

# North Texas Catholic

Bringing the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth

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**RENOVATED BASILICA** — Seminarian Carlo Stebbings leads the opening procession of the dedication Mass for the renovated Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore Nov. 5. The basilica reopened Nov. 4 after a two-year, \$32 million complete restoration. Known as America's first cathedral, the church was constructed after the adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, which guaranteed Americans the right to worship freely. (CNS photo/Owen Sweeney, CATHOLIC REVIEW)

## Restored Baltimore basilica a gift to church, nation, says Cardinal Keeler

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The \$32 million restoration of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a gift not only to the Baltimore Catholic Church and community but to the entire nation, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said Oct. 30.

The cardinal, seated in a wheelchair as he recovered from a broken ankle, spoke about the importance of the basilica as the first Catholic cathedral in the United States and as a symbol of religious freedom in the fledgling nation at a media preview less than a week before the basilica reopened Nov. 4.

He said the reopening would fulfill "a long-held dream of shar-

ing [the basilica] with the nation" as both a beautiful place to worship and as a reminder of a time, until the American Revolution, when Catholics were "persecuted as a devout minority."

When the cornerstone was laid for the new church in 1806, it represented "the rights of Catholics and other faiths to worship openly," Cardinal Keeler said. At that time, Bishop (later Archbishop) John Carroll of Baltimore was the only Catholic bishop for the entire country.

Designed by Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the U.S. Capitol, the basilica was renovated to restore many original architectural details and to incorporate modern electrical, heating and cooling. SEE RENOVATED BASILICA..., P. 13

## Supreme Court justices hear oral arguments on partial-birth abortion

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In two hours of oral arguments Nov. 8 over a federal law banning a procedure known as partial-birth abortion, Supreme Court justices and attorneys considered the intent of Congress in passing the bill, the differences between types of abortion, and who gets to decide when those differences matter.

The court heard appeals of two lower court rulings that both found the 2003 Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act to be unconstitutional because it does not include provisions allowing its use in some cases to protect a woman's health.

From the direction of the questioning, Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Paul Stevens, and David Souter seemed to be looking for commonality between the federal law and a similar Nebraska statute that they voted to overturn in 2000.

The fifth vote in that 5-4 major-



People lie on the ground in the rain near a sign during a demonstration in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Nov. 8. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases challenging the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

ity ruling was cast by now-retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Her replacement on the court, Justice Samuel Alito, asked no questions during the two hours

devoted to oral arguments.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was among the minority in opposing the 2000 ruling, and Chief Justice John Roberts joined Breyer, Ginsburg, and Stevens, in particular, in questioning aspects of Congressional findings cited in the law. Roberts, like Alito, joined the court last year. Both have been presumed by some analysts to be likely to uphold the federal law.

But both Kennedy and Roberts asked a series of questions that sought to define the differences between the banned procedure, known to physicians as "intact dilation and extraction" and a different one, not targeted by the ban, which is considered to be the alternative and fallback procedure used for second-trimester and later abortions.

In an "intact D&E" or what the law calls partial-birth abortion, a live fetus is partially delivered and an incision is made at the base of the skull, through which

SEE JUSTICES..., P. 21

## Shelter visits give view into world of minors who cross border alone

By Erik Noriega

Editor, Texas Catholic Herald

Diocese of Galveston-Houston

HOUSTON (CNS) — The artwork by residents of St. Michael's Home for Children tells their stories.

Pieces with titles such as "My unrealized dream of being reunited with my father" and "A dream unfulfilled" told the same basic story: young teenagers tearfully leaving their families behind, crossing hundreds of miles through parts of Central America and Mexico, withstanding physical punishment, and ultimately being caught by the U.S. Border Patrol.

St. Michael's and another shelter operated by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston were among the stops for a delegation of bishops and other church personnel on an Oct. 23-27 tour of border-area programs dealing with victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied minors.

From starting points in Houston, El Paso, and Tucson, Arizona,

the group traveled to parts of two Mexican states as well.

They met with Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Justice Department personnel; visited shelters

for migrant children in Juarez, Mexico; toured a church-run center in Altar, Mexico, that aids would-be border crossers; and met with people involved in a SEE DELEGATION VISITS..., P. 8



**BORDER CROSSING** — This is one of hundreds of photographs on exhibit at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art in Scottsdale, Arizona. Part of the Border Film Project, the photographs document everything from Sonoran desert landscapes to lonely water jugs set up by humanitarian groups for migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexican border and the American flag-adorned jeeps of Minutemen, who are monitoring the border. A delegation of bishops and other church personnel recently took a tour of border-area shelters in Texas, Arizona, and parts of Mexico which offer refuge to minors crossing the border alone. (CNS photo/courtesy of Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art)

## Pope accepts resignation of Galveston-Houston Auxiliary Bishop Rizzotto

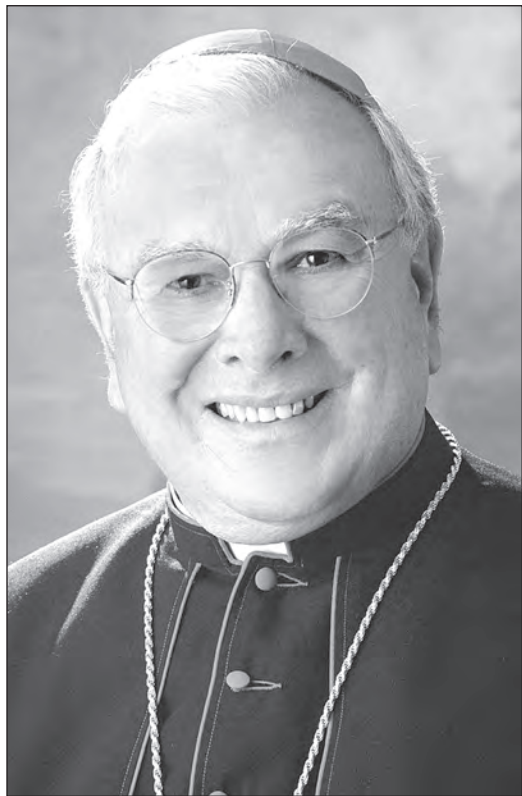
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto of Galveston-Houston Nov. 6.

On Sept. 9 Bishop Rizzotto turned 75, the age at which bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope.

A priest of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston since 1956, he was ordained a bishop in 2001 at age 69.

At the time of his episcopal appointment, Bishop Rizzotto said, "I could make long speeches and tell you of visions and things like that, but that's really not my role. My whole mission is that I can be of assistance in helping you find a deeper walk with God."

During his ordination Mass, he asked aloud about his ability



Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto of Galveston-Houston Nov. 6. On Sept. 9 Bishop Rizzotto turned 75, the age at which bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope. A priest of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston since 1956, he was ordained a bishop in 2001 at age 69. Bishop Rizzotto is pictured in an undated file photo. (CNS photo/courtesy Texas Catholic Herald)

to fill the role of bishop. "I took a look at myself in the mirror and said, 'Can I do that? Can I be the one that you — the people of the church, the people of God — will depend on for your life in Christ? And will you derive your life in Christ from me?'" Bishop Rizzotto asked. "I take that pledge very seriously and will try to fulfill it to the best of my ability."

Prior to his episcopal appointment, Bishop Rizzotto was coordinator of the diocesan liturgical commission, president of the diocesan Senate of Priests, chairman of the interracial committee for the Catholic council on community relations, chairman of the priests' personnel committee, and a member of the advisory board for the new cathedral of the archdiocese.

He has served as a vicar general of the diocese, a post he held when he was named an auxiliary bishop.

Bishop Rizzotto was born in 1931, the youngest of nine children of Sicilian-born parents who moved to Houston in 1915.

He entered St. Mary Seminary in 1949 and was ordained a priest May 26, 1956, in St. Mary Cathedral in Galveston. He earned a licentiate in canon law in 1962 from The Catholic University of America in Washington.

The bishop served in the diocesan marriage tribunal from 1960 to 1970 and as judicial vicar of the tribunal from 1965 to 1970. He was pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Houston from 1970 to 1982, then pastor of St. Cecilia Parish from 1982 to 2002.

## Texas woman first in U.S. to take final vows for order in 10 years

By Carol Baass Sowa  
*Today's Catholic*  
Archdiocese of San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — When Sister Mary Henry became the first woman in 10 years in the United States to take final vows as a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, it was not only the start of a new life — it was also a homecoming.

The 53-year-old Sr. Mary had grown up around the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and has "been very, very comfortable for most of my life around the sisters," she said.

She took her final vows in August. The fact she's the first in the United States to join the congregation in years could be seen as cause for alarm. But the sisters themselves see many positive signs.

"I think that there's a rebirth of interest in religious life," said Sister Bette Anne Bluhm, provincial coordinator for the congregation. She noted the decrease in numbers of new sisters can be traced to the many ways women today can serve the world without becoming a sister, options not available to earlier generations.

"Maybe it's the work of the Spirit that has allowed this to happen," she told *Today's Catholic*, newspaper of the San Antonio Archdiocese. "If there were still lots and lots of us (sisters) around, there wouldn't be as many laypeople doing what they are doing in our church today."

Sr. Mary's association with



Sister Mary Henry, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, is the first woman in 10 years to take final vows as a member of the order. She is pictured in an undated file photo. (CNS photo/courtesy of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word)

the congregation started when she was 6 years old. She walked up the street from school at St. Peter Prince of the Apostles to Incarnate Word College, now the University of the Incarnate Word, to take piano lessons from the late Sister Maria Goretti Zehr.

The piano lessons with Sr. Maria Goretti continued through Sr. Mary's high school years, giving her an early glimpse into the community which she would later become a part of herself. She entered the college as a music major, just as Sr. Maria Goretti left to pursue earning a doctorate in music at Indiana University.

Sr. Mary went on to earn her master's degree in music at

Southern Methodist University in Dallas. What followed was a long and successful career as manager of the university's choral department. Sr. Maria Goretti also played the organ for a number of years at St. Pius X, where Sr. Mary directed the choir.

"Not only were we friends, but we were also professional colleagues," Sr. Mary told *Today's Catholic*.

The thought of a religious vocation had briefly crossed Sr. Mary's mind at the time of her high school graduation, but she had wanted to attend college first. She did not seriously consider it again until after her mother's death in 1997.

She had been her mother's caregiver at the end of her life and was quite close to her. In the grieving process that followed her mother's death, she found herself faced with the question of what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. She thought again of the sisters around whom she had grown up and the possibility of a religious vocation.

"When you grow up Catholic, as a girl in a Catholic environment, you know that's always one of your options," she said. However, it was really the feeling of community she experienced through her friendship with Sr. Maria Goretti and her invitation to work with her in the sisters' choir, she noted, that led to her final decision.

Her novitiate ceremony was Aug. 15, 2001, which was


the last time Sr. Maria Goretti had the occasion to play before members of her congregation. She died unexpectedly of a heart attack a week later.

Sr. Mary received the nun's ring during her profession liturgy this summer at the Chapel of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

Sr. Bette Anne said she feels there are people who have the gift of a religious vocation and

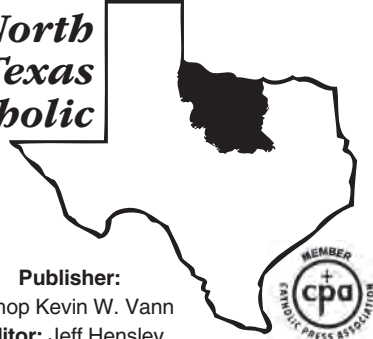
that, as the world cries out for a more contemplative and centered life, there will be an increased interest by people drawn to this type of service.


"It's a wonderful life," she said, "to be able to share your gifts with others who have the same vision of life and want to share in the mission of the congregation, which is to share the love of God in our world that so much needs his love."



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# Ministerium speaker John Allen Jr. offers fresh perspective on the inner workings of the Vatican

By John English  
Correspondent

Communication was key at a recent gathering of priests, deacons, and lay ministers of the Diocese of Fort Worth held at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine.

Renowned Catholic reporter and author John L. Allen Jr. was the keynote speaker at the annual Ministerium meeting Nov. 3, and, among other things, the *National Catholic Reporter's* Vatican correspondent and CNN Vatican analyst shed some light on the duty of Catholics to help correct misconceptions about the church.

"Vatican officials are not communications experts and have no desire to become so," Allen said. "It is all of our responsibility to become spokespeople for the church."

Allen said the Vatican does a "feeble job of telling its own story," which he said has led to myths, stereotypes, and prejudices about the church.

Father Daniel Kelley of St. George Church in Northeast Fort Worth said he found the event to be informative, which, he explained, was really the reason the Ministerium was started.

"It was a very good way of describing how the Vatican works," Fr. Kelley said. "The Ministerium is set out mainly for professional ministers who work in parishes throughout the diocese. That's why it was put together to begin with — to educate and to keep



**Above:** Catholic journalist John Allen Jr. dispels the "myths of the Catholic Church" at a Nov. 3 Ministerium gathering at St. Francis of Assisi, Grapevine. (Photo by Bill Miskiewicz)

people current on different events affecting the church."

Allen spoke at two different morning sessions with a break in between, and later that afternoon, led table discussions and a question and answer session. The topic that seemed to create the most interest was something he labeled "the top five myths about the Catholic Church." They included the idea that there is such a thing as "the Vatican," the concept of absolute, centralized control within the church, the belief in a vast Vatican wealth, the misconception of Vatican secrecy, and the stereotype that church officials are either careerists or lazy.

"When you think about the Vatican, you think about power," St. George Parish secretary Maggie Rodriguez said. "I liked when he said that not everyone is trying to get higher up in the church ... to become bishops or archbishops."

Rosemary Manganilla of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Carrollton said she was somewhat surprised as well.

"It was a new perspective on what I thought about the church," Manganilla said. "I did not

realize how small of a budget we have, for being such a large church."

Allen said the Vatican has an annual operating budget of about \$270 million dollars, which is less than that of the University of Notre Dame and similar to a moderate-sized American diocese's combined parish, school, and central office budgets.

Father Sojan George, pastor of the Wise County parishes Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Decatur, St. John the Baptizer in Bridgeport, and St. Mary in Jacksboro, said he thinks the Ministerium is a good way for members of the diocesan leadership to get re-acquainted with one another and gain a better understanding of issues affecting the church.

"This brings us together," Fr. George said, "with the staff members and the pastoral staff. This is a good opportunity to come together and visit with each other. [Allen] has some good insights, and I always enjoy coming."

Allen did not shy away from controversial topics, as he also addressed the issue of sexual abuse within the church, saying that, as important as it is, it does not paint the whole picture of the church's interaction with young people.

"In 2002, in terms of the church's involvement with children, the following things were going on," Allen said. "2.3 million children were educated in Catholic schools in the United States, a substantial percentage of them low-income, minority children living in inner-city areas that have essentially been abandoned by the public school system and by every other form of private education. [Massive numbers of] children were given charitable care by Catholic Charities in the United States ... so if you want



**Left:** Bishop Kevin Vann joins John Allen in responding to questions at an afternoon session of the Ministerium. (Photo by Jeff Hensley)



**Right:** Ministerium participants listen as author John Allen paints a clearer picture of the Vatican. (Photo by Bill Miskiewicz)

a comprehensive picture of what the Catholic Church was doing for and to children in 2002, 'The Crisis,' as important as it is, was not the entire story."

Allen said he believes the reason for this is that most members of the media are simply not trained to think about and address those kinds of issues.

Allen defended the media as well, however, explaining that members of the press are often under strict deadlines, are under a tremendous amount of pressure to produce a lot of copy in a short period of time, and work in a "What have you done for me lately?" environment.

"I liked him," Michael Trinh of Christ the King Church in Fort Worth said of John Allen. "He has a lot of personality, and he's a good speaker."

Father George Foley of St. Jude Parish in Mansfield said he appreciated the opportunity to hear Allen's perspective on the relationship between the media and the church because of how close Allen is to the situation.

"I think it is very interesting to hear an insider's view of what goes on in the Vatican," Fr. Foley said. "We sit in the parishes, and we have these myths about the Vatican that people consider to be facts. Even me. For instance, I would have thought that most of the people within the Vatican were careerists, but he says they're not — that half of the guys are wondering how they got there."

Allen lives in Italy with his wife and has traveled extensively with Pope John Paul II and Pope

Benedict XVI.

He has written several books on the church, including *All the Pope's Men: The Inside Story of How the Vatican Really Thinks*; *The Rise of Benedict XVI: The Inside Story of How the Pope Was Elected and Where He Will Take the Catholic Church*; and *Opus Dei: An Objective Look Behind the Myths and Reality of the Most Controversial Force in the Catholic Church*.

Allen wove humorous anecdotes and jokes into his commentary and, near the end of his second session, made a comment about the church that had most people nodding in agreement.

"A comprehensive look at the Catholic community in America is difficult," Allen said. "Because of prejudices and misconceptions about the church, it is very difficult."

Begun in 1987, "the Ministerium was initially established in conjunction with the Presbyteral Assembly — the annual meeting of all priests in the diocese — as a tool for dialogue with the bishop. Over the years, the Ministerium has evolved from its initial 'Parish Ministers Convocation' into an annual gathering with enthusiastic representation from all parts of the diocese," according to the Diocese of Fort Worth Web site ([www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org)).

Alice Park, church secretary at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Fort Worth, said she took much of what Allen said to heart.

"I really feel that we are all part of the church," Park said. "We need to minister to everyone, because people see us as ministers, so we need to carry the word."



**Above:** Father Leo Schloemer of St. Joseph Church, Rhineland, poses a question for Ministerium speaker John Allen. (Photo by Jeff Hensley)



**Above:** John Allen (left) joins in a table discussion at an afternoon session of the Ministerium Nov. 3 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Grapevine. (Photo by Mary Martin)

## Ministry Formation Day in Fort Worth to be held Jan. 6



“Who Do You Say That I Am?” is the theme of the diocesan Ministry Formation Day, to be held Jan. 6 at Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. The event, which will be offered in English and Spanish, is an opportunity for enrichment, fellowship, and development of practical skills for ministry. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m.

The keynote address — first in English, at 9:30 a.m., and then in Spanish, at 10:45 a.m. — will be presented by Bishop Kevin Vann. During the English keynote address, a breakout session with Spanish-language workshops will be held, and while the Spanish keynote is offered, English-language workshops will take place. There also will be another round of workshops in the afternoon, prior to the conclusion of the event at 3 p.m. Three sessions in the Vietnamese language are planned.

Workshops will be offered on a variety of topics, including “Volunteers: Y’all Are Called To Serve,” “Catholic Response to Moral Quandaries,” “How to Get Pro-Life Committees Started in Your Parish,” “Marriage — Living the Sacrament,” and “Hands-On Lenten Ideas for the Classroom.”

All involved in parish or school ministry, whether volunteer or paid staff, are welcome to attend. The cost, which includes lunch, is \$20 per person prior to the early registration deadline of Jan. 2. After that date, the cost is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available.

For more information, call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300 or visit the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

## St. Michael elder care series continues Nov. 20

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

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

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

## ‘Yes! I’m Catholic’ series continues at St. Andrew’s Nov. 20

The second session of the “Yes! I’m Catholic” adult faith formation series will be offered Nov. 20 at St. Andrew Parish, 3717 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Father Nathan Stone, SJ, from Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, will present the Monday evening program from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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

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

# People & Events

## of Importance for the Church of Fort Worth



**KNIGHTS FREE THROW CHAMPION** — Amy Freet, a student at Briarhill Middle School in the Lewisville ISD, was recognized at a Nov. 2 awards ceremony as the 2006 Knights of Columbus International Basketball Free Throw Champion in the girls’ 13-year-old division. Bill Miller, grand Knight of KC Council 9884 in Lewisville, is shown presenting Amy with a golden basketball trophy in recognition of her achievement. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freet of Highland Village, Amy was one of 213,000 boys and girls competing in this international event. She qualified at the local, district, regional, and state levels by making 95 percent of her free throws, according to Tom Kupper, local event chairman. In her championship effort, she completed 24 of 25 attempts.

