



Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin on his 80th birthday at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

## Msgr. McLaughlin honored by chancery family

By Cynthia Brewer

A Mass of thanksgiving was held June 10, 2011, in honor of Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin on his 80th birthday and in anticipation of the 55th anniversary of his ordination, which came a week later, on June 17.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer presided over the Mass, which was concelebrated by 25 priests from the diocese, including Msgr. McLaughlin's seminary classmate, Rev. Peter Higgins. Mass was held at noon at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with a light reception following at the chancery building.

Since being charged to prepare for the administrative organization of the new Diocese of Victoria in 1982, Msgr. McLaughlin has been judicial vicar and

See Msgr. McLaughlin, p. 2



Patrick Knippenberg poses with his family and Bishop Fellhauer June 4, 2011, the day he was ordained to the transitional diaconate. From left are his parents, Robert and Betty Knippenberg, and his brother, Rev. Bob. Knippenberg.

## Patrick Knippenberg ordained to transitional diaconate

By Cynthia Brewer

At a Saturday morning ceremony, seminarian Patrick Knippenberg was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop David E. Fellhauer at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria June 4, 2011.

Family and friends joined in celebration of Deacon Patrick Knippenberg's ordination, including his parents, Robert and Betty, and brother, Father Bob Knippenberg, who concelebrated the Mass with 14 other priests. Also attending and concelebrating the Mass, was Rev. José Salzar, formation advisor at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. Deacon Chuck Glynn of Alleyton served as the master of ceremonies.

Upon Deacon Patrick's ordination, two seminarian friends, Deacon David Trahan of Austin and Reuben Chen of Dallas who also had recently celebrated their ordinations to transitional diaconate, and Father Bob Knippenberg, assisted him with putting on his deacon's stole and dalmatic.

Three permanent deacons from the diocese, Deacon John McCourt of La Grange, Deacon Larry Hoelscher of El Campo, and Deacon Joe Machacek of Shiner, as well as Deacon Glynn, Deacon Trahan and Deacon

Chen, shared a fraternal sign of peace with Deacon Patrick upon his consecration, investiture and receiving of the Book of Gospels from Bishop Fellhauer.

The ministers of music included Cynthia Goerig, organist; Janice Cox, choir director and cantor; Daniel Berglund, cantor; Brittany Quinones, flutist; and members from the parishes in the diocese, choir. Knights of St. Gregory stood guard during the procession.

A reception was held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria following the Ordination Mass.

### Words from Deacon Patrick ...

"My ordination experience was surreal in the fact that many years of seminary culminated in one day. The blood, sweat and tears of over seven years of contemplating the call to the priesthood became reality in two hours of ordination. It was great sharing the moment with my brother seminarians as well as the many people who have supported me for many years.

"As I was lying on the floor with the

See Patrick Knippenberg, p. 3



Pope Benedict XVI exchanges greetings with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, during Mass on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 29. During the liturgy, the pope gave palliums to 41 archbishops from 25 countries. The Mass also marked the pope's 60th anniversary as a priest. Pope Benedict was ordained as a priest June 29, 1951, in his native Germany. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

## Cardinals help feed Rome's poor to mark pope's ordination anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the College of Cardinals celebrated Pope Benedict XVI's 60th anniversary of his priestly ordination by making a personal donation to pay for a special lunch for hundreds of poor people living in Rome.

Four large buses brought 220 disadvantaged people to the gardens behind the

Basilica of St. John Lateran June 29 for a full-course meal that included a large cake decorated with the pope's coat of arms. The cake was then cut and served by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the dean of the College of Cardinals. Cardinal members of the college told the pope about the gift during their own

See Cardinals help, p. 17

## Mexican priest dies after being caught in cartel-military crossfire

By David Agren  
Catholic News Service

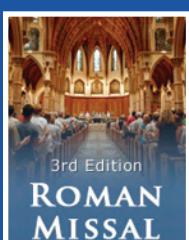
MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A Catholic priest died of his injuries July 2, shortly after being caught in the crossfire of a shootout between drug cartel gunmen and the military in the border city of Matamoros.

Father Marco Antonio Duran Romero, 48, pastor of the St. Robert Bellarmine Parish and host of a local television program, was shot in the chest after encountering the shootout while driving, said Father Alan Camargo, spokesman for the Diocese of Matamoros. Father Duran, who had just

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## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

July	
8	4:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center
9	2:00 p.m., Mass, IWBS Jubilee, Motherhouse, Victoria 6:30 p.m., Mass with newly ordained Father Myviet Tran, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
10	2:00 p.m., Mass, IWBS Jubilee, Motherhouse, Victoria
13	5:00 p.m., Mass and dinner at Missionary Catechists' Provincial House, Victoria
14	6:30 p.m., The Knights of St. Gregory Annual Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club, Victoria, and drawing of lucky ticket for the Toyota Corolla Sport
17	2:00 p.m., Mass, celebrating Father Charles Dwomoh's 25th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, St. John Church, Hungerford
18	11:00 a.m., Opening Mass for Vocation Camp, St. Mary Church, Victoria
20	4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
23	11:30 a.m., Mass, IWBS national reunion, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria 5:00 p.m., Mass, celebrating Father Roger Hawes' 10th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
24	10:30 a.m., Mass, celebrating 100th Anniversary of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
27	9:30 a.m., Priests' and Lay Pension Boards meeting, Chancery Office
29	3:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center 4:00 p.m., Mass, Teen ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
August	
3	9:30 a.m., Mass, Twin Pines Nursing Home, Victoria
8	5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
9	6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club Seminarian Cookout, St. Mary Church and Hall, St. Mary (Hallettsville)

## Msgr. McLaughlin honored by chancery family

Continued from p. 1

chancellor of Victoria, and he's been vicar general since 1990. Among other positions, he served as the administrator of the diocese after Bishop Charles V. Grahmann was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Dallas in 1989.

Bishop Fellhauer said the homily in honor of Msgr. McLaughlin, stating, "It is appropriate that as Msgr. McLaughlin observes his 80th birthday and 55th anniversary of presbyteral ordination to the priesthood, we honor him and acknowledge his priestly service: 26 years to the Archdiocese of San Antonio and 29 years to the Diocese of Victoria.

"Most of these years have been spent in curial assignments, which are crucial to the operation of a diocese, and which sometimes carry their own particular benefits, but which also are seldom very rewarding — assignments, in fact, which most priests would seek to avoid. Monsignor has always approached the responsibilities of office with great care and conscientiousness. He's been aided by the fact that he has been gifted with considerable and various talents, including a remarkably keen intellect. And he has always placed great value on his priesthood.

"Both the Epistle and Gospel ... remind us that the priesthood originates not in a personal desire, but in a call from God.

"Perhaps these are appropriate thoughts to accompany the celebration of 55 years of priestly life and ministry. And As Msgr. McLaughlin reaches as well the milestone of fourscore years, may the Lord give him peace, contentment and joy. Ad multos annos!"

At the end of the Mass, Msgr. McLaughlin thanked Bishop Fellhauer, "I want to thank the bishop, especially for what he's done for the past few days to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the greatest day of my life."

A special blessing for Msgr. McLaughlin was the visit he received from his nephew, Eunan McLaughlin, who lives in Portland, Oregon. Monsignor introduced him at the Mass, saying that he was representing his whole family.

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

Effective June 30, 2011, the **Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin** is relieved of his duties as Judicial Vicar of the Diocese, while retaining the offices of Vicar General and Chancellor.

Effective July 1, 2011, the **Rev. Matthew H. Huehlefeld** is appointed Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Victoria, while continuing as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Yoakum.

"I have 31 nephews and nieces; I couldn't bring them all here," he said.

He also thanked the laity and the priests for joining him on this dual celebration, "I've never seen anything so special; it tells me it's for someone special. Thank you."

He concluded his comments saying, "Wherever I go, I'll need your prayers and God's blessings."

As Msgr. McLaughlin has spent all but five of his 29 years in curial positions in the Diocese of Victoria, he does not have the luxury of having a "parish family"; therefore, the diocesan staff coordinated the Mass, the following reception and the private meal held June 8 for him.

Diocesan staff and friends assisted with various parts of the Mass and reception. Sister Carmelita Casso, IWBS, a longtime friend of Monsignor's, was the organist; John Quarry, superintendent of Catholic Schools was the cantor, with Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament sisters assisting him as the choir. Renewal Center administrator, Ron Friedel, was the lector and prepared the Mass intentions. Chancery staff prepared and served food and drinks for nearly 100 people who attended the reception.

At the private dinner, his nephew, Eunan, explained that he had an adventurous spirit and so followed his uncle, "Colm," to the states. Both of them had left their home and family back in Ireland. Because they left Ireland, they are constantly re-



Rev. Peter Higgins (l.), retired and living in San Antonio, visits Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, at the Mass celebrating Msgr. McLaughlin's 80th birthday and the 55th anniversary of their ordinations. Both were ordained for the Diocese of San Antonio in Ireland on June 17, 1956.

minded that it's their duty to visit home, not the family's duty to travel to the United States to visit them; therefore, when Monsignor left, in a way he was leaving behind his family.

Eunan toasted him saying, "He has no family here; you're his family now," to which the chancery staff applauded.

Msgr. Thomas Columba "Colm" McLaughlin was born in Malin, Co. Donegal, Ireland, on June 10, 1931, and ordained June 17, 1956, in Ireland for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

## After 70th anniversary, Msgr. Hermes reduces workload

By Cynthia Brewer

Until the middle of June 2011, 94-year-old Msgr. Eustaces Hermes still came to his office at the diocesan chancery building, working about an hour a day updating diocesan property records.

Since celebrating the 70th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on June 12, he informed the receptionist that he may not be coming in as often as he has been.

At the Serra Priests' Appreciation Dinner, held at Holy Family Church in Victoria June 9, 2011, Otto Bleier, the district governor, presented Msgr. Eustace Hermes with a gift in honor of his 70th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He was ordained June 12, 1941.

At the dinner, Msgr. Hermes led the Serran Prayer and Grace Before Meals, as he is the chaplain of the Serra Club of Victoria. He has been its chaplain for the past 49 years, since September 1962, and is the longest serving Serra Club chaplain in the world.

His workload is not the only thing he's had to reduce this year. After turning 94 on January 20 of this year, he told me he's reduced the mileage he puts on his stationary bicycle each day. He used to ride 16 miles in one sitting each day.

"Old age started to catch up with me," he said.

"I still do 16 miles a day, but I break it up now: six, six and four miles at a time. On some days, I do just 12 miles."

He does this regimen to stay fit, as

he has suffered several heart attacks. He doesn't know how many he's had, he just says, "For me, heart attacks are becoming monotonous."

But if you ask Msgr. Hermes how he's feeling, he'll still respond in one of two ways, either, "Better than I have any right to feel" or, "Any better and I'd be twins."



Otto Bleier, of the Serra Club of Victoria and the district governor, presents Msgr. Eustace Hermes with a gift for his 70th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at the June 9 Priests' Appreciation Dinner held at Holy Family Parish.

DSA and Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates this month are found on page 6.

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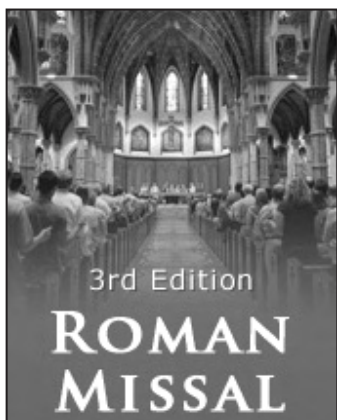
DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.





## Gradual introduction of musical settings of new Roman Missal approved

BELLEVUE, Washington—Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Divine Worship, announced that diocesan bishops may permit the gradual introduction of the musical settings of the people's parts of the Mass from the new Roman Missal in September. Primarily this affects the *Gloria*, the *Holy, Holy, Holy* and the Memorial Acclamations. This variation to the implementation of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, set to take place all at once on November 27, was authorized by USCCB president, Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, and adopted by the committee to allow parish communities to learn the various parts of the new translation "in a timely fashion and an even pace." The Committee on Divine Worship made the decision in response to requests from several bishops, echoed by the National Advisory Council. Some suggested that the various acclamations could be more effectively introduced throughout the



fall, so that when the full Missal is implemented on the First Sunday of Advent, the congregation will have already become familiar with the prayers that are sung. "I ask you to encourage this as a means of preparing our people and helping them embrace the new translation," Archbishop Gregory told the bishops. The announcement took place June 16, during the U.S. bishops Spring Assembly near Seattle. "I spoke with Bishop David Fellhauer June 20 and he has given permission for the pastoral musicians of the Diocese of Victoria to

begin using the new musical texts September 1, 2011," said Cynthia Goerig, director of the Diocese of Victoria's Liturgical Commission. "This only affects the new musical settings of the 'Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamations, and the Gloria.'" Granting this position will greatly enhance the transition with greater ease."

For further information, you may call Cynthia Goerig, director of the Liturgical Commission at (979) 541-3353 (cell) or e-mail: [cag1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cag1@sbcglobal.net).

## Patrick Knippenberg ordained to transitional diaconate

*Continued from p. 1*

Litany of the Saints being sung, I realized how many men and women went before me and were praying for me at that very moment. It was as if my life flashed before me, and the overwhelming unworthiness of being called to such a great office as deacon welled up inside me. It was also a great feeling of relief knowing that the many years of study were coming to fruition.

"After the ordination and all the picture taking was taking place I noticed a difference when I put on the collar and everyone was congratulating me. The difference is that I realized I was no longer just a seminarian, but I was part of the clergy, and when people saw the collar they addressed me as deacon.

"My duties began right away as I preached my first homily a few hours later at my pastoral-year parish at Holy Family in Victoria under Father Greg Korenek and his associate pastor, Father George Henninger. Wearing my new coronation dalmatic and processing to the altar was a feeling that I cannot really describe. Serving and preaching were the fruits of so many years of preparation in the seminary and the congratulating thanks I received after Mass was very satisfying. Seeing the heartfelt expressions on the parishioners' faces gave me so much joy and I knew that my call was fulfilled. I can only imagine what the priesthood holds in store for me. One more year of seminary (God willing!) and I will know what it will feel like being a priest.

"I was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 3, 1960, and our family promptly moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and then to Lubbock, Texas. After six years of elementary school, we moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, for my junior-high years and then finally moved to Arlington, Texas, where I finished out my high school years at Arlington High School, from which I graduated.

"I have two sisters and two brothers: Amy, Karen, Todd, and my oldest sibling, Father Bob.

"I went to college at UTA (University of Texas at Arlington) for a number of years before entering the workforce for the next 20 years. I followed my brother to Victoria,

Texas, and then I began my seminary studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, at which I received my bachelor's degree in history, with a minor in philosophy.

"I am currently enrolled at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston and will hopefully receive my Master of Divinity degree at the end of the school year May 2012. I look forward to serving the people of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas as transitional deacon for the next year and then serving the rest of my life as a priest at the end of May or June 2012.

"I want to thank everyone for all their support, for not only me, but also for all the seminarians of the diocese." ~ Patrick Knippenberg

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## Changes to the peoples' part of the Mass Preface Dialogue and Holy, Holy, Holy

The use of the new Roman Missal begins the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. Below are the changes to the people's part of the Order of the Mass. Text that will change is marked with italics and bold printing. From <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml>

### Preface Dialogue

Present Text	New Text
Priest: The Lord be with you. People: <i>And also with you.</i>	Priest: <i>The Lord be with you.</i> People: <i>And with your spirit.</i>
Priest: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them up to the Lord.	Priest: <i>Lift up your hearts.</i> People: <i>We lift them up to the Lord.</i>
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: <i>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</i>	Priest: <i>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</i> People: <i>It is right and just.</i>

### Commentary on the Order of Mass

The Eucharistic Prayer itself begins with the Preface dialogue. The first change is another instance of "And with your spirit." This is the third time the exchange appears during the Mass, and it is a particularly profound moment. The Priest, by the spirit given him at ordination, is about to act in the person of Christ to consecrate the bread and wine into the Holy Eucharist.

The second change lies in the phrase, "It is right and just." This is a simple rendering of the Latin, "*Dignum et iustum est*," emphasizing the fact that it is fitting and appropriate, or fair ("just"), to "give thanks to the Lord our God," because He is both our Creator and Redeemer.

This dialogue is followed by the Preface, a more lengthy prayer that can vary depending on the liturgical occasion. Most Prefaces in the new translation expand upon the words of the preceding dialogue by beginning, "It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks."

### Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Present Text	New Text
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of <b>power and might</b> . Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.	Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of <b>hosts</b> . Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### Commentary on the Order of Mass

At the conclusion of the Preface comes the *Sanctus*, which in Latin means "Holy." The *Sanctus*, like the *Gloria*, is intended to be sung – in fact, many different settings of the Latin text exist even in Gregorian chant.

The only textual difference from our current version is that "God of power and might" becomes "God of hosts." The word "hosts" refers to a great gathering or multitude, and speaks here of God's command over the heavenly host of angelic armies.

This reference has a Biblical foundation in Isaiah 6:1-3, where the prophet writes, "I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne... Seraphim were stationed above... 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!' they cried one to the other. 'All the earth is filled with his glory!'"

And in Luke 2:13, a "multitude of the heavenly host" also announces the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.

The words of the final three lines of the *Sanctus* can be found in the Gospel of Matthew, during the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem before His Passion, as the people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest" (Mt 21:9). Versions of this acclamation appear in the other Gospels, and the "Blessed is he..." line comes from Psalm 118 (117), amidst a passage that became understood as a reference to Christ.

