

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



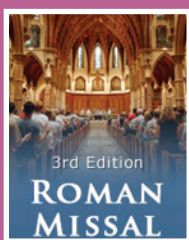
VOL. 24, NO. 12

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

April 2011

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A stamp showing Pope John Paul II, Jesus of Divine Mercy and St. Peter's Basilica is being jointly issued by the Vatican and Poland to celebrate the May 1 beatification of the Polish pope. The stamp will be released April 12. (CNS photo/courtesy of Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Office)

Rome expecting at least 300,000 pilgrims for John Paul's beatification

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Church and local government organizers are planning to accommodate at least 300,000 people in St. Peter's Square and the surrounding area for Pope John Paul II's beatification Mass May 1.

Msgr. Liberio Andreatta, head of Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi, the Vatican-related pilgrimage agency, told reporters March 29, "Rome is ready to welcome every pilgrim who wants to come. Earlier, newspapers published megalithic numbers and said every hotel is booked. That's not true."

Father Cesare Atoire of Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi said as soon as Pope Benedict XVI announced the beatification date, travel agents and others booked large blocks of hotel rooms. Now that the beatification is just a month away, they have a more precise idea of how many rooms they will need and so they are freeing up the extras.

In addition, he said, two campgrounds outside of Rome will be reserved for pilgrims who want to keep their costs to a minimum. The commuter trains, which usually do not run on weekends, will be on a special schedule to get them to the prayer vigil April 30 in Rome's Circus Maximus and to the Mass the next morning.

Because the pope is the bishop of Rome and the pilgrims will spend most of their time in Rome, not at the Vatican, the Diocese of Rome is responsible for much of the cost of the event, Msgr. Andreatta said.

The diocese is passing the collection

See Rome expecting, p. 21

Don't wait to fill Rice Bowl to help Japan

Catholic News Service

Bishop Marcellino Dajji Tani of Saitama, one of the dioceses hit hardest by Japan's earthquake and tsunami disaster, said the catastrophe is a reminder that "life is in the hands of God and that life is a gift from God." He further described the tragedy as a challenge for Christians during Lent "to practice and witness to the commandment of love and brotherly love."

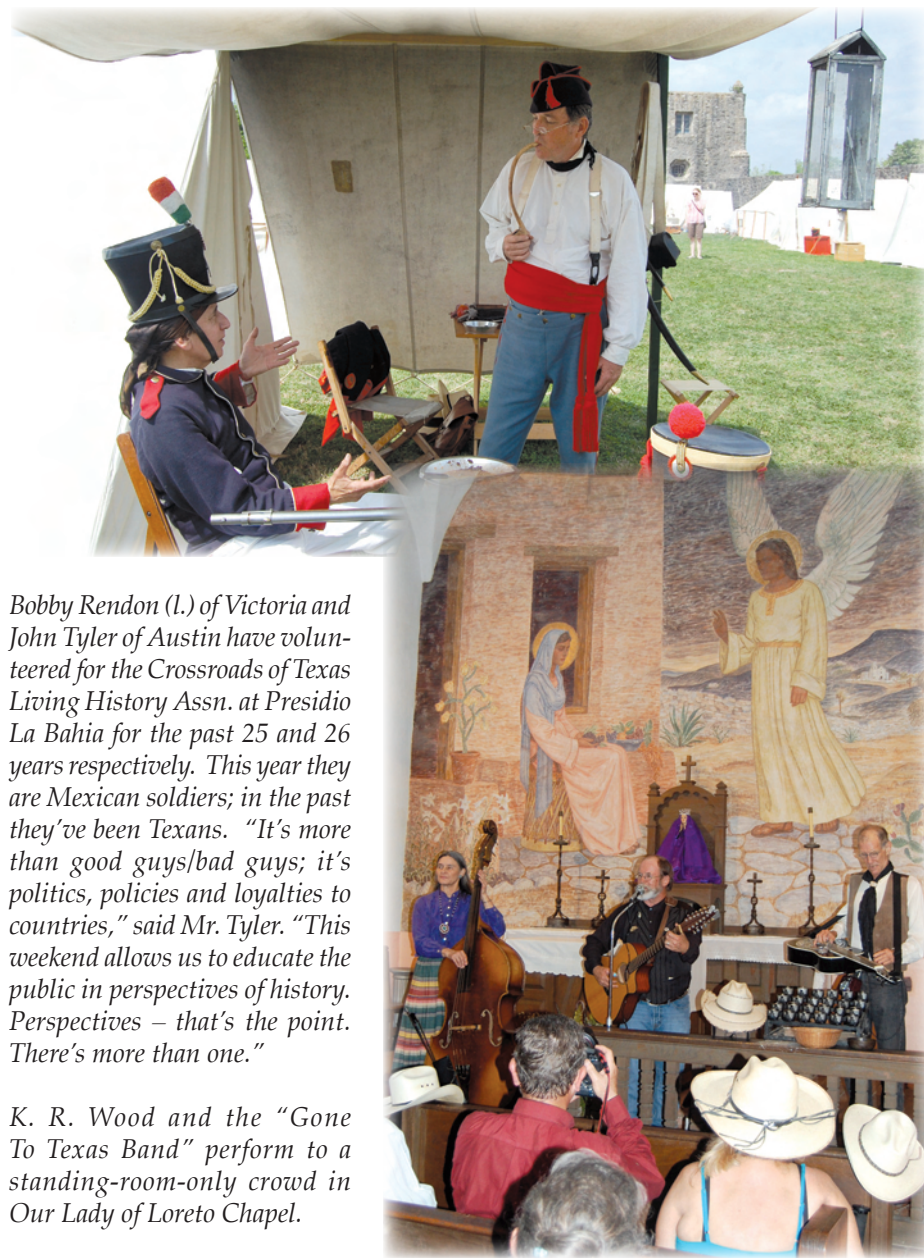
During Lent in the United States, many Catholic families take part in Operation Rice Bowl, which supports Catholic Relief Services. Families are encouraged to put savings from their Lenten fasting into a cardboard bowl.

Catholic Relief Services is among the

organizations responding to the continuing disaster in Japan.

After seeing the scope of the need in Japan, how could we not accept Bishop Tani's challenge? Let's remember the victims and their continuing struggles in our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

There is no need to wait to fill the cardboard Rice Bowl to witness to the commandment of love. Donations are being accepted by phone at 1-877-HELP-CRS, online at crs.org or by mail to Catholic Relief Services, PO Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090. In the memo of the check, mark "SE Asia and Pacific Rim Emergency Fund."



Bobby Rendon (l.) of Victoria and John Tyler of Austin have volunteered for the Crossroads of Texas Living History Assn. at Presidio La Bahia for the past 25 and 26 years respectively. This year they are Mexican soldiers; in the past they've been Texans. "It's more than good guys/bad guys; it's politics, policies and loyalties to countries," said Mr. Tyler. "This weekend allows us to educate the public in perspectives of history. Perspectives – that's the point. There's more than one."

K. R. Wood and the "Gone To Texas Band" perform to a standing-room-only crowd in Our Lady of Loreto Chapel.

Presidio La Bahia celebrates 175th Texas Revolution anniversary

GOLIAD—Acrid, black-powder smoke mixed with the sweet smell of spring wildflowers and blooming anacua trees this past weekend, much as it may have done 175 years ago when the ragtag remnants of Col. James Fannin's army – walking and wounded – were cut down by Mexican muskets, swords and lances in what became known as the infamous "Goliad Massacre."

(www.presidiolabahia.org)

The 26th Annual Living History Weekend at the Presidio La Bahia (Fort of the Bay) National Historic Landmark in Goliad, March 26-27, drew almost 5,000 persons for the battle and massacre re-enactments. The emotionally charged candlelight vigil, the lectures, book sign-

See Presidio La Bahia, p. 20





Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

- April**
- 2 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 3 11:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
- 7 12:00 noon, Diocesan Services Appeal Volunteers, Appreciation Luncheon, Chancery Office
- 8 Knights of Columbus Council #9088 Bishop's Charity Golf Tournament, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- 9 8:00 a.m., Mass, Teen ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
2:00 p.m., Mass, DeLeon Family reunion, St. Mary Church, Victoria
6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
- 10 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City
- 11 10:00 a.m., Texas Bishops' meeting, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio
- 13 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar
- 14 6:30 p.m., Mother Elizabeth A. Seton Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
- 17 9:00 a.m., Mass, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 18 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Church, Hillje
- 19 10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 20 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 21 6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 22 12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City
- 23 8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 29 7:00 a.m., Mass, Spanish ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Church, El Campo
- 30 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
- May**
- 1 9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez
11:30 a.m., Mass, celebrating Brother Patrick Wildgen's 30th Anniversary of Solemn Profession, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
3:00 p.m., Mass, blessing of new altar and restorations, Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
- 4 10:00 a.m., Diocesan Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
- 5 7:00 p.m., Eighth Grade Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 6 6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
- 7 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown

*Official Appointments By
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer*

Effective March 5, 2011, the **Rev. Thu Van Nguyen** is excardinated from the Diocese of Victoria in Texas and incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Worth.



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



Forty-nine catechumens from 15 parishes in the Diocese of Victoria are planning to enter the Catholic Church. Here they are pictured with their godparents at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2011.



In 15 parishes within the Diocese of Victoria, 88 candidates plan to join the Catholic Church. They are pictured above with their sponsors at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2011.

Catechumens and Candidates to enter the Church this Easter

By Cindy Brewer

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion was celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, March 6, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Bishop David E. Fellhauer presiding.

Forty-nine Catechumens and 88 candidates were presented to Bishop Fellhauer and affirmed by their sponsors and the present Catholic assembly. Following the rite, participants were invited to tour the chancery building.

Catechumens are those who wish to enter the Church and will receive the three rites of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist, on Easter Vigil. Can-

didates are those who have been baptized into the Christian faith, but are awaiting acceptance into the fullness of the faith by receiving confirmation and the Eucharist on Holy Saturday evening (Easter Vigil).

A special thanks goes to those who assisted in the rite: Father Ty Bazar, master of ceremonies and creator of worship aid; Cynthia Goerig, organist; Janice Cox, cantor; Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, coordinator of the chancery reception; and St. Agnes CDA Court #1350 of Edna, reception hosts.

Please make any new members of your parish feel very welcomed and loved.

Thank You Letter

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

On behalf of Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I extend my gratitude for your contribution of \$27,541.84 from the 2010 Catholic Relief Services Collection in your diocese.

The Collection supports six Catholic agencies whose programs help families suffering from war, famine, extreme poverty and natural disasters; victims of human trafficking; unaccompanied minors; and immigrants trying to reunite with family members.

Our next Collection is scheduled in most dioceses the weekend of April 2-3,

2011. The millions of people that benefit from this collection continue to rely on our prayers and financial support.

Please convey to your priests and parishioners our heartfelt gratitude for their commitment and generosity to The Catholic Relief Services Collection. They demonstrate genuine love and compassion for all who are helped by the collection — those who are truly *Jesus in disguise*.

Gratefully yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Kevin J. Farrell, D.D.
Bishop of Dallas
Chairman, Committee on National Collections

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$291,859.56
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$217,457.56
Number of Parish Families Participating:	1,724

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,960,696.09
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$8,964,210.66
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,766

Have You Moved? Address Changed?

Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.

Saves Money!



In Memory of ...

Irma Ann Robles, daughter of Sister Maria Estefana Robles, IWBS

Irma Ann Robles, 49, of Victoria, passed away Sunday, March 13, 2011. She was born Aug. 19, 1961, in Victoria. She was a homemaker and a Catholic.

She is survived by her mother, Sister Maria Estefana of IWBS-Victoria; spouse, Wilfred Lugo; daughter, Amanda Rodriguez of Victoria; son, Ruben Rodriguez of Vic-



toria; sister, Marta Robles of Fort Worth; brothers, Manuel Robles and James Robles, both of Victoria; and grandchildren, Jacob Alexander Rodriguez and Mathew James Salinas.

She was preceded in death by her father, Manuel Robles.

Visitation and rosary were held Wednesday, March 16, at Artero Memorial Chapels in Victoria.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2011.

Services were under the direction of Artero Memorial Chapels, Victoria.



(above) From left are Sir Knights Joe Reyna from Palacios, Gerry Mikeska of El Campo, Father Albert Yankey of El Campo, District Friar Monsignor George Sheltz of the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston, Master First District of Texas Peter Tan from Houston, and Francisco Vasquez of Palacios.

(left) Fourth Degree Knight Father Albert Yankey, parochial vicar at St. Philip in El Campo.

Father Albert Yankey achieves Fourth Degree

EL CAMPO—Father Albert Yankey of El Campo and Francisco Vasquez of Palacios achieved the highest order of the Knights of Columbus, the Fourth Degree, on February 26 at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church in Deer Park, Texas.

Father Albert is parochial vicar at St. Philip Catholic Church.

He and Mr. Vasquez were knighted in the ceremony known as an Exemplification and are now members of the Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly #1131 of El Campo. Assembly #1131 is part of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, Our Lady Of Guadalupe Province, First District of Texas.

There was a special Mass after the Exemplification for all current members, new Sir Knights and their families, where Father Albert was invited to concelebrate the Mass with District Friar Monsignor George Scheltz, who was the main celebrant of the Mass.

Other Sir Knights from Assembly #1131 who attended the Exemplification were Gerry Mikeska, Faithful Navigator of El Campo, and Joe Reyna of Palacios. There were a total of 51 knights who were exemplified, including two other priests.

Father Albert Yankey first came to Texas last May and was at Holy Family Parish in Wharton for three months before coming to El Campo in August. He will remain in the diocese for his three-year sabbatical.

"I was looking for an opening for my sabbatical and I applied for a position in Atlanta, Florida and here," Father Albert said. "I got a good response from here, so

I felt the Spirit was calling me here."

"I'm very grateful to Bishop Fellhauer," Father Albert said. "He has been a father to me."

He learned about the Diocese of Victoria from Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Wharton and its missions. "He is a very good friend of mine; we went to seminary together," Father Albert said of Father Dominic.

Father Albert was ordained in Star of the Sea Cathedral in Takoradi, Ghana, in 1980. He celebrates his 31st year of priesthood this coming July 20.

The next Exemplification will be held in El Campo. This is the first time this honor has been bestowed upon this parish and in El Campo. The event will be held on June 18, 2011, with the Exemplification at St. Philip Catholic Church, dedicated in honor of Bishop David E. Fellhauer. The event will also feature a banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall for all new members and guests.

"We are so excited to be able to host this historic event and look forward to a large group of candidates from our area, which includes El Campo, Hillje, Ganado, Wharton and Blessing," stated Faithful Navigator Mikeska.

For more information on the upcoming Exemplification in El Campo, please contact Gerry Mikeska at (979) 541-3502. Any interested Third Degree Knights of Columbus should contact him or any other 4th Degree member for applications and information.

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi
E-mail: Christina@ReadChristina.com



Escaping 'The Waiting Place': wisdom from Dr. Seuss

Another batch of graduates is nearing the finish line, and preparations are humming along – party planning and robe ordering, i dotting and t crossing.

And speech writing, of course.

That's my favorite part of the pomp and circumstance: the prospect of a send-off speech that summarizes the past four years and prepares for all the remaining ones. An address that wipes away distractions – sweltering heat, silly stilettos, stiff chairs – and makes us all feel promising and powerful. A boldface life manual.

My hope is to be surprised, to be challenged and delighted by something original, free of cliché and the standard quote recipe (JFK + MLK + Helen Keller).

I've collected my favorite commencement addresses, stored as hardback books and YouTube clips, and I turn to them on foggy days.

Last night I revisited what may be the best one, Dr. Seuss's rollicking speech turned book, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" It was published in 1990, the year before he died, and has enjoyed one of the longest stays on The New York Times bestseller list, landing there 178 weeks – nearly three and a half years.

It was nothing like I had remembered.

I remembered the rhyming fanfare, the mountain moving and "banner flip-flapping." The part about my success being 98 ¾ percent guaranteed. I suppose that's what I wanted to hear.

But reading it again, I saw it more clearly, not as a celebratory book but a cautionary one.

"Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best. Wherever you go, you will top all the rest. Except when you don't. Because sometimes you won't. I'm sorry to say so but, sadly, it's true that Bang-ups and Hang-ups can happen to you."

The book is a tour through pitfalls and potholes, which makes it a valuable read

for the post-graduate, those of us who have traveled far enough to have hit some.

Dr. Seuss doesn't sugar coat, noting that life's detours are lengthy, that you'll "grind on for miles" and "hike far" and you'll row "up many a frightening creek, though your arms may get sore and your sneakers may leak."

The two-page spread that struck me most illustrates "The Waiting Place," which looks like one big, drawn-out staring contest: long lines, long faces, blank expressions. There, people wait for "the mail to come, or the rain to go, or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow or waiting around for a Yes or a No or waiting for their hair to grow."

It's a wake-up call for 20-somethings like me, caught in the drift between graduation and The Rest Of My Life, floating between the milestones of 21 and 30, settling for "The Good Enough For Now."

Somewhere along the line, the important and the urgent are divorced. A bad job market takes the blame. Grad school slows our pace. And busyness masquerades as meaning and purpose.

Suddenly, we're in "The Waiting Place," sitting on stories and leads and invitations, holding the keys but afraid to unlock the door.

"NO!" Dr. Seuss screams out. "That's not you! Somehow you'll escape all that waiting and staying."

So join me today: stop waiting, start doing.

We walk the path of the saints, who turned dreams into deeds – whether there was rain or snow, whether they heard yes or no. We heed God's call to action, his summons to use our talents and not bury them. And we hold the banner high, with a Seuss-like bravado, so the new graduates can see where to go.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

"Ask a Catholic Nun" Facebook Page Wins Readers' Choice Award

BOSTON—The "Ask a Catholic Nun" page on Facebook is a new Web page that currently boasts over 12,000 fans. The page hosts a type of online forum (through the wall and comments medium) in which the many fans can ask questions about the faith and receive well-researched and concise answers to their queries. "Ask a Catholic Nun" is hosted by Sister Susan James Heady and Sister Marianne Lorraine Trouvé, two sisters in the congregation of women religious called the Daughters of St. Paul, in collaboration with www.ucatholic.com. The sisters have fostered a friendly and open online community in which people can feel secure that their questions will be given serious thought and that sound Catholic wisdom will be offered. We welcome you to join the online community at www.facebook.com/AskACatholicNun!

About.com's page on Catholicism recently hosted a contest in which readers and site visitors vote on their favorite Catholic media in a variety of categories, including magazine, Web site, blog, Facebook pages, etc. "Ask a Catholic Nun" won the contest with 44 percent of the votes.

To visit the contest page and read about the worthy competitors, use the following

shortened link: <http://bitURL.net/baa7>. Pauline Books & Media, the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul, celebrates the success of this new online apostolate.

The Daughters of St. Paul are an international congregation of women religious whose mission is evangelization through the means of social communication. They operate thirteen retail book centers in the U.S. and English-speaking Canada and a publishing and distribution operation in Boston, Massachusetts. Arriving from Italy in 1932, the Daughters of St. Paul have been in America for over 75 years.

Come and See Weekend

The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters are hosting "Come and See" Visits for single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50 years of age) on April 9-10, 2011, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested, please check us out at www.iwbsvictoria.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation. We'll be waiting for your response.



Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of March 28, 2011

TOTALS	
—Diocese Of Victoria General Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$97,714.00
Donation by CDA Court # 797 Sacred Heart, Hallettsville	100.00
Total	\$97,814.00

K of C #9088 Holy Family, Victoria Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$1,220.00
In Memory of Stanley Friedel by:	
Monroe and Mary Rieger	50.00
Arnold, Rosemary, Jennifer and Barbara Riske	10.00
James E. Gault	25.00
M/M Toby Ohrt	20.00
Alan, Jane, Christine and Kerry Culberson	25.00
Vincent & Patricia Bianchi	25.00
Murlene W. Enke	15.00
Harvey & Mary Kocian	50.00
Richard & Cathy Bomkamp	20.00
Chancery and Spiritual Renewal Center staff	50.00
Total	\$1,510.00

—KJZT, Catholic Family Fraternal Of Texas Burse	
Previously Reported	\$9,273.98
In Memory of Mary L. Butschek, Genevieve Schulte and Milado Netardus	
	15.00
In Honor of Msgr. Stanley Petru's Retirement by KJZT Hostyn	
	100.00
Total	\$9,388.98

—Rev. John C. Bily Burse	
Previously Reported	\$8,914.00
In memory of Anna Lee Miller by James & Barbara Janak	
	20.00
Total	\$8,934.00

— K of C #1128 Yoakum Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$1,070.84
In memory of SK Jim L. Kubicek Jr by the General Assembly	
	150.00
Total	\$1,220.84

— CDA #1374 Queen Of Peace Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$5,497.72
In Honor of Jessica and Edith Poncik by J. Holub	
	5.00
Total	\$5,502.72

— CDA #369 St. Ann #2 Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$7,943.99
Annual donation by CDA Court #369	
	50.00
Total	\$7,993.99

See Seminary Burse, p. 11

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

SEMINARY BURSES
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

SEMINARIANS RECEIVE MINISTRY OF LECTOR— Jacob Koether (r.) and Scott Hill (l.) are completing their first year of theology at St. Mary Seminary in Houston. On Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, they received the ministry of lector at the seminary community Mass. This is the first of several ministries they receive prior to their ordination as deacon and priest. In the years to come, they will be installed in the ministry of acolyte and also be officially received by the Church as candidates for ordination. We wish them well in their service to the Church.



VICTORIA SERRA CLUB CHARTER MEMBER HONORED—Dr. Rufus Stevenson was presented a plaque by the Serra Club of Victoria honoring him as the last charter member still active in the club. The presentation was made at the regular monthly meeting, March 4, 2011, at Colony Creek Country Club. Dr. Stevenson helped to found the club, chartered November 2, 1958, and also held several offices, including club president, district governor and Serra International board secretary. He and his wife, Betty, just recently moved to The Village at Incarnate Word in San Antonio. The retirement community is run by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Dr. Stevenson indicated he was very happy at the community because he is able to attend Mass and eucharistic adoration daily. He is pictured above with Bishop David Fellhauer.

