



A fallen soldier memorial lines the stage before the start of a ceremony Nov. 10 to honor victims of the Nov. 5 shootings at Fort Hood. Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan allegedly opened fire at a medical building, killing 12 soldiers and one civilian. (CNS photo/Jessica Rinaldi, Reuters)

Chaplain describes 'total chaos' after shootings

See story on page 13

All Things Possible campaign: First parishes hit goal

With a strong focus on sacrificial giving and the power of 100 percent participation, Father Kyle Walterscheid, Deacon Ruben Castañeda and the parishioners of St. Rita, Ranger; Holy Rosary, Cisco; and St. Francis Xavier, Eastland became the first parishes to meet or exceed their *All Things Possible* campaign goal after the Nov. 7 and 8, pledge weekend. According to Meegan Wright, campaign executive director, the pledge weekend allowed pastors and pastoral administrators to encourage parishioners to turn in their pledges, or to take the time and make their commitment while sitting in their pews, if they had not already done so.

These three parishes were among the first group of 24 parishes and missions taking part in the first phase of the *All Things Possible* campaign. The second phase of the campaign will begin in the balance of the parishes and missions of the diocese in late January and continue through the spring.

"I am truly grateful and thankful for the response thus far in the *All Things Possible* campaign," said Bishop Kevin Vann. "The generosity of those who have



responded — especially in some of our rural parishes — is a gift to God and to the entire diocese."

As part of the campaign, each parish and mission will receive a 25 percent return of all funds raised during the campaign up to their parish goal, with 75 percent of funds raised over their goal going back to the parish. These funds can be used by the parishes for local projects.

"Our goal from the beginning has been to do our best with the campaign through high participation," said Dcn. Castañeda, "and now we will be receiving extra funding back at each parish for our own needs. We have helped our diocesan family, as well as our parish family!"

"Each of the 24 parishes and

missions currently running their campaign should be commended for an outstanding effort," said Wright. "Before pledge weekend," she said, "this first group of parishes had hit 21 percent of their goal from only 562 families. In one weekend, they gathered an additional 1,500 commitments, pledges, and gifts!"

Most of these parishes conducted another in-pew appeal Nov. 14 and 15, said Wright.

Bishop Vann asked for continued prayer for those considering their gifts. "In these challenging economic times," Bishop Vann said, "we are witnessing a response of faith which has always been characteristic of Catholics in Texas, from the first days of the life of the Church here. This generosity," he said, "is a true blessing to us here and now and to those who will come after us. Thank you with all of my heart," Bishop Vann said, "for your faith, participation, and for all of the parish priests and all who have worked so hard. God bless you always."

For more information, contact the campaign office at (817) 560-2452, ext. 170.

Inclusion of abortion ban allows health care bill to pass House

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the end, the successful battle to include strict language prohibiting funding for abortions, led by pro-life congressional Democrats with the strong support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, made the difference in the Nov. 7 House vote to pass a sweeping health care reform bill.

In a rare Saturday night vote, the House approved the Affordable Health Care for America Act, 220-215, moving the legislation on to the Senate, which was expected to take up debate on its own health care bill later in November.

Assuming the Senate passes a version of the legislation, differences between the two bills will have to be reconciled separately. That legislation would go back to both houses of Congress for final approval.

Key to passing the House bill was the approval of an amendment by Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., to prohibit the use of federal funds to pay for abortion, including barring abortion coverage from insurance plans which consumers purchase using government subsidies. The USCCB and other pro-life organizations had threatened to oppose any final bill that did not include such provisions.

The final bill fell short of another element pushed strongly

by the Church in recent weeks. It would bar people who are in the country illegally from receiving any government assistance to get health coverage. The U.S. bishops also had urged that the legislation allow all immigrants access to the health care system, regardless of legal status.

What the bill does do is expand health insurance to an estimated 30 million people who currently lack coverage, meaning an estimated 96 percent of Americans would have access to more affordable health care.

Various news sources as well as people involved on the Hill reported on the critical role of last-minute, behind-the-scenes negotiations among House leaders, White House staff, Catholic bishops, and their staff. Also essential were talks with Stupak and others who were holding firm on withholding their votes pending acceptance of his amendment.

Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the USCCB, spoke with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi Nov. 6, encouraging her to let Stupak's amendment come up for a vote. Other bishops also weighed in by phone with various members of Congress, including encouraging Republican leaders not to try to block progress that

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Pope: Charity is essential part of Christian witness

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Catholics must be channels of God's goodness and love, offering concrete assistance to the poor and working for justice in the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Charity belongs to the very nature of the Church," the pope said Nov. 13 during a meeting with members of the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*, the Vatican office that promotes and coordinates Catholic charitable giving and distributes the money the pope designates for charity.

Pope Benedict thanked Catho-

lics all over the world who generously give their time, their resources and their energy "to witness to the love of Christ, the Good Samaritan," who attends to those who are physically or spiritually needy.

"In proclaiming salvation, the church cannot ignore the concrete living conditions of the people to whom it is addressed," he said.

"Acting to improve those conditions concerns the very life and mission of the Church because Christ's salvation is holistic and regards the human person in every dimension: physical and

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House...

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was being made in getting the abortion amendment passed.

When Stupak's amendment was allowed to come to the floor, it was approved by a vote of 240-194, with the support of many Republicans who did not ultimately vote for the legislation itself.

Only one Republican voted for the overall bill, Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao of Louisiana, a Catholic and former Jesuit seminarian who was elected in December 2008 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Democratic Rep. William Jefferson, who was forced out of office in a bribery scandal.

In a statement, Stupak, a Catholic who has spoken many times of his often lonely role as a pro-life Democrat in Congress, focused not on his successful abortion amendment, but on the overall bill, which he called the most significant reform to government and private health insurance programs since Medicare and Medicaid were created in 1965.

His statement noted that the bill includes reforms for both the uninsured and those who

already have insurance. Medicare recipients will receive additional prescription drug coverage and be entitled to full coverage for preventive care.

Other components of the bill include:

— Insurance companies would be prohibited from discriminating against people with pre-existing medical conditions. They also would no longer be able to impose lifetime caps on benefits or cancel coverage for any excuse when policyholders become ill.

— It would give tax subsidies to small employers to help them provide insurance for their workers.

— It would create a health insurance exchange where people who are not currently covered through an employer-purchased plan, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Affairs, or other government insurance could get coverage through private or federal providers.

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, called the bill historic and said it "brings our nation closer to ensuring quality, affordable health care for everyone and to reversing the injustice of millions of un- and underinsured women, men, and children."

Her statement said the CHA believes the legislation "is consistent with the values and principles set forth nearly two years ago in 'Our Vision for U.S. Health Care' — principles that define the essentials in the critical areas of respect for the life and dignity of all persons; quality, fair financing; and patient-centered care that is available and accessible to all."

"There is no perfect bill, nor will there be, but the leaders in the House of Representatives have crafted a good health reform bill that gets this nation a step closer to the health care system the American people deserve and can be proud of," Sr. Carol said.

Among those lauding the role of Stupak and his coalition in passing a bill with the abortion exclusion was Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life.

"The House of Representatives answered the call of history today when they passed health care reform," Day said. "While it would be tempting to call this a Democratic win, the truth is the American people are the winners of this hard-fought victory."

She applauded Pelosi for clearing the way for the amendment and called Stupak and Rep. Brad Ellsworth, D-Ind., "heroic."

Cardinal George praises health care vote: Vigilance still needed as bill moves through Senate

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Bishops Conference, praised the House for approving a reform bill that provides "adequate and affordable health care to all" and "voting overwhelmingly" for a prohibition on using federal money to pay for most abortions.

An amendment to ban abortion funding sponsored by Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and other House members passed 240-194, and led to passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act in a 220-215 vote.

In a statement issued late Nov. 9, the cardinal lauded the Nov. 7 vote and urged the Senate to follow the House's example.

Members of the House "honored President (Barack) Obama's commitment to the Congress and the nation that health care reform would not become a vehicle for expanding abortion funding or mandates," he said.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "will remain vigilant and involved throughout this entire process to assure that these essential provisions are maintained and included in the final legislation," he said.

He said the bishops "remain deeply concerned" about health care reform as the debate now

moves to the Senate, which will now take up its own version of health care legislation. Assuming that measure passes, differences between the bills will be worked out in a conference committee and both House and Senate will have to vote again on the final version.

Cardinal George said the Catholic Church is concerned about how health reform "affects the poor and vulnerable, and those at the beginning and end of life."

"We will continue to insist that health care reform legislation must protect conscience rights," he said. "We support measures to make health care more affordable for low-income people and the uninsured. We remain deeply concerned that immigrants be treated fairly and not lose the health care coverage that they now have."

"In the national discussion on how to provide the best kind of health care, we bishops do not claim or present ourselves as experts on health care policy," he said. "We are not prepared to assess every provision of legislation as complex as this proposal."

"However, health care legislation, with all its political, technical and economic aspects, is about human beings and hence has serious moral dimensions," he added.

Bishop Kevin Vann has asked that this bulletin insert be published in the NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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UPDATED: NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

U.S. House Keeps Abortion Funding Out of Health Care Reform

Tell Senators:

- Follow the House's Lead on
- Removing Abortion Funding
- Protect Conscience Rights
- Ensure Affordable Health Coverage
- Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case for genuine health care reform that will protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortion coverage.
- It is critical that the Senate adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment language on this issue. This Amendment ensures that Americans are not forced to pay for the destruction of unborn children as part of needed health care reform.
- The Senate must address other essential moral priorities: protecting conscience rights; making health coverage more affordable and accessible for those in need; and ensuring that immigrants do not lose or will not be denied health care coverage needed for the good of their families and the health of society.

ACTION:

- Contact Senate and House Members through e-mail, phone calls or FAX letters.
- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.
 - Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Full contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"Please adopt the House-approved Stupak Amendment that upholds longstanding policies against abortion funding, and please protect conscience rights in health care reform. Health care must be made more affordable and accessible to those in need, and immigrants must not lose or be denied health care coverage."

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House-passed health care reform bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. Please work to ensure that this essential provision is included in any final bill sent to the President."

WHEN:

The Senate schedule is uncertain.

Act today! Thank you!

For more information on proposed legislation and the bishops' position on authentic health care reform, visit: www.usccb.org/healthcare.

North
Texas
Catholic



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Philadelphia cardinal makes good on bet after Yankees win

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—After the Yankees won the 27th World Series Nov. 4, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia made good on a wager with Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York.

The Yankees bested the Phillies four games to two to become the 2009 champions.

Following the terms of the bet, Cardinal Rigali sent a box of Tastykakes to the Big Apple to congratulate his longtime friend on the Yankees win. Had the Phillies won, Archbishop Dolan was to ship a dozen bagels to the City of Brotherly Love.

The cardinal, in a congratulatory note to Archbishop Dolan, said he had "planned to enjoy your New York bagels with Philadelphia Cream Cheese after another Phillies world championship." With the Yankee win, he said, the "loss of our wager stings a little less" knowing how much the archbishop would enjoy the "taste of Philadelphia."

Cardinal Rigali also mentioned a possible rematch next year, citing the "talented nucleus" returning to the Phillies for the next season.

The cardinal and the archbishop made the wager Oct. 27.

"Cardinal Rigali is one of my closest and dearest friends; for



Philadelphia Phillies base runner Shane Victorino is tagged out at home plate by New York Yankees catcher Jorge Posada in the ninth inning in Game 1 of the 2009 Major League Baseball World Series in New York Oct. 28. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York placed a friendly wager on the outcome of the series. (CNS photo/Mike Segar, Reuters)

several years he even served as my archbishop, so I feel a particular loyalty to him. I know he has exquisite taste in most matters. I just wish he had better taste in baseball teams," Archbishop Dolan said in a statement when they made the friendly bet.

Archbishop Dolan was ordained a priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese in 1976, and from 1994 to 2003 then-Archbishop Rigali was head of the archdiocese. The New York archbishop also was an auxiliary bishop in St. Louis, 2001-02.

Performance enhancers distort true nature of sports, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Athletes must avoid practices that damage human health, especially the use of performance-enhancing drugs, said Pope Benedict XVI.

Sports play an important role in providing the well-rounded education that young people urgently need, he said in a message to a Vatican-sponsored seminar on sports.

However, athletes must avoid anything that distorts the true nature of sports such as "turning to practices that damage the body as is the case with doping," he said.

The Pontifical Council for the Laity's church and sports desk organized a gathering Nov. 6-7 dedicated to "Sports, Education and Faith: A New Season for Catholic Sports Associations."

In his written message, the pope asked that the Church continue to support athletic activity for young people and to highlight

its positive aspects, such as its "capacity to stimulate competitiveness, courage, and the tenacity to fulfill one's goals."

Catholic sports associations and educators "must see themselves as experienced guides for young people, helping them develop their athletic potential without neglecting those human qualities and Christian virtues that make a person fully mature," he said.

"Through sports activities, the church community contributes to young people's education, providing an appropriate environment for human and spiritual growth," said the pope.

"In fact when sporting initiatives are aimed at the full development of the person and are run by qualified and competent personnel, they become fruitful occasions in which priests, religious, and laity can become true educators and teachers of life for young people," he said.

*Responding
to God's Call*

Back to the basics in caring for patients

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

In this most challenging subject of our time, we should first agree that because of modern technology, new medicines, and new treatments, our health care is far better than 20 years ago and several tiers above anything offered 30 or 40 years ago, yet we must admit health care costs have gotten out of control.

In the summer of 1996, I was in the city of Morelia, Mexico, studying Spanish for the first time as part of my seminary training. A few weeks into the program, just as I was getting to feel at ease with everything, I came down with food poisoning from the evening meal I ate with my host family. I was vomiting repeatedly, and the father of the house woke up in the middle of the night to see what was wrong. He immediately called a doctor and made an appointment. At 3 a.m. we arrived at the doctor's house. The doctor had a clinic next to the house, and he checked me out for 15 minutes and sent us away with a prescription. The charge: only 10 dollars! With less than 10 dollars for a prescription at a 24-hour pharmacy, I was resting comfortably and asleep by 5 a.m.

On the other hand, about five years ago a man at a parish I was serving at the time had a heavy object drop on his head, and it caused a small gash on the crown of his head that wasn't too serious. But because of a lawsuit-happy society, I insisted he go to the emergency room to get it checked out and to get stitched up. To my surprise,

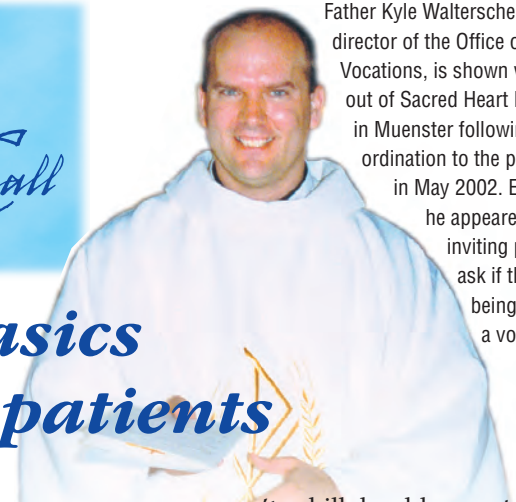
the emergency room wasn't too busy, and with some minor paperwork, a nurse began to work on him within 30 minutes. The nurse spent a total time of about 15 minutes to prep him and the doctor less than 10 minutes to ask a few questions, chart it down, and to give him 10 stitches. I was pleased with the medical staff and was greatly relieved that everything was in the clear and that the man could go on his way. But then I had to pay the bill. I looked at the bill in disbelief. "Five hundred dollars!" Murmuring under my breath, I went ahead and paid the bill on my credit card. But that's not all; a "final bill" came in a month later for an additional six hundred dollars. Enraged, I could have burned the collar off my neck at the time, but, as you know, that kind of bill is nothing in comparison to those who are seriously ill and whose bills can easily run into hundreds of thousands of dollars in a few weeks' time. Needless to say, health care costs are out of control.

Overall, doctors, hospitals, and nursing staff should be commended for their direct health care to patients for, as I said at the beginning, the overall care of patients has increased significantly. However, the care for the ill and the injured should be seen as primary and one's ability to pay as secondary, and yet many times the ability to pay is part of what is standing in the way of equitable health care for all.

Along those same lines a more serious defect in our health care costs is the inability of hospital administrators, insurance companies, and the pharmaceutical industry to work together to significantly lower the cost of health care for all of the people in each state.

The current top down policy coming from Congress looks like a disaster waiting to happen. This may be partially why the U.S. bishops have communicated their deep concerns and willingness to vigorously oppose, if not revised, each of the existing bills set before Congress. Therefore, without overreaching, any health care

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



bill should respect certain rights of existing private and independent hospitals — such as the 624 existing Catholic hospitals in the U.S. — including religious freedom, the conscience rights of the employees, and the institutions' commitment to medical ethics, while trying to restructure governmental regulations. The four main concerns and needs the U.S. bishops have pointed out are stated as follows:

- a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity;
- access for all, with a special concern for the poor and inclusion of immigrants;
- pursuing the common good and preserving pluralism, including freedom of conscience and a variety of options;
- restraining costs and applying them equitably across the spectrum of payers.

As the U.S. bishops have stated, "Our nation is at a crossroads. Policies adopted in health care reform will have an impact for good or ill for years to come..." Since 240 pro-life representatives courageously approved an amendment banning funding for abortions, Cardinal Francis George, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "We will work to persuade the Senate to follow the example of the House and include these critical safeguards in their version of health care reform legislation."

Abortion is not health care! Our universal vocation to care for the sick comes from Matthew 25:36, "I was... ill and you cared for me" which is diametrically opposed to "I was ill and you took advantage of me." Fight now for a leaner health care system that puts doctors, practitioners, and nurses back in charge of caring for the sick and against an industry whose primary concern seems to be about how much to charge the sick. For more information visit www.fwdioc.org.

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

St. Francis to host presentation on the meaning of Christmas

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

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

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

St. Frances Cabrini to host Christmas concert Dec. 20

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

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

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

Carmelite auxiliary hosts 'Advent Quiet Day'

The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Most Holy Trinity located at 5801 Mount Carmel Dr. in Arlington, will hold its annual "Advent Quiet Day" on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the monastery in Arlington.

All are welcome to attend. Father James Hart, chancellor for the diocese, will be the speaker/presenter.

The program will begin at 10 a.m., and Mass will be at approximately noon, followed by lunch. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be provided. The Quiet Day will end at approximately 2:30 p.m. after Benediction.

This is also an opportunity to donate items to the Carmelite sisters, who are in need of paper goods and appreciate donations of any kind, say event organizers.

For questions or more information, contact Debbie Kerschen at (817) 925-5605.

Mount Carmel Center to host Advent Morning of Reflection

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

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

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



OUR LADY OF GRACE YOUTH FOR LIFE — During the 40 Days for Life, a group of Youth for Life students at Our Lady of Grace High School in Roanoke set up a display of 1,225 pink and blue flags outside the school with a sign that read "1225 babies died while you were at work today... each flag represents a baby who lost their life to abortion during the last 8 hours." Throughout the 40 days, the group received both positive and negative responses for the display from several people who called or stopped at the school.

NTC publication deadlines

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

Submit items to jrusseau@fwdioc.org. Items for the Dec. 4 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 25. Items for the Dec. 18 issue must be received by noon on Dec. 9.

Our Lady of Victory celebrates 100 years at Parade of Lights

As part of its 100th anniversary, Our Lady of Victory School will enter a float in the Chesapeake Energy Parade of Lights in downtown Fort Worth on Nov. 27, the Friday after Thanksgiving.