The *Sanctus* reminds us that all creatures on "heaven and earth" owe thanksgiving to God ("Eucharist" actually means "thanksgiving"). And because we truly believe that the Angels are also present and worshiping with us as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist, then every fiber of our being is made to reflect the utmost reverence. Therefore, immediately after the *Sanctus*, we kneel. Kneeling is a sign of respect and humility that is distinctly human and bodily – it is something that even the Angels, being pure spirit, cannot do.

**Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church**  
Frelsburg

**COUNTRY FESTIVAL**  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2011

Holy Mass - 8:45 a.m. (Coffee & Kolaches served after Mass)

**FRIED FISH**  
~ Served at 11:00 AM ~

with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea

**Meal Ticket: Large \$9.00 Small \$6.00**  
Drive Thru Line: Plate to go \$9.00  
(Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks available after 3 PM)

**11 AM - 3 PM**

★ Religious Articles  
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★ Silent Auction ★ Snow Cones

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- A person of faith. He must be a prayerful and spiritual person who is open to further spiritual formation.
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- A person who functions well in a collaborative setting for ministry and service in the parish.
- He must have a demonstrated history of service to people, be open-minded and should be able to work well with others in ministry.
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- A person with a stable background who has surplus time and energy to give to formation, service and ministry.
- He should be in a stable marriage/family. If married, he should realize he may not remarry if his wife dies after his ordination. If not married, he should realize he must make a commitment to celibacy prior to ordination.
- A person who has the ability to handle academic studies. He must have the ability to learn and complete college-level studies. The academic part of the program is more than is expected in the preparation of a Master Catechist and analogous to the priestly formation program.
- A person who is known and respected and is already involved in ministry in the parish.
- He and his wife should be able to represent the Church with dignity and intelligent service.

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Helping the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry's director, Debbie Vanelli (l.), and associate director, Wendy Eggert, are the three seminarians who are spending their summers working for the chancery office. Besides preparing for and holding youth camps, they can even "cook." Above, they are preparing finger sandwiches for Msgr. McLaughlin's birthday and anniversary reception, which was held June 10. Seminarians from left are Kristopher, Jacob and Max.

## Three seminarians come from outside diocese - feel more at home in Victoria

The three seminarians working at the chancery in Victoria this summer each came from outside the diocese, but none traveled as far as Jacob Mendoza.

Jacob, 23, was born and raised in Fresno, Calif., but he said his heart really belongs in Texas.

"The primary reason I was attracted was the general culture of this area — the idea that there's more cows than people in parts of the diocese," he said. "Although that's completely contrary to how I was raised, I really love that idea."

Jacob said he first learned of the Dio-

cese of Victoria when he met seminarians from the diocese during his undergraduate studies at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

After graduating in 2009, Mendoza worked in research for the US Department of Energy in Berkeley, Calif. He began graduate studies last fall in mathematics at Texas Tech University that would have culminated with a Ph.D.

"I did enjoy it, but I knew I didn't want to spend the rest of my twenties in grad

*See Three seminarians, p. 7*

## 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 June 30, 2011

	TOTALS
<b>— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously Reported	\$9,159.00
In Honor of Rev. John C. Bily's birthday by Mary and Martin Luchak	100.00
In Memory of Joe Vesely by M/M Franklin Addicks	25.00
In Memory of William J. Henneke by Annie and Mary Ann Henneke	50.00
In Memory of Beatrice Helmcamp by M/M Franklin Addicks	10.00
In Memory of Joe Hartensteiner by Annie Henneke	10.00
In Memory of Lavernia "Sissy" Charbula by K&R Sestak & Family	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,379.00</b>

<b>— CDA #369 St. Ann Burse #2</b>	
Previously Reported	\$8,573.99
In Memory of Lamar Vela by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,598.99</b>

<b>— Joseph R. Janak Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously Reported	\$1,998.77
In Memory of Geraldine Braden by Margaret Kutac	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,018.77</b>

<b>—Knights Of Columbus #1329, Victoria</b>	
Previously Reported	\$10,532.50
In Memory of Oscar G. Marek by K of C Council #1329	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,632.50</b>

<b>—Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously Reported	\$470.00
In Honor of Msgr. McLaughlin's 55th Anniversary by Rev. Ty Bazar	100.00
In Honor of Msgr. McLaughlin's 55th Anniversary by D'Cater and Jeri Joseph	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$595.00</b>

<b>—Frs. Okrulik &amp; Verdarme Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously Reported	\$10,377.89
In Honor of Marvin Hilscher by M/M Anton Schoener	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,397.89</b>

<b>—Msgr. Stanley J. Petru Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously Reported	\$3,795.00
In Honor of Msgr. Petru on his retirement by Rodney and Nicole Michalke	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,820.00</b>

<b>—Reverend John C. Peters Seminary Burse #5</b>	
Previously Reported	805.00
In Honor of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers by Gilbert & Mary Urbish	25.00
In Honor of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers' 64 years of marriage!	64.00
For Fr. John on Pastor's Appreciation Day by Sacred Heart Staff and Students	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,194.00</b>

<b>—Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously Reported	\$4,160.00
In Honor of Father Celestino Say by OLL Altar Society	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,210.00</b>

<b>—St. John Church For Rev. Brian Crookes #2</b>	
Previously Reported	\$4,891.00
In Memory of Julia Jurica by Forrest & Roxanne Dittrich	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,901.00</b>

<b>—Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously Reported	\$13,814.50
In Memory of Joe and Annie Stryk by Lad and Helen Muras	20.00
In Memory of Cleo Muras by Lad and Helen Muras	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,844.50</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

### Belated Happy Birthday!

Stephen Vacek will be a College IV student at St. Joseph Seminary in Saint Benedict, LA. His home parish is Holy Cross, East Bernard, and his birthday was June 26. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Stephen Vacek, 735 Main St., East Bernard, TX 77435.



**SERRA CLUB INSTALLS 2011-2012 OFFICERS**—Installation of newly elected officers for the Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria Northwest was held May 7, 2011, after the Mass for Vocations at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. Father John Peters (l.), Serra chaplain, performed the honors. Pictured with him are President Tim Hines, Treasurer Georgia Bujnoch, VP of Vocations Margaret Dornak and Trustee Mathilda Melnar. The Serra Club helps foster, promote and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

### SHARE! AMERICA Host Families Needed

HOST FAMILIES are needed for international exchange students for this coming school year. The students hope to arrive in August and will attend local high schools. For more information, please call Yvette Coffman at 1-800-941-3738.





## Last Chance!



2010 Toyota Corolla Sport

### Support a Seminarian and possibly Win a Car!

Did you know..... that to educate one priest, it takes nine years of education and \$225,000.

In recent years the Diocese of Victoria has been extremely blessed to realize a 300 percent increase in the number of seminarians studying for the priesthood. With this huge blessing, comes an equally huge responsibility and challenge for all Catholics. I am sure you are asking now, "How can I help?" There are some very tangible ways you can help.

1. Pray for our seminarians; they need

our prayers and support.

2. Financially support them through events like the Serra Car-Give-Away.

3. Remember the seminarian education fund in your estate planning.

If you are interested in supporting the seminarians and possibly winning a NEW 2010 Toyota Corolla Sport, please contact your parish office or George Wenzel at (361) 649-7707. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the vocation efforts of the diocese.

Drawing will be held July 14, 2011.

### Many US bishops expected at WYD, USCCB sponsors virtual pilgrimage to allow participation from US

WASHINGTON—U.S. pilgrims attending World Youth Day (WYD) Madrid 2011 will have the added benefit of a youth facility providing English-language programming. Called "Love and Life: A Home for English-Speaking Pilgrims," the center will be located at Madrid's Palacio de los Deportes, the city's premiere civic and sports arena. A Mass specifically for U.S. pilgrims is scheduled at the facility the morning of Saturday, August 20, with over 60 U.S. bishops expected to participate and concelebrate.

Activities at the center, scheduled around the WYD program of events, will include Masses and devotions, catechesis sessions, concerts, speakers, testimonies, prayer, movie screenings and more. The air-conditioned facility seats 15,000 in its main event hall and its exhibition areas will contain a chapel specially constructed for WYD, as well as informational displays, an art show and support for the young visitors to Spain's capital city. It will also offer them a place to rest from the summer heat.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will be providing the animating team for Friday's catechesis session at the center and is also involved in offering a lectio divina experience on Friday evening after the Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross). U.S. Bishops will be present at the "Youth Festival" site to interact with the young pilgrims. Several U.S. bishops will provide catechesis at the site as well as at other locations. USCCB is also sponsoring a concert before the Mass on Saturday offered by Oregon Catholic Press and World Library Publications, beginning at 9:00 a.m. At the conclusion of the Mass, the pilgrims will be "sent forth" by the bishops to the Cuarto Vientos Airport, where many of them will participate in the evening Prayer Vigil and will spend the night. The WYD closing Mass with Pope Benedict XVI will also be hosted at this location.

The Knights of Columbus and the Sisters of Life are sponsoring the "Love

and Life" pilgrim center and have worked closely with USCCB's WYD coordinators, Rick McCord and Sister Eileen McCann, CSJ. The center will be opened to all WYD participants free of charge. Co-sponsors include Holy Cross Family Ministries, Canada's Salt and Light Television Network, the Apostleship of Prayer, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), World Youth Alliance and the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family.

More than one million people are expected to participate in WYD events, which begin Tuesday, Aug. 16, and end Sunday, Aug. 21, with an open-air Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI. At least 25,000 U.S. pilgrims will travel to the Spanish capital this summer for the event.

For information and updates on activities, performers and speakers programmed at the "Love and Life" site visit [www.wydenGLISH.org](http://www.wydenGLISH.org) or inquire via e-mail at [wyd@kofc.org](mailto:wyd@kofc.org).

For those who can't go to Madrid this summer but wish to follow WYD events from home, the USCCB's Communications Department has launched a first-ever "Virtual Pilgrimage." Through a Facebook application and Web site for non-Facebook users, individuals can create an avatar and use it to participate in the virtual pilgrimage. A Google map provides visuals of where pilgrims are coming from and where they are in Madrid —uniting pilgrims from across the U.S. and world.

The USCCB has also created a Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Virtual-World-Youth-Day/155152027881863>) where virtual pilgrims can "participate" in WYD by viewing live video feed from Madrid, following twitter feeds and blogs, and uploaded photos and videos from the event. Non-Facebook users who wish to create an avatar can go to <http://www.virtualworldyouthday.org/>.

For information about WYD schedule and updates visit WYD Madrid 2011 official site: <http://www.madrid11.com/en>.



### Redemption songs: The conversion of Bob Marley

By Christopher Stefanick

May 11, 2011, marked the 30th anniversary of the passing of Robert Nesta Marley, more popularly known as Bob Marley. He's known by other titles as well: "The king of reggae," "the first Third World superstar," "The Honorable Robert Nesta Marley," and, by Rastafarians, as "The Prophet," or "The Teacher." There have even been efforts by Jamaicans for him to be declared a national hero.

What many don't know is that Bob Marley can also be called a Christian. He was baptized into the Ethiopian Orthodox faith before his death in 1981.

Marley had become a zealous Rastafarian as a young man. The dreadlocks and pot smoking that became central to his image weren't just accessories to a rock star lifestyle. They were pillars of Rastafarian faith. Rastas believe that cannabis removes mental barriers to enlightened thinking, and they base their dreadlocks in Old Testament law. As debatable as these doctrines are, it's clear that a sincere faith in God and service of his people were the driving forces in Bob's life and music.

One doesn't have to dig deep into his lyrics to see Marley's faith. In "One Love," named the song of the millennium by BBC, Bob sings, "Give thanks and praise to the Lord and I will feel all right." And in songs like, "Forever Loving Jah" ("Jah" is the Rastafarian word for God), Marley is clearly praying, not just performing. Praise to "Jah" can be found throughout his music. Bob wasn't just a secular rock star. It's probably more accurate to say he was a religious musician who had made it in the secular world.

And when Marley wasn't praying with his music, he was using it to fight for peace and equality, giving a voice to the marginalized in Jamaica and throughout the world. Bob's fame overlapped a particularly turbulent time in Jamaica's history. His musical career had so much social influence that he was the target of an assassination attempt in 1976. Two days later, with his would-be-assassins still on the loose, he took to the stage to perform with two gunshot wounds. Asked why he'd take such a risk, he answered: "The people who are trying to make this world worse aren't taking a day off. How can I?"

His musical career was clearly motivated by more than fame and fortune. "If my life is just for me," he said, "my own security, then I don't want it. My life is for people. That is the way I am."

Marley developed a friendship with Ethiopian Orthodox Archbishop Abuna Yesehaq who had been sent from Africa by the Emperor Haile Selassie I after he found out that many in Jamaica were worshipping him as God incarnate. (This belief is the center of Rastafarianism.)

Father Lloyd Malakot, currently the chief priest and administrator of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Jamaica, knew

Archbishop Yesehaq well. He shared with me how the archbishop won Bob and many Rastas over through the witness of his love and respect for them. When police were arresting Rastas and shaving their dreads before releasing them, he went to the commissioner of police and stopped the persecution.

Archbishop Yesehaq became close friends with Bob who donated to his ministry, even giving him one of his houses in which the archbishop lived for years.

Years of friendship and charity earned the archbishop the right to be heard and, according to Father Malakot: "Bob cried when the archbishop invited him to conversion and to give his heart to Christ. He decided to accept baptism."

Bob's baptism is marked by the heroic conviction with which he lived his life. For some Rastas, conversion to Christianity is tantamount to sacrificing the sacred cow. Yet this man who had become the international icon of Rastafarianism converted anyway, deeply upsetting many people, including some of his closest friends. Marley showed a willingness to renounce everything in his pursuit of God.

The late archbishop who baptized Bob several months before his death spoke of his deep faith in a 1984 newspaper interview with Jamaica's Sunday Gleaner: "I remember once while I was conducting the Mass, I looked at Bob and tears were streaming down his face. ... When he toured Los Angeles and New York and England, he preached the Orthodox faith, and many members in those cities came to the Church because of Bob. ... When he was baptized, he hugged his family and wept, they all wept together for about half an hour."

Judy Mowatt, one of Bob's background singers, recalled in an interview with The 700 Club (<http://www.cbn.com/>), that she got a call from Bob's wife as he was dying. "She said to me that Bob was in such excruciating pain and he stretched out his hand and said 'Jesus take me.'" That prayer was answered on May 11, 1981. He was only 36.

"Many Rastaman call him the prophet," Father Malakot said. "Even myself as the chief of the Church in Jamaica, I saw he was a prophet in his own right. His music was inspired by God. It was an expression of his belief that the Lord was with him. And he inspired so many people to enter the Church. Many are inspired by him, even now, to convert. Five months ago I baptized a Rasta priest with his big dreadlocks who came into the Church with his wife."

I've seen many T-shirts depicting Bob's smiling face with a pot leaf next to it. I'd like to create a T-shirt of Bob's face with a cross next to it instead.

Speaker and author *Chris Stefanick* is Director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Archdiocese of Denver. Visit him at <http://chris-stefanick.com>.

**HARVEST FEAST**

**Sunday, August 14**

Veteran's Memorial Park - Weimar, Texas

**Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner**

at 11:00 a.m. - ADULTS \$8.00 - CHILDREN \$4.00 (12 & Under)

DRIVE-THRU PLATES & ALL PLATES TO GO - \$8.00

DRIVE-THRU TAKE HOME PLATES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL FAMILY CENTER ONLY

**AUCTION**  
1:00 p.m.

**Raffle Drawing**  
9:00 p.m.

**BINGO**  
2:00 - 6:00 p.m. In A.C. Hall  
License 174-111001-1

**FREE Dance**

**Czechaholics** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**The Red Ravens** 3 - 7 p.m.  
**Southbound 955** 7 - 11 p.m.

**Entertainment For All!**

- ★ Train Ride
- ★ Putt-Putt Golf
- ★ Cake Walk
- ★ Treasure Chest Booth
- ★ Country Store
- ★ Ring Toss
- ★ Fish Pond

**Softball Tournament** Saturday & Sunday

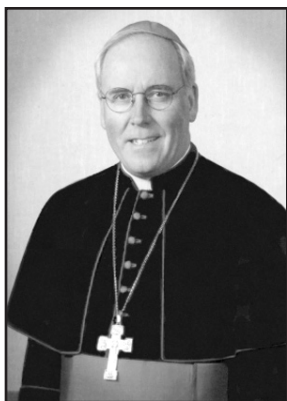




## XXIV Annual Catechetical Conference “Do This in Memory of Me”

On Saturday, September 24, 2011, at the XXIV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, the Most Reverend Richard J. Malone from the Diocese of Portland, Maine, will offer the keynote address using the Catechetical Sunday theme, “Do This in Memory of Me.” The annual conference will be held at Holy Family in Victoria once again.

Bishop Malone was ordained a priest in 1972 and was installed as the eleventh Bishop of Portland, Maine, in March 2004. He served as diocesan director for the Office of Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Boston from 1993 - 2004. Currently, he serves on the committee for Evangelization and Catechesis for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as well as other USCCB committees. In 2010 Bishop Malone



Most Reverend Richard J. Malone, bishop for the Diocese of Portland, Maine

was elected to the Board of Catholic Relief Services and serves on the U.S. Operations Committee.

