

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Walking Together in Faith a great success UDMC draws 4,600 to first of Fort Worth/Dallas ministry conferences



The posture of Washington Archbishop Donald Wuerl, keynote presenter for the opening session of Walking Together in Faith, seems to echo the outstretched arms of Jesus in the conference backdrop behind him. (Photo by Juan Guajardo)

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Organizers planning the third annual University of Dallas Ministry Conference — Walking Together in Faith — initially expected 2,000 people to attend the two-day series of talks and workshops. Then the number of registrations swelled to 3,000 and eventually to 4,000.

When the doors of the Dallas Convention Center opened for the Oct. 23-24 gathering, 4,653 Catholics from parishes and schools throughout North Texas came to hear nationally-known speakers discuss issues of faith, ministry, and spirituality in the 21st century.

“And it’s our expectation that it will grow even more next year,” says Bertha Escarzaga, UDMC events/marketing director. “The goal is to have 10,000 people attend the conference by 2012.”

Jointly sponsored for the first time by the Diocese of Fort Worth and the Diocese of Dallas in cooperation with the region’s only Catholic university, the weekend event offered sessions in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese and featured 60 exhibitors and 56 speakers. Included in the schedule were a number of musical

SEE UDMC, P. 14

Bishops of Texas issue statement opposing health care reform including abortion; with no conscience clause

AUSTIN — The Texas Catholic Conference, representing the Roman Catholic Bishops of Texas, has issued a statement emphasizing their support for genuine, life-affirming reform to our nation’s health care system, while also expressing concern that current health care proposals fail to guarantee fundamental rights and protections for humans at all

stages of life.

“Health care reform is a vital concern to us in Texas, as our state has one of the highest numbers of uninsured persons in the nation,” say the Texas Bishops in the statement. The Bishops also emphasize the varied health care offerings of Catholic facilities in Texas, stating, “the Catholic Church in Texas brings both everyday experience

and strong convictions to the issue of health care reform.”

The statements cites following key concerns:

- Reform must restrict funding for abortion and respect the consciences of health care providers;

- Cost structures must not impose excessive financial burdens

SEE TCC, P. 25



All Things Possible campaign announces \$5.4 million pledged

The All Things Possible campaign has announced that with the receptions for groups in the first block of 27 parishes and missions completed, a total of \$5.4 million has been pledged, or 13.5 percent of the \$40 million total. And “it’s so early in the campaign!” said Meegan Wright, director of All Things Possible.

With most of the first group of parishes conducting their in the pew solicitations the weekend of Nov. 6 and 7 (or the weekend before or after), Wright sees people responding well to the case statement. “They’re thinking ‘I can see the good in this case,’ she said, in an interview late last week, ‘the points are valid, and the need is there.’”

Wright was upbeat about the responses of some parishioners involved in the campaign who made an extra effort. “We had some really exceptional volunteer groups who wanted to get the word out to more of their people, and so held some receptions after their Masses,” she said. Original plans for the campaign had called for more than 80 receptions, but with these extras added in, “we’re

over 100 this weekend,” she said, referring to the weekend of All Saints.

The All Things Possible campaign will be hosting receptions in the balance of the parishes and missions, the larger portion of the diocese’s Catholic population in the spring.

Wright spoke with gratitude of the support the campaign has received during this first phase. The enthusiasm of the pastors has been good, she said. “The pastors and parish leaders have been willing to work with the bishop and the diocese.” The campaign has enjoyed the support of the diocesan and parish staff members and parish volunteers who have helped present the campaign and its goals with enthusiasm, she said. She also expressed gratitude for the support of the physical details of the events themselves from both staffs and volunteers.

“We’re ready to move into the commitment time frame,” Wright said with conviction, pointing to the room behind her small office where her co-workers were busily at work. “We’re entering pledges every day.”

View Texas Bishops’ statement p. 3; USCCB Call to Action, p.4

All Things Possible Campaign provides the opportunity to give of ourselves

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the last few months I have written and spoken to you about the "All Things Possible" campaign. This effort is very important to me personally and to the future of our Diocese. I have been very pleased with the positive response to date.

Our Lord in St. Matthew's Gospel tells us, "... With God, all things are possible." So we proceed with hope, optimism, and confidence in the Lord to breathe life into our campaign.

We have already seen early success with over \$5.4 million raised. Holy Rosary Parish, Cisco; Holy Trinity Mission, Azle; Sacred Heart Parish, Wichita Falls; St. Bartholomew Parish, Fort Worth; St. Paul Parish, Electra; and, St. Rita Parish, Ranger are over 25 percent toward their goal with just preliminary leadership reception results. The 27 parishes and missions running the campaign this fall have already hosted over 100 receptions. I was pleased to attend a number of their receptions and see this visible sign of our faith in action. The remaining parishes will be conducting the campaign in the spring. I look forward to visiting many of those parishes also.



Bishop Kevin W. Vann

These are tough economic times for our nation and Church, and giving to this campaign will take sacrifice. Sometimes the gift of convenience, or the gift from surplus, is the easiest way to feel a release from obligation.

But the principles of stewardship ask us to enter into discernment, to prayerfully consider how God has blessed you, and how you can in return give back.

The parishes conducting the All Things Possible campaign in the fall will soon have their "Pledge Weekend" in pews. Their goal is simple: spread the word about the campaign, and invite all parishioners to join in prayer, ambassadorship, and sacrificial giving. I hope all parishioners in these parishes will join me in supporting this important need.

From the beginning, this campaign has been based on equal sacrifice, not equal giving or gifts of convenience. Not everyone can give at the same level, but I hope all will consider the same size sacrifice. How appropriate that our Gospel reading for Nov. 7 and 8 comes from *Mark 12:38-44* or *12:41-44*, "The Widow's Mite."

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they

have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

These are tough economic times for our nation and Church, and giving to this campaign will take sacrifice. Sometimes the gift of convenience, or the gift from surplus, is the easiest way to feel a release from obligation. But the principles of stewardship ask us to enter into discernment, to prayerfully consider how God has blessed you, and how you can in return give back.

As Catholics, we firmly believe in the power of prayer. I ask for all in our diocese to pray for those parishes and missions actively involved in this effort and for the success of our campaign. Perhaps every household can pray the campaign prayer every day.

All Things Possible CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
all things are possible,
and without Him we can do nothing.

May we seek your kingdom above all,
knowing that all things work together
for the good of those who love You
and are called according
to your purpose.

Grant us that we,
united through your Son
in one faith and by the strength
of the Holy Spirit,
may be generous in our support
of the All Things Possible Campaign,
which seeks the furtherance
of the Gospel
in our lives, our homes, our parishes,
our larger diocesan family,
and our communities.

All this we pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I know, with our combined prayer
and sacrifice, we will be successful.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD
Bishop of Fort Worth

Bishop Vann outlines liturgical precautions for dealing with Swine Flu

Editor's Note: The following statement issued by Bishop Kevin Vann Oct. 26, details steps taken to limit infection from Swine Flu at Mass. The diocese will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary, in consultation with health authorities and local governmental officials.

Because of the concerns regarding the possible spread of the H1N1 Flu that has been detected in North Texas, the Diocese of Fort Worth is asking all our parishes to take precautions to help mitigate its effects. This applies to the entire diocese.

We recommend that all

priests and deacons exercise common sense precautions when it comes to the liturgy. Influenza is often spread from person to person through contact with coughing and sneezing of an infected person. Simple hygiene such as washing hands and using alcohol-based hand sanitizers at appropriate times can prevent the spread of influenza. If a priest, altar server, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion is sick, whether it is the flu or the common cold or whatever, then he or she should not serve until the sickness has passed.

The following liturgical adaptations should be followed

as a precaution concerning the celebration of Mass:

- The faithful should be encouraged to not hold hands during the reciting of the "Our Father."
- The faithful should be encouraged to share the Sign of Peace without touching hands or kissing. This can be done with meaningful eye contact, smiles, and a bow of the head in reverence to one another.
- The faithful should be encouraged to receive Communion in their hands and not on their tongue.
- The cup is not to be shared with the faithful during Mass. Communion is only to

be given in the species of the consecrated bread.

- Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should be especially reminded of the need to practice good hygiene. Ministers of Holy Communion must be encouraged to wash their hands before Mass begins, or even to use an alcohol-based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion. A good practice is to distribute an alcohol-based anti-bacterial solution by the Eucharistic Minister Captain to other ministers while the priest is preparing for distribution of Communion.

We recommend that all priests and deacons exercise common sense precautions when it comes to the liturgy ... Simple hygiene such as washing hands and using alcohol-based hand sanitizers at appropriate times can prevent the spread of influenza.

Statement on Health Care Reform from the Bishops of Texas

In 2005, the Texas Catholic Conference issued a pastoral statement on the urgent need for health care reform. Today, as the health care debate unfolds in our nation's capitol, the Bishops of Texas feel it is once again appropriate to express hope that our national leaders will work together to bring about genuine life-affirming reform to our nation's health care system.

Improving our nation's health care system is the responsibility of all. His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, addressing the Pontifical Council for Health Care, reiterated this responsibility, stating that "going to the aid of the human being is a duty: both in response to a fundamental right of the person and because the care of individuals redounds to the benefit of the group."

Our Catholic moral tradition teaches that every human being, from the moment of conception to natural death, has an innate dignity that entitles him or her to certain rights and protections, including the fundamental right to life and the right to affordable health care, which flows from the right to life.

As the Catholic Bishops of Texas, we are hopeful that such reform legislation will someday be enacted into law. However, we must also express our concerns that the current health care reform proposals being considered by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate do not yet rise to the level of guaranteeing these fundamental rights and protections.

True health care reform must maintain longstanding public policies that restrict funding for abortion and respect the consciences of health care providers. The language in the Capps amendment, which is part of several proposed bills, does not adequately ensure the protection of all human life. In addition, the cost structures of any health care reform plan must not impose excessive financial burdens on low and moderate income individu-

als and families. Measures must also be in place to safeguard the health of all of society, including the poor, the elderly, and immigrants. Legal immigrants and their families must be allowed timely access to comprehensive and affordable health care coverage and an adequate safety net must be maintained for those who remain uncovered.

Health care reform is a vital concern to us in Texas, as our state has one of the highest numbers of uninsured persons in the nation. Health care is a fundamental component of the Catholic Church's ministry. In Texas there are 43 Catholic acute care hospitals, eight nursing homes and 17 other Catholic-sponsored service organizations including hospice, home health, assisted living, and senior housing facilities that provide quality health care to millions. The Church itself is a major purchaser of health insurance for the thousands of employees in our many agencies and institutions. The Catholic Church in Texas brings both everyday experience and strong convictions to the issue of health care reform.

The Catholic Bishops of Texas will continue to support reform of our nation's health care system in ways that respect the lives of all human persons while providing affordable access to health care for all. We will be a committed partner in advancing reform on this life-and-death issue; but if the final form of the legislation does not include acceptable language in these areas then we will have to oppose it vigorously. We will continue to pray that our national leaders will place the poor and those most vulnerable first, for only when they do will our nation achieve genuine health care reform.

† Cardinal Daniel DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

† Archbishop José H. Gomez
Archdiocese of San Antonio

† Bishop Kevin W. Vann
Diocese of Fort Worth

† Bishop Patrick J. Zurek
Diocese of Amarillo

† Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, SVD
Diocese of Beaumont

† Bishop Raymundo J. Peña
Diocese of Brownsville

† Bishop Edmond Carmody
Diocese of Corpus Christi

† Bishop Kevin J. Farrell
Diocese of Dallas



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† Bishop Armando X. Ochoa
Diocese of El Paso

† Bishop James A. Tamayo
Diocese of Laredo

† Bishop Plácido Rodríguez, CMF
Diocese of Lubbock

† Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
Diocese of San Angelo

† Bishop Álvaro Corrada del Rio, SJ
Diocese of Tyler

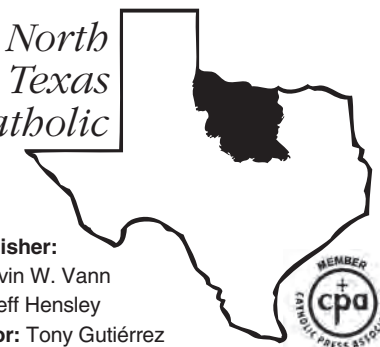
† Bishop David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria

Msgr. Michael Mulvey
Diocesan Administrator of Austin

October 27, 2009



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USCCB supports health care reform, but only if abortion is not funded, and conscience protections are included

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The push is on to get a health reform bill through Congress, and some longtime Catholic supporters of a more accessible and affordable American health system are hoping they are not going to have to push back.

In both the House and Senate, members and staffers are working to combine multiple committee-passed versions of health reform legislation — two in the Senate, three in the House — into bills that could be taken to the floor.

Officials of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are working behind the scenes to improve the bills to put them in line with the vision of American health care that the bishops have been encouraging for decades.

"We continue to have concerns about the treatment of the poor and immigrants" in the bills, Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, told Catholic News Service Oct. 21. "But the abortion issue is the one that is most intractable to us."

The bishops' message on abortion and conscience rights in health care has been clear, despite some claims that they have changed their position or don't really understand current law.

"Our position has been very consistent," Doerflinger said. "It's always been that (the final health reform) bill must maintain the status quo on abortion and conscience rights. It should not be used as a vehicle for expanding or changing federal policies."

He dismissed recent comments by White House press secretary Robert Gibbs that the bishops' opposition to current health reform legislation is based on a misunderstanding of the Hyde amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortion in most cases.

"I have not heard that message from anyone who's actually working on the bills; the people at the White House know that isn't true," Doerflinger said. "It's a very disappointing thing that Mr. Gibbs is just trying to blow smoke."

But Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., asked Oct. 21 at a round table with faith-based media whether the bishops' concerns on abortion were being met, said, "We don't have money for abortion in this bill. We do not. We do not. We do not provide public funding for abortion services in this bill."

Despite President Barack Obama's statement in his Sept. 9 address to both houses of Congress that "under our plan no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions," current versions of the legislation create what Doerflinger called a "bookkeeping exercise" by requiring abortion coverage in most plans and stipulating that a \$1 per month add-on premium would be used to pay for it.

"It's unlimited abortion, but we will pretend that this \$1 a month will pay for abortion," he said. "If you're forcing everyone to pay it, whether you call it a premium or a tax is secondary. Everyone must pay for abortions."

The USCCB has prepared print and online ads aimed at both members of Congress and grass-roots Catholics, with messages in favor of "authentic health care

Despite President Barack Obama's statement in his Sept. 9 address ... that "under our plan no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions," current versions of the legislation create what Doerflinger called a "bookkeeping exercise" by requiring abortion coverage in most plans and stipulating that a \$1 per month add-on premium would be used to pay for it.

reform" and conscience protections and against abortion-funding mandates.

Catholics are encouraged to urge their representatives in the House to support an amendment proposed in committee this summer by Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., that states: "No funds authorized under this act ... may be used to pay for any abortion or to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion," except in cases of rape, incest, or risk to the mother's life.

At least 30 House Democrats have come out in favor of the amendment, Doerflinger said, but it might not even be allowed a floor vote if House members invoke a rule blocking it.

Regarding the Senate legislation, the USCCB is not recommending a specific amendment because details of the final Senate bill are still so much in flux, with the decision to include or not include a public option the biggest question mark.

"Before you can have amendment language, you have to have a bill," Doerflinger said.

Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, successor to the late Sen. Ted Kennedy as chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, is working with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and White House officials to reconcile the two Senate versions.

The latest push by U.S. Catholics to achieve comprehensive health care reform has plenty of precedent.

In their 1981 pastoral letter, *Health and Health Care*, the bishops said, "Christian people have a responsibility to actively participate in the shaping and executing of public policy that relates to health care." They described the letter as "a renewal of the church's broad commitment to this most important subject."

In a sentence that still resonates today, the bishops said in 1981: "Health care is so important for full human dignity and so necessary for the proper development of life that it is a fundamental right of every human being."

EDITOR'S NOTE: BISHOP KEVIN VANN HAS ASKED that the bulletin insert from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (below) be made available to all parishioners of the Diocese of Fort Worth, an indication of his strong endorsement of the principles required of any health care legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. The bulletin inserts are being distributed in 19,000 parishes across the United States.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

TELL CONGRESS: REMOVE ABORTION FUNDING & MANDATES FROM NEEDED HEALTH CARE REFORM

Congress is preparing to debate health care reform legislation on the House and Senate floors. Genuine health care reform should protect the life and dignity of all people from the moment of conception until natural death. The U.S. bishops' conference has concluded that all committee approved bills are seriously deficient on the issues of abortion and conscience, and do not provide adequate access to health care for immigrants and the poor. The bills will have to change or the bishops have pledged to oppose them.

Our nation is at a crossroads. Policies adopted in health care reform will have an impact for good or ill for years to come. None of the bills retain long-standing current policies against abortion funding or abortion coverage mandates, and none fully protects conscience rights in health care.

As the U.S. bishops' letter of October 8 states:

"No one should be required to pay for or participate in abortion. It is essential that the legislation clearly apply to this new program long-standing and widely supported federal restrictions on abortion funding and mandates, and protections for rights of conscience. No current bill meets this test.... If acceptable language in these areas cannot be found, we will have to oppose the health care bill vigorously."

For the full text of this letter and more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' advocacy for authentic health care reform, visit: www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Congressional leaders are attempting to put together final bills for floor

consideration. Please contact your Representative and Senators today and urge them to fix these bills with the pro-life amendments noted below. Otherwise much needed health care reform will have to be opposed. Health care reform should be about saving lives, not destroying them.

ACTION:

Contact Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.

- Full contact information can be found on Members' Web sites at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE TO SENATE:

"During floor debate on the health care reform bill, please support an amendment to incorporate long-standing policies against abortion funding and in favor of conscience rights. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

MESSAGE TO HOUSE:

"Please support the Stupak Amendment that addresses essential pro-life concerns on abortion funding and conscience rights in the health care reform bill. Help ensure that the Rule for the bill allows a vote on this amendment. If these serious concerns are not addressed, the final bill should be opposed."

WHEN:

Both House and Senate are preparing for floor votes now. Act today! Thank you!

Diocesan

Peter Kreeft to discuss influences of Lewis and Tolkien in the 'Culture War' Nov. 21

All proceeds to benefit The College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth

Lovers of two of the most popular writers of all time — C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, known popularly for the *Narnia* and *Lord of the Rings* series, respectively — may spend an evening with world renowned theologian Dr. Peter Kreeft. The fundraiser dinner will benefit The College of St. Thomas More and opens at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, in Elliott Hall at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, 3821 University Blvd. in Dallas. Tickets are \$70 and the evening includes "the most literary silent auction in Dallas."

Dr. Kreeft is a professor of philosophy at Boston College and King's College in New York, and a bestselling author of more than 45 books, including *C.S. Lewis for the Third Millennium*; *Celebrating Middle Earth: Lord of the Rings*; and *How to Win the Culture War*. A speaker in wide demand, he will speak on "Lewis, Tolkien, and the Culture War."

"For lovers of Lewis and Tolkien — and they seem to multiply with the generations — this is an evening to explore the minds of two of the most fascinating writers of the 20th century," said Dr. James Patrick, founder and president of The College of St. Thomas More. "In this case, Dr. Kreeft has such a large following, he's nearly as much a draw as our authors."

The great friendship between Lewis and Tolkien — one Protestant, one Catholic — inspired The College's ecumenical C.S. Lewis/J.R.R. Tolkien Center for the Common Tradition, which



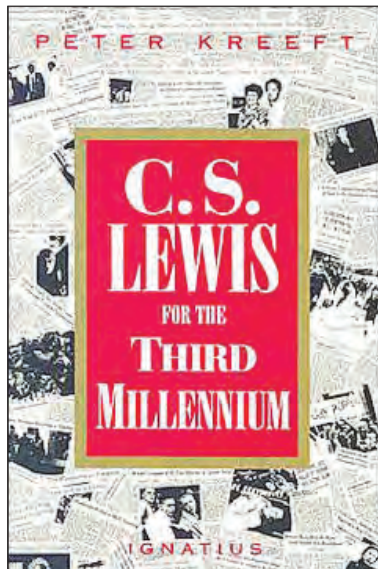
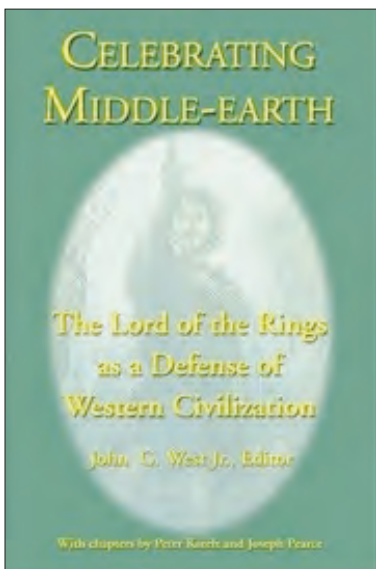
Dr. Peter Kreeft

sponsors the annual event.