According to the school's entry form, the float will display a reproduction of the original Our Lady of Victory School building facade and will feature students dressed as OLV founding priest Father Nicholas Minsart and Sister Claire of Jesus, the first provincial of the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur.

For more information about the Parade of Lights, visit the parade's Web site at www.fortworthparadeoflights.org.

Catholic Daughters plan Santa Shop fundraiser

Catholic Daughters of America Mary Mother of Mercy Court 2143, based out of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Hillsboro, will host its major fundraiser — a "Santa Shop" — from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Gifts will be available for as low as \$1, along with homemade treats. Proceeds from this event will be distributed to various charities throughout the year.

Couple to Couple League begins NFP classes Dec. 13

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the symptothermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding.

To register for a course starting Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, contact Andrew and Samantha Mudd at (817) 284-5117.

To register for a supplemental postpartum class (for those couples who have previously attended a CCL course) on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 Ninth St., Wichita Falls, contact Jacob and Lauren Morath at (940) 544-2515.

Visit www.ccldfw.org for more class dates and information.

St. Philip to hold craft fair

St. Philip Church, located at 1897 W. Main St. in Lewisville, will host a craft fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. All proceeds will go to charity. Vendors and shoppers interested in attending should contact Nancy Estes at nancy@idaparts.org, or call Pat at (940) 458-3766.

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Rita NJHS raises scholarship money for children in Patzún

The National Junior Honor Society of St. Rita School in Fort Worth is in its third year of raising financial assistance for children in Patzún, Guatemala. The financial assistance for one year of education is \$100 each. St. Rita's NJHS has chosen to join with the parish in actively sponsoring five children, and will raise money by having bake sales, "buck a jean" days, and collecting donations.

Missionary Images of Our Lady to visit North Texas

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

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

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

Courage group meets twice monthly

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

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

Windthorst Knights to hold annual sausage meal Dec. 6

The Windthorst Knights of Columbus Council #1824 wish to invite everybody to their Annual German Sausage Meal from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, in the St. Mary's Parish Hall at the corners of Highways 281, 25, and 174 in Archer County. Food includes all you can eat homemade German sausage, spare ribs, and sauerkraut, trimmings, including desert, and drink. Take-out orders will be available. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Raw sausage will be sold for \$3 per pound, and home-baked goods will be available from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Handicap seating and parking is available. For more information, contact Jerry Horn at (940) 423-6444.



VETERANS DAY, ST. PETER SCHOOL — Sam and Amanda DeSante, parishioners of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Fort Worth, are retired members of the military. They are pictured here with their children, Michael (6th grade), Mandy, and Billy (4th grade), at a reception the eighth grade class held Nov. 13 at St. Peter the Apostle School for retired and current members of the military and their families.

People and Events



ALL SAINTS DAY, CHRIST THE KING, IOWA PARK — In celebration of All Saints Day, the children of Christ the King Parish in Iowa Park processed into Mass dressed as their favorite saints. During a presentation after Mass, each child gave a history of their saint and described something special about them.

4th Degree Knights of Columbus to celebrate annual Thanksgiving Memorial Mass

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus General Worth Assembly will celebrate its annual Thanksgiving Day Memorial Mass at 10 a.m. Nov. 26 at the Discalced Carmelite Convent, 5801 Mount Carmel Dr., Arlington.

The Mass will be held in honor and memory of the Sir Knights who have passed away during the past fraternal year. The chalice blessed at this Mass will be engraved with the names of Sir Knights Fr. Carl Szura, TOR, Felix A. Gloden, and William "Bill" Gilpin.

Father Anh Tran, the assembly's chaplain, will celebrate the Mass, and the Carmelite nuns will provide the music. Ray Herrera is faithful navigator of the assembly, and Lonnie Brown, the assembly's past faithful navigator, is the chairman of the ceremony. The public is welcome to attend the Memorial Mass.

Advent reconciliation service for Deaf Community to be held Dec. 13

The Deaf Community Advent Reconciliation Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the chapel for St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills.

"Celebrate the season of Advent by preparing your heart and mind for Christ," says Mary Cinatl, director of Deaf Ministry.

Father Ken Robinson will celebrate Mass and hear confessions in American Sign Language, English, and Spanish.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their Bibles and rosaries to pray with while they wait.

For more information please contact Mary Cinatl at mcinatl@fwdioc.org.

Jesse Manibusan to perform Dec. 2

Internationally recognized Catholic recording artist Jesse Manibusan will perform an "Advent Concert of Song and Praise" from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday,

Cursillo community plans second retreat for Cursillistas

The Fort Worth Cursillo Community is hosting a "Cursillo of Cursillos" Dec. 10-13. Cursillo of Cursillos is a three-day weekend for all Cursillistas held Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. All attendees will be cloistered for the weekend.

"Cursillistas have often said they would like to relive their weekend," say event organizers. The weekend, they say, will give those who have been on previous retreats a chance to do so.

The retreat material, which was originally in Spanish, has recently been translated into English. This weekend will be the second Cursillo of Cursillos in the United States to be held in English.

The weekend consists of three days of talks and meditations that are spiritually challenging, enlightening, and enriching to Cursillistas who desire to grow and be renewed in their understanding of and commitment to the Cursillo Movement. The purpose is to become stronger leaders in the Cursillo Movement, both as individuals and as a community.

Space is limited, so those planning to attend should make arrangements as soon as possible. The application can be downloaded at www.fortworthcursillo.org. For more information, call Mary Jean Nagy at (817) 226-1110, or e-mail her at or boonagy@yahoo.com.

Dec. 2 at St. Paul the Apostle Church at 5508 Black Oak Lane in Fort Worth.

For more information, call (817) 738-9925.

Friends of Sisters of St. Mary of Namur plan celebration

The Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur will be celebrating 137 years of service in 2010. Friends of Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur are in the planning process to celebrate the sister's years of service.

Two separate events have been scheduled, one for Saturday, March 6, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth and a second Saturday, April 24, at Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas.

Event organizers are inviting all to join in celebrating with the sisters. To volunteer for this celebration, e-mail ssmn137@gmail.com.

Ministry with gay, lesbian Catholics announces holiday schedule

The regular monthly meeting of The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry With Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities and Their Families will not be held in November and December due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. All who are interested are invited to attend a vespers service at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Catholic Renewal Center Chapel, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. A potluck dinner will follow. Meat will be provided.

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

St. Bartholomew parishioner earns Eagle Scout award

David Marquardt of Boy Scout Troop 75 in Weatherford has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest honor, which is earned by approximately five percent of all Boy Scouts.

To earn this award, Marquardt had to earn 21 merit badges, serve as a leader in his troop, and complete a major community service project. Marquardt's service project took place at the Hudson Oaks Public Safety Building last spring. The project included landscape beautification at the front of the facility along with the planting of sod in a 3,200 square-foot area.

Because this facility is the headquarters for the Hudson Oaks Police and Fire Departments, Marquardt additionally arranged for the construction and placement of two dedication markers as a permanent honor for these public safety officers.

Marquardt has been a member of Troop 75 for five years, has served in six leadership



David Marquardt

positions, and participated this summer in a hiking trek of approximately 100 miles at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. He is a junior at Weatherford High School and plays on the junior varsity basketball team.

After high school he plans to attend college and major in finance. Marquardt and his family live in Hudson Oaks and are parishioners at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth.

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

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

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

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

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

North Texas Catholics inducted into Knights of the Holy Sepulchre

Several members of the Diocese of Fort Worth were invested as members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at a ceremony held during the annual meeting of the Southwestern Lieutenancy in Houston in October. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Grand Prior of the Order and Archbishop of Galveston-Houston presided at the investiture.

Those invested include Suzanne de Decker of St. Patrick Cathedral, Molly and Michael Hyry of St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, and Rick and Linda Creel of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury.

The Equestrian Order is a world-wide apostolate of lay men and women and



Pictured (Left to Right) are new member Suzanne de Decker and her husband Bill, Molly and Michael Hyry, Cardinal DiNardo, and Rick and Linda Creel.

clergy whose mission is to sustain and assist the works of the Church in the Holy Land, to preserve, propagate and defend the faith and presence of the Church in the Holy Land, and to live a life of faithful

witness to their faith. The Southwestern Lieutenancy consists of EOHSJ members from Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. There are currently 132 members in the Fort Worth section.

Diocese's Meg Hogan elected to Canon Law Society of America's board of governors

Meg Romano Hogan, JCL, director of the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of Fort Worth since 2007, has been elected a junior consultant and will serve a three-year term on the board of governors of the Canon Law Society of America (CLSA). The election took place at the CLSA annual convention, "Preparing the Harvest: Service in the Lord's Vineyard," held Oct. 11-15 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The CLSA, founded in 1939 by a group of canonists in Washington, D.C., states in its constitution that its purpose as an organization is to promote

the pastoral ministry of the Church, to cooperate in the continuous revision and renewal of the universal law of the Church, to encourage and participate in canonical research, to respond to the practical canonical needs of all the people of God, to facilitate the interchange of canonical ideas, to cooperate with others doing research in other sacred sciences, and to establish a dialogue with other canon law societies in the world.

The CLSA is governed by the members of the board of governors, all of whom are elected by the membership. Its headquar-



Meg Hogan, JCL, director of the diocese's Marriage Tribunal, was lectured to the Canon Law Society of America's board of governors at the society's annual convention in October.

ters are located in Washington, D.C. The society's membership now includes more than 1,400 men and women from the 35 countries, including the United States, Canada, and Italy.

Diocesan

Franciscan community, North Texas parishioners bid farewell to Father Jovian Lang, OFM, 1919-2009

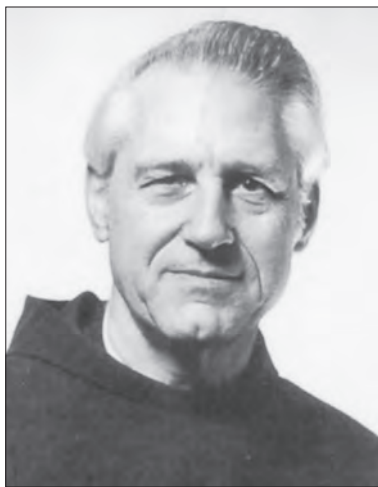
By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Friar Jovian P. Lang, OFM, 90, a priest of the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart who gave 13 years of service to the Diocese of Fort Worth, died Nov. 4 in Springfield, Illinois. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 7 in the chapel at Villa West in Sherman, Illinois. Interment was in the Friars' Plot of Calvary Cemetery in Springfield.

Peter Lang was born June 2, 1919, in Sioux City, Iowa, the son of Peter and Margaret Horvath Lang. In 1939 he entered the novitiate of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) and was given the religious name of "Jovian." After his first profession in 1940 and solemn profession of vows Aug. 23, 1943, he was ordained a priest June 20, 1946 at St. Joseph Seminary in Teutopolis, Illinois.

He served as a professor and librarian at the Franciscans' Quincy College (now University) in Quincy, Illinois, for a total of 20 years. While at the college, he helped to plan a new library, hosted a radio program on speech therapy, and played the cello for school productions.

Through the years, Fr. Lang



Friar Jovian P. Lang, OFM, is pictured here in a photo taken during the 1970's (left) and in another photo taken in more recent years (above).

also served as an educator in speech and library science at libraries and universities in Illinois, Florida, and New York before moving in 1992 to Texas, where he served as priest in residence at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Carrollton until 1997. While living in Texas, Fr. Lang taught library and information science for eight years at the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University in Denton. From 1958 until 1995, he also prepared and edited the *Ordo*, which provides the order, instructions, and options to Franciscans for praying the Liturgy of the Hours and for celebrating the Eucharist.

was especially expert in matters relating to church liturgy."

Fr. Lang then assisted at St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills from 1997-1999, working with then-pastor Monsignor Charles King. Mary Cinatl, director of the Deaf Ministry Program for the Diocese of Fort Worth, fondly recalled the kindly priest whose office adjoined her own during the years Fr. Lang spent living in the rectory and working at St. John's.

"He was so extremely intelligent," she said. "He was learning to use the computer, and he was very focused upon learning computer skills so he could continue to share his writing. He would not ask for help unless he was absolutely forced to do so. He was so humble, so devoted to his writing, and yet never really talked about his accomplishments. He was just so focused upon service,

even at his advanced age. I just loved him dearly."

Fr. Lang's fellow monks remember him as a voracious reader and gifted writer, whose work was regularly published in Catholic journals and education publications. Friendly and outgoing, the priest served as a longtime friend and spiritual director to prizefighter Sugar Ray Robinson, whom he met in 1955 during a train ride to a library science convention in Milwaukee.


Fr. Lang moved into full retirement in 2005 when he left St. Maximilian Kolbe Friary at St. Francis Village in Crowley to live at Our Lady of Angels Friary at Villa West in Sherman, Illinois, due to failing health. He is survived by his sister Charlotte Melland of Missouri; a brother, Phillip Lang of Houston; and several nieces and nephews.

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Diocesan

Greatest Gift Catalog Ever offers support to Catholic Charities

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Two years ago, as he reluctantly prepared for the holiday season, then-35 year-old Elliott Goldman knew that he didn't want to have to feign enthusiasm over yet another received sweater, tie, or kitchen gadget. As he looked at the stacks of gift catalogs in his Fort Worth home, he realized that his real wish was to provide help for the many hungry, homeless, and struggling individuals and families of North Texas. With encouragement from his wife, the marketing executive and entrepreneur created a unique giving opportunity, calling it The Greatest Gift Catalog Ever.

The patented catalog features a variety of charitable giving opportunities from 13 carefully selected nonprofit organizations in Tarrant County. Instead of buying trinkets for clients, family members, and friends, catalog shoppers can make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one, with donations ranging from \$10 per gift card to \$5,000. Buyers can also purchase gift cards online, allowing the recipient of the gift card to choose which charity or charities they would like to support.

Catholic Charities of Fort Worth was one of the organizations included in the 2008 gift catalog and is also featured in the 2009 edition, according to Sara Ramirez, Catholic Charities' vice-president of development and public relations. "The catalog has been a great benefit to Catholic Charities in terms of financial contributions, but also in terms of exposure," she said. "It has helped to pique [the catalog readers'] curiosity. They see what we do and want to learn more, and it helps to bring more individuals into our fold."

Those who purchase gift cards through the catalog can receive the satisfaction of knowing that the full amount of their tax-deductible donation is given directly to the charity of their choice, added Ramirez. Catalog shoppers have the option of purchasing gift cards in any amount to benefit Catholic Charities, she said, thus allowing the agency to provide services such as counseling and crisis assistance to individuals and families in need.

"The catalog couldn't have launched at a better time, in the midst of a downturn in the economy," noted Ramirez. "People want

to buy gifts that have meaning. With the catalog and gift card, they can purchase a gift that benefits them as a donor, and one that impacts the receiver as well. And if the receiver feels good about using the gift card, why wouldn't they buy one themselves? It has a real 'pay it forward' aspect to it."

Elliott Goldman, the catalog's creator, feels better about the holidays these days, he said in an interview with *Fort Worth Business Press* last year. "It's a project that reaches a different type of person; it's about shopping for that perfect gift for you or for you to give to someone or in honor or in memory of someone. It's personal that way."

For more information about The Greatest Gift Catalog Ever or to purchase gift cards, visit its Web site at www.thegreatestgiftcatalogever.org or call (817) 922-8297.



Twenty-nine Veterans Honored at St. Mary's in Gainesville



Veterans from St. Mary's Parish in Gainesville were honored at the 8:15 a.m. Mass Friday, Nov. 13, followed with a brunch in the parish hall. Each of the veterans received a blessed red, white, and blue rosary made by St. Mary's School students. Payton Cassidy, student council president, addressed the veterans, thanking them for their service to their country. Present were (front row, left to right): Leonard Wiese, Frederick Schmitz, Julian Smith, Eddie Grewing, Bill West, Mike Dudenboeffler; Clent Vandagriff, Julius Haverkamp, Al Dudenboeffler, Frank Krebs, Merced Carrio, Jr., Joe Schmitz, Doug Reiter; (second row) Jimmy Prescher, Jimmy Kupper, Bill Lange, Pat Benton, Leroy Schmidlkofer, N.J. Roessner, Don Thacker, Elmo Self, Richard Lira, James Krabl, Bill Beebe, Robert Bauer, Rupert Hoenic, Bill Metzler, Walter Wolf, and Walter Vickers.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day celebration at St. Patrick Cathedral

The celebration of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day, held for the second consecutive year at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton St. in downtown Fort Worth, will begin with the traditional 5 a.m. *Mañanitas* serenade in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary Saturday, Dec. 12.

Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the bilingual, festive Mass, beginning at 6 a.m. Father Richard Flores, rector of the cathedral, will concelebrate, as mariachi musicians lead the congregation in song and local dance groups perform special dances in honor

of the Blessed Mother during the offertory.

Following the liturgy, an outdoor reception will be held and will include light refreshments and musical performances. The regularly scheduled cathedral Masses will be held at 8 a.m. and at 12:05 p.m., and a 7 p.m. Mass will be offered in English and Spanish with a reception following. Rosaries, prayer services, a procession in honor of the Blessed Virgin, and performances will be offered throughout the day. For more information, call the cathedral office at (817) 332-4915.

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Bishop urges health care workers, students, to view healing as a ministry at annual White Mass Oct. 21

Story and Photos by
Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Health care workers are trained to deal with unexpected, adverse circumstances. That ability to cope with less than perfect conditions helped more than 75 health care workers brave torrential rains, flooded streets, and hazardous driving conditions to attend the annual White Mass celebrated Oct. 21 at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth.

Hosted by the Medical Association of Catholic Students (MACS), the event recognizes professionals who care for the sick and is scheduled as close as possible to the Oct. 18 feast day of St. Luke the Evangelist — the patron saint of physicians and surgeons.

The term "White Mass" refers to the traditional white coats and uniforms worn by hospital personnel. White, the color that symbolizes purity and light in the Church, has a similar meaning in the medical community.

"This is an opportunity for Catholic health care workers to come together and honor our patron saint," said Miriam Garcia, a medical student at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. "I'm just glad so many came despite the bad weather."

As president of MACS, she planned the liturgy and reception with former president, Katie White. Readings they selected

from the Book of Sirach and the Acts of the Apostles pertained to healing.

"Everybody here represents a ministry, a calling, a vocation, a presence of the healing Christ spoken of in the Gospels," said Bishop Kevin Vann who celebrated the Mass. "The white coats worn by the medical students remind us of the light and brightness you bring to the challenging situations and people you meet."

The bishop asked the doctors and nurses to use the White Mass as an opportunity to remember health care workers who served, inspired, and guided their lives. A former hospital lab technician himself, the bishop recalled mentors from his own past who left an impression.

One of them, a Franciscan sister, taught his mother in nursing school and later returned to hospital floor duty where she worked the same graveyard shift he did.

"She wanted to work at night when people were really sick," the bishop said, explaining the reason for her 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. ministry. "The darkness always seems to bring out the pain of illness even more."

Another model of compassion was his family's doctor in Springfield, Illinois, who cared for the brood of six Vann children as they grew up.

"Whether we went to his office or he came to our home, Dr. Max's reassuring presence meant



Members of the Medical Association of Catholic Students at the Mass included Jenna Fletcher, Lawrence Mendiola (front row) Abu Joseph, and Sheila Mendez.

we were going to get better," he recounted.

Bishop Vann also praised members of the Catholic Health Care Association of the United States for, "bringing the faith dimension to their profession and reminding the world that God is not at a distance, but in our midst especially when we need his grace and mercy the most."