The one-day, annual diocesan conference is open to all adults. Come and hear fabulous presenters talk about a variety of topics. Workshops will be offered on the Roman Missal, Scripture, apologetics, prayer and so much more. Catholic vendors will also have religious articles, prayer books, and an assortment of resources available for purchase. The conference will conclude with the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer celebrating the Sunday liturgy.

For more information about the upcoming conference, email conference coordinator, Christella Alvarez at [calvarez@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:calvarez@victoriadiocese.org), or visit [www.victoriadioces.org](http://www.victoriadioces.org), or call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828.

## Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service



### What is a ‘beatific vision’? Will assisted suicide ever be approved?

*Q. We have been told that when we go to heaven we will have a “beatific vision” of God. This has always baffled me. What do those words mean?* (Oneonta, N.Y.)

A. The “beatific vision” means the eternal and direct visual perception of God. It means seeing God face to face.

We have some sense, even in the natural order, of the importance of direct perception: Those who endured years of meetings by telephone conference call can appreciate what an advance “videoconferencing” has been, allowing people to see one another, and thereby making their presence much more real.

In the divine scheme of things, Christians have always believed that this direct vision of God is the goal that awaits us all. St. Paul said: “At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known” (1 Cor 13:12).

St. Thomas Aquinas reasoned that one is perfectly happy only when all of one’s desires are perfectly satisfied, and this cannot occur until we are fully united with God.

That complete union can happen not through human imagining nor even in the most deeply contemplative prayer, but only by the direct presence of God in heaven.

It is a human instinct, and a good one, to try to imagine what heaven will feel like.

When I was a child, I may have thought that heaven would be like playing baseball all day, with occasional breaks to drink soda and read comic books -- but deep down I knew even then that it would be much,

much better than that.

We are cautioned that all of our efforts at imagining must fall short. (St. Paul says in I Corinthians 2:9 that “eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, (is) what God has prepared for those who love him.”)

But it doesn’t hurt to dream.

Last year, a young woman, who would die two days later from cancer, told me what she was expecting in heaven.

“I think it will be like the way my mother loves me,” she said, “times a thousand.”

*Q. The recent death of Jack Kevoorkian prompts this question. It seems so right to grant a dying person’s wish to end a life that he or she can no longer tolerate because of severe, debilitating health. Will the Catholic Church ever find acceptable circumstances in which a person may elect to make such a decision?* (New Jersey)

A. In June of this year, two weeks after the death of Dr. Kevoorkian, the Catholic bishops of the United States issued a policy statement on assisted suicide called “To Live Each Day With Dignity.”

In very accurate shorthand, a Pittsburgh newspaper said that the bishops had told America “that killing ill and handicapped people is no way to care for them.”

The statement offers a clear answer to the reader’s question and follows the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which states that “an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person” (No. 2277).

The catechism goes on to say, “It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. ... We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of” (No. 2280).

True compassion focuses on eliminating suffering, not eliminating the patient. And so, the Church would argue, every effort should be directed to effective pain management.

Some people believe wrongly that the Church’s position is that life should be prolonged by every possible means for every possible minute, despite the burden.

That is far from the truth, and the bishops’ June statement makes this clear:

“Respect for life does not demand that we attempt to prolong life by using medical treatments that are ineffective or unduly burdensome. Nor does it mean we should deprive suffering patients of needed pain medications out of a misplaced or exaggerated fear that they might have the side effect of shortening life.”

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle, the new “Question Corner” writer, at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, NY 12208.)

## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 577,333.06
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 497,579.06
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,263

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,949,119.45
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 9,315,522.01
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,766

### Classes for Everyone

The Pastoral Institute Short-term theological classes, i.e., Liturgy, Church, Prayer & Spirituality, Catholic Morality, Introduction to the Sacraments, and I Believe, We Believe being offered this summer are for all adult Catholics. Catechists and aides involved in religious education classes are highly encouraged to take all classes necessary in order to complete the Basic Catechist Certificate, and Catholic school religion teachers are advised to take the required classes as well. A complete list of classes is available at the diocese’s website [www.victoriadioces.org](http://www.victoriadioces.org). Register online or call 361-573-0828.

July 12 & 13	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Liturgy	Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
July 12 & 13	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Prayer & Spirituality	Holy Cross, Yorktown
July 12 & 14	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Prayer & Spirituality	St. Anthony, Columbus
July 13 & 14	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Church	St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt
* July 18 & 20	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Church	Chancery, Victoria
July 19 & 20	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Prayer & Spirituality	Holy Cross, East Bernard
July 25 & 27	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Catholic Morality	St. Ann, Point Comfort
July 26 & 28	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Liturgy	Sacred Heart, Flatonia
July 26 & 28	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	I Believe, We Believe	Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn
Aug 1 & 2	5:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Intro to the Learner	Immaculate Conception, Goliad
* Aug 2 & 4	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Sacraments	Sacred Heart, Hallettsville
Aug 9th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 1-2	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner
Aug 9th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 3-4	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner
* Aug 9 & 11	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Sacraments	Chancery, Victoria
Aug 10th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 5-6	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner
Aug 10th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 7-8	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner
Aug 10 & 17	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Intro to the Scriptures	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City




**Barbara A. McCain**  
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[www.Woolson.com](http://www.Woolson.com)





## Distinguished graduate award presented to Sacred Heart alumni of '57

HALLETTSVILLE—The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Distinguished Graduate Award is intended to honor graduates of Catholic schools who have made a contribution to American life and/or the Catholic Church.

Arlyn Kloesel, a 1957 graduate of Sacred Heart High School, is the 2011 recipient of this award. Mr. Kloesel received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree from The University of Texas College of Pharmacy in 1962. He practiced pharmacy in Austin for 18 years before joining the faculty at UT College of Pharmacy in July 1980.

Mr. Kloesel's major teaching accomplishment is the development, coordination, and administration of the Care and Respect for the Elderly (CARE) Program which is now mandatory for every first-year UT pharmacy student. The program is based on the philosophy of "active learning" and requires each student to provide social support and companionship to an elderly resident in an assisted living environment. The program teaches the students that the best medicines they can dispense are doses of kindness, empathy and respect. Pharmacy dean Lynn Crismon said, "I don't think I've ever met a more caring and giving person in my life than Arlyn Kloesel."

His honors while teaching at UT College of Pharmacy include: Assistant Dean

and Director of Professional Affairs of the College, the Distinguished Senior Lecturer in the College of Pharmacy, 2010 Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, 2005 Texas Excellence in Teaching Award, 2005 Texas Pharmacy Association Individual Excellence in Education, and the 2011 Distinguished Service Award, presented by the Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists, the highest honor the Society can bestow on an individual. In 1995 the title of one of the UT College of Pharmacy's most prestigious awards, the Preceptor of the Year Award, was renamed the Arlyn Kloesel Preceptor of the Year Award.

The University of Texas established the Wm. Arlyn and Mary Carol Kloesel Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Pharmacy in 1995, and in 2010, the College of Pharmacy created the Arlyn Kloesel Endowment for Excellence in Pharmacy. Mr. Kloesel and his wife Mary Carol have been married for 50 years and have two sons. Arlyn and his wife are active members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Austin where he participates in weekly 3:00 a.m. adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Sacred Heart Catholic School is proud to recognize Mr. Arlyn Kloesel with the Distinguished Graduate Award.

While in high school Arlyn led the

*See Distinguished graduate, p. 8*

## Deacon Rossow appointed commissioner to TCCAC

Dr. Lawrence (Larry) F. Rossow, deacon at Our Lady of Victory since 2009, was appointed as a commissioner to the Texas Catholic Conference Accreditation Commission. The commission oversees accreditation of all Texas elementary and secondary Catholic schools and is a part of the state-approved Texas Private School Accreditation Commission.

Deacon Larry came from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City where he was ordained in 2000. Also, he is the dean of the School of Education & Human Development

at the University of Houston-Victoria. In addition to 42 years of education experience, Deacon Larry was a U.S. Army Field Artillery captain. He holds bachelor's degrees in philosophy and theology, a master's in school administration and a doctorate in education law.



Deacon Lawrence (Larry) F. Rossow

### Reporting Abuse

*If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.*

- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- or
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- or
- Write to: Most Rev. 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: Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.

## Three seminarians spend summer working at chancery

*Continued from p. 4*

school," he said.

Jacob said he had been considering whether God was calling him to the priesthood for some time, and he inquired with the Diocese of Fresno and a religious community in California, but didn't feel called to either. He remembered a great experience he had in the Diocese of Victoria the previous Thanksgiving break.

"That was some of the most pleasant time I've had in a long time," he said. "So it kind of stuck with me."

Jacob decided not to pursue a job he had lined up in Fresno, and contacted Father Dan Morales, Victoria's vocations director, who invited him to fly in for a visit. From there, everything seemed to fall into place.

"Ten days later I packed up my car and drove here," Jacob said.

Jacob's parents and older sister live in Fresno. He works mostly in the youth ministry office helping organize events like Camp David and the annual vocations camp. He is set to attend St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, La., beginning in August.

The two other seminarians working at the chancery, Max Landman and Kristopher Fuchs, took shorter routes to Victoria. Max, 24, was born in Fort Worth and grew up in Uvalde. His mother lives there, and his father and older sister live in San Antonio. He graduated with a journalism degree from Texas Christian University in 2009, and worked in communications for a retail electric company in Irving for a year. He entered Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving last fall studying for the Diocese of Dallas, but realized that wasn't his home. He said that after much prayer and visiting the Diocese of Victoria, his next move was obvious.

"I have a sense of peace and a connection with the people and way of life here that I haven't felt anywhere else, and I think that's a sign from God where I need to be," he said.

Max works in the cemetery and youth ministry offices. He is scheduled to return

to Holy Trinity for his second year of pre-theology in the fall.

For Kristopher, this is the third straight summer working in the youth office. He said he enjoys getting to see the faith of the young people of the diocese.

"A lot of the work is behind the scenes, but it's worth it when one of the camps turns out so well," he said.

Kristopher, 24, is in his third year of formation for the diocese. He grew up in Needville, and has strong family ties in Moulton. His parents and one younger brother live in Needville; he has another younger brother enrolled at Sam Houston State University.

He said he discerned entering seminary before graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in architecture in 2009, and he felt at home in the Diocese of Victoria because he loved the people and the rural atmosphere.

Kristopher is set to begin his first year of theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, in August.

Experience one of these fabulous trips!

~ Panama Canal Cruise ~  
Jan. 28 - Feb. 07, 2012  
A Few Cabins Left (Deadline 8/1)

~ Christmas Tour ~  
Dec. 2-4, 2011  
Grapevine, Texas at the  
Gaylord Texan Hotel  
\$698 p/p for double  
Call today to make reservations

Pathways with Patti  
334 Jurek Road  
Port Lavaca, TX 77979  
361.552.2695 or 361.920.3216

# MORAVIA ASCENSION PARISH PICNIC

MORAVIA, FM 957 & FM 532

Sunday, July 17

MASS: MORAVIA: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

DINNER 11:00 a.m.

## STEW & FRIED CHICKEN

ADMISSION: Adults \$7.50 - Children \$4.00 & TRIMMINGS  
Drive-thru Plates To Go From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$7.50

COUNTRY  
STORE

Toy Walk  
Fish Pond &  
Games



Cake Walk  
12:00 Noon

BINGO  
Lic.#17461806097  
1:30-5:30 p.m.

## AUCTION SALE AT 1:00 P.M.

Hamburgers, Refreshments and Entertainment on the  
Moravia Parish Picnic Grounds

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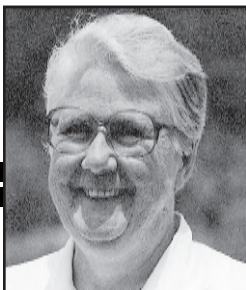
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## SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

### Lights of Our Lives

As the sun had set and the dusk settled in, the brightness of the flames of the candles seemed to intensify before my eyes as I waited for the Taize Prayer to begin. Now, this special prayer experience, Taize, is held in an atmosphere of quiet and candlelight. It originated in Taize, France, near the birthplace of our foundress, Jeanne Chezard de Matel. The prayer consists of sacred chants, songs, Scripture readings, meditations and prayers of praise and petition.

That evening I was amazed at the visual impact of the candles in the face of the encroaching darkness. There were candles of all shapes and sizes. Some candles were long and slender; others were short and round. Some had little evidence of having been lit before; others seemed to be struggling to stay lit. Some were single; others were clumped in groups. Some were neatly arranged on candelabras; others were randomly placed throughout the stage of our auditorium. Whatever shape or position each candle had, it contributed its bit to an awesome spectacle of light.

I began to think of us as the candles and reflected on the various ways that each of us was letting our light shine wherever we were and whatever kind of candle we were. Some of us display the light of a very simple, sincere spirituality; others shine

through multiple ways of relating to God and those about them. Some are new on the prayer scene, while others are near the end of a long life of witnessing to the rest of us. Some of us serve in individual ministries and let our light shine as a lonely beacon in the midst of darkness while others of us are accompanied by the support of companions on our life journey. Together, as we allow God to shine through us, we are all contributing to the manifestation of God's presence among us.



As I reflected further, I thought of a passage written by our current pope regarding our role as lights. (I may have alluded to this statement in a previous article; even if I did, I think it would be worth

repeating.) Pope Benedict XVI wrote:

The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by — people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way. (- Spe Salvi, 49.)

Therefore, whatever our style or location, let us all be lights of hope. May we all shine on!

**Editors Note:** *The next Taize Prayer will be held August 30 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.*

**CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOLERS PLACE AT PSIA**—Three Immaculate Heart Catholic Home School students competed in the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) State Academic Meet in Fort Worth on May 14, 2011. Sydney Kallus (l.), a second grader, placed 6th in Storytelling; Andrew Barton (c.), a fourth grader, placed 2nd in Spelling and 5th in Math; and Faith Barton (r.), a seventh grader, tied for 4th place in Dictionary Skills. Approximately 1,165 students from private schools throughout Texas participated in the 2011 State 'A' Championship. The Kallus Family are parishioners of St. Agnes in Edna, and the Barton's are parishioners of Holy Family in Victoria.



### Distinguished graduate

Continued from p. 7

Indian Football team as quarterback to the Southwest Academic League State Championship in both 1955 & 1956 and accumulated a 27 game winning streak. He was selected to the All-District and All State team and lettered all 4 years. He also excelled in basketball, baseball, track and was named the All Around Athlete in 1957.

Arlyn also excelled academically, was selected to the All-Star Band as a trumpet player, was a member of the yearbook staff and played a lead role in the senior play.

Congratulations Arlyn Kloesel, my friend and hero.

### Three St. Joseph Band Students Win State Medals



Three instrumental music students from St. Joseph High School of Victoria, were awarded State Gold Medals for superior performances at the Texas Private Schools State Solo & Ensemble Contest on Saturday, May 28. The contest was sponsored by the Texas Private School Music Educators.

The gold medal winners were Nathaniel Hawes - Baritone Horn; Michael Petrash II - Electric Bass; and Leslie Zepeda - Bb Clarinet.

Congratulations!

### At 95, Sr. John Hayden is longest living IWBS Sister

Sister John Hayden, IWBS, celebrated her 95th birthday on May 30, 2011. On July 10, 2011, she will be celebrating her 70th anniversary of Profession of vows as a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



She is the oldest IWBS sister living at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. Sister Genevieve Zavrel, IWBS, is the next oldest with a birth date of September 19, 1917.

Sister John served her Lord in the field of education for approximately 50 years, with 34 of those years at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville. During eighteen of those 34 years, she also served as principal. Sister John's areas of instruction were physical science, biology and chemistry, but she was known to fill in for algebra, English or religion courses

when needed.

When asked about her remembrances of her years at Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sister John said that she always accepted the assignments given to her and felt that God blessed her for that. She fondly remembers the love and support of the parents who partnered with the faculty to give their children the best education possible. She is most pleased that the school is still a strong and viable institution in the Catholic Community of Hallettsville.

Congratulatory cards and notes may be sent to: Sister John Hayden, Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 NE Water St., Victoria, TX 77901.

It is Sister John's wish that anyone who wants to recognize these special events may donate to the Sacred Heart Catholic School Annual Fund. Whether you have already donated to the fund this year, or have yet to do so, this would be a meaningful way to honor Sister John's legacy. Donations may be mailed to: Sacred Heart Catholic School, 313 S. Texana St., Hallettsville, TX 77964. Checks may be made to: SHS Annual Fund.



**KJZT #43 DONATES TO MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY**—During the past season of Lent, Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas - KJZT Society No. 43 of Assumption BVM Church, Ganado, sponsored a food drive in conjunction with the state KJZT project of Feeding Families across Texas. Approximately 150 pounds of food plus cash donations of \$200 were collected and given to the parish Matthew 25 Ministry, which assists the needy of the parish and community. The state office of CFFT-KJZT matched the dollar amount to bring the total cash donation given to the Matthew 25 Ministry to \$400. Pictured are Lanoe Macha, KJZT society vice-president; Steve Labay, Matthew 25 coordinator; Frances Vesely, society treasurer; and Alice Wright, society secretary. Not pictured is Cecilia French, society president.



