

# The Catholic Lighthouse

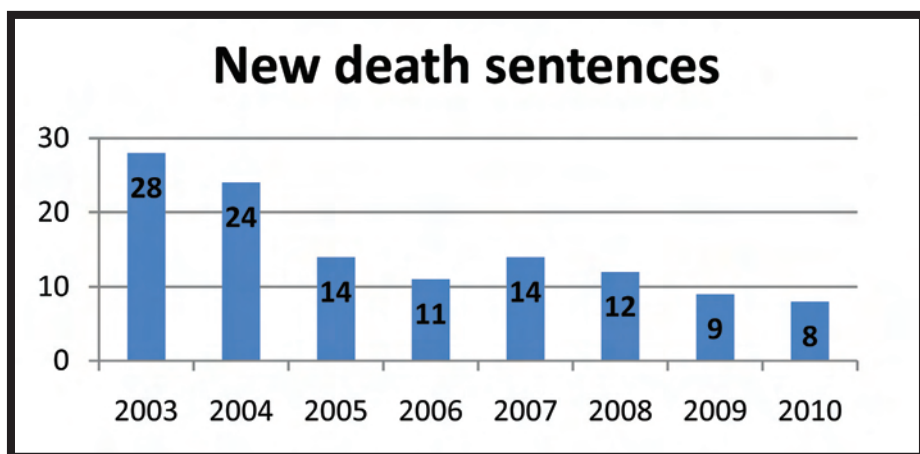
The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 24, NO. 9

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

January 2011



## Texas Death sentences, executions drop in 2010

AUSTIN — Death sentences in Texas have dropped more than 70% since 2003, reaching a historic low in 2010 according to the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty's (TCADP) new report, Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2010: The Year in Review. TCADP, an Austin-based statewide, grassroots advocacy organization, releases this annual report each December in conjunction with the anniversary of the resumption of executions in Texas in 1982.

Juries condemned eight new individuals to death in Texas in 2010, which is the lowest number of new death sentences since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Texas' revised death penalty statute in 1976. These new sentences occurred in six counties: Brazos; Dallas; Harris; Nueces; Rusk; and Travis.

Recent sentencing trends illustrate the arbitrary and biased imposition of the death penalty. An analysis of data from 2007 to 2010 reveals that only 21 counties — 8 percent of the 254 counties in Texas — meted out death sentences over the last four years. Out of a total 43 death sentences imposed statewide between 2007 and 2010, Dallas County leads with seven, followed closely by Harris County, with six new sentences. Bexar and Travis Counties each accounted for three new death sentences since 2007. Nearly three-fourths of all death sentences in Texas over the last four years have been imposed on people of color — 40 percent African American, 30 percent Hispanic/Latino, and 2 percent other.

As part of the report, TCADP has produced two interactive maps highlighting

*See Death sentences, p. 16*

## Candlelight March for Life 2011

The Candlelight March for Life will be held Thursday, January 27, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at 3306 N. Laurent St. and will continue with a police escort to the Fellowship Bible Church at 3401 N. Ben Jordon. Those unable to walk, may meet at the Fellowship Bible Church to listen to this year's speaker, Eve Sanchez Silver, a New Jersey cancer research analyst, who will talk about breast cancer. Life & Family Advocates is sponsoring the March.



Pope Benedict XVI arrives in St. Peter's Square to visit the Nativity scene after leading a vespers service on New Year's Eve at the Vatican Dec. 31. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

## Pope begins new year with call for religious freedom, end to violence

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Opening 2011 with a strong call for religious liberty, Pope Benedict XVI condemned deadly attacks against Christians and announced a new interfaith meeting next fall in Assisi, Italy.

At a Mass Jan. 1 marking the World Day of Peace and a blessing the next day, the pope voiced his concern about fresh episodes of violence and discrimination against Christian minorities in the Middle

East.

In particular, the pope condemned an attack Jan. 1 against Orthodox Christians in Egypt, calling it a "despicable gesture of death." A bomb that exploded as parishioners were leaving a church in Alexandria, Egypt, left 25 people dead and dozens more injured.

The pope said the attack was part of a "strategy of violence that targets Christians," and which has negative repercussions on the entire population. He offered

*See Pope begins new year, p. 15*

## Vatican emerges from WikiLeaks as a key player on global scene

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If there's one clear conclusion that can be drawn from the Vatican-related WikiLeaks disclosures, it's that the United States takes the Vatican and its diplomatic activity very seriously.

In memo after memo in recent years, officials of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See have reported back to Washington on the impact of papal trips, statements and documents; on the Vatican's behind-the-scenes efforts to head off conflicts; on church-state tensions in Latin America; on the evolution of Catholic teaching on bioethics; and even on the international repercussions of ecumenical affairs.

When a Vatican agency organized a conference on genetically modified foods, the U.S. embassy paid attention. When the

Vatican condemned human trafficking, embassy officials met with Vatican counterparts to broaden areas of cooperation on that issue.

And when Pope Benedict XVI said in 2007 that "nothing positive comes from Iraq, torn apart by continual slaughter as the civil population flees," the embassy quickly objected, telling a high-level Vatican official that Iraq was experiencing positive developments and that the papal comments were not constructive.

Reading the cables, it's hard to imagine that before 1984, the United States did not have diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Today, the U.S. Embassy has five diplomatic officials and a support staff of 14, and is considered one of the busiest delegations accredited to the Vatican.

To anyone still wondering why so much attention is being paid to the world's smallest state, a U.S. Embassy cable of 2009 — prepared for President Barack Obama ahead of his first meeting with Pope Benedict — gave the answer:

"The Vatican is second only to the United States in the number of countries with which it enjoys diplomatic relations (188 and 177, respectively), and there are Catholic priests, nuns and lay people in every country on the planet. As a result, the

*See Vatican emerges, p. 17*

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The Catholic Lighthouse is now on Twitter.

To be alerted to news that comes out before the next paper is printed, please look us up at: <http://twitter.com/TheCatholicLH>



## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### January

- 9-13 First Week of Diocesan Priests' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 15 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Workshop and meeting, Permanent Deacons, Family Center, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
- 16-20 Second Week of Diocesan Priests' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 22 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Frelsburg, including St. Anthony Church, Columbus, and St. Roch Church, Mentz
- 26 9:30 a.m., Priests' and Lay Pension Boards meeting, Chancery Office  
4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 27 7:00 p.m., Candlelight March for Life
- 29 5:00 p.m., Mass Catholic Committee on Scouting Boy Scout Retreat, Camp Mauritz, Ganado
- 30 9:00 a.m., Mass, opening of Catholic Schools Week, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria

## Catholic Bishops Reject Arizona-style immigration policies

AUSTIN—At a press conference Jan. 6, Texas' Roman Catholic Bishops rejected Arizona-style immigration policies as a solution in Texas.

"Immigration is good for Texas. Arizona-style policies, on the other hand, have several pitfalls and risk decreasing the very safety of Texans," said Andrew Rivas, the Executive Director of the Texas Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Bishops of Texas. "We look forward to working with the legislature and our immigration partners to enact state-appropriate laws that recognize the historic and present-day contributions of immigrants in Texas."

"For the Bishops the issue of immigration is not simply a political one, but a moral issue that impacts human rights and the very life and dignity of the human person," Rivas stated. "The Church's work in assisting migrants stems from the belief that every person is created in God's image. Scripture recognizes God's people as

immigrants, and Jesus himself is a refugee as an infant, and has no home of his own as an adult. Jesus identifies himself with

*See Catholic Bishops Reject, p. 8*

## Position Open

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TEXAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

The Executive Director of the Texas Catholic Conference is responsible for advocacy with the Texas Legislature, state and federal agencies that affect the ministries of the Church in Texas, and the Texas State Delegation in Congress.

The successful candidate will have the following:

### EDUCATION:

A Masters Degree from an accredited university in theology, political science, law or a related field of study.

### EXPERIENCE:

A minimum of 5 years full time, wage earning, progressively responsible leadership experience in a church setting, which includes supervision of staff, administration of a major department or ministry and working with and/or leading diverse groups toward common goals.

Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing.

Resumes will be accepted until January 31, 2011. A more comprehensive job description is available on the TCC Web site: [www.txatholic.org](http://www.txatholic.org).

Submit resume to: Victoria Esparza, Director of Human Resources, Archdiocese of San Antonio, 2718 West Woodlawn Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78228.

EOE

## CORRECTION

In the December issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, I incorrectly named OLV as the girls' volleyball district champion; rather, they were the south zone champion and St. Rose of Schultenburg was the district champion. I also inadvertently forgot to name the pictured OLV "A" Volleyball Team members. My apologies. They were, front row: Kaitlyn Dippel #1, Bethney Bigham #7, Emily Simmang #3, Danielle Malik #9; centered: Iris Young #10; back row: Hannah Price #8, Alana Del Bosque #5, "Gabby" Escalona #6, Coach Bob Leach, Alex Vasquez #4, Hanna Diefenbach #2 and Courtney Soliz #12.

## Thank You Letter

Oct. 2010

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

I acknowledge with deep appreciation your contribution of \$12,113.43 from your 2009 Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). With its 75 percent share of the annual collection, the CCHD funds programs in communities across the United States where people living in poverty join together to identify problems, make decisions, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. The generosity of the faithful in your diocese has made a great difference through CCHD's grant and education programs.

As you know, the CCHD has undergone a serious and substantive Review and Renewal. You have already received the full Report and, as many bishops have requested, it (was made) public on October 26 and available on the USCCB and CCHD Web sites.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Rev. Roger P. Morin  
Bishop of Biloxi  
Chairman, USCCB  
Subcommittee on the  
Catholic Campaign  
for Human Development.



**RETIREMENT**—After nearly 23 years of service to the Diocese of Victoria business office, Sharon Jones retired in December 2010. Sharon was honored by fellow employees and family at a reception on Dec. 13.

## Eric Genuis in concert

*Shiner – Jan. 23 ~ Hallettsville – Jan. 24*

Internationally acclaimed composer and virtuoso pianist Eric Genuis will hold concerts in the diocese Jan. 23 and 24.

The Diocese of Victoria will be a stop for Eric as he travels the world, touring with first-class soloists and orchestras to present concerts that showcase his much celebrated, original compositions while spreading his timely message of music and its impact on culture: that music has the power to bring hope and healing to the

human soul.

Eric plays the piano with a skill that few can surpass, but what is perhaps more impacting than the playing itself is the passion with which he plays. Eric puts every ounce of his soul into his playing and as such, is able to move audiences in profound ways. An Eric Genuis concert consists of instrumental solos, trios, and vocal works mixed with inspiring, per-

*See Eric Genuis, p. 3*



## Save the Date

Bishop David Fellhauer  
Invitational Golf  
Tournament

Benefiting the Youth and Vocation Activities of the  
Diocese of Victoria  
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 9088

# Friday, April 8, 2011

Colony Creek Country Club—Victoria, Texas  
For more information, please contact Monroe Rieger at 571-6535; or Benny Vitek at 576-5354.

## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2010 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$711,708.13
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$696,100.27
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,705

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,968,788.99
Contribution Totals:	\$8,615,673.69
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,763

## Have You Moved? Address Changed?

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

**Saves Money!**



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**DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.**



## Religious Leaders Voice Shared Commitment to Protect Marriage

WASHINGTON — Leaders of some of the largest religious communities in the United States have come together to express their commitment toward the protection of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

In an open letter released Dec. 6, 2010, titled "The Protection of Marriage: A Shared Commitment," leaders from Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish, Lutheran, Mormon, Orthodox, Pentecostal and Sikh communities in the United States affirmed the importance of preserving marriage's unique meaning.

"The broad consensus reflected in this letter—across great religious divides—is clear: The law of marriage is not about imposing the religion of anyone, but about protecting the common good of everyone," said Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, newly elected president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and one of the letter's signers.

"People of any faith or no faith at all can recognize that when the law defines marriage as between one man and one woman,

it legally binds a mother and a father to each other and their children, reinforcing the foundational cell of human society."

The release of this letter comes the same morning that oral arguments on the Proposition 8 case are set to begin. In August, Judge Vaughn Walker had ruled California's Proposition 8 to be unconstitutional, based in part on the claim that defining marriage as between a man and a woman lacked any rational basis at all, and instead reflected nothing but religion-based hostility to homosexual persons. This ruling has been appealed and its hearing is scheduled for today, December 6.

"Today is the moment to stand for marriage and its unchangeable meaning. We hope this letter will encourage just that," Archbishop Dolan said. "The Protection of Marriage: A Shared Commitment" is being circulated nationwide. A background on the statement can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/comm/backgrounders/shared-commitment.shtml>.

Shared Commitment" is being circulated nationwide.

The Protection of Marriage: A Shared Commitment

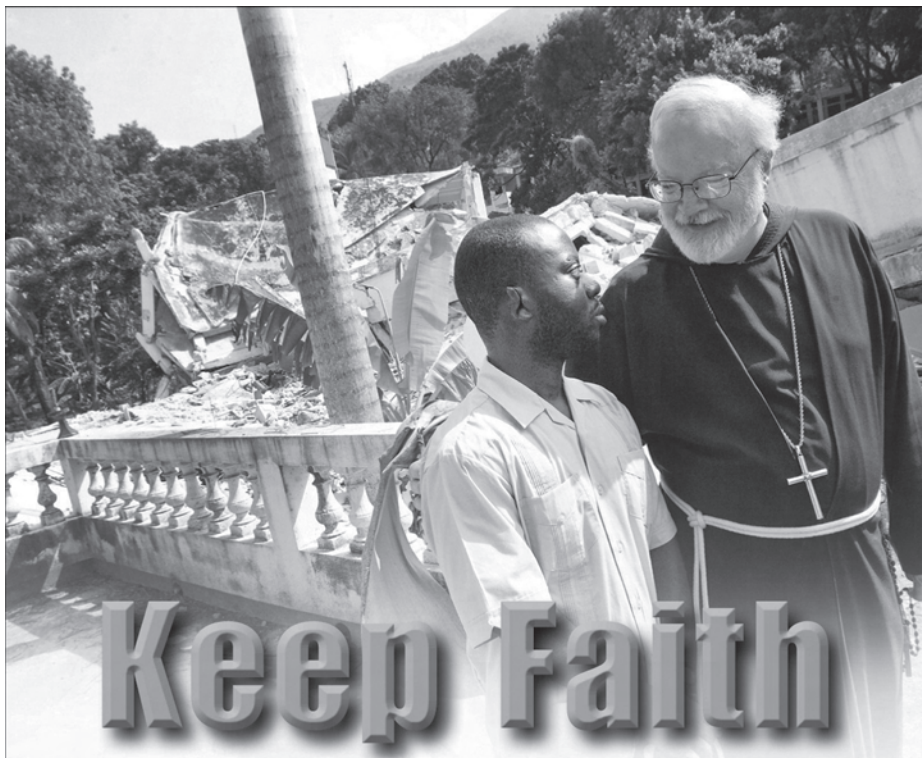
"Dear Friends,

"Marriage is the permanent and faithful union of one man and one woman. As such, marriage is the natural basis of the family. Marriage is an institution fundamental to the well-being of all of society, not just religious communities.

"As religious leaders across different faith communities, we join together and affirm our shared commitment to promote and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We honor the unique love between husbands and wives; the indispensable place of fathers and mothers; and the corresponding rights and dignity of all children.

"Marriage thus defined is a great good in itself, and it also serves the good of others and society in innumerable ways. The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is not a special or limited interest but serves the good of all. Therefore, we invite and encourage all people, both within and beyond our faith communities, to stand with us in promoting and protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

Signed by over 27 leaders of various faiths.



# Keep Faith

Meet **Norbert**. Out of the ten seminarians in his class, he was the sole survivor after the January 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti. Help him serve the Church today and for the rest of his life.



Support the **Collection for the Church in Latin America**.

To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections).

Office of National Collections • (202) 541-3346 • [ncpromo@usccb.org](mailto:ncpromo@usccb.org)

Norbert with Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM CAP., shortly after earthquake.

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## Church ministers will play crucial role in implementing new translation

By **Kate Blain**, *The Evangelist*,  
Diocese of Albany, NY.

Now that the U.S. bishops and the Vatican have approved new English translations of the Roman missal, the book of prayers used at Mass, experts say the next step is educating church ministers—from lectors to musicians—to better serve at liturgies.

Father Richard Hilgartner, associate director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship, says the new adaptations of the missal will offer laypeople an opportunity to explore the great spiritual richness that can be found in these prayers.

"Just as priests who preside will have to prepare their proclamation of the prayers since the style is different from what is now prayed," he says, "the laity will experience some immediate changes in the responses they say at Mass."

For example, when the priest says, "The Lord be with you," the old response was, "And also with you." Now the people will respond, "And with your spirit."

Since church ministers serve at liturgies, says Father Hilgartner, they will be responsible in part for guiding the people in the pews to understand and adapt to these changes. To prepare for this, he says, lay ministers should "reflect on the new translation for their own spiritual growth and development."

He suggests that church ministers refer to the new texts during meetings at parishes and even open meetings by reciting some of the prayers from the new translation to become more comfortable with them and "gain access to the richness they contain." Doing so during special liturgical seasons like Advent and Lent, he adds, may smooth the transition further.

To prepare for the changes, the USCCB provides a new Web page ([www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal)) and is sponsoring a series of regional workshops for priests and parish leaders. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions is planning workshops that can be given at parishes. Materials also are being published that can aid in adjusting to the liturgical changes.

Not all parish ministers will be affected by the changes. The translation of Scripture readings used at Mass will remain the same, so lectors will be unaffected. So will Eu-

charistic ministers.

Church musicians, however, are another story. The changes to the Roman Missal will affect their ministry "pretty profoundly," says Michael McMahon, president of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and a church music director.

Father Hilgartner explains, "Musicians will be challenged to lead the people in sung text that corresponds to the new translation. Composers have readjusted previous musical settings. New compositions are also being prepared that will broaden the treasury of music for the people."

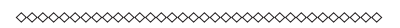
McMahon says people can expect "new settings of many of the Mass texts that people have come to know and sing pretty confidently—the 'Gloria'; the 'Sanctus.' A lot of musical settings are being retooled."