Support a Seminarian and possibly Win a Car!

Did you know..... that to educate one priest, it takes nine years of education and \$225,000.00.

(361) 649-7707. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the vocation efforts of the diocese.

In recent years the Diocese of Victoria has been extremely blessed to realize a 300 percent increase in the number of seminarians studying for the priesthood. With this huge blessing, comes an equally huge responsibility and challenge for all



2010 Toyota Corolla Sport

Catholics. I am sure you are asking now, "How can I help?" There are some very tangible ways you can help.

1. Pray for our seminarians; they need our prayers and support.
2. Financially support them through events like the Serra Car-Give-Away.
3. Remember the seminarian education fund in your estate planning.

If you are interested in supporting the seminarians and possibly winning a NEW 2010 Toyota Corolla Sport, please contact your parish office or George Wenzel at

Please Pray For Vocations!

Diocesan Directory Updates

Page 56
St. Michael, Weimar add e-mail: stmichaelwei@yahoo.com

Page 66
Remove Rev. Thu Van Nguyen

Page 66
Add Rev. Msgr. Stanley J Petru, Oblate Madonna Residence, 5722 Blanco Road, San Antonio, TX 78216

Page 88
District #146 - Philip C. **Webernick**, District Deputy

Page 90
Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Columbus Assembly #1136 Faithful Navigator Ray Sykowsla 607 Payton Lane Eagle Lake, TX 77434 (979) 234-3447

Page 90
Faithful Navigator of Assembly 1131 The correct spelling is **Gerry Mikeska** and the correct phone number is **979-541-3502 (cell phone)**

Happy Birthday!

Kristopher Fuchs is in Pre-Theology II at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. His home parish is St. Michael the Archangel in Needville, and his birthday is May 13. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Kristopher Fuchs, Holy Trinity Seminary, P. O. Box 140309, Irving, TX 75014



Let us Rejoice in the Lord!

By **Kristopher Fuchs**, seminarian, pre-theology II

On Sunday, April 3, we celebrate Laetare Sunday. The title of this Sunday is taken from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" which means, "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." On this Sunday, special signs of joy are allowed in the liturgy such as rose-colored vestments and flowers on the altar which serve as encouragement to us midway into this season of Lent. For this article, I would like to share some of the things for which I rejoice as I reflect on my vocation and time in the seminary. I rejoice in the way I am able to seek God and encounter him in liturgical and personal prayer. One of the aspects of seminary formation is the development of a healthy prayer life that leads to a greater union with God. As it is for all Christians, it is vital that we allow God to come into our lives so that we can discern his will for us and act with his grace.

In the seminary the heart of our prayer is the daily Mass, for the Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives. Through the Scripture readings and psalms used in Mass and in the Liturgy of the Hours, we are able to know Christ better as he speaks to us in the Word. Time is also set aside in the seminary to help develop personal devotion and prayer. I give thanks for these opportunities to grow in my relationship with Jesus Christ. I rejoice in being able to encounter Christ

in other people. One of the most unique aspects about being in the seminary is that I get to be on the journey of fulfilling my vocation with men who are also seeking God's will. It is most comforting to know that I am not on this journey alone. While at the seminary, we have each other as our support to help one another in good times and in bad. There is the opportunity to make true friendships, which help us to live out our Christian vocation. We all need support from others as we walk down life's path. You might be able to think of times when a family member or spouse helped you get through a difficult time in your life, or when a friend encouraged and supported you in a decision you had to make. Think about those who have passed the faith on to you by their example or wisdom. Think about those that have helped you live out that faith. What a blessing it is to have them in our lives! "A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure" (Sirach 6:14). I rejoice in all those who have shown me the love of Christ and for the friendships that I am able to form with my brother seminarians. When we recognize God's work in our lives, we recognize that there are many reasons to rejoice. I pray that we may be able to reflect on the joys of this world and give thanks to God for the many blessings He gives to us all. Laetare! Let us Rejoice in the Lord!



Old Time Rock n' Roll band raises funds for St. Rose of Lima School

SCHULENBURG—The Triumphs, a Rosenberg-based band, played to a nearly sold-out crowd on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at Swiss Alp Dance Hall. People from as far as Indiana and Australia were in attendance to dance to, and sing along with, the iconic band from Rosenberg for the 3rd Annual Rock-n-Roll for the Red & White fundraiser benefiting St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg.

Those attending the dance for St. Rose of Lima School also had a chance to purchase homemade baked goods during the live auction and choose from seven, romantic weekend, get away packages at locations throughout the state at the silent auction. Both events brought in over \$4,000 for the night. In conjunction with ticket sales and private table sales, the

event generated more than \$17,000 for the school. At the end of the evening, guests left with their choice of roses as a souvenir

The Triumphs, an eight-piece band, has roots that go back to the early days of rock 'n roll and also launched the career



A nearly sold-out crowd dances to The Triumphs, an "Old Time Rock n' Roll" band, at Swiss Alp Dance Hall for a benefit for St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg.

of the evening and plans to return next year. Tickets for the 4th Annual Rock-n-Roll for the Red & White will go on sale October 31, 2011 – mark your calendars!

of five-time Grammy award winner B.J. Thomas. They had several #1 hits on Houston's KILT top 40 Survey in the early 60's ("Lazy Man", "I Know It's Wrong", "I've Got a Feeling", "Billie and Sue"), recorded the still popular (and still played

nightly at the Garner dance pavilion) "Garner State Park" and, of course, recorded the #1 song in the nation in 1966 - "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" - just prior to B.J. beginning his solo career.

The band (which began in 1959 in a garage in Rosenberg) continued to perform until 1980. In 1992 the original members, minus B.J., reunited and began the "Bring Back the Times" reunion tour, which continues to delight "Baby Boomers" to date.

Since their reunion in 1992 they have appeared on "Alvin at Night" and "Good Morning Houston," have been featured on the front cover of the 1995 Richmond-Rosenberg Yellow Pages, made a guest appearance at the "Lovin' Feelings Concert" in 1993, have been featured on Oldies 94.5, and worked in concert with their morning jocks, performed in concert with B.J. Thomas for the first time in 27 years and have performed in many of the historic dance halls frequented in the 60's and 70's.

They have a true understanding of all the nostalgia behind music because they were an important part of the era that launched Old Time Rock n' Roll.



STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS CELEBRATED—The feast of Saints Cyril & Methodius was celebrated February 13, 2011, in Saints Cyril & Methodius Parish in Cistern, Texas. The celebration started at 3:00 p.m. with Mass celebrated by Father Joseph Hybner. The party included the life stories of Saints Cyril & Methodius presented by husband and wife, Brian and Denise Klozik. The Kloziks were dressed as Saints Cyril & Methodius for the presentation. "It is amazing how two Greek brothers in the 800's brought the Catholic faith to the Moravian Empire where ancestors from the Flatonia, Praha, Cistern and surrounding communities came," said Father Hybner.



YOUTH IN VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY HOLD LENTEN RETREAT—The Vietnamese Apostolate held Lenten retreats at Assumption Chapel in Palacios for the Vietnamese community March 18 and 19 and for about 135 of its young people Sunday, March 20. The retreats were directed by Father Hung "Joseph" Trong Le, vocation director of the Vietnamese Redemptorists Overseas, who lives in Dallas. The retreat's theme, "Repent and Believe in the Gospel and You Shall Live," was played out in skits, talks and group questions and answers. A closing Mass was held with the youth participating in the serving, readings and in the live band. Father Dominic Trung Nguyen, CSsR, personal pastor of the Vietnamese community, parents, the Dominican Sisters and CCD teachers assisted the youth.

"...I give this charge: Preach the Word: ..." 2 Timothy 4:1



The principals of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria attended the biennial Region X Administrators' Conference held in Fort Worth Feb. 23-25. Pictured are the administrators, front row (l. to r.): Principals Rosanne Gallia, St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg; Gwen Edwards, St. Philip, El Campo; Neely Yackel, Shiner Catholic School, Shiner; Alisa Hybner, assistant principal, Shiner Catholic School; Judy Roeder, St. Michael, Cuero; Stephanie Kucera, Holy Cross, Bay City; Sr. Laura Toman, IWBS, OLV, Victoria; back row, (l. to r.) Superintendent of Schools John E. Quarry; David Smolik, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; John O'Leary, St. Anthony, Columbus; Susan Kelley, St. Joseph, Yoakum; Kim Patek, St. Michael, Weimar; Scott Kloesel, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; and Tony Winstead, St. Joseph High, Victoria, (not pictured: Karen Lyssy, principal's assistant, Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca).

Diocesan leaders of Catholic schools attend Region X conference

FORT WORTH—Superintendent Mr. John Quarry and the principals from the Diocese of Victoria's Catholic Schools attended the biennial Region X Administrators' Conference held in Fort Worth February 23-25, 2011.

These administrators, from throughout the Diocese of Victoria, journeyed to Fort Worth to hear regional and national speakers as they reflected on the theme "Region X Developing and Living Mission: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow."

Those who presented included His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, D.D., S.T.L., Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Sister Carol Cimino, Ed. D., a Sister of Saint Joseph of Rochester, New York, who is a national consultant for the William H. Sadlier Co., a publisher of textbooks; and Father Donald Nesti, CSSp, of the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Theology, and director of the Center for Faith and Culture, University of St. Thomas in Houston.

The two-day event drew more than 250 administrators throughout the state of Texas to discuss issues of Catholic Identity/Culture; Attracting, Retaining and Serving Hispanic and Other Minority Students and Families; Responding and Serving Students with Special Needs and their Families; and School Finances.

All were invigorated, engaged and

entertained with newfound enthusiasm for their ministry, which strengthened their dedication to excellence in education for the Catholic schools of Texas.

The administrators of the Diocese of Victoria were extremely impressed with the presenters and have chosen Sister Carol Cimino to address the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria for the fall session of 2011-2012.

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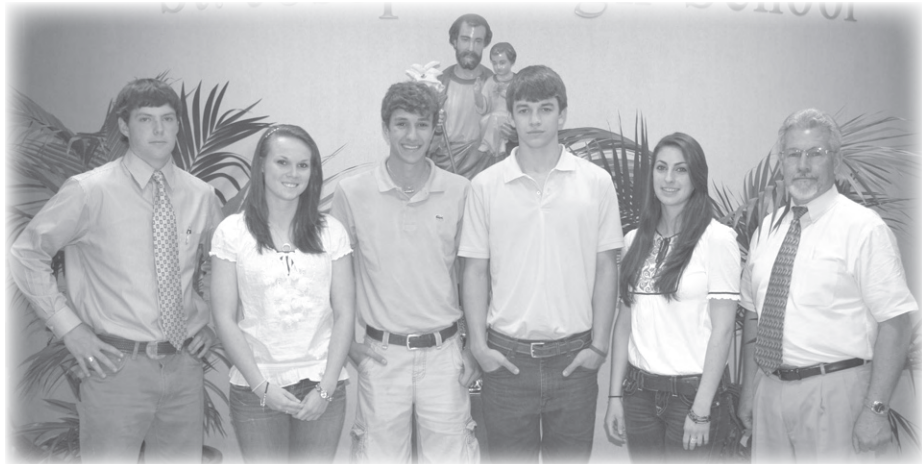
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ST. JOSEPH HIGH STUDENTS RECEIVE LIVESTOCK SHOW SCHOLARSHIPS—The following STJ students received scholarships at the 2011 Victoria Livestock Show & Rodeo are pictured, from left to right, with Principal Tony Winstead: Thomas Kyle - Victoria Livestock Show Scholarship for \$1,500; Meagan Weid - Victoria Livestock Show Scholarship for \$1,500; Luke Lau - Victoria Livestock Show Scholarship for \$1,500, Crossroads Classic Scholarship for \$1,000 and the Walter Gillig Scholarship for \$1,000; Chris Wood - Victoria Livestock Show Scholarship for \$1,500 and Crossroads Classic Scholarship for \$1,000; and Brittany Engelbart - Victoria Livestock Show Scholarship for \$1,500. Chris Wood was also named the 2011 Outstanding 4H Member. Congratulations Flyers!

Celebrate Blessed Pier Frassati's Birthday

April 6 is the birthday of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Every year we suggest offering our present to him by sharing a gesture of your choice: a Mass or the recitation of Holy Rosary or Eucharistic Adoration. Learn more at www.tipiloschi.com.



This year the friends of Brigata (Brigade) Frassati in Salerno propose a way to approach Pier Giorgio's birthday with some prayers about the World Youth Day in Madrid. You can find them by subscribing to the "Pier Giorgio Frassati 2011" group page on Facebook. In this Lenten period in which we prepare

for Holy Easter let's persevere in prayer, in fast and in charity. Let's ask Pier Giorgio to help us gain from God "that grace without which our forces are vain" so we can get ready to encounter the Risen Lord.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Those who want to take part in this initiative, are asked to add their name to the list by sending an e-mail to: info@tipiloschi.com, simply provide your name or your group's name and the country of origin. As in previous years, all the participants will be listed on the Web site of the Tipi Loschi (www.tipiloschi.com) where you can also download, in various languages, for your use, the text of the novena.

Happy Birthday, Pier Giorgio!

Changes to the peoples' part at the Gospel and of the Nicene Creed

From <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml>
The use of the new Roman Missal begins the First Sunday of Advent 2011

AT THE GOSPEL

Deacon (or Priest): A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.
People: Glory to you, Lord.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all **that is seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, **eternally begotten** of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, **one in Being** with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: **by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born** of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; **he suffered, died,** and was buried. **On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;** he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son **he is worshiped** and glorified. **He has spoken** through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. **We acknowledge** one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. **We look for** the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

AT THE GOSPEL

Deacon (or Priest): A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.
People: Glory to you, **O** Lord.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all **things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only **Begotten** Son of God, **born** of the Father **before all ages.**

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, **consubstantial** with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate** of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, **he suffered death** and was buried, **and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.** He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, **who** with the Father and the Son **is adored** and glorified, **who** has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. **I confess** one baptism for the forgiveness of sins **and I look forward** to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Gained in translation The challenges of the Roman Missal

By Peter Feuerherd

A translator is a traitor.

Father Paul Turner, a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, knows the saying as an inside joke among those who move words, phrases and meanings from one language to another. He points out that the joke works better in Italian, where the words for traitor and translator are almost the same.

But in any language the phrase points to a greater truth, says Father Turner, a Latin scholar who worked for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) that developed the translation of the new Roman Missal.

"Anytime you translate you are doing your best. But it is nearly impossible to capture all the nuances and bring them into a new language," he says.

At the ICEL commission meetings Father Turner served as a recorder of the proceedings held by 11 bishops from the English-speaking world. Led by Bishop Arthur Roche of Leeds, England, the group reviewed liturgical translations. Along with other scholars, Father Turner, who is also pastor of St. Muchin Church in Cameron, Mo., could raise points about meaning and grammar, but only the bishops voted on the actual approvals.

Sometimes proposed suggestions were inserted into the revised texts; other times suggestions failed to win approval. The group, says Father Turner, was determined that the original Latin of the liturgical texts was faithfully rendered into English as much as possible.

"We want the liturgy to be understood," he says. "But those who pray it have to know that it is the prayer being brought to us by the tradition." The result, for American Catholics who first encounter the Missal, will take some adjustment.

The current translation focuses on rendering the texts understandable to modern

English-speakers. The new translation will focus more on keeping the nuances in the original Latin. The result will be the use of some phrases and words that are not normally a part of everyday English discourse.

"It's not that the translation we have is wrong or heretical. But what we gained in fluidity (in English) we lost in nuance (from the Latin)," says Father Turner.

For example: the new translation sometimes uses the word "ineffable" to describe the power of God. Webster's defines the word as anything "incapable of being expressed in words." While not a part of daily English speech — although Father Turner notes he saw the word in a recent edition of Newsweek — "it's a great word when you talk about the mystery of God. It is a

word that means we are speechless before God." When taken in context, he says, English speakers will become familiar with it for a description of a mysterious quality of God.

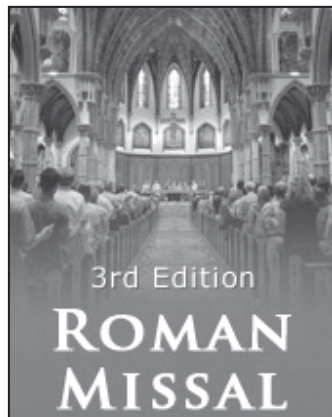
Other examples: in the Creed of the new missal, the old translation read that Jesus was "one in being" with the Father. The new translation will describe this relationship as "consubstantial," an English word as close to the original Latin meaning as possible.

"It's an unusual word. But the relationship between Jesus and the Father is unusual and needs a unique word," says Father Turner, who adds that ancient Church councils attempted to define this relationship in as precise a way as possible, and modern English speakers should have the benefit of those insights.

American Catholics routinely recite the Creed each Sunday in which Jesus is described as "born of the Virgin." That phrase, says Father Turner, fails to capture the full nature of Jesus. "Incarnate," the word used in the new translation, is intended to emphasize that at Jesus' conception the divine was present.

It may sound strange at first but, says Father Turner, English-speaking Christians through the ages have recited the Lord's Prayer, with its famous phrase, "hallowed be thy name." The word "hallowed" is rarely used in English anymore, but English speakers reciting the Lord's Prayer easily recognize it in that context. The same should hold true for the terminology in the new missal, says Father Turner.

The ultimate goal will be English-speaking Catholics reciting prayers that more precisely render their original Latin meanings, making the traitor in translation as unobtrusive as possible.



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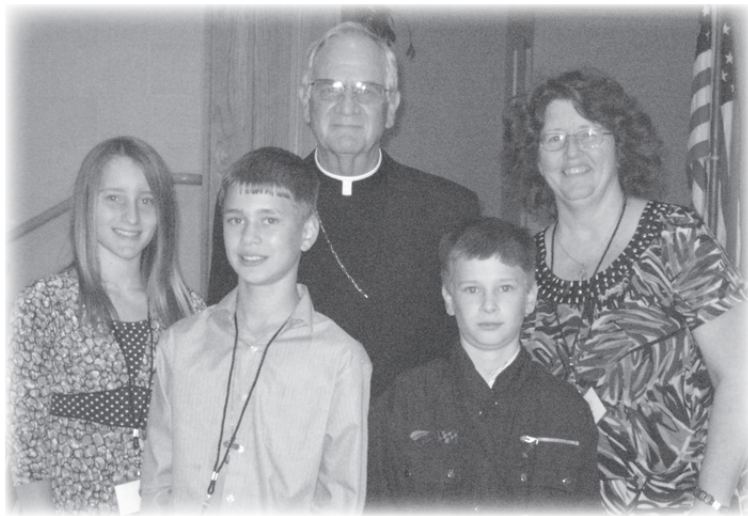
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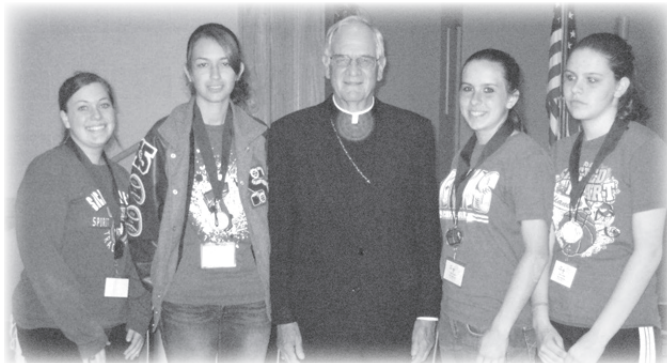
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1st place Family winners: "Catholic Cousins" of St. Joseph in Moulton



1st place Teen winners: Blue Albatrosses of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville

2011 Catholic Knowledge Bowl Winners

The 4th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl was held March 6 at Holy Family Parish in Victoria with 22 teams competing in three divisions for first, second and third-place prizes. This year the categories were Adult – with 12 competing teams, Family – with three teams, and Teens – with an increase of four teams this year to make seven teen teams. Prizes and certificates were awarded to all winners.

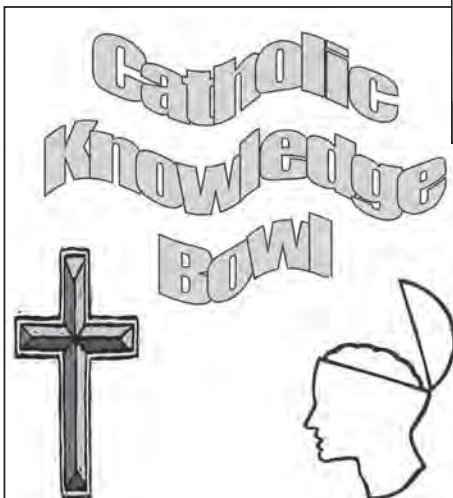
Adult category first-place winners were "Belle's of St. Mary's" from St. Mary Parish in Victoria with Mary Sue Cotton, Ann Sala, Bertha McDowell and Shirley Kloesel. They won a dinner with Bishop David Fellhauer and a trophy. Second place

was tied, with Knowledge Seekers (from four Victoria parishes), with Joyce Kubala, Diana Faxlanger, Ana Congdon, and Theresa Anderson, and the Rowdy Remnant from St. Joseph in Moulton with Annie Wenske, Johnnie Leininger, Bernadette Fikac and Mary Ann Wenske. Second place received a study Bible and a medal. Third place winners, The Four Mysteries from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, with Mary Kendall, Robert Kendall, and Peggy and Ed Scherer, received a rosette ribbon.

The first-place winners of the Family category were the Catholic Cousins of St. Joseph Parish in Moulton with Kathleen Leininger, Irena Fikac, John Paul Wenske and Scott Wenske. Second place winners were the Hemmi Spere-4 from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville with Phillip Hemmi, Rose Hemmi and Abby Hemmi. Third place winners were Joyful Learners on the Journey from Our Lady of Victory in Victoria

with Alfred Ramirez, Virginia Ramirez and Anthony Ramirez. Each of the family winners received games donated by Hospice.