**BAY CITY CDA PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS**—The 2011 Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Resurrection #2054, Bay City, \$500 Scholarship recipients are Jessica Koether, Rachel Richardson, Christina Jean "CJ" Kieschnick and Austin Smith; all graduates of BCHS. Pictured are scholarship recipients with CDA court officers: seated, l. to r., are Jessica (l.), who will tackle general studies classes at Texas A & M University, College Station; Rachel (c.), who will study elementary education at Wharton County Jr. College and then transfer to Texas State University in San Marcos; and "CJ" (r.), who will study nursing at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Austin (unable to attend) will study engineering or biology at Texas A & M Corpus Christi or Blinn. Standing are court officers representing the local CDA membership: Karen Owens, Bettye Jo Lowry and Dawn Stewart. Proceeds for these scholarships are made possible through the CDA Bingo Kitchen food sales at the Bay City Knights of Columbus Hall every Tuesday night.





Wendy Eggert (r) replaces Jose Ortega (l) as associate director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.



## Parish youth minister now forms faith of diocesan youth

By Max Landman, seminarian

As a dental hygienist, Wendy Eggert loved cleaning young people's teeth. Now she gets to brighten their spirits.

Wendy began her new role as the diocesan associate director of youth and young adult ministry in June, and said she was thrilled at the opportunity.

Wendy, a Victoria native, grew up in the city with two older brothers. She converted to the Catholic faith, completing the RCIA program at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria in April 2005.

She began working as a youth minister at the same parish during the RCIA process, igniting a passion more profound than in her work as a dental hygienist, which included stints in Austin, Gonzales

and Victoria over the past 18 years.

She said her main goal was forming young people in the faith.

"I just want them to understand the richness of the Catholic faith," she said.

For kids to truly understand and value their faith, they need to learn in an environment that suits them, she said.

"I think that if you take them to a camp or if you do a retreat with them, that's something a little different – that they're more receptive to it," she said.

Wendy replaced Jose Ortega, who worked more than two years for the diocese. Jose joined the League City Police Department in May. He is set to begin training to become a peace officer in July.



St. Philip youth from El Campo are pictured on the "Rooted in Christ" stage at the "Steubenville on the Bayou Youth Conference" held in Houma, La., June 17-19, 2011.

## El Campo youth attend Steubenville on the Bayou conference

HOUMA, La. — Forty-six teens and adults from St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in El Campo joined approximately 3,000 others at the "Steubenville on the Bayou Youth Conference" in Houma, La., June 17-19.

Steubenville Conference is a weekend event with presenters who share the Gospel message in a way that is relevant to today's teen culture.

One local teen, who attended the event, said, "It was a great way to grow closer to God and the friends around you." Another said, "Steubenville on the Bayou was a phenomenal experience in which you realize and come to know God better through praise and worship."

The talks, music, workshops and activities are centered on the sacraments. Holy Mass is offered on all three days. The theme "Rooted" was based on Scripture taken from Colossians 2:6-7: "As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were

taught abounding in thanksgiving."

This Scripture was chosen by Pope Benedict XIV to guide him as he guides youth and young adults through the World Youth Day celebration in Madrid, Spain, this year.

The host for this year's event was Steve Angrisano, a veteran musician, composer and youth minister who has been featured at six World Youth Day events, as well as other youth conferences. Presiding over the eucharistic adoration and closing Liturgy was the Most Rev. Sam G. Jacobs, bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

## Diocesan Youth Office

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

Web site: [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)



Pictured above are the Catholic Daughter of the Americas Court St. Ann #369, Victoria, scholarship winners. They are (l-r) Alayna Alvarez, Michael Hackbarth, Dana Vanek and Samuel Leos.

## CDA scholarships presented to six graduates

Court St. Ann #369, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, presented seven college scholarships worth \$2,450 at their June 2011 meeting.

Grace Rigamonti, Education Committee chairman, presented each scholarship by reviewing the recipient's school, church and community activities. She also read a few sentences from the winning essays. Regent Joann Bleier handed out the certificates to the recipients.

Scholarships were presented to the following:

- Alayna Alvarez – she will be studying journalism at the University of Texas in Austin
- Michael Hackbarth – he is interested in the food service industry and he'll get his basics at Victoria College
- Dana Vanek – she will be studying to be an accountant. She'll start at Victoria College, Blinn College and then Texas A & M in College Station
- Samuel Ryan Leos – he wants to be a physical therapist, focusing on dance injuries; he'll be attending St. Mary's University in San Antonio
- Brandi Ann Smith – she will be studying speech therapy, beginning her studies at Victoria College (she was unable to be present)
- Brayden Jones – was the recipient of the Chiquita Tolbert Memorial Scholarship,

which was funded by Mrs. Tolbert's family following her death in January 2011; Brayden lives in Amarillo, is an artist, and will be studying art therapy at West Texas AMU (he was unable to be present)

Miss Alvarez was also presented with a Texas State Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500. Those scholarships are funded by memorial card requests from members across the state of Texas. This year a total of \$35,000 was given to 42 applicants. The names were announced at the Texas State Court Convention in Houston in April.

A reception was held following the presentations.

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CDA #369 STATE EDUCATION CONTESTANTS PLACE HIGH—Winners in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #369, Victoria, State Education Contest are, pictured from left, Brandon Ferrell, 2nd place in computer art; Logan Rivera, 1st place in computer art; Taylor Pollock, 1st place in high school essay; Alexandria Corpus, 1st place in art; and Hailey Sanders, 1st place in high school computer art; winners not pictured were Majori Bradich, 1st place in high school poetry, and Alyssa Adames, 2nd place in art.

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The 2011 graduates with their pastor from St. Agnes Church in Edna are from left, front row: Rev. Michael Petering, Rhea Lea Hafernick, Candace Andel, Maci Novian, Gabrielle Zarate, Jaime Martinez and Taylor Crull, and; back row: Ryan Tomas, Matthew Brzozowski, Dalton Andel, Tate Darilek and Nicholas Morrow.

## St. Agnes Church Honors Graduates

EDNA—On May 29, 2011, St. Agnes Church in Edna held Baccalaureate Services for the 2011 graduates from the St. Agnes Parish family. The services began at 10:30 a.m. with the Eucharistic Celebration, after which the 11 graduates were recognized and received gifts from their pastor, Rev. Michael Petering.

The graduates were then entertained

in the parish center by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #1350, with a luncheon and desserts and were presented gifts, including a Day-by-Day Bible for each graduate. With immediate families of the graduates also attending, approximately 50 people were present for the event.



Shiner St. Paul High athletic award winners pose with their awards at the TAPPS Banquet. Marissa Ynclan was recognized as a TAPPS All-Star volleyball player; Brandon Sciba, with the TAPPS 2A Male Athlete of the Year Award; Coach Jake Wachsmuth holds the Henderson Cup, Coach Dana Beal, Principal Neely Yackel, and Emily Wagner, with the TAPPS 2A Female Athlete of the Year Award. She was also recognized as a TAPPS All-Star volleyball player.

## Unprecedented athletic success for Shiner St. Paul

SHINER—The 2010-2011 school year was a year of unprecedented success for Shiner St. Paul High School. The school collected five state championships in athletic competition. On Friday, June 10, the school collected a few more awards at the TAPPS All-Star Banquet in San Antonio.

Emily Wagner and Marissa Ynclan were recognized as TAPPS All-Star volleyball players.

Emily was also selected as a TAPPS All-Star basketball player. The All-Star games were played the following day in San Antonio. "Playing in the All-Star game was an awesome experience," said Emily. "I love getting to represent my school, teammates and coaches. Without them, I never would have even had the chance to be selected for this honor."

Emily was also recognized as the TAPPS 2A Female Athlete of the Year. Emily had an outstanding year. She was 1st Team All-District, Academic All-State, and 1st Team All-State in volleyball. Her volleyball team was the State Runner-Up and she was selected All-State Tournament. She was a member of the State Champion cross-country team. She was 1st Team All-District, Academic All-State, and 1st Team All-State in basketball. Her team advanced

to the regional round of the playoffs. She was 1st Team All-District, Academic All-State and 1st Team All-State in softball. Her softball team won the State Championship and she was selected All-State Tournament. In track, she was a member of the State Champion 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams. She was also on the State Runner-Up 4x400 relay team and she placed 6th in the Long Jump. These efforts helped her team win the State Championship and she was Academic All-State in track.

"Emily being named TAPPS 2A Athlete of the Year is a tremendous honor. She is very deserving of this award. She was a 5-sport athlete each year," said Coach Dana Beal. "Through her leadership and hard work, she was an integral part of the Lady Cardinal's success each year of her participation."

Brandon Sciba was recognized as the TAPP 2A Male Athlete of the Year. Brandon also had a fantastic senior year. He was a 1st Team All-District on offense and defense in football. He was 2nd Team All-State on offense and 1st Team All-State on defense. He was Academic All-State. His football team won the State Championship and he was selected as the State Final MVP. He was also awarded with the Right

## Sacred Heart student receives full scholarship to Victoria College

HALLETTSVILLE—Hallettsville resident Jamie Vanak, a recent graduate of Sacred Heart Catholic School, is among the first recipients of the newly established Distinguished Scholar Award from Victoria College. Vanak was selected as a Distinguished Scholar from among the top candidates who applied for scholarships. She will receive a \$4,000 scholarship to help cover tuition and fee expenses while attending VC.



Jamie Vanak

VC's new Distinguished Scholar Award is part of the Victoria College Scholarship Program. This scholarship program encourages and assists students financially toward achieving their dreams through education. Along with support from the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Foundation and the Victoria College Foundation, the program is also generously supported by local donors.

During high school, Vanak took dual credit classes at VC to further her goal of becoming a registered nurse. After com-

pleting VC's Associate Degree-Nursing Program, she plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing from a university.

"I'm excited to see what college is like at VC while taking this next step toward becoming a nurse," said Vanak. "I look forward to one day being the one who people count on during their time of need and helping them on their way to recovery."

In addition to being a member of the National Honor Society, Vanak has been a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic

School's student council and a charter member of the Leo Club (the youth organization associated with Lions Club International). She has been active in cheerleading, band, volleyball, tennis, track and the 4-H Shooting Club throughout her years at Sacred Heart. In her spare time, she enjoys long trail rides with her horse along with painting, baking and gardening. As a way to further nurture her artistic side, she's also recently mastered pottery.



SHINER HOLDS 25TH ANNUAL MARATHON FUNDRAISER—The Shiner Catholic School recently held its 25th Annual Marathon, which made over \$37,300. This amount surpassed the school's goal. The students raised the money by soliciting pledges and donations from family, friends and local businesses. One hundred percent of this money goes to the operating fund of the school. Pictured is the marathon committee presenting the total amount collected to the school principal; from left are Tammy Grabarkievtz, Traci Darilek, Principal Neely Yackel, and Trish Kapavik.

Guard Defensive Player of the Game trophy. Brandon was selected to play in the TPSCA All-Star Game in July. He was 2nd Team All-District in basketball and his team advanced to the playoffs. He was 1st Team All-District, Academic All-State, and 1st Team All-State in baseball. His baseball team won the State Championship. In track, he was a member of the 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams, which each finished 4th at the state track meet. His team finished 5th overall at the state track meet and he was Academic All State.

"It's been an overall great year, better than I could have imagined. All the success I have achieved comes from hard work, good coaching and good teammates," said Brandon. "I have enjoyed every bit of playing sports at St. Paul. I will surely have memories to last a lifetime."

"Coaching is a lot of fun when you work with kids like Brandon," said Coach Jake Wachsmuth. "He has been a tremendous representative of our school. He always did whatever his team needed and he never cared about who received credit. You could always count on him. He participated on 19 teams during his four years of high

school." Emily is the third female athlete at St. Paul to receive the "Of the Year" award and Brandon is the first male. In addition to a plaque honoring the achievement, the winners also received a \$500 scholarship presented by Russell Athletic.

Shiner St. Paul also received the Henderson Cup for TAPPS 2A. The Henderson Cup is awarded to the overall champion in each classification of TAPPS. St. Paul's five state championships secured this high honor for the school. It is the first time St. Paul has received the Henderson Cup.







## Secular vacation holds religious, cultural surprises

By Cynthia Brewer

My husband and I decided a beach destination would make the best vacation choice for us this year. Little did we know that the place we chose to travel to just so happened to be full of history, culture and religion, too.

We flew to Punta Cana at the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic to relax and enjoy the crystal-blue water and white-sand beaches, and we were not disappointed. The beaches of Punta Cana are boasted to be some of the prettiest in the world, and I believe they live up to that boast.

But that's not all that makes the Dominican Republic a wonderful place to visit. If you enjoy religion and history, the Dominican Republic, which shares the island with Haiti, is 85 percent Catholic and was the third American island upon which Christopher Columbus landed.

From our beach resort, we reserved a day tour to the nation's capitol, Santa Domingo, named after St. Dominic.

whose foundation stone was laid in 1521. The limestone Cathedral was completed and consecrated in 1541, making it the first Christian church in the Western World.

We toured the beautifully appointed, two-story, limestone structure that was once the home of Christopher Columbus' son, Diego, and his family. After lunch and shopping, we visited the amazing, underground Three Eyes caves in the middle of the capitol before driving past the Columbus Lighthouse (Faro a Colón), which purportedly holds the remains of Christopher Columbus and was inaugurated by Pope John Paul II with a Mass on the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World.

Our unexpected discoveries of the birthplace of Christianity in the Americas and the Shrine of Our Lady of Altagracia made a perfectly grace-filled pause in our otherwise luxurious, secular beach vacation. It's amazing how God visits us in the most unexpected places. I truly felt blessed.



First Christian church built in the Americas (1541) – St. Mary of the Incarnation Cathedral, Santa Domingo (above, side view; left, front view; and bottom, interior view)



Beach at Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



Haitian migrant workers cut sugar cane in the Dominican Republic



Basilica of Our Lady of Altagracia in Higüey

While traveling in a comfortable 15-passenger van, we learned why the Dominican Republic is so much more prosperous than its neighbor, Haiti. Our tour guide, Pedro, told us that the Dominican Republic's fertile soil lies on level land more suited to farming; whereas, Haiti is mostly mountainous, and its forests have been clear cut. Countries and businesses donate to Haiti but invest with the Dominican Republic. Many Haitians come to the Dominican Republic in search of employment on sugar cane farms. "The difference between Haiti and the Dominican Republic," Pedro said, "is that in Haiti, they speak French and play fútbol, and in the Dominican Republic, we speak Spanish and play baseball."

Our guide told us that on October 12, 1492, Columbus sighted and landed on what is now known as the Bahamas. Next he explored Cuba, and in December of 1492 he landed on the island he named Hispaniola, later to become the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. December 12, 1492, marked the founding of a temporary settlement called La Concepcion, and in an improvised chapel, the first Mass in the New World was said on January 6, 1494.

First, we stopped at and viewed the Basilica of Our Lady of Altagracia in the town of Higüey, the capital of the province of Altagracia. Our guide told us that next to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, Altagracia is the most visited Shrine of Our Lady in the Americas. It is said that a miracle took place in Higüey with a painting of The Virgin of La Altagracia, which was brought by the Spaniards over 500 years ago. The painting is on display at the modern basilica, built in the 1950s.

Upon arriving in Santa Domingo, we visited the Holy Metropolitan Cathedral dedicated to St. Mary of the Incarnation,

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## Hungarian migration story to be July puzzle contest prize

The horrors perpetrated by oppressive regimes jump out at us every day, from Egypt and Tunisia to Libya and beyond. The innocent continue to suffer, many with little or no hope of achieving a life of freedom, peace and happiness.

The first disruption of young Julius Fábos' hard-working, but idyllic, life on his family's prosperous farm in Marcali, Hungary, occurred when nearly 1,000 German vehicles stormed through the peaceful town on their way to invade Yugoslavia in 1941 — a harbinger of the horrors to come.

Eventual German occupation of Hungary was supplanted by the Soviets by the end of World War II. Under Stalin, an estimated half million people, together with their families, were classified and persecuted as enemies of the state — a list comprised mostly of Kuláks (well-to-do farmers) but also including priests, criminals, black marketers and party hacks. A vicious publicity campaign ensued against the Kuláks.

Private property was confiscated and laws passed forbidding private citizens to own guns, foreign currencies, gold and other valuable jewelry.

Farmers were ordered to produce enormous quantities of grain and milk and to surrender many live animals for meat to the Soviets.

Failing to meet unrealistic quotas, Ju-

lius' father was jailed and tortured; soon after, Julius was also imprisoned, tortured and starved for two days.

In 1953 he was drafted into hard physical slave labor for two years.

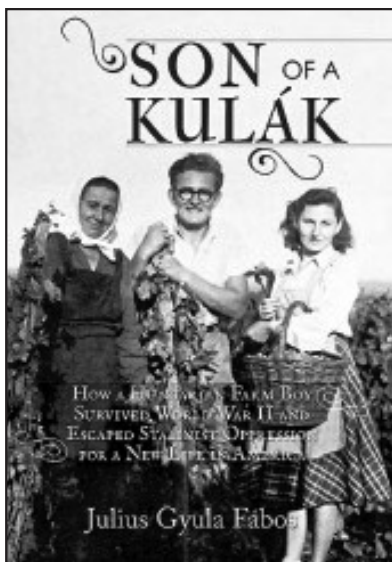
Julius had the courage and fortitude to survive ruthless persecution, oppression, torture and forced slave labor, ultimately escaping in 1956 to find freedom in America and the means of creating a productive, happy life.

The suffering and persecution endured by innocent Hungarians is chronicled in Julius' compelling memoir, *Son of a Kulák: How a Hungarian Farm Boy Survived World War II and Escaped Stalinist Oppression for a New Life in America*. It is also a story of triumph over terror, as Julius eventu-

ally escaped from his ordeal, immigrated to the United States and pursued higher education to create a good life for himself and his family.