Dr. Patrick founded CSTM, in Fort Worth's university district, in 1987. The College, on Lubbock Street, adjacent to TCU, offers a classical liberal arts curriculum from the disciplines of literature, philosophy, theology, Latin, and Greek.

CSTM is one of only 21 Catholic colleges and universities recommended in *The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College*. The guide, published by The Cardinal Newman Society, recognizes institutions most faithful to their Catholic identity. CSTM is identified in the first tier of eight "Joyfully Catholic" institutions — schools whose embrace of *Ex corde Ecclesiae* and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church informs every aspect of campus life.

All proceeds benefit the College of St. Thomas More. For event information or to reserve tickets, contact Nancy Lovell at (214) 536-2329 or Nancy@Lovell-Fairchild.com or Michelle Monse at MDMonse@yahoo.com. For more information about the college, visit www.cstm.edu.



Responding to God's Call

During this Year of the Priest — Give God Thanks for Holy Priests!

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Yes, we have just celebrated Priesthood Sunday on Oct. 25. I hope you had the chance to thank the priests you know for giving their life for Christ and the Church.

Eight years ago on Nov. 3, 2001, I was ordained a transitional deacon. A few weeks before the diaconate ordination, I was required by the Church, as are all men, to spend five days at a retreat center prior to ordination to reflect more deeply about the ministry and service I was about to embark upon. To be honest, I was probably looking forward to the retreat as a time of rest because I was exhausted from the fall semester of studies. Nevertheless, I arrived on a Sunday evening, and I enjoyed immediately the slower pace and the spiritual depth offered in Evening Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. The retreat master, who was a priest, asked that I call upon the Holy Spirit to guide me for the night, to further validate my call from God to serve in the Church.

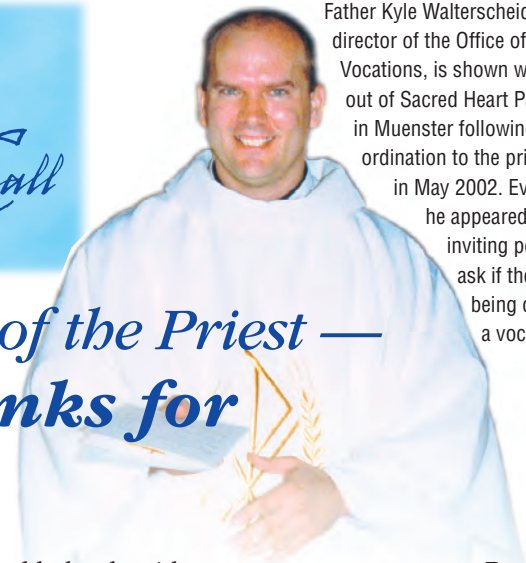
With a prayerful evening, I woke up the next morning with a great thought: I wanted to thank all the people who led me to this point in my life, and there were a lot of people to thank — hundreds, in fact. I brought this idea up to the retreat master who thought it was a bit too ambitious. He suggested I start instead by thanking the priests who had journeyed with me. I thought it over, and I agreed that I really did need to thank the Lord first for the many holy priests

who had helped guide me to my vocation, strengthen me in Christ, mature me as a spiritual man, and challenge me as a pastor.

As I set out to thank the Lord for each priest I could remember having encountered, I thought I would easily be done by mid-day. Oh, how wrong I was! This was a retreat, and my thanks needed to be a proper thanks to the Lord for each holy priest that gave up his life for the love of Christ to serve others and who the Lord had placed in my path to help me when I needed him most. I decided to quickly review my life and to try to remember all the times a priest had helped me. After remembering each priest and renewing the moment or moments that the priest helped me, I began to pray one Hail Mary in thanksgiving. I was certain when I began that I would be able to remember 40 or 45 priests; after all, I had been in the seminary for six years at that point and had met many priests on retreats, in the classroom, on pilgrimages, and from many events at the seminary.

I was astounded by all the times a priest had been there for me. How many times did a priest give me all his attention in the confessional and absolve me of my sins, or preach a homily that challenged me to reconsider my ways? How many times did I receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist from the hands of a priest, or how many times did a priest shake my hands at the end of Mass? How many times did I consult a priest, receive spiritual direction, or ask a priest to pray for me? How many times had priests done likewise for other members of my family? This was getting to be a powerful experience, to realize how many times God had placed a holy priest in my life who served me as Jesus had

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations, is shown walking out of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster following his ordination to the priesthood in May 2002. Even then, he appeared to be inviting people to ask if they were being called to a vocation.



come to serve. By the fourth day I had prayed four rosaries and had thanked over 200 priests who had given up their lives for Christ and who were there to help me take another step to saying yes to my calling in life which was leading me to the priesthood. How blessed I truly am! How blessed my whole family truly is because of so many good, faithful, and holy priests!

It is the month of November, and it's a whole month of thanksgivings. Since it is also the Year of the Priest, let us reflect upon the many holy priests who have come to our aid in the times of need and give God the thanks. Let us also make sincere prayers for the priests who have fallen short of our expectations. If we do so, we will discover that sometimes our expectations were false, and we should seek the Lord to forgive us of our false judgments and the damage we may have caused to the community. Some priests, even holy priests, can be broken and wounded, and they need our prayers, not our condemnation. At the same time the Church has already cleaned house (for seven years now) and has dealt with the men she has found to be untrustworthy of the sacred gift of priesthood, as they have been rightly removed from active ministry.

The future looks bright, with 30 seminarians in priestly formation as more parents are encouraging their sons to keep open the possibility that God may be calling them to be that holy priest who brings thousands of souls to Christ. Let us thank the Lord for sending us so many good, holy priests!

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

Youth pro-life lock-in to be held Dec. 4 at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew Parish, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth, will host a pro-life lock-in for teens in grades 7-12 from 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, to 7 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Due to the mature nature of the abortion material to be covered at the lock-in, organizers are discouraging attendance by sixth grade students. The event will include the celebration of Mass, two hours of workshop interactive pro-life presentations. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available all night.

While the objective of the lock-in is pro-life and the lessons taught are in accordance to what the USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops) advises, most of the night will be fun-filled with events including a concert, food, variety of sports tournaments including basketball, dodge ball and volleyball, movies, and board games. The cost of the event is \$30 with early registration by Nov. 26 and \$36 at the door.

Chaperones will be asked to choose "stations" to oversee during the night. Since this is a fund-raising event for scholarships to the March for Life organizers are requesting that chaperones pay \$15 to cover the cost of expenses including T-shirt and food and bring a donation of large bags of snacks and two-liter sodas.

The pilgrimage to Washington, DC, will take place Thursday, Jan. 21 to Sunday, Jan. 24. Round-trip direct flights have been booked on American Airlines for \$260 departing DFW at 8 a.m. on Thursday and returning at 8:30 p.m. Sunday. Two Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will be accompanying the teens along with six chaperones. The cost of hotel, food, and other expenses will be approximately \$275 for a total trip cost of about \$535. The trip will include the Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine, Youth Mass at the Verizon Center, a visit to the Holocaust museum, Franciscan Monastery Replica of the Holy Lands, and a tour to National monuments as well as other important landmarks.

For more information, visit www.catholicrespectlife.org or contact Sue Laux at (817) 939-8595 or laux4life@yahoo.com.

Retrouvaille to celebrate 25th Anniversary Nov. 13 at Holy Family

Retrouvaille, a ministry to help troubled marriages, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Anyone who has experienced this ministry is invited to attend a Mass to be celebrated Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at Holy

'Come and See' vocation retreat will be held Nov. 14

Women interested in knowing about religious life are invited to a "Come and See" vocation retreat Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The retreat will be held at Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth at 1814 Egyptian Way in Grand Prairie.

To register, call Sister Mary Paul, CSFN, by Nov. 11 at (972) 642-5191 or (972) 262-5137 ext. 24.

Capuchin priest to speak on extraordinary experience and its fruit Nov. 16

Father Michael Sevigny, OFM Cap., will speak at St. Mary the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Ave., Fort Worth, Monday Nov. 16. Participants will explore the glories of the priesthood with Fr. Michael as he shares the fruit and outpouring of graces following 27 visits over the years to Medjugorje.

Fr. Michael entered the Capuchin Order in 1969 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1978, at St. Patrick Cathedral by Terrence Cardinal Cooke. While in New Hampshire in 1993, Fr. Michael was able to establish the first of several Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapels, which are still functioning today.

In 2004, The Year of the Eucharist, while on pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Fr. Michael had a very powerful religious experience. He states that "The last five years have given me ample opportunity for prayerful reflection and consultation about this experience. I have felt a deepened call to establish a new religious Marian Community focused on perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and retreat work."

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with Mass followed by the presentation. Fr. Michael will also speak in Dallas at St. Monica Church on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

For more information, contact the Queen of Peace message line at (817) 244-8191 or call (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805 or visit www.queenofpeacecenterdallas.org.

Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth. A reception, hosted by Holy Family, will follow in the parish hall.

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

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL — For the third year Holy Family School in Fort Worth hosted the largest team at the Candlelighters Night Run in Fort Worth on Oct. 10 with over 40 participants, including students from Nolan Catholic High School. Five of the team runners won or placed in their division for the event. The benefit run is organized by Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of Greater Fort Worth to assist families fighting childhood cancer.

NTC publication deadlines

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

Submit items to jrusseau@fwdioc.org. Items for the Nov. 20 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 11. Items for the Dec. 4 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 25.

Knights of Columbus Council #7175 to host dance Nov. 14

The Knights of Columbus Council #7175, Burleson, will host a dance Saturday, Nov. 14, at the SPJST Hall, 1150 S. Burleson Blvd., Burleson, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Entertainment will be provided by Fort Worth's Celebrity Band with Tejano, country, polka, and rock-n-roll music. Refreshments will be available.

Tickets are \$10 presale or \$12 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free with parents. For more information, call (817) 223-3284 or (817) 727-6905.

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

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

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

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

K of C Bishop Dunne Council #2813 to celebrate 70th anniversary Dec. 5

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Dunne Council #2813 is celebrating its 70th anniversary. The council, named after Bishop Edward Joseph Dunne, the second bishop of Dallas, was chartered December 10, 1939 and held its first meeting in the basement of Laneri High School. The council is presently located at 4500 Columbus Trail in Fort Worth.

The anniversary will be celebrated Dec. 5 in lieu of "Family

Night" with a Mass at 6 p.m. and a reception and dinner to follow. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. A complimentary 50-page booklet of the history of the council will be given to each family attending. Reservations are required.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Bill Miller at (817) 292-4044, Don Rejda at (817) 293-5699 or Drew Armentrout at (817) 244-9595.

Mount Carmel Center to host Advent Morning of Reflection

Mount Carmel Center, 4600 W. Davis St., Dallas, will present Advent Morning of Reflection: Décor Carmeli/Queen Beauty of Carmel Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon. The conference will examine the Blessed Virgin Mary as the model of contemplative expectation and active receptivity for all believers.

Participants may bring a lunch and stay for personal prayer until 4 p.m. The suggested minimum donation is \$25 and the deadline to register is Dec. 3.

For more information, call (214) 331-6224 or visit the Web site at www.mountcarmelcenter.org.

Missionary Images of Our Lady to visit North Texas

During the month of November, St. Mark and Immaculate Conception Parishes in Denton will host a visit from the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Missionary Images are actual size (4' x 6') replicas of the original Miraculous Image of Our Lady, which she left on Blessed Juan Diego's tilma. They were blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by the rector of the Basilica to bring conversions, reverence for life, sanctity of the family, and solidarity of the Church in America.

The Images have visited each of the United States in over one thousand parishes and will be in Denton and Fort Worth in November. All Catholics are invited to participate at one or more of the following locations: St. Mark Church, Denton, Friday, Nov. 20, to Sunday, Nov. 22 (will coincide with 40 hours of Eucharistic Adoration); University of North Texas Campus Catholic Center, Denton, Sunday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. Mass; Immaculate Conception Church, Denton, Wednesday, Nov. 25, evening Mass; Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center, Fort Worth, Friday, Nov. 20, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.; Divine Mercy Book Store, Denton, Friday, Nov. 27; St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, Sunday, Nov. 29, 12:30 p.m. Mass; Loreto House Pregnancy Resource Center, Denton, Tuesday, Nov. 24.

For updates on times and locations of the Missionary Image, visit the Denton ACTS Web site at www.dentonacts.org.

Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

St. Francis to host presentation on the meaning of Christmas

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 861 Wildwood Lane, Grapevine, will host a presentation by Dr. A.J. Whiting Monday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

Whiting will conduct an adult discussion on the meaning of Christmas with topics such as "WWJD?, Sit on Santa's lap?" "Who is Santa anyway?" "WJ play dreidl?" "What does that mean?" The program will delve into the past to discover the "who, what, where, how and why we do what we do to one of the largest Christian celebrations of the year and the largest celebration on every retail calendar," according to promotion material. Participants are invited to bring a Christmas treat to share over coffee.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 481-2685.

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 and December due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. All who are interested are invited to attend a vesper service at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Catholic Renewal Center Chapel, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. A pot-luck dinner will follow. Meat will be provided.

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383, Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370, or Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601.

St. Frances Cabrini to host Christmas concert Dec. 20

St. Frances Cabrini Parish, 2301 Acton Hwy., Granbury, will host "The Gift of Love Christmas Concert" Sunday, Dec. 20, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The concert will feature a variety of talent from St. Frances Cabrini Parish. Refreshments will be served following the concert. All are invited to enjoy the spirit of Christmas with family and loved ones.

Tickets are \$35 per family or \$20 per person and are available following each Mass and at the parish office. Proceeds from the event will benefit St. Frances Cabrini Church.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 326-2131.

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father Dennis Smith has been assigned as interim parochial administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, effective Oct. 2.

Diocesan

Bishop Vann ordains two Cistercian brothers originally from Diocese of Fort Worth to diaconate

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

On the morning of Sunday, Aug. 30, Cistercian Brothers Augustine Hoelke and Philip Neri Lastimoso, following a lengthy formation process, were ordained by Bishop Kevin Vann as transitional deacons in the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Dallas in Dallas. Both men are graduates of Cistercian Preparatory School in Dallas.

After his ordination, Br. Lastimoso remarked that, "On the one hand, I feel as though God has chosen the clerical state for me since before I was born. On the other hand, I feel as though I do not know how to speak because I am so young... but I trust that, like the prophet Jeremiah, God will place his words in my mouth when the time for preaching arrives."

Brothers Hoelke and Lastimoso had, along with three other monks, previously taken solemn vows of stability, poverty, celibate chastity, and obedi-

ence at a Mass held in the abbey chapel on Aug. 20, the feast of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. "I was overcome by the sense of how little the act of making vows has to do with the individual alone," said Br. Hoelke. "It is totally about one's relationship with God and the community to which he joins himself."

The solemn vows included the monks' promises of stability, obedience, and to embrace the monastic way of life, which includes poverty and chastity. Both hope to be ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 10, 2010.

Br. Hoelke, the son of David and Sally Hoelke, parishioners of St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington, is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Spanish at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Br. Lastimoso, the son of Dr. Augusto Cezar and Cynthia Lastimoso, parishioners of St. Patrick Cathedral, has joined four other Cistercian monks in Rome, where he is attending the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, also known as the "Angelicum," to complete his theological studies.



Bishop Kevin Vann lays his hands on Cistercian Brothers Philip Neri Lastimoso and Augustine Hoelke (left) during their ordination to the diaconate. (Jim Reisch, Photographer)



In a gesture of humility, the two young men prostrate themselves on the floor of the Cistercian Abbey while the assembly sings the litany of saints. (Jim Reisch, Photographer)



Having been vested in the stole and dalmatic, Br. Philip kneels before Bishop Vann to receive the Book of the Gospels. (Jim Reisch, Photographer)



Br. Philip (left) and Br. Augustine (right) join Bishop Vann at the altar during consecration. (Jim Reisch, Photographer)

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Found in Time



North Texas Catholic readers responded to this photograph, which appeared in the Oct. 16 issue of the North Texas Catholic:

"This picture was taken Dec. 21, 1971, at the DFW airport," says Maureen Connally Mayeux. "We were members of the Nolan Catholic High School Choir, and we had been invited

to sing in the International Choir Festival, held on Christmas Eve in Bethlehem's Manger Square. We spent a few days in Jerusalem, went to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem for Midnight Mass, had some time in Rome, then returned to Fort Worth."

Bishop John Cassata, first bishop of the Diocese of Fort

Worth (center) and Monsignor Earnest G. Langenhorst (1901-1983) came to the airport to see the group off on their Christmas adventure. Msgr. Langenhorst served as the longtime pastor of St. Alice Church in West Fort Worth (later re-named Holy Family Church) and as chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council 4101.

Friends of the Poor Walk held in River Legacy Park in Arlington Oct. 3



Madeline Morrison, Earline Robinson, and Marie Guidry admire the red 2009 Friends of the Poor Walk T-shirts for the supporters of Our Mother of Mercy Conference.



Water Patrol members St. Vincent de Paul Church's youth group in Arlington provide cold water to thirsty walkers on Oct. 3 at River Legacy Park in Arlington.



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HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST, ST. JOSEPH, RHINELAND — The Youth Ministry at St. Joseph Church in Rhineland recently held its annual Halloween Carnival. According to Janet Dillard, director of Religious Education, it was a "bowling great success." Money earned from the carnival will help pay for the monthly activities of this group. Pictured are the winners of the younger of the two divisions in the costume contest. More than 100 children entered the contest.

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Diocesan

Annual Memorial Mass offers healing for families who lost children before baptism

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Last spring, Brian and Melissa Webb were happily preparing for the birth of two babies. When the couple walked into St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort Worth Oct. 10, they carried only a daughter.

The twin brother of six-month-old Sophia was stillborn.

Attending the Mass for Children Who Died Before Baptism, comforted the new parents, who still grieve the loss of their infant son, Owen.

"This helped. It was a beautiful service," Brian said, during a small luncheon in the parish hall after the Mass.

"And the music was beautiful too," his wife agreed.

Shocked by the death of the baby boy and recovering physically from the birth experience, the family chose not to have a funeral Mass, opting instead for a small memorial liturgy led by their parish priest at a funeral home. The annual Mass for unborn children, celebrated this year by Father David Bristow, pastor of St. Mary, gave the young family a sense of peace.

"I would recommend this to other parents," added Melissa Webb. "It was a good way to honor Owen."

Sponsored by Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas and Catholics United for Life of North Texas, the Mass is offered each year to help parents who have lost children to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. Relatives and friends of the family are also encouraged to attend.

During the Prayer of the Faithful, men and women of all ages — some in their early 20s, others in their 70s and 80s — placed roses in memory of their babies on a side altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Many took the time to kneel and pray in front of the statue that represents the mother of Jesus.

"So many times after the death



ABOVE: Luz Galdanez places a rose at the altar of Mary in honor of her deceased daughter, Jasmine. She is joined by her son, Romy, and her baby daughter, Isabella.

RIGHT: Chuck Pelletier, director of the Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center in Fort Worth, places a rose on the altar. Pelletier and his wife, Pat, plan the Mass for Children Who Died Before Baptism each year.



of these children, there is no burial or grave site they can visit," explains Chuck Pelletier, director of the Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center, who organized the event with his wife, Pat. "The Mass gives them a sense of closure and the Marian altar is a place they can go to in any church."

The reception after the Mass is intended to replicate the meal and social visits most families experience after a funeral.

"We try to accommodate the cultural sense we have in this Church and country of the gathering we have after the funeral Mass," Pelletier added.

Fr. Bristow told the congrega-

tion of 100 people that the "angel faces" they grieved for were not gone.

"They are closer than we can begin to imagine," he said. "They are closer than our limited senses will allow us to know."

The parting and separation between parent and child is only temporary. "In that hour, known only to God, we will see those angel faces again," Fr. Bristow added, promising a reunion impossible to describe with language.

"There will be no more tears, sobs, or longing for what is gone — only light, joy, and laughter into the immeasurable depths of eternity."

The pastor's words comforted Brenda Caudillo, who came to the memorial Mass with her son, Joshua, 8. Thirteen years ago she delivered another child who died the same day. The memory of that loss is still painful.

"I had tears — not from sadness but happiness," said the mother, who was moved emotionally by the liturgy. "The priest reminded me that I'll see my baby boy again. It was all very touching."