## ‘Light the Way to Jesus’ to be presented Dec. 1, 3 at SEAS

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and John Paul the Great Theatre Productions will present “Light the Way to Jesus,” a reenactment of the birth of Jesus, Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the parish, located at 2016 Willis Lane in Keller.

Maria Montini and Kathy Winfield-Sheely share the duties of writing, directing, and producing this dramatic reenactment in which 70-plus performers in elaborate costume will “bring the famous Fontanini nativity statues to life,” states a recent press release. The baby Jesus will be represented by a delicate, handmade doll which was anonymously donated to the production company. Jessica Marie Demma, an active youth member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, will play Mary, and Scott Sheffield, who played Jesus in the parish’s production of “The Last Supper,” will assume the role of Joseph.

Sheffield says that he hopes that this play will help viewers learn to be attentive when God is speaking. “When God touches your heart and you allow the Holy Spirit to work through you, amazing things can happen for you and those around you,” he adds.

All are invited to “witness the emotions and struggles that lead up to the glorious birth of our beloved baby Jesus,” the press release states. Both performances are free of charge. Donations will be accepted. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 431-3857 or visit online at [www.seascc.org](http://www.seascc.org).

## Advent ‘Mornings of Reflection’ to be offered at Mt. Carmel Center

Advent retreat opportunities will be offered at Mt. Carmel Center, located in far southwest Dallas at 4600 W. Davis Street. Each of these “Mornings of Reflection” will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon.

“A People Full of Anticipation: St. Luke and the Coming(s) of the Messiah” will be presented by Father Jerome Earley, OCD, Dec. 9. The program, based on the Advent readings from St. Luke’s Gospel, will focus upon how people of faith are to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

“St. John of the Cross Day of Reflection: The Ascent of Mount Carmel” will be led by Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD, Dec. 14. The program will include a short overview of St. John’s life and works, as well as reflection on his doctrine regarding the soul’s single-minded devotion to the Lord and the soul’s desire to achieve union with him. Mass will be offered at 12:15 p.m., and quiet time for prayer will be offered until 4 p.m. This program will be repeated Dec. 16.

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

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

## Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, Jan. 5-7, to offer post-abortion healing

A Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held Jan. 5-7 in Fort Worth.

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

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

For more information or to register, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail to [forgiven@rachelvt.org](mailto:forgiven@rachelvt.org). All inquiries are strictly confidential.

## Pro-Life youth activities set for December, January at St. John’s

The Youth Ministry of St. John the Apostle Church has recently announced several upcoming teen-friendly pro-life activities planned in coordination with The Remnant Band and Fort Worth’s Youth For Life.

A Lock-In-for-Life will be held Dec. 8-9 at the parish, located at 7341 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills. The event is described as a “fun night” in which teens will join in music, games, Mass, and learn about important pro-life information. Participants will receive a T-shirt and the new Remnant CD. The cost is \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Proceeds will go toward scholarships to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The annual Life Revival Youth Rally will take place Jan. 12-13 at St. John’s, with the doors opening at 6 p.m. on Friday evening. Father Bernard Murphy, CFR, and other members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will speak at the event. Live music will be featured, including The Remnant Band, Daniel diSilva of the Crispin Band, the Joe Languell Band, and the teen “Landmark Band.” A teen talent show, featuring “Sister Act” from the Catholic community of Vernon, is planned. Mass will be celebrated Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. with Bishop Kevin Vann presiding.

A recent press release also announced that two trips for teenagers to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. are being offered in the Diocese of Fort Worth. There will be a Jan 19-23 pilgrimage and a Jan 20-22 pilgrimage to this annual national pro-life event. Scholarships will be available. Those unable to travel to Washington, D.C., are encouraged to attend the March for Life in Dallas, Jan. 20.

For more information, contact Suzette Chaires by e-mail to [schaires@sjtanrh.com](mailto:schaires@sjtanrh.com) or call (817) 284-4811 ext. 209, or e-mail to Sue Laux, Youth For Life, at [laux4life@yahoo.com](mailto:laux4life@yahoo.com).

## Nov. 30 celebration to honor three diocesan employees

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

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

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

## Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to be focus of talk Dec. 2

Dr. Miguel Leatham, a lecturer in anthropology at Texas Christian University, will deliver an illustrated presentation entitled “What do we really know about the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe?” Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Religious Education Building at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street, Fort Worth.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, believed to be miraculously imprinted upon the tilma (cloak) of St. Juan Diego, has been the subject of various critical examinations over its 475-year history. Dr. Leatham will compare the findings of these investigations and will comment on their significance in understanding the image of Guadalupe and its history.

For more details, call the parish office at (817) 332-4915.

## New Year’s Eve Dance to be held at Fort Worth KC hall

The annual New Year’s Eve Dance benefiting the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics Region 10, will be held Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 4500 Columbus Trail in Fort Worth.

This event has a high attendance of singles, according to organizers. Parents with children are welcome.

The cost is \$15 per person. For more information, contact Vince Chaires at (817) 896-5726.

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

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

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

Lord’s Day.”

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

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

## Official Assignments

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

Father Ken Robinson has been assigned as the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Muenster, effective Jan. 6.

Father Karl Walterscheid will be the director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective Jan. 1.

Father Jim Pemberton will be the associate director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective Jan. 1.

## People and Events



**MEETING BISHOP VANN** — Members of the Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas — KJZT Junior Division Society #104 had the opportunity to visit with Bishop Kevin Vann on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1. Bishop Vann had traveled to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbott to celebrate Mass for the local Catholic community, of which the KJZT youth are active participants. The KJZT juniors prayed the rosary prior to Mass and presented the offertory gifts, which included a rose symbolizing life, which was donated by the Knights of Columbus. After the liturgy, the youth gathered for a blessing from the bishop. Pictured are (*l. to r.*) Bishop Vann, Alyssa Ballew, James Bezdek, Carly Pustejovsky, Morgan Ballew, Ashley Ballew, Danielle Nors, Mallory Ballew, Msgr. Frank Miller, and Payton Pustejovsky.

### Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics announces holiday schedule

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

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

### St. Augustine Men's Purity Group meets weekly

The St. Augustine Men's Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller.

For more information, visit the group's Web site at [www.sampg.org](http://www.sampg.org) or e-mail to Mark at [seamspurity@yahoo.com](mailto:seamspurity@yahoo.com) or call the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office at (817) 431-3857.

### Serra Club announces dates for Vocation Poster Contest

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

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

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

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

### Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

### Doug Brummel will present 'Lighten Up' at Holy Family Church Dec. 5-6

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

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

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

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

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

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

Preceding the talk, there will be an opportunity to pray Advent Vespers at 6:15 p.m., followed by a covered-dish supper at 6:30 p.m.

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

### St. Cecilia's Day program to be held at Holy Family Parish Nov. 19

A St. Cecilia's Day Celebration will be held Sunday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Avenue in West Fort Worth. It will be an opportunity to honor St. Cecilia, the patron saint of choirs, and to experience music that enhances Catholic worship.

The evening will include a special performance by Bishop Kevin Vann, choral and instrumental presentations, and community hymns.

Light refreshments will be served at a reception immediately following in the parish's Family Life Center. All are welcome to attend; there is no charge for the event. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 737-6768.



**REMEMBERING THE SAINTS** — In preparation for All Saints Day, Nov. 1, elementary school students from Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls spent time researching the saints and preparing costumes so that they might represent their chosen saint in an All Saints Day presentation. From St. Joan of Arc to St. Nicholas, the students showed great imagination in bringing the representations of these holy men and women to life.

### St. John the Apostle Parish to host dinner, Christmas concert Dec. 22

A dinner and Christmas concert will be presented Friday, Dec. 22, at St. John the Apostle Church 7341 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills. The event is sponsored by the combined choirs of the parish as well as the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

The Knights of Columbus will serve dinner from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the gym. The cost for the dinner is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Those participating may pay at the door; no reservations are needed. The Catholic Daughters will also host a bake sale during the dinner hour. This will be a perfect time, according to organizers, to pick up some holiday goodies.

Following the dinner, at 8 p.m., the combined choirs of St. John's, accompanied by members of the Northeast Orchestra, will present "The Voices of Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin. There is no charge for the concert.

All are welcome. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 284-4811.

### Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Dec. 2, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

Calix meetings focus on enhancing spiritual growth through sharing Eucharist, discussion, and fellowship. For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105 or Tim S. at (817) 735-1519.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### NTC deadlines for submission

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

Items to be considered for publication in the Dec. 1 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 22. Items for the Dec. 15 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Dec. 6.



**SACRED HEART DANCE TEAM** — The Sacred Heart Dance Team of Muenster achieved second place honors in the High School — Novelty Dance Division of the 16th annual Dallas Cowboys Drill Team and Dance Competition Oct. 28. More than 1,000 youth, representing teams from Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, descended upon Texas Stadium in Irving for the event. The Sacred Heart Dance Team, under the direction of Leslie Eddleman (*back, left*), performed a tribute to the '50s with "Sunday School Rock." Team members included (*others, back, l. to r.*) Eryn Moody, Elizabeth Marshall, Sarah Ratliff, Marisol Becerra, Lauren Sepanski, (*front, l. to r.*) Raynee Hogan, Kaitlyn Felderhoff, Natalie Endres, Samantha Barnett, and Leah Hess.

## Sisters of Life to offer Advent mission on living the 'Gospel of Life'

Four members of the Sisters of Life, a women's religious order founded in 1991 by then-Archbishop of New York, the late Cardinal John O'Connor, will present a one-day retreat at Immaculate Conception Church (ICC), 2255 N. Bonnie Brae Street in Denton.

The retreat, designed especially for youth, young adults, and their parents and adult leaders, will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church gymnasium. The program will include Advent prayer, stories about the sisters' charism and community life, and their insights into religious life.

The Sisters of Life, who describe themselves as members of a community that is both contemplative and active, are based in New York, and are currently comprised of 47 women religious representing several different states, Canada, and Great Britain.

"Like all religious communities, we take the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience," reads the mission statement that is posted on the congregation's Website. "We also are consecrated under a special, fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. Reverence and gratitude for the unique and unrepeatable gift of each human life made in the image and likeness of God fuels the prayer of each sister, our first mission in building the Kingdom of God and the 'Culture



**SISTERS OF LIFE** — Three members of the Sisters of Life enjoy in-line skating near their convent in the Bronx neighborhood of New York May 6. (The nuns pictured asked that they be identified only by their order.) The religious community was established in the Archdiocese of New York in 1991 to protect and enhance the sacredness of all human life. Four members of the Sisters of Life will be coming to the Diocese of Fort Worth to conduct a one-day retreat at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton Dec. 2. (CNS photo/Chris Sheridan)

of Life."

Randy Bollig, an ICC parishioner, is organizing the retreat day in his role as the parish representative for Catholics Respect Life, a pro-life organization within the Diocese of Fort Worth. He and his wife Laurie are also parents to Sister Bernadette Mary, the youngest of the four women religious who will be visiting ICC following their speaking engagements at Texas A&M and at the University of Dallas.

"We are so thrilled that the Sis-

ters of Life will be coming to share their faith and their message with the people of this diocese," said Bollig. "People of all ages will find this a wonderful opportunity to reflect on many topics, such as the sisters' ministry to post-abortive women; Theology of the Body; and life directions."

For those who are unable to attend the Saturday retreat day, other opportunities to hear the sisters' compelling pro-life message are available, said Bollig.

"The sisters will be praying

with us at the Planned Parenthood clinic in downtown Fort Worth the morning of Friday, Dec. 1," Bollig noted. "Additionally, they will be speaking at all of the ICC Masses the weekend of Dec. 2-3. They will also be talking with the students at ICC School and at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Keller on Monday, Dec. 4."

It is a special joy to have the sisters in his home parish so close to the Christmas holidays, thus giving the Bollig family the rare opportunity to see their daughter,

said Bollig. He added that Sr. Bernadette Mary, formerly known as "Katherine," was a "normal teenager" who was involved in many activities, including high school cheerleading, prior to attending the University of Dallas, where she became interested in the idea of a religious vocation.

"I was certainly not encouraging her" [in choosing a religious vocation], wrote Bollig in a recently published newsletter article. "I just wanted her to be happy. The subject was not discussed very often, and I thought she would get married and give us lots of grandchildren."

When their family finally came to embrace Katherine's decision to pursue her religious vocation, the Holy Spirit led their daughter to the Sisters of Life, which she joined as a postulant in 2004, wrote Bollig.

That decision, which has brought great personal joy to their daughter, has indirectly led to the blessing of the sisters' presence in the Diocese of Fort Worth during this Advent season, said Bollig. "We know that their time with us is a gift from the Holy Spirit," he said. "We hope that many people of all ages will take advantage of this very special opportunity."

For more information about the Sisters of Life and their schedule while in the Diocese of Fort Worth, visit their Web site at [www.sistersoflife.org](http://www.sistersoflife.org), or contact Randy and Laurie Bollig at (940) 246-0226 or by e-mail at [rbollig@grandecom.net](mailto:rbollig@grandecom.net).

## MSU Catholic Campus Center celebrates 20th anniversary

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
MARY E. MANLEY  
CORRESPONDENT

On Sunday, Oct. 29, 125 people gathered to celebrate two decades of the Catholic Campus Center (CCC) at Midwestern State University (MSU) in Wichita Falls. With "Building the City of God through the Years" as the theme, Debbie Neely, CCC director, was joined by current students, faculty, alumni, and supportive community friends for Mass in MSU's Clark Student Center.

Father Ivor Koch presided at the liturgy, and exuberant music was provided by international musicians composed primarily of MSU's Caribbean Student Organization Choir. A breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus, with Fourth Degree and Council 10998 participation, followed the Mass. The breakfast was served at the nearby CCC.

Speakers included Paul Comb-



Approximately 125 people attended a liturgy (pictured above) marking the 20th anniversary of the MSU Catholic Campus Center Oct. 29. Present for the occasion were (at left; clockwise from top, left) Debbie Neely, CCC director; Paul Combest, diocesan director of Young Adults and Campus Ministry; Dr. Tom Hoffman, MSU English professor; Danielle Gines, CCC student assistant; Dr. Ann L. Smith, CCC faculty advisor; and MSU student/CCC member Travis Aponte.

est, diocesan director of Young Adult and Campus Ministry, who shared regards from Bishop Kevin Vann, and Dr. Tom Hoffman, MSU English professor,

who spoke on CCC's founding. CCC was dedicated by then-Bishop Joseph Delaney and Louis Rodriguez, former MSU president, Sept. 28, 1986.

## Catholic association presents awards for best music of 2006

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — It was a celebration of music, camaraderie, and faith at the seventh annual Unity Awards, held Oct. 21 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

Performer Steve Angrisano of Colorado picked up three major awards at the event, organized by the United Catholic Music and Video Association to bolster Catholic artists.

Song and songwriter of the year awards both went to Angrisano, a former youth minister, for "Mighty King."

"Music is not the reason we get together" at Mass, he said in accepting an award, "but it helps bring us together."

Angrisano also was named artist of the year. "I didn't expect to win," said the performer, who was tuning his guitar when his name was announced. In his acceptance speech, he said there are "easier ways to make a living" than through music, but musicians believe it's their mission to

spread the word of God through their art.

The male vocalist of the year award went to John Angotti, and the female vocalist of the year award went to a tearfully grateful Gretchen Harris, who has been nominated for the honor twice.

Curtis Stephan, a 29-year-old singer-songwriter from Texas, was named new artist of the year.

"It is an honor to even be considered among such esteemed artists," Stephan wrote in an acceptance letter read by actress Mandy Bruno of "Guiding Light."

The event featured performances by a diverse group of artists such as teen singer Heather Gomez, concert pianist Annette Dimedio and Latino artist Jorge Rivera, one of several musicians who performed in Spanish.

**Editor's Note:** A full list of winners is available online at [www.unityawards.com](http://www.unityawards.com).

## Diocesan

**Below:** Bishop Kevin Vann speaks to the couples being honored at the first diocesan Golden Anniversary Mass.

# Celebrating the Golden Years of Marriage

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
JOAN KURKOWSKI-GILLEN

**P**atience. Respect. Communication. Loyalty. Ask couples attending a golden anniversary celebration how they managed to stay married 50 years and you get a variety of thoughtful responses. But one answer seems to trump the rest.

"Faith is important. I can't even imagine being married to someone without sharing that bond," said Mary Fran Springer, as husband, R.J., nodded in agreement. "Knowing each other before you make that commitment and keeping faith part of the relationship — that's what keeps a marriage together."

Examples of Christ-centered marriages filled the pews of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine Oct. 15 as some 180 couples from around the Diocese of Fort Worth gathered to remember the vows they spoke 50 or more years ago. The Golden Anniversary Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann, gave husbands and wives the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to each other and receive recognition from the church for a lifetime of effort. It was the first golden jubilee event for couples ever sponsored by the diocese.

"We've been waiting for this. They do something similar in Kansas," explained the Springers, who were married Aug. 18, 1953, in the Sunflower State.

The couple had known each other for seven years before tying the knot.

"So she knew what she was getting into," joked R.J., who met his future wife, a school teacher, after he was discharged from the Navy.

Together they raised five children and watched as society's values and attitudes toward marriage changed.

"The problem today is that people don't know each other well enough before they marry, and they don't respect each other as God's creatures," Mary Fran said. "My feeling is [that] if you can't say something nice — walk away."

Tenacity is the foundation of Vivian and Robert Schnick's 52-year union. Married in Joliet, Illinois, while the groom was on leave from the Air Force, the St. Frances Cabrini parishioners lived through military tours of duty during two wars, frequent moves around the country, and the death of a grown child in a

car accident. Yielding to life's pressures was never an option.

"You work it out," Vivian Schnick said convincingly. "We've been through tons of crises, four children, and retirement. There were ups and downs, but we never gave up."

The world has changed in many ways since the honored couples married in 1956, Bishop Vann pointed out during his homily. Fifty years ago, Dwight Eisenhower was president, Grace Kelly's marriage to a European prince made headline news, and a very young Kevin Vann was just entering kindergarten.

"Some changes are for the good; others are questionable," the bishop said. "What hasn't changed is the constancy of the love of God. That faithfulness is shown in all of you here today."

Looking over the crowd of committed couples, the bishop remembered attending the 50th wedding celebrations of his own parents and grandparents. The occasions left a memorable impression and taught him some valuable lessons — one being that you can't weather the stress of child rearing and financial hardship without prayer.

"I know my parents prayed," he said, before citing some examples of the serious sacrifice and humor that went into raising their six children in Springfield, Illinois. "They prayed, and they chose, and in the midst of all that, realized in saying 'yes' to God and to each other, all things were possible through God in their lives."

In the span of 50 years, all couples live through times of disappointment, struggle, and joy.

"Back then, you probably couldn't imagine what you've

done, what you've faced, and what you've been able to do since saying 'yes' to God in 1956," the bishop pointed out. "So in the name of the church, in the name of the priest who witnessed your marriage and the families who were there, thank you for your faithfulness and example of Christian love."

Hosted by the Office of Family Life, the Golden Anniversary Mass recognized many couples married longer than 50 years. Ruth and Bill Vogel met at a high school achievement banquet, then married three years later in their hometown of Parsons, Kansas. On June 15, 2006, the couple celebrated 60 years of marriage along with their seven children, 23 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. Special rosaries purchased by the Vogels were given to each family member as a memento of the occasion.

The gesture was filled with meaning. They credit prayer for making their marriage a success. Raised in another Christian faith, Ruth began attending Sunday Mass with Bill when the pair started dating. She converted to Catholicism, and the strong, common faith that they shared helped cement their relationship. Today, the couple continues to attend Bible study classes at their parish, Immaculate Conception Church in Denton.