Julius Fábos' tale chillingly echoes hardships faced even today by countless victims of oppressive regimes, and offers hope to those who suffer.

This book would be enjoyed by gardeners, farmers and history buffs. For a chance to win *Son of a Kulák: How a Hungarian Farm Boy Survived World War II and Escaped Stalinist Oppression for a New Life in America*, please send in completed puzzle to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, by July 25.



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## May/June Puzzle Contest Winners

Because of our mix up in last month's puzzle, we have two winners for books this month.

The winner of the May contest and the book, *An Invitation to Joy ~ Selections from the Writings and Speeches of His Holiness John Paul II*, is G.R. Janak Jr. of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville.

The winner of the June contest and the book, *Brother Jerome and the Angels in the Bakery*, is Mary Treybig of St. John's Parish in New Taiton.

The winner of the children's contest is Brenna Munsch (12) of St. Anthony Parish in Columbus. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

Congratulations to all our winners, and thank you to everyone for their patience!

The winner of the July Puzzle Contest will win this month's featured book, *Son of a Kulák: How a Hungarian Farm Boy Survived World War II and Escaped Stalinist Oppression for a New Life in America*.

Please mail all completed July puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by July 25.

Those wishing to purchase *An Invitation to Joy*, may purchase it from booksellers on Web sites from \$5.78 to \$25.99; *Brother Jerome and the Angels in the Bakery* may be purchased from Web sites for \$16.99.

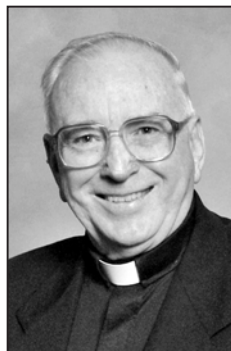
## Pope urges nations to promote moral education, protect family, life

ZAGREB, Croatia (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI used his apostolic journey to the Croatian capital to encourage nations to build their communities on Christian values and to support the traditional family and the sanctity of life. A culture guided by truth, reason and love not only will lead to peace, justice and solidarity, the community's very survival is dependent on such transcendent values, he said during his brief two-day pilgrimage June 4-5. If religion, ethics and a moral conscience are banished from informing the public realm, "then the crisis of the West has no remedy and Europe is destined to collapse in on itself" and risk falling prey to every form of tyranny, he said in an audience with Croatia's political, religious, cultural, business and academic representatives. The 84-year-old pope headed to the Croatian capital in an effort to encourage this predominantly Catholic country to resist secular temptations and hold strong to its Christian identity as it prepares for full integration into the European Union. It was Pope Benedict's 19th trip outside Italy and 13th to a European nation.

By Father John A. Leies, SM, STD, president emeritus of St. Mary's University, San Antonio, and former head of its theology department

When the European Union Constitution was written a few years ago, the final document had no mention of Christianity as a formative force in the cultural development of the European continent. In the document God was ignored and so was Christianity, but the Roman Empire, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment were mentioned. Pope John Paul II objected to such a twisting of history. But he was ignored. In any case, the secular mentality behind the European Union's Constitution is still prevalent. But not in all countries.

On April 24 of this year — Easter Monday — a new Constitution for Hungary, passed by its Parliament by a vote of 262-44, was signed by the president of the country. The document is called the "Easter Constitution." Hungary was under Communism's control for 40 years, during which atheistic propaganda was taught and the previous religious history of the country derided and vilified. After the fall of Communism, the



Father John A. Leies, SM, STD

## The Easter Constitution of Hungary

people of Hungary wrote a new Constitution for the country in 1989. It was not deemed adequate by many. And so in 2010, with the election of a new government, plans were made to write another document to reflect contemporary realities and the will of the majority of the people. The new Constitution shocked Europe. Here is why.

The Preamble begins with the expression "God, bless the Hungarian nation" (the opening words of the country's national anthem). It continues; "We are proud of the fact that our King Stephen, the saintly patron of the Hungarian State, built a secure foundation for our Fatherland (in) Christian Europe..... We recognize the role of Christianity in the persistence of the nation."

What a direct and forceful declaration of the roots of the nation!

In the Constitution itself are found such statements as "The life of the fetus shall be protected from the moment of conception" (Art. 2). Already the government has begun an anti-abortion publicity campaign in the country, in keeping with the pro-life prin-

ciples of the Constitution. Article 3 of the document prohibits eugenics practices. And the new Constitution defines the "family" as "the conjugal union of a man and a woman based on their independent consent" and declares that the country "shall protect the institution of the family, the basis for the survival of the nation." There is no place for same-sex marriages.

The Constitution provides that taxes for families would be determined in part by the number of children in the family. Parents with young children would be given special tax breaks. This concern for families truly represents Christian principles. In regard to church/state relations, the new document simply states: "For the attainment of community goals, the state shall cooperate with the churches." (One interesting provision in the Constitution was removed before the final vote but may be incorporated later into law. It stated that each parent in a family would have a second civic vote on behalf of one minor child. That would give many parents a double vote in civic elections.)

The new Constitution outraged many representatives of the European Union. Germany, for example, warned the Hungarian government that the new document

was not in keeping with current European values. Leigh Phillips quoted the German deputy foreign minister as saying: "We are observing the development in Hungary with great attention and some worry.... (Their legislation) shows an attitude towards fundamental human rights which is hardly compatible with European Union values." Phillips also noted that the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, a group which monitors new constitutions in Eastern Europe, gave a scathing criticism of the new Hungarian endeavor.

The Easter Constitution is a sign that purely secularistic values have not taken over every country of Europe. Poland still maintains the Christian faith and acknowledges it. And Hungary is another example. Undoubtedly, critics will demand that the European Union call Hungary to task for the audacity to be so Christian and so protective of life. Pray that the Hungarian government has the strength to resist such pressures. The Easter Constitution, as Msgr. Barreiro-Carambula observed, "may represent a resurrection of values that many thought had all but disappeared from the laws of Europe...., another step in a long and uneven journey back to Hungary's and Europe's roots."





## Professor suggests ways families, parishes can reconnect to the land

By Julie Carroll  
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Chris Thompson, academic dean at the St. Paul Seminary and a board member of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Thompson says he would like to see all Catholic universities teach a course in agriculture to help Catholics understand their need to have a connection to the land and the environment.

In an interview with The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, he offered these tips to help families and parishes cultivate a deeper appreciation for agriculture and God's creation.

For individuals and families:

— Start a backyard garden.

"Learn with your children the experience of raising food, even if it's at a modest level. This changes your attitude toward your land."

— Eat dinner together as a family. "The dinner table is one of the most important pieces of real estate in the Catholic home. ... It's a fantastic place where the human person comes into contact with lower creation in a very intimate way."

— Bake bread. "Even if it's not good, you'll eat it with pride and joy because it's something you've made and it's something that has expressed the person."

— Visit a farm or farmers' market. Meet the people who grow your food.

— Shop mindfully. "If we can illuminate our habits of

consumption and really introduce principles of justice and principles of stewardship in our habits of consumption, that would be huge."

— Purchase local, seasonal food directly from a farmer through a Community Supported Agriculture program. To find one of these farms near you, go to [www.localharvest.org/csa/](http://www.localharvest.org/csa/).

— Go for a walk. Encounter God in nature.

For parishes:

— Feature the products of local Catholic organic farmers at parish festivals.

— Develop a partnership between an urban parish and a rural parish.

— Purchase locally produced food for school programs.

— "Ideally, parishes would have little gardens, and the produce would go to the poor, or they would have a Mary garden where they would grow flowers. Get out there and raise something, and you'll enter into a relationship with the Creator that reaches back to the deepest roots of our faith."

For more ideas, visit the National Catholic Rural Life Conference Web site at [www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com).



## Looking Around

By Father William J. Byron, SJ  
Catholic News Service

### Help for parents in raising teenagers

A journalist friend of mine, Susan FitzGerald, is co-author with pediatrician Kenneth Ginsburg of a new book titled "Letting Go With Love and Confidence" (Avery Books, a division of Penguin). It promises help to parents in "raising responsible, resilient, self-sufficient teens in the 21st century."

Who wouldn't be interested in knowing more about that?

As a celibate priest-educator who tells students that they can find me in "that home for unwed fathers known as the Jesuit Community on campus," I claim no experience in raising teenagers. But I've observed firsthand both success and failure on the part of parents trying to meet that awesome responsibility.

Paging through a pre-publication copy of "Letting Go," it struck me that this is a book to be read by parents of adolescents and discussed with other like-minded parents of children in the same age group.

I've often noticed that it is difficult for parents to determine where trust ends and neglect begins. They want to trust their offspring, but they surely don't want to neglect them.

So, the understandable tendency is to yield on trust and tighten up on control, lest they be guilty of neglect.

This, of course, triggers resentment from the youngsters and widens the gap between them and their parents.

High schools typically have a mothers' club and a fathers' club, often charged with fund-raising responsibilities sometimes organized around the activities of an athletic team. As such, it is not difficult for willing parents to find

other parents who want to learn more about what works and what does not in the matter of successful parenting in the pre-teen and early teen years.

The trick is to make time for informed conversation, and "Letting Go With Love and Confidence" can help to inform the conversation.

Parenting is essentially about "providing the right mix of warmth, support, and monitoring so your child learns to manage his own life and make his own good decisions," the authors say.

They recommend authoritative (as opposed to authoritarian) parenting as the best way to combine the needed warmth, support and monitoring: "When adolescents are given clear boundaries and expect a reasonable amount of parental supervision, they are less likely to engage in worrisome behaviors, such as underage drinking and sexual activity, and more likely to do well in school."

The point of talking about all this with your spouse and other parents is to generate some collective wisdom as to what is reasonable in setting the boundaries.



## Sunday Readings from July 10 to Aug. 14

July 10 — Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 55:10-11 Psalms 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 Romans 8:18-23 Matthew 13:1-23
July 17 — Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 Psalms 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 Romans 8:26-27 Matthew 13:24-33
July 24 — Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 Psalms 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 Romans 8:28-30 Matthew 13:44-52
July 31 — Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 55:1-3 Psalms 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 Romans 8:35, 37-39 Matthew 14:13-21
August 7 — Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 19:19a, 11-13a Psalms 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:22-23
August 14 — Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 56:1, 6-7 Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 Matthew 15:21-28

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/)

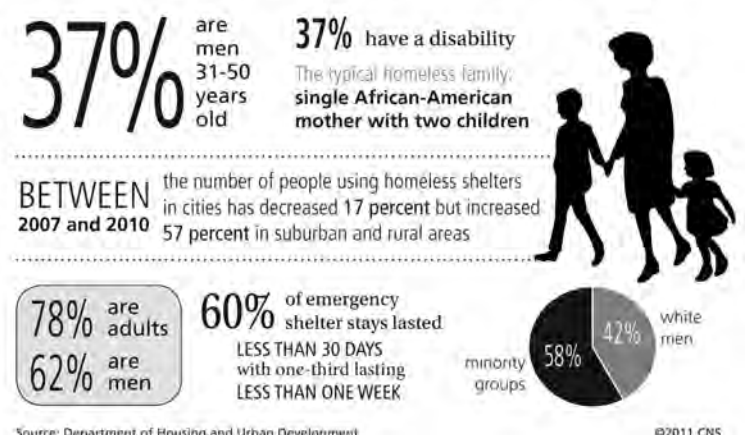
Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign — please be generous.

## Family Fiesta of Life Conference - Archdiocese of San Antonio

Attention, Families! The Archdiocese of San Antonio's Family Fiesta of Life Conference will take place July 29-30, at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church. Friday night's program begins with an hour of praise and worship with Christian musicians "Body of Christ Ministries," followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. The evening will close with a sneak preview of the movie "Courageous,"

scheduled for release in theaters this September. Saturday's program includes family Mass with Bishop Oscar Cantu and presentations by Patrick Coffin, emcee and host of national radio show Catholic Answers LIVE and Vicki Thorne, international speaker and founder of Project Rachel. Brian Butler, a regular speaker on Theology of the Body for Teens, will meet and connect with teenagers.

## Characteristics of Homelessness



## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi

IN OTHER NEWS...

CONGRESS HAS INTRODUCED THE "NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT."

IF PASSED, THIS BILL WILL BAN ABORTION FUNDING IN ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

PROVING ONCE AGAIN THAT ELECTIONS DO HAVE CONSEQUENCES.

ULTRASONIC 5000





## Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert  
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



### Faith, no matter how small, leads to faith

In the spring of 2010, a tornado siren was simply a time to go downstairs – just in case. My husband's parents hadn't yet experienced the New Year's Eve tornado that hit a Missouri restaurant where they were dining. My grown daughter hadn't yet witnessed the Good Friday tornado from the back steps of our home while we were venerating the Cross. And Joplin, Missouri, hadn't suffered unspeakable loss from the deadliest tornado since 1947.

No. In the spring of 2010, a tornado siren just signaled a time for gathering downstairs. On one of those stormy nights in 2010, we all ended up in the basement. My husband, John, checked out the food pantry and decided that a bag of chocolate chips would help pass the time. As we popped chocolate into our mouths and played with the dog, we talked. Somehow, we got on the subject of doubt.

Atheism and agnosticism.

John has faith. He believes in God, but he understands how some people just cannot believe in things they cannot see or touch. One of his friends has studied faith matters and philosophies and still says it's not enough. John doesn't agree, but he understands why his friend has doubt.

On one level, I understand it as well. The three cherry trees that died shortly after my husband planted them in the back yard are probably not experiencing any eternal existence. Since they weren't capable of conscious thought, I don't suppose they cared one way or another.

But humans are different. We have the ability to love another, die for another, forgive another, work with another. We have the capacity to scam each other, destroy each other, hold bitterness against one another and tear each other apart.

We can bless. And we can curse.

We can rule over one another. And we can serve one another.

Even some of our illnesses set us apart. We can die from stress, suffer from mental illness, and find healing through the most extraordinary things. Like faith, hope and love.

It is true that we know very little about what comes next. God acknowledges our limited human understanding in Sacred Scripture. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, what God has waiting for those who love him.

Love. Maybe that's the key. The most important thing separating us from a cherry tree just might be our capacity to love. Love points to an existence beyond the here and now. Our capacity to love links us to the One who is Love.

We live in a society that does not feel compelled to believe in mysteries like faith, hope and love. We study everything, except what lies beyond. We throw our

efforts into our careers and our brains and our bank accounts. We complete degrees. We build houses. And we invest.

Many blindly accept that we cannot know what comes next. Or worse, that there is nothing to know about next things. But then a brilliant mathematician, scientist and philosopher, like Pascal, throws out the challenge:

Okay, so it's a gamble. On a purely rational level, we cannot know, Pascal says. For the ones who do not have faith, it is a toss of the coin.

Either way, we'll find out. Pascal believed the better bet was on the side of God's existence. That gambler has everything to gain and nothing to lose. Betting that there is no God is foolish. This gambler has everything to lose and nothing to gain.

Agnosticism, says Pascal, is not an option. Death is inevitable. So place your bets.

It is an interesting application of probability theory.

For those of us who have a faith, which shapes everything we do, we have trouble understanding the thought processes of those who have no faith in God or eternity. How do we help them get from point A to point B? From no faith to at least some faith?

My husband tells me to have compassion for the one who cannot believe and to encourage him to try. Just try. Faith, no matter how small, leads to faith. Encourage them to say the word maybe. To drop the word impossible.

For we know that eternity is possible before we know that it is certain.

Like tornados. A remote possibility becomes a certainty. And everything changes.

John and I don't casually look at each other when the sirens sound these days. Tornados have touched the lives of people we know.

I suppose there are many who think everything is a roll of the dice. God's existence. Tornados that touch down. Lottery tickets. Blind dates. There are some things that are too important to get wrong. Like whether or not God exists. Like whether or not you should go to the basement even though a tornado has never touched down in your back yard before.

So, you bet on the tornado being real. You're wrong? You have a little time with the family in a safe place. You're right? You live to see another day.

And you bet on God being real. You're wrong, you won't ever know it. You're right, and you gain eternal life with the one who made you.

Yes, there are some things that are too important to get wrong.

## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope  
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### People can abuse reason when they demand proof from God, pope says

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While empirical science has done much to further progress, subjecting God and his truth to scientific scrutiny represents an incorrect and despotic use of human reason, Pope Benedict XVI said.

How reason, truth and faith interconnect has always sparked debate throughout history, the pope said June 30 during an award ceremony in the fresco-covered Clementine Hall in the Apostolic Palace.

The pope gave three European theologians the Ratzinger Prize for their excellence in theological studies: Manlio Simonetti, an 85-year-old Italian professor and expert in ancient Christian studies and patristic biblical interpretation; Father Olegario Gonzalez de Cardedal, a 76-year-old Spanish priest and professor of dogmatic and fundamental theology; and Cistercian Father Maximilian Heim, a 50-year-old German theologian and abbot of the Heiligenkreuz monastery in Austria.

The pope used the occasion to talk about the significance and the challenges surrounding theology.

He noted the important contributions theology has made, but warned that theology must not only be concerned with the past as that would "leave the faith today in darkness."

Nor must theologians only look at psychological or sociological studies leaving faith on the wayside as that would strip theology of meaning and a solid foundation, he added.

Though studying the past and understanding human and social sciences are important in theology, the pope said the real question at stake is: "Is what we believe in true or not? In theology the question of truth is at play: truth is its ultimate and essential foundation."

Christ is the truth, and people can and must know him through reason, he said.