Special Collection: Catholic University

Parish Name	Parish Location	Catholic University June 2008	Catholic University June 2009
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	114.00	366.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	0.00	0.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	680.25	1,150.93
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	2,289.11	2,133.35
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,038.50	1,520.73
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	1,845.00	1,374.25
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	67.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	274.00	449.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	733.00	181.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,583.00	1,765.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	459.00	503.00
St. Michael	Bedford	1,397.00	1,061.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	30.00	40.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	83.46	0.00
St. John the Baptist	Bridgeport	473.55	59.00
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	220.00	225.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,247.00	1,428.60
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	1,949.00	1,650.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	0.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	354.00	660.23
Holy Angels	Clifton	25.00	74.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	1,290.00	1,068.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	195.00	231.00
Sacred Heart	Comanche	128.00	98.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	7.00	19.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	655.64	410.80
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	77.67	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	289.00	299.00
St. Mark	Denton	1,491.12	1,780.35
St. Mary	Dublin	470.00	435.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	0.00	0.00
St. Paul	Electra	0.00	0.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	1,096.61	1,051.62
Christ the King	Fort Worth	380.00	292.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	1,357.00	1,205.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	536.00	0.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,358.00	818.00
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	641.48	892.44
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	2,978.50	2,136.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	73.00	185.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	0.00	399.50
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	3,291.33	1,507.95
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	3,760.28	3,453.95
St. George	Fort Worth	329.00	738.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	724.00	761.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	268.00	261.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	278.00	0.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	737.85	907.40
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	185.75	284.00
St. Rita	Fort Worth	219.00	0.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,467.41	1,391.85
St. Mary	Gainesville	116.00	131.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	197.00	175.25
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	0.00	403.27
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,752.00	911.35
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	1,072.00	0.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	80.00	10.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	146.00	414.11
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	0.00	0.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	51.09	177.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	2,797.00	2,289.00
Santa Rosa	Knox City	0.00	0.00
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,527.86	2,548.01
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,122.25	1,003.00
St. Jude	Mansfield	467.25	527.00
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	106.00	0.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	0.00	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	15.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	27.00	0.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	145.00	645.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	0.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	0.00	32.05
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	124.00	99.25
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St. Rita	Ranger	0.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	30.00	316.97
St. Boniface	Scotland	105.00	18.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	237.00	70.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	220.00	203.00
St. John	Strawn	0.00	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	191.00	219.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,430.00	824.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	559.00	454.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	311.00	679.79
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	517.00	1,663.45
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	614.00	415.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	323.00	166.00

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World Youth Day draws 7,500 participants from Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

Over 7,500 teens and adult leaders from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas gathered Sunday, Oct. 25, in an exuberant celebration of their Catholic faith at an open-air Mass in the Music Mill Amphitheatre at the Six Flags Over Texas theme park in Arlington.

Youth leaders from the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses have organized the annual event for the past 17 years to mark World Youth Day, celebrated in dioceses across the United States on the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"This year's theme for the World Youth Day celebration was 'Get Up, He is Calling You!'" said Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry. "We were fortunate to have Bishop Kevin Vann and Bishop Kevin Farrell serving as the main celebrants at the liturgy, and they were joined by several priests of the Diocese of Fort Worth. It is always a joy to gather with our brothers and sisters from the Diocese of Dallas and to celebrate the gifts that our young people bring to our church."

Bishop Farrell offered the homily at this year's celebration, and Bishop Vann gave closing remarks at the end of the liturgy, accompanied by the cheers and clapping of the enthusiastic congregation.

"Today, we all heard together in the Gospel of Mark that, through his faith, a blind man regained his sight," Bishop Vann told the assembly. "And so I encourage you all to do the same, to go out and help others to see what you have seen and experienced today in the Mass, and through the fellowship that you have enjoyed — the



Over 7,500 youth and their adult leaders from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas enjoyed a sunny day at Six Flags Over Texas theme park in Arlington on World Youth Day, Oct. 25. The day's festivities culminated in an afternoon youth Mass at the park, with Bishop Kevin Vann and Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas serving as concelebrants.



Bishop Vann offers closing remarks at the end of the liturgy, encouraging the youth to serve as an evangelizing presence in their homes, schools, and communities.

mercy and the saving love of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Approximately 50 parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth participated in the event, with several rural parishes bringing chartered buses filled with junior high and senior high school teens to enjoy a sunny day of Christian music performances, rides, games, and Halloween activities in the theme park before attending the 5 p.m. Mass.

The day's festivities culminated in the Mass, which was preceded by a community-building drum beat performance, led by Austin-based Kenya Masala and the Rhythm Power organization. Members of the congregation were provided with a "Spirit Stick" to use in the interactive drumming exercises.

Seventeen year-old Jordan Church, a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Pilot Point, has attended the

event each year for the past four years, she said. While only about 15 teens from her parish attended the 2008 celebration, the number increased to 50 participants at this year's event, she explained.

"I'm always one of the first people to sign up for World Youth Day," she said. "It is really special to come here to see Bishop Vann and to hear him speak, because he is so geared toward the youth. He confirmed me this spring, and I always feel that special bond with him because of that. He is just great at connecting with the youth and he always has a good message for us. Plus, the music is always wonderful at the youth Mass!"

A special benefit to attending the diocesan event was the opportunity to reconnect with friends from parishes across the diocese, added Jordan. "At Six Flags, I saw a ton of people I met at Youth Leader [leader-



Parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Rhineland traveled over three hours to attend the World Youth Day celebration. Pictured here are (left to right) Edward Sanchez; Haley Ericson; Darian Leija; and Brittani Angerer.

ship training week] this summer, so I was hugging people all day!"

Javier Porras, a 16-year-old parishioner from St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine, has attended the World Youth Day event each year for the past six years, he said. Javier, who serves as co-chairman of the Diocesan Youth Council, called the youth Mass "absolutely the best part of the day."

"I just think it's so cool to see how the Diocese of Dallas joins with us to celebrate

youth, how we come together, and, with the drumming and the music, we are integrated. We all get into it together," he said. The event is one that draws many Catholic teens who aren't usually involved in church activities, he added.

"We had a huge group that came from our parish, a school bus and several cars full," said Javier. "It was great to see a lot of new faces. Everyone had a really good experience, so I'm pretty sure that this will help to get them more involved."

TRIDENTINE MASS

LATIN 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



Diocesan

Diocese honors couples married 50-plus years

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Serafin and Josephina Rodriguez epitomize the word commitment. Married at 16, the couple has weathered some difficult times during their 52-year marriage.

"We wanted to thank the Lord for giving us all these years together," said Josephina, explaining why she came to the annual Golden Anniversary Mass sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office. "We put our trials in his hands and He gave us the strength to continue with life. He did it all for us." Living with the death of a child is one of those trials. The Rodriguezes lost their 19-year-old son in a tragic car accident years ago.

A daughter, two grandchildren, and two great grandsons joined them at the Mass celebrated by Father Joe Pemberton on Oct. 11 at Holy Family Church. Bishop Kevin Vann, who traditionally presides at the special liturgy, was ill.

"Hold on to the good and the bad in each other," Josephina said revealing her secret for matrimonial success. "You have to work at understanding each other."



Trinh Nguyen and La Nguyen, parishioners at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Fort Worth, exchange marriage vows during the anniversary Mass.

The diocese hosts the event to recognize the gifts of sacramental marriage and honor husbands and wives for their dedication to each other. This year 75 couples, married 50 years or more by the end of 2009, attended the celebration. Several participants struggled with wheelchairs and walkers to accompany their spouses.

"It's such a good example of what the words 'in good times and in bad,' really mean in the

wedding vows," said Suzanna Ordoñez, director of Family Life. "Their commitment to marriage and each other is an example we should all follow."

St. Andrew parishioners Thomas and LaVerne Smith met at a church dance more than 55 years ago. When the enthusiastic wife read about the Golden Anniversary celebration in the church bulletin, "I asked my husband if he was willing to do it all over



A couple exchanges an embrace as a sign of peace during the anniversary liturgy.

again," she remembered. "His answer was 'yes.'" Many of the couple's seven children watched as their parents repeated the same vows they spoke in a Philadelphia church on Nov. 6, 1954.

The Smiths said patience and understanding are key to reaching the plus 50-year milestone.

"Remember everybody's different, and there are times you are just not going to agree with one another," Tom said, offering advice to young couples. "You just take a deep breath and press on."

His wife agreed.

"Learn to get over the little bumps because bigger ones come along. And faith helps — absolutely."

During his homily, Fr. Pemberton shared with the golden jubilar-

ians something he tells a bride and groom on their wedding day.

"The most important thing you are going to do in your marriage is bring each other back to God," he told the congregation. "That is what you've been called to do for 50 years — to help your spouse fall in love with God. If you've done that, God looks at you today and says, 'well done, good and faithful servant.'"

Human nature, by itself, is selfish, he added. It's the grace of God moving in the human heart that makes people capable of sacrificial love.

"It's my prayer that what we celebrate here today will only continue to grow," Fr. Pemberton said in closing. "That God in his wisdom and love for you will continue to draw you more deeply into himself as husband and wife and that he will empower you to bring each other into his loving embrace."

After the Mass, wedding cake was served in the family life center. Jeanette and John Tatsak were presented with the cake's top layer for having the longest marriage among those present. The St. Michael parishioners wed 67 years ago in California.

Retrouvaille has healed marriages for 25 years

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Tony Depiazza, who was for many years a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine, says he is "unbelievably grateful," for the 25 years of ministry that the Retrouvaille movement within the Diocese of Fort Worth celebrates this month.

According to Depiazza, the Retrouvaille ministry, designed to help save faltering marriages, is the reason he and his wife, Terri, were able to celebrate their own golden wedding anniversary in April of this year.

"Retrouvaille was our lifeline," says Depiazza, who now lives with Terri in their retirement home in Las Cruces, New Mexico. "We went on our first Retrouvaille weekend in 1991, and I frankly didn't know how we were going to end up. We were in counseling, but it really wasn't helping. My wife just went so she could say, 'I tried; I gave the marriage one last effort.'"

That weekend, combined with a series of six afternoon follow-up sessions, "completely turned our lives completely around," says Depiazza. "Because of the Retrouvaille experience, we learned valuable techniques and skills that saved our marriage, and we

have had tremendous blessings as a couple. We have enjoyed life with our two children and three grandchildren in a way that would not have been possible if we were not together."

Marie Pate, a parishioner of St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, and her late husband, Bob, helped to start Retrouvaille in the diocese in 1984. The Pates eventually served a term as coordinators of the ministry at the international level from 1989 to 1992, and traveled all over the United States and Canada, helping to implement the ministry in numerous dioceses.

Marie Pate has continued to be involved in the ministry as a volunteer, she says, and she is used to hearing testimonies to the effectiveness of Retrouvaille. She agrees that the words are a treasured affirmation of her own 25 years of commitment to the program, but she proudly refers to an even more compelling testament to its impact.

"In the past 25 years, more than 3,000 couples have attended a Retrouvaille weekend in this diocese," Pate notes, adding that most of the participants were the parents of children — a total of 7,629 children, to be exact. "Not every person who attends a Retrouvaille weekend is able to

save their marriage, but we do know that all these thousands of children were very positively affected through the work of Retrouvaille," she says.

Father Joe Pemberton, pastor of Holy Family Church in West Fort Worth, and retired priest Father Jim Miller, have both been involved in Retrouvaille within the Diocese of Fort Worth since its early days. Fr. Miller joined the Pates and other couples in leading the first program held in Fort Worth, in November of 1984. Fr. Pemberton began to serve in 1990.

"It is so powerful to see these couples arriving for the program on Friday evening," Fr. Pemberton says. "Some of them have major issues they are dealing with, and sometimes they're not even speaking to each other. By Sunday, it's so beautiful to see that, by God's grace, there is transformation, and many times, they are able to say, 'We can make this work after all.'"

The Retrouvaille ministry continues to grow and to flourish across the world, says Tony Depiazza, adding that its healing ministry "has become known even to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict." In 2009, the pope met with a group of Retrouvaille ministry leaders, including Fr. Miller,

who represented the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"He really affirmed the work of the Retrouvaille ministry in his remarks to the group," says Depiazza. "I think that his final statement to them is the most powerful. The Holy Father said

to the leaders, 'I love to think of you as custodians of a bigger hope for all the couples who have lost their hope.'"

Twenty-five years of extending that hope in the Diocese of Fort Worth, adds Depiazza, is indeed, "truly something to celebrate."

Retrouvaille Silver Anniversary to Be Celebrated

The Retrouvaille ministry of the Diocese of Fort Worth will celebrate 25 years of outreach to families at a special Mass Friday, Nov. 13 at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., in West Fort Worth. The Mass will begin at 7 p.m.; a reception will be held following the liturgy in the parish hall. All who have been touched in any way by this ministry are invited to attend the Mass and reception.

The word "Retrouvaille" (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long "o" and a long "i") is a French word meaning "rediscovery." The Retrouvaille ministry, sponsored by the Catholic Church to help couples to heal troubled marriages, is available to couples of all faiths, and all aspects of participation are kept totally confidential. Scholarship assistance is available. A Retrouvaille weekend includes the opportunity for participants to listen to personal testimonies offered by other couples, to learn practical tools for managing conflict, and to receive spiritual help. The weekends, which are held four times each year, are sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office and are presented by a priest and a team of three couples who have benefited from the Retrouvaille experience and who have been trained to serve as leaders. The next weekend will be offered Jan. 15, 2010 in the Irving area. For more information, visit the Web site at www.retrouvaille.com or call (817) 462-8953.

Viewpoints

Since the time of Christ, Sacred Tradition has guided and continues to guide us

By Lucas Pollice

The *Why Catholic?* process of adult catechesis and evangelization is off to an outstanding start in the Diocese. Literally thousands of Catholics across our vast 24,000 square mile Diocese of Fort Worth have been meeting weekly to study, ponder, and live out more deeply the teaching of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. However, the 90 minutes each week only scratches the surface of some enormous and important topics such as the Holy Trinity, Faith, and Divine Revelation. Therefore, my next several articles are going to be “digging deeper” into some of these topics for further understanding and reflection.

One of the topics I have already heard that people really appreciated but had many more questions about was Lesson Two on Divine Revelation and how Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, make up the “braid” of Christ’s revelation as handed on throughout the centuries. This issue, I would like to focus on Sacred Tradition, and next issue we will look more deeply at Sacred Scripture.

DIVINE REVELATION HANDED ON THROUGH SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

As the New Testament Church began to emerge and grow, the teaching of the apostles was handed on in two ways: 1) “Orally by the apostles who handed on by the spoken word of their preaching, by their example, by the institutions they established, and what they had received [from Christ]” (CCC, 76). We call this Sacred Tradition. 2) “In writing by the apostles or other men associated with the apostles, who under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit committed the message of salvation to writing” (CCC, 76). We call this Sacred Scripture or the New

Testament of the Bible.

St. Paul also explains how the revelation of Christ is handed on: “Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours” (2 *Thessalonians* 2:15). Here we clearly see the means through which the sacred deposit of faith entrusted to the apostles and their successors is transmitted to each generation: a teaching office (“that you were taught”), Sacred Tradition (“by oral statement”), and Sacred Scripture (“or by a letter of ours”).

SACRED TRADITION

Sacred Tradition is the living witness and presence of Christ, which was entrusted to the apostles and their successors through their authoritative teaching, their example, and the institutions they established. Sacred Tradition is none other than Christ himself as handed on throughout history (tradition means “to carry across”). This oral Tradition continues to be passed on primarily through apostolic succession, that is, through the teachings of the pope and the bishops united to him. Tradition is also handed on through other various ways through the life and ministry of the Church. One may ask, what exactly is this Sacred Tradition, and where do we find it lived and articulated?

TRADITION IS HANDED ON THROUGH APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

Tradition is passed on through the teaching and governing of the successors of Peter and the apostles, the pope and the bishops, who through apostolic succession have been given the authority to teach and govern by Christ himself. This teaching office has continued in an unbroken line of authority even to this day. The pope and the bishops, as the present day successors of the apostles, are called the Magisterium, or teaching office of the Church (*magistra* in Latin means teacher). They have the responsibility of seeing that the sacred deposit of faith left to us by Christ and handed on through Tradition and Scripture is preserved, defended, and handed on in its fullness to all generations until the end of time. As Vatican II states:

And so the apostolic preaching, which is expressed in a special way in the inspired books, was to be preserved by an unending succession of preachers until the end of time. Therefore the Apostles, handing on what they themselves had received, warn the faithful to hold fast to the traditions which they have learned either by word of mouth or by letter (see 2 THESS. 2:15), and to fight in defense of the faith handed on once and for all (see JUDE 1:3) Now what was handed on by the Apostles includes everything which contributes toward the holiness of life and

increase in faith of the peoples of God; and so the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes.

— *Constitution on Divine Revelation*, 8

Thus, the pope and the bishops do not have the authority to invent new doctrine or to delete or change what has been entrusted to them. Their authority comes from Christ Himself who commands them to faithfully hand on, untarnished and complete, all that He taught them and commanded them.

TRADITION IS ALSO PASSED ON IN THE VERY LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sacred Tradition is also passed on through the lives and faith of all the faithful who are in alignment with the teachings of the Church. This is called the *sensus fidei*, or the sense of the faithful. Tradition lies within the life of faith lived out in each member of the Church as we continuously ponder and live out, in obedience to the Magisterium of the Church, all that Christ has given to us and commanded of us. Thus, the richness of the Tradition of the Church can be found in the simple prayer and faith of the ordinary person.

Therefore, all of us have the role and responsibility, to faithfully hand on and bear witness to the truth of Christ in our own lives. The *Why Catholic?* process is a perfect example of all of us together, in union with the official and authoritative teaching of the Church, handing on the faith and living it out more richly.

TRADITION IS ALSO PASSED ON THROUGH THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Lex orandi, lex credendi: “The law of prayer is the law of faith.” The liturgy is an important element of Sacred Tradition, because the Church is continuously pondering and meditating upon the mysteries of Christ and celebrating the mighty works of God accomplished in Christ. It is similar to when our families gather for feasts and holidays to celebrate, ponder, and hand on family traditions and memories. Since the Church is the family of Christ, when we come together in the liturgy to celebrate God’s salvation in Christ, we also encounter and hand on the Tradition of the Church through our prayers and worship.

Many of the Church’s teachings are seen professed and explicitly believed in the liturgy far before they were defined by the Church and in some cases even committed to writing in Sacred Scripture. For example, some of the beautiful teachings on the nature of Christ in the writings of St. Paul are liturgical texts or hymns that were already being expressed and believed in the very early

liturgies of the Church.

SACRED TRADITION IS A LIVING TRADITION

Sacred Tradition is a living Tradition, not one that is stagnant. While the fundamental truths of Sacred Tradition revealed by Christ and entrusted to the Church do not change, they do unfold over time as the Church continues to ponder and live out its mysteries. This is a crucial point. While doctrine does not change, it does develop as the Church better grasps its meaning. Fundamentalism is a reaction to the living Tradition of the Church; it sees Tradition as dead or stagnant. It is the Magisterium, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which defends, protects, interprets, and applies the deposit of faith to each generation. It is through this handing on of Christ himself that the Church comes to have a better grasp of what Christ revealed. As Vatican II explains:

This tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit. For there is a growth in the understanding of the realities and the words which have been handed down. This happens through the contemplation and study made by believers, who treasure these things in their hearts (see LUKE 2:19, 51) through a penetrating understanding of the spiritual realities which they experience, and through the preaching of those who have received through episcopal succession the sure gift of truth. For as the centuries succeed one another, the Church constantly moves forward toward the fullness of divine truth until the words of God reach their complete fulfillment in her.

— *Constitution on Divine Revelation*, 8

In conclusion, Sacred Tradition is the oral and lived teaching, the handing on of the Person and mission of Christ Himself in the Church through the apostolic teaching and witness. While the Magisterium of the Church is the authoritative witness, interpreter, and protector of Sacred Tradition, we all have the responsibility to faithfully hand on the teachings and truth of Christ through our own lives and witness.



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

Forming Disciples

'tried and true' works

By Mary Regina Morrell

All {people} guard their own customs, but this is especially true of the Jewish nation. Holding that the laws are oracles vouchsafed by God and having been trained in this doctrine from their earliest years, they carry the likenesses of the commandments enshrined in their souls.

— Philo

On one of those dreary rainy afternoons, when nothing's better than cloistering myself in the den with a cup of Irish breakfast tea, firing-up my imitation wood burning stove for a little extra warmth, and burying myself in a good book, I realized that my library of literary treasures includes a number of titles beginning with "The Art of"

I have manuals of excellence on the topics of origami, cooking, Arabic calligraphy, spiritual mentoring, and even worldly wisdom, written 300 years ago by a Spanish Jesuit.

But my favorites include *The Art of Leadership*, a small but inspiring book by J. Donald Walters; *The Art of Happiness* by the Dalai Lama; and *The Art of Loving God*, by St. Francis de Sales.

Upon my realization that I possessed a whole new category of books, I decided to remove them from their scattered places on the shelves and gather them together in one harmonious grouping. As I stood back to admire my work, I found myself wondering just what the phrase, "The Art of..." really signified.

There are any number of definitions of the word "art" from on-line dictionaries and thesauruses, but two seemed to fit: a system of principles and rules for attaining a desired end; a method of doing well some special work, and, the quality, production, expression, or realm ... of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance.

