

# North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

Vol. 22 No. 18

November 3, 2006



**DEDICATION OF BASILICA CHAPEL** — A girl participates in the dedication of Our Lady of La Vang Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Oct. 21. The chapel was a gift from Vietnamese-Americans. See story p. 15 (CNS photo/Matthew Barrick, courtesy of the National Shrine)

## Pope says Christians can be missionaries to those near and far

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — All Christians are called to be missionaries, sharing the good news of God's love in their families, workplaces, or in far-off lands, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Mission starts from the heart," the pope said during his midday Angelus address Oct. 22, which was World Mission Sunday.

"The love that moved the Father to send his Son into the world and [moved] the Son to offer himself for us to the point of dying on the cross, that same love was poured by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of believers," he said.

Converted and saved by love, every Christian is called to proclaim "the good news that God is love and, in this way, save the world," the pope said.

Because mission is a matter of sharing the love of God, every Christian can and must be a missionary, he said.

Missionary work is not limited to traveling far away to proclaim the Gospel to people who have not heard the message, he said. Missionary work also can be striving to make one's family life holy, living one's professional life "with a Christian spirit," or dedicating one's life to God in the priesthood or religious life.

## SIM grants help parishes, schools with limited resources make necessary repairs

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

Charlene Hymel might be the only person thankful for the ongoing drought in North Texas. Cloudless skies mean one thing to the St. Rita School principal: There won't be any rain leaking through the roof and into classrooms.

"When it starts to rain, my husband and I come to the school to set out buckets," the dedicated administrator explains. "In one hallway, the water trickles down the wall and makes a puddle."

During the last downpour, a leak in the roof soaked comput-



ers in the fifth grade classroom. Fortunately, the school was able to salvage the units.

"I've been principal [for] four years, and I've been fighting this

problem the whole time I've been here," she says in frustration.

Thanks to Sharing in Ministry, the Annual Diocesan Appeal, relief is on the way. St. Rita is one of a dozen schools and parishes slated to receive a capital grant to help with costly repair work or building projects. The SIM campaign is currently underway in the Diocese of Fort Worth with a goal to raise \$2,600,000 for a variety of critical and immediate needs of the local church here in the 28 counties of the diocese. To date, \$1.7 million is committed toward the goal.

SEE SIM HELPS..., P. 8

## Bishops from Americas discuss threats to life, U.S. border fence

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The breakdown of families and threats to human life, from abortion to the death penalty, are challenges that Catholics in the Americas must confront, said a group of bishops meeting at the Vatican.

The council of bishops charged with monitoring and promoting follow-up to the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America and to Pope John Paul II's 1999 post-synodal document, *The Church in America*, met at the Vatican in

early October.

In addition to denouncing threats to human life, council members — from North and South America as well as from the Vatican — also offered a harsh assessment of plans to construct a fence along the U.S.-Mexican border.

On Oct. 23, Congress sent the bill authorizing construction of 700 miles of fencing to President George W. Bush, who signed it Oct. 26.

"The wall along the United States-Mexican border..."  
SEE BORDER FENCE..., P. 16

## Speakers at Canon Law convention say there's room for improvement in church consultation

FORT WORTH (CNS) — There's room for improvement in church consultation, said speakers at the annual convention of the Canon Law Society of America.

The Code of Canon Law prescribes various structures for church consultation, but they are not always effective in practice, the speakers said during the Oct. 9-12 meeting in Fort Worth.

The theme of the convention, "Consultation in the Life of the Church: In Service of Communion," was inspired by Pope John

Paul II's 2001 apostolic letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (*At the Beginning of the New Millennium*). In it the late pope called for strengthening a "spirituality of communion" by effectively using the structures of participation and consultation provided for in church law.

In an Oct. 9 keynote address, Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, identified consultative bodies on all church levels, from the Synod of Bishops and College of Cardinals assisting the pope, to

various lay and priests' councils helping diocesan bishops, and finance and pastoral councils aiding pastors.

"Truly, the Code of Canon Law proposes perfect structures for consultation," Cardinal Rodriguez said. However, they will be effective only if those who request and offer advice have the ability to listen, especially to "listen wisely," he added.

Msgr. John Strykowski, former executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Doctrine  
SEE CONSULTATION..., P. 13



**VATICAN NEWSPAPER** — Pope Benedict XVI reads the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, in this 2005 photo. The newspaper's editorial views correspond to Catholic teaching and positions taken by the pope. An exhibit on the 145-year history of the Vatican newspaper is currently on display in Rome. See story, p. 24 (CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

# We thank God for our increase of vocations, and those who will respond to God's call to serve the Church

Dear Friends in the  
Diocese of Fort Worth,

**A**s we go further into the month of November, we



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

have more opportunities in the church's calendar for reflection and living of our Faith.

For example, Nov. 9 is the anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. The land, owned by the Laterani family, was given to Pope St. Sylvester, and here, on this property, on November 9, 324 A.D. the Basilica of the Most Holy Savior and St. John the Baptist was dedicated.

The building has had several additions and much rebuilding over the years, but it celebrates with beauty and majesty our Catholic Faith. It is here, in the baptistry, where the Exultet was first sung! It is here where the bishops of Rome resided for many years. There is an inscription, in Latin, over the front door which reads that this basilica is

*Isaac Orozco,  
Thomas Kennedy,  
Jonathan Wallis,  
and Ray McDaniel  
will be ordained to  
the priesthood next  
summer, giving us  
the largest priestly  
ordination class for  
our diocese ever! We  
thank the Lord for  
their willingness to say  
yes to his call and for  
all who nurtured and  
supported that call....*

"The Mother and Head of all of the Churches of the City and the World." This makes it the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, and in that sense, it outranks even St. Peter's Basilica!

What we are reminded of by this feast day (where on the weekday the Gloria and even the Credo are recited or sung) is the nature of our communion of Faith with the Universal Church. The identity of the communion of the particular church is the bishop and the diocese. The particular church, then, must be in communion with the Universal Church and the Bishop of Rome. Thus, this basilica is a powerful reminder not

only of the glory of the Risen Savior, but that the Church is truly universal and is not congregational or even national. This is simply illustrated by using the term "The Catholic Church in the United States" or the "Catholic Church in France" rather than the "American Church" or the "French Church" for example.

Nov. 11 is worthwhile considering, as well. We know this as Veterans' Day or Armistice Day. It is the day when the treaty which ended World War I was signed. Peace treaties were signed on Nov. 11, traditionally, because this is the feast day of St. Martin of Tours. St. Martin of Tours had been a soldier who gave up his military career, and later became the bishop of Tours in France. He founded the first monastery in France and is the patron of soldiers, wine producers, and France.

On this day, it would be well to pray in gratitude and support of all of the men and women of the armed forces who have served our country both here and overseas. I think of my own father and his generation who served in the Second World War. I remember visiting the D-Day cemetery at Omaha Beach in France, in the company of a man who was visiting his brother's grave and had not seen his brother since he had left home in 1939.

We must also pray for peace, as I think of the words of Pope Benedict XVI this year on Jan. 1: "Every community should undertake an extensive process of education and witness aimed at making everyone

more aware of the need for a fuller appreciation of the truth of peace. At the same time, I ask for an increase of prayers, since peace is above all a gift of God, a gift to be implored incessantly...."

We are very proud of the fact that Isaac Orozco was ordained to the transitional diaconate at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Oct. 5, and on Nov. 4, Thomas Kennedy, Jonathan Wallis, and Ray McDaniel will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. They will be ordained to the priesthood next summer, giving us the largest priestly ordination class for our diocese ever! We thank the Lord for their willingness to say yes to his call and for all who nurtured and supported that call, including their seminary communities in Rome at the North American College and Assumption in San Antonio. Please keep praying for a generous response in our diocese to the call to serve the Lord as priests and religious.

Finally, as I mentioned in my last column, November is the month of all of the faithful departed. This would be an ideal month to visit our cemeteries and pray for all those who have died, as it is a spiritual work of mercy.

This month especially, and the ending of the calendar and the church year, remind us that no matter how important our project, point of view, ministry, or service may be, it all comes back around to the greatest gift of all, our eternal salvation.

God bless you always.

## Governments must work together to reverse poverty and hunger, says pope

VATICANCITY(CNS)—Governments must work together to reverse hunger and poverty and invest more in local agriculture, Pope Benedict XVI said on the occasion of World Food Day.

"Today more than ever, in the face of recurring crises and the pursuit of narrow self-interest, there has to be cooperation and solidarity between states, each of which should be attentive to the needs of its weakest citizens, who are the first to suffer from poverty," he said in a written message.

If nations do not look out for the common good of the whole human family through a spirit of solidarity, "there is a risk of limiting or even impeding the work of international organizations that set out to fight hunger and malnutrition," the pope wrote.

Pope Benedict's written mes-

sage was sent to the head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, Jacques Diouf, to mark the Oct. 16 celebration of World Food Day. The Vatican released a copy of the message Oct. 19.

Established by the United Nations, World Food Day aims to draw attention to what can be done to help alleviate world hunger.

More than 850 million people across the globe suffer from hunger and poverty despite the progress made in agriculture and rural development, according to the FAO.

It said 70 percent of the world's hungry live in rural areas — where farming and most food production take place.

The pope said in his message that the fight against hunger often ignores the people it seeks to help and instead focuses on "technical

and socioeconomic aspects."

"Local communities need to be involved in choices and decisions concerning land use, since farmland is being diverted increasingly to other purposes, often with damaging effects on the environment and the long-term viability of the land," he wrote.

Reaping profits in the short term must be tempered with "better long-term planning for food security" and practices that "do not cause irreversible damage to nature," the message said.

Pope Benedict urged societies and governments to no longer overlook the importance of agriculture and to protect and promote rural families.

Laws and investments affecting agriculture, he wrote, must help the family stay together and help it hold onto its "moral principles and values."



**North  
Texas  
Catholic**

**Publisher:**

Bishop Kevin W. Vann

**Editor:** Jeff Hensley

**Associate Editor:** Mary Martin

**Secretary:** Judy Russeau

**Editorial Office:** 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108, (817) 560-3300; FAX (817) 244-8839.

**Circulation Office:** Wilma Adrian, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108, (817) 560-3300.

**NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC** (USPS 751-370) (ISSN 0899-7020) is published semi-monthly, except for the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly, by the Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, 800 West Loop 820 South. Subscription rates are \$20 for one year, \$38 for two years, \$55 for three years. Periodical postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *North Texas Catholic*, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

Deadline for information for the *North Texas Catholic* is noon of Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. The *NTC* is published two times a month on Friday, except for the months of June, July, and August when it is published one time each month.

The appearance of advertising in these pages does not imply endorsement of businesses, services, or products. Readers must exercise prudence in responding to advertising in all media.

# First diocesan Spanish-language vocation retreat is offered

*Unique opportunity allows those looking into a vocation to open the door a little wider*

Story by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Photos by Donna Ryckaert

**G**rowing up surrounded by people of Hispanic heritage, Martha always knew what direction her life was expected to take.

"You get married and have children; that's the pattern," the 32-year-old woman explains. "Even the spiritual retreats I went on as a teenager focused on family issues and parenting kids."

The Busqueda (Search) and Jornada-Juvenil (Youth Journey) weekends she attended never discussed the possibility of a religious vocation.

"You have to be self-driven to learn more about that," Martha adds. "It's up to you to look for answers."

Fortunately, that's changed. Spanish-speaking Catholics who are trying to discern a religious vocation in the Diocese of Fort Worth now have a new resource at their disposal. A vocation awareness retreat, conducted entirely in Spanish, was sponsored recently by the Serra Club and the Diocese of Fort Worth. The first-time event, held at the Catholic Renewal Center in East Fort Worth, brought together 18 adults who have expressed an interest in religious life. Organizers designed the retreat to appeal to men and women between the ages of 18 to 35.

"That's a really good age for discerning and searching," says Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, associate director of Children's Catechetical Ministry for the diocese. "There are a lot of potential vocations in the Spanish-speaking community, and we need to reach out to them."

Working toward that objective, the Diocesan Hispanic Vocation Committee has tried to develop different activities and events. The weekend retreat was the culmination of those efforts.

The varied schedule includ-



**Above:** (L. to R.) Sister Inés Díaz, SSMN, Sister Flor Barreto, HFIC, and Sister Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, clap their hands enthusiastically as they participate in the first diocesan Spanish-language retreat.



**Left:** Sister Merys Jiménez, HCG, (center) shares a laugh with Luz Romero (left) and Maribel López as the young women discern a possible call to religious life.

ed group and panel discussions, Mass, holy hour, singing, personal reflection time, and one-on-one visits with representatives of different religious orders. Prayer and spirituality were the topics of a keynote address delivered by Sister Gabriela Martinez, SSMN, Saturday evening.

"She stressed the importance of prayer and of having a spiritual director in their lives to help guide them in discovering where their road is leading," Sr. Yolanda said.

Earlier in the day, retreat participants were invited to meet personally with visiting religious. The 30-minute chats received high marks in follow-up evaluations.

"People were particularly touched by the individual conferences," she said. "It was an opportunity for them to interview with sisters and priests, ask questions, and hear the

different responses."

The small, intimate gathering generated a comfortable, safe environment for people contemplating a serious decision.

"Everybody there had the same interest," she said. "It was a chance for like-minded people to come together for meals, prayer, and talks."

Father Kyle Walterscheid, associate director of Vocations, who will succeed Father Anh Tran as diocesan director of Vocations in January, said that inviting young men and women who are interested in religious life to a retreat is like sowing a garden.

"You can't bear fruit unless you plant the seed," he explained. "These are people who are beginning to discern a vocation. They're trying to understand where they fit within the church, and we want to give them the tools to do that."



**Above:** Father Kyle Walterscheid (left), associate director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, answers questions from Francisco García regarding a vocation to the priesthood.



**Above:** Father Anh Tran (center), diocesan director of Vocations, meets with retreat participants Leo Palacios (left) and Héctor Castro as they try to discern their vocational call.

For many, the weekend was an eye-opening experience.

"It let them know there's another door open to them in life. That's something they may not have realized before," Fr. Walterscheid said.

Retreat facilitators continue to meet with interested candidates for more intensive discernment during a series of informal gatherings held weekly at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann attended the group's Oct. 19 meeting to discuss the fear and apprehension involved in answering a call to religious life. During the discernment process, individuals are advised to speak with a spiritual director once a month and expand their involvement in parish activities.

"And I'm trying to get priests and sisters to journey individually with young men and women who are discern-

ing," Fr. Walterscheid explained.

Offering the vocation awareness program in Spanish proved beneficial beyond improved communication.

"It showed these people the church is truly interested and cares," Fr. Walterscheid suggested. "Using native language is always the best way to reach someone whether they're Vietnamese or Hispanic."

Martha, who speaks both English and Spanish, says the retreat replaced the confusion she felt with information. After meeting with representatives from several different religious congregations, the young professional is now planning to visit some convents to learn more.

"I hope to find out if that's truly where my niche is," she says. "This weekend was a good way to guide that decision."

## St. Maria Goretti Parish to present 'H3: Holy Happy Hour' Nov. 14

St. Maria Goretti Parish will present "H3: Holy Happy Hour," an opportunity to learn about and discuss contemporary issues with regards to the truths of Catholicism in a casual, social setting at J. Gilligan's, 400 E. Abram Street in Arlington. "H3" will be held one Tuesday a month, and the next gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 14. Doors open for food and drinks at 6 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m.

Colleen Hammond, a former on-camera meteorologist for the Weather Channel, will speak on "Living Your Faith in the 21st Century in a World of Negative Influences." Hammond, an award-winning writer and a radio and television talk-show host, will share a message filled with down-to-earth wisdom, inspiration, and humor, according to program information, bringing a fresh and creative approach to living joyfully.

For more information, contact Lucas Pollice, in the parish Faith Formation Office at (817) 274-0643 ext. 226 or at [lpollice@smgparish.org](mailto:lpollice@smgparish.org).

## Program to help couples preparing for marriage validation

A day of preparation for couples seeking to have their marriage validated within the Catholic Church will be offered Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by the diocesan Family Life Office. The one-day session, entitled "Today ... Tomorrow ... Forever," will be held at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth.

Topics to be discussed will include "Marriage as a Sacrament," "Commitment," "Communication," "Conflict Resolution," and "Intimacy." Time will be set aside for couples to strengthen their relationships with regard to these topic areas, as well as to focus upon their individual relationships. This program is a marriage enrichment opportunity and is open to all interested married couples who wish to deepen their sense of mutual love and commitment.

For more information or to register, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or ext. 256 or visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

## Nov. 30 celebration to honor three diocesan retirees

A celebration honoring the contributions of longtime diocesan employees Charmaine Williams, Sandra Leighton, and Sister Donna Ferguson, SSMN, will be held Nov. 30 at Good Shepherd Church, 1000 Tinker Road in Colleyville. The celebration will mark the retirement of the three women, and will include an evening prayer service, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. The following reception, to be held in the parish hall, will conclude by 9 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Williams, who has served as the diocesan director of Pastoral Planning and Human Resources, has worked with finance and pastoral councils across the diocese since 1986, and has been instrumental in developing groups such as the Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Council (DPAC), the Synod Planning Committee, and the Ministerium. Leighton, administrator of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal, has worked in diocesan-level Tribunal ministry since 1983, developing a large group of volunteer auditors from across the diocese who work to assist petitioners with marriage cases. Sr. Donna, director of Seminarians since 1983, works with candidates for priesthood and assists them with the process of testing, application to seminary, and pastoral assignments prior to ordination.

For more information about the celebration or to RSVP prior to the Nov. 20 deadline, call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300 or e-mail to [rsvp@fwdioc.org](mailto:rsvp@fwdioc.org).

## Cardinal Newman Institute to host final lecture in series Dec. 9

The Cardinal Newman Institute for the Study of Faith and Culture will conclude its fall lecture series Saturday, Dec. 9, with a presentation of "Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman: An Exemplar Witness for Truth and a Man for Our Time" by Dr. James Patrick, chancellor of the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth. The evening, which will begin with a potluck supper at 7 p.m., will take place at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1408 N. Davis Drive in Arlington.

All are invited to attend. For more information, call (817) 277-4859.

# People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



**EWTN CELEBRATION** —Jacqueline Flusche (right), 18, a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Muenster, traveled with a group of relatives and friends to Hanceville, Alabama, to attend the 25th anniversary celebration of the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). While at the Aug. 12-13 celebration, Jacqueline had the opportunity to meet and speak with Fr. Francis Mary (left), host of the popular EWTN show "Life on the Rock." As Flusche plans for her future, she affirms that her journey to Alabama was a turning point in her own faith journey, allowing her to grow in her determination, she wrote, "to preach to the world about our faith through the spoken word and through music." Jacqueline hopes to attend the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and to pursue studies in theology and music, with the goal of one day working at EWTN.

## 'Yes! I'm Catholic' sessions to be offered at St. Andrew's Nov. 6, 20

Two sessions of the "Yes! I'm Catholic" adult faith formation program will be offered in November at St. Andrew Parish, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Father Nathan Stone, SJ, from Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, will present the sessions Monday evenings, Nov. 6 and 20, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

At the first session, Fr. Stone will examine the sacrament of baptism and what it means for Catholics today. Participants will be encouraged to reflect upon "How are we called to 'live' our baptismal promises and continue to grow into the Mystery of Faith?"

The Eucharist will be the focus of the second session. Fr. Stone will delve into the tradition of this sacrament and examine what it means to be a "Eucharistic People." Questions to be examined will include "What does it mean to be transformed by the Eucharist; to be blest, broken, and shared?"

Organizers invite all to "Come and see what opening the meaning of these sacraments means for the church; the People of God; for the human family."

For more information about the series, call the parish office at (817) 927-5383. Childcare will be provided by calling (817) 924-6581 at least 48 hours in advance. There is a \$5 fee per child.

## 'Mornings of Reflection' to be offered at Mt. Carmel Center

Several morning retreat opportunities will be available in upcoming weeks at Mt. Carmel Center, located in far southwest Dallas at 4600 W. Davis Street. All "Mornings of Reflection" will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon.

Upcoming programs will include: Nov. 11, "The Infinite Horizon of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity," an examination of the life and writings of this French holy woman, to be presented by Rose Marie Chisholm, professor of music at the University of North Texas; Nov 15, "Rejoice and Again I Say Rejoice," a reflection on the Gospel-based challenge to live with a sense of joy and appreciation for God's gifts, even in times of hardship, to be presented by Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD; and Dec. 9, "A People Full of Anticipation: St. Luke and the Coming(s) of the Messiah," an Advent program focusing upon how people of faith are to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, to be presented by Father Jerome Earley, OCD.

Participants are invited to bring their own lunch for shared fellowship following the sessions; drinks and dessert are provided. Those planning to attend are asked to make their reservation for the program one week prior to the event. A suggested donation of \$25 is requested for each session.

For more information or to make a reservation, call (214) 331-6224 ext. 314.

## Save the date for SWLC Study Week Jan. 17-20 in Oklahoma City

The Southwest Liturgical Conference will hold its 44th annual Study Week Jan. 17-20 at the Cox Business Services Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

"Be a part of the Study Week," suggest organizers, "as we listen to and dialogue with scholars, colleagues, and coworkers in liturgy and catechesis about the meaning of Sunday, the day of the Lord, and what it means to 'Keep Holy the Lord's Day.'"

Study Week speakers will include Father Paul Holmes, Father J. Michael Joncas, Father Kevin Irwin, Pat Kerwin, and Bill Huebsch.

To acquire a registration brochure or for more information, call (405) 721-5651 ext. 158 or mail a request to The Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123. More information is also available online at [www.swlc.org](http://www.swlc.org).

