteer to buy us more signs for next year."

Lindsay, with its rich German Catholic heritage, is a picturesque town with St. Peter Church literally at its center. The steeple of the beautifully ornate, traditional church can be seen from Highway 82.

Lindsay residents lined Highway 82 in front of a number of local businesses and for the same distance on the other side of the road in front of farmland. Participants stood quietly in prayer, so quiet crickets could be heard when there was a break from the sounds of vehicles whizzing by or motorists who honked in support of the cause.

Many people who participated in the Life Chain expressed gratitude to the leadership of their new pastor, Father Raymond McDaniel, who came to Lindsay in July. "It is such a good turnout, and I think a big reason for it was because of the effort of our wonderful priest, Fr. McDaniel, who has been talking about it for weeks, even encouraging all to come with their umbrellas in hand, knowing that rain was 100 percent likely," said Jennifer Fleitman, longtime St. Peter's parishioner. She and her husband Kenny are the parents of five.

Fr. McDaniel said he has participated in the life chain every year since he was in seminary in San Antonio where literally thousands of people would line both sides of a busy street.

"It made a big impression to see so many people come out for life," he said.

Fr. McDaniel said he was not surprised to see such a large turnout for the Life Chain in Lindsay.

"People are very faithful here, and they

know it's important. These great people are glad to be here today and be a witness for God's great gift," he said.

Fr. McDaniel said it is important for people to participate in events like the Life Chain.

"I think that there is a lot of confusion in our society about life. It is a gift from God himself. We've lost a sense of that culture of life that Pope John Paul II spoke about," Fr. McDaniel said.

BELOW: Nearly 150 people took part in Lindsay's Life Chain Oct. 4, the community's largest turnout for the event. At right, Fr. Raymond McDaniel, St. Peter Parish pastor, took part in the event, offering his witness for life in the cool, wet weather. (Photos by Bobbi Burgess)



Viewpoints

Building a culture of life requires family values, public witness, prayer

By Lucas Pollice

Once again, during the month of October, we celebrate Respect Life Month. Each year, this is a time that the Church sets aside for us to reflect upon the dignity of the human person from the moment of conception to natural death.

We live in a culture which Pope John Paul II often called a “culture of death,” a culture that in many ways degrades the dignity of the human person and treats life less like a gift and more like an object or a commodity that is to be used, manipulated, and thrown away. This presents an enormous challenge for all in our society, but especially for us who are Catholic to bring the Gospel of Life into our society and to build the culture of life and a civilization of love. I would like to reflect upon some ways in which we can work to truly build this culture of life in our society today.

THE FAMILY AND THE CULTURE OF LIFE

The culture of life that Pope John Paul II so often spoke about begins first and foremost in the family. The family is the cradle of life, for it is within the family that life is first welcomed, cherished, and nurtured. It is within the family that the value of life is lived and learned. The family is indispensable for the promotion of the culture of life.

In order for the family to fulfill this role, it must also be faithful to the Gospel of Life and be the living witness to the sanctity and dignity of all human life. Unfortunately, the family itself is also under attack, and the family is losing its identity as a sanctuary of life and love. When the family is in decline, life itself begins to suffer. The struggle for life is intimately connected to the struggle for the family.

One issue in particular that simultaneously erodes both the dignity of the family and the culture of life is the issue of contraception. In many ways, contraception is at the very root of the culture of death. First, contraception destroys the family as the cradle and sanctuary of life. Instead of being and remaining open to God’s gift of life, contraception closes the door to life. Life is no longer seen as a potential gift that is welcomed with openness and love, but rather life becomes a consequence, something to

Therefore, the culture of life and true social justice depend on the family and openness to life. Only through this faithful witness to God’s plan for marriage and the family will the culture of death be destroyed at its very roots.

be avoided, and even a burden. When contraceptives fail and life is created, this same mentality naturally leads to the next step: the destruction of life through abortion. In many ways, contraception was the Pandora’s Box that was opened and led the way to this culture of death.

Therefore, Catholic families need to be a living witness to the culture of life and live lives that are faithful to the teachings of the Church. The Church does not ask Catholics to have as many children as humanly possible, but the Church does teach that each and every conjugal act must remain open to life and God’s proper and creative power in sexuality. The Church teaches that Natural Family Planning can, for serious reasons, be used to avoid pregnancy while at the same time remaining open to God’s will and the gift of life, should God grant it. This is very different in action and mentality than contraception. Families must remain faithful to their vocation to life and love and be a living witness and often a sign of contradiction in our world today. Only through this witness and openness to life can families once again build a true culture of life and civilization of love. It is a tall order, but through grace, prayer, and sacrifice, families can testify to the entire world the gift and priceless worth of every human life.

Pope Benedict XVI recently addressed this issue in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*. Benedict teaches that openness to life within marriage and the family is essential for not only building a culture of life, but also for promoting true social justice and the development of the human person. He states:

The Encyclical HUMANAE VITAE emphasizes both the unitive and the procreative meaning of sexuality, thereby locating at the foundation of society the married couple, man and woman, who accept one another mutually, in distinction and in complementarity: a couple, therefore, that is open to life. This is not a question of purely individual morality: HUMANAE VITAE INDICATES the STRONG LINKS BETWEEN LIFE ETHICS and SOCIAL ETHICS, ushering in a new area of magisterial teaching that has

gradually been articulated in a series of documents, most recently John Paul II’s Encyclical EVANGELIUM VITAE. The Church forcefully maintains this link between life ethics and social ethics, fully aware that a society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized. (15)

Therefore, the culture of life and true social justice depend on the family and openness to life. Only through this faithful witness to God’s plan for marriage and the family will the culture of death be destroyed at its very roots.

PUBLIC WITNESS TO LIFE

Another powerful way in which we can build the culture of life is through our public witness. One of the ways in which the tragedy of abortion is allowed to continue in our society today is because it is very hidden. Each day, more than 4,000 unborn babies are killed in our country and hardly anyone would even know. This is why our public witness is very important. We can help build a culture of life through our public witness in several ways:

- We can be a prayerful witness in front of an abortion clinic. This is powerful because not only does it make people aware of what is really happening in the clinic, but it can also encourage mothers to not go through with an abortion. So far this year, in only its second week, the 40 Days for Life Campaign of silent, prayerful witness in front of abortion clinics has saved over 120 babies and 120 women from abortion.
- We can be a witness at our parishes through participating in a Respect Life Committee. This is an effective way to bring about awareness in our own parishes concerning life issues by having educational materials, volunteer opportunities, and prayer resources available.
- We can be a witness to life through

our participation in the public square. We can and need to be a voice for the voiceless concerning all issues that threaten human life and dignity through our voice in the voting booth and other political opportunities, such as writing our representatives in Congress so that the inviolability of the human person will always be promoted and respected from conception to natural death.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Finally, we can never underestimate the power of prayer in the struggle against all attacks against the human person and the building of the culture of life. Ultimately, the victory over the culture of death will be God’s victory and not ours. In the end, it is only through prayer, penance, and conversion of hearts that a true culture of life and civilization of love will prevail. Not everyone can give their time, talents, and resources to the cause for life, but we can all pray for the end of abortion and all attacks against innocent human life. We can perhaps offer a daily Rosary and even offer small sacrifices each day for the cause of life. Each of us can become an ambassador for life through our prayer and intercession. The ministry of prayer is a vital and necessary part of the overall ministry for life.

The cause for life and the struggle to end abortion and all attacks on innocent human life is the struggle and cause of our time. It is ultimately the greatest social justice issue of our day, and all of us are called in whatever way we can to promote and build a culture of life. Let us take up this cause with great courage and conviction! As Pope John Paul II powerfully states:

There can be no TRUE DEMOCRACY without a recognition of every person’s dignity and without respect for his or her rights. Nor can there be TRUE PEACE unless LIFE IS DEFENDED AND PROMOTED. As Paul VI pointed out: “Every crime against life is an attack on peace, especially if it strikes at the moral conduct of people... But where human rights are truly professed and publicly recognized and defended, peace becomes the joyful and operative climate of life in society”.

—THE GOSPEL OF LIFE, 101



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

Disciples of Truth

need the vision of a child

By Mary Morrell

"Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway."

— Mother Teresa

Anyone who visits one of the busy New Jersey boardwalks will certainly notice that graphic tee shirts are a popular purchase. Normally, I try to ignore them, but during my end-of-the-summer visit I noticed one tee shirt that really caused me to chuckle.

Worn by a lovely, but gaunt young woman, the words of the shirt advised, "Please don't feed the models." Clever, without being crude. That's something different at the boardwalk.

Later I discovered the company that designed the shirt: Emperor's New Clothes.

Suddenly I was remembering the oversized illustrated book of Hans Christian Anderson stories I used to read to my children. "The Emperor's New Clothes" had been one of my favorites, but until that boardwalk moment, I hadn't considered its relevance to an authentic life of faith.

The tale begins with the emperor being fooled by two swindlers into believing that they would weave him a suit of clothes so magnificent that it would be invisible to those who were stupid or unfit for their positions. Day after day the two pretend weavers sit at their looms as if they are weaving, but in reality do nothing, all the while filling their pockets with the emperor's money and gold

I've often wondered which characteristics of a child best serve an authentic faith life. Perhaps it is their honesty. Perhaps it is their ability to wonder. Perhaps it is simply their inherent holiness and nearness to God, not yet obstructed by worldly things.

thread.

The emperor sends his minister to check out the suit of clothes, and though the minister can't see anything on the loom, he is afraid to admit it for fear of being thought stupid or unfit for his position. So he reports to the emperor that the suit of clothes is splendid.

Now the emperor is in a quandary because he can't see the clothes either, but if his minister sees the suit, the emperor certainly can't say otherwise. That would prove him stupid, as well.

So the emperor's assistants dress the emperor in imaginary clothes, and he processes through the kingdom so his subjects can admire his magnificent suit. The people "ooh" and "ahhh" but never tell the emperor they can't see his new clothes. Nobody wants to seem stupid.

Then, writes Andersen, "A child, however, who had no important job and could only see things as his eyes showed them to him, went up to the carriage. 'The Emperor is naked!' he exclaims."

How like a child, to speak the truth.

How like an adult, to fall prey to a falsehood.

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," said Jesus, "for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

I've often wondered which characteristics of a child best serve an authentic faith life.

Perhaps it is their honesty. Perhaps it is their ability to wonder.

Perhaps it is simply their inherent holiness and nearness to God, not yet obstructed by worldly things.

Surely, there is no holiness in duplicity or in adherence to a lie for fear of traveling against the course of common opinion. Yet it is a challenge we must meet every day as disciples of the Truth.

And a little child shall lead us.

Mary Regina Morrell and her husband are the parents of six adult children, all boys, and live in Colonia, New Jersey. Mary works for RENEW International and is the former associate director of Religious Education for the diocese of Metuchen in New Jersey.

Teens' religious lives are
'all
over
the
map'
says book on national study

Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers by Christian Smith, with Melinda Lundquist Denton. Oxford University Press (New York, 2009). 346 pp. \$17.95.

Reviewed by David Gibson
Catholic News Service

The attempt to understand teenagers too often overlooks the religious faith and spiritual practices in their lives, according to the authors of *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*. Their research shows that religion makes "quite a significant difference" in teenagers' lives.

But while "any adequate understanding of American adolescents must recognize and account for (the) religious and spiritual realities in many of their lives," the authors caution religious communities against "accepting and promulgating what may be simplistic generalizations about American youth." For, religiously speaking, "American teens are complicated and 'all over the map.'"

Christian Smith, a sociologist at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, wrote *Soul Searching* with Melinda Lundquist Denton, a sociologist at Clemson University in South Carolina. The book presents, analyzes and comments on the findings of the National Study of Youth and Religion, conducted from 2001 to 2005 at the University of North Carolina.

"To our knowledge, this project has been the largest, most comprehensive and detailed study of American teenage religion and spirituality conducted to date," the authors, members of the national study's research team, explain. The study reflects the views of Christian teenagers across denominational lines, as well as Jewish and Mormon youths.

The inclusion of numerous interviews with teenagers that read like stories about their lives heightens the enjoyment of what, at times, is a technical report. Readers may garner hope from the strong, balanced faith convictions of some who were interviewed. At other times readers, like me, may find themselves troubled

SEE GIBSON, P. 26

Preserving a piece

Diocese restores cathedral rectory to original appearance and usage after fire

More than 45 years ago, the fathers of the Second Vatican Council reflected upon an appropriate direction for dealing with historic church architecture:

"In order that sound tradition be retained, and yet the way remain open to legitimate process, a careful investigation — theological, historical, and pastoral — should always be made... and care must be taken that any new forms adopted should in some way grow organically from forms already existing."

—Vatican II,
Sacrosanctum concilium
(Dec. 4, 1963), no. 23.

Raymond O'Connor, chief executive officer of O'Connor Architecture and Interior Design firm, enthusiastically embraces such a concept as it applies to preserving important church buildings while acknowledging the realities of designing buildings for use in the 21st century.