While he doesn't expect the entire musical repertoire of most parishes to change, he says, one significant difference is that the new missal translation will "open up singing parts of the Mass we're not used to."

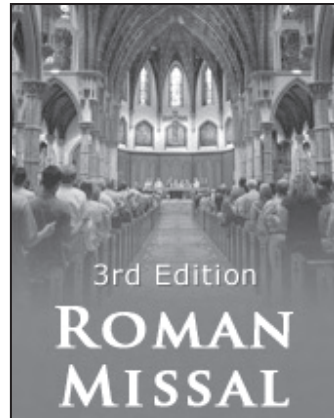
For example, he calls it a "priority in the new translation" to sing the dialogue at the beginning of the Eucharistic prayer. He notes that singing more parts of the Mass "puts us at the same tempo," adding to the common experience of Mass-goers. McMahon sees the changes as a benefit since any part of the Mass given greater attention can result in greater understanding of the Mass by the people.

"People always need to be taken back to the basics of liturgical formation," he says, and the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s "called for full, active participation in the liturgy."

McMahon cautions that, despite the fact that change is coming, "we don't want to make too much or too little of it. We're not changing the Mass; we're changing the translation."



St. Basil's School of Gregorian Chant will be offering a Gregorian Chant Winter Workshop at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Shiner on Saturdays, Jan 8–Feb. 26. See page 20 in the December issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* for more information; it is located on our Web page.



**FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS CELEBRATED**—About 50 persons were in attendance for the fourth annual celebration of the feast of the Holy Innocents, Dec. 28, at the Monument to the Innocents at Raphael's Refuge in Flatonia. The Mass was beautiful and the singing wonderful—the sound of Christmas carols filled the chapel, resounding off the walls of the glass blocks etched with the names of donors' babies lost to death. The Mass was celebrated by Father Joe Hybner; the altar server was Karl Steinhauser. Refreshments and visiting followed the Mass.

## Eric Genuis in concert

*Continued from p. 2*

sonal stories of love and loss, of tragedy and hope. In addition to Eric playing the piano, the concerts will also feature vocalist Krista Adams Santilli, violinist Liesl Schonberger and cellist Cara Cheung.

Eric will be performing at Sts. Cyril &

Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m. and at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville on Monday Jan. 24, at 7:00 p.m. Both concerts are free to the public; however, a love offering will be collected.

LENT  
2011

## Coming soon!

### Disciples On The Journey

Form or join a faith-sharing group in your parish this Lent.  
For more information call 361-573-0828 or go to  
[www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.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 December 31, 2010

	TOTALS
<b>— General Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$97,414.00
In memory of Victor Dvorak Sr. by Gail and Victor Dvorak Jr.	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,714.00</b>
<b>— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$8,614.00
In memory of Delores Dreitner by James Janak Family	25.00
In memory of Joe Melnar by wife Monica Melnar	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,739.00</b>
<b>— Holy Rosary Parish — Hostyn Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$225.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru, as a Christmas gift from the Hostyn KJT Society #3	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse - Catholic Life Ins.</b>	
Previously reported	\$4,010.00
In memory of Nick Toloudis by J.D. Dickinson	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,060.00</b>
<b>— Louis and Edith Hickl Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,020.00
In honor of deceased family members by Edith Hickl	1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,520.00</b>
<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4</b>	
Previously reported	\$14,391.00
To wish Fr. John a Happy New Year	25.00
Christmas gift for Fr. Peters	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,516.00</b>

<b>— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374, El Campo</b>	
Previously reported	\$5,117.72
In memory of Sandra Dougherty by: Brian and Diane Seaman & Family	20.00
Ronnie and Margaret Leopold	20.00
In honor of B.C. and Betty Parma by Justin Turner	20.00
In honor of Chris Goerig by Justin Turner	20.00
In honor of Kimberly Hailey by Tommy and Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Cody Witcher by Tommy and Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Lindsey Riha by Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Troy Riha by: Tommy & Carol Turner	20.00
Tommy & Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Lee Orr by Tommy Turner	20.00
In honor of Will Orr by Tommy Turner	20.00
In honor of Lee Orr by Tommy Turner	20.00
In honor of Scott Kulcak by Tommy Turner	20.00
In memory of Marvin and Mary Frances Turner by Turner Family	40.00
In memory of Louis and Joyce Riha by Turner Family	40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,457.72</b>

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

*Happy Birthday!*

**Philip Brune** is in Theology II at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Sts. Peter & Paul, in Frelsburg, and his birthday is January 24. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Philip Brune, St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024



## Lay people have duty to nurture vocations, says Archbishop Dolan

By Ashlee Schuette  
Catholic News Service

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, keynote speaker at the 67th Serra International Convention in Omaha, said the lay faithful of the church have a duty to nurture vocations to the sacramental priesthood.

"Ordained priests have the duty to call forth the gifts of the lay faithful as they share in the role of Jesus of teaching, serving and sanctifying," Archbishop Dolan said. "And the lay faithful have the duty to take care of vocations to the sacramental priesthood."

The archbishop is the episcopal adviser to the Serra Club, an international organization that promotes and fosters vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. He was one of several speakers at the convention held at Omaha's Qwest Center and attended by more than 500 people.

The event opened with a Mass at St. Cecilia Cathedral with Omaha Archbishop George J. Lucas as presiding bishop.

Archbishop Dolan said one way to start promoting religious vocations was to begin with emphasizing the vocation of marriage and family.

"Only 50 percent of our Catholic young people are approaching the sacrament of matrimony," he said. "Vocations to the priesthood and religious life come from vocations to lifelong, life-giving and faithful marriages."

"There is a climate of fear, suspicion and discouragement when it comes to vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life," he said. "Many boys or young men are afraid to publicly say, 'I want to be a priest.'"

During the late 1980s, Archbishop Dolan said, only 51 percent of Catholic parents said they would be happy if their son wanted to be a priest. Today, however, he believes that perception is changing because of Serra International and other similar groups.

Mexican Archbishop Emilio Berlie Belaunzaran of Yucatan, another speaker at the convention, said the church mission of salvation in the world is to "realize that the lay faithful participate in the priestly, prophetic and kingly mission of Christ."

Serra International has more than 1,100 Serra clubs in 46 countries. Thirteen of those countries, including the U.S., were represented at the convention.



Sister Martha Ann Kirk, (l.) a Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word and native of Cuero, is pictured making one of her many presentations on peace and intercultural and interfaith dialogue. She received the Insigne Verbum Award during the December 2010 Commencement ceremonies at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

## Sister Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI, honored for peace work

SAN ANTONIO—Sister Martha Ann Kirk, CCVI, received the Insigne Verbum Award during the December 2010 Commencement ceremonies at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. A native of Cuero, Sister Martha Ann was recognized for her "commitment to intercultural and interfaith dialogue in pursuit of peace."

This award was approved in 1988 by the UIW board of trustees to honor "individuals who give meritorious service to the San Antonio and South Texas communities and to the university." Sister Martha Ann is the 25th individual to receive this award.

Insigne Verbum is a Latin phrase which means outstanding word or expression. It has even deeper meaning for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and members of the UIW community. Sister Martha Ann has been recognized as an "Insigne Verbum" — a "distinguished expression of the Word" — because she stands as a living symbol of the value of interfaith and intercultural dialogue in pursuit of peace.

During her career, Sister Martha Ann has traveled extensively throughout Europe and the Middle East, interacting with colleagues and students in many countries. As she immersed herself in these diverse cultures, she encountered strangers who became her friends. Through these experiences she developed a deep and compelling sensitivity to the plight of those suffering from discrimination, war, and religious intolerance.

Sister Martha Ann has been recognized previously for her contributions to peace in our world. She was awarded the "Art of Peace Award" by the St. Mary's University President's Peace Commission and the "Peacemaker Award" by the San Antonio Bar Foundation.

During the first Annual Ramadan Civic Iftar in 2009, Sister Martha Ann received a special award for her work, and made a presentation titled *Ramadan: A Month of Sharing: Building Bridges of Mutual Understanding* together with Mayor Julian Castro and Suzanne DeLeon. This year, she assembled a group of about 200 persons from Afghanistan, Belize, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Turkey, Yemen and the

United States to participate in the Iftar on the UIW campus.

As she closed her remarks during the award program, UIW Chancellor Sister Helena Monahan said, "Sister Martha Ann's contributions are myriad and diverse. She has danced and acted and written in the cause of peace and understanding. Perhaps her message to us all could be summed up in a simple phrase which she uses repeatedly in presentations and articles: 'We refuse to be Enemies.' For learning and disseminating an uncompromising attitude of mutual respect and mutual teaching and learning, for unbounded enthusiasm in believing such attitudes can transform the world, the University of the Incarnate Word proudly awards Sister Martha Ann Kirk, Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Incarnate Word College alumna, the "Insigne Verbum" award this 11th day of December, 2010."

## Son of Deacon to be Ordained Deacon

Brother Timothy Thang Viet Tran, son of Deacon Luan Van and Mrs. Thao Tran from Our Lady Of Guadalupe Parish in Bay City will be ordained a transitional deacon on Jan. 15, 2011, in Carthage, Missouri. Brother Timothy was born June 26, 1976, in Jersey City, NJ. The family moved to Bay City in Jan. 1977. He entered into the Vietnamese religious order, the Congregation of Mother Coredemptrix, (CMC), in Carthage, Missouri, in 1991. He will be ordained to the priesthood on June 04, 2011.

Congratulations to the Tran family.



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**Please Pray  
For Vocations!**



## Earn an online master's degree in education at the University of St. Thomas in Houston

HOUSTON—Are you thinking of pursuing a master's degree in education? Do you want the flexibility of an online program? The University of St. Thomas School of Education in Houston has the program for you.

You can choose from degrees in Educational Leadership, Special Education, or Dual Language. Complete your M. Ed. online or combine online classes with blended online and face-to-face classes.

Need-based scholarships are available in fall 2011 made possible by a U.S. Department of Education Title V grant to fund the Promoting Post baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) Program. The purpose of this grant is to achieve parity among Hispanic graduate students and other underrepresented groups in retention and graduation rates.

The University of St. Thomas has a strong, liberal arts tradition coupled with Catholic faith-based teaching. This M. Ed. is ideal for private and public school teachers alike. Students in the UST School of Education graduate programs enhance their skills and advance their careers, making a difference in the lives of students.

"This grant will help to fill the critical shortages of P-12 masters-level educators in these subject areas," said Dr. Robert LeBlanc, UST School of Education dean.

## Dysfunctional Love Songs

*Continued from p. 9*

put out. In the words of John Paul II, the "fire of pleasure ... burns quickly like a pile of withered grass." But the flame of purity creates a fire that doesn't consume its host.

Thanks in large part to misguided love songs, teens tend to mistake things like codependence, enmeshment and promiscuity for love. It's funny how the things they come to look for in dating relationships are precisely the things that set them up for failed marriages.

Parents: Pay attention to what your teens are listening to and turn those songs on your car radio into teaching moments. You might get eyes rolled back at you in reply, but what that really means is: "Thanks for looking out for me, Mom and Dad."

Speaker and author Christopher Stefanick is director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Denver Archdiocese. Visit [www.chris-stefanick.com/](http://www.chris-stefanick.com/).

"We will concentrate our efforts on achieving Hispanic graduate student enrollment that mirrors the percentage of Hispanics in Houston and the surrounding area."

Scholarships are also available for students other than Hispanics who can qualify as need based.

Apply now for spring 2011 classes. Applicants must be accepted to the St. Thomas M. Ed. program and complete the FAFSA Financial Aid Application.

For more information, contact Dr. Rita Richardson at [richarrc@stthom.edu](mailto:richarrc@stthom.edu) or Deborah Fernandez at [fernanda@stthom.edu](mailto:fernanda@stthom.edu).

Founded in 1947 by the Basilian Fathers, the University of St. Thomas remains Houston's first and only Catholic university. St. Thomas, dedicated to educating leaders of faith and character, is committed to the religious, ethical, and intellectual traditions of Catholic higher education.


## Catholic Life Insurance graduate scholarship deadline approaches

SAN ANTONIO—Catholic laymen and women pursuing a graduate degree in theology or religious studies in order to serve their church in a professional capacity must submit applications for the Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Droll Scholarship by February 15, 2011. The renewable \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to two candidates in need of tuition assistance for additional education who serve or want to serve his or her parish as an administrator, youth minister, parish coordinator or other role.

This scholarship is geared towards those who have already obtained their bachelor's degree and who are either enrolled or wanting to enroll into any Catholic graduate school in Texas, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma or Mississippi. Applicants may also be enrolled in an extension program or in the Catholic University of America School of Canon Law.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the communications department at (210) 828-9921, or 1-800-292-2548 or by writing to Catholic Life Insurance, attn: Communications Department, P.O. Box 659527, San Antonio, TX 78265-9527. Also, applications may be downloaded from the company Web site: [www.cliu.com](http://www.cliu.com). Founded in 1901, Catholic Life Insurance offers life insurance, IRAs and retirement annuities to individuals and businesses living in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Mississippi.

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**POPE GREETS STUDENT DURING VESPER FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**—Pope Benedict XVI greets a student during a vespers service with Rome university students in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 16. The pope said in modern times there is a need for a "new class of intellectuals" who are capable of offering concrete and realistic solutions to social and cultural problems, based on moral principles. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

## Invitation from a Seminarian

To the youth of the Diocese of Victoria,

Peace be with you and greetings from St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, Louisiana! My name is Adam Beard; I am a seminarian from



our diocese, and it is a joy to share with you a bit about my formation to the priesthood and extend to you an invitation to Abbey Youth Fest, a youth rally coordinated by my seminary.

I am currently in my freshman year of undergraduate formation here at St. Joseph's, and I could not be happier that our Lord has called me to study here. The experience of seminary thus far has been amazing, and I am continuing to grow in love and knowledge of our Catholic faith and our God. Along with 74 other seminarians studying for dioceses spreading from Texas to Florida, I am tucked away in the beautiful piney woods of Southeast Louisiana on the 1,200 acre grounds of a Benedictine monastery. The beautiful charism, traditions and liturgies of the Benedictines have contributed greatly to my experience in seminary, and on behalf of St. Joseph's, I invite you, the youth of our diocese, to spend a day with us worshipping the Lord, discerning your vocation, and experiencing the richness of the Benedictine life.

On March 26, 2011, St. Joseph Abbey will host its eleventh Abbey Youth Fest, which is a full day of contemporary Catholic music, inspiring keynote speakers, and the celebration of the Mass. As the sun sets, we unite with the Benedictines in the Evening Prayer of the Church, Vespers, and the night ends with candlelit Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament underneath the stars. Throughout the festival, you will have the opportunity for personal prayer in an outdoor chapel, confession with visiting priests, a tour of St. Joseph Abbey, and exposure to several religious orders and various ministries who set up information booths to share their charisms with the thousands of

Catholic youths in attendance.

As a freshman, this will be my first time to attend Abbey Youth Fest. I am looking forward to enjoying a fun-filled day, experiencing Christ's love and power with my brother seminarians, priests, monks, sisters, and all who will be attending. I am very excited, and I hope to see and meet many new people at this wonderful festival.

The theme for Abbey Youth Fest 2011 is, "Ever Ancient, Ever New," which is taken from St. Augustine's Confessions. With youth speaker, Paul George, and Catholic musician, Matt Maher, the event will provide reflections upon, and an experience of, the beauty of God. So ask your youth minister to get a group together and make the trip to South Louisiana! I hope that you will be able to join me, 74 other seminarians, the Benedictine monks of St. Joseph's Abbey, several priests and religious from all over the country, and thousands of Catholic youths in worshipping our Lord and searching for the vocation to which He calls us.


As I bring my letter to a close, I'd like to share with you some fun facts about the seminary, the Abbey and Abbey Youth Fest:

- The first Benedictine monastery dates to around 530 AD
- Saint Joseph Abbey was founded in 1889
- Saint Joseph Seminary College has 75 seminarians representing 19 different dioceses
- The Benedictine monks at St. Joseph Abbey raise peacocks as a hobby
- In Abbey Youth Fest's 10 year history, 529 groups have attended
- In 2006, Abbey Youth Fest hosted over 4,000 youths
- Abbey Youth Fest is held outdoors and has never been cancelled due to rain
- Past speakers and performers have included Jason Evert, Jim Caviezel and Matt Smith

For more information and pictures from previous festivals, check out our Web site at [www.AbbeyYouthFest.com](http://www.AbbeyYouthFest.com) and find us on Facebook. You are in my prayers; may our hearts, like St. Augustine's, find eternal rest in the heart of God.

In the peace of Christ,  
Adam Beard

**Holy Cross Church, Bay City, presents:**



**Jason Evert:  
"Romance Without Regret"**

**Sunday, January 23,  
Life Teen Mass -  
6:00 p.m.  
Jason Evert - 7:30 p.m.**

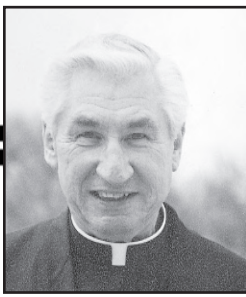
**All teens and adults  
are invited!!**

**For more information,  
call Terri at  
979-479-4788.**

## Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30- Feb. 5



## FAITH POINT “CLASSIC”



By the late Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner

### Infallibility and Error in the Church

Catholics are called upon to accept the Church's magisterium or teaching authority. They do because they are aware of the guidance of the Holy Spirit promised to the apostles by Jesus at the Last Supper (Jn. 14:16-17; 15:26-27; 16:13-14) and also that Jesus promised to remain with his apostles to the end of time (Matt. 28:20). Catholics also accept the teaching of the magisterium because they remember that Jesus speaks through his apostles (Luke 10:16).

They should be aware that not every utterance of the magisterium is of the same dignity or solemnity nor is every teaching guaranteed to be error-free. The Church has three levels of solemnity in its teaching: (1) extraordinary and infallible; (2) ordinary and infallible; and (3) ordinary and fallible.