The first-place winners of the Teen category were Hallettsville's Sacred Heart High School teen group Blue Albatrosses, for the



Karen Klaus of Ganado won the CKB logo contest with her logo shown here.

second year in a row, with Hannah Hines, Emily Kossa, Mary Kossa and Emily Seyl. The first-place

prize was an Olympic-type medal. Second place winners were Columbus Catechist Catholics from St. Anthony in Columbus with Lexxus Mayorga, Andrew Altieri, Brandon Theut and Taylor Hollman. Third place winners were The Crusaders from Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner with Dustin Adamek, Devin Pesek, Brandon Sciba and Kyle Wallace. Second and third place winners received ribbons.

The Catholic Knowledge Bowl held three rounds of 40 multiple-choice questions. Questions were available to study at the catechetical office's Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org and were taken, with permission, from the USCCB Catechism Web site as well as the "What's Your Catholic IQ" page from Catechist magazine.

Karen Klaus, the administrative assistant at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ganado for the past 27 years, won the Catholic Knowledge Bowl Logo Contest with her entry.

Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service



How long was Jesus on the cross and when does Lent end?

Q. I'm reminded each Lent of a question about Jesus' death. According to St. Mark's account of the passion, Jesus was crucified at 9 in the morning (the third hour) and died at the ninth hour.

This means he hung on the cross for six hours, rather than the three hours we usually assume and the other Gospels say. How is this explained? (New York)

A. Some differences in the Gospels' chronology of Good Friday are traceable to the various themes and theologies of the evangelists who wrote them. But the problem you raise isn't that complicated.

All three synoptic Gospels note the "darkness" over the land from noon to the ninth hour, 3 in the afternoon, after which Jesus died. Neither Matthew nor Luke indicates a time for the crucifixion, but they describe several events after the crucifixion but before the darkness, implying that the time on the cross was somewhat more than three hours.

As he does so often, John makes the whole picture much less neat. The core of Hebrew faith through the centuries had been that God is their only king, a belief reaffirmed every Passover. Significantly then, John tells us (19:14-15) that, at the sixth hour, when Pilate presents Jesus to the Jewish leaders as king, the "chief priests" reject the ancient adherence to God as their only king by declaring, "We have no king but Caesar."

There seems little question that this chronology was adopted by John to connect that rejection of God and Jesus to the sixth hour, the hour when Passover regulations went into effect for the Jews.

John's timing of the crucifixion and death of Jesus would thus be quite different than in the synoptics, but he makes no attempt to provide any further chronology.

In any case, of course, Jesus would have remained on the cross a considerable time after his death while Joseph of Arimathea made arrangements with the authorities to assume responsibility for his body.

Q. When does Lent officially end now? In preparing our Holy Week programs, we are told Holy Thursday, not Holy Saturday, is the last day of Lent. Is that true? (Texas)

A. Yes. Lent concludes on Holy Thursday. Those of us who are older will recall that for a long time Lent ended at noon on Holy Saturday. This happened because the great liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday were all twisted out of shape and were "celebrated" in relatively brief and informal ceremonies on the morning of those days.

The earlier, long tradition of the church, however, was that the sacred triduum (literally the sacred three days) formed a separate holy time between Lent and the beginning of the Easter season.

Now, therefore, the Mass celebrating the institution of the Eucharist again takes place on Holy Thursday night, and the Easter Vigil liturgy is back where it traditionally belongs, during the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969, states, "Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive" (28).

In other words, Lent ends before the Mass on Holy Thursday evening. The triduum itself begins with the evening Mass on Holy Thursday and reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, which begins the Easter season.

Catholics finding new home online

WOODSTOCK, Ga.—The new "Catholic Lane" Web site is unique in a variety of ways.

"It's a breath of fresh air. I love it!" That has been the reaction of reader after reader to the new Catholic Web site, Catholic Lane. Debuting just weeks ago, and now coming to the attention of Catholics across the country, CatholicLane.com — "where faith drives daily" — is a vibrant alternative for a faithfully Catholic homepage.

Editor-in-chief of Catholic Lane, Mary Kochan, former senior editor at Catholic Exchange, expressed her delight with her new Internet home. "In the years that I've worked as a Catholic editor, I've heard from a lot of readers about what they liked or disliked about Catholic sites. At Catholic Lane, I was able to take that accumulated knowledge and put it to creative use in the design of a Web site that is both attractive and very functional."

"Catholic Lane" is a cooperative effort linking a number of apostolates and several Catholic businesses, including Catholic Underground — a non-profit whose mission has been to be evangelists on the digital continent. Catholic Underground's Father Chris Decker and Joshua LeBlanc are directly involved with "Catholic Lane," and LeBlanc is president and CEO of Bayouland Computer Solutions, Catholic Lane's parent company.

You can see at a glance how easy

Catholic Lane is for the daily reader to navigate. The structure of the Web site is intuitive, with a simple, logical, category structure. Mary Kochan points out that this serves both the readers and the scores of Catholic writers contributing to the site. "A Web site like this connects the writers and readers. My job is to serve them both."

Kochan has created a "Resources" section that will be home to effective, useful information for a wide Catholic audience. "What works for marriage prep?" Kochan asked. "What works for instructing teens in the faith? Etc. We can't keep what works confined to a single parish, school, or diocese — we all need to know! So the resources page is linked both to material archived on Catholic Lane and to other sources. We have only just begun to build it, but over time we anticipate that it will be a useful resource for Catholics all over the country."

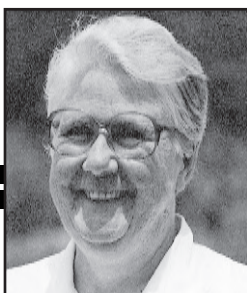



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SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

“Finding Jesus”

Last month we reflected on Lent as a time to care. Let us continue caring as we continue our quest to seek the Jesus who said, “Whatsoever you do . . .” During Lent one of my favorite quotes is, “You must climb Calvary to find me.” This was the message given by Jesus to the foundress of the Incarnate Word Sisters, Jeanne Chezard de Matel. Jeanne had a life-long quest to find Jesus, the Incarnate Word. Much of her searching – and writing – focused on his Passion, including his struggle to climb Calvary.

Now, where is this Calvary that we must climb to find Jesus? Jesus himself tells us that we can find him by feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty; hence, Calvary is the anguish of the parent who is unable to feed his or her children. It is the bewilderment of those who cannot find meaning in existence and in the longing of those who are spiritually starving. What can we do to assuage this physical and spiritual hunger of these suffering persons and in so doing, find Jesus?

We can also find Jesus on the Calvary of those who have been deprived of housing and the basic necessities of life through natural disaster, political strife or economic misfortune. What can we do to help provide shelter and clothing for the homeless, and consequently find Jesus?

Jesus goes on to tell us that we can also find him in the stranger, in the sick, and in the imprisoned. Who are these strangers who find themselves on the Calvary of unfamiliar surroundings, bereft of friends, in need of someone to welcome them, and thereby, welcome Jesus? Can we recognize Jesus and reach out to the undocumented immigrant or the outsider in our midst?

Can we see Jesus in the sick and the homebound struggling with pain, loneliness, and discouragement, needing our prayers, our caring, and our visiting? These are the suffering Jesus. Jesus also tells us that we will find him in those who are imprisoned and in need our visits and our support. Are we willing to help them by our caring friendship – thereby finding Jesus – in such circumstances?

Let us, therefore, journey with and – as much as possible – alleviate the sufferings of the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the naked, the stranger, the sick and the imprisoned. Then, in accompanying them on their climb to Calvary, we will encounter Jesus. May all of us find him this Lent!

Then, after finding him, we can rejoice in his Resurrection, remembering that he suffered and died for all humankind.

Happy Easter!



ALTAR SOCIETY LENTEN MINI RETREAT HELD—Holy Family Parish in Victoria hosted a mini Lenten retreat March 5, 2011, presented by Father Greg Korenek, pastor. The parish chapel was filled with 84 congregants who began their Lent with a retreat titled “Union with God,” which was an expansion of St. Augustine’s why “our hearts are restless until they rest with God.” Even though the subject matter was deep, Father Greg, with humorous antidotes and amusing stories, helped his audience understand that Lent is a time for interior conversion. Afterwards, a light lunch was served. The retreat was organized by Altar Society chairmen (pictured l. to r.) Marjorie Tasin, Barbara Wilcox and JoAnn Jalufka (r. of center) for the ninth year in a row. Also pictured is Holy Family pastor and retreat presenter, Father Greg Korenek (c.), and Altar Society President Betty Frederick (far right).

Reporting Abuse

If you or someone you know has been sexually or physically abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel:

- Contact the bishop or the chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828
- or
- Call Father Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sister Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- or
- Write to: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903; Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact: Father Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.

If the abuse involves a minor, civil authorities should be contacted prior to reporting to the bishop, chancellor or coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach. If the child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Jesus – on the Cross

By Cynthia Brewer
Reprinted from August 2008 issue under the title “Why I love the Crucifix”

Recently I had heard that a Catholic who had visited a nondenominational church in Victoria was told by the pastor not to wear her crucifix next time she came. I was appalled when I heard this, which led me to ponder the crucifix.

Later I was meditating upon the large crucifix in St. Mary’s adoration chapel in Victoria. I thought of Christ’s words, “Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.”

It has always been difficult for me to understand how we could see Jesus in the least of our brothers (and sisters): the poor, the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned; Jesus is the triumphant one, not the sick, the hungry, weak one.

It dawned upon me then that I was thinking like this nondenominational pastor. It was hard for me to see Jesus in humanity at its weakest; apparently it was also hard for this pastor to see Jesus in a weak, human state.

But right then and there it was revealed to me that I could see Jesus in my neighbor best through Jesus on the cross – broken, weakened and wounded – for that is our human state.

Yes, we know Christ rose from the dead, for if he hadn’t, our faith would be in vain, but through the crucifix we are reminded of the price paid for our salvation, and we are given the vision of Jesus in the poor, lame and desperate. We are able to see Jesus in them; therefore, we have the opportunity to see God daily. On the Cross, Jesus shows us our vocation to love, to care, to unite all our sufferings to his (Col. 1:24).

FOR . . .

On the Cross, Jesus is the hungry, having not eaten since his Last Supper

On the Cross, Jesus is the lame, unable to move

On the Cross, Jesus is the blind, with eyes swollen shut from the blows

On the Cross, Jesus is the weak, all his strength has left like melting wax

On the Cross, Jesus is the mute, whose tongue cleaves to the roof of his mouth like baked clay

On the Cross, Jesus is the sorrowful and lonely, having been abandoned by most all

On the Cross, Jesus is the humiliated, with the powerful and religious jeering at him

On the Cross, Jesus is the poor, with no earthly possessions

On the Cross, Jesus is the guilty, taking upon himself our sins

On the Cross, Jesus is the persecuted, for our sake

On the Cross, Jesus is the bruised and broken

On the Cross, Jesus is the disabled, unable to do for himself

On the Cross, Jesus is the mentally ill, being tormented to come down and free himself

On the Cross, Jesus is the addict, nailed and trapped by love for his people

On the Cross, Jesus is the criminal, punished with the death penalty

On the Cross, Jesus is the thirsty, to whom I must offer a drink

On the Cross, Jesus is the naked, whom I must clothe

On the Cross, Jesus is the homeless, to whom I must provide a resting place

On the Cross, Jesus is the stranger/foreigner, whom I must welcome

On the Cross, Jesus is the disheveled, stinky, avoided one, whom I must feed and bathe

On the Cross, Jesus is the dead, whom I must reverence and bury

On the Cross, Jesus is the forgiving one

On the Cross, Jesus is the loving one

On the Cross, Jesus is the faithful one

On the Cross, Jesus is the hopeful one

On the Cross, Jesus is the victorious one!

Lest we forget . . . “For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Gentiles alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength” (1 Cor. 1:22-25).

As far as seeing Christ in the impatient, unloving, hateful and greedy? I still have to pray that God gives me the grace to see Christ in these people too; for they are truly the wounded children of God, and often I am that person.



OLG ALTAR SOCIETY AWARDS PERFECT ATTENDANCE—Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society awarded the following members with perfect attendance and awards for 2010; they are pictured l. to r.: Peggy Motl, Margaret Hilscher, Darlette Koliba, Lil Baros, Cecelia Pelech, Mary Jones, Marilyn Hochstein, Wanda McGrath, Mary J. Kasper, Rose M. Knobles, Rachel Baker. Not pictured: Pat Sassman and Bonnie Lofland. Congratulations to Juanita Boyd, Marlene Paul and Mary Esther De La Cruz for 40 years of outstanding service to OLG Altar Society. The Altar Society also recently installed new officers for the 2011 year. They are Wanda Roberts, president; Janie Garza, 1st vice president (spiritual development); Mary J. Kasper and Ellen Kirby, 2nd vice presidents (ways and means); Wanda McGrath, 3rd vice president (OLG altar keeper); Rose M. Knobles, treasurer; and Edna Aguilar, secretary.



ACTS men hold second retreat at Stevenson Prison Unit

The men's ACTS team from the Diocese of Victoria held their second ACTS retreat in Stevenson Prison in Cuero on the weekend of March 10-13, 2011, ministering to 67 retreatants with the help of 14 prison-furnished stewards.

Father John Kollannur, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, was the retreat's spiritual director. Bishop David Fellhauer celebrated Mass Sunday morning at the prison. The offenders are very impressed that a bishop serves them.

The retreat was very successful. Retreatants from the August ACTS retreat were able to attend the Mass with this ACTS retreat group. It was a real treat for them.

Gene Jeansonne, an ACTS team member and parishioner of Holy Family in Victoria, wrote the poem that follows from his experience at the retreat.

Bars And Scars

By Gene Jeansonne

I looked through the bars,
At the tattoos and the scars,
The awful sight was frightful.
This is not the place,
To take up space,
I pondered a notion so dreadful.

For those that reside,
All puffed up with pride,
And I knew this would not do.
I feared for their souls,
They had the wrong goals,
'Twas the things they misconstrue.

Such confusion and woe,
With no place to go,
I barely could comprehend.
What trouble and sorrow,
With no hope for tomorrow,
How could they even pretend?

They all dress in white,
But it did not seem right,
I could feel it in my soul.
What a pitiful sight,
I witnessed tonight,
And it made my blood run cold.

If only I could tell them,
The chains that held them,
Were not made of iron or steel.
Their only prayer,
To get out of there,
Would be something quite surreal.

The effort was made,
We talked and we prayed,
We tried like never before.
This is your chance,
To do the dance,
To make the Lord your Savior.

It was down to the wire,
It was heaven or fire,
It was time to make a choice.
They threw in the towel,
And made Jesus their Pal,
With the sounds of their praising voice.

It tugged at my heart,
To see such a start,
For this I can only say.
I saw the tears,
Wash away the fears,
For Jesus saved the day.

I thought to myself,
Put pride on the shelf,
Let Jesus make you all new.
With a little foresight,
You can light up the night,
It is this anyone can do.

I look passed the bars,
And all of the scars,
I saw the men in white.
Thank you, Jesus,
You do so please us,
For souls that shone so bright.

Amen.



(above) St. Joseph Church, Inez before renovations.

(below) St. Joseph Church, Inez with some work done to it.



St. Joseph Church in Inez doubles its capacity to seat 400 people. The completion is expected around late summer.

Church Expands

~ St. Joseph, Inez ~ fast-growing rural church

St. Joseph Parish in Inez has been charged with meeting the spiritual needs of the community and now is given the challenge of expansion of the church to continue to meet those needs.

They have established a capital campaign titled "Growing our Family of Faith." This campaign will help offset the cost to expand their facilities to meet the growing number of church families that are finding strength in faith at St. Joseph Church.

The expansion of St. Joseph's will cost approximately \$1.55 million. The funding is coming from the campaign, savings, sale of ranch property, grants, friends of St. Joseph and a long-term loan.

In the past year, there has been an increase of 23 percent in Mass attendance with 60 percent of the parish family being young families. St. Joseph is the fastest growing rural church in the Diocese of Victoria.

Insufficient seating capacity has become a problem despite the increase in the

number of Masses on weekends from one to three. On special occasions, such as the Christmas Children's Mass, Easter, First Communion, Confirmation, weddings, anniversaries and funerals, the seating situation is inadequate.

Present seating capacity is 180-200. The expansion project will increase this capacity to 400 with much needed storage space. The need is simple; they need more room!

In addition, it brings the church into compliance with Vatican II and makes the building more safe, ADA compliant and efficient.

More about their expansion in a future issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

Those wanting to make a donation to this project may do so by sending their tax-deductible contribution to: St. Joseph Church, Building Fund, P. O. Box 337, Inez, TX 77968. For additional information you may call the church office at (361) 782-3181



Very few of the children to whom Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, ministers own their own shoes. In an effort to help Sister Rebecca obtain shoes for the children in the Kenyan bush, the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria are holding a Lenten fundraiser called "Fill the Shoes."

2011 Lenten Project: "Fill the Shoes"

The Diocese of Victoria - Office of Catholic Schools and the Catholic Schools - want to help some children in Africa own a pair of shoes. Please donate a \$1.00 or whatever you can and help Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, purchase shoes for these children.

Sister Rebecca is a member of the congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria, Texas.

She is a registered nurse who has been

ministering to the Pokot people of the Pokot district in northwest Kenya since 1987. Her home base is in Barpello, E. Pokot, Kenya, where she works with seven other religious, two priests and five sisters.

To help Sister Rebecca financially, please "Fill the Shoes" at any of the Catholic schools in the diocese or at the chancery building. The funds will be collected at the end of Lent and will be earmarked for "Shoes for Sr. Rebecca's Children in Africa."

El Campo K of C Spring Picnic

Knights of Columbus Council 2490

Sunday, April 17

at the K of C Hall located at Hwy. 71 and
Armory Road • 1458 CR 406

Games for
Children

Cakewalk

A Chicken-Barbecue Dinner \$7 p/p
Dine-in or Drive-thru

Auction

Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment for the family begins at 1:00 p.m.

Antique Tractor
Show



Free Dance!
Music provided by
The Legacy Band





Youth Calendar of Events

- April 2—Foundations Youth Ministry Class
- April 3—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedures Session at St. Rose of Lima in Schulenberg
- April 6—Texas Catholic Conference Advocacy Days
- April 8—Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament
- April 10—Diocesan Confirmation Retreat
- April 17—Camp David Planning Meeting
- April 18—Strong Catholic Families/ Strong Catholic Teens Intro and Facilitator Session at Nazareth Academy in Victoria
- May 3—Theology of the Body Retreat - St. Anthony, Columbus
- May 30-June 3—Ropes Challenge Course Certification in La Grange, Texas
- June 5—Rocky Mountain High Parent/ Participant Meeting
- June 10-12—Camp David Staff Development
- June 12-14—Camp David - Junior High Camp
- June 15—Camp David Elementary Camp
- June 15-17—Camp David Junior High Camp
- June 24-26—D-week Staff Development
- June 27-30—D-week
- July 2-10—Rocky Mountain High
- July 18-21—Boys Vocation Camp



Find us now on Facebook! At Diocese of Victoria – Youth Ministry

For more information on any of these events, please contact:
Debbie Vanelli or José Ortega at the Office of Youth Ministry
at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at
dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or jortega@victoriadiocese.org
Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

OLV 7th grader spells 'kabuki' to win Regional Spelling Bee

By Kayla Bell – *The Victoria Advocate*

As soon as Andrew Bernhard heard the word, he said he knew he had the Regional Spelling Bee champ title in the backpack.

Cool and collected, the seventh-grader at Our Lady of Victory rattled off the spelling to an auditorium on the edge of their seats.

"K-a-b-u-k-i. Kabuki," Andrew would later explain, is a form of Japanese theater.

"When I heard ('kabuki'), I was just kinda happy that I knew what the word was and how to spell it," he said. "I was nervous on the inside," he finally admitted.

But it surely didn't show throughout the 12 rounds, which were held in Victoria East High School in a competition sponsored by the Advocate.

The soft-spoken student said his mom, Melissa, helped him study words by calling them out for him to spell.

"I don't know if kabuki was on there," Andrew's mom said. "I figured, oh he knows it. He knows it."



Andrew Bernhard

While Andrew shook hand after hand offering congratulations, his dad, Randall, bragged for him.

"He's really modest," Andrew's dad said. "He sets a very high bar for himself."

The proud father said his son is highly academic and will be competing in another academic competition the next weekend.

Looking at his son juggle the two spelling bee trophies from Tuesday night, he joked to his wife, "Melissa, we're going to have to get another shelf."

For beating out 11 competitors to win the Regional Spelling Bee, Andrew won an all-expense-paid trip to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Andrew will soon be competing in the state geography competition, which also offers the chance to win a trip to the nation's capital.

Andrew said he'll be studying hard in the upcoming weeks but that he thinks the competitions are fun.

Just then, Andrew's dad offered him a chance to celebrate the win at his favorite restaurant, Olive Garden.

"Maybe not tonight," Andrew replied.

He had homework to tend to, he said.

Andrew is a student at Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria.



7TH GRADER QUALIFIES FOR STATE—Our Lady of Victory 7th grader, Andrew Bernhard, was notified recently that after winning the school championship, he has qualified to participate at the state level of the National Geographic Bee. The state bee will be held on Friday, April 1, at the Pat May Center in Bedford, Texas. One winner from each state and territory will advance to the national competition which will be held May 24-25 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. This was Our Lady of Victory School's first time competing in the National Geographic Bee. Fifth grade teacher, Karen Frazier, conducted the school-level bee.



St. Joseph High School band members compete at TPSMEA in Addison, Texas, winning five gold medals. Pictured, front row, l. to r.: Steven Sudheimer, Josh Guerra, Clara Allen, Katie Gray, Bianca Gonzales and Michael Petrash II; back row, l. to r.: Nathaniel Hawes, Leslie Zepeda, Abigail Schneider, Regina Woods, Spencer Driver and Andrew Stewart.