Their advice to newlyweds just beginning the journey they've traveled for 60 years is simple and sincere: Pray together.

"Christian marriage involves three — man, woman, and God," Ruth Vogel explained. "God united you. You made a covenant with God as well as your partner. Keep it!"

**Below:** Ruth and Bill Vogel (center) join approximately 180 couples at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Grapevine, for a Golden Anniversary Mass honoring couples who have been married 50 years or more. The Vogels recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

**Right:** Trinh Quang Nguyen (left) and La Nguyen (right) celebrate their years of commitment with great grandchildren, Angie LeNguyen (center), 5, and Philip LeNguyen, almost 4 months.

**Left:** John and Blanche Malachi, parishioners of Our Mother of Mercy Church in Fort Worth, renew their wedding vows.

**Right:** R.J. and Mary Fran Springer, who were married in 1953, say that faith is what has kept them together for 53 years.

**Left:** Bobbie and Bill March hold hands as they renew their commitment to each other at the diocesan Golden Anniversary Mass.

# Bishop Ochoa sees need to expand foster care for young border-crossers

By Daniel Perez

ELPASO (CNS)—The youngest undocumented immigrants caught trying to enter the United States from Mexico through El Paso may benefit from a recent fact-finding trip along the border for a delegation of bishops and others involved in ministry to migrants in the United States and Mexico.

El Paso Bishop Armando X. Ochoa said he wanted to expand diocesan-run foster-care programs that shelter children and teenagers who are emotionally and physically traumatized during their journey north.

Compared to more institutional settings, the smaller groups and family atmosphere in foster homes enhance the healing process, he said during an Oct. 28 press conference at the Padre Pinto Plaza outside Sacred Heart Church, just blocks from the international bridge to Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

"These kids have been treated badly," Bishop Ochoa said. "They've seen horrors from snakes in the desert to being abandoned by their coyote (smuggler).



## BORDER MASS

— Father Tony Celino reads the Gospel during an All Souls' Day Mass celebrated at the U.S.-Mexican border fence at Anapra, New Mexico, Nov. 2. The service was led by bishops from El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, and bishops from Juarez and Casa Grandes, Mexico. The border Mass is offered each year to pray for those who have died in illegal crossings to the United States. (CNS photo/Andy Sparke, RIO GRANDE CATHOLIC)

Some girls get gang-raped."

The idea of expanding foster care programs came from a weeklong study tour organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in late October to gather information from church, community, and law enforcement leaders about human trafficking and the experiences of unaccompanied minors along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Bishop Ochoa, a member of the bishops' migration committee, was among a contingent that included members from various Catholic migration-related programs. The delegation was led by Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, California, chairman of the migration committee.

He discussed some of the insights the group gained from the Oct. 23-28 mission that included

stops in Houston and El Paso; Tucson, Arizona; and related Mexican border communities.

The nation's recent focus on immigration has shown a policy that is broken and in need of repair, Bishop Barnes said.

"Sadly, many Americans believe that building walls and imprisoning foreigners is the only solution to the unprecedented immigration crisis we are facing,"

Bishop Barnes said.

The delegates will make recommendations on how to improve the immigration system in the United States and in the countries from which the immigrants are coming, he said.

An estimated 17,500 immigrants around the world are trafficked annually into the United States for prostitution, forced labor, and domestic servitude, according to a document from the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services. Of those, about 33 percent are children.

Most of the undocumented immigrant children who make it to El Paso are helped by Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. As of late last year, the center was serving more than 140 youths ranging in age from 12 to 18 at a shelter in Canutillo, Texas. The center provides legal representation for the children and tries to reunite them with family members.

Although Bishop Ochoa lauded the efforts of Las Americas, he said the church-run foster homes provide a greater sense of normalcy.

# Delegation visits shelters offering refuge to border-crossing minors

FROM PAGE 1

variety of ways with those who enter the United States illegally.

At St. Michael's, while some of the children told their stories with teary eyes to the visitors, all ended the same way, with the child saying he or she felt safe and happy to be at the refuge.

Guests of St. Michael's and St. Jerome's Home for Children stay until they are permitted to return home, which can range from a few weeks to more than a year. Bonna Kol, president of Catholic Charities, said St. Michael's was started 20 years ago with the capacity to serve eight children.

"In the beginning of next year, our capacity will be 84 children," she said. "Unfortunately that shows you the growing business side of this problem."

As part of the program for the lunchtime visitors, a group of children presented harrowing accounts of their treacherous journeys to the United States.

Leticia Harmon, director of St. Michael's Home, said most of the residents cross the U.S. border for one of two reasons.

"These children are either coming to the United States to be reunited with their parents, who are already here, or they are hoping to find work to help their family financially," Harmon said.

The ever-changing nature of life at St. Michael's was demonstrated when partway through

the program a Border Patrol agent dropped off a smiling 8-year-old boy to join the household.

Earlier in Houston, the group met with representatives of government agencies that have a role in catching and prosecuting illegal immigrants.

The last day of their visit to Houston was spent at the Catholic Charities offices in midtown Houston, where the delegation learned about efforts to assist the victims of human trafficking.

Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange, California, a member of the board of directors of Catholic Legal Immigration Network, said collaboration between charitable organizations and federal law enforcement agencies has proven pivotal in the fight against human trafficking.

This cooperation "has brought about a very effective way of identifying victims of human trafficking and identifying, arresting, and prosecuting these types of crimes," Bishop Soto said.

The system of parties working together that exists in Houston should be replicated around the country, he said.

Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, California, chairman of the bishops' migration committee, said the delegation was surprised to hear federal authorities acknowledge that working with charitable organizations has

made them more compassionate to the plight of unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking.

"The first thing that's on their mind now is compassion," he said. "That was surprising to hear a government organization say that and how they rely on agencies like Catholic Charities and others, because it is not one of their strengths."

After flying to West Texas, the delegation again crossed the border — to Juarez — to visit shelters run by the YMCA and another managed by the Mexican government. At the government-run shelter, where children are brought after they are picked up by the Border Patrol and taken back across the border, a group of Mexican high school students

arrived.

Nathalie Lummert, of Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, one of the trip's sponsors, said the eight teens were brought into the government-run shelter in Juarez looking disoriented.

They explained that they had been walking in the desert for a school project that required them to collect sample insects. It wasn't until they were stopped by Border Patrol agents that they realized they had left Mexico. Hundreds of miles of the border away from municipal areas are marked by little more than simple fences with a few strands of barbed wire.

After being arrested and fingerprinted by the U.S. agency, the teens were turned over to Mexican authorities.

Lummert said she at first thought the youths might be longtime U.S. residents who had been picked up in a raid, because they were dressed in more stylish clothes than the practical, weather-hardy attire typical of working-class people who try to cross the border illegally. Another youth in the shelter had been living with his parents in New Mexico for four years, and was picked up on his own by U.S. agents. He had been at the shelter in Juarez two days.

**Editor's Note:** A blog of the border delegation's trip can be found on the Justice for Immigrants' Web site at [www.justiceforimmigrants.org/borderblog.html](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/borderblog.html).

Contributing to this story was Patricia Zapor in Washington.



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# Diocesan

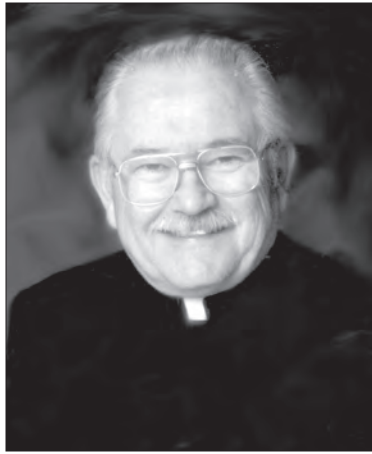
## Fr. Bart Landwermeyer, who served in many rural communities, dies at age 76

Father Bart Landwermeyer, 76, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth, died Nov. 3 at Padua Place Nursing Facility in San Antonio after an extended illness. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 6 at St. Cecilia Church in Dallas; interment was at Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Bartholomew James Landwermeyer was born in Dallas Dec. 14, 1929, to William Leo and Mara Eva (Ashenhust) Landwermeyer. One of eight children, the young man known as "Bart" grew up in Dallas and was a member of Blessed Sacrament Church.

He attended Subiaco Academy and went on to attend Subiaco College and Seminary in Subiaco, Arkansas, from 1949 to 1957.

Ordained a Benedictine priest in Subiaco Abbey May 26, 1956, by Bishop Albert Fletcher of the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, "Fr. Bart" pursued graduate stud-



Father Bart Landwermeyer

ies at Arkansas State University; North Texas State University in Denton; Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio; and Memphis State University in Tennessee.

After serving in the Diocese of Fort Worth at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort

Worth, St. Joseph Church in Rhineland, St. Mary Church in Windthorst, St. Peter Church in Lindsay, and Sacred Heart Church in Seymour, Fr. Bart was incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Worth April 7, 1993. He continued to serve as pastor at Sacred Heart Church until 1998, when he moved to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Keller. In 2000, Fr. Bart relocated to St. John Parish, Valley View, where he served until his retirement in 2001.

"Fr. Bart was a 'priest's priest,'" said Father Robert Wilson, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo and former chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Worth. "He was dedicated to the many different ministries of the rural parishes in which he served." Fr. Wilson also noted Fr. Bart's involvement in the Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Council (DPAC) and his leadership in the Presbyteral Council of priests for the diocese.

"It was one of his greatest joys that Fr. Bart was elected by his fellow priests to serve as a leader at the regional, state, and national level," said Fr. Wilson, referring to Fr. Bart's longtime involvement in the National Federation of Priests' Councils (NFPC).

Cards of condolence may be sent to his sister, Genevieve Farrell, at 652 Hill City Drive, Duncanville 75116.



**PASTORS' PORTRAITS** — The Ladies Group of St. John the Baptizer Parish in Bridgeport recently updated all of the pictures of former pastors and deacons who have served the parish. Proudly displayed in the parish hall, the portraits begin with Father Edward Deavers, who served from 1938 to 1950, continuing through 19 other pastors' photographs to the present-day pastor, Father Sojan George. Fr. George (left) and former pastor Father Gonzalo Morales are shown taking time to peruse the portraits of some of their predecessors.



**SIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS** — Members of the Beginning Sign Language Class at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine pose for an end-of-course photo, with teacher Blanca Ruiz (top row, far right). The students will take a break for the holidays and resume their studies of American Sign Language and the deaf culture in mid-January.

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# Viewpoints

## Let remembered and recounted blessings be the 'doorway' to more giving

By Dan Luby

**I**t appears every year without fail. Sometime before Thanksgiving dinner, a length of white butcher paper is taped to the back of a door between the dining room and the hallway.

I've known it to show up as early as Wednesday evening, while people are gathering for the annual celebration of the holiday. Amidst the shouted greetings of friends who haven't seen each other since last year and the exclamations of amazement at how grownup the kids have gotten and the breathless queries about where to put the mountainous turkey, someone slips in there and puts it up.

Whenever it actually gets posted, I usually notice it at some point on Thursday, often at the crack of noon as I stagger toward the communal coffee pot after a marathon gabfest with old friends and family into the wee hours of the morning.

The white paper covers the door from top to bottom. Across the top, someone has written with large, brightly colored markers, "Thank you, God, for..." or words to that effect. Over the years, different hands have done the writing, and embellishments have ranged from the exceedingly simple — the date, for



**O**ver the years,... embellishments have ranged from the exceedingly simple — the date, for example, or one little curlicue beneath the title — to the painstakingly elaborate — detailed drawings of the "First Thanksgiving," for example, with pilgrims and Native Americans sharing a full menu of traditional foods or multicolored borders of flowers and fall leaves or pilgrim hats and feathered headdresses.

example, or one little curlicue beneath the title — to the painstakingly elaborate — detailed drawings of the "First Thanksgiving," for example, with pilgrims and Native Americans sharing a full menu of traditional foods or multicolored borders of flowers and fall leaves or pilgrim hats and feathered headdresses.

Recent years have seen flocks of those turkeys that kids draw by tracing their hands on the paper and adding in the turkey's face. Every so often, we enjoy the appearance of some very arresting caricatures by one of the more gifted regulars.

Whatever the decoration, whenever it's done, by the time the group of long-time friends and extended families gather around the serving tables piled high with food to hold hands and say a prayer of blessing and thanks, the paper on the door

has been covered with writing.

Great-grandparents and new fiancées; little kids just learning to write, and college kids who've written a thousand papers just since August; founders of the feast and first-time guests and prodigal friends returned after years away — everybody writes on the door something they are especially grateful for, something that expresses concretely the gratitude that brings us together.

I'm not sure how long this group has been gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving in this way, but I know my wife and I first came before our kids were born, so it's at least 30 years. And every year, someone has put up that sheet of paper for us collectively to make note of some of the things we're grateful for. Reading through this hand-painted, heartfelt litany of thanks is always one of my favorite

parts of one of my favorite times of year.

Looking forward to this exercise in gratitude, I am thinking about the endless list of possibilities I could cite. It occurs to me that this might be a great way, not only to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, but to launch a new Advent practice.

Wouldn't it help us to be better prepared for the celebration of Christmas if, instead of thinking about gifts strictly in terms of what we had to buy for other people, or what we hoped others might buy for us, we focused some of our attention on gifts we have already received? Wouldn't an intentional enumeration of the blessings we enjoy — the ability to read, say, or a capacity for laughter or the beauty of the world or the comforts of friendship or any of the other countless unearned treasures we've received — give us a heightened consciousness of gratitude?

Wouldn't a keener sense of gratitude invite us to greater generosity and compassion? And wouldn't that make us more ready and eager to welcome Christ Jesus more deeply into our hearts and lives in the days to come? I'm counting on it. Happy Thanksgiving.



Dan Luby is the director of Christian Formation for the diocese. In May, for the third time, his column received first place honors among regular columns on spiritual life in the Catholic press of the U.S. and Canada. Dan's column earned the same recognition in 2001 and again in 2003. Dan and his wife, Theresa, have two children, Kate and Peter.

## The Lord of the dance is the Lord of the heart

By Mary Regina Morrell

*"Dance, Dance, wherever you may be. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all, in the dance said he."*

— Chorus "Lord of the Dance" by Sidney Carter

**M**any years ago, while I was still in high school, my father got the chance to take the trip of his dreams to Ireland, the land of his roots. And as any respectable Irishman would, he had story after story to tell us about his experience.

One, in particular, has come to mean much more to me as the years go on.

On one evening of the tour he and his friend were part of a small group who had accepted an invitation to an evening social at a rambling estate outside of town.

Situated in a sheltered valley, the large stone manor resembled a castle, he said, complete with haunting lights dotting the evening mist.

It was a grand party, filled with plenty

of music, food, and drink, and lots of laughter.

Early into the evening, my father relayed, he noticed an older gentleman leaning against a bookcase at the edge of the room. He was crooked in shape with unkempt gray hair and clothes not in keeping with the gaiety of the affair.

After an hour or so had passed, my father approached him, noticing that he had not eaten anything, nor had anyone else stopped to talk to him.

The older man graciously took a plate from my dad, along with a large tank of ale, and shared a story or two before moving off alone.

This dance of give and take continued between them for most of the night, while no one else seemed to notice the wizened old man.

Near the end of the evening, the grey-haired gentleman thanked my dad for his company and "for being a special guest in my home tonight."

My father smiled broadly, amazed that his new found friend had slipped one

over on him! It seems the host regularly invited guests to his home, never identifying himself and finding most of them took no notice of him nor made an effort to even strike up a conversation. It was a pursuit in which he took great pleasure, not in being invisible to so many, but to being noticed by the few who could see past their drinks and their food and their good time to the peculiar old man in the corner.

The host grinned, "There is always at least one, like yourself, who sees me and makes the time to talk. Now we are friends and now you have a place to stay whenever you come back to Ireland."

My dad chuckled whenever he told the story, expounding on the eccentric friend he had made that evening. I never knew if the story was true or just the creative wanderings of the crafty Irish mind that also told me he was certain the little short fellow sitting on the manor steps was a leprechaun!

But as most parables are wont to do, the story resurfaced time and again as I tried to live out my own relationship with

God as fully as I could.

Life has taught me that every relationship begins with awareness and grows through knowing, through sharing, through a dance of give and take that forms a foundation for love. Becoming aware of God, then, is the first step toward falling in love with God.

In my ministry as a religious educator, I am often left with a deep sadness that so many remain unaware of a God who gave us his life, the God who is physically present to us in every tabernacle of the world and who wants nothing more than to have us enter into the most profound expression of love there is — Eucharist.

All too often we treat our God, Banquet Host and Lord of the Dance, in the same way the guests treated the eccentric gentleman at the Irish manor — he remains invisible until someone or something opens the eyes of our hearts.

Only then, will the dance begin. Mary Regina Morrell, is the associate director of the office of religious education for the Diocese of Metuchen, in New Jersey.

# St. Vincent de Paul

## the saint who fed the poor

By Antoinette Bosco

Many thousands of people in our country will get baskets of food for Thanksgiving because of a man who lived over 300 years ago: St. Vincent de Paul. That's because the influence of this man, who spent his life feeding the poor, continues through his followers who carry out his work as members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

I was moved to write about him because, coincidentally (if there really are "coincidences"), I was just at a library book sale and found a gem titled simply *St. Vincent de Paul*.

I wouldn't have known how old it was except that the original purchaser wrote an inscription to his grandson preparing for confirmation, dating it Oct. 22, 1907.

I always have been in awe of what St. Vincent, a 17th-century French priest, accomplished in his lifetime. His work of helping St. Louise de Marillac found the Daughters of Charity and his lifelong devotion to serve the poor — from the sick, the insane, orphans, beggars, and old people to prisoners and galley slaves — always impressed me. Then, when I was a reporter for *The Long Island Catholic* in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, and covered the great work for the poor done by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, I became a lifelong admirer of the great saint.

Now, with this old book in hand, written by Henry Bedford, I've learned much more about the saint. I hadn't known

*Vincent himself writes of this time as a slave in Tunis.... [He] tells how he was traveling by water when the vessel was attacked by "Turkish brigantines." Some on board were killed; he was wounded with an arrow in his shoulder, then taken to the city of Tunis in chains to be sold as a slave.*

he was a slave in his early years as a priest for a period of nearly two years from July 1605 to June 1607.

He himself writes of this time as a slave in Tunis in a letter he sent to one of his early pupils, never wanting or expecting it to be saved. It tells how he was traveling by water when the vessel was attacked by "Turkish brigantines." Some on board were killed; he was wounded with an arrow in his shoulder, then taken to the city of Tunis in chains to be sold as a slave.

"I was sold to a fisherman," a good man, he wrote. The saint was with him for one year until the man died in August 1606, leaving Vincent to one of his nephews, who immediately sold him again, this time to a Turkish renegade with three wives. One of the wives got to know Vincent and was so moved by his praise of God that she got her husband to listen too.

Eventually, the French ambassador to Turkey got the Grand Turk to liberate all the Christian slaves. Vincent, with his now "former" master and the man's wife, "escaped in a little skiff," the saint wrote. His captivity was over, his former "owners" were received into the church, and he got back to his work of helping the poor.

Much of his work for all

his life was done to help those who, he would write, "lived in moral poison," specifically prisoners and galley slaves. "There was one class among the suffering poor which seemed to have an especial attraction for the heart of Vincent. ... The poor convicts won Vincent's early love and to the last he clung to them," Bedford wrote.

The worldwide St. Vincent de Paul Society to this day keeps up the work begun by this great saint, specifically to feed the poor, help the prisoners, and never turn away someone truly in need.

The author ends the book simply with the words, "He served the Lord well."