The extraordinary magisterium refers to the rare occasions that the Church defines a doctrine as belonging to revelation or so intimately connected to it as to require belief in it to protect revelation. An example is the teaching that Jesus is both God and man (Council of Nicea 325). The basis of the belief is faith in God who can neither deceive nor be deceived. The Church in this instance is not the basis of belief but only the indispensable condition of belief. The divine guarantees for guidance of the Church are such in these cases that the statements are absolutely without error. Otherwise they could jeopardize eternal salvation. Once a doctrine is defined, it is irrevocable but not necessarily exhaustive. The teaching will never be changed, but one should not think that the Church's definition plumbs the depths of the teaching. A person who would deliberately deny a defined doctrine would be labeled a heretic.

The ordinary teaching of the Church is that which goes on daily with no thought of making a solemn definition. Examples

of this sort of teaching are the immortality of the soul and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary before that doctrine was defined November 1, 1950. The Second Vatican Council says that teaching of bishops world-wide can be infallible if the bishops are united to the Holy Father and one another, they teach something about faith and morals to be held definitively, and they agree on a particular teaching. Such teachings must also be believed with divine faith. Teachings of this second category are irreformable and irrevocable, but like defined doctrine, they can receive a better formulation or better arguments can be found for them. They do not allow

an opinion that contradicts them. The person who denies this kind of teaching would also be guilty of heresy.

The ordinary magisterium of the Church that is fallible is that which is proposed as safe and prudent but not necessarily for general belief or without the wish to engage the Church's authority fully. Examples of such teachings are the prohibitions of artificial insemination, surrogate motherhood, "test-tube" babies. Catholics must believe that this teaching is true until there is clear evidence that it is false. The faith required here is religious submission which is distinct from divine faith but a prolongation of it (CCC #892). In divine faith we believe something because God says that it is so; in religious faith we believe it because the Church, the pillar and the ground of truth (1 Tim. 3:15), says it is so. Such teaching is presented as the most trustworthy and best in view of present knowledge. The teaching is reformable because it could be in error and has been in error in the past, e.g., the condemnation of Galileo and certain past replies of the Roman congregations on the interpretation of Scripture. Persons who deny this kind of teaching are either withholding assent or dissenting privately or

publicly. Unless the ordinary Catholic is an expert in the field involved, he or she must accept the teaching. Experts may withhold assent or dissent privately by submitting their reasoning to the magisterium, which has the ultimate authority.

Why are these three categories of teaching important to know? One reason is that when the Church has taught error in the past, it was in the third category. I do not want to give the impression that the Church has been mostly wrong in this area; it has been overwhelmingly correct. It is important to realize that the errors have not been in the area of defined teaching or ordinary teaching that is infallible. A second reason for being aware of the distinction is that there are, currently, theologians who seem to hold that anything not formally defined is subject to revision, even long-held teachings of the Church condemning abortion, fornication, contraception, etc. A very strong case can be made that these teachings belong to the second category, ordinary and infallible, and therefore do not allow a contradictory opinion.

How is the ordinary Catholic to know to which category a particular teaching of the Church belongs? Why not join an adult religious education program to find out?



**GABRIEL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS HELD**—Presentations were held in Hallettsville and El Campo regarding the Gabriel Project's need for volunteers. There were three held at Sacred Heart and one at St. Mary's on Nov. 6-7. They were a great success and many expressed an interest in the project. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Tammy Gramm, the area coordinator for Sacred Heart and its mission churches, by calling (361) 401-1015. A workshop, going more into depth about the ministry, will be held in the area soon. The workshop will help parishioners know if this is what God is calling them to. Watch church bulletin for the date. Pictured with Father John Peters in Hallettsville is Renae Harper and her children; Renae assists Tammy Gramm. Presentations were also done at St. Robert's in El Campo Nov. 20-21 by Gabriel Project volunteers, Anne Rivera of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Wharton and Dolores Kocian of Holy Family in Wharton. Photographed is Anne Rivera at a table displaying Gabriel Project information. The presentations were a success and children were amazed at the Fetal Models proving "life" in the womb. El Campo is anxious to get the ministry established in their area. A workshop will also be held there January 15 for parishioners. God wants this ministry in both of these areas. Your prayers and support are appreciated. If you have questions, or wish to volunteer, please contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612.



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**ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL**

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

**Fried Chicken Meal**

Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
\$7.50 per plate  
Curb Service Available

**Bid Auction at 12:30 p.m.**  
Silent Auction

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**FAMILY LIFE CENTER BUILT FOR HOLY FAMILY PARISH**—Bishop David Fellhauer blessed the newly constructed Holy Family Life Center of Wharton's Holy Family Parish Sunday, December 12. The building's groundbreaking occurred January of 2010 and was completed within the year. It serves the needs of the parish, from the youth to the eldest, said Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, pastor of the parish. It will be used for funerals, wedding receptions and youth programs, including the parish's latest initiative, Life Teen. The family center, contracted by LMS Contracting and financed by parish contributions, contains parish offices, kitchen facilities and a large stage, equipped with screens and projectors. The dedication was followed by a luncheon attended by 550 persons,

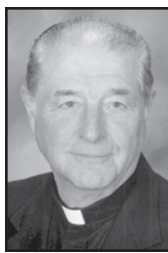
*Every day brings new beginnings, Heavenly Father.  
Let me embrace each new task,  
knowing that I am blessed to have You beside me.  
Amen.*

*Guardians of His Faith  
Inspirational Prayers to Encourage Catechists  
By Timothy J. McMullen*



## Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen  
Catholic News Service



### Why so few pope saints in recent centuries?

**Q.** Our study group's discussion of church history raises some questions about saints. We know the criteria for making saints today, but what were they at the beginning of the church? It seems there were lots of saints in the early days. When did today's process begin? We know there were bad popes, but why are some popes saints and some are not? (Wisconsin)

**A.** The church, of course, does not "make saints." When the church canonizes someone, it simply means that all Catholics may now venerate that person in public liturgies. In fact, the word itself indicates that the person's name may be included in the "canon," the eucharistic prayer of the Mass.

As you suggest, the method of naming someone a saint has been a long process. Originally, especially for martyrs, it was accomplished through general acclamation by the whole Christian community. Gradually, local bishops established criteria for sainthood in their own territories. From there, the cult often spread to other areas as well.

By far, the vast majority of Christians we call saints — historians have estimated around 10,000 — were "canonized" in processes something like that.

Even today, it is not uncommon for Catholics of a certain region to honor one of their own as a saint, even if the individual

is not officially canonized. Most Catholic people in Central America, for example, revere as a saint Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, a defender and friend of the poor and native populations, who was shot and killed in 1980 while offering Mass.

Almost 800 years ago (1234), Pope Gregory IX decreed that only the Bishop of Rome could canonize saints, since that action offered the saint for veneration by the universal church. Since then, rather less than 1,000 people have been canonized, most of them (483) by Pope John Paul II.

A formal canonization process similar to the one today was established in the 16th century but has been revised several times.

Interestingly, while dozens of popes in earlier centuries are honored as saints, only three popes have been canonized during the past 900 years. They are Pope Celestine V, Pope Pius V (1566-1572) and Pope Pius X (1903-1914).

Why so few pope saints in recent centuries? One significant reason seems to be a concern, perhaps real and wise, that canonizing a pope may be viewed by many as canonizing all of his political and theological writings. For obvious reasons, there is no little reluctance to do this.

See *Why so few pope saints*, p. 8

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wis., answers reporters' questions following Mass Dec. 8, 2010, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wis. At Mass Bishop Ricken announced that he approved Marian apparitions seen by Adele Brise in 1859. They are the first apparitions of Mary in the U.S. to receive approval of a diocesan bishop. (CNS photo/Sam Lucero, The Compass)



### First US approved Marian apparitions encourage catechists

By Sam Lucero  
Catholic News Service

CHAMPION, Wis. (CNS)—Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay has approved the Marian apparitions seen by Adele Brise in 1859, making the apparitions of Mary that occurred some 18 miles northeast of Green Bay the first in the United States to receive approval of a diocesan bishop.

Bishop Ricken made the announcement in Champion during Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. More than 250 invited guests filled the shrine chapel to hear Bishop Ricken read the official decree on the authenticity of the apparitions. He also issued a second decree, formally approving the shrine as a diocesan shrine.

As he declared, "I do hereby approve

these apparitions as worthy of belief," the congregation burst into applause, with many in attendance moved to tears.

"This is now an official declaration and an explicit recognition of what has been going on in the development and expression of people's faith in our Lord Jesus," Bishop Ricken said in his homily. "Mary always leads us to Jesus. We hold Mary in such high regard because she is the mother of our savior Jesus Christ. So she is probably the greatest evangelist and catechist who ever lived. ... She has been sent out all these years since Christ's death and resurrection to proclaim this good news."

Bishop Ricken said the proclamation was a desire of many people. "So many of you have asked for this in one way or another," he said. "I regard this also as a simple declaration in that it already states what has been going on here so quietly for so many years."

"I think today is a gift we give back to the Blessed Mother for all the prayers she has answered in this place. All the solace and comfort she has given to troubled souls," said Bishop Ricken.

"In many ways it is also a thank-you gift to Adele Brise, that Belgian immigrant who came here to this country. ... We owe a great deal to her witness because she was simple, she was uneducated in our terms today. She was a humble soul, but she was

See *Green Bay bishop*, p. 16

### Annual Catechism Contest – Feb. 26

The Knights of Columbus Council 9088 Annual Catechism Contest for the CCD Program at Holy Family Parish in Victoria will be held Saturday, February 26. The public is invited to watch Holy Family's 1st thru 8th grade contestants compete for prizes. The fun begins Saturday at 8 a.m. in the auditorium of the Holy Family Education Building.

### St. Robert CDA team walks for cancer cure

EL CAMPO—Team Paso a Paso participated in Wharton County Relay for Life, an event that raises funds for the American Cancer Society. These funds are used for education, research and awareness. Paso a Paso members belong to St. Robert Parish in El Campo and most of the members belong to Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #2275. We strongly believe that the walk is not over until a

cure is found. The team has participated in the Relay for Life since 1999 and raised \$2,064 this year. Team members walking this year were Elma Escobar, captain; Virginia Cruz, Hailey Flores, Marris Martinez, Vicky Limas, Annie Munoz, Lorine Molina, Ally Capak, mascot; Adelma Martinez, Wanda Martinez, Helen Escobar, Carol Diaz, Carmen and Abel Dominguez and Vense Martinez.

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### Coming soon!



## Diocese of Victoria Catholic Knowledge Bowl

Holy Family Parish, Victoria  
Sunday, March 6, 2011  
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Join the fun!

### Form a team.

Three Categories - four persons to a team

**Adult teams** can be made up of catechists, members of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, ACTS participants, Altar Society, or any group of four adults who want to compete.

**Teen teams** can be made up of any group of CCD or Catholic school students, youth group members, or individual teens.

**Family teams** can be made up of parents, children, grandparents, aunts, etc. (Family teams must include one or more children.)

The procedure for the bowl will consist of three rounds of 40 multiple-choice questions per round. **Study questions may be downloaded at the diocesan Web site.**

Registration is \$20 per team of four persons. Forms are available on the diocesan Web site, [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org), or at the catechetical office. Early registration is encouraged due to limited space. Call 361-573-0828 for more information.



All are invited to come and cheer their favorite team. A concession stand will be available.

Prizes for all categories

A contest is being held to find a logo for the diocesan Catholic Knowledge Bowl. Logos may be submitted electronically to: [dvela@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dvela@victoriadiocese.org) by **February 14, 2011.**

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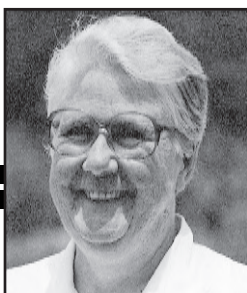
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## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Time of Spiritual Regeneration

**T**he busy holiday season is becoming history, the Christmas decorations are being put away for next year, and we're trying to catch our breath. Moreover, even nature also has seemed to shut down. Days are short; weather is gloomy, and we see little growth in vegetation about us. Wild animals are hibernating or spending more time in sheltered surroundings; even we humans are spending more time indoors.

Yet we all know that nature is quietly regenerating itself and getting ready for a burst of activity as soon as the temperature rises, the days lengthen and spring arrives.

We, too, should be using this time of decreased external activity to regenerate spiritually. Fortunately, we are blessed, at this time, with the celebration of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We all remember the Gospel story of how Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by his cousin John. We remember how the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove, and we remember how the voice of the Father announced, "This is my Beloved Son."

I think that much of that Gospel story applies to each of us as we were baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We all know that we received the Holy Spirit at our Baptism; however, we might not be aware that God

the Father looks down upon each of us as a beloved son or daughter. How awesome that thought is; like Jesus, we are the Father's beloved sons and daughters! That thought needs some getting used to! If we truly let it permeate our whole being, it will regenerate us! Like Jesus, we will be inspired and strengthened to go out and seek the Father's will.

Now God won't be making any public announcement about his will for us but he will speak to us through our Church services and our prayers, through our reading and reflection, through those around us, and through the inspirations derived from reflection on the wonders of creation about us.

So, as beloved sons and daughters of God, let us all use this "in between" time to grow interiorly and to discern how we can respond to God's call to prayer, sacrifice and service in the Church. Let us pray for those who are discerning lifestyle choices in their response to God and the Church.

Therefore, as we hear or read the Gospel account of the Baptism of the Lord, let us be mindful of our own baptism in which we became beloved sons and daughters of God. With this in mind, let us use the next two months spiritually regenerating ourselves so that we can burst into the season of Lent and Easter with renewed fervor.



**MAN POWER IN THE KETTLE ROOM**—Man Power is most welcome in the kettle room early in the morning in preparation for the chicken noodle soup and sandwich supper, which will be held Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at 5 p.m. by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #1108 at the American Legion Hall in East Bernard. The Catholic Daughters appreciate these gentlemen's help each year: John Kramr, Charlie Janecek, Delbert Sliva, Syl Kramr, and Mark Pilcik. They are with Helen Mica, long-time chairman. Students from Keller Academy of Performing Arts will provide entertainment before the drawing. See When and Where, p. 19, for more information.



**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**—Recently, St. Rose School celebrated Fire Prevention Week with a visit from the Schulenburg Fire Department. Firefighters came to the school and talked about their duties. All of the classes got the opportunity to spray the water hose and try on the fire department uniforms. At the end of the presentation by the firefighters, the 8th grade class was able to ride on the top of the fire truck.



**PHANTOM BAKE SALE HELPS BAY CITY CHURCH AND SCHOOL**—Officers of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas, Society 100 Our Lady of Snows, Bay City, present Rev. Casimir Jarzombek, pastor of Holy Cross Church, and Stephanie Kucera, principal of Holy Cross School, each with a check for \$618 from funds generated from the 2010 Phantom Bake Sale. Society officers pictured with Father Casey and Principal Kucera are Treasurer Mildred Babik, President Dorothy Saha and Secretary Karen Owens.

### 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.**

### Why so few pope saints in recent centuries?

*Continued from p. 7*

Perhaps we experienced something of this after the death of Pope John Paul in 2005. Many wanted a quick canonization to put the church's seal of approval on all his teachings, especially some that other leaders in the church tended to approach more questioningly. They were days of deep emotion, witnessed by all the signs at his death demanding "santo subito" — make him a saint right now.

Whether for this or other reasons, Pope Benedict XVI seems inclined to slow the rush and take time to let history give a better and more balanced picture before taking

such a step.

Finally, "saint" is simply an anglicized version of the Latin word "sanctus" ("holy"). Scripture applies the name to the living as well as the dead. St. Paul addresses his letters to the Corinthians and Ephesians, for example, to the "sancti," the saints, the "holy ones," in those Christian communities.

Much more fascinating information may be found in a modern classic on the subject, "Making Saints," by Kenneth Woodward (Simon and Schuster).

### Catholic Bishops Reject Arizona-style immigration policies

*Continued from p. 2*

newcomers and with other marginalized persons in a special way, stating "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

The Texas Bishops support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to permanent residency, emphasizes family unity, and addresses the root causes of migration in sending countries. The Texas Bishops immigration-related legislative priorities also include opposing the enforcement of federal law by local and state law enforcement, as well as opposition to a Texas-Mexico border fence and any efforts to reduce access to education or health care for immigrants.

Two-page policy papers on these issues, as well as the other legislative priorities of the Texas Bishops, can be found on the TCC legislative agenda page.

The Texas Catholic Conference is the association of the 15 Roman Catholic dioceses of the State of Texas and is the official public policy voice of the Bishops of Texas. For more information on the Texas Catholic Conference, visit [www.TXCatholic.org](http://www.TXCatholic.org). For information regarding the position of the U.S. Bishops on comprehensive immigration reform, visit the Justice for Immigrants Web site, [www.JusticeForImmigrants.org](http://www.JusticeForImmigrants.org).





## Scheduled for February 20

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

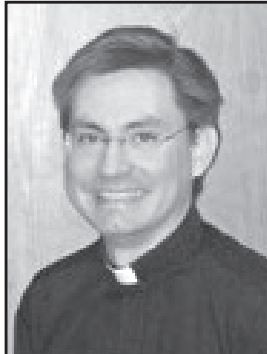
Two amazing speakers from our diocese, Father Dan Morales and Father Kirby Hlavaty, will keynote the event.

Father Dan has been ordained for over 20 years and is currently the pastor at St. Mary Parish in Victoria. For the past four years he has served as the vocation director and director of seminarians in addition to his parish work. He is also diocesan director of Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.



Father Dan Morales

years ago and is currently pastor of two parishes in Cuero: St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe. He also is responsible for a Catholic school – St. Michael Elementary. He has been active in vocation work for many years and has been the spiritual advisor for Spirit Wind Ministries.



Father Kirby Hlavaty

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](http://www.victoriadiocese.org); click on youth ministry.

Father Kirby Hlavaty was ordained 11

## Dysfunctional Love Songs

By Christopher Stefanick

The lessons packed in the love songs that are getting the most radio play today all seem to have a similar theme: if it isn't dysfunctional, it isn't love.

Take the song *Grenade* for instance, wherein Bruno Mars sings a litany of pains he'd endure for his beloved, ranging from catching a grenade, to throwing his hand on a blade, to taking a bullet through his brain. His beloved is evil, it seems. According to the song she'd "smile in (his) face then rip the brakes out of (his) car."

Her response to his "loving" rant is total indifference. He goes so far as to lament that if his body was on fire she'd watch him burn in flames. Yet, despite all this, at the end of the song he still sings, "I would die for you baby, but you won't do the same."