I suppose those definitions might be summarized as the means to achieve the highest standard in a chosen endeavor. It might seem natural, in this day and age, to assume that

Much progress has been made in developing solid programs of catechesis, yet so much more remains to be done in forming the hearts and minds of the young in knowledge and love of the Lord.

— Pope Benedict XVI
homily, Washington Nationals Stadium
April 17, 2008

those means would include anything considered cutting edge in a particular field. But the danger with assumptions rests with our inclination to believe that new is always better. Often we find ourselves jumping on the cutting-edge bandwagon until we find that cutting edge isn't really delivering the goods. This happens often in the realm of faith formation as we continually search for something new and improved, and, in the process, upset the balance with tried and true.

During his visit to the United Nations last year, Pope Benedict XVI offered a homily at Washington Nationals Stadium in which he addressed the issue of formation of youth, though his words certainly hold true for every generation: "Young people need to be helped to discern the path that leads to true freedom: the path of a sincere and generous imitation of Christ, the path of commitment to justice and peace. Much progress has been made in developing solid programs of catechesis, yet so much more remains to be done in forming the hearts and minds of the young in knowledge and love of the Lord. The challenges confronting us require a comprehensive and sound instruction in the truths of the faith. But they also call for cultivating a mindset, an intellectual 'culture', which is genuinely Catholic, confident in the profound harmony of faith and reason ..."

The pope's emphasis on knowledge and comprehensive instruction is well placed for those who are being formed to imitate Christ.

Jesus' approach to making disciples was less cutting edge than bleeding edge — a term which came into use in the 1980s to signify something, particularly technology, beyond cutting edge; something that was so advanced and revolutionary that it came with an element of risk because the intended community of users was not ready for it. As one Web site relays: "... when you're living on the bleeding edge, you should not be surprised when you do, in fact, bleed."

Jesus stepped off into his radical ministry from a foundation of comprehensive knowledge of Jewish faith, the very nature of which is centered on Scripture, which, for the Jewish people, is both content and teacher, narrating their sacred story while commanding the people to diligently teach their children the Torah.

Some 3,000 years of "tried and true" has resulted in a Jewish literacy that is enviable.

Maybe that's a good model for Catholic literacy?

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



Some people just have a knack for living life to the full, putting their whole selves in — like doing the

Hokey Pokey

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

I wish I'd given my earrings to the woman in the locker room.

They weren't new, chic, or valuable in any sense that was not of the heart. They weren't even attractive to most people, I suppose, except to me, and for those few moments, to the woman who stood beside me, near a utility cart in a recreation center locker room.

Fashioned of brilliant blue seed beads, the earrings were made by my daughter Julie in sixth grade, the same year she mastered the art of friendship bracelets. I'd bought her a book of patterns, a divided box of colored beads, and some fishing line, and she delighted me with a succession of triangular, decidedly inexpensive, dangly earrings, each design one-of-a-kind.

Quirky and fun, the jewelry made its way to my wardrobe almost daily. I don't wear them as much anymore, because as years relentlessly rob us of little things like youth, time, and the mates of socks, I find they also take one out of every pair of earrings we own.

But one morning recently, I wore those old beaded earrings to my office at Texas Christian University, and I encountered a woman who noticed them. I mean she admitted to noticing them.

When I saw her she was cleaning the locker room, and I was passing through it toward my office. We smiled at each other.

"I like your earrings," she said, in English just slightly broken. "They are a pretty color."

"Thank you," I answered, warmly surprised, "my daughter made them when she was a little girl. I like them too."

Then I continued out the door and down the hall, wearing dangly earrings made of blue, yellow and orange seed beads, jewelry that might or might not have served as wardrobe in the movie "Dances With Wolves."

Walking to the other side of my building, I frowned a little. "Why hadn't I given them to her?" I wondered. "Why hadn't I just taken them off and given them to her?"

"Ah well," I shook off the thought. As the seconds passed (the seconds of possibility), I had concluded, "She probably didn't really like them anyway... she was probably just being polite."

My friend Brenda would have given her earrings to the woman in the locker room.

Brenda's life was a fanciful flourish of generosity. She died about a month ago, but I still see her face every day, because I am not able to discard the worship aid from her Mass of Christian Burial. It sits on my nightstand, where I placed it when I returned home from church that day, and where now I see her smile.

SEE HAMER, P. 26

University of Dallas Ministry Conference offers thousands the opportunity

Pass on the



Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, diocesan director of the Catholics Respect Life Office, shares information at her exhibitor's booth. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



Bishop Kevin Vann shares a laugh with Our Lady of Guadalupe pastor Father John Robert Skeldon from Wichita Falls (left) and Vicar General Father Steve Berg. (Photo by Juan Guajardo)



Elvira Mata, diocesan director of Hispanic Youth Ministry, answers questions at a Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry exhibition stand. (Photo by Juan Guajardo)



Youth ministry leader Juan Rendon, an instructor for the UD School of Ministry Biblical School, offers a workshop in Spanish on offering Bible study opportunities for young people. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)



Sister Maria Nguyen, CSFN, visits with fellow conference participants during a break in workshop sessions. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)

FROM PAGE 1
performances — most notably a concert by John Michael Talbot, Catholic music's leading recording artist.

Pooling resources from two dioceses and UD helped make the conference a resounding success, according to Lucas Pollice, director of Catechesis in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

"It enabled us to bring in quality, nationally-recognized speakers to cover a variety of topics," he explained. "It went beyond what we could have done on our own."

Centralizing the conference also raised the public profile of Catholicism in North Texas. Once a small and sometimes marginalized minority in the state, Catholics in the Diocese of Dallas today number more than 1.2 million with another 600,000 living in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The faith's burgeoning population should help increase the conference's visibility.

"We're hoping the conference will eventually attract participation from other dioceses in the South-Southwest region," Pollice added.

One of the national presenters speaking at the conference was Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, D.C. The renowned Catholic educator delivered the opening keynote address to 2,000 Catholic schoolteachers and administrators and other Church professionals

attending Friday's session. Catholic schools employees represented an especially large percentage of Friday's conference numbers, as both diocesan school systems had given their students a holiday to facilitate the attendance of all Catholic school teachers and administrators. During his presentation, Archbishop Wuerl emphasized to those in attendance that on our own, we can't succeed in ministry, but through Jesus Christ, we have the "words of everlasting life."

"The Church brings to us today what it has brought to the world for 2,000 years — an encounter with Jesus. It offers us an invitation to faith. It does this in a world that's not always prepared to hear these words," Archbishop Wuerl said. "On our own, we don't have the words to participate in the conversation. In our finite human condition, we can't comprehend the mystery of who God is and what God invites us to," he said. "We turn to Jesus for these words and therefore we turn to his Church today in order that we may hear and live and proclaim the words of eternal life."

This passing on of the faith, he said, comes from the Church's apostolic succession.

"The Church from the Apostles, the Apostles from Christ, and Christ from God. If the efficacy and reliability of our teaching comes from our commission from the Church, then it is our responsibility to remain in communion with the Church and invite others to join our communion," he said.

The archbishop noted that the Church today is dealing with an entire generation, possibly more, of people who have not had the opportunity to hear or understand the Church's teachings. He added that many parents are being catechized while their children are being catechized, and encouraged the participants to say "Thank you, Lord, for a second chance."

"Our goal is to participate in the Pentecostal outpouring by providing our young

people with the tools to answer that question, 'What is it that the Church brings me?'" Archbishop Wuerl added. "... Teachers in our schools, volunteers, each of you plays a part in passing on the faith. Witness to the faith in clear content. No textbook can do what you, the catechist, the teacher does. The catechist knows the faith. The teacher lives the faith."

He closed by stating it is the responsibility of parents, and the entire parish community to pass on the faith to younger generations.

"It's not enough that just individuals assume the responsibility. We have to find ways to engage the whole community in this responsibility," he said. "... We need to support the one another and strengthen the ministry of one another. Do not be afraid, never hesitate to share the Good News."

"I was impressed by Archbishop Wuerl's emphasis on the responsibility of the teacher to thoroughly know his material in the classroom and not simply teach out of the book," said Ray Depta, a theology and physics teacher at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. "The book is a tool and not a substitute for the mastery of the subject matter a teacher brings to the students."

Catholic schoolteachers also learned about the legal ramifications of new technology in the classroom during a special workshop designed specifically for educators.

"I was struck by the number of legal categories for which educational personnel can be sued," said Nolan theology teacher Mark Rist who appreciated the practical advice given by presenter, Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler. "The day was entirely worthwhile. Nolan Catholic will have a follow-up meeting to discuss the merits of the presentation we can use here to improve the quality of the education."

In a keynote address given Saturday morning, John L. Allen, Jr., senior Vatican analyst for CNN and prize-winning correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter*, offered his observations on



Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler's talk, focusing on the relationship between Catholics and American politics. The writer, respected by a broad range of Catholics for his objectivity, told the audience that Church members are so bitterly divided on some social issues, their impact on the political process is diminished. Adding to the "painful spectacle of internal disarray" is the public debate over pro-choice Catholic politicians receiving communion, the role of Catholic political action committees, and the controversial visit of pro-choice President Barack Obama to Notre Dame University. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)

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"My impression is that across left, right, and center, there is a deep current of disappointment that too often we seemed to be at one another's throats rather than creatively transforming our culture in light of the Gospel," Allen said. "Especially on politics, we American Catholics seem ever more polarized, partisan, and acrimonious."

The best hope for changing that dynamic rests with the next generation of Catholic religious and lay activists who are more traditional than the preceding generation. Studies indicate that church leaders born after 1982 are more likely to say they entered religious life out of commitment and fidelity to the church.



Amy Florian, a liturgy and bereavement consultant, offers a Saturday morning workshop on the process of healing from grief. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)

to gain tools needed to Faith



ed on school law and how it affects Catholic educators, attracted hundreds of
(Photo by Juan Guajardo)

"They are more likely to wear habits, practice Eucharistic adoration, and are more positive about ecclesiastical authority," he added. But to label this rising generation of Catholics as ideologically conservative is misleading, Allen quickly pointed out. Young believers who que up in long lines for confession and express their love for Pope John Paul II are also sensitive to the world's ecology, want to serve the poor, and are critical of the death penalty and armed conflict. They did not grow up in the same homogenous Catholic communities that shaped their parents' attitudes and beliefs.

"The primary social milieu in which today's Catholics came of age is shaped by secularism and American pop culture, the speaker explained. "Their hunger for identity isn't about choosing one side or the other in the church's version of the culture wars; it's about reacting and sometimes reacting against the values and lifestyle of a thoroughly secularized world."

The tendency of older Catholics to splinter into left and right to emphasize one aspect of the Church's social message at the expense of another may be tied to the experiences of a particular generation, Allen suggested, adding, "There is reason to

hope that a new generation may bring with it a fresh perspective." Helping catechists communicate the Gospel message to a secularized society was the focus of a talk given by Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann in English and again in Spanish during the conference. Citing the Oct. 16 anniversary of Pope John Paul II's election, the bishop said the late pontiff, "furnished for us a model and a way for catechists to live and transmit the faith: not just knowing it but living it and communicating it."

The culture and ethos of modern society presents new challenges for those who teach the faith. People have become used to receiving and disseminating information from "sound-bites and blogs, mass media, and popular books and movies. "Catechists in formation will need to reflect on the fact that those with whom they work and minister will often be formed by the above," Bishop Vann said. "Therefore, catechists must take seriously their own formation and knowledge of both Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church. And they must be able to articulate those teachings and their relevance to the modern world."

Dick Schieffelbein, an RCIA instructor at Holy Trin-



John Allen, senior correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter*, and CNN's Vatican analyst, offers his analysis of the future of Catholic voters and American politics during his Saturday morning keynote presentation. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)



People packed the hallways of the Dallas Convention Center after the first session on Friday morning. Several sessions were given Friday and Saturday. (Photo by Juan Guajardo)



Fr. Robert Hater, a theology professor and priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, offers a Saturday workshop on key transition times and opportunities for catechesis. (Photo by Juan Guajardo)



Bishop Kevin Vann (right) of Fort Worth, concelebrates the Saturday evening Mass with Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)

ity Mission in Azle, said the bishop's talk offered encouragement to catechists who teach Catholicism to people from other faith traditions. "We need to build a strong foundation in [ecclesial understanding] not only in RCIA but in general," he said. "The culture we're dealing with is oriented away from churches. Individuals believe they can have their own relationship with God and churches aren't important."

Bishop Vann's presentation and other conference activities also received high marks from Silvia Lesko, director of religious education at St. Mark Parish in Denton. She likened the Friday evening concert by John Michael Talbot to a mini-retreat.

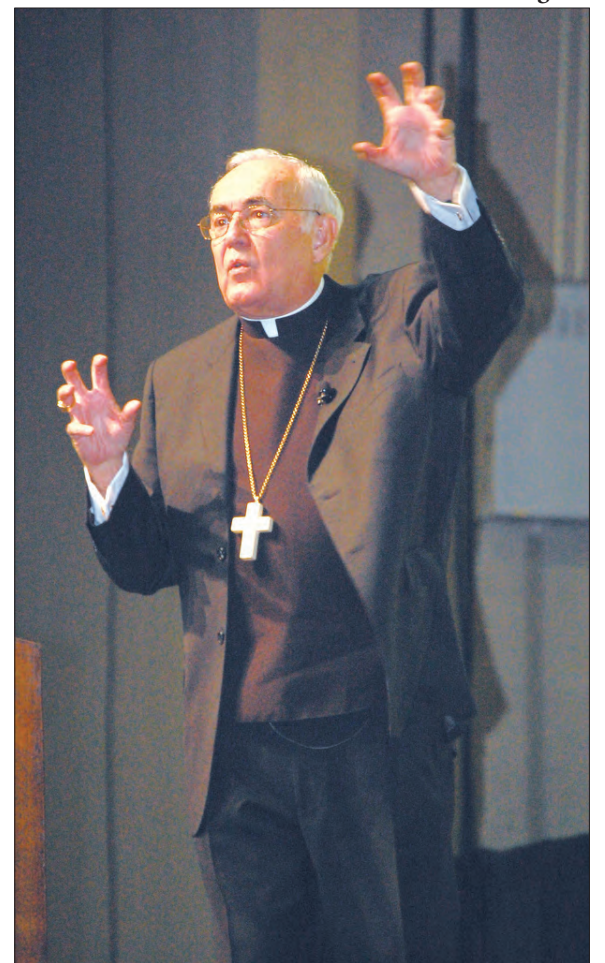
"The conference is big and could be considered overwhelming, but the quality of the speakers makes up for



Fort Worth diocesan staff members Lucas Pollice (center) and Sr. Yolanda Cruz, SSMN, look over the conference program with Dr. Brian Schmisek, founding dean of the University of Dallas School of Ministry. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

it," Lesko added. "When you bring in national people to talk, the level of formation goes up. Joining forces with Dallas and the university brought everything up a notch."

Contributing to this article was Tony Gutiérrez, associate editor of the *NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC*.



Bishop Álvaro Corrada del Río, SJ, offers the keynote presentation in Spanish. His talk focused on the three elements of discipleship: finding, following, and imitating Christ. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)



Fr. John Casey, SAC, (right) pastor of St. Stephen Church in Weatherford, walks through the Dallas Convention Center with Fr. Balaji Boyalla, SAC, of Holy Family Church, and conference participant Beckie Soto. (Photo by Juan Guajardo)



Fr. Lm Pham Thi, SCJ, offers one of the six workshops and keynote presentations offered in Vietnamese at the conference. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)



A group of musicians led the congregation in song during Saturday Morning Prayer. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

Two stories of unplanned pregnancies

By Michele Baker
Correspondent

Nineteen year old Beth was a classic girl-next-door. She came from a good family with two loving parents who raised her to go to Mass every Sunday and to live her faith. She had graduated from high school and was working her way through college. She had friends, a boyfriend, and plans for her future — a perfect picture of youth and optimism.

"I was about to move into an apartment with two of my girlfriends," Beth remembers. "I thought I might be pregnant, and my friends bought the pregnancy test and made me take it. That's how I found out."

As soon as the father of the baby learned of the pregnancy, he immediately ducked out of the picture. Beth was alone and confused.

"I won't lie and say that it [abortion] didn't cross my mind," she said. "My girlfriends were very pro-choice, and they said that there was no way I could handle having a baby, and what was that going to do to my future and all that. But deep down I knew that was wrong. I couldn't do it."

"Telling my parents was scary," she recalls. "They'd always told

"When I saw the sonogram of my child, I finally had irrefutable evidence that there was life present. I could no longer ignore the fact that abortion is killing."

— Kevin

my brother and me that if he got somebody pregnant or if I got pregnant, they'd kick us out of the house."

Thankfully, her parents didn't put her out, but the situation was far from ideal.

"At first my parents said not a lot of nice things," Beth said. "They were disappointed and angry. I didn't know what to do. My mom told me the first thing I

needed to do was go to church and confess what I'd done to cleanse my soul."

Following this edict from her mother led Beth to her local parish one morning where she found herself sitting in the pew sobbing after daily Mass. A woman approached and asked if she could pray with Beth. Soon afterward, Beth poured her heart out to the stranger who took her to a local pro-life crisis pregnancy organization.

"To this day, I have no idea who that woman was," Beth said. "I'd never seen her before and haven't seen her since."

With help from Mother and Unborn Baby Care, Beth carried her baby to term and, after months of prayer and support from her parents, decided to keep her child. The father terminated his parental rights three months after the birth and has never seen his baby. Beth moved on and is now happily married. Her husband adopted the now six-year-old who has recently been joined by a baby sister.

"Before, I had all these plans," Beth says. "Now I'm a stay-at-home mom and I can't imagine it any other way."

Sadly, not all unplanned preg-

nancies end this way.

"I didn't really have an opinion about abortion," Kevin said. "I was raised among people who believed it was wrong, but they never talked about it."

His girlfriend, Kathy, got pregnant when the two were sixteen years old but her story took a very different turn from Beth's.

"Kathy's older sister took her to Planned Parenthood," Kevin recalled. "They told Kathy it was just a lump of flesh but that she needed to take care of it pretty soon. They told her it was the best thing for her and for 'it.' So she had the abortion without fully understanding what she was doing. Kathy was a minor. To this day, I don't think her parents ever knew. I know my parents don't know."

"It amazes me how many people even in the pro-life movement don't know about how the people in these clinics tell women that the unborn are not people," Kevin continued. "Kathy told me, 'They looked like doctors.' When you're a teenager and these people look official, and you don't know any better, and they scare you and tell you that it's better for you to abort, what do you think

is going to happen?"

To make matters worse, Kathy suffered from Post Abortion Stress Syndrome—a condition that people in the pro-choice movement refuse to acknowledge. Wracked with guilt and regret, she fell into a deep depression that lasted for years. Before he lost contact with her, Kevin heard that Kathy had even tried to take her own life.

Still, Kevin had to make his own journey of discovery. Now married with children of his own, he remembers the moment the light came on for him: during his wife's first pregnancy.

"When I saw the sonogram of my child, I finally had irrefutable evidence that there was life present," Kevin said. "I could no longer ignore the fact that abortion is killing."

Now Kevin is a passionate pro-lifer who sees faith and prayer as the foundation of the movement.

"As Christians, we have to do a better job of evangelizing and bringing to light what goes on in these places," Kevin continued. "Deep down inside of us, natural law exists. When you think about it, when is it ever better to take a life?"

Catholic couple thanks 'God every minute' for their adopted newborn

CHESTERTON, Ind. (CNS) — Christian Anthony Ashford entered the world over the Labor Day weekend, weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Placed in the arms of his mother and father, from the very beginning he was given the gift of warmth, safe haven and profound love.

Anna and Tony Ashford might not be Christian's biological parents, but from the start he was a child of their hearts.

"I thank God every minute of every day that he's put this wonderful little miracle, this bundle of love, into our lives," Tony said. The Ashfords became Christian's adoptive parents through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary.

Married for 12 years and members of St. Patrick Parish in Chesterton, the couple had always planned on having a family but found they were unable to conceive right away.

"I had some health problems and Tony (an attorney) was trying to develop himself professionally," Anna noted. "Before we knew it, the years had passed but we still wanted to have a family."

In an interview with the Northwest Indiana Catholic, Gary's diocesan newspaper, Anna said she did seek medical treatment,



Tony and Anna Ashford talk about their newly adopted son, Christian, at their home in Chesterton, Indiana, Sept. 23. The Ashfords adopted Christian through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary. (CNS photo/Tim Hunt, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC)

but there were some fertility options the couple felt, as Catholics, they couldn't explore. Rather than waiting for a final diagnosis of infertility, the Ashfords considered exploring adoption while continuing to try to conceive.

