

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 24, NO. 10

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

February 2011



CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
WEEK
CELEBRATED

SEE SPECIAL
PULL-OUT
SECTION

PAGES
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Abortion/Pro-life news and events, pp. 19-20.

**Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday - March 9**



YOUNG "PRO-LIFERS" SPEAK WITH THE BISHOP—At the Candlelight March for Life in Victoria on January 27, Bishop David E. Fellhauer speaks with some of the youngest pro-lifers in the diocese. Before the march began, five-year-old Gianna Pilkington introduced Bishop Fellhauer to her doll, Melody. Mariah Coffey (5) and brother, Jimmy (3), children of David and Annie Coffey, admire the doll with the bishop. The Coffey's have two other children, Ruth (4) and Joseph (2). Gianna is the daughter of Drew and Gina Pilkington, who also have a son, John Paul (2). Please see p. 20 for more March for Life and Pro-life news.



A woman in St. Peter's Square holds photos with the words, "Blessed Pope John Paul II," written in Italian as Pope Benedict XVI leads the Angelus prayer at the Vatican Jan. 16. The words and photos celebrate the Vatican's Jan. 14 announcement that Pope John Paul II will be beatified May 1. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

May 1 beatification set for Pope John Paul II after miracle approved

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, clearing the way for the late pope's beatification on May 1, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Pope Benedict's action Jan. 14 followed more than five years of investigation into the life and writings of the Polish pontiff, who died in April 2005 after more than 26 years as pope.

The Vatican said it took special care with verification of the miracle, the spontaneous cure of a French nun from Parkinson's disease — the same illness that afflicted Pope John Paul in his final years. Three separate Vatican panels approved the

miracle, including medical and theological experts, before Pope Benedict signed the official decree.

"There were no concessions given here in procedural severity and thoroughness," said Cardinal Angelo Amato, head of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. On the contrary, he said, Pope John Paul's cause was subject to "particularly careful scrutiny, to remove any doubt."

The Vatican said it would begin looking at logistical arrangements for the massive crowds expected for the beatification liturgy, which will be celebrated by Pope Benedict at the Vatican. Divine Mercy Sunday had special significance for Pope

See May 1 beatification set, p. 17

Watching from afar, Father Alfonso puts the Egyptian people in God's hands

By Cynthia Brewer

Father Alfonso Serna, O.Ss.T., who was ordained at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Victoria June 20, 2009, was immediately sent on assignment to Cairo, Egypt, to serve the Trinitarian's mission at Saint Bakhita Centre (SBCC), in the district known as Haggana—Kilo Arbaa wy Nus, one of the poorest areas of Cairo.

Several months have passed since his return to the states, and he is very concerned for the people of Egypt. He is now ministering at St. Joseph's Hospital near Hanover, Md., where he and Father Victor Scocco, O.Ss.T., serve together at St. Lawrence Martyr Parish.

Father Alfonso spent about a year in Cairo ministering to over 500 Latin Rite Sudanese Catholic refugee families who had escaped the civil war in Sudan.

See Watching from afar, p. 17



On Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2010, Fathers Alberto Rodriguez and Alfonso Serna (r.), both Trinitarians, concelebrate Mass with the Sudanese refugees at Saint Bakhita Centre in Cairo, Egypt. Father Alfonso was in Egypt for about a year, while Father Alberto resided there for about six months.

Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

February

- 5 10:00 a.m., Mass, Vietnamese New Year, Assumption Chapel, Palacios
- 4:00 p.m., Mass, Deacon Candidates retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 11 12:00 p.m., Mass, Violettas' Community Celebration, Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, Provincial House, Victoria
- 14 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
- 16 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 18 2:00 p.m., Prison ACTS retreat, Stevenson Unit, Cuero
- 19 9:30 a.m., RCIA Forum and reception, Chancery Office
- 20 8:00 a.m., Mass, Stevenson Unit, Cuero
- 5:00 p.m., Mass, Youth Spectacular, Civic Center, El Campo
- 27 8:00 a.m., Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn, and farewell breakfast for Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru on his retirement

March

- 2 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
- 6 11:15 a.m., Pilgrims' Mass, St. Philip Church, El Campo
- 1:30-4:30 p.m., Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Holy Family Church, Victoria

(below) Father Phi and Sister Louise Marie Jones ask the students if they have an interest in becoming a priest or religious sister.



Sister Donna Bonordon leads students in the day's closing prayer service.



(above) Sister Laura To-man shared with students her photos and stories of Africa in "A Missionary's Experience."

Sister Amata Hollas teaches about the history of the IWBS Sisters in the "Hall of Memories."



(above) Fifth grade students choose gifts from the Gift Shop.

(left) Sister Charlene Machala teaches students music for the closing prayer service.



Bishop David Fellhauer stands with Msgr. Eustace Hermes during a luncheon held at the chancery office Jan. 20, 2011, in honor of Msgr. Hermes' 94th birthday.

Msgr. Hermes celebrates 94th birthday

By Cynthia Brewer

The staff at the Diocese of Victoria chancery office held a luncheon on Jan. 20 for Msgr. Eustace Hermes in honor of his 94th birthday.

At the luncheon, Msgr. Hermes thanked the employees for their birthday wishes and shared some of his memories. He remembered being appointed to Our Lady of Lourdes, the German National Parish in Victoria County, in 1946 by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey.

"I was required to say a homily in German at least once a month," Msgr. Hermes said. And although he spoke German, coming from a German-speaking family, he wasn't so fluent in it that he was completely comfortable saying the homilies in German. He said he was very relieved when it was no longer required of him.

Msgr. Hermes still comes to his office at the chancery daily and spends about an hour a day updating diocesan property records (deeds and leases: oil, gas and mineral).

The rest of his day is spent keeping in

shape by riding his stationary bicycle a total of 16 miles per day.

"I used to do all 16 miles at once until recently," he said. "I still do 16 miles a day, but I break it up now: six, six and four miles at a time. On some days, I do just 12 miles."

When I asked him when he began to break up the miles throughout the day, he replied, "Not this year, but sometime last year. Old age started to catch up with me."

Msgr. Hermes has suffered several heart attacks, and when I asked how many he's had, his reply was, "I don't know; for me, heart attacks are becoming monotonous."

When you see him and ask how he's feeling, he's always going to respond in one of two chipper ways: either, "Better than I have any right to feel" or, "Any better and I'd be twins."

Msgr. Hermes still serves as chaplain of the Victoria Serra Club. In fact he is the world's longest serving Serra Club chaplain — having served the Victoria Serra Club since Sept. 1962.

Vocation Awareness Days 2011

On January 11 and 12, 2011, some 240 fifth graders from the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria attended Church Vocation Awareness Days at Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent in Victoria. The students heard a number of talks about religious life and the priesthood. They visited the Gift Shop and the Hall of Memories at the convent. The day culminated in a Prayer Service that highlights the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These Vocation Awareness Days are sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Victoria, the Serra Club of Victoria, Knights of Columbus Council #1329, the Catholic Daughters of Court St. Ann #369 and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Learn more about the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters at www.iwbsvictoria.org. They will be holding "Come and See" Days for single Catholic

women (18 to 50 years of age) on March 5-6 and April 9-10. High school students and single Catholic women, please contact Vocation Ministers at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 NE Water St., Victoria, TX 77901, or call (361) 575-7111.

Annual Pilgrim Reunion — Mar. 6

EL CAMPO—Everyone is invited to the Annual Pilgrim Reunion that will be held Sunday, March 6, 2011, at St. Philip Parish Hall, 304 W. Church Street, El Campo. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee, juice and doughnuts. Mass with Most Rev. David Fellhauer will be at 11:15 a.m. in the church. A covered-dish lunch will follow. For more information, please contact Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or at urbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.

DSA & Reflection of Faith Updates

2010 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$726,605.34
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$713,025.48
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,736

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,961,570.62
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 8,753,170.31
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,763

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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



Celebrating the Centennial of the Maryknoll Society

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers is the overseas mission outreach of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, following Jesus in serving the poor and others in need in 27 countries. All Catholics are called to mission through baptism, and Maryknoll's mission education outreach in parishes and schools throughout the country engages U.S. Catholics in mission through prayer, donations, as volunteers, and through vocations. During 2011, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers will commemorate its centennial with a theme of "The Gift of Mission – The Maryknoll Journey." These missionaries will celebrate as they continue their journey into the next 100 years to share God's love and the Gospel in combating poverty, providing healthcare, building communities and promoting human rights. This monthly series during 2011, highlighting the history of Maryknoll during its first 100 years, will be featured at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm.

Part I – The Vision of Father James A. Walsh (edited version – full version is at above mentioned Web site)

When Father James Anthony Walsh, along with several other priests, founded the Catholic Foreign Mission Bureau during 1907, his aim was to awaken the role of mission within the United States Catholic Church. In many ways, cultivating mission as a responsibility among U.S. Catholics was a bold and innovative move because during those early days of the last century the Church still looked at the United States, with its waves of immigration, as fertile territory for missionaries from Europe. James Walsh was born to middle-class parents (James Walsh and Hanna Shea) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on February 24, 1867. After attending public elementary school, he graduated from Boston College High School with skills in debating and journalism. He attended Boston College but later trans-

ferred to Harvard College to study book-keeping. Studies were completed at St. John's Seminary in nearby Brighton. At the seminary, Father Walsh was inspired by a rector, a Sulpician (a society of secular priests founded during 15th century France) whose classmate in Paris, Theophane Venard, had died as a famous martyr in Indochina. A decade after his 1892 ordination at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Father Walsh retraced Venard's steps in France along with those



Father James Anthony Walsh

of other French martyrs, and he became convinced that the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church. With this approval, Father Walsh and Father Thomas Frederick Price traveled to Rome to present their vision of mission. They received the blessing of Pope Pius X on June 29, 1911 (the feast of Saints Peter and Paul), which is the founding day of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America that, over the

years, has become more well-known as Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. Father Walsh was a model priest and a natural leader. He was the first superior general of the society, the treasurer, the editor of its publication, rector of the seminary, spiritual director of the Maryknoll Sisters that was formed during 1912, along with master organizer, fundraiser, publicist and overseer of plans and building for the society. It is difficult to find any aspect of the foundation of Maryknoll that did not benefit from the direction and oversight of Father Walsh. Father Walsh's contributions to the Catholic Church in the U.S. and to the growth of mission were celebrated when he was ordained as bishop on June 29, 1933, by Pope Pius XI in Rome. Only a few years later, on April 14, 1936, Bishop Walsh passed away. Learn more about Father James A. Walsh and the centennial celebration of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers by visiting www.maryknollsociety.org. To receive a copy of Maryknoll magazine's January/February issue that features Father Walsh

Catholics' participation in Mass is a celebration of salvation

By Terry McGuire, assistant editor at the *Catholic Northwest Progress in Seattle*

Catholics' participation in the celebration of the Mass is a celebration of salvation, says Sister Janet Baxendale of the Sisters of Charity, a professor of liturgy at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

"This is one of the primary reasons that the Mass is at the center of our life as Catholics," Sister Janet says. "The bread and wine offered on the altar truly become the body and blood of Christ which was sacrificed for our salvation. This eucharistic food nourishes us spiritually. It is our food for the journey of life."

Liturgists note that upcoming changes to the English translation of the Roman Missal will likely cause concern among some because of the deeply personal way in which the Mass touches people.

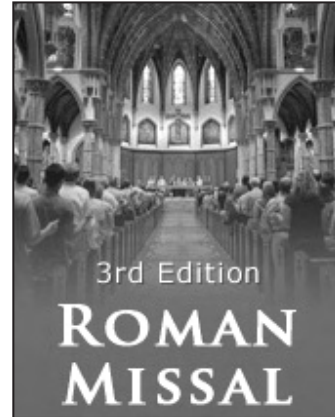
Some tend to become very protective in the face of change, Precious Blood Sister Joyce Ann Zimmerman, director of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry in Dayton, Ohio, says. But the Liturgy is a communal gathering and not an individual event. When a person comes through the church doors and enters the sacred space, they leave the individual self outside and

join the gathering as members of the body of Christ, becoming "we" instead of "I," she says. The realization that the "Liturgy isn't about me" should help people prepare for the changes, she says. They have to "let go" and place their trust that the Spirit and the teaching office of the Church will be moving them forward.

The new changes are not being made for the sake of change but to be as "faithful as possible to the Latin texts from which they were translated," Sister Janet says. While they may take some getting used to, "they can be for us a way to grow in a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the power and beauty of the great treasure we have in our Mass."

The liturgists note that the Mass, as the summit of all the Church's services, differs from the other sacraments and popular devotions such as the rosary, stations of the cross, novenas and other forms of private prayer.

"Both private prayer and popular devotions are strongly encouraged by the church," Sister Janet says, but "while they are a help to our celebrating Liturgy well – to putting us into the spirit of the Liturgy – they are in no way equal to the Liturgy."



Order of Mass — changes in the people's part

Use of the New Roman Missal begins the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. Below are the changes in the people's part in the Order of the Mass for the Greeting and the Penitential Acts.

Greeting:

Present Text

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And **also with you**.

New Text

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And **with your spirit**.

Penitential Act, Form A (Confiteor)

Present Text

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have **sinned through my own fault**, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do; **and** I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

New Text

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have **greatly**

sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore** I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Penitential Act, Form B

Present Text

Priest: **Lord, we have sinned against you: Lord, have mercy.**

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: **Lord, show us your mercy and love.**

People: And grant us your salvation.

New Text

Priest: **Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

People: **For we have sinned against you.**

Priest: **Show us, O Lord, your mercy.**

People: And grant us your salvation.

Reprinted from <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml>

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Thank You Notes

Your Excellency,

At the Holy Father's direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of \$30,131.91, which you kindly forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's Pence offering of the Diocese of Victoria for the year 2010.

His Holiness is deeply grateful for this gift, which reflects your people's devotion to the See of Peter. He is most appreciative of the effort and sacrifice which this collection involved.

Commending you and the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese to the loving protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Tarcisio Card. Bertone

Secretary of State - Vatican

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your faithful for your contribution of \$27,088.34 to the 2010 Collection for the Church in Latin America.

2010 was a particularly trying time for the Church in the hemisphere, torn by two major earthquakes in quick succession. However, we were able to award \$7.3 million dollars to 468 different projects. These projects included the training of catechists, formation of seminarians, the promotion of youth ministry as well as support for the many thousands of priests, sisters and laity who preach the Gospel in some of the remotest areas of the hemisphere.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Jose H. Gomez

Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America





Sisters Louise Marie(c) and Patricia Marie(r) help Veronica(l) make "musical instruments" for her three-year-old students at Nazareth Academy.

How Does One Know If One Has a Vocation?

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

"How does one know if one has a vocation?" I asked our three women in initial formation, Sister Louise Marie Jones, Sister Patricia Marie Lohre and Veronica Munoz, to give me some insights which I summarized below.

A person may have a vocation if:

- One has a deep love of God and desires a more in-depth and closer relationship with God.
- One is drawn to daily Eucharist and prayer.
- One has a desire to know God better by reading the Scriptures and the lives of the Saints.
- One is hungry for God's word and one wants to make meaning of what God is telling us in Scripture.
- When one is praying the prayer for vocations, one thinks, "That could be me!"
- One has a desire to serve in the parish and to be involved in parish activities.

- One is inspired by seeing and visiting with priests, brothers, and sisters.

- People call one "Sister" (or "Brother") or ask if one has ever thought about becoming a sister (or priest or brother).

- One finds oneself repeatedly looking at religious congregations' websites.

- One feels a yearning or tug in one's heart for something more.

- One finds oneself living simply even though one's friends are always wanting more.

- One senses a deep peace and acceptance from God in the quiet of the chapel of the chosen convent.

- One enjoys being in community with others and caring for others.

- More than anything it is something one feels from deep within and one cannot find words to describe.

- One is not satisfied until one says YES and accepts and embraces the invitation and the grace that one is given.

Sister Louise Marie Jones, temporary professed sister, reflects, "I would have never known the MANY blessings God had in mind for me if I hadn't taken that first step. No more guessing; now I know."

Sister Patricia Marie Lohre, novice, agrees, "If you just open your heart God will place His desires for you in it."

Veronica Munoz, postulant, adds, "The tug and burning within my heart has increased with age. It wasn't until I said YES and picked up my cross to follow him that I felt the peace and grace he has given me."

Learn more about us at www.iwbsvictoria.org.

