

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

May 2011



A tapestry featuring an image of Pope John Paul II hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica during his Mass of beatification led by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican May 1. The late Pope John Paul moved a step closer to sainthood during the joyous ceremony that drew more than 1 million people. (CNS photo/Stefano Rellandini, Reuters)

Pope Benedict beatifies Pope John Paul 'because of his faith'

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—“John Paul II is blessed because of his faith – a strong, generous and apostolic faith,” Pope Benedict XVI said May 1 just minutes after formally beatifying his predecessor.

Italian police said that for the Mass more than 1 million people were gathered in and around the Vatican and in front of

large video screens in several parts of the city.

Many in the crowd had personal stories about seeing Pope John Paul or even meeting him, and Pope Benedict ended his homily at the Mass sharing his own personal story.

“I would like to thank God for the gift

See Pope Benedict, p. 20



WOMEN COMFORT EACH OTHER AT SEPT. 11 MEMORIAL IN BOSTON—Carie Lemack holds a photo of her mother Judy Larocque as she and her sister Danielle comfort each other as families of Massachusetts victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks place 206 white roses on a memorial in the Boston Public Garden May 2. Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, was killed in a U.S. helicopter raid on a mansion near the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, May 1, officials said. (CNS photo/Adam Hunger, Reuters)



St. Joseph High School unveils architectural drawing of the St. Joseph High School David Pozzi Center, named after long-time STJ math teacher. Pictured, from left, are President William McArdle Jr., Bishop David Fellhauer (lower step), Robby and Tami Burdge, Bland Proctor, Robert Hewitt and David Pozzi.

St. Joseph High School announces Capital Campaign ~ Names building after long-time teacher ~

By Cynthia Brewer

St. Joseph High School announced its “Imagine MORE Capital Campaign” April 15, 2011, with nearly one-half of its goal already earned. The capital campaign goal of \$6.5 million will assist the school in meeting its campus master plan, which offers expansions and improvements for its students.

The Capital Campaign committee, headed by chairpersons Robby and Tami Burdge, quietly raised \$2.6 million dollars since it was established a little over two years ago. And just recently, the O’Connor & Hewitt Foundation gifted St. Joseph School with \$1 million in the form of a

challenge grant. The challenge grant and the matching donations from generous supporters and benefactors will bring the campaign total to \$4.6 million.

~ Large donation comes with a catch ~

The O’Connor & Hewitt Foundation’s grant actually came with two challenges: one, that it would be a matching grant that would match the next million dollars donated to the campaign and two, that the proposed enrichment center/fine arts building would be named after long-time mathematics teacher, Mr. David Pozzi.

See St. Joseph High School, p. 6

Vatican says bin Laden’s death cause for reflection, not rejoicing

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said the killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, a man who sowed division and hatred and who caused “innumerable” deaths, should prompt serious reflection about one’s responsibility before God, not rejoicing.

The Vatican statement May 2 came the day after President Barack Obama announced that U.S. forces had killed bin Laden in an attack on his hideout in northwest Pakistan. In several U.S. cities, the news prompted street demonstrations and expressions of jubilation.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, released a brief written

statement reacting to the news.

“Osama bin Laden, as we all know, bore the most serious responsibility for spreading divisions and hatred among populations, causing the deaths of innumerable people, and manipulating religions to this end,” Father Lombardi said.

“In the face of a man’s death, a Christian never rejoices, but reflects on the serious responsibilities of each person before God and before men, and hopes and works so that every event may be the occasion for the further growth of peace and not of hatred,” the spokesman said.

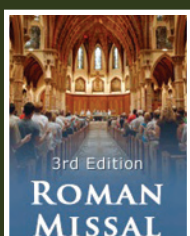
The Vatican missionary news agency, Fides, reported that Christian schools and other institutes were closed and churches

See Vatican says, p. 17

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Pastoral Institute summer short-term class schedule, p. 6



There Be Dragons, review, p. 13 (CNS photo/Motive)



“God’s Embrace Renewal Centers” offering 3-year spiritual program to diocese, p. 14

Sex Trafficking: The New Slavery, p. 18 (Warning: emotionally difficult to read)



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

May	
5	7:00 p.m., Eighth Grade Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
6	6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
7	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
8	7:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg 12 noon, Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wharton
9	5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission Meeting, Chancery
11	9:30 a.m., Priest and Lay Pension Boards Meeting, Chancery
13	6:00 p.m., Mass, Dinner and 3-year Pastoral Institute certificate ceremony-reception, Chancery
14	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna
15	11:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Philip Church, El Campo
17	6:00 p.m., Evening Prayer, celebrating Father Edward J. Winkler's 25th anniversary of priestly ordination, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Shiner
21	7:00 a.m., Mass, Spanish ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Shiner
22	9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton 2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Bloomington
28	12 noon, Sisters' "Cookout," Serra Club, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary's Church, Victoria
29	9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad
June	
4	10:00 a.m., Mass, Diaconate Ordination (Transitional Deacon) of Patrick Knippenberg, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville
5	10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS GIVE BACK—The Catholic Daughters of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Edna recently presented checks totaling \$4,000 to five separate organizations in Jackson County. From left, front row, are Elsie Myers, committee member; Buster Chase, Edna Fire Department and EMS; Beatrice Hernandez, The Duggar House; Mary Sheblak, committee member; back row: Alice Figerova, committee member; Andy Louderback, Jackson County Sheriff's Department; Lance Siga, Southbrooke Manor; Doris Andel, committee member; and Sandra Hahn, committee member.



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

Diocesan Vicar General and Chancellor to turn 80, celebrate 55 years of priesthood

Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin will be celebrating his 80th birthday June 10, 2011, and the 55th anniversary of his priestly ordination on June 17.

His coworkers at the chancery office will be holding a private party for him Wednesday evening, June 8. A Mass honoring Msgr. McLaughlin will be held Friday, June 10, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at 12 p.m. with a reception immediately following at the chancery building. Everyone is welcome to attend the Mass and reception.

Msgr. Thomas Columba McLaughlin was born in Malin, Co Donegal, Ireland, on June 10, 1931. He is the youngest of seven children, two girls and five boys. One sister and three brothers have already died.

In 1945 he entered St. Columb's College, in Derry — a combination of high school and minor seminary. He was a boarder there for five years.

He joined St. John's College in Waterford, a major seminary, in 1950. He studied philosophy and theology there for six years and was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1956.

In September of 1956 he came to the

Archdiocese of San Antonio. After a very short assignment in Schulenburg he was appointed an assistant pastor at St. Cecilia's

Parish and an advocate on the Archdiocesan Tribunal.

After eight great years at St. Cecilia's he was transferred to Holy Name Parish in San Antonio, where he was assistant pastor for five years when he was appointed Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education (CCD). He held this position for more than 14 years. At age 48, he was made a Monsignor by Pope John Paul II.

After his term as CCD director, he was pastor for about four months at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. He was taken from there to Victoria in 1982 to prepare for the new Diocese of Victoria.

He has been Judicial Vicar and chancellor of Victoria since 1982 and Vicar General since 1990. In addition to his Chancery duties he served at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for five years, from 1990 to 1995.

Cards or letters of appreciation for, and congratulations to, Msgr. McLaughlin may be sent to him at the chancery office: 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, Texas 77901. Please, no gifts.



Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin

Diocesan Youth Ministry Office openings

Nurse

The Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria is seeking a nurse for its Summer Camp programs. Dates of camp: Friday, June 10 - Friday, June 17, 2011 (Spiritual Renewal Center), Monday, June 27-Thursday, June 30, 2011 (Spiritual Renewal Center) and July 18-20, 2011 (Coopers Farm near LaGrange). Person is required to stay on site for the duration of

the camp periods. Position requires nurse to administer medication, provide first aid, and provide related medical treatment as needed. Please e-mail/mail cover letter and completed application to the Office of Youth Ministry, attn. Debbie Vanelli, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903 or dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org. Application may be obtained at the diocesan Web site (www.victoriadiocese.org) by clicking on the business office tab under useful links or by requesting one via email at dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org.

Diocesan Directory Updates

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The e-mail address for St. Peter Parish in Blessing has changed to: stpeterblessing@tisd.net

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Faithful Navigator of Columbus Assembly #1136
The correct spelling is: **Ray Sykowski**

Associate Director

The Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria is seeking an Associate Director of Youth Ministry. This is a full-time position. Interested applicants may obtain a job description and an application on the diocesan Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org by clicking on the business office tab under useful links or by requesting one via e-mail to dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org or phone (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232 to have one mailed to you.

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$480,298.00
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$375,771.00
Number of Parish Families Participating:	2,837

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,950,230.79
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$9,098,847.41
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,766

Have You Moved? Address Changed?

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

Saves Money!



Tran Ordination Announcement

With Praise and Thanks to God our Loving Father,
Deacon and Mrs. Luan Van Tran and
family joyfully announce

the Ordination to the Priesthood of their son,
Deacon Timothy MMC Thang Viet Tran, CMC
through the laying on of hands
by Most Reverend James Vann Johnston Jr., JCL,
bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

June 4, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.
at Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine
Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix
1900 Grand Avenue, Carthage, Mo.

His First Mass will be at 7:45 a.m.
Sunday, June 5, 2011
Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine, Carthage, Mo.

Thanksgiving Masses will be held
Saturday, July 9, 2011, at 6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City, Texas
and
Sunday, July 10, 2011, at 10 a.m.
Assumption Chapel, 100 Vietnam St., Palacios, Texas

Reception immediately following the Mass in the parish hall

Timothy Thang Viet Tran attended Holy Cross Elementary School in Bay City, Bay City Junior High and his freshman year at Bay City High. He then boarded at the minor seminary in Carthage, Mo., and graduated from Carthage High.

He studied philosophy at Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, Mo., obtained his finance degree from Missouri State University and studied theology at Notre Dame University in New Orleans. Timothy is 34 years of age.



Diaconate Ordination

Seminarian Patrick Knippenberg
will be ordained to the
Transitional Diaconate
June 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.
at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
in Victoria
Congratulations to Patrick!



Brother Patrick Wildgen celebrates 30 years as a Trinitarian

Bishop David Fellhauer presided at the Sunday, May 1, 2011, Mass celebrating the 30th anniversary of Brother Patrick Wildgen's profession of Solemn Vows as a Trinitarian.

Brother Patrick has been pastoral associate at Our Lady of Sorrows since December 2007. He currently conducts the RCIA program and assists with the lectors' and eucharistic ministers' ministries. In addition, he conducts a Bible Study class in the parish and is the spiritual director for the "Fishermen for Christ" men's prayer group, the Trinitarian Third Order, at Our Lady of Sorrows and at Christ the King Parish in Corpus Christi. Brother Patrick has been a speaker at the Catechetical Conference for the past three years, has contributed to Disciples on the Journey, and has conducted adult education classes through the office of Catechetical Ministry (Pastoral Institute) in the diocese. He also conducts retreats for organizations in the parish and the diocese.

Brother Patrick is the son of the late Henry and Marjorie Wildgen. He was born in Hoisington, Kan., on December 2, 1952. He received his Bachelor's degree in music therapy at the University of Kansas. He entered the Trinitarian novitiate in Baltimore, Md., in 1975, made his first profession in 1976 and his Solemn Profession of Vows on April 4, 1981. Through the years Br. Patrick has served in many ministries. He has taught at De Matha Catholic High School, Hyattsville, Md., and St. Joseph



High School in Victoria. He has served in parish ministry in Marion, Ill., and at Our Lady of Sorrows. He has served the Trinitarian community at the Spiritual Renewal Center, Baltimore, Md., and has been a formation director and secretary provincial.

Brother Patrick's love for music has earned him the distinction of being a Grammy Award winner. As a member of the Washington Choral Arts Society, he sang on recordings with the choir that was nominated and received Grammys.

In 2007, Brother Patrick completed another milestone when he completed his MA in theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, Md. Trinitarian Provincial, Rev. Edward Owens, remarked that Brother Patrick's pursuit of this degree is proof that you are "never 'too old' to realize a dream."

Father Owens also remarked that when he first met Brother Patrick, who was a vocation prospect at the time, he found him interesting and that "perhaps we would one day work together."

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish has used many of Brother Patrick's talents. His presence at the parish enables him to witness to the many opportunities there are for ministry as a religious. Because he is not ordained, he is freed from the many sacramental obligations that priests must be

See Brother Patrick, p. 4

Now is the Time to Prepare for the Roman Missal, Third Edition ~ New Words: A Deeper Meaning, but the Same Mass

The Roman Missal, Third Edition, the ritual text containing prayers and instructions for the celebration of the Mass, is now being prepared for publication. In the United States, seven publishers (Catholic Book Publishing Corp., Liturgical Press, Liturgy Training Publications, Magnificat, Midwest Theological Forum, USCCB Communications, and World Library Publications) will publish ritual editions and are now advertising their plans and will soon accept pre-orders. The Roman Missal will be implemented in the United States of America on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. The ritual editions should start arriving in parishes around October 1.

Pope John Paul II announced a revised version of the *Missale Romanum* during the Jubilee Year 2000. Among other things, the revised edition of the *Missale Romanum* contains prayers for the observances of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Votive Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass. The English translation of the *Roman Missal* will also include updated translations of existing prayers, including some of the well-known responses and acclamations of the people.

The entire Church in the United States has been blessed with this opportunity to deepen its understanding of the Sacred Liturgy and to appreciate its meaning and importance in our lives. Parishes should now be in the planning process for the implementation, with a goal toward executing that plan in the coming months. The parish's leadership and

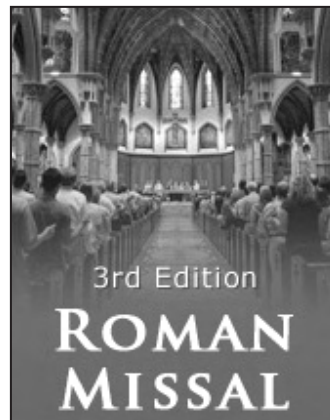
various sectors of the parish community should be catechized to receive the new translation. Musicians and parishioners alike should soon be learning the various new and revised musical settings of the Order of Mass.

This Web site (<http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/>) has been prepared to serve as a reliable resource for all engaged in the formation process. Resources can be found here for the faithful, for the clergy and for parish and diocesan leaders. As time draws closer for the implementation, more and more resources are being made available here. The proper texts for Advent and Christmas Time are provided so that priest celebrants can review the text before the

new Missals arrive in Fall 2011. In addition, the Order of Mass – both standalone and Scripturally annotated versions – can allow priests and the faithful alike to be familiar with the change in translation as well as the cadence of the various prayers. There is still time for celebrants to undertake some supplemental reading that will enable them to proclaim the new texts with a deeper appreciation; resources are provided in the Further Reading section for this purpose.

Now is the time to seize the opportunity given to us for all Catholics in the United States to deepen, nurture, and celebrate our faith through the renewal of our worship and the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

Please go to <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/> to see an interview with Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond explaining "New Words: A Deeper Meaning, but the Same Mass"



Changes to the peoples' part of the Apostles' Creed, Suscipiat Dominus and Preface Dialogue

The use of the new Roman Missal begins Nov. 27, 2011. Below are the changes in the parts of the people in 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>

The Apostles' Creed
Present text:

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by
the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.
He will come **again** to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and **the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed
New text:

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended **into hell**;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of **God** the Father **almighty**;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.



