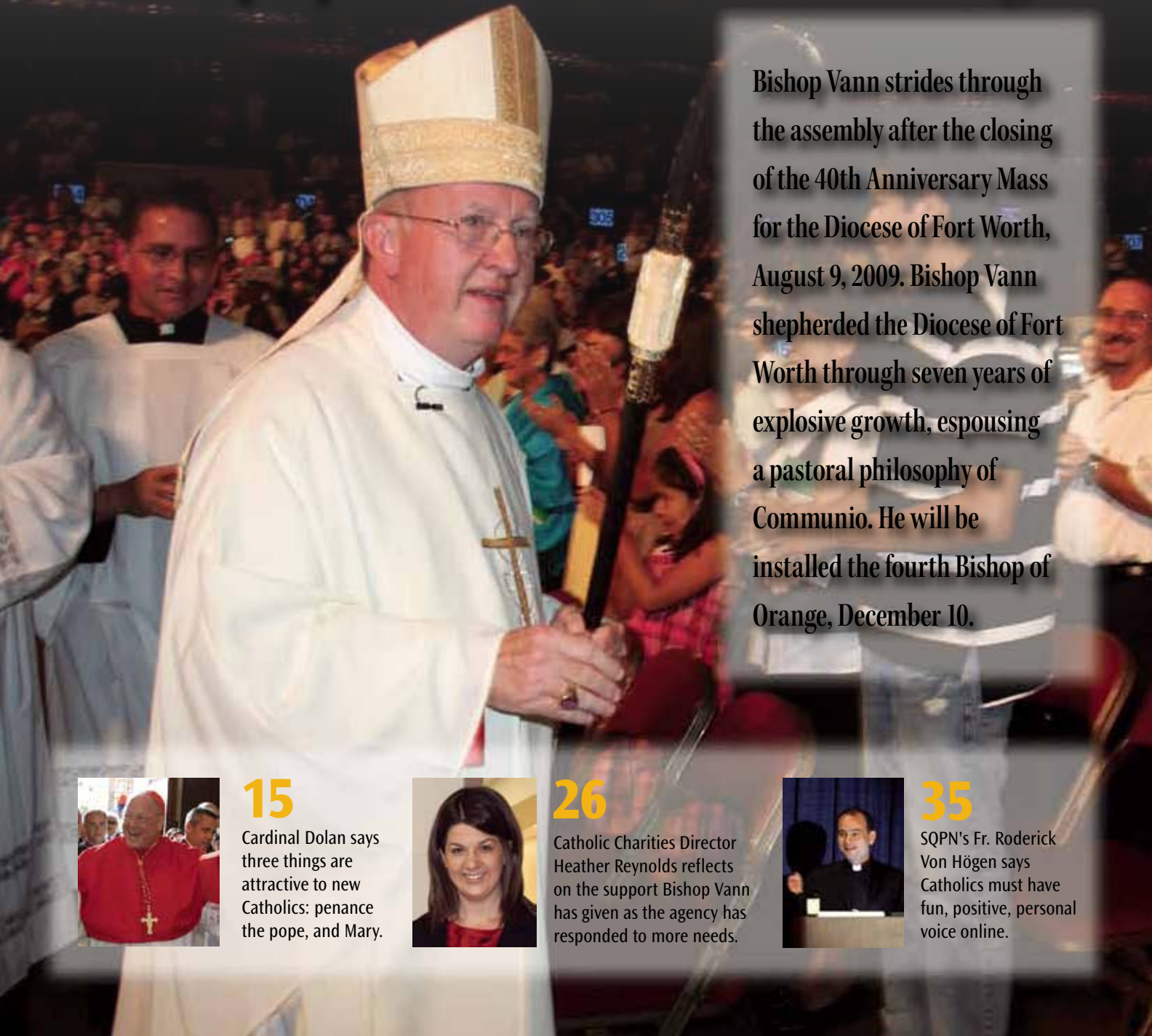


# Bishop Vann leaves solid accomplishments as he prepares to head Diocese of Orange

Bishop Vann strides through the assembly after the closing of the 40th Anniversary Mass for the Diocese of Fort Worth, August 9, 2009. Bishop Vann shepherded the Diocese of Fort Worth through seven years of explosive growth, espousing a pastoral philosophy of *Communio*. He will be installed the fourth Bishop of Orange, December 10.



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Cardinal Dolan says three things are attractive to new Catholics: penance the pope, and Mary.



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SQPN's Fr. Roderick Von Högen says Catholics must have fun, positive, personal voice online.

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Bishop Vann explains how his transition to being installed Bishop of the Diocese of Orange, California will work, expresses his love of the Diocese of Fort Worth and its people.

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We offer one Advent piece, but for the rest of the inspirational series of seasonal articles, you'll have to go the *NTC* website, [northtexascatholic.org](http://northtexascatholic.org), over the next couple of months.

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Brother Jonathan and Brother Ron will be ordained Third Order Franciscan priests at the Province of the Most Holy Sacrament in Loretto Pennsylvania, Nov. 30. They've been interning at Good Shepherd and St. Andrew parishes respectively. Read their personal stories.

## **CATHOLIC NEW MEDIA CONVENES IN ARLINGTON** 35

Bloggers and others who use the web to share the Gospel, met in Arlington recently at the first Catholic New Media Conference to be hosted inland, away from the East Coast. They shared information and enthusiasm about their electronic outreach, an outreach embraced and encouraged by the Vatican.



Pope Benedict XVI leads a meeting of the Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization at the Vatican Oct. 9. *CNS photo / Paul Haring*

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The New Evangelization is very much integrated with the Year of Faith. Both invite us to deepen our relationship with Christ and his Church as the first step to being able to share our faith.



## **23 BISHOP VANN'S LEGACY**

Bishop here for seven years, Bishop Vann has made an impact on the Church of Fort Worth in many areas. An overview article takes a broad view, and on the next four pages, our writers focus on a few specific areas.



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Now international, 40 Days for Life began in College Station. Juan Guajardo has captured images and stories of a few who stood and prayed at Planned Parenthood during this year's pro-life campaign.



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OMM Catholic School President Michael Barks has been honored for his outstanding service to Our Mother of Mercy School (among others), but he wants to share the credit all around.



## **38 LIFE OF AN ATHLETE**

Brothers Steve and Joe Prud'homme have coached Nolan Catholic to many victories and state championships, but for them, the ultimate game is helping their athletes make good decisions and develop Christian character.

# North Texas Catholic



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## Advent and Christmas, New Evangelization, and Bishop Vann is leaving...

Actually, this is just a short list of the major, major items of great importance crowding (or attempting to crowd) their way into this issue.

And to make it more interesting, our associate editor, Tony Gutiérrez, had major surgery just one week ago today. The great news on that is, he's already home and on the mend. In a phone call just an hour ago, he said the medical personnel were surprised at how quickly he is mending. Praise God! Prayer—and good medical care) work wonders.

The elections approach, and all people of good will are challenged to make the best decisions they can, given the information they have available. For Catholics, there is the urgent need to inform our consciences before voting. That's why the U.S. Bishops created their guide to the electoral process "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."

No one can coerce conscience, and no political party or candidate embraces all the principles of great importance to Catholics.

But in "Faithful Citizenship" the bishops make the point that not all issues are equal: There is a prioritizing of the issues that make some political choices unacceptable because they require material cooperation with evil.

If you haven't read "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," simply search on "Faithful Citizenship." The first thing to pop up in your browser should be the USCCB's page for the document. You can read the document there online or download the .pdf file of it.

There is a lot of good, encouraging reading in this issue of the *North Texas Catholic*, and it comes to you with the desire of our small staff and larger team of freelancers that you, personally, will experience more and more of the love of God in your life as we enter this Year of Faith, and that your love will overflow in a way that allows you to become a bearer of the Good News.

Don't forget to catch us online at [northtexascatholic.org](http://northtexascatholic.org).

Jeff Hensley  
Editor



## OUR SHEPHERD SPEAKS

### *With all my heart I thank you*

*for your commitment of faith, goodness, and support*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of my favorite books, which is an easy read as well, is entitled *Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way* by Pope John Paul II. This work follows an earlier work entitled *Gift and Mystery*. Both narrate, in his own words, the life of Blessed John Paul II. *Gift and Mystery* is about his early years up to his priesthood ordination. *Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way* is the narration of his life from the time he was nominated as Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow until his election as the Bishop of Rome. In the last chapter of *Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way*, he ends with the following words:

*...On another occasion, to the same three disciples, Jesus said "Rise, and do not be afraid!" (MATT. 17:7). God's love does not impose burdens upon us that we cannot carry, nor make demands of us that we cannot fulfill. For whatever He asks of us, He provides the help that is needed. I say this from the place to which the love of Christ Our Savior has led me, asking of me that I should leave my native land so as to bring forth fruit elsewhere through his grace — fruit that will last (CF. JOHN 15:16). Echoing the words of our Lord and Master, I too say to each of you, dear brothers in the episcopate, "Rise, let us be on our way!" Let us go forth full of trust in Christ. He will accompany us as we journey toward the goal that He alone knows.*

These words were very prophetic for me, as the above book was given to me by a good priest friend of mine when I was sent here as Bishop Delaney's co-adjutor in 2005, and succeeded him at his untimely death. I did, indeed, have to rise and be on my way, to follow the Lord where He called me to journey with you as the Shepherd here in our wonderful diocese. These last seven years have been years of great blessing for me personally as together, many things have been able to be accomplished as a response of faith to the Lord who calls us to be his people. I thank you for your generosity, faith, and love in so many ways.

On Sept. 7, the above words of the Lord became a reality for me again when the Holy Father's representative to our country, Archbishop Vigano, called me to let me know that Pope Benedict XVI has named me as the fourth Bishop of Orange in California. As I said to the staff at the Marywood Pastoral Center in Orange two weeks ago, I love the people of North Texas very much, and you indeed have become my family. This will be now a year of great transition, with the death of my mother, leaving here, and moving to Orange. But I trust in the same Lord who led me here among you, and now asks me to follow Him to the Diocese of Orange.

Even though geographically very different in square miles than Fort Worth (one county of 700 square miles, as opposed to 28 counties of 24,000 square miles), the Catholic population is about 1,300,000 or 40 percent of the population. The Diocese of Orange has many of the same cultural groups that we have here, only more. There is the practice of a vibrant faith, where the challenge is building and expansion. And there is the recent purchase of the Crystal Cathedral (the future Christ Cathedral), which truly is a "gift from God" as Bishop Brown has noted, and it's being shaped into a Catholic Cathedral.



Many people have been asking what happens now in Fort Worth. After my Installation, Fort Worth will become an empty see or *sede vacante*. The new Diocesan Administrator will be elected by a group of senior priests from within the diocese known as the College of Consultors. The priest who is elected will then maintain the day-to-day activities of the diocese, but without the authority of a bishop. The diocese will then wait for a new bishop to be assigned from Pope Benedict XVI. Please begin praying, as will I, for the new Bishop of Fort Worth.

With all of my heart, I thank you for your commitment of faith, and your goodness and support to me in moments of blessing and moments of challenge. Your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure are helping to take the Diocese of Fort Worth into a future full of hope, as we build on a legacy of faith and leadership since the diocese was founded in 1969.

My installation as the Bishop of Orange will take place on December 9 and 10, with Evening Prayer on December 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the future Christ Cathedral Arboretum and the Installation Mass on December 10 at 2 p.m. at the University of California Irvine Bren Events Center.

Please pray for me in these times of transition, as I do for you. I continue to live, with the help of God, the motto which came to me when I was appointed bishop: "Do everything in faith and love in Christ Jesus."

God bless you always.

  
 + KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD  
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR  
DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

# Fr. Jonathan Wallis appointed director of Catechesis

Father Jonathan Wallis has been appointed director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth. The son of an Episcopal priest, Wallis grew up in the small Missouri town of West Plains and came to Fort Worth in 1992 as an undergraduate to study at Texas Christian University. Five years and a Bachelor of Music Education degree later, he became Catholic.

“The clear teaching on the Eucharist really cinched it for me: the historical continuity of it.” Wallis said in a recent interview. “And I loved Pope John Paul II.”

By 2000 he’d entered Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, and in 2007 he was ordained a diocesan priest for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“Even though I wasn’t born



**Fr. Jonathan Wallis**

here in Fort Worth, I could see that God had called me to serve here,” he said. In 2010, after three years at St. Matthew’s in Arlington,

*We must always remember that our connection is to a living person — Jesus Christ. The role of catechesis is to deepen our faith and strengthen the bonds of charity between God and our neighbor.”*

Bishop Vann chose to send Wallis to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Wallis studied dogmatic theology there, earning his License in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) in July of this year.

“Part of the beauty of being in Rome is being where so many important events in the Church have taken place,” Fr. Wallis said. “The Romans live very comfortably in


the present and the past. You can actually see the continuity of the Church in the architecture.”

After a brief stint as priest secretary to Bishop Kevin Vann, the former music teacher and recent theology student is excited about his new appointment as director of Catechesis for the diocese.


“There are a great deal of similarities between teaching music and teaching the Catholic faith,” he said in a recent e-mail. “In both cases, there is an absolute need of both the individual and the group. One relies upon the other.”

While he admits that overseeing a catechetical program for an entire diocese can be daunting, he’s confident that with the excellent resources available and the hard work of so many individuals in the diocese, he has the tools to build a first rate program. Yet Fr. Wallis has a clear view of the big picture.

“We must always remember that our connection is to a living person — Jesus Christ,” he said. “The role of catechesis is to deepen our faith and strengthen the bonds of charity between God and our neighbor.”

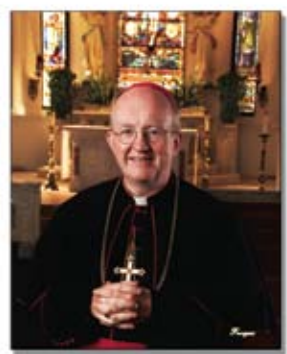


**DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH**



**You Are Invited**

The Diocese of Fort Worth will bid Bishop Vann farewell as he departs to become the fourth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Orange, California



All are invited as the Diocese gives thanks for Bishop Vann’s seven years as our Shepherd

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**Vespers ~ Reception**

**Sunday, November 25 - 6 p.m.**  
Nolan Catholic High School Arena  
4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth

**Monday, November 26 - 6 p.m.**  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church  
4040 York St., Wichita Falls

**Wednesday, November 28 - 6 p.m.**  
Immaculate Conception Church  
2255 North Bonnie Brae St., Denton

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Saturday Nov. 10, 12:30-6:40pm

**Spiritual Theology: A Rose within the Christian Mystical Tradition**  
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## Pope names Msgr. Joseph Strickland new bishop of Diocese of Tyler

TYLER — Pope Benedict XVI has named 53-year-old Monsignor Joseph E. Strickland, vicar general of the Diocese of Tyler, as bishop of Tyler.

The appointment was announced in Washington Sept. 29 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Strickland succeeds Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio, who was named bishop of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, in 2011 after heading the Tyler Diocese for more than a decade. Msgr. Strickland has served as apostolic delegate to the diocese since then.

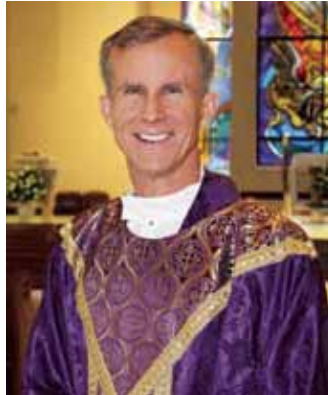
At a Sept. 29 news conference in Tyler, Bishop-designate Strickland called his appointment a “joyful message” and said he was “grateful to God” for the opportunity given him.

“It’s a joyful message we share today,” he said to fellow priests, deacons, consecrated religious, lay faithful, and local press. “My greatest joy has always been to gather around the altar of Christ with you. I know this is a tremendous challenge,” the bishop-designate said. “But I’m here with family.”

Joseph E. Strickland was born Oct. 31, 1958, in Fredericksburg, Texas. He attended the University of Dallas and Holy Trinity Seminary, Dallas, 1977-1985, and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Dallas in 1981 and a Master of Divinity degree from Holy Trinity Seminary, in 1985.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Dallas in 1985. The Diocese of Tyler was created in 1986. In 1994, Bishop-designate Strickland was awarded a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America.

His pastoral assignments included serving as parochial vicar, Immaculate Conception Church, Tyler, from 1985-89; diocesan vocations director from 1987-89; parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church June to October



Bishop Designate Joseph Strickland

1989; pastor of St. Michael Church in Mount Pleasant from 1989 until August 1992, when he was assigned to Canon Law studies at the Catholic University of America by Bishop Edmond Carmody. He received his licentiate in Canon Law in 1994 and was assigned as rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler that same year. In 1995, he was named judicial vicar for the Diocese of Tyler and named a prelate of honor with the title monsignor. In 2010, he was appointed vicar general of the Tyler Diocese.

He will be ordained a bishop and installed as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Tyler Nov. 28 at a special Mass to be celebrated in Caldwell Auditorium in Tyler. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan, archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico will act as co-consecrators.

Bishop-designate Strickland said he will dedicate his ministry as bishop to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and said his episcopal motto will be, “To dwell in the house of the Lord.” He also announced that he will lead a prayer vigil on the Tyler courthouse square Nov. 4 and invited people of all faiths to join him.

The Diocese of Tyler includes 1,396,736 persons, with 54,746, or four percent of them Catholic.

## Pope's book on Jesus' infancy to be presented at Frankfurt book fair

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jesus was not born “once upon a time” as in a fable, but in a historically verifiable place and moment that were detailed accurately in the Gospel of Luke, Pope Benedict XVI writes in the third volume of his work, *Jesus of Nazareth*.

Two short excerpts from the pope’s book, which is scheduled to be released before Christmas, were distributed by the Italian publisher Rizzoli Oct. 9, along with an announcement that Rizzoli would present the book at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Rizzoli said the book fair would be an opportunity to finalize deals for translations of the pope’s book in 20 languages, including English. The Vatican publishing house announced in September that it had made an agreement with Rizzoli to handle the sale of international rights to the book.

The book fair, one of the world’s most important, runs Oct. 10 - 14.

Rizzoli also released a facsimile of the book’s cover, which is similar to that



used for the first two volumes: The first, published in 2007, covered the period from Jesus’ baptism to his Transfiguration; while the second, regarding his passion and death, came out in 2011.

The pope’s latest literary effort uses the Gospels to explore the infancy and childhood of Jesus.

In a second excerpt released from the new book, Pope Benedict invokes the image of the infant Christ wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. He elaborates on an observation by St. Augustine that the manger, where animals find their nourishment, becomes a “reminder of the table of God where man is invited to receive the bread of God.”

## Ukrainian leader: Global crisis in economy has spiritual root

SAINTE-ADELE, Quebec (CNS) — Western secularism underlies the worldwide economic crisis and challenges the future of Ukraine, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church told Canada’s bishops. “The current economic crisis is merely the symptom of a much deeper spiritual and cultural crisis,” Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk told the annual plenary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Sept. 25.

“As Western society rejects old moral structures and values, it finds that its moral GPS has no fixed and stationary points of reference.”

Archbishop Shevchuk said the Church must find “new courage” to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to contemporary society to provide “an anchor and compass,” he said.

“Secularism would like us to be closed in a little box of Sunday worship.” The former Soviet Union used that approach to religion, he said. “Separation of church and state has become separation of faith values from society, yet our mission is to preach the word of God to all and to be a constant sign of God’s loving presence through social ministry,” he said.

## DIOCESAN, LOCAL & STATE NEWSBRIEFS



Teachers for the new Holy Cross School in Frisco carry the crucifixes that will be placed prominently in their classrooms as part of the dedication liturgy celebrated in the school's assembly space. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

### **Bishop Vann dedicates Holy Cross School in Frisco, Sept. 15; diocese's 1st new school in 15 years**

*By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent*

Blessing of Holy Cross School, the first school to open in the diocese in 15 years came the day after the September 14 feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

"From now on the feast of the Holy Cross will not just be a day on the Church's liturgical calendar but a real day of faith and celebration for all of you," said Bishop Vann during the dedication liturgy, Sept. 15.

Housed in a renovated, two-story building near the growing communities of Frisco, The Colony, and Little Elm, Holy Cross Catholic School currently accepts Pre-K 3 through second grade students. Administrators plan to add an additional class level each year. The school's eight classrooms can accommodate 150 pupils, according to Ann Beckel, director of curriculum.

"Technology is one of our drawing points," says the veteran educator who retired from her job as a Lewisville ISD principal last year. Every Holy Cross student receives an iPad to use in school and classrooms are equipped with Promethean interactive whiteboards which allow a teacher to share information, graphs, and charts directly from a computer.

Each student's iPad is downloaded with applications requested by the teacher.

"There's even an app for browsing our

book catalog," librarian Chris Davis added.

School Superintendent Don Miller called the opening of the 17th elementary school in the diocese, "a tribute to the pastoral leadership of Father (Michael) Holmberg and the commitment of his parish to make this happen."

The diocese conducted a feasibility study three years ago and the findings indicated interest for a school in the area, he told the *North Texas Catholic*.

"Last November the bishop and Fr. Holmberg asked me to start this project and make it happen," Miller added. "Due to the commitment of a lot of people, we were able to do this in a fairly short period of time."

Eventually, Holy Cross School will move to its permanent location on a 34-acre plot of land in Frisco purchased for a new church.

During the dedication ceremony, Bishop Vann blessed crucifixes which were carried by teachers to their classrooms. He then sprinkled each room with holy water.

After the sacred rituals, Principal Marie Pishko thanked the bishop and Catholic Schools Office for their support during the building process, as well as the parents who had enough faith in the value of Catholic schools to enroll their children even before they had a building, textbooks, or teachers.



(Photo provided)

### **Catholic Charities dental clinic named for Bishop Vann**

Bishop Kevin Vann is joined at the Sept. 25 dedication of the Catholic Charities Fort Worth dental clinic named in his honor by CCFW Executive Director Heather Reynolds, (right) and CCFW board member Donna Springer, who coordinated the construction of the clinic. The Bishop Kevin W. Vann Dental Clinic, a full-service dental clinic, opened Oct. 1, and will provide access to affordable and quality dental care for individuals and families residing within the 28 counties of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth with a household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The clinic is located at the CCFW main campus, 249 West Thornhill Drive in Fort Worth. For more information, contact CCFW at (817) 534-0814 or visit [www.catholic-charitiesfortworth.org](http://www.catholic-charitiesfortworth.org).



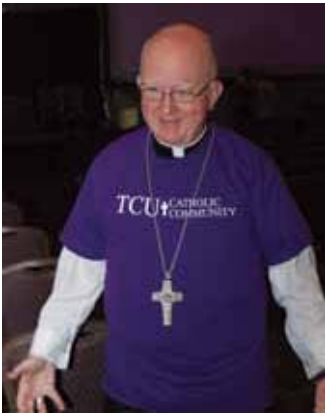
(Photo provided)

### **North Deanery Knights councils raise funds for 3D/4D ultrasound machine for ABBA Women's Center**

The Knights of Columbus of Cooke, Montague, and Clay Counties presented a \$25,000 check to Sandee Feyereisen, executive director of All Babies Born Alive (ABBA) Women's Center in Gainesville recently. The \$25,000 raised by the local Knights of Columbus grant program will be matched by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council to purchase a new 3D-4D Color Ultrasound Machine for ABBA. ABBA is a North Texas and Southern Oklahoma pregnancy resource center which currently has the third highest call volume among pregnancy centers in Texas. Representing the Knights at the presentation were Texas District 16 Deputy John Shiffer, and Grand Knights Danny Wolf of Gainesville Council 1167, Jerry Metzler of Lindsay Council 11905, Craig Stoffels of Muenster Council 1459, and Mike Becan of Moncla (Montague/Clay) Council 14339 serving Henrietta, Bowie, Montague, and Nocona.

The money was raised at a Knights-sponsored barbecue dinner benefit held Saturday, Sept. 1 at the Centennial Hall in Lindsay.

## DIOCESAN, LOCAL & STATE NEWSBRIEFS



The bishop modeled a TCU Catholic Community T-shirt. (Photo by Steve Moffett)

### Bishop Vann dons purple after TCU Community Mass

As North Texas figuratively – and literally – swathed itself in TCU Purple for the opening of the football season and the newly-refurbished Amon Carter Stadium, Bishop Kevin Vann urged members of the TCU Catholic Community to be as easily identifiable in their own way.