"From here one understands that Christian faith, by its very nature, must call

forth theology, it had to ask itself about the reasonableness of faith."

So while reason is fundamental to faith, there is an incorrect use of reason – a "despotism of reason, which becomes the supreme and final judge of everything," he said.

The pope said this use of reason, which is "incompatible with the nature of faith," can be seen in Psalm 95, which recalls Meribah as the place where the early Israelites tested God and "tried me though they had seen my works."

Putting God to some sort of a test is even more pronounced in today's world, where natural science and its empirical method have achieved so much, the pope said.

But there is a limit to how reason is used: "God is not an object of human experimentation. He is a subject and he manifests himself only in a person-to-person relationship," he said.

The correct use of reason in matters of faith then is when it is used on a personal level and is driven by love.

The pope said: "Love wants to know better the person who loves. Love – true love – doesn't make us blind," it makes people see.

Love will satisfy a person's thirst to really know the other, and that is why those who seek the truth are on the path to seeking God, he said.

"This is why authentic theology is so important. Solid faith leads reason to open itself up to the divine, so that reason, guided by love for the truth, may know God even more from up close," he said.

Therefore, theology must be made up of two elements: "humility, which lets us be 'touched' by God, and discipline, which is tied to the order of reason, (which) keeps love from blindness and helps develop its power to see," he said.

During the ceremony, the pope greeted each of the prize recipients, handing them each a large award certificate and a small envelope, which included a check for \$87,000.

The Ratzinger Prize will be awarded each year in sacred Scripture, patristics and fundamental theology.

This was the first time the prizes were awarded since the establishment last year of the Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI) Vatican Foundation, which promotes theological studies on the pope's writings and rewards promising scholars.

### Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions July 2011

**General Intention:** That Christians may contribute to alleviating the material and spiritual suffering of AIDS patients, especially in the poorest countries.

**Missionary Intention:** For the religious who work in mission territories, that they may be witnesses of the joy of the Gospel and living signs of the love of Christ.

### Pray for Vocations!

Heavenly Father, if it is your divine will, inspire many of our youth to say "Yes" to your special calling to be priests, sisters and brothers. Amen.

### Substitute Adorers Needed



The Adoration Chapel at St. Mary's Church in Victoria is in need of adorers to spend time with our Lord in Eucharistic adoration. Please consider committing an hour per week at the chapel. Hours available include: Wednesdays, 4 – 5 p.m. and 7 – 8 p.m.; and Fridays 9 – 10 a.m. and 2 – 3 p.m. Please call St. Mary's at (361) 573-4328 or Mrs. Cleo Boldt at (361) 573-6161.



### Fall Pilgrimages to Holy Land and Europe



Pilgrimage to France/Spain/Portugal – Come join Fr. Robert Knippenberg, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Victoria (former pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner) for a 16-day pilgrimage Sept. 30 - Oct. 15, 2011. Visit Lourdes – Fatima - La Salette - Paris.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – Come join Fr. Bob Fisher, parochial vicar of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and its missions, and Fr. Albert Yankey, parochial vicar of St. Philip's Catholic Church in El Campo, on a pilgrimage to The Holy Land for 11 days, from Nov. 9-19, 2011. Traveling is safe in the Holy Land, where we go.

For more Information, please contact Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or E-mail: [Burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net)





Father Paul Halladay, a Catholic chaplain on loan from the Archdiocese of Mobile, is seen with soldiers while stationed in Iraq in 2005. Being a chaplain is a vocation filled with blessings and rewards, said Father Halladay. (CNS photo/courtesy of Father Brian Kane)



## Chaplain recruiter has been in line of fire

By John B. O'Donnell

This article first appeared in *The Catholic Review*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and then in the Spring 2011 *SALUTE*, the magazine of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Father Paul Anthony Halladay is on a mission, to replenish the depleted ranks of Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Army. His pitch is backed by experience in the line of fire, a brush that earned him a Bronze Star.

"The Army needs 500 priests to take care of the service's members," Father Halladay said in a recent interview.

"We only have 108 now."

A priest of the Archdiocese of Mobile, Father Halladay is on loan to the Archdiocese for the Military Services. In residence at St. William of York in Baltimore, Father Halladay is assigned to the Chaplain Recruiting Branch of the Army at Fort Meade.

He travels frequently, meeting with priests and seminarians to encourage them to consider the chaplaincy, and with bishops in an effort to obtain releases for priests who want to become Army chaplains. He also meets with Catholic soldiers, to encourage them to consider the priesthood.

In their last summer before ordination, seminarians who are considering the Army are invited to spend three months in chaplain school as a way of discerning whether this is the path they should choose.

Father Halladay, who was ordained in 2000 and became a chaplain in 2004, can attest to the dangers they might face.

### UNCOMMON VALOR

Beginning in November 2005, he served a year in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division, the "Screaming Eagles," in the Anbar province city of Ramadi. Time magazine called it "the most dangerous place in Iraq," as American troops tried to gain control from insurgents and al-Qaeda.

Father Halladay was awarded the Bronze Star for aiding wounded Iraqi soldiers under fire after a suicide car bomb exploded 25 yards from where he was celebrating Mass on July 15, 2006.

In a building fortified with sandbags covering the windows, he was about to deliver his homily when a car was driven into a nearby checkpoint, setting off a homemade bomb.

"It blew the sandbags and glass out of the windows and sent a fireball through the room," Father Halladay said. "Everyone was thrown to the ground. It shattered windows a mile away."

No one at the Mass was injured, but Father Halladay ran into the street to help the wounded. As the citation for his Bronze Star read in part, he "assisted with casualty evacuation by carrying wounded men to safety under fire."

Two months later, on the feast of St.

Michael the Archangel, Father Halladay overheard radio transmissions about a gravely wounded Navy SEAL, a man who had asked Father Halladay to hear his confession when they first met.

He raced to the First Aid station where medics worked desperately on Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael A. Monsoor (Salute article Fall 2008, page 14), a member of a combined Navy Seal and Army sniper team.

The team was on the roof of a house engaged in a firefight when an unseen insurgent tossed a grenade to the roof. In a split second, Monsoor made the decision that cost him his life, throwing himself on the grenade before it exploded and saving the lives of two colleagues.

Father Halladay prayed with the mortally wounded Seal as medics loaded him on to a helicopter for evacuation. In 2007, Father Halladay was invited to the White House to witness President George W. Bush's presentation of the Medal of Honor to Monsoor's parents.

### DIRE NEED

In a time of priest shortages, Father Halladay, who holds the rank of captain, says the toughest part of the job is convincing bishops to release priests for military service. He recalls that it took him four years to persuade the Archbishop of Mobile to allow him to become a chaplain.

At the fall 2010 general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, of the Archdiocese for the Military Services pleaded with his fellow bishops to release more priests for military service.

The auxiliaries in the Military Archdiocese include Bishop F. Richard Spencer, a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The archdiocese of Baltimore currently has six priests serving as military chaplains.

Others who have volunteered for that role include Monsignor Carl F. Cummings, pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal in Pasadena, who served in the Navy, and Monsignor Joseph S. Lazor Jr., pastor of St. Luke, Edgemere, an Army chaplain.

Father Halladay resides at St. William of York, at the invitation of Father Michael DeAscanis, pastor of both St. William of York and St. Agnes, Catonsville. Father Halladay assists at both parishes when he is in town.

This is adapted from an article that John B. O'Donnell wrote for the St. Agnes bulletin, where he is a parishioner.

**Editor's note:** Thanks to Bishop David Fellhauer, the Diocese of Victoria has one priest who serves in the military: LCDR Gabriel Mensah. He may be written to at Chapel Department; 11001 D. St.; Corpus Christi, TX 78419.

## Chaplain to Warriors

By Bill Kirst; reprinted from *SALUTE*, the magazine of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

"In Iraq from the Fall of 2005 until the Summer of 2006, I presided over ten memorial services and assisted at another 30 honoring 45 "Warriors"- brave Marines, Sailors and Soldiers who were killed in action. Such services are a mixture of a wake, a funeral without a coffin, and military remembrance. Hymns are sung, prayers are offered, and eulogies given. The dead are honored with a photograph being posted, the marker of a rifle, helmet, tags, and boots are central...and taps is played." ~ (LCDR Michael R. Duesterhaus, CHC, USNR)



Father Duesterhaus gives a blessing in the field.

Father Duesterhaus is a Navy chaplain who accompanied US Marines on two combat tours in Iraq including the period of heavy fighting in the "triangle of death" cities of Ramadi and Fallujah. He currently serves as a chaplain in the Reserve Forces at the Quantico Marine Corps Base. As a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, he is the Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Woodbridge, Va. His father was an Army officer and he is one of eight children.

Interview conducted by William "Bill" Kirst (BK) with Father Duesterhaus (FATHER):

BK: Given Post Traumatic Stress (Disorder) is so topical today, could you give us your personal observations and views from your two combat tours?

FATHER: Combat stress can arise because troops have not seen such violence in society. In combat you are grateful to be alive – to have a hot meal, get a shower, and call home. When you come back, there is a need to make time to adjust. The situation is a disorder if, after sufficient time, you do not adjust and over-react to things. There is help, plenty of help, for all involved. However, in my opinion, most troops don't need professional therapy – what they need when they come home is a trusted ear and time. A "trusted ear" would be for example an older veteran (WW II, Korea or Vietnam) who tells today's generation of warriors... "Be proud of your service – I have felt the same burden as you." The real world of PTS(D) is a loss of a "brother warrior" in combat.

BK: How did you see your role in serving with the Marines – particularly the very young Warriors?

FATHER: Roughly one out of every three Marines did not grow up with a father at home. Also, another one out of three never grew up participating in any church. The overlap is about one-quarter. So one out of every four Marines don't know a father on earth or a Father in heaven, and the Marine Corps introduces them to both.

The chaplain has access to people who would have never heard the Gospel and there is no forced sell – just the opportunity to bring the hope of the Faith to those who do not know it.

The bonds these Marines forge are very strong, and, as their new 'family', they grieve greatly when they lose someone. When you lose a Marine, you did not lose an employee, a staffer, or an acquaintance; rather, you lost your brother, maybe a younger brother, but still a brother.

BK: About a quarter of the military identify as "Catholic," and it is a higher percentage for the Marines. From your experience, how prevalent is the practice of the Faith – is there a crisis of Faith?

FATHER: Over half of the Marines I served with who wear "Catholic" on their dog tags do so mostly for cultural or

family reasons. They will never worship with us, will not marry in the Church, nor have their children inherit the Faith. They do not join other churches – they just sleep in or go shopping. For the other identified Catholics, many were never confirmed,

rarely come to Mass, come from broken homes, and are poorly catechized. At best in Iraq only a small percentage actually go to Mass regularly. Sadly, because of the failure of the Church and parents to teach, correct, and set a good example, we are now picking up the pieces.

BK: How do you see your role as "Chaplain for Warriors" in view of the general public's lack of understanding of the military profession?

FATHER: Of the 300 million Americans, the majority has no idea what the military goes through – they have a feeling, but it is often misdirected. The typical civilian response to "my son is being deployed to Afghanistan" is "Oh, I am so sorry." Why so little understanding of what the uniform services do? Consider that now only 8% of the population are veterans, and only 22% of Congress have ever served (down from 57% in 1995). The 2.5 million in uniform are less than 1% of the US population and many of those serving come from generations of families who have served.

The "profession of arms" is a profession - an unique group with unique needs. And the military is the only profession that gets its own diocese - The Archdiocese for the Military Services. The role of a "Chaplain to Warriors" is to bring the Gospel and the Faith to those who do not know it. Much as it was done back in the first century by Paul, Titus and Timothy.

**Editor's Note:** If you would like to support the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, please send contributions to below address. Supporters will receive *SALUTE ~ The Magazine of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA*. Please send contribution, title, name, address and phone number to [support@milarch.org](mailto:support@milarch.org) or call (202) 719-3600.

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Jeffery R. Patterson, Texas Catholic Conference new (TCC) executive director

## Texas Catholic Conference announces new executive director

The Texas Catholic Conference has announced that Jeffery R. Patterson will serve as its new Executive Director.

"Jeffery has a long experience in understanding legislative process and at the same time a deep and firm commitment to Catholic teaching," said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. "In addition, as a native Texan, he has a good sense of the state and of the Catholic Church and its life here. I heartily welcome him to his position as executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference."

As executive director, Patterson will serve the Texas Bishops in overseeing the Conferences' activities, which include coordinating Catholic institutions, programs and ministries across the state, as well as advocating before the Texas Legislature, the U.S. Congress, and governmental agencies on issues involving the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church.

"I am enthusiastic for the opportunities this position provides — especially at the intersection of public policy and faith — to further our shared values and social responsibilities," Patterson said. "As Texas continues to face a number of critical challenges, I look forward to working with the bishops to offer governmental leaders thoughtful and compassionate approaches to deal with these issues."

Patterson is the fifth director of the conference and follows Andrew Rivas, who served as the executive director for the conference for five years. Prior to Rivas, Holy Cross Brother Richard Daly served as the conference's director for 26 years.

Patterson brings nearly 30 years of experience in political communications and institutional public affairs management. He comes to TCC from The University of Texas at Austin, where he served for six years as assistant dean for administration at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and eight years as program officer/communications director for the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health. Previously, he served in the U.S. Congress as a deputy press secretary for U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen and as a legislative side and press secretary for U.S. Congressman Michael A. Andrews.

Patterson is a doctoral candidate in the UT College of Communication and teaches graduate courses in public affairs communications, writing for the mass media, and public relations management at the University. He has a master's degree in journalism and public affairs from The American University in Washington, D.C., a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Houston, and an associate's degree in journalism from San Jacinto College.

The Texas Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Texas. The primary purpose of the Conference is to encourage and foster cooperation and communication among the dioceses and the ministries of the Catholic Church in Texas.

## Legislative Update

AUSTIN—This Wednesday, June 29th, the Texas Legislature adjourned sine die. The Texas Catholic Conference was grateful for two major victories during this 30-day special session — the passage of a ban on taxpayer funding for abortion and the failure of Sanctuary Cities legislation to pass. Unfortunately legislation that will restrict access to driver's licenses was added to a fiscal matters bill during this special session, an effort that threatens the public safety of all Texans. Legislation to establish smoke-free policies also failed. For a full report on the outcomes of the special and regular sessions, please go to <http://www.txatholic.org/>.

## Order accuses Father Corapi of sexual, financial wrongdoing, falsehoods

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father John A. Corapi was involved in "years of cohabitation" with a former prostitute, repeated abuse of alcohol and drugs and "serious violation" of his promise of poverty, according to a fact-finding team appointed by his religious order.

Father Corapi, who recently announced he would leave the priesthood because he could not get a "fair hearing" on misconduct allegations against him, has been ordered by the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity to return to live at the order's regional headquarters in Robstown, Texas, and to dismiss a lawsuit against the woman whose accusations prompted the investigation.

"Catholics should understand that (the order) does not consider Father John Corapi as fit for ministry," said a July 5 news release from Father Gerard Sheehan, regional priest servant for the order.

Although Father Corapi's ministry "has inspired thousands of faithful Catholics," the news release said, he is "now misleading these individuals through his false statements and characterizations."

There was no immediate response to the announcement from Father Corapi.

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — We use our TVs for more than watching TV. There are DVDs (and, for the hardy holdouts, VHS tapes), and time-shifting and on-demand options in the new digital age.

TVs also are used to play video games. And the Supreme Court has opened the floodgates for the most violent of video games to be purchased by minors, striking down a California law that had banned their sale to youngsters, imposing a \$1,000 fine for any store that sold violent video games to anyone under 18.

The vote wasn't close — 7-2 — and the two dissenters represented one each from what is generally regarded as the court's liberal and conservative wings.

Leland Yee, the California state senator who wrote the law, was clearly unhappy with the high court's decision. "Unfortunately, the majority of the Supreme Court once again put the interests of corporate America before the interests of our children," he said in a statement posted on his website June 27, the date of the court's ruling. "It is simply wrong that the video game industry can be allowed to put their



ARCHBISHOP GARCIA-SILLER KISSES POPE'S RING AFTER PALLIUM PRESENTATION—Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio kisses Pope Benedict XVI's ring after the pontiff presented him with a pallium during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 29. The woolen pallium is a sign of the archbishop's communion with the pope and his pastoral responsibility as shepherd. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

## Catholics may not participate in civil unions, bishop says

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) — Saying that civil unions "promote an unacceptable lifestyle, undermine the faith of the church on holy matrimony, and cause scandal and confusion," Providence Bishop Thomas J. Tobin reminded Catholics that they may not participate in such ceremonies.

"To do so is a very grave violation of the moral law and, thus, seriously sinful," he said in a statement June 30, the day after passage of legislation that will give same-sex couples who enter into civil unions the same rights and benefits as marriage in Rhode Island. The state Senate agreed to the bill, which the House had already approved, on a 21-16 vote late June 29 and Gov. Lincoln D. Chafee, an Independent, has said he will sign it.

"The concept of civil unions is a social experiment that promotes an immoral lifestyle, is a mockery of the institution of marriage as designed by God, undermines the well-being of our families, and poses a threat to religious liberty," Bishop Tobin said.

He said the church members should "have respect and love for persons with same-sex attraction" but must remember that "homosexual activity is contrary to

the natural law and the will of God and, therefore, is objectively sinful."

"Persons with same-sex attraction are required to live the Christian virtues of chastity and modesty, as all persons are," Bishop Tobin added.