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 April 29, 2011

	TOTALS
—Diocese Of Victoria General Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$97,814.00
Correction Donation to Fr. John Peters Burse #5	-100.00
Donation by St. Ann's Society-High Hill	500.00
In memory of Stanley Friedel by	
Martha Pearson	20.00
Donation by CDA Court #1350, Edna	100.00
	TOTAL \$98,334.00
— Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$4,515.00
In memory of Msgr. Bartsch on anniversary of his death by Verna Goertz	1,000.00
	TOTAL \$5,515.00
— Rev. Jerome Caponi Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$6,200.00
In memory of Rev. Caponi on 2nd anniversary of his death by John J. Marek	500.00
	TOTAL \$6,700.00
— CDA #1374 Queen Of Peace Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$5,502.72
In memory of Delores McDonald by M/M Donald McDonald	150.00
	TOTAL \$5,652.72
— Elorine Tumlinson Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$1,490.00
In memory of Elorine Tumlinson by M/M Donald McDonald	100.00
	TOTAL \$1,590.00
— Frs. Okruklik & Verdarme Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$10,277.89
Donation by Catholic Life Insurance Branch #53 of Pt. Lavaca	100.00
	TOTAL \$10,377.89
— Knights Of Columbus #2971, Weimar	
Previously Reported	125.00
In memory of Leon H. Cranek by M/M F.J. Fischer	25.00
	TOTAL \$150.00

— KofC #9088 Holy Family, Victoria Seminary Burse	
Previously Reported	\$1,510.00
In memory of Stanley Friedel by:	
M/M Edward Korenek	20.00
Robert and Leona Steffek	30.00
Carol and Ed Lehnert	50.00
Ben and Estella Matus	15.00
	TOTAL \$1,625.00
— CDA #369 St. Ann #2	
Previously Reported	\$7,993.99
Annual donation by CDA Court #369	500.00
In memory of Stanley Friedel by	
M/M Otto Bleier	25.00
In memory of Jack Lindy McAtee by CDA Court #369	25.00
	TOTAL \$8,543.99
— Reverend John C. Peters Seminary Burse #5	
Previously Reported	\$175.00
Correction Donation by CDA Court #797 Sacred Heart, Hallettsville	100.00
In memory of Lupe Barrera by	
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac	25.00
In memory of Lou Kubena by	
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac	25.00
In memory of Edwin Darilek by	
Father John Peters	25.00
In memory of Gen Huxoll by	
Father John Peters	25.00
In honor of Rev. Peters and Patrick Knippenberg by Catholic Life #22	300.00
In memory of Alvin Jurena by:	
Ervin and Bernice Neskora	10.00
Forrest & Ann Dittrich	10.00
Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky	10.00
In memory of Mary Helen Matula by	
Deacon Joey & Mary Targac	25.00
	TOTAL \$730.00

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

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

“College Connection for Catholics” provides a unique graduation gift

Do you know a high school senior who will be going away to college this fall? Picture them in your mind for a moment. Would you like to encourage that person to stay connected to our beautiful Catholic faith? The College Connection for Catholics Web site provides an easy way to do this. Read on and find out how.

College Connection for Catholics (CCC), <http://collegeconnectionforcatholics.org/>, a program of the USA Council of Serra International and NET Ministries, unites college students with the Catholic faith on campuses. CCC is designed to connect incoming college freshmen with the Catholic presence on or near their campus, with the goal of helping the students stay active in their faith.

The program, which launched a new Web site in 2010, has become a premier national outreach program for the USA Council of Serra International and NET Ministries. It is a major step in helping promote Catholic campus ministries on college campuses. The CCC Web site features over 1,100 colleges across the nation; plans include increasing this number to 1,500 this year. CCC has generated positive responses from students, campus ministers and diocesan officials about its goal to reach this critical age group that is most likely to

lose their faith.

You can make this happen for your high school senior in FOUR easy steps:

1. Find out where the young person is going to college and their present mailing address.

2. Go to www.collegeconnectionforcatholics.org and click on STUDENT CONNECT, REQUEST A PACKET

3. Fill in the student's information. Required information includes the name of student, home address, college and college location. This allows the campus ministry to mail an invitation to the student. Optional information, email and cell phone, if provided will make it easier for the campus ministry to reach the student.

4. Print out the campus ministry packet and include it with the graduation card or gift. This gives you an opportunity to stress the importance of the Catholic faith in your life.

Several hundred members of Serra Clubs have spent the past six years developing the CCC program. They have gathered data, which confirms that only 15 percent of incoming Catholic freshmen are practicing their faith by the time they graduate. We invite you to make a difference in the life of

See College Connection, p. 5

Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert
catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Going for Vocation Gold

It was 1979. Bruce Jenner had won the gold medal almost three years earlier, and now he had everyone running. He smiled for the *Wheaties* cereal box and promoted the concept of jog-a-thons as a fundraiser idea. I was the class treasurer that year. Junior prom was two years away, and the fundraiser sounded like a good way to generate some cash so we would be able to put on a prom for the seniors that would really wow them.

So, we sent away for a jog-a-thon kit and passed out forms. The whole class was going to participate, and we begged family and friends to pledge a couple of bucks for every mile we successfully completed. Our class moderator, Mr. Canterbury, set aside a three-mile route through our hometown and marked off the area with orange cones. The traffic was diverted in order to keep the runners safe. Sixty kids showed up in shorts and tennis shoes, ready to run, jog or walk. Three miles into it, I was done.

Some managed to run five or ten miles, repeating the three-mile route over and over again.

Darrin Ripley decided it was a good day to run his first marathon. We were in awe of him.

The folks who had made a per-mile pledge were not as thrilled with Darrin. Five dollars per mile adds up, especially when a freshman boy is trying to prove something to a bunch of freshmen girls – or maybe just trying to prove something to himself.

On Monday morning, the students turned in their earnings. I counted out the money. Darrin's supporters had paid up. They probably swallowed hard as they did it, but Iowans know how to keep a promise.

I think it must be like that for some parents when their son or daughter discerns a call to religious life. The promise to raise one's children in the faith suddenly has a higher price than expected. It makes eight years of parish religion classes or twelve years of Catholic education seem like a small sacrifice in comparison.

Some parents probably swallow hard as they dig deeply into their souls and promise to give their full support to a child who has discerned a call to the priesthood or religious life.

But I also think that there are some parents like Darrin's dad. Mr. Ripley didn't blink an eye when Darrin said that he'd run over twenty-six miles. Mr. Ripley was a

coach – and he probably understood his son more in that moment than he ever had.

He probably smiled when he wrote that check to his son's class at Riceville Community High School. Darrin turned the money in promptly that Monday morning, and we were in awe once again. The newspaper photographer came out to take our picture. I got to be in the picture because I was the treasurer. Darrin got to be in the picture because nobody else had even come close to running as far as he had. We'd won an award from Bruce Jenner and *Wheaties*. Our class of sixty students had come in third in the nation for jog-a-thons that year.

And we gave the seniors one fantastic prom the year we were juniors.

In reality, though, the people who made good on their promise to pay had something to do with it. No matter how much we ran that day, we needed the support of those who signed our pledge cards.

And there's a lesson in that as well. The faithful pray that God will send Mother Church more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We make a pledge to support them, encourage them, and respect them for giving themselves so fully to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Moms and Dads, it's time to encourage our children to follow God completely, even if the price is high. Even if the marathon ends with the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

It's time for the faithful to sign their pledge cards and give their support. We do this when we remember to pray for vocations and when we make good on our promise to hold our religious up through prayer. We do this when we make good on our promise to respect them as one standing in the place of Our Lord ... *In persona Christi*.

We aren't investing in a junior prom. No, our celebration trumps all celebrations. We are investing in the future of Mother Church. We are doing all that we can to make sure the Mass is celebrated throughout the world and that the laity has access to the Sacramental life.

This is the eternal celebration. And it is worth every sacrifice.

God, Our Father, send us holy priests and more vocations to religious life – all for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all for the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with Saint Joseph. Amen.

Brother Patrick Wildgen celebrates 30 years as a Trinitarian

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available for, and he can focus on pastoral, educational and spiritual programs with more freedom of time.

He is easily recognizable with his trademark hat that he wears, his bright smile and his openness to everyone. A friend of the Trinitarian community once remarked that every time he heard Jesus describe Nathanael in the Gospel, “there is no guile in him,” he thought of Brother Patrick.

“Brother Patrick is an important and essential member of the parish pastoral staff,” said Father Stan De Boe, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish. His dedication to preparing people for the Sacraments of Initiation and to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors goes well beyond the ‘how to’ to allow them to deepen their relationship with God through their faith journey and their ministries.”

“As a member of our pastoral staff,

Brother Patrick is a model of how ministry and leadership in the Church is open to all people, not just the ordained.” When I was asked to be pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows, I knew that I wanted Brother Patrick as a member of this pastoral team and he has flourished in his ministry at the parish.

“As a side note,” Father Stan continued, “when parishioners learned that there would be a brother coming to Sorrows, I was asked if I was going to ‘get rid of’ the cook. Perplexed at this, I asked them why I would do that. The response I got was that it was the work of the brothers to cook and clean. I think our parishioners have come to see that Brother Patrick has gifts and talents that lift him above the old stereotypes of what a religious brother is in the Church today, and they have come to love and appreciate him for all he does.”



Twenty Something

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



Pro-life Miss America shows wisdom at 18

Being Miss America is a lot of pressure for 18-year-old Teresa Scanlan.

But then, when her mom was 18, she faced a lot of pressure too: She was pregnant and unwed.

Teresa learned this last September, when the Nebraska native was preparing for the 2011 Miss America pageant. Her half-brother, Jerod, had called unexpectedly. It was his 31st birthday, his wife was expecting their firstborn, and it seemed like a good time to reach out.

Teresa was working in her basement office when her mom, Janie, came down to tell her the news. Janie had gone on to get married and have six children, whom she had never told about Jerod, assuming she would never hear from him and that it would be easier on them that way.

Teresa was stunned. "It was strange for me to even imagine that," she told me. "I thought, 'There's no way. This has to be some kind of joke, some kind of misunderstanding. All you know of your family for 17 years has suddenly changed.'"

The news offered Teresa insight on her mother. It hadn't been easy for Janie being Catholic, pregnant and 18 in Wichita, Kan., and the pregnancy was kept a secret, even to relatives. With her parents' blessing, Janie decided to give the baby to the Catholic Adoption Agency. She wanted him to have a stable, loving family and every opportunity for success.

When Jerod was born, Janie held his tiny hand, wrote him a letter and said goodbye. "It was so, so hard for her," Teresa said. "I have all the more respect and love for her understanding that now."

Shortly after Jerod's phone call, he and Janie decided to meet at an Olive Garden in Lincoln, Neb. ("When you're here," says the chain's slogan, "you're family.") Janie brought three of her daughters, and when they spotted Jerod, they engulfed

him in hugs.

Over breadsticks and pasta, they talked for hours, landing on tidbits from three decades, studying each other's faces and lives. "When he smiles, there are my mom's dimples," Teresa said.

Soon the big-hearted teen was viewing the situation for what it was: evidence of God's providence, that Jerod would be raised by such devoted Catholic parents and that he would be reunited with his birth mom and her vibrant, faith-filled family.

"I'm just excited to be a part of his family and for him to be a part of ours," Teresa said. "I always wanted a bigger family. I didn't think six was enough."

In January Teresa became Nebraska's first Miss America, the youngest in decades to claim the title. "I finally realized that it is those times when we're least prepared, when we're least ready, when we have those doubts and fears — that's when God uses us," she said. "He takes our feeble little attempts and turns them into amazing things."

One week after being crowned Miss America, Teresa became an aunt. Jerod's wife delivered a healthy baby girl named Marilyn, who has an incredible tiara-toting role model. Teresa hopes to one day become a Supreme Court justice.

Meeting Jerod changed her. She is a young woman raised in a pro-life family who has now lived it.

Being pro-life is an intimate experience, one that rewires families, homes and hearts — a shuffling of bedrooms and priorities, a clutching of faith. And it's founded on a beautiful thing: hope for the future.

When you think of Teresa and her delicate niece, how can you feel anything but?

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

"College Connection for Catholics" provides a unique graduation gift

Continued from p. 4

the young Catholic adult that you pictured in your mind. They are not a statistic; they are a valued member of your family or parish community.

More than 1.2 million Catholic students enter college life each year. Ninety percent of them attend a secular campus where it is difficult for Catholic ministries to reach them without knowing who they are. Members of Serra clubs coordinate with their local diocese, Catholic high schools and parishes to obtain the names of graduating seniors and provide them with information about the Catholic presence at their college of choice. The clubs also provide Catholic campus ministry officials with these students' names and information, so they can invite them to Catholic events and liturgies.

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., if campus ministries reached just 10 percent more of the nearly five million Catholic college students across the United States and kept them active in their faith, it would add approximately 500,000 practicing Catholics to dioceses across the country.

"I can't think of a better way to make an impact on the Church and the world than by reaching people who are at the very beginning of their careers and connecting them deeply to their Catholic faith," said Father

David Konderla, director and pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M.

Rev. James J. Bacik, who ministers to students at the University of Toledo, and author of "Empowered by the Spirit," a Campus Ministry document for the U.S. Bishops in 2006, said getting the names of Catholic students coming to the university from Serra clubs is "like gold in our pockets. It is a great help in our ministry. These students are the future leaders of society and of our Church."

Robert McCarty, executive director of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers, said the College Connection program responds to the U.S. Bishops' goals for Catholic Youth Ministry: "To call young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ," and to "draw young people to responsible participation in the life, work and mission of the faith community."

Editor's note: Students may go directly to the CCC Web site to learn more about a Catholic Connection at the college they will attend. Also, when youth move from home, whether to go to college or to their first apartment, stay connected to the Diocese of Victoria, by sending your new address to the chancery at P.O. 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. You'll be added to The Catholic Lighthouse mailing list.

Legacy Project Internships available

It is rare that an internship comes along that can fulfill the desires of a young person to serve the truth in a practical way, while also incorporating an intellectual component that can enrich both their personal and professional aspirations.

However, there are now two openings available this summer for the kind of student who is seeking after just that kind of integration of the practical and the intellectual, and above all, for someone who has a sense for the essential role that philosophy can play in the rebirth and renewal of culture.

The Dietrich von Hildebrand Legacy Project is seeking to fill two full-time summer internship positions at their offices in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. They are looking for applicants who demonstrate a strong academic track record and a genuine interest in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

The successful applicant must also be willing to undertake—in addition to daily administrative responsibilities typical of a challenging internship experience—the production of a high-quality academic paper on some aspect of the writings of Dietrich von Hildebrand, in collaboration with the leadership of the Legacy Project.

Additional desired skills: an interest in Christian personalism and the philosophical tradition as represented by Dietrich von Hildebrand, Max Scheler and Edith Stein; facility with Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook; database experience (especially with Blackbaud or Salesforce). Some knowledge of German would be a plus. Experience in development and other skill-sets pertinent within a think-tank setting should be noted.

Both graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply.

Housing is not provided and must be secured by interns. Internships are paid on the basis of a monthly stipend.

Internship start/end dates are flexible, according to the academic calendar, but generally would run from June 15 to August 15.