St. Joseph Band wins five 1st place awards

Students of the St. Joseph High School Band program were awarded five first division medals on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest sponsored by the Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA). The contest was hosted by The Greenhill School in Addison, Texas. Class III solo medalists are Bianca Gonzales on snare drum, Abigail Schneider on oboe and Andrew Stewart on French horn. First Division Gold Medalists for their performances of a Class II solo are Clara Allen on bass clarinet, Spencer Driver on clarinet, Wyatt Fraga on trumpet, Katie Gray on flute, Josh Guerra on alto saxophone, Steven Sudheimer on snare drum and Regina Woods on alto saxophone. Advancing to the state competition for

a gold medal performance on a Class I solo are Nathaniel Hawes on baritone horn, Michael Petrash II on electric bass and Leslie Zepeda on clarinet. Accompanist for the band students was Mrs. Sandra Glenn and Mrs. Beverly Cheshire. TPSMEA divides the Solo & Ensemble competition into three classifications. A Class III solo or ensemble is generally recommended for first year participants in solo performance. A Class II event for the more advanced soloists to be performed at a director's discretion, may include seniors. Class I solos or ensembles are for most accomplished students, mostly performed by seniors. A first division rating at region on Class I events allows the student or students to advance to the TPSMEA State Solo & Ensemble Contest held in May.



FUNDRAISER HELPS FOOD PANTRY AND PUTS PIE IN THE FACE OF TEACHER—Mrs. Rosanne Gallia, principal of St. Rose School, presents a check for \$1,251.13 to Mrs. Rita Brossmann, representing the Schulenburg Food Pantry. The money was collected by St. Rose of Lima Catholic School and Parish and the surrounding parishes of High Hill, Ammannsville, Holman, St. John and Moravia in conjunction with the National Souper Bowl of Caring. St. Rose School also collected "pennies for pies" and the teacher receiving the most pennies was Father David Berger seen here getting a pie in the face by April Brossmann. Thank you to everyone who donated to a very worthy cause.





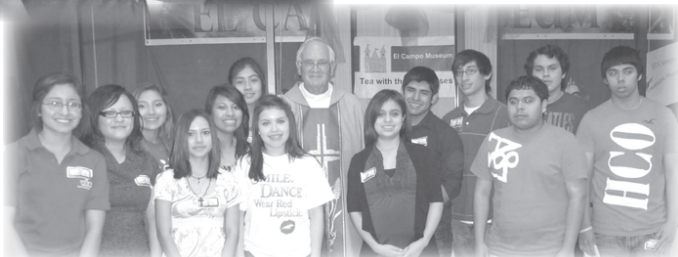
Some of the young men from the audience join the high school Youth Leaders from the diocese for a modern-day skit of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Father Kirby Hlavaty (l.) and Father Dan Morales (r.) tell stories during their presentation at the 2011 Youth Spectacular.



Young people, who volunteered from the audience, put on masks as they prepare to play "Blindfolded Musical Chairs."

Students from St. Robert Church in El Campo pose with Bishop David Fellhauer at the 2011 High School Spectacular.



Ten priests from throughout the diocese concelebrated Mass with Bishop David Fellhauer.

God's Planning System - 2011 Youth Spectacular was Spectacular!

Amazing, incredible, one of the best ever, those are just a few of the comments received following the 2011 Youth Spectacular that was held at the El Campo Civic Center February 20, 2011.

Two of our own priests, Father Dan Morales, pastor of St. Mary's in Victoria and vocation director of the Diocese of Victoria, and Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes in Cuero, as well as St. Michael School, gave dynamic presentations on God's plan for our lives. With the assistance of the audience and the youth leadership team, the speakers utilized

skits, games and personal stories that kept the audience mesmerized during the daylong event.

The audience enjoyed the inspiring praise and worship music led by Our Lady of Sorrows Life Teen Band from Victoria. Liturgy, celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer, concluded the day. Ten priests from throughout the diocese concelebrated at this event. They included Fathers Kirby Hlavaty, Dan Morales, David Berger, Michael Petering, Samuel Appiasi, Gary Janak, Charles Dwomoh, Michael Rother, Augustine Nsiash Asante and Gabriel Oduro Tawiah.



PIONEERS ARE DIOCESAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS—The St. Philip Pioneers in El Campo captured the Diocese of Victoria Athletic League (DVAL) championship for the 2010-2011 basketball season. Pictured are, front row, from left: Grant Fuechec, Jerald Krenak, Tyler Couvillion, Matthew Wilkins, and Noah Jasek; back row: Coach Richard Kerzee, Clayton Harp, Kyle Kerzee, Colton Krutilek, Colby Snyder, Cody Marquardt, Rayce Jenkins, Seth Pustejovsky, and Head Coach Jason Ewing along with ballboys Kade Ewing and Konnor Ewing.



St. Joseph High School choir members performed at the Regional TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest in February, winning 20 first division medals. Front row, l. to r.: Johanna Hoang, Teresa Vincent, Jaclyn Boozalis, Kayla Janecek and Kristin Janecek; back row, l. to r.: Megan Joy, Tori Haynes, Andy Polasek, Theo Boozalis, Katie Streeter and Madison Herman.

St. Joseph High School Choir Wins Gold

Students of the St. Joseph High School Choral program were awarded 20 first division medals on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at the Regional Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Solo & Ensemble Contest, held at Providence High School in San Antonio. Class III Solo gold medal winners are Theo Boozalis, Madison Herman and Kristin Janecek. STJ Choir members awarded gold

medals for a superior rating on their Class II Solo are Johanna Hoang and Katie Streeter. Qualifying to advance to the state competition, winning a gold medal in performance on a Class I solo, are Jaclyn Boozalis, Tori Haynes, Kayla Janecek, Megan Joy, Andy Polasek, Ofelia Rodriguez and Teresa Vincent. Eight Varsity Chorale students won "Superior" ensemble medals: Jaclyn Boozalis, Tori Haynes, Kayla Janecek, Megan Joy, Ofelia Rodriguez, Katie Streeter and Teresa Vincent. Accompanist for the choir students was Mrs. Sandra Glenn of Victoria. TPSMEA divides the Solo & Ensemble competition into three classifications. A Class III solo or ensemble is generally recommended for first year participants in solo performance. A Class II event is for the more advanced soloists to be performed at a director's discretion and may include seniors. Class I solos or ensembles are for most accomplished students, mostly performed by seniors. A first division rating at region on Class I events allows the student or students to advance to the TPSMEA State Solo & Ensemble Contest held in May.

Seminary Burses

Continued from p. 4

— Msgr. Stanley J. Petru Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$1,135.00
In Honor of Msgr. Petru on his retirement by:	
Matt & Kathy Quinlan	100.00
Carolyn A. Prause	50.00
Beverly and Gene Kruppa, Stacy and Tom Wahle, Elliot and Jennifer Kruppa	100.00
Cyril and Mary Muras	50.00
Elsie Vasek	10.00
Mary Ann Srubar	10.00
Eugene and Edith Munzy	20.00
C.W. and Marian Chamrad	50.00
Eugene and Grace Vinklerek	20.00
Ivan and Monica Muras	30.00
Mike, Colette, Jake and Caitlin Surman	25.00
Blanche and Joe Stibora	25.00
Richard and Jane Copeland	20.00
Rosalie Janda	10.00
Al Janda	20.00
Frank and Georgia Kruppa	25.00
Patrick and Patsy Janda	100.00
Denis and Joyce Muras	100.00
Mickey and Renee Supak & Family	20.00
St. Anne's Altar Society	100.00
Hank and Maxine Holub	25.00
Mary Vasek	50.00
Mary Jane and Bernard Muras	20.00
Elmer and Agnes Weikel	50.00
Benedict and Diana Kallus	50.00
Ralph and Catherine Goerig	100.00
Larry and Elaine Zbrank	25.00
Charlie and Joan Supak	50.00
Jerome and Nancy Haverda	250.00
Theo and Gladys Svec	15.00
Czech Catholic Union of Texas	100.00
Alice Zezula	25.00
Hostyn CDA Court #2282	100.00
Callan Oltmann	100.00
Bill and Edna Mae Psencik	100.00
Irene Janda	25.00
Bill and Nancy Kilty	25.00
M/M Lawrence J. Kallus	25.00
Evelyn Bolfik	25.00
Gary and Shirley Antosh	25.00
V.T. and Pat Richter	100.00
Harvey and Gloria Oeding	50.00
Marie Ivy	40.00
John and Mary White	50.00
Henry J. and Verlene Kuntschik	50.00
Edwin and Helen Muras	100.00
Walter and Eloise Eyring	100.00
In Honor of Frank Machala Jr. and Ignac Ermis by Lillian Machala and Family	100.00
Total	\$3,795.00

More Seminary Burses on p. 23



**JMJ 2011
MADRID**

**WYD Coverage
begins August 16
on EWTN**

Join Father Mark and Doug Barry of "Life on the Rock" this year as we bring you coverage of the 2011 WYD in Madrid, August 16-21. Coverage will include on-location broadcasts from EWTN hosts such as Jeff Cavins, Raymond Arroyo, Father Mark Mary and Deb Piroch that will keep viewers up-to-date on the events and pageantry of WYD, as well as interviews with WYD attendees. Watch the "Life on the Rock" live show for up-to-date details. Learn more about upcoming WYD at <http://www.ewtn.com/wyd2011/>.

In preparation for World Youth Day, read Pope Benedict XVI's WYD message. The message is titled "The search for a Life Truly Greater" and may be found at <http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPAL-DOC/b16rwyd11.HTM>



YOAKUM JCDA #206 ACTIVITIES HELD—Yoakum's Junior Catholic Daughters #206 took time to pay tribute to their moms and dads recently. In honor of the Pro-Life Movement in January, members made treat bags with a flower, magnet and card to present to their moms thanking them for choosing life. February was spent creating unique photo frames to present to their dads at the upcoming, first-annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. JCDA #206 also helped the CDA with their delicious, roast-dinner fundraiser that was held January 30, 2011. The girls performed duties, which included cleaning tables, filling tea cups, handing out to-go plates and cleaning up at the end of the dinner.



SCOUTS HONORED BY KC #1131—Fourth Degree Assembly #1131 in El Campo helped celebrate Scout Sunday at the Sunday evening Mass at St. Philip's in El Campo Feb. 27, 2011. Scouts and leaders present are, pictured front row, l. to r., Nicholas O'Canas, Russell O'Canas, Kolby Korenek, Mason Fuechec, Miles Svatek, Zach Socha, Jess Gold, Trevor Hoelscher, Blake Korenek, Dustin Roberts, Kevin Krutilek, Carter Hlavinka, Jeb Zalman, and not pictured but present was Christian Wagner; 2nd row, Ashley O'Canas, Bear Den Leader, knights, Father Gary Janak, Deacon Jerome Grahmann, and Rachel Krutilek, Wolves Assistant Den Leader; 3rd row, Koulton Krutilek, Den Chief, Tria Svatek, Wolves Den Leader; and Jason Zalman, Cubmaster. Fourteen Sir Knights were in attendance honoring the scouts. Sir Knights falling out were Blair Couey, Mike Couvillion, Dennis Edwards, James Fowler, Leonard Goerig, Hector Gutierrez, James Kocurek, Darrell Nohavitz, Ron Price, Richard Raun, Larry Staff, Joe Verver and Greg Witcher. The KCs thank Father Janak, Deacon Grahmann and all the scouts and their leaders.



Pictured above from front row, 10-year-old contestants, up to 14-year-old contestants on the top row, are the winners of the diocesan-wide KC Free-throw Championship held Feb. 20, 2011. First place winners advanced to state competition held in San Antonio March 5. Congratulations to state winners: Kaitln Nieto, 1st place – 10-yr.-division; Jacob Galvan, 2nd place – 11-yr.-division; Taylor Janak, 3rd place – 13-yr.-division; and Kendall Kristynik, 3rd place – 14-yr.-division.

Diocese of Victoria Free Throw Champs

The Knights of Columbus Diocese Free Throw Championship was held Sunday, February 20, at Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville hosted by the Victoria Diocesan District. First-place winners from the district competitions sponsored by eight local area KC councils qualified for the Diocese-wide event. Each participant was scored based upon the best of 25 free-throw attempts. First place winners advanced to the state-wide competition held March 5, 2011, in San Antonio.

Beginning with the front row, winners are identified from l. to r.:

10-year-old division – Boys: 1st Clay Stevens (Louise) and 2nd Joshua Christen (Columbus); and Girls: 1st Kaitlyn Nieto (Moulton), 2nd Macee Krpec (Garwood) and 3rd Kamie Klesel (Weimar)

11-year-old division – Boys: 1st Jacob Galvan (Blessing), 2nd Cody Lehmann (East Bernard) and 3rd Matthew Rowell (Flatonia); and Girls: 1st Kendyl Lange (Hallettsville), 3rd Alyssa Vasquez (Co-



Pictured with Holy Family #9088 Grand Knight Charles Bluntzer were the eighth grade winners of Holy Family's Fifth Annual Catechism Contest. They were Hannah Mallory, 1st place; Emma Andruss, 2nd place; and Jordan Delgado, 3rd place.

Holy Family Catechism Contest Report

The finals of Victoria's Holy Family Parish Fifth Annual Catechism Contest, held in the auditorium of the parish education building on February 26, 2011, was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9088. Master of Ceremonies of the event was Grand Knight Charles Bluntzer. The judges were Betty Migura and Melicent and Bob Bryarly. Ray Beth Sills and Reuben Petrussek were in charge of timing the contest. Thanks to the generosity of the K.C. Council, the following prizes were awarded each of the winners in Grades 1-8: First Place: \$100; Second Place: \$30; Third Place: \$20; Fourth Place: \$10.

Winners were as follows: grade 1: 1st Cassidy Zimmermann, 2nd Blane Zeplin, 3rd Wyatt Borden, 4th John Andruss; grade 2: 1st Angelyn Tovar, 2nd Emma Pratka, 3rd Matthew Barton, 4th Matthew Sestak; grade 3: 1st Kesli Pratka, 2nd Jayden Kueker; grade 4: 1st Scott Olsovsky, 2nd Joseph Andruss, 3rd Marcus Hermes, 4th Clayton Wenske; grade 5: 1st Myah Mallory, 2nd Sierra Morin, 3rd Fernando DeLeon, 4th Dillon Sievers; grade 6: 1st Andrew Moore, 2nd Sarah Andruss, 3rd Madison Nieto, 4th Sean Casey; grade 7: 1st Bryan Sturm 2nd Jason Rodriguez, grade 8: 1st Hannah Mallory, 2nd Emma Andruss, 3rd Jordan Delgado.

The following students scored the highest in their grades on the written test but were unable to participate in the finals: Kylie

Rodgers, Kieran Grones, Xavier Moore, Nicholas Hilscher, Alexander Bonorden, Brandon Tristan, Samuel Bonorden and Ian Moore. Doing exceptionally well on the written tests by scoring 100 were Cassidy Zimmermann, Matthew Barton,, Matthew Sestak , Kieran Grones, Xavier Moore, Emma Pratka, Angelyn Tovar, Alexander Bonorden, Joseph Andruss, Ian Moore and Emma Andruss.

To qualify for the finals, the students took a written test in the classroom and made one of the four top scores in each grade. The students were given a "question-answer" type booklet during the year and encouraged to study ten minutes each night. Monica Zimmermann, a parent, expressed her appreciation for the contest and commented that her family had learned so much in helping their daughter prepare for the contest.

The Catechism Contest originated in Holy Family's CCD Program in response to Pope John Paul II in "Catechesis in Our Time" when he said: "A certain memorization of the words of Jesus, of important Bible passages, of the Ten Commandments, of the essential prayers, of key doctrinal ideas, etc. far from being opposed to the dignity of young Christians, or constituting an obstacle to personal dialogue with the Lord, is a real need, as the synod fathers forcefully recalled."



25-YEAR MEMBERS HONORED DURING LADIES NIGHT—Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly #1131 held their Ladies Night Sunday March 6, 2011, at Mikeska's Banquet Room in El Campo. This event is held once a year and usually in February around Valentines Day to honor the spouses of the 4th Degree Knights for helping the 4th Degree be an even better organization than it already is, said Faithful Navigator of Assembly 1131 Gerry Mikeska. Because it was held in March, the evening had a Mardi Gras theme. Also during the evening, Fourth Degree members with over 25 years of service received pins. Those receiving pins were Sir Knights Joe Verver, Andrew Swoboda, Greg Witcher, George Legler and Deacon Jarrel Nohavitz. Also pictured are special guest Texas State Deputy Tony Herreth and Gerry Mikeska. Sir Knights recognized for over 25 years of service but not present were Frank Bubela, John Drozd, Harry Isenberger, Lee Roy Krauskopf, Deacon Patrick Kubala, Nat Longoria Jr. and Ramon Guerrero Jr.

lumbus) and 2nd Alexandra Iglesias (Port Lavaca)

12-year-old division – Boys: 1st Jase Bill and 2nd Tanner Sembera; Girls: 1st Paige Halamiccek, 3rd Laura Judd and 2nd Martina Stavinoha

13-year-old division – Boys: 3rd Cody Marquardt, 2nd Jacob Horton and 1st Bran-

don Litzau; Girls: 1st Taylor Janak, 2nd Malori Mitchon and 3rd Samantha Gabler

14-year-old division – Boys: 2nd Alex Lara (Schulenburg), 1st Kyle Kerzee (El Campo) and 3rd Will Maraggia (Inez); Girls: 1st Kendall Kristynik (Moulton), 3rd Audrey Anderson (El Campo) and 2nd Robin Krenek (Tide Haven)



Religious artwork – a bit of a mystery

By Cynthia Brewer

BAY CITY—Recently I received a phone call from Mr. Raul Bustillo of Bay City asking me if I'd like to do a story on a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that he had been cleaning and repairing.

He told me what he knew about the piece he was restoring for the cousin of his wife, Odelia. The cousin, who lives in Odem, told him that his grandmother purchased it over the counter at a very expensive store at least 170 years ago and then gave it to his mother, Teresita Cordova Hernandez.

On the back of the artwork the words "Sacred Heart of Jesus" is printed in English, Spanish, German, Italian and French. The yellowed, Maverick label on the back of the picture states:

"This picture is 170 years old. It is owned by Teresita Cordova." Mrs. Hernandez was born in 1908 and died in 1987, so the mentioning of "170 years old" means 170 years before and between the dates of 1908 and 1987.

I decided to drive to Bay City and see the art. Was I surprised?

It is actually a combination of three pieces of artwork in one frame – one print in the back facing forward and two more back to back prints cut into 1/2 inch slats and set perpendicularly against the first print.

The main print is of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and one of the perpendicular prints is of the Infant Jesus of Prague and the other is of the Blessed Virgin Mary and baby Jesus holding a white scapular and helping to release people from purgatory.

Mr. Bustillo especially likes the artwork because of the print of purgatory. He said now-a-days people just don't believe in purgatory.

He has been cleaning and repairing the artwork as a labor of love for the past six months.

The picture had been kept in a closet for years. Inside the frame were spider webs, dead cockroaches and rat droppings.

"It was embarrassing that it was in such bad condition," Mr. Bustillo said.

He sprayed it clean with condensed air and continued cleaning it with warm water, cotton rags and Q-tips.

"I really believe it was American made and that it was mass produced," Mr. Bustillo said. He has experience working with lithographs, as he was a printer 35-40 years ago.

As neither Mr. Bustillo nor I knew much more about the piece of art, I knew I'd have to investigate on the Web.

While searching on the Internet to find out what this type of artwork is called, I found everything from window blinds to slatted fences and outdoor furniture.

Eventually I found a similar piece of artwork on the Internet on the Smithsonian American Artwork Museum Web site at <http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artwork/?id=25315>. The artwork at this site is created with a combination of three paintings, rather than three prints, and is called a slat or three-in-one or three-way painting.

According to the Web site the paintings are of Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe, and "a third person who may be the Creek Indian chief Mackintosh, who was deeply implicated in political issues of his day." The paintings were done by an unidentified artist.

I learned more about this type of artwork from Alida Pask at the

Smithsonian American Art Museum's question area: "Ask Joan of Art."

From "The Conservation of a Three-Way Painting" by Michael O'Malley found

in the *Journal Of The International Institute For Conservation-Canadian Group (JIIC-CG)*, Vol. 21, 1996, p. 3-8, Ms. Pask learned how the Jefferson piece was made.

"The portraits of Jefferson and Monroe were painted back to back on a linen canvas in a peculiar but precise arrangement. The first portrait was painted on one side of the primed canvas. It was subsequently cut into thirty-six vertical strips, each approximately 1.5 cm in width. Each strip was then sequentially turned over face down to create a surface on which the second portrait was painted. Later experiments to

recreate a three-way picture showed this is the only way the cut images are made visually coherent from both the left and right sides. If one simply paints two images back to back on a canvas before cutting it into strips, or adheres two images back to back and cuts the assembly into strips, only one of the two images will be readable when mounted in the strainer. The other, in reverse sequence, will be illegible...

"The strips are stationary, parallel to one another, and perpendicular to the background image. This configuration produces an optical illusion, where each of the three images will sequentially appear, then disappear as the viewer moves past the work."

See *Religious artwork*, p. 20



Mr. Raul Bustillo of Bay City displays the "Three-way Slat" print of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Blessed Mother and Jesus above Purgatory and the Infant Jesus of Prague, that he spent months cleaning and repairing. The artwork was apparently produced in the 1800s.

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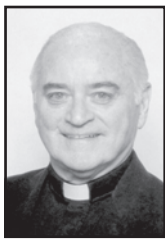
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Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service



Understanding Scripture

The Catholic faith is a precious gift. Do you ever get sick of the TV biblical experts who undermine the supernatural basis of divine revelation? They deny the divinity of Jesus; consequently they reduce all of his miracles to mere folktales.

To understand this approach to biblical criticism, you have to go back to Rene Descartes (1596-1650), who has been called the father of modern philosophy, and to Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), the famous German skeptic.

Descartes challenged the way that we know things. He felt it necessary to reject everything he had ever learned in order to find out what he knew from natural reason alone.

His first question was, "How do I even know that I exist?"

Most of us take our own existence for granted, but Descartes didn't know for sure until his "eureka moment" when he discovered this idea: "I think, therefore I am" ("Cogito ergo sum.") From then on, he would accept as true only those things that he could prove from reason alone. Therefore, all knowledge based on faith went out the window.

A century later, Immanuel Kant applied Descartes' approach to the interpretation of sacred Scripture. Until then, the reading of Scripture was pretty much a matter of believing what the text said while accepting the guidance of the Church in translation.

ing the more difficult passages.