The rectory was built in 1908, on the original site of the first Catholic church in Fort Worth, a small frame building built in 1876 and named St. Stanislaus. (Photo courtesy of the Dallas Diocese Archives)



The rectory renovation project was completed in the spring of 2009. (Photo courtesy of OA&ID)

O'Connor, a longtime parishioner of Holy Family Church in Fort Worth, has been instrumental in the painstaking renovation of several historic buildings in the downtown Fort Worth area, most notably the famous Flatiron Building. Because of his own Catholic identity, he was especially pleased, he says, to serve as the architect for the award-winning restoration of the downtown St. Patrick Cathedral rectory, a 1908 building that sits between the cathedral and the St. Ignatius Center, formerly St. Ignatius Academy, a school built by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur in 1889.

The two-year renovation of the 8,500-square-foot rectory, which reflects both Colonial Revival and Prairie School stylistic traditions, included the complete renovation of the interior of the building, which began as a home to priests of what was then the Diocese of Dallas. It was remodeled in 1956 to provide office space. In 1972, its red brick exterior was painted white in order to blend in with the cathedral to the north and St. Ignatius Academy to the south.

After the rectory suffered extensive fire and water damage in 2007, O'Connor worked with Fort Worth contractor Scott Dennett to undertake a complete renovation of the historic building, which included the updating of plumbing and electrical systems, the addition of bathrooms and bedrooms, and the restoration of the exterior to its original red brick.

The scope of the project required that rooms be reconfigured to match the original design of the home; layers of paint had to be stripped off walls in order to find the

original colors; multiple layers of flooring had to be removed from the original pine sub-flooring; and a portion of an original staircase was uncovered and redirected.

"It's a challenge to make adjustments that are appropriate to 2010 in a building that was clearly not designed that way," says O'Connor. "It was important to try to understand what was there when it was originally built, so we could reproduce what was originally there, and we had to do that without any photographs of the interior.

"Bishop Vann truly believed in this project," adds O'Connor. "Because of his vision, a special, historic building was saved. In a different time, I can see people saying, 'Let's turn this into an office building, or tear it down.' Twenty years ago or so, this was how people thought, and there was a real movement to discard our older buildings. Bishop Vann doesn't think that way, thank goodness. To actually discover the feel and organization of the place as it is now, and to realize that it retains the same footprint and design as it originally did, is just fascinating. It was a real privilege to work on this project."

The entire complex of buildings on the cathedral property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark, says Malinda



Firemen work in the aftermath of the July 25, 2007 blaze at the cathedral rectory, which occurred during roof repair on the 101-year-old building. The exterior of the rectory was painted white in 1972 to blend in with the cathedral and with the neighboring St. Ignatius Academy buildings. (Photo by Chris Kastner)

Crumley, a longtime cathedral parishioner and a leader in the Historic Fort Worth organization since its inception more than 40 years ago.

Crumley was "absolutely thrilled and grateful," she said, for Bishop Vann's commitment to the restoration of a building that has such significance to members of the Catholic diocese and also to the wider North Texas community. "You can't ever replace what you lose when you discard a special building like the rectory."

The bishop's decision to renovate and retain the original rectory building and, in keeping with its original purpose, to make it a home for himself and for the priests who serve the cathedral is also significant, adds Crumley. "I think that having the bishop and his priests living in the rectory says a lot about their commitment to the people," she says. "It's special that they are living there. It's not just a job to them. Their presence there at the cathedral is a statement about their true commitment in every part of their lives."



Cathedral parishioners enjoy participation in a gathering held after the completion of the renovation. Original woodwork, furniture, artwork, and lighting fixtures were repaired, cleaned, and reused in the rectory. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)



Throughout the renovation process, several aspects of the building were uncovered, such as this part of the rectory's original staircase.

Historic Fort Worth recognizes Awards given for Patrick Rectory, St. Stephen

Bishop Kevin Vann and the Diocese of Fort Worth were honored Sept. 24 with two awards for recent renovation and restoration projects within the diocese.

The awards were given at the Seventh Annual Samuel Benton Cantey III Preservation Lecture and Awards Program, hosted at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center by Historic Fort Worth, Inc., a local nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of significant historic sites.

Father John Casey, SAC, pastor of St. Stephen Church in Weatherford, accepted the Preservation Award for excellence in the restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of historic buildings or sites. The award was given to the diocese for the St. Stephen Parish community's work on St. Stephen Chapel, a 107 year-old building located in downtown Weatherford. Seventeen of the 72 St. Stephen's parishioners who worked on the yearlong restoration project attended the awards ceremony, along with the project's coordinator, the parish's pastoral associate, Sr. Mildred Gordon, SHSp.

The Very Rev. E. James Hart, chancellor of the diocese, was



Fr. John Casey, SAC, (center) pastor of St. Stephen Church, was joined by pastoral associate Sr. Mildred Gordon, SHSp. (left) and 16 other St. Stephen parishioners who worked on the parish renovation project. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

Diocesan

of History

Stories by Nicki Drevou
Editorial Assistant

Fort Worth
diocese
renovations of St.
Stephen Chapel

St. Stephen parishioners work together to restore original colors to chapel

at the awards ceremony to accept, on behalf of Bishop Vann, the Residential Rehabilitation Award, which is given to recognize a commitment to historic preservation in residential properties. The award was given to the bishop for the renovation of St. Patrick Cathedral rectory in downtown Fort Worth. The rectory was built in 1908 and had been converted into cathedral office space before renovation began in 2007.

"It is an honor and a privilege to receive this recognition from Historic Fort Worth," said Bishop Vann in a statement following the announcement of the annual awards. "Congratulations and thanks are due to all who were involved in the important work of preserving our history and the legacy of those who have gone before us."



Father James Hart, chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Worth (left), joined by Peter Flynn, diocesan director of Finance and Administrative Services, accepted an award for the rectory renovation project at the Sept. 24 Historic Fort Worth awards ceremony held in Fort Worth. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)



of St. Stephen Church in Weatherford, Mildred Gordon, SHSp, (second from left) as he accepted an award for the renovation project. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

Barbara Bierschenk's voice trembles a little when she talks about attending Mass in the newly renovated St. Stephen Chapel in Weatherford.

"There are simply no words to express what this [chapel] means to me," she says. "My grandfather was a Czech immigrant who helped to hand-dig out the basement of the church [in 1927]. I've had every one of my sacraments, including marriage, in that church. Our two daughters were baptized there, and one daughter's funeral was held there. In so many ways, this place is connected to every important part of our family's life."

Bierschenk, along with 70 other St. Stephen parishioners, has spent the past year working to help bring the brick chapel, located at 211 S. Main St. in downtown Weatherford, into compliance with fire and safety codes, while also working to restore the 107-year-old church to its original beauty.

The chapel was built in 1902 for 150 people. A "new" church building was built in 1988 at 1802 Bethel Rd. in Weatherford to accommodate the growing Catholic community, and the building on South Main Street was designated a chapel for use by smaller groups.

The chapel was decorated with colorful embellishments of grapes, vines, and other ornate decorations added to the walls above the altar in 1910, but a renovation in 1951 resulted in a completely ivory interior, muting the once-vibrant colors of the walls, the floors, and

the traditional Stations of the Cross. Two years ago, it had to be closed due to water damage and safety issues, a circumstance that "broke my heart," says Bierschenk.

Her husband, Lawrence, agrees that the chapel is a deeply meaningful spiritual home to many longtime St. Stephen parishioners. The Gothic architecture and the celestial beauty of the worship space have also captured the hearts of those who are more recent arrivals in the community, he says.

"We have something at the parish we call the Mission Group," he explains. "[It is comprised of] all ages, some who have been here a long time, others not so long. Our group first started going to Anapra, Mexico, a few years ago, to help with mission work there. When we had to stop going to Mexico for safety reasons in 2008, we decided that we would make the renovation of the chapel our mission, instead."

The year's worth of volunteer efforts included repairing extensive water damage, replastering and painting aging walls, repairing and refinishing the original wood floors, refinishing the altar, replacing carpeting, and adding a handicapped-accessible restroom, says St. Stephen parishioner Paul Claffey, who coordinated the volunteer building project.

While volunteers saved the parish thousands of dollars by doing the hard manual labor involved, Claffey supervised the work of professional contractors in the necessary areas, he says.

"It was really exciting when we were taking down the old plaster, and we found the original green color of the walls underneath," Claffey recalls. "We had the same thing happen when we scraped

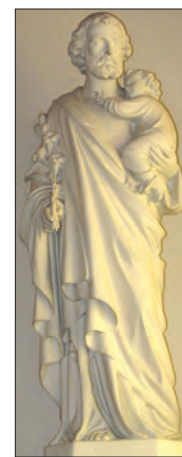
the paint off of the Stations [of the Cross] and the grapes and the wall paintings and found those original colors. We matched all those colors, and now the chapel looks like it originally did after being first painted [in 1910]. It was a really rewarding labor of love."

The effort included labor from parish teens and young adults, including that of 21-year-old Hilary Maitland, now a theology major at the University of Dallas.

"It was a lot of early Saturday mornings!" she says, laughing. "I... helped to repaint the grapes above the altar, and when I come home [from college] and attend Adoration in the chapel, I can't help but look at those grapes and be proud when I think, 'I helped to paint those!'"

Sister Mildred Gordon, SHSp, who serves as the longtime pastoral associate for the parish is, according to the enthusiastic members of the Mission Group, the person who made the dream of a renovated chapel a reality. Sr. Mildred cites a total cost of approximately \$105,000 for the project, which was made possible with the help of the parish and through the donations of individuals and businesses in the community.

"It was really wonderful, the way that the Mission Group responded to the need for the renovation of the chapel, just as they have responded to our mission call in Mexico over the past five years," she says. "It worked out perfectly because there was so much talent within the group. We had people working throughout the week whenever they could, and a committed group that came in each Saturday. We ate picnic lunches together, and we built a strong community together. I'm very proud of all of them."



Chapel statues and Stations of the Cross were stripped of their ivory painted coatings and restored to their original vibrant colors.



Bishop Vann, shown here with St. Stephen pastoral associate Sr. Mildred Gordon, SHSp, blessed the renovated chapel during a special Mass and celebration held May 9.



This photo (above) of St. Stephen Church in Weatherford was taken shortly after it was built in 1902; (below) the chapel is shown after the year-long renovation project was completed in the spring of 2009.



This view of the renovated altar area shows the extensive work that was done to return walls, statues, floors, altar, and tabernacle to their original beauty.



College student Hilary Maitland helps to restore original decorative detail grapes and grapevines, created in 1910.



Members of St. Stephen's Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 2466 clean and shine some of the brass in the chapel.

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Clergy, seminarians reflect on priesthood at Year for Priests seminar

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nearly 300 clergy and seminarians took time to reflect on the priest's role in contemporary society during a two-day symposium at The Catholic University of America in Washington marking Pope Benedict XVI's designated Year for Priests. "The Holy Father tells us that we participate in the work of redemption," said Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington. "That is what a priest does. He brings the Eucharist into the midst of the community, but he also brings the sacramental ministry of the church into the midst of the believing community." In a homily during the Oct. 6-7 symposium's morning prayers, Archbishop Wuerl, who will be a keynote speaker at the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses' University of Dallas Ministries Conference, Oct. 23 and 24, stressed that it was incumbent on priests that they use all potential resources "to make Christ visibly and effectively present in the community." The symposium on "Ministerial Priesthood in the Third Millennium: Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests" was co-sponsored by Catholic University's School of Theology and Religious Studies and by Theological College, the national seminary of the school.

Signs of movement on immigration in Congress, federal agencies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After two years of essentially no change in the "on hold" status of immigration reform legislation, as well as eight years of increasingly restrictive federal policies toward immigration enforcement, signs of movement on both fronts are now coming fast and furiously. President Barack Obama has repeatedly said he wants to begin consideration of a comprehensive immigration bill this fall, after health care legislation is finished. As Congress neared votes on health care, progress was reported on drafting immigration legislation and supporters of comprehensive reform were rallying their forces and carefully laying the groundwork for the legislative battle to come. Meanwhile, promised administrative reviews of some of the most harshly criticized aspects of federal immigration policies also were beginning to produce results that generally made advocates for immigrants happy. The same week, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano outlined an overhaul of the system for immigrant detention. The changes address many of the long-standing complaints about the treatment of detainees, most of whom have applied for asylum, are awaiting resolution of applications to stay in the U.S. or have pending deportation proceedings.

Washington Archdiocese opposes bill to legalize same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill introduced by a member of the District of Columbia City Council Oct. 6 to allow same-sex marriages to be performed in the district could "result in a loss of religious liberty" for its residents, the Archdiocese of Washington warned in a statement opposing the bill. The measure, called the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009, states that "marriage is the legally recognized union of two people" and that "any person who otherwise meets the eligibility requirements ... may marry any other eligible person regardless of gender." It also calls for the district to phase out its current domestic partnership law. It would allow persons currently in a legally recognized domestic partnership to apply for and receive a marriage license at no charge. David Catania, the council member who introduced the bill, said the legislation would exclude clergy or religious organizations from having to participate in performing same-sex marriages or providing wedding-related services to such couples. But Susan Gibbs, the director of communications for the archdiocese, said the way the bill is written religious organizations would not be exempt from renting their spaces for such weddings or related events.