“What a great weekend for TCU,” Bishop Vann told the scores of members of the Catholic community assembled in early September at the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass in the Brown-Lupton University Union. “I was in Decatur this weekend ... and the folks in Wise County were wearing their purple, too. It’s not yet Advent, so I can’t wear my purple vestments.” He told the crowd of students, faculty, and community members that when they wear TCU purple, there’s no explanation needed. “It’s something to celebrate and be joyful for.”

But, he said, that identification should be just as clear if someone is a member of TCU Catholic Community.

“If people see us as attentive to one another or if they see us change our schedule or rearrange our lives to help someone in need, then they will identify us as Catholic or as a member of TCU Catholic Community.”

He praised Father Charles Calabrese for his leadership of TCU Catholic Community and thanked everyone for “allowing” him to come to the university and be a part of their lives.

The Bishop lingered after Mass, donning a TCU Catholic Community t-shirt, and focusing on conversation with the people who surrounded him.

“I feel very blessed to be here,” he said, recalling his association with the university went back to his installation as Fort Worth Bishop in 2005 at TCU’s Daniel-Meyer Coliseum.



At the Sept. 27 evening event, “Elevating Cassata,” celebrating the conclusion of the school’s successful capital campaign. Cassata students presented an original mural, created by the students with the help of local artist Manuel Pulido, designed to convey the spirit of Cassata High School. “The mural depicts our community, the importance of family, and the two doves represent our founding mothers of this school,” noted student Jesús Heredia, referring to the late Sister Mary Bonaventure Mangan, SHSp, and Sister Mary Venard Fulbright, SSMN, who founded the alternative high school, sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth, in 1975.



Cassata High School marked the installation of a new elevator at the Sept. 27 event, “Elevating Cassata” to celebrate the conclusion of the school’s successful \$1.5 million capital campaign. The event showcased the many improvements made possible by the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth; individual donors; local corporations; and foundations, including the Morris, Amon G. Carter, Ryan, Scanlan foundations, Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust, Adeline and George McQueen, and William E. Scott foundations. The new elevator was part of a three-year renovation project at the school, which included the installation of new plumbing, restrooms, air conditioning, windows, and lighting in the 91-year-old building. Pictured at the ribbon-cutting of the new elevator are (l. to r.) Karla Espinoza (student), Susan Flood (school president), Gary Fragosso (assistant director of property management, for the diocese), Mark Presswood (Cassata board chairman), Sal Espino (Fort Worth City Council), Don Miller (superintendent, Diocese of Fort Worth), Danny Scarth (Fort Worth City Council), Nancy Martin (Cassata principal), and Joe Busch (former board chairman for the school).



Bishop James Conley, presenter and concelebrant of this year’s Red Mass poses at the reception following. (Photo Provided)

### Bishops Conley & Vann concelebrate Red Mass

“Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest” filled St. Patrick Cathedral, as Bishop Kevin Vann, Bishop James Conley, Monsignor Michael Olson, and Father Michael Moloney processed down the main aisle for the Seventh Annual Diocesan Red Mass, celebrated Sept. 27, at 6 p.m.

Incense perfumed the air as Bishop Vann and Bishop Conley each in turn reminded the attendant judges, attorneys, canon lawyers, and civil officials that the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit should be essential for them as they carry out their sworn duties. In his homily, Bishop Conley, newly appointed Bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska, spoke of the lay vocation to be in the world, but not of the world. With the examples of Jesus and St. Vincent de Paul (on whose feast the Red Mass was celebrated), those present were challenged to be strong in their Catholic faith and to bear witness to the Gospels in their daily lives.

Following the Mass, Bishop Conley addressed the gathering at a reception in the St. Patrick Pastoral Center. In his keynote address, Bishop Conley stressed the importance of being true to Church teachings, especially in regard to the sanctity of life and the protection of marriage. All were reminded that their Catholic faith must guide them as they prepare to vote on Election Day.

Afterwards, the two bishops were toasted: Bishop Vann was congratulated on his appointment as Bishop of Orange, California, and Bishop Conley on his appointment to Bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Planned annually by the Red Mass Committee, the Fort Worth Red Mass continues a long Church tradition established in Paris in 1245.



## Nolan Catholic High School inducts three new members into its Hall of Fame

Nolan Catholic High School has announced the induction of three Nolan alumni into its Nolan Catholic High School Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are David Handler class of 1978, Debbie Reynolds-Hazen class of 1971, and Sister Paul O'Reilly, SSMN.

According to press information from Nolan, The hall of fame, sponsored by the Nolan Catholic Alumni Association, is "intended to specially recognize members of the Nolan community for their outstanding life achievements in exemplifying the school motto, *Esto Dux*: "Be A Leader," and its highest Marianist traditions."

The release states that, "David Handler is a successful leader in business and in his personal life with a passion and commitment to both.



David Handler

He is co-founder of Nolan's annual Paul Knippel Memorial Golf Tournament and is an active member of the Alumni Association.

"Debbie was selected for her strong faith in God, her great love for fellow church and community members



Debbie Reynolds-Hazen

and, with a tireless support, a willingness to work with others to accomplish whatever was for the good of her faith family and the community of Fort Worth.

"Sr. Paul taught at Nolan and was a key figure to many who went through the school's junior high program. She was not only a teacher who imparted head knowledge, but also a vowed woman religious and a minister who desired to touch the spirit, to move the heart, and to shape the souls of the hundreds of children who passed through the doors of her heart.



Sr. Paul O'Reilly,  
SSMN

The three took their places in the ring of honor at this year's homecoming half-time ceremonies on Friday, Oct. 19.

Ralph McCloud, class of '73 was the first alumnus to be honored as a member of the Hall of Fame in 2008. McCloud is currently director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. For more information on the NCHS Hall of Fame, visit [www.nolancatholic.org/Alumni/hall-of-fame](http://www.nolancatholic.org/Alumni/hall-of-fame) or contact Patricia Gilmore Pierret '78, director of alumni relations, at 817-395-0249.

## Bishop's Catholic Pro-Life Banquet draws 550

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

Research studies indicate today's teens are more thoughtful, socially aware, and informed about morality issues than their predecessors.

That awareness was showcased during The Bishop's 8th Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet Sept. 29 at the Hyatt Regency DFW. Members of the diocesan Youth for Life organization served as hosts at the dinner and were featured in a video that showed the group praying at local abortion clinics and participating in summer "pro-life boot camp" activities.

Providing educational forums for young people is just one of the ministries the Bishop's Pro-Life Banquet supports, ministries that protect, nurture, and sustain human life from conception to natural death. The Gabriel Project, which assists women in crisis pregnancies, and Rachel Ministries, which provides a healing outreach to post-abortion victims, are just two other programs supported by the banquet.

At the event the diocesan Catholics Respect Life office recognizes outstanding service and dedication. Burnie and Carol Vaughn were the recipients of this year's Service to Life Award for their public commitment to pro-life work and charity toward women and families in crisis. Each year, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioners charter a bus for participants going to Austin's Walk for Life, and frequently join other Knights of Columbus



Youth for Life volunteers' work in defense of life were a centerpiece of this year's 8th Bishop's Pro-Life Banquet, Sept. 29. (NTC Photo / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

families at prayer vigils outside a local abortion clinic.

"Burnie and Carol are champions for the unborn and are more than worthy recipients of this award," Bishop Kevin Vann said, before presenting the couple with the Service to Life Award, a crystal cross.

Keynote speaker for the evening, Dr. Thomas Hilgers, told the audience that reading Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae* in 1968 changed his personal and professional life. Today, the obstetrician/gynecologist specializes in reproductive medicine and helps develop his ongoing medical research and application of the Creighton Model Fertility Care System introduced NaProTechnology — a new women's health science that monitors and maintains a woman's reproductive and gynecological health using treatments that work cooperatively with the body and nature.

The founder and director of the Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction went on to say despite popular opinion, the availability and popularity of oral contraceptives has not enhanced but diminished women's reproductive health care.

"Everything that is pushed on them is unhealthy for them and very unhealthy for their babies," he cautioned, referring to the growing use of abortion, sterilization, and in vitro fertilization. "It's a problem that the culture has accepted."

# Sister St. John Begnaud, SSMN, remembered for wisdom and compassion

By Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent

Sister St. John Begnaud, SSMN, was the person families flocked to for ministry when loved ones died. But on August 30 and 31, she herself was the loved one, and she was surrounded by those she had ministered to and comforted.

Her Sisters of St. Mary of Namur were with her at the moment of death Aug. 26, holding her hands and praying as she faded away; hundreds of former students and friends attended her funeral Mass of Resurrection Aug. 31, and the vigil service the evening before.

"The sisters prepared her vigil with so much care," said Dr. Christina Alves, St. Andrew Parish director of liturgy and music. And it was just beautiful. "In our parish deacon formation program, Sr. St. John helped with presiding styles. I once asked her to come to a class and do a funeral vigil because she used to do them all the time.

"She told the class, 'the most important thing to remember is you may do many vigil services in your life, but for this family, in this moment, this the first time they've lost this loved one. So the care and attention needed for the family is very important.'"

"There are not a lot of textbooks on the subject of presiding," Alves said. "But she was the textbook."

Sr. St. John's education experience ranged from early to higher education, her obituary read, eventually combining her love for Scripture and literature into a unique gift of imparting a life-changing love of the Word to students." She taught at the University of Dallas (1969-1970); in



Sr. St. John sang with gusto at the April 21, joint celebration of the 70th anniversary of her final vows as a Sister of St. Mary of Namur. She was honored along with three other sisters who were celebrating their 60th anniversaries. (NTC Photo / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

the Institute of Religious and Pastoral Studies at UD; at the Rome Campus of UD (1989-1990); at Holy Trinity Seminary (1996-2001); in parishes; and in lay ministry programs of the Diocese of Fort Worth."

Dan Luby, assistant professor of theology at the University of Dallas, said Sr. St. John influenced everything he did.

"In my first ministry job, at St. John the Apostle, I persuaded Sr. St. John, Father Roch Kereszty, from Cistercian, and Father Dick Weaver from Dallas to speak for an Advent event. All of them were outstanding teachers, all of them were thoughtful, prayerful people. But almost 40 years later, the only words I remember from those three nights were hers.

"She said John the Baptist was waiting eagerly for the Messiah to come with cleansing fire," Luby recalled, "But when Jesus arrived, John recognized that instead of the Lion of Judah, He presented Himself as the Lamb of God."

Bishop Kevin Vann said it

was "a moment of blessing and privilege to celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection for Sr. St. John."

He said she had an impact on his own life, and "Over the years she has become a friend, teacher, and a sounding board for me.

"I wrote these words last evening," he said. "As I wrote them I was looking out my Cathedral office at the St Ignatius Academy building. To me at night it seems to have a sense of the eternal and unchanging about it.

"It was to this venerable edifice, a witness of history, that I first came seven years ago... through this building I first met your community... through the memories contained in these walls and the pictures it once held of the early pioneer religious and their students in those pioneer

days in North Texas.

"Through all of you present today," the bishop said, "and through Sr. St. John herself, I was gifted with a perspective of history and faith" in North Texas.

Bishop Vann said he believed Sr. St. John had taught each of those assembled, to examine their own personal vocational call. He said, "Sr. St. John has reminded us why we are where we are. And she has journeyed with each of us in that mission. Surely she did that with me, and for that I thank her and all of you."

"May this Mass of the Resurrection and the faith it proclaims in the risen Lord, the promise of eternal life in the communion of saints, urge us along in that very same mission in life."

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*Matthew 20:8*

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- 1:00p.m. Keynote # 2
- 2:30p.m. Break
- 3:00p.m. Keynote # 3
- 4:30p.m. Closing prayer



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## Schools Office announces which requirements for free/reduced-price lunch & milk programs

The diocesan Office of Catholic Schools has announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children who are unable to pay for meals served under the National School Breakfast, Free Milk, or Commodity School programs.

The following Catholic schools will participate in the National School Lunch Program: All Saints, St. George, Our Mother of Mercy, Our Lady of Victory, St. Peter, St. Rita, Notre Dame, and St. Mary's.

Applicants for free and

reduced-price lunch program must list the Social Security numbers of all adults living in the household. Incomes must be listed by source.

Applications must be completed each school year. A child must be registered in school before application acceptance. Qualified participants will be notified within one week after application.

In the operation of child-feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.



(L. to R.) United Way's Ted McKinney; Fort Worth T's Dick Ruddell; Catholic Charities' Heather Reynolds; Red Cross's T.D. Smyers; and, Tom Stallings, Chief of Staff for County Judge Glen Whitley, with one of the Wheels program's 36 vehicles. (NTC photo / Juan Guajardo)

### CCFW keeps 'Wheels' rolling

It's well known that Catholic Charities Fort Worth CEO and President Heather Reynolds loves to say "Yes" to continually improving and expanding CCFW programs and services, and to the steady growth of creative partnerships with other agencies, funding sources, and community leaders. "Yes" to those who ask the agency to take on administration of existing services to the elderly, disabled, and economically disadvantaged that might otherwise be eliminated in a struggling economy.

To the gratitude of more than 800 Tarrant County residents who depend upon transportation assistance, Reynolds recently said "yes" yet again, this time to local Red Cross officials, when they asked Catholic Charities to take over their Wheels Transportation Program. "Wheels" provides shared ride services to and from locations outside the Fort Worth Transportation Authority's ("The T") service area or outside The T's hours of operation. The Red Cross's focus upon disaster relief meant that the 30 year-old program needed a new home. The transition took place Sept. 1. In its first month of operation, CCFW provided over 5,700 rides to clients in need of help in getting to their

medical appointments, schools, churches, and jobs.

"Catholic Charities did a careful analysis to see if we could take over the program, to expand our existing transportation service that was already in place for our clients," explained Michelle Bloomer, CCFW's director of transportation. "So now, with a fleet of 36 vehicles of varying sizes in our fleet, we went from serving around 10 clients a day to serving approximately 200 clients a day."

Tempe Mays, director of employment services at Easter Seals North Texas, noted that the program allows a 60-year-old client, blind since birth, to get to his part-time job at a North Richland Hills restaurant near his home. "He, and many others like him, would not be working if Catholic Charities did not provide that ride, at a reasonable cost," said Mays.

Heather Reynolds is, she said, thankful that CCFW could say "yes" to meeting yet another critical need within Tarrant County. "Our job is to help families in need, to help end poverty, and to help provide all the resources that families need in order to get to a point of self-sufficiency," she said.

For more information, call CCFW at (817) 336-8714, or visit [www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/wheels](http://www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/wheels).

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**I**t is with great joy that I join with Pope Benedict XVI in welcoming the opening of the Year of Faith. The year begins with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th Anniversary of the release of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, approved and propagated by Blessed Pope John Paul II. Let us join in prayer that this year may be truly blessed and a time for us to deepen our love and faith in Jesus Christ and the Church.

The Pope's vision for this year is clearly outlined in his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* or Door of Faith. The title of the document is an image which comes from *Acts 14:27*. There we read: "Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles."

The Pope explains: "The 'door of faith' (*Acts 14:27*) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church (*PF 1*)." Faith is both a gift and something which we exercise in our lives. Faith is something which comes from God and reveals Him as the object of our faith.

This year offers us the opportunity to reflect upon our faith and deepen our commitment to Christ, both as individuals and as members of the Church. We do this so that we might be a better witness to Christ in the world. Those of us who are committed Christians know the peace and joy that a life dedicated to Christ can bring. Life is never without its challenges and sufferings, but with faith in Christ and the support of the Church, all things are possible.

The Year of Faith gives us the opportunity to bring this peace and joy to the world, which stands increasingly in need of Jesus Christ and the Church. The Church is not simply an organizational structure, but truly the Body of Christ and a living communion of Christ the Head and we his members. There-



fore, when we bring Christ to the world as members of the Church, we do so not with a systematic solution to the world's problems, but as an encounter with the living God, Jesus Christ, who came to free us from our sins and lead us to Him.

One of the meanings of the word "belief" is "to hold dear." In this year, let us re-examine our faith and see if it is something we truly hold precious. Like a plant, our faith must be nurtured. Let us use this year to hand on that which we have received.

While there will be many activities in our parishes, our Diocese, and throughout the Church during this year, I have three pillars for our celebration in the Diocese of Fort Worth that I would like to share with you:

1. Read the Sacred Scriptures,
2. Read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*,
3. And, attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.

First, St. Jerome is often quoted as saying that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. Sacred Scripture is the living Word of Christ. Indeed, the *Second Vatican Council* teaches in the document *Dei Verbum* that "the books of Scripture, firmly, faithfully and without error, teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the sacred Scriptures (*DV 11*)." Beginning with the Gospel of Matthew, make the commitment to read one chapter per day. You will

be surprised how far you will go in a year, and how you will come to know Christ and the Church through the Bible.

Next, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers a beautiful synthesis of the Faith. In its pages we encounter Sacred Scripture, the testimony of the saints, the wisdom of Councils and true answers for the problems of life. I quote Pope Benedict at length:

*[In the CATECHISM] we see the wealth of teaching that the Church has received, safeguarded and proposed in her two thousand years of history. From Sacred Scripture to the Fathers of the Church, from theological masters to the saints across the centuries, the CATECHISM provides a permanent record of the many ways in which the Church has meditated on the faith and made progress in doctrine so as to offer certitude to believers in their lives of faith.*

*In its very structure, the CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH follows the development of the faith right up to the great themes of daily life. On page after page, we find that what is presented here is no theory, but an encounter with a Person who lives within the Church. The profession of faith is followed by an account of sacramental life, in which Christ is present, operative and continues to build his Church. Without the liturgy and the sacraments, the profession of faith would lack efficacy, because it would lack the*

*grace which supports Christian witness. By the same criterion, the teaching of the CATECHISM on the moral life acquires its full meaning if placed in relationship with faith, liturgy and prayer (PORTA FIDEI 11).*

You can learn how to search for the full text of the *Catechism* below.

Finally, I ask that you take your obligation seriously to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. We do not live our life of faith in isolation. The celebration of Mass is the source and summit of our Christian life. It is the fount from which we draw our strength and the end to which we offer our lives. Let us never forget that at the Mass we join with Catholics of all ages in offering our very selves to Christ.

I pray that God may bless you abundantly in this Year of Faith. I will begin this year in Fort Worth, but will end it in Orange, California. Wherever we may be, we are part of the one faith, joined in one baptism, made into one body in Christ. Please be assured of my prayers and may we carry Christ into the world with great faith, hope, and love.

The Year of Faith is an opportunity for every Catholic—you and I—to experience a conversion, to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with Him.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Kevin W. Vann*

Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD  
Diocesan Administrator  
Diocese of Fort Worth

To access any of these documents, go online and search on:

**Door of Faith, Porta Fidei**  
to read Pope Benedict XVI's letter on the Year of Faith

**Vatican, Sacred Scripture**  
to read the New American Bible

**Vatican, Catechism**  
To read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

# Diocesan Year of Faith observance to begin with Vespers Nov. 7

Bishop Kevin Vann has announced that the first diocese-wide event in observance of the Year of Faith will be held at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 7, at St. Patrick Cathedral with a Holy Hour and Vespers liturgy, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The homily will outline in broad terms the plans of the diocese for the observance of the Year of Faith. “We’ll be relying very heavily on parish events and priests and pastors of parishes,” to offer opportunities for people to deepen their faith, said Father

Jonathan Wallis, director of Catechesis for the diocese. He said the diocese is also hoping for parishes and the various deaneries to offer liturgies, opportunities for communal prayer, instructional activities, and speakers.

Pope Benedict XVI declared the Year of Faith, which began Oct. 11, 2012 and ends Nov. 24, 2013 in his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, or “Door of Faith,” which he issued on Oct. 11, 2011. The opening date was chosen to observe the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, as well as the 20th anniversary of the

publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, promulgated by Blessed John Paul II.

In an interview with the *NTC*, Fr. Wallis said, “The Holy Father has said repeatedly, when referring to the goals of this special observance, that you can’t overemphasize that all the suggested activities and devotional practices that surround this year do not add up to a program, but an invitation to an encounter with Jesus Christ.

“Because faith is a gift of God,” he continued, “even though we can know there is

a God through natural reason, as shown in the five theses of St. Thomas Aquinas, it is only through the Holy Spirit that we can recognize Jesus Christ and his Church.

“That’s really at the heart of what Pope Benedict XVI is trying to accomplish, to open the ‘door of faith’ and allow Jesus Christ into our lives,” he said, using the title of the pope’s apostolic letter to emphasize the simplicity of the message.

“It’s an invitation to fall back in love with the faith and the Church,” he concluded.

## Vatican II: Season of Renewal

1958



Oct. 28  
John XXIII  
becomes  
pope.

1959

Jan. 25  
He announces plans to  
convoke the council,  
citing a need to update  
the church and promote  
Christian unity.

1960

June 6  
He issues a Motu  
Proprio establishing  
11 commissions and  
two secretariats for the  
council.

1961

Administrative and  
preparatory work  
continues.

1962

Oct. 11-Dec. 8  
**SESSION 1**  
36 general meetings  
take place. Key  
discussions: liturgy,  
mass communication,  
the Eastern Catholic  
churches, and the nature  
of revelation.

1963



June 21  
Paul VI  
becomes  
pope.

Sept. 29-Dec. 4  
**SESSION 2**  
43 general meetings  
end with documents  
on liturgy and social  
communications.

1964

Sept. 14-Nov. 21  
**SESSION 3**  
48 general meetings end  
with the publication  
of the Dogmatic  
Constitution on the  
Church and separate  
decrees on ecumenism  
and Eastern Catholic  
churches.

1965

Sept. 14-Dec. 8  
**SESSION 4**  
41 general meetings  
end with decrees on the  
office of bishops, priestly  
formation, religious  
life, priestly ministry,  
missionary activity and  
the role of laity. Also  
issued were declarations

on Christian education,  
on religious freedom and  
on relations with non-  
Christian religions; the  
Pastoral Constitution on  
the Church in the Modern  
World and the Dogmatic  
Constitution on Divine  
Revelation.



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Bishops walk in procession before Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 11 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The Mass also opened the Year of Faith. (CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters)



## U.S. Bishops offer lively look at New Evangelization

WASHINGTON—To honor the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Pope Benedict XVI has announced a Year of Faith, which started October 11 and will end November 24, 2013, to strengthen the faith of Catholics and draw the world to faith by their example. The Year of Faith is meant to reflect one of the themes of Pope Benedict's pontificate, the New Evangelization.

Peter Murphy, D.Min., executive director of the Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), shares "Seven Things Catholics Should Know About the New Evangelization." Murphy, who was in Rome as an auditor of the October 7-28 Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization, offered these insights:

**1. IT'S NOT NEW IN CONTENT, BUT NEW IN ENERGY AND APPROACH.** The New Evangelization re-proposes the faith to a world longing for answers to life's most profound questions. It's a call to share Christ and bring the Gospel, with renewed energy and through ever-changing methods, to new and different audiences.

**2. IT BEGINS WITH PERSONAL CONVERSION.** The New Evangelization begins internally and spreads outward. We are called to deepen our own faith in order to better share it with others. Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger described this in the Jubilee Year 2000 as daring to have faith with the humility of the mustard seed that leaves up to God how and when the tree will grow. Conversion to Christ is the first step.

**3. IT'S FOR BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS ALIKE.** Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM Cap., recently observed that the most difficult people to evangelize are the ones who think they've already been converted. So whether it's someone at Mass every Sunday, an inactive Catholic or someone for whom religion is not part of life, the New Evangelization invites all people to discover faith anew.

**4. IT'S ABOUT A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHRIST.** Before a person can share Christ with others, they must first experience Christ in their own life. The New Evangelization is about promoting a

personal encounter with Christ for all people, wherever they are in their lives. Whether that means finding faith for the first time or spreading the Good News, the most authentic and effective efforts are the ones closest to Christ.

**5. IT'S NOT AN ISOLATED MOMENT, BUT AN ONGOING PRACTICE.** Personal conversion and the encounter with Christ is an ongoing experience that lasts a lifetime. Catholics are blessed to encounter their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in the Sacraments. Catholics are called to live in a way that reflects the love of Christ. God's love is shared with our neighbors through caring for the poor and welcoming those who feel distant from God.

**6. IT'S MEANT TO COUNTER SECULAR CULTURE.** G.K. Chesterton wrote that "each generation is converted by the saint who contradicts it most." The New Evangelization responds to Western society's ongoing move away from religion by urging Catholics to enthusiastically share Christ in word and through the credible witness of their lives. This is

why Pope Benedict encourages Catholics to study the lives of the saints during the Year of Faith and learn from their example.