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 January 27, 2011

	TOTALS
— CDA #369 St. Ann Seminary Burse #2	
Beginning balance for 2011	\$7,818.99
In Honor of Mary Garvel by Court of St. Ann #369	25.00
In Honor of Lil Hausmann by Court of St. Ann #369	100.00
Total	\$7,943.99
— Knights Of Columbus #1329, Victoria	
Beginning balance for 2011	\$10,107.50
In Memory of Les Boehm	100.00
Total	\$10,207.50

— **New** Our Lady Of Victory, Altar Society	
Our Lady of Victory, Altar Society - Burse Established	\$100.00
In Memory of Mary Lou Blough	25.00
In Memory of Dorothy Grace Kohutek Tasin	25.00
In Memory of Elizabeth Taylor	25.00
In Memory of Leonita Ulman	25.00
In Memory of Lillian Mayer	25.00
In Memory of Gladys Gillig	25.00
In Memory of Irma Heiling	25.00
Total	\$275.00

— Reverend John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4	
Beginning balance for 2011	\$14,516.00
In Memory of Joe and Olga Targac on their birthday	50.00
Christmas Gift from: Sacred Heart School-Faculty and Staff	65.00
David and Joyce Smolik	65.00
Anthony and Joan Corte	25.00
Freeman and Jackie Pettus	30.00
Charles and Dorothy Jansky	40.00
In Honor of M/M John Peters & Family by Joey & Mary Targac	50.00
In Memory of Pam Dornak by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
Total	\$14,851.00

— Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse	
Beginning balance for 2011	\$4,020.00
In Honor of Rev. Charles Dwomoh by R.L. Allums Family	25.00
In Honor of Rev. M. Rother's birthday by R.L. Allums Family	30.00
In Honor of Jimmie Triska on a Hallmark Birthday by M/M R. Janak and M/M R. Allums	40.00
In Memory of Mary A. Buentello by Richard and Jeanette Allums	20.00
In Memory of Mary A. Buentello by B and M Rother	25.00
In Appreciation of M/M John Krchnak by B & M Rother	25.00
Total	\$4,185.00

— Knights Of Columbus #2971, Weimar	
Beginning balance for 2011	\$100.00
In Memory of Daniel D. Munsch by Fred and Violet Fischer	25.00
Total	\$125.00

— Frs. Okrulik & Verdarme Seminary Burse	
Beginning balance for 2011	\$10,237.89
In Memory of Randy Joe Shafer	10.00
Total	\$10,247.89

— St. John Church For Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2	
Beginning Balance for 2011	\$4,851.00
In Memory of Pam Dornak by Ervin and Bernice Neskora	10.00
Total	\$4,861.00

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**



Our Lady of Victory student take band lessons from Steve Solis.

Our Lady of Victory needs band instruments

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria just added band classes this year. They are still looking for donations of band instruments that might be sitting in your closet or attic which students at OLV could be using.

They are planning to extend their band program next year and will be needing instruments for students who cannot afford

to rent one.

Please consider donating or lending instruments to OLV, and if you have a friend who has one, please mention this possibility.

You may call the school at (361) 575-5391 or you may drop-off your donation at 1311 E. Mesquite Lane.

New Diocesan Directories Available

The 2011 Diocese of Victoria Directory is available for purchase from *The Catholic Lighthouse* office.

To purchase a new, complete diocesan directory with the official diocesan binder, the cost is \$15 if shipped, \$10 if picked up at the chancery office.

The Catholic Lighthouse office has provided directory updates on the diocesan Web site for changes and updates. Every so many years, the office will update the whole directory and sell its contents at a reduced price compared to the directory/binder.

If you have purchased a diocesan directory in the past and have the official flexible plastic, diocesan binder, you may purchase the loose-leaf contents of the directory by themselves to replace the outdated information for \$5.

To receive the 2011 Diocesan Directory, please send a check, for the appropriate amount, to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, TX 77901. Remember, to save the diocese and yourself money, please pick up the directory at the chancery office at the same address.

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ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL

Sunday, February 13, 2011 • 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Victoria Community Center

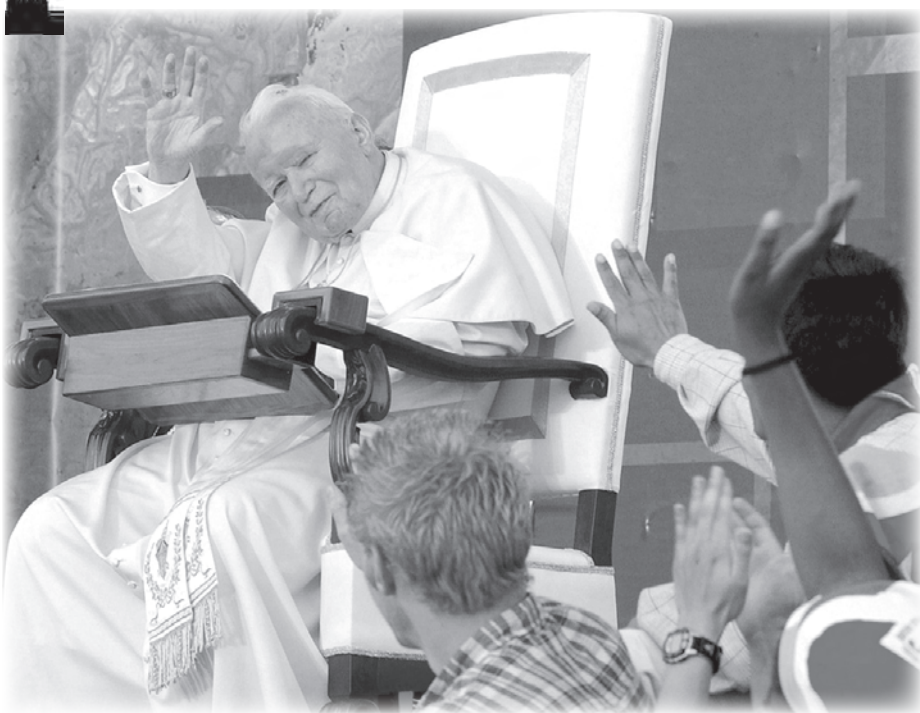
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Pope John Paul II waves to young pilgrims during World Youth Day in Toronto July 25, 2002. Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, clearing the way for the late pope's beatification on May 1, Divine Mercy Sunday. (CNS photo/ Arturo Mari)

For many, beatification announcement confirms long-held sentiment

Pope John Paul II named patron of World Youth Day

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The news of Pope John Paul II's upcoming beatification was welcomed by many as a confirmation of something they already felt from the moment the shouts of "Santo subito!" ("Sainthood now!") reverberated through St. Peter's Square at the pontiff's funeral.

Many in the crowd were young people who had a special affinity to Pope John Paul, whose pontificate started and ended with a special greeting to young people. During his installation ceremony in 1978, the newly named pope told youths: "You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the church, you are my hope."

And his last words, reportedly delivered hours before his death, were also to youths, in response to the thousands of young people praying and singing in St. Peter's Square.

"I sought you and now you have come to me. ... I thank you," said the pontiff, who died April 2, 2005 at age 84.

Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, founder and CEO of Canada's Salt and Light Television, said it was no coincidence that he heard the news of the pontiff's beatification while attending a meeting in Spain for the upcoming World Youth Day.

"A thunderous, sustained, standing ovation followed the announcement," he said in a Jan. 14 statement.

The priest, national director for World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, said the date for the beatification, May 1, is also no coincidence. Not only is it Divine Mercy Sunday, but it is also the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, known as "May Day" on secular calendars.

"Communists and socialists around the world commemorate May Day with marches, speeches and festivals," he said, adding that it was fitting that "the man who was a unique instrument and messenger in bringing down the Iron Curtain and the deadly reign of communism and godlessness will be declared blessed" that day.

Father Rosica said the announcement is "the formal confirmation of what many of us always knew as we experienced the Holy Father in action throughout his pontificate" particularly among youths,

noting that one of the pope's gifts to the church was his establishment of World Youth Day.

The future Blessed Pope John Paul II will be the official spiritual patron of World Youth Day 2011, which will be Aug. 16-21 in Madrid.

Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati said that as national executive director of World Youth Day 1993, which was in Denver, and later as general secretary of the U.S. bishops' conference in Washington, he had "the opportunity to get to know Pope John Paul II from many vantage points."

"His love for God and God's people was evident in every aspect of his life. His confidence in the power of prayer was inspiring, the archbishop said. "His life was completely given over to the will of God. For those who followed his papacy closely, it was never a question of whether he would be beatified but rather when. Santo subito!"

Dennis Doyle, University of Dayton religious studies professor, noted that many U.S. Catholics didn't understand the pope and wondered how he "could be liberal on social issues but yet so conservative on church issues. He was consistent in a way that was difficult for some people in the U.S. to understand."

"But ultimately, he is being beatified because he was loved throughout the world and is recognized iconically as a holy person," he added.

Tony Melendez, the armless guitarist whose embrace by Pope John Paul electrified an audience during the pope's 1987 visit to Los Angeles, said he had always considered his encounters with the pontiff "like I got to meet a living saint."

Melendez, in a phone interview with CNS while en route to his Missouri home, said he got to see Pope John Paul six more times, including a private audience at the Vatican about a year and a half after the 1987 U.S. pastoral visit.

"He remembered me," Melendez remarked. "And he said, 'Oh! My friend from Los Angeles!'" without me saying anything. He hugged my head after I was (done) playing a song. ... To me, he was a wonderful man who did great things."

Bishop urges Catholic college leaders to renew, strengthen mission

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an address to Catholic college and university presidents Jan. 29 in Washington, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., praised them for making "Christ's mission come alive and flourish" and challenged them to renew and strengthen their mission using guidelines established by the 1990 Vatican document on Catholic higher education.

The bishop, who gave a keynote address during the Jan. 29-31 annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, noted that much has changed in the 20 years since Pope John Paul II issued "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" ("From the Heart of the Church").

Bishop Kicanas said the initial concerns about the document "have lessened as universities and colleges learned that bishops seek communication and desire cooperation and collaboration."

He praised Catholic colleges for making efforts to strengthen their Catholic identity and incorporate church teachings into student life -- especially through "pro-life groups, mission immersions, prayer and retreat opportunities, ethical and moral education in all fields."

But the bishop noted that there are aspects of "Ex Corde" that still need to be more fully implemented, most notably, the need for teachers of Catholic theology to receive a mandate, or church authorization, from their local bishop.

He said some Catholic colleges and universities have sought this mandate, but others have not. This inconsistency, he said, "could reflect some distrust or concern about undue interference or not seeing the importance of doing it."

Bishop Kicanas stressed that involving the bishop with faculty members who teach Catholic theology is "critical to true communion in the church." He said there is room in academic communities for "disagreement, debate and clash of ideas, even in theology," but ultimately the bishop "is the authentic teacher of the faith" and is responsible for how that faith is interpreted.

In a word to bishops, he said they should make sure they do not exercise this authority "harshly, unilaterally or without conversation and an effort to reconcile diverse teaching" especially since bishops and college leaders should be working together to "build stronger bonds and relationships."

Other areas stressed in "Ex Corde" that he said also need more focus include: mak-

ing Catholic identity central in core curriculum, campus activities and symbols on campus; and encouraging campus ministry programs to reach out to more than just a small group of active members but to the college community at large.

Bishop Kicanas told the university leaders that his respect for them and what they do every day "could not be greater." He said he knew of their challenges and frustrations firsthand since he served as rector and president of the University of St. Mary on the Lake, the major seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago, for 10 years.

He thanked them for sharing their resources with the church at large, challenging students to live for others and encouraging scholarship.

The bishop urged the Catholic college leaders to look to recently beatified Cardinal John Henry Newman for inspiration. Cardinal Newman, who died in 1890, spent much of his life at Oxford University as both a student and a fellow. As an Anglican priest, he was the vicar at a university church and after he became a Catholic, he founded the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Birmingham and a Catholic university in Dublin. Many of his ideas on higher education are in his book "The Idea of a University," based on lectures he gave in the 1850s.

Bishop Kicanas said Cardinal Newman would certainly tell today's Catholic college leaders that they should "place Catholic identity first among your concerns" and "educate a generation of laity who would bring their faith to bear on the burning questions of this time."

On a personal level, the bishop also noted that college leaders should emulate the cardinal's example of prayer.

"Newman's prayer life sustained him through rocky and turbulent times, through disappointments and failings, through challenges and self-doubt," he said.

He said Cardinal Newman's understanding of cooperation with church leaders is also relevant today.

"Newman can challenge us as bishops and administrators to put down the boxing gloves that sometimes we slip on, to sit together, to converse together, yes and even to have some good laughs together so that we come to a deeper level of respect and trust," he said.

"Together we can accomplish so much," he added. "We need to work alongside one another to strengthen the mission of Jesus Christ to which we are all committed and which is under such challenge and question today."

Catholic Alumni Club International Young Adult Fun Weekend St. Louis, MO June 2-5, 2011

OLV Spring BBQ

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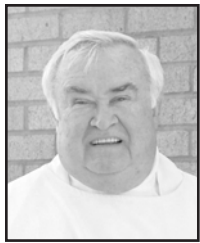
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OLV PTC

Pray for Vocations



Pastoral Institute Offers Liturgy Course

All liturgical ministers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, musicians, catechists and those interested in learning about the Church's liturgy and worship are highly encouraged to attend the Pastoral Institute Extended Program six-week course Liturgy: Law of Prayer and Belief. Father Robert Fisher SDV, who received his doctorate in Liturgical Studies in Rome in 1968, will teach the class.



Father Robert Fisher, SDV

This class will be offered via distant learning from St. Ann in Point Comfort at the chancery office in Victoria and Holy Rosary in Hostyn on Monday mornings 9:15- 11:30 a.m. and repeated in the evenings from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. beginning on February 21 through March 28, 2011. There is a \$15 fee for this six-week course, which can be paid on the first day of class. For more information, please go to www.victoriadiocese.org, or to register, please call (361) 573-0828 or e-mail mgutierrez@victoriadiocese.org.

The Diocese of Victoria Catholic Knowledge Bowl

Everyone is getting excited about the fourth annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl, which will be held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria, Sunday, March 6, 2011, from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. This event is sure to be fun and faith-filled; it will be a place to meet friends; and there will be prizes for each of the winners in all categories.

All interested adults, teens, and children who want to form a team for this event are encouraged to do so and to register as soon as possible. Study questions can be found on the diocese's Web site. Call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828 or go to www.victoriadiocese.org for more information.

A contest is being held to find a logo for the diocesan Catholic Knowledge Bowl. Logos may be submitted electronically to dvela@victoriadiocese.org no later than February 14, 2011.

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Connect, Awaken and Share...

Connect, Awaken and Share, a Webinar led by Tom McGrath of Loyola Press and sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria Organization of Catechetical Ministry (OCL) is scheduled for Thursday, February 17 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. This informative presentation will be projected from Chicago via the Internet to the chancery office in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Wharton. Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs), Catholic school principals and teachers, catechists and others may attend the site nearest them.



Tom McGrath of Loyola Press

The workshop, which is to help catechists and Catholic school teachers engage parents in their child's faith formation, will provide attendees with new and creative ways to do this through a series of activities, interactions, stories, reflections and prayers.

Some ideas and activities that will be presented during the workshop include:

Who Fanned Your Faith? This memory exercise helps participants recognize who shaped their faith and how. It is perfect for family meetings, at the opening of the religious education program, or school.

Listen-Up Sponges: This fun do-it-yourself craft encourages family sharing while also helping everyone to become a better listener.

Sacramental Connect-the-Dots: This interactive lesson helps parents make the connection between what goes on in family life and what happens in the sacraments we celebrate at church.

Family Sunday: This topic addresses how to help parents make the most of Sundays as a time to connect as individual families and as a parish family at Mass.

For more information, go to www.victoriadiocese.org. To register, please call (361) 573-0828 or e-mail tstarnes@victoriadiocese.org. There is no fee for this workshop. A light meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting.

TV Masses, intercommunion with the Orthodox

By Father John Dietzen, CNS

Q. *My husband was unable to attend Mass on Christmas. He watched it on television, answered all of the responses, and then stated it was the same as going to Mass. Our daughter disagreed, but he insisted. Why isn't watching Mass on TV as good as being there?* (Iowa)

A. The answer is basically rather simple. The Mass is not a private devotion. It is essentially a communal action, something that, by its very nature, we do together as a community of believers in Jesus Christ, not by ourselves in our own little corner.

Many Catholics still do not realize this. The obligation to participate in the Sunday Eucharist, which Christians have observed from the beginning, is not to hear or watch someone else do something, but to be present to do it oneself along with the other Christians assembled with us.

Thus, the Eucharist is an action, a celebration of the Catholic community and cannot be substituted for by watching, even reverently, a television program.

Sometimes, of course, illness or other reasons prevent one from being present at Sunday Mass. When this occurs, a Mass on television or radio may assist in uniting oneself with it in spirit, even nourish one's desire for union with our Lord in the Eucharist. But such listening or viewing does not substitute for being there.

Q. *When our grandson received first Communion, the parish booklet printed guidelines for receiving Communion. If I read it correctly, members of the Orthodox churches may now receive Communion in the Catholic Church.*

I've always been Catholic but was not aware of this. Our daughter's husband is Greek Orthodox. May he receive Communion in the Catholic Church? May we receive Communion in his church? I was taught that we do not have intercommunion with this or other non-Catholic churches. (New Jersey)

A. Intercommunion policies are more lenient now than in the past, at least from

the Catholic standpoint. The guidelines you read are those approved by the American bishops for inclusion in missalettes and similar publications.