Survey finds declining support for legal abortion among varied groups

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although a new poll showed a significant decline in support for abortion in the United States, an official of the U.S. bishops' pro-life secretariat said the results would have been even more strongly pro-life if they had been grouped to truly reflect the current state of U.S. abortion law.

Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said Oct. 6 that the survey results from the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life released Oct. 1 showed encouraging shifts in American opinion against legal abortion and for parental consent before a minor's abortion.

Overall, Pew reported that 47 percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 45 percent said it should be illegal in all or most cases. A year ago in a similar Pew poll, 54 percent said it should be legal in all or most cases, while 41 percent said it should be illegal in all or most cases.

The margin of error for the most recent survey was plus or minus 2 percentage points.

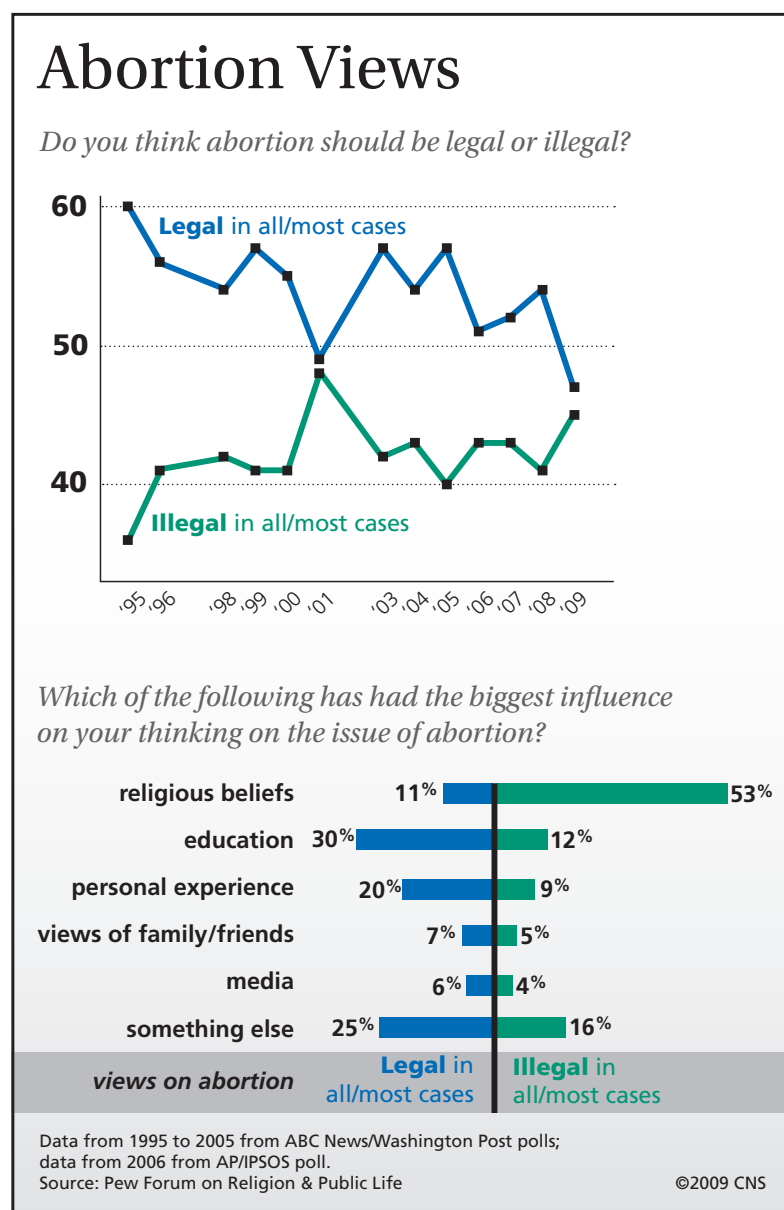
But McQuade said the survey results "do not helpfully reflect the current state of abortion law," which allows abortions for virtually any reason throughout the nine months of pregnancy under *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

By grouping those who think abortion should be legal in most cases with those who believe it should be legal in all cases, the survey results give the impression that about half of Americans support current abortion law and half oppose it, McQuade said.

"The good news is that if you net the categories to reflect the current state of abortion law, only 16 percent actually agrees with the current state of abortion law," she said.

That 16 percent said abortion should be legal in all cases. The percentage who said it should be legal in all cases has been as high as 27 percent, in July 1995.

"Declines in support for legal abortion are seen among a wide variety of demographic groups," the Pew report noted. Among those showing declines of at least 10 percentage points in support for legal abortion were white, non-Hispanic Catholics and white mainline Protestants who attend church at least weekly; Jews; moderate to liberal Republicans;



those ages 30-49; white evangelical Protestants who attend church services less than weekly; and Republican-leaning independents.

"Similarly, several groups that were previously divided in their views on abortion now come down clearly on the pro-life side," the report added. "Among Hispanics, seniors, those with a high school education or less, Southerners and less-observant white evangelicals, abortion opponents now outnumber supporters of abortion rights."

The survey also asked about the "biggest influence on your thinking on the issue of abortion," offering the choices of religious beliefs, education, a personal experience, the views of family or friends and the media.

More than half (53 percent) of those who thought abortion should be illegal in most or all cases cited religious beliefs as the biggest influence, while 12 percent said education and 16 percent said something else.

Among those who believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, 30 percent said their education was the biggest influence, 20 percent cited a personal experience, 11 percent said their religious beliefs influenced their

decision and 25 percent said something else.

Although overall only 35 percent of Catholics cited their religious beliefs as the biggest influence on their abortion views, 60 percent of Catholics who attend church at least weekly did so. For Catholics who attend church services less frequently, the percentage who said their religious beliefs influenced their abortion views dropped to 19 percent.

McQuade said it was an "encouraging sign that those who are going to church to hear God's word and what the church teaches and to have access to the sacraments ... oppose the legality of abortion and think it should be more difficult to get."

Asked whether they support "requiring that women under the age of 18 get the consent of at least one parent before they are allowed to have an abortion," 76 percent of Americans said they favor or strongly favor such a requirement. Even 71 percent of those who think abortion should be legal in all or most cases said they supported the requirement.

Currently 25 states require parental consent before a minor's abortion, and another 11 require notification of at least one parent.

Women at synod urge bishops to face reality of discrimination

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The superior general of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles invoked something at least one bishop thought was a nightmare: She asked members of the Synod of Bishops for Africa to imagine a church without women.

Sister Felicia Harry, the superior general from Ghana, told the synod Oct. 9 that women are happy to “teach catechism to children, decorate parish churches, clean, mend and sew vestments,” but they also want to be on parish and diocesan councils.

Women want to collaborate “not only when already-made decisions are to be implemented,” but when the decisions are being made, she said.

“We do not want to take over the responsibility of the parish priest; we just want to be equal partners in the Lord’s vineyard,” Sister Harry said before asking the bishops to spend two minutes that evening trying to imagine what



Pope Benedict XVI gives Communion to a nun during the opening Mass of the Synod of Bishops for Africa in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 4. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

that women are “marginalized at every level,” excluded from development programs and are the first victims of war.

“At this moment, when the church in Africa is engaged in working for the reconciliation of its sons and daughters, women can no longer be ignored,” she said.

“We, mothers and consecrated women, ask the fathers of this church-family to promote the dignity of women and

give them the space needed to develop their talents in the structures of the church and society,” she said.

Notre Dame de Namur Sister Genevieve Uwamariya, a survivor of the genocide in Rwanda, told the synod that her life was changed through the work of a Catholic women’s group called the Ladies of Divine Mercy.

Three years after most of her family members died in a massacre amid the Hutu-Tutsi

violence of 1994, the Ladies of Divine Mercy came to town telling those imprisoned for genocide to ask forgiveness from survivors to free the survivors of the weight of hatred and a desire for vengeance. The women asked survivors to offer their forgiveness to free the accused of the evil that dwelt within them.

When she agreed to go into the prison, she said, “one of the prisoners rose in tears and fell at my knees, begging out loud, ‘Mercy.’ I was petrified.”

Sister Uwamariya said she recognized the man as someone she had grown up with and was moved with pity. She said she told him, “You are and will remain my brother.”

The wisdom of the Ladies of Divine Mercy and the institution of parish-based associations bringing together survivors and those accused of participating in the genocide demonstrate that “it is possible to reestablish love and begin the healing that permits mutual liberation,” she told the synod.

Bishop Joachim Ntahondereye of Musinga, Burundi, talks with Marguerite Barankitse, a synod participant from Burundi, as they leave a session of the Synod of Bishops for Africa Oct. 8. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

North African bishops urge synod to pledge dialogue with Muslims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church, especially in North Africa, is called to be a church in dialogue with the world and particularly with its Muslim neighbors. Addressing the Synod of Bishops for Africa Oct. 6, several North African bishops urged the synod to replace fear of the Muslim community with real efforts to understand and learn from Islam and to collaborate with Muslim leaders to promote development and peace on the continent. “We all know that fear is a bad counselor,” Bishop Maroun Lahham of Tunis, Tunisia, told the synod. While the freedom of the tiny Christian communities of North Africa is not always respected fully, they are not persecuted, he said, and they usually are welcomed as important partners in efforts to provide the people with education and health care. The church of North Africa “is a church that lives in Muslim countries where there is the beginning of critical thinking regarding rigorous and fanatical Islam,” he said. The bishop added that the Catholic community is called to stand alongside and support Muslims who are working to promote authentic and peaceful forms of their faith.

CRS assessing needs as new flooding washes away Philippine homes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new wave of flooding, brought on by the second tropical storm to hit the Philippines within 10 days, has left thousands of people homeless and at least 18 villages underwater, Catholic Relief Services officials reported. Flooding in the provinces of Pangasinan and Benguet, about 120 miles from the capital Manila, began Oct. 8 after one dam collapsed and officials released water to save another dam from being breached as Parma, downgraded to a tropical depression, continued its onslaught of the island nation. Pat Johns, director of emergency operations for CRS in the Philippines, told Catholic News Service by phone Oct. 9 that the region underwater was already saturated after Typhoon Ketsana swept through the country Sept. 26, dumping more than a month’s worth of rain in 12 hours. Johns was planning to visit the region Oct. 10 with representatives of Caritas in the Philippines to assess the extent of the flooding and determine exactly how many people were forced to flee when waters rose rapidly after the dam along the Agno River failed. CRS, the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency, is part of the Caritas Internationalis charitable network.

In coastal areas, Catholic leaders see challenges as climate changes

CHIQUEMULILLA, Guatemala (CNS) — Hurricane Stan swept through the village of El Dormido on Guatemala’s Pacific Coast four years ago, destroying homes, a school and a church. Father Raul Monterroso remembers urging residents to move to higher ground to avoid the damage of another serious storm. In the years since, no hurricanes have passed through, but the 27 families left in the fishing village are worse off. “They’re isolated by the rising sea levels on one side and the river on the other side that now floods during the storms,” Father Monterroso said. “This is a fishing community, so they don’t want to leave because it’s their livelihood. But if things continue like this, they will have to.” Around the world, climate change is taking a toll on coastal communities. Rising sea levels, more frequent storms and the erosion of coastlines threaten villages, towns, and cities. Their economies — largely based on jobs like fishing related to their proximity to the water — have been damaged. And their futures are in question. The most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — a scientific body sponsored by the U.N. and the World Meteorological Organization — laid out a grave future for low-lying areas. Sea levels will continue to rise, by as much as 18 inches in some areas by 2100, and the ocean waters will become warmer, triggering more nasty storms.



Choir members from Africa sing after Pope Benedict XVI celebrated the opening Mass of the Synod of Bishops for Africa in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 4. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

their churches would be without the presence and involvement of women.

“I am not even daring to imagine” such a thing, Archbishop Charles G. Palmer-Buckle of Accra, Ghana, told the press after Sister Harry spoke.

“In Africa, 75 percent of the churches’ population are women — we have to be honest about that — and it’s not only the Catholic Church; all the Pentecostal churches and all the rest acknowledge that. Without the women, I think most of the churches would be boring and we would not have prayers being offered seriously for issues that are very relevant,” the archbishop said.

Archbishop Palmer-Buckle said Sister Harry was “dead right” to call the bishops to recognize the contributions of women and to find better ways to ensure their voice is heard and talents used at all levels of the church.

Sister Pauline Odia Bukasa, superior general of the Ba-Maria Sisters from Congo, told the synod

Scripture Readings



October 25, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126:1-6
- 2) Hebrews 5:1-6
Gospel) Mark 10:46-52

By Jeff Hensley

Pretty soon retailers will leapfrog over Halloween and Thanksgiving and add the familiar red and green of Christmas decorations. For Catholics, it's just a reminder of the approach of the season of Advent, the season that sharpens our hunger for the coming of our Lord Jesus in the form of a child.