## 'Annulment in the Church' to be lecture topic at DCCW meeting Nov. 16

All women are invited to attend the quarterly luncheon meeting of the Central/East Deanery of the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women at St. Matthew Parish, 2021 New York Ave. in Arlington. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Joleen Dubois, who has served on the Diocese of Fort Worth Marriage Tribunal since January 2002, will speak on "Annulment in the Church." Dubois currently serves as a case coordinator/assessor, working with parish coordinators, priests, and other Tribunal personnel to assist those who approach the Tribunal with a petition. She will present her program prior to Mass.

The service project for November's meeting is a Thanksgiving food drive for parish food pantries.

Reservations must be made by noon on Monday, Nov. 13, by calling Mary DelRio at (817) 838-8120 or Pat Coffey at (817) 657-2823. Reservations not honored must be paid.

## St. Michael elder care series continues Nov. 6

For those dealing with elder care issues, St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road, Bedford, is hosting a series of free informational seminars, designed to give participants practical information and tools to assist them in their roles as caregivers. The seminars, given in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County, are held at the church on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.

Upcoming topics to be addressed in the series include "Housing Options," Nov. 6; "Managing the Holidays: Stress, Time, and Family," Nov. 20; "Safety and Independence 1," Dec. 4; and "Safety and Independence 2," Dec. 18.

For more information or to RSVP for one of the sessions, visit the St. Michael Web site at [www.smchurch.org](http://www.smchurch.org), or contact Martin Peña, director of Social Outreach and Pastoral Care at (817) 283-8746 ext. 30.

## Interfaith Thanksgiving service to be held Nov. 19 at St. Philip's

An interfaith Thanksgiving service will be celebrated Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Life Center of St. Philip the Apostle Church, 1897 W. Main Street in Lewisville. People of all faiths in Lewisville, Flower Mound, Highland Village, and surrounding communities are invited to attend.

Following the tradition begun with the international interfaith prayer services held in Assisi, Italy, all are invited to gather while leaders from each faith community present a brief explanation of their faith tradition's basic belief system. Each leader will then offer a brief prayer. This opportunity is designed to assist in developing understanding among the different faiths, while helping participants to grow in a sense of respect for the unique aspects within each faith tradition.

Leaders of any group wishing to participate are asked to contact event coordinator Kathleen Easler at (817) 430-2454, or via e-mail to [kathleeneasler@comcast.net](mailto:kathleeneasler@comcast.net).

Participants are also invited to bring musical accompanists or a choral group to share in the program. All are asked to respond prior to Nov. 15.

## Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics announces holiday schedule

The regular monthly meeting of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will not be held in November or December because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Instead, all who are interested, including parents and friends, are invited to attend the 5 p.m. Mass Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills. The liturgy will be followed by a potluck dinner in the parish hall; meats will be provided. Food may be dropped off at the parish's Family Life Center beginning at 3 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the ministry will be held Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, adjacent to Nolan Catholic High School. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383; Deacon Richard Griego at (817) 421-1387; or Hank and Dottie Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

## Courage group meets twice monthly

Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for Catholics striving to live chaste lives according to 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](mailto:CourageDFW@Catholic.org) or call (972) 938-5433.

## Official Assignments

*The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:*

Father Paul Weon Phil Cho has been assigned as the pastor of Korean Martyrs Parish, Hurst, effective Sept. 1.

Father Antony Mathew, TOR, has been assigned as a parochial vicar at St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, effective Sept. 18.

Father Thobiyas Perianayagam, HGN, has been assigned as a parochial vicar at St. Matthew Parish, Arlington, effective Sept. 18.

Father Martin Tran Vanban, CMC, has been assigned as the pastor of Christ the King Parish, Fort Worth, effective Oct. 1.

## People and Events

### Doug Brummel will present 'Lighten Up' at Holy Family Church Dec. 4-5

Catholic entertainer Doug Brummel will offer his one-man, character-changing show "Lighten Up" at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in Fort Worth, Dec. 4-5 at 6:47 p.m. each evening. All are invited to attend.

According to program information, Brummel will transform himself into a variety of characters that aim to help all generations connect their faith into everyday life. "Bringing everyone together to celebrate the gifts of our faith and our family life ... that's what it is all about," says Brummel.

A familiar and favorite personality at past conferences and missions within the Diocese of Fort Worth, Brummel has an extensive background in youth and family ministry. He has brought his show to more than 700 communities in nearly every state in the nation.

Admission is free; a free-will offering will be accepted. More information on Doug Brummel's ministry can be found at [www.dougbrummel.com](http://www.dougbrummel.com). For more information, call Genni Sayers at (817) 737-6768 ext. 109.

### Holy Rosary School to host 'Little Gobbler Thanksgiving Party' Nov. 17

"A Little Gobbler Thanksgiving Party" will be hosted Friday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Rosary School, 2015 S.W. Green Oaks Blvd. in Arlington.

According to its Web site, Holy Rosary School proudly serves the children of seven distinct parishes. All parish toddler and pre-school-age children are invited to gather in the school library for a morning of stories, songs, a "Turkey Play," snacks, and colorful crafts. Although the party is designed for children ages 2 to 6, older and younger siblings are welcome to attend as well. Non-parish friends and family are welcome too.

Admission is free; reservations are appreciated. For more information, call (817) 419-6800.

### Serra Club announces dates for Vocation Poster Contest

Each year students in Catholic grade schools or religious education classes are invited to participate in the Serra Club's Vocation Poster Contest by drawing a picture which best illustrates the contest's theme. The upcoming contest's theme is "Going to the Whole World and Proclaiming the Good News to All Creatures."

Letters have already been sent out to Catholic schools and religious education classes containing the poster contest forms, which are to accompany each poster submission. The deadline for submitting posters is March 1. The judging of the posters will take place March 14, and the awards ceremony will be held April 22 at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth.

The local Serrans hope that the youngsters will use this opportunity to focus on the theme and personally consider whether they may be called to a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. First place winners for each grade level will receive a \$100 savings bond; second place winners will receive a \$50 savings bond, and third grade winners will receive \$10.

For more information about the poster contest or the Serra Club, contact Father Anh Tran, diocesan director of Vocations, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 106.

### Cardinal Newman Lecture to be presented Nov. 18

The College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth will present its annual Cardinal Newman Lecture Nov. 18 at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1408 N. Davis Drive in Arlington. The topic of the lecture will be "Why Do Catholics Eat Fish on Friday? — The Catholic Origin to Just About Everything," given by author and lecturer Michael Foley, assistant professor of patristics at Baylor University.

The cost is \$50, including dinner. For more information, call the College of St. Thomas More at (817) 923-8459 or visit online at [www.cstm.edu](http://www.cstm.edu).

### Singles Silent Retreat to be held at Montserrat Nov. 17-19

All singles are invited to participate in the annual Singles Silent Retreat, to be held at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, 600 N. Shady Shores Road, Lake Dallas. The retreat will be offered Nov. 17-19, beginning with supper on Friday evening and continuing through lunch on Sunday.

The retreat will offer a mostly silent atmosphere with time for individual meditation and private prayer, and opportunities to walk along the lake or visit the library/bookstore. Mass will be celebrated, and the sacrament of reconciliation will be offered. Retreatants are also welcome to schedule time for spiritual direction with Jesuit staff.

The Singles Silent Retreat is open to singles of all ages, including those who have been separated, widowed, divorced, or never married.

Individual rooms will be provided. Payment for the retreat is based on a sliding scale, and payment options are available. For reservations, call Montserrat at (940) 321-6020, or e-mail to [retreat1@airmail.net](mailto:retreat1@airmail.net). More information about Montserrat can be found online at [www.montserratretreat.org](http://www.montserratretreat.org).

For more information on singles activities in the Diocese of Fort Worth, visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org/default.aspx?ID=401](http://www.fwdioc.org/default.aspx?ID=401).

### Singles Christmas celebration set for Dec. 9 at Holy Family

The Singles Ministry of Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth, will be hosting a Christmas celebration benefiting the North American Conference of Divorced Catholics, Catholic Divorced Ministry Region 10. The evening of fellowship and dancing will take place in the parish's Family Life Center Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 p.m. until midnight.

Those interested in participating are asked to bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. A DJ will provide the music.

The cost is \$6 per person. For more information or to RSVP, call Monica Molina at (817) 737-6768, Vince Chairez at (817) 896-5726, or Sylvia Salinas (817) 845-2718.

### Nolan Catholic High School to host Open House

Nolan Catholic High School will host an open house Sunday, Nov. 12, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The event is an opportunity for parents to learn more about the school and to meet and visit with administrators and students.

Nolan Catholic is located at 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. For more information about Nolan Catholic, visit the school's Web site at [www.nolancatholic.org](http://www.nolancatholic.org), or call Maureen Barisonek, director of recruitment, at (817) 457-2920.



**CDA COURT INSTALLATION** — The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Mother of the Americas 2506, installed new officers Oct. 28 at St. Peter the Apostle Church. Present for the occasion were (*l. to r.*) Christina Mendez, financial secretary and immediate past regent; Jane Savoy, district deputy; Barbara Lockwood, regent; Penny Becan, vice regent; Evelyn Breaux, recording secretary; and Maria Salinas, treasurer. Court 2506 meets on the last Sunday of each month at St. Peter the Apostle Parish, 1201 S. Cherry Lane in White Settlement.

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

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

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

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

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

### Boots 'n Bow Ties Auction to be held at St. John School, Nov. 11

St. John the Apostle School, 7421 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills, will host its annual Boots 'n Bow Ties Auction Saturday, Nov. 11, in the school gym. The event will begin at 6 p.m. and continue until 1 a.m.

Dinner will be catered by the Outback Steakhouse, and there will be music for dancing. Live and silent auctions will take place throughout the evening.

Ticket prices are \$40 per person. For reservations or for more information, contact Pam Lazenby at the school office at (817) 284-2228, or e-mail to [plazenby@stjs.org](mailto:plazenby@stjs.org).

### Holy Spirit Sisters to host 'Come and See' Dec. 8-10

The Sisters of the Holy Spirit will host a "Come and See" weekend at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in San Antonio. The weekend will begin Friday, Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. and continue through Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1 p.m.

The Sisters of the Holy Spirit, inspired by their foundress Margaret Mary Healy Murphy, are called to minister to persons who are marginalized, oppressed, or economically poor.

Any woman who might feel God is inviting her to share in this ministry may contact Sister Veronica Cahill by phone at (210) 533-5149 or via e-mail to [holyspirit@shsp.org](mailto:holyspirit@shsp.org). Other information may be found on the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

### St. Rita Garden Club to host art sale Nov. 5

The St. Rita Garden Club has announced that it will be hosting an art sale Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Formation Room (enter from the parking lot on the side) at St. Rita Church, 5550 East Lancaster Avenue in East Fort Worth.

Featured at the sale will be original oil paintings of Mary Shaw. There are 11 paintings in all, signed and framed and in various sizes, depicting landscapes, florals, and still lifes.

The Garden Club will provide refreshments and snacks during the art sale.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 451-9395.

### St. Thomas Church to host annual turkey dinner Nov. 12

All are invited to attend the annual turkey dinner sponsored by the Women's Organization of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 2920 Azle Avenue in Fort Worth. The meal will be held Sunday, Nov. 12, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the parish hall.

### St. George Harvest Dance to be held Nov. 4

The altar society of St. George Parish in Fort Worth will sponsor a Harvest Dance Saturday, Nov. 4, from 8 p.m. to midnight. The event will be held at the National Hall, 3316 Roberts Cut-off Road in Fort Worth.

Come join in the fun, suggest organizers. Music will be provided by the Charles Nemeck Band. Activities will include a harvest fruit pull and cakewalk, and door prizes will be distributed. Kolbase sandwiches, kolache pastries, and nachos will be available for purchase.

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

### Sacred Heart in Seymour to host Polka Mass Nov. 12

The Catholic community of Sacred Heart Parish, Seymour, welcomes all its neighbors to the celebration of a Polka Mass Sunday, Nov. 12, beginning at 11 a.m.

The liturgy will be followed by a Czech Olde World Dinner at Sacred Heart's Mosler Hall on North Cedar Street until 1:30 p.m. The cost of the meal, which will include Bohemian sausage, turkey, and kolaches, is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Carryout meals are also available for \$8.

An auction will follow, and a country store will offer baked goods and crafts.

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



**RESTING SPOT** — The Ladies Group of St. John the Baptist Parish in Bridgeport recently donated three cement benches for the walkway leading into the church. After helping to set up the benches, (*l. to r.*) Gene Anderle, Beau Hall, and John Cortez were among the first to benefit from this new addition to the parish grounds. The women of the parish were able to raise funds for the benches' purchase by holding monthly bake sales.

# Diocesan



**PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS** — Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls recently hosted a couple of family gatherings in preparation for All Saints Day, a holy day celebrated by the Catholic Church Nov. 1. Close to 70 families participated, creating family pennants and learning more about the saints. As a concluding activity, a special “Pumpkin Prayer” was offered while a pumpkin was carved using Christian symbols. Brandon Malone and Cecilia Parker are shown getting a closer look at the unique carvings. Fun was had by all, stated Linda Price, parish director of religious education.

## Actor Tom Key to perform ‘Screwtape in Person’ Nov. 11

“Screwtape in Person,” a program based on C.S. Lewis’s *The Screwtape Letters*, will be presented by actor Tom Key at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 3821 University Boulevard in Dallas, Saturday, Nov. 11. Check-in will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The event, which will include a silent auction and dinner, will benefit the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth and the C.S. Lewis Center for the Study of the Common Tradition.

According to an event press release, Tom Key has brought C.S. Lewis to life before audiences throughout the United States and Britain, including Oxford, where he appeared at the request of Lewis’s stepson, Douglas

## St. Vincent de Paul Men’s Club will host golf tournament

The St. Vincent de Paul Men’s Club will sponsor a golf tournament Saturday, Nov. 11, at Mansfield National Golf Course, 2750 National Parkway in Mansfield. The tournament, to be played in a four-man Florida scramble format, will have a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

The cost is \$65 per person, or any donation will be accepted. According to an event press release, the tournament will benefit Holy Rosary School, Autism Speaks, and Harold Weidhaas.

All are welcome to join in the fun. To register or to make a donation, call Brian Murphy at (817) 451-9144 or e-mail to [bkmurphy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bkmurphy@sbcglobal.net); or call Pat Irwin at (817) 919-0485.

## Father John Dear challenges others to practice Jesus’ example of non-violence

By Mark Schatzman  
Correspondent

More than 100 people of various faiths, ages, and backgrounds gathered at the Catholic Renewal Center of North Texas in East Fort Worth to listen to Father John Dear, SJ, speak on “Jesus, Bearer of God’s Peace and Justice.” This presentation was arranged by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and the diocesan Office of Peace and Justice.

Fr. Dear, a 47-year-old Jesuit priest who is currently living in New Mexico, kept the large group engaged with his personal history of non-violence and how he continually tries to emulate the non-violent teachings of Jesus. Fr. Dear, a prolific writer with over nine books on non-violence to his credit, not only writes on non-violence but he “walks the talk.”

Using the foundation of Jesus’ teachings on peace (examine the Sermon on the Mount for clarification), Fr. Dear recounted his actions in numerous war zones across the world. He spoke of wars and murders enacted in the “name of God” and challenged the assembly to return to the teachings of the Beatitudes and “love your enemies” as Jesus specifically told us to do — not “love your friends and nuke all

*“I learned more about the Scriptures in jail than in the four years of seminary. It was perhaps the most profound spiritual experience of my life — to truly live out the call of Jesus for peace.”*

— Father John Dear, SJ

the others.”

Engaging in civil disobedience for years, Fr. Dear has been arrested in the name of Jesus’ peace more than 70 times, spending eight months in jail for one particular non-violent demonstration.

“I learned more about the Scriptures in jail than in the four years of seminary,” Fr. Dear explained. “It was perhaps the most profound spiritual experience of my life — to truly live out the call of Jesus for peace.”

Fr. Dear advocates non-vio-

lence in small group discussions, especially those associated with Pax Christi and Pace Bene, and suggests that positive social change happens when people take risks for the good of all. This is precisely what Jesus calls us to do, Fr. Dear said, noting that we must cease being the “church of accommodation” no matter what our faith. We must focus on an issue — whether it’s the death penalty, abortion, the poor, the war, violence, or whatever — and act, he insisted.

Stressing that today’s culture is based on killing our enemies, Fr. Dear invited those gathered to re-read the Sermon on the Mount with today’s headlines in mind and then truly act as sons and daughters of peace.

*Those interested in learning more about Fr. John Dear’s call to non-violence should consider reading his books, including JESUS THE REBEL: BEARER OF GOD’S PEACE AND JUSTICE, or visiting his Web site at [www.FatherJohnDear.org](http://www.FatherJohnDear.org). For more information on small groups concerned with non-violence, contact Ralph McCloud, diocesan director of the Office of Peace and Justice at [rmcccloud@fwdioc.org](mailto:rmcccloud@fwdioc.org) or (817) 560-3300 ext. 305.*



### Donate That Vehicle!

Toll Free 1-888-317-7837  
Have title in hand when you call



- Tax Deductible
- Free Vehicle Pickup
- Trucks, Cars & Vans
- Most Running & Non-Running Vehicles Accepted

**Society of St. Vincent dePaul  
Vehicle Donation Program**

Proceeds benefit needy throughout North Texas

### IRAs • 401(k)s • Pension Rollovers

We’re the Rollover Specialists

5.25% APR

**Retiring? Switching Jobs? Changing Careers? Starting a New Business? Roll Your Money Over to Us and Watch it Grow!**

*Meet the Specialists in Your Area*

Ray Lindemann Scotland 940-423-6495	Pat Knabe Muenster 940-759-2888	Alvin Jungman Seymour 940-888-2069
Phillip Flusche Muenster 940-759-5010	Mike Dieter Lindsay 940-665-5846	Dennis Hess Muenster 940-759-2750

**CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE**

\*Includes Current Yield + 1% First Year Bonus. Interest rates are subject to change & vary by plan. Rate guaranteed for 1st year. Minimum guarantee is 3.00% SS 10-06

### Products to Protect You & Your Family

- Whole & Term Life Insurance for Catholics
- Single Premium & Flexible Annuities
- Special Plans for Youth & Seniors
- Traditional & Roth IRA’s

Contact a representative in your area for more information:

Clara Miller (972) 875-8378	Elsie Marak (972) 878-5537	Theresa Plsek (254) 867-1973
--------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------



**Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas-KJZT**  
PO Box 1884 Austin, TX 78767  
1-888-253-2338

### MARCH 2007 SPRING-BREAK SPECIALS

**CHINA - Beijing, Xian (Terracotta Warriors), Shanghai**  
-\$1,999 per person - March 9 - 18, 2007 (3 meals daily)

**ITALY - Rome, Florence, Assisi, Papal Audience, Basilicas of Rome**  
March 10-18, 2007 \$1,899 or 1 night extra - S. Giovanni Rotondo (St. Padre Pio) - March 10-19, 2007 - \$1,999 per person  
Prices - per person double, breakfast/dinner daily + airfare from DFW

+++++

**June 22 - 30, 2007 - SUMMER CRUISE - R/T BOSTON**  
Canada & New England - from \$1,899 per person - Mass daily  
Non-stop air DFW/Boston/DFW + 1 night pre-cruise Boston

**Call Michael or Sue Menof for details/conditions/ terms**  
**GOLDEN WORLD TOURS - TEL: 972-934-9635**

### Why Do Catholics Eat Fish on Friday? The Catholic Origin to Just About Everything

Presented by the author, **Dr. Michael Foley**, Assistant Professor of Patristics at Baylor University

**Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006 6:30 P.M.**  
**Saint Mary the Virgin Catholic Church, Arlington**  
**Preceded by dinner. Tickets: \$50**

**The Cardinal Newman Lecture is sponsored by The College of St. Thomas More**  
Visit us at [www.cstm.edu](http://www.cstm.edu)  
**Reservations: 817-923-8459**

# Diocesan

## Special Collection: Catholic Communication Campaign

Parish Name	Parish Location	Communication Campaign August 2005	Communication Campaign August 2006
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	133.00	107.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	146.00	197.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	447.25	726.27
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	2,998.00	2,328.84
St. Joseph	Arlington	1,820.86	2,450.20
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,951.50	0.00
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	127.00	137.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	500.00	253.25
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	472.00	705.50
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,017.00	2,494.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	401.00	478.00
St. Michael	Bedford	1,644.00	1,895.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	42.00	50.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	112.55	334.40
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	182.00	252.01
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	215.00	277.00
St. Ann	Burleson	650.00	745.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	1,548.00	1,661.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	36.00	101.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	315.06	0.00
Holy Angels	Clifton	338.10	0.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	802.00	733.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	262.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	70.00	163.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	20.00	22.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	460.40	558.63
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	50.00	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	438.00	286.00
St. Mark	Denton	2,046.21	1,911.50
St. Mary	Dublin	284.00	472.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	70.00	68.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	2,100.50	1,966.31
Christ the King	Fort Worth	0.00	249.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,372.00	1,493.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	90.00	108.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	1,712.00	2,436.68
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	0.00	1,238.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,051.50	1,854.50
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	103.00	0.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	268.00	263.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	2,430.37	1,569.21
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	3,022.40	3,317.22
St. George	Fort Worth	538.99	605.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	936.00	930.67
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	385.00	0.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	2,677.00	2,310.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	579.80	816.50
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	401.48	365.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	90.00	124.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,303.09	1,216.42
St. Mary	Gainesville	477.00	216.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	139.00	156.25
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	0.00
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,255.00	1,266.00
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,894.00	0.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	65.00	60.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	243.58	299.44
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	49.00	46.60
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	3,470.00	2,966.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	86.39	74.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,746.69	0.00
St. Peter	Lindsay	760.00	1,193.50
St. Jude	Mansfield	1,021.00	338.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	35.00	45.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	236.05	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	69.40	103.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	703.10	819.25
St. Joseph	Nocona	60.00	45.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	0.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	123.00	136.00
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	192.00	160.00
St. Mary	Quanah	56.00	41.00
St. Rita	Ranger	94.00	66.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	0.00	0.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	40.00	52.50
Sacred Heart	Seymour	62.00	115.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	135.00	145.51
St. John	Strawn	129.39	131.00
St. John	Valley View	2.00	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	163.00	246.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	918.00	1,350.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	0.00	540.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	0.00	0.00
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	775.00	529.61
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	444.00	660.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	390.53	550.57
		56,494.19	52,620.34

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

## Sr. Rita Critser, IHM, former Catholic Charities social worker, dies at age 85

Sister Rita Critser, 85, a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) religious congregation for 57 years, died Oct. 15 at the IHM motherhouse located in Monroe, Michigan. She worked for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Worth from 1987 to 1993.