Speaking from the cathedral's pulpit, he advised the small assembly of medical professionals to remember the power of Christ and what he teaches not only at the bedside of patients but in all decisions regarding life or death.

"Let the words of the Gospel and readings inspire, strengthen us, and motivate us to know we represent something beyond the present moment," he concluded. "Rely on Christ who said in the

Gospel, 'Your daughter will live.'"

Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, a hospital chaplain at Cook Children's Medical Center for 11 years, said the White Mass helps people in the medical profession view their work as something more than a career.

"It's a way of putting a spiritual dimension to the work of healing," he explains. "So much of Jesus' life was a healing ministry. That's why the Church gives special recognition to the medical professionals in the White Mass. They're continuing the healing ministry that God himself began."

For home health care nurse Debbie Castellarin, participating in the White Mass was a new experience she shared with her husband, a nuclear medicine technician, and their children. The 30-year veteran of



Bishop Vann, accompanied on the altar by Deacon Bruce Corbett, who serves as a hospital chaplain, receives the gifts at the offertory from Abu Joseph.



Nancy Eder, school nurse for the diocesan Catholic Schools Department, chats at the White Mass reception with home health care nurse Debbie Castellarin.

the nursing profession said her deepening faith helps her care for the sick.

"Looking into the eyes of a patient and seeing Christ is so comforting on a stressful day," she explained. "Whether it's a late night or things are just going wrong, it's a reminder of the reason I'm there."

African-American Catholic organization celebrates 100 years

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Knights of Peter Claver, the nation's largest lay organization for African-American Catholics, celebrated its 100th anniversary Nov. 7.

The group's national chaplain, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Chicago, explained the significance of the Knights and their organization's century of endurance.

"Their importance stems from their origin in a different social climate, where African-Americans were not generally accepted in various clubs, organizations, or lodges of that nature," he said.

In the early 20th century, black Catholics needed an alternative to secular fraternal organizations. Membership in some groups, such as Freemasonry, was forbidden by the Catholic Church, yet in many cases those groups were the only option available to black men in the age of segregation, Bishop

Perry explained.

The founders of the Knights of Peter Claver "wanted to create something for African-American men by way of spiritual direction (and) charity," he said.

Following the organizational model of the Knights of Columbus, four Josephite priests and three laymen founded the Knights of Peter Claver in Mobile, Alabama, Nov. 7, 1909, with an initial membership of 40 men. They choose as their patron St. Peter Claver, a 17th-century Jesuit priest from Spain who ministered to slaves in what is now Colombia.

A women's division, the Ladies Auxiliary, was added in 1922, as were youth programs, the Junior Knights and Junior Daughters, in the 1930s. Although they are most heavily concentrated in Louisiana and Texas, it has about 18,000 members in more than 400 parishes in the United States and Colombia.

Members in local entities, such as Knights' Council and Ladies' Court 89 in East Fort Worth, volunteer at soup kitchens, and provide aid for single mothers. They also award scholarships, in particular for Xavier University of New Orleans, the nation's only historically black Catholic college. They also help fund care and research for diseases that disproportionately affect African-Americans, such as sickle cell anemia and diabetes.

"As a member of the Knights of Peter Claver, you come with your palms face down, not face up. You don't come in asking for something. Our philosophy is giving," said Gene Phillips, a native of Louisiana who settled in Houston. He is the supreme knight, the highest elected leadership position in the men's organization.

The organization's 94th annual convention from July 28-Aug. 7 in New Orleans kicked off the anniversary celebration. At an Aug. 2

Mass during the convention, Father Edward Chiffreller, superior general of the Josephites, recalled the obstacles of discrimination that black Catholics faced over the years, including worshipping in segregated churches, sitting in "colored only" pews, or waiting to receive Communion after all white parishioners had received the Eucharist.

But "in spite of all this," black Catholics "remained faithful to their Catholic faith," he said. "Isn't it amazing what God's grace can do?"

During that liturgy's closing remarks, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, who served as the first black president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2001-2004, reiterated how the intrepid men — and later the women in the auxiliary — who founded the Knights of Peter Claver were the answer to fighting discrimination.

He said the group's founders would be astonished at the social changes that have taken place in recent years.

"They should be pleased with their vision to love the church and nation, even when they were not loved in return," he said.

Bishop Perry said the centennial is a place to stop and reflect on the changes in American society and the strength of the Catholic faith.

"When you consider the whole social saga of blacks in this country," he said, "this is a singular institution that happens to be out of the church, church-sponsored, that has survived the laws of segregation and discrimination, and has gone through the whole saga of the civil rights struggle and has survived. Somehow the church has been able to hold a group of people within its faith and tradition and given them signs of hope despite that troubled history."

Diocesan

After 80 years, Our Mother of Mercy Church, a historically black parish, leaves a

Legacy of Hope

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant
Photos by Donna Ryckaert

The exuberant 80th anniversary day of events celebrated Oct. 25 at the historically African-American Our Mother of Mercy Church in Fort Worth (OMM), included all the aspects of a truly festive occasion.

Heartfelt prayer, offered throughout the vibrant Mass of Thanksgiving; the gift of shared Eucharist, reverently received by a standing-room-only crowd of parishioners; sustained gospel music, with the full participation of an enthusiastic congregation; beloved guests of honor; the sharing of memories; the excitement of elaborately dressed children as they surveyed tables laden with tempting treats; plenty of laughter, and a few tears. And, marveled one OMM parishioner, "Hats. Lots of gorgeous hats!"

"*Ti voglio bene*, as your pastor, Father [Jerome] LeDoux, said in last week's parish bulletin, means 'I wish you well,'" Bishop Kevin Vann, presider at the anniversary Mass, told the congregation in the opening remarks of his homily. "This expression, in Italian, is the most powerful way of saying, 'I love you,' because it embodies *agape*, the highest form of love, that is found fully in God alone."

The bishop, a familiar presence at the parish, beamed as he surveyed the attentive members of the congregation. "What a wonderful day this is, what a wonderful thing to celebrate this special anniversary," he said. "I do believe that the Lord would say to you, *Ti voglio bene* today, would he not?"

Recalling the early days of Our Mother of Mercy Church, after its founding in 1929, the bishop noted that the economic challenges presented by the Great Depression and the attacks of the Ku Klux Klan could have quickly ended the life of the young parish community.

"Those years were times of great struggle, racial prejudice, and, indeed, anti-Catholic prejudice," reflected the bishop. "Together in God's plan, however, the people of this faith community



Members of the 80th anniversary planning committee pose with Bishop Vann. Pictured, from left to right, are Deborah Graham, Judy Bell, Rose Bynum, Linda Campbell, Cynthia Sanford, Marie Barks, Bob Hazen, Ruby Robinson, Kay Norvel, Frank Norvel, Evadell Ware, Ralph McCloud, Mike Barks, and Floyd Ware.



Brittany and Brooklyn Masters, students at OMM School, pass out chocolates to guests at the anniversary reception.

formed a family where the Word of God could be heard over and over again.... Those who came before us faced all kinds of obstacles, and yet, God gave them all that they needed to establish this community."

Later in the Mass, the prayers of the faithful were led by representative members of the congregation — beginning with Frank Staton, a parishioner for 75 years, and ending with Brittany Masters, a young pupil at Our Mother of Mercy School. At the conclusion of the liturgy, OMM pastor Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD, received a standing ovation for his rendition of "*Ave Maria*," which he sings on special occasions.

"That was such an awesome thing, for all of us to hear our pastor sing so beautifully," said parishioner Judy Bell, coordinator of the 80th anniversary celebration team at the parish. "Truly, we are blessed to have the bishop here on the altar on this day, along with our wonderful pastor, Fr. LeDoux. Also on the altar," she said, "was Father Emanuel Iregbu, who has been a guest priest at OMM over the last three years. And Father Louis Leonelli, CFR, ... who came to partner with us a few months ago and lives and works at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Friary that is located directly behind the OMM rectory.

"During our 80th anniversary Fall Festival and Gospelfest a couple of weeks ago," she recalled, "Fr. Louis sang, played the saxophone, and even rapped Christian lyrics!"

After Mass, a "Chocolate and Champagne" reception was held a few yards away from the church in the recently renovated Our Mother of Mercy School. School Principal Dr. Carolyn Yusuf presented stu-



OMM parishioners Christopher Jean-Louis, Ryann Harris, and Brittany Masters read the prayers of the faithful during the liturgy.

dents' gifts of drawings, cards, and letters to Bishop Vann and to keynote speaker and former parishioner and diocesan Director of Community and Pastoral Services Ralph McCloud. McCloud currently serves in Washington, D.C., as director of the U.S. Bishops' Catholic Campaign For Human Development.

"It's emotional for all of us to think of the prayers of the generations of people who established this church and made it grow," McCloud told the crowd of approximately 300 parishioners who gathered at the reception. "As Bishop Vann said, they faced overwhelming challenges of racism and poverty, and yet their hard work, and their devotion and faith, are why we are all able to gather



Bishop Kevin Vann, main celebrant at the anniversary Mass, is joined on the altar by OMM pastor Father Jerome G. LeDoux, SVD, Deacon Len Sanchez, Father Louis Leonelli, CFR, and Father Emanuel Iregbu.

here today."

Thanks to the stories and memories that are shared at the parish, future generations of parishioners over the next 80 years, said McCloud, will grow up knowing about the legacy of Our Mother of Mercy Church. "They'll know that this parish understands the need to uphold the dignity

and sacredness of every life," he said. "They'll understand that this is a parish that speaks out against racial prejudice, social injustice, and inequality. They'll know that with this wonderful legacy, comes a profound responsibility."



Four generations of OMM parishioners from the Porter family pose with Bishop Vann at the anniversary reception held at OMM School. Standing, from left to right, are Alisa White, Eastlyn White, Louise Porter, and Lana Wilborn.



An animated Ralph McCloud, keynote speaker at the anniversary reception, led parishioners down memory lane through songs and stories.

Viewpoints

Sacred Scripture comes from and works together with Sacred Tradition

By Lucas Pollice

Last issue, as part of our “digging deeper” with *Why Catholic?* we discussed how Sacred Tradition is that part of Divine Revelation that is passed on orally through the teachings of the Apostles as exercised in the Magisterium of the Church, through the celebration of the liturgy, and through the lives and faith of every person who faithfully lives and hands on the Catholic faith. We will now take a look at Sacred Scripture, what it is, and how it is interwoven with Sacred Tradition in handing on the deposit of faith that Christ entrusted to the Church.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Sacred Scripture is, in fact, that part of Sacred Tradition that has been “crystallized” in written form under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit very early in Christian history. This was done by some of the apostles or those closely associated with the apostles who, for various reasons, put down into writing what was already being handed down through Sacred Tradition.

For example, Luke, a close companion of Paul, wrote his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles as a legal defense for Paul at his trial in Rome. Many of St. Paul’s letters were written as letters of teaching and encouragement to church communities that he had already established in places like Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia, and Philippi. Paul also wrote to individuals, like Timothy and Titus, to whom he had handed on the apostolic ministry and left to oversee local churches, to teach and exhort them in their ministry. However, as the Church read and pondered these writings, certain writings were chosen and set aside as being inspired by God in a unique way. These writings were chosen by the

Magisterium of the Church and were declared as the “canon” of the New Testament.

The canon of Scripture was finally complete by the fourth century of the Church. In 382, Pope Damasus I convened a council of bishops in Rome to settle the matter of the canon of Scripture. At the council, he issued a decree that finally officially listed the canon of Scripture which included the books of the Old Testament contained in the Septuagint as well as the 27 books of the New Testament. The canon was then also affirmed at the Synod of Bishops in Hippo in 393 A.D., and also later at the Synod in Carthage in 397 A.D. Both synods were heavily influenced by St. Augustine. Therefore, after almost 400 years after the birth of Jesus, the Church finally had her official canon, which is upheld and honored in the Catholic Church to this day. In 1546, the Council of Trent officially defined the canon of Scripture after the Protestant Reformation questioned the integrity of the canon.

THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST’S REVELATION

Since Sacred Scripture is the earliest crystallization of Sacred Tradition and the inspired Word of God, it is given a special place in Tradition, sitting next to Tradition as the twin source of divine Revelation. They are uniquely and intrinsically interwoven in the fact that Scripture can never be interpreted apart from Tradition, and all truths of Tradition are latent within Scripture. Thus, it is both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition handed on and interpreted by the Magisterium of the Church that constitutes the fullness of divine Revelation. As Vatican II teaches:

Hence there exists a close connection and communication between sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture. For both of them, flowing from the same divine wellspring, in a certain way merge into a unity and tend toward the same end. For Sacred Scripture is the word of God inasmuch as it is consigned to writing under the inspiration of the divine Spirit, while sacred tradition takes the word of God entrusted by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, and hands it on to their successors in its full purity, so that led by the light of the Spirit of truth, they may in proclaiming it preserve this word of God faithfully, explain it, and make it more widely known. Consequently it is not from Sacred Scripture alone that the Church draws her certainty about everything which has been revealed. Therefore both sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture are to be accepted and venerated with the same sense of loyalty

and reverence.

— Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, 10

Therefore, Scripture, although very important, is only a part of Sacred Tradition, committed to writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Scripture does not contain in itself all that Christ revealed. The apostle John testifies to this point at the end of his Gospel: “There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written” (John 21:25).

In addition, Scripture can only be properly interpreted and fully understood in light of the Tradition from which it comes. While Scripture provides the material part, or the “crystallization” of Tradition, it is Tradition that sheds its light on and pulls together the full meaning of the Scriptures. For example, the Scriptures are like bricks; they hold within themselves those important and foundational aspects of Tradition that have been committed to writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Tradition is the mortar; it pulls together the full meaning of the Scriptures and gives them meaning, keeps them in the proper context, and brings out their significance. If you only had bricks, you would just have an unorganized pile of bricks. But Scripture and Tradition together make a building, the Church, with the fullness of all that Christ desires to reveal and hand on to us.

Since the Scriptures are a part of Sacred Tradition “crystallized” into writing, they cannot and do not contradict the Tradition from which they come. In the same way, Sacred Tradition is latent throughout the Scriptures, whether explicitly or implicitly. Therefore, Scripture and Tradition do not contradict, but rather together contain the entire sacred deposit of faith entrusted to the Church by Christ.

Finally, it is the Magisterium of the Church, the Pope and the bishops, who as successors of the apostles, have been given the authority by Christ to teach, pass on, interpret, apply, and defend the deposit of faith to each generation. Thus, the Magisterium is the authentic interpreter and guarantor of the Word of God, as expressed in both Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. The Magisterium is like a referee, it determines what is truly in accordance with Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, and that Sacred Scripture is interpreted faithfully to Tradition. As Vatican II again explains:

But the task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written

or handed on, has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ. This teaching office is not above the word of God, but serves it, teaching only what has been handed on, listening to it devoutly, guarding it scrupulously and explaining it faithfully in accord with a divine commission and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it draws from this one deposit of faith everything which it presents for belief as divinely revealed.

— Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, 10

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CONTAINS THE FULLNESS OF TRUTH

Thus, Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium together are intimately joined together in faithfully transmitting to all generations the full and entire deposit of faith revealed by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

They are like a three-legged stool. If all three legs are intact, the stool is on a sound foundation. However, if you remove one or two legs, the stool collapses into disunity and chaos.

Therefore, it is, in fact, the Catholic Church which has remained the one undivided Church that dates back to Christ himself. This can be a difficult truth for many, but the Catholic Church contains the fullness of Christ’s revelation that has been handed down throughout the centuries through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition under the guidance and authority of the successors of the apostles. No other church can claim this. There is an unbroken history, Tradition, and line of authority. Other Christian churches, by no longer adhering to Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium, have a fragment of the Church, a piece of it. But their roots are in the Catholic Church; it is ultimately their true home. The Catholic Church, by preserving the fullness of Christ’s teaching and way of life for more than 2,000 years, contains within herself the fullness of truth and the Christian life as “the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).



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

Health Reform that respects life

a victory and a challenge

By Richard M. Doerflinger

On Nov. 7, Congress gave many observers a big surprise. On a vote of 240 to 194, the House of Representatives approved an amendment to maintain longstanding policies against federal abortion funding in proposed health care reform legislation.

What's more, the House then passed an ambitious health care reform bill, and inclusion of the pro-life amendment was hailed as decisive in making its approval possible.

Two realities helped produce this result. First, there has long been a significant pro-life caucus in the Democratic Party, and it has grown in the 2006 and 2008 elections. Pro-life Democrats, led by Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI), united to insist that House leaders allow a vote on an amendment to fix the abortion problem in this bill.

The second reality is that one of the strongest voices for health care reform, the Catholic Church, has consistently urged that authentic reform must respect the life of all, including immigrants, the poor, and the unborn. The Church has credibility because of its clear moral teaching, its decades-long support for reform, its experience in running the largest nonprofit health care system in the nation, and its preferential love for the poor and vulnerable. The bishops supported the pro-life Democrats' effort, so much-needed reform would not become a vehicle for forcing more Americans to pay for

So the Stupak amendment simply ensures that when federal funds are used, Americans will not be forced against their will to pay for other people's abortions.

abortions. When the effort succeeded, more members could support the bill.

Abortion advocates, stunned by this defeat, have put their "spin machine" into high gear. The legislative process was hijacked by the Catholic Church, they say, to pass an extreme amendment that goes far beyond current law and restricts private abortion coverage.

But what the Church did here, on a large scale, was what it always does: It raised facts and arguments to support an effort in Congress, led by members of the majority party, to improve legislation that directly impacts Catholic values — and it informed lay Catholics around the country, so they could raise their voices as well.

Charges against the amendment itself are also misplaced. Exactly reflecting the Hyde amendment and other provisions that have long governed all other federal health programs, the Stupak amendment keeps federal funds from subsidizing elective abortions and health plans that include such abortions. Health plans using only private funds are not affected; even people who use federal subsidies to purchase their overall health plan may use their own money to purchase a supplemental abortion policy if they want to.

So the Stupak amendment simply ensures that when fed-

eral funds are used, Americans will not be forced against their will to pay for other people's abortions. In a nation where most Americans do not want public funding of abortion, and do not want abortion in their own health coverage, this is a fair and modest amendment that will let millions of Catholics and others support health care reform in good conscience.

Nevertheless, we are sure to see many false attacks on this provision and on the Church's efforts as the Senate takes up this issue next. We need to arm ourselves with the truth, then let our voices be heard in Washington. Authentic health care reform — reform that will help the poor, uphold the dignity of immigrants, and respect the life and conscience of everyone — may be in our grasp, unless we let it be taken away from us.

Please visit www.usccb.org/healthcare to learn more, and www.usccb.org/action to let your voice be heard.



Richard Doerflinger is Associate Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Go

to www.usccb.org/prolife to learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities.



*Variety is the spice of
Thanksgiving and*

Pumpkins

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

There is a collection of pumpkins in our home, including five real ones on the front porch. Originally there were six, including the one my grandchildren secretly delivered one October morning.

That one — perfectly grown, like the grandchildren themselves — survived the early autumn months as certainly as a grandparent's love, no matter the time, temperature, or season. The pumpkin the kids gave me is still bright orange and shining, symbolic beauty of a brilliant fall, my favorite season, the most optimistic time of the year.

Unfortunately one of my other front-porch pumpkins succumbed to a disease common in cucurbits — plants of the gourd family. The pumpkin endured a simple bacterial wilt, similar, I suppose to its cousins the cucumbers when they rot in the refrigerator drawer during weeks when we have not lived — nor eaten — green enough.

Like an unused cucumber or melon, the pumpkin shriveled inwardly until its demise on our front porch. An unsuspecting family of roly poly bugs cuddled beneath it, unaware.