That hunger, for me, is the fascinating part of this weekend's Gospel reading. The blind man Bartimaeus cries out as Jesus passes by and is hushed by those around him, who rebuke him and tell him to be silent. But he persists, so great is his hunger.

Jesus stops and has Bartimaeus brought to him from among the crowd. The blind man had been shouting to him, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." Once he is before him, Jesus asks this man a rather remarkable question: "What do you want for me to do for you?"

Bartimaeus' reply is just as remarkable: "Mas-

ter, I want to see." He didn't ask for sight simply to make his life better, but in order to see the one he had already identified as the son of David, correctly describing Jesus' lineage as a proof that he was the Messiah. Jesus tells him in response, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."

Scripture tells us Bartimaeus immediately "received his sight and followed him on the way."

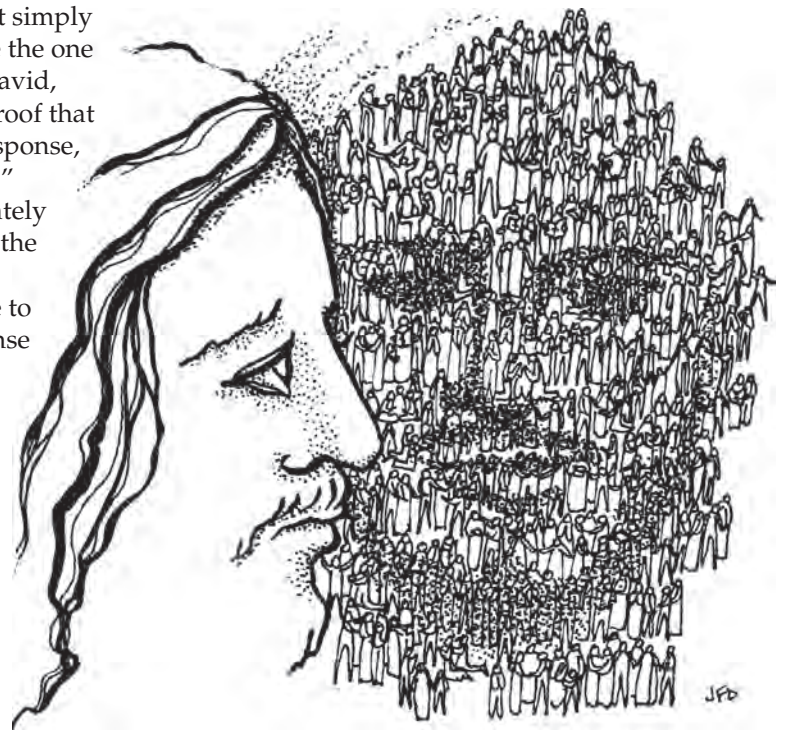
Advent is a time of hunger and a time to renew and re-form our faith with our sense of Jesus present in his world. Thousands in my own diocese are beginning the "Why Catholic?" program with the first six-week season corresponding, roughly, with the season of Advent. They will seek the face of Jesus in the Scriptures and teachings of the church, through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and in the workings of God in their own lives and the lives of the body of Christ represented in the people in their small study groups.

Others will seek the face of Jesus through serving the poor, or by intensifying their love for their spouses and children, or by increasing their time in Scripture study and prayer.

May we all take courage from the example of Bartimaeus, remembering the generous response of Jesus to all those who seek see him in faith.

QUESTIONS:

Have you made a plan for spiritual renewal for Advent? If you haven't, what local programs of study, service or worship might help you in personally seeking the face of Jesus?



"The blind man replied to him, 'Master, I want to see.'"

— Mark 10:51b

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Saintly pharmacist-priest, a shining example for Christians, says pope

By Sarah Delaney
Catholic News Service

VATICANCITY—Pope Benedict XVI held up the "luminous figure" of a 16th-century saint as an example of the missionary spirit every Christian should adopt.

St. John Leonardi, an Italian pharmacist-priest, also stands as an excellent example for clergy in the current Year for Priests, the pope said at his weekly general audience Oct. 7.

Pope Benedict told pilgrims gathered in a sunny St. Peter's Square that it was the evangelical zeal of St. John Leonardi that helped establish the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, the precursor to the current Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

St. John Leonardi, who was born near Lucca, Italy, in 1541, studied to become a pharmacist while practicing his Catholic faith with dedication, the pope said. When he received authorization to open his own shop, the pope explained, the young man "asked himself if it weren't time to realize



Pope Benedict XVI greets pilgrims as he arrives for his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 7. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

a project he held in his heart," that of becoming a priest.

He underwent theological

training and was ordained in 1572.

Even though he gave up a

promising career, the pope explained, St. John Leonardi was convinced "that the professional

experience as a pharmacist would allow him to fully realize his vocation." He was therefore able to "offer to the men and women of his time 'the medicine of God,'" the pope said.

The second half of the 16th century was a time of reform and renewal, coming shortly after the Protestant Reformation that prompted great introspection within the church, the pope pointed out.

The saint "worked with great realism and zeal to promote holiness and the reform of society," the pope said. This dedication led him to help found the church's missionary arm, now the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

St. John Leonardi died in Rome in 1609 as he was ministering to people stricken by an epidemic. He was canonized in 1938 and made the patron saint of pharmacists in 2006.

Greeting people after the audience, Pope Benedict donned a wide-brimmed red straw hat to shield him from the strong noontime sun.

Scripture Readings



November 1, All Saints.

Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
Psalm 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6
- 2) 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel) Matthew 5:1-12a

By Jean Denton

Emmett Starnes was never canonized. But I'm fairly certain he lives among the communion of saints.

The Gospel reading for the feast of All Saints offers Jesus' beatitudes: an approach to life that assures trials — but promises ultimate happiness in the presence of God. It is the life of courageous, faithful obedience to God that's been shown to us by all the saints.

Including Emmett Starnes.

Emmett was a coal miner in Kentucky in the 1930s, a young widower with four school-age children. I learned his story from his daughter, Pauline, now 88.

Her father, who supervised other miners, knew firsthand the hardship they suffered along with their families. He was keenly aware of exploitation by their employers through unfair

labor practices, poor wages, and an unhealthy, unsafe work environment.

When a miners union came to the area, Emmett began attending the meetings. Here was a man who "hungered and thirsted for righteousness," in the words of the beatitudes. For years he and several fellow miners fought for unionization, "but every time they tried to get together they got shot at," Pauline said.

When local miners went on strike, her father's adversaries promised violence. "They said they were going to kidnap his kids. They threatened to kill us," she remembered.

"We stayed scared," Pauline recalled. "They were after my daddy. I know one time he came home with a bullet hole in his hat."

While the company prevailed, Emmett persisted in his efforts to organize the workers at great personal risk, and even had to move his family to a neighboring town.

But one night as he drove home from an organizing meeting, someone shot out Emmett's tires, causing him to wreck his car. He died a short time later as a result.

Emmett never witnessed the righteous end for which he lived and died. But Jesus promised, "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

QUESTIONS:

Who have you known personally who is a model of courageous faithfulness?

What can you do to become more closely bound with the communion of saints?



"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

— Revelation 7:14

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Sharing ourselves, sharing faith, makes us Church

By Jeff Hedglen

My wife and I recently had to take a quick trip to Houston for some business. Our flight left at 7:30 a.m. and we would be back at Love Field by 3:30. That meant we would be in Houston for a total of six hours.

We were not sure how we were going to make it from the airport to our appointment and back to catch our return flight. Should we rent a car and deal with the traffic and navigating in an unfamiliar city or bite the financial bullet and take a taxi?

In the end we chose neither because we were rescued by a longtime acquaintance who is now a great friend.

I first encountered Jim in 1981 when he was leading a retreat I was on as a junior in high school. We later became colleagues in youth ministry and great friends. Last year he married a woman he had been seeing for a few years. We had met Beth a few times over the years, almost always in group situations, and thus never really got to know her very well.

Some people believe that their faith is private, and thus they do not want to share it. But I would suggest that for Christian faith to be true, it must be shared.

Since Jim and Beth live in Houston we decided it might be nice to try and meet for a quick lunch, if there was time during our short visit. To make a long story short, Jim was unavailable, but Beth was free and she offered to be our chauffeur for the day.

As it turned out, we did have time for lunch and it, along with the whole time spent in Houston that day, changed our relationship with Beth forever. We sat down for lunch as casual acquaintances

and pushed back from the table two hours later good friends.

It is simply amazing what a small amount of sharing about life and faith can do to a relationship. We had always liked Beth, and since Jim had chosen her for his bride, we of course accepted her into our circle of friends. But now that we have had some one-on-one time to get to know her more personally, she is no longer just the woman our friend loves, but a dear friend to us as well.

Experiences like this are at the core of programs like *Why Catholic?* Some people believe that their faith is private, and thus they do not want to share it. But I would suggest that for Christian faith to be true it must be shared.

The very nature of our faith is that it transforms us and sends us out. Our encounters with the living Jesus so impact us that we bubble over with enthusiasm for Jesus. St. Paul says it this way: "With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well" (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Sharing has been a characteristic for believers from the very beginnings of our faith. The birthday of the Church is Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit descended upon those gathered in the Upper Room. As the story goes, the coming of the Spirit caused such a ruckus that a huge crowd gathered around the house to see what was happening in there.

When the miracle was complete Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, came out of the house and said: "Folks, I am sorry for all the

noise. We got carried away with celebrating the feast of Weeks (Pentecost). It won't happen again." All the people dispersed and this new Christian Church was never heard from again.

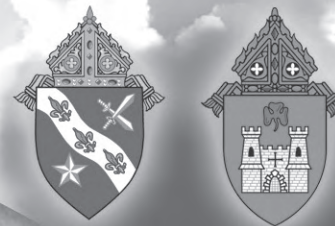
OK—so that's not how it really happened, but had it happened that way we might not be here right now, believing in Jesus the way we do. The fact is that when Peter stepped out of that upper room, having had possibly the most profound encounter with the living God to date, he shared his experience, and as Acts 2:41 says "three thousand persons were added that day."

It is not enough to have a quiet faith nestled away in the safety of our hearts. We are to be like a city on a hill shining bright for all to see. For, we are the Body of Christ, when we share us, we share Him.

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.

Caminando juntos

Walking Together in Faith en la fe



CONFERENCIA PARA LOS MINISTERIOS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE DALLAS

PATROCINADA POR LA DIÓCESIS DE DALLAS Y LA DIÓCESIS DE FORT WORTH
23 Y 24 DE OCTUBRE ▸ CENTRO DE CONVENCIONES ▸ DALLAS, TEXAS

SÁBADO, OCTUBRE 24

ORADOR PRINCIPAL 9:15 - 10:15 A.M.

Su Excelencia Alvaro Corrada del Rio, SJ

“Nuestra respuesta al llamado a ser discípulos”

La presentación se enfoca en los tres elementos del discipulado: el Encuentro, el Seguimiento y la Imitación del Señor Jesucristo. Se presentará el modelo diocesano sobre los procesos como una respuesta específica al llamado a ser discípulos

SESIÓN I EN ESPAÑOL A LAS 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Dr. Alejandro Ordieres

¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu Madre?

Dr. Arturo Chavez

Pastoral juvenil en una comunidad multicultural

Dr. Pilar Calva

Decisiones difíciles al final de la vida

Mercedes Vallenilla de Gutierrez

¿Por que yo? ¿Que hacer cuando llega el dolor?

P. Abelardo Cobos Gomez

La fe es un esquema diario de vida

Esperanza Monterrubio

Dime abuelita porque

Alex Sandoval

Catequesis familiar: Caminando juntos en la fe

Juan Rendon

Animación Bíblica con los jóvenes

Santiago Fernandez

El nuevo documento “Canten al Señor” y el coro parroquial

Diácono Ruben Natera

¿Soy llamado al diaconado?

- Dedicado a todos los católicos
- Concierto con John Michael Talbot el viernes 23 por la tarde
- Música cristiana en vivo
- Exhibición de arte
- Más de 60 expositores

PLENARIA 1:30 - 2:30 P.M.

Su Excelencia Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD

La Formación de Catequistas

La cima y el centro de la formación de catequistas es la aptitud y habilidad de comunicar el mensaje evangélico”. (DGC, 235) En su presentación, el Monseñor Vann hablará de la importancia crítica de la formación continua de catequistas y el criterio esencial y los retos de que su formación los haga eficaces en comunicar las enseñanzas de Cristo a nuestra cultura moderna hoy día.

SESIÓN II EN ESPAÑOL A LAS 3:45 - 4:45 P.M.

Dr. Alejandro Ordieres

¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu Madre?

Dr. Arturo Chavez

Pastoral juvenil en una comunidad multicultural

Dr. Pilar Calva

Las ventajas y maravillas de la planificación familiar natural

Mercedes Vallenilla de Gutierrez

¿Por que yo? ¿Que hacer cuando llega el dolor?

Luis Medina, M.A., Alfonso B. Mirabal y Alex Sandoval

Pastoral hispana: Operación que lleve a la integración.

