

North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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WORLD YOUTH DAY — Bishop Kevin Vann speaks to the thousands of young people and their adult leaders from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas who gathered for World Youth Day Oct. 28. The World Youth Day Mass was celebrated in the Music Mill Amphitheatre at Six Flags Over Texas theme park in Arlington. See story, p. 14 (Photo by Chris Kastner)

On All Saints Day, pope says all are meant to answer call to be holy

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Holiness is not a privilege reserved to a few people, but is a call that all men and women are meant to answer, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"All human beings are called to holiness which, in the final analysis, consists in living as children of God, [living] in that 'likeness' to him in which they were created," the pope said Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints.

"God invites everyone to be part of his holy people," said Pope Benedict, reciting the Angelus at midday as several thousand people gathered in the rain in St. Peter's Square.

The saints "radiate the splendor of God's kingdom of love and truth," he said, telling English-speaking visitors in the square that Christians should look to the saints as real examples to follow.

The pope said the church "wisely" placed the feasts of

All Souls and All Saints next to each other on the calendar, encouraging Catholics to unite their prayers of thanks to God for the multitude of saints who have lived on the earth with prayers for all those who have died.

While the Nov. 2 feast of All Souls is a time for special prayers for those who have died, he said, "the church invites us to pray for them every day, also offering up our sufferings and daily trials so that, completely purified, they would be allowed to enjoy the light and peace of the Lord for eternity."

Addressing French-speakers, the pope said the beatitudes are "a road map for discovering the path to holiness."

The saints, he told Polish-speaking pilgrims, "give us the example of love for God and for others, of fruitful collaboration with divine grace, and they sustain us in our journey toward holiness."

Prison ministry is one of many key pastoral programs supported by Sharing in Ministry

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

It's easy to understand why Deacon Len Sanchez never tires of his daily commutes to the county jail. While some may fear or even shun the incarcerated, the experienced prison chaplain embraces their needs.

"There's no greater satisfaction than to bring the spirit of Jesus to people who feel down and discarded by society," explains Deacon Sanchez. "I help them realize there is someone who loves and cares for them."

Introduced to the ministry as a volunteer while living in the Diocese of Tyler 17 years ago, Deacon Sanchez worked for the



Texas Department of Criminal Justice before moving to Fort Worth in 2004. Today the permanent deacon trains, supervises, and schedules a corps of 125 parishioners who conduct cell-block worship services that offer

hope and encouragement to the imprisoned.

Sentenced to jail, the newly incarcerated often face two additional stress factors — divorce and abandonment by family.

"They have nowhere to turn," Deacon Sanchez says sympathetically. "We try to intervene in their lives and show them somebody is willing to travel the journey with them."

Tending to an inmate's concerns with compassion and understanding is not always a popular reaction but it is a necessary response, Deacon Sanchez points out.

"The Gospel calls us not only to
SEE PRIEST CARE FUND..., P. 16

DREAM Act vote in Senate falls short; more immigration bills unlikely

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Senate fell eight votes short of the 60 needed to bring the DREAM Act to the floor Oct. 24, closing down an attempt to pass even a small piece of immigration legislation that has enjoyed bipartisan support.

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, would have given young adults who were brought to the United

States illegally by their parents at least five years ago the chance to legalize their own status while serving in the military or attending college at in-state tuition rates.

Kevin Appleby, director of immigration and refugee policy for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the failure of the 52-44 cloture vote, a preliminary step to bringing the bill to the floor for debate, was "terribly

disappointing."

"An extremely vulnerable group of children who needed relief fell prey to partisan politics," he told Catholic News Service.

The bill was first introduced several years ago by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and has had supporters from both parties all along. Its chief sponsor in this session said estimates of the number of students who might

SEE SUPPORTERS..., P. 9

Archbishop Chaput: Catholics serve nation best by living faith authentically

By Beth Griffin

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholics serve their country best in the long run "by remembering that we're citizens of heaven first," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver said Oct. 26 at the 15th annual meeting of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists.

"It's time for all of us who

claim to be Catholic to recover our Catholic identity as disciples of Jesus Christ and missionaries of his church," he said.

The social scientists convened at St. John's University School of Law in Queens Oct. 26-27.

"We're better Americans by being more truly Catholic

SEE ARCHBISHOP..., P. 7



TEEN DRIVERS RECEIVE BLESSING — Father Joe Townsend blesses teenage drivers at St. Benedict Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in October. The pastor has been blessing new drivers and their cars for about six years. After the blessing, each teen received a small cross of St. James, which is often given to travelers and pilgrims on spiritual journeys. (CNS photo/David Crenshaw/EASTERN OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC)

Getting the details right: 'The Morning-After'

The "morning-after" pill, also known as "Plan B," is often provided in hospital emergency rooms to women who have been sexually assaulted. It is typically used within 72 hours of the rape, and appears to prevent pregnancy in one of two ways.

First, it can prevent ovulation (the release of an egg from a woman's ovary), and for this reason, it is commonly termed "emergency contraception." While this action of blocking the release of an egg is the most likely mechanism by which it routinely prevents pregnancy, another mechanism may also be operative under certain circumstances.

This second mechanism of action involves altering the lining of the uterus so it becomes less hospitable to the arrival of an embryo from the fallopian tube. In other words, if an egg has already been released from the ovary, and it has been successfully fertilized, the morning-after pill may be able to prevent that arriving embryo from implanting into the uterine wall.

Controversy exists as to the likelihood and frequency of this second mechanism of action, but even the Food and Drug Administration (the agency which gives official approval for the use of the drug) acknowledges the possibility on its Web site: "Plan B may also work by ... preventing attachment (implantation) to the uterus (womb)." The package insert for the drug from the manufacturer (Barr Pharmaceuticals) uses identical language when explaining how Plan B works.

Significant ethical concerns are raised by this second mechanism, namely that "emergency contraception" may actually work as "emergency abortion" as well. When these ethical concerns are coupled with new

Choosing to act in a way as to possibly cause the death of another human is not generally a good moral choice. When we have uncertainty about the presence of a human in the bushes during a hunting trip, for example, we ought not shoot into the bushes.

state laws (notably in Connecticut and Massachusetts) mandating that the morning-after pill be provided by hospitals to all victims of sexual assault who request it, it becomes clear that medical professionals may have to confront situations of dramatic conscience violations because of this immoral form of legislative coercion by the state.

Some have argued that it may be immoral for Catholics to provide any contraceptive measures at all to a woman who has been raped. Such a view is incorrect, however, because a woman who has been sexually assaulted is clearly entitled to protect herself from the attacker's sperm. The Church teaches that rape is not a unitive act that requires openness to procreation. It is rather an act of violence against another person, and the woman is allowed to take steps to prevent the possible fertilization of her own egg(s). It is permissible, then, for Catholic hospitals to provide their patients with morning-after pills if the following four conditions are met:

1. The woman is not already pregnant from prior, freely-chosen sexual activity.
2. The woman has been sexually assaulted.
3. The woman has not yet ovulated (i.e. has not released an egg from her ovary into the fallopian tube where it could be fertilized by the attacker's sperm).
4. The morning-after pill can reasonably be expected to prevent her from ovulating.

When a woman arrives to an emergency room following a sexual assault, a simple urine test for leutinizing hormone (LH) can be used to gain information about whether she is ovulating. If it is determined that her LH levels have spiked and she is ovulating, the morning-after pill will not be able to block the egg's release from her ovary. If it were to be administered under these circumstances, the morning-after pill might function to prevent the implantation of any newly conceived embryo(s), which would be the moral equivalent of an abortion. Under these conditions, therefore, the morning-after pill should not be administered.

The young boy or girl conceived through sexual assault is an innocent bystander, and he or she should never become a "second victim" of rape through chemical abortion. Women who conceive a child after sexual assault deserve full and loving support throughout and following their pregnancy. In follow-up studies where children are born from sexual assault, both mother and child frequently express satisfaction at not having adverted to the deadly answer of abortion.

Appropriate care for rape victims should thus include efforts to assess whether a woman may have ovulated (and thus possibly conceived) by taking her menstrual history, doing an LH test, and performing any other tests or interventions which, in the judgment of the physician, help

establish prudential certitude that emergency contraception, if it were provided to the victim, would properly function as a contraceptive and not as an abortifacient.

The new laws in Connecticut and Massachusetts which mandate the provision of the morning-after pill are clearly misguided and unethical. They effectively prohibit health care professionals from doing appropriate medical tests to determine whether a particular treatment (administering Plan B) is suitable and medically appropriate for a patient. These laws meddle in the affairs of doctors and nurses in emergency rooms, where their professional and competent medical judgments should not be short-circuited by overzealous state legislatures beholden to pro-abortion ideologies and agendas. Such state laws require health care professionals to cooperate in actions that may, in a foreseeable way, result in the death of very young human beings within their mother's bodies. Unjust mandates of this kind forcibly violate the consciences of those health care providers who wish to use the art of medicine to heal rather than destroy.


To provide the morning-after pill without considering a woman's ovulatory state thus crosses an important moral

line. Choosing to act in a way as to possibly cause the death of another human is not generally a good moral choice. When we have uncertainty about the presence of a human in the bushes during a hunting trip, for example, we ought not shoot into the bushes. By doing ovulation testing, on the other hand, we can begin to address the question of whether a human may be "hidden within" and reasonably exclude the choice for a possible death-dealing effect of the drug.

Many actions we choose to engage in carry a certain risk to human life, and as the risks become greater, we must take stronger measures to minimize them. Hence we use child safety seats and restraining belts whenever we travel in a car, and ovulation testing can similarly serve as a kind of "safety net" to assure that we do not indiscriminately subject any newly conceived child to risk when the morning-after pill is administered.





Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.



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LIVES OF THE SAINTS — Junior high students at St. Rita School in Fort Worth played an active role in the school's All Saints Day Mass by presenting their traditional "Roll Call of Saints." Each student, portraying a particular saint, shared with the lower-grade children and the adults gathered at Mass about that saint's life and how following their example of holiness can lead one closer to God. Seventh grader Madeleine Alonso, dressed as St. Rita, is shown telling her saint's story to second grade students and their teacher, Margaret Cruse. Under the guidance of teachers Anita Strange and Mary Pastusek, the students helped to prepare and plan the Mass, serving as readers, cantors, sacristans, musicians, and ushers.

Sacred Heart School named among top 50 Catholic schools in nation

The Catholic High School Honor Roll, an annual list of America's Top 50 Catholic high schools put forth by the Acton Institute of Grand Rapids, Michigan, recently announced that Sacred Heart School in Muenster is among the top 50 Catholic secondary schools in the nation. The schools are judged on the criteria of academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.

"Sacred Heart is privileged to be among the group of schools that make up the Catholic High School Honor Roll," said Sacred Heart Principal Chad Riley. "This award honors many groups for their hard work and dedication to our mission: students, parents, teachers, supporters, and parishioners. We are blessed to be so strongly supported in our mission to carry on the teaching ministry of Jesus."

The state of Texas led this year's Catholic High School Honor Roll with six schools being selected, followed by California, Florida, and Michigan with four schools each. Other Metroplex-area schools included within the top 50 include Our Lady of Grace High School in Roanoke and The Highlands School in Irving.

The honor roll is produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of

Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars. Advisory board member Father John Schlegel, president of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, said the that the honor roll is significant for Catholic education. "Catholic high schools that excel at forming students in the faith and at teaching them to think critically and act virtuously are a great asset to the church," he said. "Not only do these schools deserve to be recognized, but they should also be imitated by all Catholic schools."

The primary goal of the honor roll, according to a press release, "is to encourage schools to educate students as effectively as possible, in a way that integrates Catholic faith and prepares students for active engagement with the world.... The Honor Roll provides insight into the character of Catholic secondary education and calls everyone to improve the academic and spiritual formation given to America's youth. In promoting rigorous education, the honor roll desires to better prepare students for fruitful vocations in politics, business, and the church."

For more information about the Catholic High School Honor Roll, visit online at www.chshonor.org.

Steve Angrisano to perform in concert Nov. 16

Nationally known singer, songwriter, and storyteller and former North Texan Steve Angrisano will perform at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington, Friday, Nov. 16. The concert will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend the family-friendly event.

The event is sponsored by St. Vincent's youth ministries office. While there is no charge to attend the concert, donations will be accepted for the benefit of Arlington Pregnancy Center.

Steve Angrisano's unique blend of laughter, song, story, and audience interaction has made him a popular choice for

leadership at parish missions, concerts, workshops, and youth events across the world, including five World Youth Days, and four National Catholic Youth Conferences.

For more concert information, contact Diane Donahue at (817) 478-8206 ext. 216 or e-mail to ddonahue@svdpcc.org.

*Responding
to God's Call*

Vocation awareness — One small step for man, one giant leap for Texas: Our first cardinal in the South!

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

Not in my lifetime would

I have thought that Texas would be blessed with a cardinal, a prince of the Catholic Church, to represent the local church in a more prominent way.

It is a time of great elation for Texas, as well as all the Southern United States, as the local church receives her first cardinal.

As was highlighted in articles in the previous *North Texas Catholic*, on Oct. 17, Pope Benedict XVI named 23 new cardinals, among them Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. While it may not compare to the unimaginable technology, determination, and courage it took to put a man on the moon in 1969 and pales in comparison to Jesus' miraculous walk on water, still this is clearly a time of historic proportions for Texas. At age 58, Cardinal-elect DiNardo will have much pastoral insight to offer the Vatican for the next 22 years as one of only 120 cardinals under the age of 80 eligible to vote for a new pope. Houston, we have transmission!

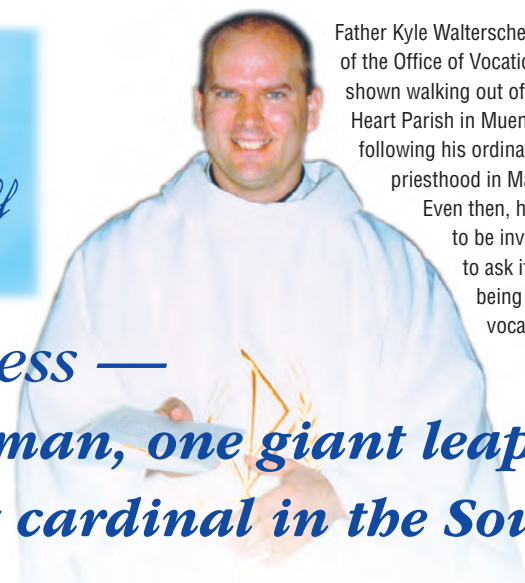
Yet, why has our Holy Father provided us with the gift of a cardinal?

To begin with, we have Christian roots that date back over 400 years with French and Spanish explorers in Texas, with San Antonio being established 289 years ago in 1718. Yet, Texas did not come into its own until it declared its independence from Mexico in 1836. In the 171 years since then, Texas has grown from a few thousand Catholics to more than 6.5 million.

In addition to this large Catholic population, there are several exceptional qualities for which Texas has received notoriety, several areas in which the state has been leading the charge, and news of these efforts has likely landed upon the ears of the pope. Christians in Texas have been particularly strong in advocating for anti-abortion legislation. Texas may be looked upon as the largest and most influential state that may help lead the nation and the rest of the world in putting an end to the infanticide of unborn children and to providing the first real step of protecting women against this intrinsically evil terror that, like contraception, imprisons their soul and kills their offspring.

Secondly, following in Pope John Paul II's footsteps, it appears that Pope Benedict XVI is advancing his predecessor's pressing desire for reconciliation among Christians. Texas Christians have grown particularly close with the help of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) that welcomed ecumenical dialogue. Texas Christians are unique in their depth of respect and support

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.



of one another as they find common bonds in their faith, unite in many social outreach efforts, and seek for the truth in the midst of their differences. Our pope knows well that all Christians must have a united bond in Christ, if they are to overcome today's attacks on our faith, our family, and our Savior.

And while Texas has much more to offer the world, one particularly noteworthy improvement in the state in recent years is the increase in the number of men joining religious orders and entering the seminary to discern whether they are called to the priesthood. However, we will need many more men and women in Texas to answer a vocational call, ready to serve God willingly (*Sirach 35:16*), in answer to our prayers, so as to overcome the many struggles we still face.

Cardinal-elect Daniel N. DiNardo has not walked on the moon nor walked on water, but he has made one giant leap for Texas. Today, let us celebrate with our first prince of the South and thank God for the faithful labor of our Christian heritage and especially encourage single men and women to consider joining our cardinal-elect in dedicating the whole of their beings to the greatest mission possible, the mission of Jesus Christ, as brothers, sisters, and priests for a hope-filled tomorrow.

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.



Catholic singer/songwriter Steve Angrisano is pictured in a recent publicity photo from Oregon Catholic Press. (Photo provided courtesy of spiritandsong.com, a division of Oregon Catholic Press)

Advanced Centering Prayer Retreat to be held Dec. 6-9

The annual Advanced Centering Prayer Retreat, sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Fort Worth, will be held at Camp Copass, located at 8200 E. McKinney Street in Denton. The retreat will begin with registration at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, and will conclude Sunday, Dec. 9.

Silence is required at the retreat beginning Thursday evening. The schedule will include extended Centering Prayer sessions, as well as film and audio presentations designed to deepen the contemplative experience.

The cost for the retreat, which includes meals, is \$160 for a semi-private room or \$250 for a private room. The limit is 25 participants.

For more information about the retreat or to register, visit online at www.cfortworth.org or contact Kathleen Kelley at kkelley_2@charter.net or at (817) 281-6218. Tom Uhler may also be contacted for more information at tomuhler@yahoo.com or at (817) 874-2894. To learn more about Contemplative Outreach, visit online at www.centeringprayer.com. To learn more about Camp Copass and for directions to the camp, visit www.campcopass.com.

Rosary novena, Mass to be offered in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

A rosary novena will be prayed to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, Dec. 3 through Dec. 11 at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1705 E. Peters Colony Road in Carrollton. The rosary will begin at 7 p.m. each evening.

A bilingual Mass will be celebrated in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, in the church. The parish Knights of Columbus and matachines will participate in the celebration, commemorating Our Lady of Guadalupe's apparitions to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in the year 1531. A reception with tamales, hot chocolate, and pan dulce will follow the Mass in Assisi Hall.

All are invited to participate in the novena and in the Dec. 12 liturgy. For more information, call the parish office at (972) 492-3237.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics to meet Jan. 24

The next monthly meeting of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Thursday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth.

Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to "come join us for prayer and sharing."

For more information, contact Fr. Murphy at (817) 927-5383 or Deacon Richard Griego at (817) 421-1387.

Catholic Scripture Study for men to be offered at St. Andrew's

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), a doctrinally based group study program, is being offered at St. Andrew Church, located at 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. This CSS series for men began Tuesday, Nov. 6, and will continue on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. through May. The sessions take place in the parish hall.

According to promotional materials, "CSS nourishes a deeper love for Christ and for his church." This five-year program, which is divided into five one-year studies, "is appropriate for persons with any level of Bible understanding — beginning or intermediate or truly versed." While participants will meet weekly for class discussion, course materials will provide guidance for daily reflection and questions covering all of the major biblical books.

For more information, call Wes Shannon at (817) 228-4737 or Michele Salcedo at (817) 927-5383.

St. Philip Parish to host marriage enrichment seminar Dec. 1

All married couples are invited to attend a marriage enrichment seminar based on the book *The Five Love Languages* by Dr. Gary Chapman. The seminar, hosted by the Marriage Encounter ministry of St. Philip the Apostle Parish, will take place Saturday, Dec. 1, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the parish's Community Life Center, located at 1897 W. Main Street (at Kirkpatrick) in Lewisville. A catered dinner will follow at 6 p.m.

In the book, Chapman writes about the importance of being able to express love to one's spouse in a way that they can understand. Seminar presenters will be José and Marilyn Garcia of Austin, area leaders of World Wide Marriage Encounter.

The seminar fee is \$25 per couple, including the catered dinner. For those only attending the seminar, there is a \$5 per couple fee for materials. To register or for more information, contact Rick and Roberta Boitnott by e-mail to rboitnott@sbcglobal.net or by calling (903) 796-8491; or Bill and Carol Louree by e-mail to blouree@aol.com or by calling (972) 219-7994. The deadline for reservations is Nov. 17.

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

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

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

People & Events

of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



SACRED HEART FAMILY DAY — Father Ken Robinson (left), pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster, welcomes the Rev. Ralph Gourley and his wife, Sandy, of First Baptist Church in Muenster to the parish's Family Day in the Park Sept. 23. The day was an opportunity for people throughout the Muenster area to enjoy a variety of games, food, and entertainment, strengthening family and community relationships.

FOCUS to hold 2008 student leadership conference in Grapevine

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) will hold the 2008 National Student Conference Jan. 2-6 at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, located at 1501 Gaylord Trail in Grapevine.

Convention speakers include Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR; sports star Mike Sweeney; author, Jeff Cavins; and Eduardo Verastigui, star of the film "Bella." The Christian rock group Third Day will also perform.

Founded in 1998, FOCUS is a national student outreach organization serving both secular and Catholic college campuses. According to the organization's leaders, FOCUS "brings the teachings of Christ and the faith and moral traditions of the Catholic Church to college students and gives them the tools to help share those teachings with their friends and family. While fostering an increased interest in religious life among college students is one of FOCUS' stated goals, the organization's primary objective is to form communities on college campuses nationwide where students can follow Jesus Christ and live out their Catholic faith in environments that are often hostile to such beliefs."

The FOCUS conference is open to all young adults, campus ministers, priests, and members of religious orders. For a complete list of speakers and registration information, visit online at www.focusconference.org.

Sisters of St. Mary invite women to Come and See Nov. 18

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

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

For those persons interested in a more extended visit with the sisters, inquiries are welcome regarding a Come and Stay Weekend, Nov. 16-18. For more information, contact Sister Margaret Miller, SSMN, at smargm@airmail.net or call her at (817) 429-4009. More information may also be found online at www.ssmn.com.

Faith and Fiction group to meet Nov. 15

"Faith and Fiction: Conversations on Spirituality and Imagination," a venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on the journey of faith, will meet Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be *Possession*, by A. S. Byatt.

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

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

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

Sacred Heart Parish to host study of Gospel of Matthew Nov. 10

Sacred Heart Parish, 714 North Main in Muenster, will host a one-day Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew Saturday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Community Center. Father John Robert Skeldon, parochial administrator of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Wichita Falls, will give the presentation.

The workshop is designed to give participants a greater understanding and appreciation of those readings from the Gospel of Matthew that will be heard at Mass in the upcoming liturgical year.

Lunch will be served. A \$6 donation is requested to cover the cost of the lunch. Reservations are requested. To make your reservation or for more information, contact Barbara Rohmer, parish director of religious education, at (940) 759-2511 ext. 16.

Sacred Heart in Seymour to host Polka Mass, Nov. 11

The Catholic community of Sacred Heart Parish, Seymour, welcomes all its neighbors to the celebration of a Polka Mass Sunday, Nov. 11, beginning at 10 a.m.