"We decided to put it in God's hands. If I happened to conceive, that would be OK, but if I didn't, regardless, we wanted to have a child," Anna said. "Adoption is a process, but, unlike fertility treatments, you know in the end you

will have a child to love."

After hearing stories of domestic adoptions in which the birth mothers changed their minds at the last minute, the Ashfords decided to go international, working with Catholic Charities for the required home study.

The couple also knew they wanted an infant, but they discovered that because of red tape involved with international adoptions, the child might be an infant at the time of the match

but by the end of the process be a toddler or older.

They decided to pursue a domestic adoption while continuing to wait for an international one. The couple completed paperwork in April and by late May they received the call. The birth mother, at that point, was nearly four months pregnant.

Tony and Anna bonded with her in the months before Christian's birth and were present for the ultrasound.

"We walked the journey with her. She wasn't alone," said Anna. "We worked as team."

That teamwork included being there for Christian's birth.

When the call came, the couple rushed to the hospital, where Anna was suited up in scrubs, so she could be in the delivery room with the birth mother, who had a Caesarian section.

Anna recalled holding the mother's hand, looking into her eyes and praying as doctors delivered the baby. "It was very spiritual but also emotional," she said. "(The mother) was brave, but I could feel her pain."

The hospital provided a room for Anna and invited her to stay with Christian, just as if she had given birth.

Recalling the first time Christian was placed in his arms, Tony

called the moment "incredible."

"He stole our hearts right away. It was the most incredible feeling either one of us has ever felt," Tony said. "I never had any doubt that we would love this child as we do. He's here and a part of our lives and the amount of love we have for him is something neither one of us have ever felt before."

During the brief stay in the hospital, the birth mother did visit and hold the baby before finally entrusting Christian to the Ashfords' care.

"She was so strong. She never cried but always looked at him so lovingly," Anna recalled. "Her decision was not only a gift to us but a gift to Christian as well. I don't know if I'll ever see her again, but I'll always tell Christian about her."

Christian, who will be baptized at St. Patrick around Thanksgiving, is a miracle of God's creation, according to his parents.

"We may have accomplished many things as professionals but Christian is not an accomplishment," said Anna, a school psychologist. "He's a gift from God and that's why we named him 'Christian.' As we watch him grow, we'll be even more grateful to Our Lord for blessing us and bringing him into our lives."

Resources for crisis pregnancies

This list of pro-life crisis pregnancy centers in North Central Texas counties within the boundaries of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth was compiled by Debra Heron who works with Gabriel Project, a parish-based outreach to mothers experiencing crisis pregnancies. Gabriel Project is part of the Catholics Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

The Gabriel Project

Helpline phone:
(800) 545-5935
Trained Catholic Angels to walk with moms in crisis

ARLINGTON

ARLINGTON PREGNANCY CTR. NORTH

2810 N.W. Green Oaks Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76012
(817) 299-9599; (817) 299-9751

ARLINGTON PREGNANCY CTR. SOUTH

3921 W Green Oaks Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76016
(817) 457-8800

ARLINGTON PREGNANCY CTR. SE

5150 S. Collins
Arlington, TX 76018
(817) 557-9111

ARLINGTON RESALE

5910 Interstate 20 W.
Arlington, TX 76017
(817) 478-7253

AZLE

EAGLE MOUNTAIN PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

PO Box 929/120 Park Pl.
Azle, TX 76098
(817) 270-2800

BOWIE

NEW LIFE MINISTRIES, INC.

PO Box 85/306 W Wilbarger
Bowie, TX 76230
(817) 872-6463

BURLESON

BURLESON PREGNANCY AID CENTER

250 NW Tarrant Ave, Ste. J
Burleson, TX 76028
(817) 295-4101

CRISIS PREGNANCY CTR. OF BURLESON

1113 Willow Creek Dr.
Burleson, TX 76028
(817) 295-0507

CLEBURNE

CLEBURNE PREGNANCY CENTER

1200 W Henderson, Suite F & G
Cleburne, TX 76033
(817) 641-7741

DECATUR

WISE CHOICES PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

PO Box 875/604 N Trinity St.
Decatur, TX 76234
(940) 627-6924

DENTON

LORETO HOUSE & HOLY FAMILY THRIFT STORE

913 Ave C
Denton, TX 76201-6545
(940) 380-8181
(Catholic Affiliation)

FORT WORTH

MOTHER & UNBORN BABY CARE

Pregnancy Option Center
3704 Myrtle Springs Rd.
Fort Worth, TX 76116
(817) 870-2229
(Catholic Affiliation)

PREGNANCY LIFELINE

4747 S. Hulen, Ste. 103
Fort Worth, TX 76132
(817) 292-6449

GAINESVILLE

ABBA WOMEN'S CENTER

414 E. Elm
PO Box 256
Gainesville, TX 76241
(940) 668-6391

GRANBURY

BRAZOS PREGNANCY CENTER

1812 Acton Hwy., 76049
PO Box 1233, 76048
Granbury, TX
(817) 579-1233

GRAPEVINE

REAL CHOICES WOMAN'S

RESOURCE CENTER
1650 W Northwest Hwy., Ste. 103
Grapevine, TX 76051
(817) 488-2668

LEWISVILLE

ADVOCACY & PREGNANCY CENTER

817 South Mill St., Ste. 112
Lewisville, TX 75057
PO Box 560923
Lewisville, TX 75056
(972) 436-2273

MID CITIES

MID CITIES

PREGNANCY CENTER
8251 Bedford Euless Rd.,
Ste. 220
North Richland Hills, TX 76180
(817) 577-4387

STEPHENVILLE

CROSS TIMBERS CRISIS

PREGNANCY CENTER
PO Box 163
Stephenville, TX 76401
(254) 965-6031

WEATHERFORD

GRACE HOUSE

112 West Russell
Weatherford, TX 76086
(817) 599-4700

WICHITA FALLS

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

2300 Ninth St
Wichita Falls, TX 76301
(940) 322-4883

HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ABOUT SAVING LIVES, NOT DESTROYING THEM.

Abortion is not health care because killing is not healing.

For over 30 years, the Hyde Amendment and other longstanding and widely supported laws have prevented federal funding of elective abortions.

Yet health care reform bills advancing in Congress violate this policy.

Americans would be forced to subsidize abortions through their taxes and health insurance premiums.

We need genuine health care reform — reform that helps save lives, not destroy them.

**Tell Congress:
"Remove Abortion Funding
and Mandates from Needed
Health Care Reform!"**

**Visit www.usccb.org/action
to send your e-mails today.**

For more information on the U.S. bishops' advocacy for authentic Health Care Reform, visit www.usccb.org/healthcare.



NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Christ's mission called source, strength of church's care for migrants

MALVERN, Pa. (CNS) — Those who care for migrants and refugees are not motivated “simply by good will or a commitment to justice,” but by the fact that the Son of God was “a stranger in a foreign land” and reached out to the marginalized, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said in an Oct. 8 homily. Christ’s mission “is the source and strength of our work on behalf of forced migrants and refugees, asylees and immigrants, and victims of human trafficking,” the cardinal said. In his public ministry, Christ “sought out the marginalized and those who were on the outskirts,” Cardinal Rigali said. “And he went even further: He suffered, died and was buried. He went down among the dead to seek out the lost and he rose again victorious.” The cardinal gave the homily during a Mass in Malvern, in the Philadelphia Archdiocese, that was celebrated during a regional convening of Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope, the U.S. bishops’ campaign for comprehensive immigration reform. The campaign’s goals are to educate the public and Catholic community about migration and immigrants; create political will for positive immigration reform; work for enactment of legislative and administrative reforms based on the bishops’ principles; and organize Catholic networks to help qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of reform.

Children with special needs deserve chance at life, Archbishop Chaput says

PHOENIX (CNS) — Children with special needs deserve a chance at the full range of what life has to offer, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver told the Phoenix Catholic Physicians Guild. “Studies show that more than 80 percent of unborn babies diagnosed with Down syndrome now get terminated in the womb. They’re killed because of a flaw in one of their chromosomes — a flaw that’s neither fatal nor contagious, but merely undesirable,” he said in an Oct. 16 address to the group. While some doctors deliver the news of “an increased likelihood” of Down syndrome “with sensitivity and great support” for the woman, he added, “too many others seem more concerned about avoiding lawsuits, or managing costs, or even, in a few ugly cases, cleaning up the gene pool.” He focused on the situation of children with Down syndrome as a way, he said, to talk about “the kind of people we’re becoming” and the “struggle within the American soul.” Archbishop Chaput said, “In practice, medical professionals can now steer an expectant mother toward abortion simply by hinting at a list of the child’s possible defects. And the most debased thing about that kind of pressure is that doctors know better than anyone else how vulnerable a woman can be in hearing potentially tragic news about her unborn baby.”

Marriage not just a private matter, say bishops in proposed pastoral

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hoping to reverse what they call “a disturbing trend” toward viewing marriage as “a mostly private matter” with personal satisfaction as its only goal, the U.S. Catholic bishops will debate and vote on a 57-page pastoral letter on marriage at their Nov. 16-19 meeting in Baltimore. The letter, called “Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan,” is another component in the bishops’ National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage, which began in November 2004. “The vision of married life and love that we have presented in this pastoral letter is meant to be a foundation and reference point for the many works of evangelization, catechesis, pastoral care, education, and advocacy carried on in our dioceses, parishes, schools, agencies, movements and programs,” says the document’s closing section, called a “commitment to ministry.” The letter cites four “fundamental challenges to the nature and purpose of marriage” — contraception, same-sex unions, easy divorce, and cohabitation.

CCHD collection focuses on families hit hard by bad economy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Families are struggling. Faith is calling” is the theme for this year’s national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which will be taken up in most U.S. Catholic churches the weekend of Nov. 21-22.

“This year, our call as Catholics to bring glad tidings to the poor ... to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free is more important than ever before,” said Bishop Roger P. Morin of Biloxi, Mississippi, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops’ CCHD subcommittee.

He made the comments in a letter to parishes asking Catholics to be as generous as possible during the annual collection that is the primary source of support for the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty program.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds support projects in the diocese where the funds are collected.

“The mission of CCHD is crucial in 2009 — to uplift and embolden all who are one layoff or one medical scare away from

the poverty line—and all who are already there,” the bishop said.

The nation’s current economic crisis has left many families and individuals without the security of a job, health care or a sufficient retirement fund, a press release on the collection noted.

According to U.S. census figures, the number of people currently living in poverty is estimated at 39.8 million, which is almost 3 million more than a year ago. The unemployment rate reached a 26-year high of 9.8 percent in September.

For nearly 40 years, CCHD has funded community groups that create affordable housing, obtain fair wages, and provide job training, as well as organizing projects led by low-income individuals to help people and resolve problems in their communities.

CCHD-funded programs “empower the poor and marginalized to make decisions, seek solutions to local problems and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods,” according to the agency. CCHD also has educational pro-

grams to teach Catholics about poverty and creates opportunities for them to interact with the poor and reflect on a faith response to poverty.

Last year CCHD awarded more than \$7.7 million to 250 grantees throughout the U.S.; 776 Catholic parishes, 18 Catholic charities organizations and 51 religious communities were involved in CCHD-funded groups.

Among the recipients was the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida, which received a grant to support the Faith and Action for Strength Together project that involves member parishes and other member congregations in working on issues related to education, transportation, and affordable housing.

Another recipient was the Chicago Archdiocese’s Progress Center for Independent Living, which empowers people with disabilities to live full, rewarding lives outside institutions. Other award recipients included the Baltimore and Detroit archdioceses.

Archbishop Dolan appointed moderator of Jewish affairs for USCCB

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York has been named moderator of Jewish affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, succeeding Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore, in that role.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, USCCB president, made the appointment, which is effective Nov. 11 and is for five years.

In announcing the appointment Oct. 23, Cardinal George noted the New York Archdiocese’s “long history of cooperation and friendship between Catholics and Jews.”

“Since the Second Vatican Council, important strides in this relationship have been made through dialogue and collaboration in countering racism, anti-Semitism, and other offenses against human dignity,” Cardinal George said in the letter of appointment.

“Our episcopal conference, through the leadership of your predecessors in New York, and especially through the tireless and generous service of Cardinal William Keeler, has sought to contribute to the work of reconciliation between the church and the Jewish people after centuries of mutual estrangement,” he told Archbishop Dolan in the letter.



New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan bows his head as Rabbi David Sandmel, a professor at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, offers a prayer for the archbishop during a prayer service at the archbishop’s residence in New York May 12. Archbishop Dolan has been named moderator of Jewish affairs for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, succeeding Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore. At Archbishop Dolan’s left is Amarillo Bishop Patrick Zurek. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

“While we look back with gratitude on nearly a half-century of progress in these efforts at healing and renewal, we also know that important and pressing challenges lie ahead for us,” the cardinal added.

Cardinal George said news of the appointment will be appreciated by all of the U.S. bishops and by members of the Jewish community who have come to know Archbishop Dolan as a good listener and faithful interpreter of the historic ties binding together the two communities.

“Above all else,” Cardinal George said, the Jewish community will find Archbishop Dolan to be “a friend who communicates the joy of his own faith, while at the same time conveying profound respect for the spiritual gifts of the other.”

Archbishop Dolan will join Cardinal Keeler Nov. 11 for the USCCB’s semi-annual consultation with the National Council of Synagogues. That will be the last Catholic-Jewish meeting at which Cardinal Keeler will serve as co-chair.

Ecumenical quality control: Cardinal Kasper reviews 40 years of fruitful dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's chief ecumenist, tried to harvest the fruits of 40 years of dialogue with the mainline Protestant churches, he did it by the piece, not the bushel.

The result is a 207-page book, *Harvesting the Fruits: Basic Aspects of Christian Faith in Ecumenical Dialogue*, which celebrates abundant growth in understanding among Christians, but with a sharp sense of quality control.

The book bears the cardinal's name as author, although others had a hand in the project: former and current members of the cardinal's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the cardinal-members of the council and theologians from other Christian communities.

Four decades of official Catholic dialogues with the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council, and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches have led to recognition of a strong shared faith in Jesus Christ and the Trinity, the content of the creed and baptism, the book said.

It highlighted a "fresh and renewed understanding of the relation between Scripture and tradition" and the almost miraculous agreements with Lutherans and Methodists on justification — how people are made righteous in the eyes of God — which was the key dispute of the Protestant Reformation.

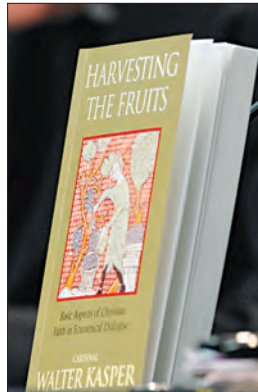
But it acknowledged serious differences in understanding and in practice regarding the meaning of ordination and who can be ordained, the question of authority in the church and who exercises it, and how Christian communities can determine what constitutes an authentic interpretation of Scripture.

In addition, the book acknowledges that while many of the historic disputes that kept Christians divided have been overcome, differences over new ethical problems — particularly concerning human sexuality — are moving some of the churches farther apart and even creating new divisions within individual Christian communities.

The cardinal, his staff and representatives of the Catholic Church's four dialogue partners will gather in February to study the book as the basis for a discussion on "the future of Western ecumenism,"



Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, presents his book on ecumenical dialogue during a press conference at the Vatican Oct. 15. The book, titled, *HARVESTING THE FRUITS: BASIC ASPECTS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE*, covers 40 years of dialogue with mainline Protestant churches. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Cardinal Kasper's book, titled, *HARVESTING THE FRUITS: BASIC ASPECTS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE*. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Cardinal Kasper said.

Presenting the book at the Vatican Oct. 13, the cardinal said the timing of the project was not meant to coincide with his possible retirement. He will turn 77 in March, but said the pope has made no mention of replacing him.

"I am willing to work in the church and for the church as long as God gives me the strength and health, but the rest depends on the Holy Father," he said, adding that it "would not be a disaster" for the church or for ecumenism if a qualified replacement stepped in.

As far as the book is concerned, Cardinal Kasper said that even the people working on it were "positively surprised at how much has been accomplished in these years. It is a very rich harvest that overcomes the polemics and the great historical problems of the Reformation."

The cardinal said he knows that "even among some members of the Roman Curia" there sometimes is a feeling that ecumenism "has not borne any fruit and left us with our hands empty."

But "that is not the official opinion" of the church, he said, pointing out that Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is also a member of the council for Christian unity, and read the first draft of the book

and made suggestions.

Also, he said, Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Levada were given the first copies of the completed edition of *Harvesting the Fruits*.

"This book was not written against anyone in the Curia, but aims at creating a welcoming atmosphere for ecumenism," Cardinal Kasper said.

The ecumenical dialogues and their joint statements of agreement on issues, including the church, authority, ministry, and the Eucharist, "were not written to be covered with dust on the shelves of a library or simply to be used for someone's thesis," the cardinal said.

Cardinal Kasper said it is time for the Catholic Church — and also its dialogue partners — to begin "a reception process" that promotes not just knowledge of the documents, but allows the statements to impact the way the church lives and reaches out to others.

Msgr. Mark Langham, an official at the pontifical council and a speaker at the book presentation, said, "It is our hope that this book is both a celebration and a challenge, that it helps us as members of the Christian community to realize what an astounding achievement has been reached and to ask ourselves why we don't feel like that a bit more."

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

History of Italy's celestial studies stars in Vatican Museums exhibit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and Italian observatories have teamed up to display for the first time numerous precious instruments and books documenting the birth and development of stargazing in Italy. The Vatican Observatory, the Italian National Institute of Astrophysics and the Vatican Museums have



Antique astronomy instruments are displayed in a case at the headquarters of the Vatican Observatory in Albano, Italy. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

pooled their collections of antique telescopes, astrolabes, celestial globes and manuscripts, such as Galileo Galilei's original handwritten notes detailing his observations of the moon. Many of the 130 items in the exhibit have never been displayed publicly. The exhibit, called "Astrum 2009," runs at the Vatican Museums from Oct. 16 to Jan. 16, 2010, and commemorates the International Year of Astronomy. The United Nations declared the special year to mark the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first use of the telescope to observe the cosmos. The exhibit's curator, Ileana Chinnici, told journalists during a Vatican press conference Oct. 13 that Italy's unique patrimony of astronomical instruments is the richest in the world. Popes and the divided Italian states all supported their own observatories and amassed a large number of historical instruments and valuable documentation, she said.

Anderson, head of Knights of Columbus, honored by city of Rome

ROME (CNS) — The head of the Knights of Columbus has been awarded Rome's *Lupa Capitolina* prize in recognition of the work and service the organization has carried out in the Italian capital for nearly a century. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson was given the award by Rome's mayor, Gianni Alemanno, during a ceremony in the city hall Oct. 28. In a written statement released Oct. 27, Anderson said he was honored to receive the award from the city of Rome. "As both the 'Eternal City' and the center of the Catholic Church, Rome has a special place in the hearts of the Knights of Columbus, and we look forward to another 90 years of service in this great city," he said. Since the 1920s, the Knights have run several sports centers in Rome that young people can use for free. The Knights have also covered the costs for numerous renovations and repairs inside and outside St. Peter's Basilica, including restoring the basilica's facade. The Knights pay for the satellite uplink for major international telecasts from the Vatican, such as the pope's Christmas Mass.

Caritas asks for millions of dollars in aid for Sudanese crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Caritas Internationalis launched an appeal for \$ 3.4 million in aid to feed 35,000 Sudanese people who have suffered through violent conflict and years of drought. "Violence in South Sudan is now worse than in Darfur," said Alistair Dutton, Caritas' humanitarian director, in an Oct. 21 statement. Earlier in this decade, Darfur, in western Sudan, was the site of an armed conflict that killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions. "If the current peace deal unravels, we will be headed toward a major catastrophe," Dutton said. Sudan is recovering from 22 years of civil war that ended in 2005 with a comprehensive peace agreement between the northern-based government and separatist forces in the South. Caritas said that an upsurge of violence in the southern state of Western Equatoria has forced 68,000 people from their homes. The Vatican-based umbrella organization of Catholic charities said it plans to bring aid to 25,000 people who are in need of immediate care. Violence in the region has worsened since the arrival of members of the Lord's Resistance Army, a militia force formerly based in Uganda, Caritas said.

Scripture Readings



November 15, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:

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

By Sharon K. Perkins

On a Saturday afternoon in February 2008, my close family members and I gathered at my parents' home to attend to my father who was dying of pancreatic cancer. Knowing in our hearts that the end was near, we engaged in a surreal sort of vigil that alternated between raucous, laughter-filled games of dominoes at the kitchen table and gentle, lingering visits to my dad's hospital bed in the living room. We all felt resistance to saying our goodbyes, but knowing that the time for doing so was passing quickly, we clearly needed someone to guide us through that process in a prayerful way.