Diácono Arturo Monterrubio

¿Como recupero y fortalezco la fe de mi familia?

Miguel Arias

Catequesis para todas las edades

Anna Huth

Llenos de fe, caminando en la solidaridad

Maria Pia Septien

Conocer a Dios a través de sus nombres: el Señor, el Buen Pastor, la Luz del Mundo, el Cordero, Rey de Reyes y Señor de Señores, etc.

P. Peter Ruggere, MM

Doctrina social católica

Diácono Arnold Picon

El diaconado en la Iglesia de hoy en día

No pierda la oportunidad de convivir con la comunidad católica del norte de Texas. Hay precios especiales para grupos de 20 personas o más. Pregunte en su parroquia si enviarán un grupo y aproveche este descuento.

Para mayor información en español llame al (972) 265-5811, o visite la página www.udministryconference.com

Hay señales de movimiento sobre el tema de inmigración en el Congreso y agencias

Por Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—Después de dos años de no haber cambio, en esencia, del estado “de limbo” de la legislación sobre la reforma de inmigración, como también ocho años de acción política federal de incremento restrictivo en la aplicación de las leyes actuales de inmigración, hay señales en ambos frentes, que se producen rápidamente y con extrema energía.

El presidente Barack Obama, repetidas veces, ha dicho que quiere empezar la consideración de una propuesta completa de las leyes de inmigración este otoño, después de que se termine de legislar sobre el cuidado de la salud.

Mientras el Congreso se acercaba en voto sobre el cuidado de la salud, se informó del progreso en el desarrollo de los pasos para lograr una legislación sobre la inmigración, y los que apoyan una reforma completa unían fuerzas y colocaban con cuidado las bases para la batalla legislativa que se aproxima.

Mientras tanto, revisiones administrativas prometidas de algunos de los aspectos más agudamente criticados de la política de acción federal de inmigración también empezaron a producir resultados que, en general, alegraron a los que defienden a los inmigrantes.

La misma semana, la secretaria del *Department of Homeland Security (DHS)*, Janet Napolitano, delineó una revisión del sistema de detención para inmigrantes. En los cambios se toman en cuenta las quejas expresadas ya por largo tiempo acerca del trato que se les da a los detenidos, cuya mayoría ha presentado solicitud de asilo, esperan una resolución de su solicitud para permanecer en los Estados Unidos, o están en proceso pendiente de deportación.

Entre los cambios, la secretaria dijo que prevé la posibilidad de alojar a las personas que no tienen antecedentes delictivos ni historia de violencia en instalaciones que se asemejen más a estancias residenciales, tales como asilos de ancianos renovados u hoteles, en lugar de prisiones y cárceles, en donde la mayoría se encuentra ahora. A otras personas se les permitiría regresar a su hogar respectivo con un brazalete de tobillo para vigilar sus pasos.

A finales de septiembre, DHS anunció que se había trasladado a la última familia que quedaba en el centro de detención *T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility* en Taylor, Texas, que fue extensamente

“**L**os obispos de los Estados Unidos están muy preocupados por el tono que se ha usado en CAPITOL HILL con referencia a los inmigrantes, y más recientemente en el debate de reforma del cuidado de la salud”.

—El cardenal Theodore E. McCarrick, arzobispo jubilado de Washington

criticado. Poco después de que la prisión *Hutto*, de seguridad media, dirigida por una entidad privada, fue convertida para uso de reclusión de familias en 2006, se convirtió en objeto de demanda legal debido a las (terribles) condiciones de instalaciones dentro.

Aunque por un acuerdo se mejoraron las condiciones de vida, el centro de reclusión conservó su carácter de prisión, en donde se veía a padres y madres de familia con sus hijos encerrados en pequeñas celdas, dentro de una atmósfera estricta institucional. Napolitano anunció a principios de agosto que se trasladaría a las familias fuera de *Hutto*, y que se evaluaría el sistema completo de detención de inmigrantes.

Las familias detenidas en

Retiro de RACHEL'S VINEYARD para sanación después del aborto

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

Hutto iban o a ser liberadas, bajo observación, o se les trasladaría a una estancia de tipo residencial más abierta, como un centro de detención familiar que había sido asilo anteriormente, en Pennsylvania.

En el frente legislativo, las audiencias empezaron en el Senado, y el representante Luis Gutiérrez, D-Illinois, aparecía en el programa del 13 de octubre para anunciar los principios mediante los cuales se delinea un proyecto de ley de reforma completa de inmigración, la cual intenta presentar más tarde en el otoño.

El cardenal Theodore E. McCarrick, arzobispo jubilado de Washington, dijo ante el subcomité de inmigración del

Comité de la judicatura del Senado, en una audiencia del 8 de octubre, que los obispos de los Estados Unidos esperaban con ansia que la legislación para una reforma completa se acelerara, y que también querían cambios en el programa de refugiados, y ayuda federal para hacerle frente a la causa radical del movimiento migratorio, como falta de empleos en “los países originarios de los inmigrantes”.

El cardenal también instó al Senado a enfrentar el tono descortés que recientemente ha caracterizado el debate sobre la inmigración.

“Los obispos de los Estados Unidos están muy preocupados por el tono que se ha usado en

Capitol Hill con referencia a los inmigrantes, y más recientemente en el debate de reforma del cuidado de la salud”, dijo. “A tal retórica cruel se le ha estimulado en conversaciones radiales y de televisión por cable, por supuesto, pero también ha sido usada por funcionarios públicos, incluyendo miembros del Congreso”.

El cardenal dijo que esperaba que el debate que está por darse se enfocara en las contribuciones, tanto de inmigrantes con documentos, como sin ellos, “y no en los recién llegados. Éstos últimos a menudo se convierten en chivos expiatorios, atribuyéndoseles responsabilidad por problemas y obstáculos económicos o sociales del país.”

Vistazo a la información sobre la conferencia en UD, el 23-24 de octubre

Más de 3,500 participantes de las diócesis de Fort Worth y Dallas ya se han registrado para asistir a la *Conferencia para ministros en la universidad de Dallas* que se celebrará el 23 y 24 de octubre en el *Centro de convenciones de Dallas*, localizada en la 650 East Griffin Street en Dallas. La conferencia anual, conjuntamente auspiciada este año por las diócesis de Fort Worth y Dallas, será la única conferencia para ministros católicos romanos por ambas diócesis durante el año escolar 2009-2010. Todas las escuelas católicas estarán cerradas el viernes 23 de octubre para permitirles a sus administradores, maestros y personal no docente la participación plena en esta conferencia.

La conferencia ofrecerá 56 oradores, 60 organizaciones con exhibiciones, conferencias principales y sesiones con talleres en inglés, español y vietnamés; música cristiana en vivo, un concierto gratis con el músico católico John Michael Talbot, y una Misa el sábado concelebrada por los obispos Monseñor Kevin W. Vann de Fort Worth, Monseñor Kevin J. Farrell de Dallas, y Monseñor Álvaro Corrada del Río de Tyler. Oradores principales incluyen, desde Washington, D.C., el Arzobispo Donald Wuerl y el corresponsal principal para el Vaticano de la cadena de noticias CNN, John Allen.

Para más información y un programa detallado, visite la

página Web de la conferencia www.udministryconference.com o llame al (972) 265-5811.

FECHAS

23 de octubre: Sesiones para el clero, personal docente de las escuelas católicas, educadores católicos y líderes catequéticos serán ofrecidas en inglés, español y vietnamés.

24 de octubre: Sesiones para católicos de todas las parroquias y con diversos intereses serán ofrecidas en inglés, español y vietnamés.

UBICACIÓN

La *Conferencia para ministros en la Universidad de Dallas* se llevará a cabo en el pasillo C/salón C del *Centro de convenciones de Dallas*, localizado en 650 East Griffin Street en Dallas. Estacionamiento en el garaje es \$10 por día y debe ser pagado en efectivo. Concesiones estarán disponibles para meriendas.

INSCRIPCIÓN

Inscripción en línea y para grupos por Internet termina el 20 de octubre. Después,



inscripciones individuales se podrán hacer al entrar a las actividades del día en el lobby C. Costos varían desde \$35 por una entrada de día con la pre-inscripción, hasta \$75 por una entrada para dos días al inscribirse al llegar al centro de convenciones.

ESTADIA

Participantes pueden hacer sus propias reservaciones en el *Hotel Hyatt Regency*, localizado en el 300 Reunion Blvd. en Dallas. Para reservaciones, favor de llamar al (214) 651-1234. Participantes en la conferencia recibirán cuotas con descuentos.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

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

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

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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



El padre Damien de Veuster posa para una foto en la colonia de leproso Kalaupapa, en Molokai, una de las islas de Hawai, semanas antes de su muerte en 1889. El sacerdote misionero Belga fue beatificado en 1995 y canonizado en una ceremonia en el Vaticano el 11 de octubre (Foto CNS).

Valentía, amor de santos todavía hacen marca en siglo 21, dicen peregrinos

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Cincuenta mil peregrinos, jóvenes y ancianos, sanos y enfermos, acudieron a la Basílica de San Pedro para demostrar que la valentía, el amor y la influencia de los recién proclamados santos del siglo 19 todavía están vivos hoy día.

La mayoría de los que vinieron de los Estados Unidos para la ceremonia de canonización del 11 de octubre estaban allí por dos de los cinco nuevos santos: el belga San Damián de Veuster, quien dedicó su vida a aquellos afectados por la lepra en Molokai, Hawai, y la nativa francesa Santa Jeanne Jugan, fundadora de las *Hermanitas de los pobres*.

“No canonizamos a los santos para ponerlos en un tipo de salón de fama católico, sino que los canonizamos para poder imitarlos, crecer en nuestro amor por Dios y dedicarnos a aquellos que estén en mayor necesidad”, dijo el obispo Larry Silva, de Honolulu, quien lideró un grupo de más de 500 peregrinos de Hawai.

El obispo Silva dijo que el trabajo heroico de San Damián con los rechazados de Kalaupapa ha inspirado a mucha gente durante los últimos 120 años y “pienso que, con la canonización, la gente todavía será inspirada por él en perpetuidad”.

El alcance internacional de los nuevos santos fue evidente por las coloridas bufandas y banderas que identificaban a peregrinos de Bélgica, Polonia, España, Francia y los Estados Unidos. Algunos llevaban guirnaldas de flores con los colores del arco iris.

El presidente estadounidense Barack Obama, quien se crió en Hawai, envió una delegación oficial gubernamental a asistir

a la ceremonia y ayudar a honrar “la vida y el testimonio extraordinarios del padre Damián”, como lo expresó Obama en una declaración el 9 de octubre. El representante estadounidense Donald M. Payne, de New Jersey, fue parte de la delegación presidencial de seis personas.

Payne le dijo a *Catholic News Service* que Obama “siente que el trabajo que el padre Damián hizo ejemplifica el querer que los Estados Unidos de América sea visto otra vez como líder de asuntos humanitarios”.

“El hecho que el padre Damián sacrificó su vida por los demás pienso que contribuye a un nuevo tono que el presidente Obama está intentando enviar a todo el mundo”, dijo Payne.

Otra delegada presidencial fue la hermana Carol Keehan, miembro de las *Hijas de la caridad*, que es presidenta y oficial principal de la *Asociación médica católica*. Dijo a CNS que San Damián es una figura heroica para todos los que trabajan en el campo de los servicios médicos.

“Se dedico a la gente que era la más vulnerable, la más desdenada, de la que todos más querían apartarse ... y la que más probablemente (causaría infección) si uno la atendía. Así es que él es claramente una de las figuras médicas más heroicas que los Estados Unidos jamás haya tenido”, dijo.

Aproximadamente 4,000 peregrinos representando a las *Hermanitas de los pobres* de los Estados Unidos asistieron a la Misa de canonización.

El contingente de peregrinos de Hawai incluyó a Audrey Toguchi, la mujer cuya curación del cáncer fue declarada por el Vaticano como el segundo milagro necesario para hacer santo al padre Damián.

El Papa le da la bienvenida al nuevo embajador de los EE.UU., y hace alusión a asuntos del derecho a la vida

Por John Thavis
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Al darle la bienvenida al nuevo embajador de los Estados Unidos ante el Vaticano, el Papa Benedicto XVI delineó amplios aspectos de cooperación potencial con la administración del presidente Barack Obama; pero trazó una línea clara sobre asuntos de aborto y el derecho de conciencia.

El Papa hizo un llamado para “un claro discernimiento con respecto a asuntos que se refieren a la protección de la dignidad humana y al respeto del derecho inalienable de vivir, desde el momento de la concepción hasta el de la muerte natural, como también la protección del derecho de objeción de conciencia por parte de trabajadores de salud, y, sin duda, todos los ciudadanos”.

El Papa hizo estos comentarios en la ceremonia de reconocimiento, el 2 de octubre, de las credenciales de Miguel Díaz, nombrado el mayo pasado por el presidente Obama como el 9º embajador de los Estados Unidos ante la Santa Sede. Después de la entrevista en la villa papal de *Castel Gandolfo*, al sur de Roma, Díaz sostuvo plática en el Vaticano con el secretario de estado del Vaticano, el cardenal Tarcisio Bertone.