After the liturgy, a Czech Olde World Dinner with Bohemian sausage, turkey, and kolaches will be served at Sacred Heart's Mosler Hall until 1:30 p.m. An auction will begin at 1:30 p.m., and a country store will offer baked goods and crafts.

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

Sr. Carolyn Osiek to lead Scripture study

Sister Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, a professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, will lead four sessions on the Scriptures known as the "Infancy Narratives" at St. Andrew Church, located at 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. The sessions, part of an ongoing series of New Testament studies held on Monday evenings at St. Andrew's, will be held Nov. 26 and Dec. 3, 10, and 17 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

According to promotional materials, participants in the sessions will have the opportunity to "take a fresh look at these familiar narratives and situate them in their original contexts in order to have a new appreciation of what the Gospel writers really wanted to tell us."

Childcare is available by reservation 48 hours in advance by calling (817) 924-6581. For more information or to register for the Monday evening sessions, call (817) 927-5383.

Rachel's Vineyard retreat, Dec. 7-9, to offer post-abortion healing

A Rachel's Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held Dec. 7-9 in Fort Worth.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats offer a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion's aftermath. The retreat team, which includes a priest and a licensed counselor, provides the confidential support needed to help participants work through feelings of anger, shame, guilt, and grief, so that they may be open to experiencing the healing love and mercy of God.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and former participants in the abortion industry — anyone who has been hurt by abortion — are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register for a retreat, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail to forgiven@racheltx.org.

St. Augustine Men's Purity Group meets weekly

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller, in Room 213, and at the Padre Pio House, 1301 Paxton in Arlington. Those men interested in attending one of the upcoming sessions are asked to consult the group's Web site, www.sampg.com, for specific meeting dates and times.

For more information, e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com or call the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office at (817) 431-3857.

People and Events



INTERNATIONAL FAIR — October is the month that St. Rita Parish and School celebrates the diversity of its multicultural community with its annual International Fair, now in its 29th year. Both the Friday school Mass and Saturday evening Mass were celebrated with an international theme, with students and parishioners dressing in ethnic costumes, and leading songs and prayers spoken in their native languages. Third graders (*l. to r.*) Abigail Hernandez, Julie Doan, Cassandra Garcia, Teresa Millis, and Briana Avelar are pictured in their colorful ethnic garments. St. Rita School fifth graders hosted their own mini International Fair at school by inviting the student body to taste a variety of ethnic foods and to view display boards with maps, pictures, and artifacts from various countries. The parish community gathered for a festival of ethnic foods, live entertainment, a silent auction, and an abundance of games and activities that were enjoyed by all, according to fair organizers.

Cursillo Ultreya is planned for Nov. 10 at St. Bartholomew Parish

A Cursillo Ultreya is an occasion where Cursillistas (those who have attended a Cursillo) and others who are interested in the Cursillo movement gather together to celebrate Christ. An Ultreya (Spanish for "onward") will be offered in English Saturday, Nov. 10, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish, 3601 Alta Mesa in Fort Worth.

At the gathering, according to Cursillo information found online, members will share their life experiences based on the three tenets of Cursillo life (prayer, study, and action) or on a passage from Scripture. Local organizers indicate that there will be lively music, witness talks, group sharing, and plenty of food. For more information, call Pamela Jones at (817) 291-3575.

Lay Carmelites invite others to join twice monthly gatherings

"Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and Mary?" ask the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (Lay Carmelites). The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of this deeper relationship to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. The next scheduled gathering will be held Nov. 11.

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

Dr. Thomas Hilgers to speak at women's breakfast Nov. 17

Women for the Third Millennium will hold a women's breakfast Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Cooper Guest Lodge-Berkley Room, 12230 Preston Road in Dallas. Registration will take place beginning at 9 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Thomas Hilgers, a medical doctor who serves as the director of the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and the National Center for Women's Health in Omaha, Nebraska. He will speak on "Infertility and Miscarriage: Real Solutions to Real Problems." Dr. Hilgers, who was appointed to permanent membership in Pontifical Academy for Life in 1994, has developed a natural procreative technology (NaPro) which relies on diagnostics, hormones, and surgery to identify and treat underlying causes of reproductive ailments in a manner faithful to Catholic Church teaching.

Women for the Third Millennium is an organization designed to promote and support the authentic dignity and femininity of all women.

The cost is \$30 per person, or \$28 per student. Religious and consecrated women may attend at no charge, but reservations are required. Reservations must be received by Nov. 12. To register or for more information, call Patricia Sherk at (214) 348-6191, or Helen McCleneghen at (972) 612-5978 or e-mail to mclenbea@hotmail.com. More information may be found online at www.womenthirdmillennium.org.

Youth Mass to be held in Vernon Nov. 18

A youth Mass will be held at Holy Family of Nazareth Church, 2200 Roberts Street in Vernon, Sunday, Nov. 18, at 4 p.m. The Mass will be followed by a social with refreshments. All are invited to attend.

According to Cheyenne Marrinan, volunteer coordinator of youth ministry at St. Mary Church in Henrietta, several youth ministers in some of the northwestern counties of the diocese have worked together since August to host monthly youth Masses, which have been well attended by area teens and their adult leaders. "So far we have had great success," said Marrinan, noting that, "We have youth [involved] in every aspect of the Mass."

For more information, call Cheyenne Marrinan at (940) 781-7648 or e-mail to cmarrinan21@yahoo.com.

Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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



ALL SAINTS DAY — Children in the religious education classes at Christ the King Parish in Iowa Park came to church Oct. 28 dressed as their favorite saint. Each child had been given a book on saints, and they spent the previous two weeks reading and then deciding which saint they wanted to portray. After entering the church to the music of "When the Saints Go Marching In," each child shared a brief description of their saint with the congregation. Following the liturgy, the children hosted a "saints" cake and punch party for the assembly.

CRC to hold annual pre-Christmas sale Nov. 17-18

The Catholic Renewal Center Bookstore will hold its annual pre-Christmas sale Saturday, Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 18, 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.

Singles Silent Retreat at Montserrat is cancelled

The silent retreat for singles, which was to have been held at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House the weekend of Nov. 16-18, has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. For more information, call Montserrat at (940) 321-6020, or e-mail to retreat1@airmail.net.

Diocesan Middle School Choral Festival is postponed

According to an announcement from the music department at Nolan Catholic High School, the Diocesan Middle School Choral Festival, which had been scheduled for Nov. 16, has been postponed. Any parents of 6th, 7th, or 8th grade students at diocesan schools who are interested in having their student participate in either the Diocesan Choral Festival or the Diocesan Instrumental Festival in the spring are asked to contact their school's principal, or Melissa Korzekwa at mkorzekwa@nolancatholic.org or at (817) 457-2920 ext. 1733.

Marriage enrichment, validation program to be offered in two locations

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

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

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

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

Turkey feast benefiting All Saints School to be held Nov. 18

All Saints Parish will be hosting a turkey feast Sunday, Nov. 18, at the parish hall, located at 214 N.W. 20th Street on Fort Worth's North side. The meal, which will benefit All Saints School, will be served from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A variety of foods will be available for purchase, including a meal of a hamburger and french fries for \$5, nachos for \$1, hot dogs for \$1, and drinks for \$1.

All are welcome. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 626-3055.

Our Lady of Grace High School to host banquet

All are invited to attend a recognition banquet celebrating the new campus location of Our Lady of Grace High School, a college preparatory school now in its sixth year of operation. Supporters of the school, which is located at 13517 Alta Vista Road in Roanoke, will host the banquet Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Marriott Solana Hotel, located at 5 Village Circle in Westlake. Bishop Kevin Vann will be in attendance.

Tickets are \$65 per person. Table sponsorships are available. For reservations or more information, call (817) 933-6516 or visit online at www.olghs.org.



PRECISION DANCING — The Sacred Heart School Dance Team from Muenster, under the direction of Leslie Eddleman (*left*), traveled to Texas Stadium Oct. 27 for the 17th annual Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Dance Competition. High schools and private dance academies from all over Texas and from Oklahoma came in full form, all vying for a spot in the half-time show during the Dallas Cowboys' game Dec. 16. A select group of 12 members of Sacred Heart Dance Team took first place in the High School Small Group Kick Division with their crowd-pleasing "Cotton Eyed Joe" routine. The 16-member dance team also brought home a first place trophy for its "Patriotic Tribute" in the High School Small Group Novelty Division. Sacred Heart Dance Team is anxiously awaiting its scores to learn whether it qualified for the Cowboys' half-time show. Coach Eddleman states, "There is a good chance the team scored high enough to qualify. . . . The dance was performed with such professional precision that they stand a good chance of being accepted."

North Texas Catholic deadlines for submission

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

Items for the Nov. 23 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 14. Items for the Dec. 7 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

Peruvian Catholic university shares designs to strengthen adobe homes

By Barbara J. Fraser

PACHACUTECA, Peru (CNS) — Higinia Rupay remembers her terror as the ground began to heave and bricks from the neighbor's wall crashed through the flimsy roof of her home.

She rushed into the street, fearing that her simple adobe house would not withstand the magnitude 8 earthquake that struck Peru's southern coast Aug. 15.

By the time the tremors stopped, many houses in this tiny farming community, about 150 miles south of Lima, had been reduced to rubble. Hers showed no damage, but like most of her neighbors, she was hesitant to go back inside.

Her granddaughter was braver.

"She said, 'Grandma, the house doesn't have any cracks — I'm going to sleep in my room,'" Rupay said.

The secret to the house's strength is hidden in the walls, where researchers from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru are testing a system that uses wire mesh to reinforce the corners of the building, typically the weakest part of an adobe house.

"I asked if [the reinforcement] meant the house would not collapse," Rupay said, recalling the engineers' first visit nearly 10 years ago. "They said the wall might crack, but it would give us time to get out."

More than 80,000 homes were destroyed and more than 40,000 were damaged seriously in the earthquake, according to Peru's National Civil Defense Institute. Most were made of adobe.

Wider use of wire mesh reinforcement might have saved more of the structures, and engineers from the university hope that people can be encouraged to rebuild using an even sturdier design to protect houses the next time an earthquake strikes.

"In Peru, as in many countries, a large percentage of people live in mud-brick houses because they have no alternative," engineer Marcial Blondet, dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the university, told Catholic News Service. "But if the mud has not been baked, it is very weak. It breaks without warning, and often those fractures lead to complete collapse."

As a result, the place where people should feel most secure becomes a death trap, he said.

Adobe houses are often poorly constructed, and walls are likely to separate at the corners, according to engineering professor Daniel Quiun. So in 1998 and 1999, when the researchers began testing reinforcement methods, they traveled to various parts of the country looking for houses that had design flaws.

One of the buildings they chose was the house where Rupay and Legua live. The couple

built one room of ordinary brick, but the bedrooms are adobe. Researchers trained a local brick mason to attach wire mesh panels to the adobe walls at the corners and around doorways.

"Then we had to wait for an earthquake to come to see what would happen," Quiun told CNS.

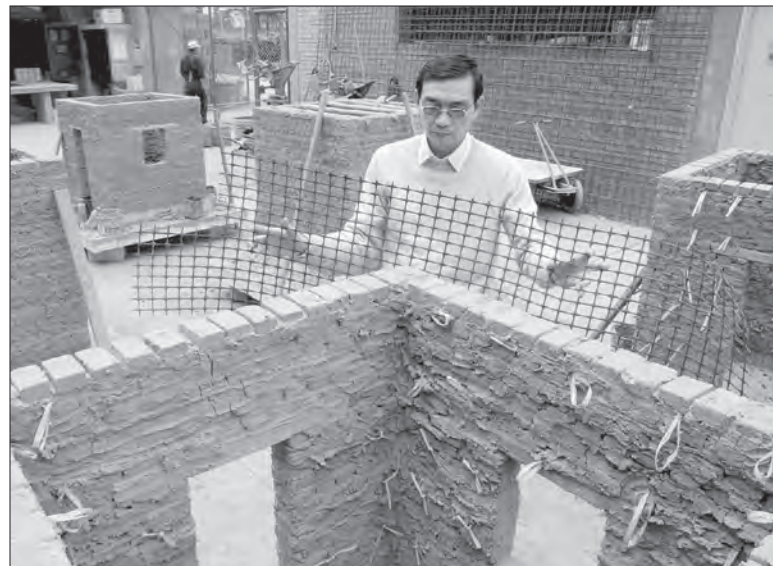
That house and another about 15 miles away withstood a smaller quake in 2003 as well as the one in August, although neighboring houses were reduced to rubble. Heavy machinery from the street clearing debris from the street where Rupay and Legua live.

"We were sorry to see so much destruction, but happy that the design worked," Quiun said.

While the reinforcement does not necessarily mean the house will withstand a strong earthquake, the mesh is designed to keep the walls from collapsing, giving the occupants 20-30 seconds to get out of the building.

The researchers also have found ways to build adobe houses that are even more earthquake resistant. Some of those designs have been tested in the university's engineering laboratory, where small test models of adobe houses are placed on a platform that is shaken to simulate earthquakes of different magnitudes.

In one of the strongest models, the bricks are formed around a lattice of bamboo-like cane.



STRENGTHENING ADOBE STRUCTURES — Engineering professor Daniel Quiun of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru demonstrates the technique used to reinforce the corners of rooms in adobe houses with wire mesh to help them withstand earthquakes. Quiun spoke about this new building technique in Lima, Peru, Oct. 30. (CNS photo/Walter Hupiu)

Another involves virtually wrapping the house with a plastic mesh that is tied in place with cords laid across the bricks as the walls are built. The researchers have designed a simple instruction manual illustrating the technique, and Blondet hopes that government officials will encourage people to use that design when they rebuild.

The plastic mesh, which is not manufactured in Peru, is more expensive than wire, but Peruvian President Alan Garcia has promised \$2,000 to every family whose home was destroyed in the earthquake. That would be enough to build a simple, four-room, reinforced house measuring about 540 square feet, Blondet said.

Offering a foolproof design is only half the battle, though. The

challenge is to get the information into people's hands and convince them to adopt new building techniques.

"Technical solutions have existed for some time, but many people either aren't aware of them or don't apply them," Blondet said. "We have tried many things, but they have mainly been limited to pilot houses. We want to bring about a transformation" in the way people build their homes.

The university is teaming up with the international humanitarian aid agency CARE to introduce the new design, and the researchers hope the national and local governments will support the effort.

"Earthquakes are going to keep happening" in Peru, Quiun said. "We have to be prepared."

More than two months after Peruvian quake, cities see little progress in rebuilding

By Barbara J. Fraser

PISCO, Peru (CNS) — At first glance, Freddy Sanchez appears to be one of the lucky ones. When a magnitude 8 earthquake struck this fishing port, his house remained standing while many of his neighbors' homes and the church across the street collapsed.

But his luck may be running out. Government officials have said that the soil in the beachfront neighborhood where he lives is unstable, and they might prohibit rebuilding there. Officials have not talked with residents, however, and rumors are rampant.

"This is where my great-grandparents, my grandparents, and my parents lived," he said of the Pisco Playa neighborhood. "I have title to this land, and they can't force me to move."

Sanchez's neighborhood has no running water, and the sewers have backed up, creating a foul-smelling puddle at the end of the street that draws flies and mosquitoes.

"Unfortunately, little progress is being made in housing. There hasn't been a single house, not even half a house, built in Chinchá, Pisco, or Ica," said Bishop Guido Brena Lopez of Ica, whose diocese includes those three towns located closest to the quake's epicenter. "For people to have to live in a tent when they have small children is a calamity."

Some tiny prefabricated houses have been set up on empty lots, but "they are temporary and precarious," he told Catholic News Service.

Residents are still trying to rebuild their lives months after the Aug. 15 earthquake killed more than 500 people, injured more than 1,000, and damaged or destroyed about 100,000 homes in Pisco and the nearby towns of Ica, Chinchá, and Canete.

Thousands of people still live in tents, either in camps set up by the government or near the places where their houses once stood, where they can keep an

eye on the little they have left and ensure that no one takes over their land.

On the main plaza in Pisco, beside the two towers that are all that remain of San Clemente Church, tents also serve as makeshift telephone and Internet booths. Scattered shops and restaurants around town have reopened, and people sell soft drinks and sundries outside temporary shelters.

"There is a lack of housing, but there is no way of rebuilding the housing until the water and sewer problems are solved," said Father Alfonso Berrade, pastor of San Clemente Parish and director of the Pisco office of Caritas, the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, an umbrella group of Catholic humanitarian aid and development agencies.

Officials are doing a soil survey in Pisco, Fr. Berrade said. Based on the results, they will decide where to rebuild. Shortly after the earthquake, there was talk of shifting the main part of

the city to more solid ground, but that appears to be impractical. "People don't want to leave," he said.

Many are worried that they might lose their land rights because they do not have formal title to their lots. On the periphery of the city, some people have built homes on public land that they simply took over. Others live in houses that have been passed down through the family without legal title.

The diocese is trying to arrange legal assistance for people who need help with titles and is urging residents and government officials to ensure that new buildings meet stricter safety standards, Bishop Brena said.

Meanwhile, residents who are going ahead with repairs or erecting makeshift shelters are dismayed by the inflated prices of building materials.

A sack of cement that cost \$3 before the earthquake now costs \$7, according to one resident, while the price of 1,000 bricks has

more than doubled, from about \$110 to \$260.

Julio Favre, head of FORSUR, the reconstruction agency set up by the government, has estimated that reconstruction will take two years and cost about \$530 million, about \$330 million of which would be for grants to people who lost their houses. FORSUR currently has about \$60 million from government funds, loans, and international donations, with another \$107 million worth of donations pledged.

Across the street from the ruins of San Francisco Church in Pisco Playa, where seven people were killed when the roof collapsed, Rosa Moyano Lopez, whose home was destroyed, is living in an eight-foot-square tent with her four children, a sister, and a niece. Although she is frustrated by the slow pace of earthquake reconstruction efforts, Moyano looks forward to rebuilding.

"If we were spared," she said, "it's because we still have a mission here on earth."

Diocesan / State / National

Special Collection: Annual Collection for the Holy Father

Parish Name	Parish Location	Holy Father July 2006	Holy Father July 2007
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Abbott	203.00	241.00
Jesus of Nazareth	Albany	63.00	213.00
Holy Redeemer	Aledo	635.00	642.00
Most Blessed Sacrament	Arlington	2,829.44	3,226.00
St. Joseph	Arlington	2,130.77	2,248.15
St. Maria Goretti	Arlington	2,765.26	4,173.50
St. Mary the Virgin	Arlington	731.00	0.00
St. Matthew	Arlington	496.25	205.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Arlington	1,061.00	1,349.00
Vietnamese Martyrs	Arlington	1,510.00	1,957.00
Holy Trinity	Azle	1,094.00	767.00
St. Michael	Bedford	3,555.50	2,810.00
St. Jerome	Bowie	70.00	55.00
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Breckenridge	246.35	360.48
St. John the Baptizer	Bridgeport	307.67	621.31
St. Jude Thaddeus	Burkburnett	276.00	343.00
St. Ann	Burleson	1,447.00	1,379.00
St. Catherine of Siena	Carrollton	2,454.00	2,777.00
Holy Rosary	Cisco	39.00	149.00
St. Joseph	Cleburne	41.00	785.01
Holy Angels	Clifton	358.00	554.00
Good Shepherd	Colleyville	2,051.00	1,541.00
Holy Cross	The Colony	169.00	358.25
Sacred Heart	Comanche	62.00	0.00
St. Joseph	Crowell	0.00	15.00
Assumption/Blessed Virgin Mary	Decatur	641.31	716.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	De Leon	91.20	0.00
Immaculate Conception	Denton	804.00	1,285.00
St. Mark	Denton	3,753.66	2,899.24
St. Mary	Dublin	577.00	436.00
St. Francis Xavier	Eastland	12.00	82.00
St. Paul	Electra	15.00	40.00
All Saints	Fort Worth	975.05	1,269.41
Christ the King	Fort Worth	652.00	816.00
Holy Family	Fort Worth	2,556.00	2,761.00
Holy Name of Jesus	Fort Worth	0.00	283.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Fort Worth	2,478.00	2,396.52
Our Lady of Fatima	Fort Worth	836.00	764.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Fort Worth	1,770.00	2,298.00
Our Mother of Mercy	Fort Worth	148.00	382.00
San Mateo	Fort Worth	255.00	335.00
St. Andrew	Fort Worth	4,213.58	5,370.17
St. Bartholomew	Fort Worth	4,967.32	6,039.02
St. George	Fort Worth	401.00	796.00
St. John the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,504.00	1,977.50
St. Mary of the Assumption	Fort Worth	381.00	0.00
St. Patrick Cathedral	Fort Worth	4,698.61	3,871.00
St. Paul	Fort Worth	798.20	623.30
St. Peter the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,261.00	1,358.50
St. Rita	Fort Worth	206.00	299.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	Fort Worth	1,482.15	2,151.32
St. Mary	Gainesville	1,344.35	267.00
St. Rose of Lima	Glen Rose	233.00	367.62
St. Francis of Assisi	Graford	65.00	0.00
St. Mary	Graham	798.62	708.11
St. Frances Cabrini	Granbury	1,493.00	1,360.40
St. Francis of Assisi	Grapevine	2,516.00	0.00
St. Mary	Henrietta	75.00	110.00
Our Lady of Mercy	Hillsboro	536.20	912.24
Korean Catholic Community	Hurst	0.00	0.00
Christ the King	Iowa Park	30.00	41.00
St. Mary	Jacksboro	106.70	25.00
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Keller	4,724.00	4,679.50
Santa Rosa	Knox City	64.25	119.87
St. Philip the Apostle	Lewisville	2,749.40	2,652.77
St. Peter	Lindsay	1,081.00	2,044.26
St. Jude	Mansfield	915.00	1,351.25
St. Mary of the Assumption	Megargel	75.00	0.00
Our Lady of Lourdes	Mineral Wells	0.00	0.00
St. William	Montague	0.00	0.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Morgan	96.80	123.00
Sacred Heart	Muenster	1,676.00	2,465.00
St. Joseph	Nocona	80.00	0.00
St. Theresa	Olney	125.00	113.00
Nativity/Blessed Virgin Mary	Penelope	143.70	131.05
St. Thomas Aquinas	Pilot Point	368.00	321.00
St. Mary	Quanah	0.00	68.00
St. Rita	Ranger	27.00	44.00
St. Joseph	Rhineland	210.00	347.00
St. Boniface	Scotland	58.00	121.00
Sacred Heart	Seymour	129.00	0.00
St. Brendan	Stephenville	338.08	188.10
St. John	Strawn	105.00	107.23
St. John	Valley View	0.00	0.00
Holy Family of Nazareth	Vernon	0.00	252.00
St. Stephen	Weatherford	1,577.00	1,426.00
Immaculate Conception of Mary	Wichita Falls	495.00	668.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Wichita Falls	0.00	890.42
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Wichita Falls	773.91	1,174.94
Sacred Heart	Wichita Falls	1,069.00	1,413.00
St. Mary	Windthorst	402.00	646.00

84,552.33 91,156.44

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



YOUTH FITNESS — Students eagerly line up for an autograph by tennis ace Andy Roddick at an inauguration ceremony for his new tennis program for young people at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. The top-ranked American male tennis star greeted an enthusiastic crowd of sports fans Oct. 3 with reporters pressed against the court fence to watch the sports hero volley serves with youngsters in the new program. The program is a collaborative effort with the goal of introducing tennis and its lifelong fitness and social empowerment benefits to young people who live on San Antonio's West Side. (CNS photo/Carol Baass Sowa, TODAY'S CATHOLIC)

Archbishop Chaput finds correlation between contemporary challenges and those of early church

FROM PAGE 1

[because] unless we live our Catholic faith authentically, with our whole heart and our whole strength," the archbishop said, "we have nothing worthwhile to bring to the public debates that will determine the course of our nation."