**7. IT'S A PRIORITY FOR THE CHURCH.** Blessed Pope John Paul II made it a major priority of his 26-year pontificate. Continuing this, Pope Benedict launched the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization in 2010 and made it the theme of the 2012 Synod of Bishops. The U.S. bishops issued a document in April, "Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization," focused on welcoming inactive Catholics back to the faith. The New Evangelization has an urgency about it, an urgency for all Catholics to embrace the grace of their baptismal call and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with their family, friends, and neighbors.

To obtain more information on the New Evangelization enter "USCCB" in your search engine and then search for "New Evangelization" on the website.



Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York is accompanied by Msgr. Franco Mammoli as he arrives to celebrate Mass at his titular church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Rome Oct. 14. Cardinal Dolan formally took possession of the church during the Mass. Msgr. Mammoli is pastor of the parish. (CNS photo/Paul Haring).

## What is the new evangelization?

The staff of the *Catholic Register*, Canada's superb national Catholic newspaper, sought to summarize the meaning of the New Evangelization, in an article published Oct. 13, two days into the Year of Faith. Their brief article traced the term's first use to an address by Pope John Paul II to Latin American bishops in the late '70s. "Catholic thinkers, writers, theologians, and pastors have debated what the new evangelization really means," they say, but then go on to pull 10 major points from the *lineamenta* sent to more than 200 bishops to prepare for the Synod on the New Evangelization. Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops Archbishop Nikola Eterovic they said, offered several definitions of New Evangelization. And here is their listing of a selection of his definitions:

- As an evangelizer, the Church begins by evangelizing herself.
- Evangelization is facing new challenges which are putting accepted practices in question and are weakening customary, well-established ways of doing things.
- The Church does not give up or retreat into herself; instead, she undertakes a project to revitalize herself.
- The new evangelization is a frame of mind, a courageous manner of acting.
- A new evangelization means, then, to work in our local churches to devise a plan... to transmit the Gospel of hope in a practical way.... becoming more and more the artisan of the civilization of love.
- A new evangelization also means to have the boldness to raise the question of God in the context of these problems.
- In the end, the expression new evangelization requires finding new approaches to evangelization so as to be Church in today's ever-changing social and cultural situations.
- The new evangelization is primarily addressed to those who have drifted from the Church in traditionally Christian countries.
- There should also be a dialogue with those to whom religion is something foreign.
- The new evangelization is primarily a spiritual activity to recapture the courage and forcefulness of the first Christians and first missionaries.

## Cardinal Dolan: converts' top three Catholic things are penance, pope, Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Adult converts to Catholicism regularly cite three things about Catholicism that they find attractive: the sacrament of confession, the pope, and devotion to Mary, said New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan.

"Those three things, guess what, were kind of de-emphasized" after the Second Vatican Council, the cardinal said Oct. 15 during a brief meeting with English-speaking reporters at the world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization.

In his formal talk to the synod, Cardinal Dolan had said that a renewed appreciation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is essential for the Church's new evangelization.

He told reporters that "it seemed to be a truism after the Second Vatican Council that the council did away with the Sacrament of Penance, which, of course, is not true."

Instead of renewing

the sacrament as the council wanted, he said, "we just gave up and we said, 'Well, that ain't going over,' so we stopped trying."

The interesting thing, Cardinal Dolan said, is that the sacrament of reconciliation actually is something attractive to many people, especially the young.

"They will often say that the Church seems impersonal to them, a little faceless nameless," he said. "Well, boy, you can't find a more personal sacrament than penance. I mean this is one-on-one."

Cardinal Dolan said he never understood the desire to expand use of so-called general absolution, which the Vatican has severely restricted, because it was like "a drive-in car wash" and highly impersonal.

"There is nothing more personal" than going to confession one-on-one, "actually articulating sins and hearing an unworthy ambassador of Jesus say you are forgiven," the cardinal said.

LIGHTER & BRIGHTER



Pope Paul VI presides over a meeting of the Second Vatican Council in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in 1963. Pope Benedict XVI marked the 50th anniversary of the Oct. 11, 1962 opening of the council and start of the Year of Faith with an Oct. 11 Mass in St. Peter's Square. (CNS photo/Catholic Press Photo)



Pope Benedict XVI carries his pastoral staff as he leaves after celebrating the opening Mass of the Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 7. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Students walk together during recess at Miguel Hidalgo elementary school in Tijuana, Mexico, Sept. 13. (CNS photo/David Maung)



Katherine Kateri Howat, dressed as a Mohawk princess and her father, Cory Howat, at their home in Metairie, La. a few days before the 4-year-old and her father were to travel to Rome for the Oct. 21 canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. (CNS photo/Frank J Methé, CLARION HERALD)



Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York laughs alongside U.S. President Barack Obama and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and his wife, Ann, at the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner in New York Oct. 18. The dinner honors the memory of the former governor of New York, who was the first Catholic nominated by a major political party to run for president of the United States. (CNS photo/Jason Reed, Reuters)



Kellen Garegon and Jordan Ruter go head-to-head in a tie breaker during a game called "Bessey the Heffer" at a Year of Faith youth rally at St. Patrick's Church in Casper, Wyo., Oct. 13. The special year, declared by Pope Benedict XVI, is a worldwide program of worship, catechesis and evangelization. It opened Oct. 11 and runs to Nov. 24, 2013. (CNS photo/Tim Kupsick)

# Cross-Words

By Mark Simeroth

Across & Down:

- 1. Arbitrator
- 2. Consumers
- 3. Subtraction
- 4. Complaint
- 5. Organic Compound

1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				

## Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



## The FLOCK by Jean Denton





# GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

## Getting to 'Thank you'

**ON A YOUTH NIGHT** at my parish we did an experiment. As the youth walked in we held out a basket of candy to each person and offered each person a piece. We took note of what they said as they took some candy. What we discovered is that many said nothing, some said, "OK" or "Cool," others simply smiled, and only about 25 percent said, "Thank you."

We spent the rest of the evening discussing the need to be grateful for the blessings in our lives and not just being grateful, but also expressing our feelings of gratitude.

The truth is, all of the youth present were grateful for the candy, they just were not used to, or comfortable, expressing this emotion. I have a feeling many of us are in the same boat; I know I am. From time to time someone will compliment me about an item of clothing, or a talk I have given, or some other aspect of my life, and I, for the life of me, find it almost impossible to just say "Thank you."

Instead of expressing my gratitude, I feel the need to explain the situation. If someone compliments my clothing, I share where I got the item and what a great deal I got. If it is a talk I gave, I deflect the compliment and say something about how much fun it was or "glad you enjoyed it." Afterward, I often kick myself for not just looking the person in the eye and simply saying "Thank you."

I often wonder what is at the root of all this lack of

To take this idea further James, in his epistle, says it this way, "All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). Thus, every good thing in our life comes from God. Not simply from our hard work, or our hard earned money.

This painting by Jean Prachinetti, titled "Seminararian," appears in the book, *The Catholic Priest — Image of Christ through 15 Centuries of Art*. In gratitude to God for his conversion to Catholicism, author Steen Heidemann traveled the world to collect images for the book. (CNS photo/courtesy of Edizioni Cantagalli, publisher)

thanking. I have no solid data, but I speculate that part of the issue has to do with the egocentric, "me first" society we find ourselves in. To accept a gift or compliment graciously in some way means we have to allow for the idea that we need others in our lives. We do not exist in a vacuum, and there is no way we can truly make it on our own. Additionally, we have to admit that not everything that we have originates with us.

To take this idea further James, in his epistle, says it this way, "All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

Thus, every good thing in our life comes from God. Not simply from our hard work, or our hard-earned money. Sure those things play a part, but our hard work is a product of God. Where else do the gifts and talents we employed in this hard work come from? Even our hard earned money is connected to God. Who else do we have to thank for our great job? If we say from our gifts and talents, the same principle applies. If rather we say, our education, then I would counter with, where did the intellect come from that we used while being educated?

This is not to say that we



Jeff Hedglen is the Campus Minister at UTA and associate director of Young Adult Ministry for the diocese. He is also the primary convener of Camp Fort Worth's many editions.

are merely on the sidelines of life while God does all the work, and we are just inanimate vessels of his action. Rather, it is an acknowledgment that we do not accomplish what we achieve on our own, nor without God's loving grace and mercy. Not to mention all the people in our lives who have supported, encouraged, and stood by us along the way.

To help me remember that I am more than me and that the great things in my life are there for reasons beyond me, I do the following exercise from time to time. I walk through my house and whatever my eyes fall on, I say thank you to God for that thing. Additionally, I think of all the people and blessings in my life and thank God for all of them.

Expressing gratitude is not always easy, but it is an important part of our Christian life. St. Paul often begins his letters with long lists of thanks. Maybe this year we can follow this example and give and receive thanks with a humble heart full of gratitude.

## The greatest gift - hope

May our kids and grandkids receive it

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

### AUNT LENA'S HOUSE WAS

**PERFECT**, in a pop-culturish sort of way. She had a tri-level before most bi-levels had developed envy of the neighbors' extra stairways.

Her bathroom fixtures were all pink, on floors of light green hexagonal tiles, and her kitchen had aqua appliances—even the sink—that rested on a black and white linoleum floor.

Aunt Lena's house was the essence of what we now dub "retro." In fact, they probably fashioned retro out of photographs of her home.

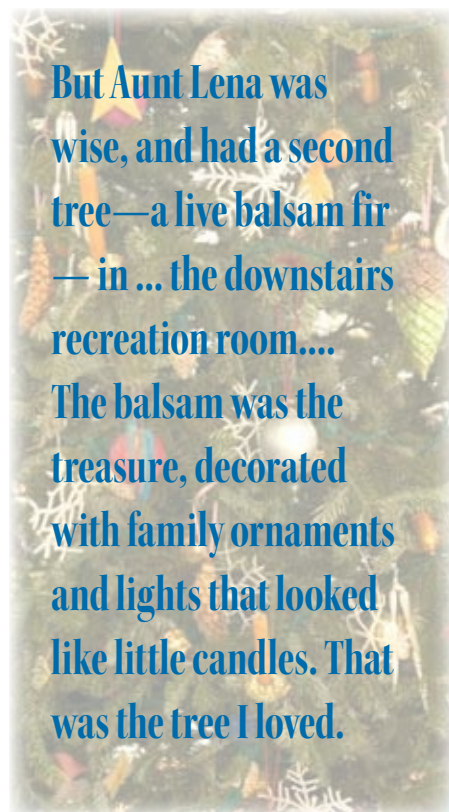
I loved Aunt Lena's living room, her plush sectional sofa sprawled behind a kidney-shaped coffee table. On that table were the latest issues of *Life* and *National Geographic* Magazines, so when teachers asked for examples of recent history, or stories about other countries, I went to her house with scissors.

The living room was on the house's middle level, just inside the entry door, in front of a picture window. Beautiful. In December, when the Christmas tree was up, the outdoor view was stunning.

Aunt Lena was ahead of the times, and in the '60s, when aluminum trees became the rage, hers was first to show up in the window, showing glittery gold balls and all blue lights.

But Aunt Lena was wise, and had a second tree—a live balsam fir—in a corner window of the downstairs recreation room. Even though the upstairs one was more stylish, the balsam was the treasure, decorated with family ornaments and lights that looked like little candles. That was the tree I loved.

My aunt would stand on a ladder for hours, placing tinsel on that tree. She hung the strands one by one, side by side, one branch at a time, and when she finished, the branches were laden with "icicles," so thick and precise, I could



**But Aunt Lena was wise, and had a second tree—a live balsam fir—in ... the downstairs recreation room.... The balsam was the treasure, decorated with family ornaments and lights that looked like little candles. That was the tree I loved.**

squint my eyes and be carried away by its ethereal loveliness.

But at Aunt Lena's house, that outward beauty simply housed the beauty of what lay within.

In the classic kitchen, she prepared enormous Italian meals every Sunday morning, knowing for sure that all corners of the family would venture over after Mass. There were no plans. She just knew they would come. She believed it, and it always happened. She had faith.

In the living room, on the coffee table, Aunt Lena placed her hope. She wanted her beloved granddaughter to attend the college she herself attended, so she spread the school's brochures, where all could browse. Aunt Lena was never subtle, but constantly hopeful.

And in the pink bathroom, Aunt Lena

always left out her bottle of my favorite colored nail polish "Revlon Frosted Butter Pecan." She knew I would find it, and even though I was too young to wear it, my aunt would say, "Go on. Just try it!" She loved me. Her love was jolly, sincere, and obvious.

These days I don't think of Aunt Lena's house, as much as what it represented. At Thanksgiving I'm grateful for those young years I got to spend there, where my mother, Big Kate, and her sister Lena, taught me faith, joy, love, and respect.

During Advent I remain hopeful. The things we wished for in our youth were miniscule as nail polish, I know now. But those wishes hopefully colored our ability to understand and lead our own children, helping them live virtuous lives while happily growing up in our homes. We may not have chic tri-levels, but we can fill them with generosity and thoughtfulness, like Aunt Lena filled her Christmas tree with tinsel.

And I'm joyful, because Jesus came to us then, as he would come to us in all the centuries that were to follow: in a manger. As adults we can also see his presence in our children. And now, their children.

I believe the happiness in my own heart came from those early years of preparation, anticipation, and then realization. After we put up the trees and admired the tinsel, we were gifted with the grace that came through the Lord Jesus' birth.

I wait for you in thanksgiving and hope, Lord God.

And I praise you with love, Jesus. Sweet baby Jesus.



*Kathy Cribari Hamer and her husband are members of St. Andrew Parish. Her family life column has been recognized repeatedly by the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.*

# The 'hidden picture'

## Looking for Jesus? Take a closer look

By Denise Bossert

**IN THE EARLY 1990s, MY SISTER LIVED IN NEW ZEALAND** and worked for a traveling science roadshow. We talked on the phone rarely. It was too expensive, and the voice delay on overseas phone calls was really frustrating. My sister began sending postcards to keep us current on her exciting adventure. One postcard stands out in my memory from that era. On the front of the postcard, there was a stereogram, a hidden 3-D picture wrapped in a blue-green 2-D design. The instructions on the postcard said to hold the image right up to your nose and slowly pull the picture away from your face. The reader was told to stare through the picture rather than try to focus on the 2-D pattern. "Let your eyes go beyond the obvious image, and you will begin to see the hidden image," the footnote read.

I raised the card to my nose and tried it about 10 times. My children figured it out almost immediately.

"I give up. I can't see a thing!" I tossed the card on the table and my son picked it up, imploring me to give it another try.

"You have to let it happen, Mom. Don't look at it. Kind of let your eyes go out of focus. And fight it when your eyes want to look at the design. You'll never see it that way. The picture is deeper. Not here." He rubbed the palm of his hand across the postcard. "It's there." He took his right index finger and pointed down to the postcard in his left hand. When his finger touched the picture, he slid it around the side of the picture, and kept on pointing to an imaginary place beyond.

He handed the card to me, and I took it reluctantly. I wasn't sure what I was doing, but I thought about what my son had said and gave it one last serious effort.

And suddenly, I saw it. Three dol-

**God tells us to look closer. No, not at the surface.**

**Don't fixate on the outward patterns. You'll never see what lies beneath that way. Jesus is there, and you can see him if you let yourself get past the surface image.**

**He's there, in the eyes of your neighbor. He's there, in the eyes of the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the immigrant. He's there in the ordained one.**

phins. Three 3-D dolphins in a row. It was SO cool.

There are times when the indelible mark of God on the lives of those around us can seem as elusive as the 3-D picture hidden in a stereogram. We don't see Christ in our neighbor. We don't see Christ in the poor. We don't see Christ in the priest.

We just see a rude neighbor. A guy on the side of the road with a sign. A man with foibles like everyone else who sometimes wears a stole.

God tells us to look closer. No, not at the surface. Don't fixate on the outward patterns. You'll never see what lies beneath that way. Jesus is there, and you can see him if you let yourself get past the surface image.

He's there, in the eyes of your neighbor.

He's there, in the eyes of the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the immigrant.

He's there in the ordained one. A priest forever. Marked with God's indelible imprint.

Sometimes, the pattern on the surface throws us off. We become frustrated by

what we see. God tells us to look a little deeper. Give it another try. True identity is sometimes hidden. Cloaked in external trappings.

And if we can begin to see Jesus Christ hidden in the faces around us, maybe we can begin to see Our Lord hidden under the appearance of bread and wine.

Fight it when your eyes want to look at the design. You'll never see Him that way. Christ is deeper. He's there.

No longer bread.

No longer wine.

Jesus.

As we enter the Year of Faith, it's time to put on the eyes of faith and see Jesus Christ.

*Denise Bossert has four children and is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary in New Melle, Missouri. Her column Catholic by Grace has run in 46 diocesan newspapers. Check out her blog at catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.*

# The papyrus fragment

As significant as dissent from orthodoxy or a letter from a crackpot?

By David Mills

## SO WHAT, I ALWAYS THINK, IS THE POINT?

Someone finds a scrap of writing from the ancient world that says something unusual, and suddenly the newspapers and websites light up with breathless stories about this new challenge to traditional Christianity, till the story dies out as that kind of story always does.

I'm thinking, as you will have guessed, of the scrap of almost unreadable papyrus that includes the phrase "Jesus said to them, my wife." As I write, most scholars who know something about the subject are saying that it is, or is probably, a fake, so this story may die even faster than usual. But it may not.

To be fair, the scholar who presented the scrap to the world, Harvard's Karen King, carefully said that it didn't give us any evidence that Jesus was married. The more serious newspapers stressed this in their stories. But the popular newspapers and websites ran the usual "New discovery rocks Christianity" stories.

To which the knowledgeable Christian's response is something like, "Oh, yeah, sure, whatever. So how do you explain the Pittsburgh Pirates' collapse this year?" Even if the fragment is real, it means nothing significant for either ancient or modern Christianity.

King tries to make a case for its importance. She treats it as evidence that some early Christians believed Jesus was married and that this question was being discussed at the time. She leaves out the crucial questions of how many Christians and how much discussion.

If it's real, it was written about 150 to 300 years after Jesus' earthly life. Imagine a scholar working in a dusty library 150 or 300 years from now who didn't know anything about 2012. (This way of looking at such things isn't original with me, by the way.) He finds the letters page of an old newspaper from a small

*For all we know, this fragment (if it's real) might have been written by some very odd man no one paid attention to, or it might have been written by a funny group of people who'd separated themselves from the Church to pursue their own eccentric beliefs.*

town in Missouri. No one has seen it before because no one else wants to go through the thousands and thousands of old newspapers stored in the library.

On the page is a letter from a Morton Q. Throckmorton IV claiming that both presidential candidates are really aliens. The scholar in the future decides that this letter proves that many Americans thought that Romney and Obama came from outer space. When in fact the editor picked the letter because it was obviously bats and would amuse readers, and because five minutes before his deadline, he found he had four inches of space to fill.

For all we know, this fragment (if it's real) might have been written by some very odd man no one paid attention to, or it might have been written by a funny group of people who'd separated themselves from the Church to pursue their own eccentric beliefs. We certainly see both of those today.

It could even, as several people have pointed out, come from a writer who had taken the description of the Church as the Bride of Christ and put it another way. Maybe the writer was a perfectly orthodox Catholic who just didn't write very well. We certainly see those today too.

We just don't know. All we have is a single phrase whose meaning we can't know

and whose author we know nothing about.

So what is the point? It's easy enough to guess: Christianity as we think of it today, and particularly Christianity as taught by the Church, might be wrong, or inadequate, or just part of the story.

King says that Christians must "be able to understand ... that questions about sexuality and marriage were being asked in the early Church and they are still being asked today." That "still being asked today" includes the idea that today we may answer the questions differently, and come up with answers more acceptable to professors at Harvard Divinity School.

These stories always hit the front page because they destabilize people's trust in the Christian tradition and the Church's teaching, by claiming that at the beginning things were different and that Christianity could have developed another way. It's not a bad argument, though it forgets about the Holy Spirit, who (we believe for good reason) makes sure the Church knows the truth, and tells it.

*David Mills is the executive editor of FIRST THINGS ([www.firstthings.com](http://www.firstthings.com)). He can be reached at [catholicsense@gmail.com](mailto:catholicsense@gmail.com).*

# Not a Democrat or a Republican

## How a mother discovered she's a Catholic voter

By Rebecca Frech

**I CAN REMEMBER WITH NEAR PERFECT CLARITY** the moment I became a Republican. I was 8 years old and sat listening to my family loudly debating politics in their be-careful-or-someone-might-lose-a-limb, down and dirty style. As loudly as the words and ideas were being flung across the table, I was able to silence them all when I asked, "What's the difference between a Democrat and a Republican?"

My mother turned to me and quietly explained, "Democrats believe it is the job of the government to take care of the people. Republicans believe it is the job of the people to take care of themselves."

"Oh," I answered, "then I'm a Republican." My mother smiled smugly at our relatives as the debate to change my mind began in earnest.

I held firm to my childish belief in the Republican Party until after I voted in my first election. It was in college, where I majored in political science, that I was indoctrinated into the liberal point of view. My college professors ridiculed, mocked, and encouraged me to question every belief, from self-sufficiency to my Catholic faith. By the time I left college, I was a politically confused agnostic who believed little of anything.

It took my own journey through Lutheranism and my reversion to the Catholic Church before I realized that to be a Catholic transcended being either Democrat or Republican. I was something else entirely. I was a Catholic voter.

Being a Catholic voter means transcending our traditional understanding of American politics. The extremes of both parties seem to be influenced by Ayn Rand on the right and Karl Marx on the left. The Catholic world view must be shaped by the teachings of Jesus Christ, and formed by the 2,000 year history of the Holy Catholic Church.

*I was so excited in 2007 when the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released their voter guide*

*"Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."*

*As a political wonk, I eagerly devoured my "party's platform." There it was — broken down and simplified for everyone to understand....*

Readers can download a .pdf copy of "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" from [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org)

I was so excited in 2007 when the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops released their voter guide "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." As a political wonk, I eagerly devoured my "party's platform." There it was — broken down and simplified for everyone to understand, Catholic social teaching and how it related to American politics.

The bishops were clear in their clarion call to all Catholics to fight, lobby, and demand that our politicians work toward protecting the dignity of all human persons. The bishops plainly stated that there exist in America five issues so intrinsically evil that no Catholic can support them. Ever. No excuses. They are so contrary to Catholic teaching that to be in favor of them puts our very souls at risk. They are: abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, and same-sex marriage. Where faithful Catholics are allowed a certain amount of latitude on other social teachings, on these five there could be no compromise.

Why these five and not one of the other of a myriad of issues confronting our nation? Why not immigration reform, the widening income gap between the wealthy and the poor, or the plight of the homeless? Why do these issues allow no concession on the part

of the Catholic voter? It is because these five strip us of our God-given dignity. They reduce humanity, which was created in the image of God, to little more than our salable parts, our sexual drives, or our usefulness. Four of them degrade us, making us mere commodities, to be used by others. When we cease to be convenient or desirable, when we are no longer useful, then we must surrender any right to exist. The fifth undermines society's very foundation, and distorts the image of Christ's relationship to our Church. It seeks to rewrite the order of Creation.

By redefining marriage and even humanity itself, these five issues tear at the order God created unlike any others, which is why we cannot waver on them. On all other issues, we are called to stand firm in defense of the dignity of our fellow man. On these five, we are commanded to stand firm in defense of the majesty and wisdom of God.

*Rebecca Frech is a Catholic wife and the mother of seven, who homeschools, writes, blogs, and does speaking engagements. She and her family live in Wiley. You can read more of her thoughts on her blog, at [shoved-tothem@blogspot.com](mailto:shoved-tothem@blogspot.com).*

# Advent and Christmas

Anticipating the soon coming King and celebrating the birth of the Christ Child

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Chances are you're reading this about a month before the first Sunday of Advent, but nonetheless, the seasons of Advent and Christmas are coming, and they're just around the corner.

Even with that rationale, we didn't want to come at you with a full-blown Advent and Christmas package that came into your hands before many of the stores had even put their leftover Halloween candy on sale. So what we will do is present a series of Advent and Christmas columns over the next several weeks on the NTC website — [www.northtexascatholic.org](http://www.northtexascatholic.org). Kathy Hamer, Jeff Hedglen, and Sharon Perkins, will be among the contributors.

Consider this a reminder to be thinking about how you can set aside time for "watchful waiting" once Advent is really here. Think about how you can embrace the tremendous breadth and depth of the love of God for you

and each member of your family, each of your acquaintances, each person you meet.

Consider it an invitation to enter into a closer personal relationship with Jesus Christ — or to renew the closeness of that relationship.

This is, after all, the Year of Faith, and all the Church is being called to grow stronger in faith, strengthen their ties to the sacraments, read more Scripture, be prepared to offer a word of hope and encouragement to others who need to know the love of God.