Interested applicants should send full contact information including phone number, cover letter and resume, two references (one academic reference and one work reference), and a 700-word essay describing your interest in working at the Legacy Project (we give special weight to the essay in selecting our candidates) to Kathleen McCann, Director of Programs, at kmccann@hildebrandlegacy.org.

Deadline for Internship Applications is: Friday, May 13, 2011.

HCEF invites young Palestinian Americans to Know Thy Heritage

BETHESDA, Md.—The voices of Holy Land Christians invite Palestinian-American youth to journey to Palestine to "Know Thy Heritage" in the summer of 2011! HCEF will pay all land expenses for up to 40 Palestinian-American youth on a journey to Palestine July 13- August 3, 2011. Each delegate is responsible only for airfare!

The "Know Thy Heritage" team at HCEF is delighted by the outpouring of support and interest that our newest program has enjoyed both in Palestine and in the United States. The itinerary is quickly filling up with exciting cultural and educational events as well as leisure activities. We have received many applications and have high hopes for our charismatic group leaders and our diverse and exceptional young delegates from all over the United States.

They are still accepting applications for this inaugural delegation. If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and have at least one Palestinian parent, you can join us in making this groundbreaking initiative a great success. Applicants are considered regardless of faith; both Muslims and Christians are encouraged to apply.

HCEF's "Know Thy Heritage" annual program was developed to preserve the Arab Palestinian heritage and highlight the important location of Palestine as part of the Holy Land by connecting youth of

Palestinian ancestry, living in the United States and elsewhere, with their roots in Palestine.

"Know Thy Heritage" empowers Palestinian youth in the Diaspora by strengthening their knowledge of their Palestinian identity, culture, history, traditions, as well as their understanding of the Palestinian economic environment, political landscape, social structures and conditions. "Visit & Live Palestine" provides them with the necessary tools and skills to enable them to be in continuous connection to their roots, heritage and homeland.

Don't miss the journey of a lifetime! Request an application today by sending an e-mail to kth@hcef.org! Application deadline is May 15, 2011, and is accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information please visit the Web site at www.hcef.org.

HCEF is a non-profit 501(c)3 Charitable organization.

HCEF has been awarded the Seal of Excellence as one of the top 2,000 Charities in the United State to meet the highest standard of public accountability, program effectiveness and cost effectiveness.

Mission: HCEF promotes peace, justice, and reconciliation in the Holy Land by removing the causes of human suffering and replacing despair with hope, fear with security, and humiliation with dignity.

Please Pray For:
• **Vocations!**
• **Rain!**
• **Ravage-torn families from tornadoes and floods!**

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St. Joseph High School announces Capital Campaign

~ Names building after long-time teacher ~

Continued from p 1

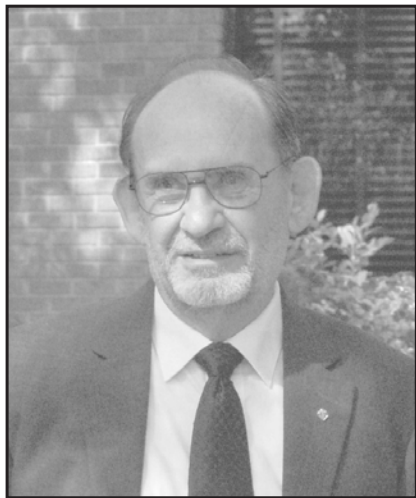
Mr. David Pozzi is an alumnus of St. Joseph High School, graduating 50 years ago with the class of 1961 and returning to teach for more than 40 years. Although he has taught Latin, computer programming, math and science, he is currently serving the high school in a part-time capacity, teaching two math courses.

The new Enrichment Center, which will serve the fine arts and athletic programs, will have as its name the David Pozzi Center. The building will provide additional classrooms to ease the school's overcrowding and enhance its fine arts program. The center will include individual space for both the band and choir, with rehearsal and recording rooms, effective acoustics and storage for instruments and uniforms. An art classroom will be added, providing a spacious, well-lit work area. A theater classroom with a practice stage and storage for set designs and costumes will be included in the center. The journalism/yearbook department will also be housed in the new center with computers equipped with desktop publishing software and printers. And the Pozzi Center will also include space for boys' and girls' athletics, the cheerleaders and the drill team.

~ Much has already been realized ~

Since the campaign committee has already raised \$2.6 million, many improvements have already been secured. In April 2010, the library's computer lab

was upgraded with the latest Macintosh computer systems. In the summer, renovations were made to Welder and O'Connor Halls, and during Christmas break each classroom was upgraded with state-of-the-



Mr. David Pozzi

art technology: ceiling mounted projection equipment, document cameras, iPads and instructional software. The cafeteria windows were also replaced with energy efficient windows.

The future, of course, will include the building of the Pozzi Center and all of its classrooms, as well as remodeling the back of the STJ gymnasium to include locker rooms for the student athletes. In the near future, the

science laboratories will be redesigned to make the best use of current space and updated to include high-quality instrumentation and specialized equipment for lab experiments.

Father Augustine Gardet, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, established St. Joseph's Institute for Boys in 1868, two years after he established Nazareth Academy as an all-girls school. In 1975, St. Joseph's and Nazareth Academy both became co-ed schools with St. Joseph School serving high school grades and N.A. serving elementary and middle school grades. St. Joseph's is now operated by an independent board of directors.

~ Blessing Ceremony ~

During an outdoor ceremony Friday, April 15, President William H. McArdle Jr.

officially announced the Imagine MORE Capital Campaign and the honor bestowed upon Mr. Pozzi to scores of visitors and to the current student body.

"Old-time values are still alive and well today at St. Joseph High School," President McArdle said, "A St. Joseph education is based on faith, morals and values, discipline and mutual respect."

"In a sense I think the traditions at St. Joseph's are much like the Holy Trinity, in that for our young people to be successful, there must be a union of parents, students and faculty," he continued.

Capital campaign committee chairpersons, Robby and Tami Burdge; board chair, Mr. Bland Proctor; and Mr. Robert Hewitt of the O'Connor & Hewitt Foundation, reflected on the accomplishments of St. Joseph High School students and faculty and anticipated the school's future achievements.

Mr. Pozzi thanked Mr. Hewitt and the school for thinking of him, saying, "Thank you; it still amazes me that you would give me this honor. It is a great honor, and I'm humbled by it."

With the continued accomplishments and progress of the school, he said, "It's good to see it's still in good hands," referring to the dedication the alumni and capital campaign committee have for St. Joseph High. He then prepared the current student body, saying "Students, in 20 years it may be your turn."

Following comments by Bishop David E. Fellhauer, including readings from "The History of St. Joseph High School, Victoria, Texas," the bishop blessed the future site of the Pozzi Center. A reception followed in the school's library.

If readers would like to honor Mr. Pozzi and St. Joseph High School, they may contact the school at (361) 573-2446.



TWO COMPLETE THREE-YEAR, LONG-DISTANCE CLASSES— Peggie Creuzbaur (top) and Lillian Kallus (bottom) completed the three-year, Adult Faith Enrichment Pastoral Institute via long distance learning classes in the Victoria Diocese. The classes ended March 28, 2011. Peggie and Lillian are members of Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Hostyn. They both are core members of Generations of Faith, are class facilitators and teachers, serve in various church ministries, assist in youth programs, belong to several Catholic organizations and actively participate in them and help in community activities. A reception honoring all those who completed the three-year classes will be held at the chancery building in Victoria on May 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Institute Summer Classes

For over 25 years, thousands of Catholics have taken the opportunity to learn more about their faith by taking classes offered through the Pastoral Institute programs. Once again, summer short-term classes will be offered throughout the diocese. Catechists, Catholic School religion teachers, liturgical ministers and others, interested in learning more about the faith, are encouraged to attend.

The National Directory for Catechesis states, "Like all Christians, catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith and, for this reason ... opportunities should be provided for spiritual and pedagogical formation, especially as society, teaching methods, and culture change."

July and August classes will appear in the June issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. For more information about upcoming classes that will be offered this summer, please go to the diocesan Web site www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828.

May 21st	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Catholic Morality	St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo
June 2nd	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Getting Started as a Catechist	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
June 2nd	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Roles of the Catechist	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
June 2nd	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Person of the Catechist	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
June 2 & 9	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Sacraments	Mount Carmel, Wharton
June 4th	9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	I Believe, We Believe	Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria
June 8th	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Getting Started as a Catechist	St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton
June 11th	9:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Getting Started as a Catechist	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
June 11th	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Roles of the Catechist	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
June 11th	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Person of the Catechist	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
June 13 & 20	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Intro to the Scriptures	St. Joseph, Boling
June 13th	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Getting Started as a Catechist	Assumption, Ganado
June 14th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methods for Grades 1 & 2	Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg
June 14th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methods for Grades 3 & 4	Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg
June 14 & 16	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Church	Chancery, Victoria
June 15 & 16	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Intro to the Learner	St. Agnes, Edna
June 15th	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Roles of the Catechist	St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton
June 18th	9 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Prayer & Spirituality	St. Patrick, Bloomington
June 20th	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Roles of the Catechist	Assumption, Ganado
June 21 & 23	9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Intro to the Scriptures	Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
June 21 & 23	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Intro to the Scriptures	Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
June 21st	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methods for Grades 5 & 6	Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg
June 21st	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methods for Grades 7 & 8	Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg
June 21 & 23	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Intro to the Learner	St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
June 22nd	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Person of the Catechist	St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton
June 22 & 23	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Sacraments	St. Anthony of Padua, Palacios
June 27th	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Person of the Catechist	Assumption, Ganado
June 28 & 30	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Intro to the Learner	St. Joseph, Yoakum
June 28th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 1-2	Chancery, Victoria
June 28th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 3-4	Chancery, Victoria
June 30th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 5-6	Chancery, Victoria
June 30th	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Methodology 7-8	Chancery, Victoria

The Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center

361-573-0828

www.victoriadiocese.org

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

The Library and Media Center has a variety of books and videos about the late Pope John Paul II as well as many books that he authored.

Videos of Pope John Paul II

- A Man Who Became Pope
- Pope John Paul II:
Based on the Powerful Story
- The Jeweller's Shop by
Karol Wojtyla
- The Story of John Paul II
- Pope John Paul II: The Movie
- El Papa Juan Pablo II

Books on or by Pope John Paul II

- Pope John Paul II An Intimate Life
The Pope I Knew So Well by Caroline Pizzozzi
- John Paul II A Life of Grace by
Renzo Allegri
- "Be Not Afraid!" Pope John Paul
*Speaks Out on his Life, his Beliefs,
and his Inspiring Vision for Human-
ity* by Andre Frossard and Pope John
Paul II
- Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way
by John Paul II
- Letter to a Jewish Friend *The Simple
and Extraordinary Story of Pope
John Paul II and his Jewish school
Friend* by Gian Franco Svidercoschi
- The Journey of the Jubilee to the
Origins of Our Faith and of Our
Church by Michele Piccirillo



Our Lady of Victory School hosted the PSIA District 7AA Meet for the first time Saturday, March 26, with nine schools competing. The competition covers areas of Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies and Fine Arts. Our Lady of Victory, Nazareth Academy and Trinity Episcopal from Victoria; St. Joseph, Yoakum; St. Anthony, Columbus; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; St. Monica, Converse; Miranda Individual, San Antonio; and Carrillo Home School, San Antonio, competed amongst one another.

Catholic Students go to State PSIA

Our Lady of the Gulf School Port Lavaca

Thirty-five students from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School competed in the PSIA Meet at Our Lady of Victory School on Saturday, March 26. The students from 1st grade to 8th grade, placed in 28 events, and six students are advancing to State Competition in 8 categories. Those proceeding onto State PSIA Competition in Fort Worth on April 30 are Erin Dent – Ready Writing – 1st Place – 3rd Grade, and qualified in 4th grade Art Memory, placing 2nd; 5th Grade – Benjamin Chen 2nd place in Spelling; 6th grade – Sarah Armstrong 1st place in Vocabulary; 7th grade – Ciandra Smith, 1st place in On-Site Drawing, and Katherine Dent, 1st place in Ready Writing and 2nd place in On-Site Drawing; and 8th grade – Jasmine Rendon, 3rd place in Calculator Applications.

St. Philip Elementary School El Campo

St. Philip Catholic School students competed in the PSIA academic competition in San Antonio on February 26, 2011. With 19 contest categories covering a wide range of disciplines the following students qualified for state level competition at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth to be held on May 14, 2011: 1st grade – Anna Birdsong, 1st place in Storytelling; 2nd grade – Sarah Pavlas, 1st place in Creative Writing; 4th grade – Karsyn Russell, 1st place in Prose; 4/5 grade – Paige Rasmussen, 2nd place in Art Memory; Tyler Jamerson, 2nd place in Listening Skills and Faith Wagner, 1st place Art Memory; 4/5/6 grade – Elizabeth Wilson, 1st place in Music Memory; 5th grade – Kaitlyn Marquardt, 1st place in Spelling and Rhys Kennedy, 2nd place in Math; 6th grade – Grace Delgado, 2nd place in Science, Micah McComb, 1st place in Number Sense and Michelle Sutton, 1st place in Prose; 6/7/8 grades – Elise Raun, 1st place in Dictionary Skills, 7th grade – Elise Raun, 2nd place in Maps/Graphs/Charts; 7/8 grades – Isaac Kresta, 1st place in Prose; and 8th grade – Colton Krutilek, 2nd place in Maps/Graphs/Charts and 2nd place in Number Sense.

St. Rose of Lima Elementary Schulenburg

On Saturday March 26, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School participated in the district PSIA Meet at St. James Catholic School in Seguin. St. Rose had 56 students from grades 1 through 8 participating in 105 events and was awarded top honors winning District Champs at the Elementary Division and winning 3rd place in the

Middle School Division. They had 14 state qualifiers in 18 events and 7 alternate state qualifiers in 9 events and will compete at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth on Saturday May 14. They are: 1st grade – Claire Antosh in Alternative Creative Writing; 2nd grade – Morgan Marburger in Storytelling and Julie Guentert in Creative Writing; 3rd grade – Justin Stang in Spelling; 4th grade – Madeline Sommer in Number Sense and Art Memory; 5th grade – Bryn Stryk in Mathematics and Number Sense, Sarah Vecera in Art Memory and Ready Writing, Kristen Osina in Maps, Graphs, & Charts; Caitlyn Helms in Ready Writing, Blair Guentert in Vocabulary and Alternate Dictionary Skills; 6th grade – Wyatt Fogle in Mathematics, Science, and Alternate Number Sense; 7th grade – Marc Raphael in Science, Erin Miksch in Calculator Applications and Alternate Mathematics, Haley Herzik in Mathematics and Alternate Impromptu Speaking; and 8th grade – Taylor Olsovsky in Number Sense.

The following 5th grade students were identified as a select group of students qualified to participate in the Talent Search sponsored by the Duke University Talent Identification Program: April Brossmann, Haley Olsovsky, Kristen Osina, Kate James, Blair Guentert, Seth Patten, Miles Marburger, Sarah Vecera, Bryn Stryk, Sydney Thompson and Tyler Allen.