My parents' parish priest was that someone. Having just celebrated the parish Saturday

evening Mass, he immediately came to the house and led us through a ritual prayer for the dying that was at once one of the most heartbreaking and profoundly joyful experiences of my life. Because of the compassionate ministry of a priest (who also had visited Dad frequently in the hospital), our family was able to release my father to eternal life in a way that drew us closer to God and to each other. For that selfless gift, I will always be grateful.

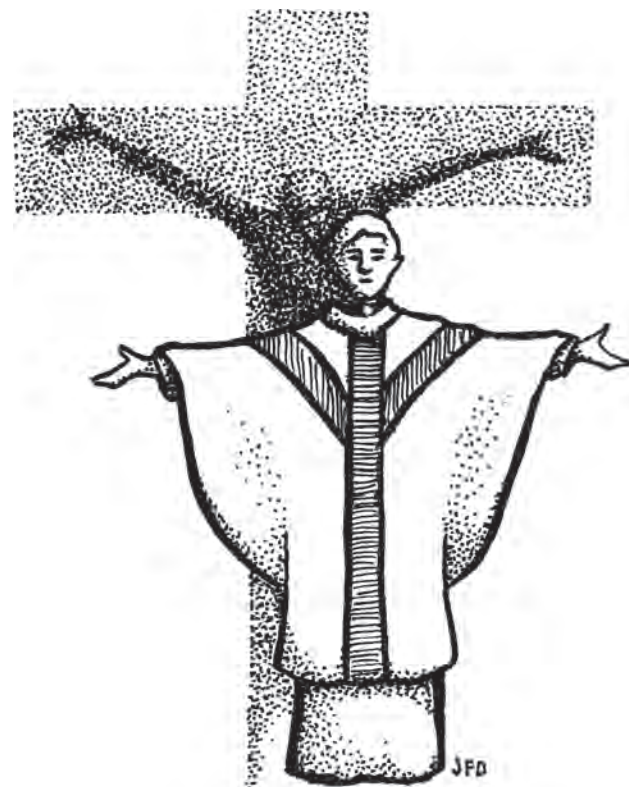
I have been blessed many times in my life by the ministry of priests — from the family friend who helped me through a crisis of faith in my teen years, to the college chaplain who so beautifully preached our wedding homily, to the parish pastors who warmly welcomed our three children through baptism and anointed our ailing parents before surgery, to the spiritual director who guided me through a powerful midlife retreat.

The Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as the high priest par excellence, who offered himself on our behalf as a sacrifice for sin and, in turn, gifted his church with priestly ministers. In this Year for Priests proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, let us not only give thanks for their service but also let us support and pray for them so that they might live out their priestly vocations in holiness and joy.

QUESTIONS:

Can you recall an experience in which you were helped by a priest?

What can you do this week to show your appreciation and support for a priest?



*“Every priest stands daily
at his ministry.”*

— Hebrews 10:11

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Saint from Middle Ages found answers to life with prayer, pope says

By Sarah Delaney
Catholic News Service

VATICANCITY—The life and writings of a 12th-century abbot remind Christians that questions about the meaning of life and God cannot be answered without prayer and contemplation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who led the important Cistercian monastery in Clairvaux, France, from 1115 until his death in 1153, put the love of God and Jesus Christ at the center of his numerous writings, the pope said at his weekly general audience Oct. 21.

His example is important today because “sometimes we try to resolve fundamental questions about God and man with rationality alone,” the pope said to the faithful gathered in a sunny, windy St. Peter's Square.

“St. Bernard reminds us that, without deep faith in God that is strengthened by prayer, contemplation, and an intimate relationship with the Lord, our reflections on the divine mysteries risk becoming merely intellectual exercises and lose their credibility,” Pope Benedict said.

St. Bernard is venerated as a



Pope Benedict XVI waves to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square as he departs his general audience at the Vatican Oct. 21. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

doctor of the church, a group of saints whose writings have been of particular importance in Catholic theology or spirituality. He is often considered “the last of the fathers,” the pope explained in his ongoing weekly catechetical

reflection on theologians of the Middle Ages.

The saint was an able administrator of the abbey but was known for his deep spirituality and love for Jesus and Mary, the pope said. This was evident through

his many sermons, treatises, and other documents, including the letters he exchanged with important contemporary Christian intellectuals, he said.

Because his praises of Jesus “flowed like honey,” the pope

*Pray for a safe
and blessed journey
for the more than
500 Catholics from
all corners of our
28 counties joining
Bishop Kevin Vann
on the diocese's 40th
Anniversary Rome
Pilgrimage
Nov. 9-16*

said, he earned the nickname “Dr. Mellifluous.”

St. Bernard navigated through a period of intense philosophic debate by establishing himself as a theologian dedicated to the contemplative and mystical aspects of the Christian faith, Pope Benedict said.

Along with St. Bernard, the pope said, “we must recognize that it's easier for man to seek and find God with prayer than with discussions.”

Scripture Readings



November 22, Feast of Christ the King.
Cycle B. Readings:

- 1) Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
- 2) Revelation 1:5-8
Gospel) John 18:33b-37

By Jeff Hensley

Pilate questions Jesus, who stands before him: "Are you the king of the Jews?" In answer, Jesus says his kingdom is not of this world, or his followers would be fighting to defend him.

Jesus is a mystery to Pilate and anyone else watching him. A kingdom not of this world? What is he talking about?

This week's other readings present an entirely different picture of the kingship of Jesus. In Daniel, "one like a Son of Man" comes on the clouds of heaven and is presented to the Ancient One to receive "dominion, glory and kingship; all peoples, nations and languages serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion."

The Revelation passage tells us that he who loves us "has freed us from our sins by his blood" and "made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever."

Like Jesus before Pilate, we in the kingdom of

God are a mystery. We look so ordinary, but to others we are the same sort of contradiction that Jesus presented to Pilate.

For instance, yesterday after church I saw one of the king's followers: She is a grandmother of 11 children. She was small, driving an older car, but her smile was bright with the eternal hope that lights her life. Her works of mercy, kindness and love, working with mothers to help them carry their babies to term, stretch across three decades.

I remember recognizing another from the kingdom walking into my office a few years ago: A college professor of business ethics, he was mild-mannered, thoughtful, wearing sandals with a business suit. He is a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, a group that helps maintain the church's religious sites in the Holy Land and supports her people by building schools and hospitals. A follower of the once-persecuted but now exalted Son of Man, he works at bringing God's wisdom to the world of business. He has doubtless been a mystery — and a light — to many around him who are more driven by monetary gain.

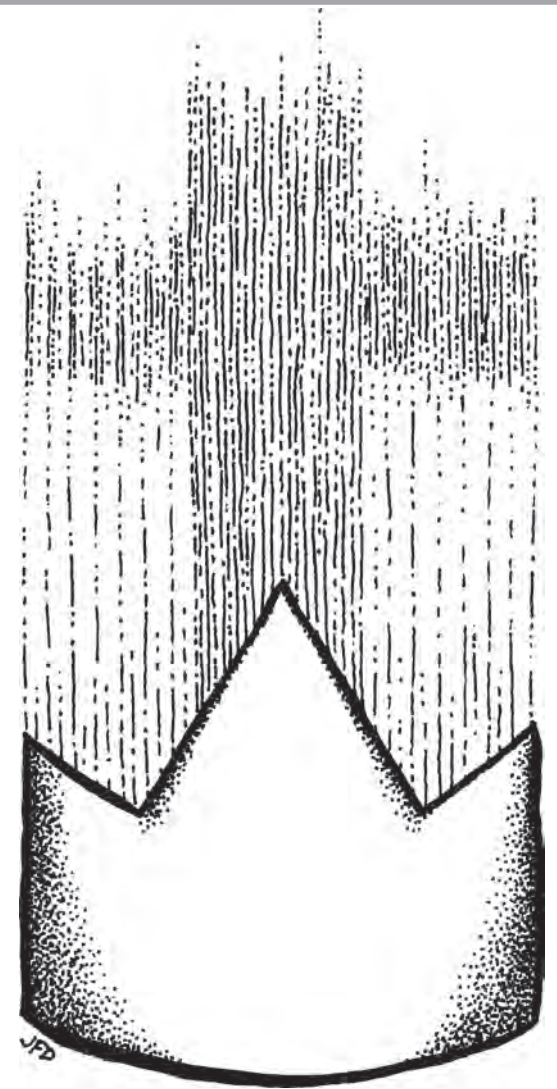
Like Jesus, we are a mystery to those who see us serving a king whose kingdom is not of this world. Perhaps their curiosity will lead them to him.

"My kingdom does not belong to this world."

— John 18:36b

QUESTIONS:

Do you know people who puzzle those around them by following Jesus their king? What can you do to follow Jesus more closely in your everyday life?



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Job opening: **harvesters** for the **Kingdom of God**

By Jeff Hedglen

A few years ago a new student walked into our youth room. He had never been involved at our parish and none of the adults had ever seen him before. We welcomed him, found out he was a senior, and got him connected with the right class for the day. After a few weeks we learned that his mom had dropped him off at church that day because she was concerned about his recent behavior. This young man came back week after week and is still involved today.

His involvement has progressed from a regular attendee of the youth programs to being on leadership teams with our 7-12 grade religious ed as well as confirmation preparation. Additionally he attends young adult ministry events and even took three 7 a.m. shifts a week praying at an abortion clinic during the 40 Days for Life. If that were not enough, he is also applying to do a year of missionary work with NET Ministries (National Evangelization Teams.)

We do not have to be scholars in theology or experts in the Bible; we just have to be willing and observant servants.

To think this all started with a mom, at her wits' end, dropping a son off at church. I will admit that in 23 years of youth ministry many parents have dropped off many youths with not such extreme results, but the reality is that most transformations start with simple gestures based in faith.

This is a time of year when we traditionally focus on the harvest. Crops are brought in from the fields, apples are picked from trees, and grapes are turned into wine. In our modern society, we

can feel far removed from the power of the harvest. After all, we can have apples, strawberries, fresh green beans, corn on the cob, and squash any time we want, but it was not always like this.

Before the globalized economy and advances in greenhouse growing of foods, most crops were harvested once a year. I can remember, as a child, helping my uncle with a two-acre garden. When we harvested the food, we ate corn on the cob and green beans for what seemed like weeks

on end. When they were gone, they were gone for a year. Now it seems that we can get almost anything any time of year.

When we turn to the Scriptures the concept of the harvest takes on a whole new significance. We are the fruit that is to be harvested into the Kingdom of God. Jesus says: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Luke 10:2), and in John he says: "I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest" (John 4:35).

All humanity is fruit for the harvest, and we who are believers are called to be laborers in this heavenly work. Jesus is saying that too few people are doing their part to bring people into the Kingdom. Additionally he is saying that there is no time to waste: the fields are ripe!

What does this mean for you and me? Basically it means that we have to be like a concerned mom dropping her son off at church; find the people in our lives that are lost and help them find their way to Jesus. We do not have to be scholars in theology or experts in

the Bible; we just have to be willing and observant servants.

Instead of meeting your friend for lunch, meet for noon Mass at a local parish (Check Mass times at www.fwdioc.org). Next spring invite a friend to join a *Why Catholic?* group with you or invite them to a Bible study. Commit to daily pray for a particular person who is searching for more in life. Call your godson or daughter or the person you sponsored for confirmation, and see if they are still walking with God.

The avenues to the Kingdom are as plentiful as the fruits of the harvest, but there is still a need for laborers. The Harvest Master is hiring. Your application was filled out when you were baptized, and your commissioning was your confirmation. It is time to go out into the fields and bring in the harvest.

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.

La campaña *Todo es posible* nos brinda la oportunidad de dar de nosotros mismos

Estimados hermanos y hermanas en el Señor,

Durante los últimos meses le he escrito y hablado sobre la campaña *Todo es posible*.



Monseñor Kevin W. Vann

Este esfuerzo es muy importante para mí personalmente y para el futuro de nuestra diócesis. He estado muy contento con la respuesta positiva hasta la fecha.

Nuestro Señor nos dice en el evangelio de San Mateo, "Con Dios, todas las cosas son posibles". Por lo tanto, procedemos con esperanza, optimismo y confianza en que el Señor respirará vida en nuestra campaña.

Ya hemos comenzado exitosamente con sobre \$5.4 millones recaudados: la parroquia Holy Rosary, Cisco; la misión Holy Trinity, Azle; la parroquia Sacred Heart, Wichita Falls; la parroquia St. Bartholomew, Fort Worth; la parroquia St. Paul, Electra; y la parroquia St. Rita, Ranger, han llegado a más del 25 por ciento de su meta con solo los resultados preliminares recibidos de los líderes dirigentes. Las 27 parroquias y misiones que han participado con la campaña este otoño han organizado sobre 100 recepciones. Me

Les pido a todos en nuestra diócesis a orar por esas parroquias y misiones que están participando activamente en este esfuerzo y para el éxito de nuestra campaña

complació el asistir a un número de las recepciones y ver esta muestra visible de nuestra fe en acción. Las parroquias restantes conducirán la campaña en la primavera. Espero visitar muchas de esas parroquias también.

Las parroquias que están conduciendo la campaña *Todo es posible* este otoño pronto tendrán su "fin de semana de compromiso". Su meta es simple: comparta el mensaje sobre la campaña, e invite a todos los feligreses a unirse en oración, servicio y la entrega sacrificial. Espero que todos los feligreses en estas parroquias se unan conmigo en apoyar a esta importante necesidad.

Desde el principio, esta campaña se ha basado en un sacrificio equitativo, no en la equivalencia de donativos o en donativos de conveniencia. No todos pueden dar la misma cantidad, pero espero que todos puedan sacrificarse con la misma intensidad. Que apropiado que el evangelio del 7 y 8 de noviembre nos llegue de Marcos 12:38-44 o 12:41-44, La ofrenda de la viuda.

"Yo les aseguro que esta viuda pobre ha dado más que todos los otros. Pues todos han echado de lo que les sobraba, mientras ella ha dado desde su pobreza; no tenía más, y dio todos

sus recursos".

Vivimos en tiempos difíciles para la economía del país y de la Iglesia, y hacer donativos a esta campaña tomará sacrificio. A veces el donativo de conveniencia, o el donativo del exceso, es la manera más fácil de sentir una liberación de nuestra obligación. Pero los principios de la buena administración piden que entremos en el discernimiento. En nuestra oración debemos considerar cómo Dios nos ha bendecido, y cómo podemos dar algo y como podemos responder con un donativo.

Como católicos, creemos firmemente en el poder de la oración. Les pido a todos en nuestra diócesis a orar por esas parroquias y misiones que están participando activamente en este esfuerzo y para el éxito de nuestra campaña. Quizás cada hogar pueda ofrecer diariamente la oración de la campaña.

Sé que, uniendo nuestras oraciones y sacrificios, seremos exitosos.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Kevin W. Vann

+Monseñor Kevin W. Vann
Obispo de Fort Worth

La oración de la campaña
Todo es posible

Padre celestial,
a través de Tu Hijo,
Jesucristo nuestro Señor,
Todo es posible,
y sin Él nada podemos hacer.

Permite que busquemos tu reino sobre todas las cosas, sabiendo que todo obran para el bien para aquellos que te aman y son llamados de acuerdo a Tu propósito.

Concédenos, que unidos a Tu Hijo en la fe, y fortalecidos por el Espíritu Santo, seamos generosos en nuestro apoyo a la campaña *Todo es posible* que busca engrandecer el Evangelio en nuestras vidas, hogares, parroquias, en nuestra gran familia diocesana y en nuestras comunidades.

Todo esto oramos
En el nombre de Jesucristo
nuestro Señor.
Amén.



El primer retiro de ACTS en el norte de Texas: Un equipo de 24 personas de San Antonio coordinó el retiro de ACTS de los hispanos de Gainesville entre el 15 y 18 de octubre, en el centro de retiros Lone Oak, ubicado en la carretera FM 372. El domingo, un gran número de feligreses les dio la bienvenida al llegar a tiempo para la misa en español de la 1 PM, seguida por una cena en el salón parroquial de Saint Mary. Muchos de los participantes del retiro se ven en la fotografía vistiendo sus franelas moradas de ACTS y sus cruces. Un retiro hispano de ACTS para mujeres está programado en marzo.

El cardenal George dice que la Iglesia estadounidense está lista para colaborar en recepción de anglicanos

WASHINGTON (CNS)— El presidente de la Conferencia estadounidense de obispos católicos dijo que la Iglesia estadounidense "está lista para colaborar" con el Vaticano en la implementación de una nueva provisión para recibir a los anglicanos en la Iglesia Católica.

En una declaración emitida en Washington el 20 de octubre, el cardenal Francis E. George, de Chicago, presidente de la conferencia, también enfatizó que la Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos continuaría trabajando hacia la unidad cristiana con los episcopales, que componen la provincia anglicana

estadounidense.

El mismo día en el Vaticano, el cardenal estadounidense William J. Levada, director de la Congregación para la doctrina de la fe, dijo que el Papa Benedicto XVI estaba preparando una constitución apostólica que establecería una estructura especial para los anglicanos que deseaban estar en comunión completa con la Iglesia Católica mientras preservarían aspectos de su herencia espiritual y litúrgica anglicana.

"Los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos se mantienen comprometidos con buscar una unidad más profunda con los miembros de la Iglesia Episcopal

por medio del diálogo teológico y de la colaboración en actividades que avancen la misión de Cristo y el bienestar de la sociedad", dijo el cardenal George.

En el Vaticano el cardenal Levada también reafirmó el compromiso de la Iglesia con la unidad cristiana. Sin embargo, dijo, al establecer nuevas jurisdicciones eclesiales—"ordinariatos personales", similares a la diócesis— el Papa Benedicto estaba respondiendo a "muchas peticiones" presentadas por anglicanos individuales y grupos anglicanos, incluyendo "de 20 a 30 obispos", que están pidiendo entrar en comunión completa con la Iglesia.

El obispo Kevin Vann ha pedido que el boletín de la Conferencia de los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos (abajo) se haga disponible a todos los feligreses de la diócesis de Fort Worth, una indicación de su íntegro apoyo a los requerimientos para cualquier legislación sobre salud pública que sea aprobada por el congreso de los Estados Unidos. Estos boletines se distribuirán en 19.000 parroquias en todo el país.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194

• 202-541-3100 • FAX 202-541-3166

VOLANTE DE USCCB PARA BOLETINAS EN TODA LA NACIÓN

Háblele al Congreso: remuevan de la necesaria reforma al sistema de salud la financiación de abortos y mandatos para cubrirlo.

El Congreso se está preparando para poner a votación la reforma al sistema de salud en la Cámara y en el Senado. La verdadera reforma protegería la vida y la dignidad de cada persona desde el momento de su concepción hasta su muerte natural. La *Conferencia de obispos católicos de EE. UU.* ha resuelto que todas las propuestas de leyes son deficientes en lo relativo al aborto y a la libertad de conciencia, y no ofrecen acceso adecuado al cuidado de la salud para los inmigrantes y los pobres. Estas propuestas han de cambiarse o los obispos se han comprometido a oponerse a ellas.

Nuestra nación está en una encrucijada. Las políticas que se adopten en la reforma del sistema de salud tendrán efectos buenos o perniciosos por muchos años. Ninguna de las propuestas incluye cláusulas establecidas desde hace mucho tiempo que se oponen a la financiación del aborto o que obligan a cubrir los abortos; y ninguna protege plenamente los derechos de conciencia en el cuidado de la salud.

Así lo expresa la carta del 8 de octubre de los obispos de EE. UU.:

“No se ha de exigir a nadie que pague o que participe en un aborto. Es imprescindible que la legislación le aplique claramente a este nuevo programa las limitaciones federales –establecidas hace mucho tiempo y que gozan de amplio respaldo– relativas al financiamiento y la cobertura del aborto, y que protegen el derecho a la objeción de conciencia. Ninguno de los proyectos de ley actuales reúne estas condiciones... Si no se logra dar una redacción aceptable a estos puntos, nos veremos obligados a oponernos con vigor al proyecto de ley de reforma del sistema de salud”.

Para ver el texto completo de esta carta y obtener más información sobre la legislación propuesta y la defensa de los obispos de una verdadera reforma al sistema de salud visite: www.usccb.org/healthcare.

org/healthcare.

Los líderes del Congreso están preparando proyectos de ley para llevarlos a votación. Le rogamos que contacte a sus legisladores hoy, y úrjale que mejore esas propuestas con las enmiendas pro vida aquí incluidas. De no ser así los obispos se opondrán a la reforma del sistema de salud, reforma que debe salvar vidas, no destruirlas.

ACCIÓN:

Contacte a los miembros por correo electrónico, teléfono o cartas por fax.

- Envíe al Congreso un correo electrónico con un mensaje ya preparado, visitando www.usccb.org/action.

- Llame a la central telefónica del Capitolio de los EE. UU., al 202-224-3121, o llame a las oficinas locales de los legisladores que nos representan.