Because our faith is an incarnational faith, we are encouraged to remember afresh that God came down to be among us, taking the form of a helpless little child. And we in turn are called to seek out and serve the least among us who need help with the basic needs of life for peace, food, shelter, clothing, and the knowledge that they are loved — first of all by God.

## Our lives must be about running into the arms of God

BY MARY MORRELL

*Father! — to God himself we cannot give a holier name.*

*William Wordsworth*

Sitting in a small coffee shop at the beach in Wildwood, I noticed a young child running at break neck speed to embrace his dad with a tight bear hug around the knees, yelling in full voice, "This is the best place ever!"

The passion, joy, and emotion exuded by this little boy made it easy to understand why Jesus said the kingdom belongs to such as these. How much better, and richer, would our lives be if we, as adults, could live so easily in the moment, expressing our pervading love of God through joy in the simple experience of a place and time.

The love this child so freely expressed for his dad called to mind my two-year-old grandson whenever I babysit. When his dad walks through the

door a tiny voice echoes loudly throughout the house, "Daddeeee!" and little feet run full speed toward the father he loves without reservation. What follows next is a recounting of the day's work — pictures drawn, puzzles put together, walks taken — and a dad's proud, "Wow! That's awesome!"

I have distant memories of doing the same thing when my dad came home from work. He arrived at the same time every evening to me anxiously waiting behind the screen door, barely allowing him to get a foot over the threshold before trying to propel myself into his arms, usually holding some piece of art I had drawn just for him.

In retrospect, I have often wished that my ability as a child for exuberant demonstrations of love hadn't fallen victim to "growing up." Adults, it seems, often experience their greatest disappointments through a failure to let others know how much they truly love them.

These images of a child's expressive

love will no doubt come to mind on the First Sunday of Advent when, during Mass, we hear the prayer: "Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom."

This rapidly approaching season of preparing for the coming of our Lord, is a good time to reflect on the journey of life, which for Christians is always a running to leap into the arms of our God, and to bring God the work of our hearts and hands as a sign of our love.

This may require that we pray to regain the heart of a child, spilling over freely with love, and unashamed to let the world know that God is our Father.

*Mary Morrell is an award-winning columnist and writer who serves as managing editor for THE MONITOR, Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey.*

# Bishop Vann named bishop of Orange, California

## *He leaves a solid legacy of accomplishment*

**B**y now everyone knows the basic news: Pope Benedict XVI named Bishop Kevin W. Vann as the new bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange, California in an announcement made Friday, Sept. 21, in Washington, D.C. by the Holy See's apostolic nuncio to the U.S., Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò.

Bishop Vann's seven-year service as the shepherd of the Diocese of Fort Worth will end Dec. 10 when he is installed as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Orange.

Bishop Vann became the third bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth on July 13, 2005 after the unexpected death of Bishop Joseph P. Delaney. His ordination as a bishop and his installation as the Bishop of Fort Worth took place before a crowd of more than 5,000 enthusiastic Catholics and members of the local community in TCU's Daniel Meyer Coliseum on a scorching hot July evening.

Bishop Vann has won the hearts of North Texas Catholics and non-Catholics alike. He is known for his outgoing personality, compassion, and love for others. His travels throughout the 28 counties and 96 parishes of the diocese have caused him to be well known and loved by the Catholic people of North Texas. On his pastoral visits, he frequently would offer an impromptu demonstration of his skills as a pianist on whatever keyboard was available, endearing him even further.

Part of Bishop Vann's letter to the people of the diocese on his appointment to Orange, expresses how much he appreciated the diocese in return: "My life has been changed for the better, in the Providence of God, by all of us praying and working together to further the Kingdom of God in North Texas. Your welcome, kindness and faith have shaped my life. I have recently experienced this so powerfully in the response of so

many people upon the death of my mother. She, too, loved the Diocese and its people. Please continue to pray for me as I do for you each day."

The list of his accomplishments, his legacy, is lengthy, but perhaps he would most like to be remembered for being a bishop who sought to bring a spirit of *Communio*, of sacred communion between God and humanity into our midst. In his 2007 pastoral letter "No One Is a Stranger in Christ", he wrote,

*We long, not for something, but for Someone. St. Augustine, writing in the early 400s, expressed this insight in his famous prayer: "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."*

*Ultimately, this deep restlessness cannot be satisfied apart from communion with God, in Jesus of Nazareth. In Him, the possibility of deep and lasting intimacy with God is opened to us all.*

*Jesus is present in the world, in a unique and preeminent way, in the community of his disciples, the Church. And so our inborn longing to be connected to God is lived out concretely in our connection to and in the context of Church.*

He went on to define the unity that should be the mark of the Church as mirroring the unity in diversity of the Trinity – distinctly different persons, but sharing an inseparable unity. He wrote that that quality is sometimes lacking when we don't see the presence of Christ in the person who looks different from ourselves or holds a different set of opinions. And, though he said the problem was not severe in the diocese, he set about to bring the diversity of cultures and ethnicities; views and ways of life present here, into the unity of Christ.

When he was installed in 2005, Bishop Vann took the helm

of one of the fastest growing Catholic dioceses in the United States. The diocese's Catholic population was an estimated 400,000. Today, the estimated Catholic population is 710,000. Under Bishop Vann's leadership, the diocese's growth came about primarily by expansion of existing parishes and creation of one new parish, Blessed John Paul II Parish, serving the Denton university communities of the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University. An estimated \$135 million in capital improvements have occurred at diocesan parishes and ministries during the last seven years.

Other Diocese of Fort Worth milestones during Bishop Vann's tenure include:

- Construction of one of the largest Vietnamese churches in the United States, Vietnamese Martyrs Church, in Arlington

- Establishment of a new Catholic school, Holy Cross Catholic School in Frisco, in August

- Growing the number of seminarians to 30, the largest number in the diocese's history

- Ordination of 21 priests for the diocese during the last seven years

- Increase in the number of priests and sisters from various religious orders and other dioceses to serve the growing diversity of Catholics here

- Creation of the Blessed John Paul II Institute to better foster the New Evangelization envisioned by Pope Benedict XVI

- The successful All Things Possible capital campaign to address the many needs of the diocese and its parishes by exceeding its \$40 million goal by 21 percent

- Restructuring of the diocesan Catholic schools to a cost-based tuition system to ensure the financial viability of schools

- Successful stabilizing and

enhancing of five Center City Catholic schools

- Creation of the Bishop's Scholars Fund to assist families who demonstrate a need for assistance by awarding millions in tuition assistance since 2006

- Restoration of the historic St. Patrick Cathedral Rectory and the construction of the first St. Patrick Pastoral Center

- Reconstitution of the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a consultative body to the Bishop

- Assisted in the formation of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter and ordained six former Episcopalian priests into the Catholic priesthood

- Financing and opening of a new Catholic Charities facility to accommodate its growing ministry

- Continued success of the 30-year-old Sharing in Ministry program, an appeal which raises about \$3 million annually to assist Center City and rural Catholic communities and ministries.

Bishop Vann will be the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Fort Worth until he is installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Orange on Dec. 10.

A native of Springfield, Illinois where he was a pastor, Vicar for Priests, and a Canon lawyer, Pope Benedict named Bishop Vann the coadjutor bishop of the Fort Worth Diocese in the spring of 2005. Bishop Delaney died on July 12, the day before Bishop Vann was installed as the third bishop of the Fort Worth Diocese on July 13, 2005.

Bishop Vann's complete letter is available in English and Spanish at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

The following four pages touch on four areas of impact of Bishop Vann's ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

## Respect for Life

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

Jeff and Sandra Williams didn't know Bishop Kevin Vann was scheduled to celebrate the Mass in Memory of Children who died before Baptism, but when he walked up the aisle of St. Mary of the Assumption Church on Fort Worth's near Southside Oct. 6, they were not surprised.

"Bishop Vann has been a vibrant presence in the pro-life movement here," said Jeff Williams, a leader in the 40 Days for Life campaign. "He's been active in not just supporting our ministries, but praying with volunteers outside the abortion clinics when he's in town."

Many people have a natural hesitancy to show public support for pro-life issues, but the bishop's example and guidance encourage them to get involved.

"Seeing the bishop front and center at rallies helps them feel comfortable about participating in those activities," Williams continued. "He has shown that standing up for life is important to him, the diocese, and the Church."

After his ordination to the priesthood in 1981, pro-life positions became deeply rooted in his ministry while serving parishes in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. As pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, he encouraged members to volunteer at crisis pregnancy centers, and every January he accompanied the parish youth group to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Once a month, he traveled almost an hour to the closest abortion clinic to pray with others.

That strong pro-life advocacy continued after he was ordained bishop of Fort Worth. Just weeks after arriving in Texas, Bishop Vann visited volunteers at Mother

and Unborn Baby Care to celebrate a 6:20 a.m. Mass. After the early morning liturgy, the sidewalk counselors stand vigil outside a nearby abortion clinic as women arrive for their appointments.

"And he's continued to say Mass for us every single Friday he's in town and healthy," explained Chuck Pelletier, director of the crisis pregnancy center. "There's no other bishop in the country that does something like that consistently."

On many of those Fridays, Bishop Vann joins pro-life volunteers in prayer outside the clinics. He's also a fixture at the annual Good Friday Rosary Vigil. The event, sponsored by Catholics United for Life and Mother and Unborn Baby Care, brings out hundreds of people to pray for the unborn on the most solemn day on the Christian calendar.

"We've been doing the Good Friday event for 28 years, but when Bishop Vann started coming out and claimed it as his, the crowd grew exponentially," Pelletier continued.

At the last Rosary Vigil, 700 people weathered summer-like temperatures to stand with the bishop outside Planned Parenthood. His departure from Fort Worth to become Bishop of Orange, California will leave a void in the pro-life community, Pelletier said.

"He's been such a champion for life. I can't imagine anyone else being as active or effective," he added. "Bishop Vann is one of a kind when it comes to pro-life."

During his tenure as leader of North Texas Catholics, Bishop Vann is credited with raising the profile of pro-life work in the diocese by establishing a diocesan Catholics Respect Life Office. The department serves families and parishes through education, pastoral care, prayer, and worship.

Apostolates operating within



Bishop Vann listens at right as David Bereit addresses the opening rally of Fort Worth's 40 Days for Life campaign Oct. 6. Bereit, who started the 40 Days for Life prayer and fasting campaign to end abortion in 2004 in College Station, is a Texas A&M graduate. Prayer for an end to abortion is offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 40 days. (NTC Photo / Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

Two of the approximately 35 high school students from Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses who took part in Pro-Life Boot Camp at UD in 2011 (NTC Photo / Juan Guajardo)



the diocese — Youth for Life, the Gabriel Project, and Rachel Ministries — were placed under the umbrella of the newly created department in 2008.

"He made sure Respect Life had a place within the workings of the diocese," explained former coordinator Chanacee Ruth-Kilgore. "Bishop Vann understood the importance and value of human life and the need to educate people about the issues."

To make the diocese's pro-life ministries more accessible to the public, Catholics Respect Life was given its own satellite office in the vacant Catholic Charities building on Hemphill St. The new location gave volunteers the privacy and space needed to work with families.

"Rachel Ministries counselors can speak confidentially to women coming in for help," Ruth-Kilgore said, pointing out the benefits. "And the location on a bus line makes the

office available to people who don't have other transportation."

The proximity of neighboring Cassata High School allowed students to earn service hours by organizing baby items donated to the Gabriel Project.

"It provided us with the opportunity to talk to them about what we do and why it's important," she added.

Sue Laux, director of Youth for Life, said the younger generation was heavily influenced by the bishop's visibility at pro-life events. In Fort Worth, he continued his tradition of attending the March for Life in the nation's capital with church youth groups.

"He's one of the few bishops in the country who marches with his people," added Laux who chaperones the annual trip. "It shows our young people how important defending life is to him. He practices what he preaches."



# Young Adult Ministry

By **Juan Guajardo**  
Correspondent

Late one night in April 2008, after giving a presentation at Theology on Tap, Bishop Kevin Vann went out with a group of 30 young adults to Razzoo's. He chatted and joked around with the young men and women, and then approached a young man who was wearing a rather large silver cross around his neck. The bishop, without skipping a beat, compared his cross with the young man's, chatted with him, and then took off his clerical collar and let the young man wear it as they posed for a picture together. Then he continued going around the tables talking to other young adults.

"He liked my cross and got a kick out of it," said Anthony Flores of his experience with the bishop. "It was a very neat experience.

"It was late but he made the time to just talk with us a little bit and share his knowledge with us," said the St. Bartholomew's parishioner, now 30. "You don't get a lot of chances at hanging out with the bishop. It was an awesome experience."

That interaction is typical of the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, known as much for his ability to connect and relate with others (he once related scenes from the Spider-Man 2 movie to the Sunday readings during a homily) as for his support of young adult ministry during his seven years in Fort Worth, said Jeff Hedglen, associate director of young adult ministry and campus minister for the University of Texas at Arlington's University Catholic Community.

"I think the place where he excels is helping young adults feel like they're important to him," added Kevin Prevou, diocesan director of youth and young adult ministry.

Since becoming bishop in 2005, Bishop Vann has continued to bring support to young adult ministry, ushering in two full-time campus minister positions and finding a way to keep the diocesan young adult ministry office intact — even during difficult financial times and downsizing at the diocesan level. He's added an associate director of young adult ministry to the diocesan staff this year in Hedglen, and most recently, he's promoted the joint campus ministry at the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University to a full-fledged parish. Blessed Pope John Paul II Parish, is led by pastor Father Kyle Walterscheid, and has an incoming staff of four Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionaries and a business manager, in addition to current full-time campus ministry director Luisa Martini.

"That's huge, to put a pastor in there and to develop their plan for the future," Prevou said. "That's Bishop Vann's vision right there."

Hedglen agrees that the move, which will also bring a \$50,000 expansion and renovation to the Catholic Campus Center, is indicative of the bishop's care for young adults.

"That's making a very strong commitment to those two universities up there," Hedglen said.

Indeed, Bishop Vann has supported young adults all over the diocese. He celebrated a Mass at the first diocesan Emerging Conference, an event designed for young adults between the ages of 18-25 — at 10 p.m. no less — last year. He's encouraged the Vocations Office to team up with the Young Adult Ministry Office for events "because he really sees young adults as a group that are at an age of discerning" and may just need a gentle invitation to consider a call, Prevou said.

He's also shown up to present



Bishop Vann and Anthony Flores compare crosses at Razzoo's. Bishop Vann had gone out with about 30 young adults after he had presented at a Theology on Tap session earlier.

Bishop Vann dropped in on the Grupo Búsqueda meeting at the Catholic Center late one Friday evening, and they took a group portrait.



Jeff Hedglen, associate director of Young Adult Ministry presents at a Theology on Tap session. Hedglen's position, created fairly recently, demonstrates the bishop's commitment to young adults. (NTC Photo / Juan Guajardo)

at Theology on Tap (a catechetical and fellowship event for young adults between ages 18-30) at least once each year, often asking questions and engaging people, much to the surprise and delight of the young adults attending those occasions.

"I didn't think they'd have the bishop come out to Theology on Tap, but it was really good," said Andrew Pustka, a young adult and parishioner at St. Bartholomew's, of his first time experiencing a TOT event hosted by the bishop.

Both Prevou and Sister Ines Díaz, delegate for diocesan Hispanic Ministry, said Bishop Vann has also shown his support to Spanish-speaking young adults.

"I know he's been very supportive of Jóvenes and has relationships with some of the individual Jóvenes," Prevou said. "He did have

a real care for the Jóvenes group, making sure they got included, that they got resources."

Late one Friday night, the bishop unexpectedly showed up at a meeting for Grupo Búsqueda, a diocesan-level Spanish-speaking group of young adults that engages in faith activities and evangelization, Sr. Díaz said. He spoke with the group of 40, taking time to greet each of them and had his picture made with the group.

"Y hablándoles en español," Sr. Díaz said. "Con mucho gusto nos apoya en lo que pueda. No nos ignora nunca. Era un gran apoyo, muy gentil, muy buena persona, buen pastor."

"And speaking to them in Spanish," Sr. Díaz said. "With pleasure, he supports us in any way he can. He's never ignored us. He was a great support, very gentle, a very good person and a good shepherd."

# Catholic Charities

By *North Texas Catholic Staff*

With a “heavy, heavy heart,” Heather Reynolds, president and CEO of Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW), received the news by telephone one day in September: Bishop Kevin Vann, a treasured friend and dedicated supporter of the non-profit agency, would soon be leaving Texas.

Her personal feeling of loss, says Reynolds, is somewhat alleviated by the realization that Bishop Vann, in his new role as bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Orange, California, will continue to spread the Gospel message of social justice in an even larger arena — within a diocese approximately twice the size of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“We know he will do for them what he has done for us,” Reynolds explains. “He has been there for us, to challenge, to support, and to partner with us. His vision and his enthusiasm have been tremendous, right from the beginning of his time here.”

The bishop’s example, she says, has led to a deeper understanding throughout the diocese of Catholic Charities as the social justice arm of the Catholic Church. The agency’s commitment to outreach, regardless of clients’ religious affiliation, has not changed, says Reynolds. What has been made much clearer, however, she notes, is the organization’s very Catholic identity and focus.

“When the bishop first came, he worked to facilitate a day when the priests of the diocese were invited to come together at our offices to learn more about us and our mission,” recalls Reynolds. “That day was also an opportunity for us to learn more about the priests, the parishes and schools, and to gain a

clearer understanding of the needs throughout the diocese. Since then, we have created a parish relations department at CCFW, which was really the bishop’s vision. This has led to a tremendous increase in services within the parishes, as well as a much stronger level of support for us within those faith communities.”

Parish-based services, which include counseling, financial assistance programs, health services, parenting resources, and education about immigration issues, “have also expanded into the rural areas of the diocese,” adds Reynolds.

Donna Springer, a longtime member and past president of the CCFW board, marvels as she looks back on the past seven years of the agency’s growth, since Reynolds was appointed executive director in June of 2005 and Bishop Vann was ordained and installed within the Diocese of Fort Worth one month later.

“What has been accomplished is amazing. Incredible, really,” muses Springer. “At that time, we ran about 20 programs on a nine-million dollar budget, and thanks to the bishop’s encouragement and support, we have now more than doubled the number of programs offered, and our budget for the next fiscal year will be approximately 22 million dollars.”

According to Peter Flynn, diocesan vice chancellor for administrative services, one of the most profound proofs of the bishop’s enduring legacy can be found in South Fort Worth, at the strategically located Catholic Charities Fischer Family Campus. The facilities, encompassing 83,000-plus square feet and completed in 2010, provide the space for a wide variety of services, including emergency foster care, a transportation program, assistance for veterans, refugees, the unem-

Bishop Vann and Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief (not pictured) took to separate earth movers to break ground for the new Catholic Charities Fischer Family Campus that began serving clients in 2009. (Photo by Kathy Cribari Hamer)



Among its array of services, Catholic Charities teaches English as a Second Language to immigrants and refugees, both at its Thornhill Road campus and at cooperating apartment complexes. (NTC Photo / Kathy Cribari Hamer)

Catholic Charities Street Outreach Services Team is a vital part of public/private efforts to bring the homeless into permanent housing and out of the elements. (NTC photo / Juan Guajardo)



ployed, the homeless, and those in need of medical and dental care. More than 100,000 families are served annually.

“The bishop asked that the diocese provide the land, adjacent to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, for Catholic Charities to build their facility,” says Flynn. “And, as a further sign of the diocese’s support into the future, he asked that Catholic Charities receive a one million dollar endowment for the building, as part of the ‘All Things Possible’ diocesan capital campaign. I think of that area — encompassing the Catholic Charities building, the Texas Catholic Credit Union, and Immaculate Heart of Mary — as being an enclave of hope. And that’s

a great legacy.”

Donna Springer admits that she, like Reynolds, becomes emotional when she reflects upon all that the bishop’s support has made possible. “At the recent dedication of the Bishop Kevin Vann Dental Clinic at Catholic Charities, I asked him, in front of everyone, ‘Bishop, do you know how much we love you? Do you know how much we are going to miss you? You mean so much to us. We wanted to honor you by naming this dental clinic for you. Thank you for being such a tremendous advocate for those who are in need; who suffer; who come to us for help. We will always, always remember you and what you have done for Catholic Charities.’”

# The Anglican Ordinariate

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen  
Correspondent

“Long before we ever became Catholic, he was our bishop.”

That’s how Father Joshua Whitfield described the warm, welcoming relationship Bishop Kevin Vann forged with North Texas Anglicans interested in joining the Catholic faith.

“He’s a genuinely apostolic man who was our shepherd and we felt that care,” he continued. “I think he sees his role as not just a bishop for Catholics, but a bishop of every soul.”

Fr. Whitfield is one of six former Anglican priests ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood by Bishop Vann in June. The historic event was the culmination of years of discernment for Whitfield, Mark Cannaday, Charles Hough III, Charles Hough IV, Timothy Perkins, and Christopher Stainbrook who serve as priests in the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.

Established by Pope Benedict XVI in January 2012, an ordinariate operates like a diocese but is national in scope and is led by an ordinary (bishop) who answers directly to Rome. Parishes in the ordinariate are Catholic but retain certain elements of their Anglican liturgical heritage and traditions.

When Bishop Vann received his appointment to become Bishop of Orange, California, Msgr. Jeffrey Steenson, ordinary for the Chair of St. Peter, praised the bishop’s work with the U.S. ordinariate in a congratulatory letter.

“Bishop Vann has been instrumental in the implementation of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, always providing us with consistent and steady assistance,” Msgr. Steenson wrote. “His pastoral solicitude to candidates for ordination and his

wide counsel in the formulation of the policies and norms for the Ordinariate have been an incredible help in this first year.”

Fr. Whitfield remembered the first time Fort Worth Anglicans had the opportunity to meet Bishop Vann. Shortly after his ordination in July 2005, a group of Anglican priests, known as the Catholic Clerical Union, invited the new bishop to address their group.

“It was an ecumenical gesture,” he said, recalling the gathering of 60 to 70 clergy in the Pastoral Center of the Episcopal Diocese. “We were all impressed by his personal engagement with us. That began relationships that are still bearing fruit.”

Bishop Vann’s encouragement and episcopal will fueled the Ordinariate in Fort Worth. When two groups of Anglican clergy approached him about their interest in joining the Church, Bishop Vann respectfully listened to their concerns and aspirations.

“He could have just said, ‘I’ll keep you in my prayers’ but he did more than that,” Fr. Whitfield added. “He asked us to write letters to the CDF (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) and talked to people. He was more than warm and welcoming. He set the wheels in motion. I think the story of the whole Ordinariate is different without Bishop Vann.”

The bishop’s efforts eventually helped establish the ordinariate Catholic communities of St. Timothy in Fort Worth, St. John Vianney in Granbury, and St. Peter the Rock in Arlington. A fourth group in Keller is in the discernment process.

Father Timothy Perkins, pastor of St. Peter the Rock, considers Bishop Vann a spiritual father not only to the clergy who came into the Church, but also the congregations that followed them. As the Ordinariate developed, the bishop

Fr. David Bristow, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption lays hands on Timothy Stainbrook, as he enters the Catholic Church with his congregation.



Six former Anglican priests pose with Bishop Vann after he ordained them as Catholic priests for the Ordinariate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton June 30. (NTC Photos / Donna Ryckaert)



met with Anglican communities to offer updates.

“He’s been a wonderful friend to me and my family,” Fr. Perkins said, noting the bishop’s willingness to help during the discernment process.

The Anglican, now Catholic, priest would call the bishop for advice. In turn, the bishop would ask Fr. Perkins for his impressions on the unity effort and how people were responding to the pope’s initiative.

“He was concerned for their well being,” explained the pastor, whose growing flock now meets at the UTA Campus Ministry Center.

With his move to California, Bishop Vann leaves behind a legacy of ecumenical spirit “for all who are faithful to Jesus and seek the truth,” according to Fr. Perkins. But the bishop’s work with the Ordinariate isn’t over. Appointed the Ecclesiastical Delegate of the Holy See for the Pastoral Provision in the U.S., he will continue assisting Episcopalian priests who want to enter into full

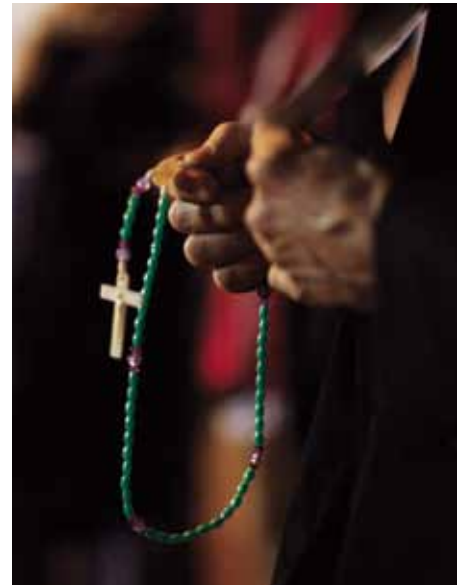
communion with the Catholic faith and continue their priestly ministry in the Church as Catholic priests who are not a part of the Ordinariate.