The Orthodox churches, not in full communion with the Catholic Church, still “possess true sacraments, above all — by apostolic succession — the priesthood and the Eucharist.” This fact gives foundation for “allowing, and even encouraging some sharing in liturgical worship, even of the Eucharist, with these churches.”

Whenever it is necessary, or some genuine spiritual advantage suggests, it is lawful for any Catholic, who cannot approach a Catholic minister, to receive the sacraments, including the Eucharist, from a priest of an Orthodox Church.

Many Orthodox churches, however, are severely restrictive in their acceptance of other Christians, even Catholics, to share Communion in their churches. We have an obligation to respect those restrictions.

Similar freedom exists for members of Orthodox churches to receive Communion in a Catholic church, again without prejudice regulations placed on them by their own faiths.

The above quotations and policies are from the 1993 Norms on Ecumenism of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

8th Year for Disciples on the Journey

Orders for *Disciples on the Journey 2011* are beginning to come in to the diocesan Catechetical Office from parishes across the United States. It's not too early to make plans to participate in faith-sharing this Lent by joining a small group in your parish or by forming your own group of 8 to 10 friends, neighbors, or family members to meet in your home for the six weeks of Lent. The Leader's Guide is in the book. If you have never participated in *Disciples on the Journey*, this is the year to do so.

Lent is a season when Christians reflect and take stock of their lives. The lectionary readings during Lent give us inspiration and direction for this process. For this reason, the Diocese of Victoria is again publishing, for the eighth year, *Disciples on the Journey (DJ)*, a resource in Spanish and English for adults to meet in small groups to reflect and discuss the Sunday Lenten Scripture readings. It has been said that the best way to meet Christ is to share faith. This Lent, don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to deepen your relationship with God.

The format of the book introduced last year was well received; therefore, DJ 2011 will again have adult faith sharing material in the book and the family and teen sections online. The new price is \$25 for a pack of ten, a savings of \$10 over previous editions of the book. People in the Diocese of Victoria can pick up their books at the chancery thus eliminating postage.

Books can be purchased individually (\$2.50 per book) by anyone in the diocese. To place an order or for more information, see the brochure on the diocesan Web site www.victoriadiocese.org, call 361-573-0828, or e-mail dj@victoriadiocese.org. It is the hope of Bishop Fellhauer that this resource will be helpful for the people of the diocese on their Lenten journey.



The Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center

361-573-0828 • www.victoriadiocese.org

Open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Books by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

- *Against an Infinite Horizon: The Finger of God in Our Everyday Lives*
- *Forgotten Among the Lillies: Learning to Love Beyond Our Fears*
- *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*
- *The Restless Heart: Finding Our Spiritual Home in Times of Loneliness*
- *Secularity and the Gospel: Being Missionaries to Our Children*
- *The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God*

Libros En Español

- *150 Curiosidades de la Biblia*
- *el Misterio De La Fe: Meditaciones sobre la Eucaristía*
- *La Eucaristía: 20 Preguntas del Pueblo*

DVDs by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

- *The Cross of Christ*
- *Eucharist: God's Way of Embracing Us*
- *Generative Discipleship: The Deeper Invitation of Jesus*
- *Spirituality and the Two Halves of Life*

Other Videos/DVDs

- *Journey Toward Forgiveness* (dvd)
- *When Did I See You Hungry?* (dvd)
- *Celebrating the Season of Lent* (vhs)
- *Lent a Time to Forgive* (vhs)

Videos En Español

- *La Señora Berenjena*
- *Encontrando a Maria*
- *Corazón Atormentado*

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.



CDA builds Habitat for Humanity home with Sanchez family in community of Eagle Lake in record time. Pictured, standing (l. to r.): Carolyn Rapsilver, Eve Trevino, homeowner Linda Sanchez, Duchess Collins, Christine Moore, Peggy Rosales; front row: Carolyn Malik and Father Donald Ruppert; kneeling: Samantha Sanchez and Sheila Martinka.

– Everything is Bigger in Texas – Habitat Home completed five weeks ahead of schedule!

EAGLE LAKE—Scott Mattingly, Colorado County Habitat Board President, said; “Catholic Daughters rock! I’m amazed by the hard work of CDA women who always showed up ready to work and never complained about a broken nail.”

It was a happy New Year for the Sanchez family who moved into their CDA Habitat for Humanity built home five weeks ahead of schedule. The fourth Dedication and Blessing of a Habitat house built in partnership with Texas Catholic Daughters of the Americas was celebrated January 16, 2011.

In just 17 workdays, there were over 1100 hours donated toward the completion of this home by members of 30 of the 228 Catholic Daughter Courts in Texas. The Sanchez family provided 300 sweat equity hours, and 12 Junior Catholic Daughter members participated.

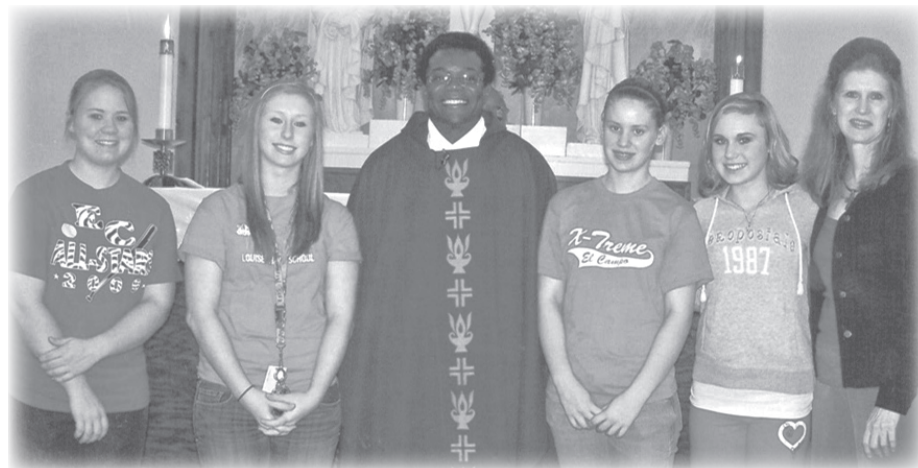
Mayor Mike Morales said, “Like our lives, this home is a reflection of God’s light in action and unity” and then he presented Linda Sanchez a plaque reading “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

CDA State Treasurer Carolyn Rapsilver, San Felipe, led the opening and closing hymns. Christine Moore, CDA Habitat State chairman, said “It was a record build for Colorado County Habitat for Humanity...the speed of this build was a direct result of the prayers, support and enthusiasm of the Catholic Daughters.” State Regent Sheila Martinka presented the Sanchez family with a State Memorial Scholarship Enrollment and Gift Card.

Deacon Charlie Novosad, St. Anthony Catholic Church and Habitat Construction Manager, read the Scriptures for the

dedication. Texas State Chaplain Father Donald Ruppert blessed the crowd with humor then blessed Linda, Martin and Samantha Sanchez, the doorstep and each room inside of their home.

Also attending were Immediate Past National Director Duchess Collins, Sugar Land; First Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik, Shiner; Second Vice State Regent Peggy Rosales, Austin; State Secretary Eve Trevino, Corpus Christi; state chairs; district deputies; many officers; and members of local courts.



KJT YOUTH GROUP MAKES PRESENTATION—The Louise-Hillje Catholic Union of Texas, KJT Society #48 Youth Group, presented Father Clement Quainoo, pastor of St. Procopius, with a \$500 check from their fundraiser and a matching grant from the KJT Home Office. The funds will be used for youth activities for the parish. Pictured above, l-r, are Ashley Lutringer, president; Michelle Holik, vice president; Father Clement, Amber Lutringer, secretary; Amber Koudela, treasurer; Margaret Holik, youth leader and KJT state director. Not pictured Arlene Koudela, youth leader.

“Fight the good fight of the faith ...”

1 Timothy 6:12

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”

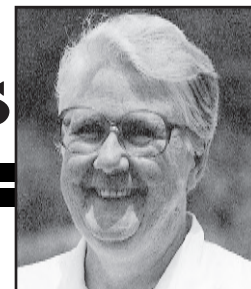
We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

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.

SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Stars of Our Lives

As the new year arrived, we were reminded of what had happened in the previous year. Of the media headlines near the top of the list, were articles referring to the number of “stars” who had died the previous year. Among these “stars” were actors, singers, business persons, athletes, and numerous varieties of persons whose names had been predominant in the news.

Then as we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, we remembered the “Star of Bethlehem” which led the Magi to the newborn Jesus. As we packed away the stars, which had been a part of our Christmas decorations, I thought that this would be the end of stars until next Christmas; that is — until I ran across the following reference to “stars” in one of Pope Benedict’s writings. This reference is so well written that I want to quote it directly:

Life is like a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by — people who shine with his light and so guide us along

our way. ~ Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, 49.

We have all had human stars that we followed. Let us pause and try to name some of these true stars in our lives who inspire and guide us through the way they live. Sometimes we take those about us, who help shape our lives and support us in our weaker moments, for granted. We may fail to recognize them as “stars” because we only think of them as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, neighbors, friends, classmates, or co-workers. We also may forget that we can be stars to others without realizing it. So let us appreciate those “stars” who show us the way to the true light, Jesus, and at the same time, through our prayers, works, and actions, let us be “stars” to those about us. Happy shining!

RCIA leaders invited to workshop Feb. 19

Bishop Fellhauer and the diocesan RCIA Task Force Committee invite parish leaders to “The Dynamics and Direction of the RCIA” Saturday, Feb. 19, at the diocesan chancery office in Victoria.

Participate in a day of learning more about:

The vision of the RCIA:

- a process rather than a school-year model
- a review of the catechumenate using #75 Mystagogy
- what it is and why it must begin in the pre-catechumenate
- understanding mystagogy as a phase in the RCIA and how it can be implemented

Discernment:

- the initial interview
- a model of a discernment session before the Rite of Acceptance
- discernment before initiation

Using the Rites’ book:

- a review of each of the stages in the catechumenate

Breaking Open the Word:

- a model of a “breaking open the Word” session

Q & A - opportunity to ask questions concerning the implementation of the RCIA in your parish.

The presentation will be led by Linda Knoche, RCIA director at St. Theresa Parish in Sugar Land, and will be held at the chancery office, 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch.

Register by Feb. 15 by sending name, address, parish, phone and e-mail address with a \$10 check, made out to the Diocese of Victoria, to Mary Reyes, 1303 Algee, Port Lavaca, TX 77979, or contact Mary at (361) 482-9932, or m.reyes0707@yahoo.com for more information.

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(left) Melissa Perales, director of the Office of Youth and Child Protection, and José Ortega, associate director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, demonstrate to the Youth Leadership Team members how to display one's boundary limits for the *Safe Environment* film they're creating for junior high church volunteers.

(right) José Ortega directs the young actors as they begin filming their *Safe Environment* production. Actors include Alex Pagel, Jory Stevens, Dominic Schaefer, Kendra Hanslik, Layton Frederick, Sarah Hermes and Collin Bednorz.



Diocesan Youth Office produces film for Safe Environment training

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria Youth Ministry and Safe Environment offices collaborated prior to the Christmas holiday to make a second film for the use of youth who volunteer at diocesan and parish sponsored events.

The first training film for the Safe Environment office was created for all youth volunteers, but the offices, as well as some adults in the parish communities, felt that the film was too strong for some young junior high kids; therefore, a training film was produced specifically for junior high school youth leaders. It was written and directed by Debbie Vanelli, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and produced by the office's associate director, José Ortega.

Prior to filming, Melissa A. Perales, director of the diocesan Safe Environment office, prepared the volunteer high school actors for the task.

"Please know that you are speaking about a very difficult subject matter. Abuse is not something that is easy for anyone to talk about," she said. "You are reaching out to a very special group of children and youth; some of them have been abused or

are suffering abuse at this time. We want them to know that this is not the kind of life God intended for them and that they can reach out to someone for help."

"Not only are you helping our young people, you are also helping the bishop, our pastors, our principals and all the people of our diocese who work so hard each and every day to create a safe, healing and happy environment," Mrs. Perales concluded.

The spiritual themes of the film came from Genesis: "God made us in his image and likeness, and we are very good," and Jeremiah 1:4: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you..."

The film included the use of scenarios to demonstrate ways to stay safe by trusting one's instincts, developing clear personal boundaries and knowing one has the right to protect ones' self and to say no. They were also instructed to recognize signs of abuse and to respond by alerting a trusted adult leader.

The youth who "starred" in the production were members of the diocesan Youth Leadership Team and included Alex Pagel of St. Mary's, Jory Stevens of Our Lady of Lourdes, Layton Frederick, Sarah Hermes and Kendra Hanslik of Our Lady of Victory, Collin Bednorz of Holy Family and Dominic Schaefer of Our Lady of Sorrows — all in Victoria.

The film is still undergoing editing, but will be released upon its completion and the approval of Bishop David Fellhauer.

2011 Youth Spectacular February 20

GPS, Gods Planning System, is the theme of the 2011 Youth Spectacular at the El Campo Civic Center on February 20, 2011.

Two amazing speakers from our diocese, Father Dan Morales and Father Kirby Hlavaty, will keynote the event.

For more information on these two speakers, see the January 2011 *Catholic Lighthouse*.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. and Liturgy will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. with Bishop Fellhauer as the main celebrant. Lunch is included in the registration price. Come out for a wonderful day of fun and fellowship! Registration information is online at www.victoriadiocese.org; click on youth ministry.

Also there will be Confirmation Retreat, March 27 at St. Michael in Cuero and April 10 at St. Mary in Victoria. For more information go to the above Web site.



WYATT FRAGA REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH BAND—Congratulations to sophomore Wyatt Fraga who represented the St. Joseph High School Band in the Association of Texas Small School Bands Region 13 2010-2011 All-Region Symphonic Band. The All-Region Concert Band is a select band featuring the finest band musicians from Region 13 public and private schools. Auditions were Saturday, December 11, at Edna High School where Wyatt was selected as 1st Chair trumpet. Wyatt represented STJ at the Region 13 All-Region Band Clinic and Concert, which was hosted by Sweeny High School on January 22. Wyatt lives with his mother, Jessie Stout, in Port Lavaca.

Youth Calendar of Events

- February 6 — Souper Bowl of Caring
- February 20 — Youth Spectacular
- February 24 — NET at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria
- February 25 — NET at St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg
- February 26 — NET at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton
- February 26 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class
- February 27 — NET at Our Lady of Victory in Victoria
- March 1 — NET at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville
- March 2 — NET at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville
- March 3 — NET at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville
- March 4 — NET in our diocese and available for in-parish retreats
- March 5 — NET at Immaculate Conception in Goliad
- March 6 — NET at St. Joseph in Moulton
- March 6 — Catholic Knowledge Bowl
- March 12 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class
- March 14 — Our Lady of Guadalupe Confirmation Retreat at SRC
- March 27 — Diocesan Confirmation Retreat at St. Michael's in Cuero
- April 2 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class
- 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



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



(l) Allyssa Young on the tight rope

(r) Layton Frederick and Hannah Bigham on the rock wall



(r) Debbie Vanelli on the zip line



New Year - New Retreat Location - New Adventure

By Debbie Vanelli, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Youth Leadership Team of the Diocese of Victoria gathered for their annual retreat for the first time at Coopers Farm near La Grange. Despite the constant threat of impending "coldest storm of the season," God provided us with gorgeous weather for the retreat.

Community building, teamwork and communication were the first order of the day as the retreat began on the high and low ropes course. The high ropes course at Coopers Farm is touted as the highest ropes course in Texas, and I must say, standing on the ground and looking up at the spot about a bazillion feet in the air where the zip line starts, I believe their assessment is right. Of course it has always been the policy of the youth office to not ask our young people to do anything we wouldn't do, so we psyched ourselves up for this adventure.

If you are not familiar with a zip line, let me give my own Wikipedia type description. You essentially are given a bicycle helmet and strapped into a harness; you then climb a staircase that leads to forever. When you get to the top, the air is obviously thinner because you can't breathe and you stand on a platform about the size of a shoe box as the handler, aka John, connects your harness to a lanyard that is connected to the

actual wired zip line. The handler is very kind and assures you that the line can hold you, although I did worry that the extra weight from the large cinnamon roll that I was peer pressured into consuming on the way up to camp was going to cause the wire to snap. At this point you are above the tree lines and they are very tall trees! The idea is to hurl your body off the "shoe box" and zip along the line, which is about the width of your thumb. I like to think that I am pretty adventurous, but I knew that hurling myself was not going to happen, so I asked John to just push me. I found out a lot about faith that day. I think a lot of us are standing at the edge of something amazing, scared to take that step into the unknown and need a little nudge. A lot of fears were conquered that day, but we all agreed that it was an amazing experience.