- Información completa sobre sus representantes aparece en www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MENSAJE AL SENADO:

“Durante el debate en pleno del proyecto de ley de reforma del sistema de salud, le pido que apoye una enmienda que incorpore las antiguas políticas en contra de la financiación de los abortos y a favor del derecho a la objeción de conciencia. Si no se abordan estos graves asuntos, le pido que rechace el proyecto final”.

MENSAJE A LA CÁMARA:

“Por favor apoye la Enmienda Stupak que aborda asuntos pro vida fundamentales del proyecto de ley de reforma del sistema de salud, concernientes a la financiación de abortos y al derecho a la objeción de conciencia. Ayude a garantizar que el procedimiento legislativo acordado para este proyecto permita una votación sobre esta enmienda. Si no se abordan estos graves asuntos, le pido que rechace el proyecto final”.

CUÁNDO:

La Cámara y el Senado se están preparando ahora para votar. Hágalos hoy mismo. ¡Muchas gracias!

Declaración sobre la Reforma para el cuidado de la salud de los obispos de la Conferencia católica de Texas

27 de octubre del 2009

En el 2005, la Conferencia Católica de Texas publicó una declaración pastoral sobre la necesidad urgente de reformar la manera en que nuestro gobierno provee para el cuidado de la salud del pueblo. Hoy en día, cuando se debate en el capitolio el asunto del cuidado de la salud, los obispos de Texas consideramos que nos conviene declarar una vez más nuestro deseo de que nuestros líderes nacionales trabajen unidos para llevar a cabo reformas que afirmen el respeto a la vida en el sistema nacional de salud.

Mejorar el sistema nacional de salud es responsabilidad de todos. Su Santidad, el Papa Benedicto XVI, al dirigirse al *Consejo pontificio para el cuidado de la salud*, reiteró esta responsabilidad, afirmando que “ir en ayuda del ser humano es un deber porque es una respuesta al derecho fundamental de la persona y porque el cuidado de la persona redundará en beneficio del grupo”.

La moral católica enseña que cada ser humano, desde el momento de su concepción hasta su muerte natural, tiene una dignidad innata que merece ciertos derechos y protecciones, incluyendo el derecho fundamental a la vida y el derecho a un sistema de salud accesible, el cual se deriva del derecho a la vida.

Como *Obispos católicos de Texas*, esperamos que esa reforma a la legislación sea promulgada como ley. Sin embargo, debemos también expresar nuestra preocupación que las propuestas actuales para reformar el sistema nacional de salud que se están considerando en la Cámara de Diputados y en el Senado de los Estados Unidos todavía no alcanzan el nivel de garantizar estos derechos y protecciones fundamentales.

Una verdadera reforma del sistema de salud debe mantener políticas públicas duraderas que impidan el uso de fondos para el aborto y respeten las conciencias de los que proveen el cuidado de la salud. El lenguaje usado en la *Enmienda Capps*, que es parte de varias iniciativas de ley que se han propuesto, no asegura adecuadamente la protección de toda vida humana. Además, las estructuras de costo de cualquier nuevo plan para el cuidado de la salud no deben imponer un cargo financiero excesivo para las personas y familias de ingresos bajos o moderados. También se deben tomar medidas para salvaguardar la salud de todos en la sociedad, incluyendo a los pobres, los ancianos y los inmigrantes. Se les debe permitir a los inmigrantes legales y a sus familias el acceso oportuno y accesible a sus familias el acceso oportuno y accesible a polizas para el seguro médico, y a la vez, ofrecer una red adecuada para los que permanecen sin seguro para la salud.

La reforma del sistema nacional de salud es una preocupación vital para nosotros en Texas, puesto que nuestro estado tiene uno de los números más altos de personas sin seguro médico en la nación. El cuidado de la salud es un componente básico del ministerio de la Iglesia Católica. En Texas hay 43 hospitales católicos para el cuidado

intensivo, 8 asilos para ancianos y otras 17 organizaciones de servicio patrocinadas por católicos, incluyendo el cuidado de los moribundos, la salud en el hogar, ayuda para vivir, y casas de asistencia para millones de personas mayores. La Iglesia misma es un importante comprador de seguros de salud para miles de empleados en nuestras muchas agencias e instituciones. La Iglesia Católica en Texas aporta tanto experiencias como convicciones en el asunto de la reforma del sistema nacional de salud.

Los *Obispos católicos de Texas* continuaremos apoyando la reforma del sistema nacional de salud de tal manera que respete la vida de todas las personas humanas, al mismo tiempo que provea acceso asequible al cuidado de la salud para todos. Seremos un aliado comprometido en la promoción de una reforma en este tema de la vida y la muerte; pero si la forma final de la legislación no incluye un lenguaje aceptable en estas áreas, tendremos que oponernos enérgicamente. Seguiremos orando para que los líderes de nuestra nación pongan a los pobres y los más vulnerables en primer lugar, porque es sólo cuando hagan eso que nuestra nación logrará una reforma genuina del sistema nacional de salud.



- † Cardenal Daniel DiNardo
Arzobispo de Galveston-Houston
- † Arzobispo José H. Gomez
Arquidiócesis de San Antonio
- † Obispo Kevin W. Vann
Diócesis de Fort Worth
- † Obispo Patrick J. Zurek
Diócesis de Amarillo
- † Obispo Curtis J. Guillory, SVD
Diócesis de Beaumont
- † Obispo Raymundo J. Peña
Diócesis de Brownsville
- † Obispo Edmond Carmody
Diócesis de Corpus Christi
- † Obispo Kevin J. Farrell
Diócesis de Dallas
- † Obispo Armando X. Ochoa
Diócesis de El Paso
- † Obispo James A. Tamayo
Diócesis de Laredo
- † Obispo Plácido Rodríguez, CMF
Diócesis de Lubbock
- † Obispo Álvaro Corrada del Rio, SJ
Diócesis de Tyler
- † Obispo Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
Diócesis de San Angelo
- † Obispo David E. Felhauer
Diócesis de Victoria
- Monseñor Michael Mulvey
Administrador diocesano de Austin

Las iglesias trabajan para asegurarse que todos y cada uno figure en el censo del 2010 en los EE.UU.

WASHINGTON—Las iglesias tienen un papel crucial para asegurarse que todos y cada uno figure en el *Día del censo de 2010*, el 1° de abril.

Este es el mensaje que Alejandro Aguilera-Titus y Beverly Carroll, del secretariado sobre *Diversidad cultural en la Iglesia* de la Conferencia de obispos católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), difunden como punto clave en la asociación entre la USCCB y la *Oficina del censo de los Estados Unidos*.

Las cifras colectadas en el censo del 2010 determinarán la representación en el Congreso y la asignación de más de \$400 mil millones de fondos anuales federales para escuelas locales, caminos, parques y otros servicios.

“Históricamente, sabemos que hay tres grupos mayores de comunidades que son difíciles de contar: nuevos inmigrantes,

los que se ven aislados, debido a su poco dominio del inglés, y los de bajos ingresos”, dijo Aguilera-Titus, director auxiliar de asuntos hispanos en el *secretariado de diversidad cultural*, en una entrevista con el *Catholic News Service*, el 27 de octubre.

Sin embargo, contando con 19,000 parroquias y miles más de agencias de servicios sociales, establecimientos de cuidado de la salud e instituciones educativas dispersas por todo el país, la Iglesia Católica está en una disposición única para poder llegar cerca de todas esas personas y convencerlas de que es importante que sean contadas, dijo Carroll, directora auxiliar de *asuntos afroamericanos*, en la misma entrevista.

“Nuestras parroquias, nuestros centros, nuestros puestos de extensión captan la atención y participación de muchas personas, y la Iglesia tiene un papel especial

en el trabajo con las comunidades y en su apoyo para actividades políticas que sustentan las necesidades de nuestra gente”, dijo.

Especialmente con las comunidades a donde es difícil llegar y, por consiguiente, difíciles de ser contados, “tenemos cierta credibilidad, así que las personas se muestran más aptas para escuchar”, añadió Carroll.

Aguilera-Titus dijo que la clave para un *Día de censo* tranquilo y eficiente es la confianza. Las personas a las que se cuenta deben confiar que su información no se dará a otras agencias federales ni estará al alcance de vecinos.

“Las iglesias pueden ayudar a generar tal nivel de confianza”, dijo, y pueden también proveer ayuda concreta con las formas del censo o ayuda con el inglés para los que la necesitan.

La gente también necesita saber

que el procedimiento del censo no será complicado ni se llevará mucho tiempo, dijo Aguilera-Titus. Consolamente 10 preguntas, es uno de los cuestionarios más cortos de todos los censos, desde que se levantó el primero en el año de 1790.

El arzobispo José H. Gómez de San Antonio, presidente del *Comité sobre diversidad cultural en la Iglesia* de la USCCB, dijo que las estadísticas reunidas en el censo servirán para otros propósitos que no son del gobierno.

“El censo de los Estados Unidos es una herramienta útil para enterarse sobre las personas del pueblo de Dios, de quién es cada uno y en dónde está, y muchos otros registros que dan luz sobre su vida respectiva, posibilidades y luchas”, dijo el arzobispo en una declaración.

“Una Iglesia que busca evangelizar se caracteriza por su

trato y comunicación de alcance y extensión con las personas”, añadió. “El censo de los EE.UU. nos da información importante para hacer eso”.

Como requisito de llevarse a cabo cada 10 años, según lo exige la Constitución, el censo tiene como propósito contar a todas y cada una de las personas que residen en los Estados Unidos el 1° de abril del año 2010. Esto incluye todos los 50 estados, el Distrito de Columbia, Samoa americana, la mancomunidad de las islas Marianas del norte, Guam, Puerto Rico y las islas Vírgenes de los Estados Unidos.

Cientos de organizaciones fundamentadas en la fe, grupos comunitarios, grupos no lucrativos, escuelas, compañías y agencias del gobierno se han inscrito como socios para las actividades del censo, bajo el lema “Está en nuestras manos”.



El Papa Benedicto XVI saluda a los peregrinos en la plaza de San Pedro al salir de su audiencia general del Vaticano el 21 de octubre. (foto CNS/ Paul Haring)

El Papa hace llamado a escuchar más atentamente las lecturas del Evangelio

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI invitó a todos los católicos a escuchar más cuidadosamente y en oración las lecturas del Evangelio, especialmente durante la Misa dominical, y a apartar un poco de tiempo todos los días para meditar acerca de la palabra de Dios.

“Una lectura puramente teórica y profana no es suficiente para poder llegar al corazón de las Sagradas Escrituras. Uno debe leerlas en el espíritu que fueron escritas y creadas”, dijo durante su audiencia general en la Plaza de San Pedro el 28 de octubre.

El Papa comenzó un nuevo ciclo de charlas, dedicando su catequesis a la renovación de la teología durante el siglo 12.

Dos modelos o enfoques básicos de teología emergieron en ese entonces: la teología monástica y la escolástica, dijo.

“La teología monástica creció de la contemplación en oración de las Escrituras y de los textos de los padres de iglesia, enfatizando su unidad interior y significado

espiritual centrados en el misterio de Cristo”, dijo.

Por ejemplo, dijo que la práctica de *lectio divina*, formada de meditación en oración acerca de la palabra de Dios, era una parte fundamental en la vida de los teólogos monásticos porque “para ellos la simple lectura de textos sagrados no era suficiente para percibir el sentido profundo, la unidad interna ni el mensaje trascendente” presentes en los textos.

Esta forma de teología fue caracterizada por la meditación, la oración y las canciones en alabanza y llevó a “una conversión sincera”, dijo el Papa.

Diferente a la teología monástica, “la teología escolástica intentó clarificar la comprensión de la fe estudiando las fuentes y usando la lógica”, dijo.

El maestro — representando la autoridad, y el estudiante — representando la investigación, entraban en una forma de debate, donde el objetivo era llegar a una comprensión más profunda de la palabra de Dios mediante ambos, la autoridad y la razón, dijo.

La colecta de CCHD se destinará a ayudar a familias que sufren con la mala economía

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Las familias la están pasando mal. La fe llama” es el tema para la colecta nacional de este año de la Campaña católica de desarrollo humano, que se llevará a cabo en la mayoría de las iglesias católicas, el fin de semana de noviembre 21-22. “Este año, nuestro llamado como católicos es llevar gozosas noticias a los pobres ... y proclamar la libertad a los cautivos y la recuperación de la vista a los invidentes; liberar al oprimido es más importante que nunca antes”.

“Este año, nuestro llamado como católicos es llevar gozosas noticias a los pobres ... y proclamar la libertad a los cautivos y la recuperación de la vista a los invidentes; liberar al oprimido es más importante que nunca antes”.

— Obispo Roger P. Morin de Biloxi, Mississippi

El obispo hizo sus comentarios en una carta dirigida a las parroquias, en donde les pedía a los católicos ser tan generosos como les fuera posible durante la colecta anual de los obispos de EE.UU., que es la fuente principal de apoyo de su programa nacional contra la pobreza.

El veinticinco por ciento de la colecta se usará para el apoyo de la realización de proyectos de la diócesis en donde se haga la colecta.

“La misión de la CCHD es crucial en 2009, para levantar y animar a todos los que están a un paso de la línea de pobreza, y a los que ya están allí, ya sea por desempleo o gastos médicos”, dijo el obispo.

La actual crisis económica de

la nación ha dejado a muchas familias y personas individuales sin la seguridad de un trabajo, sin cuidado de salud o suficientes fondos de jubilación, se hacía notar en un comunicado de prensa referente a la colecta.

Por cerca de 40 años, la CCHD ha distribuido fondos a grupos de la comunidad para ayudar con las necesidades de vivienda asequible, salarios justos y entrenamiento laboral, como también la organización de proyectos dirigidos por personas de bajos ingresos, para ayudar a

la gente y resolver problemas en su respectiva comunidad.

El año pasado por medio de la CCHD se distribuyeron más de \$7,7 millones a 250 donatarios en todo los Estados Unidos: 776 parroquias católicas, 18 organizaciones de caridades católicas y 51 comunidades religiosas estuvieron involucradas dentro de los grupos que recibieron fondos por parte de la CCHD.

Entre los donantes estaba la diócesis de St. Petersburg, Florida, que recibió una donación para el apoyo del proyecto Fe y acción para la fortaleza, trabajos relacionados con educación, transporte y vivienda asequible.

La arquidiócesis de Nueva York recibió una donación para el apoyo del Movimiento por justicia en el barrio, que trabaja con más de 400 personas—mayormente inmigrantes mexicanos—y se enfoca hacia asuntos de inquilinos y negociaciones con el consulado mexicano, para el mejoramiento de servicios dados a la población inmigrante mexicana de la Ciudad de Nueva York.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada:

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

- Llamar al número de emergencia para el abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900
- o Llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canciller/moderador de la curia, el padre James Hart

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

Father Hawkins and Bishop Vann share perspectives on proposed move toward unity

Pope establishes structure for Anglicans uniting with Rome

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI has established a special structure for Anglicans who want to be in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church while preserving aspects of their Anglican spiritual and liturgical heritage, said U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada.

The cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said a new apostolic constitution would establish “personal ordinariates” — similar to dioceses — to oversee the pastoral care of those who want to bring elements of their Anglican identity into the Catholic Church with them.

Anglican priests who are married may be ordained Catholic priests, but married Anglican bishops will not be able to function as Catholic bishops in keeping with the long-standing Catholic and Orthodox tradition of ordaining only unmarried clergy as bishops, Cardinal Levada said.

The cardinal announced the new arrangement at a press conference Oct. 20 at the Vatican. He said the pope’s apostolic constitution and norms for implementing it were undergoing final revisions and would be published in a couple of weeks.

In establishing the new jurisdictions, Pope Benedict is responding to “many requests” submitted by individual Anglicans and by Anglican groups — including “20 to 30 bishops” — asking to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, the cardinal said.

At the same time, Cardinal Levada said the new provision does not weaken the commitment of the Vatican to promoting Chris-



Pope Benedict XVI poses for a photo with Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Communion, during their meeting at the Vatican in this May 5, 2008, file photo. (CNS file photo/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO)

tian unity, but is a recognition that many Anglicans share the Catholic faith and that Anglicans have a spiritual and liturgical life worth preserving.

“It has always been the principal aim — the principal aim — to achieve the full, visible unity” of the Catholic Church and Anglican Communion, the cardinal said.

But given recent changes within many Anglican provinces with the ordination of women priests and bishops and the acceptance of homosexuality in some areas, the prospect of full unity “seemed to recede,” he said.

The church recognizes and welcomes those Anglicans who fully share the Catholic faith, agree with the Catholic view that only men can be ordained priests, and recognize the role of the bishop of Rome — the pope — as the sign and guarantor of church unity, he said.

At a press conference in London Oct. 20, Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Commu-

nion, and Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, issued a joint statement saying the new provisions are a recognition of “the substantial overlap in faith, doctrine, and spirituality between the Catholic Church and the Anglican tradition.”

“Without the dialogues of the past 40 years, this recognition would not have been possible, nor would hopes for full visible unity have been nurtured,” the two leaders said.

Archbishop Williams told reporters that some members of the Church of England are uneasy about positions their church is taking, yet they would not want to become Roman Catholic.

“This will not resolve their challenges, and we in the Church of England have to continue to engage with that,” he said.

Cardinal Levada told reporters he met personally Oct. 19 with Archbishop Williams, who had been told about the new arrange-

ment a month earlier.

In a phone interview Thursday, Nov. 5 with the *North Texas Catholic*, Monsignor William Stetson said, “The apostolic constitution will probably be available in a few days. In fact,” he joked, “your bishop might come back from Rome with a copy of it in his pocket,” referring to Bishop Vann accompanying more than 500 Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Worth on the diocese’s 40th Anniversary Rome pilgrimage Nov. 9-16.

Msgr. Stetson, has been secretary to the Pastoral Provision of John Paul II by which married Episcopal priests can become Catholic priests since 1995. While the Pastoral Provision has only applied to Anglican priests in the U.S., the new apostolic constitution will apply worldwide.

“It is an historic moment in the relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican communion,” said Msgr. Stetson, a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei, who serves in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

He described as “gracious” the remarks of Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglican Communion, who addressed Anglican leaders in a letter made public Oct. 20. “In the light of recent discussions with senior officials in the Vatican,” Archbishop Williams said, “I can say that this new possibility is in no sense at all intended to undermine existing relations between our two communions or to be an act of proselytism or aggression. It is described as simply a response to specific inquiries from certain Anglican groups and individuals wishing to find their future in the Roman Catholic Church.”

“For those who wish to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church in the near future, this announcement will clarify possible options, and we wish them God’s strength and guidance in their discernment,” the Anglican leader said.

“We in the U.S. have enjoyed more than 25 years of the Pastoral Provision of John Paul II,” said Msgr. Stetson, referring to the many married, Episcopal priests who have been accepted into the Church, and subsequently ordained as Catholic priests of the Anglican Usage. “For instance,” he said, “St. Mary the Virgin Parish here in the Diocese of Fort Worth.”

In an interview with the *North Texas Catholic* Thursday evening, Father Allan Hawkins, pastor of St. Mary the Virgin Church in Arlington spoke of his response

to the newly proposed means of bringing Anglicans into full communion with the Catholic Church. “My overwhelming reaction is one of gratitude that we are moving toward total unity,” that Jesus spoke of. He said he thought Jesus intended it to be in a concrete way, when he said that we should be one. “It should be obvious that we love one another.”

He continued in a joyous tone, “but it’s been achieved without denying our Anglican experience over the last 450 years.... And there’s been an accumulation of grace over [those years].”

“During that time, there’s grown up an Anglican ethos, a cultural style, a liturgical style, a musical style... a certain pastoral style as well.

“It’s been said in the past, you have to leave it at the door.” Now that contribution has been recognized to be of some value.

“We’re immensely grateful for the kindness and welcome that we’ve received in this diocese under the Pastoral Provision for the past 15 years,” Fr. Hawkins said. “Now it’s been made international, and we can enjoy the same provision throughout the world. Of course, I have friends all over the world who are delighted by this as well.”

In an interview Thursday evening, Bishop Kevin Vann said, “I welcome this. I think this is a very significant moment in Church history. Once we have the apostolic constitution, we will have an instrument that tells us how to go forward from here.

“If any place in the U.S. could be considered an appropriate place for the Anglican ordinariate, it would be Texas,” he said, making reference to the large number of Anglican priests in the state who have become Catholic priests.

Bishop Vann described the new developments in Roman Catholic/Anglican relations as “another step in the process that goes back to the Second Vatican Council, and further, to the Oxford Movement.”

“I think it’s a very clear expression of the statement by Jesus in John 17. ‘that all might be one.’”

“As vice delegate for the Pastoral Provision, working with Archbishop John Myers of Newark, New Jersey, ecclesiastical delegate for the Pastoral Provision, I’ve been following these developments closely and am in close contact with people locally.

“I think it is a work of the Holy Spirit.”

Jeff Hensley, editor of the *NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC*, contributed to this story.