“He set a great example,” Fr. Perkins stated. “I think relationships will continue to be fostered among us and across denominational lines. I pray the people in Orange, California experience the same blessings we have.”

As for the six former Anglicans who were ordained to the Catholic priesthood by Bishop Vann on June 30 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, “I don’t think any one of us can put into words the gratitude we have for him,” Fr. Whitfield said emotionally.

Very actively involved in the life of St. Mary the Virgin Church in Arlington, Fr. Whitfield called the bishop’s impact on his personal faith journey “providential.”

“The really beautiful thing is, you can talk to tons of people who will tell you the same story as mine. The details are just different. That’s



# 40 Days for Life Fort Worth

*brings the light of Christ  
to aid the unborn  
and their mothers*

*Story and Photos  
By Juan Guajardo  
Correspondent*

Alejandra Correa, from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Fort Worth, prays a Rosary across the street from the Planned Parenthood facility October 9.

**(L-R)** Catherine Saldana, Teri Peets, Maria McDonald, Patty Hinojosa, Jorge Melendez and his wife, Sylvia Melendez, pray a Rosary outside Planned Parenthood on October 9. People of various faiths, backgrounds, and from near and far participated in the 40 Days for Life campaign held in front of Planned Parenthood at the intersection of Daggett Avenue and Henderson Street in Fort Worth. The peaceful prayer campaign was to run from Sept. 26 to Nov. 4.

**RIGHT:** Annette Padilla, of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, prays in front of Planned Parenthood Oct. 4.

**RIGHT:** Bobby Warren (**right**), vigil coordinator of 40 Days for Life, and Vincent Booth (**left**), both of St. Patrick Cathedral, pray a Rosary Oct. 17.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Steve Rook, of Fort Worth Presbyterian Church, prays outside Planned Parenthood on October 9.

**BELOW: (L-R)** Salvador Pasillas, Lola Pasillas, and Monica Pasillas, all from St. John the Apostle in North Richland Hills, pray with Nancy Northey, Lilly Northey and Wes Northey of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton on October 14.



## Conversations with those who pray at 40 Days

**IT'S 11:45A.M.** on a Friday and cars zoom by Planned Parenthood at the corner of West Daggett Ave. and South Henderson St. Some drivers peer out their windows and stare at the two women praying on the sidewalk facing the abortion clinic. The noise of the cars zipping down I-30 floats down to the women too.

Despite all the distractions, Annette Padilla, of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, and a second woman who wished to remain anonymous, continue praying silently — participants in the Fort Worth 40 Days for Life campaign.

The second woman, who had previously had an abortion and was initially nervous about joining the 40 Days campaign, now is so supportive of the campaign that she comes every week to pray for an hour. Today, she is saying pro-life prayers based on *Luke 18:1*, the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge.

"I really like that it's a peaceful movement," she said. "I'm out here in humility and love — all of us, not just me."

She comes to pray for the mothers facing the same decision, and through her sidewalk vigil, finds a process of sanctification.

**AT 7:02 P.M.** on a Tuesday, a group of women from the Ladies Auxiliary from St. Mary of the Assumption (and one Knight of Columbus, a husband of one of the ladies) arrives and begins praying a Rosary as the sun starts setting.

Asked why they came, one of the ladies, Catherine Saldana, responds, "[God] needs people out here, He needs prayers out here.

This is where we may be able to intercede for those who need it."

Saldana, the Respect Life coordinator at St. Mary's, has come out to 40 Days for Life since 2006 and was glad the Ladies Auxiliary was able to bring out a handful of people to support the movement.

"The need is tremendous," Saldana said, referring to the need for prayer. "The power of prayer cannot be underestimated. God has allowed me to witness a few saves," she said, referring to instances in which a mother has chosen not to have an abortion as a result of the silent witness of prayer.

**IT'S 7:34 P.M.** and the sun has just set on a Tuesday. Even as the light vanishes, Steve Rook, a member of Fort Worth Presbyterian Church in Southwest Fort Worth, continues to read from his prayer sheets. He says he's one of about 20 parishioners from his church who have been coming out to pray at 40 Days. He's glad to see other people praying just a few feet to his left and right — he's confident something good will come from it.

"The thing that is so wonderful is this is what God does when his people pray," Rook said. "When God's people call on Him, He answers."

**AT 10:22 P.M.** on a Wednesday, Bobby Warren and his friend Vincent Booth, parishioners at St. Patrick Cathedral, hop out of their pick-up truck and walk down the sidewalk. A chilly breeze picks up every now and then. As they face Planned Parenthood, empty now for several hours, they begin praying a Rosary.

Even though the building sits empty, Warren sees value in pray-

ing on that desolate sidewalk with his friend. He recalls how once a woman, driving by, stopped in front of him and rudely asked why he was praying with his family on a Saturday in front of Planned Parenthood when it was closed. "You're ignorant, you're praying for nothing," he recalled the woman saying.

That's not how Warren, in his second-year as the Fort Worth vigil coordinator for 40 Days, sees it. After all, he's seen people seeking abortions pull into the parking lot of Planned Parenthood only to turn around, pull up alongside 40 Days prayer

volunteers and thank them for being there, telling them their presence provided that impetus that convinced them to not get an abortion.

"Physical prayer and presence being out here has power and meaning," Warren said. "That's how God's grace works. It works through individuals and through prayer, regardless of whether the people are present there or not."

That grace works every day of the year, not just during 40 Days for Life, Warren is quick to point out.

"We have to carry this into the 41st day and beyond."



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# First president of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School keeps busy agenda

## Michael D. Barks receives high honors for tireless work serving Catholic community

By Jerry Circelli  
Correspondent

IN ESTABLISHING ITS NEW SERVANT OF CHRIST AWARD THIS YEAR, THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS (NBCC) was searching for black Catholic leaders across the country who best personified Christian servant-leadership qualities in African-American communities. The selection process was arduous, but the criterion for finding such leaders was simple, and actually defined by Matthew, who wrote in the Gospel that Christ “did not come to be served, but to serve.”

The Diocese of Fort Worth was honored to have one of its own, Michael D. Barks, a retired U.S. Army colonel, receive the Servant of Christ Award recently in Indianapolis. The honor was given during NBCC Congress XI, only the 11th such gathering of the national Catholic organization since it was formed in 1889.

Barks is in good company with bishops, priests, religious, and lay men and women from around the country recognized for their service to the Church.

When asked about the award, Barks is quick to point to a powerful painting of a horse running, mane flying in the wind, that hangs above his desk at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School in Fort Worth. It was a gift from his wife, Marie, and inspires him daily. Inscribed on the artwork are the words from the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians: “Be strong in the Lord.”

“It means that I get my strength from the Lord,” said Barks. “It means I cannot succeed here without Him. There is no way I can do this work alone. It is a community effort.”

While Barks is honored and



PHOTO BY JERRY CIRCELLI

A gift from his wife, Marie, a powerful painting and meaningful Gospel quote — “Be Strong in the Lord,” Ephesians 6:10 — hangs prominently in Barks’ office at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School. “It means that I get my strength from the Lord. It means I cannot succeed here without Him,” Barks said.

appreciative of the NBCC award, he will never take full credit for the honor. Instead, he thanks the Lord for his gifts and accomplishments and, name by name, talks about all the individuals who help him along the way. The list seems endless, but Barks singles them all out, from his parish priest, to the Our Mother of Mercy administrators, teachers, volunteers, parents, and a long list of others who help him serve the Catholic community. Visit Barks and he will take you around to meet each and every one.

“I couldn’t do any of this without them,” insisted Barks.

Before becoming the first president of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School in June 2012, Barks served on the school’s advisory council for eight years, including seven years as chairman. The NBCC award not only recognized Barks’ work for the school, but also for his tireless efforts at serving Our Mother of Mercy Church.

He has been active with the

parish’s Knights of Peter Claver Council #89, served as coordinator of the planning committee for Friends of Our Mother of Mercy School Alumni Association, has been a member of the usher board, co-chair of the Our Mother of Mercy Golf Tournament and Networking Event, and co-organizer of the Our Mother of Mercy Male Choir — to name only some of his activities.

At the diocesan level, Barks has been instrumental in the overall advancement of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School, including construction of a new school building in 2008. His activities in the Diocese of Fort Worth, including working with youth and serving as a role model, earned him the *Benemerenti* Medal late last year. Presented by Bishop Kevin Vann at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth, the *Benemerenti* Medal was one of 16 papal honors bestowed in the Diocese of Fort Worth by Pope Benedict XVI.

In his typical response to any

individual recognition that comes his way, the 30-year Army veteran said the honor should truly be shared among all those around him with whom he is only a team player.

“I was very surprised” Barks said. “I really didn’t think I should have been the one to get such an award. There are a lot of people in this church family, in this parish, whose work and dedication I admire.”

Barks, however, has found a way that fits his humble personality to use the recognition to for a greater good. He talks about his work at Our Mother of Mercy

Catholic School, which serves children from pre-kindergarten through grade eight. Barks uses the opportunity to promote the institution that has been the focus of his work since he started on its advisory council in 2004 and continues through his new role as first president of the school.

Having been a part of transitioning a school once in need of repair to one now with a new building, Barks hopes to achieve three ambitious goals by 2015 for the educational institution that has been a part of our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church since it was established as a parish 82 years ago.

One of the most important goals, he said, is for Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School to become a National Blue Ribbon School, recognized for academic improvements and high performance. He also plans to work with the Diocese of Fort Worth and Our Mother of Mercy Parish on building a new multipurpose center that can be used by both the church and school. And last but not least, as a result of improvements, his goal is to double enrollment to 160 students.

“The first thing we’re doing is making sure we’re strong inside in

terms of our curriculum, our teachers and our administration,” Barks said. “With positives in those areas, we know that we are going to succeed. We know that people will come because of the quality education.”

Father Jerome LeDoux, pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Church, is confident Barks will help the school become successful for several reasons, not the least of which is the president’s eagerness to work with the community to implement new ideas to boost enrollment. That will be critical to the school’s future success, Fr. LeDoux said. “And Michael Barks is primed to serve,” said the pastor.

“Together with his positive attitude, he has ability that is strengthened by his faith, his military background, his knowledge, and his education. And his love for the children is obvious,” Fr. LeDoux said.

Fr. LeDoux said Barks’ task is a big one and the school needs the talents he brings to continue the institution’s strong track record of turning out good students and community leaders.

While Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School has a long and distinguished history, dating back to 1930, the economic challenges it has faced and subsequent reconstruction in 2008 led to an enrollment decline.

Many people, Barks said, thought the school had closed down. In fact, for a year, while the new school building was being constructed, teachers, students, and

administrators from our Mother of Mercy carried on in the classroom building at nearby St. Mary’s Catholic Church.

“Now when I go around and talk about Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School, I run into people who say, ‘I didn’t know you were still there,’” Barks said. “So that’s my job, to get out in the community and get the word out and let people know that, ‘Yes, we’re still here.’”

The new president-principal model at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School allows the principal, Erin Vader, to focus on curriculum and teachers so students get a quality education, explained Barks. It allows him, in turn, “to go out and get the resources to make that happen.” That involves seeking funding, finding sponsors, managing facilities, serving in public and community relations roles, and taking on many other duties that keep Barks busy promoting the school for which he has so much passion.

As Barks continues to seek needed resources for the school, he knows he has his work cut out for him. But the 30-year military veteran — who served in Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, and throughout the United States — welcomes the challenge. “Being an Army guy, we’re always going to make it work,” he said. If his recent papal honors and National Black Catholic Congress awards are any indication, Barks has the resolve to get the job done for projects in which he believes.

Barks reiterated that he is not alone in his work. He knows Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School is uniquely rich and blessed.

“The difference between us and public school is the cross,” Barks said. “We’re always going to have the cross. We’ll never take it down. So when you come here, you have the cross. You have Jesus Christ.

“And our mission is clear. Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School exists to educate the mind and soul for college and heaven.”



PHOTO COURTESY MARIE BARKS

The Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School Capt. Claude Platte Cadet Corps was recently formed by the school’s president, Michael Barks. Barks, a 30-year U.S. Army veteran, named the Corps after one of his heroes — Tuskegee Airman Claude Platte, a lifelong member of our Mother of Mercy Church. Pictured with the Corps, wearing red Tuskegee Airman blazers, are Claude and his wife, Erma.

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH

November is National Black Catholic History Month. Member organizations representing African-American Roman Catholics are working in collaboration with national Roman Catholic organizations to further the work of the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC). The group is committed to the evangelization of African-Americans as well as improving the spiritual, mental, and physical conditions of African-Americans.

The NBCC was founded by Daniel Rudd, who was born in 1854 to parents who were slaves. Rudd eventually started the *American Catholic Tribune*, the only Catholic journal owned and published by African-Americans. That publication is currently

distributed by the NBCC as the *African American Catholic Tribune* newsletter. Rudd also called together the first National Black Catholic Congress in 1889 in Washington, D.C.

It was an historic time, as people of African descent throughout the United States came together to be a part of the congress. According to the NBCC, President Grover Cleveland invited attendees to the White House for a special meeting. Also, the Rev. Augustus Tolton, the first recognized Black priest ordained for the United States, participated in the congress and celebrated High Mass.

For more information, visit the National Black Catholic Congress website at [nbccongress.org](http://nbccongress.org).

## Mass for Africa planned at St. Joseph Catholic Church

St. Joseph Parish will host a Mass for Africa Saturday, Nov. 30 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, located at 1927 SW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington.

All are invited to pray for those who have lost their lives or are suffering from war, disease, and famine in Africa. Prayers of thanksgiving will be offered for those who have been spared this suffering. St. Joseph Catholic

Community African Choir will provide music for this special liturgy. Father Philip Boateng will be the celebrant.

Refreshments will be served in the Community Center following Mass.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 472-5181. After hours calls, questions, or to volunteer, call Michelle at (817) 542-6425.



PHOTO COURTESY WILBERT FULFORD

Michael D. Barks and Marie, his wife of 33 years, at NBCC Congress in Indianapolis, Ind., where Barks received the Servant of Christ Award.

# Two members of Franciscans Third Order Regular heard the Lord's call

*Brothers Ron Hurl, TOR and Jonathan McElhone, TOR will be ordained November 30*

**Story and Photos  
By Kathy Cribari Hamer  
Correspondent**

**WHEN RON HURL WAS GROWING UP IN A "RUN-OF-THE-MILL STEEL TOWN IN Pennsylvania,"** he wasn't thinking he would ever have a vocation. In fact, he said, "I thought being a priest would be the most boring thing in the world."

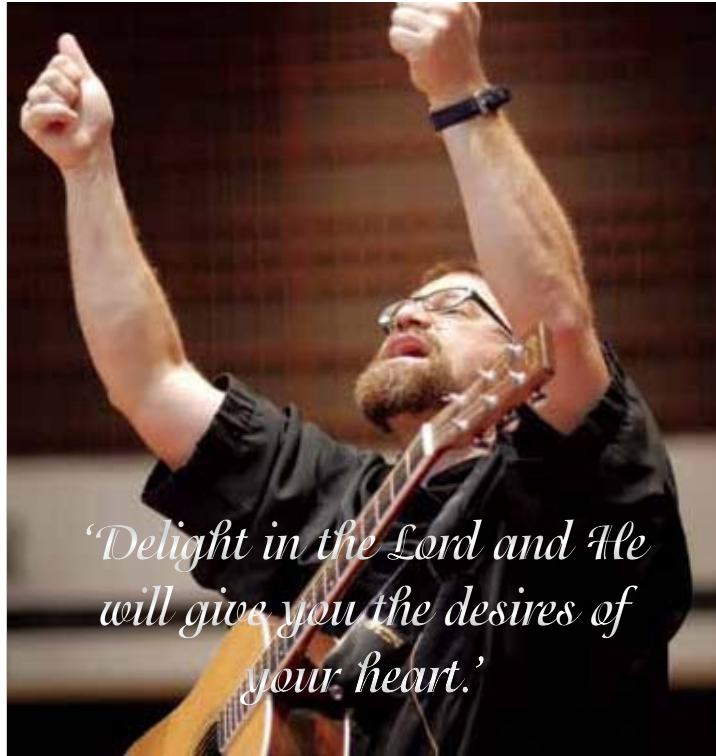
A grown-up Ron Hurl will be ordained Nov. 30 at the Province of the Most Holy Sacrament in Loretto, Pennsylvania. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate the liturgy.

"I never felt any call," said Br. Ron, TOR, "and from age 14, I really struggled with my faith." Studying philosophy in college, he became serious about the existence of God, until his parents "gave their lives to the Lord, and it changed them forever."

"Having Jesus in your life changes you, and I liked who I was. But I didn't have joy."

That changed during graduate school at Catholic University in Washington, when Br. Ron moved in with the Franciscans at the invitation of Father Peter Lyons, who served in Fort Worth for many years and is head of formation at Catholic University. He gave the young graduate student room and board in exchange for construction work.

Living with the Franciscans, Br. Ron dis-



*'Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.'*

Brother Ron Hurl, TOR lifts his arms in song during Mass at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth.

covered something. "They had peace and joy in their hearts, and I wanted that." They took him to Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship.

"People were playing guitar and singing, 'Holy and Anointed One' and 'Jesus.' What got me was that this was spontaneous praise. They were saying, 'Jesus, I love you, Jesus, I worship you,' talking to the Lord like He was really on the altar."

Br. Ron brought that worship music to St. Andrew Parish where he is completing his deacon internship in preparation for his ordination. He and his guitar are a standard sight for parishioners and school children, with whom he shares "sing-alongs," at church, leading the music, extending his arms in praise.

Until adoration with the Franciscans, "I'd never met anyone who thought that bread was really Jesus. They were talking to Him like He was there. I'd believed in an intellectual way,

**Left:** Br. Ron blesses a child during Communion. Br. Ron will be ordained Nov. 30 at the Province of the Most Holy Sacrament in Loretto, Pennsylvania. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate the liturgy.

but not in that visceral way – 'Talk to Him. If this is really Jesus don't act like it's not. Tell Him we love Him.'

"When I heard them doing that, I said, 'Okay, Lord, I'll try it. They're telling you they love you, and they believe it.'

"I started to praise the Lord spontaneously: 'Jesus I praise you, Jesus I love you.' It was uncomfortable because it felt emotional, and 'Catholics don't pray this way.' But I praised Him, and He poured out his Spirit on me in a major way."

Having encountered the love and joy of the friars, Br. Ron wanted to share it, to serve the Lord though Eucharist. "But I recognized that if I wanted to be the Lord's priest, I could not take it on my own."

So he prayed for a vocation. He started praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day at 3 p.m. "I said to the Lord, 'There are many men out there who have vocations to the priesthood, and they are not following their vocation. I want one of their calls.'"

He read Scripture and prayed, "Your Scripture says, 'Delight in the lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.' So I delight in you, trusting you will give me the desire of my heart, a call to the priesthood."

He prayed from Lent 1999 to January 1, 2000. After New Year's Mass, he encountered an Ursuline nun he had met only once. "She prayed for me and she had a word from the Lord: 'I have called you to be my priest – I put that desire in your heart.'"

"I never prayed for a vocation again, and it was the certainty I had a vocation to the priesthood that helped me get through the difficulties of seminary."

I never, ever thought of a vocation," Br. Ron said.

Next month he will be ordained. It was the desire of his heart.





**H**E IS A GYMNAST, CYCLIST, GUITAR-PLAYER WHO KNOWS AGRICULTURE, robotics, and automation. And, "I'm pretty good at computers," said Brother Jonathan McElhone, TOR, who will be ordained next month as a Franciscan priest.

Yet, this man of multiple talents went on his knees repeatedly for 15 years, asking God what to do with his life.

Br. Jonathan, a Canadian brought up on an Ontario farm, is finishing his pastoral year at Colleyville's Good Shepherd Parish. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate his ordination Nov. 30 at the Province of the Most Holy Sacrament in Loretto, Pennsylvania.

The middle of three children, Br. Jonathan's path to priesthood began during high school at a youth conference when he was 15. After that, "I started praying regularly, reading Scripture, and singing praise and worship – that became part of my spirituality."

Br. Jonathan studied three years in robotics at a college in Peterborough, Ontario, then joined to NET (National Evangelization Teams) ministries for two years — a period he called "fundamental to his formation." After NET he worked as an industrial electrician while volunteering in parishes with youth ministry and music.

On Sunday nights he sat quietly in church with God.

"In 2001, as I was praying, I heard the Lord say clearly, 'Jonathan you are in a good place, I'm proud of you. A year from now you are going to be somewhere different.'

"Hearing those words from the Lord I reevaluated my life and prayed, 'Lord reveal to me the desires of my heart. What do you want me to do – married, priesthood, single?' I heard clearly: 'Whatever you are going to do I am going to bless.'"

Encouraged by friends, Br. Jonathan applied to Franciscan University in Steubenville. They accepted him for their three-year Priestly Discernment Program. "I still didn't know where I was going," he said, until meeting a Franciscan TOR with similar spirituality, who "intrigued him" to look at the Franciscans.

"I continued to pray in that final year, and heard God revealing to me, 'Hey! You could have a Franciscan heart.'

"I already knew I was called to the priesthood, and I recognized through my experience at NET ministries and in Steubenville, that I



invited by Father Nicholas Polichnowski, provincial, to celebrate, Br. Jonathan said, "since there is the intention that both new priests, Brothers Ron Hurl and Jonathan McElhone will serve in this diocese."

"I have no agenda right or wrong for my life or where I am going," Br. Jonathan said. I left my country and I left my family. I intend on applying for citizenship when I am eligible. If I am asked to become a missionary to another area, I will embrace it – whatever the needs of the Church are and however I can fulfill them.

"Because of my background in agriculture and farming, in robotics and automation, some brothers laugh and say, 'You should be a missionary in a third world country because you can build a house, you can repair vehicles, there is nothing you can't do!'

"I think to some extent that's true, from a material standpoint," Brother Jonathan said. "But also when God is leading you, there's nothing you can't get through."

**Left:** Br. Jonathan McElhone, TOR, kneels in prayer.

*'It is a greater act of love for you to choose out of love for me, than to just be obedient...'*

thrived in community. So I spent four days at a Franciscan 'Come and See.'"

"What do you want me to do," he prayed. "And I heard clearly, as if we were talking, 'It is a greater act of love for you to choose out of love for me, than to just be obedient to what I tell you to do. Let me bless you.'"

"I ended up choosing the Franciscans without knowing what I was doing. I knew a little about St. Francis, but each day I feel like I continue to grow in my love for him, love for Christ, in imitation of St. Francis, and trying to be formed into the image of Christ."

Br. Jonathan's family will be present at his ordination, and Bishop Vann was

**Below:** Br. Jonathan assists Fr. Richard Eldredge, TOR during Mass at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. Br. Ron will be ordained Nov. 30 at the Province of the Most Holy Sacrament in Loretto, Pennsylvania. Bishop Kevin Vann will celebrate the liturgy.



## 'Why Be Catholic' seminar helps Catholics know their faith

By Michele Baker  
Correspondent

On September 7th and 8th, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller hosted noted Catholic radio personality, writer, and publisher Patrick Madrid for a seminar entitled "Why Be Catholic?" presented by Fullness of Truth Catholic Evangelization Ministries. The two day event drew about 150 participants and featured local speaker Chris Aubert and Catholic lay evangelist Hector Molina.

"Pope Paul VI reminds us in his encyclical, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, Article 14, that the Church exists to evangelize," Molina said in his keynote Friday night. "It's in our Catholic DNA. Yet to put the words 'catholic' and 'evangelist' together seems oxymoronic. When we hear the term 'evangelist' we seldom think of ourselves; of our faith."

Molina is out to change that. Peppering his speech with phrases like "You and I have been

**Madrid assured them that the truth of the Catholic Church will stand up despite the deficiencies of those presenting it: that the truth has its own attraction. "A lion does not need to be defended. You let the lion out of the cage and he defends himself," Madrid said. "Such is the Church."**

anointed and appointed to give witness" and "The Great Commission is in danger of becoming the great omission," he engages his audience with hooks that are easy to remember. Yet his sound bite friendly approach is backed with solid Church teaching, and Molina switches from the vernacular to scholarly austerity seamlessly.