It seems that Bruno has so effectively broken the stereotype of the emotionless, standoffish male that he has become the psychotically needy girlfriend. Good boy, Bruno. Contemporary, feminized society has trained you well in the ways of "manhood." The lesson of this song is clear: if it isn't codependence, it isn't real love.

In a recent drive to work I turned the radio dial in a vain attempt to avoid *Grenade* only to find it on three other stations. Moving on...

In one of the most popular songs of 2010, *Breakeven*, singer Danny O'Donoghue laments after a hard breakup, "I'm still alive but I'm barely breathin'." Everyone who has had their heart broken can relate with those words. But he goes on to sing, "What am I supposed to do when the best part of me was always you?" Romantic words? Yes. Emotionally healthy words? No.

No offense Danny, but if the best part of you was her, I can see why she dumped you. While a couple is called to unity, individuals still need to maintain autonomy for a relationship to be stable and lasting. If people lose themselves in one another, soon there is no self to give to the other. The lesson of *Breakeven*: if it isn't enmeshment, it isn't love.

In the song *Animal* by Neon Trees, vocalist Tyler Glenn sings, "We're sick like animals ... I won't be denied by ...

the animal inside of you... Take a bite of my heart tonight." Tyler, you and anyone who looks like you, won't be dating my daughter. The lesson of this song is echoed in countless others: if it isn't promiscuous, it isn't passion.

And Miranda Cosgrove, a Nickelodeon (i.e. children's TV channel) actress, in *Kissing You* sings to her boyfriend before an audience of millions of pre-teen girls, "When I'm kissing you it all starts making sense!" And answers to questions like, "Are you the one I should trust?" become "crystal clear... when I'm kissin' you."

The lesson of this song is that physical intimacy is the way to discern if a given relationship is the right one. I hate to break the news to you, Miranda, but that feeling you're getting while kissing him is oxytocin. It's a neuro-peptide released during physical intimacy that decreases your ability to reason and increases your ability to bond. It produces the polar opposite of clear thinking. Furthermore, when you're engaging in heavy kissing with your boyfriend, Miranda, I can almost guarantee that he's not thinking, "You're the one I should trust." It's more likely that he's thinking, "You're the one I should do more with than kiss."

I'm not even going to attempt to tackle what most rap songs say about relationships because their content, packed with sexual deviance and hedonism that border on violence is more fitting for a hard core porn magazine or a Law and Order SVU episode than the radio.

I don't mean to sound like an emotionless Spock of a man. The songs I mentioned, with the exception of *Animal*, do have some redeeming themes, and they all have great melodies. But they dismantle the prerequisite for love in the minds of the desperate pre-teens who are listening: self possession. If a person is stable enough to stand on his own two feet without falling into enmeshment and codependence, then, and only then, can he give himself in love to another.

And if love is contained by modesty, chivalry and purity during dating and engagement, then, and only then, can it become an internal fire that nothing can

See *Dysfunctional Love Songs*, p. 5

## Youth Calendar of Events

- January 19—Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Teens - St. Mary, Victoria
- January 22—Pro-life Rally in Austin
- January 26—Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Teens - St. Mary, Victoria
- January 30—Parish Confirmation Retreat at St. Anthony in Palacios
- 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 St. Joseph in Boling
- 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



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](mailto:dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org) or [jortega@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jortega@victoriadiocese.org) Web site: [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)



St. Agnes youth attended the 2010 Rally for Life. Here they pose on the steps of the state capitol building.

## Youth Pro-life March 2011

Almost 38 years ago, the Supreme Court decided that abortion should be legal in this country in the infamous *Roe vs. Wade* case. That decision, in essence, gave way to what is being called the new Holocaust. More than fifty million babies have been killed since that decision, roughly one-third of all pregnancies since 1973 have ended in abortion.


This year will mark the 38th anniversary of the tragic Supreme Court decision by marching at a pro-life march at the state's Capitol Saturday, January 22. The rally begins at 1:00 p.m. where all will meet and march up Congress Avenue to the South Steps of the Capitol. Then from 2:00-3:00 p.m. a rally will take place at the south steps with pro-life speakers and leaders from across the state.

The Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a trip to this important event for

junior high and high school youth from the Diocese of Victoria. Thanks to a generous grant, there is no charge for groups. Get all the information at the diocesan Web site [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) and click on youth ministry; the flyer is titled Texas Rally for Life.


Last year more than 160 young people and adults from our diocese joined thousands of people at the Capitol in Austin for the annual pro-life march. The group gathered at Republic Square and marched up the south steps of the State Capitol. They prayed and heard from keynote speakers Gov. Rick Perry, Sen. Dan Patrick, Rep. Frank Corte Jr., Carol Everett, Cathy Kerr, Elizabeth McClung and Msgr. Michael Mulvey.

You can find more information at <http://www.texasrallyforlife.org>.



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**School Cafeteria**  
**Prospective families will have an opportunity**  
**to learn what OLV has to offer.**  
**For more information, call the school office at 575-5391.**  
*Educating Minds, Inspiring Hearts*



**YOUNG CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS BRING JOY TO OTHERS**—Yoakum JCDA #206 members decorated a residents' door at Yoakum Nursing and Rehabilitation Center recently. The girls titled their door "Christmas Blessings." The festive door brought a smile to the faces of the residents living there.

**LOCAL AUTHOR SHARES BOOK IN EL CAMPO**—Local author, Marilyn Sebesta, visited St. Philip School on Dec. 10, 2010, to read her book *Scout, The Dog Who Saved the Nutcracker* to the El Campo Catholic School elementary students.



Gerry Mikeska, Assembly 1131 4th Degree Faithful Navigator presents a check to Bishop David Fellhauer. The donation will go towards charities of the bishops choice.



## El Campo 4th Degree Celebrates 60 Years

EL CAMPO—The Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly 1131 Knights of Columbus 4th Degree of El Campo celebrated their 60th Anniversary, as well as had their most successful fundraiser, Friday, December 10, 2010.

Over 250 guests were treated to a roast beef dinner catered by Mikeska BBQ, a bucket raffle, a big raffle and dancing to the band of "Legacy." The KC Hall was decorated with a Christmas theme with a focal point of a group of lighted Christmas Trees and lighted deer. Tables featured tall vases filled with Christmas decorations, greenery and candles. A special table honored the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus with the original Proclamation dated 60 years ago, a KC Cape, KC Sword and a Cross.

Some of the money raised from this event was dedicated to Bishop David Fellhauer. A donation was presented to the

bishop that night in the amount of \$5,000. The Bishop will put the money towards needed non-profit charities of his choice. An additional \$2,600 was donated to the bishop after the financials from the event were calculated. This is an unprecedented amount that has been donated to Bishop David Fellhauer from the Assembly 1131 4th Degree.

This event was organized and put on by KC members and their wives, who are all volunteers of the organization and the community. Area businesses helped by sponsoring the band and making cash donations and donating items for the raffles.

"Without the hard work and commitment of all of these individuals and businesses, this event would not have been possible, for that I say "Thank you," closed Gerry Mikeska, Faithful Navigator Assembly 1131 4th Degree.



**CHRISTMAS GATHERING**—Seminarians and religious sisters were honored at the 2010 Serra Club Christmas Party. Back, l-r, Scott Hill, St. Roch, Mentz; Kristopher Fuchs, St. Michael the Archangel, Needville; Matthew Soto, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner; Philip Brune, Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg; John Dougharty, Holy Cross, Bay City; Jasper Liggio, Shrine of the True Cross, Dickinson; Stephen Vacek, Holy Cross, East Bernard; Patrick Knippenberg, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner; front, l-r, Jacob Koether, Holy Cross, Bay City; Bishop David Fellhauer; Sister Louise Marie Jones, IWBS; Veronica Munoz, IWBS; Sister Patricia Marie Lohre, IWBS; and Father Dan Morales, Vocation Director.



**UNIQUE WRAPPING PAPER**—A Catholic Lighthouse kind of Christmas was celebrated by Diocese of Victoria chancery staff member Jose Ortega, his wife, Kim, and daughter, Emma. Each and every gift under the tree was wrapped with paper from old issues of *The Catholic Lighthouse* newspaper. Thanks to the Ortega family for their support.



**ST. ROSE ELEMENTARY SHARE CHRIST**—Each year St. Rose of Lima classes put on short performances for the "Christmas Around the World" annual fundraiser. Third graders told the Christmas story of Jesus' Birth. Kneeling from left: Liam Bennett, Justin Stang, Jaxon Fietsam, Taylor Demel, Brynlee Hollas and Mindy Girard; standing back, from left: Elizabeth Seyl, Andrea Mazoch, Grant Mechura, Julia Oeding and Ashely Pesl.



**JESUS IS BORN**—Above, eighth graders from Our Lady of Victory depict the nativity scene of our Lord. All students, from kinder to eighth grade, participate in the Christmas program.



**SRS LEARNS ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY FROM PROFESSIONAL**—Schulenburg's St. Rose yearbook students had the wonderful opportunity to go to a presentation in Houston given by Amy Sancetta, a famous sports photographer who works with the Associated Press. She attended most sporting events such as the Super Bowl, World Cup Soccer, and eight Olympic games. The workshop was very good; it was filled with a lot of interesting information about photography and how to take a better picture. Another thing she demonstrated was that the main person isn't the only thing that makes the picture, it is also about the surroundings. This was a great workshop that would be recommended to others.

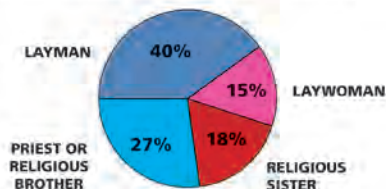


**HALF OF NA 7TH GRADERS SCORE IN 95TH PERCENTILE OF ITBS**—Twenty Nazareth Academy 7th graders (50% of the class) scored in the 95th percentile or above in one or more categories of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). The ITBS is a national standardized test. Scoring in the 95th percentile means scoring better than 95% of all 7th graders across the nation. These students have thus earned recognition through the Duke University Academic Talent Search program and are eligible to take the college entrance SAT in January along with high school juniors and seniors. The Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) also includes 4th & 5th graders, and Nazareth Academy had 17 students in 4th & 5th grade qualify (95th percentile in one or more categories of the ITBS).

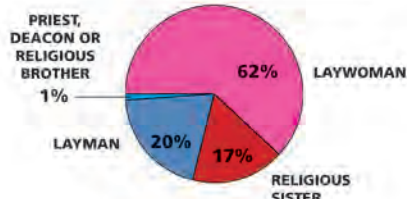
## Running Catholic Schools

The majority of U.S. Catholic college and university presidents are men, while mainly women take the top position at U.S. Catholic primary schools.

### COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS



### PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS



Source: "Ecclesial Status of Catholic Education Leaders," by Melissa A. Cidade (2010) ©2010 CNS



Pictured with awards are band officers, standing, l. to r.: Quartermaster-Myles Martinez, Chaplain-Michael Petrash II, Brass Vice President-Nathaniel Hawes, Woodwind Vice President-Spencer Driver, and Percussion Vice President-Martin Kallus; kneeling: Leslie Zepeda-President/Drum Major; not pictured: Librarian-Mark Chavez and Crew Chief-Steven Sudheimer.

## St. Joseph High School marching band wins state marching contest

### STJ Flyer Marching Band – SUPERIOR!

The St. Joseph High School Flyer Band from Victoria finished in first place in Classification I at the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) State Marching Contest this fall at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth.

This is the fifth consecutive year the band received a State First Division-Superior Marching Band Trophy.

St. Joseph High School Flyer Marching Band was the most awarded marching band in their classification in the state of Texas winning four of the six Caption Awards presented in Classification I.

The following State Plaques were awarded to the St. Joseph High School Flyer Marching Band.

STJ Senior Drum Major Leslie Zepeda was named "Best Drum Major" in Classification I.

The STJ Band was named, "Best Horn Line", "Best Overall Musical Effect", and "Best Overall General Effect" in Classification I.

Judges comments included, "Great Show...Wonderful, energetic sound!...I enjoyed your performance."

The St. Joseph High School Band is under the direction of Mr. Michael Petrisk.

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Diane Shimek Cerny, FIC Nada/El Campo  
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Calvin Pfeil, FIC El Campo  
979-543-3868



Bert Kenna, FIC Yoakum  
361-293-9657



Clifton Lau, FIC Victoria  
361-573-3669



Eugene Rehak, FIC Victoria  
361-575-4982



Patrick Klozik, FIC Shiner  
361-594-8160



Charles Leopold, FIC Hallettsville  
361-798-4311



Royce Shimek, FIC Schulenburg  
979-743-4313



Michael Koeth Weimar  
979-725-1111



Barbara McCain, FIC Victoria  
361-649-1612



Albert Smaistrila, FIC East Bernard  
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Robert Melnar, FIC Victoria  
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## Archbishop Hannan experienced a “Forrest Gump” kind of life

“The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots, from Combat, to Camelot to Katrina: Memoir of an Extraordinary Life” by Archbishop Philip Hannan with Nancy Collins and Peter Finney Jr. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind., 2010). 457 pp., \$24.95.

**Reviewed by Elizabeth Rackover  
Catholic News Service**

Readers of a certain generation will be drawn to “The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots,” a well-told living history of a remarkable man of the cloth. But this is a

book for anyone of any age curious to experience the interior structure of the American Catholic Church as it unfolds against the unsettled and unsettling backdrop of seven decades of American (and Vatican) history.

With the assistance of Nancy Collins and Peter Finney Jr., Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, the now 97-year-old retired archbishop of New Orleans has constructed a memoir that spans an impressive array of secular and ecumenical history. That it is his personal tale, as well, gives his anecdotes weight and meaning beyond simple storytelling. He maintains an easy conversational style, starting with the once-typical Catholic family portrait that is now rather sadly removed from our 21st-century lifestyle.

Following tales from his family life and seminary days, Archbishop Hannan marches us into his arena, throwing us straight into World War II where he served as a chaplain in the 82nd Airborne, helping free Jews in Germany and even manning a machine gun (under protest) during the Battle of the Bulge. For those of us who sought out the Church’s tenets on “just war” in the months following the 9/11 attacks against America, the archbishop goes deep into the trenches in a section called “Combat Morality.” Catholicism at war, he writes, carries with it “broad moral dilemmas on a daily basis.” He doesn’t flinch from the hard stuff, and he gives compassionate counsel to soldiers who have killed.

And ah, yes, the Kennedy years. Archbishop Hannan befriended a young congressman, Jack Kennedy, and created a safe and supportive environment for Catholic politicians in Washington. “In those days (1960),” he writes, “Catholicism was shrouded in the same misunderstanding and mythical fear as, perhaps, Islam is today.”

Archbishop Hannan continued to be the unpublicized Catholic conscience of President Kennedy, and the friendship between them was so close that he flew from Rome to Washington to eulogize the slain president at the funeral. The two chapters he devotes to Kennedy are fascinating in their behind-the-scenes revelations that have, up until now, never been openly discussed.

For game-changing racial politics, Archbishop Hannan is hard to beat. He was assigned to serve as archbishop of New Orleans in 1965, and readers will get a fascinating look into the racial politics of

that time and place. His efforts to desegregate the church in New Orleans reveal the worst of human nature. In one photograph from that time, handmade signs protesting an integrated church include: “Hannan, don’t tell us, show us church doctrine to integrate” and “God does not recognize Negro priests, bishops.” Archbishop Hannan navigates and narrates this difficult era skillfully.

As an individual, Archbishop Hannan is probably not that rare a breed. He is simply a product of the 20th-century Catholic Church, encompassing and embodying some of

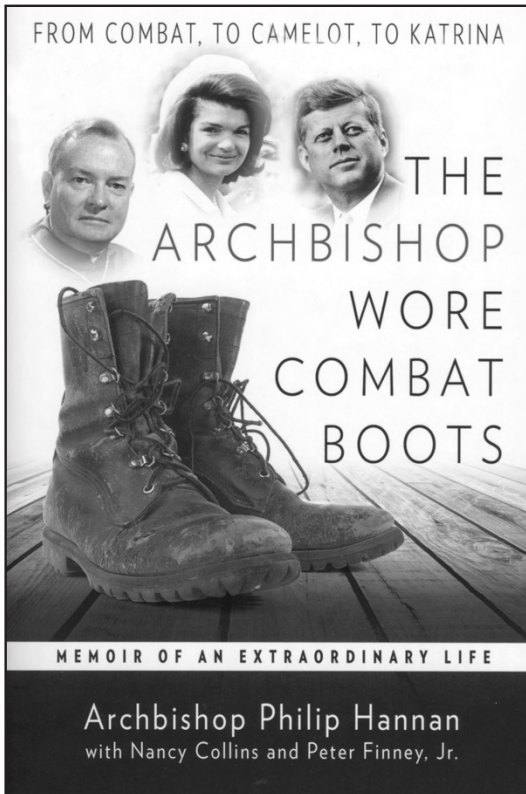
the best qualities a church leader has to offer the faithful. What is rare is his proximity to power and his tendency to find himself in political, racial and cultural hotspots (the Second Vatican Council; New Orleans after Hurricane Betsy and during Hurricane Katrina) and then writing with such simple honesty and humor (“it’s a weird world, in case you didn’t know.”).

His anecdotes and stories are peppered with the sort of “good faith” that makes a person strive to be better himself. Archbishop Hannan has put his life — and his back — into making his Catholic Church one that Jesus himself would recognize: a place where the hungry are fed, the lost are counseled and consoled, where justice is not just talked about but sought after, worked for, and even — wonder of wonders — sometimes achieved.

The archbishop recounts with astonishing detail events that unfolded decades ago. It must help that he has scads of photographs and letters documenting just about everything that ever happened to or around him. One can’t help but think, looking at dozens upon dozens of personal letters from public figures across the decades, that somewhere out there a collector is skipping over coveting and going straight on to lusting after that obviously valuable collection of memorabilia.

In a sense, Archbishop Hannan is the Catholic Church’s very own “Forrest Gump,” finding himself in all the hot happening places at all the right, hot happening times. He also has his finger on the heartbeat of what moves and motivates us all. This heartbeat is found in the last eight words of his memoir: “In the end, all that matters is love.”