Actually I think it was more than wilt or rot. I suspect my pumpkin caught the rarely-publicized cucurbit version of the H1N1 virus. I think it caught the vine flu.

However the loss occurred, now there are only five pumpkins on the porch, but they still add sass to my quiet beige home that perpetually stands motionless, watching cars hurry by, wondering what the rush is.

Both my home and I are homebodies. Or maybe the house is a Kathybody. I'd like to think it is as happy to be around me as I am to be within it.

And there is no better time to be at home than the fall — no time is more joyfully anticipatory of the good things that we have learned are certain to come.

Right now the inside of our home is as orange as the outside, with a plethora of pumpkins smiling all

SEE HAMER, P. 22

Exhibit on Catholic sisters in the U.S. invites North Texas visitors to

Discover a world few have seen but millions have shared

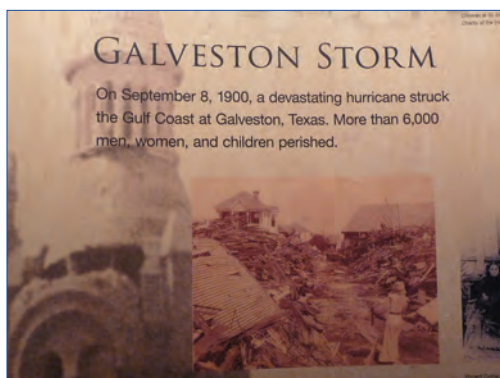
By Sharon K. Perkins
Correspondent



On a recent visit to the exhibit, Sisters of St. Mary, Mary Michael Dittoe (left) and Joan Markey, watch a slide show of contributions made by nursing sisters while waiting to view the slide of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur and graduates of St. Ignatius Academy in 1909. St. Ignatius Academy was located adjacent to St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. (Photo courtesy of Sr. Louise Smith)



Pencil stubs belonging to Mother Katharine Drexel. She would routinely give her students new pencils and keep their old pencil stubs for her own use. (Photo by Sharon Perkins)



The exhibit tells the moving story of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, who died trying to save the children in their Galveston orphanages during the devastating hurricane of 1900. (Photo by Sharon Perkins)

At the age of 74, Sister of Providence Mother Joseph declared, “Oh, if I were young! ... we would do much good on a mission where there would be misery, and where it would be necessary to make sacrifices. Nowadays, we look for too much comfort in this land which offers so much.”

The “comfort” to which she referred was not the ease of contemporary automobile travel, air-conditioning, or microwave ovens. Mother Joseph penned these words from the rugged wilderness of Washington Territory in 1897, having devoted her entire adult life to the establishment of schools, orphanages, and hospitals throughout the Pacific Northwest and personally attending to their every aspect — from fundraising, to testing high crossbeams during their construction, to rebricking chimneys — all while wearing her community’s long black habit.

The account of Mother Joseph is matched by many similar tales — some profoundly moving, some incredibly heroic, but all remarkably compelling — featured in a traveling exhibit currently housed at the Women’s Museum at Fair Park in Dallas until Dec. 13. Entitled “Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America,” the attractive collection of artifacts, photos, and stories is sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and counts the Fort Worth-Dallas area as only its second stop after its inaugural opening in Cincinnati.

I was privileged to tour the exhibit with a good friend, Joan Grabowski of St. Rita Parish, on a quiet Sunday afternoon in October, having heard glowing reports from my Ohio friends who had seen it in Cincinnati. At the sight of the first glass case — containing a scarred wooden trunk barely large enough for one change of clothing and a

few meager supplies — I was captivated. As I progressed through the section entitled “Pioneer Spirit” and learned the stories of European women religious arriving in North America as early as 1727, I was inspired by their resourcefulness, their courage, and their disregard for personal comfort and safety, but above all, their unshakable faith in God and the conviction that compelled them to serve not only Catholics, but also the poor, the diseased, the wounded, and the ignorant wherever they were to be found.

As American settlement expanded westward, the sisters’ activities also expanded to encompass both manual chores and enterprises traditionally accomplished by men. Natural disasters, epidemics, wars, and new waves of immigrants to the United States greatly increased the need for the sisters’ services. They responded by establishing hospitals, orphanages, schools for elementary and higher education, and agencies for social assistance — many of which persist to this day in institutions like Minnesota’s Mayo Clinic, or closer to home, Dallas’s St. Paul Hospital, San Antonio’s University of the Incarnate Word, and Fort Worth’s Nolan Catholic High School.

As I studied a large semi-circular wall bearing the names of hundreds of religious sisterhoods in the United States, my attention was diverted by a visiting group of the Sisters of Mary Queen, an order founded in Vietnam in the 17th century which has a community house in Irving. According to Sister Janine Tran, CMR, her fellow sisters could relate to the pioneer nuns’ experiences of leaving a familiar homeland for a new environment and adjusting to American ideals of personal independence and more democratic ways of life.

When I asked Sr. Janine her reaction to Mother Joseph’s words about sacrifice, she concurred, saying, “Mother Joseph’s comment is on the mark — it is suffering that helps one to stick closer to Jesus. That being said, Jesus never fails to send his many gifts to us nuns. I am sure those pioneer sisters saw glorious sunrises and unspeakable beauty out there in the wilderness. And what can buy that!”



Sr. Gwen Do, Sister of Mary Queen (CMR) from Irving, views a portion of the exhibit that chronicles how African-American women religious responded to racial discrimination in the late 1800s. (photo by Sharon Perkins)

Sister Louise Smith, resident archivist for the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur at Our Lady of Victory Center in Fort Worth, said she was also impressed by the exhibit’s portrayal of American sisters’ “pioneer spirit.”

“The story of the sisters of the United States is a wonderful example of what diverse groups of people can do when united for the common good,” she said. “These women have been doing it for years and years.” Sr. Louise recounted her own religious community’s arrival in Waco in 1873, when there were “no streets or sidewalks — just mud.” Following the MKT railroad into Texas, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur took out loans to build the academies they founded. Indeed, their proud contribution to the exhibit is a photograph of the 1909 graduating class of Fort Worth’s St. Ignatius Academy.

The remaining displays of the exhibit carried me through the social and political upheavals of the 1960s, to contemporary global concerns for peace and justice, convincing me that the stories of the 220,000 women who have joined American religious communities in the past 300 years are inextricably bound up with the sweeping saga of America itself. As my friend and I exited the Dallas Women’s Museum into the bright fall sunshine over two hours later, we left with hearts uplifted and awed by the exhibit’s potential to enlighten and inspire both present and future generations of American Catholics — especially young women. Summing up her reaction a few days later, my friend Joan marveled, “The exhibit was about much more than the history of nuns in America. It really was about the Spirit of the Lord moving in the spirits of these women. Often ill-equipped, they were able, by the grace of God, to accomplish what would have been unachievable!”

Besides numerous photos and fascinating anecdotes, the “Women and Spirit” exhibit features 70 unique artifacts — from a custom fluting machine for headpieces to a medical bag used by sisters to nurse the wounded during the Civil War — collected from over 400 communities of sisters across the U.S. They will be on display at the Dallas Women’s Museum at Fair Park through Sunday, December 13. Museum is open noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday, and closed Mondays. Admission ranges from \$3 for students and seniors to \$5 for adults. For additional information, see the exhibit Web site, www.womenandspirit.org/.

National / International

Army chaplain and Killeen pastor describe personal and community response to Fort Hood shootings

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

KILLEEN — Two months into his new posting as an on-call chaplain at the United States' largest Army base, Father Ed McCabe had the longest day of his military chaplaincy Nov. 5.

Fr. McCabe was 10 minutes into a weekly chaplain staff meeting at Fort Hood when the clergy got word of the shooting spree taking place at the base.

"We ended the staff meeting and came to the hospital and that's where we stayed," Fr. McCabe said, "because that's where the wounded were. And then I went over to the crime scene to comfort the people who were there."

Of the 13 who died in the shooting, Fr. McCabe said he anointed 11.

He said he didn't have time to anoint the 30 wounded. "No, not really other than just a quick prayer. It was total chaos," Fr. McCabe said.

"I was actually on call when the incident took place — actually not too far from my office, the crime scene site," Fr. McCabe told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Fort Hood in Killeen, Nov. 6, the day after the rampage.

Maj. Nidal M. Hasan, 39, a psychiatrist on the base, was suspected to be the sole gunman, who emptied two handguns in the attack. He was wounded, placed into custody and hospitalized.

A priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, Fr. McCabe, who holds the rank of colonel, had celebrated Mass at noon at Fort Hood, giving him about 30 minutes between the end of Mass and the chaplain staff meeting. The typical Thursday routine flew out the window

once he got word of the shootings, which began around 1:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

After going to the crime scene — a "soldier readiness facility" at the 65,000-troop base — "I went to the local hospital (Darnall Army Medical Center) to where the wounded were taken," Fr. McCabe said. "One died there, a captain. He had been shot three times."

The priest said he didn't recognize any of wounded. "The wounded, they all had IVs in," he added. "I just couldn't see faces."

Following the off-base hospital visit, Fr. McCabe returned to the Fort Hood mortuary to attend to the transportation of the bodies.

His day didn't end until after 2 a.m. Nov. 6. "I had done an interview with the BBC in London, I think I should have gone to bed sooner," Fr. McCabe said.

He woke up after a short night of sleep with a bad case of laryngitis. Fr. McCabe was waiting for a base doctor to treat him while talking with CNS.

Fr. McCabe has served as a chaplain for the Army in Afghanistan and Iraq, but asked if he had witnessed anything overseas that compared to the scene at Fort Hood, he replied, "No, no, no, no, no, not at all."

Father Adam Martinez, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Killeen, which has a substantial military component among its nearly 3,000 registered households, said he first knew something was wrong when "I heard the sirens."

"My association with the sirens is tornado or bad weather coming. It was the middle of the day and there were no clouds or bad weather," Fr. Martinez said. "I thought, 'That's funny.' Just then the (parish) finance officer came

running over and said, 'There's something going on at Fort Hood. I think someone's been killed.' That was what told me something was amiss."

He scheduled a Nov. 8 memorial Mass for the victims.

"For two hours (after the shootings) there was a calmness and a quietness. No traffic," Fr. Martinez said, adding that people were experiencing "fear — are we safe? ... It's affected the psyche, people don't feel as safe. I think the psyche of the city itself has been changed."

Asked if he knew of any parishioners among the victims, Fr. Martinez told CNS, "Not yet, not yet."

The same "not yet, not yet" answer was given by Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Father Richard O'Rourke, pastor of St. Paul Parish in Harker Heights, a few miles southeast of Killeen. He estimated that 80 percent of his 1,000-plus registered families have an active or retired military member in them.

"I was horrified and aghast" upon hearing of the shootings, Fr. O'Rourke told CNS Nov. 6.

"The news was pretty slow on filtering through. Then they (base officials) tried to confiscate the cell phones of some people," he said. "They didn't want any news to get out in case it was a terrorist attack. It wasn't until yesterday afternoon that the lockdown was lifted," which had included nine schools on the base.

"What we did here is that we immediately offered our 5:30 p.m. Mass yesterday evening as a requiem Mass," Fr. O'Rourke said. Intentions for Masses Nov. 7-8 would be for the Fort Hood victims, he added.

promotion of justice," he said.

In addition, the faith of Christians in public life helps ensure that political decisions truly benefit the common good rather than the interests of a few, the pope said.

The Christian call to charity is universal because people needing concrete assistance and a word of hope are found all over the world, he said.

"As experience has demonstrated, even in the societies that are the most evolved from a social point of view, charity remains necessary," Pope Benedict said. "The service of love never is superfluous because there always are situations of suffering, solitude and need that require personal attention and concrete help."



A family gathers at the chapel of Central American University in San Salvador Nov. 14 to recall the six Jesuits killed during El Salvador's civil war. The priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were killed at the university Nov. 16, 1989, by members of an army unit during a military offensive. (CNS photo/Luis Galdamez, Reuters)

Bishops remember Salvadoran Jesuits on 20th anniversary of 1989 murders

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The U.S. bishops added their collective voice to those of others in honoring the memory of the six Salvadoran Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, all of whom were assassinated 20 years ago by a Salvadoran death squad.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, New York, chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, said in a statement issued Nov. 16 — the anniversary date of the murders — that the bishops joined many others in "commemorating the lives and work of the six Jesuits and their collaborators."

Jesuit Fathers Ignacio Ellacuria, Ignacio Martin-Baro, Segundo Montes, Amando Lopez, Juan Ramon Moreno and Joaquin Lopez y Lopez were slain on the campus of Jesuit-run Central American University in San Salvador, the Salvadoran capital, along with Julie Elba Ramos, 42, and her 16-year-old daughter Celina Mariset.

Soldiers of an elite, U.S.-trained brigade admitted that they carried out the murders, which marked a turning point in the 12-year civil war in El Salvador. In 1993, a U.N.-appointed truth commission concluded that the killings were ordered by the High Command of the Armed Forces, headed by El Salvador's defense minister at the time, Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce.

But an all-embracing amnesty law, passed days after the commission's report was released, guaranteed that Ponce and his fellow conspirators would never go on trial. Those convicted in the murders were freed as a result.

Bishop Hubbard, in a Nov. 11 letter, thanked the U.S. Senate co-sponsors of a resolution honoring the Jesuits and their work. It

passed the Senate Oct. 26. In an earlier letter he thanked the co-sponsors of a similar resolution in the House of Representatives.

"The international and Salvadoran outcry in response to the deaths of the six Jesuits and two women and the subsequent investigations into this crime served as a catalyst for negotiations and contributed to the signing of the 1992 peace accords, which have allowed the people and the government of El Salvador to achieve significant progress in creating and strengthening democratic political, economic, and social institutions," the Senate resolution said.

The resolution also "calls upon the president, the secretary of state, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development and other federal departments and agencies to support and collaborate with the government of El Salvador and other public, private, nongovernmental and religious organizations in efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and to promote educational opportunity, human rights, the rule of law and social equity for the people of El Salvador."

Bishop Hubbard, in his letter, said the Jesuits demonstrated "a commitment to a more just and peaceful society where ... human needs and rights are acknowledged and respected."

In Oct. 28 letters to each of the 33 co-sponsors of the House resolution that passed Oct. 21, Bishop Hubbard thanked them and said the bishops joined them "in commemorating the lives and work of the six Jesuits and their collaborators, and in continuing to seek ways to build the common good, not only in El Salvador but throughout our world."

Charity...

FROM PAGE 1

spiritual, social and cultural, earthly and heavenly," he said.

The church's witness to the love of Christ rightly has led Catholic individuals and organizations to commit themselves to promoting peace, development and societies that are more just and more respectful of the rights of each person, he said.

"Many faithful undertake important actions in the economic, social, legislative, and cultural fields to promote the common good. They witness to the Gospel, contributing to the building of a just order in society and personally participating in public life,"

"In proclaiming salvation, the Church cannot ignore the concrete living conditions of the people to whom it is addressed."

— Pope Benedict XVI

the pope said.

"While it certainly is not the Church's role to intervene directly in the politics of a state, the Christian community cannot and must not remain on the margins of the defense of human rights and the

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

Joint declaration seen as reminder of need to bring Christ to world

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Today's disciples of Jesus, like the first disciples, should be recognized by how they love each other and, guided by Jesus, they should walk together in a spirit of unity, mutual respect, and brotherhood, Archbishop Pietro Sambi told a Washington audience. "Each act of unity is a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus," said the archbishop, who is apostolic nuncio to the United States. He addressed an Oct. 31 gathering of Catholics and Lutherans at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center marking the 10th anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification signed by the two churches. Joining Archbishop Sambi were Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl and Bishop Richard Graham of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod. Nearly 100 people participated in the celebration, including theological faculty members and students and people involved in the ecumenical movement. The declaration said the Catholic and Lutheran churches' consensus on basic truths means that the doctrine of justification — how people are made just in the eyes of God and saved by Jesus Christ — is not a church-dividing issue for Catholics and Lutherans even though differences between them remain in language, theological elaboration, and emphasis surrounding those basic truths. The World Methodist Council affirmed the declaration in 2006.

Oregon doctor lives out his faith, notion of health reform at clinic

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — In a converted Mexican restaurant, a small-town Catholic doctor lives out his notion of health care reform — and his faith. Dr. Michael Grady, 59, runs the McClaine Street Clinic, next to a grocery store in a shopping center in Silverton, a city of 10,000. The clinic serves patients so poor they qualify for the state health plan or Medicaid. Many doctors in private practice don't accept patients with such insurance, because reimbursement rates are so low. Grady, a member of St. Paul Parish, wants his clinic to be a "medical home" for patients, a place where they and their health conditions are well-known and where they can see a steady team of health providers for preventive care. Thirty years of research show that health outcomes improve and costs drop when patients have a defined primary care provider, as opposed to having to visit emergency rooms and multiple clinics only after their situation has become dire. A physician for 33 years, Grady is assembling a full array of providers at McClaine Street: a nurse practitioner, nurses who do immunizations, and mental health workers. Someday he would like to have a dietician and a social worker to help manage patients' health in a coordinated way.

Congressman Chris Smith urges Obama to raise issue of forced abortions in China

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. congressman urged President Barack Obama to raise the issue of forced abortions with Chinese leaders and not allow human rights to take a backseat to economic issues when the president traveled to Beijing. Obama was scheduled to be in China Nov. 15-18, after stopping in Tokyo Nov. 13 and Singapore Nov. 14. He was to return to the United States Nov. 19 after a stop in Seoul, South Korea. "Few people outside China understand what a massive and cruel system of social control the one-child policy entails. ... The system is 'marked by pervasive propaganda, mandatory birth permits, coercive fines for failure to comply, and, in some cases, forced sterilization, and abortion,'" said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., quoting the U.S. China Commission. Smith, a ranking member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, spoke at a hearing on the issue Nov. 10. "I believe the Chinese government would respond to the president if he were to take the lead in speaking up in defense of human rights in China," Smith said in an opening statement. "The Chinese government is sensitive to how it is viewed by the rest of the world."

'Nation's parish' celebrates 50 years as place of prayer, pilgrimage

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington — the largest Catholic church in North America and one of the 10 largest churches in the world — is a familiar place to U.S. Catholics who regard the immense structure as their own.

The basilica, which marks the 50th anniversary of its dedication Nov. 20, is not a parish or a cathedral. Instead, it was designated by the U.S. bishops as a national place of prayer and pilgrimage, something the basilica's one million annual visitors know well.

The book *America's Church*, published by Our Sunday Visitor in 2000, describes the basilica as having "no parish community as its own; but rather counts every American Catholic among its members. No single bishop claims it as his cathedral; rather it is the church of all the nation's bishops. ... In every way, the national shrine is America's Catholic church."

And as a church for all Catholics, its doors are always open — seven days a week, 365 days a year. Every day, for five hours, priests administer the sacrament of reconciliation and celebrate at least six Masses. Weddings and baptisms — sacraments that are to be witnessed by a worshipping parish community — do not take place there.