We asked: What did the sacred author mean when he wrote this passage; what religious truth was he trying to teach us?

Our individual interpretations may have varied slightly, but Catholics were instructed not to go beyond the parameters of the deposit of faith in their speculations.

According to Kant, however, the reader of Scripture had to reject all knowledge based on faith. This made everyone dependent on the Scripture scholars alone in their efforts to understand the Bible.

The authority of the Church was, of course, dismissed out of hand. In its place, a new wave of biblical gurus came on the scene. The problem was that these so-called experts disagreed with one another all the time, which led to much confusion.

Evangelical Christians decided to reject the new scholars, demanding that the entire Bible be taken literally. This approach didn't work because you can't say Herod had four legs and a tail just because Jesus called him a fox. There are metaphors, parables and figures of speech in the Bible that are not to be taken literally, and if you don't know exactly what the text means, how it can save you, much less guide you.

The Bible has always needed an objective authority for its correct interpretation.

In 1988, when Pope Benedict XVI was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he gave a talk titled "Biblical Interpretation in Crisis." He asserted that the Kantian method of interpretation undermines the very possibility "for the Bible to be itself."

He also said that we can never interpret the Bible correctly without the Church to guide us. Ultimately, it comes down to belief in the divinity of Christ.

The faith is a precious gift from God, passed down to us over the centuries through the ministry of the Church. Because of the divinity of Jesus Christ, we have been given the Holy Spirit to guide us in a darkened world.

The divine element of the Church sustains us, not the human; however, the human element makes Jesus visible. We belong to the mystical body of Christ on earth.

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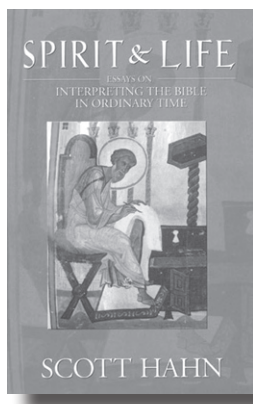
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Scott Hahn's Spirit & Life book to be contest prize

In *Spirit & Life: Essays on Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time*, Scott Hahn presents nine selected essays that teach the faithful to "read the Bible from the heart of the Church."

Published by Emmaus Road, these nine essays provide fresh insights into important biblical themes. Topics in this volume include: Scripture as God's symphony; Pope Benedict's Scripture-based teaching on the person and prayer of Jesus; The connection of Scripture, liturgy, and the Church; The "liturgical sense" of God's Word; The theme of fulfillment in Matthew's Gospel; Church authority within a scriptural context; A biblical approach to the "Pentecostal" phenomena; and A paradox? Christ as Majestic Judge vs. Christ as the Lamb.



Dr. Hahn shows that Scripture is not a dead letter but rather a great, living gift from God. Indeed, it is "spirit and life" to those who will unwrap and embrace it. *Spirit & Life: Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time* provides the reader with a greater appreciation of the Living Word.

A professor of Scripture at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Dr. Hahn is a very popular Scripture scholar and speaker.

To preview the first couple of chapters in each of several of Scott Hahn's books, go to Google Search and type: Scott Hahn, Spirit and Life.

Please complete Family Puzzle Contest and send into *The Catholic Lighthouse* by April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing.

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Family Puzzle Contest Winners!

Dora Zepeda of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Palacios is the winner of the March Family Puzzle Contest and "What Catholics Really Believe" by Karl Keating. Congratulations. The winners of the youth contests (school or CCD group and individual) are Averi Glaze (9) of St. Philip School in El Campo and Lauren Cortez (11) of Holy Family Parish in Victoria. Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by April 25 for a chance to win "Spirit & Life ~ Essays on Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time" by Scott Hahn. See book review on this page.

EWTN's JP II Beatification broadcast schedule

Vigil in Honor of the Beatification of Pope John Paul II (Live) 1:30 p.m. central, Sat., April 30 with an encore at 7 p.m. central, Sat., April 30. (2-hour event)

Note: Live vigil is preceded at 1 p.m. central, Sat., April 30, with a half-hour special: "25 Years with the Pope."

Encore followed by a one-hour special: "John Paul II and the Sick: The Value of Suffering" at 9:30 p.m. central, Sat., April 30.

Beatification of Pope John Paul II (Live) 2:30 a.m. central, Sun., May 1 with

encores at 7 p.m. central, Sun., May 1; 1 p.m. central, Mon., May 2; and 1 p.m. central, Sat., May 7. (3-hour event)

Note: EWTN will air "The Young John Paul II: Witness to Evil" at 1 a.m. central, Sun., May 1. (1 hour).

Mass of Thanksgiving in Honor of the Beatification of Pope John Paul II (Live) at 3:30 a.m. central, Mon., May 2 with an encore at 4:30 p.m. central, Mon., May 2. (2-hour event)

EWTN is now at channel 97 on Victoria Suddenlink Cable.

Canadian baby flown to St. Louis Catholic hospital for treatment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bobby Schindler said he can see parallels between the case of a Canadian infant known as "Baby Joseph" and the situation of his late sister, Terry Schiavo, who died in 2005, 13 days after a court ordered her feeding tube removed. Joseph Maraachli, a 13-month-old Canadian boy suffering from a progressive neurodegenerative disease, is getting a second chance at treatment after being transported to a Catholic hospital in St. Louis. The baby and his father, Moe Maraachli, were taken by private plane to St. Louis where the infant was admitted to SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center March 13, ending the family's battle with a London, Ontario, hospital that sought to withdraw the breathing tube that was keeping the seriously ill boy alive. According to court papers, a doctor treating the child had recommended the tube be removed and he be allowed to die, saying "all cranial nerve functions were absent and he has no hope for recovery." The baby's parents wanted doctors to give him a tracheotomy and keep him on a ventilator so they could care for him at home. Priests for Life, which is based in New York, hired the private plane for the family and will cover the medical costs. The child's mother, Sana Nadar, who is Catholic, and Moe Maraachli, who is Muslim, both believe in miracles, according to Father Pavone, national director of Priests for Life. "They believe in a God who answers prayers, but they also believe God is the one who is in charge, and they are ready to accept his will for however long this child is given to be with them," Father Pavone said.



Parish Diary

By Father Peter J. Daly
Catholic News Service



Putting Mom in a nursing home

We put my mother in a nursing home in mid-March. It may only be temporary, but it was painful. As our parents live into their 90s, it is a common experience. But that doesn't make it any less painful.

Mom turns 91 in April. She has had a full life. She raised eight children. She was married for nearly 40 years. She has two master's degrees, and served in the Army in World War II. She once had a TV talk show in Baltimore. She taught art.

Last week, Mom went to the hospital to have a pacemaker put into her chest. Her heart was gradually slowing down. At Mom's age, any surgery is serious, and the surgery to install the pacemaker knocked her out.

In the recovery room after the operation, she was in pain and disoriented. This made her panic. At one point she sat up. The nurses tried to get her to lie down. Mom started to scream. At first it was a little scream, but then it turned into a long, loud, angry shriek.

It was more than a scream about physical pain though. It was a protest about life at 90.

It was a primal scream, say-

ing, "I don't like old age or the way I am."

It was a cry of the heart, saying, "Help me," and it brought to mind the Book of Lamentations (2:18), where it says, "Cry out to the Lord; moan, O daughter Zion!"

Eventually, Mom grew calm. I stroked her hair. I held her hand. I talked to her. I prayed with her.

Over the next couple of days, she was weak and tired; she hardly talked. She could not remember the operation or where she was.

When it came time for her to leave the hospital, I agreed with the social workers that she should be discharged to the rehabilitation and nursing facility that is close to Mom's apartment. It is a beautiful place, bright and clean. But it is still a nursing home.

Mom once made me promise that I would never put her in a nursing home. "I had eight children, so I don't have to go into a nursing home," she told me.

I took consolation in the thought that this was temporary. "Just for two or three weeks,

Mom, until you get your strength back," I told her. I hoped I was speaking the truth.

No matter how nice a nursing home is, it is not your own place. You must depend on the kindness of strangers.

I'm sure the staff is trained to speak loudly and clearly. Most of the residents are at least partially deaf. But it sounded like staff-members were speaking to idiots or children.

"DO YOU WANT SOME ICE CREAM?" they shouted.

Mom answered, "You don't have to shout."

The dayroom on her floor had half a dozen people sitting in the sun. Some were slumped over in their wheelchairs, sleeping. One was on a gurney. The TV was on, but no one was watching.

I wondered, "What kind of lives have they led? Were they former ship captains, school teachers, army officers, housewives, mothers and fathers?"

Probably they all had lives of accomplishment. But now they surrendered it all.

I stayed with Mom until visiting hours were over. At 9 p.m., I got up to leave and kissed her.

She said, "Don't go. Don't leave me."

It was like a bullet to the heart.

"I've got to go, Mom," I said. "But I'll be back."

I held it together until I reached the car. But when I got behind the wheel, I just sat there in the parking lot and cried. Actually, I screamed.

Catholic by Grace

By Denise E. Bossert
catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Mass – Extremely Boring or Pinnacle Moment for Christians?

When I was in my early twenties, I listened to a lot of evangelical Christian music. If a group was a Dove Award recipient, I had their CD. I went to as many concerts as I could afford. On Sunday mornings, our Protestant worship services loosely followed

Can't Find EWTN?

EWTN, the Catholic Eternal Word Television Network, may now be found on Channel 97 for those with Suddenlink Communications - Victoria - Digital Cable. On DIRECTTV, EWTN is on Channel 370, and on DISH Victoria Network, EWTN it is Channel 261.

Did you know that EWTN is on YouTube?

EWTN is now on YouTube! With videos added weekly, EWTN's YouTube channel will keep you, the viewer, up to date on current news and programming. To subscribe, simply register for a free account with YouTube, and follow the link <http://www.youtube.com/EWTN>.

the pattern of a Christian concert. We judged our Sunday mornings by the special music performance and the pastor's homiletics. We based our assessment of sermon and song on how closely they matched their professional counterparts in the big leagues: TV evangelists and Dove Award recipients.

One of the first things an outsider notices about the Catholic Mass is that there is nothing performance-based about it. It's all about prayer. Everything is a prayer. By design, true prayer is God-focused.

Paragraph #2559 of the Catechism tells us that humility is the foundation of prayer. We come to God humbly, like the beggar. We do not come to Him from our own great heights. We come to him out of need. We come to him out of love.

Self is eclipsed by God – or perhaps more accurately, self is absorbed by God. Everything is rendered to God, for God.

Emptied of self, we are ready to receive all of Christ.

These truths are most sublimely actualized when we pray

the Mass. Although the cantors are as gifted as any I encountered in my previous walk as an Evangelical, Catholic cantors don't even try to play by the same rules as their Protestant counterparts. You don't get the feeling that you are at a concert. You never feel like you should have paid for a ticket and surrendered it at the door.

The cantor is there for one reason: to help us pray the Mass with reverence and great devotion. And the homily doesn't mimic the message of a self-help guru. The priest or deacon can't just pick a text at random and run with it. He is called to help us enter into Sacred Scripture and come to a fuller understanding of 2000 years of Church teaching.

In a word, these cantors and musicians, servers and lectors, deacons and priests are all servants.

They are not performers.

One would think that a person might have to sacrifice a lot to be Catholic. One might expect the Mass to be extremely boring – stripped of all the hype. One might wonder why there aren't more Catholics seeking out mega-churches and claiming their own seats in the auditorium.

For that matter, why would those born and raised beyond the embrace of Mother Church – those who believe they are free to choose any place of worship without guilt – why would they ever deliberately walk away from the performance-style worship of

See Mass, p. 18

Sunday Readings from April 3 to May 8

April 3 — Fourth Sunday of Lent	1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41
April 10 — Fifth Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45
— Holy Week Begins —	
April 17 — Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	Matthew 21:1-11 (at procession) Isaiah 50:4-7 (at Mass) Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Philippians 2:6-11 Matthew 26:14 — 27:66
Chrism Mass	Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9 Psalms 89:21-22, 25 and 27 Revelation 1:5-8 Luke 4:16-21
Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-15
Good Friday of the Lord's Passion	Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12 Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1 — 19:42
The Resurrection of the Lord Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter	Reading 1: Genesis 1:1 — 2:2 Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 25 Reading 2: Genesis 22:1-18 Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 Reading 3: Exodus 14:15 — 15:1 Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 Reading 4: Isaiah 54:5-14 Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 Reading 5: Isaiah 55:1-11 Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 Reading 6: Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4 Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11 Reading 7: Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28 Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 Epistle Romans 6:3-11 Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Gospel Matthew 28:1-10
April 24 — Easter Sunday: Solemnity of the Resurrection of The Lord – The Mass of Easter Day	Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10
May 1 — Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 2:42-47 Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31
May 8 — Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-11 1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35
May 15 — Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6 1 Peter 2:20b-25 John 10:1-10

June 12 — Pentecost Sunday

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, are available in text or audio at:

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Books re-released for the beatification of Pope John Paul II

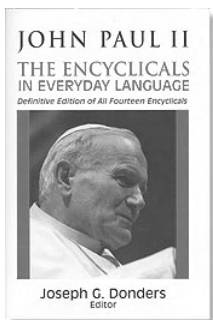
During one of the longest pontificates in history, John Paul II was guided by his devotion to Christ and his love for everyone. Seeing each man and woman as a child of God, John Paul II embraced all of humanity with a love so complete that it has transformed the world. The below mentioned collection of books will fill you with inspiration as you experience the message of Pope John Paul II.

“John Paul II: The Encyclicals in Everyday Language”

Edited by Joseph G. Donders

This third and final edition of the book, originally published just before John Paul's death in May 2003, includes all 14 of his encyclicals and delivers the essence of his influential theology. With a new epilogue, Father Joseph G. Donders reflects on Pope John Paul II's legacy for millions of Christians and non-Christians. Father Donders, professor emeritus of mission and cross-cultural studies at the Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC, offers complex religious thoughts of Pope John Paul II in a form that can be appreciated by non-theologians. It is published by Orbis Books – Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

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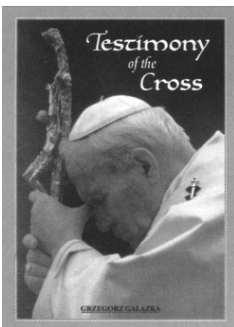
The following books are published by Liguori Publications and may be purchased at your local bookstore, at 1-800-325-9521, or at www.liguori.org.

“Testimony of the Cross ~ Meditations and Prayers of John Paul II”

Written by Pope John Paul II
Photographs by Grzegorz Galazka

A stunning photographic and textual reflection written by Pope John Paul II for the Via Crucis (The Way of the Cross) journey which he made to the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, on Good Friday, April 2000, expressing the richness of his own spirituality, as is related to the Cross, to Faith, to Life, and to Love. This book is a wonderful keepsake and also makes an excellent gift-giving idea.

80-page paperback
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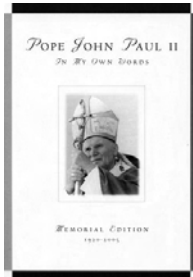


“Pope John Paul II in My Own Words”

Compiled by Anthony F. Chiffole

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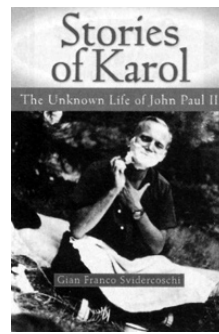


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By Gian Franco Svidercoschi
“Countless biographies have been written about Pope John Paul II.

In this volume a well-known Vatican insider reveals new details about Karol Wojtyla's youth, from his birth to his election to the papacy. This short, readable book chronicles the young life and personal development of this popular and beloved man through stories about his family, his vocation, and his intellectual training. It is enjoyable reading for adults and young people.

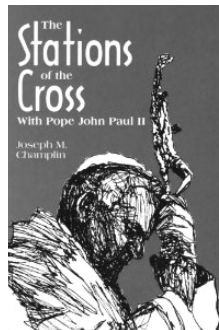
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40-page booklet
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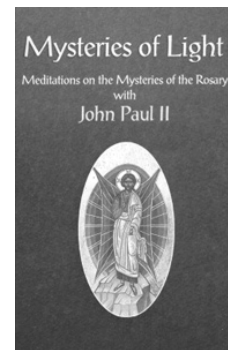
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Pope John Paul II to be beatified May 1 at the Vatican

Pope John Paul II: Intended for TV

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh, director of Media Relations, USCCB

The beatification of Pope John Paul II on May 1 should bring lots of TV cameras to St. Peter's Square. That's only right, for if there ever was a pope made for television it was John Paul II.

With training as an actor in his youth, he was comfortable on any stage, including that of the world. He made almost 130 trips to far and near corners of the earth and greeted all strata of society. Wherever he went, he brought with him a media entourage which otherwise might never have focused on the desperately poor in African and Latin American countries and in India, nor covered his message to remember the poor amidst us.

The pope knew that journalists, espe-

cially TV cameramen, gave him entre into millions of homes. In a visit to one nation, for instance, the pope deplaned to a waiting crowd. The crowd stood on the left cheering and waving, and the pope responded. Then he turned to the lone cameraman on the right and waved just as enthusiastically to an unseen crowd of perhaps millions more. John Paul welcomed media for he knew their power in preaching to the modern world.

Elected when he was 58, he was a vigorous, handsome man with a message and became a natural fit on the cover of news magazines. In 1994, he was Time magazine's "Man of the Year." He was made for photo ops, whether hugging a child in Angola or holding a koala bear in Brisbane, Australia. He wore native dress, including a unique straw hat in Lesotho, delighting both the local people and the paparazzi.

Yet his respect for modern media went far deeper than a photo.

Even before the current social media took root, Pope John Paul recognized media's impact on society. In his 1990 encyclical, Redemptoris Missio, he compared the world of media to the Apostle Paul's Areopagus in Athens, where the Apostle to the Gentiles, the pope said, "proclaimed the Gospel in language appropriate to and understandable in those surroundings (cf. Acts 17:22-31)."

"At that time the Areopagus represented the cultural center of the learned people of Athens," the pope said, "and today it can be taken as a symbol of the new sectors in which the Gospel must be proclaimed."

"The first Areopagus of the modern age is the world of communications, which is

Divine Mercy celebration to be held at St. Mary's Church

The Feast of Divine Mercy will be held at St. Mary's Parish in Victoria Sunday, May 1, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This is a special year for Divine Mercy Sunday, as Pope John Paul II will be beatified on this day and it is also the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker.

Pope John Paul II established Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day for the entire Church on April 30, 2000, the day he canonized Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun who received the Divine Mercy message from Jesus.

According to www.thedivinemercy.org, "On that day, Pope John Paul II declared, 'This is the happiest day of my life.'"

The feast day always falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter season (the Sunday following Easter Sunday).

This year's celebration at St. Mary's

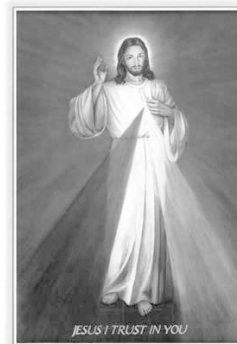
will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Divine Mercy Prayers, Confession from 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. and Mass at 4:00 p.m.

The celebrant for the Mass will be Father Dan Morales, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, assisted by Deacon A. R. Wearden.

All participants are encouraged to recite the Divine Mercy Novena (on their own or with their own group) beginning on Good Friday, April 22, in preparation for the feast. Prayer booklets may be purchased at the Incarnate Word Gift Shop at 1101 N. E. Water St. in Victoria or at

Heavenly Helpers at 1406-B N. Mechanic in El Campo.

The Feast of Divine Mercy will also be held at other parishes in the diocese as well. Please check with your local parish.



Vatican creates online presence for John Paul II

By Alan Holdren

EWTN News/CNA — With the help of Facebook and YouTube users, the Vatican hopes to create a broad audience for material on the life and teachings of the soon-to-be beatified Pope John Paul II.

The Vatican's television center and Vatican Radio have teamed up with the Pontifical Council for Social Communications to produce two new Web pages on YouTube and Facebook.

The Facebook page offers audio and video content to prepare "friends" and any other passersby for the beatification of the late Pope on May 1, 2011.

The viewer can see videos from the

See *Vatican creates online presence*, p. 21

See *Pope John Paul II*, p. 21

Como reportar un abuso.

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce ha sido abusado sexualmente por un clérigo o cualquier miembro del personal de la iglesia puede registrar su queja.

- Llame a la cancillería al (361)573-0828 y pida hablar con el Obispo o su canciller; o puede llamar a:
- Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770 o a la Hna. Emilie Eilers al (361)575-7111, que son los coordinadores del Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- También puede comunicarse por escrito enviando su carta a:
Most Rev. David Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Por favor, escriba en el sobre:
"Personal and Confidential"

También podemos ayudarle a comunicar su queja a cualquier otra diócesis donde haya ocurrido el abuso si ahora usted se encuentra viviendo en la nuestra.

Si no se encuentra seguro de proceder con la queja o necesita más información, por favor comuníquese con el Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770.



Bishops use Lenten messages to promote greater use of penance

By Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The new archbishop of Los Angeles, in his first written message to Catholics since taking over stewardship of the nation's largest diocese, urged Catholics to go to confession during Lent.

"I encourage you to make a good confession before Easter, even if it has been a long time," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez in a Lenten message released March 8, the day before Ash Wednesday.

"In the early church, they called confession the 'second conversion in tears.' St. Peter wept in sorrow after denying Jesus, and in his mercy Christ spoke to him the tender words of his pardon and peace. In the sacrament, we too can hear these words of compassion for our sins," Archbishop Gomez said.

The archbishop, who succeeded Cardinal Roger M. Mahony March 1, said the parable of the prodigal son was "one of my favorite Scriptures. ... I love this story for its drama and emotion, and because it rings true."

Archbishop Gomez added, "It is God who rejoices in the parable: 'My son was dead and is alive again.' When he gives his son a new robe, it signifies the white garment we are clothed with in Baptism. When he orders a feast of thanksgiving, it signifies the Eucharist. My sisters and brothers, the pilgrimage of the prodigal son is the story of our lives!"

"This Lent, let us seek to deepen our awareness of our baptismal identity."