Our Lady of Victory Elementary Victoria

Thirty-five students from Our Lady of Victory Catholic School competed in the PSIA Meet on their own campus Saturday, March 26. OLV had students from the 2nd through the 8th grades competing. Eight students in 15 categories advanced to State Competition in Fort Worth on April 30. OLV also had 20 alternates in 13 categories. The students going to State Competition are 2nd grade – Andres Ramos and Riya Patel in Spelling; 3rd grade – Grace Hammack, Nicholas Soto and Robbie Alcasabas in Spelling, Annabelle Gasaway in Storytelling and Savannah Wharton in Ready Writing; 4th grade – Lily Grimm in Maps, Graphs & Charts, C.J. Wagner in Mathematics, Pranav Jain in Music Memory, Number Sense and Prose Interp. and Kaitlyn Herman in Spelling; 5th grade – Alex Corpuz in Maps, Graphs & Charts and Spelling, Shubham Kathpalia and Jordan Pyatt in Mathematics, Kelsey Ellett in Number Sense and Ready Writing, Carson Young in Prose Interp., Catherine Ridley in Vocabulary and Tomas Young in Dictionary; 6th grade – Sarah Sabbagh in Listening Skills, Music Memory and



ST. JOSEPH BAND WINS HONORS FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR—The Concert & Sight-reading competition, sponsored by the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA), was held on April 8, 2011. Each band was judged by a panel of three judges in two separate areas of musical competition. A Concert & Sight-reading Trophy is awarded to an instrumental organization that receives 1st division (Superior) ratings in Concert playing and Sight Reading. The contest was hosted by Victoria College and St. Joseph High School. The St. Joseph High School Band is one of an elite few private high school bands in the state to have been awarded TPSMEA Superior, 1st Division Ratings for Marching, Concert and Sight Reading in Texas during the 2010-2011 school year. It is the first STJ Band in school history to achieve this honor for five consecutive years. The Sight-reading competition requires a band to perform a piece they have never seen before, accurately, after only a 10-minute study / instruction period by the director. Director for the St. Joseph High School Band is Michael Petrisky. Pictured with the Concert & Sight Reading Trophy are STJ Band Officers, from l. to r.: Nathaniel Hawes, Martin Kallus, Steven Sudheimer, Leslie Zepeda, Myles Martinez, Spencer Driver, Michael Petrash II and Mark Chavez.



KJT SOCIETY PRESENTS PINS—Hostyn Society No. 3 Vice-President Patrick Janda (l.) presents a 50-year membership pin to David S. Janacek of Stafford. Also pictured are daughters Julia and Caroline. President Benedict Kallus also presented a 25-year membership pin to Thomas Joseph Kozel of Hostyn.



ST. JOSEPH KJT SOCIETY PLANS FOR YEAR—A meeting of St. Joseph KJT Society #115 was held on March 27 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria to set plans for the coming year. Margaret Holik, District 7 director, was a special guest and addressed the group regarding goals for the year. The officers were introduced to the assembly and former officers honored: Wendy Hrcir was recognized for 10 years of service as secretary, Donald Dusek, for 21 years as vice president, and Leonard Tupa, for 21 years as treasurer. Meeting dates were approved for June 26 at St. Mary's, Victoria, and September 11 at Holy Family, Victoria. Upcoming events include the society's participation in Join Hands Day on May 7, Youth Activity Day, date and time to be determined by youth members and Flag Day ceremonies on June 14. Members were reminded of the KJT Summer Youth Camp, July 31-August 3. The family Christmas party will be held in December at a time and place to be determined. The State Family Fun Day was held on April 9 in LaGrange. Pictured are St. Joseph KJT Society #115 officers, from left, KJT Insurance Representative Donald Dusek, President Lawrence Yanta, State Director Margaret Holik, Vice President Robert Stryk, Secretary Barbara Yanta and Treasurer Joe Pustka.

Spelling, Kevin Nguyen in Maps, Graphs & Charts, Mathematics and Number Sense, Benjamin Boyle in Mathematics, Connor Velasco in Maps, Graphs & Charts, Davey Castoreno in Vocabulary, Jyotirmaya Jain in Spelling and Cameron Lambert in Vocabulary; 7th grade – Andrew Bernhard in Calculator Applications, Mathematics, Number Sense and Science, Katie Timmins in Science, Sam Ridley in Listening Skills and Abigail Kovar in Maps, Graphs & Charts and Mathematics; 8th grade – Katelyn Nguyen in Dictionary Skills, Megha Chandna in Maps, Graphs & Charts and Prose Interp., Madison Hoang in

Mathematics and Number Sense, Sterling Lykes in Modern Oratory and Ready Writing, Emily Wells in On-Site Drawing and Hanna Diefenbach in Science.

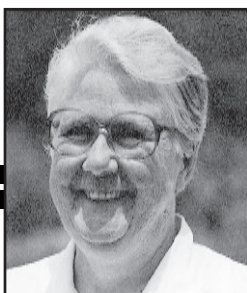
St. Michael Elementary Cuero

St. Michael's School competed for the first time in the PSIA District Meet on March 26 in Seguin. Overall, the 24 students who competed came home with 14 ribbons. Qualifying for the PSIA State Meet on May 14th are Second Grader Jakob Denton in Ready Writing and Fourth Grader Priscilla Humphreys in Listening.



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Influential Women – Moms

During the month of May, many of us have fond memories of our devotion to Mary, our heavenly Mother. Let us keep that devotion alive through our prayers and practices. At the same time, I would like for us to salute the most influential group of women in the world, today's mothers. You probably won't see their names in headlines or on marquee. But you will definitely see them wherever their children are. You will find them teaching their children, through words and example, how to love, to pray and to face life's challenges. You will see them standing behind their children in times of enjoyment and success and in times of sorrow and trial; you will see them as they whole-heartedly give of themselves through performing all the various duties that mold their children. These valiant and influential women nourish the bodies, minds and spirits of those in their care; they transmit their values and their culture, as well as their family and spiritual heritage.

Theirs is an awesome task! Now and then they may wonder if all the chauffeur duties, the selling of raffle tickets, the candy and cookie sales, the birthday party cupcakes, the hard stadium benches, the loads of laundry, the hot hours in the kitchen, the time spent helping with

homework, or the sleepless nights are worth it. However, if they take time to look at Mary and at their own experiences, they will realize that it's not always easy being a mother and standing behind their children especially when their children are facing trials.

Although there are times when they may not feel appreciated, or they may grow weary from their many efforts, they will realize that it's the daily little interactions with and for their children that form the fabric of each child's character. They are aware that neglected stitches could allow this precious fabric to disintegrate; on the other hand, they hope and believe that loving affirmation and discipline will result in the strongest and most beautiful of fabrics.

We salute all the mothers (and proxy moms) who are reading this article; we urge all readers to show your mothers that you love them. If your mother is alive, please express your love for her, and visit or call her if you are not living with her. If she has already gone to her eternal reward, pray for her and tell her that you love her; I feel sure that she will hear you. Also, remember to pray to and imitate Mary, our Mother, who is a role model for all of us!



CHEERFUL JCDA GIVERS—"God loves a cheerful Giver." 2 Cor 9:7 was the Scripture that inspired Yoakum's JCDA #206 to give back to the community. The members presented Mrs. Susan Kelley (r.), principal of St. Joseph Catholic School, and Mrs. Kim Reeves (l.), director of Bluebonnet Youth Ranch, with a monetary donation at their April 14, 2011, meeting.



CISTERN KJZT SOCIETY SUPPORTS RAPHAEL'S REFUGE—The KJZT St. Elizabeth Society #20 of Cistern, presented a check for \$1,000 to Raphael's Refuge this past April. The donation will be used to continue work on the Monument to the Innocents in Flatonia, a memorial to babies who have died from miscarriage or abortion, were stillborn, or who died in infancy. In acknowledgement of their generous gift, a 12"X12" glass block will be engraved with the name of the society and date of donation. When enough of the large blocks have been engraved, they will be used to construct a 15' glass and metal cross at the entrance of the monument, in recognition of all who have made a donation of at least \$1,000. Pictured at the presentation are (l. to r.) Vice-President Winniford Vinklerek, President Betty Donner, Raphael's Refuge Board Member Chris Hicks, KJZT State Chaplain, Rev. Joseph Hybner, Secretary Grace Vinklerek and Edna Migl. The monument's chapel is available to groups and churches that would like to have meetings or services on related issues. It is opened during the day, seven days a week. For information about Raphael's Refuge, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021 or raphaelsrefuge@att.net. The Web site is <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org/>.



READ-A-THON RAISES \$19,000 PLUS—St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo closed their annual Read-A-Thon with an awards assembly this spring. For 29 of the 61-year history of St. Philip School, the Read-A-Thon has been helping students improve their reading skills and raise money for the school endowment fund, which supplements the school budget, thus helping to keep tuition as low as possible. Students this year raised \$19,579.98 and read 23,048 books! Students being awarded a trophy for the most books read in each grade include: Kindergarten, Anna Rod, 321; First grade, Hannah Sutton, 300; Fourth grade, Sarah Grace Singleton, 638; Third grade, Cassidy Crowell, 564; Second grade, Carissa Kocian, 750; Fifth grade, Kendall Kresta 300, Seventh grade, Hannah Tupa, 87; Eighth grade Colton Krutilek, 360; and Sixth grade Amber Kocian, 1182. The top moneymakers were: front row: Skylar Dornak; middle row: Averi Glaze, Taylor Watz, Hannah Sutton, Jebadiah Zalman; back row: Megann Faas, Michelle Sutton, Melea Socha, Amber Sutton and Michaela Holt.



VOLUNTEERS HONORED—The Fourteenth Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Bishop David E. Fellhauer, John Quary, school superintendent, and Janie Carrales. The recipients of the award for the year 2010 were front row (l-r): David Squyres, Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca; Roberta Bit-tick, St. Joseph School, Yoakum; Cindy Malatek, St. Ludmila School, Shiner; Jennie Muggli, St. Michael School, Weimar; RoseMary Hemmi, Sacred Heart Elementary School, Hallettsville; Molly Kresta, St. Philip School, El Campo; Carol Berger, St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg; top row (l-r): Mr. Quary, Richard Bludau, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Tim Kresta, St. Paul High School, Shiner; Marcus Rubio, Holy Cross School, Bay City; Deacon Leo Sharron, St. Michael School, Cuero; Bishop Fellhauer, Gerald Durocher, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria; Robby Burdge, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Phillip Hemmi, Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville; and Karl Hill, St. Anthony School, Columbus.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS for All You Do in the Parishes and Schools!



ST. JOSEPH CHOIRS WIN SUPERIOR AND GOLD—The St. Joseph High School Varsity Treble Chorale won a Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Concert & Sight-reading Trophy for the third consecutive year March 25, 2011. The choir contest was hosted and held at Oakridge School of Arlington, Texas. Each choir was judged by a panel of three judges in two separate areas of musical competition. A Concert & Sight-reading Trophy is awarded to a choral organization that receives 1st division (Superior) rating in both Concert Singing and Sight-reading. Varsity Honors Choir Officers are Teresa Vincent-quartermaster/librarian, Megan Joy-president, Jaclyn Boozalis-vice president, and Kayla Janecek-chaplain. St. Joseph High School Choir Director, Michael Petrisky, is also pleased to announce that two members of the St. Joseph High School Choral Program, Tori Haynes (l.) and Ofelia Rodriguez (r.), won Gold Solo Medals at the 2011 Texas State Solo Contest for private schools. The students were accompanied by Sandra Glenn.



The 2010-2011 NET Ministry ministers who provided ten retreats to the youth in the Diocese of Victoria are pictured above. They are, from l. to r., seated: Charlotte Veamatabau (Australia), Josh Gamiao (California), Cate Bunnell (Minnesota), Mac Thooft (Minnesota); standing: Kim Jancewski (Minnesota), Joe O'Hayre (Colorado), Kiki Wallyn (Minnesota), Blake Yochum (Texas), Mary Henriquez (New York), Jay Burke (Michigan) and Anna Roa (Ohio).

National Evangelization Team visits the diocese

HALLETTSVILLE—The National Evangelization Team (NET) Ministries recently visited Sacred Heart Catholic Parish and provided three spiritual retreats for the students of Sacred Heart Catholic School in Grades 6 – 12 and the religious education students in Grades 8 – 10, as well as to youth from Shiner and St. Mary's (Hallettsville).

NET Ministries is an international youth ministry that challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. NET Ministries fulfills its mission by conducting over 800 youth retreats across the United States each year.

The format and theme of the retreats vary, but the basic message is always the same: "In Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all as a gift of God's grace and mercy." The retreats were high-energy experiences using large group presentations, small group discussion, music, drama, personal faith sharing and one-on-one prayer.

The following are quotes from some of the Sacred Heart students who participated in the NET retreat: "I was so moved that I am considering to apply for the NET team and I want to live my life for God instead of myself," by Ariane Kubena. "The NET team made me feel God's presence in their words and actions," by Amber Labay.

"The NET team brought me closer to God, changed my life for the better, and made me feel loved," by Kristen Henke.

The NET consisted of eleven young adults, ages 18-26, from across the United States who served as modern-day disciples. The team members began their year of service with an intense five-week training program during which they were brought to a deeper understanding of their faith and were taught to effectively communicate that faith to others. They received instruction in prayer, Scripture, Catholic teaching, Christian character, and ministry skills.

Approximately 100 young men and women serve as volunteers with NET Ministries each year. They are divided into ten teams and travel across the United States to share their faith and invite all they meet to give their lives to Jesus. The ten teams will reach out to over 60,000 youth from September to May.

NET also held retreats at St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton, Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, Immaculate Conception in Goliad, St. Joseph's in Moulton, and two at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria.

One may visit the NET Web site at www.netusa.org to learn more in order to serve with NET or to make a monetary donation.

Youth Calendar of Events

May 11—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure - Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
May 14—Foundations Youth Ministry Class, Chancery in Victoria
May 15—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure - Holy Family, Victoria
May 30-June 3—Ropes Challenge Course Certification in La Grange, Texas
June 5—Rocky Mountain High Parent/ Participant Meeting
June 10-12—Camp David Staff Development
June 12-14—Camp David – Junior High Camp
June 15—Camp David Elementary Camp
June 15-17—Camp David Junior High Camp
June 24-26—D-week Staff Development
June 27-30—D-week
July 2-10—Rocky Mountain High
July 18-21—Boys Vocation Camp



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

For more information on any of these events, please contact:
 Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry
 at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or e-mail at
dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org

Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

A Trembling Earth, Our Shaken Souls

"Help with your right hand and answer us that your loved ones may escape."

—Psalms 108:6

By Camille Mica, a senior at East Bernard High School and parishioner of Holy Cross Church



Watching the endless television footage of violent waves destroying everything in sight, I shuddered with horror and disbelief. How could something like this happen? As I encountered more news broadcasts and articles, I began to see more sides to the devastation in Japan.

The massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan not only impacted thousands of Japanese citizens, but millions of people worldwide. When disaster strikes, suddenly we begin to step back from our daily lives and ask ourselves questions. Most of us still remember this feeling after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. All across the nation, we citizens opened our eyes and

realized the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy as Americans. Now, as people struggle to recover in Japan, we are reawakened to how many blessings we take for granted, especially our families, and how quickly our lives could be torn away from us. Yet we also see how much importance we place on material things—things that could vanish in an instant. How often do we wake up each morning and thank God for the chance to dress ourselves, to eat breakfast, to drive to school or work, to live in safety?