Sister Rita Critser, IHM

Born to Bertha (Keller) and Earle Critser in New Albany, Indiana, Sept. 14, 1921, Sr. Rita was the eldest of three daughters. She entered the IHM convent in June 1939 and professed her final vows five years later. Taking the religious name of Sr. Mary Lambert, she taught in Catholic schools for 30 years.

Following her years of service as an educator, Sr. Rita began her career as a social worker,

and became trained as a midwife and labor coach in order to more fully assist and support the needs of unwed mothers. Sr. Rita then came to the Diocese of Fort Worth in order to live in closer proximity to her sister, Martha Landis, a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington. At the suggestion of Father Philip Johnson, then pastor at St. Vincent's, Sr. Rita began her work for Catholic Charities, serving as a financial counselor to needy individuals who came to

Catholic Charities' location in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford area.

"She was a very special person," said Landis. "She loved young people, and she remained close to many of the girls that she had cared for in the schools where she worked. She was also very good at raising funds to assist with the good causes in which she was involved."

Sr. Rita retired from active ministry and returned to the IHM motherhouse in 1994.

In addition to her sister Martha Landis, Sr. Rita is survived by her sister Rosemary Schmidt of Michigan, and by several nieces and nephews, including Nolan Catholic High School faculty member Catherine Buckingham.

## James Joyce novel will be focus of Faith and Fiction gathering Nov. 16

"Faith and Fiction: Conversations on Spirituality and Imagination," a venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on the journey of faith, will meet Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be *Portrait of the Artist as a Young*

*Man* by James Joyce.

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

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

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

### TRIDENTINE MASS

LATIN INDULT MASS

5:30 P.M. SUNDAYS

#### ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH

509 W. MAGNOLIA, FORT WORTH

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

**Escape Colder Weather And  
Join Your Spiritual Director Fr. Page Polk**

## Hawaii Cruise

**15-Day Vacation Departs March 21, 2007**

Escape colder weather back home and travel with other Roman Catholics including your YMT Chaplain Father Page Polk. Depart March 21, 2007 and be met by "your man" at the Honolulu airport on this 15-day vacation including an 11-day cruise on NCL's *Norwegian Wind* with three hotel nights in Waikiki, with an included Honolulu city tour. In Hawaii visit Kauai, Maui, and on the "Big Island" both Hilo and Kona. As a bonus you'll also spend a day on exotic Fanning Island; see what the South Pacific was like over 100 years ago! Complete prices start from only \$2348 (per person/double occupancy) and includes an aloha flower-lei greeting, airport / hotel / ship transfers, the 11-day cruise, three nights hotels, baggage handling, round trip airfare from Ft. Worth, and all taxes. This will be Father Polk's second trip as a YMT Chaplain. He is Director of the Chaplain Corp in the Archdiocese of Galveston, Texas. Mass will be celebrated once in Honolulu and most days on ship. \$300 deposits now due. Family & friends welcome.

For information reservations, brochure and Fr. Polk's letter call 7 days a week:  
**'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626**  
North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

### NTC deadlines for submission

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

Items to be considered for publication in the Nov. 17 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Items for the Dec. 1 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

### LEARN ROSARY MAKING

LEWIS & COMPANY

Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer.

[rosaryparts.com](http://rosaryparts.com)  
(800) 342 - 2400

### Christ-Centered Counseling

**Diane McLeod, LPC**

Serving Adult Individuals, Marital, Pre-Marital Parenting, Women's and Men's Issues

For an appointment call 940/453-3595

# SIM helps get much-needed projects off the ground

FROM PAGE 1

"During this, our 24th campaign, the generosity of our Catholic families in the diocese continues to inspire me," says John Honaman, director of Stewardship and Development. "Through the continued prayers of all of us, I am hopeful donations will set an all-time record this year."

For Hymel and the 229 students who attend St. Rita School, assistance can't come soon enough. The school's flat roof enables rainwater to pool for several days before the sun dries it up.

"Parent volunteers have patched the roof many times, but some of the leaks are hard to find," the principal explains. "Moisture gets beneath the shingles and moves."

Estimates to repair or replace the roof range from \$3,000 to \$90,000. The school community is appreciative for any help from Sharing in Ministry it can receive.

"Money is always an issue in Catholic schools. We operate on a very tight budget," the educator points out. "Tuition wouldn't begin to cover the cost of fixing the roof. Without help from the diocese, we would just keep patching the problem."

Although the Annual Diocesan Appeal supports a myriad of causes — from Catholic Charities to faith formation programs — one-third of the money do-



Parishioners of San Mateo Mission in Fort Worth are working hard to raise \$100,000 in order to receive a matching grant from Sharing in Ministry. Plans are to tear down these two older structures to make way for a new religious education building. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

nated is given directly to parishes or schools for specific projects. Catholic families in the diocese are generous when the collection basket is passed each Sunday, but "for many communities, the support is not enough to meet their needs, and that's exactly where funds from Sharing in Ministry come in," Honaman explains.

The Sunday offering, supplemented with money donated to the diocesan appeal by families throughout the diocese, can make a tremendous impact on the lives of thousands of people. In past years, Sharing in Ministry helped repair a rural church severely damaged by a spring storm and provided another country parish with a much-needed paved parking lot. Most recently, Catholics living in Morgan, a small town at the southern tip of the diocese, were grateful for the assistance given in building a \$282,000 parish hall for Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann joined parishioners in celebrating the new religious education/community space during dedication ceremonies Oct. 5. The new building is the culmination of five years of planning and sacrifice by the struggling rural community of 68 families that manages to collect \$485 in offerings each week.

"Everyone in Morgan was so thankful to their 'angels' in the Diocese of Fort Worth who contributed to the

project through Sharing in Ministry," Honaman says. "They want everyone to know how grateful they are."

Parishioners of San Mateo Mission in Fort Worth are hoping for similar support as they try to raise money for a religious education building. The predominantly Hispanic, center-city parish has outgrown the small, worn-out church building where classes are currently held three evenings a week because of the lack of space.

"We just don't have enough room for the children we have in our religious instruction program," says Father Robert Strittmatter, the priest in charge of the parish, a mission of St. Patrick Cathedral. "Some new classrooms and office space would help."

Two hundred youngsters are currently enrolled in classes, and parish leader Simon Sanchez expects those numbers to climb.

"Our numbers have increased 200 percent in the past two years, and we anticipate that trend continuing," says the building committee member. "Adult education in Spanish and English is growing as well, so that's a factor."

Organizers are hoping that a \$50,000 matching grant from Sharing in Ministry will generate support for a new parish building to house five classrooms and two offices.

The mission received assistance from the Annual Diocesan Appeal once before, remembers Ernie Barbosa.

"Without help from the diocese, we couldn't have built our new church. Sharing in Ministry was the impetus to get that going," explains the fundraising chairman.

Before starting another major construction project, members of San Mateo must raise \$100,000 to receive the matching grant. Barbosa believes placing a stipulation on the gift is a good idea.



Father Robert Strittmatter baptizes an infant at San Mateo Mission. The mission has witnessed tremendous growth in its religious education program — a 200 percent increase in two years. An SIM matching grant will help the burgeoning community create more room for its growing needs. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

"We have to take pride in our parish, get involved, and show the diocese we can raise the money," he says. SIM money is an incentive to "get people pumped up and give them the drive to accomplish this."

Plans are in the early stages, but Barbosa is confident the 200 families registered at San Mateo will work to make a religious education building a reality.

"We're going to do it," he promises, adding he just isn't sure of the timing at this point.

Raising thousands of dollars is a monumental task, but "the needs are there," admits Msgr. Hubert Neu, St. Patrick pastor.

Two buildings currently used by San Mateo for meeting and administrative purposes — an old house and an old church building — should be torn down because of age, space, and design considerations.

"Without help from Sharing in Ministry, places like San Mateo would never [be able to] afford the buildings they need," Msgr. Neu explains. "I'm encouraging the people to work toward it."

Making necessary improvements or adding staff is always a struggle for small parishes. Nobody knows that better than Father Steve Berg, who has juggled the demands of four rural churches for the past four years. On a typical weekend, the priest travels 80 miles to say Mass and hear confessions at St. William in Montague, St. Joseph in Nocona, St. Jerome in Bowie, and St. Mary in Henrietta. Add sick and bereavement calls, administrative tasks, and counseling to his list of appointments, and the schedule is exhausting.

Help finally arrived last spring in the form of Russ Detwiler. Ordained a permanent deacon in the diocese 11 years ago, Detwiler moved back to Michigan in 2001 to be closer to

relatives. He and his wife, Cecilia returned to the Metroplex last spring and agreed to settle in Henrietta. Sharing in Ministry will cover a portion of the expenses incurred by the deacon as he assists the rural pastor with his cluster of parishes.

"For the past four years, I've relied on volunteer help almost exclusively," Fr. Berg explains. "When I came here, the only paid employee was the priest."

Since his arrival, Deacon Detwiler has spent time visiting the sick, helping with religious formation, and cataloging inventory at each parish for insurance purposes.

"Having him here is a real blessing," the pastor says. "He's somebody I respect, who shares my concerns. We have a similar outlook toward people, and the parishes are benefiting from his good management experience."

This extra pair of helping hands provides a sense of balance to the rural ministry that serves 450 households, three hospitals, seven nursing homes, and two jails.

"I can be more proactive than reactive now," Fr. Berg notes. "There's more time to plan, and we're planning farther ahead."

The Sharing in Ministry grant, which will pay the deacon's travel expenditures, is a gift appreciated by the rural Catholics.

"Sharing in Ministry is the connection between the diocese and these outlying parishes," Fr. Berg adds. "The people feel included and less isolated."

Detwiler, who served Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls before moving away, is enjoying the country lifestyle.

"It's busy, but not fast-paced," he says. "They're beautiful little parishes, and the people are wonderful. A deacon is supposed to serve, so I'm here to do whatever they need."



Olivia Wilson (left) and Cassandra Reyes, students at St. Rita School in East Fort Worth, exit a pew after a school Mass. Despite recent drought conditions in North Texas, St. Rita Principal Charlene Hymel gets nervous when she sees rain clouds develop because of the major leaks present throughout the school facility. A Sharing in Ministry grant will help the school to pay for these much-needed repairs. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)



# Elections 2006

The two documents that follow were issued by the Texas Catholic Conference on behalf of the bishops of Texas to offer general guidance to Catholic voters for the 2006 elections.



In this file photo from 2004, voters cast their ballots during early voting at the Miami Government Center. As the 2006 midterm elections near, one constant in bishops' pre-election messages has been that Catholics must vote. In 37 states voters are facing referendum issues raising moral concerns. (CNS photo/Karen Callaway)

October 19, 2006

## Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Our airwaves have been filled with political ads as we prepare for the November elections. We write to you to encourage you to exercise the important privilege and responsibility we have as citizens by voting.

The Catholic Church does not endorse specific candidates. However, we do uphold important principles outlined by our bishops' conference in the document "Faithful Citizenship."

### Issues to Consider

**1. PROTECTING HUMAN LIFE.** Our foundational principle to protect the life and

dignity of all human persons calls us to work to end abortion, euthanasia, destruction of human embryos, cloning, assisted suicide, intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks, and the use of the death penalty. This principle leads us to seek peace, raise serious questions about the preemptive use of force.

**2. PROMOTING FAMILY LIFE.** We defend marriage between a man and a woman, work for just wages, and the protection of children. We support parental choice in education, responsible use of media, and technology, and vigorous enforcement of existing pornography laws.

**3. PURSUING SOCIAL JUSTICE.** We show God's special concern for the poor and vulnerable by supporting programs that create living wage jobs, make health care more affordable and accessible, provide income security for low and average wage workers at retirement, offer safe and affordable housing, protect family farmers and farm workers, and bring about just immigration reform. We seek public policies that work to end poverty, hunger, and discrimination.

**4. PRACTICING GLOBAL SOLIDARITY.** We work to alleviate poverty worldwide, strengthen barriers against the use of nuclear weapons and reduce the global arms trade, protect refugees, and end conflicts around the

globe. We bring our vision and values to the changing global economic structures.

We ask you to use these Christian principles to measure the various candidates and what they bring to the service of our government and society at large. We also ask that you consider the following rights and duties as a part of properly forming your conscience. Please pray, think, and vote so that we as Christians will exercise the great privilege that is ours to participate in the democratic process and to uphold the values of Christ in our society.

Prepared by  
Bishop Gregory Aymond  
Bishop of Austin

## Rights and Duties:

We, the Catholic Bishops of Texas, exercising our role as teachers, offer the following guidelines to help Catholics form their consciences on matters related to our most basic obligation of citizenship: voting. The following guidelines are intended for educational purposes only. We do not intend to endorse or oppose any particular candidate, political party, or political action committee. Rather, it is our hope that these guidelines will show how our Catholic faith and human reason shapes our thinking, choosing, and acting in daily life.

### THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO VOTE.

Catholics live in the world, but they should not live by worldly values that give too much importance to power, possessions, and pleasure as ends in themselves (*cf. 1 John 2:16*). Catholics have the same rights and duties as other citizens, but are called

to carry them out in light of the truth of faith and reason as taught by the Catholic Church. For example, they are called to respect human authority and obey those who govern society "for the Lord's sake" (*1 Peter 2:13-17*).

### THE DUTY TO FORM AND FOLLOW ONE'S CONSCIENCE.

We are conscientious voters when we are guided by our consciences. Conscience is a law "written" by God on our hearts that disposes us to love and to do good and avoid evil (*cf. Romans 2:12-16*). The conscience is like an inner voice that has the authority of the very voice of God. We have a serious duty to follow the guidance of conscience. To act against the judgment of conscience when it is certain about what is good and evil has the same seriousness as disobeying God. It is important to remember however that it is possible for our conscience to be certain

and at the same time incorrect about what is good and evil.

### A CONSCIENTIOUS VOTER'S DILEMMA.

In light of the above, it is a correct judgment of conscience that we would commit moral evil if we were to vote for a candidate who takes a permissive stand on those actions that are intrinsically evil when there is a morally-acceptable alternative. What are we to do, though, when there is no such alternative?

### BECAUSE WE HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO VOTE,

deciding not to vote at all is not ordinarily an acceptable solution to this dilemma. So, when there is no choice of a candidate that avoids supporting intrinsically evil actions, especially elective abortion, we should vote in such a way as to allow the least harm to innocent human life and dignity. We would not be acting immorally therefore if we were to

vote for a candidate who is not totally acceptable in order to defeat one who poses an even greater threat to human life and dignity.

### VOTING IS A MORAL ACT.

It involves duties and responsibilities. Our duty is to vote in keeping with a conscience properly formed by fundamental moral principles. As Bishops we are not telling Catholics which candidates they should vote for. Rather, we simply want to teach how we should form our consciences and consider the issues in light of these fundamental moral principles.

Originally approved and released by  
the Kansas Catholic Conference with  
signatures of all the bishops.  
Adopted, approved, and released by  
the Texas Catholic Conference with  
signatures of all the bishops of Texas.

# Viewpoints

## True reverence prepares our hearts for worship

By Dan Luby

Her silent greeting is expected now, one of the comforting certainties on which my wife and I count when we go to our "regular" Mass and sit in "our" pew on Sunday mornings.

Our long-time friend sits in the same place with her mom and dad every week, always on the aisle, in a pew in the very last row, right in the thick of the heaviest foot traffic. Whether we have gotten there early enough to walk sedately to our seats, or are rushing at the last minute, she and her folks are always there, well settled in their places. I suspect they come pretty early, at least partly because she is so eager to be there.

When she spots us, her face brightens, her dark eyes glittering and her sweet face breaking into a welcoming smile. As we pass by, she turns in her seat to reach out, always tentatively, to hold our hands.

Mostly, she remains silent when she greets us. Once in a great while she will hold up two or three fingers and whisper very softly, but with conspiratorial intensity, words to the effect that Christmas is coming in two weeks, or three. Her anticipation is palpable, whatever the season.

We smile and whisper our hellos and pat her on the shoulder before we move forward to our places.

*Respectful and affectionate presence, open hearted welcome, joy in recognizing the other, eagerness to share good news, confident expectation of something wonderful about to happen — these, it seems to me, are indeed signs of deep reverence.*

This homemade ritual exchange of mutual recognition and affection helps ready me for the great celebration of love and grace which follows. Seeing our friend, receiving her warm smile and heartfelt welcome always quiets me, helps me to let go of the preoccupations tugging at my thoughts, to become present to who I am, who we all are, and who we belong to.

That kind of presence, it seems to me, is a good way to imagine the virtue of

reverence.

I've been thinking about reverence a lot lately, ever since I sat in on a listening session in one of the parishes of our diocese recently. They're developing a comprehensive pastoral plan and, wisely, the pastor and his advisors have organized an extensive series of meetings for parishioners to express their hopes and dreams, their complaints and questions and kudos, regarding life in the parish.

On the morning I'd been invited to observe, there was much mention of "reverence." People wanted more of it, in a variety of settings, but chiefly on Sunday mornings at Mass.

They cited some of the more egregious violations of liturgical decorum — watch alarms chiming during the readings, loudly whispered side conversations, chewing gum in the Communion line, ostentatious checking of watches during the homily, and, my favorite liturgical blood pressure spiker, answering cell phones and conducting conversations during Mass(!). I nodded in agreement, and my own irritation at such behavior surged as I remembered similar experiences.

Reading between the lines, I suspect they were also expressing a desire for more silence inside the worship space, more attention given to the dialogue of the liturgy, listening more carefully and responding more intentionally. Again, I was sympathetic to these implied recommendations.

But I was troubled too. Because it's possible to have all these things — silence and decorum and fixed gazes and folded hands and crisp responses and all the other outward markers of traditional piety — without genuine reverence.

How, I wondered, to imagine its core?

I mentioned all this to my wife, lamenting my inability to find the right way to express this important reality. Later that morning she called, my muse, to say that the image for reverence that had come to her was the memory of our friend's weekly greeting from the back pew.

Respectful and affectionate presence, open hearted welcome, joy in recognizing the other, eagerness to share good news, confident expectation of something wonderful about to happen — these, it seems to me, are indeed signs of deep reverence.

Most of what happens at church to communicate a lack of reverence arises more from inattention than from malice. And sometimes it's easy to let my own annoyance at the perceived irreverence of others divert my attention from the loving openness to Christ's palpable presence, uniquely on the altar of sacrifice, but in the priest and the Word proclaimed, and the people gathered as well.

This Sunday, when we greet our friend again, I will say an extra prayer of thanks for her example. May we all be filled with the same spirit of reverence.



Dan Luby is the director of Christian Formation for the diocese. In May, for the third time, his column received first place honors among regular columns on spiritual life in the Catholic press of the U.S.

and Canada. Dan's column earned the same recognition in 2001 and again in 2003. Dan and his wife, Theresa, have two children, Kate and Peter.

## Jesus calls leaders to walk path of 'littleness'

By Mary Morrell

*"How does Jesus want us to imitate him? Jesus is asking us to follow him on a path of littleness, forgiveness, trust, communion, and vulnerability...."*

— Jean Vanier

Recently, while visiting a nearby parish, I watched the efforts of a young mother who was attempting to correct her mentally challenged son as he repeatedly spoke out loud during Mass. For a time her efforts were met with an increasingly audible spilling-out of words, but eventually, taking his hand and stroking his face as she firmly corrected him, he turned his attention to her. The calling out ended, and they sat, hand in hand, in the pew until Mass was over.

In watching the exchange I was reminded of a story relayed by Jean Vanier in his book, *The Scandal of Service: Jesus Washes Our Feet*. Vanier, who was the founder of L'Arche (the Ark) communi-

ties for mentally handicapped persons, relayed the story of Peter, a difficult man who absolutely refused to communicate with anyone. He was completely closed up in himself. One day it was discovered that Peter had athlete's foot, and so, each day it became necessary for someone to bathe his feet three times a day and apply a medication.

Vanier continued, "From the day we started to touch and bathe his feet, Peter began to open up. His whole attitude toward us changed. This showed us once again the importance of the washing of the feet," adding that over time he became more aware of the importance of Paul's words: "Do you not realize that you are a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you and whom you received from God in you? . . . So use your body for the glory of God" (1Corinthians 6:19).

"If the body is truly the dwelling place of God, a holy ground, then all our relationships are transformed," wrote Vanier. "When we meet and touch

others, we do so with even more respect as we realize their life is holy. When Jesus washes his disciples' feet and asks us to do the same, is he not showing us the importance of meeting each other, touching each other, with simplicity, gentleness, and great respect, because each person is precious?"

Vanier asks another an important question, especially for those who carry the responsibility of Christian leadership: "How does Jesus want us to imitate him? Jesus is asking us to follow him on a path of littleness, forgiveness, trust, communion, and vulnerability — without giving up, at other moments, our role of responsibility where we exercise authority with . . . justice, kindness, and firmness."

It is interesting to note that the word "authority" comes from the Latin word "augere" which means to grow. And that is no accident, because all authority is intended to help people grow toward greater freedom, justice, and truth.

Unfortunately, positions of authority often become positions of power and privilege, doing more for the self-image of those who exercise it than for those whom they serve.

That is why the image of the Good Shepherd, or of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, is so powerful — it reminds us that Jesus calls us to exercise authority humbly, as a service, to be constructive not destructive. This is a call to littleness, a call to live as Jesus taught: They came to Capernaum, and when he got into the house he asked them: "What were you arguing about on the road?" They said nothing, because on the road they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the twelve to him and said: "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all — and servant of all."