Los comentarios del Papa sobre el derecho a vivir se relacionan con el debate actual en los Estados Unidos sobre los decretos de la reforma del cuidado de la salud y cómo afectarían los planes de acción política aplicados al aborto.

El Papa sonrió y saludó a Díaz de manera cálida, en la villa papal, charlando con el embajador, antes de saludar a los miembros de la embajada de los Estados Unidos y a la familia de Díaz. El embajador de los Estados Unidos también había preparado un discurso, pero tanto el Papa como el embajador se entregaron



El nuevo embajador al Vaticano, Miguel Díaz, habla con el Papa Benedicto XVI en la villa papal en Castel Gandolfo, Italia, el 2 de octubre. (Foto CNS/ L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via foto Catholic Press)

mutuamente los textos escritos, en lugar de leerlos en voz alta. En su texto, el Papa dijo que recordaba “con beneplácito” su reunión, el julio pasado, con el presidente Obama, y expresaba su confianza de que las relaciones entre los EE.UU. y el Vaticano continuaran caracterizándose por un diálogo fructuoso y cooperación a favor de los derechos humanos y la dignidad humana.

El Papa alabó los ideales establecidos de los EE.UU. de libertad, dignidad y pluralismo y, en referencia al poco tiempo que el presidente Obama ha tenido en la presidencia de los EE.UU., el Papa dijo que “en meses recientes la reafirmación de esta dialéctica de tradición y originalidad, unidad y diversidad ha vuelto a cautivar la imaginación del mundo”.

En su discurso, por otra parte, Díaz hablaba de la necesidad de los Estados Unidos de actuar en forma cooperativa para resolver problemas internacionales, diciendo que “ahora más que nunca en los Estados Unidos se daban cuenta de que no pueden actuar solos”.

El embajador, haciendo cita de

la reciente encíclica del Papa sobre justicia económica, mencionaba varios aspectos de mutua preocupación, tanto de los EE.UU. como del Vaticano, incluyendo el diálogo interreligioso, la protección del medio ambiente, la crisis financiera, la pobreza mundial y la migración de los pueblos.

“Las urgentes prioridades de su Santidad coinciden con esas expuestas por el señor presidente Obama, y, como embajador de los Estados Unidos, espero con ansias trabajar con la Santa Sede para el progreso de nuestros intereses comunes”, dijo.

El nuevo embajador terminó sus comentarios con la promesa de ser “constructor de puentes” entre los Estados Unidos y el Vaticano, y de fortalecer “una relación mutua indispensable”.

Díaz, que cuenta con 46 años de edad, y que enseñó en la *Universidad de San Juan* y el *Colegio de San Benito* en Minnesota, es el primer hispano y el primer teólogo que representa a los Estados Unidos ante el Vaticano. Nació en la Habana, Cuba, y vino a los Estados Unidos de allá, de niño, con sus padres.

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

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

Misa, confesión, reflexión, pláticas y oración en silencio

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

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



El arzobispo de San Antonio José Gómez toma preguntas de sacerdotes durante la convención anual de la Asociación nacional de sacerdotes hispanos en Rosemont, Illinois, el 30 de septiembre. La asociación ofrece apoyo a sacerdotes hispanos y promueve las vocaciones en la comunidad latina. De acuerdo al grupo, se encuentra aproximadamente 2500 sacerdotes católicos hispanos en los Estados Unidos. (Foto CNS /Karen Callaway, Catholic New World)

Justicia racial todavía debe ser lograda en los Estados Unidos, dice arzobispo ante el sínodo

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Aunque los Estados Unidos ha hecho tremendo progreso en moverse desde una historia de esclavitud hacia la justicia racial, todavía queda mucho por hacerse, dijo el arzobispo Wilton D. Gregory, de Atlanta.

“También necesitamos lograr la reconciliación, la justicia y la paz en nuestra propia tierra”, dijo el 5 de octubre durante el especial Sínodo de obispos de África.

El arzobispo Gregory fue uno de 47 obispos fuera de África invitados por el papa Benedicto XVI a participar en el sínodo.

El tema del sínodo, realizándose del 4 al 25 de octubre, es “La iglesia de África al servicio de la reconciliación, la justicia y la paz”.

El arzobispo dijo: “Aunque mi propia nación ha hecho un progreso sobresaliente y bendito en nuestra propia lucha por la reconciliación y la justicia raciales, todavía no hemos logrado esa perfección a la cual el Evangelio llama a toda la humanidad”.

El arzobispo citó un extracto de los escritos del reverendo Martin Luther King Jr. cuando estaba en una cárcel en Birmingham, Alabama. El líder de los derechos civiles escribió que el profeta Amós pedía a la gente buscar la perfección al punto que la justicia hiciera oleadas como el agua y “rectitud como una corriente siempre fluyente”.

Los africanos ya no vienen a los Estados Unidos “con cadenas ni como propiedad humana”, sino que vienen como trabajadores diestros, empresarios y estudiantes “animados a hacer una nueva

“Aunque mi propia nación ha hecho un progreso sobresaliente y bendito en nuestra propia lucha por la reconciliación y la justicia raciales, todavía no hemos logrado esa perfección a la cual el Evangelio llama a toda la humanidad”.

— el arzobispo Wilton D. Gregory, de Atlanta

vida en una tierra que ven como prometedor”, dijo.

Muchos de los que vienen como visitantes o nuevos residentes poseen “una fe católica profunda y dinámica”, lo que “nos reta a redescubrir nuestras propias tradiciones espirituales, que en tantos casos son puestas a un lado debido a la influencia de nuestras búsquedas seculares”, dijo.

El arzobispo Gregory también habló acerca de los valiosos recursos minerales de África, los cuales “el mundo todavía hoy codicia y a veces busca con avaricia deslumbrante y violencia frecuente”.

En África “los recursos son una bendición para este planeta que pueden ser usados para traernos sólo prosperidad a los pueblos de África, sino que, vistos correctamente, pueden traer un sentido de unidad de la tierra y la interconexión que la gente de todas partes tiene cuando usamos sabiamente los recursos naturales que Dios ha puesto en nuestras manos como patrimonio común”, dijo.



PAREJA REAL ESPAÑOLA ASISTE A CEREMONIA, ABRIENDO 400^{VO} AÑO DE LA FUNDACIÓN DE SANTA FE — El príncipe Felipe y la princesa Letizia de España asisten a una ceremonia en la catedral basilica St. FRANCIS OF ASSISI en Santa Fe, Nuevo México, el 6 de octubre. (Foto CNS/Toby Jorin, Reuters)

Ético dice que opciones reproductivas ‘equivocadas’ traen resultados ‘surrealistas’

Por Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — El caso de una mujer de Ohio que recientemente dio luz al hijo de otra pareja porque se le implantó el embrión incorrecto en una clínica de fertilidad demuestra cuán “potencialmente surrealista” puede tornarse la situación cuando la reproducción es separada de la intimidad del matrimonio, dijo un líder ético católico.

Padre Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director de educación en el Centro nacional de bioética católica, en Philadelphia, dijo que la situación enfrentada por Carolyn y Sean Savage, de Sylvania, Ohio, “nos recuerda cómo la exclusividad que se escribe justo en el matrimonio y en el acto marital es interrumpida” mediante la fertilización in vitro y otras tecnologías reproductivas artificiales.

“Uno ahora tiene la posibilidad de recibir completamente el hijo incorrecto”, dijo a Catholic News Service en entrevista telefónica el 29 de septiembre. “Eso es físicamente imposible de la manera normal. Una vez que uno se para fuera de los elementos normales de la exclusividad, eso se torna potencialmente surrealista”.

Carolyn Savage dio a luz el 24 de septiembre, en el Centro médico St. Vincent, en Toledo, Ohio, a un niño cuyos padres biológicos son Paul y Shannon Morell, de Troy,

Michigan. En una declaración, los Savage ofrecieron “nuestras sentidas felicitaciones a la familia Morell por el nacimiento de su hijo”.

“Deseamos a Paul, Shannon, sus gemelas y su nuevo bebé lo mejor mientras se mueven adelante con sus vidas juntos”, añadió la declaración.

Los Savage, que tienen tres hijos, también pidieron privacidad diciendo: “Nuestra familia está pasando un momento muy difícil”.

A Carolyn Savage se le implantó el embrión congelado de los Morell en febrero y 10 días más tarde un médico de la clínica de fertilidad le dijo acerca del error. Los Savage han dicho a los medios noticiosos, sin embargo, que nunca consideraron un aborto ni un intento de quedarse con el niño.

“Por supuesto, nos preguntaremos acerca de este niño todos los días por el resto de nuestras vidas”, dijo Carolyn Savage a Meredith Viera, del programa Today de NBC, antes del nacimiento. “Tenemos esperanzas para él, pero ellos son sus padres y deferiremos a su juicio en cuanto a cuándo y si en el algún momento le dicen lo que sucedió, y cualquier comunicación que se nos permita. Sólo queremos saber que él está sano y feliz”.

El padre Pacholczyk dijo que

la situación demuestra que la pregunta que a menudo le sigue a las “decisiones equivocadas” a tener fertilización in vitro es “¿cómo podemos mejor recoger los pedazos?”.

“Lo mejor que podemos hacer es cerciorarnos que ningún aborto suceda y eso fue hecho aquí”, dijo.

“Pero eso de ninguna manera atiende los dilemas morales planteados por el acto anterior, la causa radical de la decisión equivocada”, dijo el sacerdote de la diócesis de Fall River, Massachusetts, quien tiene cuatro licenciaturas — en Química, Bioquímica, Biología Molecular y Celular y Filosofía — así como doctorado en Neurociencia de la Universidad Yale.

“Siempre estamos recogiendo los pedazos de una manera u otra”, añadió.

Padre Pacholczyk también dijo que ve una necesidad de pruebas psicológicas a largo plazo de los niños producidos mediante fertilización in vitro o bajo otras circunstancias reproductivas inusuales.

“Pienso que los estudios encontrarán que a estos niños no les va tan bien (psicológicamente) como a los niños concebidos en el abrazo marital”, dijo. “Pienso que habrá efectos que serán demostrables si los estudios son hechos”.

St. Jeanne Jugan called 'a Mother Teresa of her time'

By Nancy Wiechec
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — St. Jeanne Jugan isn't exactly a household name.

Yet those who live on Harewood Road in northeast Washington know well the story of the recently canonized saint.

"She took one lady, put her on her shoulder, took her home and gave her her own bed," said Mary Nathan, 77, who has lived for nine years at the Jeanne Jugan Residence on Harewood. "My heart sees her always as a saint."

St. Jeanne, who founded the Little Sisters of the Poor in France in 1842, was canonized Oct. 11 in a ceremony at the Vatican.

"She was very much like a Mother Teresa of her time," said U.S. Sister Diane Shelby, one of the Little Sisters at the Washington home. "She reached out to the elderly poor and took care of them in her own home."

It was in 1839 when St. Jeanne, 47, took in her first resident, Anne Chauvin, a blind and ill widow. She gave Chauvin her own bed and went to sleep in the attic. Soon St. Jeanne and two companions were attending to several other women who could not care for themselves.

Today, the sisters — 2,700 worldwide — look after more than 13,000 people age 65 or older at homes in 32 countries.



A tapestry showing St. Jeanne Jugan hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 11. St. Jeanne founded the Little Sisters of the Poor, who assist the elderly in the United States and more than 30 other countries. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

They operate 31 residences in North America, emulating their founder's ministry and her spirituality.

The sisters rely on the generosity of others in the same way St. Jeanne went door to door with a "begging basket" to support her home.

As she sat in the café of the Washington home, Sister Diane reflected on how St. Jeanne saw the elderly. "She believed that old age is a stage of life deserving of respect and love."

The bright and charming café is a gathering place for celebrations, singalongs, impromptu card games, and even a frozen daiquiri happy hour every now and then.

"Loneliness is one of the biggest poverties for the elderly," Sister Diane said. "But here, there is much love."

And there's also serious work.

The sisters provide for 100 residents, providing professional nursing care for the very ill, planned activities and full-service dining for those less active, and meals and aid to those in assisted-living apartments. Spiritual care, including daily Mass, is an integral part of the home's routine.

Paid staff plus volunteers help with the day-to-day workload.

"An important part of our ministry is to accompany those who are dying," Sister Diane said. When a resident is near death, a sister is always with that person, holding his or her hand, talking and praying. "We make a point of being there with them, making them as comfortable as we can," she said.

There are many challenges in working with the aged. But St. Jeanne gave her sisters this advice: "Never forget that the poor are Our Lord. In caring for the poor say to yourself: 'This is for my Jesus.'"