Greater writing hath no man.



## LITURGICAL YEAR

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### Family Puzzle Contest Winners!

Malena Benitez of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard is the winner of the December Family Puzzle Contest and “The Loser Letters” by Mary Eberstadt, published by Ignatius Press. Congratulations. The winners of the youth contest are Savana Koerth (9) of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville and Kade Ewing (8) of St. Philip in El Campo. They will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win “The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots” by Archbishop Philip Hannan. 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 January 30 for a chance to win “The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots.”

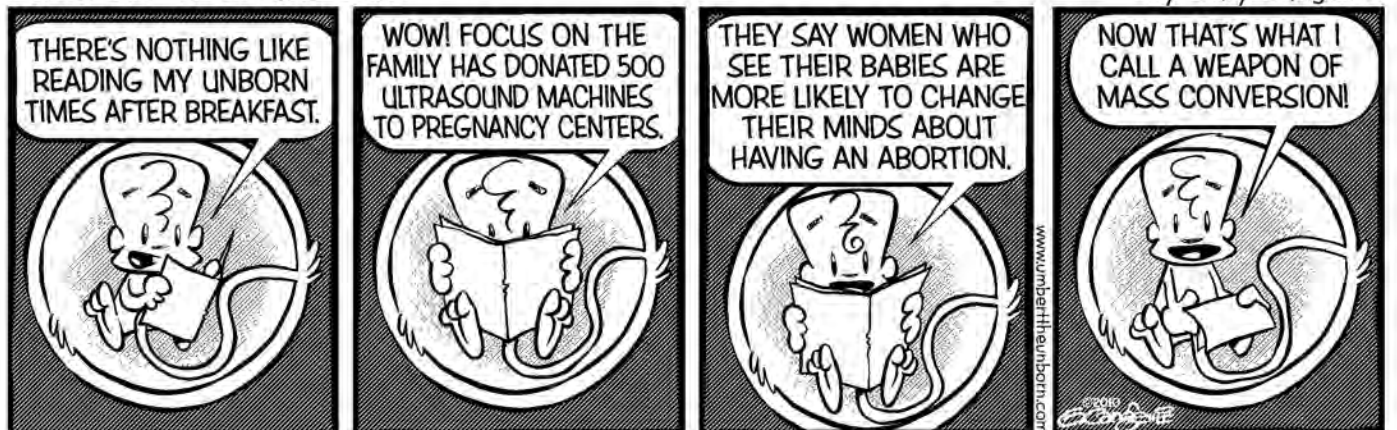
## Program sends missionary families to nontraditional places

DENVER (CNS) — Marco and Monica Tesei consider themselves a normal couple: married for 18 years; three children, ages 16, 14 and 11; living in a peaceful family neighborhood in Denver. The unusual thing about them is that the family left their home in Rome five years ago to serve as missionaries in the Archdiocese of Denver. They’re part of the Neocatechumenal Way, a parish-based faith formation program that has sent hundreds of missionary families around the world over the past 30 years to be a Christian presence by living a life of service, simplicity and poverty. Monica Tesei describes it as a fulfilling way of life. “When you experience missionary work, you become closer to the Lord,” she said. “It’s a way to meet him strongly.” In 1988, Pope John Paul II started a tradition of blessing such families and their mission to evangelize when he celebrated Mass

with 100 families of the Neocatechumenal Way in Porto San Giorgio, Italy, and sent them across the globe. Precedents for this evangelical mission can be found in the early church: The New Testament tells of the family of Aquila and Priscilla, who collaborated with St. Paul in his evangelization efforts. During the ministry of the Benedictines in the Middle Ages, monks were accompanied by groups of Christian families; and in North America, Franciscan Father Junipero Serra’s California missionaries included Christian families who helped the priests. Rose Mary McLeod, who, with husband Don, is responsible for the Neocatechumenal Way in Colorado, said about 300 missionary families were sent worldwide last year, another 250-300 are expected this year. “Mission families are going ‘like crazy,’” she said. “There are a lot of requests (from bishops).”

## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





The choir's revenge for a long homily was their infamous never-ending Amen.

## Biloxi priest returns to childhood hobby with new comic strip

By Terry Dickson  
Catholic News Service

BILOXI, Miss. (CNS) — Father Dominick Fullam was drawn to cartooning at an early age, but a higher calling erased any aspirations he had of becoming a full-time cartoonist.

Recently, however, the St. Martin native, who is vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Biloxi Diocese as well as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Woolmarket, was at the Atlanta airport when something happened that rekindled his interest

in cartooning.

"I was ... drawing a cartoon character on an iPad, and a lady seated next to me asked if I drew cartoons for a living. I laughed and said I was just passing time, but that I used to do a not-so-great cartoon in my high school newspaper," he said.

"She told me what I'd done looked really good to her," Father Fullam added. "A seed was planted."

That seed has since developed into a new comic strip titled "Off by a Mile."

This cartoon was created by Father Dominick Fullam, vicar general for the Diocese of Biloxi, Miss. (CNS illustration/courtesy of Father Fullam)

"First I thought of reviving the comic strip I drew in high school called 'It Ain't Easy.' I learned that name had been used for both a song and a movie. So I decided to come up with something new and different," Father Fullam said.

"I wanted the cartoon's title to have the word 'off' in it, suggestive of something of a different twist on things. After rejecting 'Fifty Percent Off' as sounding like a sales Web site, I found that offbyamile.com was available. I thought it had a certain ring to it."

Since then, Father Fullam has tried to crank out a couple of cartoons each week.

"It takes about an hour from start to finish. That's fairly quick because they're not done on paper, and I no longer have to mess with India ink as I did back in high school," he said.

"As for their origins, these are just thoughts that pop in my head," he added. "I've noticed a tendency to have '80s references, TV shows and songs. I guess that's where my mind is."

Father Fullam has always been a cartoon aficionado.

"Yes, I do read the funnies and not just on Sundays," he said. "I miss some of the ones that have been retired or scaled back over the years like 'Bloom County,' 'The Far Side' and 'FoxTrot.' Over the last year, I've really come to appreciate 'Zits' -- not acne, of course, the comic strip."

## Sunday Readings from Jan. 9 to Feb. 13

January 9 — The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17
January 16 — Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34
January 23 — Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 8:23 — 9:1-3 Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 Matthew 4:12-23
January 30 — Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 Matthew 5:1-12a
February 6 — Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalms 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16
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

## Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday — March 9

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

[www.usccb.org/nab/](http://www.usccb.org/nab/)

Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign — please be generous.

Father Fullam hopes to attract more visitors to his Web site at <http://offbyamile.com> but, for the time being, he's still reluctant to invest too much time in his recently rediscovered hobby and has no plans to submit his cartoon for syndication.

"I have my share of respon-

sibilities right now, and while I enjoy the creative process, I don't think I'd enjoy having to crank these out regularly," he said.

"Never say never, though," Father Fullam added. "Right now, I'm just trying to create an opportunity for a laugh or a chuckle for whoever wants to join in."

## Nine-year-old blessed by special community "Friends of Owen" established

SHINER — Nine-year-old Owen Morkovsky and his family are parishioners of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner. Owen was born to Robert and Dawn Morkovsky with an advanced case of cerebral palsy. This is a broad term used for a variety of disorders that affect one's ability to move and maintain posture and balance. Cerebral palsy is caused by a brain injury that occurs before, during, or within the first few years after birth.

The specific type of cerebral palsy Owen has is called "Spastic Quadriplegia." This particular condition affects Owen's whole body: face, trunk, arms, legs, and vision. Because of the extent of these motor disabilities, Owen cannot walk, talk, sit, stand, or feed himself. He is totally dependent on the care of others to complete his everyday basic needs in order to survive.

Owen is in the 3rd grade at Shiner Elementary School, and his parents' desire is that he be exposed to, and experience, a childhood like those of his peers. They have chosen to keep him at home with them and the rest of his family rather than being placed in an institution, which is where most children with his disability reside. They work hard and make many sacrifices to give him the love and nurturing environment that only can be given by a family. The whole family works together to meet his needs of daily living, which become more challenging as he gets older and bigger. They are able to balance caring for him while continuing a lifestyle with three older children without special needs.

The Morkovsky family has sought funding through "Government Assistant" programs such as Medicaid, Medically Dependent Children's Program (MDCP) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and has been denied on the basis of income and existence of private insurance. The private insurance covers basic medical care, but Owen's needs are far from "basic."

High costs associated with deductibles and co-pays leaves the family without the financial means to afford these expenses (listed below) that will allow Owen to live at home with his family. Dawn has shared, "Medicare and Social Security have advised that in order to qualify for assistance, we would need to take a pay cut." Other agencies have encouraged the family to get a divorce or to lie on paperwork. The Morkovsky family refuses to behave in this un-Godly manner and believes there is a better way.

As alluded to above, Dawn and Robert are also the proud parents of three other children, Zachary, 20; Laurie, 17; and Micah, 13. This family is a true inspiration, and their love, endurance and commitment to have Owen at home is what keeps this family intact. Although their financial burdens make it difficult on their family, they feel blessed to have the family that they do and wouldn't trade one moment for anything else in the world.

A campaign is being established for Owen and the Morkovsky family by a group of friends in Shiner with the help of Saints Cyril & Methodius Church Assistance Program. The organization is calling on those who can help with meeting some of Owen's needs, as shown below. Help with social services advocacy, foundations that support families of a special needs child, or even a monetary donation, would greatly be appreciated. Any contribution to this family's fight for Owen will be 100 percent tax deductible and 100 percent awarded to Owen and his family.

In the spirit of the holidays, "Friends of Owen" would like to present the Morkovsky family with a generous Christmas donation to help with their expenses and investment in Owen's care. Instead of giving a "traditional" gift this year, the organization is asking those concerned to consider donating, in the name of a loved

one, a friend or family, to this important cause for a very special child. Donors may contribute toward a particular need by specifying the item at the time of donation and the organization will make sure to apply the donation accordingly.

Owen's "Wish List" includes: Wheelchair accessible van (current balance): \$10,000; remodel bathroom for wheelchair accessibility (material and labor): \$5,000; new shower chair: \$3,500; "Eye Gaze" computer system for communication (monthly rental) \$1,600; ankle, foot orthotics, head/neck support collar (size replacements): \$2,000; standing frame (currently outgrown) <http://www.easystand.com/evolv/index.cfm>: \$5,000; larger wheelchair fund: \$9,500.

Online donations may be made through PAYPAL by going to: [www.sscmshiner.org](http://www.sscmshiner.org); and clicking on PARISH MINISTRIES/Social Services, or donations may be mailed to: Saints Cyril & Methodius Assistance Program C/O "Friends of Owen"; 306 S. Avenue F; Shiner, Texas 77984. Visit "Friends of Owen" on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/?sk=messages#!/pages/Friends-of-Owen/171650936185029>.

The Shiner Cub Scouts (Troop 231) are sponsoring a BBQ benefit for Owen's cause at Green-Dickson Park on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. Please go to page 19 for more information. Any questions about "Friends of Owen," please contact by e-mail: [friendsofowen@att.net](mailto:friendsofowen@att.net).



Pictured are Owen Morkovsky and his family last year on his 9th birthday. Owen turns 10 years old on January 15. Sitting are Owen, his parents, Dawn and Robert, and brother, Zachary. Standing, from left, are Owen's siblings, Micah and Laurie. A fundraiser for Owen will held in Shiner at Green-Dickson Park Sunday, January 16.



## Coming of Age

By Karen Osborne  
Catholic News Service



### Going to church on Sunday

Sometimes it seems that there are a million other things you could do on a Sunday morning rather than attend church. Why get up when you can sleep in? Why dress up when jeans are more comfortable?

I had that very thought a few Sundays ago.

That's when I read the news.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, armed gunmen entered Our Lady of Salvation, Baghdad's Syrian Catholic church, during Sunday Mass. They opened fire on more than 100 Catholics at worship, killing the celebrants immediately and shooting Massgoers indiscriminately.

Since a multinational force began military action in Iraq in 2003, the country's capital, Baghdad, has been a city under siege. For seven years, terrorists have made death and fear as common there as mosquitoes and grass are in my backyard.

If you live in Baghdad or one of the hundreds of other areas around the world where terrorist activity is common [in Alexandria, Egypt, on Jan. 1, 2011, a bomb exploded in an Orthodox Christian Church, killing 25 and injuring dozens], leaving your house to get groceries, go to church, school or even to visit a friend is extremely dangerous.

Imagine peering at that unknown car across the street, wondering if it is going to explode.

Imagine locking your door at night and trying to sleep, wondering if your home will be the one that is attacked next.

Imagine getting that phone call at work or school, saying that someone you love was just killed in a bomb blast.

Imagine doing something as ordinary as going to church on a Sunday — and losing everything.

All of our little complaints about work, school and having to go to church on Sunday pale in comparison to the pain and

suffering currently being dealt with in Iraq's Christian community.

In an interview with The New York Times just more than a month before his death, church priest Father Thaeer Abdal said that after a car bomb scare a few years ago, the church staff arranged for a cement, concrete and razor-wire blockade to be erected around the church to protect parishioners from violence.

Imagine how it must have felt for the parishioners of Our Lady of Salvation to keep attending Mass every Sunday! The simple act of leaving the house to go to church — something we take for granted — became an act of incredible faith, beauty and courage.

It's a reminder that our ordinary ability to go to church on Sunday is not, in fact, ordinary. Being able to do this is a privilege, and also a statement of the fact that Catholics are people of hope and life.

Seeing what happened in Baghdad, I think there is something intrinsically wrong with avoiding the Mass because we don't feel like going or want to sleep in.

By going to Mass, we tell God and the world that we want to stand up for love, not fear.

Those of us who say we believe in Jesus Christ need to see that the world needs us. We are a part of a world that includes Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Jews and atheists alike, and we need to see that they all deserve our love and respect.

That means no bullying or attacking because someone is different, whether it's in an American high school or on the streets of a faraway city.

Every single act of kindness goes a long way in a world that seems to so often rely on violence and fear.

So get up. Dress up. Go to church and be light in the world.

## Capital Comments

By Jennifer Carr Allmon  
Associate Director  
Texas Catholic conference



### Is There a Fiscal Note?

In the upcoming legislative session, lawmakers will be facing the largest budget shortfall that Texas has seen in a generation, if not ever. As we advocate for support of legislation at the Capitol, the first response to every bill has been, "Is there a fiscal note?" In other words, "What will it cost us?" As you can guess, if the answer is "Yes" the bill is all but dead on arrival. This is unfortunate, but a reality that we must face.

The immediate deficit facing Texas, which is expected to be between \$18 and \$23 billion, is caused by both the global economic recession, which has temporarily reduced state revenue, and the failure of the business tax to bring in enough revenue. This shortfall, which must be addressed during this legislative session, can be resolved with a balanced approach that includes using the entire Rainy Day Fund, generating revenue, cutting unnecessary corporate loopholes, and ensuring that the state appropriates funding at a level that meets the needs of Texans.

Today, vital public services in Texas are not funded to meet basic needs. Many legislators have pledged to cut program

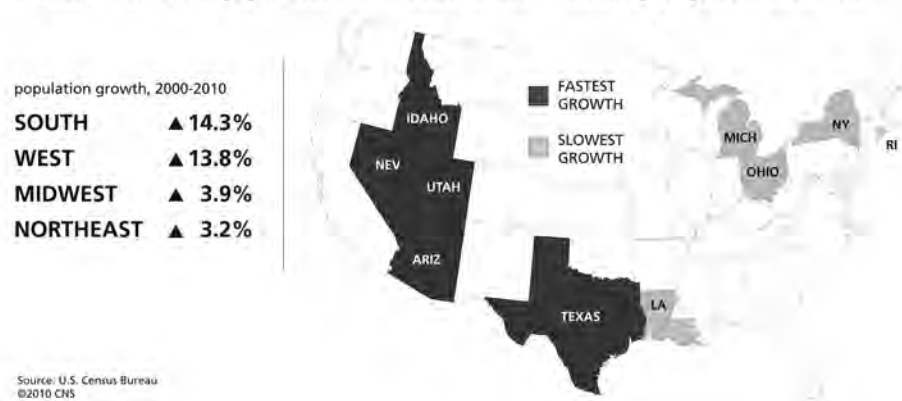
funds without raising revenue. This practice of implementing an unbalanced, cuts-only approach is harmful to the most vulnerable Texans today, and jeopardizes future economic growth in our state. Relying on a cuts-only approach not only threatens the recovery of the state as it endeavors to meet the needs of those most affected by the recession, but also hurts our nation's recovery, as state and local spending is a large component of our nation's economy.

In light of the global economic recession, the Holy See has reminded governments of the importance of public services. "Even more than an expression of solidarity, it is a matter of justice to overcome the temptation to reduce public services for a short-term benefit against the long-term human cost (Intervention of the Holy See at the 2009 High Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, July 2009)." Our own Cardinal DiNardo has also spoken out on the government's responsibility to service, stating that "a task of good government is to use its funding power to direct resources where they will best serve and respect human life, not to find new

See *Is There a Fiscal Note?*, p. 17

## U.S. Population Growth

The total U.S. resident population has increased to 308.7 million, up 9.7 percent since 2000.



## Cradle of Life

By Father John S. Rausch



### Why Complicate a Simple Life?

Every year Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest (ASPI) produces its "Simple Lifestyle Calendar" with daily reminders about walking more gently on the earth.

"Take time to get away and be alone," "Feel good, live simply, laugh more," and "Put more art in your life" all suggest ways to become more human, more gentle, more spiritual. How appealing: "Sing in the morning," "Indulge your need to read," "Listen to silence!"

Unfortunately, many of us need to ponder more deeply the reality presented in the calendar's May 12th date: "Stress can make you vulnerable to disease." While we recognize the salutary effects of living slower-paced lives, we find ourselves swept along in the rush of popular culture. Maybe we need the ASPI calendar more than we realize: "Limit your email time," "Disable the envy switch," "Turn away from consumerism."