Mary Regina Morrell, is the associate director of the office of religious education for the Diocese of Metuchen, in New Jersey.

# The Forgotten War

## on poverty

By Stephen Kent

Amidst the publicity surrounding the current incarnation, an earlier metaphorical war should not be overlooked.

That is the War on Poverty, declared by a president of the United States more than four decades ago. It is ongoing and, with poverty more than holding its own, victory appears no closer.

There are some 37 million people in the United States today living under the poverty line, according to an annual report from the U.S. Census Bureau. That number represents 12.6 percent of the nation's population.

The federal government defines the poverty level to be \$19,971 for a family of four.

While the poverty level in 2005 remained "statistically unchanged" from 2004, the Census Bureau said median household income rose by 1 percent, reaching \$46,326. The median income is the point where half make more, half make less. While obviously some must be at the top, some must be at the bottom, the gap — which is widening — need not be so great. In fact, biblical justice demands the gap not be great.

One would think the fact that one of eight citizens in the world's largest economy lives in poverty would be continual front page news.

One reason that it is not results from the major overhaul in the welfare system 10 years ago.

Politicians delight in pointing out the decline in the number receiving public assistance. About 4.4 million families received welfare payments in 1996; about 1.9 million receive payments today.

"Most of the people who leave welfare for work are leaving for jobs that pay \$7 or \$8 an hour," said Joan Entmacher of the National Women's Law Center. "Under the best of circumstances, they are just

*To be impoverished in the richest country in the world is to be an internal alien, [to be a member of] another culture that is radically different from the one that dominates society.*

— Allison Boisvert, a social worker for 22 years.

getting by."

A single parent of two, working full time at the minimum wage would gross \$10,812, only two-thirds of the \$15,577 defined as the poverty level for a family of three.

"I'm afraid that we are creating a permanent underclass of people who leave welfare but cannot escape long-term poverty," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. "These families continue to work two or three jobs, but still cannot provide for their families' basic needs," he said.

Catholic Charities agencies nationwide are on the front line meeting these people. The number of people receiving emergency services from Catholic Charities — food, shelter, clothing — has increased by 30 per cent in the past three years, Fr. Snyder said at his agency's national convention in September.

Proposed changes in welfare laws will further impact these numbers.

Politicians, especially in election years, trumpet the declining number of welfare clients. There are, however, not fewer poor people — just fewer poor people receiving help.

But we should be made uncomfortable — very uncomfortable — by the challenges to justice this represents. Reducing welfare rolls is no comfort when it means cutting people

off from resources, causing them to remain in poverty. Being "not statistically different" from one year to the next is no victory. A "culture of poverty" is growing in the United States, a social worker told the Catholic Charities convention, resulting in generational poverty affecting two more generations of a family.

"I've watched the development and the final institutionalization of a permanent underclass in the richest country in the world," said Allison Boisvert, a social worker for 22 years. "To be impoverished in the richest country in the world is to be an internal alien, [to be a member of] another culture that is radically different from the one that dominates society," she said.

Poverty is unacceptable to Christian justice. In this country especially, it is by no means insurmountable.

The words of Christ, "The poor you will always have with you" were never meant to be an expression of resignation or futility nor an excuse for the lack of concern that we must have for the poor.

The war on poverty is not one from which we can cut and run.

Stephen Kent is the recently retired editor of *THE PROGRESS*, the Catholic newspaper of the Diocese of Seattle.

*Halloween costumes and child-rearing. It's all pretty*

## INCREDIBLE

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Funny place to find saints, but I did see a large number of them recently at a Fort Worth Halloween celebration Boo at the Zoo. They were called parents.

They were carrying infants, pulling wagons, repositioning crowns, horns, and tails. There was even a family of "Incredibles," in matching red, super-hero costumes.

Pushing a stroller loaded with what was almost certainly an incredible baby, was the dad, "Bob," whose spandex jumpsuit with stuffed muscles made him look more uncomfortable than powerful. He seemed as if he would be more at ease in an everyday businessman persona than the one he and his wife "Helen" had adopted that night at the zoo. Their matching children, "Violet, Dash, and Jack-Jack," however, seemed comfortable in their roles, and with their bulging bags of candy.

"How do you take an average dad, and talk him into dressing up like that?" I wondered aloud. "Oh, I don't know," my son-in-law Dustin immediately retorted, with a twisted grin. "Ever heard of the M&M family?"

"Okay," I admitted. "One year I did sew different colored M&M's for each of my children to wear. But you'll notice there was no body-clinging stretchiness, nor metallic-shiny fabric involved, and the M&M package costume I wore was completely squared off, showing only my lower limbs out of the bottom hem.

"Sure, I made a mistake in dressing as the yellow bag for 'peanut M&M's,' while the children all went as 'plain M&M's,' which — duh — should have come from a dark brown package. But maybe I wasn't their Momma Package at all, as onlookers may have expected. Perhaps instead I was an older sister, a stepmother, or the chocolate-children's benevolent Aunt M.

"Seriously, I think we may well have been a portrayal of the first ever 'blended' M&M family," I told Dustin. "Face it, in the world of Halloween dress-up, I was cutting-edge, melt-in-your-mouth politically correct — and with a thin candy coating."

It is much easier to walk around a fall carnival with your grandchildren, I have discovered, than it ever was to do so with your children. But this is not because of the "love them, spoil them, and give them back" cliché, that people have been using since long before I understood what it meant.

When I first heard that, I wondered, "Why would anyone ever want to give children back?" I would love to keep them, I knew, and to be the one who fed them, helped them with homework, made shampoo-ice-cream cones with their hair at night in the bathtub.

Parenting was a job I never wanted to quit early, because that would have meant giving up the significant memory of looking through a rearview mirror and watching chubby cheeks chewing oatmeal cookies or whatever after school treat I may have brought along for their three-o'clock snack.

Even worse, I may have missed some of the memories that even today sit on the bronzed-baby-shoe-shelf of my mind: the sight of children running from the school door

See HAMER, p. 22

At annual diocesan Singles Mass, Bishop Kevin Vann reminds the assembly that . . .

# Despite our differences, God connects us through faith

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATHY CRIBARI HAMER, CORRESPONDENT

**O**n paper and online, Catholic singles of the Diocese of Fort Worth have been defined as “young ones and once young”; divorced, separated, widowed, or never married; and people committed to helping build ministries through activities that support and assist parish-based programs.

But at their annual singles Mass and dinner, Bishop Kevin Vann defined them differently, and in one word: Crystal.

In his homily at the Oct. 7 Mass at Keller’s St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Bishop Vann looked out at the crowd in the church’s two center sections and told a story of a woman he had met while a pastor, when he went out regularly on “Communion calls.”

“She was 85 or 90, and had been a flapper!” Bishop Vann related. “We got along pretty well, and when I left that parish, she gave me a crystal.” The bishop explained that when she held the crystal up to the light, the light shone through and scattered. “You had to look at all of it,” the bishop said, “and in one sense, that crystal reminded me of our faith.”

“Like the crystal, our faith is an entity,” he said, “one thing through which God comes through.”

The bishop was speaking of the challenges of life, and explained that the assembly was made up of people who had experienced life’s challenges in a variety of ways. To them, he gave a simple reminder: “When our own lives are not holding up with what God has promised us, still in every moment God” asks us to come to him like little children, and he blesses us.

The Fort Worth Diocesan Singles Council, which has been functioning in the diocese for about 15 years, provides a variety of resources, from grief



**Above:** Bishop Vann greets members of the assembly at the conclusion of the Singles Mass, celebrated Oct. 7 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Keller.



**Above:** Members of the congregation join hands while praying the Our Father.

**Right:** Bishop Vann makes a few comments at the mixer following the Singles Mass, as Diocesan Singles Council representatives Mike Wuller and Sylvia Salinas look on.

and loss support groups to weekend retreats, instructions concerning marriage and annulment, plus service projects, mission trips, and even a summer campout.

For the annual October liturgy and dinner, singles came from throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth, carrying non-perishable food items to donate to a food bank and serving in all areas of ministry for the liturgy. After Mass, they gathered in the parish hall for food, dancing, and icebreakers that brought the whole crowd off their chairs and into the middle of the music-filled room.

Singles Council representative Mike Wuller, who energetically coordinated the gathering, explained that there are three facets to the organization. The first is “spiritual,” Wuller explained, followed by “social” and “service.” “If you get the ‘me,’ through the spiritual,” he said, “you get to the ‘we,’ through social events, and you get to the ‘thee,’ through service.”

The Singles Council provides major activities once a quarter; monthly council meetings; and always, according to their official information, they seek God’s direction and

respond to needs as they are presented.

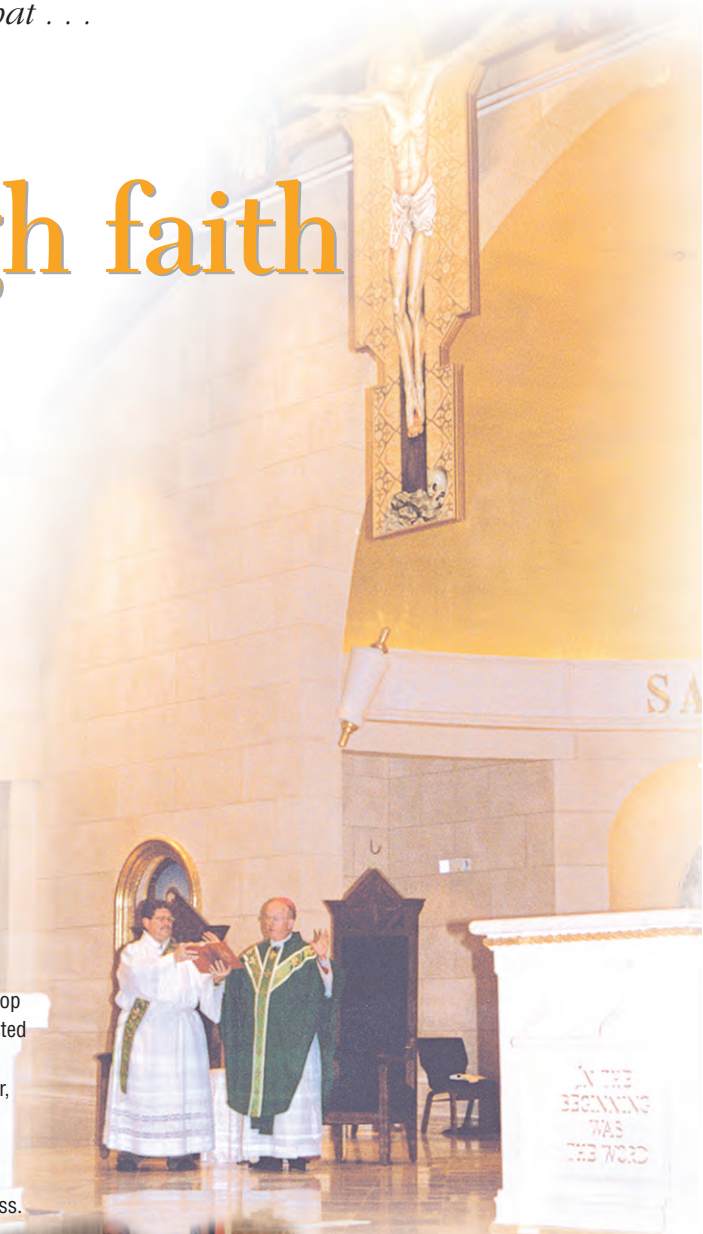
“We feel the Lord has called for a response from us ... who are singles ... to address the needs of the singles of the diocese,” the council’s leaflet explains. “Especially welcomed are those from rural areas, desiring Catholic singles support and fellowship.”

“Our lives are like different dots,” Bishop Vann told the assembly at the singles Mass. “But only God connects the dots. He invites people to be in a relationship with him and come to him, and even though our relationships are not mea-

suring up, we can come to the Lord.

“Turn to him, and come to him. He connects the dots. He helps us to see what he does — the big picture of things.”

Concluding, the bishop spoke his thanks to the singles, who, Wuller said, offer much more to the diocese and each other than just an occasional social event. Expressing his gratitude to the singles community for their prayers and their concern for one another, Bishop Vann said, “Thank you for all you do, and all that you are, and what you do for Christ’s church.”



**Right:** Bishop Vann, assisted by Deacon Don Warner, presides at the annual diocesan Singles Mass.



**Left and Below:** Singles take part in icebreaker activities at the social following the liturgy.

## Diocesan / International

## Sister Mary Alberta Meyer, SSMN, former educator, nurse, dies at age 94

Sister Mary Alberta Meyer, 94, a member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, died Oct. 23 at Our Lady of Victory Center in Fort Worth. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at OLV Center Thursday, Oct. 25. Interment was at Mount Olivet Cemetery in North Fort Worth.

Born to Czechoslovakian immigrants April 21, 1912, in Wichita Falls, Mary Anna Meyer was raised on the family farm just outside of the city. She was the ninth of 11 children. Her mother took outside employment in order to pay for the girls of the family to attend the Academy of Mary Immaculate in Wichita Falls, administered by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur.

After the death of her mother, the young Mary Anna had to leave school in order to help to support her family. She lived with an older sister until she was able to pursue her dream of entering religious life.

In 1934, at age 21, she joined the congregation of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. Taking the religious name Mary Alberta,



Sister Mary Alberta Meyer, SSMN

Sherman, Denison, and Beaumont, and in California.

"She was extremely adaptable, and she thrived in all of the school environments," said Sister Joan Markey, SSMN, explaining that Sr. Mary Alberta taught in many different schools because of her willingness to respond wherever there was a need. "She was so genuine, so gentle, and such a dear person. She was very much loved, wherever she went."

A niece, Wanda Elder of Decatur, noted that Sr. Mary Alberta obtained an LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse) certificate in 1972 from St. Joseph School of Nursing at age 60. "She began this totally new kind of work because she said that she was too old to

she made perpetual vows in August 1942.

Trained as a teacher, Sister Mary Alberta spent 36 years teaching students in Catholic grade schools in Fort Worth, Dallas,

keep teaching in the classroom," explained Elder, adding that Sr. Mary Alberta then began a new career as a nurse at the Our Lady of Victory infirmary. She went on to serve as the much-loved school nurse at Corpus Christi Academy Minor Seminary from 1986 to 1991.

After returning to OLV Center in 1991 to serve as assistant pharmacist, Sr. Mary Alberta gradually retired to take up the ministry of intensive prayer for seminarians and priests and for special intentions.

"She was a woman of deep faith, prayer, and dedication," said Sr. Joan.

"She was extremely personable, and so kind and gentle," added Elder. "Of course, her main commitment was always to prayer."

Sr. Mary Alberta is survived by three sisters, Alma M. Zeissel, Bertha Miller, and Elsie Thames; many nieces and nephews and their families; and the sisters of her religious community. Memorials in her honor may be made to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, 909 West Shaw Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110.

After returning to OLV Center in 1991 to serve as assistant pharmacist, Sr. Mary Alberta gradually retired to take up the ministry of intensive prayer for seminarians and priests and for special intentions.

"She was a woman of deep faith, prayer, and dedication," said Sr. Joan.

"She was extremely personable, and so kind and gentle," added Elder. "Of course, her main commitment was always to prayer."

Sr. Mary Alberta is survived by three sisters, Alma M. Zeissel, Bertha Miller, and Elsie Thames; many nieces and nephews and their families; and the sisters of her religious community. Memorials in her honor may be made to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, 909 West Shaw Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110.

Sr. Mary Alberta is survived by three sisters, Alma M. Zeissel, Bertha Miller, and Elsie Thames; many nieces and nephews and their families; and the sisters of her religious community. Memorials in her honor may be made to the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, 909 West Shaw Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110.



CANON LAW SOCIETY — Members of the Canon Law Society of America raise red cards Oct. 11 to vote on resolutions at the business session of the society's 68th annual convention held Oct. 9-12 in Fort Worth. (CNS photo/Sister Nancy Bauer, OSB)

## Consultation, collaboration can resolve tension, says speaker

FROM PAGE 1

and Pastoral Practices, called consultation "a necessity and demand that flows from the very nature of the church."

He also emphasized the importance of listening by those who engage in dialogue, and said effective dialogue requires a spirit of humility.

Msgr. Strykowski, who addressed the group Oct. 12, proposed two means for strengthening consultation in the church. He suggested that bishops schedule parish visits not just for confirmation, but to get to know the joys, sufferings, and needs of the faithful. "Bishops need to cultivate knowledge of their people," he said.

He also proposed a national dialogue to identify characteristics that people want in a bishop to aid the selection process.

Father John Beal, associate professor of canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said the call for better structures of participation and consultation is not new, but has taken on a "particular urgency" because of the clergy sexual abuse crisis and "because of the difficult challenges and painful decisions that the church faces as we grope our way in the uncharted, brave new world of the 21st century."

Fr. Beal, who spoke Oct. 11, suggested the church look to the corporate world for examples of effective consultation.

"The church is not a business, of course, but, insofar as it is a human organization, the church is a lot more like a business corporation than we usually recognize — and perhaps more like one than we care to admit," he said.

According to Fr. Beal, businesses that have survived recent fierce competition have evolved from a highly centralized, top-down command and control style to a more consultative approach.

Church governance structures that "make room for decentral-

ized decision-making and effective consultation of the faithful in matters of governance would actually be more in harmony with canon law than those we have now," Fr. Beal said.

"Wouldn't it be ironic," he added, "if following the lead of the corporate world reminded us of how to be a church?"

In a convention seminar, Father Patrick Brennan, vicar for clergy of the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, identified issues that affect collaboration and consultation between bishops and priests.

He said forums and structures of consultation will be effective only if bishops and priests have "some degree of personal relationship" and the maturity and social skills necessary to engage in constructive dialogue.

They must also have a "proper understanding" of a priest's promise of obedience to his bishop. This obedience should be modeled on Christ who came "to hear" the Father and do his will. "There was no sense of domination or submission in this relationship," Fr. Brennan said.

"Consultation and collaboration can resolve tension," he said, "but they can also create tension." He said priests are sometimes afraid to express an opinion to the bishop and among brother priests. "Obviously, in such an atmosphere, there can be no constructive consultation and collaboration. But tension can be good. It urges us toward resolution," he said.

Fr. Brennan also spoke of a "malaise" among clergy that works against consultation. When priests are overworked and tired, they focus on their parish assignments and "want no diocesan involvement," he said.

He advised greater emphasis on human formation in the seminary and after ordination to enable bishops and priests to engage in dialogue.

## Pope says predecessor's methods to spread Gospel must be studied

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The message as well as the methods used by Pope John Paul II to spread the Gospel must be studied and duplicated, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"John Paul II, philosopher and theologian, great pastor of the church, left a richness of writings and gestures that express his desire to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the world," the pope said.

Meeting approximately 800 directors and supporters of the John Paul II Foundation, Pope Benedict said their efforts to gather, analyze, and make

known the late pope's teaching must also include efforts "to touch the mystery of his holiness."

The pope did not make any other reference to the process under way for the beatification and canonization of his predecessor.

The Oct. 23 audience marked the 25th anniversary of the John Paul II Foundation, established initially to strengthen the ties between the Vatican and Poland, spread the spiritual values ingrained in Polish culture, deepen reflection on the Christian roots of Europe, and provide scholarships for students from Eastern

Europe.

After communism fell in Eastern Europe and as Pope John Paul aged, the foundation began a major push to collect, archive, and promote the study of the pope's ministry.

Thanking the foundation supporters — including Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Pope John Paul's longtime personal secretary, and U.S. Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit, a longtime foundation board member — Pope Benedict said Pope John Paul's teaching not only must be preserved, but must be shared with future generations.

## Young Serra Community of Dallas welcomes young adults from throughout North Texas

The Young Serra Community (YSC) of Dallas, an organization dedicated to supporting religious vocations and to developing spiritual growth within its membership, is undertaking a campaign to inform young Catholics in the North Texas area about the group and the opportunities it provides for its members.

"The Young Serrans are individuals, single or married, mainly in their 20s or 30s, who meet regularly for Mass, eucharistic adoration, dinners, and topical studies," says Cheryl Vaca, a member of YSC. "The group participates in a unique combination of spiritual, service, and social activities."

Vaca urges area Catholic

young adults to consider membership in the group, saying that those who are seeking deeper spiritual meaning and a group of friends who care about the Catholic faith will benefit from involvement.

For more details, contact Cheryl Vaca via e-mail to [youngserracommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:youngserracommunity@yahoo.com) or call (972) 488-8578.

# 100 years of Catholic presence in Electra

**Background:** Parishioners of St. Paul, Electra, and honored guests gather in prayer to celebrate 100 years of Catholic presence in their community.

Bright sunshine helped fuel a joyous turnout of more than 175 people at St. Paul Church in Electra Sept. 22. They gathered to recognize 100 years of Catholic presence in the community. Bishop Kevin Vann celebrated the early Sunday Mass, later joining those present for centennial events.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MARY E. MANLEY, CORRESPONDENT

The providentially pleasant weather was especially welcome, as only a week earlier the community had endured recording-breaking rain and accompanying floods.

During Mass, Bishop Vann was assisted by Deacon Patrick Burke, parish pastoral administrator, and Deacon Don Warner, diocesan director of the Office of Permanent Deacons.

Bishop Vann's homily commended the parish's love of its heritage and devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and to St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of missionaries — a love long demonstrated in the community's pioneering spirit of service and sacrifice. He referred to the patronage of St. Paul, arduous missionary to the Gentiles, as he encouraged the congregation to persist in its trust in God's love and guidance.

A parish hall breakfast reception followed the centennial Mass.

Highlighting the event were various displays of families representing parish communities past and present, viewed by happily chatting visitors, coming from as far away as Louisiana and Colorado.