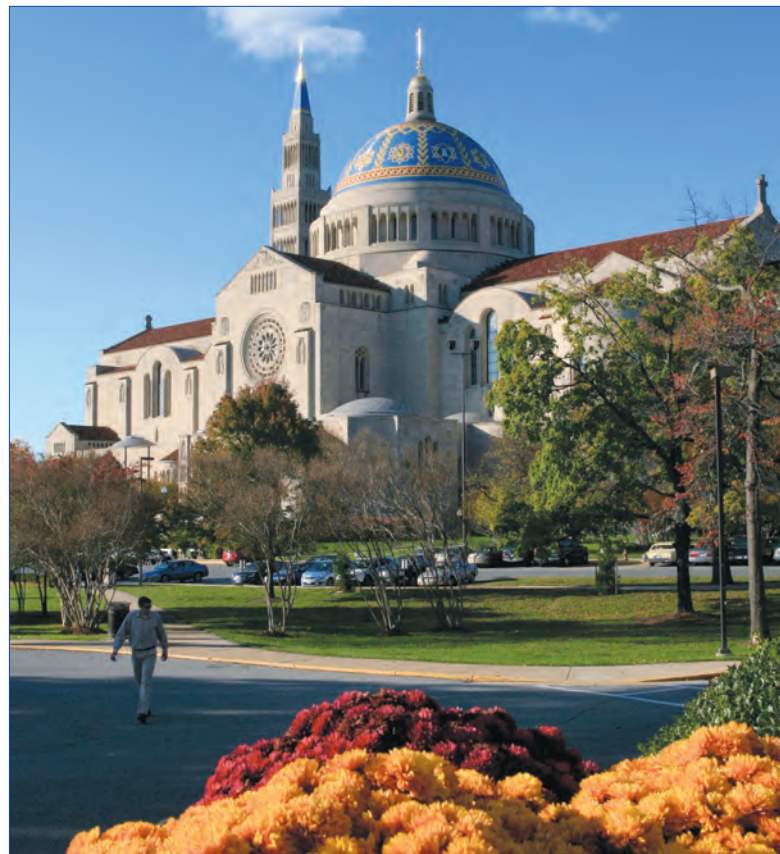
On any given weekday, the basilica is often relatively quiet — aglow with flames of votive candles and often with the lingering scent of incense in the air. Groups go on tours and individuals pray in chapels tucked in nooks of the huge stone, brick, and concrete church.

On weekends, holy days, and special celebrations or dedications, the basilica is often filled to capacity and then some, and the quiet calm is replaced with music and overflowing crowds, sometimes in native dress and holding aloft flags.

During the annual National Prayer Vigil for Life each January, hundreds of pilgrims from youth groups around the country spend the night on the floor on the basilica's lower level.

During the spring and fall, dozens of diocesan groups make pilgrimages to the basilica and Monsignor Walter Rossi, the basilica's rector, makes it a point to personally greet them. "This is your parish away from home," he tells them. "You built it. You support it. We're here for you."

He said the basilica is often described as the nation's parish because Catholics from across the



Exterior view of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Nov. 6. It was dedicated Nov. 20, 1959. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

country contributed to building it as a monument to Mary. He still receives notes from people who remember how their schools and parishes sent in donations — including collections of pennies — to help raise funds for this huge undertaking.

"Fifty years later it still has a national impact," he told Catholic News Service Nov. 4, noting that many people who contribute say they have never even been to the basilica, but they believe in the work it does.

The names of the founding contributors, and those they wanted remembered, are not just tucked away in yellowed record books, but etched in the walls and marble pillars on the basilica's lower level.

Geraldine Rohling, the basilica's archivist, said the pillars, and the names upon them, literally and figuratively support the church.

Rohling noted that early contributions to the shrine had been a significant sacrifice, especially during the time of the Great Depression.

Initial work on the shrine, named a basilica in 1990, began in the early 1900s. Although the cornerstone was laid in 1920, the Great Depression and World War II delayed completion of the upper church until 1959.

Since that time the shrine has always remained a work in progress with the continual additions of stained-glass windows, mosaics, statues, dome work, and chapels. One dome in the interior of the upper church still remains unadorned.

More than 70 chapels and oratories — which are similar to chapels but do not have altars — are located throughout the shrine. Periodically new ones are dedicated by various ethnic groups and religious communities. These chapels relate to the shrines of the regions they represent such as Our Mother of Africa, Our Lady of Czestochowa, and Our Lady of Guadalupe, to name just a few.

Rohling said the variety of chapels reflects the scriptural passage from the Gospel of John: "In my father's house there are many rooms."

She also said they demonstrate the diversity of the universal church.

Msgr. Rossi said the ethnic chapels give immigrants "a sense of coming home" and provide them with a tangible expression of faith.

In 1976, then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla visited the shrine's Polish chapel to Our Lady of Czestochowa and he paid a repeat visit to the chapel three years later as pope. When Pope Benedict XVI visited the basilica in 2008 he prayed at the Oratory of Our Lady of Altötting, the patroness of Bavaria, in his German homeland.

In his 1979 visit, Pope John Paul II said the shrine speaks "with the voice of all the sons and daughters of America.... These people, speaking different languages, coming from different backgrounds of history and traditions in their own countries," he said, "came together around the heart of a mother they all had in common."

Rabbi calls charge Pope Pius was Nazi collaborator 'false, malicious'

By Peter Finney Jr.
Editor, CLARION HERALD
Newspaper of the
Archdiocese of New Orleans

NEWORLEANS(CNS)—The “historically false and malicious view” in a recent best-selling book of Pope Pius XII as a collaborator with Adolf Hitler in the extermination of millions of Jews during the Holocaust is refuted by the facts, said a rabbi who is a professor at Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida.

Speaking in New Orleans Nov. 5, Rabbi David Dalin, author of *The Myth of Hitler's Pope: How Pius XII Rescued Jews from the Nazis*, said British author John Cornwell's characterization of Pope Pius “as the most dangerous churchman in modern history, without whom Hitler might never have been able to press forward with the Holocaust,” belies the facts.

“In fact, nothing could be further from the truth,” Rabbi Dalin said in a lecture at Tulane University. “An historically accurate assessment of the role of Pope Pius during the Holocaust leads to exactly the opposite of John Cornwell's false and malicious conclusions in his book *Hitler's Pope*.”

“Pius XII was not Hitler's pope, but rather a protector and a friend of the Jewish people at a time when it mattered most,” the rabbi added.

While acknowledging that “nobody did enough during the Holocaust,” he said Pope Pius used his training as papal *nuncio* to Germany in the 1920s and as Vatican secretary of state in the 1930s to save Jewish lives during the war.

While about 80 percent of Jews living in Nazi-occupied Europe were killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust, Rabbi Dalin said in Italy “close to 85 percent of the Jews survived,” including 75 percent of the Jewish community in Rome.

The professor said Jews were secretly sheltered in 155 monasteries, convents, and churches in Italy throughout the Holocaust years, including 3,000 at Castel Gandolfo, the pope's summer residence outside of Rome.

“In no other location of Nazi-occupied Europe were as many Jews sheltered for as long a time as at Castel Gandolfo,” Rabbi Dalin said. “This could not have been done without the personal approval and active involvement of Pius XII.”

“In fact, kosher food was provided for some of the more religious Jews who were being sheltered at Castel Gandolfo



Pope Pius XII smiles at a question asked by an Allied newspaperman during an informal press conference at the Vatican June 7, 1944, two days after the Allied armies entered Rome. A U.S. Army nurse also smiles at the remark as she glances at the rosaries and pictures which the pope is holding. (CNS photo/U.S. Navy — outline information excerpted from original Navy outline)

during the Nazi occupation of Rome,” he said.

The assumption anyone might make seeing the cover of Cornwell's *Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII* is that Hitler and Pope Pius were “very close,” Rabbi Dalin said. The cover shows the pope being saluted by a soldier as he leaves a building.

“The fact is they never met,” he said.

Archbishop Eugenio Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII, was a Vatican diplomat in Germany in the 1920s but left Germany in 1929, “never to return,” Rabbi Dalin said.

In 1938, when Hitler made his first state visit to Rome, he said, then-Cardinal Pacelli, the Vatican secretary of state, and his predecessor, Pope Pius XI, “publicly snubbed Hitler.”

Rabbi Dalin acknowledged that Pope Pius XII could have done more, perhaps by excommunicating Hitler, who had been baptized a Catholic, along with other members of the Nazi regime.

Pope Pius also was criticized for not being more outspoken about Hitler and the horrors of the Holocaust.

Rabbi Dalin found 55 instances, beginning in the 1920s when he was papal *nuncio* to Germany, in which Pope Pius XII “made statements attacking Hitler and the Nazis.”

When Pope Pius did have a papal statement read in every pulpit on one Sunday in Belgium during World War II, Rabbi Dalin said that “the Nazi reprisals were vicious. In no other country of Nazi-occupied Europe was as high a percentage of Jews — and, for that matter, Catholics — killed as in Belgium.”

“The fact is Pius XII was by training a diplomat,” Rabbi Dalin said. “A lot of (his work) was behind the scenes. He was

reticent to make sound-bite public statements that might be counter-productive.”

An episode often overlooked occurred when Cardinal Pacelli was secretary of state and traveled to the U.S. in 1936. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was trying to push through his New Deal, was growing irritated by the radio attacks of Father Charles Coughlin, who had a nationwide audience of one million.

Father Coughlin also sprinkled his commentaries against Roosevelt with embarrassing anti-Semitic diatribes. Three weeks after the cardinal met with the president, Father Coughlin was taken off the air. In exchange, the future Pope Pius asked Roosevelt to name a special envoy to the Vatican with ambassadorial status, a diplomatic post that had been abandoned in the 19th century.

The Vatican and the U.S. had cordial relations, but it wasn't until 1984, under President Ronald Reagan, that the United States finally established full diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Hitler did have a favorite cleric, however, Rabbi Dalin said: Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Muhammed Amin al-Husseini, a vicious “anti-Semite and equally vicious anti-Christian” who “chastised the Nazi officials for not doing enough to exterminate the Jews.”

The rabbi said negative characterizations of the pope started with a play, “The Deputy,” written in 1963 by Rolf Hochhuth, a German. It portrayed the pope as anti-Semitic.

“This was a fictional play, and this became the basis for the vicious attacks,” he said. “In his own lifetime and for years after his death, (Pius XII) was considered a friend of the Jewish people. More than 60 years after the Holocaust, it's good to remember the real role that Pius XII had.”

INTERNATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

New CD featuring Pope Benedict's voice previewed in Rome

ROME (CNS) — Under the gilded ceiling of a Roman basilica, a choir performed while the taped voice of Pope Benedict XVI sang the Marian hymn “*Regina Coeli*” (“Queen of Heaven”). The performance marked the press launch of “*Alma Mater*,” a CD featuring the recording of the pope leading the “*Regina Coeli*” prayer in St. Peter's Square on May 1, 2005, the first time he had led the hymn as pope. The CD features eight pieces. They each begin with six lines from the Marian Litany of Loreto and then segue into a new composition of classical music with the pope's voice overlaid, usually reciting a Marian prayer or talking about Marian devotion. The disc was co-produced by the Pauline Fathers' Multimedia San Paolo and Geffen Records, which is part of Universal Music Group. It was scheduled for worldwide release Nov. 30. Pauline Father Vito Fracchiolla, general director of the order's publishing companies in Italy, said the disc “is the fruit of the convergence of many artists and of many business and church entities, a result of teamwork aimed principally at making a gift to Pope Benedict XVI” by spreading his Marian devotion and a message of hope.

Looking for bigger role on Web, bishops meet Google, Facebook reps

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an effort to understand how the Church can make better use of the Internet and its search engines and popular social networking tools, European bishops met with representatives from Facebook, Google, YouTube, and Wikipedia. The bishops and their communications experts also met with a former hacker and an Interpol official to get an inside look at cybercrime and how to defend Web sites from attack. The meetings came during the plenary assembly of the European episcopal commission for media held at the Vatican Nov. 12-15. Some 100 delegates attended the meeting dedicated to “The Internet Culture and Church Communications.” Bishops, media officers and spokespersons from European bishops' conferences met with multimedia representatives such as Google and Iidenti.ca — a self-described “microblogging service” — in order to learn more about how people use these tools and what developments these companies have in store for the future. “The Internet is as important as the invention of the printing press,” said the president of the bishops' commission for media, Bishop Jean-Michel di Falco Leandri of Gap, France. Just as the printing press helped make the Bible available to everyone who could read, the Internet can make the Gospel accessible to everyone who uses the Internet, he said through a translator during a press conference Nov. 13.

Mexican drug cartels depend heavily on ransoms from migrant families

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexico's narcotics-trafficking cartels now depend heavily on earnings obtained by kidnapping undocumented migrants and demanding ransoms from their relatives, said a prominent Mexican senator. “The extortion of migrants, after narcotics trafficking, is the largest source of income for these groups,” Sen. Felipe Gonzalez Gonzalez, president of the Senate's Public Security Committee, told a Nov. 4 forum on the kidnapping of migrants in Mexico. Those sentiments were echoed by Catholic officials that work with migrants. They report having to address the needs of a growing number of kidnapping victims that have been tortured, traumatized, and sexually assaulted by gangs that have close links with drug cartels. “The mafias ... have now discovered how to get rich off of migrants,” Father Jose Alejandro Solalinde, director of the Mexican bishops' migrant ministry in southwestern Mexico, told a Nov. 3 forum at Jesuit-run Iberoamerican University. The comments highlight the most recent hardships for the undocumented migrants that transit the country on their way to the United States. The migrants lack many basic legal protections in Mexico and have been preyed upon by gangs and unscrupulous public officials.

Scripture Readings



November 29, 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

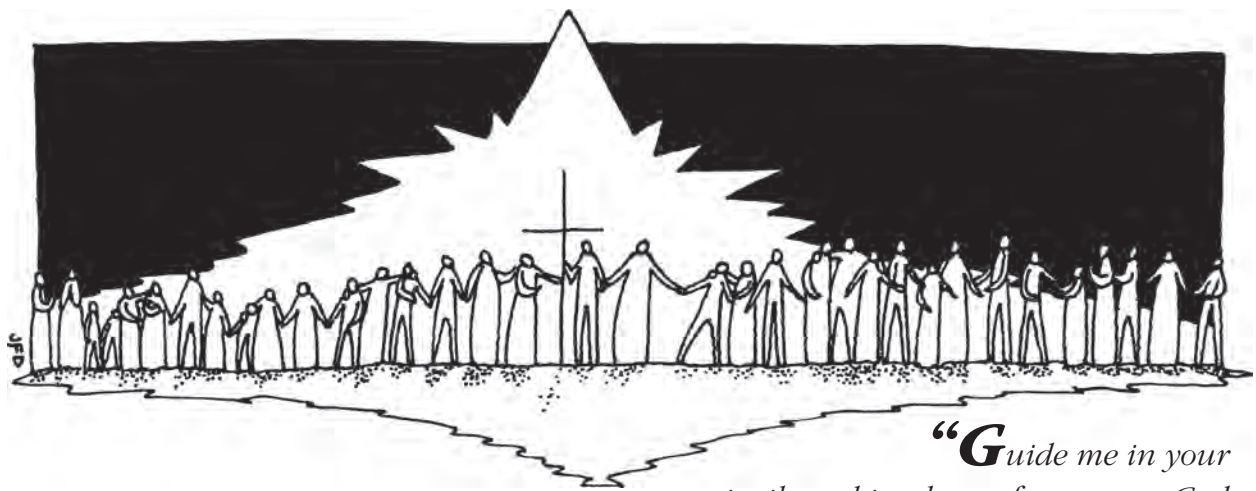
By Jean Denton

My daughter's face glowed with the blush of a new romance as she hung up the phone after talking to her boyfriend. "He said he was thinking about us saving the world together," she smiled, admiring his idealism. Such enthusiasm is not unusual in college-age people like this pair.

But she admitted he was more altruistic than she. Laughing, she pointed out in the vernacular of the day, "Of course, he was all thinking 'save the world,' and I was all thinking, 'together.'"

It was years ago, but that insight into human nature comes back to me every so often when I consider varying attitudes regarding relationships.

It resonates in the readings for this first week of Advent. They call us to share in God's justice — to work together with God for a promise he



"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day."

— Psalm 25:5

made from the beginning of his covenant with humankind.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul reminded the early Christian community of the instructions Jesus gave us for our part: to increase in love for one another and for all. His exhortation carries the echo of Psalm 25 saying that God shows sinners the way to justice. "All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees."

This is an invitation to participate in salvation. We are invited to prepare ourselves for Jesus' gift of redemption by loving as he loves and practicing

justice in the ways he has given us. Saving the world is about being together. It is about our relationship with God and with others, especially the least among us.

As Advent begins, we are reminded to examine our lives and redirect ourselves to the coming of "The Lord our justice." We hope that if we accept his offers of strength and guidance, we also will receive his blessing to save the world together.

QUESTIONS:

How can you help "save the world" where you are here and now? Who are the people you encounter in your daily life who cry out for justice and can be answered through your acts of love?

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Church needs healthy debates conducted with respect for Church's faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church needs healthy debates between theologians to increase the understanding of faith, but the debate must always uphold official church teaching and must be conducted in a way that does not confuse the faithful, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The 12th-century theological debates between St. Bernard of Clairvaux and Abelard, a French theologian, demonstrate "the usefulness and necessity of a healthy theological discussion in the church, especially when the questions debated have not been defined by the magisterium, which always must remain an essential point of reference," the pope said.

During his weekly general audience Nov. 4, Pope Benedict spoke about what modern Catholics can learn from the debates between St. Bernard, who followed the monastic theological tradition emphasizing faith and prayer, and Abelard, who followed the scholastic tradition emphasizing the use of reason.

Abelard's theological career was marked, several times, by church condemnations of some of his posi-



Pope Benedict XVI greets a child during his weekly general audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Nov. 11. At right is Msgr. Georg Ganswein, the pope's personal secretary. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

tions, particularly regarding what he taught about the Trinity.

Pope Benedict said the censures of Abelard's work are a reminder that theologians must be careful to give precedence to the principles of faith that come from revelation and not to interpreta-

tions suggested by philosophy.

When a theologian strays into error, the Vatican must intervene in service of the truth, said the pope, who spent more than 20 years as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Pope Benedict said that among

the reasons St. Bernard asked the pope to condemn Abelard "there was a preoccupation to safeguard the simple and humble believers, who must be defended when there is a risk that they would be confused or led astray" by the work of certain theologians.

The pope said people also should remember that in the end St. Bernard and Abelard were reconciled.

"In both there prevailed a recognition of the concern that must be kept at heart whenever a theological controversy arises: that is, to safeguard the faith of the church and make the truth triumph in charity," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said St. Bernard was suspicious of scholastic theology because it seemed open to questioning even the most basic Christian teachings.

"Bernard's fears were not unfounded," the pope said.

The pope said Abelard's teaching on morality was ambiguous because he insisted that a person's intentions were the final criteria for determining whether an action was good or bad. The pope described such a position as "a dangerous subjectivity."

"As we know, this is very relevant in our age when the culture seems to be marked by a growing tendency toward ethical relativism (in which) only I decide what is good for me at this moment" and actions are not seen as objectively good or bad, Pope Benedict said.

Scripture Readings



December 6, Second Sunday of Advent.