Father Charles Green blesses centenarian Rebecca Rowe during a celebration honoring those 100 years of age or older at the Little Sisters of the Poor Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington Sept. 22. The Little Sisters care for 100 indigent elderly at the home, emulating the work of their founder, St. Jeanne Jugan. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



Avery Kemp, the daughter of a staff member, cozies up to centenarian Rebecca Rowe during the celebration at the Little Sisters of the Poor Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington Sept. 22. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Canonization of five saints draws 40,000 to St. Peter's

FROM PAGE 1

the center, but in choosing to go against the current by living according to the Gospel," he said.

Thousands of U.S. pilgrims came to Rome for the canonization, including a delegation of leprosy patients and their caregivers from Hawaii, where St. Damien worked and died, and residents from homes for the aged run by Little Sisters of the Poor across the United States.

The basilica was filled beyond capacity, and an estimated 40,000 people watched the liturgy on giant TV screens in St. Peter's Square. The Mass was moved inside at the last minute because of a threat of rain, but blue skies and sunshine prevailed throughout the liturgy.

St. Damien, a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, worked on the island of Hawaii for eight years before volunteering in 1873 to work at a leprosy colony on Molokai, where he served as pastor, doctor, and counselor to some 800 patients. In 1884 he contracted leprosy but, refusing to leave the island for treatment, continued to work until

the month before his death at age 49 in 1889.

The pope said St. Damien "felt at home" as "a leper with the lepers" during the final years of his life.

"He invites us to open our eyes toward the 'leprosy' that disfigure the humanity of our brothers and sisters and that today still call, more than for our generosity, for the charity of our serving presence," he said.

The procession to place St. Damien's relics on the altar included Hawaii resident Audrey Toguchi, 81, whose cure from cancer was attributed to the miraculous intercession of St. Damien, as well as her doctor and a leprosy patient from Hawaii.

St. Damien has been considered an intercessor for patients with leprosy and, more recently, HIV and AIDS. The Vatican's liturgical program for the canonization described St. Damien as a voice for "rejected people of all kinds: the incurably ill (victims of AIDS or other diseases), abandoned children, disoriented youths, exploited women, neglected elderly people, and oppressed minorities."

In his homily, the pope said that in view of her service to the elderly, St. Jeanne Jugan was "a beacon" for modern societies, which "have still to rediscover the unique place and contribution of this period of life." She was so effective with the aged because she recognized in them the person of Christ, he said.

"Her charism is still relevant, because so many older people suffer from fears and solitude, having sometimes been abandoned even by their families," he said.

Born in northern France in 1792, St. Jeanne formed a small prayer community and, in 1839, brought home a sick and blind elderly widow, giving the woman her own bed. Caring for the abandoned elderly became the primary focus of her religious order, and remains so today for the approximately 2,700 Little Sisters of the Poor.

The pope noted that St. Jeanne had herself accepted "obscurity and deprivation" in her later years, a reference to the fact that she was removed as superior of her religious order and sent out to beg on behalf of the poor. She

died in 1879, and today the Little Sisters serve more than 13,000 elderly residents in 202 homes around the world.

The other new saints included a Pole and two Spaniards:

— St. Zygmunt Felinski, a former archbishop of Warsaw, Poland, and founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary. Born in 1822 near Volinia, which today is in Ukraine, he was deported to Russia and, after being freed, worked among the poor farmers of Ukraine and Poland, founding schools for rural children. He died in 1895, and today the church sees him as an intercessor for all who are persecuted.

— St. Francisco Coll Guitart, a Spanish Dominican priest who founded the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the 19th century. He was famed for his evangelical preaching, aimed especially at Catholics who had lapsed from the practice of the faith. He made great use of the rosary, initiating the "perpetual rosary" in parts of Spain, in which thousands of people

took part. His popular missions continued until his death in 1875 at the age of 62.

— St. Rafael Arnaiz Baron, a 20th-century Spanish Trappist brother known for his humility and life of prayer. As a student of architecture in the 1930s, he suddenly broke off his training to enter the contemplative life. Soon after he was stricken with a serious form of diabetes. He died in 1938 at age 27, and his prayerful devotion and his spiritual writings led people to describe him as a great mystic.

At the end of the Mass, the pope spoke from the steps of the basilica to pilgrims who filled the square. They cheered, applauded, and waved banners as each of the saints was named. Addressing English-speaking people, the pope said he hoped the new saints would "inspire you by the example of their holy lives."

The pope also greeted a group of Japanese survivors of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and said: "I pray that the world may never again witness such mass destruction of innocent human life."

Diocesan



Larry Sandoval of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller approaches the altar as he prepares to profess his vows.



Jim Bindel of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls kneels before Bishop Vann as he professes his obedience.



Bishop Vann lays his hands on Terry Howard of St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, ordaining him to the office of deacon.



Father Tim Thompson, pastor of St. Mark Church in Denton, helps vest Lynn Sowers of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Fort Worth.



Sangote 'Ulpiano receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Vann.



Barry Sweeden (second from left) of Immaculate Conception Church shares a moment with fellow candidates Eldon Gray (back), Matías Lagunas (left), and Gelasio García (right), before the Mass.



Deacon Dámaso Castellón greets Ann Healy, director of Permanent Deacon Formation, and Judy Locke, assistant director. Dcn. Castellón was part of the class of deacons ordained in 1989.

Deacons...

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servant — to help people who are in need."

"It's very important to us as people who want to serve because service is what gives us life," said Rigoberto Leyva. "The diaconate is all about service, finding God in your life — following the voice of Christ: 'I need you to serve my people.'"

James Crites found his vocation through an image of Christ serving him.

In 1998, Crites suffered a health crisis, and had emergency surgery. Afterward, "I was debilitated. I was a former Marine, totally in charge, and suddenly I was an invalid. My wife took care of every need.

"I would watch my wife with the kids — and I visualized Christ in my life. She would drop whatever she was doing and take on, in a loving way, the needs of others. I saw Christ working in my life, through her.

"You start seeing Christ present in the moment and then you're on a journey," Crites said. "I went to the Light of Christ Institute to find out more about my faith. All the diocese, all the collective forms of Christ — I got deeper and deeper into this thing.

"Then I saw the deacon — a cross between the laity and the clergy, a bridge between Christ and everyone. The deacon is the servant face of Christ."

Vincent Blake has been a farmer in Wichita Falls for 50 years, and never thought about the diaconate until a deacon approached him about it. "It has been a great journey, getting closer to the Lord," Blake said.

"I'm a farmer, and that's pretty much it. I would look at the books and assignments and say, 'I can't do this,' and the next day I'd be doing it. The Spirit was always there.

"I never even thought I

could be a deacon," the new deacon said, "I felt the Lord was leading me one day at a time."

"I was so touched at the ordination," said Pat Blake, "when all the deacons went down the line, gave all the men a big hug and welcomed them into the brotherhood of deacons."

Martín García said the ordination had two especially significant moments. "One was when we were lying on the floor and I heard the name of my patron saint, St. Martin de Porres. It was a very moving and emotional experience.

"The other moment was when Bishop Vann laid his hands on me," Deacon Martin said. "This made a great change in my life, and all the grace I received that day has helped me in my new stage as a deacon."

A few new deacons and wives received the privilege of extra participation in the liturgy. After the ordination rite, Jim Crites served as deacon of the cup, and Rigoberto Leyva served as deacon of the incense. Lectors were Terry Clark and Maria Lagunas.

But when names were drawn to select the offertory gift bearers, that was when one of the families thought a miracle had occurred. Wives selected at random were Sue Bindel, Olga Ramírez, Ester

Sánchez and Ellen Sowers.

The wife of José Piedad Sánchez, Ester was in a wheel chair early in the deacon formation program. She had heart and blood pressure issues and needed two knee replacements.

"One knee gave out completely, and I ended up on the floor," she said. "The doctor said I had to lose 220 pounds to have knee replacements."

"So I made a promise to myself and to God to do anything in my power to get well and healthy again. I prayed to be walking when my husband was ordained — with God's help."

Two knees, 225 pounds, and several surgeries later, Ester not only walked in time for her husband's ordination, she was randomly picked to carry the offertory gifts.

The ordination was "a big joy," José Sánchez said. "It felt like all the happiest moments in my life put together in one day. I see it all like a big miracle.

"I was thinking the Holy Spirit chose my wife to carry the gifts, because she said they picked names, and they picked her to take the gifts.

"I think it was the Holy Spirit who made that decision," Jose Sanchez said conclusively. "It was a confirmation of the miracle that day."



Matías Lagunas, and his wife, María, parishioners of St. Matthew Church in Arlington, pray during the Mass.



Rigoberto Leyva greets his pastor, Father Jeff Poirot of Our Lady of Lourdes in Mineral Wells, shortly after his ordination.



Gelasio García of St. Mary's Church in Gainesville (left) processes into the church with Bill Johnson of St. Joseph Church in Arlington.



Pat Blake helps her husband, Vincent, put on his alb prior to his ordination. The Blakes attend Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Deacons from class of 1989 reunite, share stories

Story and Photos by
Judy Locke
 Associate director of
Permanent Deacon Formation
 "Has it really been 20 years?" the deacons and their wives asked Oct. 2 as they gathered for a special dinner hosted by Bishop Kevin W. Vann at The Catholic Center in Fort Worth. Photos, mementos, and numerous clippings from *North Texas Catholic* articles on formation and class activities decorated the conference rooms and gave the honored guests plenty of information to quicken their memories and inspire the telling of their "stories."
 Bishop Vann along with the directors of the Offices of Permanent Deacon Formation and

the Office of Permanent Deacons held the dinner to honor the diaconate class of 1989 who recently celebrated 20 years of ministry. The class was called to the Holy Order of Deacon and ordained on Aug. 19, 1989 by Bishop Joseph P. Delaney at St. Michael Church in Bedford.
 Beginning in 1985, 17 men studied for the diaconate in the Diocese of Fort Worth, including Deacons Ron Aziere, White Settlement; Rubén Castañeda, Ranger; Dámaso Castellón, Fort Worth; Rubén Curiel, Arlington; Cliff Greene, Fort Worth; John Guzmán, Arlington; Larry Hatch, now serving in Mena, Arkansas; Ray Lamarre, The Colony; John McDermott, Hurst; Joe Milligan, Keller; Jim



This quilt, made for Permanent Deacon Formation Program Director Dr. Ann Healey in 1989 by the members of the 1989 deacon ordination class, is comprised of quilt squares representing each deacon candidate and his wife as well as the individual parishes of each candidate.



Participants in the 20th anniversary celebration enjoyed the opportunity to peruse a display of diocesan newspaper clippings. The collection represented the inception and growth of the permanent deacon formation program, from 1984 through the present.

Poole, Hewitt; Simón Torrez, Plano; and Doug Wuenschel, Denton. Four deacons from the class of 1989 are now deceased:

Deacons Dick Arndt, Wichita Falls; Gerry Barry, Fort Worth; Andrés Luna, Wichita Falls; and Clarence Metzinger, Grafrod.

In his remarks to the Class of 1989, Bishop Vann commended the deacons on their long-standing commitment to service to God's people, the Diocese of Fort Worth, and the

Catholic Church. "Your ministry as deacons is a model for others of service in response to Jesus Christ; your commitment to your families and communities is an example for all to follow; and your dedication to the Word, charity, and the Sacrament brings comfort and healing to those in need."

Gibson...

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 by what teens say — by the apparently risky and self-serving statements some make about the implications of a moral life, for example.

On a hopeful note, the book rejects the notion that religion makes no difference for the direction taken in the lives of teenagers. In fact, say the authors, religion "arguably exerts significant effects on important outcomes" in their lives.

Soul Searching dispels certain commonly held beliefs about contemporary teenagers. For example, it says that "very few American adolescents appear to be caught up in the much-discussed phenomenon of 'spiritual seeking' by 'spiritual but not religious' seekers" — the pursuit of spirituality outside religion.

Furthermore, the authors found little evidence of the quest for a more "exotic" religion that widely is thought to intrigue many teenagers. "In the U.S. marketplace of spiritual practices, the religious option that is actually having the greatest influence on teen experimenters with other faiths is" Christianity, they write.

Just how complicated are teenagers, religiously speaking?

"Many U.S. teenagers construct religion in nonessential terms," the book says. Still, it notes elsewhere, even "the majority of nonreligious U.S. adolescents are not particularly antireligious." And it finds that "relatively few teens appear to be actively negative about or hostile toward their religious congregations."

Not surprisingly, then, *Soul Searching* encourages religious communities to stop "presuming that U.S. teenagers are actively alienated by religion." It says, "Huge numbers of U.S. teenagers are currently in congregations, feel OK about them, mostly plan to continue to stay involved at some level," though the congregation "does not mean that much or make much sense to many of them."

An affirming view of parental influence is presented here. "Parents are normally very important in shaping the religious and spiritual lives of their teenage children, even though they may not realize it," the book states. *Soul Searching* proposes that "the best way to get most youth more involved in and serious about their faith communities is to get their parents more involved."

The book's discussion of Catholic teens may disturb a few readers, while prompting some to action. It would be

mistaken, based on the enthusiastic devotion witnessed at large Catholic youth assemblies, to conclude "that Catholic teenagers in the United States are doing quite well religiously," the book advises.