As if in response to Molina's opening address, lawyer Chris Aubert took the podium to share his conversion story. The son of a Jewish father who survived Auschwitz and a cradle Catholic mother,

Aubert was Bar Mitzvah-ed at 13 but never had any significant formation in either faith. When he entered law school, it was for the express purpose of making lots of money. He quipped, "I had a goal of owning the biggest Mercedes that Mercedes makes."

Aubert is as ordinary as Molina is polished. Likable, self-effacing, and quick witted, he presents as an "everyman". He described his journey to Christ in a matter-of-fact tone that belied a series of events that led him from a life in pursuit of material wealth and pleasure to one of a devout, passionately pro-life Catholic.

"One of the gifts God gave me is skepticism," Aubert explained. "And I ended up arguing myself into the Catholic Church."

The gift of argument that accompanies his skepticism has served Aubert well in his life as a lay evangelist. Though he claims to never start an argument with non-believers, he never shies away from the opportunity to share his faith.

"Once they open the door, I won't leave them alone until they're Catholic or they tell me to leave!" Aubert said.

Author and radio personality Patrick Madrid bridged the gap between Molina's accessible austerity and Aubert's "average Joe." The oldest of eight children, Madrid is a cradle Catholic whose

parents instilled a deep sense of identification with the faith within him from an early age.

"My parents taught me that we're Catholic first and everything else second," he said. "Catholic in everything we do: from the way we do business to the way we conduct ourselves in public. We were taught that our faith was precious and should be protected."

Madrid's keynote, entitled "Why Be Catholic When You Can Be Anything Else?", focused on giving the lay faithful information and a sense of confidence in sharing their Catholic faith.

"We are living in a time when the Church is not just under attack ideologically. It's under attack literally," he explained. "The Catholic who doesn't know what he believes and why he believes it will not be able to stand."

Madrid encouraged the people by to continue to learn and grow in their faith but to not be afraid to share what they know when encountering people who are non-Catholic, lapsed Catholics, or have left the faith. He assured them that the truth of the Catholic Church will stand up despite the deficiencies of those presenting it: that the truth has its own attraction.

"A lion does not need to be defended. You let the lion out of the cage and he defends himself," Madrid said. "Such is the Church."

Truth, Molina, Aubert, and Madrid echoed the term over and over again. Whether describing the scriptural basis of the Communion of Saints, giving advice about evangelizing in everyday life, or answering questions during a "Stump the Apologist" session, all three men came back to the truth of the Catholic faith. Chris Aubert summed things up most succinctly.



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# New Media and the New Evangelization

Catholic New Media Conference draws bloggers, podcasters, and other digital missionaries called to spread the Gospel to all corners of the worldwide web

By Juan Guajardo / Correspondent

**I**N A SETTING THAT'S LIKE A RETREAT MERGED WITH A TECHNO EXPO, A PRIEST STANDS IN FRONT OF A PROJECTED PHOTO OF THE DeLOREAN FROM THE *BACK TO THE FUTURE MOVIES*, talking about changes in the online world with an audience of podcasters, bloggers, web designers, laptop-savvy priests, smartphone-toting laypeople and even an iPad-wielding nun. Some attendees Tweet while others take notes on various digital devices. In one corner of the room, a sponsor promotes E-Bibles. Next door, there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

It's typical of the fifth annual Catholic New Media Conference held this year at the Arlington Convention Center Aug. 29-31. What's more, that scene may be a glimpse of how the future of evangelization for the Church will look: Bishops, priests, religious, lay people, young and old using new media like podcasts, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, to give a soul to the Internet as Pope Benedict XVI said in 2010.

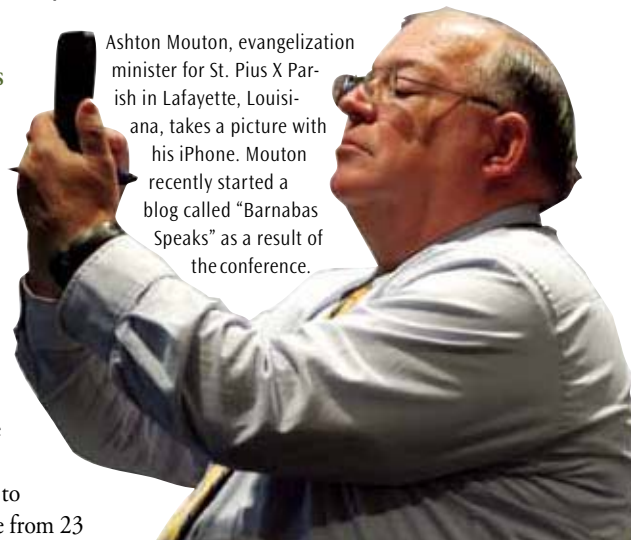
Hosted by Star Quest Production Network, a non-profit apostolate dedicated to evangelization through new media, the conference attracted more than 200 people from 23 states and from as far as Europe and the Philippines and featured talks by prominent Catholic bloggers, podcasters (and even a blogging bishop — Bishop Christopher Coyne, apostolic administrator of the Indianapolis Archdiocese) on everything from how to start a blog and create apps and web videos, to how to grow an online audience and share the Good News effectively.

"Like any sort of evangelization you have to go to where the people are," said Steve Nelson, executive director of SQPN and coordinator of the conference. "And hundreds of years ago you went to other countries, you went to other cities, you traveled. But now, to find the people you go online because they're there. They're on Facebook, they're in chatrooms and that's where evangelization is. One of the places where evangelization takes place is in that online world. So I don't see it stopping anytime soon. It's only getting bigger and bigger."

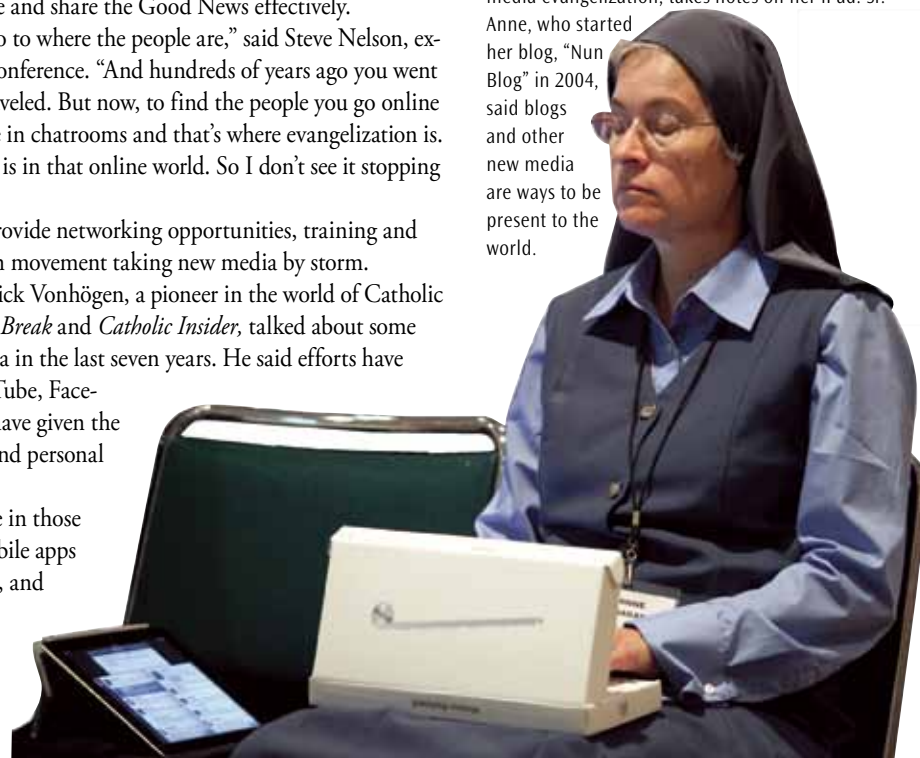
To meet that reality, the conference aims to provide networking opportunities, training and advice to anyone aspiring to join the evangelization movement taking new media by storm.

On the conference's second day, Father Roderick Vonhögen, a pioneer in the world of Catholic podcasting, co-founder of SQPN, and host of *The Break* and *Catholic Insider*, talked about some of the efforts Catholics have made using new media in the last seven years. He said efforts have been intensive and successful with media like YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and podcasts — all platforms that have given the Church and Catholics a voice and a fun, positive and personal online presence.

But Fr. Vonhögen said progress must continue in those areas and with other aspects of new media like mobile apps and mobile-compatible websites, gaming, E-books, and memes. By utilizing those tools well, Catholics can engage others and create "places of truth" where they can counteract the misinformation



Ashton Mouton, evangelization minister for St. Pius X Parish in Lafayette, Louisiana, takes a picture with his iPhone. Mouton recently started a blog called "Barnabas Speaks" as a result of the conference.



Sister Anne Flanagan of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul, a community that emphasizes media evangelization, takes notes on her iPad. Sr. Anne, who started her blog, "Nun Blog" in 2004, said blogs and other new media are ways to be present to the world.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

## New Media and the New Evangelization



**LEFT:** Father Roderick Vonhögen, a pioneer in the world of Catholic podcasting, and co-founder of SQPN, discussed some of the efforts Catholics have made using new media in the last seven years.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

that abounds online and the rise of popular atheism.

“How can we help? I think that’s one of the most essential questions we need to ask ourselves as Catholics,” Fr. Vonhögen said. “It’s not how can we make sure that our message gets heard. I think the best example on how to reach out is what Jesus did himself by washing the feet of his disciples. It’s his commandment — do this to one another, like I did for you. And our attitude in social media and new media should be an attitude of service. People can reject ideas, they can disagree, they can hate us for our ethics or moral points of view, but who will refuse a helping hand?”

The conference also featured Jennifer Fulwiler, a prominent blogger for *National Catholic Register* and author of *conversiondiary.com*. Fulwiler recounted how her journey from militant atheist to Catholic was helped primarily by her discussions with Catholic and Christian bloggers and their dialogue with atheist bloggers, like the Raving Atheist.

“I became Catholic, my husband became Catholic... and the Raving Atheist became Catholic,” Fulwiler said. “So don’t tell me that bloggers can’t change the world because I have seen it. We absolutely can.”

She said the world is desperate for truth and that even secular society seems more ready to embrace the truth provided by Christ. But she encouraged the audience to present that truth in an inviting way by striving for excellence with every post.

“The world needs us to get the fullness of truth out there and we Catholics don’t have the luxury of not putting our best foot forward, of not doing everything we can do to have the best blogs that we can have in terms of design and also in terms of writing,” Fulwiler added. “It only takes a few of us blogging for the glory of God to change the world.”

Sister Anne Flanagan, of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul, and an attendee at the conference, has aimed to do just that since she started her Nun Blog ([romans8v29.blogspot.com](http://romans8v29.blogspot.com)) in 2004. She is on Twitter and Facebook, creates daily religious haikus and meditations on the day’s readings for her online audience, and has a blog dedicated solely to the Angelus prayer.

Sr. Flanagan, holding her iPad — a gift from her mother — explained that blogs and other new media are a form of providing a real presence and making oneself available 24/7.

“You never know who you can reach,” she added, before going off to her mid-day prayers.

# Texas bloggers,

## Arlington resident Matt Warner is on a mission to help Catholics start thinking digitally

COMMUNICATING ONLINE IS NOTHING FOREIGN FOR FLOCKNOTE FOUNDER AND BLOGGER MATTHEW WARNER. Warner attended and spoke at the Catholic New Media Conference where he caught up with the *North Texas Catholic* to talk about his blogging mission. Warner, an Arlington resident and St. Maria Goretti parishioner, said his message depends on the blog he writes for.

“When I’m blogging about technology and the Church, my mission there is to help the Church — to help us utilize it more effectively,” said Warner. “Hopefully to teach, if I have something that’s worth sharing, and to motivate a lot of groups in the Church, or the Church leadership itself, to embrace new media in new ways.”

Warner writes his personal blog, a blog for Flocknote (a company he started to help communities communicate with their members easier), and blogs for the *National Catholic Register*. He said blogging impacts him in a personal way.

## Blogging played a major role in former atheist Jennifer Fulwiler’s conversion

SOME THINK BLOGGING CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY CATHOLIC BLOGGER JENNIFER FULWILER. She believes blogging is a great source for evangelization within new media. The Austin native was a keynote speaker at the CNMC. Her topic of discussion targeted the influence blogging can have on conversions. The former atheist blogged before she became Catholic and credits Catholic bloggers for her conversion to the Church in 2007.

“Interactions that I had on my blog and on other blogs were really key to my conversion because it was a place where I could learn and answer questions,” said Fulwiler.

Fulwiler now uses new media to promote the Catholic faith. She blogs for the *National Catholic Register*, as well as on her personal blog. Her writing for the *Register* focuses on issues such as contraception and abortion.

“For the *Register*, I write more about wider society rather than only telling stories from my personal life,” said Fulwiler. “I sort of tackle the big issues of our day.”

As a wife and mother of five



Austin native Jennifer Fulwiler discussed the influence blogging can have on conversions at the CNMC held Aug. 29-31.

children, Fulwiler said her mission as a blogger is to tell her story.

“I think the biggest thing I feel called to do is simply to share the story of how God is working in my life on a day-to-day basis,” said Fulwiler.

Fulwiler’s two blogs get an estimated 500,000 page views per month with a total of approximately 10,000 subscribers. She attracts followers by writing as well as she can.

“I really believe that the world is always hungry for good content and good stories. That’s the main thing,” said Fulwiler. “I don’t really do a lot to try to promote my site. I just figure

# online evangelists

Stories by Jacqueline Burkepile  
Correspondent  
Photos by Juan Guajardo



In this NTC file photo taken at the Diocesan Day of *Communio* held March 1 of this year, Matt Warner discusses spreading the faith through electronic communications

“I think a lot of it is to kind of force myself to articulate what I believe and put it out so that I can throw it around and kick it around and let other people kick it around and see what it looks like when we get done,” said Warner. “That changes and that helps my belief and helps me grow in my faith.”

Warner said his personal blog, [fallibleblogma.com](http://fallibleblogma.com), focuses on his personal interests. He blogs about topics such as family, struggles, or faith. Warner said his Flocknote blog focuses on technology and communication, while his blog for the *National Catholic Register* targets issues specific to Catholics.

Kaitlin Rawley, happiness engineer for Flocknote, said she enjoys Warner’s

blogs because they are honest and he expresses himself on topics that society doesn’t always want to hear.

“I like that it’s really relatable,” said Rawley. “He talks about some of the stuff that he’s experienced in his life, and that I can relate to.”

Warner said he enjoys his work because he helps the Church.

“It gives a different kind of purpose to everything whenever it has to do with serving the mission and purpose of the One who created everything,” said Warner. “So it gives such meaning and depth to it in a way that’s not just temporal — it’s eternal.”

He advised that parishioners become active in their communities to help bring fallen away Catholics back to the Church through this means. He encouraged those with talent to help parishes and dioceses start blogging, so they can build relationships and proclaim God’s message.

“They need help,” said Warner. “A lot of times, it just takes offering. I would encourage readers to step up and offer. Just ask how you can help. If you have a talent, offer it. Try to just do it. Take the initiative and together we can do a lot of really cool things.”

that if I put out good stuff, the readers will come.”

Brianna Heldt, a Catholic blogger from Denver, said she’s read Fulwiler’s blogs for the past few years.

“She is incredibly successful and has developed quite a following, and I love that she has done so by sharing her perspective in a gracious but honest way,” said Heldt. “While I don’t feel that she avoids difficult subjects, she approaches things with clarity and kindness, which is incredibly appealing.”

Fulwiler also stated that she believes that blogging and new media affect the culture.

“I think it’s huge because it personalizes the face of the Church,” she said. “It helps people who are not part of the faith get to know those of us who do have faith in ways that they would not be able to without the new media.”

Fulwiler gave advice to those interested in blogging for the purpose of evangelization. She encourages them to do it and have fun.

“I think that’s really the most important thing — to relax, have fun, and stay humble,” said Fulwiler. “I strongly encourage people who feel that call to do it. I think we really can’t have enough voices out there.”

## Blogging sisters Shelly Kelly and Lisa Jones tie faith into everyday life experiences

**EVANGELIZATION WASN’T FIRST ON THEIR MINDS WHEN THESE SISTERS STARTED BLOGGING ONLINE.** Houston natives Shelly Kelly and Lisa Jones began their blogging journey in February 2009. They wrote about politics, family, and life, but did not have an evangelization focus. The sisters shared their story with the NTC at the CNMC.

“It came out in what we were writing, but it wasn’t our purposeful focus until we went to the CNMC,” said Kelly. “When we came back from that, we were inspired.”

The sisters decided to evangelize through new media after attending the conference in 2009. They said their primary goal is to target Catholics and non-Catholic Christian families. Jones said many readers didn’t grow up very connected to faith and wanted to learn more since they now have children.

“We write about whatever happens in our day that we think about. It could be a current event, something that happened with one of our children, and then we write about things in the Church,” said Jones. “Almost everything that we write about has an



Sisters Shelly Kelly (left), and Lisa Jones (right), shared how they use their blog about everyday life to evangelize others.

influence of our faith in it.”

Jones and Kelly said they had individual blogs before they started writing together. They now take turns or collaborate when writing, and said working together brought them closer.

“Working together on this blog has brought us together instead of letting us compete separately,” said Kelly. “We encourage one another, we support one another, and we want each other to succeed.”

The sisters said they try not to look at the number of readers because they don’t want the blog to be about trying to gain an audience.

“We want our audience to find us,” said Jones. “We write because of what we feel on our heart or what we are experiencing. If it reaches people, that’s really great.”

Kelly advised new bloggers to write according to God’s call. She said writing about faith may not be easy, but the positive outweighs the negative.

“You have to be reassured of what you are meant to do and what God is calling you to do,” said Kelly. “It’s okay, there’s lots more people who agree with you or feel affirmed by what you’re writing than who are going to tell you negative things.”

Kelly said the message they hope readers take with them is that God directs everyone on an individual path.

“We’re not alone. You can see people up ahead, you can see people back behind you, and you can see people next to you. We’re not here to judge. We’re just observing. God is in charge,” she said.

“We’re all on a faith journey together, whether or not we’re Catholics or [Protestants],” added Jones. “We also try to support each other and shed a little light — a little depth of faith onto how you can live out your faith as a Catholic Christian — to put that on display for others and to do it well.”

# NOLAN 'LIFE OF AN ATHLETE' PROGRAM

*involves playing by God's rules*

By Jerry Circelli  
Correspondent

More than a half century has passed since Vince Lombardi and Tom Landry made their NFL coaching debuts with the New York Giants. The gridiron legends would go on to lead their own teams, achieve outstanding success, and win enduring respect from countless players and fans alike.

"The secret to winning is constant, consistent management," Landry once said. Lombardi took it a step farther: "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

Two millennia before these men would share their wisdom, Paul the Apostle addressed the topic of winning. The meaning of his words transcended sports and would be remembered not as coaching advice, but as Gospel.

In his *First Letter to the Corinthians*, Paul wrote:

*Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.*

Paul had a gift for putting spirituality in perspective. The Isthmian Games in Corinth and the ancient Olympic Games in Athens were popular among the Greeks of Paul's time. The apostle wanted those around him not only to possess the winning determination of top athletes but also to have much higher goals in mind. Those goals involved running races to be victorious over sin, live virtuous lives and achieve eternal salvation.

At Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, sports programs have remained committed



Joe and Steve Prud'homme work hard to make Nolan's Life of an Athlete program go far beyond wins and losses. It involves helping athletes grow spiritually, learn to serve their community, and develop upstanding leadership qualities. *Photo by Jerry Circelli*

to helping students grow in faith as they strive to become winners on the athletic field.

Unlike sports programs at most schools, athletics at Nolan are rooted in the strong Catholic traditions established by Marianist Brothers who joined with the Sisters of St. Mary Namur to found the school in 1961. The formation of the school, then known as Our Lady of Victory, would combine two Catholic educational institutions — one for girls and one for boys. Now, the school is an institution of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth under the administration of the Society of Mary – Marianists.

Nolan's mission statement promises to educate for formation in faith and to educate for service, justice and peace, among other commitments.

Athletes at Nolan, for example, not only learn to pray together, but they venture forth to serve their communities in true Marianist tradition. From helping stock food pantries to volunteering at local hospitals, athletes learn that being part of a team involves more than putting up

points on the scoreboard.

Athletic Director Steve Prud'homme expects a lot from athletes at Nolan. Before any games are even played, Prud'homme requires all coaches, athletes, and parents to attend a special presentation that is a part of his "Life of an Athlete" program. What begins at the start of the year as a presentation and series of motivational talks, continues throughout the school year as part of a committed contract to help coaches, athletes, and parents live up to high Christian standards.

Steve works closely with his brother, Joe, Nolan's successful head football coach, to organize and reinvigorate the program each year. He said the program grew out of a desire to help athletes make wise choices.

"That's how we started," said Steve. "We wanted a program that would motivate kids to act healthy." The athletic director said, for example, that athletes learn specifically how alcohol use can harm performance on the athletic field.

Joe agreed. "We really wanted them to have a reason to say, 'No.' They go to a party, peer pressure is

there, and we want to give them a very compelling reason to say, 'No,' with some education behind it. A drinking binge sets a world-class athlete back 15 training days, and that's significant," Joe explained.

Steve added, "And the really scary thing is your reaction times are impacted. A fastball comes at your head and you have to get out of the way in a split second, a guy blitzes and you don't stop him and he hits your quarterback."

"And that's the physiology of it," said Joe. "We also emphasize that's wrong, it's against the law, it's immoral."

From there, the program grew to include valuable information on nutrition, hydration, and other important ways to help an athlete achieve maximum potential.

Making commitments and developing trust are also critical parts of the program. Students make agreements with one another to do the right thing. A student realizes that if he drinks alcohol or uses drugs and gets kicked off the team, he also breaks his promise to his teammates and lets them all down. Both Steve and Joe said the agreements students make with one another are often stronger than those they make with coaches, parents, or other adults.

"And that's only part of it," said Joe. "We support everything the school stands for." That includes the Catholic faith and Marianist principles, he said.

"An athlete at Nolan Catholic is held to a higher standard than the average student," said Joe. "If you're going to wear our colors, if you're going to wear Nolan on your chest, then you have a great responsibility."

Principal Cathy Buckingham agreed. "And it's not just about their behavior during the school day, but

24-7," she said. "It doesn't matter whether they're at the shopping mall, at a restaurant, with a group of friends, or whatever they're doing. Our athletes are held to a higher standard. And they're expected to be role models. The Life of an Athlete Program supports that."

The principal, whose sons have all been part of the program, added, "From a parent's perspective, I appreciate that the students are given factual information about what the consequences are for bad behavior or wrong decisions."

"There's just so much team building, community service, care, and respect for one another that is part of Nolan's athletic program through Life of An Athlete," Buckingham continued. "It's more than what the individual sport is. It's not about how well I can kick the soccer ball or how far I can throw the football. ... It's taking personal responsibility of caring for the body God has created and responsibility for helping your teammates to make good decisions."

"And as for team building," said Buckingham, "what better way to do that than in a Catholic way, through service projects."

The athletic director summed up Nolan's sports program objective in a way that would make Nolan's founders proud. "We want to build people of honor and character," Steve said. "Life of an Athlete is a springboard for that."

"We hope our athletes will look back at their formation here and that it helps when it comes to making important decisions in life."

"If that happens, we were successful. Winning a state championship is great. It's fun. But if that person makes the right decisions in life because of what they learned here, we won. We want this legacy to live on through our athletes and their families."

"Winning is a product of all this. If we do it well, the wins will come. The most important thing is that in the long run, it can make this a better world."



Athletes at Nolan Catholic High School work hard to be winners, but closely follow the Life of an Athlete program, which guides them spirituality. Photos courtesy Dick Kirby Photos/Nolan Catholic High School.

**Above:** Nolan Catholic High School's football team celebrates winning the 2011 State Football Championship.

**Top Left** Football head coach Joe Prud'homme walks off the field with the 2011 State Football Champion Trophy following the winning game.

**Bottom Left:** Steve Prud'homme is Athletic Director at Nolan Catholic High School as well as the head coach of the Nolan boys' basketball team and is pictured with the team as they play Liberty Christian High School in January 2012.

**Below:** Coach Prud'homme gives the Nolan boys' basketball team a pep talk during the game against John Paul II Catholic High School.