Archbishop Chaput said that the so-called "post-Christian" time in which we live and where Western nations have abandoned or greatly downplayed their Christian heritage "actually looks a lot like the pre-Christian moment."

"The signs of our times in the developed nations — morally, intellectually, spiritually, and even demographically — are uncomfortably similar to the signs in the world at the time of the Incarnation," he said.

The challenges faced by American Catholics today, he said, are similar to those faced by the first Christians.

In Roman times, as now, the society was advanced in the sciences and arts, had a complex economy, a strong military, and included many religions, practiced privately or through civic ceremony. Promiscuity, bisexuality, homosexuality, and prostitution were common and accepted, he noted. Birth control and abortion were legal, widely practiced, and justified by society's leading intellectuals, he said.

The early Christians successfully evangelized their culture

Believers must be God's "witnesses on earth, not just in our private behavior, but in our public actions, including our social, economic, and political choices."

— Archbishop Charles Chaput

throughout Western civilization in a relatively brief period of 400 years, Archbishop Chaput said. "If we can learn from that history, the more easily God will work through us to spark a new evangelization."

The keys to Christian success were both doctrine and action, he said. People's belief in the Gospel led to "a radical transformation. So radical they couldn't go on living like the people around them anymore," he said.

One of the areas in which early Christians rejected the culture around them was marriage and the family, said Archbishop Chaput.

"From the start, to be a Christian meant believing that sex and marriage were sacred," he said. "From the start, to be a Christian meant rejecting abortion, infanticide, birth control,

divorce, homosexual activity, and marital infidelity — all those things widely practiced by their Roman neighbors."

Archbishop Chaput recounted that Christian reverence for the unborn "is no medieval development. It comes from the very beginnings of our faith."

"The early church had no debates over politicians and Communion. There wasn't any need," he said. "No persons who tolerated or promoted abortion would have dared to approach the eucharistic table, let alone dared to call themselves true Christians."

"The early Christians understood that they were the offspring of a new worldwide family of God," he said. "They saw the culture around them as a culture of death, a society that was slowly extinguishing itself."

Archbishop Chaput said, "Since we see similar signs in our own day, we need to find the courage those first Christians had in challenging their culture. We need to believe not only what they believed. We need to believe those things with the same deep fervor."

He said that believers must speak up "vigorously and without apologies" and be God's "witnesses on earth, not just in our private behavior, but in our public actions, including our social, economic, and political choices."

Archbishop Chaput concluded, "If pagan Rome could be won for Jesus Christ, surely we can do the same in our own world. What it takes is the zeal and courage to live what we claim to believe."



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Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit.

Lady Margaret Roper

The College School at
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Diocesan

Celebrating 50 (or more) Golden Years

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

Background: Couples celebrating 50 or more years of marriage renew their wedding vows.

Some couples meet on a blind date or start their courtship as high school or college classmates.

Clarence and Jeannette Huslig can thank a Catholic newspaper for bringing them together more than five decades ago.

The former Jeannette Duquette was working in the personnel office at the Millington Naval Air Station in Memphis when she discovered a discarded edition of the Wichita, Kansas, diocesan newspaper on top of a file cabinet.

"I found this Catholic newspaper, and I wanted to know who owned it," remembers the Navy yeoman, who grew up in Maine where she attended parochial school with nine brothers and sisters. "I was intrigued because there weren't that many Catholics living in Tennessee at the time."

Her search ended at the desk of Clarence Huslig, a U.S. Navy serviceman who also grew up in a Catholic household with nine brothers and sisters.

"My mother would send me the paper," he says, recalling how the reading material helped the time pass during long duty periods and eventually changed his life. "I met Jeannette in June 1951, and we married the following November."

Fifty-five years later, the Husligs were among the gathering of 100 married partners who renewed their vows during the second annual Golden Anniversary Mass, celebrated Oct. 14 by Bishop Kevin Vann inside Arlington's Most Blessed Sacrament Church. Hosted by the diocesan Office of Family Life, the event recognizes husbands and wives who have remained committed to each other 50 years or longer. Many in the audience were married more than 60 years, with one couple applauded for 67 years of wedded bliss.

"This is a good way to highlight marriage and honor these couples," said Deacon Dick Stojak, diocesan director of Family Life. "It shows that it can be done and [that] marriage can last a long time."

The diocese received positive feedback after inaugurating the golden jubilee event last year. Many couples don't have a party to mark the special occasion, explains organizer Kathy Stojak.

"They don't do anything in particular for the anniversary but maybe go out to dinner with friends. This is the only thing they have," she explains. "People feel honored that the church recognizes their 50 years together."

The event also sets an example for young marriages.

"It shows couples who are getting married today that people can make lifelong commitments to one another and live them out," Kathy Stojak said.

Participants in this year's Golden Anniversary Mass represented at least 5,000 years of marriage, and many celebrated the milestone in the company of family and friends.

Su Nguyen and Mua Tran sat in the church vestibule with several of their children as they waited for the liturgy to begin. Natives of a small village in South Vietnam, their union was arranged by both sets of parents when Tran was 17 and her bridegroom 21. Together they survived Nguyen's military service during the Vietnam War and the country's transition to communism. In 1980, they escaped from their homeland by boat with seven children and eventually settled in Texas.

"They wanted more opportunity for us and freedom," said daughter Kim Nguyen, who in-

terpreted as her parents spoke in Vietnamese. "They're very excited about this celebration and enjoy living here with the family."

And as for their arranged marriage, a custom abandoned by the couple's Americanized offspring, "They feel lucky they were brought together," she added.

But the couple, who are parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Fort Worth, and their fellow jubilarians have more than just luck to thank for preserving their marriages through good times and bad, sickness and health, as well as wealth and poverty.

"Your faith has sustained you," Bishop Vann said, addressing the congregation during his homily. "We thank God for your witness. The sacrament of marriage is a call from God himself to be a living sign of the love of Christ in the world in which we live."

He then shared with his listeners the details of a project he recently completed. Along with several other bishops, Bishop Vann was asked to contribute his thoughts to a pamphlet series

Below: Su Nguyen and Mua Tran of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Fort Worth celebrated 50 years of marriage at the Golden Anniversary Mass.



Left: Bishop Kevin Vann, assisted by Deacon Len Sanchez, walks down the center aisle at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Arlington, blessing the couples with holy water.

Below: Bernadette and Frank Svacina, celebrating 56 years of marriage, share a kiss after renewing their wedding vows.



Left: After 60 years together, Emmett and Louise Lawless once again commit to each other at the diocesan Golden Anniversary Mass, celebrated Oct. 14 at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Arlington.



commissioned by The Shepherd's Voice, an Irving-based publishing company. The small booklets are designed to provide information on church teaching as it relates to popular issues, and the Fort Worth bishop was assigned the topic of marriage.

"They gave me 60 questions to respond to, and I did that with help from people in the diocese," he explained. The words of the pamphlet, he said, reflect "the lives of the couples who helped me write them and reflect your lives as well."

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the Gospel and, if necessary, use words." Golden anniversary couples epitomize the meaning of those words, the bishop continued.

"Your lives, your commitment of marriage is preaching the Gospel without necessarily answering all those questions," the bishop suggested. "You give us hope. You say, 'yes,' it can be done. With the grace of God, this commitment of marriage — this covenant given to us by God himself — can be lived; it can be proclaimed."

Listening to the bishop's words

of praise made Georgia and Henry Tejada remember their own nuptials and the unusual date they chose. The parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Fort Worth spoke their vows 53 years ago on Christmas Day in Waco. Despite competition from Santa Claus and family dinners, the 4 p.m. ceremony, in a poinsettia- and evergreen-decorated church, was attended by 200 people.

The notion of a Christmas Day wedding was odd even then, so the pair had to explain their reasoning to a parish priest.

"We wanted Christ's birth to coincide with the birth of our new life together," says Georgia Tejada, who assumes her answers satisfied the pastor. "After hearing that, he encouraged us to do it."

Today the Tejadas' five children host a dual celebration for their parents every Dec. 25, but that didn't keep the couple from becoming first-time participants in the diocese's Golden Anniversary Mass.

"I think this is a great idea," Georgia Tejada enthused. "We've been looking forward to it. I think it sets an example for young people like our children."

National

Catholics gather for special Mass in Oklahoma dedicated to immigrants

By Dave Crenshaw

TULSA, Oklahoma (CNS) — On the night before one of the toughest immigration policies in the nation took effect, an estimated 1,500 Catholics gathered for a special Mass dedicated to immigrants at St. Francis Xavier Church in Tulsa.

The Oct. 31 Mass was celebrated by Tulsa Bishop Edward J. Slattery who opposed the bill even before it was passed by the Oklahoma Legislature last spring. The measure was signed into law by Gov. Brad Henry in May; it took effect Nov. 1.

Bishop Slattery spoke in Spanish to the packed and solemn congregation the night before All Saints Day. Loudspeakers broadcasted the Mass and homily to hundreds more who listened outside on a cool October evening.

"I would like everyone here to know that my prayers are with you, with your families, your children, and all those whose lives are being undermined as a consequence of those inhuman laws which are taking effect this night," Bishop Slattery said.

The Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007 makes it a felony to knowingly

harbor or transport an illegal alien and creates specific barriers to hiring illegal immigrants. It requires proof of citizenship to obtain certain government benefits and requires all state agencies and contractors to check the immigration status of all workers after July 1, 2008.

Father David Medina, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, has been dealing with fallout from the measure for nearly a year as it made its way through the Legislature. His midtown Tulsa parish — the largest in Oklahoma — is 95 percent Hispanic. Since August, 20 percent of the congregation has moved out of Oklahoma.

"At first, I was just trying to heal the confusion caused by the bill. Now that it is law, it is much harder to console the families that are being forced to leave," he told the *Eastern Oklahoma Catholic*, diocesan newspaper of Tulsa.

Exact numbers are difficult to come by. Some Hispanic Catholics have moved to other states. Others have returned to their homelands, mostly Mexico. Others are still in Oklahoma but are in hiding, uncertain about what will happen if they apply for a job, try to get a drivers license, or even

visit a doctor or hospital.

Last summer, St. Francis Xavier had around 8,000 parishioners. Fr. Medina said that they now number somewhere around 6,500, and he knows of at least 50 more families that plan to leave Oklahoma.

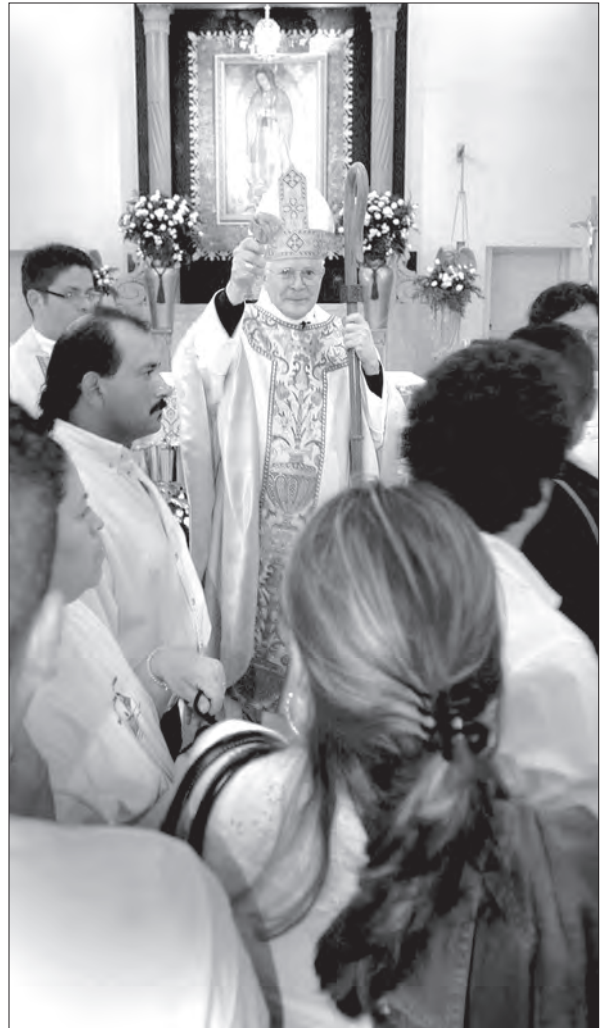
"There's a lot of fear. There's a lot of distress. They feel persecuted by this law," said Fr. Medina, who also serves as director of the Hispanic apostolate overseeing ministries to Hispanic Catholics throughout the 78 parishes in the Tulsa Diocese.

Even though the law is in effect, much about it is uncertain.

Rumors have run rampant. *The Tulsa World* daily newspaper reported that families without proper immigration documentation were being evicted from apartments. There were unsubstantiated reports in the Hispanic community that individuals who have spoken to the media were being deported.

The Tulsa Police Department and the Tulsa County Sheriff office have expressed concerns about having the time and the manpower to enforce the new law.

Both the Tulsa Diocese and the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City are



IMMIGRANTS BLESSED — Bishop Edward J. Slattery of Tulsa, Oklahoma, blesses people as they pass by after a special Mass dedicated to immigrants at St. Francis Xavier Church in Tulsa Oct. 31. The Mass was held on the eve of implementation of a new state law that has been called one of the toughest immigration policies in the nation. An estimated 1,500 people attended the Mass. (CNS photo/David Crenshaw, EASTERN OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC)

adamantly opposed to the law.

In late October, Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City, priests, and more than 1,000 laypeople signed a one-page "pledge of resistance" to the law, calling it "unjust and immoral."

In his homily at the special

Mass for immigrants in Tulsa, Bishop Slattery agreed with the pledge.

"As baptized members of Christ we cannot be silent or complicit with those who abuse the God-given dignity of the children of God," he said.

Supporters of AgJOBS bill fear it will meet same fate as DREAM Act

FROM PAGE 1

benefit from the bill range from fewer than 100,000 to fewer than 500,000.

In June, a comprehensive immigration reform bill twice failed on cloture votes in the Senate. The House has not brought its parallel legislation to the floor.

Appleby said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, has said she wants to bring to the floor the Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act, known as AgJOBS, which would open up more visas for agricultural workers. Farmers nationwide have had an increasingly difficult time

finding enough laborers with the legal right to work in the U.S.

That bill also has enjoyed bipartisan support. Both AgJOBS and the DREAM Act were included in the comprehensive bill considered this summer.

But Appleby said he wasn't optimistic that AgJOBS would fare any better than the DREAM Act did.

Frank Sharry, director of the National Immigration Forum, of which the USCCB is a member, urged the House to be encouraged by the fact that a majority of senators were willing to support the DREAM Act, even if there weren't enough votes under Sen-

ate procedures.

"That a clear majority wants to take some action on targeted immigration measures should encourage those leading the charge on AgJOBS to keep up the fight and encourage House leaders to consider creative ways to move a number of specific immigration measures simultaneously," said a statement from Sharry.

He said the debate about immigration is being ceded to politicians such as Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colorado, a vocal opponent of legislation that would provide a way for people who are in the country illegally to legalize their status.

"We are saddened and angered that so many senators, including a majority of Republicans, opted to stand in the schoolhouse door and thwart the dreams of deserv-

ing young people who are American in all but paperwork," said Sharry. "This occurred the day after Congressman Tom Tancredo called for the arrest of DREAM Act kids who came to the Capitol to plead their case."

Tancredo, also a candidate for president, had written to the office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement asking the agency to arrest "any illegal aliens" participating in an Oct. 23 press conference hosted by Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, at the Capitol in support of the DREAM Act.

The press conference featured three immigrant students who would benefit from the DREAM Act. A Durbin spokesman said all three have temporary legal status. No effort was made to arrest the students.

Sharry warned that demonizing and opposing "students and soldiers who think of America as their only home," is "not only politically shortsighted, it grates on the conscience of the nation."

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Viewpoints

Faith and Reason: The Two Wings on which the Human Spirit Soars to God

By Lucas Pollice

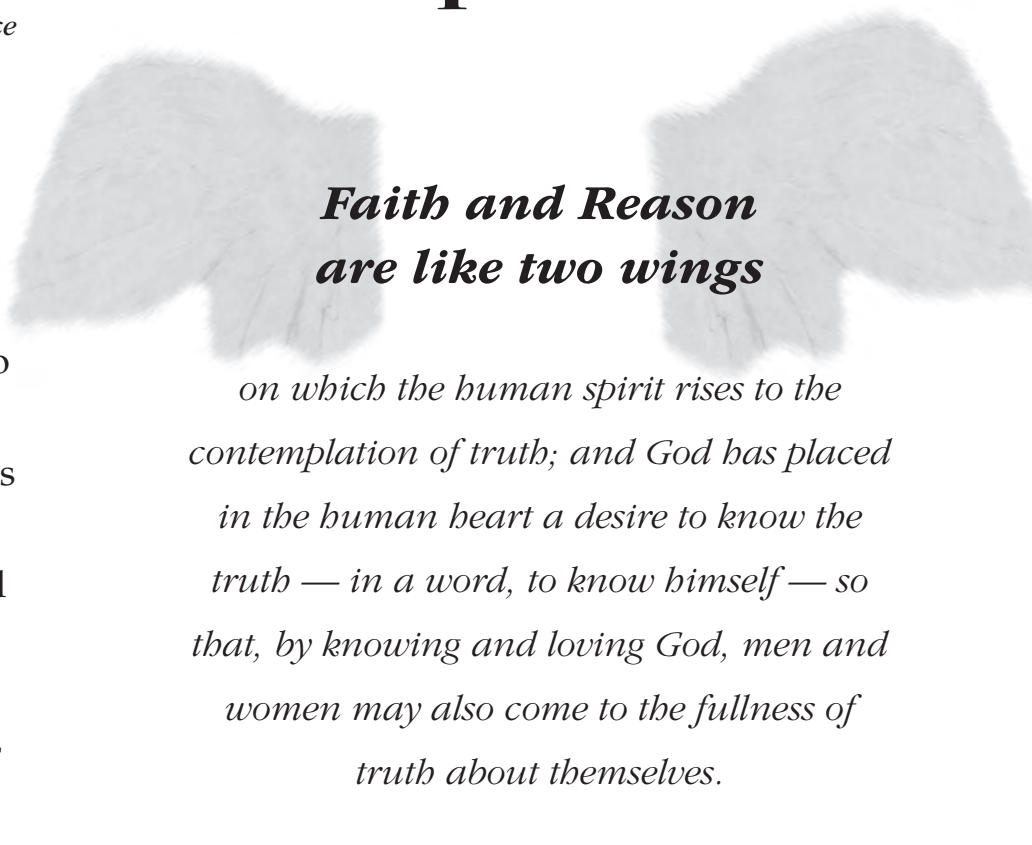
The great early Church Father St. Augustine defined theology, the study of God, as “faith seeking understanding.” How we come to know God and ultimately how we come to share in his life is indeed through first accepting in faith what God has revealed to us and then seeking to further understand his truth and plan for us.

Mary gives us a perfect example of this faith seeking understanding at the Annunciation. Mary demonstrates great faith, but a faith that was seeking understanding. When the angel told her that she was going to conceive a child, she accepted with faith what God was revealing to her in this mysterious event. She clung to his words; she believed them even though she did not fully understand them.

But Mary’s faith did not stop there. She sought to more deeply understand what God’s word meant, so that she could more deeply know, love, and serve him. So Mary pondered God’s word in her heart and mind and asked questions. “How will this be if I do not know man?” (Luke 1:34) Asking questions is not doubting! Mary’s question does not show doubt, but rather shows that she believes God’s revelation but desires to know his will even more profoundly so that she will be able to more perfectly cooperate with his plan. We should always seek to know more deeply who God is and who we are and what God’s plan and will is for us.

The reality is that our relationship with God is like any relationship. Whether it be a spouse or a friend, we seek to know ever more deeply who they are, and the more we come to truly know them, the more we can grow in love and friendship with them.

The same applies with our faith in God and our relationship with him. We certainly do not know everything about God. But that does not mean we don’t stop learning. And just because God’s revelation can sometimes be difficult to understand or difficult to live does not mean we just reject it or give up. It is at those times in particular that, like Mary, we cling with faith to what God has



***Faith and Reason
are like two wings***

on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth — in a word, to know himself — so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.

—FIDES ET RATIO

(ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON), 1

revealed to us, and we surrender our intellect and will to what he has revealed.

But then we ponder it, we ask questions, we read the Scriptures, study the teachings of the Church, and we pray about it. What if Mary did not understand at first what the angel was telling her, and she just thought it was too hard to accept or live without pondering in her heart God’s word, asking the questions, and praying for the grace to live faithfully according to God’s will? Our faith in God requires that we always seek to more deeply understand God’s revelation so that we may more deeply love and serve him.

One of the most common charges against faith in our modern culture is that faith contradicts reason, or that the things that we believe are unreasonable.

Nothing could be farther from the truth! Not only does faith not contradict reason, but faith actually builds upon and perfects our reason. Faith takes what we can know through our reason alone and enables us to understand the truths about God and ourselves on a completely new level.

We see this profoundly with Mary and the Annunciation. It seems “unreasonable” that Mary could be with child since she had never had relations with a man. However, because of Mary’s faith and her desire to further understand God’s revelation and plan, God reveals to her that her child is not conceived through a man, but rather through the power of the Holy Spirit. There is no way that Mary could have come to

know this through her reason alone. But through her faith in God’s revelation, she comes to know that her Son will be conceived through the Holy Spirit and truly be the Son of God.

Is this unreasonable or is God’s plan simply beyond Mary’s natural reason? This is the crucial point. We call what we do not know about God “mysteries” not because the truths about God are unreasonable, but because they are simply beyond the capacity of our reason that is currently limited by space and time and our finite nature here on earth.

In addition, just because something is beyond our reason does not mean that it is not true. We see this in our everyday lives! For example, if I were to ask my four-year-old what eight times eight is, he would have no idea. It is simply beyond his reason at this point in his human existence. Does that mean that $8 \times 8 = 64$ is not true? Of course not! It just means that that truth is simply beyond his reason, not contrary to it or nonexistent.

Can we possibly completely know and understand the many mysteries concerning the universe, the natural world, the complexity of the human person? How many complex truths are there out there that many of us are unable to understand at this moment? That does not mean they are false or nonexistent or contradict our reason; those complex truths are simply beyond our understanding.

The same applies to the mysteries of God. They are true because God has

revealed them to us, but many of them are beyond our reason which is limited in many ways while we are in this world. In fact, not only is God’s revelation not unreasonable, but we can even come to a limited and imperfect understanding of revelation through our reason alone such as our understanding of the natural law. However, through God’s revelation and our faith seeking understanding, we can continue to ponder the mysteries of God, so that we may come to know them more deeply until the fullness of time when we see God face to face.