The admonitions of the calendar come from a care of creation theology with a respectful appreciation of earth science. In Genesis, God looked over creation and found it "very good" (Gen. 1:31), signifying its inherent worth. God so loved the world that God joined it (Jn. 3:16) — that's the Incarnation. Christ needed creation after the Resurrection, i.e. his body (Lk. 24:39-43), to demonstrate God's power over death and destruction. Why is Christ called the "firstborn of all creation" (Col. 1:15), if at the end of time creation gets wadded up and thrown away like a useless piece of paper? The answer appears to lie with the totality of salvation. All creation awaits its own freedom from corruption and a share in the redemption of Christ (Rom. 8:21; Col. 1:20). This approach to theology invites us to appreciate God's gift of creation and to see ourselves as interdependent with it in the web of life.

Curiously, a simple lifestyle sounds so Gospel, but respecting earth science

appears so spiritless. We revel in the intimacy and dependence on God when we recall the "lilies of the field" (Lk. 12:22-34) and "allow the children to come unto me" (Matt. 19:13-15) and "let not your hearts be troubled" (Jn. 14:1). Yet St. Augustine reminds us that God speaks in two ways: through the revelation in Scripture and through the revelations of creation.

If discipleship entails proclaiming the Good News, then as part of that Good News our patterns of consumption must reverence creation. Currently the findings of earth science are begging us to change our lifestyles based on over consumption of scarce resources and the excessive use of fossil fuels. Human activity is changing the earth's climate and inducing global warming. While carbon dioxide levels fluctuate by season, they are currently increasing by two parts per million (ppm) each year which is intensifying the greenhouse effect and raising earth's average temperature. In the mid 1950s the carbon dioxide level measured 315 ppm. Today it stands at 390 ppm. The science is irrefutable.

Perhaps the simple lifestyle calendar can help us in two ways. First, it can reduce the fear that lifestyle changes will lead to boredom. People are finding themselves addicted to the Internet, texting, and shopping, which many times leaves them unfulfilled. The calendar suggests creative activities that can satisfy the human spirit: "Explore the beauty of Autumn," "Dig in—get your hands dirty," "Celebrate the use of herbs and all things herbal."

Second, the calendar can teach us a connection between spirituality and creation care: "Smart energy choices save money and improve life," "More with less is best."

Finally, faithfully following the simple lifestyle calendar gets you to December 31st and something new: "New Year, New You." Find it at <http://www.a-spi.org/cal.htm>.

### 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.



## Novena in Reparation for the Sin of Abortion - Jan. 14-22

HALLETTSVILLE—Please join parishioners at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville for a novena of Holy Hours of Eucharistic Adoration (one Holy Hour on nine consecutive days) beginning on Friday, January 14, through Saturday, January 22, in reparation for the sin of abortion and to pray for the complete restoration of the full legal protection for unborn children in our country.

Each Holy Hour will be held from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the church (with the only exception of Saturday, Jan 15, which will be immediately after the 5:30 p.m. evening Mass) and will include the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the recitation of the holy rosary, the chaplet of Divine Mercy,

### Amor Meus Spirituality Center to host Centering Prayer Retreat

Amor Meus Spirituality Center will host a Centering Prayer Retreat titled "Developing the Theme of God's Pervasive Presence in Our Lives," Saturday, January 15, 2011.

It will be a quiet day of retreat with the God of love who is the center of our life. Guest presenter will direct the day. Books on Contemplative Prayer, especially Centering Prayer will be available for purchase at the retreat. Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; registration begins at 9:15 a.m.; Mass - 8:30 a.m. in the convent chapel (optional). Bring your Bible if you have one. You may purchase a lunch for \$5 or bring your own.

Call (361) 575-7111 to register. Center is located at IWBS Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St., Victoria. DISCOVER GOD'S LOVE WITH US.

## Ancient practice seen as way for modern Catholics to get close to Jesus

By Beth Griffin  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Lectio divina," an ancient scriptural meditative practice, is an ideal way for contemporary Catholics to unplug from worldly distractions and establish holy intimacy, permanent friendship and fruitful companionship with Jesus Christ, according to Trappist Brother Simeon Leiva.

Brother Leiva, a Scripture scholar and monk at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Mass., said encountering the living Christ in mutual knowledge and love is transformative and challenging. "The word of God must never be a soothing narcotic. God calls us out of our comfort zone and offers us new life on his own conditions," he said.

"The movement toward Jesus requires courage and generosity and is both thrilling and frightening," Brother Leiva said.

"Lectio divina" — "the reading of the sacred" or "the divine reading" — dates from the second century. It uses a pattern of reading, reflection, prayer, contemplation and action to meditate on short scriptural passages.

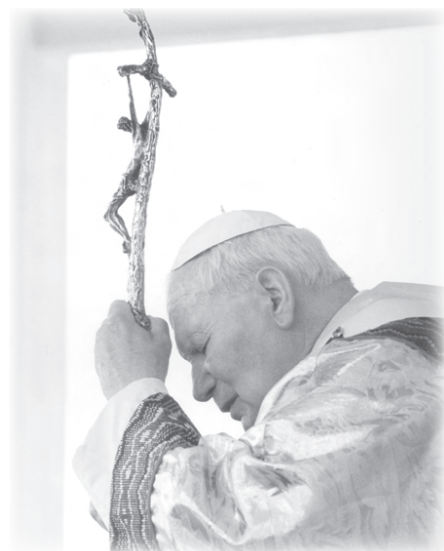
Brother Leiva addressed priests of the Archdiocese of New York Dec. 9 at the American Bible Society's launch of two books devoted to the practice: "The Catholic Prayer Bible — 'Lectio Divina' Edition" and "Pray With the Bible, Meditate With the Word — a Manual for the Prayerful Reading of the Bible."

The new books are a timely response to a post-synodal document in which Pope Benedict XVI urged Christians to get to know the Scriptures better.

"Verbum Domini" ("The Word of the Lord") is an apostolic exhortation on the 2008 Synod of Bishops on the Word of God. In it and in earlier statements, Pope Benedict recommended "lectio divina" as an effective way to encounter Christ in

and other prayers for life. The novena will conclude on Saturday, January 22, at 7:00 p.m. with a Eucharistic Procession of the Blessed Sacrament from Sacred Heart Church to the Lavaca County Courthouse and back to the church for Benediction.

January 22 marks the 38th anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision *Roe vs. Wade*, which legalized the sin of abortion in the United States. Let us unite to pray for an end to abortion! Please call Father Tommy Chen, Director of Pro Life Concerns for the diocese, if you have any questions.



**BEATIFICATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL II**—An Italian journalist reported Jan. 4 that the process of approving a miracle in the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II is so far along that the late pontiff could be beatified this year. See p. 17. He is pictured during a pastoral visit to Abuja, Nigeria, in March 1998. (CNS file photo from L'Osservatore Romano)

Scripture and respond with openness and generosity.

Brother Leiva said "lectio divina" cultivates the human heart to activate to its highest potential and helps bring Christian souls to their natural state with Jesus Christ at the center of their being. "Union with Jesus is the whole of my life and my relationship with him is the primal relationship that invigorates all others," he said.

He described "lectio divina" as leisurely, ruminative, cordial, contemplative, disinterested, provocative, ecclesial and mystagogical. "Each session of 'lectio' is a modest foretaste of heavenly experiences," he said.

He called "lectio divina" a tool to "make our lives themselves a living exegesis of the Word."

Brother Leiva told Catholic News Service that "lectio divina" is "a Catholic way to decompress and pray at the same time. For whatever reason you practice it, it requires you to slow down and unplug yourself. It's healthy and it's very doable."

Paraphrasing St. Bernard, the Trappist said, "Stay at home, you may receive an important visitor. 'Lectio divina' is coming home to oneself."

Mario Paredes, presidential liaison to the American Bible Society's Catholic ministries, said the "lectio divina" initiative is an effort to get the Bible read. "We have studies that show there is an excess of Bibles, three to five in each household, but the problem is that no one is reading them," Paredes said. "We're shifting tactics. 'Lectio divina' is not a Bible course, but an invitation to read the Bible carefully."

Paredes said the Bible society provides the "lectio divina" materials in English and Spanish and organizes and subsidizes training sessions for parish leaders in dioceses across the United States.

## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

## Pope calls for defense of religion in public life, praises Italy

By Sarah Delaney  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI, addressing Italy's ambassador, called for the protection of religious freedom and its expression in contemporary societies where religion is sometimes shut out completely from public life.

He also praised Italy for defending the right to hang crucifixes in public schools before a European court.

Speaking Dec. 17 to Francesco Maria Greco, Italy's new ambassador to the Vatican, the pope emphasized the responsibility that governments bear in safeguarding religious expression.

"The state is called to protect not only the rights of believers in their freedom of conscience and religion, but also the legitimate role of religion and religious communities in the public sphere," he said.

The contribution of Christians to society in general is so significant that civil authorities should realize that social

progress cannot go forward if religion or its expression is sidelined, he said.

In praising Italy, he made an apparent reference to a case brought by an Italian woman who sought to have crucifixes removed from the classrooms of her children's public school on the grounds that Italy is a secular country without a state religion. Her request was denied by Italian courts, but upheld by the European Court of Human Rights.

Italy appealed the ruling last June and, joined by some other mostly Orthodox countries, is waiting for a verdict from the European court in Strasbourg, France.

The pope said the Italian government had "moved with a correct vision of secularism and in light of European history, culture and tradition."

In the pope's message for World Peace Day of 2011, released at the Vatican Dec. 16, the pope denounced "sophisticated forms of hostility to religion" in the West, such as denial of society's Christian roots and the rejection of religious symbols.

## Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions January 2011

**General Intention:** That the riches of creation be preserved, valued and made available to all, as a precious gift from God to mankind.

**Missionary Intention:** That Christians may achieve full unity, bearing witness of the universal fatherhood of God to the entire human race.

## Pope begins new year with call for religious freedom, end to violence

Continued from p. 1

prayers for the victims and their families.

The pope also denounced the recent practice of "planting bombs close to the homes of Christians in Iraq to force them to leave." At least seven Christian homes in Baghdad were targeted in bombings Dec. 30, leaving at least 13 people wounded.

The pope said the latest attacks in Egypt and Iraq "offend God and all humanity."

Addressing pilgrims at his noon blessing Jan. 1, the pope said he planned to invite religious leaders from the world's major faiths to gather in Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, in order to "solemnly renew the commitment by believers of every religion to live their religious faith as a service to the cause of peace."

"Whoever is making his way toward God cannot fail to transmit peace, and whoever builds peace cannot fail to draw nearer to God," he said.

The pope said the gathering, planned for October, is meant to recall "the historic gesture" made by the late Pope John Paul II when he convoked the first World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi in 1986.

In his homily during the morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 1, the pope spoke about the theme he chose for World Peace Day 2011: "Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace."

He said religious freedom was challenged today by two extremes at work in the world: secularism that banishes religion to the private sphere and fundamentalism that seeks to forcefully impose religion on everyone.

He said religious freedom is the best

path for building peace, because wherever religious freedom is guaranteed, human dignity is also respected.

Pope Benedict called on political leaders and all people of goodwill to not give up when faced with "the negative force of egoism and violence" and to not become jaded into thinking that conflict, which puts lives and the future at risk, is inevitable.

War, he said, reflects "the most horrendous and violent face of history." He called on everyone to promote and build peace, reminding people that "words aren't enough for this difficult task."

He said "a concrete and constant commitment is needed by heads of nations, but above all what's needed is that every person be inspired by an authentic spirit of peace," which is fostered by prayer and lived out in one's day-to-day activities.

Peace does not come because of "weapons, nor economic, political, cultural and media power," he said. Peace is both a gift from God and the result of a change in the human conscience, which becomes open to truth and love, he said.

The pope presided over an evening prayer service with eucharistic adoration and the singing of a special hymn of thanksgiving to God Dec. 31 in St. Peter's Basilica.

After the prayer service, the pope went by popemobile into St. Peter's Square, where he visited the Vatican's Nativity scene. While choristers sang, the pope entered the grotto housing the larger-than-life-size figures of the Holy Family and knelt in prayer.



## Corpus Christi Is Planned Parenthood Free

— First time since 1958 that Planned Parenthood will not have a presence in Corpus Christi —

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The following is a statement from Jim Sedlak, vice president of American Life League and head of Stop Planned Parenthood International (STOPP), on the decision of Planned Parenthood of South Texas, in Corpus Christi, to end its relationship with national Planned Parenthood:

“In February 2008, at the invitation of concerned citizens, members of the faith community, and pro-lifers I personally went to Corpus Christi to pray in front of the local Planned Parenthood facility. At that event, we helped kick off South Texas STOPP, an organization committed to educating the community about the evils of Planned Parenthood.

“By denying city council and hospital district funds to Planned Parenthood, it showed that the community did not support Planned Parenthood’s agenda. By getting the organization out of the Corpus Christi Independent School District, it cut off its access to children. South Texas STOPP repeatedly warned the community that Planned Parenthood is in the abortion business.

“After almost three years of prayer and activism by South Texas STOPP, the national Planned Parenthood organization insisted that the local affiliate must commit surgical and/or medical abortions. Rather than continue its relationship with Planned Parenthood and fulfill the warnings of South Texas STOPP about Planned Parenthood’s true agenda, the local affiliate has now severed its relationship with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, effective January 1, 2011.

After January 1, 2011, they will no longer be Planned Parenthood of South Bend, but Family Planning of the Coastal Bend. Their disaffiliation with the national organization will force them to rebrand, rename and reestablish themselves.

“This will be the first time since 1958 that a Planned Parenthood facility has not operated in Corpus Christi.

“On behalf of ALL and STOPP, I praise God for this victory and commend South Texas STOPP in its heroic efforts. Though the clinic has not closed shop, through the education efforts in the community, South Texas STOPP has — in three short years — ended a five-decade reign of Planned Parenthood and its attacks on children, teens and parents.

“South Texas STOPP proves what a committed group of individuals can accomplish in such a short amount of time. American Life League and STOPP look forward to taking the South Texas STOPP model nationwide, until every Planned Parenthood clinic is closed for good.”



Incoming U.S. House Speaker John Boehner uses the gavel during the first votes of the 112th U.S. Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington Jan. 5. The Catholic Republican representative from Ohio took the helm from California Democrat Nancy Pelosi, also a Catholic. (CNS photo/Kevin Lamarque, Reuters)

## Death sentences, executions drop in 2010

Continued from p. 1

new death sentences by county from 2007 to 2010 and from 1976 to 2010. Clicking on each county reveals the total number of sentences, the number executed, the number awaiting execution, and the number exonerated. See below for links to each map.

The number of executions also dropped in 2010. The State of Texas executed 17 people, the lowest number since 2001. The state remains the nation’s leading executioner, accounting for approximately 37% of U.S. executions in 2010. The number of executions in Texas this year represents a smaller percentage of the national total than it has in recent years, however.

“Texas — along with the rest of the nation — is moving away from the death penalty,” said Kristin Houlé, executive director of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. “The system is broken beyond repair, and the continued decline in new death sentences shows that jurors and prosecutors in Texas are seeking other ways to address violent crime.”

Concerns about wrongful convictions and emerging evidence of wrongful executions dominated headlines this year. On October 27, 2010, Anthony Graves walked out of the Burlleson County Jail after spending 18 years in prison — including 12 years on death row — for a crime he did not commit. Prosecutors dropped all charges

against Graves and declared him innocent after conducting their own investigation of the case. His conviction was based on the testimony of Robert Carter, who was convicted and executed for the same crime in 2000 and who recanted several times, including from the gurney. Anthony Graves is the 12th person in Texas to be wrongfully convicted and removed from death row and the 138th nationwide.

The ongoing inquiry into the case of Cameron Todd Willingham also underscored the fallibility of the system. Willingham was executed in 2004 for setting a fire to his Corsicana home in 1991 that killed his three young daughters. The Texas Forensic Science Commission admitted “flaws” in the science used to convict him. In January it will hold a special meeting with some of the fire experts who have examined the case since the time of conviction and concluded that there was no evidence to support the finding of arson.

In another case of “flawed” science, recent DNA testing of evidence that was used to convict and execute Claude Jones 10 years ago this month revealed that the strand of hair belonged to the victim, not to Jones, as a forensic expert testified during his 1990 trial. While the DNA results do not exonerate Jones, they raise serious questions about the reliability of

his conviction.

Other highlights of Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2010: The Year in Review include the following:

In three capital murder trials, juries rejected the death penalty and opted for a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Over the past three years, juries have rejected the death penalty in a dozen cases (two each in Travis and Bexar counties).

Three inmates scheduled for execution in 2010 received last-minute stays; the execution date of another inmate was withdrawn. On March 24, Henry “Hank” Skinner received a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court shortly after eating his “last meal.” In October, the Court heard arguments to determine whether Skinner can seek access to post-conviction DNA testing through the federal Civil Rights Act. Texas officials have refused to release key pieces of evidence gathered at the crime scene in 1993 for testing.

At least six inmates received reduced sentences in 2010 and were removed from the death-row population, including several inmates whose death sentences were overturned because jurors did not hear mitigating evidence during their original trials. Three other inmates died in custody, including Ronald Chambers, who spent 35 years on death row and was awaiting a fourth sentencing hearing related to the 1975 murder of Mike McMahan.

A nationwide shortage of the first drug used in the lethal injection protocol, sodium thiopental, led some states to postpone executions as their supplies dwindle or expire. In November, officials with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice revealed that they had enough drugs on hand to execute 39 people, but that doses of sodium thiopental will expire in March 2011.

There currently are 317 people (307 men and 10 women) on death row in Texas. Texas holds the third-largest death row population in the nation, after California (713) and Florida (393).

“2010 may go down in history as the ‘Year of Doubt,’ when case after case exposed the flaws and failures of the Texas death penalty and shook public faith in the criminal justice system to its core,” said Houlé. “During this time of fiscal crisis, TCADP urges all elected officials to take a good hard look at the death penalty system and ask whether this is a good use of tax payers’ dollars when there are alternative ways to protect society and punish those who are truly guilty.”

*Texas Death Penalty Developments in 2010: The Year in Review* is available online. Contact Kristin Houlé at [khoule@tcadp.org](mailto:khoule@tcadp.org) to receive a copy directly via e-mail.

See <http://tcadp.org/2007-2010-new-death-sentences/> for a map of new death sentences by county from 2007 to 2010.