The sessions at the retreat focused on keeping the main thing the main thing and how that is achieved in our lives. That involved learning to live our life according to God's plan one decision at a time even in the midst of struggles, joys and fears. It was a wonderful weekend, filled with time for reflection and growth, delicious food, fun and great hospitality. And that storm that we worried about - it blew in about 2:00 a.m., as we slept. God is good, all the time.



A+ For America
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic Schools

Special Supplement

Diocese of Victoria

February 2011

Holy Cross - Bay City
St. Anthony - Columbus
St. Michael - Cuero
St. Philip - El Campo
Sacred Heart - Hallettsville
Our Lady of the Gulf - Port Lavaca

St. Rose of Lima - Schulenburg
St. Ludmila Academy - Shiner
Nazareth Academy - Victoria
Our Lady of Victory - Victoria
St. Michael - Weimar
St. Joseph - Yoakum

Sacred Heart High - Hallettsville
St. Paul High - Shiner
St. Joseph High - Victoria

January 2011

Each year, since 1974, the National Catholic Educational Association, headquartered in Washington, D.C., has celebrated Catholic Schools Week during the last week of January. This year's dates are January 30-February 5, 2011. Our national theme for 2011 is "Catholic Schools: A+ for America." Whether your youngster attends one of our thirteen schools throughout the diocese, or you have experienced the education at any of the more than 7,000 schools nationwide, the sentiment is most often the same: Catholic schools are certainly "a plus" for America.

This theme "celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are an added value (a plus) for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a definite contribution to American society," remarked Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

We have witnessed many "plusses" in our own diocese, including the many college scholarships (both academic and athletic) that our graduates receive, the many district and state championship teams on which our students are found, and probably more importantly, the many random acts of kindness and service that our students and families perform throughout their lives. During Catholic Schools Week (CSW), especially, we reach out to the entire community to build awareness of what our schools offer. And we thank those who work hard every day to make our schools excellent: students, families, faculties, staffs, volunteers, community supporters, and local and national leaders.

As the primary educators of children, one of the most important roles of families is preparing young people for fulfilling lives of love and service to their families, their communities and the Lord. These young people hold the key to the future of our Catholic faith and, ultimately, the world in which we live. That is why the 2011 Catholic Schools Week theme is particularly fitting. "Catholic Schools: A+ for America" underscores the long-standing tradition of Catholic education to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles in life. All of these principles are of utmost importance in building a life worthy to be a follower of Christ. Now, more than ever, a Catholic education is "A+ for you, A+ for your future, and certainly A+ for a better America for all its citizens." If you have not thought about the many "plusses" of a Catholic school education, it is certainly worth the consideration of every family.

The nearly 3,000 students in the 13 schools of the Diocese of Victoria will be joining millions of students, parents, supporters and school families around the nation to celebrate this 37-year tradition established by NCEA. Please join me in saying "thank you" to our teachers, staffs, administrators, board members, volunteers, parents and everyone else involved in Catholic education. Through their dedication and commitment, they make our diocese an example of how Catholic schools provide "A+ for America."

If you know of any youngsters who have not yet enrolled in one of our diocesan schools, but would like to, please contact your local Catholic school and find out how they can receive a "First-class education ... for life!" (Faith-Integrity-Respect-Scholarship-Tradition). We can also be found on the Web at www.victoriadiocese.org.

John E. Quarry, superintendent, Diocese of Victoria

By Our Love

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School

SCHULENBURG—"They'll know we are Christians by our Love." The words to the familiar hymn remind us of what it means to be Christ-like and how the world will recognize us when we walk with him, serve him and above all love him. St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg is a living example of what it means to be Christ like.

Love of the Lord ~ Education here isn't only academic, it is spiritual. Daily prayer, weekly Masses, special religious ceremonies like our living rosary, advent wreath ceremony, Christ the King procession and other special events, all build a strong community of faith where parents, students and staff walk together in worship expressing their love of the Lord.

Love of Learning ~ Teachers here prepare lessons to challenge and engage students daily. Hands on activities and the use of technology in the classrooms make students active participants and keep them excited about their education. Core curriculum challenges students academically, preparing them for success in their educational future. Extra curricular activities and electives in athletics, band, choir, PSIA and cheerleading provide every student a place to excel and explore their talents.

Love of Service ~ Students, faculty, staff and families also work hard each

day to walk in the footsteps of Christ as an example to each other and the greater community. St. Rose of Lima reaches out in service in various ways throughout



Bringing up food - each year students in grades 3k - 8th grade donate canned food for the local-area food pantry at the annual Thanksgiving Mass. Early childhood students dress as the Native Americans and Pilgrims of the first Thanksgiving.

year. This year during Catholic Schools Week, the school also adopted service projects. Junior High students coordinated the "Souper Bowl of Caring," which raises money for local area food pantries on Super Bowl Sunday. These students also spent time volunteering at the local food bank. Elementary students in kindergarten through 3rd grade adopted "Project Pride," where they took on their role as co-creators and helped beautify the school grounds in preparation for Catholic Schools Week. Early childhood

students broke ground on "The Giving Garden." This year 3k and 4k students will cultivate the school's garden boxes to grow fresh vegetables, herbs and flowers to help donate to those in need. This will remind students of the importance of charity and sharing with others all the gifts God has blessed them with.

Through prayer, education and service, St. Rose of Lima is "one in the spirit" of Christ. With each day that passes and with every child that is blessed with an A+ education here, it is certain that anyone who sees us will know we are Christians. "Yes, they will know we are Christians by our Love."



Explanation of Theme

The logo designed for the week displays the words "Catholic Schools: A+ For America" beneath a stylized banner of stars and stripes in red and light blue. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2011 celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are an added value ("a plus") for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a positive contribution to American society. Catholic schools give a high level of service (the A+ level) to local communities because of the many service projects students undertake. "Giving back to the community" and "helping others" are values instilled in every Catholic school student. Catholic schools give a high level of service to the nation (the A+ level) by serving students from all economic backgrounds and giving them a strong academic and moral foundation, allowing them to succeed in life, serving in the government, industry, business, non-profit and educational fields.



(l) Freshman Biology Teacher, Mrs. Debbie Horton, and 9th graders: Harrison High and Johanna Hoang

(r) Student at Freshman Bible Mass is 9th grader, Collin Hartman



St. Joseph High School

St. Joseph High School is a Catholic school committed to the educational ministry of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria. As a community inspired by the life of St. Joseph, protector, and nurturer of the Holy Family, we promote a peaceful, challenging and loving atmosphere that fosters spiritual growth and academic excellence for our family of students.

Founded in 1868 by Reverend Augustine Gardet as a school to educate young men, St. Joseph High School has a rich heritage of providing the highest standard of Catholic education for generations of families in Victoria and the surrounding area. Today we operate as a private co-ed school governed by the authority of our board of directors.

St. Joseph's professional faculty of dedicated teachers, with an average of 20 years of teaching experience, small class sizes, and a century of educational excellence provides our students with an opportunity to receive the highest quality of education. Our students come from diverse backgrounds, each bringing a different view to the academic curriculum, while remaining true to the religious values, which have been the school's hallmark throughout its 143-year history. Grant programs are available for students to apply for, ensuring that no student is denied a St. Joseph's education due to financial circumstances.

St. Joseph's courses are designed to meet a wide range of student abilities and needs and include a challenging advanced

placement and dual-credit courses. We offer state of the art computers available to our students providing a strong foundation for technical computer skills and online research opportunities, which prepare our students for a successful future. All students enroll in a four-year theology program based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our community of faith is strengthened through morning prayer, weekly and monthly Masses, student led Christian organizations and spiritual retreats.

Students can participate in a variety of extracurricular activities, including athletics, band, choir, cheerleading and drill team, all of which provide unique opportunities to promote school spirit and gaining the knowledge that will make them leaders of tomorrow.

Our students traditionally lead the Victoria community in the number of students accepted into universities and recognized by scholarship programs. One hundred percent of the 2010 graduates were accepted into colleges, such as Yale, Dartmouth, Notre Dame, The University of Texas, Texas A&M and St. Mary's University et al., and 81 percent received at least one scholarship, totaling \$2,750,000 in college scholarships.

At St. Joseph, lifelong friendships begin and the foundation for a lifetime of learning and success is established. We encourage you to share the story of St. Joseph's heritage ... You'll Love the Journey!



Kindergarten students enjoy a visit from Lance Corporal Dylan Slovacek and Lance Corporal Gavin Bristol, who came to thank them for their letters of appreciation to several Marines.

St. Michael School Appreciates its Supporters

CUERO—St. Michael's Catholic School in Cuero began its celebration of Catholic Schools Week with an opening Mass January 29. Students from Pre-K 3 through the 6th grade participated as lecturers, presenters and ushers. An Open House at the school followed the Mass.

On Monday, students walked to nearby locations and presented Certificates of Appreciation to area businesses, organizations and individuals who have shown "A+" support to the school.

Tuesday was a day of fun activities for the students, including games and dance presentations.

The school community participated in a living rosary on Wednesday to pray for our nation and for the future success of our

school. Students wrote letters to students at their grade level at St. Michael schools across the United States.

Thursday's focus was on vocations, centering on seminarians and novices. Students also created Spiritual Bouquets for the clergy of the parish.

The faculty and staff were treated to a special lunch presented by the St. Michael's H.S.A. The students' grandparents were invited to attend that morning's Mass and to visit the school afterwards. They were treated to a small reception.

Family projects were on display throughout the week. The project this year was for parents to present their own report card for St. Michael's School. It was titled, "St. Michael's School receives A+ in . . ."



To show their spirit and to promote vocations, students wear their blue and gold Spirit Shirts.

St. Joseph Celebrates CSW

YOAKUM—From serious to fun – activities promote Catholic Schools at St. Joseph School in Yoakum.

Sunday, A+ For America: In Our Parish – St. Joseph School family celebrated a special Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. with the student body singing and the 8th grade participating in the parts of the Mass. One student and a St. Joseph Alumni read essays on the importance of Catholic Schools. An Open House of the school followed Mass and students' work was displayed. The Catholic Daughters of America's roast beef dinner was served at the Family Center after Mass and Open House. All 4th -8th grade students had written essays about the importance of Catholic Schools.

Monday, A+ For America: In Our Community – Bracelets were passed out and worn by students throughout the week. Brown paper bags were decorated by Pre-K-8th grade students to promote St. Joseph School and were distributed by H.E.B. to the community during CSW. Valentine cards were presented to local Nursing Home residents and 8th grade students helped residents with Bingo and other fun games.

Tuesday, A+ For America: In Our Students – Students watched a movie and were treated to popcorn and drinks. There was also a "No Homework Night."

Wednesday, A+ For America: In Our Nation – Students wore red, white, and blue to show patriotism to our great nation and met at the flagpole after Mass for a prayer service for our Nation. Thank you cards and refreshments were made by some of the classes and taken to the Yoakum police and the local fire department to show thanks for their service. Seventh graders Lane Lahodny and Lauren Villa spoke on the local radio station about the CSW activities and the significance of a Catholic education at St. Joseph's. Endowment Fund Stew Supper was held at the Family Center from 5:00 to 7:30 that evening.

Thursday, A+ For America: In Our Vocations – Students wore blue and gold Spirit shirts and took a picture in an SJS cross formation. Sister Louise Marie, IWBS, and postulant Veronica Munoz visited St. Joseph School and gave students a personal view of their everyday life with Religious Vocations.

Friday, A+ For America: In Our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers – 8th Graders honored the teachers by teaching their classes in the morning and by providing snacks for all. The local Knights of Columbus provided lunch for the teachers, volunteers, students and their families. A small token of appreciation was passed out to teachers with an early dismissal at 1:00 p.m.

St. Michael School provides A+ opportunities for community service

WEIMAR—Every year during Catholic Schools Week, St. Michael students complete a service project for their community using a grant from The Meadows Foundation. This year, students made 30 knotted fleece blankets. Twenty small blankets were sent to the CASA for Kids. Ten larger blankets were given to the local nursing home, Parkview Manor.

This is the third year St. Michael School has received a grant from The Meadows Foundation for community service. In previous years, students packed duffel bags with emergency supplies for children protected by CPS and sent 25 boxes, with supplies, snacks and magazines, for US Troops in Iraq.

And this is not the first CASA project the school has been involved in during the 2010-2011 school year. In preparation for the Christmas holidays, St. Michael School partnered with CASA Volunteers of Colorado and surrounding counties in order to provide new books to approximately 150 children identified through CASA, thanks to support from our SMS families, parishioners, and the community of Weimar. The children served through CASA have been removed from their homes due to parental abuse and neglect. Many of these children would

not have had the opportunity to purchase a book for themselves at school book fairs,



The eighth grade class is pictured here, making the cuts needed for the younger students to knot the blanket edges.

so the students at St. Michael's chose to offer one to each child as a gift of love this Christmas.

St. Michael School students are called to be friendly, respectful, responsible—Christ-like! This is the school's mission! Along with the guidance the students receive in class, in hallways, on the playground, weekly Mass and daily prayers, these service projects are another way St. Michael Catholic School provides its students with A+ opportunities to live out its mission.



The Veterans' Day Salute ceremony included a human flag by students.

Nazareth Academy

By 8th Graders: Sam Howard, Sarah Dodson, Bruce Eaves, MaryBeth Ellis and Erika Ganauser

To teach, to build, to serve in the spirit of Christ – Nazareth Academy students, faculty and staff live out this mission through daily achievements and activities. Nazareth Academy is an exceptional Catholic school because we have the latest technology, excellent academic and athletic programs, and a history steeped in religion, values and tradition.

We students are fortunate to be here at Nazareth, where the latest technology provides students with opportunities to actually enjoy learning. Some of the new technologies that we have are Smart Boards, a Web site and computers with the Internet in every classroom. We also have video journalism class, where we create and edit digital videos on laptop computers. Nazareth is privileged to have Smart Boards that enhance the ways students learn. Having a computer with the Internet in every classroom has enabled every student to keep up with our Web site, which is designed by the students.

Nazareth Academy's academic and athletic programs are very important to the student body. In regards to academics, the PSIA competition and Duke Talent Search Program challenges our students to exceed their limits in academics. In fact, many of

our students have been able to advance to state in their division in PSIA. The Duke Talent Search Program selected 50 percent of this year's N.A. 7th grade students to participate in their program due to those students scoring in the 95th percentile of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). Athletically, the Jets' coaches and teachers motivate our teams to compete to the utmost of our abilities. Our coaches push us to our limits to do the best we can as a team, which helps us form closer relationships with our fellow students and with the school in general. The coaches' motivation enabled our boys' and girls' Basketball A-teams to be the 2010-2011 South Zone Champions.

Finally, the history of Nazareth Academy is very special to all students, present and past. In 1867, Nazareth started with 55 students. Though our school has grown and changed over the years, our tradition and pride have remained. Today there are over 300 students attending Nazareth Academy. The weekly liturgies, daily religion classes, presence of eight Sisters on campus, having our own chapel here in school and the overall closeness of the student body, faculty and staff serve to make our, and all students', experience in school a special and memorable one. We are, and always will be, proud to say... "We are Jets for Jesus!"

U.S. Catholic Education Snapshot 2009-10 School Year

Catholic Colleges and Universities
No. of colleges/universities: 234*
Students: 795,823*
* Catholic college/university statistics are from the 2009 Kenedy Directory

TEXAS — Total Students: 79,612**
Total Schools: 283**
** U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2009-2010: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing

Full-time professional staff: 154,316
Lait: 96.3%
Religious/clergy: 3.7%
Student/teacher ratio: 14:1

Average Tuition
Elementary: \$3,383
Secondary: \$8,182



St. Anthony School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

COLUMBUS—St. Anthony students had a faith and fun-filled week as they celebrated and carried out the theme of A+ For America Catholic Schools. The students opened the week on Sunday by celebrating Mass and welcoming visitors to an open house after Mass.

The focus of the week was strengthening our Catholic faith and celebrating the



One of the SAS teams prepares its team flag, which represented them during CSW. The team consists of (going clockwise from top left) Brett Bartels, Rebecca Walla, Jackson Beettner and Elena Cantu.

different aspects of our school that make SAS an outstanding A+ school. The students of SAS were divided into teams and points were accumulated for fulfilling the positive aspects of our Catholic faith.

St. Anthony reinforced the family atmosphere of the Catholic school by dividing the students into teams consisting

of students from 4K - 8th grade. Students formed a bond with their team members as they worked collaboratively throughout the week. SAS scored an A+ by bringing food to help fill the food pantry; students could come to school wearing crazy socks if they brought an item for the pantry.

Continuing with the theme A+ For America Catholic Schools, the SAS students brought money or items to send to our military. We are very fortunate to be living in a free country. The school family was very proud to give a little something back to those men and women who give so much in order to keep our country free and safe.

Students cleaned surrounding areas of their school to show their love and support for the community; St. Anthony Catholic School reaches out to everyone. The students continued with the theme by including God in their daily activities. The entire school prayed the rosary together then began their field day activities where each child played together with his/her team.