Thus, the dual and inseparable relationship of faith and reason are the two irreplaceable and indispensable means through which we come to know God and enter into the profound depths of his mystery — and also come to know who we are as children of God, created in his image and likeness. As John Paul II powerfully states:

Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth — in a word, to know himself — so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.

—FIDES ET RATIO (ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON), 1

Therefore, the mysteries of our Catholic faith should never be roadblocks to our faith, but should always call us to a deeper understanding and a deeper communion with God who is continuously calling us to himself. This is why life-long catechesis is not only important but should be an essential and indispensable part of the Christian walk. As we see in the great story of the encounter between Jesus and his disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke’s Gospel, Christ is always walking with us on the journey, answering our questions and fulfilling our deepest longings. All we need to do is open our hearts and minds without fear to his truth, so that our hearts may indeed burn with love for Christ, and we may become his powerful instruments of love and truth. Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!



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 four children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, and Christian.

Sometimes

God wears Nikes

By Roy Petitfils

In my house the phrase "I'm gonna get you" sets off an ecstatic shriek followed by the rapid pitter patter of little feet doing their best to wobble/run away from me.

My son, Max, loves to play chase with his Da Da. I have noticed that while he's running away he always turns around just to make sure I'm still following him, which I am — I hope I always will.

But I know that one day "I'm gonna get you" will receive an embarrassed sneer, and that once ecstatic shriek will give way to "Daayaaad, leave me alone!"

Kids inevitably leave behind original innocence. Childhood games become more sophisticated, and their delights often grow less innocent. In this process, many lose themselves and stray far from those who love them. I have seen how this process can take an enormous toll on their family and friends.

In these situations I find comfort in the story of the Prodigal Son. We all know the high points: Boy leaves dad. Boy gets into trouble. Boy comes back ready to beg for mercy. Father takes boy back. Perhaps we have been too familiar with the movement of the story.

One of the dangers of becoming too familiar with the Gospel is that we risk becoming impenetrable to surprise — we are less able to see important nuances that convey powerful spiritual truths.

I wish someone would offer a depiction of this classic story and portray the Father wearing running shoes.

Jesus says that "while he was still a long way off, the father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him

God desires a relationship with us more than we do with him. He is passionate about this relationship, not because it keeps things spiritually tidy, but because he desperately loves us. He loves us even while we are a long way off of the straight and narrow path.

and kissed him." The father waited, he watched, and he ran.

Most of my life I saw God as a begrudging innkeeper who tolerated guests that were bold enough to beat the door down. I am convinced that this is a prevalent image of God among Christians — a tolerant dad, who allows us to enter the Inn of Forgiveness and Grace, once he is convinced that we understand exactly how much we have let him down.

This image of God served me well for most of my life. It kept me on the straight and narrow. It kept me safe.

But it offers little hope for our universal inability to deal with shame and brokenness.

And I believe it offers even less to a generation of jaded youth who would rather indefinitely put off a relationship with God, much less surrender to him.

The Father of Jesus Christ is a runner. Even while we are a long way off, we take hope in the fact that he has been watching for us and is lacing up his running shoes to race toward us!

God desires a relationship with us more than we do with him. He is passionate about

this relationship, not because it keeps things spiritually tidy, but because he desperately loves us. He loves us even while we are a long way off of the straight and narrow path.

It is difficult to accept such raw, illogical, and unrequited intimacy. It is not the experience of most Christians, and I believe it is a fundamental reason many young people find it difficult to relate to God.

We find comfort in this story because even when we have lost hope for our wayward children, we have a sure hope that God has not! Even when we have lost the energy and will to run, God is running to them, chasing them, and beckoning them back. Our hope is in the name of the Lord — who wears running shoes.

Roy Petitfils and his wife Mindi and their son Max live in Lafayette, Louisiana, where he teaches theology at St. Thomas More Catholic High School. He coordinated the campus ministries program there for the five years prior to his current work. Roy is an author and speaker who seeks to motivate and inspire adults, parents, teachers, and ministers in their ministries with young people.



Indoors with Kids

And then...

Sunshine and a Scrape

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Parents talk about the bliss of getting away from their children. At least that's what I've heard.

Not me. I loved being at home with my children. Always.

I loved it especially when all five were inside, when it was raining and they were bored, and when they agreed with each other less than Hannity and Colmes, Siskel and Ebert, or landlords and renters in Judge Judy's TV court.

No matter how unique kids are, how far above average they rank in first-grade reading or on the pediatrician's height chart, they have qualities that surface on rainy days, in enclosed spaces, with adults. Sometimes they pout. Frequently they are argumentative. In fact, if their designated adult was our Blessed Mother, I think she would note the depth to which the quality of her time plunged, when confined to the house with a flock of children on a rainy day.

Clearly, this is conjecture. I have no personal knowledge of these pandemic perils of parenthood, because my five children were perfect. They were quiet; their rooms were tidy. They smiled and agreed on everything.

But recently I spent a week in an enclosed space with them. It rained constantly. No one could make an amicable decision, and....

Wait! Those weren't my children! They were university students. The enclosed space was Washington D.C. I wasn't their mother; I was their mentor. We were together for only four days. But it sure was raining.

Children are children, apparently, whether they are toddlers or millennials. But babies can be disagreeable because they don't know better; 20-somethings disagree just because they can.

Traveling to D.C. for a journalism convention, my college-student children, whom I love nearly as much as my own, could agree on nothing. Collectively, the eight young men and women argued about Thai versus Chinese cuisine, Alfredo versus bolognese sauce, how many subway tickets to buy, whether it is preferable to hold an umbrella or wear a garbage bag on one's head in a rain storm, and which building to visit in the Smithsonian.

Things they agreed on included how fun it was to photograph each other pretending to hold up the Washington Monument. Frequently they also agreed on how much they hated me.

The last day of the conference, my students spent their day without me. And it stopped raining.

Before joining them for dinner, I walked to 5:30 Mass. After 72 hours of rain, the day was perfect early autumn, and my mood matched it. The air was so fresh it brought you to your toes, reaching to God in thanksgiving for the splendor he gave us, at no charge.

I was looking up gratefully as I walked toward St. Matthew's Cathedral, and that's how I caught my toe in

SEE HAMER, P. 26

Three compositions by Father Hector Medina are included in new OCP collection *Luz Perpetua*

Several years ago, parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Wichita Falls presented its then-pastor, Father Hector Medina, with a piano. It was a birthday gift aimed at helping him reduce the day-to-day stress that sometimes accompanies the life of a priest.

Proving to be much more than a stress-reliever, the piano has become a tool that Fr. Medina has used to compose music for the church.

Three of his recent compositions are now available in *Luz Perpetua*, a collection of 52 songs written for funeral rites in the Spanish language. The collection is pub-

lished by Oregon Catholic Press (OCP).

The project began in 2004, when OCP began soliciting composers for new music to provide a richer celebration of the funeral texts in Spanish. All the rituals, from vigil to interment, were available for music settings. Fr. Medina, who is now pastor of St. Matthew Church in Arlington, was invited to participate. Already having had an octavo, "Bajo La Sombra De Tus Alas," published by OCP, he submitted 23 compositions for consideration, from which three were chosen.

The faith of the community at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish provided much of the inspiration for the different songs, according to Fr. Medina. "Every song is itself a prayer for different people in the parish and different inspirations of their faith," he said. His compositions

have not only enhanced the liturgical music but led to a youth-based liturgical interpretative dance during major feasts as well.

Fr. Medina learned of OCP's acceptance of three of his compositions — an Alleluia refrain, "El Paraiso," and "Canto de Despedida" — on the 22nd anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

"I am very proud of this work, knowing the prayerful origins which inspired it," Fr. Medina said. "It does come as a shock to those who do not know my musical side, but the music — the published and the rejected ones — are born of prayer and clothed in faith."

Editor's Note: *LUZ PERPETUA*, the CD and music accompaniment book, may be purchased online at ocp.org or at the Catholic Renewal Center by calling (817) 429-2920.



Above: Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Arlington, plays the piano which was given to him by members of his previous parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Wichita Falls. His musical abilities are receiving greater notice after three of his compositions were recently included in a collection of Spanish-language liturgical music published by Oregon Catholic Press.

Right: The cover art of *Luz Perpetua*, a collection of music for funeral rituals in the Spanish language, is shown. Three Spanish-language songs written by Father Medina were accepted for the project.

Far Right: Father Medina listens compassionately to a parishioner. The priest indicated that the faith of his parish community has provided much of the inspiration for his liturgical compositions.



(Photos by Donna Ryckaert)



ROSARY RALLY — Parishioners from St. Frances Cabrini Church raised their voices in prayer Oct. 13 at the gazebo on Granbury's town square, reciting the rosary in English and Spanish, and joining more than 2,500 similar rosary rallies nationwide. The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property coordinated the event to honor the 90th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. The Granbury event attracted an estimated 80 to 100 people. "Some people said they just happened upon the square, realized what was transpiring, and joined in," said Valerie Brau, co-coordinator of the event along with Katherine Decell. "There was a beautiful mix of people in attendance, and a beautiful way to spend the noon hour," she added. (Photo by Denise Morris)

Continuing education grants are available to those in active ministry

Grant applications will be accepted through Jan. 17

Persons who have been actively involved in ministry within the Diocese of Fort Worth for two years or longer and who are planning study programs that are in service of that ministry are invited to apply to the diocese for educational grant assistance.

Made available through the generosity of the people of the diocese, a sum of \$20,000 is allotted for distribution again this year. Applications must be submitted to Lucas Pollice, director of the Department of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth,

and must be postmarked no later than Jan. 17.

Applicants will be asked to specify their intended course of study, its place and cost, and any other financial aid that they expect to obtain. A pastor's or supervisor's signature is required, as is information that will help establish financial need.

The applications will be processed through the diocesan Department of Catechesis by the Committee on Continuing Education Grant Disbursement. Determinations of aid will be made by late February. At that

time, successful applicants will receive a grant agreement indicating subsequent steps of the process. That agreement must be returned by April 1, and checks will be sent out between May 1 and May 15.

To receive an application, contact The Catholic Center by calling (817) 560-3300 ext. 260, or e-mail to lpollice@fwdioc.org. Forms may also be downloaded from the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org by clicking on Ministry Preparation link, and then choosing Continuing Education Grants.

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Diocesan / International

Holy Redeemer parishioners gather to bless land for new church

About 100 parishioners of Holy Redeemer Church gathered to bless 31 acres of land in Aledo recently where the 270-family parish will break ground on its first church early next year.

The site, part of the former Coder Ranch, is located on Old Weatherford Road about one mile north of I-20 and one mile east of FM 3325. The property sits alongside 135 acres of the former Dearing Ranch.

After erecting a wooden cross where the future church will be built on the property, Holy Redeemer parishioners met at the site to bless the land and share a pancake breakfast at an 8 a.m. gathering Oct. 13. With Father Robert Wilson, pastor of Holy Redeemer, officiating, parishioners enjoyed a simple service of prayer, readings, and songs. After blessing water and sprinkling it on the land surrounding the cross, Fr. Wilson invited parishioners to participate in the blessing ritual by dipping branches pulled from the property's bushes into the holy water. The service concluded with the release of yellow and white balloons, the colors of the Vatican, amidst cheers from parishioners who have dreamed of having their own church in Aledo since area Catholics began meeting in 1999.

After the service concluded, parishioners shared a pancake breakfast prepared on-site. Tour-

Above: Parishioners of Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo gather just after sunrise for a blessing of the property on which their new church will be built. (Photo by Kristin Zschiesche)

ing the home of their future church, some families strolled around the ranchland on foot, while others rode in the back of a pickup truck.

The eight-year-old parish, which purchased the land in August 2006, currently draws about 400 people to Mass held each Sunday in Aledo High School's auditorium. The church's offices are located at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Willow Park.

"As we celebrate the blessing of our land, we want to thank those who've supported us along the way," Fr. Wilson said. "Renting spaces from Aledo High School

and St. Francis Episcopal Church ensured our parish got off to a successful start. We couldn't have held Mass and conducted daily church activities without the use of their facilities. It has been a blessing to work with them."

Expecting to break ground in the first quarter of 2008, Holy Redeemer's construction plans include a 10,000-square-foot worship space for 500 people, a parish hall to hold 300 people, eight religious education classrooms, a youth room, and administrative space. The facility, designed by architect Scott Martsolf, is slated for completion late in 2008.



Above: Architect Scott Martsolf prepared this rendering of Holy Redeemer's new 25,000-square-foot church and surrounding facilities. Construction is expected to begin in early 2008.

"We are truly blessed to have this land for the site of our new church," said Fr. Wilson. "With projected growth in East Parker County, 31 acres allows plenty of room for expansion as our Catholic family grows."

The parish's 30-year master plan for the site includes a 2,000-person church, a parochial school, a community outreach

facility, and athletic and recreational facilities.

"Plus," Fr. Wilson continued, "it is simply a beautiful, serene place to build a church, where an atmosphere of worship, thanksgiving, and faith-building can thrive."

Contributing to this story was Kristin Zschiesche.

Young U.S., Mexican Catholics find unity at a retreat on the border

By J.D. Long-Garcia

NOGALES, Mexico (CNS) — The teens and young adults who filed off buses for Mass along the U.S.-Mexico border Oct. 21 confronted the wall that separates the two countries. While others see division, they saw unity.

The 100 or so young Catholics, who came together in Nogales for an educational retreat Oct. 19-21 at Casa Misericordia, saw artists' renderings of hope and fear painted on the border barrier.

One mural depicted an immigrant caught by a Border Patrol agent while illegally crossing the border. Above the image, someone had written in Spanish, "Live to be free. Die to stop being a slave." Other metallic images, called "milagros," hung from the wall: caricatures of hands, coyotes, skulls, and dollar signs.

The teens and young adults, from the Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, dioceses and the Archdiocese of Hermosillo saw these images in a different light after they spent time together.

The weekend experience, which grew out of a partnership between the three dioceses and



BORDER MASS — Father Ivan Bernal from Agua Prieta, Mexico, holds up the host as he concelebrates Mass with Father Bob Carney of Tucson, Arizona, along the border wall in Nogales, Mexico, Oct. 21. The Mass capped off a three-day weekend event Oct. 19-21, during which young Catholics from the dioceses of Tucson and Phoenix and the Archdiocese of Hermosillo, Mexico, learned about immigration from each other. (CNS photo/J.D. Long-Garcia, CATHOLIC SUN)

causes to possible solutions.

On the morning of Oct. 20, the group watched "Dying to Live," a documentary about why immigrants leave their native land and what hardships they suffer on their journey.

The young Catholics then examined newspapers and magazines for other "borders," or social divisions. The group then discussed what values they had in common and where they differed.

The weekend was an eye-opener for Gerardo Ramos, a teen from San Felipe de Jesus Parish in Nogales, Arizona.

"I didn't know some of the things immigrants have to struggle with to get here," he said, referring to those who cross into the United States illegally. "A lot of them don't make it."

CRS' Marcos Martinez said, "We need to get to know our brothers and sisters on either side of the border. The youth are more open to it."

By listening to each other's stories, "we realize that we are one human family," Martinez said.

Catholic Relief Services called "Diocese Without Borders," helped Catholics from the United States and Mexico get to know each other.

"You could feel the excitement. You could tell they wanted to be there," said José Robles, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Phoenix. "They were

showing a lot of respect for each other."

This is the second stage of an ongoing project that the Phoenix diocesan Office of Peace and Justice began in 2005. The first stage was a series of three immersion experiences with youths in each diocese.

"We can decide to go places

and talk about what we did here," Tricia Hoyt, the office's director, told the group.

While many of the participants were bilingual, others communicated in broken English or Spanish.

Groups from each diocese took turns presenting an aspect of the complex immigration issue, from

More than 7,000 youth and adult leaders attend World Youth Day seeking to

“Discover the Way” to Christ

Photos by Chris Kastner

Above: Bishop Kevin Vann offers parting words of challenge and encouragement to the youth at the conclusion of the Mass.

Left: With broad smiles, Bishop Kevin Vann (left) and Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas acknowledge the enthusiastic applause of the crowd as the bishops are introduced at the Mass.

Right: Father Tom Kennedy, associate pastor at St. Michael Church in Bedford, offers the Eucharist at the World Youth Day Mass.

Above: Youth representing the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas process into the Music Mill Amphitheatre, carrying braziers of incense and festive bell poles adorned with ribbons.

Right: A teen parishioner from St. Monica Church in Dallas serves as a lector at the youth liturgy.

Above: Youth from St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury drum with inflatable “spirit sticks” prior to the liturgy.

Right: Teens from Sacred Heart Church in Wichita Falls enjoy fellowship before the Mass.

More than 7,000 teens and adult leaders from the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas gathered Sunday, Oct. 28, in an exuberant celebration of their Catholic faith at the Music Mill Amphitheatre at the Six Flags Over Texas theme park in Arlington. Youth leaders from the two dioceses have organized the event for the past 15 years to mark World Youth Day, which is celebrated in dioceses across the country on the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

“This year’s theme for the World Youth Day celebration was ‘Discover the Way,’” said Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan offices of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry. “We were thrilled to have Bishop [Kevin] Vann and Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas serving as the main celebrants at the afternoon Mass. Our young people did a wonderful job of sharing their gifts with their faith community by serving as eucharistic ministers, musicians, lectors, animators, and ushers at the Mass,” said Prevou. “We can truly be proud of our youth and their shared commitment to their Catholic faith and identity.”

Approximately half of all parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth participated in the event, Prevou noted. Many ru-

ral parishes chartered buses or organized caravans of vehicles in order to transport large groups of teens and their leaders to the theme park, where participants enjoyed rides, games, and Halloween activities, as well as performances by local Christian musicians throughout the day.

The day’s festivities culminated in the afternoon Mass, which was preceded by an hour of a community-building drum-beating performance, led by the nationally recognized Drum Café. The first 5,000 participants to enter the amphitheatre were each provided with a “spirit stick” to use in the interactive drumming exercises. The plastic, inflatable “sticks,” which were provided through the vocation offices for the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas, were imprinted with contact information for those seeking more details about vocations to priesthood and religious life.

“As young people, we are seeking Christ, how to follow him and how to have a relationship with him that truly affects our daily lives,” teen leaders told the congregation in their welcoming remarks. “...Being Catholic means that we choose to live in relationship with faithful people who are living faithful lives.... It

means choosing to practice our faith daily through prayer and acts of charity to those in need. It means understanding the core beliefs of our shared faith and participating in the practices of that faith, especially the sacraments.”

Over \$5,600 was collected at the Mass. The offering will be used to assist outreach in Honduras and other local relief efforts, said Prevou.

Seventeen-year-old J.C. Ramos, a parishioner at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth, served as an “animator” at the event, and helped to lead in the interactive drumming exercises designed to build unity among the thousands of participants.

“This was my first time to attend a World Youth Day celebration,” he said. “I loved every minute of the day. The bishops told us, at the Mass, that we, the young church, can change the world, that we are responsible for bringing Christ to the world. We all had a lot of energy and a lot of excitement, as we came together in our common faith. It was a great day.”

Editor’s Note: More photographs of the 2007 World Youth Day celebration can be found on the Youth Ministry pages on the diocesan Web site, www.fwdioc.org.

Left: Members of the Drum Café lead community-building drumming exercises to heighten the sense of unity and energy within the large congregation prior to the Mass.

Diocesan

Podcasting Priest kicks off Theology on Tap

Story by Tony Gutierrez
Photos by Mark Lewis

More than 90 young adults from 15 parishes in the Fort Worth Diocese filed into theater seven of Bedford's Movie Tavern Oct. 23 to catch the premiere of the diocese's fifth Theology on Tap series.

Theology on Tap, a program designed to bring together young adults who may not feel comfortable in a church environment to relax and discuss theology, originated in Chicago, but is now licensed and promoted nationally by RENEW International in dioceses throughout the country.

Theology on Tap invites speakers to present to crowds of young adults and share about a particular topic. The speaker at the first session of the series, Father Roderick Vonhögen, founder of sqpn.com, a Web site of Catholic podcasts, spoke about unconventional means to bring Catholicism to the rest of the world.

Fr. Roderick, a "Star Wars" enthusiast, reminisced about how he could connect to "Star Wars" fans all over the world from his rectory in Amersfoort, The Netherlands. He then came to realize that if all these other fans could make Web sites, he could, too.

"The reason that movie became so popular is because George Lucas tapped into a lot of religious themes," Fr. Roderick said. "If we had light sabers in the Bible, a whole lot more people would read it."

Fr. Roderick explained how he created a Web site discussing religious overtones in the "Star Wars" series. After being invited by a group in Texas to see the opening of the first film in the new "Star Wars" film trilogy, he visited the United States and had a revelation.

"For the first time, I encountered all these people that I'd worked with that I [had] never met," Fr. Roderick said. "Through that medium of the Internet, we could form a bond, and it was real; it wasn't virtual."

While studying in Rome, he found a course in mass media

offered for no cost at Gregorian University, which he could take while completing his doctoral studies.

"This is exactly what I've been trying to do, to reach out, beyond the walls of our parish," Fr. Roderick said.

Through the course, Fr. Roderick learned how to do podcasts. One of his class projects, "Daily Breakfast," is now a regular podcast on his site. Fr. Roderick suggested to the local audience that as Catholics, they shouldn't shove their faith down others' throats.

"If you want to enter a dialogue about faith, make it real; share from what is your personal conviction," Fr. Roderick said. "The one successful method of transmitting inspiration is through passion. That communication will probably build the fire in others."

Jeff Hedglen, 42, the

diocese's volunteer coordinator for the Theology on Tap committee, said that each event averages 80 to 100 people in attendance. Theology on Tap is held four Tuesdays in a row every six months and is currently being presented in its fourth location. Attendance is free, although participants may order food and drinks during the talk.

Hedglen explained that the Theology on Tap events specifically target young adults and don't actively invite people

older than 40, though they are welcome. They are hosted in venues that serve alcohol, though not necessarily bars.

"Having the event at an establishment that serves drinks makes it more accessible to young adults..." Hedglen said. "The Catholic Church doesn't think drinking in and of itself is a sin; excessive drinking is a sin."

Hedglen said the committee members meet and mention names of people they may want to speak or a list of topics

they'd like covered and try to find someone to speak about it.

"I think this Theology on Tap is using the same spirit [as the topic]," Fr. Roderick said. "We shouldn't lock ourselves [behind] our doors and be cozy with each other; we should try to reach out and invite other people and get them enthusiastic."

For more details about Theology on Tap, visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org, and click on the Theology on Tap icon.



Top and Above:

Father Roderick Vonhögen, founder of sqpn.com, a Web site of Catholic podcasts, speaks to the approximately 90 young adults who attended Theology on Tap Oct. 23.

Far Left:

Young adults (l. to r.) Carol and Daniel Smith, joined by Austin and Laura Kellerman, scan the menu at Bedford's Movie Tavern as they wait for the Theology on Tap program to start. Father Roderick Vonhögen served as the guest speaker for the first session of this year's Theology on Tap series.