Cycle C. Readings:

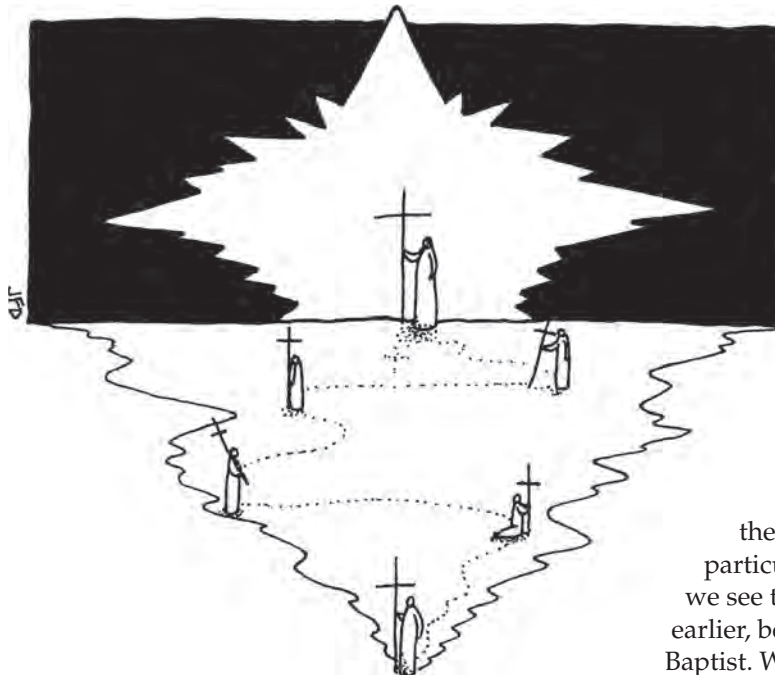
- 1) Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-6
- 2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Gospel) Luke 3:1-6

By Jeff Hedglen

I was having lunch with a young adult recently. We were discussing the rough year she's had and all that God has been doing to help her through it.

At one point she wondered aloud when, or if, she would ever arrive at the place to which God has been bringing her. I shared with her that in my 40-plus years on the planet there have been a number of times when I thought I had "arrived." I remembered thinking at those times that I had finally grown up or made it through the hard stuff. There was a sense of finality to those moments, but the reality is that the "arrival" was more like arriving at an airport to board a plane, lands unknown yet to be discovered.

There is something in all of us that just wants to get to a place where we are comfortable and coast for the rest of life. But God doesn't usually work that way. In today's second reading, we



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

— Philippians 1:6

to bring us to deeper and deeper holiness.

God is a master planner. There is a plan for each one of us and a plan for the entire universe. This is revealed in a particular way in this Sunday's Gospel when we see the words of Isaiah, written centuries earlier, being fulfilled in the person of John the Baptist. Words that God put into the mouth of Isaiah long before, come to fulfillment in the announcement of the Messiah. That's what I call planning ahead.

We are always on a journey striving toward our ultimate destination, but the ups and downs, twists and turns have yet to be completed. From time to time we experience special moments of "arrival," but those are just the scenic overlooks on the road to the beatific vision.

hear these words from St. Paul: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."

Yes, it is God who began the good work in us. Yes, God will complete it. But the completion happens on the day we meet Jesus face to face. This means God will be working with us always

QUESTIONS:

What are some of your "moments of arrival"? In retrospect, how significant were they in your life's journey? What do you think St. Paul means by the "good work" that God has begun in you?

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We're challenged to **Welcome the Stranger** — but how?

By Jeff Hedglen

We all know the rule: Don't take candy from strangers. To be sure, this is a very good rule. Our society today can be a scary place, but it hasn't always been this way. It wasn't that long ago that hitchhiking across the country was a common thing, but I can't remember the last time I picked up a hitchhiker. All of this "stranger danger" makes it pretty hard to live out the message of *Hebrews 13:2*: "Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels."

There is a pretty good amount of teaching in the Church about welcoming the stranger among us. Our local Catholic Charities office even offers workshops on the subject. I invited them to speak to our youth group a few years ago, and the presenter said that Catholic Charities works with a lot of refugees coming to America. He mentioned that many of them have never been formally welcomed.

As a result of that talk, now when I encounter someone with

I am not suggesting that we have to open our homes to any and everyone we come across, but even in this safety-conscious time we can find ways to entertain angels; it just takes a little creativity.

strongly accented English, I try to ask where they are from, how long they have been here, and then I will ask if anyone ever welcomed them here. I am often surprised to hear that they have been here for a number of years, and no one has ever welcomed them. At that point I offer my hand and simply say "Welcome."

My great, great, great grandparents on my mother's side came from Ireland and France. I wonder if they were ever welcomed when they first arrived. America is a county of immigrants. It has always been that way, and it

continues to be to this day. Did you know that the Fort Worth Independent School District's English as a Second Language program serves kids who speak more than 25 first languages?

Yet, immigrants are not the only strangers among us. Many of us don't even know the names of the people across the street or in the next apartment, let alone the people who check us out at Kroger or the local gas station, and they wear name tags! I am just as guilty of this as the next person, but that verse from *Hebrews* has been haunting me lately.

As the holidays are approaching, that message from *Hebrews* is one that can help us get into the right frame of mind. I think we're pretty good at the "entertaining" part of the verse. We decorate our houses, cook lots of good food, buy lots of good presents, and watch a lot of Cowboy victories (we hope), but how far does our hospitality extend?

I am not suggesting that we have to open our homes to any and everyone we come across, but even in this safety-conscious time we can find ways to entertain angels; it just takes a little creativity.

We can take the time to call the person who is checking us out at the store by name. We can open our hearts to at least listen to the story of the seemingly homeless person who is asking for help, and maybe even give some help. We can make a plan to have a bag of non-perishable food in our cars to hand out to a person with a sign "will work for food." We might not have work for them, but we can give them something to eat. Maybe we can even learn the names of the people living in

all the houses across, next to, and behind ours.

There are also more involved ways to welcome the stranger. Call Catholic Charities and volunteer in one of many programs, including refugee resettlement, assisting at ESL classes, reading to children at the Assessment Center, and more. You could also round up some friends and make a few hundred sandwiches for the Presbyterian Night Shelter or just find the nearest retirement/nursing center and visit with the people there.

As Advent approaches, this is a good time to seek ways to welcome the stranger. After all, there once was a couple who were ready to give birth to their first child. All they wanted was some shelter, to be welcomed. In a very real way they are knocking on our doors today.

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.

Inclusión de prohibición de aborto significa éxito para proyecto de ley de salud

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Al final la batalla exitosa para incluir lenguaje estricto que prohibiera el financiamiento de abortos, liderada por los congresistas demócratas pro-vida, con el fuerte apoyo de la Conferencia estadounidense de obispos católicos (USCCB), fue lo que hizo la diferencia en la votación en la Cámara de representantes, el 7 de noviembre, para aprobar un amplio proyecto de ley de reforma de los servicios médicos.

En una rara votación en noche de sábado, la Cámara de representantes aprobó la Ley de servicios médicos asequibles para América, por votación de 220 a 215, moviendo la legislación hacia el Senado, el cual se esperaba que entrara en debate de su propio proyecto de ley de servicios médicos más tarde en noviembre.

Asumiendo que el Senado aprobara una versión de la legislación, las diferencias entre los dos proyectos de ley tendrían que ser reconciliadas por separado. Esa legislación regresaría a ambas cámaras del congreso para aprobación final.

Clave para la aprobación del proyecto de ley fue la aprobación de una enmienda, propuesta por el representante Bart Stupak — demócrata de Michigan — prohibiendo el uso de fondos federales para pagar por abortos, incluyendo la prohibición de cobertura del aborto en los planes de seguros que los consumidores compren con subsidios gubernamentales.

Por otra parte, el proyecto de ley mantuvo una provisión a la que la Iglesia se opuso fuertemente en semanas recientes. Este prohibiría que las personas que estén en el país ilegalmente recibieran cualquier ayuda gubernamental para conseguir cobertura médica. Los obispos estadounidenses también habían pedido que la legislación le permitiera a todos los inmigrantes acceso al sistema de servicios médicos, sin importar su estado legal.

Lo que el proyecto de ley hace es ampliar el seguro médico para un estimado de 30 millones de personas que actualmente carecen de cobertura, significando que

Clave para la aprobación del proyecto de ley fue la aprobación de una enmienda, propuesta por el representante Bart Stupak — demócrata de Michigan — prohibiendo el uso de fondos federales para pagar por abortos, incluyendo la prohibición de cobertura del aborto en los planes de seguros que los consumidores compren con subsidios gubernamentales.

un estimado del 96 por ciento de los estadounidenses tendría acceso a servicios médicos más asequibles.

Varias fuentes noticiosas y personas involucradas en el Capitolio informaron del rol crítico de las negociaciones de última hora, tras bastidores. Estas negociaciones involucraron a líderes de la Cámara de representantes, personal de la Casa Blanca, y obispos católicos y su personal. También esenciales fueron las conversaciones con Stupak y otros que se mantenían firmes en su rechazo a menos que su enmienda fuera incluida.

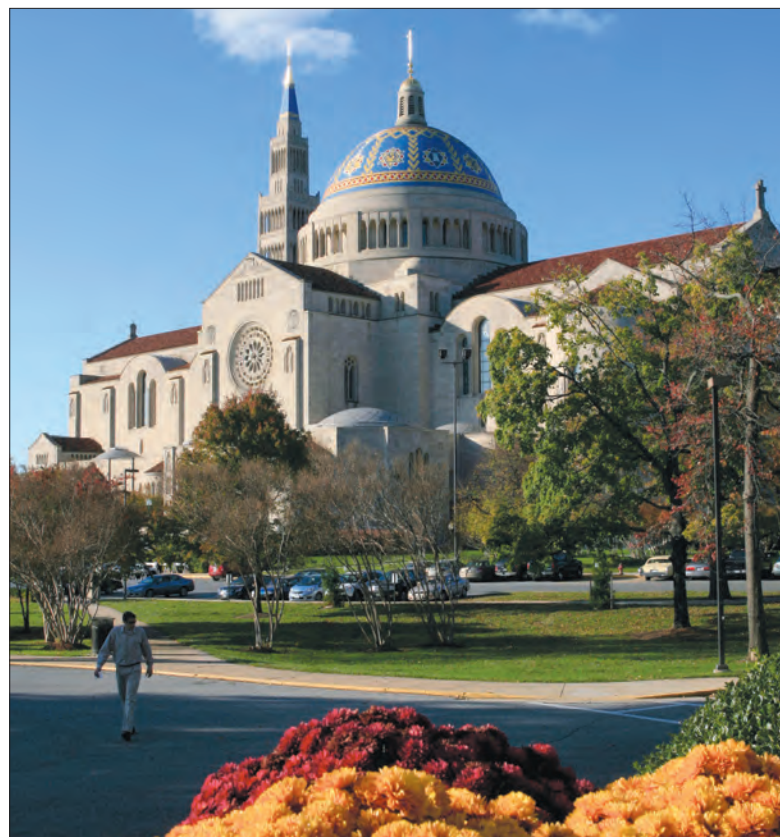
El cardenal de Chicago, Francis E. George, presidente de la USCCB, el 6 de noviembre habló con la Representante Nancy Pelosi, portavoz de la Cámara de Representantes, exhortándola a permitir que la enmienda de Stupak fuera puesta a votación. Otros obispos también participaron por teléfono con varios miembros del congreso.

La enmienda de Stupak fue aprobada por votación de 240 a 194, con el apoyo de muchos republicanos, que en última instancia no votaron por la legislación en sí.

La BASÍLICA DEL SANTUARIO NACIONAL DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN

se ve a través de un pórtico de un edificio cercano en el recinto de la UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE AMÉRICA, en Washington, el 6 de noviembre. Los planes de construcción del santuario empezaron desde principios del 1910.

El templo se consagró el 20 de noviembre de 1959. (Foto CNS/Nancy Wiechec)



El obispo Kevin Vann ha pedido que este boletín sea publicado en el periódico NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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ACTUALIZACIÓN: VOLANTE PARA BOLETINES EN TODA LA NACIÓN

La Cámara de EE.UU. mantiene la financiación del aborto fuera de la reforma de salud.

Dígale a los Senadores:

- Sigam el ejemplo de la Cámara de representantes y eliminen la financiación del aborto
- Protejan los derechos de conciencia
- Garanticen cobertura médica accesible
- Permitan a los inmigrantes comprar seguros privados de salud

Los obispos han abogado durante largo tiempo por la reforma del sistema de salud y continúan defendiendo el caso moral a favor de una reforma genuina que proteja la vida, la dignidad, la conciencia y la salud de todos, especialmente de los pobres y vulnerables.

- El 7 de noviembre, la Cámara de representantes aprobó importante legislación de reforma de salud que reafirmó disposiciones legales esenciales, establecidas hace mucho tiempo con amplio apoyo, que impide el uso de fondos federales para la cobertura médica de abortos electivos.

- Es importantísimo que el Senado adopte el lenguaje referente a este asunto de la Enmienda Stupak ya aprobada por la Cámara de representantes. Esta enmienda asegura que los estadounidenses no sean obligados a pagar por la destrucción de niños aún por nacer como parte de la necesaria reforma al sistema de salud.

- El Senado debe abordar otras prioridades morales esenciales: proteger los derechos de conciencia, hacer el cuidado médico más accesible para aquellos que no tienen seguro médico y asegurarse de que los inmigrantes no pierdan o no se les niegue la cobertura médica necesaria para el bienestar de sus familias y la salud de la sociedad.

ACCIÓN:

Contacte a los miembros del Senado y de la Cámara por correo electrónico, teléfono o fax.

- Para enviar al congreso un correo electrónico con un mensaje ya preparado, visite www.usccb.org/action.

- Llame a la central telefónica del Capitolio de EE.UU., al 202-224-3121, o llame a las oficinas locales de los legisladores que le representan. Información de contacto completa para los miembros de ambas cámaras aparece en www.house.gov y www.senate.gov.

MENSAJE AL SENADO:

“Por favor, adopten la Enmienda Stupak ya aprobada por la Cámara de representantes, que mantiene estipulaciones legales esenciales, establecidas hace mucho tiempo, que impiden la financiación del aborto y proteje los derechos de conciencia en la reforma del sistema de salud. El cuidado médico debe hacerse más accesible a todos cuantos lo necesitan; los inmigrantes no deben perder o no se les debe negar la cobertura médica que necesitan.”

MENSAJE A LA CÁMARA:

“Me alegra que la Cámara de representantes aprobara una legislación de reforma de salud que mantiene las disposiciones legales establecidas hace mucho tiempo que impiden el uso de fondos federales para la financiación del aborto. Por favor, ayude a garantizar que esta importante disposición legal sea incluida en la versión final del proyecto de ley que se enviará al Presidente”.

CUÁNDO:

El calendario del Senado es incierto. ¡Actúe hoy mismo! ¡Gracias!

Para más información sobre las propuestas legislativas y la postura de los obispos sobre una auténtica reforma al sistema de salud, visite www.usccb.org/healthcare.

Un capellán describe como ‘caos completo’ en el Fort Hood, después de la balacera

KILLEEN (CNS) — Después de dos meses en su nuevo puesto como capellán en alerta, en la base más grande del ejército de los Estados Unidos, el padre Ed McCabe tuvo el día más largo de su capellanía militar.

Poco después del inicio de una reunión semanal de administradores de la capellanía en Fort Hood, corrió la voz de que había sucedido una ola de asesinatos.

“Terminamos la reunión administrativa y fuimos al hospital y allí nos quedamos”, dijo el padre McCabe, “pues allí estaban los heridos. Y después fui a la escena del crimen, para confortar a las personas que estaban allá”.

De los 13 que murieron en el tiroteo, el padre McCabe dijo que administró los últimos sacramentos a 11.

Dijo que no tuvo tiempo de dar extremaunción a los 30 heridos. “No, en verdad no hubo tiempo, excepto para una rápida oración. Era un caos total”, dijo el padre McCabe.

“Estaba de guardia cuando sucedió la tragedia—en realidad no muy lejos de mi oficina, la escena del crimen oficial”, dijo el padre McCabe al *Catholic News Service* en una entrevista vía teléfono, desde Fort Hood en Killeen, el 6 de noviembre, un día después del violento acontecimiento.

El Mayor Nidal M. Hasan, de

39 años, psiquiatra de la base, fue considerado como único sospechoso, después de vaciar las balas de dos pistolas en el ataque. Él mismo quedó herido, fue puesto bajo custodia y hospitalizado.

Sacerdote de la arquidiócesis de Boston, el padre McCabe—que tiene el grado de coronel—había celebrado Misa al mediodía, en Fort Hood, lo que le había dado 30 minutos entre el fin de la Misa y la reunión administrativa de la capellanía. La rutina diaria del jueves se abortó una vez que supo lo del tiroteo, que empezó cerca de la 1:30 P.M. hora central.

Después de haber ido a la escena de los asesinatos—una ‘instalación de reclutamiento de soldados’ en la base de 65,000 tropas— “fui al hospital local (*Darnall Army Medical Center*), donde habían sido llevados los heridos”, dijo el padre McCabe. “Allí murió un militar—un capitán. Había recibido tres tiros”.

“A los heridos ya le habían puesto vías intravenosas”, añadió. “Simplemente no podía verle las caras”.

Después de la visita al hospital fuera de la base, el padre McCabe regresó a Fort Hood, a la sala mortuoria, para asistir en el transporte de los cuerpos.

El padre McCabe ha prestado sus servicios como capellán del ejército en Afganistán e Irak;

pero cuando se le preguntó si había sido testigo de algo semejante en el exterior como lo que sucedió en Fort Hood, respondió: “No, no, no, no—de ninguna manera”.

El padre Adam Martínez, pastor de la parroquia de San José, en Killeen, que cuenta con una cifra abundante de militares entre los casi 3.000 domicilios registrados, dijo que primero supo que algo andaba mal cuando “Escuché las sirenas”.

“Asocio las sirenas con aviso de huracán o mal tiempo. Era el mediodía y no había ni nube ni mal tiempo”, dijo el padre Martínez. “Pensé, ‘Es curioso’. En ese instante, el encargado de finanzas (de la parroquia) llegó corriendo y dijo: ‘Algo pasa en Fort Hood. Creo que alguien ha sido asesinado’. Eso fue lo que me indicó que algo estaba fuera de orden”.

El padre Martínez fijó el 8 de noviembre para una Misa conmemorativa en recuerdo de las víctimas.

“Durante dos horas (después del tiroteo) hubo calma y quietud. Nada de tránsito de vehículos”, dijo el padre Martínez, añadiendo que las personas experimentaban “temor— ¿estamos a salvo? . . . Esto ha afectado la psicología de todos; las personas no se sienten tan seguras. Creo que el alma de la ciudad entera ha cambiado”.

Inmigrantes pueden hacer contribuciones importantes a la sociedad, dice el Papa

Por Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — La gente no debe considerar los inmigrantes como problemas, sino como compañeros hermanos y hermanas que pueden ser contribuyentes valiosos a la sociedad, dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI.

La migración de los pueblos representa una oportunidad “de destacar la unidad de la familia humana y el valor de la bienvenida, la hospitalidad y el amor por el prójimo”, dijo, el 9 de noviembre.

El Papa habló durante una audiencia con participantes del *Sexto congreso mundial sobre el cuidado pastoral de migrantes y refugiados*, realizado del 9 al 12 de noviembre en el Vaticano.

El Papa enfatizó las dificultades dramáticas que muchos migrantes enfrentan en sus esfuerzos de sobrevivir o de mejorar las condiciones de vida para sí mismos y sus familias.

“La crisis económica, con el enorme crecimiento del desempleo, reduce las posibilidades de empleo y aumenta el número de aquellos que no pueden encontrar ni siquiera trabajo inestable”, dijo.

La división económica entre los países industrializados y los

La migración de los pueblos representa una oportunidad “de destacar la unidad de la familia humana y el valor de la bienvenida, la hospitalidad y el amor por el prójimo”.

—el Papa Benedicto XVI

pobres continúa creciendo, dijo, y mucha gente no tiene otra opción que salir de su patria en busca de sustento, aunque eso signifique aceptar condiciones de trabajo inhumanas y experimentar grandes dificultades adaptándose a algún lugar nuevo con idioma, cultura y reglas diferentes.