The week ended as it had begun – with Mass. After a very busy week, students and faculty went home with a renewed spirit in our Catholic faith and the ever abiding belief in our Catholic Schools of America.

St. Philip School builds on strong foundations

ELCAMPO—“A+ for America Catholic Schools” was the theme heard throughout the halls of St. Philip Catholic School during Catholic School’s Week. Starting on Sunday, January 30, with opening Mass, through Friday, February 4, the students had the opportunity to show appreciation for all the special people in our lives.

Since 1949, St. Philip Catholic School has remained a bright, shining star for the children of El Campo and surrounding



Father Gary, pastor of St. Philip Church, makes a handprint in the cement foundation of the school's new gym.

communities. Their student enrollment begins at age three in their pre-kindergarten program providing children the foundation of personal spirituality, faith development, and a strong academic program.

The St. Philip campus also includes grades kindergarten through eighth. There are many activities across the grade levels offering opportunity for growth and enrichment. Many forms of technology are integrated across the curriculum in all grade levels to promote higher-level thinking. Students begin as

early as kindergarten by leading the Liturgy of the Word, playing musical instruments and engaging in buddy programs. Elementary and junior high students participate in theatre, academic and athletic competitions. These activities provide opportunities to build new skills and to practice good sportsmanship.

Highlights of the fall semester included the popular PTC Halloween Carnival that was enjoyed by children “of all ages,” the educational Saint’s Parade, performed by the 8th grade students and the annual Christmas Pageant, a musical extravaganza that includes the entire student body.

Incorporating the theme of Catholic Schools Week, A+ for America Catholic Schools, St. Philip celebrated a week of fun-filled activities for the students. We also planned special days for our moms, dads, grandparents, volunteers and faculty. During that week, the students also participated in a school-wide Walk of Faith community service project.

With the construction of the new gymnasium and Pre-K center well underway, the St. Philip family is anxiously anticipating the opportunities this new facility will offer our students for generations to come.

St. Philip Catholic School family are thankful for all the blessings bestowed upon them as Christian people of God. Their alumni, administrator, teachers, staff and parents are examples of those blessings and they pray that they will continue to grow in their love for their school and their God.



8th grade students, Isaac Kresta, Seth Pustejovsky and Kyle Kerzee teach, Pre-K3 about the Feast of the Archangels.



Gwen Hall has taught at Our Lady of Victory in Victoria for 40 years.

Truly Blessed at Our Lady of Victory

By Gwen Hall
OLV 7th Grade Teacher

I truly believe that God had a plan for me many years ago as I look back on my younger years. He placed me exactly where I should be and I feel blessed for that.

The Catholic School system has always been at the top of the list in my family. My parents believed in Catholic education and I certainly would not be where I am today if I did not hold it close to my heart.

I attended Catholic Schools all of my school years and was part of the first 8th grade class to graduate from Our Lady of Victory School. I graduated from Nazareth Academy and received my degree in education from Southwest Texas State University.

In 1970 at the age of 21, with the help of Father Hermes, Our Lady of Victory’s pastor, and Sister Emilie Eilers, principal, I was hired for my first teaching position. Little did I know that this would probably be my lifetime position.

Times were a bit different in those days. We had no gymnasium. After a few years as history teacher, science teacher, and co-ed PE teacher, I started the first girls’ sports program. With no gym, our practices were

on the Mesquite parking lot. We had nets set up for volleyball and places marked off for basketball. Our practices were early in the morning before school. We competed with surrounding Catholic Schools. When we finally got a gym, we thought we won the Lotto. It was inside, comfortable and we were able to host our own games.

Lots of changes have occurred since my first years at Our Lady of Victory School, but my love of teaching and my dedication to Catholic education has only grown stronger. I feel my experiences as a student and as a teacher at Our Lady of Victory has been undoubtedly a gift from above. I have watched many beautiful students grow into successful and dedicated business people and parents, and have been privileged to teach their children and seen that they have raised them in a truly Christian manner.

I thank God everyday that His plan for me was to be in such a wonderful place – a community where I saw teachers, parents and students become family. The large family that grew here still supports and loves each other. We all still hold those “Good Old Times” close to our hearts. What a lucky and blessed person I am.

Holy Cross Catholic School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

BAY CITY—Holy Cross Catholic School celebrated Catholic Schools Week from Sunday, January 31- February 5. The theme this year was “A+ for America Catholic Schools.” Catholic schools emphasize faith in action by reaching out to others. Jesus wants us to be of service to others. Saint Paul reached out to many communities as we reach out. Holy Cross students collected food for the needy, made donations to St. Vincent de Paul Society, Heifer International and

dances that they had been working on during P.E. This has been a tradition for many years to kick off Catholic Schools Week. On January 30 the students participated in Mass along with open house. The open house displayed all of our family projects that each family had been working on for the past month. Each grade had a designated section in the gym that displayed some of the projects that the students had worked on in class. During the week they invited Mayor Bricker of Bay City to their



Holy Cross students kick off CSW with a dance.

Holy Childhood. They adopted service projects before Christmas instead of exchanging gifts.

They began their celebration of Catholic Schools Week with a Family Dance on Saturday Jan. 29. All of their school families and guests attended the event as they watched their children perform the

prayer service and he presented them with a proclamation for Catholic Schools Week. They had many other events during the week from Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, to inviting families to have lunch with them.

Catholic schools provide a high level of service to local communities because of the many service projects students undertake. Giving back to the community and helping others are values instilled in every Catholic school student.



Sacred Heart Catholic School – Honor and Service, Academics and Athletics

HALLETTSVILLE—Sacred Heart Catholic School takes great pride in the accomplishments of its students and faculty each year in academics, music, art and athletics, as well as service. For the sixth consecutive year, the school was named the 2010 TAPPS 2A Overall State Champion for outstanding achievements in academic, athletic, music and art com-



petitions during the 2009-10 school year. This is the 10th year since 1989 that Sacred Heart Catholic High School has received

this honor.
SERVICE
The South Texas Blood and Tissue



(above) Seven graduating S.H. students received Red Cord honors for donating blood to STBTC of Victoria.

(left) Sacred Heart Indian boys track team and Coach Joe Cash won the TAPPS 2A 2010 State Championship for the first time in the school's history.

Center of Victoria recognized Sacred Heart Catholic High School as one of the top schools in their service area in terms of number of blood donors and highest percentage of participants. The school was presented with two checks in the amount of \$1000 each for this recognition. Seven students from the 2010 class - Chance Rath, Trentin Pilat, Amy Klimitchek, Kayla Harmon, Brady Etzler, Rebekah Krischke and Ethan Svetlik - were recognized as Red Cord Honorees for donating a minimum of six times during their high school years.

was named the TAPPS 2A 2010 Fine Arts Student of the Year. Mr. William Harrison, Sacred Heart Catholic School Band Director, was named TAPPS 2A Fine Arts Teacher of the Year 2009-2010. He led and directed the band to its 3rd straight TAPPS Instrumental Music State Championship.

ATHLETICS

Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Pat Henke was inducted into the Texas Private School Coaches Association (TPSCA) 2010 Hall of Honor. Coach Henke has recorded over 200 wins and was named TAPPS Coach of the Decade 1990-99. Under the direction of Coach Joe Cash, the Sacred Heart Indian boys track team won the TAPPS 2A 2010 State Championship for the first time in the school's history. Coach Cash was recognized at the 2010 UIL State Track and Field Meet for his part in leading the Refugio High School track team to the school's first three state track and field championships in 1981, 1982 and 1983. The Sacred Heart Indianettes softball team, coached by Virgil Gutierrez, Richard Klimitchek and Randy Fojt, won the TAPPS 2A 2010 State Championship for the 4th year in a row.

ACADEMICS, ART AND MUSIC

Sacred Heart Catholic School placed 1st overall in the TAPPS 2010 academic district meet and 3rd overall in the TAPPS 2A 2010 district art meet. Ethan Svetlik

~History of the Shiner Catholic School~ St. Ludmila Elementary and St. Paul High School

SHINER—In 1897, Mother Saint Claire, foundress of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS) Congregation in the Americas, was asked by Bishop

moral, intellectual and physical abilities and their fidelity to God's call. Thus the students will be able to spread the Good News to all people whose lives they touch



Shiner Catholic Schools students pose after school Mass with Bishop Fellhauer.

Anthony Forest for a sixth IWBS foundation to be built in Texas. On February 18, she accompanied four other sisters to Shiner where the sixth order was created. The new Incarnate Word Academy later became known as St. Ludmila Academy. The history of St. Ludmila Academy dates back to February 24, 1897, when the school was named in honor of a Slavic saint and opened with an enrollment of 57 students. The school taught the basics with an emphasis in religious education; the English, German, Czech and Bohemian languages; and musical instruments including piano, guitar, violin and mandolin.

Only elementary grades were taught until 1902, when two years of high school were added. In 1928, a four-year high school was incorporated, and the school received the designation of an academy and became fully accredited by 1929. To meet the educational needs of the high school students, the parish constructed a modern two-story, red brick building in 1963 for \$112,000 which became the home of St. Paul High School. In 1986, St. Ludmila Academy became a parish-supported elementary school, and the name was changed to St. Ludmila Elementary. The building was generously gifted to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in 1990. Since the parish now owned both schools, the educational complex became known as the Shiner Catholic School in 1987.

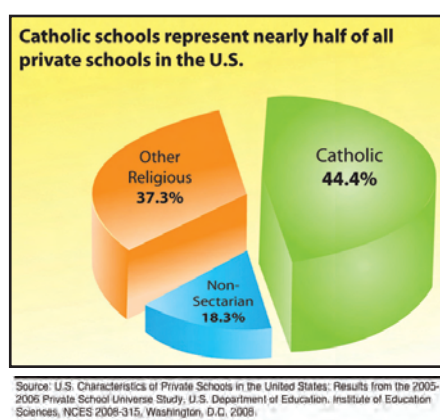
The mission of the Shiner Catholic School is "Preparing the children of God for the Kingdom of God." In curriculum and other areas of decision-making, the focus of the Shiner Catholic School is on the growth of the students' spiritual,

each day. The Shiner Catholic School community believes that a relationship with God is central to its purpose for being. Shiner Catholic School is a unique community in which students, teachers and staff can experience the presence of the Holy Spirit and proclaim the Gospel message. The school remains faithful to its Catholic heritage while respecting the diversity of other religious traditions.



Students from Shiner Catholic School pose in front of St. Ludmila Elementary, formerly known as St. Ludmila Academy.

This year the Shiner Catholic School will proudly celebrate the 114th anniversary of its opening in 1897.



We are the Mariners

PORTLAVACA—Located in Calhoun County, Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca has long been a part of a seafaring community. Surrounded by over

500 square miles of water, Our Lady of the Gulf is unique in many ways. Thus it was only natural for the school to pick the "Mariner" as their mascot. But being the Mariners is more than just a ship's wheel logo and a name. The school has developed strong partnerships with local agencies such as the Calhoun County AgriLife Extension and Texas Sea Grant Extension office. As a result, middle school students are learning basic boat building and sailing skills that enhance and enrich the curriculum in mathematics, computer literacy, art, language arts and even physical education. The building of boats provides the students an opportunity to apply the skills (both academic and so-



(above) Eighth graders build a full-size, piddle-duck racer boat. (right) Eighth-grader Christian Lozano and Rhonda Cummins, marine agent, take the Mariner I out on her maiden voyage.



cial) they are learning in the classroom, to real life activities. This hands-on learning involves parents and parish volunteers, as well as other community partners. After building boats, the students then learn basic boating and water safety skills. This collaborative program helps fulfill the school's goal to develop deductive reasoning, critical and creative thinking skills, and communication skills needed to succeed academically. The program also teaches life-long lessons that build successful futures. Students learn how to work as part of a team to accomplish a common goal, how to find solutions to difficult problems and develop strong bonds with their elders through working with the adult volunteers. From the port, located three blocks from the school, a person can sail to any other port in the world. In a similar way, from the A+ Catholic Education received at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School, Mariner students are given a solid foundation and the tools they need to reach any life goal they set.

Nazareth Academy School (serving Pre-K3 through 8th Grades) has openings at all levels and is accepting new student applications. Registration will be held on March 8th. Contact the school at 573-6651 or go to www.nazarethacademy.org





Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert
catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Called by Name

When I was a substitute teacher, I had a trick. I set aside precisely three minutes to familiarize myself with the seating chart. As the students were filing in and finding seats, I committed to memory the names of the students who were likely to give me trouble. They were the ones who saw a sub, and something changed. When their attitude shifted, I put their names into short-term memory.

At the opening bell, I would put the seating chart down and begin implementing the teacher's lesson plans - and then when one of the students acted up, I addressed him by name. He would stare at me in shock. Did I know him? Well, that changed everything. Suddenly, things were on a personal level. Anonymity - gone. Incognito, no longer.

I could see him thinking. How does she know me? Does she know my parents? Hey, she could write me up with little effort. A name is like a ticket. It gains access to the person. It changes everything.

God disclosed his name to us. He gave it freely. We didn't wrestle it out of him, or crack the code, or lift the name from

a seating chart. He gave it to us. God knew that, in giving us his name, we could draw closer. Our relationship could get personal. As paragraph 203 of the Catechism says, "To disclose one's name is to make oneself known to others; in a way it is to hand oneself over by becoming accessible . . ."

Recently, I traveled to Alabama and Ohio and shared my conversion story. When I arrived, one of the first things I was asked was how I pronounce my name. "It's bah - as in 'bah-humbug' - and cert - as in the breath mints. Bossert." I could tell that they felt a little embarrassed that they did not know how to pronounce my name automatically. They certainly didn't need to feel bad about it. Even before our first date, I asked John, "So how do you pronounce that last name anyway?" Now it is my name, and I give the same answer to others that my husband gave to me.

There was a time when we did not know the name of our God. Once, we were strangers. We were very far from the One who made us. In ancient days, he offered his name to Moses,

but for each of us, this name remained a mystery. And then he called to us personally, as he called to Moses. Draw closer. There is something I want you to do. And the key to your success rests in one name. My name. I Am. The I Am is sending you.

This Creator has known your name from the moment you were conceived in the womb. He knows you by name because he made you. It is a lesson I share with confirmation students. The One who made you has also called you by name. When you were baptized, you were given a new name. Every time you have entered the church, from the moment you were old enough to reach the holy water font, you have blessed yourself in that name. But when you are confirmed, you will stand before God and before his shepherd, the bishop, and you will renew those baptismal promises. At your baptism, God called you as he did to Moses. He gave you his name. Today, he asks you to claim that name - now and forever. He's preparing to send you into the world, as he did Moses, to free the enslaved, liberate the captives and share his good news with others. It is time for you to wear his name publicly. It is time for you to become Christ to the world.

When God gave us his name, he gave us more than a name. He reached out to the created ones and the Creator said draw close to me. You are mine. I love you. And I have called you by name.

Go and bear witness to the name you have received.

To view the television shows featuring Denise Bossert, please go to <http://www.womenofgrace.com/tv-shows/past-tv-shows-online.html> and click on Program 14583 Blogging for Jesus with Denise Bossert. To watch her on the Jan. 10 showing of Journey Home, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXXSoTDn58&feature=player_embedded.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope says St. Joan of Arc is model for Christian politicians

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With her deep prayer life and total devotion to serving God and the good of her fellow citizens, St. Joan of Arc is a wonderful model for Christian politicians, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Hers is a beautiful example of holiness for laypeople involved in politics, especially in difficult situations. Faith is the light that guided all her choices," the pope said Jan. 26 during his weekly general audience.

The pope's remarks about St. Joan were part of an ongoing series of audience talks about influential Catholic women of the Middle Ages.

Addressing about 3,000 people gathered for the audience, the pope said that St. Joan of Arc, like St. Catherine of Siena, was a young laywoman and mystic who lived her faith commitment "not in a cloister, but in the midst of the most dramatic realities of the church and the world of her time."

St. Joan and St. Catherine are perhaps the best examples of "those strong women who at the end of the Middle Ages brought the Gospel to bear on the complex events of history," he said.

From the transcripts of the young French saint's trial, "we know that her religious life matured with mystical experiences beginning when she was 13 years old. Through the voice of the Archangel Michael, Joan felt called by the Lord to intensify

her Christian life and to work personally for the liberation of her people," the pope said.

Those involved in condemning her as a heretic and having her burned at the stake included priests and theologians who disagreed with her politically and were unable to overcome that disagreement to judge her fairly, the pope said.

The role of churchmen in condemning the saint, he said, is a "disturbing and enlightening" picture of the reality of the church on earth, which as the Second Vatican Council said, "is always holy and is always in need of purification."

The truth is that St. Joan of Arc was involved in the French political situation because of her total love for Jesus and for her neighbor, he said. "This saint understood that love embraces the whole reality of God and of man, of heaven and earth, of the church and the world," he said.