Left:

Jeff Hedglen (standing), volunteer coordinator for the local Theology on Tap committee, visits with young adult participants (foreground) Rocío Barreto-Núñez and Serafin Garcia.

Priest Care Fund also receives necessary support from Sharing in Ministry

FROM PAGE 1
feed the hungry and help the sick but also to visit the imprisoned," he continues. "It's as important as any other ministry and should be supported. Inmates are children of God, just like we are."

For that reason, prison ministry remains one of the key pastoral programs supported by Sharing in Ministry. Contributions to the Annual Diocesan Appeal allow Deacon Sanchez and his team of volunteers to bring the Good News to a population of people who may need it the most.

To date, the Diocese of Fort Worth has received \$2.5 million in pledges toward the appeal's \$2.7 million goal. More than half of the money pledged, has already been paid.

"We're very grateful for the generous response of people and encourage those who are still considering a gift to Sharing in Ministry to do so," says Pat Miller, director of the Office of Stewardship and Development. "Every dollar of our goal is needed to fully fund the many educational, spiritual, and charitable causes supported by the diocesan appeal."

Celebrating 25 years of serving Catholics in North Texas, Sharing in Ministry provides valuable resources to Catholic Charities, Catholic schools, needy parishes, and formation programs as well as faith and evangelization ministries. Every dollar contrib-

uted stays in the diocese and is restricted for use in ministries and programs outlined in the appeal.

Pledges may be made by completing pledge forms or envelopes provided or by accessing information online at the diocesan Web site, www.fwdioc.org. Parishes exceeding their assigned goal will receive a 50 percent rebate for every dollar over the goal that is donated and may use those funds for needs within their faith communities.

"Every gift, regardless of size, will help the appeal meet its goal," Miller says. "This year's theme says it best: 'Together in Faith' we can further the mission of Jesus Christ in North Texas and make a difference in the lives of thousands of people."

Some of those individuals live in local prisons where maintaining a Catholic presence is crucial, says Deacon Sanchez. In any given week, prison ministers meet with more than 300 inmates during Communion services, rosary hours, and Christian living classes. They often distribute Bibles or prayer pamphlets made available through Sharing in Ministry funds.

"But a large part of our ministry is just listening to the offenders," says the deacon, who stays on call for emergencies at the Tarrant County Corrections Center 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "These folks need to be

heard and understood. This isn't about why they're in prison. It's about the struggles they have in life."

Faced with a long prison sentence and alienated from loved ones, most inmates become lost in despair or anger. Prison ministry helps them find their way through faith.

"We all need hope," Sanchez explains. "If we give them hope, we've done what we're supposed to do."

Sharing in Ministry also makes life better for another segment of the population often forgotten. After years of dedicated service, some sick or aging priests may require special medical treatment or convalescent care but have exhausted personal resources, including insurance coverage. To give them the dignified retirement or the medical attention that they need, the Priest Care Fund, partially supported by Sharing in Ministry, steps in to cover expenses.

"In the past five years, it's helped 15 to 20 priests receive residential care or other assistance," says Peter Flynn, diocesan director of Finance and Administrative Services.

Although retired clergy qualify for Medicare, the federal program doesn't cover everything.

"That's part of the reality of that system," Flynn points out. "At the same time, we want our priests to have the dignified



PRISON MINISTRY — Deacon Len Sanchez and St. Andrew staff member Alice Curran are shown entering the Tarrant County Corrections Center in this 2005 file photo. Prison Ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth receives financial support from Sharing in Ministry, enabling Deacon Sanchez to continue his important work with the incarcerated at the Tarrant County jail. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)

life and appropriate care they deserve."

Due to scheduling conflicts, the annual special Sunday collection for infirm priests wasn't held in fiscal 2007. This year, donations to Sharing in Ministry will help make up for the shortfall of

money in the Priest Care Fund.

"Supporting the fund with a Sharing in Ministry contribution is a way of thanking our clergy for their service, wisdom, courage, and energy," Flynn adds. "It's a way of giving back to people who have always given so much."

Public activism must become more focused on common good, speaker says

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics involved in the public square must above all follow the principles of the common good, though that's a countercultural approach in both politics and contemporary American life, said the chairman of the department of politics at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Speaking Oct. 30 to a gathering of the group Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, Stephen Schneck, who also heads the university's Life Cycle Institute, a public policy research program, outlined a five-step agenda for bringing a "common good agenda" to American public policy.

"The foundation for Catholic thinking about politics, governance, and policy is the idea of the common good," Schneck said. But that's "a hard notion for contemporary Americans to understand."

And the momentum in American politics "is one accelerating [away] from anything like the common good," he said. "Let's remember that ours is a politics where citizens are encouraged

— after a terrorist attack — to go shopping. Where even military service is sometimes privatized.

"Ours has become a politics of self-interest, of wedges to divide us, of ever-narrower and ever more antagonistic group interests," Schneck continued. "It's become the pathetically mean-spirited politics of Ann Coulter and Al Franken, a politics of ideology and mere elections ... where important policy making is 'quagmired' in partisan posturing."

To get beyond that atmosphere toward one where seeking the common good is the priority in the public square, Schneck said the first step is to change the language of policy. For instance, he noted that although Catholics, in particular, consider abortion a foremost issue, there has been imperceptible change in policies since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that legalized abortion.

One reason for that, he suggested, has been that discussion about abortion is not phrased in the language of the common good, but in the language of rights.

"We need to stop using and

being used by abortion politics that makes 'life' and 'choice' into weapons for partisan gain and get on with feasible policies that do everything possible to reduce the number of abortions in America," Schneck said.

To do that means policies that support mothers and infants, make adoption easier, and provide medical and financial support for mothers in difficult situations, he said.

A second necessary step is for public policy to be measured by what they do for the "least of our brethren," said Schneck.

"The measure of civilization, the measure of the common good, is the life of these 'least,'" he said, explaining that the "least" in modern society include those who are vulnerable, weak, disempowered, marginalized, or oppressed. They might include the unborn, or victims of racism, homophobia, misogyny, or anti-Semitism. Schneck said they might be the poor, especially children such as those who have inadequate health care.

Schneck said a third step should be returning to a long view

of the historical scope of politics.

"We have to get beyond policies that pander to immediate desires and adopt the longer, historical perspective of the common good," he said. Immigration and treatment of immigrants is especially illustrative of current shortsighted approach, given the history of Catholic immigrants, in particular.

"The prejudices faced the ghettos and shantytowns, the Know-Nothings and the KKK, and all those so-called 'pure Americans' who resented our religion, our languages, and our different cultures," Schneck said. "When we consider the many complex issues of today's immigration, let's never forget the trials Catholic immigrants from Europe experienced as 'micks,' 'krauts,' 'polacks,' and 'wops' — legal and illegal — on the way to becoming Americans."

The common good also looks to the good of future generations, he said. "Whether it's the issue of passing on the costs of the Iraq war or the costs of Social Security to our children, or not developing a responsible energy policy that

will keep the lights on for the next generation, or investing in the physical and virtual infrastructure for tomorrow's commerce — the common good demands that we weigh the passionate yens of the moment against the future good of the whole."

Other guiding principles should include acting as if the common good transcends national interests and with the recognition that the common good calls everyone to a "citizenship of service," he said.

Thomas Melady, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, in response to Schneck's presentation concurred that "participation in political life should be understood as service," a notion that is too little evident.

"What has happened to the dialogue?" Melady asked. Catholics should work to "change the flavor" of political rhetoric, he said. With only a year before the next presidential election, he acknowledged that changing the tone of politics might be overly ambitious, but "we can improve the flavor to include more civility."

At interreligious gathering, pope urges people to trust that God will hear their prayers

By Cindy Wooden

NAPLES, Italy (CNS) — Under gray skies and a cold rain, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged people to stand firm in their hope that God will hear their prayers for justice and peace.

Arriving to celebrate Mass Oct. 21 in Naples' historic Piazza del Plebiscito, Pope Benedict stopped to embrace Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, and other leaders of Christian churches.

The religious leaders were in Naples for an Oct. 21-23 interreligious meeting sponsored by the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community. After the Mass, they were joined by representatives of the Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, and other religions for a meeting and lunch with the pope.

Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Williams, and Ezzedine Ibrahim, a Muslim scholar from the United Arab Emirates, were among the nine guests at the pope's table. Ibrahim was one of 138 Muslim leaders and scholars who signed an Oct. 11 letter to the pope and other Christian leaders proposing a dialogue based on the shared beliefs that there is only one God, that God loves the people he created, and that he calls believers to love others.

Archbishop Williams told Catholic News Service Oct. 22 that one of the topics discussed at lunch was his suggestion that Christian leaders together compose an official response to the Muslim scholars.

He said the pope and the Rev. Samuel Kobia, a Methodist minister and secretary-general of the World Council of Churches,



POPE WAVES — Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful as he arrives to celebrate Mass in Piazza del Plebiscito in Naples, Italy, Oct. 21. Pope Benedict and other religious leaders were in Naples for an Oct. 21-23 interreligious meeting sponsored by the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community. (CNS photo/Tony Gentile, Reuters)

reacted positively to the suggestion, and "now it's a question of trying to connect the dots" with their interreligious dialogue experts drafting a text.

Before the lunch, Pope Benedict told the religious leaders, "We are all called to work for peace and to make a concrete commitment to promoting reconciliation among peoples."

He said the interreligious meetings Pope John Paul II convoked in Assisi, Italy, in 1986 and 2002 to pray for peace were animated by a spirit of opposition to violence and of a strict refusal to allow faith to be used as a pretext for violence.

"Before a world lacerated by conflicts, where some even try to justify violence in the name of God, it is important to reaffirm that religions must never be

vehicles of hatred and that evil and violence can never be justified by invoking God's name," he said.

On a more local level, Pope Benedict used the morning Mass to speak openly about Naples' persistent problems with poverty, violence, organized crime, crumbling infrastructure, and unemployment.

He told the people that "at first glance" the Gospel message about the need to pray without ceasing could appear irrelevant in the face of so many real problems and even violent deaths as members of the Camorra crime organization settle scores with each other.

But, the pope insisted, "the force that, in silence and without fuss, changes the world and transforms it into the kingdom of

God, is faith — and the expression of faith is prayer."

Pope Benedict said it is obvious that sometimes it seems prayers are not being answered, but people must have faith that if they persevere in prayer, God will intervene with justice.

However, he said, "God cannot change things without our conversion, and our real conversion begins with the cry of the spirit that begs for forgiveness and salvation."

To pray is not to ask God to do everything, he said, and it is not to withdraw from the world and wait until things improve.

Christian prayer, he said, "is the strength of hope, the maximum expression of faith in the power of God who is love and will not abandon us."

Naples has plenty of "healthy

energies [and] good people," he said. "But for many people, life is not easy: There are many situations of poverty, lack of housing, unemployment and underemployment, [and] the lack of future prospects.

"Then there is the sad phenomenon of violence. It is not just a matter of the Camorra's disgusting number of crimes, but also the fact that violence unfortunately tends to become a widespread mentality, insinuating itself in layers of social life," he said.

In Naples, a city known for its veneration of the blood of fourth-century martyr St. Januarius, Pope Benedict told Mass-goers that the deadly symbol of blood has been transformed by the death of Christ and the Christian martyrs into a sign of self-giving life and of nonviolence even in the face of persecution.

The pope ended his stay in Naples with a visit to the cathedral where the reliquary containing a vial of St. Januarius' dried blood is kept. Kneeling before the altar, the pope kissed the vial, but the miracle of the blood liquefying did not occur.

Msgr. Vincenzo de Gregorio, custodian of the relic, told reporters that the blood, which often liquefies on the saint's feast day, has never liquefied when a pope visited on a day other than the feast day. The blood is said to liquefy three times a year — on the Saturday before the first Sunday in May, the feast of the transfer of the saint's relics to Naples; Sept. 19, his feast day; and Dec. 16, the local feast commemorating the averting of a threatened eruption of Mount Vesuvius through the intervention of the saint.

Globalization is not just economics, it's also about ethics, says Jesuit Fr. Henriot

By Michael Swan

TORONTO (CNS) — If globalization is necessary and inevitable, then economic progress everywhere is connected ethically to development in countries like Zambia, said a prominent U.S. Jesuit.

True globalization is not just economic, Jesuit Father Peter Henriot, director of the Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection in Lusaka, Zambia, told audiences in Canada as they marked the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

He said if Canadians look at today's economy through the eyes of Catholic Social Teaching, they will embrace globalization.

"It's beyond the economic and political interdependence," he said. "We're ethically interconnected."

Fr. Henriot said when he arrived in Zambia 19 years ago, life expectancy in the landlocked, southern African country was a rather dismal 52 years. Today, life expectancy of Zambians is about 37 years.

While Zambia's life expectancy has dropped, the country's economic indicators, such as gross domestic product and investment, are looking up.

Aid agencies like Development and Peace are unlikely to change the basic economics that drive poverty in Africa, but that's not their purpose, said Fr.

Henriot. Catholic Social Teaching is about the relations between people, and Development and Peace exists to make the idea of solidarity real.

"Development and Peace needs to constantly link to people," he said. "We are a people organization."

Ultimately, Africans will solve their continent's economic and political problems, but they need to do it in the context of international solidarity, Fr. Henriot said.

Fr. Henriot told *The Catholic Register* in Toronto Oct. 26 that Zambians' premature deaths have obvious and undeniable causes.

Foremost, more than 70 per-

cent of Zambians are in desperate poverty, he said. For the majority, food, water, and a safe place to sleep are daily challenges, he added. For Zambians ages 15-49, there is a 17 percent HIV prevalence rate.

Combine that with the collapse of public health care, public education, and many other government services in the 1980s and '90s, he said. Basic public services disappeared when the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and others urged Zambia to take drastic measures to reform its economy and reduce its crushing international debt burden, which reached more than \$6 billion when the country qualified for the Highly Indebted Poor

Countries program in 2000.

Zambia's debt problem began when copper prices went into a two-decade slump in the 1970s. Zambia's copper mines were almost the only way the former British colony earned hard currency on international markets, and the industry was plagued by chronic underinvestment.

Fr. Henriot said the sort of companies that would invest in copper in Zambia were the sort that would dump toxic waste into people's drinking water.

Attempts to diversify Zambia's economy have been cut off by U.S. and European trade barriers that make it next to impossible for African agriculture to compete on world markets, he said.

Scripture Readings



November 18, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) Malachi 3:19-20a
Psalm 98:5-9
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel) Luke 21:5-19

By Jeff Hensley

This week's readings have a great deal to say about the second coming of the Lord and the rather terrifying events and persecutions of Christians leading up to that event, as well as the glory of the coming kingdom when God will be praised and worshipped — joyfully by all.

The Second Letter to the Thessalonians reading comes toward the end of this little epistle in which Paul addressed a community of which too many members were overly concerned about these events and anticipated their approach by sitting around idle and getting into each others' business. This is where Paul's famous phrase "anyone who would not work would not eat" comes into sacred Scripture.

Decades ago when I was a poor college student, my wife and I lived next door to a fearful (but well-dressed and socially prominent) widow of advanced years. She spent much of her time looking out the front window of her home,

peeking through the blinds, fearful of any unexplained cars parked on our relatively busy street.

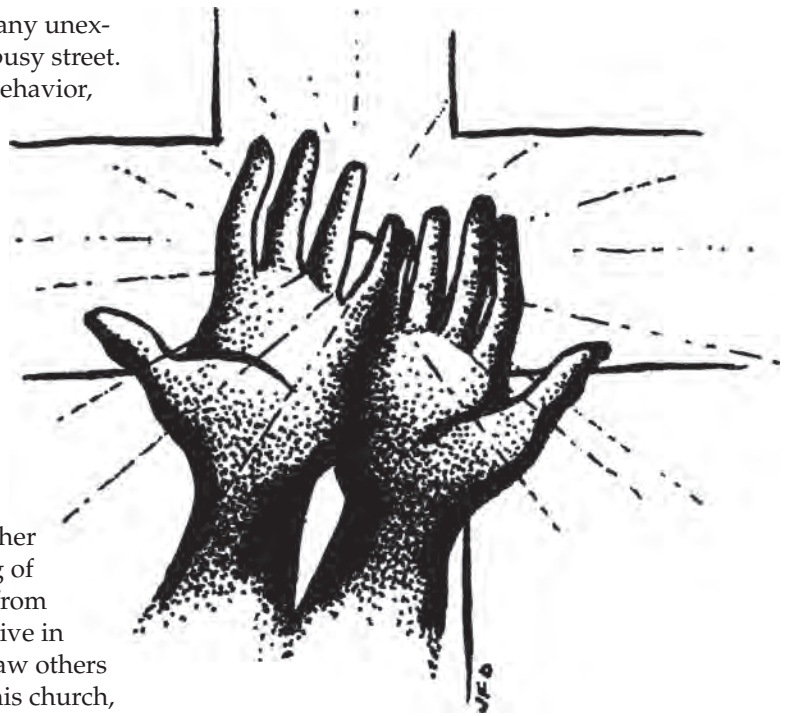
Somehow I was influenced by her behavior, very narrowly missing one opportunity to help someone whose car trouble had caused them to come to a halt in front of our house. Never before or since have I allowed myself to be infected by this fear of harm or loss of my possessions, but I did for a time allow a bit of paranoia to enter my life through this lady's influence. Perhaps I, like the busybodies Paul refers to, had too much time on my hands.

Likewise, I think some Christian communities generate fear to one another over anticipation of the second coming of our Lord, taking their attention away from the call on each of us to proclaim and live in the kingdom of God right now and draw others to the love of Jesus and the service of his church, our communities and the poor.

Just after the close of the Second Letter to the Thessalonians passage, Paul summarizes the response that community should have been striving for when, in verse 13, he writes, "You must never grow weary of doing what is right." And neither should we.

QUESTIONS:

Is fear of the future keeping you from serving the needs of others? How might you start living in God's kingdom in the present moment, showing his love to others?



"But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays."

— Malachi 3:20a

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Those teachers who model Christ, are the most effective, says pope

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY —Clergy, lay catechists, and parishioners who model their lives according to Christ represent the most effective tools for teaching the word of God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Whoever teaches the faith cannot risk appearing like a sort of clown who just performs a role for one's job," the pope said Oct. 24 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The catechist should not go through the motions, but "must be like the beloved disciple who rests his head on the heart of his Master" to hear and learn how to think, speak, and act, he said.

Continuing a series of audience talks about early church theologians, Pope Benedict focused his remarks on St. Ambrose, a fourth-century bishop of Milan, Italy, and a doctor of the church.

St. Ambrose would prepare his catechumens by going over the moral teachings of sacred Scripture "until they were following in the footsteps of divine laws," the pope said.

Reading sacred writings is



Pope Benedict XVI arrives for his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 24. The pope said clergy, lay catechists and parishioners who model their lives according to Christ represent the most effective tools for teaching and spreading the word of God. (CNS photo/Chris Helgren, Reuters)

crucial for learning "the art of living well," which is "living in conformity with divine revelation," he said.

St. Ambrose was a model catechist, he said, as his teaching was inseparable from how he prayed

and lived.

The way he and his parishioners "prayed and sang close knit like one single body" amazed a young St. Augustine, a professor of rhetoric in Milan still searching for the truth, he said.

In fact, seeing the word of God being concretely lived by its believers marked the turning point which finally convinced St. Augustine to convert to Christianity and be baptized by St. Ambrose, the pope said.

He said St. Augustine learned from St. Ambrose the importance of reading and listening closely to the word of God so that it is lived.

This is especially important for clergy, deacons, and catechists so that none of them will become "an empty preacher of the word of God outwardly, who is not a listener to it inwardly," the pope said, citing a quote by St. Augustine in the Second Vatican Council's *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Dei Verbum*.

This inward listening and attentive reading of Scripture can be done through the practice of "lectio divina," a form of prayerful meditation on the word of God which St. Ambrose introduced to the West, said the pope.

This prayerful reading will lead the reader to truly absorb the word of God into his or her own heart and bring one to Christ, he said.

The Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English can be found online at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2007/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20071024_en.html.

Scripture Readings



November 25, Feast of Christ the King.
Cycle C. Readings:

- 1) 2 Samuel 5:1-3
Psalm 122:1-5
- 2) Colossians 1:12-20
Gospel) Luke 23:35-43

By Sharon K. Perkins

I found myself the other day in a situation that I haven't experienced in quite a while — standing in a long line at the bank. I was conducting business that required help from a teller. While waiting, I mused that if not for e-checks, credit cards, direct deposit, and online banking, the lines at banks would probably be much longer. There was a time when transferring funds meant literally carrying one's hard currency from one place to another — a slower, more laborious task. But because we have short memories, we often consider mere waiting in bank lines an inconvenience.

The second reading for the feast of Christ the King mentions the transfer of something more precious than gold as a reminder that the kingdom of God's "beloved Son" is not simply some abstract principle or imaginary place where Christ alone dwells. The reign of Christ is a state of real and profound transformation that he willingly shares with you and me. Even more significantly, our transfer from the "power of darkness"

takes place through the blood of Christ which reconciles everything to himself. It is through Christ's efforts, not ours, that this "transaction" takes place, encompassing all of creation.

The Gospel of Luke uses the exchange between the two thieves at Calvary to underscore the point that even when Christ's kingship isn't obvious to the human observer, it is in fact present. For Luke's first-century community of believers — innocents suffering the persecution reserved for criminals — it was an essential reminder that Christ already had suffered these things and yet maintained his lordship over all. The Gospel and Paul's letter to the Colossians, when read together, give us the big picture of Christ's kingship throughout eternity, from before the creation of the universe to the moment of our death and far beyond, to the end of time.

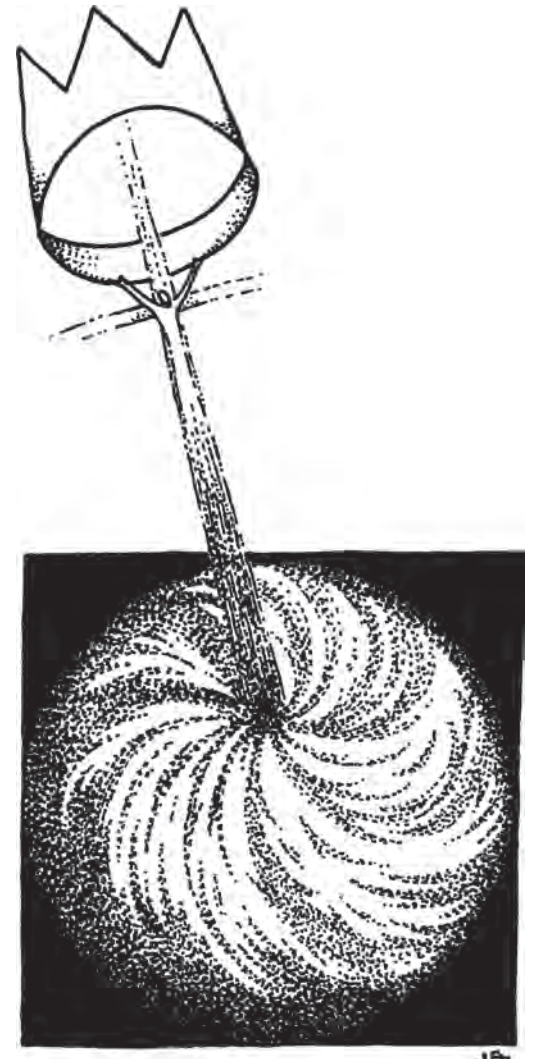
The church places this feast at the end of the liturgical year, just before Advent, to instill in us the hope that the same Christ who has always reigned will continue to reign both in our hearts and in human history, despite all appearances to the contrary. Now that's something to meditate on while standing in line at the bank!