Texas Catholic Conference issues statement on health care reform

FROM PAGE 1

on low and moderate income individuals and families;

- Measures must safeguard the health of all of society, including the poor, the elderly, and immigrants;

- Legal immigrants and their families must be allowed timely access to comprehensive and affordable health care coverage; and

- An adequate safety net must be maintained for those who remain uncovered.

“Our work in Texas gives us multiple perspectives on the issue of health care reform,” said An-

drew Rivas, Texas Catholic Conference executive director. “We are employers and we are health care providers. We offer assistance to those who face hardship due to a lack of access to health care through our Catholic hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice care, as well as ministries such as Catholic Charities, Respect Life, and Immigrant Outreach.”

The Texas Bishops, members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), have advocated for health care reform for decades. The Catholic approach to healthcare is shaped by the simple, but fundamental,

principle that every person has a right to adequate health care and that health care is more than a commodity; it is a basic human right, an essential safeguard of human life and dignity.

The Texas Catholic Conference is the association of the 15 Roman Catholic dioceses of Texas. The Conference participates in public policy on behalf of the Bishops of Texas regarding institutional concerns of the Catholic Church as well as issues related to Catholic moral and social teachings. For more information on the Texas Catholic Conference, visit www.TXCatholic.org.

Diocesan



Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston is shown here with Janae and with Adrian Adams, the state conference president of the Knights of Peter Claver. On Sept. 6, the cardinal celebrated a special Mass at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver organization. St. Peter Claver was a Jesuit priest from Spain who served the needs of the slaves in South America in the 1600s. An estimated 300,000 slaves became Catholic through his ministry. (Photo by Leonard Smith)



Janae graduated from Our Lady of Victory School in Fort Worth in 1976 and from Nolan Catholic High School in 1980. She credits her years of Catholic education for her deep commitment to a life of service. (Photo courtesy of Greene family)

Tinsley...

FROM PAGE 28
now serves as the longtime general manager for Smart City Networks, providing telecommunications services at both the Dallas and Fort Worth convention centers.

Back in 1996, she recalls, "I was a single mother. I was seeking the best for my son. I decided to try attending Our Mother of Mercy Church, and everyone knew me because they knew my parents and they had watched me grow up. I felt somehow that Brandon and I needed to be there. I felt like I was home."

One Sunday Janae saw a group of men sitting together at church, dressed in dark suits and sashes. "The women sitting with them were dressed all in white," she recalls. "I was told that they were the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, and they were a Catholic service organization. Immediately, I said, 'I need to be a part of that.'"

Initiated into the Ladies of Peter Claver in the spring of 1997, Janae attended her first national convention in Orlando, Florida, in August of that year. "I had never seen that many black Catholics in my life," she says. "To be honest, I had never known there were that many black priests and black bishops. That experience was a real eye-opener for me... Our organization works to feed the homeless. We give scholarships; we help children in need. The more I learned, the more I loved it."

Barbara Murray of Houston, past state deputy of the Texas Ladies of Peter Claver organization, has worked with Janae for the past 12 years at the state level, and calls her "incredibly organized, supremely capable, with a great personality and an energy that is electrifying." Janae, the first person in the organization from North Texas to seek and then to attain the role of president of the state conference in 2004, a position elected by all the Ladies' courts in Texas, "is such a special kind of leader," Barbara adds. "Her role takes her all over the state of Texas, and she is willing to literally go the extra mile to represent all of us within the state, not just in Fort Worth."

The many accolades she receives by organizing conferences, leading workshops, and traveling to events around the country are appreciated, says Janae, but it is really the opportunity to serve her beloved "ladies" that offers her continuing solace as she has learned to live life without her sister. These close friends have also been with her as she has welcomed two young granddaughters into the family and as she remarried in December 2007.

"I'm thinking about what's next for me when my presidency is over in May of 2010," muses Janae. "I have so much to be thankful for, all the wonderful people in my life and all the blessings we enjoy. I just want to honor my sister by continuing to find ways of giving back. I know she would want it that way."

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11

It was not okay that Brenda died. She was too young, too vivacious. And I had never even thought of telling her goodbye. I should have done that.

People at Brenda's memorial services said she was a saint and an angel, but I knew her, and she was much more than that. She was holy for sure — full of faith, always curious about the ways of God. But some things about her were more fun than that, some things funnier. Some things, like my earrings, were quirkier.

Brenda once found hand-made and painted wooden angels, dressed as little girls or little boys. She thought they were cute, she said, and wanted to buy me one. "But I couldn't decide which one, so I bought you all of them — one for each child."

She never missed the moments of possibility.

Brenda and I spent our young years together, sitting on living room floors talking through troubles, examining and reexamining our parental skills, and our combined nine children's rejection of them. We tried to figure things out.

Sometimes we worked on crafts — nothing so intricate as the beaded earrings Julie made,

of course — while we watched old movies, intertwining their plots into the stories of our own lives. We solved problems and found new ones.

Brenda was saintly and angelic, but she was also real. She started a diet every Monday, made ridiculous and unsustainable resolutions, spontaneous, extravagant purchases, and silly decisions. Her life, in spite of any monkey wrench thrown into it, was a map of joy, guided by hope.

And she loved, with every breath of her. She invested in everything she touched, with both hands, both feet, and all her heart. She didn't wait for anything — so she didn't have to regret it afterward.

Last night I attended the rehearsal of one of my TCU student groups — Soul Steppers, a dancing team. Wearing T-shirts that read, "Soul Steppuzz," the team was stomping away on choreography for a step dance, to the words "I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life... I am Jesus."

Before they began the actual practice, the steppers' president had creatively talked about another kind of dance: the Hokey Pokey.

For the next show, she explained, they would make a kind of line dance, "and we'll teach it to the audience, and they're gonna do it with us.

"Our theme is 'stepping in the truth,'" she said. "I thought someone could tell the audience, 'here is the verse, and to us that really means you take your life and really dedicate it to Christ, and you live through him."

"You either put your whole self in or your whole self out. You can't go halfway."

My soul-stepping students inspire me in the same way Brenda did. They are not embarrassed at the intensity of their feelings. They can't step or clap hard enough to convey their love for Jesus. They don't wait. They don't hesitate.

Brenda never ignored experiences, never missed opportunities to show love. But Brenda expected to still be here now, and we never expected to be here without her.

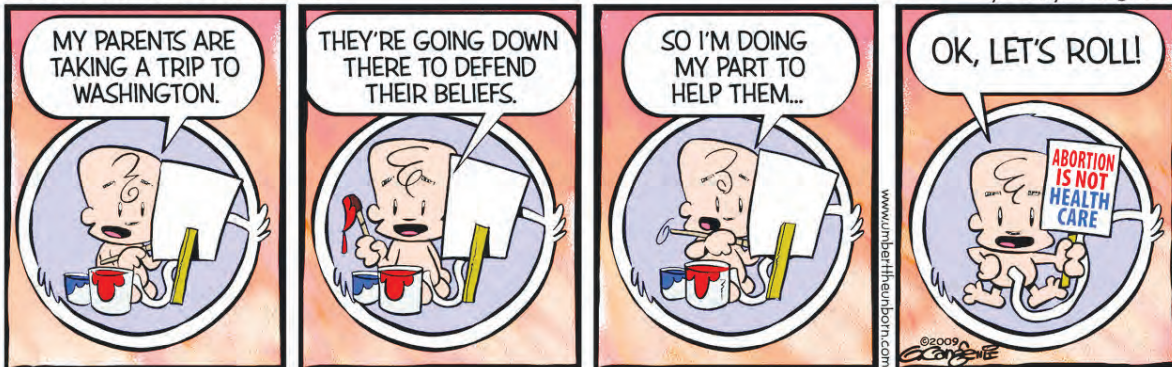
Don't pass things by.

I really wish I had given my earrings to that woman in the locker room.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. In May, her column received the second place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association for the second time in two years at the Catholic Media Convention in Anaheim. In 2005, Kathy's column was recognized with the first place award in the same category.

Umbert the Unborn



by Gary Cangemi

The FLOCK

By Jean Denton

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Calendar

'GLORIES OF PRIESTHOOD'

Father Michael Sevigny, OFM Cap., will recount a powerful religious experience he had in 2004 on a religious pilgrimage to a Marian shrine. This dramatic event has led to planning the establishment of a new religious Marian community focused on Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and evangelization. Fr. Michael will speak at St. Mary the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia, Fort Worth, Monday, Nov. 16. Participants will witness the "glories of the priesthood in action and Our Lady's continual intercession," according to program organizers. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with Mass, followed by Fr. Michael's talk. For more information, contact the Queen of Peace message line at (817) 244-8191 or call (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-9805, or visit the Queen of Peace Web site at www.queenofpeacecenterdallas.org.

MISSIONARY IMAGES

St. Mark and Immaculate Conception Parishes in Denton will host a visit from a Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Replicas of the original Miraculous Image of Our Lady, which she left on Blessed Juan Diego's tilma, will be in Denton and Fort Worth in November and all Catholics are invited to participate at one or more of the following locations: St. Mark Church, Denton, Friday, Nov. 20, to Sunday, Nov. 22, (will coincide with 40 hours of Eucharistic Adoration); University of North Texas Campus Catholic Center, Denton, Sunday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. Mass; Immaculate Conception Church, Denton, Wednesday, Nov. 25, evening Mass; Mother and Unborn Baby Care Center, Fort Worth, Friday, Nov. 20, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.; Divine Mercy Book Store, Denton, Friday, Nov. 27; St. Patrick Cathedral, Fort Worth, Sunday, Nov. 29, 12:30 p.m. Mass; Loreto House Pregnancy Resource Center, Denton, Tuesday, Nov. 24. For updates on times and locations of the Missionary Image, visit the Denton ACTS Web site at www.dentonacts.org.

TEEN PRO-LIFE LOCK-IN

St. Andrew Parish, 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth, will host a pro-life lock-in for teens in grades 7-12 Friday, Dec. 4. Due to the mature nature of the abortion material to be covered at the lock-in, organizers are discouraging attendance by sixth grade students. The event will include the celebration of Mass, two hours of workshop interactive presentations, concert, food, and a variety of sports tournaments. The cost of the event is \$30 with early registration by Nov. 26 and \$36 at the door. Since this is a fundraising event for scholarships to the March for Life, organizers are requesting that chaperones pay \$15 to cover the cost of expenses including T-shirt and food and bring large bags of snacks and two-liter sodas. The pilgrimage to Washington, DC, will take place Thursday, Jan. 21 to Sunday, Jan. 24. Round-trip direct flights have been booked on American Airlines for \$260 departing DFW at 8 a.m. on Thursday and returning at 8:30 p.m. Sunday. The cost of hotel, food, and other expenses will be approximately \$275 for a total trip cost of about \$535. For more information, visit the Web site at www.catholicsrespectlife.org or contact Sue Laux at (817) 939-8595 or laux4life@yahoo.com.

'WWJD' AND CHRISTMAS

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

To Report Misconduct

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

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

To Report Abuse

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

RETRouvaille ANNIVERSARY

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

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

An Engaged Encounter weekend program is designed to help couples planning marriage examine the life long commitment they are making to one another and the life they are about to begin. The next Engaged Encounter weekend will be offered Dec. 4-6 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact the Family Life Office at (817) 560-3300 ext. 256.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

Rachel Ministries will hold a weekend retreat Jan. 22-24 for healing following an abortion. This program helps those who struggle with grief, guilt, and pain following an abortion to find hope and healing. The retreats are open to all who feel the pain of post-abortion trauma. Come and experience the mercy, forgiveness and healing love of God on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat. For more information or registration, call the Rachel Ministries confidential help line at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail forgiven@racheltx.org.

LAY CARMELITES

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

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

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

DISCERNMENT AT OLV

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

'COME AND SEE' RETREAT

Women interested in knowing about religious life are invited to a "Come and See" vocation retreat Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The retreat will be held at Jesus the Good Shepherd Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth at 1814 Egyptian Way in Grand Prairie. To register, call Sister Mary Paul, CSFN, by Nov. 11 at (972) 642-5191 or (972) 262-5137, ext. 24.

NTC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the Nov. 20 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 11. Items for the Dec. 4 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 25. Send information to jrusseau@fwdioc.org.

ADVENT MORNING REFLECTION

Mount Carmel Center, 4600 W. Davis St., Dallas, will present Advent Morning of Reflection: Décor Carmeli/Queen Beauty of Carmel Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon. The conference will examine the Blessed Virgin Mary as the model of contemplative expectation and active receptivity for all believers. Participants may bring a lunch and stay for personal prayer until 4 p.m. The suggested minimum donation is \$25 and the deadline to register is Dec. 3. For more information, call (214) 331-6224 or visit the Web site at www.mountcarmelcenter.org.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

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 and December due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. All who are interested are invited to attend a vesper service at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Catholic Renewal Center Chapel, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. A pot-luck dinner will follow. Meat will be provided. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383, Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370, or Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601.

COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

RESPECT LIFE HOLY HOUR

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth sponsors a Holy Hour from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral on the third Monday of each month. The hour begins with a rosary and is followed by Eucharistic Adoration. All are invited to come and pray for an end to abortion and all offenses to the sanctity and dignity of human life. For more information, contact Chanacee Ruth-Killgore, director of Respect Life for the Diocese of Fort Worth, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257

ST. PETER SCHOOL

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

CRC CHRISTMAS SALE

The Catholic Renewal Center Bookstore will hold its annual pre-Christmas sale Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6, from noon to 5 p.m. A variety of gift items, books, and cards will be available for purchase. Shoppers will receive a 10 percent discount on purchases and will not be charged sales tax. The bookstore is located at 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, next to Nolan Catholic High School. For more information, call (817) 429-2920.

SSMN ANNIVERSARY

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be celebrating 137 years of service in 2010. Friends of Sisters of St. Mary of Namur are making plans to celebrate the sister's years of service at events scheduled for Saturday, March 6, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth and Saturday, April 24, at Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas. All are invited to join in celebrating with the sisters. To volunteer for this celebration, e-mail ssmn137@gmail.com.

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL ALUMNI

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DANCE

The Knight of Columbus Council #7175, Burleson, will host a dance Saturday, Nov. 14, at the SPJST Hall, 1150 S. Burleson Blvd., Burleson, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Entertainment will be provided by Fort Worth's Celebrity Band with Tejano, country, polka, and rock-n-roll music. Refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$10 presale or \$12 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free with parents. For more information, call (817) 223-3284 or (817) 727-6905.

OLGHS DEVELOPMENT DINNER

Our Lady of Grace High School invites all to attend the 10th annual Development Dinner, Saturday, Dec. 5, at 5:30 p.m. at the Marriott DFW Solana, 5 Village Circle, Westlake, with special guest Bishop Kevin Vann. The featured guest speaker will be Chris Aubert, from the Fullness of Truth-Catholic Evangelization Ministries. For more information or to make reservations, call (817) 933-6516 or visit the Web site at www.OLGHS.com and click on Development Dinner.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Frances Cabrini Parish, 2301 Acton Hwy., Granbury, will host "The Gift of Love Christmas Concert" Sunday, Dec. 20, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The concert will feature a variety of talent including Laura Gastinel, Maria Sirois and "Get This" Quartet, the Chiappe Family, Lorenzo Llanillo, Lisa Campbell, Mickey Parson, Joshlyn Davis, Brianna Mathis, David Fernandez String Quartet, Sam Perez, Mike Sager, Brady Overstreet, Bill Whitecotton, Lynn Roffino, and Terri Dillworth. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Tickets are \$35 per family or \$20 per person and are available following each Mass and at the parish office. All are invited to enjoy the spirit of Christmas with family and loved ones. All proceeds will benefit St. Frances Cabrini Church. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 326-2131.

BISHOP DUNNE COUNCIL

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Dunne Council #2813 is celebrating its 70th anniversary. The council is presently located at 4500 Columbus Trail in southwest Fort Worth. The anniversary will be celebrated Dec. 5 in lieu of "Family Night" with a Mass at 6 p.m. and a reception and dinner to follow. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. A complimentary 50-page booklet of the history of the council will be given to each family attending. Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call Bill Miller at (817) 292-4044, Don Rejda at (817) 293-5699 or Drew Armentrout at (817) 244-9595.

Classified Section

BUSINESS MANAGER

The Diocese of Fort Worth is seeking a full-time business manager for its Center-City School Consortium. Principal duties will include financial planning and reporting, budgeting, bookkeeping, purchasing, coordinating technology updates, and overseeing the facilities of the member schools. Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in business or related field, three to five years of business management experience, expertise in computer usage, and knowledge of the Catholic Faith and Catholic school systems. English/Spanish bilingual applicants are preferred. The Diocese of Fort Worth offers excellent pay and benefits to its employees. If interested in this position, visit www.fwdioc.org for a full job description and on-line application. Complete the application on the computer and save it. Then attach it, along with a resumé, and a cover letter and e-mail to msimeroth@fwdioc.org. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview by Mark Simeroth, director of Human Resources. Application deadline is Nov. 15.

ST. JOSEPH LITANTY

To request a copy of the prayer card and litany to St. Joseph, send \$1 to St. Joseph Litany, PO Box 54642, Hurst, TX 76054.

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Good Newsmaker

After her sister's death, Janae Tinsley was consoled by her Church community; since then, she's devoted her life to

Giving Back

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Seven years ago, on a cold night in December, Janae Tinsley experienced what she now recalls as a moment of "utter devastation." A phone call from a hospital in Washington, D.C., confirmed the sudden death of her beloved older sister, Michelle. As she struggled to take in the terrible news, Janae prepared herself to go to her elderly parents' home in East Fort Worth to tell them of the loss of their oldest daughter.

"And even now, when I look back upon that night, what I remember most is how, almost before I could get off the phone, the cars were pulling up outside my door," Janae says. "Word spread so quickly. Even though it was so late, the sisterhood of women who have become so close to me at [Our Mother of Mercy Church] immediately left their homes to come to me. And even though I had just lost my only sibling to

the brain aneurism she suffered at the age of 43, I realized that the Lord had prepared me by giving me an amazing community of women, these precious friends who helped me to make it through."

Many of the women who came to comfort Janae were her sisters in the Ladies of Peter Claver St. Veronica Court 89, an organization in which she is completing her third and final two-year term as the state's conference president. The Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver is the largest African-American lay Catholic organization and celebrates its centennial anniversary Nov. 7.

Her family members and friends would agree that this dynamic, yet soft-spoken, seemingly indefatigable woman has used the pain of that profound loss seven years ago to develop an ever-deepening commitment to the welfare of others.

"Janae's life is dedicated to service," explains her close friend and fellow Our Mother of Mercy parishioner, Delores Newton. "The death of her sister impacted her greatly. I think that it caused her to be even more focused on others, to become even more giving."

Janae is the daughter of Gloria and Hillary Greene, parishioners of St. Rita Church for more than 45 years and former educators in the Fort Worth Independent School District. "They wanted me and my sister to have a Catholic education," explains Janae. "They sacrificed so that we could have that opportunity."

Her years at Our Lady of Victory School and at Nolan Catholic High School opened the door to a new way of life for Janae, who was active in music



Pictured are Janae (left) with her older sister, Michelle, in their East Fort Worth home, circa 1970. Following Michelle's death in 2002, Janae and her family members have been comforted through the friendship and support of many of Janae's fellow parishioners from Our Mother of Mercy Church. (Photos courtesy of Greene family)

and sports at both schools. "Nolan required that students do some form of service, so I chose to do volunteer work at the Child Study Center in Fort Worth. I worked with children who faced obstacles in their lives, and I came to realize that I was so fortunate that I needed to give back in whatever way possible. I realized I truly loved being of service to others. And I give my Catholic education the credit for giving me that realization, that awareness."

Her journey through young adulthood included marriage at the age of 19 and the birth of her only child, Brandon. Encouraged by her parents to continue her studies while they helped her to care for her young son, Janae graduated from Texas Christian University with a degree in communications and marketing. She

SEE TINSLEY, P. 26



Janae Greene Tinsley, accompanied by her father, Hillary Greene, beams after receiving the Grand Lady of the Year award for the state of Texas in May, 2004. Janae was voted "Grand Lady" by all Texas members of the Ladies Auxiliary of Peter Claver at the state conference held in Houston. The Fort Worth resident was also voted the organization's state conference president for Texas at the same convention.



Janae (second from left) poses with fellow members of the Ladies of Peter Claver St. Veronica Court 89. The women were gathered at a state convention for the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, a national service organization for African American Catholics.

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Retrouvaille means "Rediscovery," and that is exactly what this marriage ministry has been doing for 25 years in North Texas — helping troubled couples rediscover a love for each other and God. **11**

Mothers with unplanned pregnancies can be tempted to think abortion is the only option, but hope is available for them. Read inspiring stories to encourage women to choose life. **16-17**

With a growing desire among many Anglicans to become Catholic, a new apostolic constitution will allow them to keep their traditions and enter into full communion with Rome. **25**