The young French saint carried a banner with an image of Jesus holding the world, "the icon of her political mission. The liberation of her people was a work of human justice which Joan engaged in with charity for love of Jesus," the pope said.

After Pope Benedict finished his main audience talk, a man from Malta yelled out to the pope and tried to make his way up to hand a letter to the pope. The man was escorted from the audience hall by Vatican police. Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, vice director of the Vatican press office, said the letter had "devotional content."

Guest Commentary

Why is the Catholic Church so physically massive?

By Joel Davidson, editor of the Catholic Anchor
Archdiocese of Anchorage

To the average observer, the Catholic Church must appear a physically impressive and historically ancient institution. Ten years into the start of her third millennium, she now embraces nearly 1.2 billion followers who are shepherded and guided by 5,000 bishops and more than 400,000 priests who are in full union with the bishop of Rome — the pope. Additionally, more than 700,000 women religious serve the Church.

In terms of sheer real estate, the Catholic Church encompasses 3,000-plus dioceses that contain hundreds of thousands of parishes, as well as schools, hospitals, clinics, orphanages and other outreaches.

Add to this the museums, precious artifacts, archives and cemeteries and one might begin to wonder how the simple Gospel of Christ led to such material splendor.

The admittedly expansive edifice of the Catholic Church is only legitimate so long as the structure rests on a single cornerstone: Jesus Christ, the incarnate God whose warm hands touched the world and carved a doorway to eternal life. He then handed the keys of this doorway to his Church and issued the command

to "Go and make disciples."

This is the only reason for the Church to be so physically and institutionally manifest. She does not exist for her own sake or self-preservation. She does not chart an independent course or serve interests outside of the Gospel. Rather, the Church is the continual proclamation and manifestation of the Gospel of Christ on the earth.

She only exists that men and women might discover that they are known by and can enter into union with the Creator of their souls. This knowledge radically reorders the lives of those who embrace it — both now and for eternity.

The Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska, reveals but a tiny slice of the global Catholic Church. They are but a slice of a slice. The archdiocese encapsulates a total of 32 parishes and missions, five schools, 10 major outreaches of Catholic Social Services, a spiritual retreat center, a Catholic hospital and several medical centers, along with scores of youth groups, programs and other outreaches. At their best, these, too, are physical evidence of the Church's underlying mission — to proclaim Christ to the world.

All of this comes to mind

See *Why is the Catholic Church so physically massive?*, p. 15

Holy Father's Messages

Pope Benedict XVI Messages can be found at the Vatican Web site at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/index.htm or just <http://www.vatican.va>, go to the desired language, click on the picture of the pope and then click on Messages.

Available messages so far this year:

Jan. 1: 44th World Day of Peace 2011 — 'Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace'

Jan. 5: Pontifical Messages: Message on the occasion of the first anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti

Jan. 24: 45th World Communications Day — 'Truth, Proclamation and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age (celebrated June 5, but released Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists, writers)

Feb. 2: 15th World Day of Consecrated Life 2011

Feb. 11: 19th World Day of the Sick 2011 — 'By his wounds you have been healed' (1 Pt 2:24)

Pope Benedict XVI - Intentions February 2011

General Intention: That the family may be respected by all in its identity and that its irreplaceable contribution to all of society be recognized.

Missionary Intention: That in the mission territories where the struggle against disease is most urgent, Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ to those who suffer.

Amor Meus Events

Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to a Taizé Prayer Experience, which will be offered Tuesday, February 15, from 7-8 p.m. in the auditorium, at Incarnate Word Convent, (1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria).

Taizé prayer, held in a candlelight atmosphere, consists of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession.

Also, the Sisters will hold a silent retreat titled "Prayer: Our Lenten Journey to Surrender" on Saturday, March 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the center. A lunch may be purchased for \$5 or bring your own. Bring your Bible if you have one. Pre-registration is preferred.

For more information on either event or to register for the retreat, please call (361) 575-7111 and ask for Sister Louise Marie or Cris.



PRAYERS

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Family Puzzle Contest Winners!

Katherine Kahanek of St. Mary's mission near Hallettsville is the winner of the January Family Puzzle Contest and "The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots" by Archbishop Philip Hannan and published by Our Sunday Visitor. Congratulations. The winners of the youth contest are Delaine Valenzuela (11) and Myles Svatek (7), both of St. Philip in El Campo. Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win "The Hope Prayer" by Father Liam Lawton. See book review on this page.

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 February 25 for a chance to win "The Hope Prayer."

Books for the musician ... or anyone

Below is a list with a short description of a few books published by GIA Publications, Music for the Church. GIA stands for Quality Music and Music Education Resources!

Several books are sent to *The Catholic Lighthouse* each year from GIA Publications, Inc. Here are a few titles Catholics, and in particular Catholic Musicians, will be interested in.

The Hope Prayer ~ Words to Nourish the Soul by Liam Lawton will be the February Family Puzzle Contest prize. Liam Lawton is an award winning, critically acclaimed Irish singer-songwriter and Roman Catholic priest. In 2004, Father Lawton was discovered by EMI, with whom he has since released three platinum-selling albums. In *The Hope Prayer*, he has created a beautiful book of over 40 new prayers – each one expressed in his distinctive and illuminating voice. Including selected song lyrics, this book will take the reader on a comforting journey of the soul, across all kinds of terrain.

Here are prayers of friendship, love, death, leasing, illness, calm, inspiration, marriage, Christmas, providence, remembering, working, celebrating life – all brought together through the theme of hope. *The Hope Prayer* is a book to be treasured, offering strength, sustenance, and wisdom for today's challenging world.

• *Creating the Special World ~ A Collection of Lectures* by Weston H. Nobel

Creating the Special World is a collection of lectures that epitomize the teachings of Weston Noble, one of the most influential leaders in choral music of the past 55 years. His enthusiasm for his life's work emanates from the pages, providing

insight into his artistry. A palpable energy positively leaps from each page.

• *Table Talk ~ Musings on Music, Church and Culture*, a collection of columns by Fred Moleck

Table Talk celebrates 45 years of collected wisdom from award-winning author, *GIA Quarterly* editor and veteran teacher, Dr. Fred Moleck. *Table Talk* relates the thoughts, conversations and experiences of this seasoned church musician and liturgist. Selected from the best of his weekly columns at giamusic.com, *Table Talk* includes such amusing titles as "Looking for Jesus in All the Wrong Places," "Pentecostal Crackles and Pops," and "Music for the Not-So-Easily Inspired."

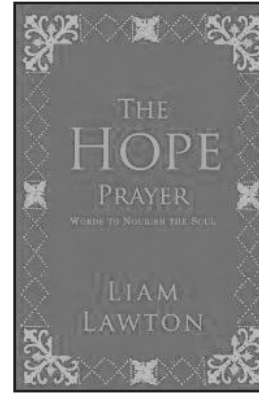
• *The Singer's Ego ~ Finding Balance Between Music and Life, A Guide for Singers and Those Who Teach and Work with Singers* by Lynn Eustis

The Singer's Ego is a groundbreaking book that explores the serious issues singers face, issues with profound implications for both singer and their teachers. From the psychological to the practical, anything that can or will affect a singer's performance is included in this book. The author, a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and voice instructor at the University of North Texas, draws from her experience as a professional singer and the wisdom gained from her many years of teaching voice.

Other items musicians may also be interested in include:

- Song of My People \$18.50 (G-5858)
- In the Quiet \$16.95 (CD-524)
- Sacred Land \$16.95 (CD-662)

For more information on these items or to purchase any of them, please go to www.giamusic.com.



Revised Bible provides 'more clarity, more detail' for today's Catholic

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The revised New American Bible that will be released on Ash Wednesday, March 9, may seem most notably different to casual readers for its efforts at providing context and clarity in how the passages fit together, according to the coordinator of its publication.

"It will be like going from regular TV to high-definition," said Mary Elizabeth Sperry, associate director of New American Bible utilization for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "You'll have the same

programs but more clarity, more detail."

What is being called the New American Bible Revised Edition, or NABRE, will include the first revised translation since 1970 of the Old Testament. The New Testament translation is the same as in 1986's Second Edition of the New American Bible.

The NABRE also will include the updated Book of Psalms, which was revised in three phases between 1991 and 2010 and has been included in Third Edition versions of the New American Bible published since 1991.

The new Bible will be available in an assortment of print, audio and electronic formats, from a variety of publishers. Individual publishers will roll out their versions on their own schedules. For instance, Oxford University Press announced its line of compact NABRE editions will be available by Easter, April 24, and its study Bibles will be on the market for fall 2011 courses.

The NABRE's publication will not affect what Scripture texts are used for Mass. The Lectionary translation has already been updated recently.

Sperry explained that some of the updating in the Old Testament resulted from developments in biblical scholarship since the last time it was translated. For instance, recent archaeological discoveries have provided better texts, which affected scholarly views on how certain passages should be translated, she said.

The goal of retranslating the Old Testament was to "get it closer to the original language," Sperry said. Scholars start with the original Hebrew or Greek text, for instance, rather than simply working from the 1970 New American Bible version, or from translations used in other Bible editions.

"The Flock" expands – and it's not just "Pasture Bloat"

Cartoonist Jean Denton and her "Flock" on the sheepdotcom Web site begin to produce daily cartoons (Monday – Friday) this February.

"The Flock" offers a light approach to the serious matter of relationship with God. We hope you'll regularly follow Bernice and her sheep friends just for a laugh – or maybe to stimulate reflection. And share it with your friends. A new blog will also be posted every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and "Headless Frank" will have new advice every Tuesday and Thursday. Feel free to send comments on the blog page or questions for Frank – who is trying not to be so long-winded. You can just vent to him if you want. Who can better stand and take a good venting than a headless statue? Visit the sheep and Headless Frank at <http://www.sheepdotcom.com>



By Jean Denton
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Twenty Something

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



A short life bookended by tragedy

The youth choir Christina Green belonged to performs just once a month, on the second Sunday at the 9 o'clock Mass. And sure enough, the day after the 9-year-old was killed in Tucson, Ariz., the youngest victim of the shooting targeting Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, St. Odilia's youth choir sang.

It was Jan. 9, the feast of the baptism of the Lord, and there was just one baptism at that Mass, a 9-year-old girl.

That wasn't lost on Father Richard Troutman, pastor of St. Odilia.

"You realize how small they are," he told me, "how much potential they have, how you really want to protect a 9-year-old."

Father Troutman has been a priest since 1968, yet he approached that Mass as if it were his first, putting in extra prayer and still feeling a bit unprepared, like "a work in progress" pastor. He had heard the gun shots the day before and he was just as shocked as everyone else.

The first reading was done by a child, and the words from Isaiah seemed fitting. "Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant, whom I uphold...He shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street."

In his homily Father Troutman spoke longer than usual, preaching about mystical union with God, a state that is preceded by unnecessary death. Baptism propels us toward community engagement and service, he said, which leads to events like "Congress on your Corner," the public gathering where Christina was killed.

Then came the prayer of the faithful, with one petition for all of Saturday's victims and one for Christina.

Communion was the high point, when Christina's friends in the youth choir performed "We Are One Body," an apt anthem for a devastated community being fed by

the Eucharist. "We do not stand alone," the grade schoolers sang. "He who believes in me will have eternal life."

There it all was inside that sloping church on the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains, where the desert heat meets the snow-capped peaks: darkness and light; silence and song; grief and hope; one more baptized member, one less.



Christina Green

"Faith and doubt go really close together," Father Troutman said on the eve of Christina's wake. "God is the God of death and resurrection."

Christina's very arrival, born on 9/11, demonstrated that strange juxtaposition. Her mom says she took pride in being a grace note to a dark day. And surely Christina feels the same way about the loving acts performed after the Tucson shooting: parents who extended their kids' bedtimes, giving an extra kiss or cookie; neighbors who offered heaping helpings of pasta and prayer.

The older I get the more I accept the contradictions in life, understanding how tears and laughter can mingle, springing from what feels like the same origin. Life's contrasts bring meaning, just as a symphony has crescendos and decrescendos, rests and triplets.

I'm also coming to appreciate the richness and rhythm of the liturgical calendar. Sometimes we fall into stride with it, naturally matching its tenor. Sometimes its melody feels miles away, but we hear the invitation and jump in at a key change, singing out or humming along.

This short month is hinged on Valentine's Day, and in Christina's honor we should interpret it broadly, to gather all the love we can, to nurture it, celebrate it and act on it.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.



John and Roxanna Green sit with their son, Dallas, during the funeral Mass for their daughter, Christina Taylor Green, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 13. Christina was killed in the Jan. 8 shootings that left six dead and 14 others wounded, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. (CNS photo/Greg Bryan, Arizona Daily Star pool via Reuters)

Why is the Catholic Church so physically massive?

Continued from p. 13

upon reading Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Peace Day 2011 (observed Jan. 1).

The profoundly inspiring 5,000 word message amounts to a rigorous defense of the Catholic Church's public mission in a modern world — a world which is increasingly hostile to the outward expressions of the Church.

The pope first explains why the Church must always and everywhere publicly proclaim the truth: "Without the acknowledgment of his spiritual being, without openness to the transcendent, the human person withdraws within himself, fails to find answers to the heart's deepest questions about life's meaning, fails to appropriate lasting ethical values and principles, and fails even to experience authentic freedom and to build a just society."

The pope adds, "Religious freedom should be understood, then, not merely as

immunity from coercion, but even more fundamentally as an ability to order one's own choices in accordance with truth."

Throughout his message, Pope Benedict makes clear that the ability to "order one's choices in accordance with truth" will include the right to build Churches, schools, hospitals and other institutions that physically manifest the love of God.

In short, the Holy Father makes clear that outward works of the Church exist — and have a right to continue — because of the fundamental nature of humanity.

"The right to religious freedom is rooted in the very dignity of the human person, whose transcendent nature must not be ignored or overlooked," he says.

To read the full World Day of Peace message, go to http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/ and click on Messages.

Bishop promotes marriage day

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two initiatives in February focus attention on the need to strengthen marriage, in line with the U.S. bishops' priority interest in that area, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., told his fellow bishops.

Bishop Rhoades, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, expressed support for World Marriage Day Feb. 13 and National Marriage Week USA Feb. 7-14 in a Jan. 13 letter

to bishops.

World Marriage Day, promoted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, has as its theme this year, "Love One Another."

The observance received Pope John Paul II's apostol-



ic blessing in 1993, and "has continued to grow and spread among many countries and faith expressions ever since," Bishop

Rhoades said.

National Marriage Week USA is sponsored by the Let's Strengthen Marriage Campaign. First observed in the United Kingdom in 1996, it has since spread to other countries.

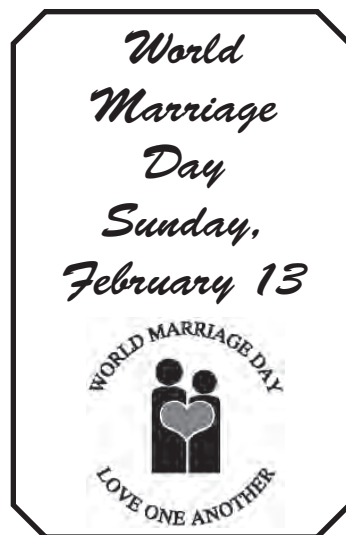
"This project — now in its second year (in the United States) — is a collaborative effort to influence the culture by faith communities, business, media, education and nonprofit

See Bishop promotes, p. 17

Catholic wedding must mean couple knows church teaching, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Men and women have a natural right to marry, but that does not mean they have a right to a Catholic wedding, Pope Benedict XVI said. For the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament that is witnessed by a priest or deacon, but performed by the couple who pledge their union will be forever and that they will be open to having and educating children, the pope said. "The right to contract marriage presupposes that one is able to and intends to truly celebrate it, that is, in the truth of its essence as taught by the church," Pope Benedict said Jan. 22 when he met with members of the Roman Rota, a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases.

See Catholic wedding, p. 16



Sunday Readings from Feb. 13 to March 13

February 13 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sirach 15:15-20 Psalms 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-34
February 20 — Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 Matthew 5:38-48
February 27 — Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 49:14-15 Psalms 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Matthew 6:24-34
March 6 — Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32 Psalms 31:2-3, 3-4, 17, 25 Romans 3:21-25, 28 Matthew 7:21-27
March 9 — Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18 Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17 2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:2 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
March 13 — First Sunday of Lent	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

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Packers' chaplain expects record Super Bowl crowd — at pre-game Mass

ALLOUEZ, Wis. (CNS) -- If the Super Bowl is anything like the National Football Conference championship game, Norbertine Father Jim Baraniak said he expected an overflow crowd. The Packers' Catholic chaplain wasn't referring to the attendance at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, but rather the Mass to be celebrated before the big game Feb. 6. In Chicago, before the Packers beat the Bears Jan. 23, "everybody showed up. We maxed out the room," said Father Baraniak. "It was just unbelievable," he added. "The Mass was full of energy. I felt nervous during the homily." Father Baraniak, now in his 14th year with the team, has enjoyed an up-close view throughout the regular season and the playoff run. When the Packers play on the road, he watches the action from the visiting owner's box before making his way onto the field for the fourth quarter. In addition to his ministerial duties, he assists in the locker room. Father Baraniak, pastor at St. Norbert College Parish in De Pere, is responsible for returning players' valuables from safekeeping after the game. The job was tougher this season with all of the injuries. "Even at the end of the season, I had a hard time with all the new faces," he told The Compass, newspaper of the Green Bay Diocese. "Usually, after the preseason, by the first game, I know everyone. It was a guessing game at times this year. At the college, at the prison, in all the apostolates of which I'm involved, I take pride in getting to know people's names, so it's been difficult."