*Bosco is the author of a number of books, including COINCIDENCES: TOUCHED BY A MIRACLE, THE PUMMELED HEART: FINDING PEACE*

*THROUGH PAIN, CHOOSING MERCY, SHAKEN FAITH; HANGING IN THERE WHEN GOD SEEMS FAR AWAY, and A MOTHER OF MURDER VICTIMS PLEADS TO END THE DEATH PENALTY, which received a 2002 Christopher Award. Her Web site has even more information about this remarkable writer who has worked as a writer and editor in both the Catholic and secular press for more than 50 years: antoinettebosco.com.*

# Thanksgiving

*For our family  
— and its extensions —  
it's all about the*

## Pies



By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Julie, a truly blushing bride, was opening shower presents, among which were brand new baking pans previously owned only by the likes of Julia Child.

These pans were large enough to prepare lasagna for the entire cast of the TV series *Lost* — both sides of the island, and inside all the hatches. These pans would never think of scratching, nor producing food that was undercooked or unevenly browned.

They were champion pans. If there were award ceremonies for bakeware, these pans would be bronzed, mounted on wooden bases, and set on spotlighted, glass-enclosed shelves. And while the shower guests watched my daughter open the culinary tools, my friend Eileen, sitting behind me, said, "Julie will be a good baker. We know her mother makes wonderful pies."

I was so flattered, but my lips involuntarily morphed into a smile. Giggles tickled my throat, simmering and preparing to pop out, uninvited guests at the serious gift-opening ritual in which we were all thoroughly engrossed.

"Well," my giggle and I said, with absolute honesty, "I don't really know much about baking pies. I just bake them."

It was true. My apparently legendary pie-baking, I knew, was in fact a legend. If there were award ceremonies for pie recipe books, mine would win in the fiction category. But somehow, through decades of Thanksgivings, my friends — and my children — have come to believe I have pie-crust prowess.

We have baked a growing number of Thanksgiving pies since the '70s. The tradition has simple roots: a grocery-store conspiracy among a young mom and her pre-schoolers. "Let's make a pie for each person in the family," I told my children, Meredith and John. "We'll put our names on our pies. And we'll each eat the whole thing if we wish!"

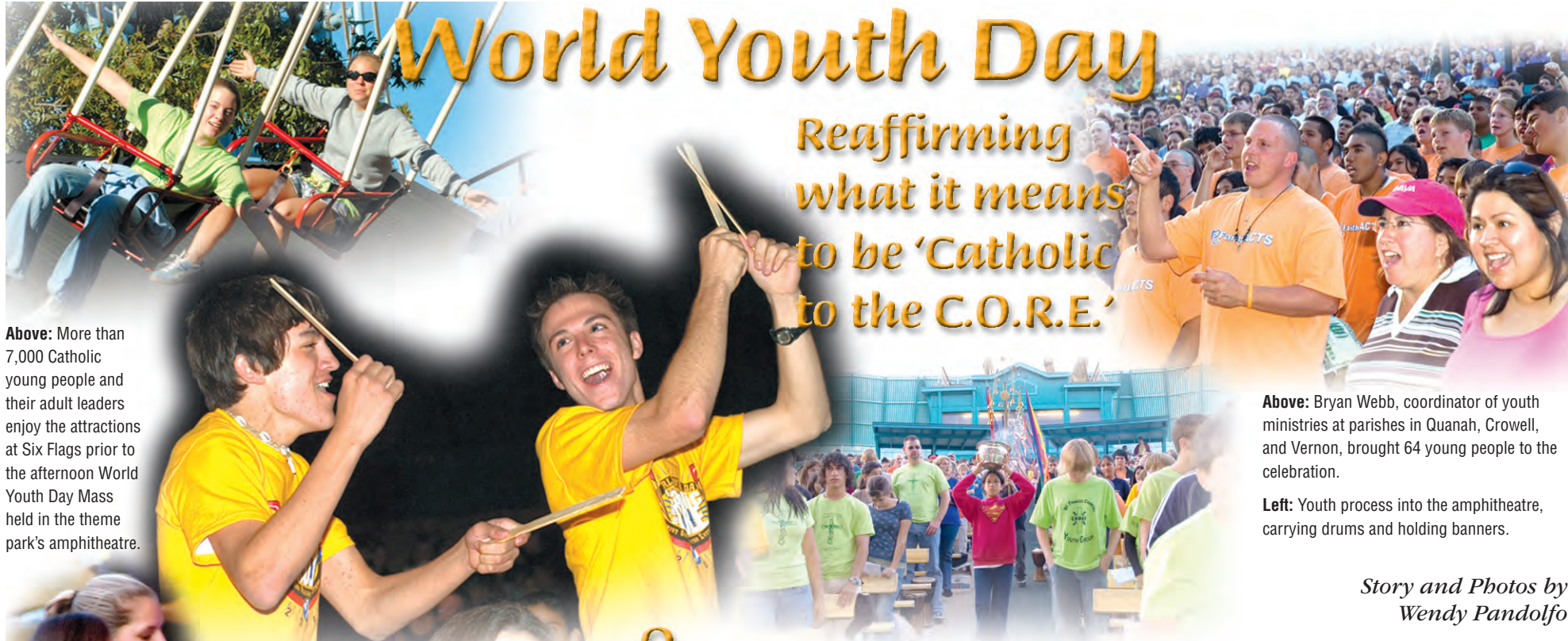
With contagious enthusiasm, we chose apples for Dad, cherries, peaches, and chocolate for the rest of us. We added pumpkin, and chose another, never-before-tasted recipe. After our turkey dinner, they would be served with a bowl of whipped cream for garnish.

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Diocesan

# World Youth Day

## Reaffirming what it means to be 'Catholic to the C.O.R.E.'



**Above:** More than 7,000 Catholic young people and their adult leaders enjoy the attractions at Six Flags prior to the afternoon World Youth Day Mass held in the theme park's amphitheatre.

**Above:** Bryan Webb, coordinator of youth ministries at parishes in Quanah, Crowell, and Vernon, brought 64 young people to the celebration.

**Left:** Youth process into the amphitheatre, carrying drums and holding banners.

Story and Photos by Wendy Pandolfo

**Above:** Diocesan Youth Council members who served as youth "animators" at the Mass included (l. to r.) Chris West of St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Keller and Chris Dowling of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury.

Over 7,000 youth and their adult leaders from throughout the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses descended on Six Flags Over Texas amusement park in Arlington Oct. 29 for a day of fun, fellowship, and faith to celebrate World Youth Day. They not only spent a day with their friends riding roller coasters and sampling park food, they also had the opportunity to embrace and proclaim their faith. The theme for this year's celebration was "Catholic to the C.O.R.E." (Christ Our Reason for Everything).

After enjoying a few hours

of park attractions, this year's participants made their way to the amphitheater, where the annual World Youth Day Mass was celebrated, and were immediately greeted by the pulsating rhythms of the drum ensemble Drum Cafe.

The presider for this year's World Youth Day Mass was Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann, assisted by Bishop Kevin Vann, Father Anh Tran, and Deacon Len Sanchez of the Diocese of Fort Worth and Deacon Denis Corbin of the Diocese of Dallas. Liturgical music was led by the youth choir of Lewisville's St. Philip the Apostle Parish. A group of 18 youth "animators," members of the Fort Worth Diocesan Youth Council, served as ushers, greeters, and group activity leaders.

Bishop Grahmann began the celebration by quoting Pope Benedict XVI. "The church is young, and the church is alive," he said, to which the youthful congregation roared their approval. Bishop Grahmann referred to Pope Benedict's suggested scriptural theme of Psalm 118 by telling the youth "as soon as you turn on a switch in a dark room, it fills with light. So it is with being a Catholic."

At the conclusion of his homily, Bishop Grahmann led a renewal of baptism promises. The youths' impassioned responses rocked the amphitheater.

Bishop Vann approached the

podium after the Liturgy of the Eucharist, stating, "Now it's my turn," which was met with thunderous applause. "Last year, Bishop Grahmann said I was the bambino. What has helped me grow since then is you."

He repeated his greeting in Spanish, then asked, "What does "esperanza" mean in English?"

"Hope!" the enthusiastic crowd shouted in return.

"You are a sign of hope," Bishop Vann continued. "I want you to take away from here that Jesus is calling you."

At the Mass's conclusion, the youth animators led the congregation in a blessing over the bishops, who then processed out of the amphitheater to the African rhythms of Drum Cafe, accompanied by cheering young people banging on drums, sticks, and bleachers.

The local celebration of World Youth Day was proclaimed a resounding success by many of the youth of the Diocese of Fort Worth. "It's always fun to be at Six Flags, but the great music at Mass and getting to play the drums made today an especially great day," said Ryan Muñoz, 13, a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Arlington.

A small group from St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Granbury concurred, proclaiming that "World Youth Day is Ah-Mazing!"

**Above:** Young parishioners from St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury (l. to r.) Troy Davis, Sarah Berry, and Maggie Berry kneel during the consecration of the Eucharist during Mass.

**Above:** St. Michael parishioners and youth "animators" (l. to r.) Erica Gentsch, Emily Thatcher, and Cici Boone reflect prayerfully during the liturgy.

**Above:** Matthew McElhone of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine passes a collection bucket to youth representing Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Mineral Wells. Over \$5,300 was raised to assist youth missions in Honduras and U.S. victims of Hurricane Katrina.

**Above:** Bishop Charles Grahmann (left) and Bishop Kevin Vann were enthusiastically welcomed by the cheering youth of the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas.

**Right:** Trumpet player Bobby Karalla and his sister, flutist Lisa Karalla, join other young parishioners from St. Philip Church in Lewisville in serving as music ministers at the vibrant youth liturgy.

**Above:** Kevin Prevou, director of youth ministry and adolescent catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth, served as coordinator and emcee for the annual World Youth Day event.



**Left:** The gilded cross, copper casing, and windows all are newly restored atop the main dome of Baltimore's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

## Renovated basilica has borne witness to many important milestones in its 200-year history, says Cardinal Keeler

FROM PAGE 1

plumbing, and security systems in a way that maintained the building's historical integrity.

"Over the course of the basilica's 200 years, it has borne witness time and again to many important milestones and visitors as the church developed and evolved in America," Cardinal Keeler said in a statement released at the preview.

Those visitors included Pope Pius XII (as a cardinal) and Pope John Paul II, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, U.S. President Andrew Johnson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Alexis de Tocqueville, Marquis de Lafayette, the chiefs of the Sioux and Flathead tribes, St. John Neumann of Philadelphia, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, and Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence and Bishop Carroll's cousin.

"Unfortunately, the ravages of time, inadequate maintenance, and alterations took a toll," the cardinal said. "The original, brilliant design of Benjamin Henry Latrobe and Archbishop Carroll was lost, and major infrastructure improvements came to be needed."

The Basilica of the Assumption Historic Trust, established in 1976, has raised \$25 million in private donations toward the estimated \$32 million cost of the renovations.

In addition to updating the basilica's infrastructure, major changes to the basilica include replacement of 24 original skylights, illumination of the exterior at night, a new chapel in the undercroft as originally envisioned by Latrobe, re-creation of the original balconies, creation of a basilica museum and gift shop, and repainting of the walls in the original colors of pale yellow, blue, and rose.

Ellington E. Churchill Jr., project manager for Henry H. Lewis Contractors, said the restoration work involved 30 months of construction, 900 cubic yards of concrete, 62,000 pounds of reinforcing steel, 20,000 square feet of metal roofing, and the work of more than 60 contractors representing more than 700 men and women.

"The basilica has been transformed, and we stand here today proud to have our names included as a small footnote in the history of this great place," Churchill said at an Oct. 3 ceremony

marking the end of the construction phase.

As the reopened basilica's doors swung open Nov. 4, three cannon volleys — two for the basilica's first 200 years and the third for its next 100 — were fired from Baltimore's Fort McHenry.

In honor of the French contributions to the basilica's completion and furnishing, including its bells cast in Lyon in 1831, the French ambassador to the United States was to get a private tour of the basilica later in the week as church bells are rung simultaneously in Baltimore and Lyon.

The celebrations were to culminate in a Nov. 12 Mass concelebrated by all of the U.S. bishops, gathering in Baltimore for the fall general meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Cardinal Keeler, who was injured in a car accident in Italy that killed a priest who was traveling with him, said he had to leave the media preview early to go to physical therapy.

"It's all part of getting better, and I really want to get better in time for the ceremonies," he said.

The cardinal used a walker as he entered the basilica Nov. 4.



**Above:** Baltimore's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary reopened Nov. 4 after a two-year, \$32 million complete restoration. In this view the basilica's original altar is displayed in the sanctuary, which is illuminated above by a depiction of Christ's ascension. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



**Above:** The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary sits on the corner of Cathedral and Mulberry streets in Baltimore. Designed by U.S. Capitol architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, the basilica is marking the bicentennial of its founding. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

## Rector of Corpus Christi cathedral, Msgr. Daniel Flores, named auxiliary bishop of Detroit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. Daniel E. Flores, rector of Corpus Christi Cathedral in Corpus Christi, has been named an auxiliary bishop of Detroit by Pope Benedict XVI.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment Oct. 28 in Washington.

Bishop-designate Flores, 45, is to be ordained a bishop Nov. 29 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit.

He will be the first Hispanic bishop to serve in the Detroit Arch-

diocese and the youngest bishop in the country. The Texas priest's appointment brings the total number of active Hispanic bishops in the United States to 25.

Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida indicated the new auxiliary's ministry will include a special focus on Hispanic concerns.

"Conservatively, we know that there are at least 130,000 Hispanic Catholics within the archdiocese," Cardinal Maida said.

"Our Latino and Latina brothers and sisters are the church of

today — a vibrant and active community, making many important contributions right now in our local church," he said.

Corpus Christi Bishop Edmond Carmody called the new bishop-designate "a true servant-priest and leader, someone who is kind, pastoral, intelligent, and highly organized, someone who relates well to everyone — the young, the middle-aged, and the elderly."

Daniel Flores was born Aug. 28, 1961, in Palacios, Texas. He was baptized in Zapata and grew



Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit greets Bishop-designate Daniel E. Flores in the chapel at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit Oct. 28. Bishop-designate Flores, 45, will be the first Hispanic bishop to serve in the Detroit Archdiocese and the youngest bishop in the country. (CNS photo/Larry Peplin, MICHIGAN CATHOLIC)

up in Corpus Christi. After two years of study at the University of Dallas, he entered Holy Trinity Seminary, the formation house for priesthood students connected with the university, and

completed his philosophy and theology studies at the University of Dallas.

He was ordained a priest of the Corpus Christi Diocese Jan. 30, 1988.

## Tom Grenchik named new executive director of bishops' pro-life secretariat

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Tom Grenchik, director of the Pro-Life Office for the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed executive director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He succeeds Gail Quinn, who retired from the post in August. Msgr. David Malloy, USCCB general secretary, announced the appointment Nov. 7. It will be effective Dec. 15.



Tom Grenchik  
(CNS photo/Bob Foley)

"Over the past 16 years, Tom Grenchik has compiled an extraordinary record of achievement in the wide variety of issues which the church must confront in its defense of human life and dignity," Msgr. Malloy said in a statement.

"In doing so he has worked

effectively with the District of Columbia Catholic Conference, the Maryland Catholic Conference, various national and local pro-life organizations, and our own Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. I look forward to his leadership of the USCCB secretariat which I am sure will be equally effective and creative," Msgr. Malloy said.

Grenchik is the founding director of the Pro-Life Office of the Archdiocese of Washington.

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

### Bishops' 'Economic Justice for All': Where does it fit in today's society?

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Since 1997, more than 36,000 copies of a 10th-anniversary edition of "Economic Justice for All," the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the economy and Catholics' role in it, have been sold, as well as about 57,000 copies of a U.S. bishops' reflection on the 1986 pastoral's 10th anniversary. No figures are available on sales when the document was first issued. Its legacy, though, suggests that the pastoral letter has staying power beyond that of the sales figures. One outgrowth of "Economic Justice for All" is "the explosion in corporate social responsibility and linking business practices to our higher calling," according to Charles Clark, associate dean of the economics and finance department at St. John's University in Jamaica, New York. "There are tons of groups that look at spirituality in business, both Catholic and non-Catholic, and even outside of that, a larger percentage of management professors are now looking at questions of corporate social responsibility," he added in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service. "Everything is framed in terms of the corporation as citizen."

### Most marriage questions pass, but limits on cloning, abortion fail

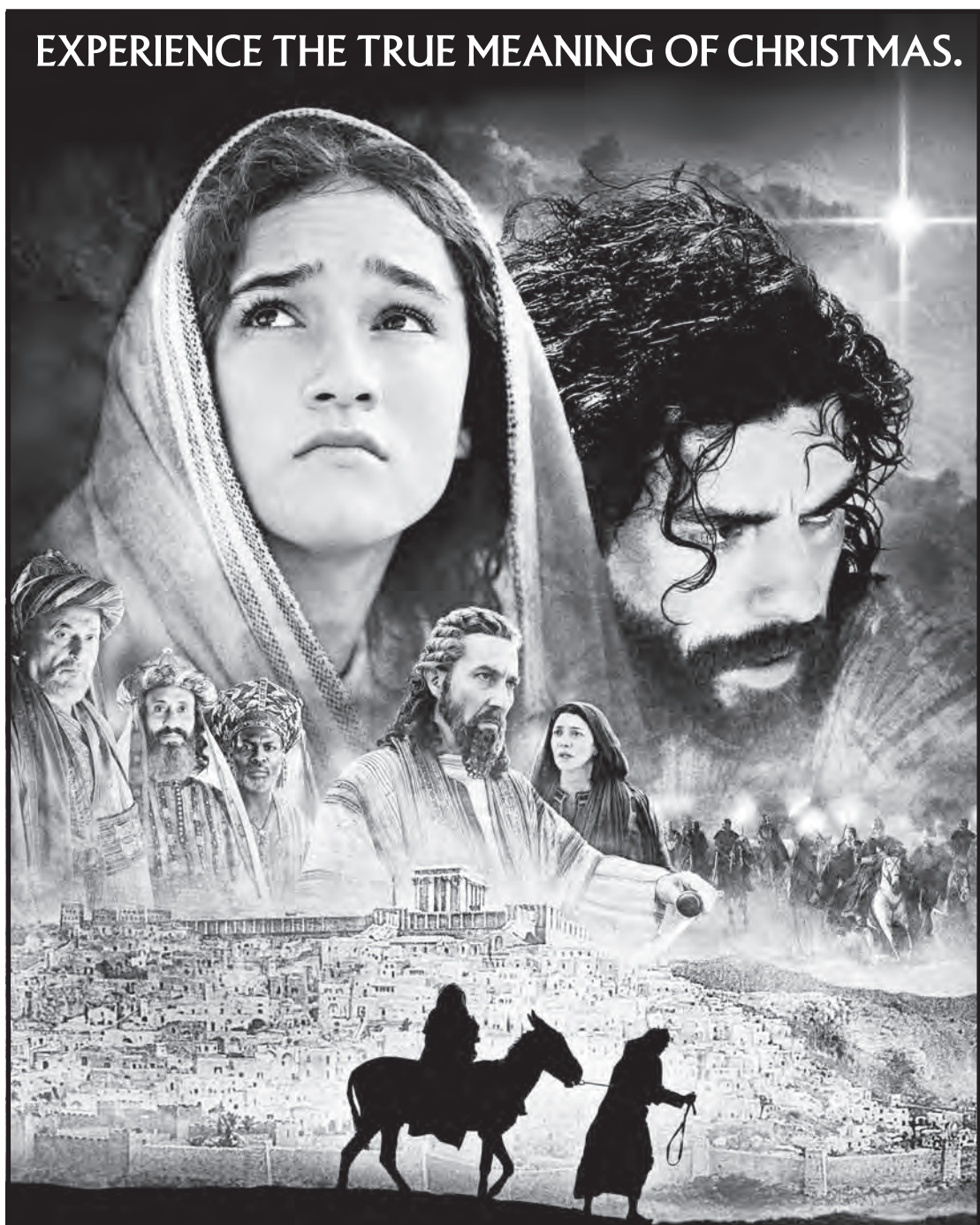
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Voters in seven states approved constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman Nov. 7, but Catholic-backed proposals to limit human cloning and embryonic stem-cell research in Missouri and abortion in South Dakota were defeated. By a narrow margin, Arizona appeared to become the first state to defeat a proposed constitutional amendment on same-sex marriage. In a rebuff to the recommendations of the state's Catholic bishops, voters in Arizona approved proposals sharply limiting state services to illegal immigrants and making English the state's official language. Measures that would have required parental notification before a minor's abortion were voted down in Oregon and California, while voters in Wisconsin approved an advisory referendum that could lead to reinstatement of the death penalty in that state. Proposals to raise the minimum wage won approval in six states, while voters in Michigan approved a constitutional amendment to ban affirmative action programs that take race or gender into consideration for public employment, education, or contracting purposes. Michigan's bishops had urged defeat of the amendment. In all, there were 205 ballot questions before voters in 37 states, and Catholic leaders had taken stands on many of them.