The Rhode Island vote came less than a week after the New York Legislature approved a same-sex marriage bill, which the state's Catholic bishops said would undermine marriage and families.

By a 33-29 vote late June 24, the N.Y. state Senate approved legislation making same-sex marriage legal in New York state. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat and a Catholic, signed it into law later that evening. Dennis Poust, director of communications for the New York State Catholic Conference, said the strategy used by proponents of the legislation was "very simple — millions and millions of dollars from wealthy gay-rights advocates from all over the country, a billionaire mayor in New York City willing to spend whatever it took and an extremely determined governor willing to do anything to get his way."

Bishop Tobin urged Catholics "to pray for God's patience, mercy and forgiveness in these distressing times."

## Court strikes down state's ban on sale of violent video games to minors

profit margins over the rights of parents and the well-being of children." Such profits come "at the expense of our kids' mental health and the safety of our community," he said.

The video game industry's annual sales total \$10 billion.

U.S. Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif., said June 27 he would reintroduce a bill that would require the makers of any video game rated T (for teen) or higher to post a health warning, in the manner of those found on cigarette packs: "WARNING: Excessive exposure to violent video games and other violent media has been linked to aggressive behavior." He sponsored such a bill in 2009, but it went nowhere.

"Research continues to show a proven link between playing violent games and increased aggression in young people," Baca said in 2009. "American families deserve to know the truth about these potentially dangerous products."

In his dissent, Justice Stephen Breyer said, "I would find sufficient grounds in these studies and expert opinions for this court to defer to an elected legislature's conclusion that the video games in question are particularly likely to harm children,"

adding his view that the California law passed constitutional muster.

Breyer added, "What sense does it make to forbid selling to a 13-year-old boy a magazine with an image of a nude woman, while protecting the sale to that 13-year-old of an interactive video game in which he actively, but virtually, binds and gags the woman, then tortures and kills her?"

In a separate dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas — considered an "originalist," meaning that he backs the intent of the Constitution's original framers — said: "The freedom of speech, as originally understood, does not include a right to speak to minors — or a right of minors to access speech — without going through the minors' parents or guardians."

The justices in the majority considered video games a protected form of speech under the First Amendment. It was the first time the court gave a blanket protection to a communications medium since 1952, when movies got that nod. TV doesn't qualify for full protection since it uses the airwaves, which are owned by the public and managed in the public's stead by the

See *Court strikes down*, p. 18





## Making A Difference

By Tony Magliano  
Catholic News Service



### Southern Sudan's Independence Day

The nation's Independence Day is July 9 - for the new nation of the Republic of South Sudan, that is.

Both celebration and sorrow are in order:

— Celebration, because after more than two decades of brutal fighting with the Republic of Sudan, the independent Republic of South Sudan is being born as the world's newest nation.

— Sorrow, because much of the oppression heaped upon it from the Republic of Sudan continues in the form of an economic blockade and its support to southern Sudanese militias, which raise great havoc.

Additionally, according to the Genocide Project, the Republic of Sudan has attacked the disputed border areas of Abyei and South Kordofan - killing many innocent civilians and displacing more than 70,000 very poor human beings.

A Maryknoll priest, Father Tom Tiscornia, ministering in Southern Sudan, emailed me saying that the northern Republic of Sudan is also bombing the Nuba Mountains region. He wrote, "Things are bad in the Nuba Mountains. One of my former students was taken from his house and murdered by the northern soldiers because he was Nuba. He had just gotten married."

Furthermore, the chaotic situation launched by the northern Republic of Sudan, has created a thick enough smoke screen for it to also attack its war-torn western section of Darfur.

While all these atrocities committed by the government of Sudan are reprehensible in themselves, they also seriously threaten the survival of the government of South Sudan.

As one of the world's poorest regions, the newly emerging Republic of South Sudan has enough growing pains to contend with. It certainly doesn't need more armed aggression on its borders.

In the midst of all this suffering, there are life-saving ways you and I can make

a difference.

Go to the Project to End Genocide and Crimes against Humanity at [www.enoughproject.org](http://www.enoughproject.org), click "Sudan now" and then click "take action."

There you will find five easy ways to advocate politically on behalf of the multitudes suffering grave injustice in both the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan.

Then please make a donation to Catholic Relief Services, Donor Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Md. 21203. And kindly earmark your check "For South Sudan."

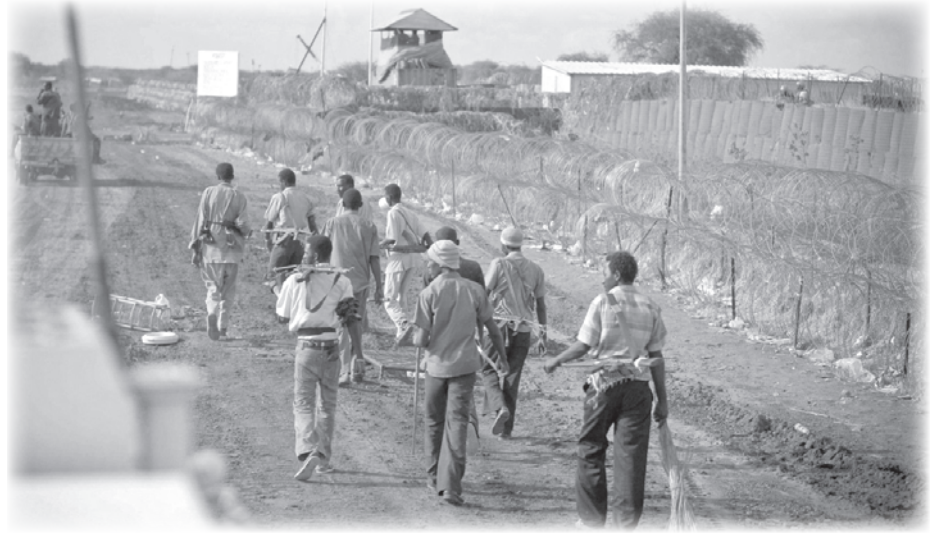
Or you can make an online donation to Solidarity With South Sudan, a consortium of 170 religious congregations dedicated to training teachers, nurses and pastoral personnel throughout South Sudan. Simply go to [www.solidarityssudan.org](http://www.solidarityssudan.org) and click "how you can help," then click "make a donation."

In their pastoral statement "A Call to Solidarity With Africa," the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote: "The United States has a clear moral duty to adopt policies and support programs that encourage integral development and long-term economic growth for the poorest countries, with particular attention to sub-Saharan Africa. This is not just a policy option; it is a moral obligation. ...

"Our voices can join with others to encourage a sustained, just and comprehensive engagement of the world's vast resources to generate lasting solutions that respect the full human dignity of our brothers and sisters in the poorest countries of Africa."

Near the end of her life, former slave and native of Sudan, St. Josephine Bakhita, experiencing the terrible memories of her slavery, said to her nurse, "Please, loosen the chains. ... they are heavy!"

Through the powerful intercession of St. Bakhita, may we be inspired to tirelessly work to "loosen the chains" of all the suffering people of both Sudans.



ARMED MEN WALK PAST U.S. PEACEKEEPING CAMP IN SUDAN—Armed men walk past a U.N. peacekeeping mission camp in Abyei, Sudan, May 24. Catholic officials say residents are continuing to flee south from the embattled Sudanese border town of Abyei. (CNS photo/Stuart Price, UNMIS handout via Reuters)

### Pope says selfish economic models at root of world hunger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said persistent world hunger was a "tragedy" driven by selfish and profit-driven economic models, whose first victims are millions of children deprived of life or good health. In responding to the crisis, international agencies should rediscover the value of the family farm, promoting the movement of young people back into rural areas, the pope said July 1 in an address to participants in an annual conference on hunger organized by the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. Meeting with the group at the Vatican, the pope strongly emphasized the theme of economic justice that has figured prominently in his encyclicals and other writings. He noted that millions of men, women and children remain without adequate nourishment today. "My thoughts turn toward the situation of millions of children, who are the first victims of this tragedy, condemned to an early death or to a delay in their physical or psychic development, or forced into forms of exploitation just to receive minimal nutrition," he said. The pope said the cause of such hunger cannot be found only in technical developments such as production cycles or commodity prices. "Poverty, underdevelopment and, therefore, hunger are often the result of selfish behaviors that, born in the human heart, manifest themselves in social life, economic exchange, in market conditions and in the lack of access to food," the

pope said.

### Vatican newspaper is at service of truth, justice, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— The "pope's newspaper" is a paper of information and ideas at the service of truth and justice, Pope Benedict XVI said. *L'Osservatore Romano*, therefore, must continue to put focus on important issues of the day like bioethics and on women's perspectives, ecumenism and relations with Jews, the pope said. The pope praised the Vatican paper as "one of the privileged instruments at the service of the Holy See and the Church," in a written message marking the paper's 150th anniversary. The letter, released to journalists June 30, recognized the paper's "long and important journey" from its first issue of July 1, 1861, through today. The paper's prestige and authority increased over time "because of its line of impartiality and courage in particular, staunchly maintained in the face of the tragedies and horrors that scarred the first half of the 20th century," the pope wrote. The Vatican paper "was able to inform with honesty and freedom" even during the rise of totalitarianism, the horrors of the Holocaust and the persecution of Christians by communist regimes, he wrote. Today, the paper continues to be a "guiding beacon" in a world that often lacks adequate points of reference and the presence of God, the papal letter said. "The Holy See's daily stands as a 'paper of ideas,' an organ of formation and not only of information," it said.

### Mexican priest dies after being caught in cartel-military crossfire

Continued from p. 1

left a prayer meeting in his parish, died after emergency surgery.

"He was very dynamic, creative, very charismatic and had a way being very open and direct with young people," Father Camargo said.

A funeral Mass was celebrated July 4.

Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, across the border from Matamoros, issued a statement expressing sorrow and offering prayers for Father Duran, the church of Matamoros and "all those who live in circumstances of great danger."

"Many innocent people have been killed as a result of the violence in northern Mexico, and Father Duran Romero is among the most recent," the bishop's statement said. "A priest should be with his people in times of trial," and Father Duran's death "witnesses to this solidarity."

The death was the latest difficulty for the Catholic Church as it serves regions of Mexico rife with violence from drug cartels and organized crime.

One priest in the Diocese of Matamoros fled a violent region of Tamaulipas state earlier this year due to threats from

drug cartels, which are disputing a region coveted for its smuggling routes to the United States.

Father Camargo said priests in Tamaulipas have been stopped and searched at checkpoints manned by cartel toughs and impeded from leaving the towns they serve due to local sieges by the warring criminal groups, but generally have not been targets.

### Cardinals help feed Rome's poor to mark pope's ordination anniversary

Continued from p. 1

anniversary celebration lunch with the pope in the Apostolic Palace July 1.

Cardinal Sodano told the pope the only other pope in recent memory who celebrated a 60th anniversary of priestly ordination was Pope Leo XIII in 1897, when he was 87 years old. He said the cardinals back then gave Pope Leo a large

grandfather clock with a Latin inscription saying, "May this clock only chime a time of serenity." However, because of Pope Benedict's great concern for the people of his Rome Diocese, the college members "wanted to give you a different sort of present" - a donation to feed the poor in the city, Cardinal Sodano told him.

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### St. Joseph Parish Picnic

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Sunday, August 7



### Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings

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Soft Drinks & Refreshments Available

Register for Raffle Prizes — Total Value \$13,479.00 to be Drawn

Auction 12:30 p.m.

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Cakewalk • Games • Pantry Wheel and More!

Mexican Food available in the afternoon.

Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion — Sat. Aug. 6  
Call the rectory for tickets at (361) 293-3518





## Victoria Natural Family Planning teachers hold classes

David and Annie Coffey will provide two opportunities to attend a series of Natural Family Planning classes – one this summer and another this fall. They will be held once a month on Sundays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory library in Victoria.

The schedule is as follows:

Summer Class Series: July 10, Intro and Class One; August 14, Class two; and September 11, Class Three and completion

certificate.

Fall Class Series: October 16, Intro and Class One; November 13, Class Two; and December 11, Class Three and completion certificate.

Natural Family Planning is the only Church-approved form of family planning.

Please contact Annie at [victorianfp-teachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfp-teachers@yahoo.com) or at (361) 579-8464 for questions or to register.

## Natural Family Planning Week ~ July 24-30

### Poisoned by the Pill: Truths about Chemical Contraception

By Mary Anne Moresco, reprinted with permission from Catholic Exchange

Do we know what we are doing? Obstetricians, whose job it is to help usher new life into the world, display birth control advertisements on their waiting room end tables and walls, the way one's Aunt Matilda might once have displayed dear family photos. The secular news media, whose job it is to objectively report information, has exalted 50 years of "the pill" as an emancipating wonder for women, dismissing the mass suffering connected to this pill—and acting as if there were not multitudes of women right now agonizing on their deathbeds as a direct result of having taken this drug. It is as if our culture has blindfolded its eyes, as if we could not bear to see the truths connected with this potentially deadly pill.

The recent conference "50 Years of the Pill," held in Washington D.C. on December 3, 2010, and sponsored by Human Life International, was about bringing forth these truths. For me, attending this conference was like going on an expedition—an expedition to unearth the truths about the birth control pill and its impact upon women and society. The conference featured great Catholic scientists, nurses, doctors, priests, teachers and other professionals to guide us along the way.

One startling truth which was brought to light was that hormonal contraceptives have been declared a Group 1 carcinogen[1] by the World Health Organization (WHO). A carcinogen is a substance that causes cancer, by causing changes in the DNA structure of cells. Estrogen-progestogen contraceptives have achieved the dubious distinction of sharing this carcinogenic ranking with such toxic substances as arsenic, asbestos and plutonium. But unlike arsenic, asbestos, plutonium and other Group 1 carcinogens, this is one carcinogen for which doctors will gladly write prescriptions for perfectly healthy women. It may be true that some women can take the pill with no ill effects. But for many otherwise healthy women, these drugs are deadly.

#### DANGERS AND STATISTICS

Many of the dangers of the pill are listed on the package insert. One conference speaker suggested we visit our local "friendly" pharmacy and ask to see this insert for ourselves: "If you hold one end of the insert high up, the other end will drop to the floor," she warned. A nurse at the conference described her visit to a stroke unit. Amidst the elderly faces, there were also young girls. "Why are they here?" She inquired. She was then told that they "had been on the pill." How easy it is to ignore that there are real lives that will ultimately succumb to the side effects listed on the pill's package insert. The statistics

are startling:

According to the Journal of American Medicine, using birth control doubles one's risk of stroke.

According to the National Cancer Institute one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives.[2]

The National Cancer Institute estimates that in 2010, 39,840 women will die of breast cancer. The institute also estimates that in 2010, 207,090 will be diagnosed with breast cancer.[3]

According to the Mayo Clinic Research, if a woman uses hormonal contraception for at least four years before her first full-term pregnancy she is at a 52% greater risk for developing breast cancer.[4]

According to the International Agency of Research on Cancer, if a woman uses a hormonal contraceptive for more than five years, she becomes four times more likely to develop cervical cancer.

According to the National Cancer Institute, black women, who are between the ages of 20 and 50, are twice as likely to die of breast cancer as white women with the disease. This is because black women are more vulnerable to "triple-negative" cancers which are more deadly.[5]

Breast cancer has increased 660 percent since 1973. At the conference, Dr. Angela Lanfranchi[6] (breast cancer surgeon) linked this increase with the use of hormonal contraception.[7]

Defenders of the pill like to retort that hormonal contraceptives can lower the risk of ovarian and endometrial cancer. But comparatively few women get endometrial and ovarian cancer to begin with compared to the one in eight who will get breast cancer. The numbers are far from an even exchange. If a woman is eager to lower her risk of endometrial and ovarian cancer, this can be done through exercise and diet. Specific research indicates:

The risk of endometrial cancer can be reduced through a diet high in fiber, retinol, b-carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E, and by avoiding animal fats and proteins.[8]

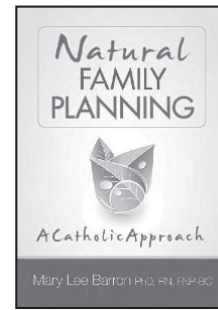
The risk of ovarian cancer[9] can be reduced through a diet high in vegetables, fruits, beans and tea.

We women don't need to ingest carcinogenic drugs to lower our risk of endometrial and ovarian cancer. (For women already battling breast cancer, an excellent book titled: *A bend in the Road: A Year's Journey Through Breast Cancer*, by Karen Kelly Boyce, provides important nutritional information for healing of this disease.)

*This article will continue in the next three issues of The Catholic Lighthouse or it and its footnotes may be read in full at: <http://catholicexchange.com/2011/01/17/146008/>*

## ~ Natural Family Planning ~ A Catholic Approach

Natural Family Planning ~ A Catholic Approach, by Mary Lee Barron, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, goes beyond biology to explore the faith perspectives of natural family planning and show how a natural approach to enjoying the gift of sexuality respects life. Natural family planning (NFP) embraces the nature of human sexuality without the potentially harmful effects of contraceptives.



Rooted in science, NFP offers couples a nonchemical method of planning conception as well as a greater understanding of how their bodies function. This understanding also helps women find answers to other health concerns.

48-page booklet, \$4.99, also available in Spanish, published by Liguori Publications, sold at [www.liguori.org](http://www.liguori.org), 1-800-325-9521.

## Summer brings threat of Ozone Action Days

The warmer temperatures of the Texas summer also bring the threat of Ozone Action Days, when ground-level ozone can reach concentrations high enough to endanger human health, the staff of Air Victoria recently warned.