One special visitor was Sister Ursula McGann, SU, who noted, "I wouldn't have missed it for the world." The septuagenarian, now stationed at San Antonio's Oblate School of Theology, was inspired by fellow Ursuline nuns who once taught in Electra and with whom she later taught in Dallas. She first knew Bishop Vann as a seminarian.

The eldest parish member is octogenarian Johnny Eckelkamp, who still lives in his family's original farmhouse.



**Right:** Bishop Kevin Vann, joined by Deacons Patrick Burke (left) and Don Warner, presides at the anniversary Mass.

**Above:** Deacon Patrick Burke, pastoral administrator of St. Paul Parish in Electra, speaks to the community at its 100th anniversary celebration.



**Above:** Gene and Sylvia Flusche stand before a display illustrating 100 years of Catholic presence in Electra.

"Being a part of this church and its Catholic tradition means a lot to me," Eckelkamp reflected, "especially having been around some early pioneers."

Another descendant of the founders of the Catholic community in the area, Gene Flusche, 70, stated that being part of this legacy "has been an integral part of my life." During one juncture, Flusche proudly showed off the Mount Carmel Cemetery, also noting the original rectory (now in private ownership) and the old foundation of the first church nearby. Flusche, grandfather to a sixth-generation descendant, and Flusche family members join the Eckelkamp family in keeping the cemetery well-maintained.

St. Paul guests packed the nearby junior high school cafeteria to enjoy a deli-catered luncheon and words from Bishop Vann, Deacon Burke, Billy Don Clark, and Chris Finch. The latter paid tribute to many parishioners by presenting participation certificates.

During his closing remarks, Deacon Burke, St. Paul pastoral

administrator since early 1984, expressed his appreciation of the community's strong ties. He spoke of his "mind and heart being filled with memories of those who have gone before us," while professing his loyalty to parishioners still living.

In a separate interview, Deacon Burke, a New Orleans native, acknowledged that much prayer and cultural adjustment have occurred for him and his family during his pastoral "adventure" in North Texas. Deacon Burke, who also oversees Christ the King Parish in Iowa Park, said, "[Now] I can't picture myself anyplace else," calling his flock, "family."

He reiterated the words of a New Orleans Dominican nun, who once advised him, "God's providence will not take you where his grace cannot keep you."

Electra is 32 miles west of Wichita Falls in Wichita County. Named after famed ranching settler Tom Waggoner's daughter, Electra, it once was a thriving oil boom town. Today it's home to some 3,000 people.

According to *The Handbook of*



**Below:** Descendents of the early pioneers of Electra gather for a photo at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. They include (l. to r.) Rosemary (Weisenfels) and Alfred Kohl, of Snyder; Cecilia (Roessler) and Gerald Weisenfels, of Arlington; Mary (Weisenfels) Smithson, of Wichita Falls; Christine (Dietz) and Jim Franklin, of San Antonio; Gene Flusche, of Electra; and Eddie Dietz, of Lubbock.



Texas, a Catholic presence was established as the community of Mount Carmel by Emil Flusche in 1906. It was the last of a number of such farming colonies and churches established by the German brothers Emil, August, and Anton Flusche. In October 1906, Emil acquired acreage north of Electra to provide for a church, rectory, school, and cemetery. He selected one of the highest hills around for Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Later, St. Francis Xavier Church was built in Electra to better accommodate the burgeoning local population. As the local population declined,

the two congregations merged into St. Paul Church, which celebrated its first Mass in fall 1966.

A bell donated by the Flusche and Eckelkamp families in those early years is still in use today by St. Paul Parish. In 1986, St. Paul was featured on "Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt." Kuralt was exploring how churches coped without priests. News reached his TV team of St. Paul with its longstanding endurance. What resulted was its faith community being among several nationwide to illustrate how communities managed to resourcefully deal with the priest shortage.

# National Shrine's new Our Lady of La Vang Chapel is gift from Vietnamese-Americans

By Carol Griffith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington celebrated Mass and dedicated a chapel to Our Lady of La Vang, the Madonna of Vietnam, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Oct. 21.

The new chapel is a gift from Vietnamese-Americans to the Washington shrine, emphasizing the solidarity between Catholics in the United States and Vietnam. Approximately 5,300 people — from as far away as California, Texas, Mississippi, and Massachusetts — attended the ceremony.

Archbishop Wuerl greeted them with "Peace be with you" in Vietnamese.

The story of Our Lady of La Vang goes back to the 18th century. Beginning about 1798, the emperor of Vietnam, during a period of political upheaval, restricted the practice of Catholicism and persecuted believers.

Catholics fled to the nearby jungle, known as the La Vang region, in what is now the Quang Tri province in central Vietnam. Legend has it that the name "La Vang" derives from the words for "crying out," referring to the sounds the displaced people made while attempting to chase away wild animals or their cries for help.

While in hiding, every night the people gathered at the foot of a large tree to pray the rosary. One night they saw an apparition of a beautiful woman in a native Vietnamese blue and white dress and magnificent cloak, carrying an infant son.

Announcing herself as the mother of God, she consoled the



**OUR LADY OF LA VANG** — People process with a statue of Mary during the dedication of Our Lady of La Vang Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Oct. 21. The chapel was a gift from Vietnamese-Americans. (CNS photo/Matthew Barrick, courtesy of the National Shrine)

people and promised to receive their prayers. She then gave the Catholics a sign of her loving care: the leaves of a fern to use to treat their physical illnesses.

Mary appeared many times at the same place throughout a nearly 100-year period of religious persecution. The first of several churches at the site in La Vang was built in 1802. The area became the National Marian Center of Vietnam in 1961. That same year Pope John XXIII elevated the Church of Our Lady of La Vang to the rank of a minor basilica.

The Oct. 21 dedication ceremony in Washington began with a procession around the circular drive of the shrine, against the backdrop of a cloudless fall day.

Groups of women in yellow, blue, turquoise, and rose dresses and headpieces that are traditional to Vietnam and a group of men in dark blue traditional outfits — amid celebrants in Western dress — carried blue and white flags as they processed in groups according to their state of residence. A large choir, accompanied by drums, assembled on the steps.

Across-bearer was at the head of the procession, followed by participants carrying brightly colored flags and several men carrying a small statue of Our Lady of La Vang on a carved stand. The procession began with a dance by a group of young women in traditional dress and the release of balloons.

Auxiliary Bishop Dominic M. Luong of Orange, California, the first Vietnamese-American bishop, gave the homily, sharing his reflections on having recently celebrated Mass at La Vang in Vietnam.

Although 117 Vietnamese martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1988, there were more than 130,000 Vietnamese Catholics martyred for their faith. Therefore, he said, all Vietnamese Catholics are children of the martyrs.

He recalled the words of Our Lady of La Vang when she appeared to the people there: "Your prayers have drawn me to this place. From now on, the prayers of everyone who comes here to pray will be answered."

The chapel was planned as a sign of devotion and hope in Our Lady of La Vang and to express gratitude to the United States for taking in many Vietnamese refugees, he said.

On this day, "the Vietnamese church stands hand-in-hand with the American church" in dedicating the chapel," he said.

Bishop Luong concluded his homily with a prayer: "Our Lady of La Vang, protect us, give us hope, and show us the way to Jesus, our eternal destiny and redemption."

Immediately following the Mass, Archbishop Wuerl proceeded to the chapel, located to the right of the Crypt Church, for the blessing ceremony. He anointed the altar with chrism oil and sprinkled the chapel with holy water.

Designed by St. Jude Liturgical Designs, the chapel contains many symbols of Jesus and Mary and of Vietnamese history. The altar is made of white marble containing the names of the more than 8,000 donors to the chapel.

Behind the altar, a column of red marble holds a pedestal upon which stands a 5-foot statue of Our Lady of La Vang holding the infant Jesus. Each color of the statue is marble obtained from a different part of the world. The crown, headband, and a starburst mosaic behind the statue are made of gold leaf. The walls and floor are marble, and the ceiling above the altar is a dark blue mosaic with 24 stars, which represent the hours of the day.

On the walls, a plaque tells the story of the Marian image and two mosaics depict the Vietnamese martyrs and people devoted to Our Lady of La Vang.

## Pope urges university students to help heal 'crises of culture and identity'

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged university students to help heal "the crises of culture and identity" by searching for truth and meaning in their studies and in their lives.

Inaugurating the academic year in Rome, where university classes begin in October, Pope Benedict visited Pontifical Lateran University Oct. 21 and met students and professors from all the city's pontifical universities after an Oct. 23 Mass.

In speeches to both groups, the pope said education should hone a student's thirst for truth and for meaning, especially when his or

her studies are taking place at a Vatican-chartered university.

When the students and staffs are combined, the pontifical universities in Rome make up a group of about 15,000 people from all over the world.

In his Oct. 23 speech in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope reminded the group of "the priority importance of one's spiritual life and the need, alongside cultural growth, for a balanced human maturation and a deep ascetic and religious formation."

The pope said that studying theology and other subjects in preparation to serve the church "presupposes an education in

silence and contemplation because it is necessary to be able to hear with one's heart the God who speaks."

In his Oct. 21 speech at Lateran University, where he dedicated the remodeled library and an auditorium bearing his name, Pope Benedict said pontifical universities must challenge students to look for more than just new experiences.

Students, he said, want help responding to questions about the meaning of their own lives and about human existence.

"Overvaluing 'doing,' obscuring 'being' will not help restore the fundamental balance needed



### POPE GREETS STUDENTS

— Pope Benedict XVI attends a ceremony inaugurating the new academic year at Pontifical Lateran University in Rome Oct. 21. The pope said education should hone a student's thirst for truth and meaning.

(CNS photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO via Reuters)

to give one's existence a solid foundation and a valid goal," he said.

Catholic universities, he said,

must help students aspire to know and love God and to follow him by obeying his commandments.

## Border fence among issues discussed at Synod of Americas review meeting

FROM PAGE 1

States-Mexico border will not resolve the problem of the migratory flux between the two countries and will not help establish a coordinated and humanitarian migration policy," the bishops said.

In an Oct. 21 statement about the council meeting, the bishops expressed concern about attempts to introduce or expand access to legalized abortion in many countries. They also stated that public debate about abortion "unfortunately has caused a polarization among Catholics" in the countries.

The poor and weakest members of society are the first victims of the growing "culture of death," the bishops said. They are threatened not only by abortion, but also by euthanasia and by the death penalty.

"The social and ecclesial situation on the continent shows signs of hope, but also of concern," the bishops said. Throughout the 1997 synod, many bishops referred to North and South



America as one continent.

Some countries are facing a political crisis where democratic structures are threatened by "demagogic" forms of government, "often of a neo-Marxist stripe," which manipulate the poor and their desire for economic development, the bishops said.

In Central and South America, they said, serious poverty contin-

ues to mark the lives of millions of people, and many countries are suffering violence connected to drug and weapons trafficking.

Looking at good news from the Western Hemisphere, the bishops pointed particularly to an increase in the number of diocesan priests since 1978 and in the number of young men entering the seminary in North and South America.

## New Jersey bishops pledge to protect heterosexual marriage after ruling

TRENTON, New Jersey (CNS) — New Jersey's bishops have pledged to work with state lawmakers in drafting same-sex union legislation that protects the concept of marriage "as the union of one man and one woman" and promotes "child well-being in our state."

The pledge came after New Jersey's highest court ruled Oct. 25 that same-sex couples are due the same rights and benefits as married couples under the state constitution's equal protection clause.

But the State Supreme Court in its 4-3 decision said that the state Legislature must decide whether to grant this equality through marriage or another form of civil partnership. It gave the Legislature 180 days to modify current laws or to draft a new one.

The bishops' Oct. 25 statement, signed by Newark Archbishop John J. Myers, conference president, said the Legislature is where the discussion of marriage "rightly belongs."

"For the sake of constitutional democracy as well as for the sake of marriage itself, the proper place for such discussion must rest with the elected representatives of the people of this state," said Archbishop Myers.

"Even if marriage were a type of institution that could be redefined, it would not be up to the court to decide whether to redefine it," he said.

At the same time, the archbishop said that "marriage is not the creation of the state." He called it a "natural institution — with its own characteristics and features — that is prior to any particular political or legal system."

Believers and nonbelievers "can understand and affirm the nature of the marital good and its centrality in a well-ordered society," he said.

"We pledge to work with members of the Legislature to affect future legislation that maintains the historic conjugal concept of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, the principles of democratic self-government and religious freedom, and child well-being in our state," the archbishop said.

The court decision requires the Legislature to draft legislation which offers same-sex couples equal benefits as married couples but leaves it up to the Legislature to decide what to legally call these unions.

While all seven justices agreed that rights must be equal, the majority said that the Legislature

must decide how to accomplish this. The three dissenters said that same-sex couples must be allowed to marry.

"We do not have to take an all-or-nothing approach," wrote Justice Barry T. Albin in the majority opinion. The ruling added that the court "cannot find a legitimate public need for an unequal scheme of benefits and privileges that disadvantages same-sex couples."

At the same time, the court "cannot find that a right to same-sex marriage is so deeply rooted in the traditions, history, and conscience of the people of this state that it ranks as a fundamental right," the ruling said.

Massachusetts currently is the only U.S. state to permit same-sex marriages. Vermont and Connecticut have established civil unions for same-sex couples.

Catholic leaders across the country have been active in efforts to limit marriage to the traditional union of one man and one woman. Nineteen states have adopted constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage, and another nine were considering such a ban this year.

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

### Pope says Christians must heal divisions to be sign of hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians have a responsibility to heal their divisions so that they can be a real sign of hope for the world, Pope Benedict XVI said. "Those who profess that Jesus Christ is Lord are tragically divided and cannot always give a consistent common witness," the pope said during an Oct. 27 meeting with representatives of the world's major Christian communities. The Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions held its annual meeting in Rome. Since 1957, the conference has brought together top officials of the international offices of 18 Christian churches and denominations for informal discussions. The secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity has represented the Vatican at the meetings, which also include representatives of the Anglican Communion, mainline Protestant federations, the Salvation Army, Orthodox churches, Seventh-Day Adventists, Mennonites, and others.

### New York Catholic Conference may seek relief from drug mandate

ROCHESTER, New York (CNS) — The New York State Catholic Conference may petition the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a decision by the state's highest court that would require religious employers to provide contraceptive and abortifacient coverage as part of prescription-drug coverage in their employee health plans. The ruling to uphold the state-mandated coverage was issued Oct. 19 by the New York Court of Appeals. "We are very disappointed with the Court of Appeals decision and firmly believe that it is in error," said a statement from Richard E. Barnes, executive director of the conference, which represents the state's bishops on public-policy matters. "Any religious organization must have the right in American society to uphold its own teachings, even if those teachings are unpopular or countercultural," Barnes added. "Plaintiffs will give every consideration to asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review it and reverse it."

### U.S. military archdiocese head: Modern war changes ethical challenges

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the nature of war and conflict changes, so do the ethical challenges faced by members of the military, said the head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, whose flock includes all U.S. Catholic military and their families, was one of the speakers at an Oct. 23-27 Vatican conference for military ordinaries, the bishops in charge of the spiritual care of their nations' armed forces. While a Catholic military chaplain's ministry always will center on celebrating the sacraments — in a base chapel or a field tent — he also is called to be "an ethicist, helping form and guide" the approach of his unit and the concrete behavior of individuals, Archbishop O'Brien said. Like other speakers at the Vatican conference, Archbishop O'Brien said modern shifts in when a nation feels called to deploy troops raise new ethical questions. Ethical guidelines for a "just war" — including the principles that actions are proportionate and civilians are not targeted — were developed in the light of conventional wars between two countries or clearly identified groups. Now, he said, ethicists must deal with "asymmetrical war," a conflict such as terrorism where the two sides are not clearly identified similar entities and where the battlefield can be anywhere.

### Pope says military chaplains must help troops focus on peacemaking

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the ideal that modern armies exist only for defense, security, and freedom is not yet a reality, Catholic military chaplains must help members of the armed forces focus on peacemaking, Pope Benedict XVI said. "The church is missionary by its nature, and its first task is evangelization, which aims at proclaiming and witnessing to Christ and promoting his Gospel of peace and love in every environment and culture," the pope said. Pope Benedict met Oct. 26 with participants in a Vatican conference for military ordinaries, bishops responsible for the spiritual care of Catholics in their countries' armed forces. The conference drew more than 70 participants from 45 countries. The pope told the bishops they have two primary tasks: helping Catholics in the military live their faith and promoting peace. In the midst of the military, as in any sector of social life, the church is called to teach and witness in a way that encourages "mentalities and structures" to focus on establishing peace so that all people may reach their potential and everyone's basic rights would be guaranteed, he said.



# Advocates demand better pay, conditions for U.S. farmworkers

By Kathrynne Skonicki

ROMEDEVILLE, Illinois (CNS) — Consumers should pay more attention to the origins of the food they purchase, said the executive director of the St. Louis-based National Farm Worker Ministry.

"I think for the average consumer it's really easy to forget. Out of sight, out of mind. It's easy not to pay attention" to how food gets to the consumer, Virginia Nesmith said in a telephone interview with the *Catholic Explorer*, newspaper of the Joliet Diocese.

Nesmith said it is essential that consumers remember the estimated 2.5 million farmworkers in the nation who harvest by hand about 85 percent of fruits and vegetables.

She said a farmworker's annual wages range between \$10,000 and \$12,000, barely above the federal government's poverty level of \$9,800 for an individual. Farmworkers who get paid per bushel get no reimbursement for sick days, a rainy day, or a bad crop.

Farmworkers in California, Florida, North Carolina, and Washington state are also fighting for basic rights including a place to get some shade in 105-degree temperatures, clean drinking water available to them during work breaks, and sanitary bathroom facilities near the work site.

*"From our perspective, God calls us to treat all people with respect."*

— Virginia Nesmith

They are also campaigning for better living conditions, including screens on their windows and homes that do not have leaks.

People of faith need to stand up for these basic human rights, Nesmith said. "From our perspective, God calls us to treat all people with respect."

Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, likewise noted that the "dignity of the human person is central to Catholic teaching; the farmworkers are then clearly in need of respect and support in their efforts for economic justice. Since everyone eats — Catholics eat — they have a role to play in bringing about justice and peace."

Decades of advocating picketing, and protesting have brought about some positive changes such as better health care and educational opportunities. Just this summer, California adopted permanent standards for outdoor workers to prevent illness

caused by heat. But pesticide dangers and working conditions are among other issues to be addressed.

Nesmith said some campaigns to correct abuses have been particularly successful because they have involved consumer pressure.

For example, in 2001 farmworkers from Immokalee, Florida, who typically make about \$7,500 during a season, organized a national boycott of Taco Bell and its parent company, Yum Brands Inc., to call for better wages and working conditions for tomato pickers. Two years later they mounted a 10-day hunger strike at the company's Irvine, California, headquarters. In 2005 the corporation agreed to demands of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

Coalition members came to Illinois Oct. 20 to protest at the international headquarters of McDonald's in Oak Brook. They were taking part in a nine-day tour that started in Florida as part of the coalition's "Campaign for Fair Food" initiative.

In September, the U.S. bishops issued a statement urging McDonald's to provide better wages and working conditions for the Florida workers who pick the tomatoes used at the fast-food restaurants.



**FARMWORKER RIGHTS** — Charlaine McAnany, a parishioner at Ascension Church in Oak Park, Illinois, joins farmworkers from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and their allies as they picket outside McDonald's headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, Oct. 20. As part of the Campaign for Fair Food, the Florida-based protesters, who made several stops in the Midwest, are calling upon the fast-food giant to work with them to get better wages and working conditions for the workers who pick tomatoes for McDonald's suppliers. (CNS photo/Karen Callaway)

## Chicago association executive Conway chosen to head CPA

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada went outside the Catholic press — and the publishing business altogether — to find its new executive director.

Lifetime Chicagoan Thomas P. Conway, 46, vice president of business operations for Moose International the last two years, has been appointed to take the reins of the CPA, which is based in Ronkonkoma, New York. His appointment, effective Oct. 30, was announced Oct. 25.

Conway will remain in Chicago. He is a certified public accountant and holds a master's degree in business administration from Loyola University in Chicago.

A member of St. Petronille Parish in the Chicago suburb of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, in the Joliet Diocese, he is a nephew of the late Bishop Edwin Conway, who was an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Married 17 years, Conway and his wife, Kerri, have two daughters and one son.

## U.S. Hispanic priests meet, discuss pastoral challenges

By Lou Baldwin

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — More than 100 U.S. Hispanic priests met in Philadelphia Oct. 9-13 to discuss the pastoral challenges of serving the nation's rapidly growing Hispanic Catholic population.

The five-day meeting was the 17th annual convention of the Asociacion Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos (National Association of Hispanic Priests).

Philadelphia's Cardinal Justin Rigali, who celebrated an Oct. 9 Spanish-language Mass for the group at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, told them their ministry "is of tremendous importance for the future, not only of the Hispanic community in the United States, but the whole church."

The cardinal urged them to "be a bridge in what you do and what you say."

There are approximately 4,200 Hispanic priests ministering in the United States, serving a Hispanic Catholic population of roughly 25 million, according to the group's president, Father

Andres Mendoza of Lubbock. Any Hispanic priest living in the United States can join the association, but Fr. Mendoza said most of the members are sons of immigrants or are immigrants themselves. He said he came to the United States from Chihuahua, Mexico, 13 years ago.

"I feel very happy in the United States," he said. "Yes, I had to learn another culture, another language, and another reality. I feel very accepted. And I think Hispanic priests are a blessing for the church."

The single greatest challenge facing U.S. Hispanic Catholics is a dearth of Hispanic leaders in the church, Fr. Mendoza believes. "The Hispanic Catholic priests who come here need to speak both languages. They have to be bilingual in order to become leaders and have greater influence," he said.

He said their second task is to develop religious vocations from among Hispanics in the United States, urging youths to discover their calling from God.