### Vatican officials downplay new tensions over papal trip to Turkey

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials downplayed new tensions over Pope Benedict XVI's planned trip to Turkey in late November, following a shooting incident and an apparent political snub. Police arrested a 26-year-old man who fired three shots in the air outside the Italian Consulate in Istanbul Nov. 2 in protest of the papal visit. After firing, he threw his gun into the garden of the consulate grounds. Turkish media quoted the man, Ibrahim Ak, as saying he would kill the pope if he had a chance, and that he hoped his gesture would inspire similar acts of protest. The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, played down the shooting incident, saying it was unfortunate but that it would not affect planning for the Nov. 28-Dec. 1 visit. Earlier, Fr. Lombardi issued a statement downplaying the news that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan would be out of the country and unable to meet with the pope when the pontiff visits the capital, Ankara. Fr. Lombardi said the Vatican had been aware of the scheduling conflict for some time and understood that there was no guarantee of a meeting with the prime minister.

### Mexican bishop condemns building a fence along U.S.-Mexican border

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A Mexican bishop has condemned the building of 700 miles of fence along the U.S.-Mexican border. Bishop Renato Ascencio Leon of Ciudad Juarez said the law signed by U.S. President George W. Bush Oct. 26 was "a big mistake." "The only thing that building a wall will do ... is divide and alienate our societies," Bishop Ascencio said. He added that bishops from both sides of the border were to say Masses in protest of the law Nov. 2. Altars were set up on both sides of an already existing stretch of fence that separates New Mexico from the Mexican state of Chihuahua, where Ciudad Juarez is located. (See related photo, p. 8) The cross-border ceremonies have become tradition in recent years, as activists have blamed the deaths of thousands of undocumented migrants over the last decade on stricter security measures.



# THE NATIVITY STORY

NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS A TEMPLE HILL PRODUCTION "THE NATIVITY STORY" KEISHA CASTLE-HUGHES OSCAR ISAAC HIAM ABBASS  
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## Diocesan

## FAITH &amp;

Mario Carrizo Jr. overcomes personal obstacles to help others

## PERSEVERANCE

By MARY E. MANLEY, CORRESPONDENT

"Life is like a battlefield, yet win, lose, or draw does not exist in this battle."

This is how Mario Carrizo Jr. sums up his approach in a daily, unceasing fight to persevere and never surrender as he contends with a mysterious, unmerciful foe.

Mario Jr. is battling an undiagnosed neuromuscular disease that has long-eluded clear pinpointing. At 14, he demonstrated significant symptoms resembling either Muscular Dystrophy or post-Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Many years prior to the flare-up, according to Mario Sr., he had developed cold-like symptoms, rendering him weak at four years old. He would later recover 70 percent of his mobility until the last onset of the unnamed disease.

At 21 years old, Mario Jr. is like most young men his age, intent on molding his adult life in healthy independence and in living out his vocational aspirations. Yet he has unique challenges that are countered only with his armaments of Catholic faith, inner resources, and various human and divine supports. Mario Jr. confirms that utilizing these "heavy guns" is making all the difference in attaining his two major goals: To become vitally better medically and to evolve as a successful graphic animator.

Mario Jr., along with his parents, Mario Sr. and Shirley, and his older sister, Anna, are Panama natives. The family came to the United States through Shirley's American civil service work some years ago, specifically hoping to find much-improved services for Mario Jr., who is wheelchair-bound for the foreseeable future. They arrived in Wichita Falls in 2000.

David Bindel, Sacred Heart parishioner and Knights of Columbus member, says he has known the Carrizos for about four years. In that time, Mario Jr. has been involved with Scout Troop 13 in KC fundraising activities, winning trophies in consecutive years. In 2005, he took first place with \$5,000 in popcorn sales.

Bindel observes that Mario Jr. is a "congenial young man who is appreciative of life."



**Above:** Mario Carrizo Jr. pets a horse at Whispers of Hope Horse Farm, a therapeutic riding facility in Wichita Falls. Visible in the background is the new ramp that Mario supervised for his Eagle Scout project.

**Right:** Darrell Franklin, a KFDX 3-TV reporter, interviews Mario Carrizo Jr. during the annual MDA Labor Day Telethon. Mario is battling an as yet undiagnosed neuromuscular disease, but he doesn't let his physical limitations prevent him from doing work in the community.



His pastor at Sacred Heart, Father Hoa Nguyen, reflects that young Mario has demonstrated courage in the face of adversity, with much family support to encourage him in overcoming various obstacles to greater freedom.

In addition to his parish involvement, Mario Jr. is involved in his community. His Eagle Scout project involved the supervision of a new ramp at Whispers of Hope Horse Farm, a nonprofit therapeutic riding facility for mentally and physically challenged Wichita Falls-area youth. Mary Elizabeth Pearce, the organization's founder, has known Mario Jr. for three years, as he has served as a Whispers of Hope ambassador and been a successful fundraiser as well.

Impressed with Mario's

growing mobility with his motorized chair, Pearce expresses particular pride that Mario has been able to strengthen his limbs enough for his first two horseback rides this past October.

Mario credits his guardian angel with giving him extra help to meet the challenge, noting that he felt "a small wind blowing behind me, even though the fully enclosed arena keeps any wind out."

"Mario is truly a blessing and a gift from God," says Pearce. She trusts Mario will continue to move forward in balance awareness and increased muscle manipulation, making even more progress in the future.

Barbara Lawrence, Red River Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) health ser-



**Above:** At home, Mario Carrizo Jr. (center) receives loving support and admiration from (others, clockwise from top, left) his dad, Mario Sr., his mom, Shirley, and sister, Anna. Comet, Mario Jr.'s Labrador/Standard Poodle mix, serves as a faithful companion, helping the young man with various tasks around the house. (Photo by Mary E. Manley)

vices coordinator, has known Mario Jr. for more than six years, following his diagnostic and follow-up care in MDA-sponsored clinics in Oklahoma City and Dallas and also in MDA Summer Camp/education/fundraiser/special event ventures. Calling him "delightful," she elaborates that he is unafraid to set an example for others as he remains steadfast in working toward his goals.

Mario Jr. will graduate from Wichita Falls High School in 2007 and is concurrently enrolled in Vernon College to continue his education and broaden his life opportunities. He receives services from the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, especially vocational help, and also from the North Texas Rehabilitation Center, including aquatherapy. Boys and Girls Clubs also offer activities in which he can participate.

Mario Sr. has been instrumental in paving the way for his son by becoming well-versed in the American Disabilities Act and how to fully apply it not only for his son, but for others in similar circumstances. Central to their motivation is the belief which he and

Shirley share: That families with special-needs children should become fully involved in the community-at-large and not miss out on opportunities to participate as active citizens.

On the homefront, Anna, Mario Jr.'s college-student sibling, expresses great admiration for her brother. She is gleefully looking forward to accompanying him to World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia.

When at home, Mario spends time perfecting his computer graphics skills and also enjoys writing fantasy short stories. Assisting him in gaining a measure of independence is Comet, Mario's Labrador/Standard Poodle-mix companion dog, who provides constant support for him in multiple ways.

Mario freely attests to striving to live out his strong faith, and affirms that his progress comes step-by-step as "God guides me every single day."

This remark supports fellow Sacred Heart parishioner David Bindel's observation: "I would have to say Mario's life is truly best revealed in Romans 12:11-13 — joyful in hope, patient in affliction, persevering in prayer."

## Scripture Readings



November 26, 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 Beverly Corzine

No matter where we human beings gather these days, from the loudest sports event to the solemn quiet of a prayer service, one or more cell phones clang or chirp a few musical notes. As an owner of one of these useful and sometimes irritating inventions, I try to practice the adage that "silence is golden" and set my phone to silent in a gathering.

But it would be different during this particular Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults meeting; my cell phone would wait in the deep recesses of my purse with its ringer ready to interrupt at any given moment. It was not an ordinary night.

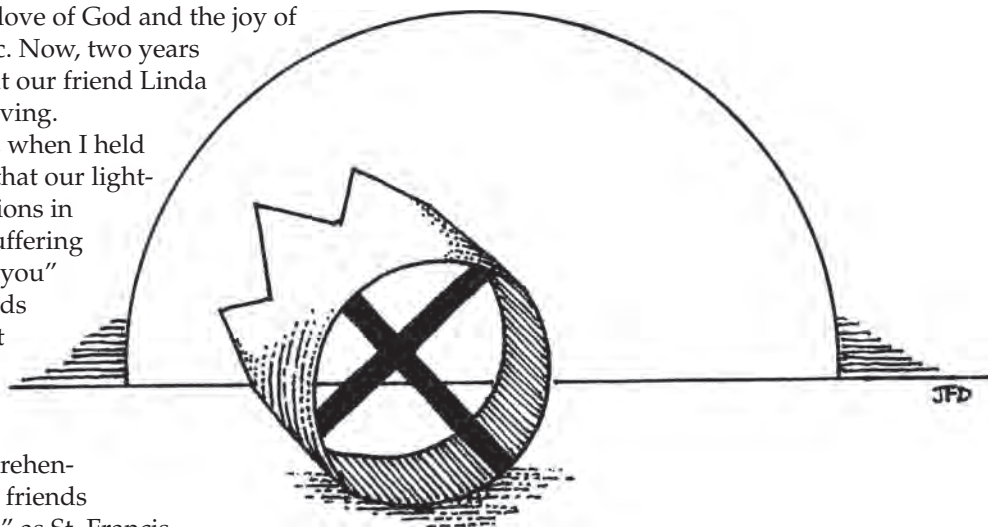
As we prepared for the meeting, the RCIA team and I were remembering Linda and Darwyn, who became Catholic two years ago. When they walked into our meeting room for the first time, we knew they were a special couple. Theirs is a story of love, commitment, and cour-

age, rooted in the love of God and the joy of becoming Catholic. Now, two years later, we knew that our friend Linda would soon be leaving.

The day before, when I held her hand, I knew that our light-hearted conversations in the midst of her suffering were over. "I love you" were the only words left to say. All that remained were her long final hours of pain and the ultimate comprehension of family and friends that "Sister Death," as St. Francis described it, would soon arrive.

Minutes before I was going to direct our RCIA participants to break into small groups, the muffled tolling of my cell phone sent a signal that really did not require an answer. Knowing looks circulated among our team. When I checked the message, I learned what we all knew: Linda had passed into the glory of God.

The readings for Sunday echo an intrinsic longing for justice, peace, and an end to human suffering. Although some in society would say that the cosmic figures described in the Book of



*"My kingdom does not belong to this world."*  
— John 18:36b

Daniel, Revelation, and John's Gospel were written to scare us into submission, we know they are signs that God loves us. Jesus is the witness to the glory of God — the faithful witness who has overcome death itself.

### QUESTIONS:

When was a time that you were acutely aware that God's kingdom reaches beyond our earthly existence? When, in the midst of someone's suffering, have you used "I love you" as the only appropriate words?

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## Baptism, good works not enough for true Christian living, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Baptism and good works are not enough for true Christian living; it requires daily and total giving of oneself to Jesus with humility and adoration, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his Nov. 8 weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict continued a series of talks about important personalities of the early Christian community by focusing on the life of St. Paul.

St. Paul had been a pious, even fanatical, observer of God's laws before his conversion from Judaism after meeting the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, the pope said.

But, he said, after meeting Christ, St. Paul suddenly realized his piousness had been marked by a search to improve and "build himself" into a righteous person. He had been living for himself and his own justification, the pope said.

But with Christ, the apostle Paul came to understand the importance of self-giving and that his life should be dedicated to living for Christ, not for an



Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful as he leaves the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome Nov. 3. (CNS photo/Giampiero Sposito, Reuters)

improved form of himself.

St. Paul said how people are made just in God's eyes and saved by Jesus is "pure grace, an unmerited gift of God's radi-

cal love" and is not dependent on performing good works, the pope said.

To be justified means to be embraced by "God's merciful justice

and to enter in communion with him and, as a consequence, to be able to establish a much more authentic relationship with all our brothers and sisters," he said.

The pope said St. Paul's writings help define Christian identity as being about "receiving Christ and giving oneself to Christ," not about searching for oneself.

Pope Benedict recalled St. Paul's words, "It's not enough to say that Christians are baptized or believers" in Christ. The pope said it is also important that the faithful are in Jesus, bound up in a "mystical union" that does not erase the distinction between Christ and the faithful.

Christians are called to be a part of Christ's life daily, and one's "faith must be marked by a constant attitude of humility before God, indeed adoration and praise," said Pope Benedict.

Belonging to God ought to instill a spirit of "total trust and immense joy," he said.

He said St. Paul taught that nothing can separate the faithful from God's love and that Christian life "rests on the most stable and surest rock imaginable."

It is from God's unwavering love that "we draw all our energy" and strength and are able to face life with all its ups and downs, he said.



## Scripture Readings



December 3, First Sunday of Advent.  
Cycle C. Readings:

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

By Jean Denton

When I was four I once spent the better part of an afternoon standing out in the front yard fearfully listening for the signs of the end times. "When you hear the trumpets playing, you'll know it's the end of the world," my friend Bertha had told me. Bertha didn't seem the least bit scared, but I immediately ran outside to listen and wait.

Looking back, I can imagine why Bertha, even though she was only in her 20s, seemed to hope she'd actually hear those trumpets harkening a glorious coming of God's heavenly kingdom. I'd been to her house, a run-down wooden structure covered with brown tarpaper, in a rural area below New Orleans. I noticed her clothing was well-worn and saw that she sometimes took home bags of our hand-me-downs. I watched her

working hard at heavy household chores — two days a week at my family's house, three elsewhere. No doubt her wages were low, because it was common in the 1950s for even middle-class white families to employ black women as domestic workers.

Bertha had every reason to be sullen and unhappy, but she sang as she worked. She had every reason to be resentful of the families she worked for, but offered them many kindnesses.

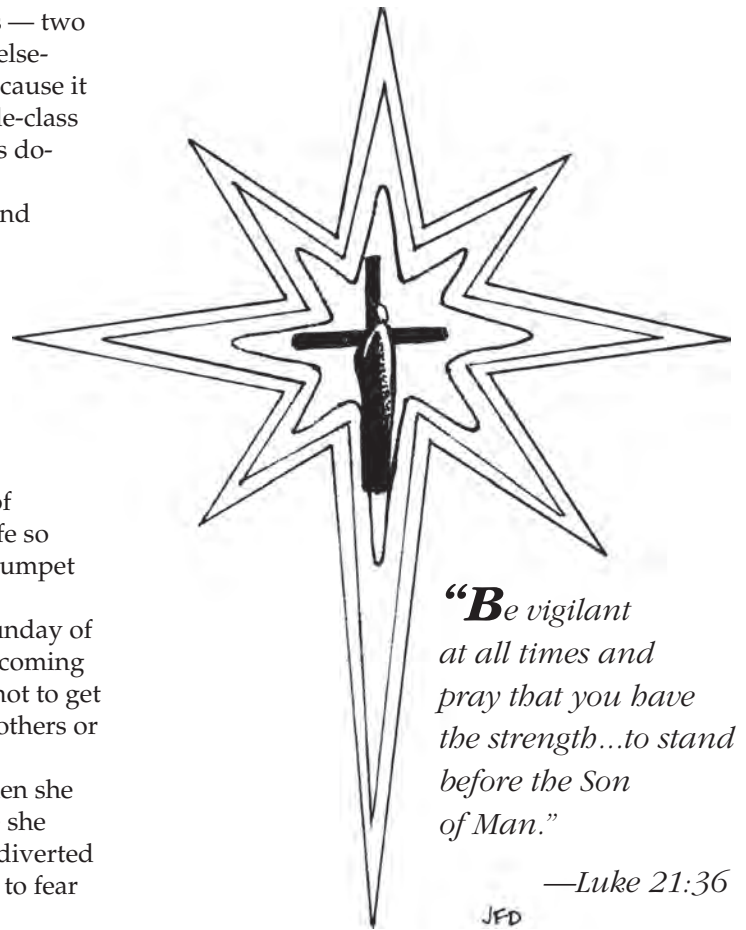
Bertha was good and loving to our family, as she was to her own, and my parents often trusted her to care for my siblings and me. I'd like to think that in the ensuing years the accomplishments of the civil rights movement changed her life so that she wasn't constantly wanting the trumpet call.

Luke's Gospel reading for this first Sunday of Advent describes the signs of the Lord's coming in judgment. Jesus warned his disciples not to get distracted from their mission of love for others or they would fear the day.

Bertha's eyes sparkled confidently when she spoke of the day of the trumpets because she was living a life of holiness and was not diverted from it by her anxieties. She had nothing to fear in standing before the Lord.

### QUESTIONS:

How is the life you are living today preparing you to stand before the Lord in judgment? What are the things that distract you from the Christian call to holiness?



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## Every Sunday is a Eucharistic Thanksgiving

By Jeff Hedglen

Recently at a youth group gathering we were "breaking the ice" by going around the circle of participants stating our name and what our favorite Thanksgiving dish is. Turkey was the clear winner with stuffing coming in a close second.

Other responses were pumpkin pie, Waldorf salad, and cranberries. My response was orange salad. I have no idea why it is called this because there is nothing about this delight that resembles salad, but that's what Mom called it. It is equal parts of orange Jello, orange sherbet, and mandarin oranges all mixed together and chilled in the fridge — yum!

The Thanksgiving holiday is filled with tons of memories from the Dallas Cowboys, to family and friends, to food and fun. Central to most traditional gatherings is the flavor-filled dining room table where the turkey takes center stage.

Last year, inspired by TV's Wolfgang Puck, my wife went

The experience at our Thanksgiving dinner last year is strikingly similar to another banquet table we dine at regularly. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving, or gratitude. This makes sense when we consider the magnitude of the meal encountered.

out of her way in the preparation of our bird. His turkey recipe takes three days to prepare. The fowl has to be submerged in homemade brine overnight; this was my first encounter with the salt-infused, spice-filled, honey-laden, marinating potion. Then she endeavored to mix other spices in butter and rub this concoction under the skin of the turkey and let it sit overnight. Then there was the low heat, slow cook that required a middle of the night start time and a quick nap before sunrise.

What makes all the work my wife put into this turkey all the more amazing is that she doesn't even eat meat. All this work, and she did not get any of the benefit. Yet, if you were to ask her, our silence at the dinner table was her reward, for we were too busy stuffing our faces to sneak a word in edgewise.

As the meal was winding down, I bragged on my wife a bit and let the guests in on her labor of love. As expected, the people responded, expressing their thanks for her efforts. She was

similarly grateful that Wolfgang had not let her down.

The experience at our Thanksgiving dinner last year is strikingly similar to another banquet table we dine at regularly. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving, or gratitude. This makes sense when we consider the magnitude of the meal encountered. Jesus freely gives himself to us in a manner that nourishes us both physically and spiritually, for this we are exceedingly grateful. This meal too is a sacrifice, a labor of love. Certainly, it is on a much more eternal scale than the sacrifices of every Thanksgiving Day chef, but each in their own way are love in action.