See <http://tcadp.org/death-sentences-by-county1976-2010/> for a map of death sentences by county from 1976 to 2010.

## First US approved Marian apparitions encourage catechists

Continued from p. 7

obedient.”

Bishop Ricken added that the message Brise answered in teaching children the faith is the same message people are called to today.

“We need this message today as much as they needed it 150 years ago; the message to proclaim the Gospel, each one of us, in our families and in our workplace. We need to have that same zeal for souls that Adele Brise had,” he said.

Catholics must provide children “adequate catechetical formation” so they understand the Gospel and “are able to defend and explain the teachings of the church,” he added.

The bishop’s decree comes nearly two years after he opened a formal investigation into the apparitions. On Jan. 9, 2009, he appointed three theologians to study the case.

The theologians’ names were not released by the diocese. But Father John Doerfler, vicar general and chancellor, said all three had expertise in Marian theology and “general experience in examining apparitions,” adding that two are internationally recognized.

Brise was 28 when Mary appeared to her three times in October 1859. The first appearance took place while Brise was carrying a sack of wheat to a grist mill about four miles from Robinsonville, now known as Champion.

A few days later, on Oct. 9, as Brise walked to Sunday Mass in Bay Settlement, about 11 miles from her home, Mary appeared to her again. After Mass, Brise told the pastor what she had seen. He told her to “ask in God’s name who it was and what it desired of her,” according to a historical account found on the shrine’s Web site.

On the way home from Bay Settlement, Mary again appeared to Brise. When Brise asked who the woman was, Mary responded, “I am the Queen of Heaven, who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same.”

She told Brise to “gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the

sign of the cross and how to approach the sacraments.”

Brise devoted the rest of her life to teaching children. She began a community of secular Franciscans and built a school next to the shrine. Brise’s father, Lambert, built a small chapel near the spot of the apparitions. When a brick chapel was built in 1880, the trees where Mary appeared were cut down and the chapel’s altar was placed over the spot.

A school and convent were also built next to the chapel. The current chapel was dedicated in 1942 under the title of Our Lady of Good Help. Today, the shrine, which sits on six acres of farmland, receives thousands of visitors each year.

Brise died July 5, 1896, and was buried in a small cemetery near the chapel. Although she was sometimes photographed in a habit, she never took vows as a religious.

Karen Tipps, who for 18 years has been a volunteer and caretaker of the shrine with her husband, Steve, said Bishop Ricken’s decree “is the fulfillment of everything we’ve worked for: to make the shrine a beautiful place of pilgrimage; to try and promote the message of what happened here.”

While the declaration will not change the way longtime pilgrims view the shrine, it will change the way the rest of the world sees it, she said.

“The shrine has had pilgrims for more than 150 years ... but in the church view and the world view, having the bishop go to this length to get the commission going, it’s what others need for affirmation of what happened here,” said Tipps.

She believes that the timing of the apparitions’ approval was part of a divine plan.

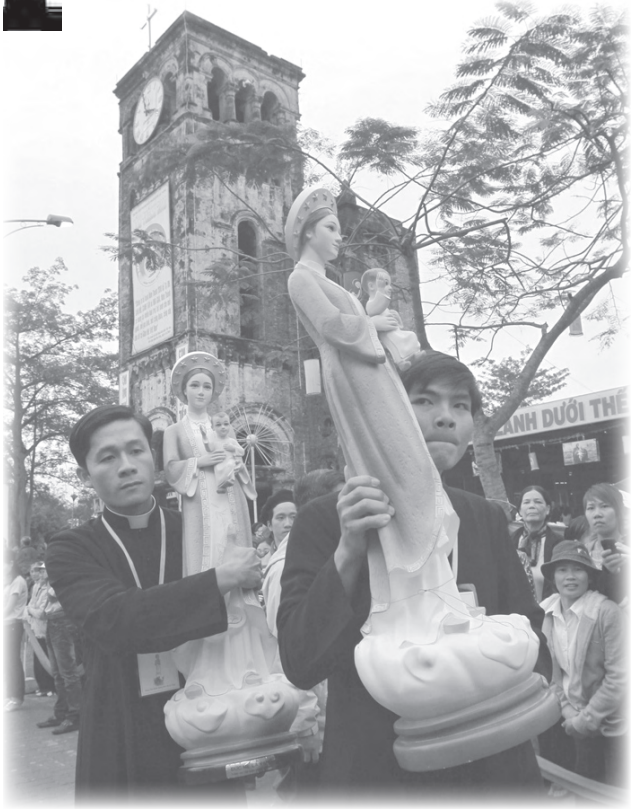
“It’s now because this message is meant for this time in history,” Tipps told The Compass, Green Bay’s diocesan newspaper. “If you look at the state of our children right now, there’s no hope. There’s no faith. There’s nothing to live for.”

She said a “crisis in catechesis” exists today, much like it did when Brise was told to teach children their catechism.

### 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.





**SEMINARIANS CARRY STATUES DURING HOLY YEAR CELEBRATIONS IN VIETNAM**—Seminarians carry statues of Mary and the Christ Child before a Mass as part of the holy year celebrations at the La Vang Basilica in Vietnam's central Quang Tri province Jan. 5. More than 500,000 Catholics were expected at La Vang Jan. 4-6, according to an official of Vietnam's bishops' conference. (CNS photo/Kham, Reuters)

### A 'routine' year: Pope's 2011 calendar holds full slate of events

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For Pope Benedict XVI, the 2011 calendar already holds a full slate of meetings, liturgies and foreign trips. What's not on the calendar — at least so far — is a special "year of" or a "year for." In 2008-2009, the pope declared a Year of St. Paul. He designated 2009-2010 the Year for Priests. Perhaps 2011 will mark the "Year of Business as Usual" for the German pontiff, who turns 84 in April. Unlike the past three years, there's no Synod of Bishops on the horizon in 2011. Most people are not expecting a consistory this year, either, and there is no sign that the pope plans to convene the world's cardinals at the Vatican for other reasons. What many people don't appreciate is that the papacy is not just about commemorative years and cardinal summits. "Business as usual" for the pope means a steady series of events that begins with a New Year's Mass to mark World Peace Day and ends with a "te deum" prayer service of thanksgiving Dec. 31. In between are hundreds of papal encounters with individuals and groups, ranging from heads of state to schoolchildren.

### Pope signs new measures to guarantee financial transparency in Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has instituted a new agency to monitor all Vatican financial operations and make sure they meet international norms against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The pope issued an apostolic letter Dec. 30 that established the Financial Information Authority as an independent agency to oversee the monetary and commercial activities of all Vatican-related institutions, including the Vatican bank. At the same time, the Vatican promulgated a detailed new law that defined financial crimes and established penalties — including possible jail time — for their violation. The list of transgressions includes corruption, market manipulation, fraud and virtually any activity that facilitates or provides funding to acts of terrorism. The new law, which reflects the latest European Union regulations, takes effect April 1. The pope's brief apostolic letter said the Vatican fully supported the international community's efforts to coordinate a response to financial crimes, which often involve more than one country. "In our age of increasing globalization, peace is unfortunately threatened by many factors, including an improper use of the market and the economy, and the terrible and destructive violence perpetrated by terrorism, which causes death, suffering, hatred and social instability," the pope said. The creation of

such an oversight agency is unprecedented at the Vatican, where several departments have operated with some degree of financial independence for decades or centuries. The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, described the move as a courageous step that reflects the moral requirement of "transparency, honesty and responsibility" in the Vatican's operations.

### Three former Anglican bishops received into Catholic Church in London

LONDON (CNS) — Three former Anglican bishops were received into the Catholic Church just hours after they officially gave up their ministries in the Church of England. Bishops Andrew Burnham of Ebbsfleet, John Broadhurst of Fulham and Keith Newton of Richborough will be soon ordained as priests for a special Anglican ordinariate that will be set up in England later in January. Their resignations took effect at midnight Dec. 31, and they were received into the Catholic Church the afternoon of Jan. 1 during a Mass in London's Westminster Cathedral. They will be ordained as Catholic deacons at Allen Hall seminary, London, Jan. 13, then as priests at a ceremony in the cathedral Jan. 15. They will be incardinated into the English ordinariate, which is expected to be formed by papal decree the second week of January, when Pope Benedict XVI is also expected to appoint an ordinary. The ordinariate will be the first to be created since the pope issued the apostolic constitution "Anglicanorum coetibus" Nov. 4, 2009, to allow the group reception of disaffected Anglo-Catholics into the Catholic Church. Similar in structure to a military diocese, it permits former Anglicans to retain much of the patrimony and liturgical practices, such as married priests. Also received into the church at the Jan. 1 Mass were Judi Broadhurst, the wife of the former bishop of Fulham, and Gill Newton, the wife of the former bishop of Richborough.

### Report says Pope John Paul miracle nears final recognition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A presumed miracle needed for the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II reportedly has reached the final stages of approval. The miracle — involving a French nun said to have been cured of Parkinson's disease — has been approved by a Vatican medical board and a group of theologians and is now awaiting judgment from the members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, according to Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli. If the congregation accepts the healing as a miracle attributable to the late pope's intercession, then Pope

## Vatican emerges from WikiLeaks as a key player on global scene

*Continued from p. 1*

Holy See is interested and well-informed about developments all over the globe," it said.

Since that memo was written, the Vatican has established full diplomatic relations with Russia, bringing the total to 178 countries. That leaves only about 16 countries off the list, places such as China, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan. The Vatican also maintains delegations to nearly 20 international institutions, including the United Nations.

The WikiLeaks cables have described Vatican diplomats as generally well-informed and as influential lobbyists behind the scenes. What's amazing is that the Vatican accomplishes all this with a relatively tiny diplomatic corps — a few hundred bishops and priests who were hand-picked and trained at a little-known diplomatic academy in downtown Rome.

The academy has only 30 or so priest-students, who spend years studying papal diplomacy, diplomatic style, diplomatic history and international law. By the time they graduate, they are expected to be fluent in four languages.

Most of the graduates go on to serve at lower-level positions at a Vatican nunciature, or embassy, and are rotated to new posts after a few years. Some may be brought back for a turn at the "Second Section" of the Vatican Secretariat of State, a kind of international nerve-center where about 35 prelates keep tabs on the entire world.

Eventually, they may become papal nuncios, or ambassadors. The nuncio's job differs from that of a normal ambassador in several respects, however. For one thing, a nuncio acts not only as the pope's representative to a foreign government, but as the pope's liaison with the local Catholic population. Much of his time, therefore, is spent dealing with internal church affairs.

In a broader sense, unlike other ambassadors, the papal nuncio is promoting a moral agenda, not the commercial or political interests of his government. A primary focus of papal diplomats in recent decades has been human rights, peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection of core social values. Those concerns show up repeatedly in the WikiLeaks cables.

In Rome, the Vatican also communicates with U.S. diplomats through various agencies of the Roman Curia, in particular the pontifical councils that deal with justice and peace, migration, health care, charity work and the family. Embassy officials seek out experts who work at these councils for briefings on the Vatican's position and — as one can now read in detail — report it all back to the U.S. State Department.

Vatican officials, of course, also are

reading the WikiLeaks cables with interest. So far they seem unsurprised at the content. Much of the U.S. Embassy's effort seems geared toward enlarging areas of U.S.-Vatican cooperation, which has never been a secret objective. The cables show the Vatican as open on some issues, such as human trafficking, but clearly wary of becoming too closely identified with the policies and initiatives of the world's biggest superpower.

Occasionally, there are frank assessments of differences, as in a U.S. Embassy memo from July 2001, which forecast continued problems with the Vatican over Israel, the death penalty and Iraq.

"The Vatican will continue to oppose U.S. efforts to isolate Saddam Hussein. We should recognize that the Vatican will not support our efforts in Iraq, and investigate ways to limit Vatican interference with our objectives," the cable said tersely.

The WikiLeaks cables often reveal U.S. diplomats as trying very hard to figure out the Vatican, as they deal with an institution that is both a sovereign state and the center of a global religion. One "confidential" cable boiled it down to the simplest terms: "The Vatican strives to translate its religious beliefs and its humanitarian concerns into concrete policies."

## A Moving Experience

*Continued from p. 10*

is the awareness that the people of Haiti are as much a part of God's people as you and I are. God loves them as much as God loves me. We together are one family! How aware am I of my connection with them? "The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. (1 Cor. 12:12) .... You, then, are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it." (1 Cor. 12:27)

May we all grow in our appreciation of our blessings and come to a stronger awareness of the call to solidarity with our sisters and brothers whether they live across the street or in Haiti or wherever else in this wonderful world that God has created!

## Is There a Fiscal Note?

*Continued from p. 14*

ways to evade this responsibility."

Many Texas families and small businesses who have been burdened by the current economic climate have taken a balanced approach to recovery — cutting expenses while simultaneously seeking out new sources of income. Texas, too, must implement a balanced approach that includes sustainable revenue sources that will help our economy recover, thrive, and continue to grow as Texas grows.

When legislation is proposed we challenge lawmakers to first ask, "Does this protect human life and dignity? Before considering reductions in public services, the Texas Catholic Conference calls on the Legislature to:

- Use all of the Rainy Day Fund
- Maximize use of available federal funding without extending funding for immoral medical procedures or research
- Create new sources of revenue that are equitable and can grow along with the growth in need for public services; and
- Oppose utilizing gambling and "sin" taxes to generate revenue.

To read TCC's policy paper on the budget shortfall, please go to: <http://www.tx catholic.org/documents/policypapers/Budget.pdf>

Benedict XVI still would have to sign a decree formally recognizing it before a beatification ceremony can be scheduled. Tornielli, who covers the Vatican for the newspaper Il Giornale, wrote Jan. 4 that the process is so far advanced that Pope John Paul could be beatified sometime in 2011. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service Jan. 4 that the final step before beatification requires the pope's approval and that the pope is free to make his own decision on the matter. According to Tornielli, at the end of 2010, the presumed miracle passed the first three stages in a five-step process that involves medical experts, a medical board, theological consultants, the members of the congregation and, finally, Pope Benedict.

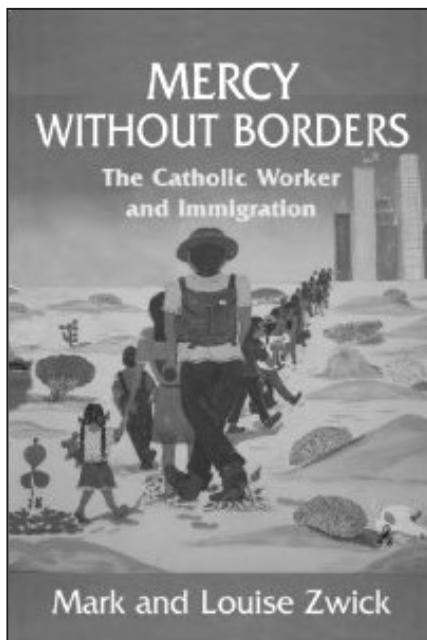


## New Release: Mercy Without Borders

Mercy Without Borders – The Catholic Worker and Immigration  
Mark and Louise Zwick  
978-0-8091-4689-5  
288 pages 6X9 Paperback  
\$19.95 / November 2010

The lives of Mark and Louise Zwick were turned around by their experience in El Salvador, where they had traveled with their young children. As the war and repression began, the witness of Archbishop Oscar Romero in responding to the violence suffered by the people and the witness of the people themselves saved them from despair.

Arriving back in the United States, the Zwicks were faced with Central American refugees pouring into the busy streets of Houston. Inspired by Dorothy Day and the mysterious presence of the Lord in



the poor, they opened a Catholic Worker House of Hospitality for homeless refugees. They named the house for Juan Diego, to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared. They were not seeking arrest (although this was a real possibility), but understood their work as doing the Works of Mercy, even if this meant resistance to unjust structures – caring eventually for thousands of undocumented immigrants, including the sick and wounded.

In the Catholic Worker tradition, the Zwicks publish a newspaper, the Houston Catholic Worker, where they share the stories of immigrants, the inspiration of Dorothy Day and Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the political and economic forces,

which drive people to immigrate.

See Texas Bishops Statement on Immigration, p. 2.

## Pope deplores deadly attacks on Christian churches

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI deplored a series of deadly attacks against Christian churches and other targets around the world at Christmas time. The pope appealed for peace Dec. 26 after bombs went off in churches in the Philippines and Nigeria, killing or wounding several worshippers. In Pakistan, a suicide bombing against a World Food Program depot left at least 40 dead. “At this time of holy Christmas, the desire and the pleas for peace have become still more intense. But our world continues to be marked by violence, especially against the disciples of Christ,” the pope said at his noon blessing at the Vatican. The pope said he had learned with “great sadness” of the bombing during Christmas Mass at a Catholic chapel on the Filipino island of Jolo, where Muslim extremist groups

have been active. The blast injured the local priest and eight others. He also condemned the violence Christmas Eve against Christian churches in Nigeria, where gasoline bombs against three places of worship left at least six people dead, including a Baptist pastor. Authorities said they suspected an Islamist sect in the violence. “The earth has also been stained with blood in other parts of the world, like Pakistan,” the pope said. “I wish to express my heartfelt condolences for the victims of this absurd violence. Once again I make an appeal to abandon the path of hatred in order to find peaceful solutions to conflicts and bring security and tranquility to these dear populations,” he said. Since then, 25 Orthodox Christians were killed following Liturgy Jan. 1 in Alexandria, Egypt.

## Canadian Catholics boost sponsorship of Iraqi Christian refugees

TORONTO (CNS) — Spurred by the exodus of Iraqi Christians, the Toronto Archdiocese doubled the number of Iraqi refugee families it sponsored in 2010 to 190. The boom in the resettlement of Iraqis was fueled by 40 new refugee sponsorship committees or initiatives aimed at rescuing Christians fleeing the violence-torn coun-

try. The archdiocese’s Office for Refugees is handling the cases of about 250 refugees from around the world. The Catholic response to the plight of Iraqi Christian refugees has been the most significant development in Canada’s refugee resettlement system since faith groups pushed the government to create a private sponsorship system 30 years ago in response to the thousands of Vietnamese fleeing by boat from their homeland, according to Martin Mark, executive director of the refugee office. To make the sponsorship system more responsive, the archdiocese has launched a special fund that will help parishes organize fundraising efforts and manage expenses for refugee resettlement. Sponsoring a refugee family can cost as much as \$40,000.