Muchos inmigrantes hoy día están huyendo de condiciones de vida “humanamente inaceptables”, pero no están encontrando “la recepción que esperaban en otro lugar”, dijo el Papa.

Traficantes de drogas mexicanos dependen mucho de sumas de rescate de familias de emigrantes

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO (CNS) — Los grupos de traficantes de narcóticos mexicanos dependen ahora enormemente de ganancias, producto de secuestros de emigrantes indocumentados, por los que piden sumas de rescate a sus parientes, dijo notado senador mexicano.

“La extorsión de emigrantes, después del tráfico de narcóticos, es la fuente más grande de ingresos para estos grupos”, dijo el Sen. Felipe González González, presidente del *Comité de seguridad pública* del Senado, ante una asamblea el 4 de noviembre, en la que se trató el tema de los secuestros de emigrantes en México.

Ese mismo punto de vista tuvo eco en personas que trabajan con emigrantes en agencias católicas. Informan que tienen que atender las necesidades de víctimas de secuestro que han sido torturados, traumatizados y asaltados sexualmente por pandillas que tienen nexos estrechos con los traficantes de drogas.

“Las organizaciones criminales... han descubierto ahora cómo enriquecerse a costillas de emigrantes”, dijo el padre José Alejandro Solalinde, director del *ministerio de emigrantes* de los obispos mexicanos en la parte occidental sur de México, ante una asamblea el 3 de noviembre, en la *Universidad iberoamericana*, dirigida por jesuitas.

Mediante esos comentarios se enfatizan las dificultades más recientes por las que atraviesan los emigrantes indocumentados que cruzan el país, vía los Estados Unidos. Los emigrantes carecen de protección legal de derechos básicos en México y han sido objeto de despojo por parte de pandilleros y funcionarios públicos corruptos.

Ahora se ve a los emigrantes como una lucrativa fuente de ganancias por parte de grupos de traficantes de drogas, que han aumentado la diversificación de actividades ilegales para reponerse de pérdidas sufridas por las medidas enérgicas llevadas

a cabo por el gobierno federal en contra del crimen organizado.

Las actividades de secuestro representan poco riesgo para los traficantes, dijo Gerardo Laveaga Rendón, director del *Instituto nacional de ciencias criminológicas*, pues las víctimas suelen quedarse calladas después de la terrible experiencia. Laveaga calculó en \$25 millones al mes la suma de dinero robado a expensas de rescates de emigrantes secuestrados. Y la impunidad es frecuente.

“Una persona que nunca va a denunciar el crimen, que nunca va a causar ningún problema, es una pieza invaluable de mercancía para las organizaciones criminales”, dijo Laveaga. “Es un negocio grande y redondo”.

Se convocaron las recientes conferencias como respuesta a un informe publicado en julio, hecho por la *Comisión nacional de derechos humanos*, en el que se afirma que 9,758 emigrantes indocumentados fueron secuestrados entre el mes de septiembre del año 2008 y

el mes de febrero del 2009. Dos tercios de las víctimas secuestradas eran de Honduras, y la suma de rescate requerida a los parientes llegaba hasta los \$5,000. Mucha de la información recabada vino de personas que dirigen refugios de emigrantes y grupos que les ayudan a los mismos a cruzar a México, cuando se dirigen hacia el norte.

Representantes de esos grupos dicen que la cifra de los informes es conservadora y continúa aumentando, especialmente en los estados del Golfo de México, — como Tabasco y Veracruz

—que cuentan con conexiones ferroviarias que los emigrantes aprovechan para usar de “moscas” en los trenes, después de ingresar al país a través de Guatemala. Dicen, además, que los emigrantes son capturados frecuentemente cuando se bajan del tren y esperan en estaciones de autobuses.

México no les dicta cárcel a los que son detenidos en el país sin la documentación apropiada de inmigración; pero Axel García, director de derechos humanos del *Ministerio de emigrantes de los obispos mexicanos*, dijo que la actitud de los funcionarios públicos ha sido lenta en cambiar, y que solamente el ejército y la comisión nacional de derechos humanos toman en serio los secuestros, dijo.

Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada

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

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

jlocke@fwdioc.org

- Llamar al número de emergencia para el abuso sexual: (817) 560-2452, Ext. 900

- o Llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canceller/moderador de la curia, el padre James Hart

Mecanismo para reportar abuso

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

Rabino llama 'falsa, maliciosa' acusación que el Papa Pío era colaborador nazi

Por Peter Finney Jr.
Catholic News Service

NEWORLEANS—La "opinión históricamente falsa y maliciosa" en uno de los libros recientes más vendidos, de que el Papa Pío XII era colaborador de Adolf Hitler en la exterminación de millones de judíos durante el Holocausto, es refutada por los hechos, dijo un rabino que es profesor en la *Universidad Ave Maria* en Naples, Florida.

Hablando en New Orleans el 5 de noviembre, el rabino David Dalin, autor de *El mito del Papa de Hitler: Cómo Pío XII rescató judíos de los nazis*, dijo que la caracterización del autor británico John Cornwell del Papa Pío "como el eclesiástico más peligroso en la historia moderna, sin quien Hitler nunca habría podido continuar adelante con el Holocausto", oculta los hechos.

"De hecho, nada podría estar más lejos de la verdad", dijo el rabino Dalin en una conferencia en la *Universidad de Tulane*. "Una evaluación históricamente precisa del rol del Papa Pío durante el Holocausto lleva exactamente a lo contrario de las conclusiones falsas y maliciosas de John Cornwell en su libro *El Papa de Hitler*".

"Pío XII no era el Papa de Hitler, sino en vez un protector y amigo del pueblo judío en un momento cuando más importó", añadió el rabino.

Aunque reconociendo que "nadie hizo lo suficiente durante



El papa Pío XII sonríe cuando un periodista de los países aliados le pregunta algo durante una conferencia informal en el Vaticano, el 7 de junio de 1944, dos días después de la entrada del ejército aliado a Roma. Una enfermera del ejército también sonríe con el comentario, mientras le da un vistazo a los rosarios y fotografías que el Papa tiene en su posesión. (foto CNS/U.S. Navy—información adaptada de la leyenda original de la foto naval)

el Holocausto", dijo que el Papa Pío usó su entrenamiento como nuncio papal ante Alemania en la década de 1920 y como secretario de estado del Vaticano en la de 1930

para salvar vidas judías durante la guerra.

Aunque aproximadamente el 80 por ciento de los judíos que vivían en la Europa ocupada por los nazis

fueron asesinados por los nazis durante el Holocausto, el rabino Dalin dijo que en Italia "casi el 85 por ciento de los judíos sobrevivió", incluyendo el 75 por ciento de la comunidad judía de Roma.

Los judíos fueron refugiados secretamente en 155 monasterios, conventos e iglesias en Italia, incluyendo 3,000 en *Castel Gandolfo*, la residencia de verano del Papa fuera de Roma.

"En ninguna otra localidad de la Europa ocupada por los nazis fueron refugiados tantos judíos durante tan largo tiempo como en *Castel Gandolfo*", dijo el rabino Dalin. "Esto no se habría podido hacer sin la aprobación personal ni la participación activa de Pío XII.

El arzobispo Eugenio Pacelli, el futuro Papa Pío XII, era diplomático del Vaticano en Alemania durante la década de 1920, dijo el rabino Dalin.

En 1938, cuando Hitler hizo su primera visita de estado a Roma, dijo, el entonces cardenal Pacelli—secretario de estado del Vaticano— y su predecesor, el Papa Pío XI, "rechazaron públicamente a Hitler".

El rabino Dalin reconoció que el Papa Pío XII pudo haber hecho más, quizás excomulgando a Hitler, quien había sido bautizado católico.

El Papa Pío fue criticado también por no hablar más abiertamente sobre Hitler y los horrores del Holocausto.

El rabino Dalin encontró 55

instancias, comenzando en la década de 1920 cuando él era nuncio papal ante Alemania, en las cuales el Papa Pío XII "hizo declaraciones atacando a Hitler y a los Nazis".

Cuando el Papa Pío sí hizo que una declaración papal fuera leída en todos los púlpitos un domingo en Bélgica durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, el rabino Dalin dijo que "las represalias nazis fueron feroces. En ningún otro país de la Europa ocupada por los nazis hubo un porcentaje tan alto de judíos y, de hecho, católicos, asesinados como en Bélgica".

"El hecho es que Pío XII era diplomático por entrenamiento", dijo el rabino Dalin. Mucho de (su trabajo) fue tras bastidores. Era reticente de hacer declaraciones públicas, tipo cliché, que pudieran ser contraproducentes".

Un episodio frecuentemente pasado por alto ocurrió cuando el cardenal Pacelli era secretario de estado y viajó a los Estados Unidos en 1936. El presidente Franklin D. Roosevelt, quien intentaba impulsar su *Nuevo trato*, estaba cada día más irritado por los ataques radiales del padre Charles Coughlin, quien tenía una audiencia nacional de 1 millón.

Padre Coughlin también rociaba sus comentarios contra Roosevelt con vergonzosas diatribas antisemíticas. Tres semanas después que el cardenal se reunió con el presidente, padre Coughlin fue sacado del aire. A cambio, el futuro Papa Pío le pidió a Roosevelt que nombrara un enviado especial al Vaticano con estado de embajador, puesto diplomático que había sido abandonado en el siglo 19.

Jesuitas asesinados son honrados 20 años después de su muerte en El Salvador

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Veinte años después de haber sido asesinados en la *Universidad centroamericana* en San Salvador, junto con la ama de casa y su hija, seis sacerdotes jesuitas son honrados por el gobierno salvadoreño, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos y las instituciones jesuítas.

El presidente salvadoreño Mauricio Funes anunció, a principios de noviembre, que los sacerdotes recibirían la *Orden nacional José Matías Delgado* — el premio más alto del país — el 16 de noviembre, 20° aniversario de la muerte de los jesuitas.

Funes dijo que el reconocimiento sería presentado como "un acto público de expiación" por errores cometidos en pasados gobiernos. Dos oficiales militares salvadoreños fueron encontrados culpables en 1991 de la ordenada para los asesinatos.

Entretanto, el Congreso de los Estados Unidos aprobó una prolija resolución para honrar "a estos ocho sacerdotes, educadores espirituales, valerosos y generosos; y mujeres seglares", animando "al pueblo de los Estados Unidos, a las instituciones académicas y a las congregaciones religiosas a participar en la conmemoración del aniversario, a nivel local, nacional e internacional".

Tales eventos están programados para noviembre en los 28 colegios y universidades jesuitas en los Estados Unidos, y otros sitios en el mundo.

Las ocho personas asesinadas a primeras horas de la mañana del 16 de noviembre del año 1989, fueron:

— El padre Ignacio Ellacuría, de 59 años de edad, rector de la *Universidad central americana*.

— El padre Ignacio Martín-Baro, de 44 años, vicerrector y

director del *Instituto de opinión pública* de la universidad.

— El padre Segundo Montes, de 56 años, director del departamento de ciencias sociales y profesor de sociología.

— El padre Amando López, de 53 años, profesor de filosofía y teología.

— El padre Juan Ramón Moreno, de 56 años, profesor de teología.

— El padre Joaquín López y López, de 71 años, fundador y director de *Fe y alegría*, que inició la apertura de 30 centros educativos en comunidades marginadas, por todo el país de El Salvador.

— Julia Elba Ramos, de 42 años, cocinera y ama de casa de los seminaristas jesuitas de la universidad.

— Celina Mariset, de 16 años, hija de Julia Ramos.

Los jesuitas "habían dedicado su vida para el avance de la educación



Una familia se encuentra en la capilla de la Universidad Centroamericana en San Salvador, el 14 de noviembre, para recordar a los seis jesuitas asesinados durante la guerra civil de El Salvador. Efectivos de un cuerpo del ejército asesinaron a los sacerdotes, la ama de casa y su hija durante una ofensiva militar. (foto CNS/Luis Galdamez, Reuters)

en El Salvador, para proteger y promover los derechos humanos y el fin del conflicto, y para identificar y trabajar a fin de resolver los problemas económicos y sociales que afectaban a la mayoría de la población salvadoreña", se decía en la resolución aprobada tanto por

la Cámara de los Representantes como por el Senado, a finales del mes de octubre.

En las instituciones jesuitas de los Estados Unidos se hacen planes para llevar a cabo una variedad de actividades, en conmemoración del aniversario.

Diocesan

NBVM...

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the parish's dream realized. The bishop's pledge to find a Czech-speaking resident priest for the parish took eight years to fulfill. Father Charles Dvorak in 1917 replaced visiting priests, including Fr. Pelnar, as the first resident priest of NBVM.

The parish's Czech roots still show. Upholding tradition, parishioners still visit at the steps of the church after Mass, updating each other and, maybe, as in the early days, planning family activities for later in day. And, if one listens closely, you still hear conversations in Czech. Dances in the parish hall featuring Texas polka bands bring life to the hall four or five times a year.

Ben Knappek is a native and life-long resident of the Penelope area. Ben, joined by his wife Lottie, says no parish can measure up to NBVM. But, things have changed.

"I have been here 90 years," says Ben Knappek. "Today can't be compared (to the early days of the parish.) No one could talk in church. Men and women sat on their sides of the church. No one wore jeans. Women wore scarves."

Another lifelong parishioner, Frances Beseda, who with her late husband Andrew raised three sons and a daughter in the church, recalls that the parish's beloved longest-serving priest, Father John Konkiel, came to Penelope in 1924 from Chicago as a Polish descendant who spoke fluent Czech and stayed until his death in 1954. Fr. Konkiel, Beseda remembers, was a pragmatist who adjusted to the church and the needs of its members.

Because a farm family tends to the farm animals even on the Lord's Day, the soon-to-be 90-year-old Beseda says, farm families were up and performing farm chores before Sunday Mass.

"When Fr. Konkiel was here," Beseda relates, "everyone would go to Communion before church," because they had fasted since at least midnight, abstaining not only from food but also all liquids, including water, and had done a half day's worth of chores before coming to Mass. "Then, before Mass started, everyone would go out to their cars to eat breakfast. I would make sandwiches from fresh beef ... and homemade bread. My boys loved that.

"After everyone had breakfast, we would go back into the church, and Father would have Mass."

The church that Beseda refers to was the original wooden structure costing \$1,625 to build, with some of the cash contributions donated by non-Catholics who had been early settlers of Penelope when

it was known as the ZeeVee community and located a half mile south. The arrival of the railroad through the area with a railroad stop lured ZeeVee settlers to Penelope, named for the daughter of the railroad president.

God's desire for the parish bore fruit. The parish continued to grow until about the time of World War II.

"During the 50 years of its existence," the late Mary Brugger wrote in the 1959 at the time of the 50th anniversary of the parish, "the B.V.M. of Penelope has known years of progress and years of decline," mirroring what the larger Penelope community was experiencing. "The reasons vary: the draft, the years of drought which forced many small farmers to sell their farms and move to the cities, easier work and better pay jobs in the city, all of which take many young and married people from the parish."

In his homily Fr. Publius recalled that during the church's history God has closed one door and opened others. When the parish stopped growing, the remaining parishioners and its priests devoted themselves to keeping the church alive.

Fr. Konkiel in the late 1940s re-ignited the fervor that existed when the parish was established by spearheading a drive to replace the wooden church, which had seen its better days, with a new, brick church, which still stands.

To offset the lack of hard cash within the Penelope Catholic community, Knappek recalls, the men of the parish once again stepped forward by donating their time and talents to build the new church.

"You had certain days to work on building the church," Knappek recalls. "We were farmers and we would work on the farm. Then on the day that we would work at the church, they would tell us what to do. I worked in the tower for the bell one day. It was so hot up there," he said. "But we did the work ourselves."

Cleaning and decorating of the old and new church, recalls another lifelong resident, Irene Hynek, fell to the women and girls of the parish.

"Young girls would work with the older ones to clean the church every week," Hynek says. "We would get fresh flowers to put on the altar. In the summer times we would pick zinnia and asparagus plants to make the flowers look better."

Fr. Konkiel died three years after the dedication of the new church. Not yet limited by a priest shortage, Dallas Bishop Thomas Gorman assigned Father Bohumil Hruby as NBVM's new pastor. A Czech-born priest who fled Czechoslovakia in 1959 to avoid imprisonment by the ruling Czech Communist Party, Fr. Hruby first



This photograph was taken in the NBVM church during the centennial anniversary Mass, held Oct. 11. A standing-room-only crowd of more than 400 attended the celebration. (Photo by Larry Knappek, courtesy of West News)

served as an assistant pastor in the Czech community of Ennis, near Dallas.

A high school/college professor who had earned a doctorate of theology in Rome, Fr. Hruby continued to nurture the Catholic Church of Penelope not only with exceptional liturgies and homilies, in Czech, but he also addressed the temporal needs of the parish community. He convinced parishioners that it was time to abandon the old country parish hall for a new facility next door to the church. A brick parish hall opened in 1959, and in 1962, the parish replaced an old rectory that dated back to the early years of the parish.

After the Second Vatican Council approved Mass in the local language, Fr. Hruby turned again to local parishioners to remodel the church to accommodate an altar facing the congregation. To add the finishing touch, he enlisted local craftsman Johnny Kucera to build the new altar and other furnishings, still the centerpiece of the church.

Fr. Hruby's death on March 27, 1977 marked the closing of a door. From the day the church opened, Czech was the predominant language. With his death, Mass in Czech ended.

The new era began when young diocesan priest, Father Jerry Mosman, followed Fr. Hruby, a major adjustment for longtime parishioners who had enjoyed 50 years of Czech speaking priests.

In the '70s a national priest shortage became a problem. Bishop John J. Cassata of the new Diocese of Fort Worth, in which the church was now located, concluded that the diocese no longer had enough priests to allow NBVM its own resident priest. The era of a resident priest ended when Bishop Cassata reassigned Father Bill Aaron in 1979 and directed Fr. Publius, who was pastor of nearby Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Abbott, to also pastor the parish.



Presiding at the anniversary Mass were (left to right) Deacon Jim Poole, of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Hillsboro; Fr. Frank Miller, of West; former NBVM pastor Fr. Publius Xuereb; Fr. Anton Drozd of the Diocese of Dallas, nephew of Msgr. Anthony Drozd, the first of two Penelope-born priests to be ordained from the parish; and current NBVM pastor Fr. George Pullambrayil. (Photo by Larry Knappek, courtesy of WEST NEWS)

Fr. Publius recalled in his anniversary homily that the change to sharing a pastor with a nearby community was traumatic for NBVM. Despite the challenge, he said, the parish continues to thrive.

Almost 100 families make up the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish today. Czechs still account for a substantial number of the members. But, just as the Catholic Church of Texas is diverse today, so are the ranks of the church of Penelope. Now the Esparzas, the Morenos, the Wuebbens, the Dishers, and others sit side-by-side with the Matulas, the Nors and other families of Czech heritage.

Marcella Sinkule, president of the Penelope pastoral council, says, "We are small, but we have energetic people." She adds, "We are multicultural."

Although times have changed, Sinkule says the character of the church and its people have remained.

"When I read Henry Holub's recollections that the people of Penelope didn't have much money, but they worked hard to keep their church alive, I thought that sounded like us today," she said.

Holub, a Penelope native wrote *Recollections of my Early Years at the Penelope Church* for the 100th anniversary, recalling the church community through the eyes of a young boy in the '40s and '50s.

Sinkule laments that the parish "does not have many young people. That bothers me." Yet, there are signs that young families are returning to the parish and the community. "We want to keep the church an active place where the young people can return..." she says.