The eucharistic altar is the preparation place for the perpetual sacrifice of the cross represented at every Mass, until the Lord Jesus comes again in glory. The kitchen counter, dining room table, and/or any other place that is not currently occupied, is the sacred space where time-worn (and success-stained) recipe cards, mixed with effort, love, and a circus-

like juggling act of oven racks, crock pots, stove burners, and timing, miraculously come together just as the whistle blows for halftime.

I never tire of seeing seemingly innocent events in human life point toward the grander things of God. That the Thanksgiving table is in some small way a reflection of the eucharistic feast, simultaneously tells me that God knows what it means to be human and that humanity reaches its fulfillment in God.

When I attempt to contemplate the mystery of the Son of God wholly offered to us in such a simple form, I am unable to comprehend the generosity of the gift, yet somehow the familiarity of the elements of bread and wine helps me receive it. This is so often the way it is with God; everyday experiences and mundane elements are gateways to the divine.

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at [jeff@stbartsfw.org](mailto:jeff@stbartsfw.org).

# Magistrados enfocan argumentos verbales en diferencias en procedimientos de aborto

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Durante dos horas de argumento verbal el 8 de noviembre en cuanto a una ley federal que prohíbe un procedimiento conocido como aborto de nacimiento parcial, los magistrados y abogados del Tribunal Supremo consideraron las intenciones del Congreso al aprobar el proyecto de ley, las diferencias entre los tipos de aborto y a quién le toca decidir cuándo importan esas diferencias.

El tribunal escuchó peticiones de dos decretos de tribunales menores que encontraron que la Ley de Prohibición del Aborto de Nacimiento Parcial de 2003 es inconstitucional porque no incluye cláusulas permitiendo su uso en algunos casos para proteger la salud de la mujer.

Por la dirección de las preguntas, los magistrados Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Paul Stevens y David Souter aparentaban estar buscando con-

cordancia entre la ley federal y un estatuto similar de Nebraska sobre el cual ellos votaron a favor de derogarlo en el 2000.

El quinto voto en esa decisión por mayoría de 5 a 4 fue emitido por la ya jubilada magistrada Sandra Day O'Connor. Su reemplazo en el tribunal, el magistrado Samuel Alito, no hizo preguntas durante las dos horas dedicadas a los argumentos verbales.

El magistrado Anthony Kennedy, quien estuvo entre la minoría en oposición en la decisión del 2000, y el magistrado en jefe John Roberts se unieron a Breyer, Ginsburg y Stevens, en particular, en cuestionar los aspectos de los hallazgos del Congreso citados en la ley. Roberts, como Alito, se unió al tribunal el año pasado. Algunos analistas han presumido que ambos probablemente mantengan la ley federal.

Pero ambos, Kennedy y Roberts, hicieron una serie de pregun-

tas que buscaba definir las diferencias entre el procedimiento prohibido, conocido por los médicos como "dilatación y extracción intacta" y uno diferente no incluido en la prohibición, que es considerado ser el procedimiento alternativo y de último recurso usado para abortos en el segundo trimestre y más tardíos.

En un "D y E intacto", o lo que la ley llama aborto de nacimiento parcial, un feto vivo nace parcialmente y se le hace una incisión en la base del cráneo, mediante la cual el cerebro es removido, y luego el resto del cuerpo muerto es extraído. En el otro procedimiento, conocido simplemente como dilatación y extracción, el feto es matado mientras está dentro de la madre y luego es removido.

Argumentando que el tribunal debe apoyar los tribunales menores que encontraron la ley inconstitucional, los abogados para la Federación Planned Parenthood

of America y Leroy Carhart, el médico abortista de Nebraska que presentó uno de los casos actuales y el decidido en el 2000, dijo que el "D y E intacto" debe seguir siendo una opción legal porque reduce el riesgo de heridas a la mujer embarazada.

Eva Gartner, abogada para Planned Parenthood, dijo que el tribunal debe rechazar el intento del Congreso de aprovecharse del tiempo limitado que el Tribunal Supremo ofreció en su decisión del 2000 para presentar legislación adicional.

"Lo que el Congreso ha hecho aquí es quitarle a las mujeres la opción de cuál puede ser el procedimiento más seguro para ella", dijo ella.

El procurador general Paul Clement, quien argumentó por el gobierno federal en ambos casos, dijo que el Congreso tenía suficiente evidencia "de que los abortos del nacimiento parcial nunca

fueron médicamente necesarios y que alternativas seguras siempre han estado disponibles para que a ninguna mujer se le previniera terminar su embarazo. Como resultado, el Congreso tiene el derecho a juzgar en cuanto a extender sus intereses legítimos de que iban a prohibir un procedimiento particularmente espantoso que opacó la línea entre el aborto y el infanticidio".

"Hay una situación bastante diferente cuando el Congreso entra e intenta ocuparse del método primario del aborto en el segundo trimestre", dijo él. "Aquí, sin embargo, el Congreso no persiguió al perro, por decirlo así, éste persiguió la cola".

Roberts pasó bastante tiempo discutiendo con los abogados sobre las distinciones médicas técnicas entre los dos tipos de aborto y cuándo el "D y E intacto" puede ser favorecido sobre el método de dilatación y extracción.

## Fotos de vida en la frontera orientadas a 'rehumanizar' debate de inmigración

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (CNS) — Cientos de fotografías de 4 pulgadas por 6 pulgadas cuelgan en una pared rígida y blanca en el Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Scottsdale.

Una imagen muestra la cara de un mexicano de mediana edad parado en medio del desierto. Al lado de ésta está una fotografía de un hombre blanco sosteniendo un par de binoculares rastreando la misma franja de tierra.

Las fotografías, parte del Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera, representan la voz más nueva en la conversación sobre la inmigración.

"La inmigración es sólo un asunto crucial, un asunto que se ha tornado increíblemente politizado, un asunto que queremos rehumanizar", dijo Brett Huneycutt, organizador del Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera, al Catholic Sun, periódico de la Diócesis de Phoenix.

Para "rehumanizar" el debate Huneycutt y dos amigos compraron miles de cámaras fotográficas desechables y las distribuyeron a inmigrantes que se preparaban para cruzar ilegalmente la frontera estadounidense-mexicana y a los vigilantes Minutemen que tenían la esperanza de detenerlos.

La serie de fotografías documentó todo, desde paisajes hermosos del desierto de sonora hasta jarros solitarios de agua puestos por grupos humanitarios, hasta los jeeps adornados con banderas estadounidenses de los Minutemen.

Las imágenes ofrecen un vistazo a un mundo que la mayoría de los estadounidenses conocen sólo a través de la lente de los medios de comunicación.

"Ambos, los Minutemen y los inmigrantes, son en muchos casos caricaturizados",



Esta es una de cientos de fotografías de 4 pulgadas por 6 pulgadas que cuelgan en el Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Scottsdale, en Scottsdale, Arizona, que son parte del Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera. Las fotografías documentan todo, desde paisajes del desierto sonorense hasta jarros de agua dejados por grupos humanitarios para los inmigrantes que cruzan la frontera estadounidense-mexicana y los jeeps adornados con banderas estadounidenses de los vigilantes Minutemen que rastrean la frontera. (Foto CNS/cortesía del Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Scottsdale)

dijo Huneycutt, graduado de la Preparatoria Universitaria Brophy, escuela secundaria católica de Phoenix. "Los Minutemen son caricaturizados como vigilantes portando armas. Los nómadas son caricaturizados como gente que viene a aprovecharse de la ayuda social o a robar empleos estadounidenses. Creo que ninguna de las caricaturas refleja la realidad".

Marilu Knode, curadora mayor del museo, dijo que la exposición fotográfica ha ayudado a derribar esas caricaturas.

"Pensamos que la audiencia reconoce lo comunal de la experiencia humana mostrada en las fotos. Ser más abiertos,

permitir que existan las opiniones conflictivas, son importantes para todos nosotros en este mundo complejo", dijo ella.

Permitir que las fotografías hablen por sí mismas era importante para Huneycutt. Poco comentario textual está adjunto a la exposición. Los artistas hicieron estarcidos de algunos datos y estadísticas sobre la frontera en las paredes que rodean el espacio.

Sin embargo, no hay texto dentro de la exhibición contenida, sólo el trabajo de los fotógrafos aficionados.

"El proyecto podría ser potencialmente más eficaz para formar las opiniones de la gente si no dijésemos nada abiertamente

político", dijo Huneycutt. "Mantuvimos nuestras propias voces en gran medida fuera del proyecto y dejamos que los inmigrantes y los Minutemen hablaran por sí mismos".

Knodel dijo que ellos tuvieron cuidado de "preservar la cara humana en el corazón del Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera. Y creemos que la audiencia ha entendido eso por su reacción".

Conseguir que ambos lados participaran en el proyecto comprobó ser difícil al principio, dijo Huneycutt. Ambos grupos estaban inicialmente cautelosos de las intenciones de él y aprensivos sobre la participación del otro lado.

Huneycutt dijo que para estimular a los estadounidenses él le dijo a los Minutemen que los inmigrantes le estaban enviando fotos mucho mejores.

Otro asunto fue puramente técnico. Muchos de los inmigrantes nunca habían operado una cámara fotográfica. Los socios tuvieron que enseñar el uso apropiado del flash y otras destrezas básicas.

Todo este esfuerzo llevó el Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera a la deuda.

"Estábamos bastante convencidos de que íbamos a fallar y adquirimos mucha deuda en tarjetas de crédito", dijo Huneycutt. "Pero ahora que se está moviendo, el proyecto se ha pagado por sí mismo".

Huneycutt tiene la intención de publicar un libro de las imágenes y ha programado la exhibición en varias universidades. Un museo de Houston será anfitrión de las fotos pronto.

Poner la exhibición en museos de arte exclusivos ha permitido una audiencia diversa, dijo Huneycutt añadiendo que él tiene la esperanza de que "los inmigrantes y los Minutemen vengán a la exhibición y tengan que estar juntos en el mismo salón".

Libertad, mucho más que un concepto político

## Cristo la ofrece

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

Ya se terminaron las campañas políticas hasta el 2008. Ya el pueblo expresó libremente su opinión por medio de las protestas, marchas, campañas publicitarias y sobre todo por medio del voto. Muchos gritan, "¡Que bueno es ser libres!"

Mientras a nadie le gusta ser esclavo de otros, y mucho menos de un gobierno opresor, la realidad es que para nosotros existen esclavitudes mucho peores que las que son impuestas desde afuera. Permítanme describir algunas de estas esclavitudes.

Comencemos con la triste realidad de los que viven esclavizados a la ignorancia. No me refiero a si terminaron la secundaria o si tienen un diploma. Me refiero a la ignorancia de la fe. Me refiero a la ignorancia de Cristo, su Palabra, su Iglesia y sus enseñanzas. Entre los muchos títulos que tiene uno de los más hermosos es ser "La Verdad", verdad que tenemos que estudiar y aprender dentro de la comunidad bajo la guía de nuestros pastores y con la ayuda del Espíritu Santo. Dios nos creó para ser libres, no esclavos, esto comienza con estar libres de la ignorancia, pero no termina ahí.

Otra esclavitud peor que la de la ignorancia es la esclavitud del pecado. Pecado es el negarle el supremo amor a Dios o negarle el amor cristiano al prójimo. Pecado es decir que se prefiere otras normas y no las de Dios. Pecado es estar esclavizado a un camino distinto al camino que es Cristo. Es verdad que existen distintos grados de esta esclavitud, hay diversos grados de pecados, pero lo que también es verdad es que todos los pecados, pequeños o grandes, nos esclavizan y no nos hacen más libres.

¿Cuáles son las diversas esclavitudes que llevan hacia el pecado? ¿Materialismo, desidia, pornografía, mentiras, robo, envidia, odio, chismes, irresponsabilidad, infidelidad? ¿Cuál es tu camino de esclavitud? ¿Cuántas otras esclavitudes se te ocurren?

Cristo dio su vida en la cruz para librarnos de la esclavitud del pecado. Nuestra libertad ha tenido un precio muy alto y con todo lo que Cristo ha pagado por liberarnos todavía existe la posibilidad real de la esclavitud final.

La última y peor de las esclavitudes es la esclavitud de la condenación eterna, el infierno. Es obvio que Dios no le desea esto a nadie pero la realidad es que muchos buscan este camino al buscar las dos esclavitudes anteriores, esto es para los que no quieren ser Libres en todo el sentido de la palabra.

Según Lucas 4: 18-19, la misión de Cristo se resume así: "El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí, porque me ha ungido para anunciar buenas nuevas a los pobres. Me ha enviado para proclamar libertad a los presos y dar vista a los ciegos, para poner en libertad a los oprimidos, para proclamar el año del favor del Señor." Creo que la libertad que me ofrece Cristo le lleva una ventaja a la libertad política.



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

## Monseñor Ochoa ve necesidad de ampliar cuidado temporario para jóvenes que cruzan frontera

Por Daniel Pérez

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — Los inmigrantes indocumentados más jóvenes que son aprehendidos intentando entrar a Estados Unidos desde México por El Paso podrían beneficiarse de un viaje exploratorio reciente realizado a lo largo de la frontera por una delegación de obispos y otros involucrados en el ministerio para inmigrantes en Estados Unidos y México.

El obispo Armando X. Ochoa, de El Paso, dijo que él quiere ampliar los programas operados por la diócesis que albergan niños y adolescentes que son traumatizados emocional y físicamente durante su viaje al norte.

Comparado con ambientes más institucionales, los grupos más pequeños y el ambiente familiar en hogares temporarios realzan el proceso curativo, dijo él durante una conferencia de prensa el 28 de octubre en la Plaza Padre Pinto, afuera de la iglesia Sacred Heart, a sólo cuerdas del puente internacional hacia Ciudad Juárez en México.

"Estos niños han sido tratados malamente", dijo el obispo Ochoa. "Ellos han visto horrores, desde serpientes en el desierto hasta ser abandonados por su coyote (contrabandista). Algunas niñas han sido violadas en grupo".

La idea de ampliar los programas de cuidado temporario provino de un viaje de estudio de una semana organizado por la Conferencia Estadounidense de Obispos Católicos a fines de octubre para recopilar información de parte de líderes eclesiásticos, comunitarios y de aplicación



El obispo Armando X. Ochoa, de EL Paso, miembro del Comité Sobre Emigración de los obispos estadounidenses, inspecciona las obras de arte de un residente de 16 años de edad del Hogar St. Michael Para Niños en Houston el 25 de octubre. (Foto CNS/Erik Noriega, THE TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD)

de la ley sobre el contrabando humano y las experiencias de los menores de edad no acompañados a lo largo de la frontera estadounidense-mexicana.

El obispo Ochoa, miembro del comité de emigración de los obispos, estuvo en el contingente, que incluyó miembros de varios programas católicos relacionados con la emigración. La delegación fue liderada por el obispo Gerald R. Barnes, de San Bernardino, California, director

del comité de emigración.

Él discutió algunos de los descubrimientos que el grupo obtuvo de la misión del 23 al 28 de octubre, que incluyó paradas en Tucson, Arizona, Houston y El Paso y las comunidades mexicanas relacionadas de la frontera.

Los delegados harán recomendaciones sobre cómo mejorar el sistema de inmigración en Estados Unidos y en los países desde los cuales los inmigrantes están viniendo, dijo él.

## Funcionarios del Vaticano le restan fuerza a las nuevas tensiones originadas por el viaje del Papa a Turquía

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Funcionarios del Vaticano le restaron fuerza a las nuevas tensiones originadas por el viaje del papa Benedicto XVI a Turquía, a finales del mes de noviembre, después de un incidente de tiroteo y un aparente desaire político.

La policía arrestó a un hombre de 26 años que disparó tres tiros al aire fuera del Consulado Italiano en Istanbul, el 2 de noviembre, como protesta por la visita del Papa. Después de disparar, lanzó la pistola al jardín del consulado.

Los medios de difusión de Turquía citaron las palabras del hombre en cuestión, Ibrahim Ak, que había dicho que mataría al Papa si tuviera la oportunidad, y que esperaba que sus acciones inspiraran actos similares en són

de protesta.

Mientras esperaba un interrogatorio llevado a cabo por funcionarios antiterroristas de la estación de policía local, Ak le dijo a una agencia noticiosa de Turquía: "Hice lo que cualquier musulmán tiene que hacer. Alá primero, y el Papa no vendrá a Turquía; pero si viene, verá lo que le pasa.

"Yo le dispararé a la cabeza a cualquiera que diga que el Profeta era terrorista", Ak dijo.

Aparentemente hacía referencia a un reciente discurso del Papa pronunciado en Regensburg, Alemania. En él, el Papa citó el comentario de un emperador medieval en el sentido de que el fundador del Islam, el profeta Mahoma, había traído "solamente cosas diabólicas e inhumanas, tales como

su mandato de difundir la fe por medio de la espada".

El Papa, después, claramente dijo que no estaba de acuerdo con la forma de ver las cosas del emperador y dijo que sentía mucho que los musulmanes se hubiesen sentido ofendidos.

El vocero del Vaticano, el padre jesuita Federico Lombardi, le restó fuerza al incidente de disparos, diciendo que era desafortunado pero que no afectaría los planes de la visita del Papa, a llevarse a cabo del 28 de noviembre al 1º de diciembre.

"El Santo Padre va a Ankara y a Istanbul a edificar puentes; y yo creo que este episodio está completamente al margen. No afectará la serena preparación de la visita", dijo el vocero del Vaticano.

# Menores de edad que cruzan frontera estadounidense enfrentan enredo de cuestiones legales, opciones

NOGALES, Arizona — Cinco niños y dos niñas, ningunos de los cuales parecía tener más de quizás 15 años de edad, siguieron obedientemente las instrucciones en español de los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza.

“Párense allá”.

“Vayan busquen su mochila”.

“Escuchen a este hombre, él les ayudará a regresar a casa”.

En la estación de la Patrulla Fronteriza de Nogales, a un par de millas al norte de “la línea” con México, la mañana de un martes los siete menores de edad recogidos en el desierto la noche antes estaban siendo entregados a los representantes del consulado mexicano. Los dos hombres entrevistarían a los adolescentes y decidirían cómo regresarlos a sus familias.

John Fitzpatrick, agente de patrulla a cargo de la estación de Nogales, dijo a los visitantes estadounidenses, que incluían representantes católicos, que el grupo de adolescentes era típico del número de menores no acompañados entre los cientos de personas recogidas cada noche en lo que la Patrulla Fronteriza llama el desierto del oeste, entre Nogales y la demarcación del Condado Yuma, al este de la frontera de California.

Mientras los arreglos eran acordados para entregar los siete jóvenes, ellos esperaban pacientemente — con un aire de resignación — en una línea justo fuera de varias celdas de detención aseguradas donde unas cuantas docenas de otras personas miraban a través de ventanas gruesas mientras esperaban ser procesadas. La política de la Patrulla Fronteriza le prohibía a personas de afuera hablar con los adolescentes.

Para la delegación estadounidense, compuesta de unas 15 personas incluyendo tres obispos y empleados de dos diócesis



El Padre Tony Celino lee el Evangelio durante una Misa del Día de los Muertos celebrada el dos de noviembre, a ambos lados de la frontera México-Estadounidense en Anapra, Nuevo México. La Misa fue concelebrada por los Obispos de El Paso, y Las Cruces, Nueva México, y los Obispos de Juárez y Casas Grandes, México. La Misa fronteriza se ofrece cada año para orar por las personas que han muerto cruzando ilegalmente a los Estados Unidos. (CNS foto/Andy Sparke, Rio Grande Catholic)

de Arizona y de la Conferencia Estadounidense de Obispos Católicos, reunirse con a la Patrulla Fronteriza el 24 de octubre fue parte de una introducción de tres paradas a los programas operados por grupos eclesíasticos, por los gobiernos estadounidense y mexicano y por entidades privadas. El enfoque del grupo fue el trato de los menores de edad que cruzan la frontera sin miembros de familia y de las víctimas del contrabando humano.