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops, urged Catholics to return to the confessional in a St. Patrick's Day message.

"My fervent prayer for the Catholics of the Archdiocese of New York is that they will hear in the next weeks the beautiful, profound words of absolution pronounced in the confessional," Archbishop Dolan said March 17.

"We have to be frank, though. Those words are not heard as often as they should be in the church in New York," he added. "We can't imagine Catholic life without the words of consecration — This is my body! This is my blood! Likewise Catholic life

cannot be lived properly without the sacrament of penance. We need the forgiveness of our sins. We need the grace of this sacrament to grow in virtue."

Archbishop Dolan related that one priest told him that "after six months in his new parish, he announced to the people that he was asking the bishop for a transfer. 'You don't need me. I've sat in the confessional for half a year, and nobody has come. You must all be saints. I want to serve sinners.'"

"I exhort the entire Archdiocese of New York: Experience the joy of forgiveness!" Archbishop Dolan said. "Experience liberation from sin! Keep those confessionals busy! Keep your priests busy about the great work of dispensing the Lord's mercy! Keep the Sacrament of Penance at the heart of Catholic life!"

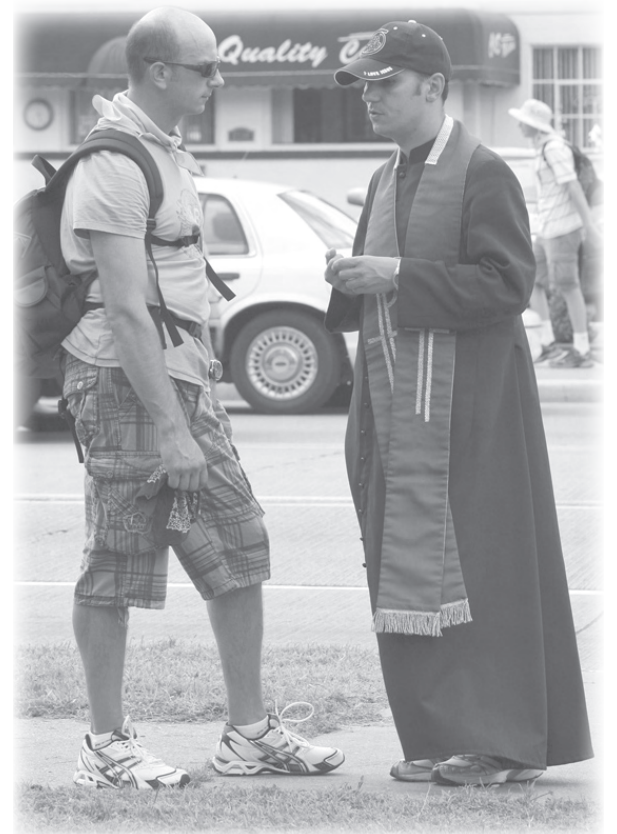
"Lent is perhaps the only religious season yet to find a secular parallel," said Bishop Paul D. Sirba of Duluth, Minn., in a Lenten message published in the March issue of *The Northern Cross*, diocesan newspaper. "Why? Why don't we see stores trying to sell little bottles of ashes or come up with slogans and jingles based on 'Remember man that you are dust and unto dust you shall return'?"

"In truth, it is a little more difficult to package our mortality, repentance, conversion and penance for our sins in the context of a celebratory consumer season," Bishop Sirba said. "Yet on Ash Wednesday, even though it is not a holy day of obligation, more Catholics return to church to receive those ashes on the forehead than perhaps on any other day except Christmas and Easter. Refreshing, isn't it?"

Lent, he added, "speaks to a truth about God in relation to man that we can spend a lifetime trying to understand — that God loves us even in our sinfulness."

"To fully appreciate God's mercy, we are invited to contemplate our sinfulness and do something about it. 'Repent and believe the good news!'" the bishop said. "If we regard sin as a scratch, then redemption is just a Band-Aid. But if it is a mortal wound, then redemption is the ultimate unexpected rescue."

PRIEST HEARS CONFESSION OUTDOORS DURING LOCAL PILGRIMAGE — Father Tomasz Ludwicki hears a confession during a local pilgrimage in Munster, Ind., in this 2010 file photo. Catholics who return to confession might be surprised at the changes that have occurred in the sacrament in recent years, one priest-theologian told Catholic News Service. (CNS photo/Karen Callaway, *Catholic New World*)



Amid Lent's penitential weeks, priests assess state of confession

By James Breig
Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Msgr. Kevin Irwin says that hearing confessions is "one of the most humbling experiences of my priesthood."

The dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, he recently reflected on the current state of the sacrament of penance. For years, surveys have shown infrequent — if any — use of the sacrament by Catholics. One recent survey found that 45 percent of Catholics who attend Mass weekly never go to confession.

Msgr. Irwin told Catholic News Service he suspects there are several reasons for that, including "fear of what the priest might say and shame at what one has done or failed to do."

Father Rick Hilgartner, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship, believes that some Catholics stay away because of "fear or embarrassment about a particular sin."

"I would offer, in reply, that there is no reason to be afraid. For others, there might be a false sense that confession is not really necessary, either because they don't think they have sinned, or they don't need forgiveness," he said. "(But) each of us has sin in our lives; it is part of what it is to be human."

Both priests see many reasons people should take advantage of confession. For one thing, Msgr. Irwin pointed out, it provides the opportunity "to assess where one is before God and each other" through an examination of conscience.

Other pluses of confessing, he said, include "naming what is good and wrong in one's life," and the opportunity of "gaining insight into the ways one should look at life and live."

Because they believe that priests are key factors in reviving the use of the sacrament, the two clergymen have advice for their peers.

"We need to reassure the faithful that the point of the sacrament is not to be chastised or punished," Father Hilgartner told CNS, "but to experience the healing love and forgiveness of Jesus. We need to be inviting

and encouraging."

Likewise, Msgr. Irwin encourages that Catholics "go regularly to the same priest so that the rapport is easier, and the knowledge of failings and their severity can be assessed more adequately. When priests ask penitents what they might recommend as a penance, then what the penitent is asked to do fits their particular need."

As a result, the penance assigned by the confessor becomes "an antidote to what one confessed. Contrition is the most important part of the sacrament."

In preparation for confession, Msgr. Irwin suggested that Catholics "read and reflect on Chapter 12 of Paul's Letter to the Romans."

Father Hilgartner pointed out that "there are lots of resources, including a new iPhone app, that can be a helpful guide to the faithful through this process of reflection and examination. In general, it is good not only to reflect on the Ten Commandments, but also to look at significant relationships — with God, with others and with self — in order to identify what actions or inactions have been hurtful or sinful."

Confessors, he continued, should "listen attentively and respond as Jesus would, which might include some advice or encouragement."

Similarly, Msgr. Irwin urges priests to "act as a divine physician, diagnosing what is really wrong, guiding the penitent to see it and praying with the penitent over it."

Lent, he continued, provides a way for Catholics who have been away from the sacrament of penance to experience it again. "Communal celebrations of the sacrament seem to have taken hold as features of Lent and Advent," he noted. "These are often occasions for people who have not come for a long period to jump-start a return."

In addition, such communal events help people "see that penance involves the community and is not just about themselves before God," he said.

Msgr. Irwin believes that Catholics who return to confession might be surprised at the changes that have occurred in the sacrament in recent years, such as the option of facing the confessor in the open, the reading of Scriptures and "a declaration of thanks for God's mercy."

His experience with penitents, Msgr. Irwin said, "is one of the most humbling experiences of my priesthood. When you hear of the burdens people bear, you are simply amazed, sometimes saddened, but always heartened that you can help to unburden them."

How to go to Confession

From <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/confession.php>

The basic requirement for a good confession is to have the intention of returning to God like the "prodigal son" and to acknowledge our sins with true sorrow before the priest. ...



Remember

If you need help — especially if you have been away for some time — simply ask the priest and he will help you by "walking" you through the steps to make a good confession. ...

During Confession

After examining your conscience and telling God of your sorrow, go into the confessional. You may kneel at the screen or sit to talk face-to-face with the priest. Begin your confession with the sign of the cross, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. My last confession was _____ weeks (months, years) ago." The priest may read a passage from holy Scripture.

Say the sins that you remember. Start with the one(s) that is most difficult to say. (In order to make a good confession the faithful must confess all mortal sins, according to kind and number.) After confessing all the sins you remember since your last good confession, you may conclude by saying, "I am sorry for these and all the sins of my past life." Listen to the words of the priest. He will assign you some penance. Doing the penance will diminish the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven. When invited, express some prayer of sorrow or Act of Contrition such as:

An Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. But most of all because I have offended you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

At the End of Confession

Listen to the words of absolution, the sacramental forgiveness of the Church through the ordained priest. As you listen to the words of forgiveness you may make the sign of the cross with the priest. If he closes by saying, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good," answer, "For His mercy endures forever."

There are many Catholic Web sites that will help one go back to confession. In Google, just type in "How to go to Confession."

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."

Matthew 7:1



THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

World needs peacemakers strengthened by faith, pope says at audience

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world needs peace and it needs peacemakers who are strengthened by faith and committed to promoting reconciliation among peoples, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience at the Vatican March 23, the pope continued his series of audience talks about the doctors of the Church, focusing on St. Lawrence of Brindisi, an Italian Capuchin and famed preacher.

Pope Benedict said the priest, who served as a military chaplain at the beginning of the 1600s, “applied himself heroically to efforts toward peace and reconciliation between the nations and peoples of Europe.”

“The moral authority he enjoyed made him an adviser who was much sought after and listened to,” the pope said.

“Today, just as in the time of St. Lawrence, the world needs peace, it needs peaceful and pacifying men and women. All those who believe in God must always be sources of peace and peacemakers,” Pope Benedict told an estimated 10,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the first outdoor audience of the spring.

The pope said St. Lawrence had a great gift for languages and spoke German and French in addition to Italian and to the classic languages: Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Syrian.

But his linguistic skills were not the key to his success in politics and in evangelization, the pope said.

Although he held positions of great importance and had a heavy workload, “Lawrence cultivated a spiritual life of exceptional fervor, dedicating much time to prayer and especially to the celebration of the holy Mass, which often would last for hours.”

The pope said St. Lawrence knew large sections of the Bible by heart and would spend hours each day praying with the Scriptures.

He was convinced that “listening to and accepting the word of God would produce an interior transformation that would lead to holiness,” Pope Benedict said.

“Today, too, the Church needs well-prepared, zealous and courageous apostles for the new evangelization so that the light and beauty of the Gospel would prevail over the cultural currents of ethical relativism and religious indifference,” the pope said.

Mass – Extremely Boring or Pinnacle Moment for Christians?

Continued from p. 15

other faith communities and be content with the Catholic Mass?

The answer is almost the same for every convert. In the Mass, heaven touches earth, and we receive the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.

The pinnacle moment of my year is the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Easter Vigil. I do not say this lightly. No kidding, it is the best Saturday night of the year. I wouldn’t be surprised if heaven itself opened up, and I could see angels turning toward the altar. I wouldn’t be surprised to see the saints weeping for joy right along with the rest of us.

And it isn’t just the priest praying the

Mass that pierces my soul. I would willingly trade all my albums, tapes, and CDs just to listen to the cantor’s voice as she sings the Litany of Saints on that same night.

But there’s more. Doesn’t it get to you when you see a little child hold the prayer book while the parish priest leads the faithful? Really, can you think of anything sweeter than how that little one looks up to the priest and waits for him to close the cover - how the child quietly walks back to his seat and waits patiently for the moment he is needed next?

Even that little child knows that it isn’t about him. It is about helping the people to pray.

That’s powerful stuff. In moments like that I realize how the Church has preserved the proper meaning of worship. Even with all the changes in technology, all the big screens and sound systems, even with the stage-centered, entertainment-based Christianity that mimics some American Idol episode - for two thousand years, the Catholic Church has remained holy. Christ-centered.

This is the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

And there is no performance anywhere in this country of entertainers and gifted speakers that can match the beauty and glory of the Divine Liturgy.

Pope Benedict’s Intentions April 2011

General Intention: That the Church may offer new generations, through the believable proclamation of the Gospel, ever-new reasons of life and hope.

Missionary Intention: That missionaries, with the proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may bring Christ to all those who do not yet know him.

Benedictine Monks lead Monastic Experience in Dallas

DALLAS — The 14th annual multi-denominational Dallas Benedictine Monastic Experience will take place at The Catholic Conference and Formation Center in Dallas from Wednesday, June 22 to Sunday, June 26. This monastic experience is presented by The Friends of St. Benedict, Washington, D.C. and is open to men and women, laity and clergy, of all denominations. Participants will live on the campus of the center for five days, forming a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of The Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work and leisure. Four Benedictine Offices (Lauds, Sext, Vespers, and Compline) will be chanted each day in English in Gregorian Chant. There will also be two classes each day on Benedictine spirituality. Please call 214-339-8483 (10:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. in Dallas) or e-mail dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com for more information.

The monastic experience will be led by two nationally-known religious figures. The Very Rev. Robert Hale, O.S.B. Cam, is a Roman Catholic Camaldolese Benedictine monk. He was superior for twelve years of New Camaldoli Monastery in Big Sur, California, where he became a monk in 1959. He has a Ph.D. in Theology from Fordham University. He has taught theology at Sant’Anselmo University in Rome, and at The Jesuit School of Theology of The Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He is the author of *Canterbury and Rome: Sister Churches*; *Christ and the Universe*; and *Love on the Mountain: The Chronicle Journal of a Camaldolese Monk*. This will be Father Rob-

ert’s seventh time as a leader of the Dallas Benedictine Monastic Experience.

Brother Abraham Newsom, O.S.B., a Texas native, is a monk at St. Gregory’s Abbey (Episcopal) in Three Rivers, Michigan. He was the co-editor of *Singing God’s Praises: The First Sixty Years*, a history of St. Gregory’s Abbey, and has had articles published in various media, including *Veil and Cowl: Writings from the World of Monks and Nuns* and *St. Gregory’s own Abbey Letter*. He has led various Benedictine quiet days, retreats, and classes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the Midwest, and New England, and is returning for the fifth time as a leader of the Dallas Benedictine Monastic Experience.

Both Father Robert and Brother Abraham will give presentations on Benedictine values and their applications to life today. Both monks are also available for private spiritual meetings for those who wish it.

Reporting Child Abuse • Hotline 1-800-252-5400

If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused or neglected.

Pope’s new book is instant New York Times Bestseller “Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week” debuts among world’s best-selling books

SAN FRANCISCO—Pope Benedict XVI’s second volume on Christ’s life debuts on the March 27 *New York Times* Bestseller List. Released March 10 worldwide, the new volume covers the last week of Jesus’ earthly life - from his entrance into Jerusalem to his resurrection and appearances to his apostles and other followers.

“We’re delighted that *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week* is an instant *New York Times* bestseller. It means that many people across the country are discovering Pope Benedict’s insights into the life of Jesus Christ,” said Mark Brumley, president of Ignatius Press reacting to the announcement. “In this way, more and more people will encounter the real Jesus, which was the Holy Father’s goal in writing the book. It would be great if *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week* became the number one book in America!”

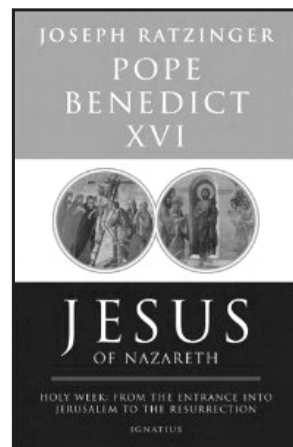
Global reaction to the book makes it clear that Benedict XVI has contributed a work on Jesus that is as important and historically significant as it is well-written and thorough.

“It’s a remarkable achievement,” said Protestant scholar Dr. Craig A. Evans of Acadia Divinity College, Acadia University, in Wolfville, N.S., Canada. “It’s the best book I’ve read on Jesus in years. This is a book that I think all Christians should read, be they Protestant or Catholic.”

“(The Pope) asked for the union of theology and critical history, a response to the failure of critical historical schol-

arship during the last century,” said Dr. Jacob Neusner, Rabbi and Distinguished Research Professor of Religion and Theology at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. “And he’s accomplished something that no one else has achieved in the modern study of Scripture.”

“This book fulfills Pope Benedict’s ardent desire - that it would ‘be helpful to all readers who seek to encounter Jesus and to believe in him,’” said Capuchin Father Thomas G. Weinandy (O.F.M., Cap.), Executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Doctrine.



Taizé Prayer Service

Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to a Taizé Prayer Experience on Tuesday, April 19, from 7-8 p.m. in the Convent Auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, (1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria). Taizé prayer service is held in a candlelight atmosphere and consists of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession. For more information call (361) 575-7111.

**Chancery Office
Will Be Closed
The Following Days**

April 21 - Holy Thursday
April 22 - Good Friday
April 25 - Easter Monday

**Have a Blessed
Easter Season**



Capital Comments

By Margaret McGettrick
Education Director
Texas Catholic conference



Equal educational opportunity for all.....at last?

In January, I was alarmed to read the story of an Ohio woman who was convicted of lying about her residency to get her daughters into a better school district. She spent nine days in jail. "It's overwhelming, I'm exhausted," she said. "I did it for them, so there it is. I did it for them." School officials said that she was cheating because her daughters received a quality education without paying taxes to fund it. While no one condones lying, this story gives us a glimpse into the measures that some parents will go to in order to facilitate their children having a good education. Should a child's educational success hang in the balance because of the zip code in which he or she resides? This is not only a social justice issue but one involving civil rights.

Since the stock markets and housing markets imploded a couple of years ago, people around the world have been experiencing a global recession that has resulted in loss of jobs and business opportunities as well as retirement benefits. Here in Texas some are projecting a budget shortfall for fifteen and twenty seven billion dollars for the next biennium (two years). Nevertheless, in the midst of this enormous cloud looming over us, we have detected what could potentially be a silver lining. Across the country there is a growing movement by states to allow corporate tax credits for scholarship programs that would produce a savings to the state and at the same time equalize educational opportunities for low-income families, such as the family in Ohio. Currently nine states have such a program. There is no doubt

in everyone's mind that education in the United States is at a crossroads and decisions need to be made about opportunities being equal and fair for all students in order for them to succeed.

HB 2353, filed by Representative Madden, and SB 1847, filed by Senator Lucio, are the bills that the Texas Catholic Conference will strongly be supporting during this legislative session. If successful, these bills will permit corporations and insurance companies to contribute money to qualifying nonprofit educational assistance organizations that award PreK-12 scholarships to students from needy families who are most at risk of dropping out of school. Another goal of the program would enable children to achieve a greater level of excellence in their education, thus reducing the dropout rate by an anticipated one third. The savings to the state budget comes from the difference between what a student presently costs the state versus the student's cost to the state under the scholarship program. This difference, which could range from \$4,000 to \$6,000 per student in the program, is a direct savings to the state each year (average annual estimated savings: \$150 million). Any corporation or insurance carrier that has a tax liability to the state by virtue of either their franchise or insurance premium taxes would be eligible to participate.

If the dropout rate in Texas was measured in terms of tsunamis or earthquakes we would be declaring a state of emergency. Now is the time to act and do what is expected of us for the good of our children.

Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes on Advocacy and Political Participation

INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Bishops of Texas recognize the need to distribute guidelines for parishes concerning advocacy and electioneering in election years. The Church speaks often to issues that are both moral and political, but it directs its attention to the issues, not to political parties or candidates.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has addressed this issue:

We bishops have the primary responsibility to hand on the Church's moral and social teaching. Together with priests and deacons, assisted by religious and lay leaders of the Church, we are to teach fundamental moral principles that help Catholics form their consciences correctly, to provide guidance on the moral dimensions of public decisions, and to encourage the faithful to carry out their responsibilities in political life. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Church's leaders are to avoid endorsing or opposing candidates or telling people how to vote.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. Our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable. Catholic voters should use the framework of Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues affecting human life and dignity as well as issues of justice and peace, and they should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy and performance.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith iterates:

It must be noted also that a well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law, which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals. The Christian faith is an integral unity, and thus it is incoherent to isolate some particular element to the detriment of the whole of Catholic doctrine. A political commitment to a single isolated aspect of the Church's social doctrine does not exhaust one's responsibility towards the common good.¹

The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group.

Decisions about political life are complex and require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with outright opposition to laws and other policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. In making these decisions, it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose intrinsically evil

See *Guidelines for Pastors*, p. 20

We must support chaplaincy programs

By Andrew Rivas,
Executive Director,
Texas Catholic Conference



Whenever I say the Lord's Prayer I am reminded that we Christians are supposed to think about things like justice and mercy, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We are also supposed to be humble, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

However, in the context of our modern society, where we spend billions of dollars on a criminal justice system that employs officers, courts, jails, prisons, and incarcerates thousands of men and women, what does justice mean? Is being "tough on crime" or "three strikes and you're out" enough of a Christian response or do mercy and forgiveness truly have roles in our society? And, now that our state is forced to cut back its spending, how do we as people of faith approach funding for our criminal justice system?

As we speak, the Texas legislature is proposing to significantly reduce or even eliminate all funding for the Chaplaincy Department that serves our state's jails and prisons. Without chaplains, access to spiritual guidance and faith-based programs in our prisons and jails will diminish and possibly even disappear. The TCC supports increased funding and support for the chaplain corps within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, including ensuring access to inmates by all chaplains. The short term cost savings for our state would likely result in a long-term rise in recidivism (people committing crimes and going back to prison within three years) because one of the best ways to rehabilitate an offenders is to help them find and nurture their faith.

Pope John Paul II taught, in his Message for the Jubilee in prisons, that "even time in prison does not escape God's dominion....those who are in detention must not live as if their time in prison had

been taken from them completely: even time in prison is God's time. As such it needs to be lived to the full; it is a time which needs to be offered to God as an occasion of truth, humility, expiation and even faith" (3).

In speaking to legislators, I have been told that our budget is in crisis and we have to cut back, and that churches will still provide chaplains for free. While I appreciate the need for fiscal responsibility, the reality is that if there is no funding for chaplains, faith based programs will likely be managed by a correctional officer or staff person. While it is true that Churches will indeed continue to provide pastoral care to those incarcerated as best they can, the hard economic truth is that Churches have to cut their budgets as well. How many of us know a diocesan or parish staff person who has been laid off recently due to the economy?