Another incredible aspect of events like natural disasters is witnessing how human beings react to devastation and come together. Families, communities and nations have united to provide relief for the earthquake victims in Japan. Despite increasing violence throughout the world, countries have been able to peacefully work together and make a difference. We have begun to pray eagerly, knowing, in the words of Psalm 111:5, that God is "ever-mindful of his covenant." We have hope that he will redeem his children and save all those who are lost. It is amazing to see so many humans having faith and reaching out to their brothers and sisters in need. But it is also hard to know that it takes something so rare and destructive to bring us together and bring us to our knees.

Acts 22:16 says, "And now why do you delay?" Why do we wait for something to go wrong before opening our eyes? Why do we wait for tragedy to strike before building a better world? Maybe in these difficult times God is providing an avenue for salvation. Maybe, as the earth shook on March 11, God was allowing this tragedy to shake our hearts from their sleep. Psalm 114:7 says, "Tremble O earth, at the presence of the Lord." As we continue to see the events in Japan unfold, let our souls tremble before the Lord and move toward holiness. Now is the time, without delay, to awaken our souls and make changes – changes that will last.

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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

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

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Gabrielle Wenske won the grand prize for her artwork in the General Land Office's 2011 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest. Her mother and OLV art teacher, Mary Wenske, also won many fabulous prizes since her student won the contest. (right) Alexandra Corpuz' artwork is shown above; she also was a finalist from Victoria.

Victorian takes top honors at Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest

AUSTIN — Victoria 11-year-old Gabrielle Wenske's image of a surf shack on a Texas beach won grand prize in the General Land Office's 2011 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest.

"The colors in Gabrielle's art really jumped out, and the message 'Trashing Texas Beaches Isn't Cool' comes through loud and clear," said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, who picked the winning entry from the more than 6,544 entries.

Gabrielle's artwork will soon grace the cover of next year's Texas General Land Office Children's Art Contest calendar. The fifth-grader also wins two round-trip, coach-class tickets from Continental Airlines to any Continental destination in the 48 contiguous United States; one 7-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines departing out of Galveston, Miami, or Ft. Lauderdale; and a class party at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels.

Gabrielle's mother and art teacher at Our Lady of Victoria School in Victoria, Mary Wenske, also wins two round-trip coach-class tickets from Continental Airlines, and one 7-night Caribbean cruise courtesy of Royal Caribbean Cruises.

A total of 39 other students from across Texas earned honors for artwork depicting

their love for the Texas coast. Alexandra Corpuz, another fifth grader from Victoria, was one of the 40 selected finalists. All finalists will receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels, two tickets to the permanent exhibit hall at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, prizes and a certificate of recognition from the Texas General Land Office and a calendar displaying the winning artwork.

The judges picked 10 winners in each of the four categories: kindergarten, first-grade and second-grade, third-grade and fourth-grade, and fifth-grade and sixth-grade. Gabrielle's grand prize entry was selected from the list of finalists.

This year's contest sponsors are Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Continental Airlines, Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels, the Texas State Aquarium and the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The winning entries of the 2011 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest will be on display in the Capitol's Rotunda from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 27, until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 3. All of the finalists' artwork can be viewed on the Adopt-A-Beach at www.texasadoptabeach.org.



PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND—Father Bob Knippenberg, Catholic Union of Texas (KJT) State Spiritual Director, presents a check from the KJT societies in the Diocese of Victoria in the amount of \$7,314.28 to Bishop David Fellhauer for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund in the diocese. It is a pleasure for the local KJT societies to make this donation in thanksgiving for the service that the priests and other religious have given throughout the years. The KJT adopted the statewide charity project in 2010.

Sally Kolos, (l.), receives a plaque in recognition of her outstanding service in the field of education from Dean Douglas J. Palmer.



Sacred Heart teacher recognized at Texas A&M University

HALLETTSVILLE — The Dean's Roundtable in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University selects 20 educators to honor each year. Sally Kolos, a teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic School was honored April 1, 2011, at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center for her service in the field of education. She was sponsored by Cheryl Trott of Yoakum.

Mrs. Kolos and the other honorees received a beautiful crystal apple plaque presented by Dean Douglas J. Palmer. Along to celebrate the night were Steven and Kevin Kolos, Theresa Marsh, Melba Armstrong, Melba Bucek, Inez Lasell and Cheryl Trott.

Born and raised in Galveston, Sally attended public schools. Her graduating class was the first to embrace total integration.

With a BS in business education and minor in English from Southwest Texas State University in 1973, she moved to Hallettsville with her husband, Jim, and obtained her first teaching position. Employed by Vysehrad ISD, a rural school district, her first job was to teach 12 subjects — six each at the 7th and 8th grade levels — and to be the part-time principal. With the arrival of her first son, she resigned her position.

From 1979-2005, she taught English and business subjects at Hallettsville High School.

Currently, Sally teaches at Sacred Heart Catholic School where her sons, Steven and Kevin, went to school. She now teaches English II and III, accounting and a basic computer class.

Sally finds it most interesting to be introduced to new students each year and to learn their backgrounds. It is fascinating to know of the myriad experiences each child has had. In order to teach her students compassion for their fellow men, Mrs. Kolos has had her students write letters each year since the outbreak of Desert Storm in 1990. Students write to active duty members of the Armed Forces, Veterans at Brooke Army Hospital, and patients at Christa Santa Rosa Children's Hospital. "Thinking of others who are serving in the military or injured in a hospital makes us realize how fortunate we are," said Kolos. "Many of my former students have returned from active duty to thank us and speak to those who have taken the time to write them."

Having taught 36 years, she has had the privilege to sponsor the National Honor Society and numerous journalism UIL contestants. Furthermore, she has served as Class Sponsor for many groups in grades 9-12.

Sally's special interests include family gatherings, gardening, church functions, seashell crafts and dramatic presentations. Sally's husband is a C.P.A. and both her sons are proud Texas Aggies.



JCDA members from St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum went to the Ronald McDonald House in Austin recently to make a large donation. Members are (bottom row, l. to r.) Haley Pierman, Kylie Quinney, Ella Boswell, Kylie Velek, Hannah Boswell, Julia Fojt, Abbie Heiman, Constance Chomout, Sophie Jahn and Ava Muenich; top row: Crystal Sanchez, Chairman Jennifer Jahn, RMH employee - Abraham, Destiny Garza, Kenzie Coull, Angelica Rojas, Esmeralda Rojas, RMH employee - Yeraldine and Chairman Desiree Muenich.

JCDA #206 donates 82 gallons of soda tabs to Ronald McDonald House

AUSTIN — On April 16, 2011, fifteen members from JCDA #206 from Yoakum took a trip to the Ronald McDonald House in Austin. While there, they presented over 82 gallons of soda tabs that they collected over the past ten months. These tabs are recycled to help generate money for operational expenses at this facility. The Ronald McDonald House offers families a place to stay while their children are undergoing treatment for a serious ill-

ness. McDonald Restaurants fund only 15 percent of their expenses while 85 percent comes from outside donations.

Ronald McDonald House employees, Abraham and Yeraldine, then gave the girls an informative tour of their "green" facility. While JCDA members felt what it's like to be cheerful givers, they also felt the compassion and love the Ronald McDonald House provides.



ST. ANDREW AND ST. PROCOPIUS YOUTH CONFIRMED—Bishop David E. Fellhauer confirmed 33 youth, in grades nine to 11, from St. Andrew Parish in Hillje and its mission, St. Procopius Parish in Louise, at the 6 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew's on April 18. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus El Campo Assembly #1131 were the honor guard for the youth.



CONFIRMATION AT ST. JOHN'S IN HUNGERFORD —Bishop David Fellhauer confirmed five young women from St. John's Parish in Hungerford March 31, 2011; they were escorted by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus El Campo Assembly #1131. Those confirmed, from l. to r., were Jessica Burttschell, Mariela Delgado, Brittny Orsak, Carissa Orsak, and Jenny Pospisil. The Sir Knights, from l. to r., are Hector Gutierrez, Ascension Quintanilla, George Legler, Gerry Mikeska, Richard Zahn, Marvin Macek and Joe Kubena. Bishop Fellhauer is in the center. Not shown is Father Charles Dwomoh, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church. (The Catholic Lighthouse editor normally does not print confirmation pictures because there would be too many, but Hungerford and Hillje parishes are rarely in the newspaper, so this one exception has been made.)



CLEANIN' UP—The Knights of Columbus #3253 and Columbian Squires # 5333 held a Highway Clean up in Port Lavaca recently. Pictured are members, front row (l. to r.), Damian Mesada, Luey Perez, Ruben Garcia and Robert Garcia; back row (l. to r.), Mr. Crain, Marcus Perez, Mr. Cormier, Mr. Bonus, Mr. Garcia and Mr. Thompson.



EASTER VIGIL—Bishop David Fellhauer blesses water with the Easter Candle at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, April 23, 2011. The Holy Water was sprinkled upon the congregation following the renewal of baptismal vows. He is assisted by Deacon Lawrence Rosow and Stephanie Kasper.



OLV STATE HANDWRITING CHAMPIONS—Our Lady of Victory School first grader Adrianna Garcia and eighth grader Madison Hoang were named State Grade Level Winners in the 2011 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. Madison was also a State Handwriting Winner in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades. This year more than 220,000 students nationwide in grades one through eight participated in the contest. All State winning entries advanced to the national competition. Principal Sister Laura Toman presented Adrianna and Madison each with an engraved State Winner Medallion during the April PTC Meeting. Adrianna's and Madison's teachers received an engraved rosewood box and pen and the school received a gift certificate for Zaner-Bloser learning materials. Our Lady of Victory School has participated in the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest for the past 16 years and has had 23 state champions. Adrianna is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David Garcia, and Madison is the daughter of Drs. Paul Hoang and Luci Nguyen.

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361-798-4311



Diane Shimek Cerny, FIC Nada/El Campo
979-541-6346



Calvin Pfeil, FIC El Campo
979-543-3868



Bert Kenna, FIC Yoakum
361-293-9657



Clifton Lau, FIC Victoria
361-573-3669



Eugene Rehak, FIC Victoria
361-575-4982



Patrick Klozik, FIC Shiner
361-594-8160



Charles Leopold, FIC Hallettsville
361-798-4311



Royce Shimek, FIC Schulenburg
979-743-4313



Michael Koeth, FIC Weimar
979-725-1111



Barbara McCain, FIC Victoria
361-649-1612



Albert Smaistrila, FIC East Bernard
979-335-4473



Robert Melnar, FIC Victoria
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An Invitation to Joy ~ Selections from the writings and speeches of His Holiness John Paul II

By Pope John Paul II, Mejia, Jorge Maria; and Burke, Greg
Format: Hardcover
Publisher: Simon & Schuster

John Paul II, the most charismatic religious leader of our time, is a man whose actions truly reflect his beliefs.

Coming out on the eve of the new millennium, "An Invitation of Joy" brings together a selection of John Paul's messages with the most poignant photographs documenting his life both before and after his election to the papacy. For the first time, here is an illustrated devotional keepsake album that distills the essence of his message and shows the intimate connection between his words and his deeds.

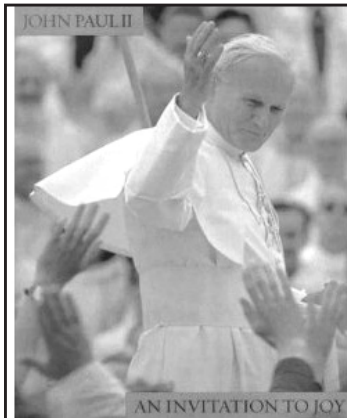
Three main sections – The Human Family, The People of God, and The Dignity of the Human Person – encompass the themes

that are most important to the Pontiff. Resonant passages on subjects such as love and family, suffering and evil, freedom and human rights, other religions and the role of women are coupled with striking photographs. A fourth section, A Lifetime of Devotion, provides a portrait of the Pope's entire life in pictures – from his early childhood to his activities in the Vatican.

Reflecting the Pope's all-embracing outreach to people around the world, "An Invitation to Joy" will inspire both those inside and outside the Catholic Church.

"An Invitation to Joy" will be the May Family Puzzle Contest prize.

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



Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service



Proud to be a Catholic

In the world of the secular media, there is a constant effort to put down the Catholic Church. Secularists do not care for the values that Jesus Christ preached, namely, the sacred character of the human person at every stage of life and the sacred character of marriage and the family.

The secular world insists that there are no unbreakable principles and no moral absolutes. Every violation of God's will can be rationalized, explained away and justified. This attitude has been described time and again by Pope Benedict XVI as "relativism," which is a fancy word for "everything goes."

Jesus said that he came to do the will of the Father and to that end he surrendered in a spirit of truth and humility: "Not my will but yours be done." Life is a test. The reward is heaven. The stakes are high.

Why do so many newspapers belittle and exploit the people of God for their human sins and weaknesses? They believe that we hold others to the highest standard but fail to be perfect ourselves. They enjoy putting down the Church whenever the opportunity presents itself because they see us as hypocrites. The truth is the Church has already defined itself as the sinful people of God.

However, the good that we do, despite the wounded souls among us, is quite astonishing. Did you know that the American Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students every day at a savings of 18 billion dollars to the taxpayer? Our graduates go on to college and graduate studies at a rate of 92 percent.

The Catholic Church has 230 colleges and universities in the United States with an enrollment of 700,000 students. It also has a nonprofit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people, not just Catholics, in the United States today.

And yet the press continually focuses on the negative, denigrating the Catholic Church whenever it can. United with other religious bodies, the Catholic Church is a moral force that stands against the immorality that is so widespread in the world today.

Premarital sex is an epidemic, unwanted pregnancies and abortions abound, the divorce rate is over 50 percent, broken homes and broken dreams flood society. The Church stands against this tide of failure and upholds marriage and the family at every turn.

A small number of wayward priests who are systematically being weeded out have poisoned the image of the Church in recent years. Bleeding from these self-inflicted wounds, the Church is in agony, but not without hope or determination to right the wrongs of the past.

More people attend Catholic Mass every Sunday to receive solace and comfort from their faith than attend baseball, football, basketball, tennis and racing events for an entire year. Catholics are nourished by the Eucharist and love their Church despite the outside climate of hostility.

Jesus predicted that the secular world will hate the Church, just as it hated him. The servant is not greater than the master. We walk in the footsteps of the Lord.

Walk tall, with your head high. Be a proud member of the most powerful non-governmental organization in America. Be proud to speak up for your faith.

Be proud that you are a Catholic.

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Family Puzzle Contest Winners!

Vonnie Greenly of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca is the winner of the April Family Puzzle Contest and "Spirit & Life ~ Essays on Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time" by Scott Hahn. Congratulations. The winners of the youth contests (school or CCD group and individual) are Emilie Bodungen (8) of St. Philip School in El Campo and Molly Michalsky (9) of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Frelsburg. Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by May 25 for a chance to win "An Invitation to Joy," by Blessed John Paul II. See book review on this page.

Why the Commandments are not Burdensome

By Father Charles Van Winkle, CSC

Since God, the Holy Spirit, tells us "The commandments are not burdensome" (1 Jn 5:3b), it must be true, despite so much apparent evidence to the contrary.

In simply and clearly stating why the commandments are not burdensome, the recently published English-Spanish booklet, "Far Greater Than a Secret: The Faith—Love Principle," explains why so many Catholics lack a firm purpose of amendment resulting in a repetition of the all-too-familiar confessions of the same kinds of sins; and why so many Catholics become totally disillusioned with trying to live the Good Orderly Direc-

tion that sets us free.