Shifting religious landscape and signs of how religion divides, unites

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The rate at which Latinos are entering U.S. Catholic life is "sudden" and "dramatic," according to the co-author of a recently published book chronicling trends in U.S. religious life. But, said David Campbell, who co-wrote "American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us," it is just one manifestation of a shifting U.S. religious landscape. "Of those Catholics under 30 who were at Mass last weekend — pick any weekend — but last weekend, 60 percent of them were Latino. Sixty percent. And that group is only going to grow," Campbell said during a luncheon organized by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. "Latinos are more likely to remain within the faith; they don't intermarry as much. They hold onto their young — they also have a higher birthrate. And so those two factors together mean that the Catholic Church is on the leading edge of the Latino-ization of America," said Campbell, the John Cardinal O'Hara

associate professor of political science and founding director of the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. "It's an interesting story because having diverse ethnic groups within the Catholic Church — that's nothing new. The Catholics have welcomed immigrants from around the world for generations. What's new is that it used to be the Poles, the Lithuanians, the Italians and the Irish. And now it's the Guatemalans and the Mexicans, and to see the interplay between those groups is interesting," Campbell said.

EWTN acquires National Catholic Register; newspaper launched in 1927

IRONDALE, Ala. (CNS) — The Eternal Word Television Network has signed a letter of intent to acquire the National Catholic Register, which describes itself as "the nation's leading Catholic newspaper." Effective Feb. 1, EWTN will take full control and ownership of the Register, now based in Irondale. Its editorial and business offices had been based in North Haven, Conn., since 1995, when the Legionaries of Christ bought the paper and moved it to New England from California. "I am very pleased and excited that the Register will now be a part of the EWTN family," said Michael P. Warsaw, EWTN's president and chief executive officer. "All of us at EWTN have great respect for the Register and the role it has played throughout its history. It's a tremendous legacy that deserves to not only be preserved, but also to grow and to flourish." Warsaw said in a Jan. 19 statement: "I believe that EWTN will be able to provide the stability that the Register needs at this time as well as to give it a platform for its growth in the years ahead. We're proud to be able to step in and carry on both the Register's name and its tradition of faithful Catholic reporting on the issues of the day." Under the terms of the transaction, no cash will be exchanged between the parties. EWTN, a global Catholic network, will take over the ongoing operational expenses of the Register and will assume the paper's future subscription liabilities. The National Catholic Register grew out of the Denver Catholic Register, launched Aug. 11, 1905. Under the leadership of Msgr. Matthew Smith, the Register system of newspapers was developed, with the first national edition appearing Nov. 8, 1927.

Catholic wedding must mean couple knows church teaching, pope says

Continued from p. 16

Because the church has a very specific religious understanding of what marriage is, "no one can claim the right to a marriage ceremony" in the church, the pope said. In his annual meeting with the tribunal officials, Pope Benedict said he wanted to focus on the legal or juridical aspect of Catholic marriage preparation programs, because too often engaged couples — and even those preparing them for marriage — consider the courses simply a bureaucratic hurdle to overcome before the wedding. "In fact,

often it is assumed that the priest must act with largesse, since the natural right of persons to marry is at stake," the pope said, but for the Catholic Church, there exists only one kind of marriage — sacramental — and the right of Catholic couples to celebrate the sacrament can be exercised only if they fully understand what they are doing.

Capital Comments

By Maria Huemmer
Communication Director,
Texas Catholic Conference



Immigration Legislation that Makes Sense for Texas

At the beginning of the year, we spoke with several advocates at a press conference on immigration reform. One of the speakers illustrated the brokenness of current immigration law, stating that it's as if our country has two adjacent signs regarding immigration: "Keep Out" and "Now Hiring."

Immigration reform is a complex issue, but the position of the Catholic Bishops is clear. Immigration is a moral issue, based on our teaching that every person is created in God's image. As stated by Most Rev. Kevin Farrell, Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas, "Immigration reform must include a viable path to permanent residency for the undocumented population; a new worker program that includes appropriate worker protections, wage levels and an opportunity to earn permanent residency; reductions in family reunification backlogs, and the restoration of due process protections lost in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act."

Root causes of migration must also be addressed. The Texas Bishops called attention to this issue in a statement released last year, stating, "immigrant families coming from Mexico are increasingly coming to the United States out of a fear for their safety and that of their families; this is exacerbating the dimensions of the humanitarian tragedy that affects immigrant families."

Comprehensive immigration reform must be handled at the national level because immigration is a national issue. The bulk of the bills in our Immigration Bill Report (which lists state legislation that we support or oppose in that priority area) are bills we oppose on the premise that it is not the responsibility of local law enforcement, school districts, or other state or local agencies to enforce federal immigration law. These bills emphasize

the "keep out" element of immigration reform, and fail to recognize the positive contributions of immigrants to our state. Efforts to require employers to comply with E-verify, a system that has high error rates, among other problems, fail to recognize that Texas is benefiting from the contributions of immigrants in our workforce. Concerns about crime and wasted tax dollars in our state are red herrings in the debate on immigration reform. Texas state and local law enforcement can already arrest immigrants for crimes they commit. The State Comptroller showed that, in the 2005 budget year, undocumented immigrants produced 1.58 billion dollars in state revenues, which exceeded the \$1.16 billion in state services they received.

We are, however, pleased to support positive immigration legislation that maintains an appropriate relationship between state and federal government. HB 48, sponsored by Representative Peña (R), and SB 288, sponsored by Senator Lucio (D) allow the Department of Public Safety to review the feasibility of southbound checkpoints and to cooperate with the federal government in setting them up. The intent of these bills is to secure the border and stop the flow of arms and bulk currency to drug cartels and gangs. We support border enforcement measures that are targeted, proportional, and humane, and we hope that this legislation will pass and help end the violence occurring in Texas and Mexico.

For more information on these bills, as well as other bills relevant to our Immigration legislative priority, visit our Bill Reports page by clicking the "Bill Reports" button on our web page, www.TXcatholic.org. To learn the facts and combat the myths surrounding this issue, visit the Justice for Immigrants web site: www.JusticeforImmigrants.org.

*"Love ...
It always
protects, always
trusts, always
hopes, always
perseveres."*

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

Knights of Columbus Council #4307

Fish Fry ~ Auction ~ Raffle
Serving from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(includes dessert & tea/coffee)

Plates - \$8 per person



Sunday, March 6

St. Peter Parish Hall in Blessing

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.



Father Alfonso Serna, O.Ss.T. (center right) tours the pyramids while his family visits him in Egypt. Pictured with him are his parents, Carlos Serna and Ma. Del Socorro Ornelas, and his brother, Jorge A. Serna.

Watching from afar, Father Alfonso puts the Egyptian people in God's hands

Continued from p. 1

"The Trinitarians helped to integrate them into the society of the host nation and prepare them for return to the Sudan or for emigration to other countries," Father Alfonso said in an e-mail interview with *The Catholic Lighthouse*. While helping them to integrate they also assist them in maintaining their cultural and religious identities.

"It was a blessing to spend time in Cairo with such a great people," he said. "My heart is broken with all that is happening, but I have the faith and hope that God will help his Creation in one way or another."

"Our original goal and mission was to go to South Sudan to help the persecuted Christians back in 2001. For political and religious reasons, we were not allowed to go to Sudan; in light of this, we helped the Comboni Fathers [with the Sudanese refugees in Cairo]."

St. Bakhita Catholic Centre has been administered by the Order of the Most Holy Trinity since 2002. For legal reasons, both civil and ecclesiastical, SBCC is affiliated with the Sacred Heart Church (Sakakini) and staffed by the Comboni Fathers, who are now to begin the care and administration of the SBCC, its congregation, and its programs.

"Since the cease-fire, many have returned to the Sudan or have chosen to emigrate to other countries," Father Alfonso said.

Fortunately, things are looking better for the Christians in South Sudan, especially since the vote on independence in January. According to a January CNS story, preliminary results of the vote are expected in February.

Many refugees have returned home, Father Alfonso said, decreasing the refugee population at SBCC from thousands to hundreds; therefore, the original reason for the Trinitarians going to Sudan has changed, and even their mission in Cairo has changed.

"It appears that this district will remain

as a transit point for future emigrants," he said, and the Comboni Fathers will be taking care of them.

"However, we [Trinitarians] still plan to continue to minister to the Christian Church in the Middle East as part of our charism," he said.

In the interview, I asked Father Alfonso if he ever felt threatened as a Christian while in Egypt. He responded saying, "I never had such an experience. I learned that my presence, as a religious priest there was compromised in a way, but I also learned that the very fact of being a foreigner, gave me a different 'Christian Status'."

Father Alfonso told me that out of respect for the other faiths, they did not wear their clerical garb, except when celebrating Mass.

Concluding, I then asked, "With a new regime change, do you think things will improve or be worse for Christians in Egypt?"

"This is a very difficult question to answer," he said. "I hope and pray that the change will bring a better situation for our fellow Christian brothers. However, much, or very little, might happen."

Father Alfonso then stated, "Pope Benedict XVI has been promoting freedom of religion. I add myself to such an important right and principle. My contribution has been the ministry of presence and support among the persecuted Church. I hope and pray that a positive impact for the Christian Community in Egypt may be an outcome of this current situation."

"I am very hopeful that the Egyptian people will overcome the difficult time they are currently experiencing. I am not sure what the outcomes will be; however, knowing their passion for life and willingness to grow as a nation, they will be able to support each other and become what they hope for."

"Please do not stop praying for the Egyptian Nation, so they can achieve what they are fighting for," he said.

Bishop promotes marriage day

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groups," Bishop Rhoades said. He said it involves "new efforts for marriage education and crisis intervention," as well as promoting "a message about the benefits of marriage."

He also urged use of the online resources on marriage at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site, www.foryourmarriage.org, and its Spanish-language counterpart, www.portumatri-monio.org; advocacy resources at www.marriageuniqueforareason.org on why marriage should be promoted as the union of a man and a woman; and the bishops'

pastoral letter on marriage, "Love and Life in the Divine Plan," available online at www.usccb.org/loveandlife.

The For Your Marriage Web site received nearly half a million visits in 2010, a 23 percent increase over 2009, according to a report from Google Analytics.

The report found that articles on preparing for a Catholic wedding were especially popular. The site offers information about wedding readings, music, ceremony options, interchurch marriages and tips for planning a memorable wedding.

Church leaders follow Egyptian unrest with interest, concern

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Church leaders were watching the unfolding political drama in Egypt with a mixture of hope for reform and concern over potential violence, said the head of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa told Vatican Radio Jan. 30 that the widespread unrest that has weakened the 30-year rule of President Hosni Mubarak came as a surprise to Catholics in the region. "We all sense that these are epochal changes. None of us would have imagined these kinds of developments a few months ago," he said. "This means that there are currents, especially in the Arab world, that now have found visible expression. This is certainly a positive sign, but it's also worrying because we don't know how all this will end — we hope with the least possible amount of violence and bloodshed," he said. Father Pizzaballa said he hoped that "respect for religious minorities will be preserved" in Egypt. His concern appeared to reflect the fact that Mubarak's opponents include both radical and moderate Muslim groups, and it was unclear who might assume power if the president resigns. Father Pizzaballa spoke on a church-sponsored day of prayer for peace in the Holy Land. At the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI marked the day with a prayer to "lead minds and hearts toward concrete projects of peace." He did not specifically mention the unrest in Egypt.

Vatican did not tell bishops to cover up abuse cases, spokesman says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official downplayed a 1997 Vatican letter to Irish bishops about handling cases of clerical sex abuse, saying the letter did not tell bishops to keep the cases secret from the police. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the letter aimed at ensuring the bishops fully followed Church law for dealing with accusations in order to avoid a situation in which an abusive priest could return to ministry on the technicality of his bishop mishandling the process. The letter, brought to public attention Jan. 17 by Ireland's RTE television and published by the Associated Press, was written by Archbishop Luciano Storero, then-nuncio to Ireland. The letter summarized the concerns of the Congregation for Clergy regarding proposed Irish norms for dealing with the sex abuse crisis. Archbishop Storero said that according to the congregation, "the situation of 'mandatory reporting' gives rise to serious reservations of both a moral and a canonical nature." Father Lombardi said, "One must note that the letter in no way says that the country's laws must not be followed." He told Catholic News Service Jan. 19 that the Vatican "does not have a universal, specific position on mandatory reporting because the laws and situations are so different from country to country."

May 1 beatification set for Pope

Continued from p. 1

John Paul, who made it a church-wide feast day to be celebrated a week after Easter. The pope died on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005.

With beatification, Pope John Paul will be declared "blessed" and thus worthy of restricted liturgical honor. Another miracle is needed for canonization, by which the church declares a person to be a saint and worthy of universal veneration.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, summed up much of the sentiment in Rome when he said Pope John Paul would be beatified primarily for the spiritual gifts of faith, hope and charity that were the source of his papal activity.

The world witnessed that spirituality when the pope prayed, when he spent time with the sick and suffering, in his visits to the impoverished countries of the world and in his own illness "lived out in faith, before God and all of us," Father Lombardi said.

Father Lombardi said the Vatican was preparing to move Pope John Paul's body from the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica to the Chapel of St. Sebastian in the basilica's upper level at the time of beatification. The chapel, on the right hand side of the church just after Michelangelo's Pieta, is easily accessible and spacious, an important factor given the steady stream of pilgrims who come to see the pope's tomb.

Father Lombardi said Pope John Paul's casket would not be opened at the time of the relocation, and that it would remain closed after it is placed beneath the altar of the chapel. To make room, the Vatican will have to move the tomb of a previously beatified pontiff, Pope Innocent XI, to another area of the basilica, he said.

In 2005, Pope Benedict set Pope John Paul on the fast track to beatification by waiving the normal five-year waiting period for the introduction of his sainthood cause. That seemed to respond to the "Santo subito!" ("Sainthood now!") banners that were held aloft at Pope John Paul's funeral.

Even so, church experts needed years to review the massive amount of evidence regarding the late pope, including thousands of pages of writings and speeches. The process began with the Diocese of Rome, which interviewed more than 120 people who knew Pope John Paul and asked them about his actions and character. Studies were conducted on his ministry, the way

he handled suffering and how he faced his death.

In 2007, on the second anniversary of the pope's death, the Rome Diocese concluded the initial inquiry phase. The documents from the investigation were placed in four chests, which were latched, tied with a red ribbon, sealed with red wax and delivered to the Congregation for Saints' Causes for further study.

In November 2008, a team of theological consultants to the saints congregation began studying the 2,000-page "positio," the document that made the case for Pope John Paul's beatification. After their favorable judgment, the cardinal and bishop members of the sainthood congregation met in late 2009 and voted to advance the cause.

On Dec. 21, 2009, Pope Benedict declared that Pope John Paul had lived a life of "heroic virtues." That meant he could be beatified once a miracle had been approved.

The reported cure of the French nun was carefully investigated by the Vatican's medical experts over the last year after questions were raised about the original diagnosis. Vatican sources said that, in the end, the experts were satisfied that it was Parkinson's, and that there was no scientific explanation for the cure.

In 2007, the nun, Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, spoke to reporters about her experience. A member of the Little Sisters of the Catholic Motherhood, she was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2001 at the age of 40. In watching Pope John Paul deteriorate from the effects of Parkinson's disease, she said, "I saw myself in the years to come."

When the pope died in 2005, and as Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre's condition began to worsen, all the members of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood in France and in Senegal began praying to Pope John Paul to intervene with God to heal her.

By June 2, two months after the pope died, she was struggling to write, to walk and to function normally. But she said she went to bed that night and woke up very early the next morning feeling completely different.

"I was sure I was healed," she said. Not long afterward, she had recovered enough to return to work in Paris at a maternity hospital run by her order.



Special Collection

Aid to Church in Europe (Ash Wed.) - March 9 Operation Rice Bowl - Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday Ongoing Events

Gabriel Project—a ministry providing help to pregnant women in need of spiritual guidance, direction and basic needs holds monthly meetings open to everyone interested. Meetings are held in Victoria the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 101 W. Convent (corner of Main & Convent) behind St. Mary's Catholic Church at 6:30 p.m. A light supper will be served at the meetings. Please call Barbara at (361) 649-1612 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 Sympto-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. A re-enactor 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: April 15-17, 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.