Refugee sponsorship will not solve the problems of Middle Eastern Christians terrorized by militias and struggling under oppressive regimes, Toronto Archbishop Thomas Collins said after reading a five-minute statement during the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East at the Vatican in October. While it is important to provide a solution to Christians who can’t return home to Iraq, it is just as important that Canadian Catholics support Christian communities in the Middle East, the archbishop said.

**The Texas Catholic Conference Advocacy Day - Catholic Faith in Action: Promoting Life, Justice, and Peace - is set for April 6, 2011, at the Texas Capitol. Learn more by going to the Texas Catholic Conference at *The Catholic Lighthouse* page of the diocesan Web site ([www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm)).**

On January 9, 2011, Southern Sudan will vote on a referendum to seek independence from the rest of Sudan. This is a crucial time in a country that has seen years of war and conflict, especially in Darfur. Please pray for the people of Sudan that this event will go peacefully.

### Prayer for Peace in Sudan

Lord Jesus, you said to us;  
“I leave you peace. My peace I give you.”  
Look upon us your sisters and brothers in Sudan  
as we face this moment of referendum.  
Send us your Spirit to guide us.  
Give us the wisdom we need to choose our future  
where we will know your true peace.  
You call us out of slavery, oppression, and  
persecution  
So that we may have life in abundance.  
Grant us peace with one another. Give peace among  
ethnic groups.  
Help us to work together for the good of all.  
We ask this in your name, Jesus our Lord. Amen  
Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

\*Official campaign prayer approved by Sudan  
Catholic Bishops

## Church’s peace-building to continue after Southern Sudan referendum

JUBA, Southern Sudan (CNS) — As Southern Sudan approaches a historic vote on independence in January, church leaders are recommitting themselves to continuing their work of building peace. Yet dealing with internal conflicts in what may become Africa’s newest country could prove just as challenging as its work during decades of civil war with the country’s North. “Whatever happens after the referendum on Jan. 9, it shouldn’t make people enemies. Even if we’re going to separate tomorrow, we’ve got to work for our land to be free of the violence that has become our trademark,” said Father John Oryem, coordinator of the justice and peace commission of the Diocese of El Obeid. As the referendum approaches, Sudan’s churches are ramping up efforts at peace-building in the work of resolving conflicts without violence while laying the foundations for sustainable peace.

Churches have long played a peace-building role in Southern Sudan. The 1972 accords that brought an end to the 17-year First Sudanese Civil War were brokered by international church leaders. In the Second Sudanese Civil War, 1983-2005, churches took a lead role in mediating more than a score of local conflicts that contributed to the larger war. Paul Nantulya, a technical consultant on peace-building in East Africa for the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Relief Services, said those local agreements were the “building blocks” that made possible the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the government in Khartoum and leaders of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM). The CPA ended most of the fighting and outlined a process of autonomy that will culminate in January’s referendum on independence for Southern Sudan.

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## Special Collection Church in Latin America - Jan. 23 Aid to Church in Europe (Ash Wed.) - March 9 Ongoing Events

**Gabriel Project** is a ministry of the Office of Respect Life providing help to pregnant women in need of spiritual guidance, direction and basic needs. A Gabriel Project workshop will be held at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Saturday, January 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch is included). For information, please contact Barbara at (361) 649-1612 or [barbaramcain85@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaramcain85@yahoo.com). Meetings are also held each 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Wharton (2011 Briar Lane). For information or to volunteer, please call (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Catholic Family Services**—For a listing of e-mails 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](http://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. World-wide Marriage Encounter is designed to make good marriages even better. For more information, see [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org); or for upcoming weekends, please contact Milton and Diane Rejcek at (979) 245-0323 or at: [register@mevictoria.org](mailto: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 upcoming Victoria Retrouvaille, please go to: <http://www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php> or contact Gerd and Linda Conner at [lbconner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbconner@sbcglobal.net), (979) 543-3493. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://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](http://www.beginningexperience.org); e-mail: [sanantoniobe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanantoniobe@yahoo.com); phone: (210) 734-2146.

**Natural Family Planning**—For information about the Symptom-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at [victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com). Some great links: <http://learn-nfp.org/nfpmyths.html>; [www.onemoresoul.com](http://www.onemoresoul.com); and [www.priestsforlife.com](http://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.presidiolabaha.org](http://www.presidiolabaha.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](http://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: Feb. 25-27, April 15-17, June 24-26, Sept. 8-11 and Nov. 11-13. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

### Picnics, Activities, etc. January

**Shiner**—The Shiner Cub Scouts (Troop 231) are sponsoring a BBQ benefit on Jan. 16 for Owen Morkovsky (see Owen’s story on page 9). Plates to go will include 1/2 BBQ chicken, rice and beans. There will also be a silent auction and washer tournament throughout the day. Benefit to be held at Arthur Kaspar Pavilion at Green-Dickson Park in Shiner; silent auction accepting bidding from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; washer tournament signup from 12 to 1 p.m. contest begins at 1 p.m. For more information contact: [friendsofowen@att.net](mailto:friendsofowen@att.net) or visit Facebook at “Friends of Owen”.

**Victoria**—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Jan. 16 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.

**Edna**—“A Celebration of Life” program will be held at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells St., Jan. 19 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, #1350, St. Agnes Parish. All church ministers, youth, parents and laity from all denominations are invited to attend. No admission will be charged and refreshments will be served.

**Shiner and Hallettsville**—Eric Genuis in concert, Jan. 23 and 24, see p. 2 for details.

**East Bernard**—The CDA #1108 Soup Supper and raffle will be at the American Legion Hall Wednesday, Jan. 26, beginning at 5:00 p.m. until sold out. A bowl of soup is \$2.50 and a chicken salad sandwich is \$2.50. A variety of desserts will be available. Raffle drawing for 77 prizes will be at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be available that evening. Students from Keller Academy of Performing Arts will provide entertainment before the drawing. Contact person is Regent Henriette Jalowy at (979) 335-4879.

Victoria—St. Joseph High School Family Festival Jan. 30 at the community center from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner will be served at \$7.50 p/p with dine-in or carry-out available. There will be a silent and live auction; games for all ages and more.

### Upcoming Events

**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. 6 for more information.

**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**—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.

**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.

**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 an auction, cakewalk, country store and more.

**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.

### Masses • Retreats • Conferences

**Hallettsville**—PRO-LIFE NOVENA—The Hallettsville Deanery will hold a Pro-life Novena from Friday, Jan. 14, to Saturday, Jan. 22, at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. Please see page 14 for full details.

**East Bernard**—Holy Cross Church presents Sondra Abrahams Jan. 15 at Riverside Hall, beginning at 1:00 p.m. with a rosary followed by keynote speaker, Sondra, at 2:00 p.m. She is from Lake Charles. During a near-death experience on the operating table 40 years ago, after being given a drug that stopped her heart, she was given visions of the future. Following her recovery, she shares her experiences with people all over the world. She has been called a mystic and a visionary by priests and bishops, but the only title she claims is Warrior for Christ. For more information contact Holy Cross Church at (979) 335-7551.

**Austin Diocese**—Internationally known Catholic evangelist, Alan Ames, is graced with the gift of healing, with thousands of documented spiritual and physical healings. He will share his ministry two nights in the Austin area: Friday, Feb. 4, 6:00 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 5909 Reicher Dr., Austin; and Saturday, Feb. 5, 5:00 p.m., St. William Church, 620 Round Rock West Dr., Round Rock, TX. See his Web site at [www.alanames.org](http://www.alanames.org)

**Victoria**—Amor Meus Spirituality Center will host a Centering Prayer Retreat titled “Developing the Theme of God’s Pervasive Presence in Our Lives,” Saturday, January 15, 2011. Read more on p. 14.

**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 January 15-16, 2011, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested, please check the order out at [www.iwbsvictoria.org](http://www.iwbsvictoria.org), or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com) or [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com) for more details or to make a reservation. Future “Come and See” visits are scheduled for March 5-6 and April 9-10, 2011.

**Victoria**—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a Women’s ACTS Retreat February 17-20, 2011, 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.

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

**Bay City**—Weekly Men’s Group, “That Man is You! ~ A Light to the Nations,” meets at Holy Cross School cafeteria each Friday morning beginning with breakfast at 5:45 a.m. Program ends 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](http://www.thatmanisyou.org)). Questions? Call Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370 or Allen Green at (979) 245-2598.

**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](http://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/>.

### Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

**Victoria**—Victoria, Where Texas History Began will be open to the public through January 29, 2011. Viewing hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, located on the campus of The Victoria College, at the corner of East Red River and Ben Jordan. Visit [www.museumofthecoastalbend.org](http://www.museumofthecoastalbend.org) for more information. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, and \$2 for students ages 4 years through 8th grade. Admission is free for museum members, faculty, staff and students of The Victoria College and the University of Houston - Victoria, and for children under 4 years of age.

## January is National Blood Donor Month

SAN ANTONIO—January is National Blood Donor Month, a time to thank blood donors for saving lives and encourage others to follow in their footsteps. When asked to write an essay for his company newsletter about why he donates blood, Leo Moreno’s answer was simple: “I want to help people.”

“That answer seemed too simple,” Moreno wrote. “However, the more I thought about it, I realized, what other reason is there to donate blood, but to help people?” Since his first donation in 1984 with the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC), he has donated more than seven gallons. Patients throughout South Texas are grateful for regular blood donors like Moreno, who help maintain an adequate blood supply during times when collections are usually low.

During National Blood Donor Month, STBTC encourages regular and new donors to give the gift of life. Because blood is perishable and red blood cells only last 42 days, blood donations are always needed. A single donation can save up to three lives and it only takes one hour to donate. All presenting donors in January will earn points towards Wellness Rewards and be entered into a quarterly drawing for a \$3,000 shopping spree at Bjorn’s.

Donate at a blood drive near you.

### In Victoria:

• Wal-Mart: In Honor of Cory Morton  
Saturday, Jan. 15; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
9002 N. Navarro

• Our Lady of Lourdes – 105 N. William St.  
Sunday, Jan. 16; 8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

• First English Lutheran Church – 516 N. Main St.  
Sunday, Jan. 16; 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

• St. Joseph High School – 110 Red River  
Wednesday, Jan. 19; 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

• CMC Alamo Steel – 255 Skytop Rd.  
Thursday, Jan. 20; 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

• Victoria Police Department – 306 S. Bridge  
Thursday, Jan. 20; 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

• Victoria Advocate – 311 E. Constitution  
Friday, Jan. 21; 2:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

• Hospice of South Texas – 605 E. Locust  
Thursday, Jan. 27; 8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

• Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church – 4102 Ben Jordan  
Sunday, Jan. 30; 8:45 a.m. - Noon

• Victoria College – 2200 E. Red River  
Monday, Jan. 31; 10:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### In Bloomington:

• Bloomington High School – 2875 FM 616  
Thursday, Jan. 27; 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Donors must present identification. For more information, visit [www.southtexasblood.org](http://www.southtexasblood.org).



## HEAVENLY HELPERS

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## A Moving Experience of People Struggling in the Midst of Ruin and Poverty: Haiti — One Year Later

By Rev. Msgr. Jim Henke, a recently retired priest of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

Have you heard the expression, “God writes straight with crooked lines”? I suppose one way of interpreting that is to say that we never know for sure what God’s plans for us are. Haiti was no where in my mind as a place I would be visiting. However, shortly before I retired from parish ministry in June, I decided to become involved with Catholic Relief Services as a Global Fellow. That is the title CRS gives to those who go to parishes around the country preaching about the work of CRS. Early this summer I was accepted as a Global Fellow. Shortly after that I was asked if I would be willing to travel to Haiti with a group to have that experience to bring back to parishes. I immediately said yes. Four priests, a deacon and two staff members of CRS were members of the group.

After a day of orientation at CRS headquarters in Baltimore on November 11, we left for Haiti early in the morning on November 12. We returned home on November 19.

As we were leaving the airport with our luggage to get to the CRS vehicles waiting for us we were engulfed by people anxious to help carry our luggage. Their insistence to help whether you wanted help or not and their pleading for a tip if they even touched your luggage was, I must admit, annoying. However, when I realize that this was their source of income I am moved by compassion and concern and questions of how people are forced by their situation to struggle to just survive while I am so blessed with abundance. They do not get a salary for what they do. Tips are their only income.

The ride to CRS headquarters was an experience in maneuvering through traffic with cars and trucks and buses and people all trying to make their way. This experience was multiplied many times during our

stay. Sometimes the courtesy of drivers to one another was evident. At other times it was more like you had to be the bravest most assertive driver to make your way in and out and around the mass of vehicles and people. One of our drivers said, “To drive

if any damage.

What one of the CRS staff members said really made an impact on me. He said, “Imagine a city the size of Chicago having half of its population left homeless in 35 seconds!” That is how long the quake lasted! There are about 1.2 million people living in tents. What once was a golf course now has about 50,000 people living in tents. CRS has done tremendous work in helping provide tents and the material for temporary housing. Hygiene and medical services are provided to the extent possible in the tent communities. The medical facility in one of the camps is staffed by eleven doc-

make room for the new home the rubble had to be carried out in buckets. Then the people had to carry the material and tools to build these homes up the little trails piece by piece. They were rightly very proud of their accomplishments.

Eight Sisters of Charity, one is a Haitian doctor, have a convent and staff a hospital. Their hospital has 250 beds. About twenty-five patients on very simple cots are in each ward. And here, if we have to be in a hospital, we get concerned about having to share a hospital room with another patient!

One of the places that really touched me was Hope Village, or in Creole, Vilaj Espwa, which is in the city of Les Cayes. There, an Oblate priest has founded an orphanage and school, which also provides vocational training. About 600 kids live there. The school goes from kindergarten through high school and has over 2,000 children enrolled. Three thousand five hundred meals are prepared there every day over coal fires. A large cafeteria is under construction. Soon the meals will be prepared there and

the children and workers will be able to eat at tables under a roof rather than out in the open, usually sitting on the ground. Several hundred of the children there have been given up by their families because they are not able to provide for them. Father shared with us that there are situations in



(above) Father Jim Henke (r.) helps operate the ‘rock crusher machine’ that is used to crush rubble into small pieces to be made into concrete. The processed rubble is used in local construction projects, like foundations of CRS transitional shelters, and also provides families with valuable income and puts much-needed money into the local economy.



(right) Over one million people live in tents, such as these.

in Port-au-Prince you have to drive like you mean it!”

While in Haiti we spent five days in Port-au-Prince and two in Les Cayes, which is about a five hour trip from Port-au-Prince. The days were filled with briefings from some of the CRS staff working in Haiti, visiting some of the projects supported by CRS, and seeing some of the devastation caused by the earthquake on January 12, 2010. The destruction left by the quake was evident everywhere we went in Port-au-Prince. It was almost unbelievable to see homes, businesses and churches damaged beyond repair or completely collapsed next to buildings that had very little

tors and 31 nurses. All of them are Haitian. They see 2,500 or more patients in a week and deliver 15 to 20 babies each week. The effort to provide clean water to these areas is essential work. The extent of the poverty and need for services is made more evident by the fact that some people from outlying areas are moving into the tent cities because of the services provided there.

Some temporary homes have been built. These are basically plywood walls with a tin roof. They are 12’ X 16’. There may be a couple of individuals, or maybe six or eight, living in one. Some of them have been built on the hillside that is reached by a trail hardly wide enough for two people to meet. To clear some of these places to

which such children are given to individuals or couples who are able to provide for them and then they often become slaves to the ones who have taken them. That is why Hope Village takes them in to provide a real, caring home for them.

There are other experiences that I could share from this trip. I trust that the information above will help all of us better appreciate at least two things. One is how abundantly blessed we are even though we have done very little, if anything, to deserve such blessings. How did it happen that I was born here rather than in Haiti of one of those poor, struggling families? The second

See *A Moving Experience*, p. 17

## Haiti, One Year after the Quake

Thanks to contributions, over the past year CRS and church partner Caritas Haiti have:

- Provided food to nearly 900,000 people and continue to provide monthly food rations to more than 100,000 children in more than 370 schools, orphanages and child-care centers
- Provided emergency shelter materials to more than 215,000 people
- Performed over 974 emergency operations and conducted 64,000 outpatient consultations through on-going support to St. Francois de Sales Hospital
- Installed over 600 latrines, wash stations, potable water tanks and inflatable water bladders in Port-au-Prince and surrounding area
- Registered 339 separated or unaccompanied children for family tracing and reunifications services, and currently providing them with interim care and support
- Provided 6,000 families with livelihood support through vouchers that allow them to choose the most appropriate types of seeds and fertilizers – an approach that also benefits local seed suppliers and the local economy
- Created short-term employment

through its Cash-for-Work program that has benefited more than 10,000 people through work projects that provide income to vulnerable people and aid communities through improved infrastructure

- Provided Haitians with soap, water purification tablets and hygiene guidance to counter the cholera outbreak. So far, more than 22,000 families have received soap from CRS.
- Provided some 1,200 transitional shelters and is building another 120 to 150 every week. The transitional shelters are crafted at a timber yard in Port-au-Prince.

All of us at CRS are proud of our achievements so far, but we are well aware that to build back a better Haiti, a Haiti that is much stronger and better able to face future disaster, our work has just started. We continue to stand together with the Haitian people and the local Catholic Church. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency provides assistance to people in more than 100 countries and territories based on need, regardless of race, nationality or creed. For more information, please

## 2010 TOP NEWS

### stories

#### 1. Haiti earthquake

The Jan. 12 disaster left 230,000 people dead and 1.5 million homeless. The country struggled with recovery and an outbreak of cholera.

#### 2. Health reform

#### 3. Clergy sex abuse

#### 4. Economy, recession

#### 5. Gulf oil spill

### newsmakers

#### 1. Pope Benedict XVI

Voted top newsmaker for the sixth year by Catholic news editors. Comments about condoms in a book released in the fall drew heavy scrutiny.

#### 2. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

#### 3. Blessed John Henry Newman

#### 4. Sister Carol Keehan

#### 5. President Barack Obama



Results from an annual CNS pool of journalists in the Catholic media. Source: CNS