"Certain people are at a higher risk for ozone-related health problems," said Marie Lester, environmental programs coordinator for the City of Victoria and Air Victoria. "They need to stay informed and stay inside as much as possible when we issue an Ozone Action Day alert."

Children, the elderly, and those with respiratory conditions like asthma all fall into this higher risk category. Everyone should consider limiting strenuous outdoor activities, such as running or yard work, until after 6 p.m. on Ozone Action Days to protect their health.

Local residents also should refrain from refueling vehicles before 5 p.m., and wait until after sundown or until another day to do yard work.

Ground-level ozone is produced when air and car exhaust chemically combine due to hot temperatures. In Victoria, the season for Ozone Action Days runs from May to October.

To help reduce ground-level ozone, local residents should:

- Stop at the click when refueling

• Carpool and combine errands whenever possible

• Refrain from idling vehicles when picking up children or waiting in drive-thru lanes.

Victoria residents can sign up for free e-mail alerts at [airvictoria.org/ozone](http://airvictoria.org/ozone), where they can also learn more about how to help prevent ground-level ozone.

About Air Victoria – Air Victoria, a program of the City of Victoria, promotes voluntary compliance with best practices for improving air quality through public education and research.

## Finding Help in Texas



2-1-1 Texas, a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need. Whether by phone or internet, our goal is to present accurate, well-organized and easy-to-find information from over 60,000 state and local health and human services programs.

## Court strikes down state's ban on sale of violent video games to minors

*Continued from p. 16*

government, to transmit content.

The California law "abridges the First Amendment rights of young people whose parents (and aunts and uncles) think violent video games are a harmless pastime," said the majority opinion, written by Justice Antonin Scalia and joined by four other justices.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote a separate concurring opinion, joined by Chief Justice John Roberts, but he added his belief that a more narrowly tailored law could work, noting the disturbing imagery of some of the games.

"The objective of one game is to rape a mother and her daughters," Alito said. In another, "players attempt to fire a rifle shot into the head of President Kennedy as his motorcade passes by the Texas School Book Depository."

The Parents Television Council was none too pleased with the ruling. "When an industry trade group files a federal lawsuit to defend a child's constitutional rights, the alarm bells should be deafening," said the group's president, Tim Winter, in a June 27 statement.

While most TVs now in use carry a V-chip to allow parents to block programs that carry a TV Parental Guideline they don't care for, the technology has not advanced to the point where DVDs or video games carrying ratings objected to by parents - but still needing the TV screen to be viewed - can be likewise blocked. It may turn out to be the next, necessary, step.



The Glorious Cross, East Bernard

## Our Lady of Fatima Rosary at the Glorious Cross

By Janelle Barta

Come pray the Rosary with us at The Glorious Cross on the 13th of the month at 7:30 p.m. from now through October at 2423 Hargis St. in East Bernard. The cross is at the home of Eugene and Theresa Wysocki. Turn on San Bernard Drive and that turns into Hargis St.

We will be praying for our country, world peace, for our elected officials, against abortion, for our youth, all suffering with cancer and other diseases, all the unemployed, all poor souls in purgatory and for much needed rain.

BRING YOUR CHAIR OR BLANKET TO SIT ON.





# EVENTS

## Special Collection Retired and Needy Priests of the Diocese — September 4 Ongoing Events

**Grief Group** — Have you experienced the death of a loved one? Join us in this on-going grief group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572 before attending.

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

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

**St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans**—For more information, please go to their Web site at [www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org](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. Worldwide 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** — A weekend will be held Aug. 19. The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' Retrouvaille is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Go to <http://www.retrouvaille.org> for more information, or to register for the Aug. 19 Victoria Retrouvaille weekend, 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 Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at [victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com). Summer classes begin July 10; see page 18 for information.

**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-enactment will be available for school groups with advance reservations. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org).

**Engaged Encounter**—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at [www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](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: Sept. 9-11 and Nov. 11-13. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

### Picnics, Activities, etc. July

**Moravia**—Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 17 (located at FM 957 and FM 532) with Mass at 10:00 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7.50 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 for children. There will be a country store, toy walk, dunking booth and cakewalk along with much more. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments and food available throughout the day. Music by the Ennis Czech Boys and Texas Sound Check. See ad on page 7.

### Upcoming Events

**Palacios**—14th Annual Golf Scramble, Aug. 6. For more information or to register, please call Isidro Castanon at 361-972-6006.

**Frelsburg**—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 7 on church grounds. Mass at 8:45 a.m. followed by coffee and kolaches served after Mass. A fried-fish dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$9 for large plate; \$6 for small plate; and drive-thru plates-to-go at \$9 p/p. Hamburgers, nachos and snacks available after 3:00 p.m. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m., games throughout the day, music and free dance inside the hall. See page 3 for more information.

**Yoakum**—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 7 at the community center starting at 10:30 a.m. with dinner. Serving picnic stew and sausage dinner with dine-in or plates-to-go available at

\$7 p/p. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. with many items. There will be a horseshoe tournament. For more information see the ad on p. 17.

**Palacios**—St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 7. Mass is at 8:30 a.m. at the amphitheater at the corner of 6th & Main streets. Shrimporee at Palacios Recreation Center, 2401 Perryman. Choice of three plates: barbecue brisket or chicken or fried fish and boiled shrimp at \$8 p/p, serving begins at 10:30 a.m., drive-thru available, auction 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., boat and trailer raffle at 4:30 p.m. Entertainment: Texas Sound Check and DJ Rudy C, games, rides and food booths (with Vietnamese food). Please call church for more information: (361) 972-2446.

**Weimar**—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 14 at Veteran's Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p; children (12 and under) at \$4 p/p; and all plates-to-go available only at St. Michael Family Center for \$8 p/p. Entertainment throughout the day with games, cakewalk, auction at 1:00 p.m., music and more. For more information see ad on page 5.

**Victoria**—Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann is hosting a games party Aug. 14 at the KC Hall (3610 N. Ben Wilson) from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 p/p with refreshments, door prizes, bake sale and more. For reservations call Joan at (361) 485-2387 or Delores at (361) 575-6111.

**Praha**—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15 on the parish grounds. The day will start with Mass at 10:00 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer and visiting priests followed by dinner featuring Praha stew and fried-chicken at \$8 p/p with dine-in or plate-to-go available from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a country store, bingo (1:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.), cakewalk, children's games, homemade ice cream and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day with Jodie Mikula (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.); Ennis Czech Boys (1:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.); Incredible Music Makers (7:00-10:00 p.m.). Hamburgers will be available after 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Charlie Bartos, chairman, at (361) 865-2167 or go to [www.stmarys-praha.com](http://www.stmarys-praha.com).

**El Campo**—St. Philip Catholic School will have a 4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 20 at the El Campo Country Club. Please contact Greg Witcher at (979) 543-1884 for more information.

**Hillje**—St. Andrew Summer Festival Aug. 21 at the parish hall. A prime-beef barbecue, homemade sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. with serve yourself in the hall or drive-thru plates-to-go available at \$7.50 p/p. There will be an auction at 12:30 p.m. Also during the day will be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, games, music and much more.

**Cistern**—Sts. Cyril & Methodius will have their Annual Homecoming Picnic Aug. 28. The day starts with an old-fashioned trail ride; for more information contact David Urban at (361) 865-2301. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken, V&V sausage dinner from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be an auction, games, music and more. Something for everyone!

**High Hill** — St. Mary Picnic Sept. 4

**Cuero**—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica Sept. 4

**Shiner**—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Sept. 4

**Hallettsville**—Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 4

**Nada**—St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming Sept. 4 at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available at \$8 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be entertainment including Rainbow the Clown throughout the day. Look for ad in the August *Catholic Lighthouse*.

**Vanderbilt** — St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Sept. 4

**Moulton**—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Sept. 18

**Praha**—Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 6

**Boling**—St. Joseph Picnic, Saturday, Nov. 12 (NEW DATE)

### Masses • Retreats • Conferences

**Victoria**—KJZT #101 Living & Deceased Members Mass Aug. 14 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. Breakfast at cafeteria following Mass.

**Victoria**—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a Women's ACTS Retreat Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 at the diocesan retreat center. For more information, call Peggy Smith at (361) 578-6440 or Greta Sievers at (361) 574-1166 or Laura Morgan at (361) 578-9074.

**Victoria**—St. Mary's Altar Society will sponsor a half-day retreat on Monday, Oct. 3 at St. Mary's Activity Center. More information to come next month.

**Bay City**—Men's weekly group, "That Man is You!," will not meet in the summer. Watch for their September return date here in *The Catholic Lighthouse* or call Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370 or Allen Green at (979) 245-2598 for more information.

**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.

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

**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.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.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.

For more information call Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or [burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net).

### Job Wanted

If you're looking for someone to provide caregiving, housework, flowerbeds, or other work, please call Mary Gilbreath at (361) 433-2404. She has an up-to-date CPR card and has had some medical training.

## Have an event???

## Noticias en Español

**Oklahoma City**—Southwest Liturgical Conference — Séptima Conferencia Bi-Anual Hispana Para Músicos Pastorales Spanish—"La Música del Año Litúrgico" — 7 al 9 de Julio de 2011; [www.swlc.org](http://www.swlc.org).

## Of Gods and Men on DVD July 5

Sony Pictures Home Entertainment will release OF GODS AND MEN on a Blu-ray/DVD Combo Pack. OF GODS AND MEN is a remarkable film, which recounts the true story of a brotherhood of French monks in the highlands of North Africa who find themselves threatened by Islamic extremists during the Algerian Civil War of the 1990s. With an ensemble cast led by Lambert Wilson and Michael Lonsdale the film begins as a bucolic chronicle of these men of God and their harmonious relationship with their Muslim neighbors, to whom they provide much needed medical care and other services. When the insurgents arrive, the monks find themselves faced with a harrowing and impossible decision: to flee, or to stand their ground and fulfill their spiritual and humanist mission. The DVD/Blu-ray release will include a behind the scenes featurette on the making of the film.

## God's Embrace Renewal Center Program — Reminder

Michael Fonseca with God's Embrace Renewal Centers will be with the Victoria Diocese 10 days of each month starting August 20. Michael will provide a 3-year Spiritual Formation Program, Church Missions and Private Individual Spiritual Direction Consultations throughout the Victoria Diocese. Below is the schedule for August. For more information or to book a Church Mission for your parish, please contact Sandy Reese @ (979) 541-6881 or [sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com) for more information.

- August 20 — 2nd year Formation Program-Hallettsville, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- August 21 — Diaconate Program
- August 22 — Facilitator Program
- August 23 — Church Mission- Holy Cross Church - Bay City, 7 - 9 p.m.
- August 24 — Church Mission - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church - Ganado, 7 - 9 p.m.
- August 25 — Church Mission - Holy Family Church - Wharton, 7 - 9 p.m.
- August 26 — Open
- August 27 — Retreat Day -1st year Formation Program - St. Robert Parish Hall-El Campo, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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(above) Posing with Bishop Fellhauer (center, third from front) in front of St. Philip Parish are all the new Sir Knights who went through the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Our Lady of Guadalupe Province First District of Texas Summer Exemplification, as well as District Masters and Marshals. The exemplification was hosted by the members of the Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly 1131 from the El Campo area.

(left) After the exemplification of 118 Knights of Columbus to the 4th Degree, all participants marched down Depot Street in full regalia to St. Philip Church in El Campo.

## St. Philip Catholic Church and Assembly 1131 serve as host to 118 new Sir Knights

*Rev. Robert Knippenberg, Rev. Bryan Heyer and Seminarian Stephen Vacek also join*

ELCAMPO, Texas—On Saturday, June 18, 2011, the Knights of Columbus Assembly 1131 hosted the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Our Lady of Guadalupe Province First District of Texas Summer Exemplification. The exemplification was dedicated in honor of The Most Reverend Sir Knight (SK) David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, Texas. The First District of Texas Knights of Columbus is under the leadership of SK Peter S. Tan, master.

This was the first time an exemplification has been held in El Campo and the first time Assembly 1131 hosted an exemplification. This was a history-making event for the local 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and El Campo.

Out of the 118 new Sir Knights joining Our Lady of Guadalupe Province First District of Texas, 78 were from the Diocese of Victoria and of those, 57 joined the El Campo area Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly 1131, including Father Bryan Heyer, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Palacios. In the Diocese of Victoria, two new Sir Knights came from Victoria Assembly #1126, Victoria; six from Yoakum Assembly #1128, Yoakum, including Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg, who became pastor of Holy Family Church in Victoria June 22; and 11 from Christopher Columbus Assembly #1136, Columbus. Victoria Seminarian Stephen Vacek joined Fr. Nemecek Assembly #1142, Wallis. The 41 other Sir Knights joined assemblies in Houston, Freeport, Galveston, Winnie, La Marque, Cypress, Pearland, Pasadena, Sugar Land, Humble, Katy, Frydek and Beeville.

The 57 new Sir Knights joining El Campo's Assembly 1131 is a district record for the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe Province First District of Texas. Those joining Assembly 1131 were from the following towns: El Campo, Louise, Edna, Palacios, Ganado, Wharton, Damon, Houston, Richmond, and Bay City. Another record breaker at this event was having eight new Sir Knights with the same last name. The Drapela's brother, son, nephew combination all joined the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus at one time. In addition, we had many other father, son, grandson and brother combinations.

"This was a record breaking event for our assembly, we grew by almost 50 percent in one day!" stated Gerry Mikeska, Faithful Navigator, Assembly 1131.

The event featured a spaghetti supper hosted by El Campo's Knights of Columbus Council 2490 on Friday, June 17, at the KC Hall with early registration. The Hall was decorated with a patriotic theme. A hospitality suite was hosted by Msgr.

William D. Steele Assembly 2033 Cypress. Then on Saturday, June 18, El Campo's St. Robert's Council 9393 hosted a breakfast

la, William Drapela, Zachary Edwards, Curtis Eggemeyer, Gregory Eggemeyer, Norbert Eggemeyer, Hector E. Gutierrez,

Mario Manriquez, Daniel Marek, Nick Mikeska, Frank Munoz, Michael Orsak Jr., Michael Orsak Sr., Daniel Pasak, Danny Pless, Allen Polasek, Gregory Popp, Arthur Priesmeyer, Jesse Rodriguez, Jimmie Roznovsky, Michael Roznovsky, Darrin Stock, Edward Strnadl Jr., Terry Supak, Roberto Torres, Matthew Tupa and John Winter.

Councils Assigned to Assembly #1131 include Archbishop Drossaerts Council 2490, El Campo; Father Francis A. Havel Council 3204, Ganado; Father M.L. Hurley Council 3262, Wharton; St. Isidore Council 4307, Blessing; Bishop Alfredo Galindo Council 9393, El Campo; and Fr. James Kelly Council 9394, Louise-Hillje.

"The individual strengths that each of these men brings to our assembly will make our local assembly better than ever. We are very fortunate to have such a great group of guys who have attained the highest order of the Knights of Columbus," said Faithful Navigator Mikeska.

These gentlemen have achieved the highest degree of the Knights of Columbus, the Fourth Degree. The primary purpose of this degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism in members and the community at large and encourage active Catholic citizenship. The first Fourth Degree Exemplification was held on February 22, 1900, in New York City. Today there are over 317,000 Fourth Degree Knights out of the total 1.8 million member Knights of Columbus (there are a total of four degrees, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th).



*Amidst clergy, 4th Degree Knights, and 118 4th Degree candidates, Bishop David Fellhauer processes into St. Philip Parish in El Campo for the First District of Texas Summer Exemplification, which was dedicated in his honor.*

for all the new members and participants at the St. Philip Parish hall.

Although the exemplification is a private event, prior to the Sir Knights entering the church, they all proceeded marching down the street in full regalia.

"This was a very impressive event, so many Sir Knights and new members marching down Depot Street into the church all wearing tuxes and full regalia," said Donna Mikeska.

The actual exemplification took place in St. Philip Catholic Church. A Mass followed the event and all were invited to attend.

After the Mass, the Knights of Columbus Council 2490 hosted a banquet luncheon at the KC Hall. They served 325 guests a grilled chicken lunch with cilantro sauce, green beans, rice and a salad, all prepared by KC members.

A special drawing was held at the event and prizes included an iPad 2, Netbook and a flat-screen TV.

The 57 new Sir Knights joining Assembly 1131 were: Rev. Bryan Heyer, Wayne Bard, Bradley Bethke, Garland Blaha, Travis Bolcik, Isidro Castanon, Gary Charbula, Chris Dettling, Kevin Dluhos, Thomas Dluhos, Brandon Drapela, James Drapela, Nathan Drapela, Steven Drapela, Thomas Drapela, Timothy Drapela, Tommy Drape-

Nicholas Gutierrez, John Hancock Jr., Charles Hasdorff, Clint Hensley, Matthew Hilderbrand, Christopher Hollas, Brian Holub, Robert Hrcir, Philip Hundl, Tony Juarez, Rian Juranek, Robert Kolacny, Christopher Linzza, Robert Lormand,



**WORKING CREW AT JOIN HANDS DAY**—Hostyn KJT #3 members participated in "Join Hands Day," which was held at the Czech Heritage Center and Round-up Hall on May 14 in preparation for the Mayfest. They are pictured, from l. to r.: Johnnie Polasek, Lorenda Polasek, Georgia Vyvial, Patrick Janda (on tractor-mower), Elmont Vyvial, Brenda Fietsam and Theo Svec.