Our legislators have an enormous task this session; they need to pass a fiscally responsible budget that serves the needs of our state. I don't believe they can do it alone, our legislators need our help. We need to tell them that funding the Chaplains Department and helping prisoners find their faith is the responsible thing to do.

For more information on our support of chaplaincy programs, visit our web site at www.TXcatholic.org and check out our legislative agenda and policy paper on the issue, as well as our testimony section.

"Choose Life" License Plate Bill Passes the Senate

AUSTIN—The Choose Life License Plate bill (SB 257) passed the Senate, and is now on to the House! In March, TCC testified on HB 303 (Fee on money transfers to Mexico or Central or South America - oppose) and Marie Seale, Director of the Office of Pro-Life Activities and Chaste Living for the Diocese of Austin, testified on HB 561 (Ban on hospital districts from using tax revenue to finance an abortion - support). Both bills were left pending in committee. To learn more, please go to <http://www.txcatholic.org/>. Under Weekly Legislative Updates, click on the bill name to view the testimony, or visit our Letters and Testimony page.

Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day Promoting Life, Justice and Peace April 6, 2011

The Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day is just a few days away. Join Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop García-Siller, Bishop Flores, Bishop Mulvey, Bishop Rodriguez, Bishop Seitz, Bishop Vann, Bishop Vásquez, and fellow Texas Catholics at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, to advocate for the Texas Catholic Bishops' public policy concerns.

Participants are invited to visit the State Capitol and advocate for the Texas Bishops' Legislative Agenda. There are many ways to get involved. You can participate through your prayers, through phone calls and e-mailing your legislators prior to our day to let them know that you support the Catholics who will be visiting them on April 6, and/or by coming to the Capitol on the Advocacy day.

Most importantly, please PRAY for the success of the day!

Support our Texas bishops by going to their Web site at <http://www.txcatholic.org/>

"Why do we Advocate? Because religion is part of the public square." – Cardinal Daniel DiNardo



Remember Your Mother/Grandmother on Mother's Day May 8

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Religious artwork – a bit of a mystery

Continued from p. 13

To see an example of how this type of “moving picture” works, go to <http://americanart.si.edu/luce/object.cfm?key=338&artistmedia=0&subkey=175415> and click on the little black box in the middle of the Web page that says “See it in 3D.”

The exact origins of these objects remain obscure, Ms. Pask reported; however, there are literary references as early as the seventeenth century, by such writers as Robert Burton, which refer to them as “turning pictures.”

The spread of three-way pictures into popular culture is not well-documented, she stated.

In the United States, three-way pictures on paper from the nineteenth century were made by Currier and Ives. These Currier and Ives three-way prints are rare, however, Ms. Pask said. Those that do exist have different combinations of presidents or government leaders, such as one with

Lincoln, Grant and Sherman, and in another, Sheridan is substituted for Sherman. This piece can be viewed at <http://www.chicagohs.org/research/visit/american-archives-month>. She also reported that the Emory University Library, Georgia, has a three-in-one picture of the Confederate leaders, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis and Stonewall Jackson.

“Unfortunately, I found no other details about these pictures published by Currier and Ives,” Ms. Pask said, “nor did I find references to three-in-one prints of subjects other than presidents.”

So, the mystery continues.

“As authentic and as old as it is, it needs to be in Concepcion or one of the missions,” he said, “but that’s my idea; I don’t know.”

Editor’s note: If anyone knows more about this work of art, please contact me at cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org or (361-573-0828 ext. 2231). Thank you.

Presidio La Bahia celebrates 175th Texas Revolution anniversary

Continued from p. 1

ings, patriotic concert and camp visitations also were well attended.

“Attendance was up at least 10 percent over the two-day event in 2010,” reported Newton M. Warzecha, director of the citadel-museum-chapel complex for the past 20 years. “We also had a record number (259) re-enactors and 93 tents, authentic down to the last detail, thanks to the Crossroads of Texas Living History Assn.” <http://www.cotlha.com/>

K. R. Wood and the “Gone To Texas Band” blended ballads like “The Men of Goliad” and “Davy Crockett” into a standing-room only concert in the 232-year-old Our Lady of Loreto Chapel.

Similar SRO crowds attended Warzecha’s historic lecture and comments by John D. Willingham, author of the recently released historical novel, “Edge of Freedom” (Inkwater Press, \$22.95; Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Powell Books; Kindle, \$5.99).

“Our Friends of the Fort organization grew its membership, and its dinner and auction Saturday night were the most successful in our 18 years of fundraising events,” Warzecha added.

The Sunday Memorial Service drew hundreds of visitors to the Fannin Monument for flag presentations, three volleys of 21-gun salutes, historic speeches and the placement of flowers and wreaths by the descendants of those Texians and Texicans who died during that bloody chapter of the 1836 revolution.

Also represented were family members of the “Angel of Goliad, whose merciful heart, unyielding courage and incredible exertions are credited with convincing Mexican officers to evade and partially disobey General Santa Ana’s orders to shoot all prisoners. The Mexican woman, Francisca, (Panchita) Alavez, saved about 15 of the colonial soldiers. A bronze statue, near the final resting place of the remains of the 342 men who died, honors her heroic efforts.

After years of negotiation, the crumbling Our Lady of Loreto Chapel and the ruins of the fort were purchased from the City of Goliad in 1853 for \$1,000. The Catholic Diocese of Victoria now owns the revered historic landmark and the pastoral hilltop land around it next to the San Antonio River.

The first full restoration of the fortress occurred in the 1960s with extensive funds from the Kathryn Stoner O’Connor Foundation. The Museum, which now tells the story of the Spanish and Mexican Colonial periods as well as the Texas Revolution, was fully renovated at a cost of

more than \$500,000 during 3½ years and re-dedicated this past summer.

Admissions are \$4 (ages 12-59); \$3.50 for (60 and older and military personnel), and \$1 for children (ages 6-11). Children age five and younger are admitted free. Group rates are available with advance reservations. The Presidio’s Facebook Fan Page is at: <http://tiny.cc/cy8vg>.

Student Program Accelerating

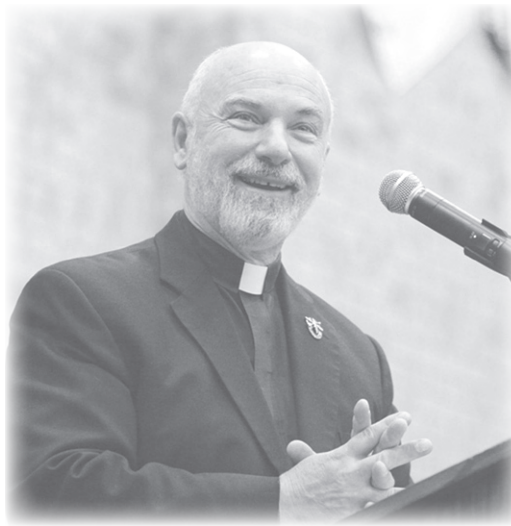
Through a generous \$50,000 grant from the Mary Hobbs Griffith Foundation, announced this past June, free admission is being offered in March, April and May to 10,000 Texas students in 4th and 7th grade social studies. Funds of up to \$5 per child also help underwrite transportation costs for school field trips.

“These incentives are definitely working,” Warzecha noted. “Through March 25, we’ve had 1,586 students take advantage of the program, compared to 2,200 for the full three month period in 2010. We have group booking exceeding 6,000 students, and we are still booking schools. Public, parochial, private and home-schooled groups are welcome to apply.” (361-645-3752 or presidiolabahia@goliad.net.)

“Preservation and education are what Presidio La Bahia are all about,” he emphasized. “We have reenactors on site for these visits, and David Vickers of Beeville, Texas, an award-winning seventh-grade social studies teacher, developed a lesson plan to help teachers convey the key elements of the civil war that led to the Republic of Texas.

“Through the cooperation and participation of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., students also can visit Goliad State Park and tour the Mission Espiritu Santo and museum. This program is on a first come-first serve basis. To qualify, reservations have to be made in advance,” Warzecha stated.

For more information, please contact Newton M. Warzecha, director of Presidio La Bahia and president of The Presidio La Bahia Foundation, Goliad, TX, at (361) 645-3752, <http://www.presidiolabahia.org/index.html>.



2007 file photo of Father John Corapi, SOLT (CNS photo/ Dave Hrbacek, *Catholic Spirit*)

Father Corapi, a popular preacher, put on administrative leave

By Catholic News Service

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (CNS) — Father John Corapi, a popular author and preacher who has had speaking engagements all over the world, has been placed on administrative leave from priestly ministry over an accusation of misconduct.

“We have received an allegation that Father Corapi has behaved in a manner unbecoming of a priest and are duty-bound to conduct an investigation into this accusation,” said Father Gerard Sheehan, a spokesman for Father Corapi’s community, the Texas-based Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

Father Sheehan, who has the title “regional priest servant,” issued the statement March 18 on behalf of the community.

“It is important to keep in mind that this action in no way implies Father Corapi is guilty of the allegation,” Father Sheehan said. “It is equally important to know that, based on the information we have received thus far, the claim of misconduct does not involve minors and does not arise to the level of criminal conduct.”

The matter will “be investigated internally,” he said. Father Sheehan did not reveal the exact nature of the allegation.

In a March 19 statement, Father Corapi said, “All of the allegations in the complaint are false, and I ask you to pray for all concerned.” His statement was posted on his Web site, www.fathercorapi.com.

He said he learned on Ash Wednesday, March 9, that a former employee “sent a three-page letter to several bishops accusing me of everything from drug addiction to multiple sexual exploits with her and several other adult women.”

Father Sheehan told Catholic News Service that Bishop William M. Mulvey of Corpus Christi has instructed the religious community to ask two priests who are not clergy of the diocese and who are

not members of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity to investigate the allegation. The two priests have not yet been named.

In his statement, Father Sheehan added that “unless and until information suggests otherwise,” the allegation made against Father Corapi “will not be referred to civil authorities.”

If officials of the religious community learn that the accusation involves a violation of criminal civil law, he said they would refer the matter to civil authorities.

In his statement, Father Corapi complained that the bishops’ procedures to protect minors from sex abuse by church personnel are “being applied broadly to respond to all complaints,” whether the complaint is deemed “to be credible or not.”

“I’ll certainly cooperate with the process, but personally believe that it is seriously flawed, and is tantamount to treating the priest as guilty ‘just in case,’ then, through the process, determining if he is innocent,” Father Corapi said. “The resultant damage to the accused is immediate, irreparable and serious, especially for someone like myself, since I am so well known.

“I am not alone in this assessment, as multiple canon lawyers and civil and criminal attorneys have stated publicly that the procedure does grave damage to the accused from the outset, regardless of rhetoric denying this, and has little regard for any form of meaningful due process,” he added.

In a March 21 statement, the bishop of the Montana diocese in which Father Corapi resides urged people “to accord Father Corapi the principles of due process, including the assumption of innocence, until a full investigation is carried out by his superiors.”

Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes on Advocacy and Political Participation

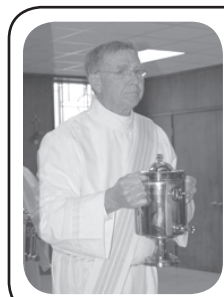
Continued from p. 19

acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions. These decisions should take into account a candidate’s commitments, character, integrity and ability to influence a given issue. In the end, this is a decision to be made by each Catholic guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.

Building a world of respect for human life and dignity, where justice and peace prevail, requires more than just political

commitment. Individuals, families, businesses, community organizations and government all have a role to play. Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues. Participation in political life in light of fundamental moral principles is an essential duty for every Catholic and all people of good will.

-Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 2007; Learn more about Faithful Citizenship online at www.faithfulcitizenship.org. For complete text of the 2007 Political Activity Guidelines for Catholic Organizations from the USCCB Office of General Counsel, go to www.USCCB.org/ogc/guidelines.shtml. Questions that might arise from these guidelines should be referred to the Texas Catholic Conference at (512)339-9882 or at www.TXcatholic.org.



**Chrism Mass
(Blessing of Holy Oils)
Tuesday, April 19, at 10 a.m. at
Our Lady of Victory Cathedral**





A Libyan mourner places a flower in the soil March 24 at the martyrs' cemetery in Tripoli during the funeral for people killed after airstrikes by coalition forces March 23. (CNS photo/Ahmed Jadallah, Reuters)

Pope appeals for suspension of fighting in Libya

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed for a suspension of fighting in Libya and the immediate start of a serious dialogue aimed at restoring peace to the North African country. Speaking at his weekly blessing March 27, the pope said he was increasingly concerned at the news from Libya, where rebels supported by U.S. and European airstrikes have battled the forces of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. "My fear for the safety and well-being of the civilian population is growing, as is my apprehension over how the situation is developing with the use of arms," the pope said. "To international agencies and to those with political and military responsibility, I make a heartfelt appeal for the immediate start of a dialogue that will suspend the use of arms," he said. The pope said that in moments of great international tension, there was more urgency for diplomatic efforts that take advantage of "even the weakest sign of openness to reconciliation" among the parties in conflict. Solutions should be "peaceful and lasting," he said. The pope offered a prayer for "the return of harmony in Libya" and throughout North Africa.

Rome expecting at least 300,000 pilgrims for John Paul's beatification

Continued from p. 1

basket to large Italian companies to come up with at least \$1.7 million to cover the costs of handling 300,000 pilgrims for the beatification, Msgr. Andreatta said.

Although the city of Rome and its hotels, restaurants and shops will benefit financially from the pilgrims, Msgr. Andreatta said the financial crisis still weighing on Italy made the diocese look to donors instead of the local government for funding.

The money will cover building a stage and installing a sound system and lighting at the Circus Maximus, running extra buses, covering the cost of the bus and subway tickets included in the pilgrim's package, renting and erecting crowd-control barriers and renting dozens of large video screens.

The screens will be placed in the squares around the Vatican and in most of

the churches in the historic center of Rome so that people who cannot get close to St. Peter's Square or would prefer to stay away from the crowds can still follow the Mass, he said.

An Italian beverage company has donated 1 million bottles of mineral water, he said, and a restaurant chain has donated the ingredients for thousands of box lunches.

Father Atuire said that as of March 29, the largest numbers of pilgrims were coming from Italy, then Pope John Paul's native Poland, followed by Spain and the United States.

Opera Romano Pellegrinaggi has launched a special Web site — www.jpibeatus.org — to assist pilgrims with reservations and information. The information is available in five languages, including English.

Pope John Paul II: Intended for TV

Continued from p. 16

unifying humanity and turning it into what is known as a 'global village,'" the pope said. "The means of social communication have become so important as to be for many the chief means of information and education, of guidance and inspiration in their behavior as individuals, families and within society at large. In particular, the younger generation is growing up in a world conditioned by the mass media."

The pope saw media's importance beyond its ability to deliver a message in a moment. He said that the modern medium is "not meant merely to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel."

"There is a deeper reality involved here," he said. "Since the very evangeliza-

tion of modern culture depends to a great extent on the influence of the media, it is not enough to use the media simply to spread the Christian message and the Church's authentic teaching. It is also necessary to integrate that message into the 'new culture' created by modern communications. This is a complex issue, since the 'new culture' originates not just from whatever content is eventually expressed, but from the very fact that there exist new ways of communicating, with new languages, new techniques and a new psychology."

Pope John Paul II saw how the media was an integral part of a changing world. He embraced modern media and they, in return, embraced him.

Dioceses in Japan

Three archdioceses and 13 dioceses make up the Catholic church in Japan, where Christians are a small minority. Most people practice Buddhism and/or Shintoism.

Catholics..... 537,000
Percent of population4
Archbishops, bishops 26
Priests 1,541
Parishes 831



Sources: Anuario Pontificio, 2011 Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Almanac

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Worldwide concern, prayers helping Japanese to cope, US priest says

SEATTLE (CNS) — Despite the devastation caused by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Catholics and others there are buoyed by the support they are receiving from around the world, according to a U.S. priest who has lived there for decades. "The prayers and support from around the world are a great source of strength and reinforce the image of us all sharing a common humanity under God our Father," said Maryknoll Father Jim Mylet in an e-mail to The Catholic Northwest Progress, Seattle archdiocesan newspaper. Father Mylet, who grew up in St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Seattle and graduated from O'Dea High School, first went to Japan as a seminarian in 1970. He is now the pastor of two parishes in the Diocese of Sapporo on the northern island of Hokkaido, Japan's second-largest island. "All the parishioners here and I are physically OK but depressed by the over-

whelming devastation dealt to our nation," he wrote. The two dioceses most affected by the earthquake and tsunami, he said, are Saitama and Sendai. One priest, a 76-year-old member of the Quebec Foreign Mission Society, died of a heart attack at the time of the earthquake, and another priest is missing, he said. "Because the church tends to build on hills everywhere, only two places were affected by the tsunami, although there was damage from the earthquake," he added. There are about 509,000 Catholics in Japan out of a total population of more than 127 million, according to Vatican statistics. "Right now Japan is like Israel when they came back from the exile and found the Temple destroyed and their homes occupied: homeless (in the case of Japan, homes destroyed)," said Father Mylet. "It is a time when people lose heart, and the Church is trying to be a beacon of hope in these difficult circumstances."

CRS announces it is resuming its food program in Western Darfur

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services has announced that it is resuming operations in Western Darfur more than two months after evacuating its staff. A statement on the CRS Web site March 28 said the agency was working with local government officials to ensure food distribution began immediately, and it expressed appreciation "for support." Two days earlier, the agency announced that the government had asked CRS to leave because it said it could not guarantee staffers' security. CRS remained in Darfur in 2009 when the government expelled 13 other aid agencies. In mid-January, more than a dozen CRS workers were evacuated from a remote area of Western Darfur to the Sudanese capital of Khartoum with the help

of the United Nations after receiving "indications of threats." A CRS spokeswoman discounted rumors that the agency had been distributing Bibles in the area. The threats and evacuation came less than two weeks after the start of an independence referendum in Southern Sudan in which voters overwhelmingly voted to separate from the North. CRS worked to support programs, such as peace-building initiatives and distribution of radios to people, so they could educate themselves about the referendum. CRS has worked in Sudan since 1972 and first began responding to the Darfur crisis in 2004. The agency had said if it had closed its food program, more than 400,000 people would have been without food aid.

Vatican creates online presence for John Paul II

Continued from p. 16

Vatican's YouTube sites that recount various milestones on Pope John Paul's path to beatification, including the Jan. 14 announcement of the upcoming ceremony in Rome.

According to a statement from the Vatican, the projects carry the seal of the Vatican and has the objective of "accompanying" the faithful on the route to the May 1 beatification. Through the initiative, they hope to make a part of the "vast documentary patrimony" of the Vatican television and radio archives available for greater access.

Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, Vatican

spokesman and director of both the radio and television centers, told Vatican Radio on March 14 that the Web pages were created to put people back in contact with John Paul II through images and words.

For him, the memory of the late-pope lives on with youth today, but social networks do even more to make his presence more easily accessible in a multimedia format.

The new pages, located at www.youtube.com/giovannipaoloi and www.facebook.com/vatican.johnpaul2, are now available online.

Pray for Peace on Earth!



For the Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service



What purpose does it serve to scapegoat unions and the middle class?

There's a story flitting around the Internet that goes something like this: A union member, a tea partier and a CEO sit down to share a dozen cookies. The CEO promptly takes 11 of them, looks at the tea party guy and says, "Watch that union guy. He probably won't share that cookie with you."

Sometimes a vignette is worth 10,000 words. In an era of overwhelming corporate and Wall Street greed, we must avoid the tendency to blame our economic woes on our fellow middle class citizens.

Weeks before the great Wisconsin labor debate, my parish held a justice committee meeting where some of the same issues boiled over.

Anchorage has a labor dispute going on between the workers at two downtown hotels and the outside firms that recently acquired them. There's informational picketing going on, and the union has asked the community to boycott the hotels.

For the most part, the Catholic Church here has joined the boycott. The union members are not asking for more. They want to have reinstated the benefits and working conditions that the new owners yanked out from under them. So far, the National Labor Relations Board has ruled in their favor on most issues, but still the deadlock persists.

Our justice committee invited the union to discuss the issues. We've made overtures to hotel management, and one official may come to speak later.

A local right-wing radio talk show host came in halfway through the presentation and clashed swords — metaphorically of course — with the burly local AFL-CIO president.

This made for great Catholic drama, as the radio guy sings in the early morning Sunday choir and the AFL-CIO honcho lectors at another Mass, proving again that Catholic congregations are often a microcosm of rowdy American democracy.

One question that emerged: So what business is this of the Church?

It's a good moment in American history to remind Catholics of Pope Leo XIII and the relentless Catholic drumbeat for social justice. In 1891, Pope Leo issued his encyclical "Rerum Novarum," in which he established the right of workers to form unions. Yep, that's a Catholic value.

Pope Leo also said that workers should be paid fairly, should have decent working conditions, and should be able to save to own their own property.

What prompted this encyclical?

The late 19th century saw a vast move-

ment from an agrarian culture to cities where the Industrial Revolution was transforming lives. Brutal working conditions, child labor and exploitation of laborers were rampant.

In response to this, Karl Marx thought he'd found the answer. However, Pope Leo saw that the Catholic Church had to take a stand: Godless Marxism and collectivization were not the answers, but neither were the horrors of unbridled capital. Somehow, the working man must join in the prosperity.

Subsequent popes have consistently reiterated these Catholic values.

Do unions make mistakes? Absolutely.

Have state and local officials sometimes bargained poorly, accepting union political contributions with one hand and handing out unnecessary benefits with another? Sometimes. But those same officials receive contributions from wealthy corporations as well.

Almost every day, we hear another story about the decline of the middle class, a class made strong historically in the United States by the union movement.

Unions are now in decline, yet since the recession of 2008, how many Wall Street honchos have received huge bonuses? How much regulatory change has been enacted to ensure against another crisis like the one caused by subprime mortgages?