Rather, we are reminded that our sins are not the problem but are symptomatic of the problem all of us have to a greater or lesser degree. Why not join the ranks of and/or be instrumental in getting others to join those with the lesser problem, increasingly becoming more happy and free along the way to the fullness of life where every tear will be wiped away?

The following is quoted from the introduction of the booklet: "A boxer approached the late Bishop Sheen and said, 'I'm gonna have a fight tonight. Do you think it will help me win if I get your blessing?'"

"Son," he replied, "it won't help you if you do not know how to box."

"Likewise, although as baptized Christians we have ready access to victory over our fallen human nature through our Risen Savior, we are not able to keep the commandments and become the liberated persons we are called to be, if we fail to understand and apply the simple means to overcome the daily challenges to live them. In our vain efforts to resist temptations, we become frustrated, disillusioned and discouraged. No doubt the inability through lack of understanding on the part of so many to live the freeing truth is a major reason there are 30 million non-practicing Catholics in the U.S. today.

"In his letter to the Romans, Paul expresses a similar complaint: '... The willing See *Why the Commandments*, p. 13

Our Lady of the Gulf 12th Annual Golf Outing

This year's event will be held **Saturday, May 14** at the well-manicured Colony Creek Country Club in Victoria. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with tee-off at 9:00 a.m.

Format 4-person team scramble with a modified handicap.

Team Level: (make checks payable to Our Lady of the Gulf Church)
Bishop's Team:—\$600 includes round of golf with Bishop David Fellhauer, photos, mulligans, range balls, 18 holes of golf, carts, lunch and special ditty bags.
Father's Team:—\$500 includes round of golf with a Priest from our Diocese, photos, mulligans, range balls, 18 holes of golf, carts, lunch and special ditty bags.
Parishioner's Team:—\$400 includes round of golf, range balls, 18 holes of golf, carts, lunch and various awards.

There will be an awards presentation and lunch directly after golf. 1st place \$400; 2nd place \$300; 3rd place \$200; and 4th place \$100

Contact Mike Elgin at (361) 552-2495 or e-mail at mikelgin12@gmail.com or church office at (361) 552-6140.

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Director Roland Joffe talks with Bishop Javier Echevarria Rodriguez, head of the personal prelature of Opus Dei, before the start of a screening of Joffe's movie, "There Be Dragons," in the theater of the Pontifical North American College in Rome March 21. The movie about the life of St. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, founder of Opus Dei, was to open in Spain March 25 and in the United States May 6. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

There Be Dragons ~ comes to theaters in May

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Editor's Note: This is a Limited Release film and will only come to smaller theaters (such as Cinemark in Victoria) if it does well in larger outlets.

NEW YORK (CNS)—What many people think they know about the Catholic spiritual movement Opus Dei likely comes — unfortunately — from the slanderous misrepresentations of it fobbed off on the public by author Dan Brown in his 2003 novel "The Da Vinci Code." Brown's fallacies, moreover, were only perpetuated by the 2006 screen version of his feverish fantasy, helmed by Ron Howard.

A healthy antidote to such sensationalized misconceptions — a murderous albino monk, you say? — comes with the release of "There Be Dragons" (Samuel Goldwyn), a generally powerful, partly fictionalized dramatization of passages in the life of Opus Dei's founder, St. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer (1902-75), intensely yet appealingly portrayed by Charlie Cox.

As fictional Spanish-born reporter Robert Torres (Dougray Scott) investigates Escriva's life, he's surprised to discover that his own father Manolo (Wes Bentley)—from whom Robert has long been estranged — was the future religious leader's childhood friend and seminary classmate.

With the tumult of the Span-

Pray for Vocations Day Set for May 15

WASHINGTON—The Vatican has called for the 48th World Day of Prayer for Vocations to be observed May 15, the fourth Sunday of Easter, commonly known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Pope Benedict XVI set the theme for the occasion, "Proposing Vocations in the Local Church," in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The theme underscores the responsibility of all in the local Church to foster vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

ish Civil War looming, however, the two men took diametrically different paths.

Once ordained, Escriva labored for the establishment of a community dedicated to achieving personal sanctity through everyday work, an organization whose structure — unprecedented in the modern church — would embrace women as well as men, laypeople as well as priests.

Having rejected the faith in favor of a bitterly cynical materialism, meanwhile, Manolo is shown pursuing a duplicitous role in the conflict engulfing his society.

Not the least of the obstacles Escriva confronted in furthering his "Work of God" (the English meaning of the Latin phrase "Opus Dei") was the increasingly violent anti-clericalism of the Loyalist side in the Spanish struggle.

Yet when these leftists begin desecrating churches and murdering priests in cold blood, Escriva remains evenhandedly neutral, sympathizing with his adversaries' motivations and aspirations and urging his handful of early followers to react with Christian forbearance.

This nuanced and charitable approach to the situation belies Escriva's reputation, in some circles, as an unabashed devotee of Franco's fascist vision.

The striking portrait of an anything-but-plaster saint that forms the heart of writer-director Roland Joffe's hybrid tale grippingly conveys its subject's struggle to discern his vocation and to live out the Christian message of peace, even in the most trying circumstances.

But the impact of these fact-based biographical elements is blunted by the fictive framework with which Joffe has chosen to surround them, a storytelling device that turns out to be more burden than enhancement. Thus, imaginary subplots such as the conflict between Robert and Manolo never seem quite convincing, and only serve to distract from a primary story, which is

both spiritually valuable and ably depicted.

The significance of that central chronicle is such, however, as to make "There Be Dragons" probably acceptable for older teens.

The film contains occasionally bloody action violence, a few sexual references, a couple of crude and a half-dozen crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service. More reviews are available online at www.usccb.org/movies.

Sunday Readings from May 8 - June 12

May 8 — Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-11 1 Peter 1:17-21 Luke 24:13-35
May 15 — Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6 1 Peter 2:20b-25 John 10:1-10
May 22 — Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 6:1-7 Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12
May 29 — Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 Psalms 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21
June 5 — Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11 Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 Ephesians 1:17-23 Matthew 28:16-20
June 12 — Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-11 Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 1 Corinthians 12:3b7, 12-13 John 20:19-23

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

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

Your Family

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service



What mothers "really" want

Looking for some suggestions for what to get Mom this Mother's Day? (It's Sunday, May 8!) Here are a few ideas:

- Anything the children make themselves. Except a mess.
- An end to whatever battles siblings have been waging recently. Or even a truce.
- Getting to sleep in. At least until 7.
- A nice family meal. That someone else prepares. And cleans up after. (Which certainly explains why taking Mom out to dinner is such a popular choice for many dads and children.)
- Something Dad and the children really picked out together. Anything.
- Someone doing a few loads of laundry. Keeping white and colored clothes separate.
- Her teen and adult children attending Mass with her. Oh, this warms a mama's heart!
- A phone call from a child who lives far away.

- Any gift that isn't expensive but has some thought behind it.
- A smile, a hug, a kiss, a "thank you!" No, that's not four items. It's one, big, beautiful gift!

And on the Receiving End

Like to offer your family a few subtle (or not-so-subtle) suggestions for gifts? Tear out this column and stick it on the fridge. Check what you'd like this year. Don't see it listed? Write it here:

A Prayer for Mothers

Lord, bless all mothers. Thank you for teaching us about divine love though a mother's gentle kiss, about heavenly grace through a mother's sure hands, about divine mercy through a mother's forgiving tears. Bless all the women of faith, of hope and of love who have been a part of our lives. Amen.

And Don't Forget

Use this special day to thank, not only moms and grandmoms, but godmothers, aunts, older sisters and any other woman who has played an important role in your life.

On the Web: More Mother's Day Info

Many Web sites have all kinds of information about Mother's Day. (And all kinds of ads promoting all kinds of gifts.) Here are a couple: www.everythingmothersday.com and www.holidays.net/mother.

M-O-T-H-E-R

M is for the mornings she told me to get up and get ready for school because, despite my complaints, she just "knew" I wasn't really sick. And I wasn't.

O is for other children; she didn't care what they had or did. "I" wasn't going to get it or be allowed to do it. (As she often pointed out, "If all your friends jumped off a bridge ...")

T is for the times she kissed my "owies" and bandaged my scrapes, calmed my fears, gave me encouragement, built up my confidence and made snickerdoodles for the school bake sale.

H is for the hat she made me wear when the weather was bad even though it made me look so uncool.

E is for everything else she did for me. A long, long list known only to God.

R is for the reward she so richly deserves. One that's so big it can't possibly fit on this side of heaven.

Put them all together and they spell "love."

(For Terry Faudree and Margaret Dodds. Thank you, Mom! Monica and Bill)

Why the Commandments are not Burdensome

Continued from p. 12

is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. ... Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body?" (Rom. 7:18b, 19, 24).

"To a very significant degree we are living in a sophisticated, complex, bureaucratic, self-centered society that would have us believe that the answer we are

seeking is unreal unless it reflects the same attitude. As you know, Jesus proclaims the opposite. For example, in Matthew 11:25, Jesus prays, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children.' It is just a matter of programming yourself to apply a simple formula founded on Jesus' words, not only to overcome the

temptation, but to grow stronger with each victory, and, if necessary, to conquer a bad habit.

"Fortunately, Jesus confronted Paul with the simple answer. Subsequently, he was able to live the GOD, the Good Orderly Direction, that set him free."

And you and your loved ones can also joyfully experience, or experience to a greater degree, that 'His commandments are

not burdensome" by living what is clearly related in the brief English-Spanish booklet, "Far Greater Than a Secret: THE FAITH-LOVE PRINCIPLE."

To order the booklet, send a total of \$2 (\$1 for the booklet and \$1 for the mailing) to Faith-Love Principle, P.O. Box 40533, Austin, TX 78704 (a 25 percent discount off the total cost applies to orders of six copies or more).



Michael Fonseca to hold three-year program in diocese for the public

By Michael Fonseca, formation director for diocesan diaconate program

I am taking this opportunity to tell you about God's Embrace Renewal Centers. The vision for God's Embrace Renewal Centers began some years ago when my wife, Cherrie, and I were led by the Holy Spirit to found God's Embrace Renewal Centers to provide Catholics with the opportunity to deepen their discipleship through a joyful and generous following of Jesus Christ. God's Embrace Renewal Centers was incorporated as a non-profit ecclesial corporation on August 8, 2006. We decided to provide a rigorous three-year formation program in prayer and discipleship that is Trinitarian in emphasis and contemplative in approach. Our 3-year formation program is geared to facilitate the creation of ardent disciples who would glorify God through the witness of their lives and service of their local diocesan church. A manual has been prepared for each year of formation to facilitate this deepening of one's discipleship.

The program relies on a "threefold source":

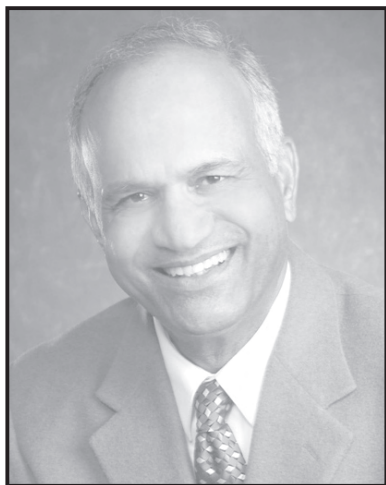
First, we want to make sure that the participants first become "familiar with the Bible," both Old and New Testaments, so that their spirituality is steeped in God's revelation of himself through Jesus Christ and the Trinity's glorious plan of salvation for us;

Secondly, that we rely on the "rich heritage of Catholic Spirituality," offered to us through the Desert Fathers and Mothers, the mystical writings of the Church Fathers on the Trinity, the contemplative traditions of the great Monastic Orders, and the ineffable teachings of the likes of Saints Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross;

And Thirdly, that we emphasize "familiarity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church," which stands, in the words of Pope John Paul II, as "a sure norm for teaching the faith" and an "authentic text." The desired outcome is the living of our lives within the Trinitarian embrace, inextricably linked to the divine life of the Trinity and to one another in Christ. Such an outcome will benefit the local Church through generous service and faithful witness.

The focus in the first year is "Understanding God in our Lives." During this year we are attempting to become truly familiar with the Old Testament without which our understanding of Jesus and the New Testament will be jeopardized. Hence most of the topics draw extensively, though not exclusively, from the Old Testament. The major focus throughout this year is to get a proper understanding of who God really is from his revelation of himself. An accompanying focus is to understand who we truly are in God's eyes, so that we live our lives in covenant relationship with God. We will see how God prepared his people over several centuries for the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ, to be Savior of the world and our Risen Lord. Through monthly day-long sessions over ten months, and four weekend retreats each year, we trust that the Holy Spirit will make our commitment to Jesus more generous and joyful. The manual for each year offers various helps to prayer to help the participant pattern their lives on Jesus, their Teacher and Lord! These helps to prayer will help the participant at whatever stage of discipleship they find themselves. We hold the assumption that if you made a serious commitment to God's invitation to

holiness, already in the first year you would move into committed discipleship. We have found the weekend retreats to be crucial in the formation of seasoned disciples. It is after these retreat experiences that several participants have developed a consistent pattern of daily prayer that has made a huge impact on their discipleship.



Michael Fonseca

In the second year of the program, the overarching vision is Christian Discipleship. The topics will draw extensively from the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament. The major focus throughout this year will be to get a proper appreciation of who Jesus is as he reveals himself in relationship to his Father and the Holy Spirit. We will spend much time in prayer and reflection on appreciating God's Plan of Salvation as fulfilled

in Jesus who offers us the awesome privilege of participating in God's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), and the gift of living out our discipleship in and with Jesus who is now Emmanuel, God-with-us!

The overarching vision in the third year is Being Mentored by the Holy Spirit. The major focus will be to get a proper appreciation of what it means to live our lives with God in the Trinitarian Embrace, to wait on the Holy Spirit to reveal our decisions and to be God's joyful witnesses in our local Church.

We make several assumptions that we hope will become reality through this program.

When each participant is focused on developing communion with the Trinity through prayer and consistent spiritual practices, fellowship among the participant gets greatly strengthened. Our observation is that not only is community among the participants strengthened, each one is much more concerned about being sent out to others rather than focusing on feeling good within the group as an end.

The best way to teach and experience prayer is to offer many, many hours of it through the program. Consequently, during the four retreat weekends each year, we devote about fifteen hours to prayer, individual and group retreat direction, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Eucharist. Our observation is that these retreat experiences have had a profound bearing on the transformation of participants into disciples.

While being made contemplative in prayer and action is a gift that the Holy Spirit wishes passionately to give us, it is necessary that the program help this formation by offering the wisdom of our saints and mystics competently and convincingly; secondly, that the program require accountability from each participant and the team.

In our Catholic understanding of discipleship, our experience of the Triune God is inextricably linked with our experience of Church. The Church is the Bride of Christ, and therefore we as Church are the collective image of God being brought into likeness with Jesus Christ. Our observation is that this truth is slowly becoming reality in the participants of God's Embrace. The mystical dimensions of Church as the worship of and union with the Holy Trinity is blossoming into a living truth in their lives.

Here are some practical details that you would need to be aware of as you discern your call to this 3-year Program of God's Embrace Renewal Centers:

The First Year will begin on August 27, 2011, at St. Robert's Parish Hall in El

Campo with a day-long retreat to give you an overview of the journey into God's heart through the three-year program, as well as offer you input on prayer and practice of it. You will then discern whether God is calling you to this formation in discipleship. After that we will meet on a monthly basis on a Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., September 2011 through May 2012.