"He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son."

— Colossians 1:13

QUESTIONS:

What circumstances in your life right now obscure the fact that Christ reigns over all things? What can you do this week to remind yourself and others in need of hope of the "bigger picture?"



JFB

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Between turkey & football Give Thanks!

By Jeff Hedglen

When I was a kid I remember learning some very useful phrases that helped me remember important things. "Stop, drop, and roll" reminded me what to do if my clothes ever caught on fire. "Stop, look, and listen" is what I was taught to do before I crossed the street.

Catchy phrases are helpful when trying to remember vital information. One such phrase helps me have a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving every year. "Stop, think, and thank."

Thanksgiving began as a way for Pilgrims to celebrate surviving their first winter. For me, the holiday sometimes gets reduced to these basic elements: overeating and football watching, followed by a trip to the recently released movies.

This is where the catchy phrase comes in handy. It helps me celebrate on a deeper level. The holiday break from the normal routine is a great chance to stop. I tend to always

The comfortableness of daily life and the longing for more can distract us from the truth of how good we have it, not to mention remembering that there are so many who do not have it nearly as good.

be in motion, even when I am sitting still.

It seems like there is always something else to do or someone else to talk to or some other book to read or TV show to watch. Very seldom do I just turn it all off and just stop!

The first step in this Thanksgiving catch phrase is to stop. Stop whatever I am doing and just be still. This means turn off the TV, put away the newspaper, turn off the iPod and

the computer, and find a quiet place to be, with nothing going on. Once I have accomplished this seemingly easy, yet mad-deningly difficult task, I am ready to think.

There are so many things to think about. What am I doing tomorrow? What's for Thanksgiving dinner? What time does the Cowboy game start? What did I leave undone at work? What assignments are due on Monday at school?

All of these thoughts are great — but they are not the kinds of thinking I was intending. Actually these type of thoughts need to be put back in the first step — STOP. I need to get my mind to stop racing, if I am ever going to get to the real thinking.

OK, now my mind and body are at rest. Time to think about my life and all the blessings I have. Sure, I may not have reached all of my goals for life yet, but there are plenty of good things in my life. These are the things I want to think about in step two of "stop think and thank."

I want to think about all the blessings of people in my life, the blessing of a job I love, the blessings of transportation, housing, food, and clothing, as well as the blessing of all the material possessions that make my life enjoyable. I try to take time to think about all of these great things. Bring them each to mind, every person, place, and thing in my life that I count as a blessing. One at a time, I think about them, and one at a time I

move to step three.

For each of the things I call to mind I say a simple prayer of thanksgiving. Stopping the busyness of my life and thinking about all the blessings I have, gives me the opportunity to thank God for every last part of my life.

The comfortableness of daily life and the longing for more can distract us from the truth of how good we have it, not to mention remembering that there are so many who do not have it nearly as good.

So this year, as the turkey is basting and the pies are baking and the Cowboys are stretching, find some time to stop, think, and thank.

In my experience, simply taking the time to do this, will give you one more thing to be thankful for.

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.

Cristianos deben vivir como buenos ciudadanos, dice el Papa durante audiencia

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Los cristianos están obligados a vivir como buenos ciudadanos, pagando sus impuestos, compartiendo con los pobres y trabajando por reglamentos políticos que promuevan la justicia y la paz, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

Existe "una relación profunda entre las obligaciones del cristiano y el ciudadano", dijo el Papa el 31 de octubre durante su audiencia general semanal, empapada por lluvia.

Enfocándose en la enseñanza de San Máximo, quién se convirtió en obispo de Turín, Italia, en el año 398, el Papa Benedicto explicó cómo las invasiones de los bárbaros en muchos casos obligaron a los primeros líderes cristianos a convertirse en líderes cívicos, así como en líderes espirituales,

cuando las estructuras sociales habían caído en ruinas.

Aunque los tiempos han cambiado, dijo, "las obligaciones del creyente hacia su ciudad (y) su nación siguen siendo válidas. La conexión entre el ciudadano honesto y el buen cristiano no ha sido sobrepasada".

El Papa dijo que San Máximo no sólo trabajó para aumentar el sentido de patriotismo de los cristianos, sino que también predicaba "la responsabilidad precisa de pagar sus deudas financieras a pesar de cuán pesadas y desagradables éstas pudieran parecer".

Muchas de las homilias del santo estaban dirigidas a los ricos de Turín y se enfocaban en el "siempre relevante tema de riqueza y pobreza dentro de la comunidad cristiana", dijo el

Papa.

San Máximo regañaba a los ricos no sólo por no dar suficiente a los pobres, sino también por aumentar la pobreza de otros comprando propiedades de los pobres confiscadas injustamente, dijo.

El Papa dijo que la enseñanza de San Máximo es un recordatorio de que los cristianos "son llamados a realizar sus deberes fielmente como ciudadanos, trabajando para imbuir la sociedad temporal con el espíritu del Evangelio", trabajando para la venida del reino de Dios "de santidad, justicia y paz".

El texto del Vaticano de los comentarios del papa en español estarán disponibles en la Internet en: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2007/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20071031_sp.html.

Cardenal beatifica a un austriaco que recibió la muerte por negarse a pelear en el ejército de Hitler

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Un cardenal del Vaticano beatificó a Franz Jagerstatter, agricultor austriaco que fue decapitado en 1943, después de haberse rehusado a pelear en el ejército de Hitler.

Presidiendo la Misa de beatificación en Linz, Austria, el 26 de octubre, el cardenal José Saraiva Martins dijo que el bendito Jagerstatter ofreció un ejemplo de cómo vivir la fe cristiana en pleno y radicalmente, incluso cuando eso trae consecuencias extremas.

El bendito Jagerstatter fue beatificado como mártir; esto quiere decir que recibió la muerte por el odio que le tuvieron a su fe.

Muchos dirigentes de la iglesia de Austria estuvieron presentes en la ceremonia de beatificación, y voceros de la Conferencia Episcopal Austriaca recientemente se refirieron al bendito Jagerstatter "como un ejemplo brillante en tiempos oscuros".

En 1943, sin embargo, su rechazo a servir en el ejército nazi no fue apoyado por el sacerdote, ni por el obispo ni por la mayoría de sus amigos católicos. Especialmente, debido a que tenía esposa



El santísimo Franz Jagerstatter, un agricultor austriaco, fue guillotinado en 1943 después de haberse rehusado a pelear en el ejército Nazi. Su viuda de 94 años, Franziska, asistió a la ceremonia de beatificación el 26 de octubre en Linz, Austria. (Foto de CNS)

y tres hijas, muchos le aconsejaron que pensara en su familia y que dejara de lado sus objeciones de conciencia en contra de la máquina de guerra nazi.

El cardenal Saraiva Martins, presidente de la Congregación de Causas de Santificación del

Vaticano, dijo en su sermón de beatificación que el bendito Jagerstatter demostró valor de fe, que es un ejemplo importante en tiempos modernos, cuando las personas se enfrentan "a condicionamiento y manipulación de conciencia y mente, a veces por medios engañosos".

De acuerdo con las biografías, Jagerstatter había buscado en su juventud el placer, las chicas y las motocicletas e incluso se convirtió en padre sin estar casado. Pero, después de casarse, su fe religiosa se profundizó.

En 1943, después de haber sido llamado a servicio activo, se presentó en la base del ejército y declaró su rechazo de servir por razones religiosas. Una corte militar rechazó su aserto de que no podía ser al mismo tiempo nazi y católico, y lo condenó a muerte por minar la moral militar. Su ofrecimiento de servir como militar paramédico fue ignorado.

El bendito Jagerstatter fue guillotinado el 9 de agosto de 1943. "Estoy convencido de que es mejor decir la verdad, aunque me cueste la vida", escribió antes de ser ejecutado.

¡Necesitamos proclamar con energía a Cristo!

No podemos permanecer callados

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

Cada católico confirmado tiene una obligación seria de proclamar a Cristo al mundo. ¡Esto no es una opción! El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica en su número 1285 nos dice lo siguiente: "El sacramento de la confirmación los une más íntimamente a la Iglesia y los enriquece con una fortaleza especial del Espíritu Santo. De esta forma se comprometen mucho más, como auténticos testigos de Cristo, a extender y defender la fe con sus palabras y sus obras".

Realmente esto es una responsabilidad enorme. En el número 1316 del catecismo, nos repite esta idea con otras palabras: "La Confirmación perfecciona la gracia bautismal; es el sacramento que da el Espíritu Santo para enraizarnos más profundamente en la filiación divina, incorporarnos más firmemente a Cristo, hacer más sólido nuestro vínculo con la Iglesia, asociarnos todavía más a su misión y ayudarnos a dar testimonio de la fe cristiana por la palabra acompañada de las obras".

Impregnados del Espíritu Santo, como en Pentecostés, cada católico confirmado es impulsado a dar testimonio de Cristo en el mundo, primero por su ejemplo de santidad y después por sus palabras y obras. Solo en la fidelidad al llamado de Dios a la santidad es que se puede responder a los impulsos del Espíritu Santo dentro de la comunidad de fe de la Iglesia.

Santidad es la vida íntima con Dios, es la vida de la gracia divina y santificadora, es la comunión con la Trinidad Santa. La vida divina comenzada en nosotros a través de la vida sacramental de la Iglesia, especialmente el conjunto de los Sacramentos de Iniciación — Bautismo, Eucaristía y Confirmación — se mantiene y crece con nuestra vida de oración, además de el mantenernos libre de todo pecado mortal. También el estudiar más nuestra fe meditando la Palabra de Dios y estudiando nuestros catecismos nos sirven de ayuda y apoyo en nuestro crecimiento espiritual.

Todas estas bendiciones, todas estas gracias espirituales, comienzan a dar fruto en nuestra vida de fieles discípulos, que cargan sus cruces de cada día, de formas y maneras no siempre perceptibles pero siempre reales. Ser buen discípulo de Cristo no es fácil en el mundo de hoy pero con la ayuda de Dios tenemos que perseverar. Seguir a Cristo, y ser un reflejo de su luz en el mundo, exige haber aprendido realmente su mensaje de la Buena Nueva del Reino que nos proclama el Maestro, además de aceptar totalmente a nuestro Señor y Maestro Jesucristo con todas sus enseñanzas, incluso aquellas enseñanzas que no nos gustan tanto pero que dejó en su Iglesia Católica.

O Dios, que tu Iglesia nunca se canse de proclamar tu Amor al mundo. Que tu Iglesia nunca se conforme con solo cumplir con detalles secundarios abandonando lo de suprema importancia, la clara proclamación de tu Hijo Jesucristo. Que cada verdad que salga de nuestros labios esté envuelta en tu infinita misericordia. Que tu Evangelio sea plenamente conocido. Amen.



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

Encuentro para Comprometidos, 12 y 13 de enero

El Encuentro para Comprometidos es una preparación matrimonial de fin de semana para parejas de novios que desean contraer matrimonio. El fin de semana está designado para dar a

las parejas la oportunidad de dialogar intensamente y honestamente sobre su futura vida como pareja. Es presentado por un equipo de parejas casadas. El próximo fin de semana se llevará a cabo el

12 y 13 de enero, 2007, en el Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St., Fort Worth, Tx 76103. Favor de hablar con Suzanna Ordóñez para inscribirse al 817-560-3300 ext. 256.

El Obispo Vann conoce a los jóvenes de la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana

Por Ana M. Fores
Corresponsal

¿De dónde eres? De México, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Estados Unidos... ¿Y de qué iglesia? De la Iglesia Asunción de la Bendita Virgen María, de San Jorge, de San Juan, de Todos los Santos, de San José, de San Francisco de Asís, de San Mateo, de la Guadalupe... Tantos países, y tantas iglesias representadas, pero todos están unidos bajo un solo ímpetu: el amor a Dios y el llamado a servir.

La misión de la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana de la Diócesis de Fort Worth (PJH) es evangelizar al joven hispano para que responda al llamado de ser discípulos de Jesús. Para llevar a cabo esta misión más efectivamente, se ha formado un Consejo Pastoral, que tiene como función representar al joven hispano, escuchar su voz, y responder a sus necesidades.

Una de sus funciones principales es agrupar y coordinar a todos los grupos, movimientos, y comunidades de dichos jóvenes hispanos, para representarlos ante otros organismos de la Iglesia. Desea ser la voz de los jóvenes que no están presentes en nuestras iglesias, que no son incluidos, que son perseguidos y que son llamados a seguir a Cristo también. Pero tiene mucho por lograr, y se ha comprometido a aún más; es admirable su esfuerzo.

Trabajando en conjunto entre grupos juveniles, pequeñas comunidades, movimientos, las oficinas de *Youth Ministry* y *Young Adult Ministry*, y otros departamentos de la diócesis, la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana tiene mucha energía. La PJH es muy activa, en parte por la cantidad de eventos que tiene programado, como cursos de formación, temas vocacionales, charlas, y oraciones semanales, entre otros. Igualmente, los jóvenes organizan reuniones divertidas que ayudan a celebrar su cultura, como una posada planeada el 22 de diciembre o un día cultural



ARRIBA: El Obispo Kevin Vann y el Consejo de la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana de la diócesis posan para una fotografía en las escaleras de la residencia Jesuita de Montserrat el 15 de octubre. Obispo Vann, el Consejo, la Hermana Elvira Mata y el Padre Nathan Stone compartieron una comida y una noche muy amena, donde convivieron y se conocieron mejor. (Foto por Ana M. Fores)

A LA DERECHA: Al final de la noche, el Padre Stone sacó su guitarra, y todos comenzaron a cantar juntos, celebrando su unidad con Jesucristo. (Foto por Jesse Mancilla)

y deportivo, proyectado para la primavera del año entrante.

A través de la página Web de la diócesis, y otros medios de comunicación, Jesse Mancilla, encargado de comunicación, está tratando de aumentar la visibilidad de la PJH en la diócesis.

El Consejo Ampliado de la PJH consiste de una mesa elegida, encargados, y delegados de los grupos, movimientos, y comunidades.

Este Consejo Ampliado asistió a una comida informal con el Obispo Kevin W. Vann, el 15 de octubre, en la casa Jesuita de Montserrat en Lake Dallas. La reunión

fue realizada para que el Consejo Ampliado, con esta responsabilidad tan importante y novedosa en la diócesis, conociese mejor al obispo, e igualmente, para que el Obispo Vann conviviera con los jóvenes del Consejo.

Fue muy lindo el encuentro: el español hablado por el Obispo Vann es excelente, y conmovió a los jóvenes con sus palabras: "También estoy aquí para escuchar su voz, para colaborar con ustedes, para conocerlos más. Quiero sentirme unido a ustedes en sus vidas aquí en los Estados Unidos. En verdad, estoy diciendo siempre a nuestro pueblo



hispano—son un gran don para nosotros, especialmente para la Iglesia, por la cultura que traen a nuestra comunidad. Si yo puedo acompañarlos en su presencia aquí, es una bendición para mi... nuestra vida es mejor porque ustedes están con nosotros".

También asistió al encuentro la asesora del Consejo Pastoral, la Hermana Elvira Mata, mcdp, quien dijo del nuevo Consejo Pastoral, muy elocuentemente: "Ellos son los representantes, los líderes, la voz de los jóvenes... pues espero que con su liderazgo y gran deseo de servir, que crezca mucho la pastoral — que ellos

sean los protagonistas de su propia pastoral".

La Hermana Elvira ha estado trabajando con los jóvenes de la diócesis ya por 5 años, y este nuevo organismo de liderazgo y representación es el fruto de los jóvenes y de sus deseos de ser parte de la Iglesia. "Ellos son los que han formado esta pastoral", dice, "y la están haciendo crecer: están llenos de planes para el futuro".

Hoy en día, la presencia y el liderazgo de jóvenes hispanos dentro de la Iglesia está creciendo. Sin embargo, Edward Rodríguez, coordinador electo de la PJH y miembro de la Iglesia de San Mateo, en Arlington, admite: "Esta es una nueva visión dirigida por jóvenes para los jóvenes. Es una labor muy bonita porque me ha abierto nuevos horizontes. Pero son muchas las parroquias y muy poco los grupos de jóvenes en ellas... Tratamos que haya bastante representación, y queremos llevar un poco más de diversidad a la pastoral, llegar a más lugares, crecer como comunidad hispana".

Yazmín Ramos, subcoordinadora del grupo, dice que aunque están representadas 8 parroquias en la mesa directiva, y hay 13 parroquias con grupos juveniles activos, todavía hay más de 60 iglesias en la diócesis de Fort Worth que necesitan responder a las necesidades de los jóvenes hispanos. Su labor tiene mucho trabajo por delante, admiten todos.

Al final de la noche, después de una comida casera muy rica, el Reverendo Nathan Stone, SJ, quien actúa como el guía espiritual del Consejo Pastoral, sacó su guitarra, y todos comenzaron a cantar. Juntos, celebraron su unidad tan acogedora, en armonía: obispo, directores, y jóvenes. La hermana Elvira terminó la noche con estas palabras: "Ojalá que nosotros como Iglesia trabajemos con los jóvenes, y así juntos, podremos crear una mejor iglesia y mundo para todos ellos, especialmente los más necesitados."

Religiosas forman red global para combatir contrabando humano

ROMA (CNS) — Mujeres religiosas de todo el mundo han formado una red global orientada a combatir el contrabando humano.

Más de 30 monjas de 26 naciones lanzaron la iniciativa llamada "Red Internacional de Religiosas Contra el Contrabando de Personas" durante una conferencia sobre el contrabando humano realizada del 15 al 19 de octubre

en Roma.

El Departamento de Estado de Estados Unidos financió la conferencia y seminario de entrenamiento, y éstos fueron organizados por la embajada estadounidense en el Vaticano y la Unión Italiana de Superioras Mayores. La Organización Internacional Para la Emigración ayudó a diseñar un programa para trabajadores, quienes ayudan a mujeres

obligadas a la prostitución escapar y abandonar las calles.

En otros tiempos la noción del contrabando humano "era un tipo de secreto familiar global", dijo monseñor Pietro Parolin, subsecretario de Estado del Vaticano. Pero ahora, gracias a las campañas de conciencia pública, más gente maneja información sobre el negocio de \$12,000 millones que en el 2005 fue edificado

con el trabajo forzoso de por lo menos 12 millones de personas, declaró el monseñor.

Numerosos programas de entrenamiento contra el contrabando coordinados por la Unión Italiana de Superioras Mayores han sido presentados en diversas partes del mundo desde el 2002. La Unión Italiana de Superioras Mayores, la conferencia de religiosas más grande del mundo,

tiene 95,000 mujeres de todo el mundo que trabajan en Italia, dijeron los organizadores.

Continuaron que con casi 1 millón de religiosas en el mundo, ellas tienen la esperanza de ampliar su red para incluir aún más monjas. Añadieron que les gustaría obtener más ayuda de la Unión de Superiores Generales, la cual representa 215 órdenes de religiosos.

Católicos asisten a una Misa especial en Tulsa dedicada a los inmigrantes

TULSA, Okla. (CNS) — La vigilia del día en que entró en vigor una de las más duras aplicaciones de las leyes de inmigración de la nación, una cifra calculada en 1,500 católicos se reunió para asistir a una Misa especial dedicada a los inmigrantes, en la iglesia de San Francisco Javier en Tulsa.

La Misa del 31 de octubre fue celebrada por el obispo de Tulsa, Edward J. Slattery, que se opuso al proyecto de ley aún antes de que fuera aprobado por la legislatura de Oklahoma la pasada primavera. La ley fue firmada como ley por el gobernador Brad Henry en mayo y entró en vigor el 1° de noviembre.

El obispo Slattery habló en español ante una concurrencia circunspecta que llenaba el recinto en la víspera de Todos los Santos. Cientos de personas que estaban fuera del templo escucharon la Misa y la homilía a través de altoparlantes.

En la disposición conocida como Ley de Protección al Consumidor y al Ciudadano de Oklahoma del 2007, se declara que es delito el esconder o transportar a sabiendas, a un extranjero ilegal, y se crean barreras específicas



para la contratación laboral de inmigrantes ilegales. Mediante la disposición, se requiere prueba de ciudadanía para la obtención de ciertos beneficios del gobierno. También se les requerirá a todas las agencias estatales y contratistas que verifiquen el estado migratorio de todos los trabajadores, a partir del 1° de julio del año 2008.

El padre David Medina, pastor de la iglesia de San Francisco Javier, ha venido sintiendo las repercusiones de la medida ya por cerca de un año, mientras seguía el tránsito burocrático por la Legislatura. Su parroquia central de Tulsa, la más grande de Oklahoma, está compuesta por un 95 por ciento de hispanos. Desde el mes de agosto, un 20 por ciento de la feligresía ha dejado Oklahoma, le dijo el padre a *Eastern Oklahoma Catholic*, periódico diocesano de Tulsa.

Es difícil contar con cifras exactas. Algunas personas se han cambiado a otros estados. Otras

personas han regresado a su lugar de origen, por la mayor parte, México. Otras todavía están en Oklahoma pero permanecen escondidas, sin saber qué pasaría si solicitan trabajo, licencia de manejo o, incluso, si tienen que ir al doctor o a un hospital.

Aunque la ley ya está en vigor, queda mucho en el plano de lo incierto.

Los rumores corren desenfrenados. En el periódico diario *The Tulsa World*, se informó que las familias sin documentos de inmigración estaban siendo sacadas de sus departamentos respectivos. También hay informes que no se han podido confirmar de personas que se han dirigido a los medios de difusión y que han sido deportadas.

El Departamento de Policía de Tulsa y la oficina del comandante de Policía del Condado han expresado su preocupación con respecto a tener o no el tiempo y la fuerza laboral requeridos para hacer cumplir con la nueva ley.

El Obispo Edward J. Slattery de Tulsa, Oklahoma, bendice a los feligreses después de una Misa especial dedicada a los inmigrantes de la iglesia de San Francisco Javier en Tulsa, el 31 de octubre. (Foto/CNS/David Crenshaw, EASTERN OKLAHOMA CATHOLIC)

Una universidad católica del Perú comparte planos para que se refuercen casas hechas de adobe

PACHACUTEC, Perú (CNS) — Higinia Rupay recuerda el terror que sintió cuando se desató el temblor de tierra y los ladrillos de la pared del vecino empezaron a caer sobre el techo endeble de su casa.