February

Victoria—St. Mary Parish Festival Feb. 13 at the community center from 10:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. A fried-chicken meal will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7.50 p/p with curb service available. Live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be booths and games for everyone. See pg. 4 for more information.

Weimar—Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be offered at St. Michael School in Weimar. Financial Peace University consists of a 13-week video curriculum (taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey) that incorporates small-group discussions. This life-changing program teaches members of a congregation to achieve their financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. Classes begin Feb. 13 and are held on Sundays from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$99. For more information please contact Michelle or Mike Koeth at (512) 626-2713 / (979) 743-1199 or mposas@alumni.utexas.net

Schulenburg—CDA Court St. Rose #1597 will hold its 18th Annual Fried-Chicken Dinner on Feb. 20 at the KC Hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children. There will be a cakewalk, silent auction and country store. KC Hall is located at 405 South Street, off of Highway 77.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council #1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Feb. 20 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Victoria—Great concert with Gela, a Catholic Singer, "Only

Say the Word and I Shall be Healed," Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 208 W. River St.

Upcoming Events

Victoria—Holy Family Altar Society Games Party March 3 at the activity center (704 Mallette Dr.). Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with admission of \$7 p/p. There will be door prizes, fun, food and a silent auction. To make reservations contact Jalayne Tupa (361) 578-1606; Melicent Bryarly (361) 573-3736; or Margaret Beekler (361) 575-4997.

Blessing—The Blessing Knights of Columbus Council #4307 will sponsor their annual fish fry, auction and raffle Sunday, March 6, with proceeds benefiting scholarships and charities. Fried catfish with all the trimmings will be served from 10:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter parish hall. Plates - \$8 p/p (includes dessert and drink). Raffle tickets are available from any #4307 Knights of Columbus member.

El Campo—Everyone is invited to the Annual Pilgrim Reunion that will be held March 6 at St. Philip Parish Hall, 304 W. Church St. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee, juice and doughnuts. Mass with Most Rev. David Fellhauer will be at 11:15 a.m. in the church. A covered-dish lunch will follow. For more information, please contact Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or at burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.

Hungerford—KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 will be hosting their annual barbecue-chicken and sausage dinner March 6 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. There will be an auction, free dance until 4:00 p.m. with music by The Texas Legacy Czech Band.

Victoria—Our Lady of Sorrows Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 11, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.; take-out or dine-in at Trinity Hall, 208 W. River. Plates are \$7 p/p and include fried tilapia, coleslaw, hush puppies and corn on the cob. For more information, please call Rey Rosas at (361) 920-2912.

New Taiton—St. John's Altar Society Annual Chicken Dinner March 13 at the community center. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. with fried-chicken, homemade dressing and all the trimmings (dine-in or plates-to-go available). There will also be a auction, cakewalk, country store and more.

Yoakum—St. Ann's Mission "Save the Bell Tower" kettle-fried steak dinner March 20 at St. Joseph's Family Center will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or take-out available. There will also be a silent auction and country store. The event is sponsored by KJZT Society #37.

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

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 Colonade.

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.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria—Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to a Taizé Prayer Experience, Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Convent Auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent, (1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria). See more on p. 13.

Victoria—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a Women's ACTS Retreat February 17-20, at the diocesan Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information, call Ann Goodman at home (361) 572-9591 or cell (361) 920-9592; Carla Hanes at home (361) 576-5802 or cell (361) 648-6964; or Bonnie Hermes at home (361) 570-0837 or cell (361) 212-9658.

Noticias en Español

"Holocaust Museum Houston en Español" – Feb. 15

HOUSTON—Noche en Español en el Museo del Holocausto de Houston 15 de febrero, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Tendrán la oportunidad de escuchar en español a un sobreviviente del Holocausto y tomar una visita guiada del Museo en español. La entrada al Museo es gratis y no es necesario registrarse antes de asistir. Museum: 5401 Caroline St., Houston, TX 77004; 713-942-8000; www.hmh.org.

Victoria—Un Gran Concierto con Géla, cantante católica, "Sólo diga la palabra y yo seré curado," miércoles, febrero 23, 7 – 9 p.m., parroquia OLS, 208 West River.

Benedicto XVI Audiencia General: The text of the pope's audience remarks in Spanish are posted online at: www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiencias/2011/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20110126_sp.html.

Victoria—A Charismatic Mass will be held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish on Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Stan De Boe, O.S.S.T. OLS is located on the corner of W. River and S. Glass Streets.

Victoria—Holy Family Mini-Retreat Saturday, March 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Father Greg Korenek, pastor, will be the speaker. His theme for the retreat is Union with God. For more information, call the rectory at (361) 573-5304.

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 March 5-6 and April 9-10, 2011, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested, please check out the Web site at www.iwsvictoria.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwsvoc@yahoo.com or iwsvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation.

San Antonio—6th Annual Catholic Men's Conference Friday evening, March 25 through Saturday, March 26, at St. Matthew Catholic Church's McDonald Center. Men are invited to be challenged, encouraged and inspired by dynamic speakers Jesse Romero, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Father John Jesus Maloney and Greg Alexander, and to celebrate Mass with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller. For further details, brochure and registration information, please contact The Pilgrim Center of Hope at (210) 521-3377, dtmjfox@pilgrimcenterofhope.org or www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org. Also join our NEW Facebook page!

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 iwsvoc2@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.

Victoria—Amor Meus Spirituality Center will hold a silent retreat on Saturday, March 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Incarnate Word Convent, (1101 N.E. Water Street). See more on pg. 13.

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/>.

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Cardinal outlines rationale behind three pro-life bills before House

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Three pieces of pro-life legislation supported by the U.S. bishops face “a very positive outlook” in the House, but their prospects remain in question in the Senate, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities said Jan. 25.

The three bills backed by the USCCB — all introduced in the days preceding the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide — are:

- Protect Life Act, H.R. 358, which would amend the health reform law to prohibit the use of any federal funds for abortion or for health plans that cover

abortion; guarantee conscience protections for health care providers and institutions; and “close a loophole” that could allow the federal health reform law to override existing state laws.

- Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, H.R. 361, which would “protect the civil rights of health professionals and other health care entities” by affirming that “no health care entity should be forced by government to perform or participate in abortions,” the cardinal said.

- No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, H.R. 3, which would write into permanent law the long-standing prohibition on the use of federal funds to promote or support elective abortion.

USCCB committee explains direct abortion, legitimate medical procedure

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops’ Committee on Doctrine in a June 23, 2010, statement discussed the distinction between the Church’s definitions of a direct abortion and a legitimate medical procedure that could result in an indirect abortion.

The statement came in response to an evolving debate among ethicists and theologians over the excommunication of Mercy Sister Margaret Mary McBride and her subsequent reassignment at a Phoenix Catholic hospital after news surfaced about her role in a decision to let an abortion take place there in late 2009.

Below are excerpts from the statement.

Catholic institutions are guided in making such decisions by the “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services,” and the doctrine committee cited two directives — No. 45 and No. 47 — that guide medical decisions regarding direct abortion and legitimate medical procedures that might end the life of an unborn child through an indirect abortion.

The committee’s statement quoted directive 45: “Abortion (that is, the directly intended termination of pregnancy before viability or the directly intended destruction of a viable fetus) is never permitted. Every procedure whose sole immediate effect is the termination of pregnancy before viability is an abortion, which, in its moral context, includes the interval between conception and implantation of the embryo.” Therefore, the committee’s statement said, “Direct abortion is never morally permissible. One may never directly kill an innocent human being, no matter what the reason.”

The committee’s statement also quoted directive 47: “Operations, treatments and medications that have as their direct purpose the cure of a proportionately serious pathological condition of a pregnant woman are permitted when they cannot be safely postponed until the unborn child is viable, even if they will result in the death of the unborn child.”

In explaining the distinction, the committee offered two examples involving an unborn child not old enough to survive outside the womb.

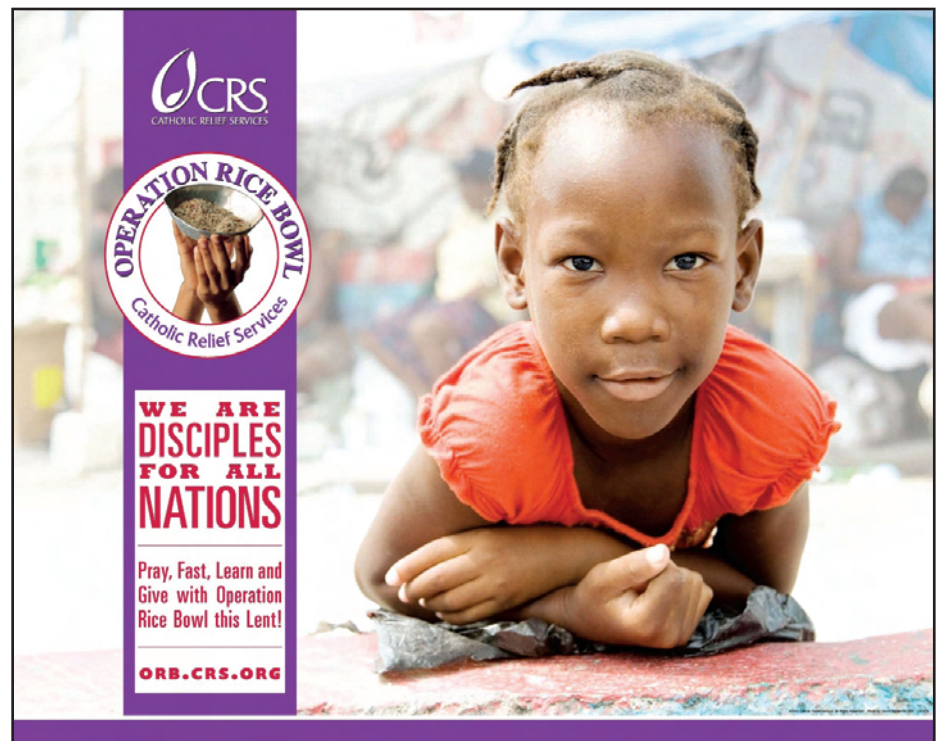
The first involves a pregnant woman who is experiencing problems with one or more of her organs, apparently because of the added burden of pregnancy. In this case, the doctor recommends an abortion to protect the woman’s health. The committee said this is an example of a direct abortion. The surgery, the committee explained, does not directly address the health problem of the woman by repairing the organ that is malfunctioning.

In the second example, a pregnant woman develops cancer in her uterus. In this case, the doctor recommends surgery to remove the cancerous uterus as the only

way to prevent the cancer from spreading. Removing the uterus also will result in the death of the unborn child. The surgery directly addresses the woman’s health problem by removing a malfunctioning organ and, the committee’s statement continued, “does not directly target the life of the unborn child ... the death of the child is an unintended and unavoidable side effect and not the aim of the surgery.”

“There is nothing intrinsically wrong with surgery to remove a malfunctioning organ,” the doctrine committee’s statement said. “It is morally justified when the continued presence of the organ causes problems for the rest of the body.”

“Surgery to terminate the life of an innocent person, however, is intrinsically wrong. There are no situations in which it can be justified,” the committee added.



CRS’ Operation Rice Bowl Starts Ash Wednesday — March 9

Every year, millions of Catholics in the United States participate in Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services’ annual Lenten program. Each Lent, Catholic parishes and schools from more than 12,000 communities use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their prayer and fasting. Getting involved in the program is a tangible way to help people living in poverty around the world; see orb.crs.org.

CHA president affirms bishop’s role in interpreting health directives

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an exchange of letters with the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the head of the Catholic Health Association has affirmed that the local bishop is the “authoritative interpreter” of the ethical and religious directives that guide Catholic health care. Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, said her organization “has a sincere desire to work with the church and individual bishops to understand as clearly as possible clinical issues and bring the majesty of the church’s teaching to that.” In response to the letter, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, said the church must “speak with one voice” against the “increasing political and social pressures that are trying to force the church to compromise her principles,” including “the problem of illegitimate government intrusion in our health care ministries.” The letters followed telephone conversations among Sister Carol, Archbishop Dolan and Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla.

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FAITHFUL PROCESS FOR LIFE IN HALLETTSVILLE AND SHINER—On the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, Jan. 22, following a nine-day novena in reparation for the sin of abortion, Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville held a Eucharistic Procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the church to the Lavaca County Courthouse. Father Tommy Chen, director of Diocesan Pro-life Concerns, led the procession of nearly 200 people. A Eucharistic Procession for Life was also held in Shiner on Sunday, January 23.



LOCAL PARISHIONERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE—Youth from the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Ganado and their chaperones participated in the 38th Annual March for Life in Washington, D. C., on January 24, 2011. Brooke Sablatura, Cale Hollas and Allyson Genzer, along with their chaperones, Mike Sablatura (c.) and Brittany Hollas (r.), traveled to Washington for the activities associated with the march. “The march was amazing,” said Allyson Genzer who is a member of the Teens for Life program at Assumption Parish. “We were able to march with tens of thousands of people, mainly youth, to let our lawmakers know that abortion is morally and spiritually wrong.” The march was the first for Assumption Parish to attend. The group shadowed parishioners from Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. Together both parishes sent twenty-two teens and adults to participate in the March for Life events.



ONE NEVER KNOWS WHO ONE WILL RUN INTO ON A DC METRO—Youth from Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria, who attended the National March for Life in Washington, DC, ran into two Victoria Diocese seminarians, Matthew Soto and Kristopher Fuchs, following the March for Life Vigil Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception January 23. Pictured from left is Normalinda Cantu, David Coffey, Kaitlyn Cantu, Father Michael Rother, parochial vicar at OLV; Matthew Soto, Maddy Buhler, Kristopher Fuchs and Dina Poland. Youth from Assumption Parish in Ganado also attended with the OLV group.

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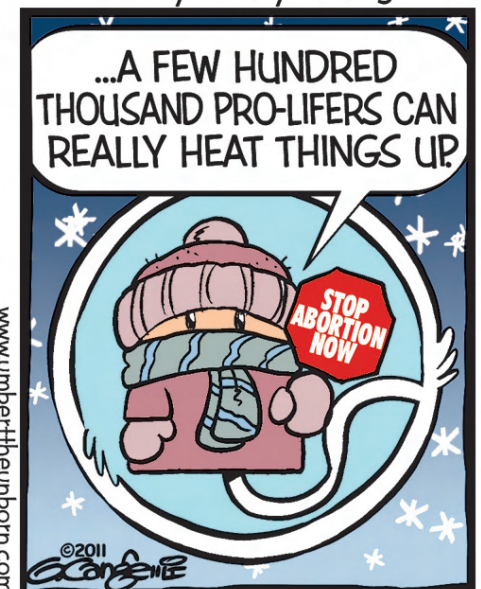
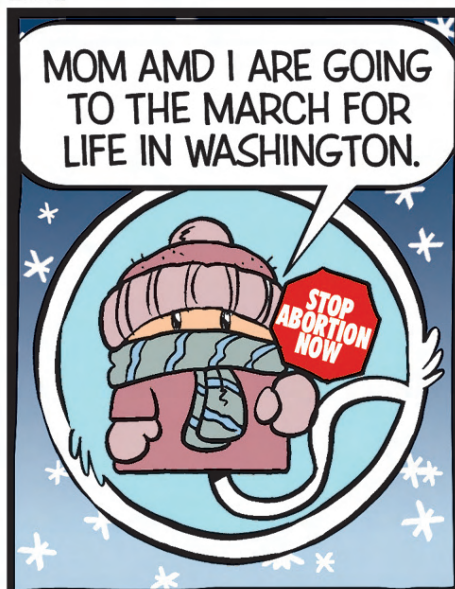
Eve Sanchez Silva, formerly a representative of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, gave the keynote address at the Jan. 27, 2011, Victoria Candlelight March for Life, which ended at Fellowship Bible Church. Now a cancer research analyst in New Jersey specializing in the relationship between abortion and breast cancer, Mrs. Sanchez Silva presented “The Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the Cure’s Affair with Planned Parenthood.” She has spoken at the UN Conference on Women, sharing that abortion is violence against women and desires that everyone speak out about the evil that Planned Parenthood spreads. She suggests people go to her Web site at www.cocolife.org and download and share the available information. She suggests that rather than participate in “Race for the Cure,” donate instead to places that actually do breast cancer research, several of which are in Texas.



TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE—Youth from the Diocese of Victoria attended Texas Rally for Life on the steps of the State Capitol in Austin on Saturday, January 22, the 38th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade case, which allowed the legalization of abortion in all U.S. states in early months of pregnancy without restrictions and throughout full pregnancy (originally) with restrictions. One hundred-seventy youth from the following parishes participated: St. Mary, Our Lady of Victory and Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; St. Anthony of Padua and Assumption Chapel, Palacios; St. Michael, Cuero; St. Andrew, Hillje/Louise; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; St. Agnes, Edna; and Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn. The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry sponsored the trip.

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by Gary Cangemi



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