En Houston el día siguiente el grupo visitó dos refugios para jóvenes operados por la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston y se reunieron con representantes de las oficinas del Procurador General de Estados Unidos y de Aplicación de Leyes de Inmigración y Aduana, parte del Departamento de Seguridad Interna. Más tarde en la semana, una parada en EL Paso llevó a los viajeros a refugios para menores de edad situados al otro lado de la frontera en Juárez operados por el gobierno mexicano, por la

YMCA y por la orden religiosa escalabrina.

La delegación que visitaba la estación de la Patrulla Fronteriza incluyó al obispo Gerald R. Barnes, director del comité de emigración de los obispos, de San Bernardino, California; al obispo Armando X. Ochoa, miembro del comité de EL Paso; y al obispo auxiliar Jaime Soto, de Orange, California, miembro de la junta directiva para la Red Católica de Inmigración Legal.

El obispo John B. McCormack, de Manchester, New Hampshire, miembro de la junta de Catholic Relief Services, estuvo con el grupo el día anterior cuando visitaron Altar, México, sitio de coordinación para el tránsito ilegal fronterizo. Él concelebró más tarde la Misa para el grupo en Misión San Xavier del Bac, en Tucson.

Un informe de junio para el Comité Sobre Estudios de Derechos Humanos, de la Universidad Harvard, titulado “Buscando Asilo Solos: Niños No Acompañados y Separados y la Protección de

Refugiados en Estados Unidos”, observa que “a pesar de o quizás debido al gran número de actores gubernamentales involucrados con niños en el sistema de asilo, hay una deficiencia general de información sobre ellos”.

El informe dice que 122,222 jóvenes fueron capturados por la Patrulla Fronteriza en el año fiscal 2004. Todos menos unos 19,000 eran de México y fueron deportados inmediatamente. El resto fue puesto en los procedimientos de inmigración, que a veces tomó meses.

Hasta hace poco tiempo los menores de edad eran responsabilidad del servicio de inmigración, que a veces los encarcelaba con adultos en condiciones parecidas a una prisión. Ahora los jóvenes no acompañados por un guardián legal son entregados a la Oficina de Reasentamiento de Refugiados en el Departamento de Servicios de Salud y Humanos hasta que puedan ser reunidos con miembros de sus familias.

En el 2004 la oficina de reasentamiento tuvo bajo su custodia entre 750 y 900 menores de edad en cualquier momento dado, para un total ese año de 6,200 niños no acompañados y separados.

Debra Fergus, supervisora de bienestar de niños en un programa de hogares temporarios operado por Caridades Católicas de la Diócesis de Phoenix para la oficina federal de reasentamiento, dijo que la mayoría de los que están en ese programa es guatemalteca, aunque ella ha trabajado con algunos de Honduras, El Salvador, Brasil, Costa Rica y México. El programa fue comenzado en 1986 para ayudar a los refugiados y fue expandido hace tres años bajo la reorganización de las agencias federales de inmigración.

Informándole a la delegación

fronteriza de camino hacia Nogales desde Tucson, Fergus explicó que el tiempo pasado en el sistema de hogares temporarios es generalmente una buena experiencia para los inmigrantes jóvenes.

Los participantes se quedan tan poco como un día, pero típicamente durante algunos meses antes de ser reunidos con sus familiares, dijo ella. Durante ese tiempo ellos están viviendo en un ambiente de familia, yendo a la escuela, trabajando con un consejero y aprendiendo inglés y tienen a alguien trabajando a su favor para cerciorarse de que sus derechos legales sean protegidos.

Fergus dijo que a menudo es después que los jóvenes han estado en el programa durante algunos meses que ellos comienzan a abrirse y a decir cómo llegaron a estar en Estados Unidos por su cuenta. En muchos casos esas historias son críticas para cómo los jóvenes y los niños son tratados por las autoridades que escuchan sus casos para el asilo u otro estado legal en Estados Unidos.

“Si no todos, la mayoría de los niños han sido testigos de muertes”, dijo Fergus. “Ellos han tenido muchas experiencias traumáticas que están más allá de nuestra comprensión”.

Algunos han sido víctimas de contrabandistas de humanos para el sexo comercial o como trabajadores menores de edad.

“Es muy difícil determinar si ellos han sido o no víctimas del contrabando”, dijo Fergus. “Es una parte tan secreta de sus vidas. Están avergonzados de lo que sucedió, están asustados, han sido amenazados”. Hasta los jóvenes cuyas familias sólo le deben dinero a los contrabandistas que emplearon para llevar al joven a Estados Unidos temen por sus familias, añadió ella.

## Iglesias africanas exhortan a las naciones industrializadas a ponerle remedio a la deuda originada por las emisiones de carbono

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Una coalición de iglesias católicas y protestantes africanas que asistían a una conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre cambios climáticos exhortó a las naciones industrializadas a una compensación a favor de las naciones pobres por emisiones de carbono.

En una descripción de los países industrializados como “deudores del medio ambiente” para resarcir a los países pobres, representantes de las iglesias dijeron que se necesita urgentemente la restauración del

equilibrio por parte de los países industrializados.

En la conferencia de las Naciones Unidas llevada a cabo del 6 al 17 de noviembre, se trabajó para extender el Acta de Kyoto de 1997, pacto internacional ratificado a favor del medio ambiente para disminuir los gases llamados de invernadero.

En un mensaje a los delegados de la conferencia, representantes de las iglesias dijeron que solamente existía un presupuesto global limitado para emisiones de carbono y que debía ser distribuido equitativamente entre

ciudadanos y países.

Representantes de las iglesias dijeron que los países industrializados deberían estabilizar las emisiones globales de carbono con una significativa reducción de esas emisiones para hacer que el presupuesto de clima esté bajo control.

Compañías individuales y gobiernos deben compartir esta responsabilidad, añadieron.

El padre de Maryknoll John Brinkman, de los Estados Unidos, quien asistía a la conferencia, dijo que los hombres y mujeres religiosos tenían la

obligación de cuidar la creación de Dios.

“Los cambios globales de clima no son teoría económica o plataformas políticas, ni se tratan tampoco de ventajas de partido o presiones de grupos interesados ... sino de proteger tanto el medio ambiente humano como el medio ambiente natural” observando el mandamiento de Dios “cuiden de otros seres creados con amor y compasión”, dijo.

El padre Brinkman, miembro de la comisión de Maryknoll sobre ecología y religión, encabezaba un grupo de 20 hombres

católicos y mujeres religiosas que asistieron a la conferencia.

Haciendo referencia a declaraciones del papa Juan Pablo II, el padre Brinkman dijo: “Dios le ha dado a la humanidad razón e ingenio por lo que nos distinguimos de otras creaturas”, y (esa) “ingenuidad y creatividad han hecho posible que podamos lograr avances importantes y nos pueden ayudar a resolver el problema de cambio del clima global”.

“Qué infortunio que no siempre hayamos hecho uso de estos dones sabiamente”, dijo.

## Justices focus on differences in abortion procedures in oral argument

FROM PAGE 1

the brains are removed, and then the dead body is delivered the rest of the way. In the other procedure, known simply as dilation and extraction, the fetus is killed while inside the mother, then removed.

Arguing that the court should uphold lower courts that found the law unconstitutional, attorneys for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Leroy Carhart, the Nebraska abortion doctor who brought one of the current cases and the one decided in 2000, said "intact D&E" should remain a legal option because it reduces the risk of injury to the pregnant woman.

They explained that in some cases the unchallenged dilation and extraction method leads to perforation of the woman's uterus and other complications of having medical instruments inserted to remove parts of the dead fetus' body. These complications can be avoided when the fetus is killed when part of it is outside the mother's body, they said.

Eve Gartner, attorney for Planned Parenthood, said the court should reject the attempt by Congress to exploit the limited window for further legislation that the Supreme Court offered

in its ruling in the 2000 case.

"What Congress has done here is take away from women the option of what may be the safest procedure for her," she said.

Solicitor General Paul Clement, who argued for the federal government in both cases, said Congress had sufficient evidence "that partial-birth abortions were never medically necessary, and that safe alternatives were always available such that no woman would be prevented from terminating her pregnancy. As a result, Congress was entitled to make a judgment in furthering its legitimate interests that they were going to ban a particularly gruesome procedure that blurred the line between abortion and infanticide."

Ginsburg questioned whether the same argument might be made about the more common procedure.

"So assuming you're right that it is constitutional for Congress to ban the ['intact D&E'], wouldn't the same reasoning apply?" she asked. "Couldn't Congress make similar findings with respect to what is the most common method for second-trimester abortions?"

The two procedures, and congressional intentions, are different enough, Clement said.

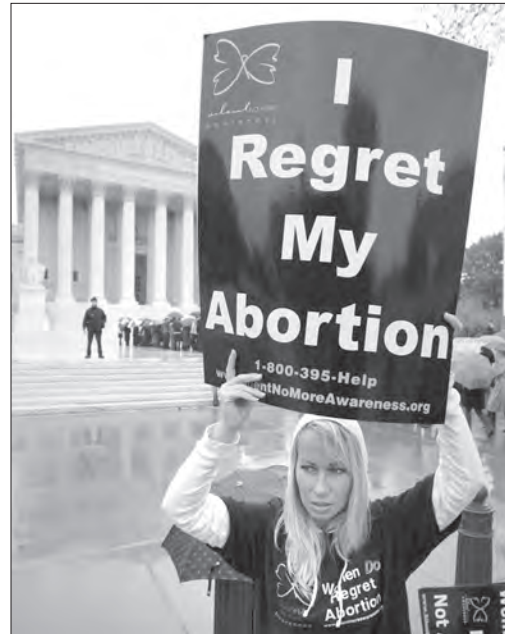
"There is quite a different situation when Congress comes in and tries to deal with the primary abortion method in the second trimester," he said. "Here, though, Congress didn't go after the dog, so to speak, it went after the tail."

Justice Stevens challenged Clement over the validity of some evidence Congress cited to show that partial-birth abortion is never necessary, including assertions that major medical schools do not teach the procedure. If there was evidence that congressional findings were wrong, "could the District Court disregard that finding and make a contrary finding?" Stevens asked.

Clement conceded that that might undermine some findings of Congress and that the Supreme Court would be entitled to defer to the lower court's conclusion over those of Congress in some cases.

Roberts spent a great deal of time in discussion with the attorneys about the technical medical distinctions between the two types of abortion and when the "intact D&E" might be favored over the dilation and extraction method.

Meanwhile, outside the court building, protesters both supporting and opposing the federal law marched, chanted, prayed,



### SUPREME COURT PROTEST

— Felicia McKee of Johnson City, Tennessee, holds up a sign during a demonstration in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Nov. 8. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases challenging the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

and sang in a light rainfall.

One vocal opponent of abortion made it inside the courtroom. About 40 minutes into the first argument session, a man later identified by the Supreme Court as Rives Miller Grogan, 40, of Los Angeles, started shouting anti-abortion slogans.

"Repent or perish" and "Abortion is murder" were among the things the man screamed from the normally quiet public gallery area of the courtroom. As the puzzled attorney for Dr. Leroy Carhart of Nebraska, who sued to stop the abortion ban, paused in her remarks, several court police officers swooped down on the man, picked him up, and removed him from the courtroom. The man's shouts — frequently invoking

Jesus Christ — could be heard from the halls for several minutes as officers moved him through the building.

Grogan was arrested and charged under a federal law against loud, threatening, or abusive language in the Supreme Court building. If convicted, he could be jailed for up to 60 days.

None of the justices commented on the outburst, but Roberts joked that he would give the attorney, Priscilla Smith, an extra 30 seconds of time to make up for the disruption.

Decisions in the two cases — *Gonzales v. Carhart* and *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood* — could come anytime between now and the end of the term in June.

## Father Neuhaus says *Roe* decision has disrupted 'American moral life'

By Mary Chalupsky

HAMDEN, Connecticut (CNS) — Father Richard John Neuhaus, editor-in-chief of the journal *First Things* and a prominent commentator on religion in the contemporary world, predicted that at some point in the coming years the Supreme Court will "step away" from its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion by overturning the decision or by passing responsibility back to the states.

"No decision has done more to disrupt American moral life" in the last 50 years than *Roe v. Wade*, he told an audience at Quinnipiac University in Hamden. He gave a lecture Oct. 17 on "Religion and Democracy: The First Amendment Upside Down."

The real question *Roe* raises, he said, is "who belongs to the community" that the political process in the great "American experiment" was designed to represent?

Fr. Neuhaus, who has written several books, was promoting his most recent work, *Catholic Matters: Confusion, Controversy, and the Splendor of Truth*, published by Basic Books in March.

He urged the free exchange of ideas and exercise of religion in the public arena.

Politics in a democracy "is free people deliberating how ought we conduct our lives together," he said. "And the nature of the thing is moral."

"The separation of church and state is a great achievement of the

American political experiment," said Fr. Neuhaus. "But often it is understood to mean a separation of religion from politics. That is not what it means and not what the First Amendment required."

"To separate religion from politics is to exclude the great majority of Americans from participating in political life," he noted, "and sovereignty is 'we' the people."

Fr. Neuhaus noted that the phrase "separation of church and state," which was first mentioned in a letter from Thomas Jefferson to a group of Baptists in Danbury, is not in the U.S. Constitution, but has entered into the judicial as well as political arena.

"It has continued to be a kind

of phrase over which people rally," he noted. "But the separation of church and state has ended up turning the First Amendment on its head," said Fr. Neuhaus, borrowing a phrase from former Chief Justice Warren Burger.

He also cited Philip Hamburger's 500-page tome, *Church and State in America*, in which Hamburger dispels the "church-state myth," explaining that the intent of the Founding Fathers was not to exclude religion from politics and the public arena, but rather to prevent government from interfering in religion, as was the case in England.

However, many interpret the "no establishment" and "free exercise" provisions in the Bill of Rights to mean that, when it

comes to education, social services, or any other areas where government and religion intersect, "religion had to retreat," Fr. Neuhaus said.

The religion clause, he explained, was intended to protect religion from the power of the state, with the purpose being the free exercise of religion. However, in recent decades, the courts have turned the religion clause upside down.

This misinterpretation "has led to enormous controversies," said Fr. Neuhaus, who also is the author of *The Naked Public Square: Religion and Democracy in America*.

He noted that in the last few years the Supreme Court has said that this understanding of religion is "in a state of incoherence and needs to be clarified."

"I think in the next few years we will see the religion clause" restored to "protect and advance the free exercise of religion," he said.

"People in the public square," he said, "have an obligation to bring their best moral judgment and argument and noble, compelling vision of how ought we order our lives together."

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# Three named, one reappointed to Vatican communications council

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Anthony J. Spence, director and editor in chief of Catholic News Service; Msgr. Owen F. Campion, associate publisher of the Catholic publishing firm Our Sunday Visitor; and Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, to five-year terms on the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Russell Shaw, a contributing

editor for *Our Sunday Visitor*, was appointed to his second consecutive five-year term on the council.

Spence and Msgr. Campion both have served as president of the Catholic Press Association and editor of the *Tennessee Register*, diocesan newspaper in Nashville.

Anderson, an attorney, has served as head of the international Catholic men's organization since 2000. He also is a member of the

Pontifical Council for the Laity and a consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Shaw's reappointment marks the start of his third term on the social communications council. His first term was from 1984 to 1989.

Spence, 53, has headed the Washington-based CNS since February 2004. Before taking that post, he was in charge of more

than a dozen publications as executive director of Advancement Communications at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Prior to that he had been director of alumni publications at the university.

Before going to Vanderbilt in 1998, Spence had been editor in chief and general manager of the *Tennessee Register Inc.*, which publishes the newspaper, since 1989. He also served as the diocese's communications director from 1992 to 1998.

became founding president and first dean of the Washington campus of the institute, a graduate school of theology, now located at The Catholic University of America. Anderson and his wife, Dorian, are the parents of five children.

Shaw, a freelance writer and editorial consultant, is a former secretary of public affairs for what was then the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/U.S. Catholic Conference. He also is a former director of information for the Knights of Columbus.

He is the author or co-author of more than a dozen books, and has contributed to many periodicals in the United States and other countries.

The Pontifical Council for Social Communications has its roots in the 1948 establishment of the Pontifical Commission for the Study and Ecclesiastical Evaluation of Films on Religious or Moral Subjects, renamed later that year as the Pontifical Commission for Educational and Religious Films.

Headed by U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, the council now deals with a wide variety of topics, including advertising, the Internet, pornography and violence, and communications ethics.

Americans who recently completed terms on the council include Thomas N. Lorscheider, former CNS director and editor in chief, and Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, who recently left his post as secretary for communications for the U.S. bishops to return to his diocese.

## Hamer...

From page 11

As years passed, our family grew, and began to take in neighbors, parish pew-partners, the children's favorite teachers, and friends with whom we shared lives, births, sometimes deaths, and yes, favorite pies.

But I'm not a pie-chef. I'm barely a pie-baker. I just show up.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, in our home, is the laughing-est day of the year. We come from the grocery store with an enormous number of apples — Abby sits on the stepladder for hours, peeling them. Julie rolls crusts and measures intoxicating mixtures of sugar and cinnamon.

Andrew is in charge of car and cell phone, driving to and from the store, sometimes stopping, making a U-turn and returning, for something else we called to say we forgot. (Maintaining a list? Cheaper. Comedy material? Priceless.)

John and I share creativity as well as creative mistakes, and one year we used tapioca we thought was instant. We learned eating undissolved tapioca beads was as precarious as chewing marbles, so, without jeopardizing our friends' dental work, we hid and retired the now infamous "Blueberry-Biscupid" cream pies.

Not everyone is a Julia Child. But, as in most of life's accomplishments, success doesn't always come from excellence; it comes from presence.

John and Meredith learned, while shopping many years ago, that although we lacked extended family for Thanksgiving, we could make a family-sized production of it. We had no skills, and it didn't matter if the peaches were canned, or if the fillings were too liquid.

What mattered was that the peach pie was John's alone, and his tiny hands filled the crust. It mattered that Meredith tenderly shaped leftover dough into "cinnamon pie."

The best part of our baking bonanza always is the process. How many kinds of pie will we bake? How many will turn out right? No one knows for sure until they are sliced.

We buy packages of extra tins to send slices home with guests. A pie made of six different flavors can be a simple — sometimes unattractive — treat. Like a family itself, in which, on any night or holiday, one or another may be missing an ingredient, sometimes pies are more delicious combined with others.

I am not a great baker, but I stand in the kitchen for hours, and prepare an outlandish spread. This happens with the children I love even more than the whipped cream. They have filled my life so fragrantly, that the definition of delicious is simply their names.

Last summer John volunteered at a camp for handicapped kids, and one activity he shared with his charges was pie baking. "The leader gave basic instructions," John said, "and distributed cookie cutters to decorate the crusts.

"I was working with a little

girl, and when the leader had finished speaking, I said to my child, 'Let's write your name on the pie.'

"Overhearing, the leader turned back to us and cautioned, 'You can't make names on pies.'

"Yes you can,' I told her," John said. "At my house, we have been putting names on pies for 25 years."

"So we rolled little pieces of dough and wrote our names on our pie."

This Thanksgiving we will bake somewhere between 20 and 30 pies. They will have names on them — people, teams, and schools. A random collection of friends — different every year — will eat and take some home, and there will be leftovers, so whoever stays at our house can enjoy a midnight feast, and pie for breakfast.

I am not a master baker. For 30 years, I have just been present, while bowls, cookware, ovens, and my children carried me to a place of happiness that is the reason for all thanksgiving.

I didn't have to be great. I just showed up — and I am so glad I did.



Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew's, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. Her column is syndicated in a number of the best Catholic diocesan newspapers across the U.S. In May of 2005, her column received the first place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada.

Msgr. Campion, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville, was editor of the *Tennessee Register* for 17 years until joining *Our Sunday Visitor* in Huntington, Indiana, in 1988 as associate publisher and editor of *The Priest* magazine.

Among his other positions and honors, he is a past recipient of the St. Francis de Sales Award, the highest honor given by the CPA; was the Vatican's ecclesiastical adviser for the International Catholic Union of the Press; and served as a member of the Synod of Bishops for America and on the U.S. bishops' Committee on Communications.

Msgr. Campion was CPA president from 1984 to 1986 and Spence from 1994 to 1996.

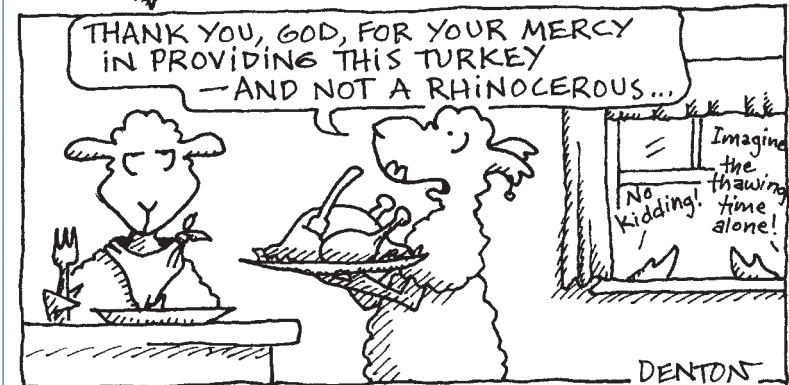
Anderson, who was the only Catholic layman to serve as an auditor to the 2001 and 2005 world Synods of Bishops, also has served on the Pontifical Academy for Life.

From 1983 to 1998, he taught as a visiting professor of family law at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome. In 1988, he

## The FLOCK

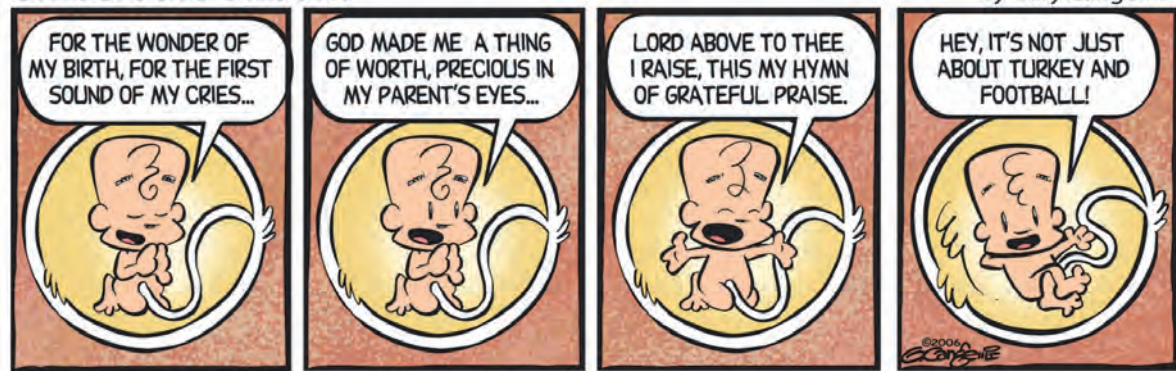
By Jean Denton

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## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



# Calendar

## MINISTRY FORMATION DAY

All are invited to gather for an enrichment day that includes (English and Spanish) workshop sessions, exhibits, networking opportunities, and a keynote speaker. The next Ministry Formation Day, sponsored by the diocesan offices of Children's Catechesis, Media Library, Adult Formation, Hispanic Pastoral Services, Young Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, Worship, Catholic Schools, Peace and Justice, Marriage and Family Life, Light of Christ Institute, Marriage Tribunal, Pastoral Planning, Stewardship and Development, and Finance, will be held Jan. 6 at Nolan Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth. For more information, contact Kevin Prevou at kprevou@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 261; or Paul Combest at pcombest@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 267. There will be another Ministry Formation Day held March 3 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 108 NW 4th Ave., Mineral Wells. For more information on this program, contact Joe Rodriguez at jrodriguez@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 115; or Andrés Aranda at aaranda@fwdioc.org or (817) 560-2452 ext. 258.

## CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

A celebration honoring the contributions of longtime diocesan employees Charmaine Williams, Sandra Leighton, and Sister Donna Ferguson, SSMN, will be held Nov. 30 at Good Shepherd Church, 1000 Tinker Road, Colleyville. The celebration will mark the retirement of the three women from diocesan service, and will include an evening prayer service, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. The following reception, to be held in the parish hall, will conclude by 9 p.m. All are invited to attend. For more information about the celebration or to RSVP prior to the Nov. 20 deadline, call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300 or e-mail to rsvp@fwdioc.org.

## MINISTRY FOR GAYS / LESBIANS

The regular fourth Thursday monthly meeting of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will not be held in November and December because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. All who are interested, including parents and friends, are invited to attend the 5 p.m. Mass at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, Dec. 9. Following the Mass, there will be a potluck dinner in the Family Life Center. Meats will be provided. Food may be dropped off at the Family Life Center beginning at 3 p.m. on Saturday. The next regular meeting of the ministry will be held Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, adjacent to Nolan Catholic High School. For additional information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383, Deacon Richard Griego at (817) 421-1387, or Hank and Dottie Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

## COURAGE D/FW

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

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S GROUP

St. Augustine's Men's Purity Group, a ministry for men who struggle with sexual impurity issues on the Internet and other sources, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The meetings are held in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, located at 2016 Willis Lane, Keller. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.sampg.org, or e-mail to Mark at seasmenspurity@yahoo.com.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County is in search of volunteer drivers willing to deliver noontime meals to homebound elderly and disabled citizens of Tarrant County. Volunteers must provide their own transportation. For more information, call Meals on Wheels at (817) 336-0912.

## To Report Misconduct

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

- **Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator,** (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org
- **Or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline** (817) 560-2452 ext. 900
- **Or call The Catholic Center** at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olson.

## To Report Abuse

**Call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services)**  
1 (800) 252-5400

## DISCERNMENT DAY

The first annual Vocational Discernment Day for the Priesthood or Religious Life, sponsored by Bishop Kevin Vann and the Serrans of Wichita Falls, will be held at Sacred Heart Parish, 1501 9th St., Wichita Falls. The discernment program for men will be held Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dec. 17 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. for women. The following topics for discussion will be included. "What are common fears about religious life?" "What is my mission within the mission of the church?" "What is daily life like as a priest/sister?" "How do I discern my calling from God?" This program is designed for discerning Christ-centered single men and women ages 17 to 40. For more information, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid at (817) 366-0439 or by e-mail to padrekyle@gmail.com.

## DOUG BRUMMEL EVENING

Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth, will host a Whole-Community Celebration featuring church comedian, Doug Brummel. Brummel's one-man, character-changing show "Lighten Up!" will be held Dec. 5 and 6 (previously announced as Dec. 4 and 5) at 6:47 p.m. Admission is free, and all are welcome. A free-will donation will be accepted. For additional information, call Genni Sayers at (817) 737-6768 ext. 109.

## ELDER CARE SEMINARS

St. Michael Church, in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County, will continue the elder care seminar series through April 2007. These free sessions are open to anyone currently caring for an elderly person or who would like to be prepared for the future. Seminar participants will receive practical information and tools to prepare and assist them in their roles as caregivers. Seminars will be held at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford. To see a full list of seminar topics and for more information, visit the Web site at www.smcchurch.org. To learn more about the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County, visit online at www.aaatc.org. Upcoming dates and topics include: "Managing the Holidays: Stress, Time and Family," Nov. 20; "Safety and Independence 1," Dec. 4; and "Safety and Independence 2," Dec. 18.

## Catholic Pilgrimages From DFW

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## RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard of Fort Worth is holding a weekend retreat Jan. 5-7 for those seeking healing after an abortion. This retreat helps those who struggle with grief, guilt, and pain after an abortion to find healing and hope. The retreats are open to all who feel the pain of post-abortion trauma. Come and experience the mercy, forgiveness, and healing love of God on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat. For more information or to register, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757, e-mail to [forgiven@racheltx.org](mailto:forgiven@racheltx.org), or visit the Rachel's Vineyard Web site at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

## ST. CECILIA CELEBRATION

Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth, will host a musical tribute to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of church music, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. The celebration will include a special guest performance by Bishop Kevin Vann, choral and instrumental presentations, and community hymns. Light refreshments will be served at a reception in the Family Life Center following the presentation. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 737-6768.

## CARDINAL NEWMAN TALK

The Cardinal Newman Institute for the Study of Faith and Culture has announced that its final fall talk will be given Dec. 9 at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1200 N. Davis, Arlington. Dr. James Patrick, chancellor of the College of St. Thomas More, Fort Worth, will present "Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman: An Exemplary Witness for Truth and a Man for Our Time." The evening will begin with vespers at 6:15 p.m., followed by a pot-luck supper and the presentation. For additional information, call (817) 277-4859.

## LIFE YOUTH RALLY 2007

A Life Revival Youth Rally 2007 will be held Jan. 12-13 at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills. The doors will open Friday at 6 p.m. Guest speakers will include Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, including Father Bernard Murphy, CFR, and Carol Everett, former abortion clinic owner. There will be no admission charge, however, donations will be accepted. Saturday, the event will be held from noon to 9:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann at 6 p.m. Live music with The Remnant Band, Daniel DiSilva of the Crispin Band, the Joe Languell Band, and the teen "Landmark Band," will follow the Mass. Food, frapuccino drinks, T-shirts, CDs, and various other items will be available for purchase. Other guest speakers will include Daniel diSilva, Dr. Pilkington, and Father Kyle Walterscheid. For more information, contact Suzette Chaires, by e-mail to [schaires@sjanrh.com](mailto:schaires@sjanrh.com), by phone at (817) 284-4811 ext. 209, or Sue Laux by e-mail to [laux4life@yahoo.com](mailto:laux4life@yahoo.com).

## LITURGICAL CONFERENCE

The 45th annual Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week will be held Jan. 17-20 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the Cox Business Services Convention Center. To request a brochure or for more information, contact the Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or call (405) 721-5651. Information may also be obtained by visiting the Web site at [www.swlc.org](http://www.swlc.org).

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## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TALK

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, believed to be miraculously imprinted upon the tilma (cloak) of St. Juan Diego, has been the subject of various critical examinations over its 475-year history. Artistic and scientifically oriented opinions have been published concerning the nature of the image's pigments and underlying surface, its aesthetic qualities, and its style. Dr. Miguel Leatham will deliver an illustrated presentation entitled "What do we really know about the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe?" Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Religious Education Building at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. Dr. Leatham will compare the findings of these investigations and will comment on their significance in understanding the image of Guadalupe and its history. Dr. Leatham is a lecturer in anthropology at Texas Christian University and a member of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish. For more details, call the parish office at (817) 332-4915.

## 'COME AND SEE WEEKEND'

The Sisters of the Holy Spirit will host a "Come and See" weekend at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in San Antonio. The weekend will begin Friday, Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. and continue through Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1 p.m. The Sisters of the Holy Spirit, inspired by their foundress Margaret Mary Healy Murphy, are called to minister to persons who are marginalized, oppressed, or economically poor. For more information, contact Sister Veronica Cahill by phone at (210) 533-5149 or via e-mail to [holspirit@shsp.org](mailto:holspirit@shsp.org). Other information may be found on the diocesan Web site at [www.fwdioc.org](http://www.fwdioc.org).

## TEEN 'LOCK-IN-FOR-LIFE'

St. John's Youth Ministry will sponsor "Lock-in-for-Life" Dec. 8-9 at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills. The cost for this event is \$30 advance purchase or \$35 at door. Each teen will receive a T-shirt and The Remnant Band's new CD. Included in the event will be food, music, games, Mass, pro-life information, and more. Teens will get a chance to enter an essay contest to win either a three-day or five-day trip to Washington, D.C. in January. Proceeds will go toward scholarships to March For Life in Washington D.C. in January. For more information, contact Suzette Chaires, by e-mail to [schaires@sjanrh.com](mailto:schaires@sjanrh.com), by phone at (817) 284-4811 ext. 209, or Sue Laux by e-mail to [laux4life@yahoo.com](mailto:laux4life@yahoo.com).

## CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

All are invited to join the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish adult choir for a performance of "Portrait of Christmas." Spiritually uplifting and sentimental Christmas favorites will be performed by the choir and soloists accompanied by a live orchestra. Enjoy this musical event Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the MBS sanctuary. Most Blessed Sacrament Parish is located at 2100 N. Davis Dr., Arlington. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 460-2751.

## ROME PILGRIMAGE

Bishop Kevin Vann and Father Michael Holmberg, associate pastor at St. Michael Church in Bedford, will lead a Rome pilgrimage designed especially for young adults March 10-18, 2007. The trip is described by organizers as a spiritual, educational, and cultural journey. All young adults, their family members, and friends are invited to participate. The cost is \$2,500 per person for double occupancy. For details, visit online at [www.travelillum.com/trc/hfw](http://www.travelillum.com/trc/hfw), or call (817) 283-8666 ext. 55.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The diocesan Family Life Office is looking for married couples in good (not perfect) marriages to share their experience of married life with couples preparing for marriage. Each year the Family Life Office assists parishes by providing marriage preparation programs for over 600 engaged couples. There is a need for English and Spanish presenter couples. Couples willing to volunteer for one or two sessions per year would be of great help. To volunteer or for more information, call Deacon Dick Stojak, director of Family Life, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or by e-mail to [rstojak@fwdioc.org](mailto:rstojak@fwdioc.org).

## SINGLES CHRISTMAS DANCE

The Holy Family Church Singles Ministry will hold its annual Christmas Dance Dec. 9 from 8 p.m. to midnight in the parish's Family Life Center, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth. The cost of the dance is \$6 per person plus a dish to share. For more information or to make a reservation, call Monica Molina at (817) 737-6768, Vince Chairez at (817) 896-5726, or Sylvia Salinas at (817) 845-2718.

## SUBIACO OPEN HOUSE

Subiaco Academy, a Catholic all-boys college preparatory boarding school located in Northwest Arkansas, will host an Open House Discovery Sunday for parents and prospective students Dec. 10 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Founded by the Benedictines of Subiaco Abbey, the 120-year old academy offers young men in grades nine through 12 a challenging program in academics, the arts, sports, and various activities. The academy's students hail from across the United States and foreign countries that currently include China, Germany, Mexico, South Korea, and Taiwan. Visitors will have an opportunity to tour the campus and meet members of the administration, faculty, and student body. Interested students will also have the opportunity to take a preliminary entrance exam. Anyone interested in learning more about the possibilities and potential to be found at Subiaco is invited to come and enjoy the activities and lunch at no cost. For additional information, contact the admission office at (800) 364-7824, or e-mail to [admissions@subi.org](mailto:admissions@subi.org).

## DINNER AND CONCERT

All are cordially invited to dinner and a Christmas concert Dec. 22 at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Drive, North Richland Hills, sponsored by the combined choirs, the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The combined choirs of the parish, accompanied by members of the Northeast Orchestra, will present "The Voices of Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin. The concert is free and will begin at 8 p.m. Reservations are not necessary. The Knights of Columbus will also serve dinner from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the gym. The cost of the dinner is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children. The Catholic Daughters will also host a bake sale during the dinner hour. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 284-4811.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

The Annual New Year's Eve Dance, sponsored by the Singles Ministry, will be held Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 4500 Columbus Trail, Fort Worth, off of Hulen. The cost is \$15 per person. For more information, contact Vince Chairez at (817) 896-5726.

## DALLAS YOUNG SERRANS

The Young Serrans of Dallas are individuals, single or married, mainly in their 20s or 30s, who meet regularly for Mass, eucharistic adoration, dinners, and topical studies (Scripture, church history, Vatican II, saints, etc.). The group participates in a unique combination of spiritual, service, and social activities. For more information, contact Cheryl by e-mail to [youngserracommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:youngserracommunity@yahoo.com) or call (972) 488-8578.

## Classified Section

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Background Illustration, Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech

James Mullaney lets the Heavens declare the glory of God, which he says they indeed do

# Well-traveled astronomer shares God's heavenly wonders

By Gary Morton / THE DIALOG / Newspaper of the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware / Catholic News Service

**F**or the last 35 billion miles of his life, James Mullaney has pointed to the skies as proof that God not only exists but that he designed the intricate universe of heaven-knows-how-many galaxies.

"The universe sure didn't happen by accident," said Mullaney, an astronomer and self-proclaimed "celestial evangelist."

The former curator of the Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science in Pittsburgh and director of the DuPont Observatory at the

University of South Carolina in Aiken awed about 75 fellow laypersons at St. Edmond Church in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware recently with his slide show and talk titled "Let the Heavens Declare."

Now 38.5 billion miles into his life's journey (his age of "66 years by this planet's dating" multiplied by Earth's annual 583-million-mile orbit of the sun), Mullaney estimates that he has preached his message of a personal God whose creation seems infinite to more than a million people.

An uncle started Mullaney on his mission 58 years (or about 35 billion miles) ago, in the backyard of then-8-year-old Jim Mullaney's home in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The uncle set up a telescope and showed Mullaney the moon and Jupiter.

"That's when I started evangelizing," Mullaney told *The Dialog*, newspaper of the Wilmington Diocese. "My first impulse, in my head, I think I

said 'Praise God!' or 'Oh my God!' It was like a miracle. I had to share it with somebody, so I started running up and down the street from our house, pounding on all the doors and asking them to come out and look."

Mullaney believes the big-bang theory, which says the universe formed through a series of explosions that started with a single atom, supports the biblical account of creation.

"Scientists can explain how the big bang happened as far back to 1/30-billionth of a second after it happened," he said, "but when it comes down to the actual event, it came out of nowhere."

His answer: "God said, 'Let there be light.' That's why Pope Pius XII endorsed the big-bang theory as soon as he heard of it."

Besides his planetarium and observatory work, he's written five books (one by the same name as his slide-show presentation) and published

more than 700 articles about astronomy for publications such as *Sky & Telescope*, *Astronomy*, and *Star & Sky* magazines. He also contributed to Carl Sagan's "Cosmos" television series.

He presents his program 45 times a year during retreats at St. Joseph's in the Hills in Malvern, Pennsylvania, close to where he lived until he moved to Long Neck, near Rehoboth Beach, three years ago.

Mullaney believes in a personal God even though Earth is a seemingly miniscule part of a vast and expanding universe.

At St. Edmond's, he used sand, stars, and the Bible to make his case. Holding up a 35mm film canister, Mullaney said it contained about a quarter million grains of sand.

"If you take all the grains of sand on all the beaches and all the deserts on the entire planet Earth, you would be nowhere near the amount of stars we can now see with our largest telescopes," he said.

According to the Old Testament books of Genesis and Isaiah, "God has a name for every star," Mullaney said, "so you shouldn't doubt that God knows your name."

His slide show features pictures taken through the Vatican Observatory's Advanced Technology Telescope in Arizona — Mullaney calls it the "pope scope" — and by the Hubble Space Telescope.

One shows Earth from outer space, which led Mullaney to recall how Sagan thought humanity "desperately needed a cosmic perspective" of the Earth.

"It looks very peaceful, looking down on it; during the day there is no trace of human life," Mullaney said. "This is the way God gave us the world, a beautiful jewel floating in the sea of space. And we've really messed it up, unfortunately. There's been tribal warfare since day one, and we haven't learned, have we? We are still fighting."

## Inside... This issue of the NTC

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Mario Carrizo Jr. doesn't let a neuromuscular disease or the confines of a motorized wheelchair keep him from making a difference in his community. We can all learn from his example. **15**

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