Se lanzó a la calle, temerosa de que su sencilla casa de adobe no resistiera el terremoto de magnitud 8 que azotó la costa sur del Perú el 15 de agosto.

Cuando el temblor pasó, muchas casas de esta pequeña comunidad agrícola, situada a unas 150 millas de la capital, Lima, habían quedado reducidas a escombros. La casa de Higinia no presentaba daños; pero, como muchas otras personas vecinas, dudaba de entrar (por temor a que se derrumbara).

El secreto de la fortaleza de una casa está escondida en las paredes, en donde los investigadores de la Universidad Católica Pontificia de Perú prueban un sistema en el que se utiliza alambre en malla para reforzar las paredes de las construcciones, que en general son la parte más débil de una casa de adobe.

“Yo les pregunté que si con (el refuerzo) querían decir que la casa no se caería”, dijo Rupay, recordando la primera visita que hicieron los ingenieros hace diez años. “Dijeron que las paredes pudieran



El profesor de ingeniería Daniel Quiun, de la Universidad Católica Pontificia de Perú, el 30 de octubre demuestra la técnica de reforzado de esquinas de cuarto en casas de adobe, con una malla de alambre que ayuda a que habitaciones aguanten terremotos. (Foto CNS/Walter Hupiu)

agrietarse, pero las mallas les daría tiempo de salir (con bien)”.

Más de 80,000 casas quedaron destruidas y más de 40,000 quedaron dañadas seriamente por el terremoto, de acuerdo al Instituto Nacional de Defensa Civil de Perú. La mayoría estaba hecha de adobe.

Los ingenieros de la universidad esperan que se pueda animar a la gente para que reconstruyan sus casas respectivas, utilizando un diseño todavía más fuerte, a fin de proteger sus casas en caso de que se presentara otro temblor.

“En Perú, como en muchos otros países, un gran porcentaje

de personas vive en casas hechas de adobe (bloques de lodo secados al sol, sin cocer) debido a que no tienen otra alternativa”, le dijo el ingeniero Marcial Blondet, director de la Escuela de Estudios de Graduado de la Universidad a Catholic News Service (CNS, Servicio Católico de Noticias).

Las casas de adobe, con frecuencia, están construidas pobremente, y es fácil que las paredes se separen en las esquinas, de acuerdo al profesor de ingeniería Daniel Quiun. Por eso, en 1998 y en 1999, cuando los investigadores empezaron a probar métodos de refuerzo, hicieron viajes

a varias partes del país en busca de casas que tuvieran defectos de construcción.

Una de las construcciones que eligieron fue la casa en donde Rupay y Legua viven. La pareja construyó un cuarto de ladrillo común, pero la sala de baño era de adobe. Los investigadores entrenaron a albañiles de la localidad para que añadieran cuadros de malla de alambre en las esquinas de las paredes de adobe y alrededor del marco de las puertas.

“Después tuvimos que esperar a que viniera un terremoto para ver qué iba a suceder”, le dijo

Quiun a CNS.

Su casa, y otra localizada a unas 15 millas de distancia, aguantaron un pequeño temblor en 2003 y también el de agosto, aunque las casas vecinas quedaron reducidas a escombros. Todavía están removiendo con maquinaria pesada desechos de la calle en donde Rupay y Legua viven.

La idea del refuerzo no significa necesariamente que la casa aguantará un terremoto fuerte; el refuerzo de alambre tiene el propósito de evitar que las paredes caigan, dándole oportunidad a los ocupantes, de unos 20 a 30 segundos, de escapar.

Los investigadores también han encontrado maneras de construir casas de adobe que son todavía más resistentes ante un terremoto. En uno de los modelos más fuertes, los ladrillos están colocados alrededor de un enrejado de carrizo.

En otro modelo, la casa se envuelve por completo con una fibra de plástico que se amarra en su lugar con cordeles colocados a través de lo largo de los ladrillos mientras se construyen las paredes.

La malla de plástico, que no se fabrica en Perú, es más costosa que el alambre, pero el presidente peruano Alan García ha prometido \$2,000 a cada familia cuya casa quedó destruida en el terremoto. Ese dinero sería suficiente para construir una casa sencilla, reforzada, de cuatro habitaciones, que mediría unos 540 pies cuadrados, dijo Blondet.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

News reports about abuse in public schools are wake-up call, say some

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A recent series by The Associated Press illustrating the “widespread” extent of sexual abuse in the nation’s public schools and the failure of those in authority to stop it is a serious wake-up call for the nation say some officials. “The results are shocking, real, and, sadly, not surprising,” said Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis about the three-part AP series on abuse published in late October. He praised the wire service for doing a “huge service to the nation by undertaking and publishing this study,” but added that the series alone is “just the first step.” In a column published in the Nov. 1 edition of *The Catholic Spirit*, his archdiocesan newspaper, Archbishop Flynn said he would like to see a comprehensive study of sexual abuse in public schools similar to the studies conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice for the U.S. Catholic Church. He also urged the groups that worked with the church after the clergy abuse scandal broke in 2002 to “dedicate their time and resources on the deeply entrenched problem of sexual abuse in our public schools.”

Vatican official hopes Olympics in China will promote rights, peace

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — A Vatican official said he hoped the 2008 Olympic Games in China would help promote international peace and respect for human rights. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, addressing the U.N. General Assembly Oct. 31, said the Vatican views the Olympics as an important moment of dialogue that can help countries bridge political and other differences. “Dialogue and encounter through sport hold great potential in the area of peacebuilding and conflict prevention,” said Archbishop Migliore, the Vatican’s permanent observer to the United Nations. “While the rule of law and justice remain the foundation of durable peace, sport provides the tool for warring factions to come together for a common purpose,” he said. The archbishop noted that Beijing will host the 2008 games, and that the world is already preparing for the event. He said one lesson of the Olympics is that the important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle.

Faith perspective essential to dialogue on issues, says archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic institutions of higher learning could play a key role in offering a faith perspective on “challenging issues of our day,” Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said Oct. 23 in a talk at The Catholic University of America. In his talk on “The Role of Religion in a Pluralistic Society: Religious Faith and Public Policy,” he said that kind of dialogue is especially needed in a time when societal attitudes and court decisions have sought to erode the contribution of faith to the country’s common good. “Our Catholic institutions of higher learning would be prepared out of their own Catholic identity,” Archbishop Wuerl said, “to speak to the challenging issues of our day, once again out of our legacy, heritage, and tradition, just as Catholic health care institutions speak to issues of public debate today out of a Catholic understanding of the dignity and worth of each person and the sacred trust of exercising health care.” He gave the annual Cardinal John Dearden lecture sponsored by Catholic University’s School of Theology and Religious Studies.

Traditional Anglicans ask for full communion with Catholics

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Parishioners from three Church of Ireland parishes have joined traditional Anglicans from 12 other countries, including some church communities in the U.S., in requesting that the Catholic Church receive them into full communion. If approved by the Vatican, the move would allow 400,000 traditional Anglicans worldwide to be admitted into the Catholic Church. The decision to petition for the move “seeking full, corporate, sacramental union” was made during an early October plenary meeting of the Traditional Anglican Communion, the umbrella organization for traditional Anglicans, in Portsmouth, England. The move, requested in a letter to the Vatican, would see the entire parish communities received into the Catholic Church. It is extremely rare for entire Anglican communities to seek corporate communion with the Catholic Church whereby every member of the parish becomes Catholic and the parish effectively becomes part of the Catholic Church. At the Vatican, officials would not comment on the letter, although they confirmed the doctrinal congregation had received it.

During wildfires, parish shelters developmentally disabled evacuees

By Denis Grasska

LEMON GROVE, California (CNS) — Fifty-eight residents of a Catholic care facility for developmentally disabled adults were among the hundreds of thousands of San Diego County residents displaced by the region’s wildfires.

The residents of Noah Homes in Spring Valley were temporarily moved to the parish hall of St. John of the Cross Parish in the neighboring city of Lemon Grove.

Noah Homes houses 65 men and women with developmental disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. Some of the residents are also seeing- and hearing-impaired, and some have Alzheimer’s disease.

Msgr. Edward Brockhaus, pastor at St. John, said he was glad to offer his parish hall as a temporary shelter.

“My philosophy has always been that all the facilities are for the community, not just the parishioners,” Msgr. Brockhaus told *The Southern Cross*, newspaper of the San Diego Diocese. “We’re part of the community, and we’ve got to give back to the community.”

The evacuees stayed in the parish hall until Oct. 26, when it was safe to return to Noah Homes. Although the care facility had been close to one of the wildfires, it was not damaged.

As of Oct. 28, California’s Office of Emergency Services reported the wildfires had destroyed 2,767 structures, including 2,013 homes.

More than 900,000 people were evacuated, but as the fires were contained most evacuees were back in their neighborhoods by the weekend of Oct. 27-28 to see what had become of their homes. Property damage in San Diego County alone reportedly surpassed \$1 billion.

Catholic Charities USA, based in Alexandria, Virginia, was providing emergency funding for shelter, food, and clothing, and local Catholic Charities agencies were gearing up for long-term response.



FIRE DEVASTATION — People comb through the remains of a home destroyed by fire in the Rancho Bernardo neighborhood of San Diego Oct. 25. Southern California wildfires destroyed at least 1,800 homes and forced the evacuation of 900,000 people over a five-day period. (CNS photo/John Gress, Reuters)

At Noah Homes, staff and residents first became aware of the wildfires when they started Oct. 21. As the fires worsened, the facility’s employees began to prepare for a possible evacuation, giving backpacks to each resident with a change of clothes and personal belongings. Arrangements were made with St. John’s to use the parish hall as a shelter.

Maureen Carasiti, executive director of Noah Homes, also contacted Father Joe’s Villages, a San Diego-based network of programs for the homeless community. The organization responded by bringing 50 cots, with blankets and pillows, to the parish hall. The cots were already set up and ready to welcome the evacuees when they arrived.

While the evacuees stayed at the hall they were given hot meals three times a day from Catholic service agencies. Workers from Noah Homes, who worked around the clock during the evacuation, also took residents to their homes for showers and laundry.

The 58 who were evacuated had not yet been picked up by family members before the mandatory evacuation was declared. By Oct. 24 fewer than 30 residents were still under the care of Noah Homes because family members were able to come and get the others.

Evacuating a large group of adults with developmental disabilities poses unique challenges, according to Sister Mary Bartosh, a sister of the Community of the Holy Spirit and program director at Noah Homes.

Many of the residents are “very locked into their routines,” Sr. Bartosh said.

For example, residents with Alzheimer’s find “being in an unfamiliar situation ... particularly challenging,” she said.

Those with autism were less comfortable in a crowded shelter than at Noah Homes, where they have much more privacy. Various medical and dietary issues also needed to be addressed.

The evacuation would have been much more difficult, Sr. Bartosh said, if St. John of the Cross had not made its parish hall available. Residents are much more comfortable when surrounded by familiar faces, she added.

“It was an intense experience,” she said. “Our psychologist has told us that it would be really advisable not to have the folks watching footage of fire,” and an effort was made to “divert people’s attention and stress the good things of life that are happening here.”

During the time away from her home, Noreen Magner said she was scared but knew they all were safe and “in God’s hands.”

CCHD distributes \$9.5 million in grants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty program, is awarding more than \$9.5 million in grants this year to support local projects that work to eliminate the root causes of poverty in the United States.

The grants totaling \$9,578,000 will be distributed to 314 projects in 46 states, the District of Colum-

bia, and Puerto Rico.

“Overcoming widespread poverty in the richest nation on earth is a moral imperative,” said John Carr, CCHD’s interim executive director, noting that according to the U.S. Census Bureau report released in August, 36.5 million Americans live at or below the poverty line.

“The Catholic Campaign for Human Development invests

in bottom-up, community empowerment strategies across the United States,” Carr added in a Oct. 26 statement.

Funding for the grants CCHD distributes annually comes from a nationwide church collection that takes place in dioceses each year, usually the weekend before Thanksgiving. One-quarter of the local collection stays in the diocese.

Nun Laments Booming Business In Coffins for Babies

Sister Mary Ann has lived and worked in Jeremie on the remote southwest coast of Haiti for many years. She knows the poverty of her area well, but she still feels the pain of its terrible impact on the local people.

"When a baby dies, and they build the rough wood coffin, I feel the pain of the mother — of the whole community," she said. "Life is too precious — too valuable."

And still, the local carpenter has another coffin in his shop and one on his workbench ready for his saw and hammer. As long as the children die, the coffins must be made.

"Fortunately, we do have reason for hope. We have developed a medical outreach to this community and it's beginning to work — we are able to save the lives of these little ones," she added. "Sometimes we laugh, 'we will put these carpenters out of business. No more coffins for our babies.'"

The president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, Jim Cavnar, shares Sr. Mary Ann's sense of hope. While meeting with key staff from the Haitian Health Foundation, he was impressed by the determination and



As long as children die, the coffins must be made. These small wooden boxes are a terrible symbol of how Haiti's crushing poverty is impacting the most vulnerable in the society.



success of the outreach. With the help of contributions from American Catholics, Cross International will be able to supply Sr. Mary Ann's program with urgently needed medical supplies.

The help, Cavnar knows, will be meaningful — not just a token gift.

"I met a boy just today who illustrates the impact of Sr. Mary Ann's work," he said. "Because of the Haitian Health Foundation, he could be treated for typhoid in time. We drove him home today. There won't be a coffin built for Makendy Louis. He will be back in school soon with a future ahead of him."

"The question is...will the next child receive

*"Will that child live or die?
Our actions now will answer
that question..."*

James Cavnar,
Cross International Catholic Outreach

the same life-saving help?" he added. "Will that next child live or die? Our actions now will answer that question."

To provide Sister Mary Ann and the Haitian Health Foundation with as many medicines as possible, Cross International is now seeking financial contributions from American Catholics.

"Our goal is to help fulfill Sister Mary Ann's dream — by ending Haiti's booming business in coffins for babies," Cavnar said. "If American Catholics will join with us in this effort, I know it can be done."

"And don't underestimate the impact your individual gift can have," he added. "In countries like Haiti, a \$10 donation can literally save a life. There are scores of children that die because their mother or father couldn't obtain a simple anti-diarrhea medication — something we could supply with a donation of a few dollars. Imagine, saving a life. You can have that kind of impact with even a modest contribution to this outreach."

To contribute to the ministry's efforts in Haiti, either use the tear-off envelope in the brochure found in this issue of the newspaper or mail your gift to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00435, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.

Catholic Leaders Help Build Strong Foundation for Cross

With His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler as its Patron, Cross International Catholic Outreach continues to build on a strong foundation of Catholic leadership and support.

The impressive group of Catholic bishops already on the organization's board includes its Chairman, Most Reverend Sam Jacobs, Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, and directors Most Rev. Michael Cote, Most Rev. Carlos Sevilla, Most Rev. Edward Slattery and Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane.

"Cross International Catholic Outreach is an official Catholic organization, listed in the national Catholic directory, and our mission has always been tied to the work of the Catholic Church overseas," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross. "Our goal is to make American Catholics aware of the work being done by the dedicated priests, nuns and other Catholic leaders serving overseas. The Catholic Church is accomplishing amazing things in serving the poor. More people should be aware of it — and support the work if they can."

In Cavnar's view, Cardinal Keeler, the Bishops serving on the board for Cross and the thousands of U.S. Catholics who support the ministry as benefactors are all part of one unified mission.

"Christ called us to love one another, and all of us are simply trying to respond to that command in a meaningful and tangible way," Cavnar explained. "We are people bound together by a shared mission, and God has blessed us. As Christ calls others to take part, we will continue to grow — expanding the outreach by feeding more who are hungry, providing shelter to those who need it, delivering medicines to comfort the sick and sharing the Gospel with those who are lost."

This commitment to the poor has also helped forge an official collaboration between Cross International Catholic Church and the Holy Father's own international relief organization, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum. This unique collaboration has already been a blessing for the poor following several disasters, including the



His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler at a recent meeting with Pope Benedict XVI.

tsunami in south-east Asia, floods in Haiti, drought in Africa and programs serving refugees in Rwanda.

"Ultimately, the success of Cross depends

on the prayers and support of American Catholics — their generosity and faithfulness have made all of this possible," Cavnar said. "We are deeply grateful for their support."

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



“Cross” Program Can Turn \$50 Donation Into \$4,250 Worth Of Aid For The Poor

James Cavnar, the president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, looks at a \$50 gift differently than most charity leaders.

“When I’m handed a \$50 donation, I see a \$4,250 shipment of material aid on its way to the poor. That’s the end result of the gift when I use it to deliver donated goods overseas,” Cavnar explained. “For example, we may convince a medical organization to donate life-saving medicines or nutritional supplements, but we can only deliver those items overseas if we have cash donations to pay for the shipping costs. For every \$1 donated to our shipping program last year, we were able to send more than \$85 worth of goods to the needy in Haiti and other third-world countries.”

Of course, the same formulas apply to other

gifts. A donation of \$25 allows Cross to supply the poor with more than \$2,000 worth of aid and **a \$100 gift can yield nearly \$10,000 in food, medical supplies and other life-saving materials** — an amazing multiplication of the donor’s contribution.

“This program is popular because it produces more bang for the buck, as the saying goes. It also rescues goods that might have been wasted and puts them to good use — helping the poor,” Cavnar said. “That’s a win, win situation.”

To contribute to the ministry’s efforts in Haiti, either use the tear-off envelope portion of the brochure in this issue or mail your tax-deductible gift to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00435, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



Cross International’s president, James Cavnar, with a shipment of food destined for Haiti.

“What is a child’s life worth — certainly a few dollars...”

Catholic lay leaders and clergy in Haiti’s Central Plateau are frustrated. In the isolated village they call home, children are dying and families are suffering for reasons they do not understand — reasons that test their spirit and their faith.

They recall one recent and painful experience.

“I will never forget it. I was called to the home of Madame Wilner, a woman who lived in a rural area outside the village. She was poor — very poor. Living in a shack with very little food and almost nothing for her children.

“When I arrived, she came out to meet me, frantic about her baby, Gason. ‘I have tried to help him... made a cure... he is dying... help me,’ she cried. I knew the cure she had made for the baby was some ineffective concoction of herbs that rural people often try in their desperation. Such things never work, but they are tried because there is no other choice.

“I gasped when I stepped inside the dreary shack and saw the baby. His body was covered with some kind of terrible skin infection. He was obviously suffering, and his tiny body also showed the disturbing signs of other trauma. I could clearly see his rib bones heaving with labored breaths, and his hair was orange from malnutrition. Sobbing, his mother begged for my help. ‘Anything... please... do anything,’ she cried. ‘I have nothing... no way to save him.’

“Because the local clinic had been closed for lack of supplies, I knew that the baby’s only hope was a mission hospital nearly 3 hours away by car. I carefully lifted the baby up, placed him into my automobile, and set out for help.

“I drove as quickly as I could over the rough dirt roads, but two hours into the trip, my spirit dropped. Something was wrong. I could see that Gason Wilner was slipping away. Suddenly, his body began to convulse — first slowly, then more violently. My eyes welled up with tears, and I began to pray. As if in merciful response, the baby’s tormenting convulsions stopped. I drove on, tears running down my cheeks, as God gently took tiny Gason away.

“I will never forget it. It is yet another reason I beg on behalf of the poor. For Gason Wilner, and for the other children here who die needlessly. Something must be done.”

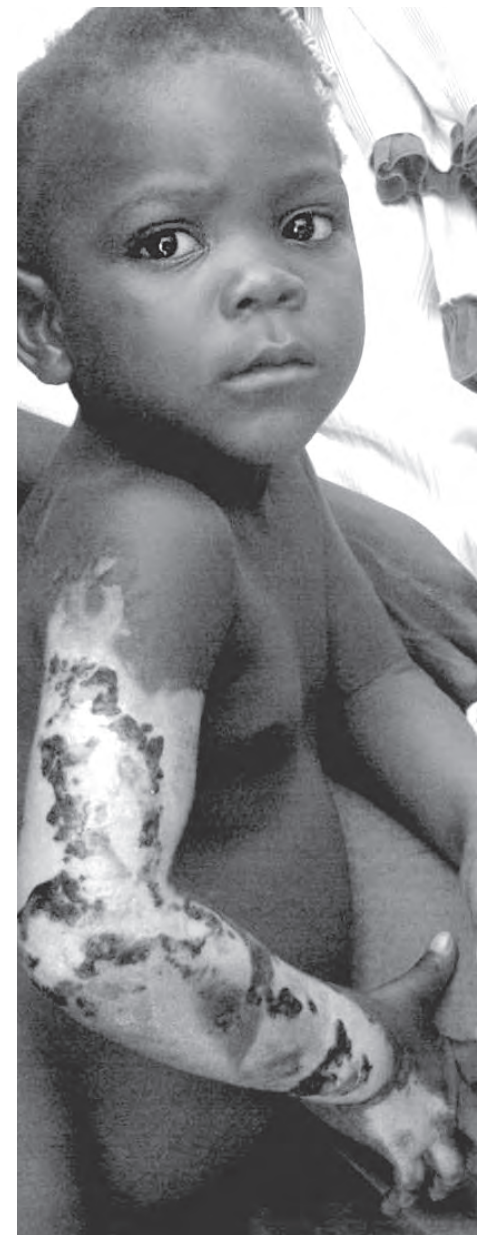
James Cavnar agrees, and his meetings with clergy and lay leaders have already produced progress. Through Cavnar’s organization, Cross International Catholic Outreach, medical supplies will be obtained for shipment to clinics that serve Haiti’s poor. Cavnar is asking other American Catholics to join him in this endeavor.

“Frankly, we need your help. We need the help of American Catholics who want to assist priests to be part of the solution. The medicines that could have saved Gason Wilner would have cost a few dollars. What

is a child’s life worth — certainly a few dollars!? We need to see that these people are helped,” Cavnar said. “The more people who contribute, the more we can do.”

And, Cavnar pointed out, every donation contributed is important because it only takes a few dollars worth of medicines to save a life in many cases.

“On behalf of the priests, nuns and laypeople who are trying to help the poor of Haiti, I ask you to prayerfully consider making a sacrificial contribution to this cause,” Cavnar said. “Your actions may save the life of a child. Your gift may be the gift of life for a little one like Gason.”

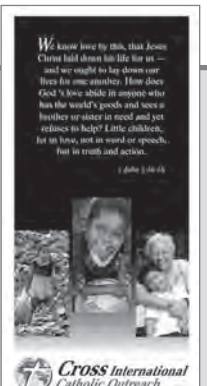


Another child victim of Third World poverty. This young girl survived. Others are less fortunate. Even when children are given an initial treatment, they rarely receive follow-up care. Many are forever marked with terrible scars. Cross International Catholic Outreach makes the needs of children its highest priority, and it has launched special programs to supply aid. Read about it on the ministry’s web site:

www.crosscatholic.org.

Please, Help Now

Your help is needed for Cross International to bring Christ’s mercy to the poor of Haiti. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00435, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063. **God bless you.**



Author of book behind 'Golden Compass' criticized as anti-Christian

By Denis Grasska

SAN DIEGO (CNS) -- To all of those Christian critics who have denounced the "Harry Potter" series as a subversive effort to lure unsuspecting children into the occult, Baylor University professor Perry Glanzer warns: Quit crying wolf.