Hispanics are becoming the largest single ethnic group in the U.S. church, but without more priests and vocations, "we don't have the pastoral ministry to support these people, and it's a big challenge," Fr. Mendoza said.

Part of the problem is that some in the pool of prospective priesthood candidates are held back by a lack of education, a lack of the English-language skills required by most seminaries, or even a lack of documents showing they are legally in the United States, he said.

"To me, the bishops have to have an open mind, and help them, in one way or another, to fix their papers," he added.

The deep inroads being made by Pentecostal churches into the Latino culture are also challenging the Catholic faith and its traditions among Hispanics — not only here, but in all of Latin America. Fr. Mendoza noted that the culture of the Hispanic people can be hospitable to the emotionality of Pentecostal worship services, which may

draw in Latinos with that type of spirituality.

To counter that, he recommended that priests ministering to Hispanics stress movements such as charismatic renewal and the Cursillo movement, which seeks to promote individual and organized apostolic action.

The homilist at the Mass in the cathedral was Archbishop José H. Gomez of San Antonio, a former president of the association. His mother was raised in Texas, but he was born in Monterrey, Mexico, and came to the United States 20 years ago.

Hispanics can enrich the U.S. church through the integration of their gifts of culture and faith, Archbishop Gomez said. They are open to the values of family, community, and forgiveness because they are Catholic, he said.

A particular challenge right now, he said, is resolving the problems of immigration "through laws that recognize immigrant people as human beings with rights and duties."

The shortage of Hispanic priests is not just in the United

States, the archbishop said. Mexico has about 10,000 priests for 100 million Catholics, compared to 40,000 priests for nearly 70 million Catholics in the United States.

Previous generations of immigrants from Europe were able to obtain priests from their home countries to serve their pastoral needs. Because of the shortage of priests throughout Latin America, however, immigrants from those countries have not been able to get comparable numbers of priests from home to serve them.

Because many of the new immigrants come from rural areas where the priest shortage is most acute — where Mass is celebrated perhaps once a month — they are not schooled in the Catholic faith when they arrive, Archbishop Gomez said.

"It is important for us that young Hispanic Catholics continue high school [and] go on to college for the good of society," he said, adding that this would also open the doors for more Hispanic priests.

## Scripture Readings



November 12, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) 1 Kings 17:10-16  
Psalms 146:7-10
- 2) Hebrews 9:24-28  
Gospel) Mark 12:38-44

By Sharon K. Perkins

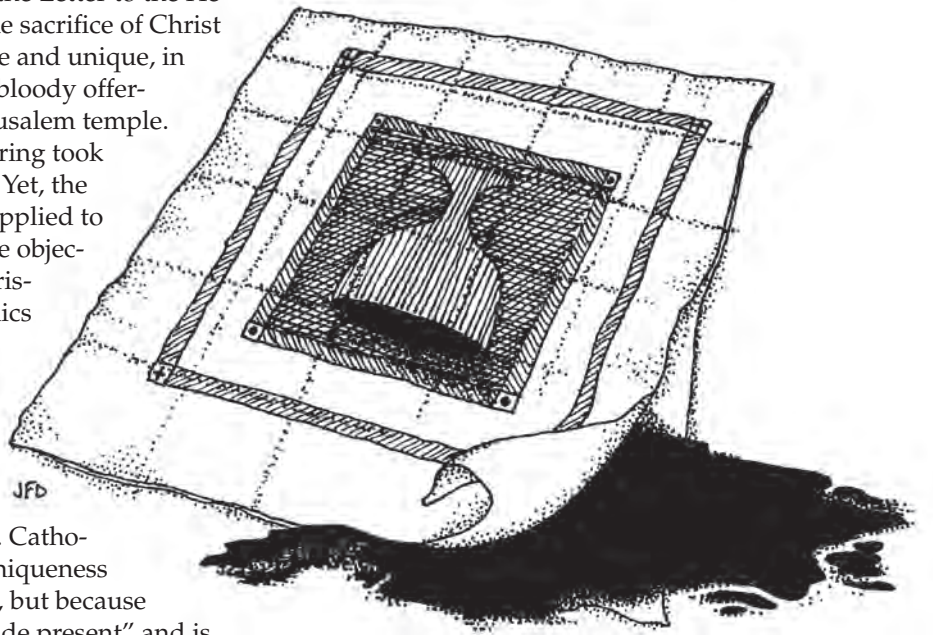
**G**ift-giving always has been a challenge for me. Besides factoring in the time and money required, I usually struggle with finding just the right gift, one that will be unique to the recipient. When I have the time, the present I most like to give is a quilted mini-comforter that I make out of fabrics in the person's favorite colors or from a print that expresses his or her hobbies or interests. It's a unique gift of my own time and creativity, and years later many of the recipients — from children to college students to adults — tell me that they still enjoy using their quilts.

Last year my mother gave me a personal blender that I use to make on-the-run breakfast smoothies almost every day — and when I do, I invariably think of her and thank her across the miles. Although I don't unwrap that blender anew each morning, I cherish it as a "gift that keeps on giving."

Today's passage from the Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes that the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary is unrepeatable and unique, in contrast with the annual bloody offerings of animals in the Jerusalem temple. "Once for all," Jesus' offering took away the "sins of many." Yet, the term "sacrifice" is often applied to the Eucharist, much to the objection and confusion of Christians who criticize Catholics for offering Jesus repeatedly, as if Calvary were somehow not enough.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraphs 1365-1368, is very clear on this issue. Catholic teaching affirms the uniqueness of the sacrifice at Calvary, but because Jesus' self-offering is "made present" and is visibly extended to believers through the Eucharist and because the church as Christ's body is offering itself in union with Christ, the Eucharist can indeed be called a "sacrifice in an unbloody manner" — the Lord offering himself, both once for all and continuously, throughout time, for each individual.

The poor but generous widow of Zarephath sacrificed all she had so that the prophet Elijah could eat — resulting in an endless supply of



**"But now he has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sins once for all by his sacrifice."**

— Hebrews 9:26b

flour and oil. Likewise Jesus, made eucharistically present in you and me, is the "gift that keeps on giving" as we bring him to the world in generous and ceaseless offering.

### QUESTIONS:

In recent days how have you offered yourself, sacrificially, for another?

Who has made loving self-offerings to you?

Copyright © 2006, Diocese of Fort Worth

## Pope: Christians are called to be like St. Paul, 'the 13th apostle'

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Like St. Paul, Christians are called to place everything in their lives at the service of Jesus Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Oct. 25 weekly general audience, Pope Benedict said he would begin a series of talks about important personalities of the primitive Christian community, beginning with St. Paul, often called "the 13th apostle."

Unlike the Twelve, who followed Jesus during his public ministry, Paul was called by the risen Christ, Pope Benedict said.

"Paul was a devoted follower of the (Jewish) law whose initial hostility to the Gospel suddenly melted when he encountered the risen Lord on the road to Damascus," the pope said.

In his New Testament letters, St. Paul's "own accounts of his dramatic conversion speak not only about his vision of Jesus but also his call to be an apostle," the pope said.



Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful as he arrives at Pontifical Lateran University in Rome Oct. 21 to inaugurate the new academic year. The pope said education should hone a student's thirst for truth and meaning. (CNS photo/Alessia Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

From the moment Christ called him, his life was completely dedicated to spreading

the Gospel and encouraging the young Christian communities, the pope said.

"From Paul we learn to make Christ the center of our lives and to see all things in the light

of God's reconciling love," he said.

Even though St. Paul is not mentioned in the Gospels, "certainly after Jesus himself, he is the person about whom we are most informed" because of the accounts of the Acts of the Apostles and the New Testament letters "that come directly from his own hand, and which — without an intermediary — reveal his personality and thoughts."

The letters are filled with accounts of shipwrecks, imprisonment, hunger, cold and the anger of his own people, the pope said. But St. Paul continued to travel and preach the Gospel until his martyrdom in Rome.

"How can we fail to admire such a man? How can we not thank the Lord for having given us an apostle of this stature?" the pope asked.

From the moment of his conversion, "all of his energies were placed at the exclusive service of Jesus Christ and his Gospel," Pope Benedict said.

## Scripture Readings



November 19, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.  
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Daniel 12:1-3  
Psalms 16:5, 8-11
- 2) Hebrews 10:11-14, 18  
Gospel) Mark 13:24-32

By Jeff Hensley

A few years ago, *America* magazine published an article that raised the question of how many Catholics, Protestants, and men and women of good will made the heroic choice to shelter Jews from the Nazi Holocaust. The question was phrased something like "A half million Schindlers?" referring to the well-known story of German industrialist Oskar Schindler's acts and reflecting the estimate some scholars make of the numbers of rescuers.

The Scripture reading from Daniel for this week makes a promise for apocalyptic times: "At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book [of life]." This reading goes on to speak of those who "lead the many to justice" being "like the stars forever."

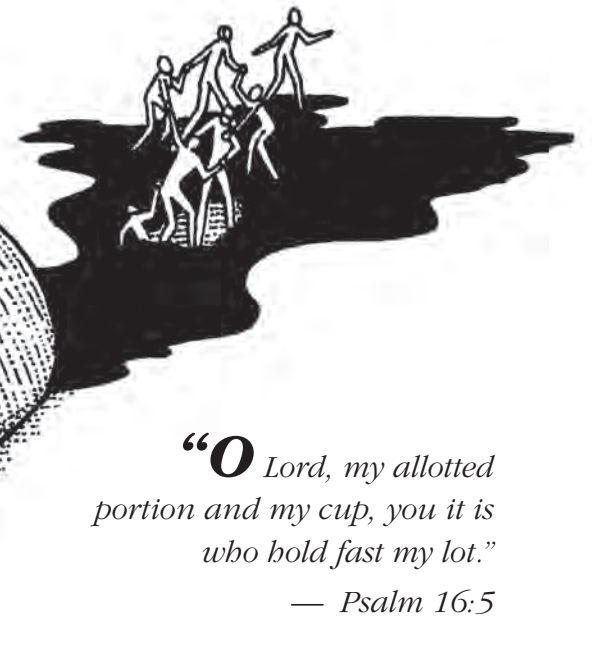
How do men and women prepare themselves for acting in such a heroic way, for putting the safety and survival of others above their own?

The authors of *Rescuers, Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust*, Gay Block and Malka Drucker, sought to answer some of those questions by profiling 49 of the 105 rescuers Block photographed and Drucker interviewed.

In her introduction, Drucker tries to answer why these people responded as they did: "It remains a mystery, perhaps a miracle. Many helped strangers, some saved friends and lovers. Some had humane upbringings, others did not. Some were educated, others were barely literate. They weren't

all religious, they weren't all brave. What they did share, however, was compassion, empathy, an intolerance of injustice, and an ability to endure risk beyond what one wants to imagine."

The vital questions for the rest of us to answer are asked by the author in her epilogue: "The rescuers not only raise the question, Could I have done what they did? They also force us to ask



"O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot."

— Psalm 16:5

ourselves, What am I doing now?"

Believers can gain the courage to answer with their lives from the last verse of the psalm for this week: "You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever."

### QUESTIONS:

How might God be asking you to use your gifts and talents, your presence, to offer compassionate service to others?

Copyright © 2006, Diocese of Fort Worth

## 'Communion of Saints' more than a concept

By Jeff Hedglen

Mass is over, and there is a line of people over to the side of the altar by the statue of the Holy Family. The people are quietly chatting and patiently waiting their turn to sign the Book of Remembrance.

It has become a tradition at my parish to list the names of loved ones who have died in this book. The book is then placed near the altar all during November, in honor of All Saints Day Nov. 1. I really like this simple gesture, not just because it gives me a way to remember those people I love that have died, but because it is a visual reminder that this life is not the end. It also is a statement of faith that those who have gone before us have not left us behind.

The Church is rich with tradition, one of the beliefs that is often overlooked is called the Communion of the Saints. This communion that we share does not just happen with those who have been canonized, but it

Our communion with the saints offers us a connection to the life that lies ahead of us.

extends to all the faithful who have entered the eternal beatitude. This connection with the saints gives us a deeper understanding of what it means to be the Body of Christ. Through it we are mystically connected to all believers past and present.

It is hard to fully understand the unity we have with the people in heaven. We cannot see or hear them, and it is not typical to have direct communication with them, yet throughout my life I have always felt a connection. I would like to share three stories of communion that I have had with the saints.

I never remember meeting my godmother. I am told that my mother's sister, Margery did meet and hold me many times when I was young, but she contracted ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and died when I was three years old. Even though I never knew my godmother, I have always felt close to her. As I grew older and learned of the Communion of the Saints, I understood why I always felt connected to her. There were times I wished I had a godmother who I could visit, write letters to, and get advice from, but at the same

time, knowing that my godmother was praying for me in heaven has brought me more comfort than I could have imagined.

I was 26 years old when my mother died, and though I still miss her greatly, my connection with her is not gone. There are times when I talk to her about my life, and often she appears in my dreams. I wasn't married when she died, and the thought that she would never meet my wife was very sad. I think they would have really liked each other. One day, before we got married, my wife told me she had been talking to my mom in prayer. I was deeply moved by this, especially when I realized they had met after all.

Lastly, my wife and I suffered six miscarriages early in our marriage. One of the things that helped us get through that difficult time in our lives was knowing that we would meet them someday in heaven. When I think of them I have definite pictures in my mind of what they look like. They are all the same age (around nine

years old) and have blond hair, which is strange because no one on either side of the family is blond. I realize that my images of them may not turn out to be true, and there is no way to know what they will really be like in heaven, but I know one thing for sure, I cannot wait to meet them!

Our communion with the saints offers us a connection to the life that lies ahead of us. We also gain access to a huge choir of intercessors on our behalf until we join them. The Communion of the Saints is the lived reality of what we experience when we walk down the aisle at Mass and say "Amen" to the Eucharist, for it unites us to the full implication of the statement we say amen to: "The Body of Christ." It is not an accident that we call this sacrament Communion. Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at [jeff@stbartsfw.org](mailto:jeff@stbartsfw.org).

# Le damos gracias a Dios por el incremento de vocaciones al sacerdocio

Queridos amigos en la  
Diócesis de Fort Worth,

Al proseguir por el mes de noviembre, el calendario de la Iglesia nos ofrece más oportunidades para reflexionar y vivir nuestra fe.



MONSEÑOR KEVIN W. VANN

*Por favor continúen orando para que más jóvenes respondan generosamente al llamado del Señor para que le sirvan como sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas.*

Por ejemplo, el 9 de noviembre es el aniversario de la dedicación de la Basílica de San Juan Letrán. El terreno, que le pertenecía a familia Laterani, le fue dado al Papa San Silvestre, y aquí, en esta propiedad, en el 9 de noviembre del año 324 AD la Basílica del Santísimo Salvador y San Juan Bautista fue dedicada.

La estructura ha tenido varias adiciones y reconstrucciones al paso de los años, pero celebra con belleza y majestad la fe católica. ¡Fue aquí, en el baptisterio, donde se cantó por primera vez el Exultet! Fue

aquí donde, por muchos años, los obispos de Roma residieron. La inscripción en latín sobre la puerta principal proclama que esta basílica es "Madre Y Cabeza de todas las Iglesias de la Ciudad y del Mundo." ¡Esto la establece como la Catedral del Obispo de Roma, y en ese sentido, tiene aun mayor rango que la Basílica de San Pedro!

Lo que esta fiesta nos recuerda (día en que se recita o canta el Gloria y Credo) es la naturaleza de la comunión en la fe con la Iglesia Universal. La identidad de comunión en cada iglesia particular es el obispo y la diócesis. Cada iglesia particular deberá entonces estar en comunión con la Iglesia universal y el Obispo de Roma. De esta manera la basílica es un fuerte recuerdo, no solo de la gloria del Salvador Resucitado, sino que la Iglesia es verdaderamente universal y no es ni congregacional ni aun nacional. Esta verdad se puede ilustrar simplemente con frases como "La Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos" o "La Iglesia Católica en Francia" en vez de usar por ejemplo "La Iglesia Estadounidense o Americana" o "La Iglesia Francesa".

El 11 de noviembre también merece nuestra consideración. Lo conocemos como el Día del Veterano o Día del Armisticio. Es el día en que se firmó el tratado de paz al finalizar la Primera Guerra Mundial. Una costumbre antigua establecía que los tratados de paz se firmaban el 11 de noviembre por ser la fiesta de San Martín de Tours. San Martín de Tours había sido soldado y abandonó su carrera militar para seguir a Dios y más tarde fue nombrado Obispo de Tours en Francia.

Fundó el primer monasterio en Francia y es el patrón de soldados, vinicultores y Francia.

En este día sería bueno orar en agradecimiento y apoyo por los miembros de las fuerzas armadas que han servido esta nación tanto aquí como en Europa. Pienso en mi propio padre y su generación que sirvieron durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Recuerdo la visita al cementerio del Día D localizado en la Playa de Omaha en Francia acompañando a un señor que estaba visitando la sepultura de su hermano que no había visto desde que se fue de su casa en 1939.

Debemos orar por la paz, al pensar en el mensaje del Papa Benedicto XVI, ofrecido este pasado 1° de enero, "Cada comunidad deberá entregarse a una labor intensa y capilar de educación y de testimonio, que ayude a cada uno a tomar conciencia de que urge descubrir cada vez más a fondo la verdad de la paz. Al mismo tiempo, pido que se intensifique la oración, porque la paz es ante todo don de Dios que se ha de suplicar continuamente..."

Nos sentimos orgullosos del hecho de que Isaac Orozco fue ordenado al diaconado en la Basílica de San Pedro en Roma el 5 de octubre y el 4 de noviembre Thomas Kennedy, Jonathan Wallis y Ray

McDaniel también recibirán su ordenación diaconal. ¡Todos, Dios mediante, recibirán su ordenación presbiteral el próximo verano dándonos el grupo de ordenandos más grande en la historia de la diócesis! Le damos las gracias al Señor pues ellos están dispuestos a decirle sí a su llamado y también agradecemos a todos los que han apoyado y colaborado con ellos, incluyendo a las comunidades en los seminarios en el Colegio Norteamericano en Roma y en la Asunción en San Antonio. Por favor continúen orando para que más jóvenes respondan generosamente al llamado del Señor para que le sirvan como sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas.

Finalmente, como les mencioné en mi última columna, noviembre es el mes de Todos los Fieles Difuntos. Este es un mes ideal para visitar a los cementerios y orar por todos los que han muerto, esto es una de las obras de misericordia.

De manera especial este mes, y al finalizar el calendario de este año eclesial, recordamos que no importa cuan importante sea nuestro proyecto, punto de vista, ministerio, o servicio todo a fin de cuentas regresa al don más grande de todos, nuestra eterna salvación.

Que Dios los bendiga siempre.

## Sacerdotes hispanos estadounidenses se reúnen, discuten retos pastorales

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Más de 100 sacerdotes hispanos estadounidenses se reunieron en Philadelphia del 9 al 13 de octubre para discutir los retos pastorales de servir la población católica hispana que crece rápidamente.

La reunión de cinco días fue la 17ma convención anual de la Asociación Nacional de Sacerdotes Hispanos.

El cardenal Justin Rigali, de Philadelphia, quien celebró una Misa en español el 9 de octubre para el grupo en la Catedral Basílica SS. Peter and Paul, les dijo que su ministerio "es de tremenda importancia para el futuro, no sólo de la comunidad hispana de Estados Unidos, sino también de la iglesia completa".

Hay aproximadamente 4.200 sacerdotes hispanos ministrando en Estados Unidos, sirviendo a una población católica hispana de aproximadamente 25 millones, de acuerdo con el presidente del grupo, padre Andrés Mendoza, de Lubbock. Cualquier sacerdote hispano que viva en Estados Uni-

dos puede unirse a la asociación, pero el padre Mendoza dijo que la mayoría de los miembros son hijos de inmigrantes o son inmigrantes ellos mismos. Él dijo que vino a Estados Unidos desde Chihuahua, México, hace 13 años.

"Me siento muy feliz en Estados Unidos", él dijo. "Sí, tuve que aprender otra cultura, otro lenguaje y otra realidad. Me siento muy aceptado".

El desafío más grande que enfrentan los católicos hispanos estadounidenses es una escasez de líderes hispanos en la iglesia, cree el padre Mendoza. "Los sacerdotes católicos hispanos que vienen aquí necesitan hablar ambos idiomas. Tienen que ser bilingües para poder hacerse líderes y tener mayor influencia", él dijo.

Él dijo que la segunda tarea de ellos es desarrollar vocaciones religiosas entre los hispanos de Estados Unidos, pidiéndole a los jóvenes que descubran su llamado de Dios.

Los hispanos están convirtiéndose en el grupo étnico más

grande en la iglesia estadounidense, pero sin más sacerdotes ni vocaciones, el padre Mendoza dijo: "No tenemos el ministerio pastoral para apoyar a esta gente y es un gran reto".

Parte del problema es que algunos en la fuente de prospectos candidatos al sacerdocio son retenidos por falta de educación o falta de las habilidades lingüísticas en el inglés requeridas por la mayoría de los seminarios, o hasta falta de documentos demostrando que están legalmente en Estados Unidos, él dijo.

"Para mí que los obispos tienen que tener una mente abierta y ayudarlos en una forma u otra a arreglar sus documentos", añadió él.

También retando la fe católica y sus tradiciones entre los hispanos — no sólo aquí, sino también en toda América Latina — están las incursiones profundas hechas por las iglesias pentecostales en la cultura latina. El Padre Mendoza señaló que la cultura del pueblo hispano puede ser hospitalaria a

la emotividad de los servicios de culto pentecostales, que pueden atraer a los latinos con ese tipo de espiritualidad.

Para contrarrestar eso él recomendó que los sacerdotes que ministran a los hispanos enfatizen los movimientos tales como renovación carismática y el movimiento de Cursillo, que buscan promover la acción apostólica individual y organizada.