During these monthly sessions, the time will be devoted to input on topics from the manual. There will be time for prayer and group spiritual direction as well.

The weekend retreats on 9/16-18/2011, 11/11-13/2011, 1/13-15/2012, and 3/9-11/2012 will be devoted exclusively to prayer and group spiritual direction. The sacrament of reconciliation and Eucharist will be offered as well.

You will be required to make a yearly commitment to the program, one year at a time. Hopefully you will be able to do all three years.

You will not be required to make any

financial payments for the program. However, you can make a good-will offering during the sessions to help this ministry.

If you participate and are being helped by the program, we would like that you invite others to participate and contribute towards this ministry.

Finally, Bishop Fellhauer has endorsed this program and has welcomed me to offer it in his diocese, the Diocese of Victoria. Currently I am the director of Spiritual Formation in the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan, and have been there since 1999. My connection to the Diocese of Victoria extends over 13 years in my work of formation with the Diaconate Program. We would like you to prayerfully consider whether you are being called by the Holy Spirit to deepen your discipleship through the God's Embrace Program.

For more information please contact: Sandy Reese with God's Embrace-Victoria Diocese at (979) 541-6881 or sandyreese-foaj@yahoo.com.



ST. AGNES PARISH CELEBRATES—St. Agnes Parish family of Edna hosted two celebrations on March 8, 2011: Rev. Michael Petering's birthday was observed and a Mardi Gras dress-up party was held in the beautifully decorated parish center. At the celebrations, Father Petering burned palms for the ashes to be used the following day at Ash Wednesday services. The St. Agnes Children's Choir sang and the children participated in a Mardi Gras parade. A covered-dish meal was served with many favorite Mardi Gras dishes. A duck-décor cake (Father Petering's favorite) and ice cream were served for dessert to the 100 people in attendance. Bingo, cards, dominoes, musical chairs and kick ball were fun-filled games played during the festivities. Many prizes were awarded, and the evening was enjoyed by all. Special guests were Father Petering's dad, Mr. Edwin Petering, from Bay City, and Kathy Denton, Father Petering's sister from Houston.

PILGRIMAGES TO HOLY LAND AND EUROPE



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – 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.

Pilgrimage to France/Spain/Portugal – Join Fr. Robert Knippenberg of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner for a 16-day pilgrimage Sept. 30 - Oct. 15, 2011. Visit Lourdes – Fatima - La Salette



For more information, please contact Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or E-mail: Butbanovsky@sbcglobal.net

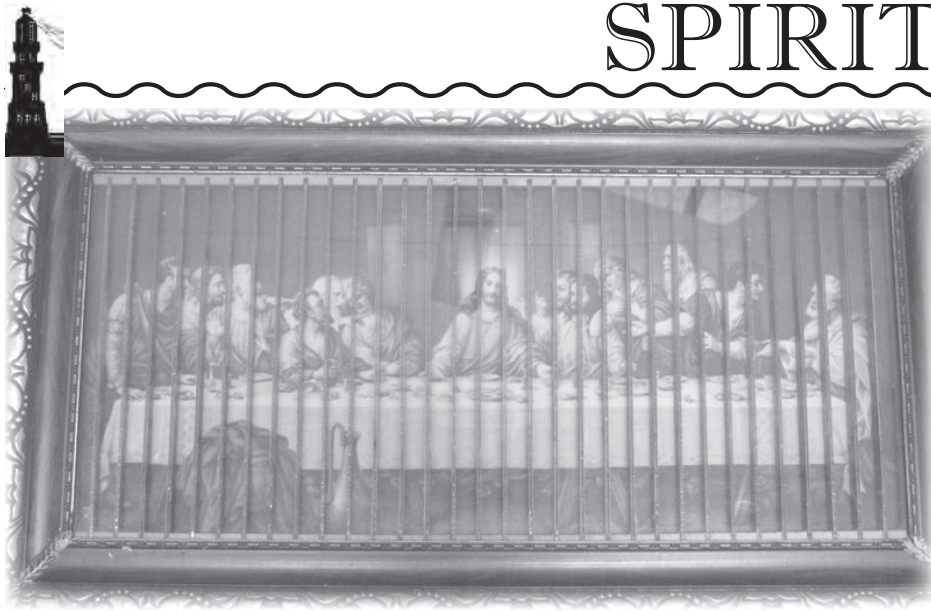
Como reportar un abuso.

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

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

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

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



Three-way, slat artwork of "The Last Supper"

More artwork, but still no answers

By Cynthia Brewer

Since printing the story about the Religious Artwork Mystery in *The Catholic Lighthouse's* April 2011 issue, I've received a couple of calls from people who also happen to have some of the three-way, or slat, artwork.

Incaruate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sister Geraldine Pavlik called me within a few days of the paper's print date and said that the Sisters have a piece of artwork similar to Mr. Bustillo's three-way, slat picture. It is a smaller picture, about 8 x 10 inches, with Our Lady of Guadalupe as the center piece, the Sacred Heart of Jesus viewed from the left, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help viewed from the right. Since reading the story, Sister Geraldine has resurrected the artwork from storage and it is now displayed in the Mortuary Chapel in the convent in Victoria.

Then Patsy Jones of St. Roch Church in Mentz called to tell me that she and her husband, Roy, were given a piece of three-way, slat artwork that had seven pictures.

Photographed above, is the main (center) print, the Last Supper. Looking from the left are three religious pictures of the Blessed Mother, side by side, and three more, side by side, as one looks from the right.

Mrs. Jones said that her brother brought the artwork from Brazil when he was a merchant seaman in the 1950s.

The most recent call I received was from Mr. Edward Moya of Victoria. He buys and sells used items, and in one of his bulk purchases, was an 8 x 10 inch, three-way, slat piece of artwork with Our Lady of Perpetual Help as the front-center picture, a picture of Jesus' head with the crown of thorns as one looks from the right, and an unidentified bishop saint as one looks from the left. It appeared that the 1/8 inch-wide slats were made of glass so that when looking at the artwork straight on, one's view of the picture was not impeded. Judging from the frame, Mr. Moya's picture probably comes from the turn of the 20th century or could be older.

Again, all these pieces contain religious pictures, rather than presidents or national leaders with which the person from the Smithsonian Museum was only familiar. Even as more and more of the three-way, slat artwork is discovered, I still do not know what company or companies manufactured them, and from what country they originated. I do know that they were made as early as the 19th century. Either way, they're fascinating pieces of artwork, and I know the owners feel blessed to own one.



Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem performs the benediction of the Easter Vigil fire in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem's Old City April 23. (CNS photo/Debbie Hill)

Jerusalem's Christian leaders pray for Mideast reforms, minority rights

JERUSALEM (CNS) — In their joint Easter message, the heads of Christian churches of Jerusalem turned their attention to the unrest in the Middle East, noting the need to respect the rights of the minorities in the region. "We pray for reforms that will lead to a modern civil society, where freedom of expression, religion and human rights — including the rights of those considered minority in number are respected," they said in their message, released April 19. "We call on all peoples of faith and good will to pursue peace, while recognizing that this peace cannot be obtained at the price of silence and

submission to corruption and injustice." They also urged all Christians to "pray for reconciliation among people in the Holy Land," where they said the "deteriorating situation" was "making peace and justice seem further away than ever before." The church leaders related Christ's passion to the current situation. "The violence, when it erupts, reminds us that the cross of Christ is ever present for the faithful followers of the prince of peace. The crucifixion is an ongoing reality for many of our clergy and people who continue to seek to live with mutual understanding and cooperation with their neighbors," they said.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

At Easter, pope prays for peace, freedom in world trouble spots

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an Easter blessing to the world, Pope Benedict XVI prayed that Christ's resurrection may open paths of "freedom, justice and peace" for troubled populations of the Middle East and Africa.

The pope urged an end to violence in Libya and Ivory Coast, assistance to refugees flooding out of North Africa and consolation for the victims of the Japanese earthquake. He prayed for those persecuted for their Christian faith, and praised their courage.

He spoke from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica April 24 in his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and to the world), after celebrating Mass for nearly 100,000 people in St. Peter's Square. Broadcast to many countries and live-streamed on the Internet, it was the last major event on the 84-year-old pontiff's heavy Holy Week schedule.

Pope Benedict said the resurrection of Christ must not be viewed as "the fruit of speculation or mystical experience." It happened in a precise moment and marked history forever, giving human events new strength, new hope and new meaning, he said.

"The entire cosmos is rejoicing today," and every person open to God has reason

to be glad, he said.

But the joy of Easter contrasts with "the cries and laments that arise from so many painful situations: deprivation, hunger, disease, war, violence," the pope said.

He prayed that "the splendor of Christ reach the peoples of the Middle East, so that the light of peace and of human dignity may overcome the darkness of division, hate and violence." In Libya, he said, diplomacy and dialogue need to take the place of armed fighting, and the suffering must have access to humanitarian aid.

The pope alluded to the civil unrest that has spread throughout northern Africa and the Middle East, encouraging all citizens there, especially young people, to work for a society where poverty is defeated and where "every political choice is inspired by respect for the human person." The refugees who have fled the conflicts deserve a generous response by other populations, he added.

The pope said the many forms of suffering in "this wounded world" make the Easter message all the more meaningful.

"In our hearts there is joy and sorrow, on our faces there are smiles and tears. Such is our earthly reality. But Christ is risen, he is alive and he walks with us," he said. He then offered Easter greetings in 65 languages, including Chinese, Hindi and Swahili.

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions May 2011

General Intention: That those who work in the media may always respect truth, solidarity and the dignity of each person.

Missionary Intention: That the Lord may grant the Church in China the capacity to persevere in fidelity to the Gospel and to grow in unity.

SACRED HEART PARISH SPRING PICNIC

129 Years

Sunday, May 29, 2011

at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

Dinner: Serving from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Country Fried Chicken, Stew, Homemade Cornbread Dressing
with all the trimmings!

Adults \$7.50

Children \$4.00

AUCTION on the Main Pavilion at 1:00 p.m.

Music on the Main Pavilion

J & S Playboys
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Inside the air-conditioned KC Hall,
Bingo (Noon to 6:00 p.m.),
Cake Walk, Country Store &
Religious Articles Booth.

Free Dance on the Polka Pavilion/Biergarten
Red Ravens

- and -
Jodie Mikula Orchestra
1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Kiddie Rides & Games
all afternoon!!!

Tractor-churned
homemade ice cream



Guinea Pig Plop
sponsored by
Sacred Heart Youth



Washer Pitching Tournament
begins at 5:00 p.m.

Delicious hamburgers,
french fries, nachos,
popcorn, funnel cakes, sno-
cones, lemonade &
sodawater all afternoon!!



Ordination Class of 2011

- 34** average age of new U.S. priests
- 69%** white | **15%** Latino | **10%** Asian/
Pacific Islander
- 8%** converted to Catholicism
- 17%** have a graduate degree
- 21%** attended a Catholic high school
- 39%** attended a World Youth Day
celebration prior to seminary

Responses received from 329 of 480 potential ordinands
Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate ©2011 CNS



Many Texas bishops attended the 2011 Advocacy Days. From l. to r., front to back, they are Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston), Bishop Kevin Vann (Diocese of Fort Worth), Bishop Joe Vásquez (Diocese of Austin), Bishop Oscar Cantú (Auxiliary, Archdiocese of San Antonio); back row: Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller (Archdiocese of San Antonio), Bishop Daniel Flores (Diocese of Brownsville), Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey (Diocese of Corpus Christi), Bishop Plácido Rodríguez (Diocese of Lubbock) and Bishop Mark Seitz (Auxiliary, Diocese of Dallas). Photo: Jeff Dixon, East Texas Catholic

Faithful Citizenship in Action during Advocacy Day

By Chris Pinkalla, Legislative Communication Intern, Texas Catholic Conference

Hundreds of Catholics, from all walks of life, accompanied by nine Catholic Bishops, traveled to Austin from all around Texas to advocate for the legislative priorities of the Texas Bishops for the Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day on April 6, 2011.

Kicking off the day, the bishops passionately spoke to the great moral and social challenges facing our state on the South Steps of the Capitol at a rally and press conference. They addressed a wide range of diverse issues including the state budget, sonogram access, payday lending, immigration, an education tax credit program, human trafficking and the death penalty.

"We've trained well... we're delighting in this sun, but we know there might be a rainy day in sight," said Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, referring to the current debate on the state budget and the controversy over the use of the Rainy Day

Fund.

"We don't leave our faith at the doorsteps of our churches, our homes... It also enters into the public square, [and] together we can make our case known, about the elements of our moral and social teaching that are important in the State of Texas... [because] the centerpiece of our teaching is so simple, elegant, and profound... the human person, whether that person doesn't have a voice yet in the womb, whether they are aging and in a nursing home, whether in need of education, whether that person is a frightened immigrant, whatever, it's the person and their human rights that motivate what we do as the foundation of our Catholic social teaching..." said Cardinal DiNardo.

Editor's note: This was my first year of participating in Advocacy Days. At first I was bewildered trying to find the offices of all the representatives from the Diocese of Victoria's 10-county area, but once I got the hang of it, it was quite exhilarating. Next year, I hope to take a few people with me, so we can better represent the Churches views.

Capital Comments

By Jennifer Allmon
Associate Director
Texas Catholic conference



Capitol Comments: First Do No Harm: The Art of Legislative Compromise

The foundational principle of medical ethics is the principle of nonmaleficence, commonly referred to as, "First, Do No Harm." The second moral principle, beneficence, is to "Do Good." When the Texas Legislature meets, the Texas Catholic Conference is blessed to be able to offer our full support to some of the proposed legislation and on other legislation, we are obliged to oppose. These are usually clear and straightforward positions for us to take.

In other cases, however, the bishops are asked to compromise with other stakeholders in order to achieve an incremental success. This legislative session, there are three crucial compromises that the bishops were asked to make. They accepted one on the sonogram bill, rejected one on advance directive reform, and changed their position on legislation on payday lending. When these dilemmas occur, the directives "First Do No Harm" and "Do Good" are helpful tools to outline our positions on compromise.

Sonogram Compromise (HB 15): The bishops support legislation to require access to a sonogram and improvements to the informed consent process, including requiring a private meeting with the physician 24 hours prior to an abortion. There were not enough votes in the Senate to maintain the private meeting in all cases. Because the bill does no harm, and does good, the bishops agreed to a compromise that ensures that the 24-hour waiting period and private meeting occurs in 93% of the abortions that take place in Texas. The bill is awaiting final vote in the Senate at the time of this writing.

Advance Directives Compromise (HB 3520): The bishops have repeatedly supported legislation that respects autonomy and human dignity, both for patients and providers of end of life care. Legislation on the issue of advance directives is complex and contentious. The bishops support a comprehensive review of the current advance directives act. The bishops oppose indefinite treatment for dying patients, which HB 3520 would require. The committee asked the bishops to accept a revision that would put a 180-day limit on treatment for dying patients. This revision, while possibly allowing a family to find other providers to agree with their wishes, may still make a bad law worse. Because the compromise fails to meet the moral principal, "first do no harm," the bishops cannot accept it and continue to oppose the bill. The bill has not been voted out of the House committee at the time of this writing.