"The church is still the focal point of the Penelope community," Holub declares in his recollections, "bringing together children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the original parishioners for prayer, bazaars, and other social events."

A century after the establishment of the Catholic Church in Penelope by Czech-speaking people who thirsted for God and a church in which to worship, two Penelope icons still thrive: The Penelope school and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church — a multicultural church of the 21st Century on the blacklands of Central Texas.

Deacon discusses miracle that led to beatification of Cardinal Newman

LONDON (CNS)—An American deacon has recounted how he was suddenly and inexplicably cured from a severe spinal condition after he prayed for healing to Cardinal John Henry Newman.

Deacon Jack Sullivan, 71, of Marshfield, Massachusetts, told a Nov. 9 press conference in London that he was transformed after praying to Cardinal Newman, a 19th-century theologian and former Anglican who died in 1890.

In July Pope Benedict XVI announced the beatification of Cardinal Newman after the Congregation for Saints' Causes decided Deacon Sullivan's healing was a miracle due to his intercession. The beatification ceremony is set for May 2 at England's Birmingham Oratory, which he founded after he became a Catholic in 1845.

Deacon Sullivan said doctors told him he was on the "brink of

complete paralysis" because several of his lumbar vertebrae were crushing his spinal cord.

Even after surgery in August 2001 in Boston the protective lining around Deacon Sullivan's spinal cord was badly torn, leaving him in "incredible pain," he said.

He said surgeons told him it would take up to a year before he could be able to begin to walk again.

Deacon Sullivan said he was

upset by the prognosis because he had trained for three years to be a deacon for the Boston Archdiocese and wanted to be ordained with his class the following year. He said he prayed: "Please, Cardinal Newman, help me to walk, so that I can return to my classes and be ordained."

The deacon explained how "suddenly I felt hot all over, very tense, and a tingling over my body that lasted a long time."

"I also felt a sense of joy and peace that I had never experienced before in my life and a sense of God's presence, and I had no willpower of my own," he said. "I was just standing there, and all these things were happening to me. I had no control and then I developed a sense of confidence and determination that finally I could walk."

He recalled how he shouted to a nurse that his pain had disappeared even though he had been in agony moments earlier.

"The pain had left me and I was left with a feeling of entire joy and confidence that something special was happening to me," he said.

Deacon Sullivan said he was not only able to walk unaided but was moving so quickly that the nurses had to tell him to "slow down."

Doctors studying his case in the following months determined that Sullivan had regained the lifting capability of a 30-year-old man. They were baffled by his recovery and after an array of tests in October 2001 admitted they had no explanation for it.

At that point Sullivan decided to write to Father Paul Chavasse, postulator for Cardinal Newman's sainthood cause, at the



Cardinal John Henry Newman is pictured in an 1865 photo. Deacon Jack Sullivan of Marshfield, Mass., recently recounted in London how he was inexplicably cured from a severe spinal disorder after he recited a short prayer to Cardinal Newman, a 19th century theologian and convert to Catholicism. (CNS photo/courtesy of Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory)

Birmingham Oratory.

On Sept. 14, 2002, the day of his ordination as deacon, he received notification that his case had been selected by the fathers of the oratory as the possible miracle needed to beatify Newman.

"To my mind that was a sign that this process happened in a wondrous way," Deacon Sullivan told the London press conference.

He spoke to journalists at the start of a visit to England at the invitation of Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster. The deacon afterward preached a homily at a Mass in London's Westminster Cathedral.

During his visit Deacon Sullivan will tour the oratory and be shown other sites associated with Cardinal Newman's life.

Hamer...

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around. My favorite one is new this year, and I made it myself with embroidery floss on a woven fabric. Although only God can create a tree, it seems people can stitch pumpkins, and I cross-stitched this one.

Designed with a dozen squares of multi-hued thread, the pumpkin is unusual. It is a sort of patchwork quilt, with all the colors combining harmoniously — just as the blend of cinnamon, nutmeg, and clove combine to create a fragrance symbolizing family, friends, and home.

My patchwork pumpkin is my favorite pumpkin ever, a strong statement from a person who all year waits for the day the grocery store stocks pumpkins for pies and breads, along with ears of dried corn and a "new season of apples."

Like Charlie Brown's Christmas tree, the cross-stitched patchwork pumpkin is not perfect, not anything near the A-plus quality of the pumpkin my grandbabies brought to my home this year. It is not perfectly round, and not perfectly colored.

But its one-of-a-kind design is what makes it special. Patches of brown, beige, orange, and gold — not necessarily assets in edibles — merge to form a fruit that is beautiful only in its uniqueness.

Special to this pumpkin is a tiny brass heart, sewn right where it might be beating, if the pumpkin were, in fact, a living, breathing part of a family.

And under it, in dark green

script that seems to grow out of the vine itself, the pumpkin is labeled "Too Cute for Pie."

Of course it is. No one would purchase a splotchy, unevenly colored pumpkin for pie, would they? I think not, no more than they would buy a bruised apple or too-soft blueberries.

Our world has a lot more patchwork in it than perfection. But the patches are the part I like best.

I prefer overripe bananas and antiques when they are scratched or chipped. I am partial to old houses and hand-sewn, well-worn linens, poignant reminders of life abundantly lived.

And I am drawn to ordinary folks: the sign-maker at work who hurries production for us, even though it keeps him in the shop late; the woman who slices meats at the grocery store deli, and remembers our regular order. The man at the post office who telephones: "Kathy? This is Tony. Your box rental is overdue. If you pay it today, I won't charge you the \$17 late fee."

Those people are gifts. They blend into the world, coloring it as effectively as multi-hued threads color my patchwork pumpkin. And they are not here accidentally.

All of us go through life looking for signs of Christ among us. Most of us search in Scripture or liturgy. Some look at the expression on the face of a statue, a water stain on the side of a bridge, or, if they are desperate, even on a grilled-cheese sandwich. Sometimes people find the image of God in their breakfast toast.

But we don't have to look that far, especially at this time of

year. He is present in welcome temperature changes, foliage colors that are almost magical, and in the harvest moon.

We can sense God's presence in the feeling of optimism that lies in the season: We know these months will end in Christ's birth.

But mostly we should see Him in his people.

Life is a garden we walk through together, selecting our watermelons and pumpkins based on their color, size, and whether or not they "thump" correctly, when knocked on gently. I don't know what the resulting sound is supposed to be, but I knock on fruit anyway.

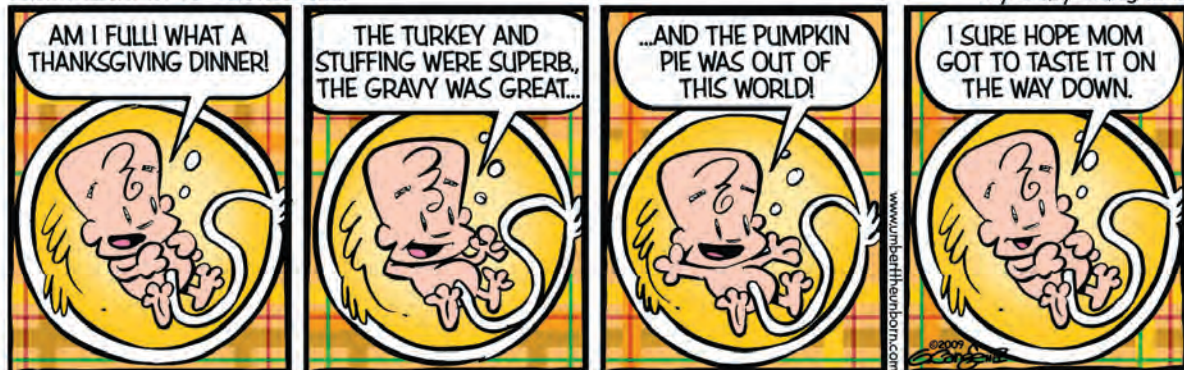
We can choose to see Christ there too, without knocking and not always when and where we search. We will find Him, accidentally, in people who are trying, every day, to do his work, and representing Him to us, as we should be representing Him to them.

Beauty should always be noticed and cherished. Sometimes it is in a patchwork pumpkin with a heart. Sometimes it is too cute for pie. Always it comes from God.



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

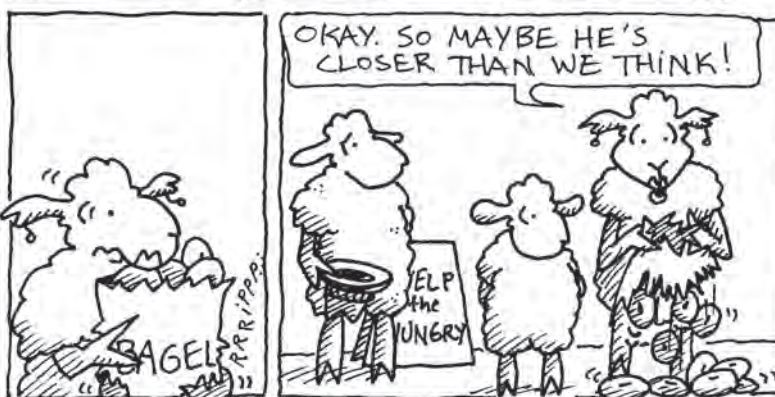
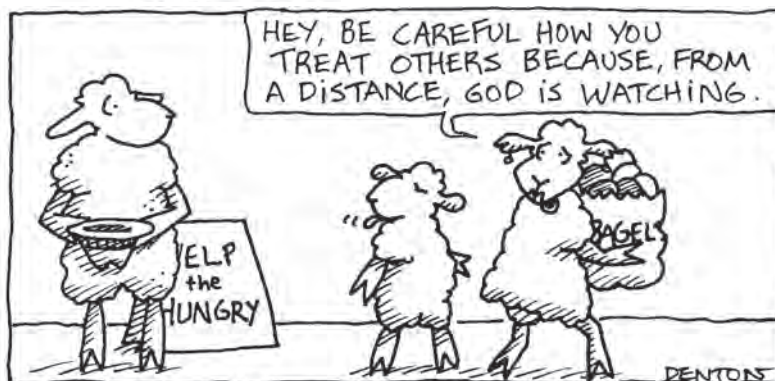
Umbert the Unborn



The FLOCK

By Jean Denton

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Calendar

MISSIONARY IMAGES

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

MEMORIAL MASS

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus General Worth Assembly will celebrate its annual Thanksgiving Day Memorial Mass at 10 a.m. Nov. 26 at the Discalced Carmelite Convent, 5801 Mt. Carmel Dr., Arlington. The Mass will be held in honor and memory of the Sir Knights who have passed away during the past fraternal year. The chalice blessed at this Mass will be engraved with the names of Sir Knights Fr. Carl Szura, TOR, Felix A. Gloden, and William "Bill" Gilpin. Father Anh Tran, the assembly's chaplain, will celebrate the Mass, and the Carmelite nuns will provide the music. Ray Herrera is faithful navigator of the assembly, and Lonnie Brown, the assembly's past faithful navigator, is the chairman of the ceremony. The public is welcome to attend the Memorial Mass.

BISHOP DUNNE COUNCIL

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

ADVENT MORNING REFLECTION

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

'WWJD' AND CHRISTMAS

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

To Report Misconduct

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

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

To Report Abuse

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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

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

ADVENT QUIET DAY

The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of the Most Holy Trinity located at 5801 Mount Carmel Dr. in Arlington, will hold its annual "Advent Quiet Day" on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at the monastery in Arlington. All are welcome to attend. Father James Hart, chancellor for the diocese, will be the speaker/presenter. The program will begin at 10 a.m., and Mass will be at approximately noon, followed by lunch. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. Beverages will be provided. The Quiet Day will end at approximately 2:30 p.m. after Benediction. This is also an opportunity to donate items to the Carmelite sisters, say event organizers, who are in need of paper goods and appreciate donations of any kind. For questions or more information, contact Debbie Kerschen at (817) 925-5605.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

The regular monthly meeting of The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry With Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities and Their Families will not be held in November and December due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. All who are interested are invited to attend a vesper service at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Catholic Renewal Center Chapel, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. A pot-luck dinner will follow. Meat will be provided. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383, Dorene Rose at (817) 329-7370, or Sister Dorothy Eggering, SSND, at (817) 283-8601.

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP

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

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP

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

MEN'S / WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT

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

DISCERNMENT AT OLV

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

JESSE MANIBUSAN CONCERT

Internationally recognized Catholic recording artist Jesse Manibusan will perform an "Advent Concert of Song and Praise" from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2 at St. Paul the Apostle Church at 5508 Black Oak Lane in Fort Worth. For more information, call (817) 738-9925.

NTC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The *North Texas Catholic* is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the Dec. 4 issue must be received by noon on Nov. 25. Items for the Dec. 18 issue must be received by noon on Dec. 9. Send information to jrusseau@fwdioc.org.

CDA FUNDRAISER

Catholic Daughters of America Mary Mother of Mercy Court 2143, based out of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Hillsboro, will host its major fundraiser — a "Santa Shop" — from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Gifts will be available for as low as \$1, along with homemade treats. Proceeds from this event will be distributed to various charities throughout the year.

NFP CLASSES

The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning for married and engaged couples. Since the course consists of three classes at monthly intervals, engaged couples are encouraged to attend a course beginning at least four months before their wedding. To register for a course starting Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 7341 Glenview Dr., North Richland Hills, contact Andrew and Samantha Mudd at (817) 284-5117. To register for a supplemental postpartum class (for those couples who have previously attended a CCL course) on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 1501 Ninth St., Wichita Falls, contact Jacob and Lauren Morath at (940) 544-2515. Visit www.ccldfw.org for more class dates and information.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

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

RESPECT LIFE HOLY HOUR

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

CRC CHRISTMAS SALE

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

SSMN ANNIVERSARY

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

ST. GEORGE SCHOOL ALUMNI

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

PARADE OF LIGHTS

As part of its 100th anniversary, Our Lady of Victory School will enter a float in the Chesapeake Energy Parade of Lights in downtown Fort Worth on Nov. 27, the Friday after Thanksgiving. The float will display a reproduction of the original Our Lady of Victory School building facade and feature by students dressed as OLV founding priest Father Minsart and Sister Claire of Jesus, the first provincial of the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur. For more information about the Parade of Lights, visit the parade's Web site at www.fortworthparadeoflights.org.

COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP

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

CURSILLO OF CURSILLOS

The Fort Worth Cursillo Community is hosting a "Cursillo of Cursillos" Dec. 10-13. Cursillo of Cursillos is a three-day weekend for all Cursillistas — Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. All attendees will be cloistered for the weekend. "Cursillistas have often said they would like to relive their weekend," say event organizers. The weekend, they say, will give those who have been on previous retreats a chance to do so. The retreat material, which was originally in Spanish, has recently been translated into English. This weekend will be the second Cursillo of Cursillos in the United States to be held in English. The weekend consists of three days of talks and meditations that are spiritually challenging, enlightening, and enriching to Cursillistas who desire to grow and be renewed in their understanding of and commitment to the Cursillo Movement. The purpose is to become stronger leaders in the Cursillo Movement, both as individuals and as a community. Space is limited, so those planning to attend should make arrangements as soon as possible. The application can be downloaded at www.fortworthcursillo.org. For more information, call Mary Jean Nagy at (817) 226-1110, or e-mail her at orboonagy@yahoo.com.

OLGHS DEVELOPMENT DINNER

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

TEEN PRO-LIFE LOCK-IN

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

Classified Section

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Notre Dame Catholic School is accepting applications for a full time Development Director beginning Spring-Summer 2010. Applicant must have experience in marketing, fundraising, and working with volunteers. Please submit resume and application, to Principal Cindy Huckabee @ 2821 Lansing Blvd. Wichita Falls TX 76309 or cindy.huckabee@notredamecatholic.org.

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Good Newsmaker

For 100 years, the Catholic community in the small town of Penelope has

Kept the Faith Alive

By Pat Svacina
Director of Communications

On Oct. 11, more than 400 descendants of early Penelope Czech Catholics and a new generation of Penelope Catholics celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Penelope Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

Reviving images and sounds from the past, a choir of present and former members opened Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary's anniversary commemorative Mass and welcomed celebrant, Father Publius Xeureb, a former pastor, with a favorite parish Czech tune "Bud Matkou Mou," roughly translated "Be my Mother, Mary," setting the tone for a joyous and thankful celebration of 100 years of Catholicism in Penelope.

"Our parish is more than buildings," said Father George Pullambrayil, an immigrant from India and pastor of NBVM as well as the nearby Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Abbott. He addressed today's parishioners in the commemorative 100th anniversary directory: "Our people and the strong family life and the solid values which are evident are the strength of our parish. We work hard and help one another. This caring for one another, this willingness to help one another, this spirit of working together to get the job done is what makes us a strong parish community. Our presence may be small, but we do great things by joining together



This early photograph of the original NBVM church building was taken in approximately 1935. (Photo courtesy of parish archives)

and witnessing to the presence of Jesus Christ."

Undoubtedly Fr. George speaks with the same fervor as did the early Penelope Czechs at gatherings that led to the founding of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary more than 100 years ago.

Hard working, dedicated, religious, and with growing families, Czechs who were originally lured to Texas by the promise of rich farmland at low prices, had by the late 1800s and the early 1900s moved north from original settlements around Fayetteville in South Texas to Central Texas. The coming of the railroad to the community of West in the 1880s hastened the immigrations of adept and practical Czech farmers into Central Texas.

Everywhere that Czechs went in Texas, they brought with them the Catholic Church, the Czech language, and Czech customs — including food.

On a fall Texas Sunday in October of 1907, Czech-speaking Texans and Europeans who sought

a better life for their families on Penelope's rich blacklands gathered in what was, no doubt, the simple home of John Urbis to address one of their most important unfulfilled needs: a Catholic church in Penelope.

Minutes written in the Czech language reflect the Urbises, the Coceks, the Snapkas, and others who assembled concluded the meeting with clear intentions: "We the undersigned parishioners of Penelope bind ourselves to help build a church of the Lord."

Armed with \$410.50 in cash and parishioners' pledges to leave farm work to help build a church, and with the guiding hand of Father Joseph Pelnar, pastor of the nearest Catholic Church — the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the community of West, 15 miles and a two-hour wagon ride to the west — Penelope Czechs persuaded Catholic Diocese of Dallas Bishop Joseph Dunne, the second Dallas bishop, to establish a new Catholic church in their growing community.



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Penelope, pictured above, was built in the late 1940s, replacing the original wood structure. The church was renovated after the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. (Photo by Larry Knappek, courtesy of WEST NEWS)



Bishop Thomas Gorman of Dallas is pictured (second from right) with pastor Fr. Bohumil Hruby (far right) processing from the rectory to the church, accompanied by altar servers. The photograph was taken during the parish's 50th anniversary celebration, in August of 1959. (Photo courtesy of parish archives)

Contributions that eventually totaled \$1,600 paid for the materials and limited contractor work. To stay within budget, men of the parish, for the most part, built the church.

The Czechs' prayers were

answered when the new church was dedicated on July 15, 1909 as the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But, as the history of the parish notes, "only in part" was

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Inside... This issue of the NTC

Under the House bill on health care reform, tax money would not be used for abortion, but now the bishops want us to lobby for Catholic values in the Senate bill. See the new bulletin insert. **2**

Our Mother of Mercy celebrated 80 years of parish history recently. As Bishop Vann joined them to wish them "Ti voglio bene," Italian for "I wish you well," OMM looked back on their heritage of hope. **9**

Sharon Perkins tours the Women of Spirit exhibit in Dallas and gives us her response to this display of the rich contributions and life of religious sisters in the U.S. Their spirit will inspire you. **12**