El homilista en la Misa en la catedral fue el arzobispo José H. Gómez, de San Antonio, ex presidente de la asociación. Su madre fue criada en Texas pero él nació en Monterrey, México, y vino a Estados Unidos hace 20 años.

Un desafío particular ahora, él dijo, es resolver los problemas de inmigración "mediante leyes que reconozcan la gente inmigrante como seres humanos con derechos y deberes".

La escasez de sacerdotes hispanos no es sólo en Estados Unidos, dijo el arzobispo. México tiene unos 10.000 sacerdotes para 100 millones de católicos,

comparado con 40.000 sacerdotes para casi 70 millones de católicos en Estados Unidos.

Las generaciones anteriores de inmigrantes de Europa pudieron obtener sacerdotes de sus países de origen para servir sus necesidades pastorales. Debido a la escasez de sacerdotes en toda América Latina, sin embargo, los inmigrantes de esos países no han podido obtener números comparables de sacerdotes desde sus países para servirles.

Debido a que muchos de los nuevos inmigrantes provienen de zonas rurales donde la escasez de sacerdotes es más aguda — donde la Misa es celebrada quizás una vez al mes — ellos no están educados en la fe católica cuando llegan, dijo el arzobispo Gómez.

"Es importante para nosotros que los católicos hispanos jóvenes continúen la escuela secundaria (y) continúen hacia la universidad para el bien de la sociedad", dijo él añadiendo que esto también abriría las puertas a más sacerdotes hispanos.

# Primer retiro de vocaciones en español abre más amplias las puertas a los que consideran una vocación

por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
fotos por Donna Ryckaert

**R**odeada de personas con herencia hispana durante toda su vida, Martha siempre sabía la dirección que se esperaba que su vida tomara.

“Uno se casa, tiene hijos; ése es el patrón”, explica la mujer de 32 años. “Incluso los retiros espirituales que acudí como adolescente estaban centrados en situaciones familiares y la crianza de los hijos”.

Tampoco los movimientos de Búsqueda y Jornada Juvenil que asistió los fines de semana hablaban sobre la posibilidad de una vocación religiosa.

“Es necesario tener motivación propia para enterarse más sobre ese tema”, agrega Martha. “Uno mismo tiene que buscar las respuestas”.

Afortunadamente, eso ha cambiado. Los católicos de habla hispana de la Diócesis de Fort Worth, que tratan de discernir si una vocación religiosa es el camino que deben tomar, ahora cuentan con un nuevo recurso. En días recientes, el Serra Club y la Diócesis de Fort Worth patrocinaron un retiro de concientización sobre vocaciones completamente en español. Este suceso, que se realiza por primera vez y se llevó a cabo en el Centro de Renovación Católica, reunió a 18 adultos que han expresado interés sobre la vida religiosa. Los organizadores diseñaron el retiro con los intereses en mente de hombres y mujeres entre los 18 y 35 años.

“Esa es una buena edad para discernir y buscar”, señala la Hermana Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, directora auxiliar del ministerio de catequesis de la diócesis. “Hay mucho potencial para las vocaciones en la comunidad de hispanohablantes y necesitamos llegar a ellos”.

Con ese objetivo en mente, el Comité de Vocaciones Hispánicas de la Diócesis ha tratado de crear distintas actividades y eventos. El retiro del fin de semana fue la culminación de esas labores.

El programa variado consistió en debates en grupo y en panel, Misa, hora sagrada, cánticos, tiempo de reflexión personal y



**Arriba:** (l. a D.) la Hna. Inés Díaz, SSMN; la Hna. Flor Barreto, HFIC; y la Hna. Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, aplauden con entusiasmo al participar en el primer retiro diocesano en español para promover vocaciones.



visitas individuales con representantes de las distintas órdenes religiosas. La oración y la espiritualidad fueron los temas de un discurso principal que dio la Hermana Gabriela Martínez, SSMN, el sábado por la noche.

“Ella enfatizó la importancia de la oración y de tener un director espiritual en la vida de los asistentes para ayudarles a decidir la trayectoria de sus caminos”, señaló la Hna. Yolanda.

Más temprano en el día, se les invitó a los participantes del retiro a conocer personalmente a los religiosos visitantes. Los diálogos de 30 minutos recibieron altas calificaciones en las evaluaciones posteriores a la actividad.

“Los asistentes se sintieron particularmente conmovidos con las conferencias individuales”, dijo. “Fue una oportunidad para entrevistarse con hermanas y sacerdotes, hacer preguntas y escuchar las distintas respuestas”.

La reunión íntima y pequeña

propició un ambiente más ameno y seguro para las personas que consideran formalmente tomar una decisión.

“Todos tenían el mismo interés”, agregó. “Fue una oportunidad para reunir durante comidas, oración y conversaciones a personas que piensan de forma semejante”.

El Padre Kyle Walterscheid, director auxiliar de vocaciones, quien reemplazará al Padre Anh como director diocesano de vocaciones en enero, dijo que invitar a hombres y mujeres interesados en la vida religiosa es como sembrar un jardín.

“No es posible cosechar frutos sin sembrar semillas”, explicó. “Éstas son personas que están comenzando a discernir sobre una vocación. Están tratando de entender dónde encajan en la iglesia y queremos darles las herramientas para hacerlo”.

Para muchos, el fin de semana fue una experiencia que les per-

mitió abrir los ojos.

“Les enseñó que hay otra puerta abierta para ellos en la vida. Tal vez no habían cobrado conciencia de esto antes”, señaló el Padre Walterscheid.

Los encargados del retiro se han seguido reuniendo con los candidatos interesados para permitirles discernir más intensamente durante una serie de reuniones informales celebradas semanalmente en la Catedral de San Patricio. Kevin Vann, obispo de Fort Worth, asistió a la reunión del grupo celebrada el 19 de octubre para hablar sobre el miedo y la aprensión que se suscitan al responder al llamado a una vida religiosa. Durante el proceso de discernimiento, se les recomienda a las personas hablar con un director espiritual una vez al mes y aumentar su participación en las actividades de la parroquia.

“Estoy tratando de que los sacerdotes y las hermanas compartan individualmente con los jóvenes que están en proceso de

discernimiento”, explicó el Padre Walterscheid.

Ofrecer el programa de concientización de vocaciones en español brindó beneficios que trascienden más que sólo mejorar las vías de comunicación.

“Les demostró a los asistentes de que la iglesia está realmente interesada y se preocupa por ellos”, sugirió el Padre Walterscheid. “Usar el idioma natal siempre es la mejor manera de llegar a una persona, ya sea vietnamita o hispana”.

Martha, quien habla inglés y español, dice que el retiro reemplazó la confusión que tenía con información. Después de reunirse con diversos representantes de distintas congregaciones religiosas, la joven profesional está planeando ahora visitar algunos conventos para estar mejor informada.

“Espero determinar si es ahí donde está mi nicho”, señala. “Este fin de semana fue una buena forma de dirigir esa decisión”.

**Arriba:** el Padre Kyle Walterscheid (lq.) subdirector de Vocaciones responde las preguntas de Francisco García acerca de la vocación sacerdotal.



**Arriba:** El Padre Anh Tran (centro), director diocesano de Vocaciones, platica con los participantes Leo Palacios (lq.) y Héctor Castor que tratan de discernir su vocación.

**Izquierda:** la Hna Merys Jiménez, HCG, (centro), ríe con Luz Romero (lq.) y Maribel López que quieren discernir su posible llamado a la vida religiosa.

## Misa en San Antonio honra nuevo santo que tiene conexión con arquidiócesis

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) —San Rafael Guízar Valencia, santo con conexión personal con San Antonio, fue honrado en el día de su canonización en Roma con una Misa especial en la Catedral San Fernando, donde él predicó mientras estaba en exilio desde su México natal a fines de la década de 1920.

Los celebrantes principales en la Misa del 15 de octubre fueron el arzobispo José H. Gómez, de San Antonio, y su predecesor, el arzobispo jubilado Patrick F. Flores. También concelebrando estuvieron el obispo Edmond Carmody, de Corpus Christi; el padre David García, rector de San Fernando; y el padre jesuita James Empereur, vicario parroquial de la catedral. Una gran asamblea de sacerdotes y diáconos también participó.

“Bendito sea Dios que nos dio este gran hombre”, dijo el arzobispo Flores en su homilía. “Y bendito sea este gran hombre por todo lo que él nos ha enseñado”.

Él señaló que hay una lección que aprender del nuevo santo sobre la lectura del día del Evangelio de San Marcos sobre el hombre rico que fue invitado a vender todo lo que poseía y siguiera a Jesús. Esto aplica no sólo al que es rico materialmente, dijo el arzobispo, “sino también a todos los que, de una manera u otra, tengan algo que puedan

*‘Bendito sea Dios que nos dio este gran hombre’, dijo el arzobispo Flores en su homilía. “Y bendito sea este gran hombre por todo lo que él nos ha enseñado”.*

compartir con otros”.

San Rafael nació en 1878 a una familia rica. Como sacerdote y luego como obispo de Veracruz, México, él utilizó su riqueza para ayudar a construir orfanatos, clínicas y un seminario y era conocido por dar todo lo que él tenía para ayudar a aquellos en necesidad, hasta vendiendo para ayudar a los pobres su hermosa cruz pectoral de oro ornamentada con diamantes.

Él ministró durante un período de intensa persecución religiosa contra la Iglesia Católica en México.

Obligado a huir de su país por un tiempo, él pasó varios años en el sur de Texas predicando como misión en San Antonio en la iglesia Immaculate Heart of Mary, así como en la catedral. Él vivió

más tarde en Austin en la iglesia Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Él es el primer obispo nacido en las Américas en ser declarado santo.

En su homilía el arzobispo Flores dijo que el obispo pasó algunos días en San Antonio y vivió brevemente en el convento de las Hermanas de la Divina Providencia en Castroville antes de mudarse a Austin, donde él estuvo en la Iglesia Our Lady of Guadalupe durante más de dos años.

Cuando azotó la Gran Depresión él le vendió su anillo episcopal al obispo de Oklahoma, otra vez para ayudar a aquellos en necesidad. En un raro giro del destino, este anillo llegó más tarde al arzobispo Flores como expresión de gratitud de parte de la familia de un hombre a quien el arzobispo le sirvió como ministro en Houston.

Después de la muerte del hombre, sus hijos y su hija, monja dominica, visitaron al arzobispo Flores en la cancillería. Ellos le regalaron un anillo que su padre quería que el arzobispo tuviera y sólo sabían que éste había pertenecido a un obispo mexicano.

El arzobispo Flores fue sorprendido más tarde cuando fue descubierto que éste había pertenecido al obispo Guízar, por quien él había tenido una devoción especial desde sus años de seminario.

## Obispos de Américas discuten amenazas contra vida, muro en frontera estadounidense

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — La descomposición de las familias y las amenazas contra la vida humana desde el aborto hasta la pena capital son retos que los católicos de las Américas deben confrontar, dijo un grupo de obispos que se reunieron en el Vaticano.

El consejo de obispos encargado de supervisar y promover el seguimiento al Sínodo de Obispos Para América de 1997 y al documento postsinodal de 1999 del papa Juan Pablo II, “La Iglesia en América”, se reunió en el Vaticano a principios de octubre.

Además de denunciar las amenazas contra la vida humana, miembros de consejo procedentes de América del Norte y del Sur, así como del Vaticano, también ofrecieron una evaluación severa de los planes de construir un muro a lo largo de la frontera estadounidense-mexicana.

El 23 de octubre el proyecto de ley autorizando la construcción de 700 millas de muralla fue enviado por el congreso al presidente George W. Bush,

quien firmó la disposición el 26 de octubre.

“El muro a lo largo de la frontera Estados Unidos-México no resolverá el problema del flujo migratorio entre los dos países y no ayudará a establecer una política de emigración coordinada y humanitaria”, dijeron los obispos.

La declaración del 21 de octubre sobre la reunión del consejo expresó preocupación por los intentos de presentar o ampliar en muchos países el acceso al aborto legalizado.

Y, ésta dice, el debate público sobre el aborto “desafortunadamente ha causado polarización entre los católicos” en los países.

Los miembros más pobres y más débiles de la sociedad son las primeras víctimas de la creciente “cultura de la muerte”, dijeron los obispos. Ellos son amenazados no sólo por el aborto, sino también por la eutanasia y por la pena capital.

“La situación social y eclesial en el continente muestra

señales de esperanza, pero también de preocupación”, dijeron los obispos. En todo el sínodo de 1997 muchos obispos se refirieron a América del Norte y del Sur como un solo continente.

Algunos países están enfrentando una crisis política donde las estructuras democráticas son amenazadas por las formas “demagógicas” de gobierno, “en muchos casos de raya neomarxista”, que manipulan a los pobres y su deseo de desarrollo económico, dijeron los obispos.

En América Central y del Sur, dijeron, la seria pobreza continúa marcando las vidas de millones de personas y muchos países están sufriendo la violencia conectada con el tráfico de drogas y armas.

Mirando las buenas noticias del Hemisferio Occidental, los obispos señalaron particularmente un aumento en el número de sacerdotes diocesanos desde 1978 y en el número de los hombres jóvenes que están entrando al seminario en América del Norte y del Sur.

*Casamiento, crías, cuentas, compra, comida, colegio y Cristo*

## La espiritualidad familiar

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

Es impresionante la cantidad de personas que todavía creen, equivocadamente, que eso de vida espiritual o espiritualidad es solo para sacerdotes, religiosos, religiosas o diáconos. Toda persona, no importa su situación o condición social está llamada por Dios para tener una amistad cercana y personal con El. Esta relación personal e íntima con Dios se llama santidad.

Para la mayoría de los creyentes y seguidores de Cristo nuestra casa o apartamento es también nuestro lugar especial donde estamos con la familia y con Dios. El clero y los religiosos tienen conventos, monasterios o casas parroquiales pero los demás tenemos nuestras casas que se convierten en pequeñas iglesias domiciliarias.

En la Iglesia muchos tienen una vocación especial para santificarse dentro de los diversos lugares especiales de formación religiosa o conventos y su trabajo tiende a ocurrir dentro del ámbito de la Iglesia. Los demás bautizados, seglares o laicos, tenemos una vocación para santificarnos en el mundo y sus diversas realidades del mundo en que vivimos. El Papa Juan Pablo II en su Exhortación Apostólica *Christifideles Laici*, nos habla sobre esto...

*La vocación de los fieles laicos a la santidad implica que la vida según el Espíritu se exprese particularmente en su inserción en las realidades temporales y en su participación en las actividades terrenas. De nuevo el apóstol nos amonesta diciendo: «Todo cuanto hagáis, de palabra o de obra, hacedlo todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús, dando gracias por su medio a Dios Padre» (Col 3, 17). Refiriendo estas palabras del apóstol a los fieles laicos, el Concilio afirma categóricamente: «Ni la atención de la familia, ni los otros deberes seculares deben ser algo ajeno a la orientación espiritual de la vida»... «La unidad de vida de los fieles laicos tiene una gran importancia. Ellos, en efecto, deben santificarse en la vida profesional y social ordinaria. Por tanto, para que puedan responder a su vocación, los fieles laicos deben considerar las actividades de la vida cotidiana como ocasión de unión con Dios y de cumplimiento de su voluntad, así como también de servicio a los demás hombres, llevándoles a la comunión con Dios en Cristo».*

Cristo nos llama a un amor intenso con El. Esto comienza desde nuestro bautismo y sigue creciendo por medio de los demás sacramentos, sobre todo la Eucaristía, pero también va creciendo mientras cumplimos cristianamente con nuestros deberes diarios. En efecto, casamiento, crías, cuentas, compra, comida, colegio y todas las demás responsabilidades diarias, si las cumplimos con amor y lo hacemos con nuestros corazones llenos de Dios, nos ayudaran a estar más cerca de Cristo y extender su Reino.

Por eso les recuerdo, no tenemos que huir del mundo para ser buenos discípulos del Señor. Cristo nos invita a estar en el mundo sin ser del mundo. No está mal tener nuestra Biblia en una mano y el control remoto del televisor en la otra.



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

# Violence makes living 'a nightmare' in Iraq, says Caritas official

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The war in Iraq has made day-to-day living "a nightmare," with violence, poverty, and malnutrition on the rise since the start of the U.S.-led invasion, said an official of the Catholic Church's charity network.

The head of Caritas Internationalis' Middle East desk, Sebastien Dechamps, said "the needs are immense" for the people living in Iraq and for the thousands who have fled to neighboring countries.

Run by local staff for the past 15 years, Caritas Iraq has reported that the humanitarian situation has visibly worsened since 2003, Dechamps said in Oct. 19 written responses to questions by Catholic News Service.

"Daily life has become a nightmare. You hardly have one hour of electricity per day; access to food, water, health [care, and] education has deteriorated. But most of all, the lack of peace, the violence, and the anarchy are everywhere, and give a sense of hopelessness," he wrote.

Some studies have shown a 35 percent increase in poverty since 2003, and a Pentagon study released in August "estimates that about 25.9 percent of Iraqi children examined were stunted in their physical growth due to chronic malnutrition, which is on the rise," he wrote.

Staff at Caritas centers meet "the human face of poverty" every day as they reach out to those most in need: the sick, the poor, infants, and children suffering from severe malnutrition, the Caritas officer wrote.

The chaos and violence on the ground have made monitoring humanitarian conditions and determining an accurate death toll very dangerous and difficult for organizations like Caritas.

On Oct. 12 the British medical journal *The Lancet* published a survey that estimates 601,000 civilians have been killed because of violence since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. The survey said that, taking into consideration a margin of error in the statistics, civilian deaths caused by violence could range

from 426,000 to 794,000.

However, U.S. President George W. Bush and some other government and military officials dispute the accuracy or credibility of the report. Another independent British group, Iraq Body Count, for example, puts the toll based on media reports at 43,000 to 48,000 civilian deaths.

Dechamps wrote that he and his colleagues "don't see why [*The Lancet*] study would not reflect reality."

Referring to the margin of error in *The Lancet* study, he said the difference between 400,000 and 600,000 innocent people dead "is of no moral/human interest" as both figures "are appalling."

Caritas workers in Iraq, he wrote, "would confirm that they probably don't know a single family who would not have lost at least one member to violence in the last three years."

The general feeling among Iraqis is that "this is a civil war; people are afraid; most of them have no more hope in the future," said Dechamps.

"Iraqis are fleeing from their



**KEEPING THE PEACE**  
— A U.S. soldier from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team shakes hands with a boy at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq, Oct. 27. (CNS photo/Thaier al-Sudani, Reuters)

country by the thousands," he said. These are families who have sold everything and "are just looking for a 'normal life' where kids can go to school," he said.

The study published in *The Lancet* was done by the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and Al Mustansiriya University School of Medicine in Baghdad, Iraq.

The study gathered data from 47 clusters of 40 households each

throughout the country, which it then projected on a national level. The interviews were done from May to July. The researchers said that their methodology was the same used by others to determine civilian deaths as a result of wars in Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo, and Sudan.

The 601,000 deaths through violence represent 2.3 percent of the Iraqi population of 26 million.

# Offre Joie brings Christians, Muslims together to rebuild Lebanon

By Michael Hirst

HOULA, Lebanon (CNS)—Lebanon's new school term finally got under way in mid-October, but in southern areas of the country ravaged by the Hezbollah militia's 34-day conflict with Israel, many destroyed classrooms remained empty.

UNICEF reports that 16 public schools were completely destroyed by Israeli strikes during the war; 250 schools were severely damaged, and a further 800 were left in need of repair. But political wrangling over the spending of some \$900 million in international aid donations has delayed the allocation of funds, meaning reconstruction work has been slow, leaving many damaged schools unusable.

One exception is the primary school in the southern border village of Houla where, since the war ended, more than 50 Christian and Muslim volunteers have been working to repair shelled walls, replace ruined roof tiles, and install new windows in place of those shattered during the conflict.

These young volunteers came not at the behest of the Lebanese government or the local authorities, but were instead representatives of a small, nondenominational charity called Offre Joie (Offer Joy).

The school in Houla, perched

on a hilltop just a few miles from the Israeli border, is one of three in southern Lebanon where some 150 Offre Joie volunteers have worked since mid-August.

On Oct. 14, local villagers joined Offre Joie volunteers in the project's final stages, sweeping dusty corridors, painting repaired walls, and cleaning new windows in preparation for the first day of school. Since Oct. 16, morning and evening classes have served about 200 students from the surrounding area.

Based on the three principles of love, forgiveness, and respect, Offre Joie is made up largely of university students ages 20-30, and it takes a hands-on approach to its aid work.

"We don't pay for other people to do the work," said Mark Torbey, 19, a student volunteer from Jesuit-run St. Joseph University in Beirut. "We teach our volunteers how to mix cement, build walls, and fit electrical circuits, so that they can repair the schools themselves. This way we can feel that we are rebuilding our own country."

Dressed in a white T-shirt, dusty work boots, and a blue smock emblazoned with Offre Joie's symbol — a white dove — Torbey smiled as he reflected on his work.

"For so many people in Lebanon, there are divides between

*"We are a sign to the world that Lebanon will not die, because we have the power to live together, rich in our differences."*

— Melhem Khalaf

North and South, between Christian, Sunni, Shiite, and Druze," said Torbey. "Our aim is to reunite the Lebanese family. Ours is an NGO (nongovernmental organization) that accepts volunteers whatever their religion and helps the needy whatever their religion."

Paintings by the volunteers on the school's walls depict communities living together, mosques alongside churches. The three schools rebuilt this summer were chosen not because of the religious affiliation of the villages in which they lie, but because of their location in the wider area — each teaches the largest number of students from surrounding villages.

In a country for so long split by sectarian divisions, the attitude of unity in diversity means Offre Joie avoids confrontation with various religious groups. Houla, for example, is in an area controlled by Hezbollah, but the militant Shiite

organization leaves the group to its own devices.

"Hezbollah know exactly what we're doing, but they leave us alone because we are working for regeneration in southern Lebanon," Torbey said.