In a commentary appearing in early August in the *Austin American-Statesman* daily newspaper, Glanzer noted that while social critics have blasted J.K. Rowling's tales of Harry Potter and his seven years at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, they have uttered nary a word about British writer Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, which Glan-

zer and others say is an overtly anti-Christian trilogy of fantasy novels for young adults.

The trilogy includes *The Golden Compass*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*.

"I think that as long as people are agitated about whether Harry Potter makes you into a satanist, they're not going to be very bothered with me," Pullman said in an interview with Amazon.com. "So, I'm happy to [take] shelter under the great umbrella of Harry Potter."

A film adaptation of *The Golden Compass*, starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, is set to debut in theaters Dec. 7. The Aug. 24 issue of *Entertainment Weekly* re-

ported that the film will make no direct references to the Catholic Church.

The article also quoted Kidman, who recently reconnected with her Catholic faith, as saying, "The Catholic Church is part of my essence. I wouldn't be able to do this film if I thought it were at all anti-Catholic."

The Academy Award-winning actress also said that the material "has been watered down a little" in the transition from page to screen.

Critics of Pullman include the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, which said its position is not "that the movie will strike Christian parents as

troubling," noting that it is based "on the least offensive of the three books."

But, the league said in an Oct. 9 statement, viewers of the film "may very well find it engaging and then buy Pullman's books for Christmas. That's the problem."

Glanzer also pointed out that Pullman told *The Washington Post* that through his work, "I'm trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief." But those who praise his work say he is not attacking Christianity itself, but criticizing dogmatism and how religion is used to oppress people.

His Dark Materials recounts the adventures of Lyra Belacqua, a 12-year-old girl in an alternate universe that resembles our own. With the assistance of several other characters, she sets out to overthrow the Authority. The novels depict him as a weak, false god and, in the final book in the trilogy, he actually dies.

Also, an angel informs one of the main characters that "God, the Creator, the Lord, Yahweh, El, Adonai, the King, the Father, the Almighty" are really all just names the first angel gave himself in an attempt to set himself up as a divine being.

The novels also take a harsh view of the church, which is called the Magisterium and is depicted as an oppressive institution that appears to have fallen for the Authority's ruse.

The church's minions are the books' principal villains, who

are obsessed with a substance called Dust, which is connected to original sin. They are not above kidnapping and performing experiments on innocent children.

One character states that, since its beginning, the church has "tried to suppress and control every natural impulse," and that all churches share the same fundamental goals: to "control, destroy, obliterate every good feeling."

British columnist Peter Hitchens has dubbed him "the most dangerous author in Britain."

"In his worlds, the church is wicked, cruel, and child-hating; priests are sinister, murderous, or drunk," Hitchens wrote for the *Daily Mail* newspaper in January 2002. "Political correctness creeps in leadenly. There is a brave African king and a pair of apparently homosexual angels. The one religious character who turns out to be benevolent is that liberal favorite, an ex-nun who has renounced her vows and lost her faith."

In an interview with *Third Way Magazine*, a Christian publication, Pullman said he agreed with his character Mary Malone, who states in *The Amber Spyglass* that Christianity is "a very powerful and convincing mistake," and he rejected the "ugly vision" presented by C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*, a popular Christian fantasy series.

Contributing to this story was Julie Asher in Washington.

Hamer...

FROM PAGE 11

a sidewalk crack and fell, knees to hands to head.

Three people stopped to help, one handing me a tissue because I had scraped my nose.

Rising, I chastised myself for being as careless as the children I raised, and those I supervise, daily. The sun still shone, however, and I intended to quickly be on my knees at Mass. "After you find a Band-Aid," I reminded myself.

There were no stores ahead, but a YMCA seemed a likely place for an emergency Band-Aid, so I headed there, passing the cathedral.

I brushed shoulders with a tall, slim woman whose eyes caught mine. She wore black stockings, a flowing skirt, and a long chapel veil that extended over her shoulders. Her arms were folded under the veil, and her lips moved.

My eyes switched focus to a beggar on the cathedral stairway. Holding a bloodstained tissue to the bridge of my nose, I continued past him, thinking, "Later I will place coins in his hand."

Next I noticed a young couple — heading to church, as I seemed to be heading away — speaking in sign language,

perhaps chatting about the beauty of the day. "I bet they aren't arguing about their political views, or what restaurant they'll choose for dinner," I mused, silently.

After my stop at the YMCA, I returned to St. Matthew's, wearing a conspicuously unattractive Band-Aid on my nose. The fall had dampened my speed and self-image, but not my desire to end the day with Eucharist.

That afternoon I had bumped my head, for sure, but I was seeing clearly: The beggar was not arguing; he had no opportunity to make restaurant choices. He just needed food.

The hearing-impaired couple might not have maintained constant agreement, but their visible communication reminded me of the effort it takes to understand each other.

As I approached the cathedral steps, I realized I was about to pass the woman I had brushed by earlier, walking in opposite directions. Her lips were moving, her arms still folded, her right hand making a "mea culpa" gesture to her heart.

Passing each other, we turned our heads simultaneously, in silent acknowledgement.

She was praying. I was meditating about my week that had been dampened with rain, and

life! I had watched education happening, as young people argued over their individual viewpoints. I was happy to be with them, and happy to be without them, like a mother on a break — but not forever.

Somehow the woman in the black dress made me think of Mary, Jesus' mother. Our mother. I wondered if she was.

I wondered if she had noticed me as I stumbled and fell, and was cured with a Band-Aid. I wondered if she had watched us on our trip, myself with children who are not my own, but all of whom are hers. I wondered if she had understood their failings and mine.

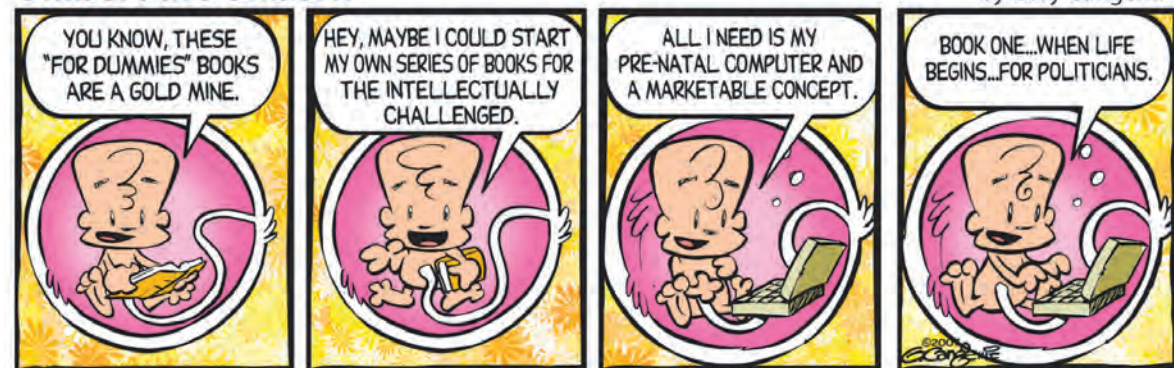
And I wondered if she, our model of motherhood, was telling me that every day, no matter what, she prays for me, even when we are apart.

She knows I will be back, I think. She knows we will be happy to see each other.



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

Umbert the Unborn



by Gary Cangemi

The FLOCK

By Jean Denton

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Calendar

MUENSTER BIBLE STUDY

Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster will host a one-day Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew presented by Father John Robert Skeldon. The liturgical readings for 2008 will include the Gospel of Matthew; this workshop is designed to give participants a greater understanding and appreciation of those readings. The workshop will be held Nov. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Community Center, located at 714 North Main, Muenster. Lunch will be offered during the workshop. A \$6 donation is requested to cover the cost of the lunch. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Barbara Rohmer, at (940) 759-2511 ext. 16

CSS FOR MEN

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), a doctrinally based group study program, is being offered at St. Andrew Church, located at 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. This CSS series for men began Tuesday, Nov. 6, and will continue on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. through May. The sessions take place in the parish hall. According to promotional materials, "CSS nourishes a deeper love for Christ and for his church." This five-year program, which is divided into five one-year studies, "is appropriate for persons with any level of Bible understanding — beginning or intermediate or truly versed." While participants will meet weekly for class discussion, course materials will provide guidance for daily reflection and questions covering all of the major biblical books. For more information, call Wes Shannon at (817) 228-4737 or Michele Salcedo at (817) 927-5383.

CENTERING PRAYER

The annual Advanced Centering Prayer retreat, sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Fort Worth, will be held this Advent at Camp Copass in Denton. The retreat will start the evening of Dec. 6 and end Dec. 9. Retreatants may start registration at 4 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and silence for the retreat will begin at 8 p.m. The schedule will include extended centering prayer sessions, as well as film and audio presentations designed to deepen the contemplative experience. The cost for the retreat, which includes meals, is \$160 for a semi-private room or \$250 for a private room. The limit is 25 participants, and spaces fill quickly. To register, print the registration form found on the Web site at www.cpforthworth.org/calevnts/regform1.doc, or contact Kathleen Kelley at (817) 281-6218, by e-mail to kkelley_2@charter.net, or by mail to 400 Durrand Oak Drive, Keller 76248. To learn more about Contemplative Outreach of Fort Worth, a group committed to bringing the contemplative dimension of the Gospel into everyday life, visit its Web site at www.cpforthworth.org, or contact Kathleen Kelley, above, or Tom Uhler at tomuhler@yahoo.com, or (817) 874-2894. To find out more about Contemplative Outreach Ltd., visit www.centeringprayer.com. To learn more about Camp Copass, visit its Web site at www.campcopass.com.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

A rosary novena will be prayed to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 through Dec. 11 at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1705 E. Peters Colony Road, Carrollton. A bilingual Mass will be celebrated in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 7 p.m. Dec. 12. The Knights of Columbus and matachines will participate in this joyful celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe's apparitions to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in the year 1531, and a reception with tamales, hot chocolate, and pan dulce will follow in the Assisi Hall. For more information, call the parish office at (972) 492-3237.

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a ministry for men who struggle with sexual impurity issues on the Internet and other sources, meets regularly in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, and at 1301 Paxton (Padre Pio House) in Arlington. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.sampg.com, or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com.

To Report Misconduct

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

- **Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator,** (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org
- **Or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- **Or call The Catholic Center** at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olson.

To Report Abuse

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

YOUTH MASS, VERNON

A youth Mass will be held at Holy Family of Nazareth Church, 2200 Roberts Street in Vernon, Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. The Mass will be followed by a social with refreshments. All are invited to attend. According to Cheyenne Marrinan, volunteer coordinator of youth ministry at St. Mary Church in Henrietta, several youth ministers in some of the northwestern counties of the diocese have worked together since August to host monthly youth Masses, which have been well attended by area teens and their adult leaders. For more information, call Cheyenne Marrinan at (940) 781-7648 or e-mail to cmarrinan21@yahoo.com.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard of Fort Worth will host a weekend retreat Dec. 7-9 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. For more information or registration, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757, or e-mail to forgiven@racheltx.org.

MINISTRY FOR GAY / LESBIANS

The next meeting of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will be held Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge St. in East Fort Worth. Father Warren Murphy, TOR, coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to join for prayer and sharing. For additional information, contact Fr. Murphy at (817) 927-5383 or Deacon Richard Griego at (817) 421-1387.

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MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

A one-day marriage enrichment program, entitled "Today ... Tomorrow ... Forever," will be offered Nov. 10 at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 600 Davey Drive in Burkburnett, and Nov. 17 at The Catholic Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth. The program, sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at each location. Topics to be discussed will include "Living the Sacrament of Marriage," "Commitment," "Communication," "Conflict Resolution," and "Intimacy." Time will be set aside for couples to strengthen their relationships with regard to these topic areas, as well as to focus upon their individual relationships. To register for the Burkburnett session, call Marie King at (940) 569-1222. For more information or to register for the Fort Worth session, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or ext. 256 or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

SSMN COME AND SEE

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will host a Come and See day for single women, ages 18-45, at the OLV Center, 909 West Shaw St., Fort Worth, Nov. 18. The day will begin with Mass at 10:30 a.m. in the Convent Chapel, followed by dinner with the sisters, a presentation, and time of sharing. For anyone wishing for a more extended visit with the sisters, there will be a Come and Stay Weekend Nov. 16-18. For more information on the Come and See day or weekend, contact Sister Margaret Miller, SSMN, at (817) 429-4009 for by e-mail to sarmgm@airmail.net. Information on the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur may also be found on their Web site at <http://ssmn.com>.

SCRIPTURE STUDY SERIES

"Yes! I'm Catholic Scripture Series — New Testament Scripture Study," focusing on "The Infancy Narratives" will be presented Monday evenings, Nov. 26, and Dec. 3, 10, and 17 at St. Andrew Church in the parish hall. Sister Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School, TCU, will take a fresh look at the familiar Gospel stories surrounding the birth of Jesus and situate them in their original contexts to gain a new appreciation. St. Andrew Church is located at 3717 Stadium Dr., Fort Worth. For more information and to register for the series, call (817) 927-5358. Childcare is available by calling (817) 924-6581 at least 48 hours in advance.

CURSILLO ULTREYA

A Cursillo Ultreya is an occasion where Cursillistas (those who have attended a Cursillo) and others who are interested in the Cursillo movement gather together to celebrate Christ. An Ultreya (Spanish for "onward") will be offered in English Nov. 10, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish, 3601 Alta Mesa in Fort Worth. For more information, call Pamela Jones at (817) 291-3575.

FOCUS CONFERENCE

FOCUS (The Fellowship of Catholic University Students) will hold its 2008 Student Leadership Conference Jan 2-6 at the Gaylord Texas Resort and Convention Center located at 1501 Gaylord Trail in Grapevine. Speakers will include Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR.; Kansas City Royals All-Star, Mike Sweeney; author, Jeff Cavins; star of the film "Bella," Eduardo Verastegui; and Curtis Martin. The Christian rock group Third Day is scheduled to perform. The conference is open to any student on any campus, campus ministers, young adults, priests, religious orders, and those who have a desire to be a part of the new evangelization. For a complete list of speakers and registration information, visit the Web site at www.focusconference.org. For more information contact, Justin Bell at (303) 522-0450, or by e-mail to jbelle@focusonline.org.

NTC SUBMISSION 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. Items for the Nov. 23 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

DCCW MEETING

The second quarterly meeting of the Central and East Deaneries of the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will be held Nov. 15 at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 S. Cherry Lane, Fort Worth. Father Jerome Ward, chaplain at the Naval Reserve Air Station at Carswell in Fort Worth, will speak on "Spiritual Life in the Navy." All women of the diocese are invited. The service project for this month will be the Thanksgiving food drive for parish food pantries. Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable or canned food item for this project. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and breakfast-type refreshments. The meeting will start at 10 a.m., and Mass will be celebrated at noon followed by lunch. The cost of lunch is \$10. Reservations for the meeting may be made by calling Mary del Rio at (817) 838-8120 or Dorothy Lopez at (817) 838-9618. The deadline to register is 5 p.m. Nov. 12. Reservations may be cancelled by noon Nov. 13.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

All married couples are invited to a Marriage Enrichment seminar based on the *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman. José and Marilyn Garcia of Austin, area leaders of World Wide Marriage Encounter, will present the seminar, hosted by the Marriage Encounter ministry of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Lewisville Dec. 1. The program will be held in the Community Life Center from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., with a catered dinner following at 6 p.m. The seminar fee is \$25 per couple, including the dinner. For anyone wishing to attend only the seminar, there is a \$5 per couple fee for materials. To make a reservation, contact Rick and Roberta Boitnott at rboitnott@sbcglobal.net or (903) 796-8491, or Bill and Carol Louree at blouree@aol.com or (972)-219-7994. The deadline for reservations is Nov. 17. St. Philip the Apostle Church is located at 1897 W. Main Street (at Kirkpatrick) in Lewisville.

CSFN DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth will host a Come and See Retreat Day for single Catholic women, ages 16 to 35, who are discerning a vocation to the religious life. The retreat will take place Nov. 17 at the sisters' convent, located at 1814 Egyptian Way in Grand Prairie. For more information or to register, call Sister Mary Paul Haase, CSFN, at (972) 642-5191 or e-mail to smpaul@icgrandprairie.org.

LAY CARMELITE GATHERING

The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of this deeper relationship to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. Those interested are asked to gather at 1:45 p.m. in the rectory chapel of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth. Formation will take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the school building. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

SINGLES RETREAT CANCELLED

The silent retreat for singles previously scheduled for Nov. 16-18 at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. For more information, call Montserrat at (940) 321-6020 or e-mail to retreat1@airmail.net

SEYMOUR POLKA MASS

The Catholic Community of Seymour will celebrate with neighbors Nov. 11 beginning with a special 10 a.m. Sunday Polka Mass at Sacred Heart Church on North Cedar Street in Seymour. Following the Mass, a Czech Olde World dinner with Bohemian sausage, turkey, and kolaches will be served at Sacred Heart Mosler Hall until 1:30 p.m. An auction will begin at 1:30 p.m. A country store of baked goods and crafts will also be a highlight of the event. Sacred Heart Church is located two-and-one-half hours from the Fort Worth area into the country going 199 west to Jacksboro and then 114 west to Seymour.

CRC BOOKSTORE SALE

The Catholic Renewal Center Bookstore will hold its annual pre-Christmas sale Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Nov. 18 from noon to 5 p.m. Many gift items, books, and cards will be available at a discounted 10 percent and tax-free price. The bookstore is located at 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. For more information, call the CRC at (817) 429-2920.

ALL SAINTS TURKEY FEAST

All Saints Parish will host a turkey feast Nov. 18, at the parish hall, located at 214 N.W. 20th Street on Fort Worth's North Side. The meal, which will benefit All Saints School, will be served from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A variety of foods will be available for purchase, including a meal of a hamburger and french fries for \$5, nachos for \$1, hot dogs for \$1, and drinks for \$1. All are welcome. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 626-3055.

OUR LADY OF GRACE

All are invited to join Bishop Kevin Vann in celebration of North Texas' newest Catholic High School. Our Lady of Grace High School has just opened at its new campus in Northeast Tarrant County and will host its first recognition banquet Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Marriott Solana Hotel, 5 Village Circle, Westlake. Tickets are \$65 per person. Table sponsorships are available for \$1,500. For more information, and reservations call (817) 933-6516. Information is also available on the school's Web site at www.olghs.org.

COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

Classified Section

LITURGY COORDINATOR

Good liturgy takes hard work; great liturgy takes dedicated ministers with a vision for excellence. A large Vatican II parish with five weekend Masses is seeking an energetic, engaging person to coordinate liturgical celebrations with style and reverence. Responsibilities include training and scheduling ministers; planning weddings, funerals, and sacramental rituals; and taking care of all liturgical articles and vestments. This position is full-time with weekends. Competitive salary and benefits are being offered. Send cover letter and résumé to LC Search, St. Philip the Apostle Church, 1897 W. Main Street, Lewisville 75067; e-mail to office@stphilipcc.org; or fax to (972) 219-5429. No phone calls. Job description is available online at www.stphilipcc.org/job_board.htm.

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Cardinal beatifies Austrian killed for refusing to fight for Hitler

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service
Rome Bureau Chief

A Vatican cardinal beatified Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian farmer who was beheaded in 1943 after he refused to fight in Hitler's army.

Presiding over the beatification Mass in Linz, Austria, Oct. 26, Cardinal José Saraiva Martins said Blessed Jagerstatter offered an example of how to live the Christian faith fully and radically, even when there are extreme consequences.

Blessed Jagerstatter was beatified as a martyr, which means he was killed out of hatred for the faith.

Many Austrian church leaders attended the beatification liturgy, and the Austrian bishops' conference recently called Blessed Jagerstatter "a shining example in dark times."

In 1943, however, his refusal to serve in the Nazi army was not supported by his priest, his bishop, or most of his Catholic friends. Particularly because he had a wife and three daughters, many advised him to think of his family and put aside his conscientious objection to the Nazi war machine.

Cardinal Saraiva Martins, head of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes, said in his beatification sermon that Blessed Jagerstatter's decision represents "a challenge and an encouragement" for all Christians who want to "live their faith with coherence and radical commitment, even accepting extreme consequences if necessary."

His courage of faith, the cardinal said, is an important example in modern times, when people face "conditioning and manipulation of consciences and minds, sometimes through deceitful means."

Cardinal Saraiva Martins emphasized that Blessed Jagerstatter was quite a



(CNS photo/Reuters)

Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian farmer, was beheaded in 1943 after refusing to fight in the Nazi army. His 94-year-old widow, Franziska (inset photo at left), attended his beatification ceremony Oct. 26 in Linz, Austria. (CNS photo)

normal person, someone with faults and who for a period seemed to take his faith lightly.

According to biographies, he was a fun-loving youth who chased after girls and rode a motorcycle, and once fathered a child out of wedlock. After marrying, however, his religious faith deepened.

In 1940, at the age of 33, he was conscripted into the German armed forces and underwent basic training. After returning home in 1941 on an

exemption as a farmer, he began examining closely the religious reasons for refusing to carry out military service. About that time, he became a lay member of the Third Order of St. Francis.

He studied the issues in detail, and at one point wrote a series of questions about the morality of the war that he discussed with his bishop. He emerged from that conversation saddened that the bishop seemed afraid to confront the issues.

In 1943, after being called to active duty, he reported to his army base and

A portrait of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter hangs in St. Mary's Cathedral during his beatification in Linz, Austria, Oct. 26. Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, seated at far right, presided at the ceremony. Jagerstatter was beatified as a martyr. (CNS photo/Reuters)

stated his refusal to serve. A military court rejected his assertion that he could not be both a Nazi and a Catholic, and condemned him to death for undermining military morale. His offer to serve as a military paramedic was ignored.

A priest from his home village visited him in prison and tried to talk him into serving in the army, but to no avail.

Blessed Jagerstatter was beheaded by guillotine Aug. 9, 1943. "I am convinced that it is best that I speak the truth, even if it costs me my life," he wrote before his execution.

In a final letter to his wife, he asked her forgiveness and said he hoped his life would be accepted by God as "atonement not just for my sins but also for the sins of others."

A chief question raised in Blessed Jagerstatter's writings is how much obedience a good Christian owes to civil authorities when their demands conflict with Gospel teachings.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, published in 1992, addresses that issue, stating: "The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons, or the teachings of the Gospel. Refusing obedience to civil authorities, when their demands are contrary to those of an upright conscience, finds its justification in the distinction between serving God and serving the political community."

Inside... This issue of the NTC

Bringing together all those couples married 50 years or more at the Golden Anniversary Mass Oct. 14, allowed the telling of inspiring stories of how couples came together and stayed together. **8**

Oklahoma's bishops offered support to immigrants after their state passed a new law making it a felony to knowingly harbor or transport an illegal alien (among other provisions). **9**

Podcasting Father Roderick Vonhogen, kicks off the fifth season of Theology on Tap, telling how he came to realize he was reaching "real people" not "virtual people" with the Gospel. **15**

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