It says that at parish and perhaps diocesan levels, the Catholic Church seems "relatively weak when it comes to devoting attention and resources to its youth and their parents." In a somewhat gentler vein, the book says the Catholic Church could do better at engaging teenagers "in its religious practices, though our findings hardly suggest that overall it is entirely failing to do so."

Soul Searching should be taken seriously by those committed to nurturing the lives of teenagers. These include religious congregations and organizations, which "are uniquely positioned" in the array of U.S. social institutions "to embrace youth, to connect with adolescents, to strengthen ties between adults and teenagers," the book comments.

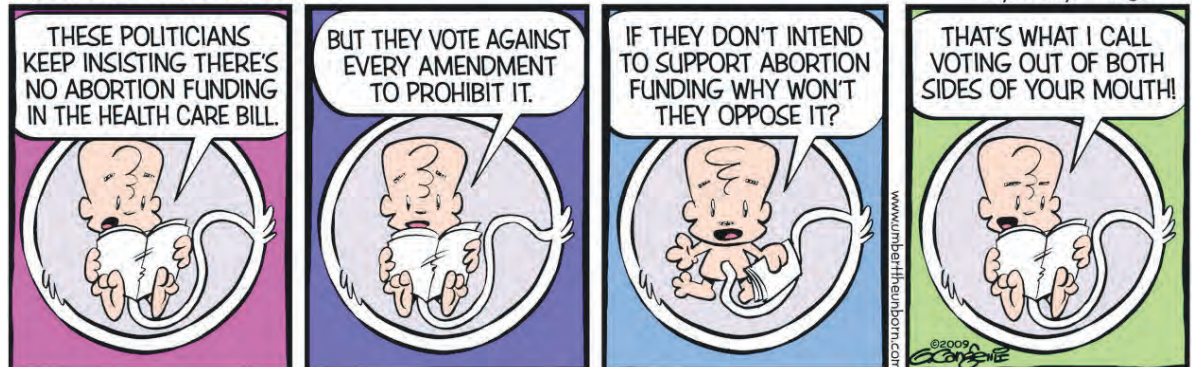
But, it warns, this "will not happen automatically."

David Gibson was the founding editor of *Origins*, Catholic News Service's documentary service. He retired in 2007 after holding that post for 36 years.



Deacon Rubén Castañeda (center) enjoys sharing memories with Deacon Rubén Curiel and Delia Curiel.

Umbert the Unborn



by Gary Cangemi

The Flock

By Jean Denton
 Copyright © 2009, Jean Denton



Calendar

WHITE MASS

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

DCCW GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Fort Worth DCCW 20th General Assembly will be held Wednesday, Oct. 28 at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 9th St., Wichita Falls. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate Mass at noon. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 21. For more information, contact Joyce Brown-Thomas at (817) 483-9838 or e-mail blessedone_2@netzero.net.

BLESSED KARL FEAST DAY

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

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry With Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, Their Families, and Friends regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4503 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or Doreen Rose at (817) 329-7370.

COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

SUBIACO ACADEMY

Subiaco Academy, a Catholic college preparatory, residential, and day school for young men located in western Arkansas, is hosting a Discovery Weekend for prospective students and their parents from Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. The Discovery Weekend is open to those in grades 7-10 and all activities are free. The Academy is located on Arkansas Highway 22 approximately 45 miles east of Fort Smith, Arkansas. For more information about the Discovery Weekend or to reserve a place, contact the admission office at (800) 364-7824 or e-mail admissions@subi.org.

LAY CARMELITES

The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of a deeper relationship with Christ to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. Those interested in participating are asked to gather at 2 p.m. in the chapel of The College of St. Thomas More, 3017 Lubbock St. in Fort Worth. Formation will take place in the college library from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

To Report Misconduct

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

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

To Report Abuse

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

RETRouvaille ANNIVERSARY

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

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

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

'WWJD' AND CHRISTMAS

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 861 Wildwood Lane, Grapevine, will host a presentation by Dr. A.J. Whiting Monday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall. Whiting will conduct an adult discussion on the meaning of Christmas with topics such as "WWJD?, Sit on Santa's lap?" "Who is Santa anyway?" "WJ play dreid?" "What does that mean?" The program will delve into the past to discover the "Who, What, Where, How, and Why we do what we do to one of the largest Christian celebrations of the year and the largest celebration on every retail calendar," according to promotion material. All are invited to learn how to "Give the gift of Jesus," and "put Christ back in Christmas." Participants are invited to bring a Christmas treat to share over coffee. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 481-2685.

NOLAN BAND FLEA MARKET

The Nolan Catholic High School Viking Band will hold its first annual Parking Lot Flea Market Saturday, Oct. 24, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations are also being accepted for the event and may be dropped off Friday, Oct. 23, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Nolan Catholic Hartnett Arena. Tax deduction receipts will be given at drop-off. For more information, contact John Schock at (817) 939-5394. Nolan Catholic High School is located at 4501 Bridge Street in east Fort Worth.

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

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

DISCERNMENT AT OLV

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

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

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

NTC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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 Nov. 6 issue must be received by noon on Oct. 28. Items for the Nov. 20 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 11. Send information to jrusseau@fwdioc.org.

ST. MICHAEL'S CRAFT FAIR

The Ladies Bazaar Workshop Group will hold its 29th annual craft fair in the Great Hall Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Rd., Bedford. The event will again offer the "Coffee Corner" where guests can sit and relax for awhile and then continue shopping. For more information, contact Joanne Sauter at (817) 282-7331 or the parish office at (817) 283-8746.

SACRED HEART POLKA MASS

The Catholic Community of Seymour will celebrate with neighbors Sunday, Nov. 8, beginning with a special 10 a.m. Polka Mass at Sacred Heart Church on North Cedar Street in Seymour. Following the Mass, a Czech Olde World dinner with Bohemian sausage, turkey and dressing with all the trimmings, and kolaches, will be served at Sacred Heart Mosler Hall until 1:30 p.m. A silent auction will be held during the meal. A country store of baked goods, kolaches, and Bohemian sausage will also be a highlight of the event. Sacred Heart Church is located two-and-half hours from the Fort Worth area going west on 199 to Jacksboro and then west on 114 to Seymour. For more information, contact the parish office at (940) 889-5252.

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Organizers for the St. George School reunion are searching for all alumni who have ever attended St. George School. All are invited to the Homecoming scheduled for March 7. In order to get information out, organizers need to update the alumni directory. All alumni are asked to contact the school at (817) 222-1221 or principalsg@charter.net.

ST. ANN GOLF TOURNAMENT

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

HOLY FAMILY FESTIVAL

Holy Family Parish, 6146 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth, will host its 2009 fall festival with a "Collegiate Pep-Rally" theme Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 20 national and state universities will be represented at the event. The event's highlights will include bounce houses for all ages, cakewalk, face painting, festival food, and children's games. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Holy Family School office until Wednesday, Oct. 21, or on the day of the festival. Prices are as follows: wristband (offers unlimited access to most games) \$15 in advance; \$18 at festival; tickets, 10 for \$4.50 or 20 for \$9 in advance; 10 for \$5 or 20 for \$10 at festival. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 737-6768.

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

St. Mary of The Assumption Parish, 509 W. Magnolia Ave., will hold its annual fall carnival Sunday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary of the Assumption Parish was established in 1909 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 923-1911.

BURKBURNETT FESTIVAL

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

OMM 80TH ANNIVERSARY

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

ST. RITA SCHOOL FESTIVAL

St Rita School will host its Fall Fun Fest Friday, Oct. 30, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the parish gym. All are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and enjoy an evening of fun and games. For more information, contact the school office at (817) 451-9383. St. Rita Parish is located at 5550 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

HOLY ROSARY BAZAAR

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

SAN MATEO BREAKFAST

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

HARVEST FEST COSTUME BALL

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

ST. GEORGE HARVEST DANCE

St. George Altar Society will host a Harvest Dance featuring music by Czech and Then Some band. The dance will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 p.m. to midnight at National Hall, 3316 Roberts Cut-off Rd., Fort Worth. Ticket cost is \$12.50. The event will also include the annual "Harvest Fruit Pull" and cakewalk. The kitchen will sell Klobase sandwiches, kolache pastries, and nachos. For more information and to make reservations, contact Joan at (817) 838-3106, Janet at (817) 232-8844, or Mary at (817) 838-2120.

GERMAN - CZECH MEAL

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

ST. PETER SCHOOL

St. Peter School will host its 14th annual "Viva Las Vegas" fund raising event Saturday, Nov. 14, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Lockheed Martin Recreation Center, 3400 Bryant Irvin, Fort Worth. The evening will include refreshments, music, and silent and live auctions. All proceeds will benefit St. Peter School through capital improvements and tuition assistance. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Guests must be 21 to attend. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the school office at (817) 246-2032.

SSMN ANNIVERSARY

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be celebrating 137 years of service in 2010. Friends of Sisters of St. Mary of Namur are making plans to celebrate the sister's years of service at events scheduled for Saturday, March 6, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth and Saturday, April 24, at Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas. All are invited to join in celebrating with the sisters. To volunteer for this celebration, e-mail ssm137@gmail.com.

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Good Newsmakers

After four years of formation, 32 men are ordained to the permanent diaconate in Keller and are ready to

Go Forth and Serve

Story and Photos by
Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

As he began his homily at last month's ordination of permanent deacons, Bishop Kevin Vann personally greeted every candidate.

He slowly and affectionately pronounced the 32 first names, then told them, "It is for me truly a special blessing to preside before the ordination of deacons this day because I think you all remember that we began this part of our communion of faith almost at the same time."

The class and the bishop had first met four years earlier, when the candidates were in the early months of formation, and the bishop was newly ordained for the Diocese of Fort Worth. "Together, for four years we have traveled this



The 32 deacon candidates lie prostrate during the Litany of Saints at the Sept. 26 diaconate ordination, held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller.

journey of faith," Bishop Vann reminded them.

At the Sept. 26 diaconate liturgy, the largest class of deacons in the diocese's history was solemnly ordained for a ministry with a three-fold emphasis: service, liturgy, and the Word. The diaconate originated 1900 years ago, later devolving to strictly a transitional stage en route to the priesthood. Pope Paul VI formally reinstated the permanent diaconate in 1967.

Candidates' wives, families, and invited friends

filled Keller's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish's massive sanctuary for the ordination. A combined diocesan choir led the music, and a stately body of more than 120 priests and deacons participated in the liturgy.

"Dressing and preparing for the ordination was emotional," said Tom Bates, of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine. "We were together formally as a group for the last time."

Deacons' wives led the long procession into the church, each carrying a dalmatic — a deacon's liturgical vestment — and leading the way for their husbands. Later in the

liturgy they would participate in the formal vesting.

Significant moments in the ordination of a deacon are the promise of the elect, the litany of supplication (during which candidates lie prostrate in prayer), the laying-on of hands, the investiture, and the presentation of the Book of Gospels.

"I have rarely had a moment in my life so spectacular as that morning," said Diane Bates. "It was so overwhelming and glorious. It would have been so even if my own husband was up there alone, but to see all the men together ... we have spent a weekend-and-a-half with them every month for four years, and they are like family.

"I knew I was going to cry, so I did not wear any eye makeup," she said, smiling.

Tom Bates' vocation was something he said grew over time, "but if I look back to the very beginning it was because years ago, Sister Shirley, at St. Francis, asked me to help with our script program. It was the 'being asked' that started this. Before that I didn't think I was 'worthy.'"

From early classes through final internships, many people were involved with the program. Candidates worked with pastors and parish peer support groups

of five to six people who met with them twice monthly. Staff from the diocese, the University of Dallas, and Holy Trinity Seminary committed to teaching in the program and providing spiritual direction.

Pastors and agencies also worked with the program, providing summer field placement programs where candidates volunteered in ministries.

Essential to the permanent diaconate program were Don Warner, director of permanent deacons; Dr. Ann Healey, director of permanent deacon formation; Judy Locke, associate director of permanent deacon formation; and Deacon Rubén Castañeda, who helped with liturgies; Mary McLarry and Joan Grabowski, who provided music; and Father Richard Eldredge, TOR, who regularly celebrated Mass and provided spiritual direction.

John Nguyen has long participated in Vietnamese Martyrs Parish's youth ministry program (they teach some 1,000 young people every Sunday), so he spent his summer service projects working in nursing homes, in prisons, and with hospice. He said, "The ministries helped me to be a

SEE DEACONS, P. 25



During the part of the ordination rite known as the Examination of the Candidates, Bishop Vann asks the men to declare before the people their intention to undertake the office of the deacon.

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Inside... This issue of the NTC

Bishop Vann and the community of the College of St. Thomas More dedicated the college's first new building Oct. 5, and it was, fittingly enough, the Chapel of Christ the Teacher. **8**

Learn what Catholics are doing to build the culture of life locally through prayer and good works and nationally through influencing our elected representatives. **9-11**

Historic Fort Worth honored two of our restoration projects recently: the St. Patrick Cathedral rectory and St. Stephen Church's original church building. **14-15**