Offre Joie is funded largely by overseas donations and runs on a budget of less than \$100,000 a year. Although it has strong Catholic links — approximately half its volunteers attend St. Joseph University — Offre Joie prides itself on its apolitical, nonconfessional approach.

"We welcome the diversity," said its founder, Melhem Khalaf, a 43-year-old French lawyer. "Through our core tenet of respect for each other, we don't eat meat on a Friday in line with Christian beliefs. Nor do we eat pork out of respect for Muslims."

"By working together, we work as a team, giving the volunteers a stronger sense of citizenship and ownership over the future of Lebanon," he said.

Offre Joie, founded in 1985 to help the needy during Lebanon's 15-year civil war, was well positioned to devise an aid plan and put it into action this summer. From the first day of the conflict, the group set up food centers, delivered some 2,000 meals to displaced families, and established a hot line and a crisis operation room to assess the needs of those

affected worst by the bombing.

As soon as the cease-fire was declared Aug. 14, the second phase of the charity's action plan was put into motion — reconstruction. As well as repairing the three schools, it repaired the church and several homes in Al-Kawzah, a village overlooking Aita Shaab on the border, where Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli soldiers July 12 sparked the conflict that killed more than 1,000 people, mostly Lebanese.

"We are building a spirit, a feeling of citizenship, a message of hope," said Khalaf. "We are a sign to the world that Lebanon will not die, because we have the power to live together, rich in our differences."

On Oct. 14, Carlos Fauzy, a 22-year-old student from Sidon, wiped dust from his straggly beard and gazed up at the Houla primary school's freshly painted white walls gleaming in the mid-day sun.

"I came here to help the children, to give hope to the future of Lebanon," he said.

"And look at this place," added Kemal Lawzi, also 22, pointing an arm past the school to the rolling hills of southern Lebanon. "When there are evening classes, the people will be able to see the lights of the school for miles. It will be a beacon for the country."

# Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* marks 145 years as 'genuine face of the church'

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Juggling a phone, tapping out headline changes on his keyboard, and greeting yet another visitor to his second-floor office inside the headquarters of *L'Osservatore Romano*, Antonio Chila' serenely glides through the myriad of tasks that continually fly his way.

Like a controller at a major airport's air traffic control tower, the chief editor of the Vatican newspaper must keep scores of incoming calls, e-mails, edited news articles, faxes, and requests on his radar and guide them all to their proper place.

Freshly typed copy of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in German from his Oct. 25 general audience lands on Chila's desk just as the paper's German section calls to say the text has been revised to reflect the pope's spoken remarks.

Translators check each rewritten papal text against what the pope actually says, since he often speaks off the cuff. Chila' then sends the modified copy by fax and e-mail to the Secretariat of State for approval before he can direct it to the layout staff.

Just the barest hint of exasperation tinges the chief editor's voice when an anxious caller urges him to publish a picture of her order's mother superior kissing the pope's hand at the audience that wrapped up less than an hour before.

"Sister, I know this is important to you, but if I had to publish every photo of all the religious and bishops who kiss the Holy Father's hand, I would have to put out a 250-page paper every day," he says, sighing into the phone.

Published within the Vatican, the semiofficial newspaper was born 145 years ago during a highly tumultuous time for the Papal States. Italy's unification began in 1861, and the new kingdom's first legislators declared Rome



**VATICAN NEWSPAPER STAFF** — Staffers of *L'Osservatore Romano* work on laying out the final copy of the next day's paper Oct. 25 at the Vatican. The Vatican newspaper's editorial views correspond to Catholic teaching and positions taken by the pope. Images of Popes Benedict XVI and John Paul II reading *L'Osservatore Romano* are seen in the paper's office. (CNS photo/Carol Glatz)

the capital.

The pope's temporal power and the territories he controlled were under increasing threat by growing Italian nationalism. Pontifical authorities soon supported the idea of having a newspaper that would uphold the importance of the Papal States and the values they espoused.

The first issue of *L'Osservatore Romano* appeared in Rome July 1, 1861, and was "deliberately polemical and propagandist," according to the Vatican's Web site.

The paper's motto, which remains unchanged today under the masthead, included two snippets from the Gospels: "Unicuique Suum" ("to each his own") and "Non Praevalebunt" (the forces of evil "shall not prevail"), said Chila'.

But over time the newspaper took on a more objective and pastoral stance, and today it prides

itself in "presenting the genuine face of the church and the ideals of freedom," said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican's secretary of state.

*L'Osservatore Romano* became "an instrument for spreading the teachings of the successor of Peter and for information about church events," he said in an Oct. 24 speech inaugurating a new exhibit dedicated to the founding and history of the newspaper.

The Oct. 24-Nov. 10 exhibit, housed in a city government building, was sponsored by both the Vatican newspaper and the provincial government of Rome.

The joint initiative reflects the mutual respect and collaboration that have colored church-state relations since the so-called "Roman question" was resolved with the Lateran Pacts of 1929.

The exhibit shows how *L'Osservatore Romano* has become

a forceful champion of human rights and a vocal proponent of peaceful, nonviolent solutions to the political and social upheavals of the 20th century and beyond.

Each pope has used the paper as an international soapbox to launch appeals against "the useless massacre" of World War I and to condemn anti-Semitism, totalitarianism, and "atheist communism."

When Europe was darkened by World War II, the Vatican newspaper spoke out against injustices without threat of being silenced or shut down, and the paper offered a ray of hope by documenting the church's efforts in providing food and shelter for Italy's displaced.

Chila' told Catholic News Service Oct. 25 that, just as it did then, *L'Osservatore Romano* still exerts "notable influence" in both political and religious spheres.

Not only are readers 100 per-

cent certain that the exact words of the pope and church officials appear on its pages, but international news is treated with an objectivity that journalists from either political extreme find laudable, Chila' said.

Though he said the number of copies printed and sold "is a secret," the English edition alone reaches more than 129 countries. Besides the daily paper in Italian, *L'Osservatore Romano* publishes weekly editions in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, and a monthly paper in Polish.

The future for reaching out to even more readers worldwide is the Internet, Chila' said, but for now *L'Osservatore Romano* only has a copy of its front page online.

Through its new site, [www.photo.va](http://www.photo.va), the paper now offers for sale to the public its daily trove and exhaustive archives of photos.

Chila' said staffers are looking at ways to also sell *L'Osservatore Romano* in its various language editions online, but progress has stalled over fears of the potential hacking of content.

"Our computer technicians tell me that [hackers] can infiltrate if they are good, and they've been able to break into NASA and CIA [Web sites] so imagine with our paper," he said.

It is imperative the paper's content be absolutely immutable, not only because readers expect to find the pope's exact words there, but also because it also acts as an official record announcing papal appointments of a new bishop or cardinal, the creation of new dioceses, and who the pope received in private audience, he said.

Though the paper "tries to be objective to the utmost," Chila' said its content and editorial comment "come down hard" on abortion, euthanasia, and workers dying on the job due to negligence.

"In these cases we are, let's say, very critical against those who carry out these crimes," which also include unjust warfare, he said.

"We've had much difference of opinion with the United States government" over its recent invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, he said.

However, in the fog of rhetoric, the newspaper's moral guidepost is clear.

"When the pope takes a position, that is our official position which we go with and follow," he said.

## Pope John Paul II changed media efforts of papacy, says Archbishop Foley, Vatican communications official

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II revolutionized the communications efforts of the papacy, particularly through his use of television, said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley.

"He gave himself to the world through the media," said the archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Father Giuseppe Mazza, a professor of communications at Pontifical Gregorian University, said Pope John Paul and the media were "enchanted with each other."

Overcoming concerns about profaning the papacy by being extraordinarily available — including holding full-blown press conferences during papal trips — Pope John Paul "revolution-

ized the relationship between the media and faith, creating faith in the media," Fr. Mazza said.

The archbishop and the professor spoke at an Oct. 16 press conference marking the release of *Karol Wojtyla: A Pontificate Live*, a book of 60 Italian-language essays about the late pope's attitude toward the media and their attitudes toward him.

The essays are based on

speeches delivered at a May conference at Gregorian University by communications specialists, scholars, journalists, and politicians.

The book also included a DVD of clips compiled by RAI, the Italian state television network, illustrating the points conference speakers made about the pope's mastery of television communications.



# WHEN ALL THE BODIES HAVE BEEN BURIED IN DARFUR, HOW WILL HISTORY JUDGE US?



## **President Bush: Genocide is happening right now in Darfur. You can end it.**

400,000 people dead. 2.5 million displaced. Untold thousands raped, tortured and terrorized. Men. Women. Children. Ending the horror will take immediate action by a strong United Nations peacekeeping force. And that will take leadership from President Bush.

Stop the Genocide. | [www.SaveDarfur.org](http://www.SaveDarfur.org)



# Chicago priest calls for priests with 'wisdom and intelligence'

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois (CNS) — The church needs priests with "wisdom and intelligence" to preach the faith effectively amid the challenges of today's culture, Father Louis Cameli told the National Catholic Educational Association's annual seminary convocation in Schaumburg, a Chicago suburb.

Fr. Cameli, a pastor in Norridge and former Chicago archdiocesan director of ongoing formation for priests, suggested that the two main models of priesthood often discussed in U.S. church circles over the past four decades have not put enough emphasis on the intellectual demands of the priesthood.

"It seems that the intellectual capacity of priests is of lesser importance than it was in years past," he said. "It also seems that the exercise of intellect in

the course of ministry is not so prominent as it might have been previously."

Fr. Cameli received the NCEA's John Paul II Seminary Leadership Award during the convocation. He was chief editor of the fifth edition of the U.S. bishops' *Program of Priestly Formation*, which was published this summer after receiving Vatican approval, and of the National Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests adopted by the U.S. bishops in 2000.

In his talk he said one view of priesthood, often linked with those ordained between 1965 and 1985, was the servant-leader model, or the pastoral person who "brings not special teaching or a privileged body of knowledge but rather a knack for support, affirmation, and solace when needed."

He said another view, often associated more commonly with priests ordained in the past 20 years, is the cultic model, that "priests act in the name and person of Jesus Christ, shepherd and head of the church," especially in the celebration of the sacraments.

The second view is certainly theologically correct, he said, but it can lead to "a confused personal identification with Christ."

He reminded his listeners that immediately after pronouncing the words of consecration and raising the host, the priest genuflects before it. "This gesture that follows so quickly his acting in the person of Christ says that he is not Christ, that he falls in adoration before his crucified and living Lord," he said.

One problem with both those widely used models of priest-

hood is that they do not address the question of a priest's intellectual engagement, Fr. Cameli said. "He only needs to be who he is. If ideas are required, he has available to him *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the Code of Canon Law. ... The issue is not thinking but repeating the relevant texts."

"We very much need a priesthood and priestly ministry that is marked by a strong and integral intelligence," he said, because priestly ministry is where church teaching and theology meet the issues of the world "on the front line."

Since the era of Constantine, the church has been moving in the direction of what has been called "'massive Christianity,' baptizing large numbers with the hope that catechesis and formation would follow initiation," he said. He said that worked after a fashion in Christian-infused cultures, but in a culture more hostile to the faith "we are shifting and calling people to a more intentional and deliberate Christian commitment."

He said a priest needs a deep understanding of the faith to assess the complex questions raised by those issues and to act effectively.

He cited the issues of resistance to culture and accommodation to it as another area requiring priestly intelligence. "It is a complicated dance to make faith come alive in a culture and at the same time to critique and purify that culture, to embody faith in culture, and to resist the culture prophetically," he said.

"All this takes wisdom and intelligence. And it is a task that daily confronts a knowing priest."

He said morality is another issue that calls for great wisdom from priests. "Although our moral principles and directives are clear and correct, we have not been so clear and helpful in providing people with a moral infrastructure for living them out," he said. "A moral infrastructure means those resources and supports that enable persons to deal with the challenges of embodying the values of the Gospel, most especially in a nonsupportive world."

Some of the "ferocious hostility of gay activists toward the Catholic Church has something to do with the moral position of church teaching, but even more perhaps with the church's failure to provide a moral infrastructure to live out the values that the church enunciates," he said.

In that connection he praised Father John Harvey, the Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who started Courage, a network of Catholic support groups dedicated to helping homosexuals live chastely. "Some might question his specific strategies, but his outreach is a rare and practical example of what I mean by providing a moral infrastructure," Fr. Cameli said.

He said priests face similar complex challenges demanding intellectual engagement on a variety of other issues, ranging from abortion, artificial contraception, and divorce and remarriage to just wages and immigration issues.

## Hamer...

From page 11

to my car, with papers in hand, wind blowing their hair back, and smiles threatening to pop off their faces.

Those were days that went by faster than trees lose their fall leaves in North Texas, moments that were shorter than the time between the first day of November and the first day of January in every rapidly-flying year.

If I could be Mrs. Incredible, I would use my superhero powers to fix that. To slow down the speed of things.

Now, after speeding days and flourishing joys, after the costuming, teaching, and graduating of five children, I find myself the grandmother of three, and it is a lot easier than mothering, even though it sometimes is a little sad.

For grandparents it may be easier, I think, not because we "give the kids back to their parents," but because we gave the parents to those kids. Because we already did it, taking care of kids is easier now than it felt like it was then — incredible.

That night at the Halloween party, I had no responsibility at

all, just an opportunity to enjoy watching parents and children celebrating an autumn social in the outside night air. Hundreds of families, whether or not they could afford the price of admission, paid to bring their children to a community party where they would celebrate a custom that is part of our collective memory.

However it is that they do it, whether they choose to dress as cartoon characters or robots, and whether or not their parenting skills are of the superhero variety, parents want good things for their children. Good health and education. Good food and fun.

And hopefully they strive for a solid foundation of faith. All those things are the things we worked on before them, and the things they will spend good time and money to continue after.

"Let's line up over here and shoot baskets," parents would lure their children to the game booths. "Let's have something to drink. Would you like to watch a magic show? Over there we can see the animals! Walk carefully. Say 'Excuse me.' Hold my hand."

And many times I heard parents repeating a phrase that we all think we invented: "Look at me."

"Did you hear that?" I asked my daughter Meredith, who was steering Sam and Nattie through the crowds.

"How odd," I went on. "When we want our children to listen, all generations say the same thing: 'Look at me.' Not 'Listen to me,' but 'Look at me.'"

"I know," Meredith answered. "I say, 'Look in my eyes.'"

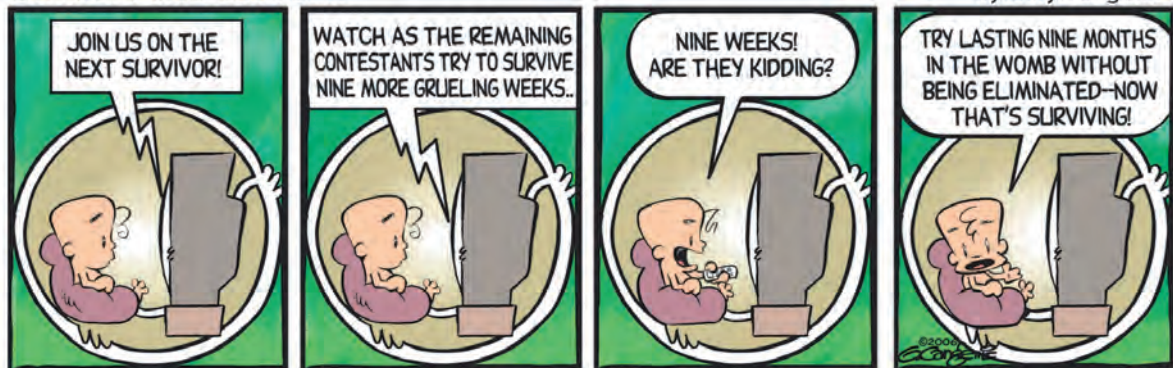
Sounded to me like a tangled combination of instruction, direction and hypnotic suggestion. But who was I to judge my daughter's mothering methods. She is a psychologist, and in fact I might say her youth and parenting skills make her an 'Incredible' — without the costume.

I, on the other hand, am merely a seamstress who specializes in candy clothing.



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

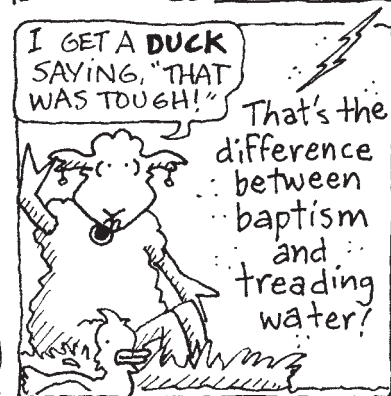
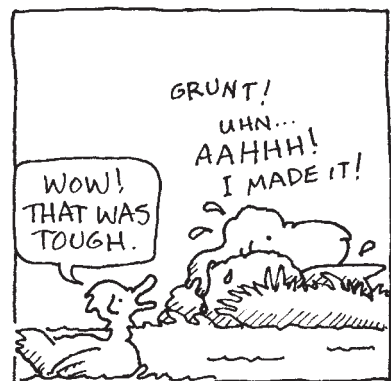
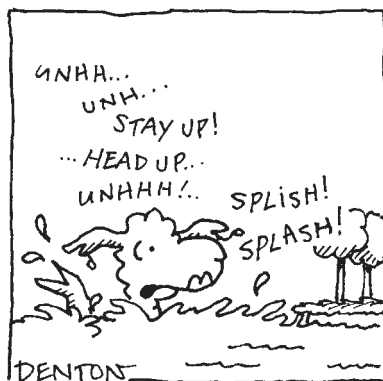
## Umbert the Unborn



## The FLOCK

By Jean Denton

Copyright © 2006, Jean Denton





## Good Newsmaker

Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan tells Catholic school students

# Know why you believe, what you believe

By Jean M. Schildz / ST. LOUIS REVIEW  
Newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis



### Above:

Catholic St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Jeff Suppan throws in the first inning of game four of Major League Baseball's World Series against the Detroit Tigers in St. Louis Oct. 26. The Cardinals won the World Series against the Tigers in game five in St. Louis Oct. 27. (CNS photo/John Mabanglo, Reuters)



### Left:

St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan chats with the crowd while waiting to give a talk on living out his Catholic faith at St. Joseph's Academy in Frontenac, Mo., Sept. 14. More than 400 middle-school and high-school students along with adults heard the professional baseball player explain why his faith is so important to him. His talk was sponsored by the Parent Network of Catholic High Schools. (CNS photo/Mark Kempf, ST. LOUIS REVIEW)

St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan wowed his fans one day in September, and he wasn't even on the mound.

He received a standing ovation from more than 400 youths and adults following his talk on how he lives out his Catholic faith as a professional baseball player and in his daily life.

Suppan spoke at St. Joseph's Academy in Frontenac. The event was sponsored by the Parent Network of Catholic High Schools.

The Cardinals hurler — whose team won the World Series in five games in October, defeating the Detroit Tigers — encouraged the middle school and high school students “to keep Jesus No. 1” in their lives.

“I try to put Jesus in front of everything I do,” said Suppan, adding that he tries to let Jesus lead him and not “try to do it on my own.”

As Catholics, they will be regularly questioned about their faith, Suppan told the youths. Now, he said, is the time for them to gain a good foundation.

“You need to know why you believe in what you believe in, because you will be challenged” by others, particularly other Christians, he said.

That has been his experience, Suppan said. Growing up in California, he attended St. Bernardine of Siena School in San Bernardino and Crespi Carmelite High School, an all-boys Catholic school in Encino.

At 18, he signed to play baseball right out of high school and never went to college. It was his first time away from family and friends. Drugs, promiscuity, sex, and pornography were readily available. He turned to God for help.

At the encouragement of a

friend, he began to seriously study his faith, so he could be better prepared to defend it.

“People always ask me why I believe what I do. And the only response I had was ‘because I believe.’ My biggest challenge was to learn, to take my formation and learn more about why I believed.... I believed 100 percent, but I had to learn why.”

A priest he met in Boston got him going to confession regularly. He found that the more he went to confession and examined his conscience, the more he felt Jesus was helping him “carry the load.” Suppan said he encounters Christ in confession and receives grace to help overcome future temptations.

Suppan also spoke about the importance of the Eucharist, attending Mass, and taking part in eucharistic adoration.

He told the crowd, “I love going to Mass. Nothing about Jesus is boring to me.... Because Jesus sacrificed for me, it's the least I could do.”

Now in his 12th season in the majors, Suppan noted that playing sports is good preparation for life. “I always made baseball practice. That's discipline, and you can apply that to your faith and many areas of your life. That dedication and fortitude that I learned going through rough times, I've applied that to my life as a Christian.”

Prayer, he said, also plays a big role. He tries “to remain in prayer. When I struggle, I pray. When I'm not struggling, I pray,” he said, noting that he keeps a rosary in his ballpark locker.

“Pray to your angel,” he told the crowd. “Use your angel's help. I always actually ask for the protection of my angel. I think it's important because there's a big battle out there going on over us. You guys may not see it, but just remember, pray to your angel for protection.”

During his talk he showed a 16-minute home movie of his November 2005 visit to the Vatican, where he met Pope Bene-

*“My biggest challenge was to learn, to take my formation and learn more about why I believed.... I believed 100 percent, but I had to learn why.”*

dict XVI, and to Assisi, Italy. He also took several questions from the audience, even drawing laughter with tongue-in-cheek responses. Asked what his favorite pitch was, Suppan replied, “A strike.”

## Inside... This issue of the NTC

In English and Spanish, we have an account of the first retreat conducted in Spanish for men and women seeking to discern their vocations. **3 & 21**

The bishops of Texas, through the Texas Catholic Conference, have provided us with some principles to help us vote in accord with our Catholic faith this November. **9**

The Catholics of Electra celebrated 100 years of Catholic presence recently. The community of Mt. Carmel was one of many planted by the Flusche brothers. **14**

MAILING LABEL: Please enclose label with address change or inquiries concerning mail delivery of your paper. Thank you.