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## Why Catholic? emphasis on prayer and spirituality offers Year of Faith opportunity

Fort Worth Catholics will have an early opportunity to take part in diocesan Year of Faith activities. *Why Catholic?* speakers Dr. Laura Kolmar and Father Alejandro Lopez-Cardinale are coming to the diocese in late November and early December for a series of retreats. Both will speak on "Live the Year of Faith," Laura Kolmar in English and Fr. Lopez-Cardinale in Spanish.

The retreats are scheduled in every sector of the diocese. (Please see the diocesan website ([fwdioc.org](http://fwdioc.org)) for dates, times, and locations). They are open to everyone, whether they have been participating in the *Why Catholic?* program, or not.


As Bishop Vann's pet program of adult catechesis and evangelization, *Why Catholic?* has been up and running since the fall of 2009. About 5,000 people are coming together in small groups or communities 12 times a year to renew their faith, so that they might share it with others. The program has been

especially popular among Spanish-speaking Catholics in the diocese.

Providentially the diocesan *Why Catholic?* program culminates with the Year of Faith. During Lent of 2013 participants will begin their treatment of the fourth and final cycle which concludes in November—almost exactly the same time as the closing of the Year of Faith. The topic of the final year also seems planned by God. Parishioners will examine Christian prayer and spirituality.

In a recent interview, Kolmar welcomed newcomers to *Why Catholic?* Although some groups have been meeting for more than three years (indeed, some groups have met continually since the early 1990s when the diocese implemented the RENEW program), others have formed more recently, and all should be open to accepting new members. Most parishes have designated *Why Catholic?* coordinators who facilitate the placement of parishioners in groups.

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Prof. Douglas Bushman, S.T.L. is an expert on the Second Vatican Council and Pope John Paul II. He has been invited to talk at many venues during this Year of Faith. He serves as the Director of AMU's Institute for Pastoral Theology which offers the Master of Theological Studies degree around the U.S. including Fort Worth, TX.

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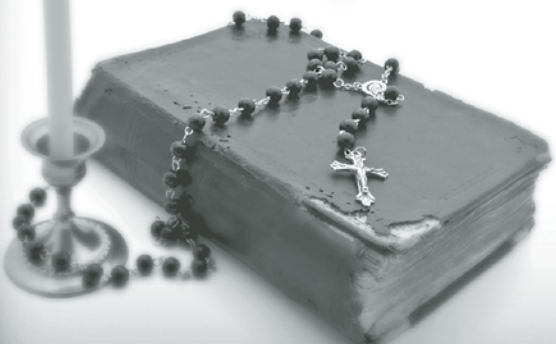
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**November 4, Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time.**  
**Cycle B. Readings:**

- 1) Deuteronomy 6:2-6  
Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51
- 2) Hebrews 7:23-28  
Gospel) Mark 12:28b-34

By Sharon K. Perkins

There's a story about a mother driving in the car with her 4-year-old daughter in the back seat. A few miles from home, the child decides she wants to take off her seat belt and stand up. Alarmed at her daughter's risky behavior, the mother immediately begins to cajole and then to threaten her to sit down and fasten her seat belt: "Please sit down, Amy, and put your seat belt on."

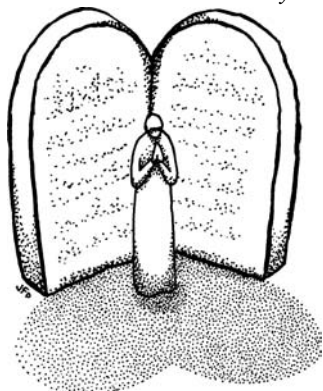
"I don't want to."

"I asked you nicely — now I'm telling you. Sit down."

"But I want to stand up, so I

*"Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength."*

— Deuteronomy 6:5



can see out the front."

"If you don't sit down right now, I'm going to stop this car and you won't like what happens next."

The girl finally sits down. After a long silence, a mutinous voice pipes up from the back seat: "I may

be sitting down on the outside, but I'm standing up on the inside!"

It seems rather odd in today's readings that God commands his people to love Him unreservedly. It's difficult to make people do something they don't want to do, and harder still to mandate that they feel something they don't necessarily feel.

Nevertheless, Moses dutifully relays God's instruction to the children of Israel prior to their entering the Promised Land.

What follows is the mandate to love the Lord God completely. God wants his people to prosper in the land for generations to come, but he is already quite familiar with their willful tendencies. To love God wholeheartedly doesn't mean to conjure up tender feelings of affection. It means first

of all to listen to God's instructions and then to obey them.

In the Gospel, Jesus extends the central law of love to include one's neighbor. If the same principle holds true, then loving one's fellow human being implies obedience to God's commandment, even — or especially — when the love isn't felt. For sinful people like you and me, practicing that kind of love consistently is not only difficult — it's impossible.

Thankfully, God doesn't use coercion to produce the love He desires from us. God has already demonstrated it through the self-sacrifice of our high priest Jesus, whose loving and obedient action continues to empower and encourage us to persevere in love — both on the outside and on the inside — when we fail.

**QUESTIONS:**

Who is God asking you, with his help, to love unselfishly?

**November 11, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.**  
**Cycle B. Readings:**

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

By Jeff Hensley

My wife's maternal grandmother was Polish and lived out most of her adult years on the North Side of Fort Worth. Twice widowed, she eked out a living for herself and her three girls after the death of her first husband and was elderly by the time she was 50.

Just this week, my wife and I were comparing her to the widow Jesus describes in this week's Gospel. Jesus says her

*"The Lord protects strangers. The fatherless and the widow he sustains."*

— Psalm 146:9ab



small sum put into the temple treasury, a mite, is more than that put in by all the other contributors. They had given from their abundance, he said, "but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had."

That was Mrs. Dolan. She did others' washing, took in a boarder, provided for her

daughters, and yet bought a marble altar for her church, made contributions to the seminary education of a priest who's served in our diocese for 40 years, and during the holidays managed to make a place at her table for any who found themselves without family.

Even this fails to mention the family members whose difficulties forced them under her roof for extended periods.

I can imagine that sometimes, as when Elijah made what must have seemed an unreasonable request for water and a bit of bread to the poor widow, Mrs. Dolan must have cried out to God when one more demand was made on

her scarce resources. But she responded to the needs nonetheless. And so God provided for her and her family.

The Hebrews passage speaks of how Jesus' sacrifice, giving of his own blood rather than the blood of animals, surpasses that of the annual sacrifice of the high priest.

The author of Hebrews says, not in these exact words, that Jesus' sacrifice is an eternal, ongoing act, not having to be suffered repeatedly.

I like to think that the sacrifices of those redeemed by that blood echo across the decades and centuries in like fashion, eternal in their own imitation of that first eternal sacrifice.

**QUESTIONS:**

Have you known those who seem to give beyond their means, but still find their own needs met? What lessons do they teach us?

**November 18, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

**Cycle B. Readings:**

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

**By Jean Denton**

The reading for this Sunday from the Book of Daniel describes the moments just before God’s reign finally will be accomplished: “It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress.”

It reminds me of childbirth. So does Mark’s Gospel description: “The stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.” Then the denouement: “When you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates.”

Oh yes, he — or she — is at the so-called gates!

*“When you see these things happening, know that he is near.”*

— Mark 13:29



What a woman commonly experiences in childbirth, indeed, is not unlike the coming of the kingdom or any smaller versions of the moment of salvation.

The final days before the arrival of our third child seemed to drag. He was two weeks late, and

I remember telling myself that my concern that he’d never get here was irrational and a medical impossibility. Nature would insist that he be born.

Labor began and the metaphor continued: unsurpassed distress until I felt for sure all the powers of heaven were about to break loose. But that’s when I knew he was at the gates.

Having previously experienced the birth of a baby, I knew there would be pain, but that this was pain I could readily endure because it signaled the coming of one of God’s greatest gifts: a new life.

So of course that’s how God’s reign will come. That’s God’s way. We will struggle against doubt, endure pain, watch dependable

earthly forces fail, and be badly shaken before we see salvation arrive.

This week’s Scripture reminds us we must hold to our belief in a light at the end of the tunnel. We can endure the hard, dark times of this life because they are the necessary precursor to God’s promised joy with Him in eternity.

I expect the moment when we see “the Son of Man coming in the clouds” will be much like the indescribable rush a new mother gets when her baby is first placed in her arms. I imagine looking into God’s face, just as I did with my newborn child, and seeing someone I’ve known forever. I believe my heart will say to God the same thing it spoke to that baby: “I knew you were coming.”

**QUESTIONS:**

When have you experienced a moment of God’s grace after suffering or difficulty? How did your trust in God help you make it through the hard times?

**November 25, The Solemnity of Christ the King.**

**Cycle B. Readings:**

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

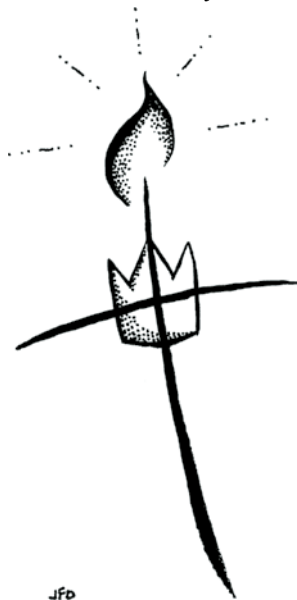
**By Jeff Hedglen**

When I was 16 years old I went to a youth conference where Sister Thea Bowman was the presenter. Close to 1,000 teens were packed into a room and this slight woman held everyone’s attention as she extended her index finger and began to sing in a way I had never before experienced, “This little light of mine...”

She sang slow and sweet, calm and powerful, inviting and engaging, soothing and challenging, all at the same time. It was a moment I have never forgotten. As we all

*“For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.”*

— John 18:37



joined in the familiar chorus, the song was transformed from a fun campfire singalong to a commissioning of young disciples.

People of all ages, especially youth and young adults, are searching for purpose. In 1991, Michael W. Smith sang a song that expresses this plight perfectly: “Lookin’ for a reason/Roamin’ through the night to find/My place in this world/Not a lot to lean on/I need your light to help me find/My place in this world.”

Knowing our purpose, our place in this world is a powerful thing. In this week’s Gospel, Jesus reveals his purpose when he says, “For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.” Jesus solidly knew

what he was put on this earth to do. He revealed the truth in every breath he took, and in his last breath this testimony shook the universe.

To be sure, our purpose may not have as lasting an impact as Jesus’ purpose, but it is no less true that we each are here for a reason. We are all called to let our “little light” shine in our own way, in our own circumstances, and in our own circles of friends and family. Each flickering flame of lived faith is unique, and it dispels darkness in important ways.

So let us all raise our index finger and to ourselves softly sing, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!”

**QUESTIONS:**

Who is a person who has inspired you to let your light shine? What do you think is your life’s purpose, your place in this world?

**December 2,**  
**First Sunday of Advent.**  
**Cycle C. Readings:**

- 1) Jeremiah 33:14-16  
 Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
- 2) I Thessalonians 3:12-4:2  
 Gospel) Luke 21:25-28,  
 34-36

**By Sharon K. Perkins**

It's not often I get a clear view of the night sky, but on a recent evening I was out in the Texas Hill Country under a full moon so low I felt I could almost touch it. Its beauty was made even more spectacular by occasional banks of clouds, veiling and then unveiling its luminous face. As I watched them pass, time seemed to stop as I sensed God's presence and was moved to praise Him for such a delightful gift.

The moon and stars in to-

*"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars"*  
 — Luke 21:25



day's Gospel have quite the opposite effect. The heavens Jesus describes are in such disarray that "people will die of fright" in anticipation of the tribulation to come. For centuries, Christians have interpreted the revelation of apocalyptic writings in a variety of ways — often as terrifying omens of

the end of the world.

Advent is the season in which we as the Church reflect on Christ's coming to us in human history, but we don't simply consider the past event of his birth, nor do we focus solely on his victorious appearance at the end of time.

We are also advised to be aware of his "presence in the present," to be "vigilant at all times," not simply because the world as we know it is passing away, but because it is our human folly to imagine time as a commodity to be consumed, controlled, hoarded, or squandered at our inclination.

For our ancestors — who measured time by the movements of the sun, moon, and stars — the shaking of the heav-

ens would be akin to all our clocks stopping at once. The idea that the God of eternity will forever wait patiently while we continue to indulge ourselves in "carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life" is simply unbiblical and foolish. Time isn't "mine" to own; the world of my existence will come to an unexpected end that I do not choose.

The clouds that I watched that autumn evening will one day, according to the Scriptures, bear the Son of Man as he returns in "power and great glory." In the meantime, let us be mindful, as St. Paul says, of God's present gift of time — an opportunity to "increase and abound in love for one another and for all."

### QUESTIONS:

Has a moment of wonder or worship ever caused time to stand still for you? Do you ever fool yourself, thinking your time belongs only to you?

**December 9, Second Sunday of Advent.**  
**Cycle C. Readings:**

- 1) Baruch 5:1-9  
 Psalm: 126:1-6
- 2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11  
 Gospel) Luke 3:1-6

**By Jeff Hensley**

I returned to faith and developed my relationship with God through Jesus in the '70s when I both came into the Catholic Church and became involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I was in my early twenties.

The Vietnam War was looming, and there was talk of revolution. Some feared government reprisal as a result of their politics. The rest feared that those who threatened to (and did, in some cases) blow up buildings were much larger in numbers than they

*"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."*  
 — Philippians 1:6



were.

It was also a time of great evangelism, both in Protestant Evangelical circles, and, through renewal movements, in the Catholic Church.

This week's Gospel brings the

turmoil of those times to mind. It opens with a list of political figures who sought to repress religion, to force it to be expressed only in ways acceptable to the state.

It was into this context that John the Baptist arose, proclaiming a baptism of repentance, telling everyone, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

That is what the Year of Faith is telling us to do in our own lives today. Pope Benedict XVI and the Church are calling us gently but definitively to renew our faith, to deepen our personal relationships with Jesus and our prayer lives, as well as our understanding of and participation in the sacraments.

Then, from that more solid

base, we are asked to turn to new means of evangelization, including social media but not neglecting face-to-face conversations with those we know need the love of Jesus and the fellowship and structured support of the Church.

The Church asks this of us in the same spirit of encouragement we find in today's passage from Philippians, where Paul says his prayer for that community is "that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."

We've been entrusted with a great gift; we live in difficult times; God's grace will abound.

### QUESTIONS:

Will you take part in the New Evangelization? What can you do to help renew your own relationship with God and his church?

**December 16, Third Sunday of Advent.**

**Cycle C. Readings:**

- 1) Zephaniah 3:14-18a  
Psalm) Isaiah 12:2-6
- 2) Philippians 4:4-7  
Gospel) Luke 3:10-18

**By Jean Denton**

This week's Gospel of Luke continues John the Baptist's Advent message. Those who have heard his admonition to prepare the way of the Lord ask the prophet to specify, "What should we do?"

He offers instruction that basically tells them to clean up their lives by personally aiding those in need and getting rid of habits and practices that are selfish or hurtful to other people. He reiterates the need to sweep out these negative influences when he suggests that Christ will come with a "winnowing fan" to clear away the chaff, meaning the obstacles to his reign.

*"His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn."*

— Luke 3:17



Freshly graduated from college, my friend Michele landed an enviable first job in the marketing section of a large national corporation. Her abilities quickly impressed her bosses, so they put

her on a fast track to move up in the business.

But after only a couple of years, she felt a deep calling to serve God and thought it might be a vocation to religious life.

To the amazement of her young professional friends and doting supervisors, she began preparing herself to be more open to Christ's presence in her life. She had a lot of "chaff" to dispose of: She loved dating and socializing, shopping for clothes, and then there was the whole competitive, profit-pushing attitude of the business world she occupied.

Although it was hard to explain to the people around her, Michele knew she had to clear those things out in order for Christ to enter, unencumbered,

into her life and work his will.

After also giving away all her material possessions, Michele spent more than a year in a convent discerning her vocation. It turned out not to be as a religious sister.

Now, years later, she is a wife and mother of three children in a young family filled with the love of Jesus. Effortlessly, it seems, she shines Christ's light in her community: her children's school, her church, and, yes, in the corporate world where she works.

The rich fulfillment of Michele's call to Christ began with her first following the call to clear his way into her life.

The Advent Gospel calls us to look at what surrounds us and determine to clear away the obstacles to Christ's presence.

**QUESTIONS:**

What possessions, attitudes, habits, or activities get in the way of your relationship and dialogue with Christ? Which ones will you try to clear away this Advent season?

**December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent.**

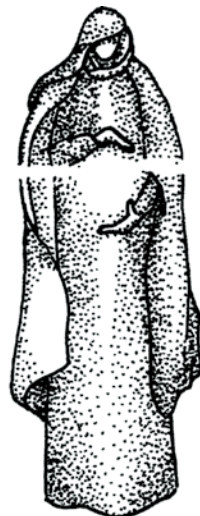
**Cycle C. Readings:**

- 1) Micah 5:1-4a  
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
- 2) Hebrews 10:5-10  
Gospel) Luke 1:39-45

**By Jeff Hedglen**

I was a lonely and depressed kid when I started my junior year of high school. My family had just moved across the country, and I had only made a few friends in my new community. The only thing that kept me going was the youth group at my church.

Sue, a Volunteers for Educational and Social Services volunteer, was the youth minister. I would often pop into her office when I had no place else to be and just needed to feel like I belonged somewhere. She always took time



JFD

to talk with me and help me transition to my new life in Texas.

That December, Sue invited me to a day retreat at the local Catholic high school. During the session, the facilitator asked a seemingly simple question, but it was a question that would change

*"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"*

— Luke 1:43

my life forever.

He asked, "Who are the two most important people in your life?" I thought for a few moments and decided that my mom was one. That was all I could come up with. I certainly could not pick my dad. After all, I was 16 and he was my dad—if he had said the grass was green, I would have argued it was blue just to disagree with him.

After a few moments, the facilitator said, "Was one of those people God?" In a white hot flash, everything in my life came into focus. For the first time ever, I realized God could be a person in my life, not just some cosmic force watching me from a distance. Nothing would ever be the same again.

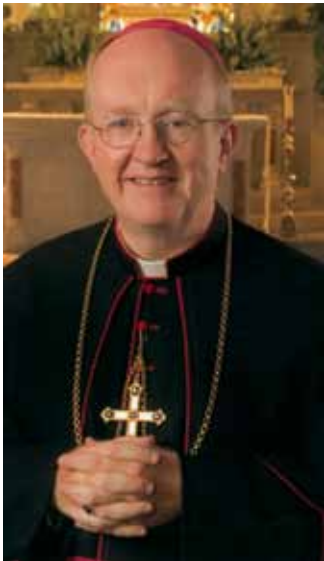
I imagine something similar happened to Elizabeth in this week's Gospel story when Mary, pregnant with the savior of the world, walked into her home. Elizabeth said, "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Though I did not say it at the time, on that retreat I easily could have said, "And how does this happen to me, that the savior of the world is a person in my life?"

In this fourth Sunday of Advent, with the celebration of Jesus' coming just around the corner, let us praise God for his coming in time and for his coming in our lives and letting us longingly await his return!

**QUESTIONS:**

When was a time when you experienced Jesus coming into your life? Who are the people in your life who have helped you grow in faith?



## NUESTRO PASTOR HABLA

### *Me debo levantar y seguir el camino*

Queridos Hermanos y  
Hermanas y Amigos, todos en  
nuestra Diócesis de Fort Worth,

**U**no de mis libros favoritos, que también es una lectura fácil, lleva por título *¡Levantaos! ¡Vamos!*, por el Papa Juan Pablo II. Este trabajo sigue a una obra anterior titulada *Don y misterio*. Ambos narran, en sus propias palabras, la vida del Beato Juan Pablo II. *Don y misterio* trata de sus primeros años hasta su ordenación sacerdotal. *¡Levantaos! ¡Vamos!* es la narración de su vida desde el momento en que fue nombrado obispo auxiliar de Cracovia hasta su elección como *Obispo de Roma*. El último capítulo de *¡Levantaos! ¡Vamos!*, termina con las siguientes palabras:

*...En otra ocasión, a los mismos tres discípulos Jesús les formuló así su invitación: Levantaos, no temáis (Mt 17, 7). El amor de Dios no impone cargas que no podamos soportar, ni nos plantea exigencias a las que no podamos enfrentarnos. A la vez que pide, Él ofrece la ayuda necesaria. Hablo de esto desde un lugar al que el amor de Cristo Salvador me ha llevado, pidiéndome salir de mi tierra para dar fruto en otro sitio con su gracia, un fruto destinado a permanecer (Jn 15, 16). Por eso, haciéndome eco de las palabras de nuestro Maestro y Señor, repito también yo a cada uno de vosotros, queridísimos hermanos en el episcopado: ¡LEVANTAOS! ¡VAMOS! VAMOS CONFÍADOS EN CRISTO. Él será quien nos acompañe en el camino hasta la meta que solo Él conoce.*

Estas palabras fueron muy proféticas para mí, ya que el libro anterior me fue dado por un sacerdote amigo mío cuando me envi-

aron aquí como coadjutor del obispo Delaney en el 2005, y fui su sucesor en su inesperada muerte. En efecto, *¡Levantaos! ¡Vamos!*, fue lo que tuve que hacer para seguir al Señor a donde Él me había llamado para viajar con ustedes como el Pastor aquí en nuestra maravillosa Diócesis. Los últimos siete años han sido años de gran bendición para mí en lo personal y también en conjunto; muchas cosas se han llevado a cabo como respuesta de fe al Señor que nos llama a ser su pueblo. Le doy las gracias por su generosidad, la fe y el amor manifestado de tantas maneras.

El 7 de septiembre, las palabras del Señor mencionadas anteriormente se convirtieron en realidad para mí otra vez cuando el representante del Santo Padre a nuestro país, el Arzobispo Viganò, me llamó para decirme que el Papa Benedicto XVI me había nombrado como el cuarto obispo de Orange, en California. Como le dije al personal del *Centro de Pastoral Marywood* en Orange hace dos semanas, amo mucho al pueblo del Norte de Texas, y de hecho se han convertido en mi familia. Este será ahora para mi un año de gran transición, con la muerte de mi madre, irme de aquí, y mudarme a Orange. Sin embargo, yo confío en el Señor que es el mismo que me trajo hasta aquí entre ustedes, y que ahora me pide que lo siga a la *Diócesis de Orange*.

A pesar de que geográficamente es muy diferente en millas cuadradas a Fort Worth (un condado de 700 millas cuadradas, contra los 28 condados de 24.000 millas cuadradas), la población católica es de aproximadamente 1,300,000 o el 40 por ciento de la población. La *Diócesis de Orange* tiene muchos de los mismos grupos culturales que tenemos aquí, sólo que más. Existe ahí la práctica de una fe vibrante, donde el desafío es la construcción y expansión. Y ahí está la compra reciente de la *Catedral de cristal* (futura *Catedral de Cristo*), que realmente es un “regalo de Dios”, como el obispo Brown ha señalado, y que se está rehabilitando en una catedral católica.

Mucha gente ha estado preguntando qué va a pasar ahora en Fort Worth. Después de mi instalación, Fort Worth se convertirá en una *sede vacante*, o sea que la silla del obispo se quedará vacía. El nuevo administrador diocesano será elegido por un grupo de sacerdotes de alto rango dentro de la diócesis, conocido como el *Colegio de consultores*. El sacerdote que sea elegido entonces mantendrá las actividades diarias de la diócesis, pero sin la autoridad de un obispo. La diócesis entonces esperará a un nuevo obispo para ser asignado por el Papa Benedicto XVI. Por favor, comiencen a orar, al igual que yo, por el nuevo obispo de Fort Worth.

Con todo mi corazón, le doy las gracias por su compromiso de fe y su bondad y apoyo en los momentos de bendición y momentos de desafío. Su buena administración de tiempo, talento y tesoro está ayudando a llevar a la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* hacia un futuro lleno de esperanza, a medida que construimos sobre una herencia de fe y liderazgo que ha existido desde que la diócesis fue fundada en 1969.

Mi instalación como obispo de Orange se llevará a cabo el 9 y el 10 de diciembre, con el rezo de vísperas — la oración de la tarde — siendo el 9 de diciembre a las 7:30 pm en el futuro arboreto de la *Catedral de Cristo* y la Misa de instalación el 10 de diciembre a las 2:00 pm en el *UCI Bren Events Center*. Por favor, oren por mí en estos tiempos de transición, como lo hago por ustedes. Sigo viviendo, con la ayuda de Dios, el lema que me vino cuando fui nombrado obispo: “*Haga todo con fe y amor en Cristo Jesús*”.