Meanwhile, Congress makes sure the billionaire with 11 cookies keeps his tax cuts, while the gap between rich and poor grows ever wider.

Pope Benedict urges workplace safety, prays for unemployed

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church supports every effort to guarantee each person a job that is safe, dignified and stable, Pope Benedict XVI told a group of Italians, including many unemployed steel workers. "Work is one of the fundamental elements both of the human person and of society. Difficulties or precarious conditions of work make it difficult and precarious to live an ordered life in line with the needs of the common good," the pope said March 26 during an audience with Catholics from the Diocese of Terni, Narni and Amelia, Italy. He said that every precaution must be taken "to break the chain of deaths and accidents" that happen in the workplace. Pope Benedict's meeting with more than 7,000 members of the diocese commemorated the visit Pope John Paul II made to Italy's "Steel City" 30 years earlier. Italy's first steel plant, built in 1886, was located in Terni, a town in Umbria.

God poses no danger to society, individuals, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Asking questions about God is not a threat to individuals or society, just as a secular society that respects freedom of conscience is not a danger to religion, Pope Benedict XVI said. "If we are to build a world of liberty, equality and fraternity, then believers and

Pro-Life Talk Continued

By Father Tommy Chen, director of Diocesan Pro-Life Concerns

The Right to Life used to be self-evident. But what has happened?

We live in a time when the culture of this nation has not only reversed the proper ordering of these Rights upon which our nation was founded, but also has redefined the genuine Pursuit of Happiness, as a mere pursuit of pleasure and instant gratification. And so, from this point, human life has become cheapened, because we have all been reduced to pleasure-mongering animals whose lives are disposable and whose purpose is only temporal.

- Sex is no longer the sacred expression and embodiment of the married love between husband and wife, but has become a recreational activity whereby two people use each other for their individual pleasure. And so, anyone can do it.

- A child is no longer viewed as a blessing from God (even by some married couples...unless he was "planned"), but instead the baby is seen as an obstacle to economic advancement ... or a burden that must be dealt with. And so, we should prevent it ... or kill it.

- A human embryo is not recognized as a human being in the laboratory, but as an opportunity for medical discoveries. And so, we should use it.

- An elderly person who is incapable of contributing to the welfare of society is deemed useless. And so, we should euthanize him.

In this disordered searching for "Happiness," which discounts the Life and Liberty of self and others, and misconstrues temporary pleasures for true Happiness, our very existence as human beings, created in God's image and likeness as the pinnacle of the created world, is becoming degraded.

Abortion is only a symptom (all be it, a very serious symptom) of a broader and deeper sickness of our society...the disorder-

ing of the Rights and a demeaning of our own human dignity. We who were created higher than the animals, treat ourselves and other human beings as equal to or lower than a pet dog.

What must change?

Broadly speaking, our nation needs an attitude adjustment. Our priorities must be realigned.

The Pursuit of Happiness...or more correctly, the Pursuit of Pleasure cannot remain the guiding principle of our society. The hedonistic craving for pleasure and the attempt to justify and satisfy it cannot continue to hold us and our decision making hostage, as if our sole purpose in life is to move from one temporary pleasure to another. We were created for a greater purpose than that!

If we want to change the face of American society from being a culture of death, which is a direct result from an untamed and selfish pleasure-seeking, into a culture of Life, each of us will have to be willing to embrace the truth that a selfless love will be required of us: a selfless love that permeates through our speech, our actions, our attitudes, and especially our decision-making.

- A selfless love will not permit two unmarried people to use each other for their bodily gratification, because it will respect each person's body as a holy temple of God.

- A selfless love will not permit a mother to kill her own child through abortion, even if that child were conceived through rape or incest, because it will recognize every child as a gift from heaven.

- A selfless love will not permit a human embryo to be used as a laboratory experiment, because it will acknowledge the personhood of even the smallest of human beings.

- A selfless love will not permit the elders of our society to be euthanized like some unwanted street mutt, because it will realize the dignity they have, even if they are not economically "productive."

The perfect model of this selfless love is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ himself, who out of love for us, not only became incarnate, suffered, died, and resurrected for us, but also left us himself in the Blessed Sacrament as a token of that selfless love.

And through the imitation of this selfless love of Christ, the proper orientation of the Rights of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness will become established in our land once again... and human life from the moment of conception to natural death will once again become legally protected in these United States of America!

USCCB urges no change in federal housing discrimination rules

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Proposed changes in federal housing regulations to forbid discrimination based on "sexual orientation" or "gender identity" could violate existing federal law and force faith-based organizations to end their "long and successful track record in meeting housing needs," according to comments filed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Anthony R. Picarello Jr. and Michael F. Moses, USCCB general counsel and associate general counsel, respectively, said the proposal by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to add to the list of protected categories for which discrimination in HUD programs is prohibited "appears at odds" with the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which says marriage is the union of one man and one woman. "HUD should not create a new protected classification where there is no statutory policy undergirding it and where the new classification flies in the face of a policy expressly adopted by Congress," they said.

Holy Family K of C Council #9088

★ THIRD ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY ★

FRIDAY APRIL 15

HOLY FAMILY ACTIVITY CENTER
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SERVING FROM 4:30 PM TIL 7 PM



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Special Collection
Operation Rice Bowl - Sundays of Lent
and Easter Sunday
Holy Land (Good Friday) - April 22
Collection for Home Missions - May 1
Ongoing Events

Gabriel Project—a ministry providing help to pregnant women in a crisis pregnancy — an alternative to abortion — holds monthly meetings open to everyone interested. Meetings, including a light supper, are held in Victoria the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 101 W. Convent behind St. Mary's Catholic Church at 6:30 p.m. An Angel Workshop is held at the same location the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or Linda at 655-3008 for more information. Meetings are held in Wharton the 4th Tuesday of each month at Holy Family Church in Wharton (2011 Briar Lane) at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call (979) 532-3593 M-F, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Catholic Family Services—For a listing of e-mail addresses and Web sites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family from marriage preparation to marriage enrichment, fatherhood, parenting, healing, bereavement, separated or divorced, and widowed, please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <http://www.nacflm.org/>

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For more information, please go to their Web site at www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org. For meeting dates, please call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Marriage Encounter—The Marriage Encounter Weekend is open to married couples, Catholic and non-Catholic. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to make good marriages even better. For more information, see www.wvme.org; or for upcoming weekends, please contact Milton and Diane Rejcek at (979) 245-0323 or at: register@mevictoria.org.

Retrouvaille — The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' Retrouvaille is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Go to <http://www.retrouvaille.org> for more information, or to register for the Aug. 19 weekend Victoria Retrouvaille, please go to: <http://www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php> or contact Gerd and Linda Conner at lbconner@sbcglobal.net, (979) 543-3493. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and www.helpourmarriage.org

The Beginning Experience—The Beginning Experience is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. It is a ministry of the San Antonio Archdiocese Family Life Office. For more information, go to their Web site: www.beginningexperience.org; e-mail: sanantoniobe@yahoo.com; phone: (210) 734-2146.

Natural Family Planning—For information about the Symptom-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. Some great links: <http://learn-nfp.org/nfpmyths.html>; www.onemoresoul.com; and www.priestsforlife.com

Goliad—Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The Presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$4 (ages 12-59); \$3.50 for 60 and older and military personnel and \$1 (ages 6- 11), with children five and younger admitted free. Group rates are available with advance reservations. Are-enactment will be available for school groups with advance reservations. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org.

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2011 are: June 24-26, Sept. 8-11 and Nov. 11-13. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Picnics, Activities, etc.
April

Victoria—Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, Friday, April 8, at Colony Creek Country Club, benefits the Youth and Vocation Activities of the Diocese of Victoria and is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9088. For more information contact Monroe Rieger at 571-6535 or Benny Vitok at 576-5354.

Beasley—St. Wenceslaus annual bazaar April 10 at the CCD building and church grounds. A barbecue-chicken, beef and sausage dinner will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or drive-thru for plates-to-go available at \$8 p/p. The auction will start at 11:30 a.m. with many great items. There will also be many types of games, music and entertainment for all ages throughout the afternoon.

San Antonio— "Fiesta" Luncheon and Style Show with Fashions by Julian Gold, benefiting various charities of St. Matthew Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2241, will be held Sunday, April 10, at Omni Hotel beginning with social hour at noon and luncheon at 1:00 p.m. To purchase tickets, at \$40 p/p, please contact Peggy at (210) 558-8460. Omni is located at IH -10 West at the Colonyade.

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Lenten Dinner Friday, April 15 from 5-7 p.m. a fish and shrimp dinner at \$6.50 p/p will be served at the cafeteria. Dine-in or plates-to-go available. Proceeds benefit Teen ACTS and other youth retreats.

El Campo—KC Council #2490 Spring Picnic April 17 at KC Hall (1458 CR 406). Barbecue-chicken plates will be served at \$7

p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Afternoon events begin at 1:00 p.m. with a free dance with The Legacy Band. There will also be games for the children, cakewalk, auction and antique tractor show.

Weimar—St. Michael Spring Festival April 17 at Veterans Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children. Drive-thru take-home-plates (\$8 p/p) will be available at St. Michael Family Center only. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be many attractions — country store, cakewalk, children's games and rides. Food and drinks available throughout the day along with music by Czechaholics and Red Ravens.

Edna—Man to Man (M2M) is sponsoring Rez Fest, a benefit concert, April 21 with Mercy Me, Brandon Heath and Natalie Grant, sharing their music and story, on the Lovewell Live Tour at the Brackenridge Main Event Center in Edna. Purchase of tickets support the outreach of the Family Outdoor Expo and give one a chance to enjoy a great evening of music and inspiration. Tickets can be purchased at www.itickets.com! You can print them right off and receive group discounts with 10 or more in your group. More information at www.mantomanonline.org.

Bay City—Living Stations will be presented on Good Friday, April 22, at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Church.

Victoria—St. Mary's Altar Society will hold its Annual Games Party Tuesday, April 26, at 401 S. Liberty Street from 11:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$7 p/p, which includes lunch, beverages and other refreshments. There will be a country store, raffle and many door prizes. For reservations, please call: Ann Carver (361) 575-2050 or Martha Hamel (361) 575-1932.

Victoria—A Legal Aide - Special Education Clinic, presented by Texas RioGrande Legal Aide, will be held Saturday, April 30, at 110 Medical Dr. (Medical Bldg. across from DeTar Hospital - North) from 1-3 p.m. The TRLA will be discussing the following areas on Special Education Rights: Special Education Law, How to Advocate for Your Child in the School System, Social Security, State and Federal Benefits, Disability Rights and Trustee Information. Texas RioGrande Legal Aide will also be able to cover other areas of legal assistance: Employment, Family, Education and Taxes. The clinic is free of charge. For more information, please contact Yvette V. Laqua at (361) 237-7289 or e-mail: laqua.yvette@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

Bloomington—St. Patrick's Annual Spring Barbecue May 1 at the parish hall. Barbecue-chicken dinner and dessert will be served at \$7 p/p. To-go-plates begin at 9:00 a.m. Inside line begins at 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction (beginning at 11:30 a.m.), cakewalk, toy walk and other children's activities and religious goods store.

Hostyn—Holy Rosary Mayfest May1 beginning with a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. Dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. with music, activities and games all day.

Victoria—Holy Family Parish Festival May 1 at the community center with a barbecue-beef and sausage dinner starting with plates-to-go at the curb for fast service from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p or dine-in from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p for adult and \$4 p/p children under 10. There will be a cake wheel, children's games, country store, plant booth and more. Entertainment will be Rusty Steins in the dome and DJ Chris Hessler in the annex from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A live auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

Weimar—The Weimar Gedenke will be held on Mother's Day Weekend, May 6-7. There will be Arts & Crafts, BBQ Cook-Off, Biergarten, Pie Contest and booths. Music will be provided by DJ Johnny Loco, Southbound 955, Chris Rybak, Battle Dance with the Telstars and The Night Shift Band. Saturday activities include a 5K Family Run/Walk at 7:30 a.m. and Festival Parade at noon. Free admission and parking; bring your folding chairs. For more information, please call 979-725-9511 or www.weimartx.org.

Hallettsville— Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 29 at the KC Hall.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 29 at the American Legion Park.

East Bernard—Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival June 11 at Rirverside Hall.

St. Mary—St. Mary Parish Picnic June 12 at the parish hall (1648 FM 340).

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Limaa Annual Parish Picnic June 12 at KC Hall.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria—The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters are hosting "Come and See" visits for single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50 years of age) on April 9-10 at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested, please check out the Web site at www.iwbsvictoria.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation.

Victoria—Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites all to attend Lenten Vespers at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria, from 5 to 6 p.m. on the Sundays during Lent through April 17.

Victoria—A Taizé Prayer Service will be held at Incarnate Word Convent Tuesday, April 19, 7 – 9 p.m. See more on pg. 17.

Port Lavaca—The Pan de Vida prayer group from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church invites you to a charismatic conference and Mass with Father Jacinto Olguin and Father Michael de Leon Saturday, June 18. For more information please contact Mr. Joe Carreon (361) 649-5328.

Victoria—Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Bay City—Weekly Men's Group, "That Man is You! ~ A Light to the Nations," meets at Holy Cross School cafeteria each Friday morning beginning with breakfast at 5:45 a.m. and ending by 7:10 a.m. All men are welcome. That Man is You! is transforming men, families and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive! Combining the teachings of the Church and wisdom of the saints with the best research from modern science in an interactive, multimedia format, That Man is You! puts this vision within the grasp of every man (www.thatmanisyou.org). Questions? Call Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370 or Allen Green at (979) 245-2598.

Indiana—Summer Camps will be offered by the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana - Camp is for girls who will have completed 5-8th grade. 5-6th grade Camp is June 13-15 and 7-8th grade Camp is June 16-18. These camps take place outdoors, including campfires, games, crafts and sleeping in tents. Registration opened March 15. Camp size limited. Register online at www.thedome.org/vocations or e-mail Sister Michelle at vocation@thedome.org. A valid e-mail address is required.

Victoria—Missing something in your life? Do you need an uplifting experience? Why not try some PRAISE and WORSHIP. Come join Incarnate Word Prayer Group on Monday nights from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Incarnate Word Auditorium. For more information call Paula at (361) 575-7120 or Sr. Louise Marie at (361) 575-7111.

Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now for next month. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your family and friends; and experience the healing touch of the Lord! For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

ACTS Retreats—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at www.actsmiissions.org. For more information about the ACTS community movement in the El Campo Deanery, to download an upcoming ACTS retreat application, or to submit/view the prayer requests across the El Campo Deanery, please visit their site at <http://ecdeaneryacts.org/>.

Have an event???

Contact us

(361) 573-5725 (FAX)
or e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org

Seminary Burses

Continued from pgs. 4 and 11

— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	4060.00
In Memory of Stanley Friedel by Jeff & Denise Dickinson	100.00
Total	\$4,160.00
— St. John Church For Rev. Brian Crookes Burse #2	
Previously Reported	\$4,861.00
In Loving Memory of Doraine Buck	10.00
Total	\$4,871.00
— Frs. Okrulik & Verdarme Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$1,0247.89
In Honor of Albert Winter Sr. by Willie and Celestine Hubenak & family	20.00
In Memory of Frank T. Jedlicka by Ms. Georgia Jedlicka	10.00
Total	\$1,0277.89
— Reverend John C. Peters Seminary Burse #5	
Previously Reported	100.00
In Memory of Henrietta Pesek & Marie Klekar by Rev. Peters	25.00
In Memory of Mary Butschek by Deacon & Mrs. Joey Targac	25.00
In Memory of J.H. Woisard by Bea Heinzl	25.00
Total	\$175.00

Noticias en Español

Port Lavaca—El Grupo de Oración Pan de Vida de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Golfo les invita a una conferencia y misa carismática con el Padre Jacinto Olguín y el Padre Michael de León Sábado, 18 de junio, Para más información, favor de llamar al Sr. Joe Carreon (361) 649-5328



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South African woman finds help in South Texas for unborn baby

By Erica Rodriguez

The Victoria Advocate • Originally published January 1, 2011

EZZELL—It's high noon, 100 degrees, in the middle of a South Texas summer.

Megan Baylis, a leggy, upbeat South African, splashes water alongside mosquitoes in an inflatable pool beneath a tree grove.

She's 23 years old, sweating and very pregnant.

"I've never felt heat like that, and we live in Africa," she recalled recently.

Baylis, a single-mom-to-be, was six months pregnant, homeless, living in a tent when she found God again.

"The whole journey kind of got me back into believing there is a God, and he is out there looking out for us," she said.

Last year, jobless and single in Africa, she packed away her entire life and joined her father to live the back-to-the-basics style in Ezzell in rural Lavaca County.

'A DARK TIME'

Her father, Mark Baylis, moved to the U.S. to marry and dreamed of farming, raising animals, building a home and living a bare-bones life on terrain that brings back memories of South Africa.

"The way I look at it is, it was an incredible adventure," he said. "It was an amazing experience. It was pretty cool to be able to look back now and say we actually survived living in a tent for months."

Megan Baylis planned the move to reconnect with her father, who is now a citizen, and make a home in the U.S. Instead, she spent most of it finding strength.

"It was like a dark time," Baylis said.

"And it wasn't the fondest of memories."

Mark Baylis modernized the family's 20-by-10 foot tent. He installed air conditioners and Internet. Megan Baylis, her father and his wife, had their own beds and

Baylis and her father, who lost his job, passed the days driving to find air-conditioned areas. Megan Baylis - with no job, no money and no friends - focused on creating something for her baby. She snatched paint swatches from hardware stores, snipped and pasted together dozens of bright-colored butterflies.

Then the "angels" arrived.

GABRIEL PROJECT BRINGS HELP

Megan Baylis had only one pair of shoes and pants when she found the Gabriel Project, a Christian crisis pregnancy group.

The volunteers, called angels, brought her back to

multiple clinics, Krompka found a special program of the Children's Health Insurance Program that paid for doctor's visits and the birth.

'MEANT TO HAPPEN'

Twenty-six hours of labor brought Leah Ashleigh-Louise Baylis, a hefty 9-pound baby girl, into the world Nov. 19. Long and pink, the baby gurgles in Megan Baylis' lap. The two live in the



Megan Baylis' father, Mark Baylis, modernized the family tent with air conditioning and Internet. Megan Baylis lived in the tent in Ezzell, rural Lavaca County, with her father and his wife for three months during her pregnancy. Photo contributed by Mark Baylis



(inset) Leah Ashleigh-Louise, a week old, sleeps in the arms of her mother, Megan Baylis, 23, in their room filled with soft natural light and decorated with pastel-colored paper butterflies that Baylis made. Megan Baylis, a 23-year-old South African woman, came to Texas pregnant without the resources for prenatal care. In her desperation, she considered giving her baby up for adoption until The Gabriel Project stepped in and helped her with clothing, medical expenses and friendship. Photos by Marie De Jesus/mdejesus@vicad.com

an outdoor shower, but no house.

The plan was to stay there until their real home - a neat, white manufactured building - could be hauled onto the property.

But late summer rains made roads impassable for about three months. Megan Baylis grinned and occasionally giggled as she told of living through torrential rains, horrid heat and a frog infestation.

"I decided I had to stay positive," she said. "There was no option of just breaking down and crying. I think back to it now, I think how on earth did I do that?"

life.

"That was amazing, and a huge relief," she said.

The angels took her food, clothing, lotions and prayers.

Their goal is to help mothers find alternatives to abortion, an option Megan Baylis first considered.

"When I found out I was pregnant, I immediately thought of an abortion because that's what's just been drilled into you," she said. "You're not married. You don't have a job. Get rid of it."

But after learning her baby had a heartbeat and tiny limbs, she was determined to give birth - with no money.

"There was a lot of stress," she said.

Because she wasn't a citizen, finding health care was nearly impossible.

"Nobody would take her," said Pat Krompka, Megan Baylis' main angel. "We needed to do something because she was so far along already. She needed prenatal care."

After getting turned away from mul-

family home, which was finally installed in September. Leah has a crib, Onesies and a bedroom decorated with her mother's paper butterflies. The room is furnished with sacks of toys donated by the angels, who Megan Baylis now calls "family."

"Their kindness and their willingness to help - I felt like they were like my gran-nies," she said.

Mark Baylis plans on building a home next year; Megan Baylis, who entered the country on visa, must return to South Africa to be with friends and family; and the angels, well, they'll keep in touch through the Internet.

"It's almost like all of this almost happened so that I could have her," Megan Baylis said, watching Leah coo. "If I had been in South Africa, there is no way that I could have her. We don't have any organizations in South Africa that could help me because we have so many other problems. I'm very lucky. Very blessed."

Megan Baylis, a trained graphic designer, plans to design a book for all their memories.

"It'll be quite a story to tell this one, one day what we went through to get her here," Megan Baylis said, curling her fingers around Leah's pink fists. "But definitely worth it."

Editor's note: The Gabriel Project is always in desperate need of volunteers! Be a mentor to a young woman in a crisis pregnancy; work the Telephone Hotline; wash baby clothes (contact Diane at (361) 648-0007). There are many areas of need.

In Victoria, The Gabriel Project always meets for learning, discerning and fellowship the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (light supper provided) at 101 W. Convent (corner of Main & Convent) behind St. Mary's Catholic Church. Please come. For more information, please contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or e-mail her at barbaramccain85@yahoo.com.



"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU..." JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)

New printer for The Catholic Lighthouse

Since the closing of Adgraphics, the printer of *The Catholic Lighthouse* since its beginning 24 years ago, the Diocese of Victoria staff began searching for a new printer that could meet the diocesan communications needs: printing of a newspaper at low cost and able to deliver it to Victoria Pre Sort for sorting and shipping to the Victoria Post office.

For convenience and to support local businesses, the editor, Cynthia Brewer, was hoping to keep the print-

ing of the paper in the Diocese of Victoria. She and the staff have been successful.

The Catholic Lighthouse will now be printed by *The Wave* in Port Lavaca. *The Wave* also prints the *Palacios Beacon*, the *Rockport Pilot*, and *Wingspan* (the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station paper), to name a few. And *The Catholic Lighthouse* will actually save money going with *The Wave*. The staff hopes for a long relationship with *The Wave*.