Dios los bendiga siempre.

+ Kevin W. Vann

+ KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD  
ADMINISTRADOR APOSTÓLICO  
DE FORT WORTH

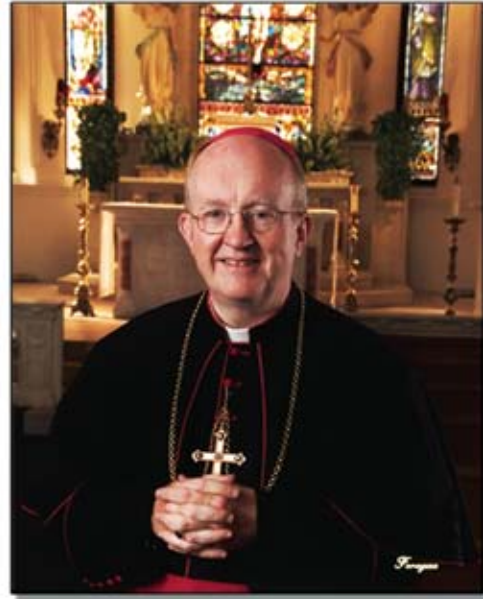


DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH



## ¡Una Invitación!

La Diócesis de Fort Worth  
tendrá una despedida para el  
Monseñor Vann antes de su  
partida como cuarto Obispo de  
la Diócesis Católica de  
Orange, California



Todos están invitados como Diócesis para agradecer al Monseñor Vann  
por sus siete años como nuestro Pastor

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### Vísperas ~ Recepción

domingo, 25 de noviembre - 6 p.m.  
Arena de la escuela Católica de Nolan  
4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth

lunes, 26 de noviembre - 6 p.m.  
Iglesia de Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz  
4040 York St., Wichita Falls

miércoles, 28 de noviembre - 6 p.m.  
Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción  
2255 North Bonnie Brae St., Denton

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**E**s con gran alegría que me uno al Papa Benedicto XVI celebrando la llegada del *Año de la fe*. El año comienza con la celebración del 50° aniversario del Concilio Vaticano II y el 20° aniversario de la publicación del *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, aprobado y difundido por el beato Papa Juan Pablo II. Unámonos en oración para que este año pueda ser una verdadera bendición y un tiempo para profundizar en el amor y la fe de Jesucristo y la Iglesia.

La visión del Papa para este año se esboza claramente en su carta apostólica *Porta Fidei* o *Puerta de la fe*. El título del documento es una imagen que viene de *Hechos 14:27*. Allí leemos: “Y habiendo llegado y reunido todos en la iglesia, informaron lo que Dios había hecho con ellos, y que Él había abierto la puerta de la fe a los gentiles”.

El Papa explica: “La puerta de la fe” (*cf. Hch 14, 27*), que introduce en la vida de comunión con Dios y permite la entrada en su Iglesia, está siempre abierta para nosotros” (*PF1*). La fe es un don y algo que ejercemos en nuestras vidas. Es algo que viene de Dios y nos lo revela como el objeto de nuestra fe.

Este año nos ofrece la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre nuestra fe y profundizar nuestro compromiso con Cristo, como individuos y como miembros de la Iglesia. Hacemos esto para que podamos ser mejores testigos de Cristo en el mundo. Aquellos de nosotros que somos cristianos comprometidos conocemos la paz y la alegría que una vida dedicada a Cristo nos puede dar. La vida no está exenta de problemas y sufrimientos, pero con la fe en Cristo y el apoyo de la Iglesia, todas las cosas son posibles.

El *Año de la fe* nos da la oportunidad de traer esta paz y alegría al mundo, donde se siente cada vez más la necesidad de Jesucristo y de la Iglesia. La Iglesia no es simplemente una estructura organizativa, sino en verdad es el Cuerpo de Cristo—una comunión viva de Cristo como la Cabeza y nosotros como sus miembros. Por lo tanto, cuando traemos a Cristo al mundo como miembros de la Iglesia, no lo hacemos como una



solución sistemática a los problemas del mundo, sino como un encuentro con el Dios vivo, Jesucristo, quien vino a liberarnos de nuestros pecados y a conducirnos hacia Él.

Uno de los significados de la palabra “creencia” es “lo que se valora profundamente”. En este año, vamos a volver a examinar nuestra fe para ver si realmente la mantenemos como algo precioso. Como una planta, nuestra fe debe ser alimentada. Vamos a utilizar este año para difundir lo que hemos recibido.

Si bien habrá muchas actividades en nuestras parroquias, nuestra diócesis y en toda la Iglesia durante este año, tengo tres refuerzos para nuestra celebración en la *Diócesis de Fort Worth* que me gustaría compartir con ustedes:

1. Lean las Sagradas Escrituras,
2. Lean el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*, y
3. Asistan a Misa todos los domingos y días de precepto.

En primer lugar, San Jerónimo es citado a menudo diciendo que la ignorancia de las Escrituras es ignorancia de Cristo. La Sagrada Escritura es la Palabra viva de Cristo. En efecto, el *Concilio Vaticano II* en el documento *Dei Verbum* enseña que “los libros de la Escritura — firmemente, con fidelidad y sin error— nos enseñan la verdad que Dios, por el bien de nuestra salvación, quiso ver confiada a las Sagradas Escrituras” (*DV II*). Comenzando con el Evangelio de Mateo, hagan el compromiso de leer un capítulo por día. Se sorprenderán de cuánto aprenderán en un año, y

cómo van a llegar a conocer a Cristo y a la Iglesia a través de la Biblia.

A continuación, el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* ofrece una hermosa síntesis de la fe. En sus páginas nos encontramos con la Sagrada Escritura, el testimonio de los santos, la sabiduría de los consejos y respuestas reales a los problemas de la vida. Cito al Papa Benedicto XVI en detalle:

[*En el Catecismo*] Precisamente en este horizonte, el *Año de la fe* deberá expresar un compromiso unánime para redescubrir y estudiar los contenidos fundamentales de la fe, sintetizados sistemática y orgánicamente en el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*. En efecto, en él se pone de manifiesto la riqueza de la enseñanza que la Iglesia ha recibido, custodiado y ofrecido en sus dos mil años de historia. Desde la Sagrada Escritura a los Padres de la Iglesia, de los Maestros de teología a los Santos de todos los siglos, el *Catecismo* ofrece una memoria permanente de los diferentes modos en que la Iglesia ha meditado sobre la fe y ha progresado en la doctrina, para dar certeza a los creyentes en su vida de fe.

En su misma estructura, el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* presenta el desarrollo de la fe hasta abordar los grandes temas de la vida cotidiana. A través de sus páginas se descubre que todo lo que se presenta no es una teoría, sino el encuentro con una Persona que vive en la Iglesia. A la profesión de fe, de hecho, sigue la explicación de la vida sacramental, en la que Cristo está presente y actúa, y continúa la construcción de su Iglesia. Sin la liturgia y los sacramentos, la profesión de fe no tendría eficacia, pues carecería de

la gracia que sostiene el testimonio de los cristianos. Del mismo modo, la enseñanza del *Catecismo* sobre la vida moral adquiere su pleno sentido cuando se pone en relación con la fe, la liturgia y la oración (*PF11*).

Por último, pido que tomen en serio su obligación de asistir a misa todos los domingos y días de obligación. No vivimos nuestra vida de fe de manera aislada. La celebración de la Misa es la fuente y cumbre de nuestra vida cristiana. Es la fuente de donde sacamos nuestra fuerza y el punto final al cual ofrecemos nuestras vidas. No olvidemos nunca que en la Misa nos unimos a los católicos de todas las edades en ofrecernos a Cristo.

Oro para que Dios los bendiga abundantemente en este *Año de la fe*. Voy a comenzar el año en Fort Worth, pero terminaré en Orange, California. Dondequiera que estemos, somos parte de la única fe, unidos en un solo bautismo, realizado en un solo cuerpo en Cristo. Tengan la seguridad de mis oraciones, y que podamos llevar a Cristo al mundo con una gran fe, esperanza y amor.

El *Año de la fe* es una oportunidad para que todos los católicos —tú y yo— experimentemos una conversión, convirtiéndonos nuevamente a Jesús para entrar en una relación más profunda con Él.

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

*+ Kevin W. Vann*

+ KEVIN W. VANN, JCD, DD  
ADMINISTRADOR APOSTÓLICO  
DE FORT WORTH

#### Buscar en:

*puerta de la fe, porta fidei*  
para leer La carta del Papa Benedicto XVI sobre el *Año de la fe* en línea

*el libro del pueblo de dios-la santa sede*  
para leer el *Libro del pueblo de dios* en línea

*el catecismo, la santa sede*  
Para leer el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* en línea



## Cardenal mexicano exhorta a sacerdotes a que promuevan vocaciones entre los hispanos de EE.UU.

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (CNS) — El cardenal mexicano Juan Sandoval Íñiguez dijo que ve “muchas posibilidades aquí en los Estados Unidos para encontrar vocaciones entre el grupo de personas que hablan español”, y exhortó a los sacerdotes y a otros dirigentes de la iglesia a que trabajen para encontrar vocaciones entre los hispanos (o latinos) católicos.

“Acérquense a los niños, hablesen a los niños” a fin de cultivar nuevas vocaciones, dijo en una entrevista con el periódico de la arquidiócesis de Louisville, *The Record*.

El cardenal también llevó un mensaje para los hispanos o latinos católicos de los Estados Unidos. “No pierdan su fe en Cristo. Manténganse dentro de la Iglesia”, dijo.

El cardenal Sandoval, que también es arzobispo jubilado de Guadalajara, México, fue uno de los oradores principales en la conferencia anual de la *Asociación nacional de sacerdotes hispanos* llevada a cabo en Louisville, del 8 al 11 de octubre.

Entre los oradores se destacó el obispo Ricardo Ramírez de Las Cruces, Nueva México, quien habló de los esfuerzos de la Iglesia

por una nueva evangelización. También el padre John Guthrie, director asociado del *Secretariado de clérigos, vida consagrada y vocaciones* de la *Conferencia de obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos* o USCCB por sus siglas en inglés, habló acerca de las vocaciones entre los hispanos o latinos católicos.

El padre Francisco Quezada, sacerdote de la diócesis de Colorado Springs, Colorado, quien es presidente de la *Asociación nacional de sacerdotes hispanos*, dijo que el grupo “promueve y anima la fraternidad sacerdotal del sacerdocio hispano o latino en la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos”.

“Hoy más que nunca necesitamos estar en solidaridad unos con otros pues la misión es más difícil”, dijo, haciendo notar que la sociedad actual se inclina más y más hacia un “secularismo, individualismo y relativismo”.

El cardenal Sandoval ofreció estímulo e instrucción durante su homilía en una de las reuniones con celebración de la Misa.

El cardenal les hizo un llamado a los sacerdotes para que “exhorten, inspiren y proclamen el mensaje de Jesucristo, a fin de llevar las buenas nuevas a los pobres”. También les dijo a los



Unos sacerdotes hispanos que visitaban Louisville, Kentucky, para una conferencia organizada por la “Asociación nacional de sacerdotes hispanos”, posan para esta fotografía tomada antes de celebrar la Misa, el 8 de octubre. En la fila de adelante, el padre Eliseo Avendaño de la *Diócesis de Santa Rosa*, California, y el padre Roberto Barreto de la *Diócesis de Las Cruces*, Nueva México; en la fila de atrás, el padre Juan Pablo Robles, Carlos Loaíza y Leonardo Medina de la *Diócesis de Tulsa*, Oklahoma. (Foto CNS/Marnie McAllister, *THE RECORD*)

sacerdotes que “no solamente prediquen cuando sea conveniente, sino también cuando sea inconveniente, fuera de ocasión”.

El cardenal también usó un poco de humor, que causó algunas tandas de carcajados.

El cardenal Sandoval también causó risas cuando les advirtió a los sacerdotes que

“no solamente permanecieran en nuestras sentaderas o traseros”, haciéndose cargo de cosas administrativas como contar dinero de la colecta.

En lugar de eso, dijo el cardenal, los sacerdotes “deben predicar incansablemente por medio de la palabra y por medio de sus obras”.

## Los 3 tópicos más populares para la conversión al catolicismo: la Penitencia, el Papa, la Virgen María

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Los adultos conversos al catolicismo regularmente citan tres cosas sobre el catolicismo que encuentran atractivas: el sacramento de la Confesión, el Papa y la devoción a María, dijo el cardenal Timothy M. Dolan de Nueva York.

“Esas tres cosas, adivinen qué, fueron un tanto desenfáticas” después del *Segundo concilio vaticano*, dijo el cardenal el 15 de octubre durante una breve reunión con report-

Lo interesante, dijo el cardenal Dolan, es que el sacramento de Reconciliación es en realidad algo atractivo para muchas personas, especialmente para los jóvenes.

eros angloparlantes durante el *Sínodo de obispos sobre la nueva evangelización*.

En su charla formal ante

el sínodo, el cardenal Dolan había dicho que la renovada apreciación del sacramento de Reconciliación es esencial para la nueva evangelización de la iglesia.

Le dijo a los periodistas que “parece ser una verdad común tras el *Segundo concilio vaticano* que el concilio eliminó el sacramento de la penitencia, lo cual, por supuesto, no es cierto”.

En vez de renovar el sacramento como el concilio quería, dijo, “simplemente nos rendimos

y dijimos: ‘Bueno, eso no va’, así que dejamos de intentarlo”.

Lo interesante, dijo el cardenal Dolan, es que el sacramento de Reconciliación es en realidad algo atractivo para muchas personas, especialmente para los jóvenes.

“A menudo ellos dicen que la iglesia les parece impersonal, un poco sin rostro y sin nombre”, dijo. “Bueno, muchacho, uno no puede encontrar un sacramento más personal que la penitencia. Quiero decir, esto es personal”.

# El Papa ofrece razones para esperanza de ‘nueva primavera para cristianismo’

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI dijo que el perdurable deseo de Dios, la verdad del Evangelio y de la “inquietud” de los jóvenes de hoy día son razones para tener esperanza de una “nueva primavera para el cristianismo” en Europa y más allá.

El Papa le hizo estos comentarios a un entrevistador en un nuevo documental, *Bells of Europe*, que se presentó en el Vaticano el 15 de octubre después de la sesión de ese día del *Sínodo de obispos*.

El sínodo es dedicado a la nueva evangelización, proyecto orientado a revivir la fe cristiana en las sociedades secularizadas, especialmente en Europa y en otras tierras occidentales.

El Papa Benedicto XVI le dijo a su entrevistador que tiene tres razones principales para la esperanza de un renacimiento cristiano, comenzando por el “hecho que el deseo de Dios, la búsqueda de Dios, está profundamente grabado en cada alma humana y no puede desaparecer”.

Dijo que también recibe confort

de la verdad eterna del Evangelio.

“Las ideologías tienen sus días contados”, dijo el Papa. “Estas parecen ser poderosas e irresistibles, pero después de cierto período se desgastan y pierden su energía porque carecen de una verdad profunda”.

“El Evangelio, por otro lado, es verdadero y por lo tanto nunca se puede desgastar”, dijo.

Finalmente, el Papa Benedicto citó la insatisfacción de los jóvenes de hoy día con las “propuestas de las

varias ideologías y del consumismo”.

Contestando una pregunta sobre las posibilidades del cristianismo en Europa, el Papa Benedicto dijo que el continente está pasando por una crisis de identidad, dividido entre “dos almas”.

Una de estas almas es “el razonamiento abstracto antihistórico” que busca “liberarse de todas las tradiciones y todos los valores culturales en favor de un razonamiento abstracto”, dijo citando como ejemplo un de-

creto (subsiguientemente anulado) por el *Tribunal europeo de derechos humanos* de que los crucifijos debían ser retirados de las aulas en las escuelas públicas italianas.

“Podríamos llamar el otro alma de Europa la cristiana”, dijo el Papa Benedicto, describiéndola como un “alma que, por sí misma creó la audacia del razonamiento y la libertad del razonamiento crítico, pero que se mantiene anclada en las raíces de las cuales nació esta Europa”.

## Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

- Llamar a Judy Locke, Coordinadora de asistencia para víctimas, al número (817) 560-2452, Ext. 201, o, mandarle correo electrónico a [jllocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jllocke@fwdioc.org)
- Llamar al número de emergencia para el abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900
- o llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canciller/moderador de la curia, el monseñor Stephen Berg.

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

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SABADO 17<sup>th</sup> Nov.



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Misa celebrada por el Obispo de la Diócesis de Fort Worth, Kevin Vann.

CALENDARIO PARA EL DÍA

<b>8a.m.</b>	Registro
<b>9a.m.</b>	Misa
<b>10:15a.m.</b>	Discurso # 1
<b>11:45a.m.</b>	Recreo / Almuerzo
<b>1:00p.m.</b>	Discurso # 2
<b>2:30p.m.</b>	Recreo
<b>3:00p.m.</b>	Discurso # 3
<b>4:30p.m.</b>	Oración final

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## Following Catholic tradition to help the poor and sick

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mother, a physician assistant with a doctorate in psychology, and seven brothers and sisters who all have strong faith and a desire to serve others, including two doctors and two nuns.

Heyne will continue to put his God-given talents to good use, as he pursues his goal to become a medical missionary abroad — either starting his own hospital or assisting as a physician at a clinic.

Heyne's desire to follow that course comes from extensive experience gained in serving those in need in different parts of the world. He has volunteered with pediatric cardiologists to help indigent children in Honduras, assisted in earthquake relief efforts at a Catholic hospital in Haiti, and worked in remote mountain settlements of Peru to provide religious education for villagers and health care for the poor.

Heyne has also served at the Lazarus Home for Girls, an orphanage in Al-Eizariya, on the Palestinian West Bank. He has made five trips to Ciudad de los Niños, in Monterrey, Mexico, where he worked at a school and clinic for the poor. Heyne has worked with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in a soup kitchen in Italy and at homes for the destitute and dying in Calcutta, India. In addition, he has made mission trips to Uganda, Ethiopia, and China.

When not volunteering his time abroad, Heyne has worked hard at home assisting at health fairs and medical clinics, helping the homeless, and volunteering as an assistant chaplain at Parkland Memorial Hospital, to name a few local service activities.

"A force of nature," is what Dr. Angela Peterman Mihalic called Heyne. As Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Dean for Student Affairs at UT-Southwestern, Mihalic has had the opportunity to witness Heyne's success.

"Well before starting medical school, he had already established a new student organization on campus, the Catholic Society of St. Basil the Great, and it did not stop there," Mihalic said. "He has been instrumental in the creation and invigoration of many student initiatives as well as the establishment of a formal Global Health office on campus. His leadership, tenacity, commitment, and determination to leave no stone unturned in pursuit of his passions and goals are unparalleled.

"The most remarkable part is that his passions and goals are always centered on serving

the poor and addressing healthcare disparities," Mihalic added. "His mission has always centered on emulating Christ's example of love, charity, and service, and inspiring others to follow suit. Tommy has always chosen the road less traveled, and I believe he will make all the difference to patients across the globe."

Heyne works hard to keep the accolades and awards in perspective. His goal is not to accumulate wealth or gain recognition, but simply to move along the path that God set for him.

There are times when Heyne feels assured he is headed in the right direction, such as when he was in Calcutta earlier this year, performing basic tasks at a Missionaries of Charity home for the destitute and dying. Heyne washed clothes, mopped floors, and spoon-fed the hungry. He recalled a special moment when he was feeding an elderly man, too feeble and sick to speak.

"I was feeding him spoon after spoon of rice and vegetables. He was eating it very slowly. Just chewing it. Then he grabbed both my hands and looked up at me. And he had such a look of peace and love on his face.

"I am no mystic, but that was God," said Heyne. "There was no doubt to me that Jesus was in this man, and in the blind and the sick there. That sort of thing is just a beautiful moment. And they don't come that often — those moments of touching Christ, or, rather, Christ touching you."

There are other moments when Heyne feels inspired to carry out his mission, such as when he visited a terminally ill patient at a local hospital. Heyne asked the man if he would like to join him in prayer. The man only shrugged, indifferent to the question. Heyne proceeded to pray, asking God to look with compassion and loving care on this man and that He give him his peace, show him mercy, and shower him with love. At the end of the prayer, the man — who died later that night — responded, "Amen."

"God is the one who does the healing," Heyne reasoned. "We can give the medicines, but ultimately the body is what heals. Similarly with the spirit, God is the one who gives forgiveness and gives healing of spirit, but we can provide suggestions, encouragement, and prayers along the way."

As Heyne works at his challenging medical residency, filled with long days and nights in Boston, he will continue to ask God to make him an instrument of his plan. And he will do it with a smile on his face and humility in his



**ABOVE:** Heyne assists a child on the *Cavour*, an Italian aircraft carrier off the coast of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, following the devastating earthquake in 2010. The ship provided an operating room and a computed tomography (CT) scanner for earthquake victims. Heyne helped transport patients and served as an interpreter between Italian and U.S. physicians. •

**BELOW:** In Calcutta, India, Heyne worked at homes for the sick and dying run by the Missionaries of Charity. He is shown here with Mother Teresa's successor, Sister Mary Prema." (Photos Courtesy Tommy Heyne)



heart, because Heyne still hears the words of his parish priest in Grapevine, who said, "Just smile. Smile for God."

The young doctor will be guided by the actions of Mother Teresa and St. Francis, who carried out their work to serve the sick and dying with smiles on their faces, and he will follow his goal to help the poor around the world with his special talents and compassion for their plight.

"Any act of mercy toward a person's body is to the entire person, therefore to Christ living in that person," said Heyne, adding that he feels blessed to face the challenges involved in being a physician.

"It's a beautiful gift, an enormous responsibility, and a huge honor."

# GOOD NEWSMAKER

## Following Catholic tradition to help the poor and sick

*Southlake native on a mission to serve God's people around the world*

By Jerry Circelli / Correspondent

ON A RECENT MORNING, JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE EMBARKING ON YET ANOTHER CHALLENGING JOURNEY TO SERVE GOD, Tommy Heyne traveled to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Grapevine to pray. Heyne grew up in nearby Southlake and some of his earliest memories of his Catholic formation are rooted at St. Francis. On this day, the graduate of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas prays that God will continue to guide him along a path to become a medical missionary to serve the poor. And equally important, he prays that he can carry out his calling with humility and a smile.

It was in this church that the beloved pastor of St. Francis, Father Baltasar Szarka — known affectionately as “Father B” — gave young Heyne some simple, yet valuable advice.

“I was really young, but I remember,” said Heyne. “It was just after confession and I was leaving the confessional. Father B called me back and just said, ‘And one more thing: Just smile. Smile for God.’”

Fr. Baltasar passed into the arms of God in 2000, but his words continue to resonate with Heyne, especially as he studies the life of one of his most admired servants of God — Blessed Mother Teresa.

She gave this advice about helping those in need:

“Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in



Photo courtesy of Tommy Heyne

During a mission trip to South America, Heyne offered health care and religious education to villagers living in the remote mountains outside Cusco, Peru.

your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well.”

Heyne would take that advice to heart, combining it with the cheerful example set by Saint Francis of Assisi, who said, “It is not fitting, when one is in God's service, to have a gloomy face or a chilling look.”

“I just pray that I can be that way,” said Heyne. “But I catch myself sometimes looking too serious. I want to be a cheerful physician.”

Heyne's next greatest challenge in doing just that will unfold during the coming four years as the North Texan embarks on a

residency in pediatrics and internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

The young doctor's acceptance at the hospital, ranked as one of the top five in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, is well deserved.

A 2006 graduate of the University of Dallas in Irving, Heyne finished tops in his class with a 4.0 GPA, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Bachelor of Arts degree in History, with a concentration on Medieval/Renaissance Studies. He then earned a Master of Studies in Theology: Early Church History at the University of Oxford, in England, where he also achieved top marks

in his class. Heyne then completed a prestigious Fulbright Fellowship in religious history in Granada, Spain. In 2008, he started medical training at UT Southwestern Medical School. And this past May, *Doctor* Thomas F. Heyne graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

From all these schools, Heyne excelled not only in academics, but in leadership roles, earning special honors. The long list includes the University of Dallas Cardinal Spellman Award, recognizing a senior who is a model of the highest ideals of the University, and the Ho Din Award, the highest honor given to a medical student at UT Southwestern.

Heyne would rather not dwell on the awards or the accomplishments and tries to put distance between any talk that would come even close to being prideful.

“It comes from God,” said Heyne. “It's no special thing of mine. All these things obviously are gifts freely given, and as gifts, they don't belong to us.”

God bestowed gifts on the entire Heyne family of 10, including his father, a medical doctor, his

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