Payday Lending Compromise (HB 2593

& SB 1862): The bishops have called on the legislature to reform the payday lending industry and end 500% annual percentage interest rates. They started out supporting SB 1862, which places a cap on interest and fees, and opposing HB 2593, which does not offer meaningful reform and prohibits a cap on interest and fees. As the bill authors made compromises on the bills, the content changed. The bishops ultimately withdrew their support of SB 1862 due to the lack of a cap on interest rates and fees. However, because the bill still offers some potential for positive reform, they chose not to oppose it. HB 2593 added new protections for consumers, but prohibited a cap on interest and fees. Based on these protections, the bishops withdrew opposition of HB 2593, but could not offer support because of the lack of fee caps. While these bills do no harm since rates and fees are currently unlimited, they do not do enough good to earn the support of the Texas Bishops. If these bills pass, the bishops will work for reasonable rate and fee caps and meaningful enforcement in the future.

Our goals are always to further the dignity of human life at all stages and always to "do no harm." We thank all of the faithful advocates who have acted on our alerts, participated in advocacy, and prayed for the success of this legislative session.

Pray for Peace, the Unborn and Abused!

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

Reporting Child Abuse

**Hotline
1-800-252-5400**

*Great North American
Train Trip AMTRAK
San Antonio to Montreal
August 8-18, 2011
Excursions at Niagara Falls,
Montreal & Quebec City*

*Alaska Cruise with Denali Tour
September 2-18, 2011
Selling Fast, 10 Spaces left*

*~ Polka Party ~
featuring Red Ravens
Galveston, Key West, Nassau
February 12-19, 2012
Best Cabins Selling First*

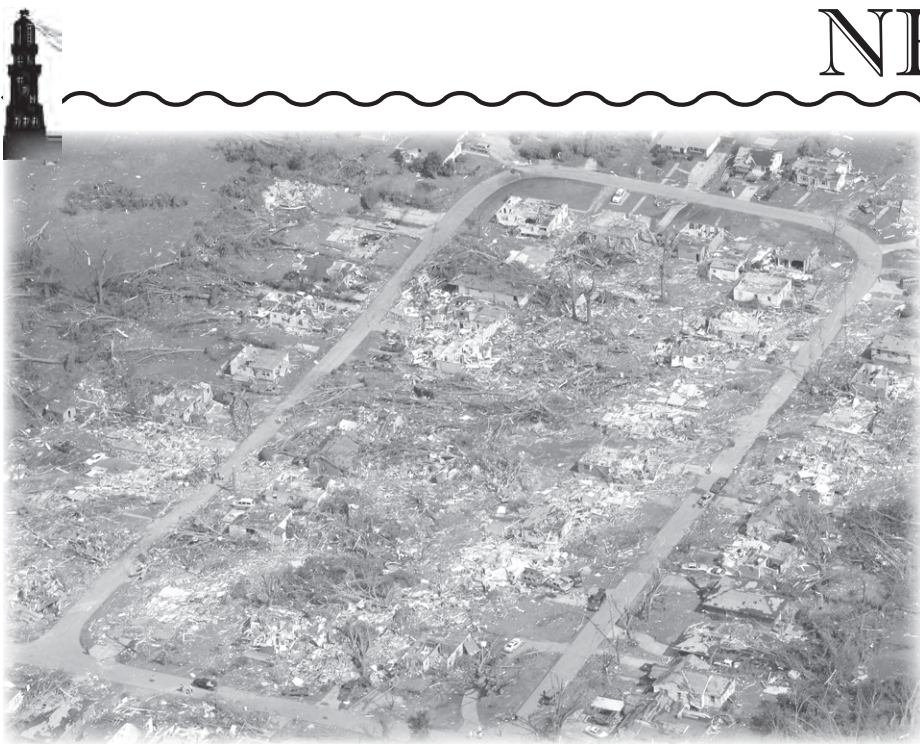
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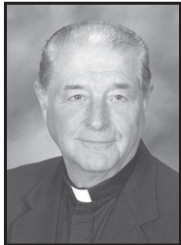
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AERIAL VIEW SHOWS ENTIRE BLOCK IN RUINS AFTER SEVERE STORMS, TORNADOES—An aerial view of tornado damage shows an entire block of homes in ruins in Tuscaloosa, Ala., April 28. Tornadoes and violent storms ripped through seven Southern U.S. states April 27, killing more than 343 people, as of April 30, in the country's deadliest series of twisters in nearly four decades. Hundreds are still missing. (CNS photo/Marvin Gentry, Reuters)

Father John J. Dietzen, leading question-and-answer columnist, dies

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Father John J. Dietzen, the foremost question-and-answer columnist in the Catholic press for 35 years, whom *The Catholic Lighthouse* often published, died March 27 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was 83.



A priest of the Diocese of Peoria whose weekly "Question Corner" columns have been offered through Catholic News Service since 1975 and were later compiled in book form, Father Dietzen had been hospitalized since suffering a heart attack March 6 at his Peoria residence.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria was to be principal celebrant of a funeral Mass March 31 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Peoria.

Father Dietzen served as associate editor of *The Catholic Post*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria, from 1957 — when it was known as *The Register* — until 1973. He is a former board member and secretary of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

Following the Second Vatican Council, Father Dietzen in 1968 began a question-and-answer column in *The Catholic Post* called "The Question Box" to help readers understand the changes taking place in the

Church.

Letters began coming in on all aspects of Catholic life, ranging from marriage and family issues to ecumenism, Scripture, the sacraments and more. After the column was syndicated by CNS, Father Dietzen would regularly receive hundreds of questions each week.

The purpose of his column — and book compilations which followed, including "The New Question Box" first published by Guildhall in 1981 and the current 560-page "Catholic Q&A: All You Wanted to Know About Catholicism" (Crossroad) — was to help readers "recognize how our Catholic faith, in all its living expressions of worship, faith and service, can enhance (our) intimacy with God," Father Dietzen wrote in 1997.

Father Dietzen has for years been "the most popular and widely circulated columnist in the stable of Catholic News Service," said Tony Spence, director and editor-in-chief.

"His great and enduring talent was his pastoral response to the thousands of reader questions he answered over the years," said Spence. "He never compromised the church's teachings and always encouraged his readers to look to their parishes and the sacraments for solace. He never forgot that, at the end of the day, it was a human being who put a question in his box and that person required a human answer."

Vatican says bin Laden's death cause for reflection, not rejoicing

Continued from p. 1

put on guard in Pakistan's main cities out of fear of possible repercussions on the Christian minorities there. Pakistani Christians are often identified in extremist literature with the West and the United States.

Paul Bhatti, a government adviser for religious minorities in Pakistan, told Fides that "the situation is tense."

"In fact, there are strong fears of reactions — senseless reactions — against the Christian minorities. The government is giving the maximum attention to prevention measures," he said.

Father Mario Rodrigues, director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Pakistan, said after a meeting with government officials May 2: "They put us on alert, requesting the closure of our institutes and making available additional police personnel around the churches. The Christians of Pakistan are innocent victims in this and other situations. Any pretext is used to threaten them or launch an attack."

Rodrigues said some experts predicted that bin Laden's killing would weaken the Taliban and their ideologies, which could help diminish anti-Christian persecution in the long term. But he said radical Islamic groups were flourishing in Pakistan, and other extremist leaders could arise.

What is needed, he said, is a serious policy of interreligious tolerance at every level — cultural, social, political and legislative.

Prayer for Peace

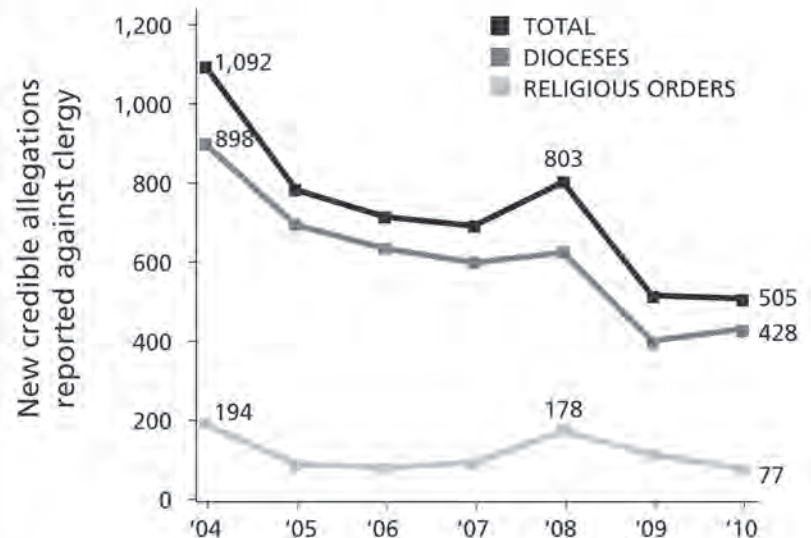
Lord Jesus Christ, We praise You: Bring peace into the world by bringing Your peace into the hearts of all. Help us to turn away from sin and to follow You in love and service.

Glory be yours, and honour, for ever and ever. Amen.

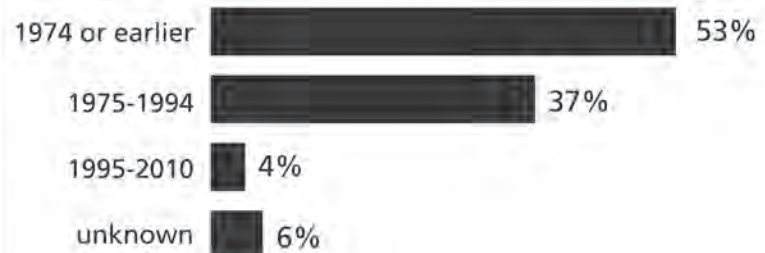
From Catholic Online (catholic.org)

Abuse Report 2010

The U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" mandates an annual audit of clergy sexual abuse and the efforts to safeguard children.



When the offenses reported in 2010 occurred



Allegations reported in dioceses in 2010 that involved current minors: 7

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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SHINER CATHOLIC CHURCH SPRING PICNIC, SUN., MAY 29, 2011 LEGION PARK, SHINER, TX

25th
Annual



Masses:
Saturday — 5:00 pm (Polka Mass)
Sunday — 7:30 & 9:30 am
Traditional Latin Mass — 11:00 am

Pre-Picnic Activities Saturday, May 28

- ◆ Motorcycle Poker Run
- ◆ Outside Music by Los Kolaches - 6-10 pm
- ◆ Sausage on a stick
- ◆ Historic Beer Stand will be open

FREE MUSIC & DANCING
Inside AIR CONDITIONED Hall
11 am — 2 pm
Accordion Music
By Local Accordion Players
2 - 4 pm
Shiner Hobo Band

FREE BATTLE DANCE INSIDE THE AIR CONDITIONED DINING HALL
4 - 8 pm
Texas Legacy Czech Band and Alpenfest

MUSIC OUTSIDE HISTORIC BEER STAND
4 - 7:30 pm
All Star Entertainment

MUSIC OUTSIDE BINGO STAND PAVILION
7:30 - 11 pm
Chris Rybak

--- DINNER ---

10:30 am — 2:00 pm
Dine in Air Conditioned Dining Room
Plate Includes THREE MEATS —
◆ Shiner Picnic Stew ◆ Fried Chicken ◆
◆ Country Sausage ◆ Trimmings ◆
\$8.00/Plate

Drive thru "Plates to Go" from
10:30 am to 12:30 pm at
Shiner KC Hall on Hwy 90A East

COUNTRY STORE

Canned and Baked Goods
Kolaches ◆ Pigs-in-Blanket
Served from 8 am until ...

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION Following Memorial Tribute at 12 Noon

Cattle Auction: 3:00 pm
Drawing for Prizes at 10 pm

DANCE
9 PM to 1 AM
EMOTIONS and HONEYBROWNE
\$10 Admission charged inside hall beginning at 8 p.m.

Bingo - 10:30 am - 7 pm

- ◆ Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
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- ◆ Water Slide, Dunkin' Booth and many more children's activities

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YOUNG WOMAN WORKS ON COMPUTER IN PROGRAM THAT HELPS KIDS AVOID DANGERS OF TRAFFICKING—Doralin Pulio Valerio, 16, works at a computer at the Caminante center in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic (2009). For nine years she's been part of program that has given her skills to avoid the dangers of human trafficking. (CNS photo/Dennis Sadowski)

Sex Trafficking: The New Slavery

By Diane Bayly

Slavery was officially abolished in the United States in 1865. Yet slavery is now flourishing in the U.S. out of public view.

Lena, a student from Eastern Europe, had dreams of visiting the United States and improving her English through a study-abroad program. When she arrived at the U.S. airport, she was told that her study placement had been changed. She was given a bus ticket to a different city. Upon arrival there, traffickers took her passport and enslaved her in the sex industry for almost a year (CNN Opinion, November 25, 2009).

Maria paid a coyote (a crossborder smuggler) \$5,000 to bring her into California. When she arrived, the smugglers demanded \$6,000 more. Unable to pay, she was forced to work off the "debt" as a prostitute. She reported that her captors tortured her with an electric shock when she did not follow their orders (Fox News, November 16, 2009).

When Rosita was fifteen years old, a man walked up to her outside her school. He told her that she was pretty and that he wanted to be her boyfriend. He was a pimp. Over the next three years, Rosita endured an average of eight "customers" a day who were charged \$150 each. All the money went to her pimp. "I just felt like I was put out to die," she said (CBS Evening News, July 22, 2009).

These are only three of the stories of the tens of thousands of sex slaves in the United States. Modern-day slavery, now referred to as human trafficking, is not just an evil of bygone years that we read about in history books. It is a present-day reality worldwide.

Human beings continue to be bought, sold and subjected to horrific conditions of bondage. In fact, human trafficking is now the fastest-growing source of profits for organized crime worldwide and is tied with arms trading as the second most profitable.

What is sex trafficking?

Human trafficking encompasses the illegal trade in human beings for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 defines sex trafficking as a crime in which "a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age." Children under eighteen do not need to prove they were deceived or forced into commercial sex acts to be considered victims of sex trafficking.

Trafficking should not be confused with smuggling, the illegal movement of a person across a border with consent, but

those who are smuggled into the United States are especially vulnerable to becoming trafficked.

Lured by promises of a job, an education, a better life, opportunity, freedom, or even romance, women and children come to the United States from Asia, Europe, Central America, Mexico and other regions. They never suspect that they will be forced to work in brothels, in massage parlors, or for escort services. Many describe being forced to provide sex acts for thirty men or more a day.

To keep these women and children enslaved, traffickers may use beatings, rape, threats to family members, debt bondage and threats of deportation or imprisonment.

For a variety of reasons, victims rarely identify themselves. Often they are unable to speak English. They are full of fear and shame and unfamiliar with the protective U.S. laws. They may also be afraid of what will happen to their loved ones if they escape. They are guarded by traffickers, mistrust authorities and are unaware of how to get help. They do not realize that they can receive assistance and apply for immigration status as victims of the federal crime of trafficking.

Large numbers of children who are U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are also being exploited for commercial sex purposes. The average age of entry into prostitution in the United States is twelve to fourteen. Youth running away from unstable home environments where they suffered sexual or physical abuse are lured by pimps with promises of love, security and belonging. Pimps adeptly use grooming and recruitment practices, similar to those used by child sexual predators, to create trauma bonds and keep youth enslaved.

Regardless of nationality, background, or age, the emotional, psychological, physical and spiritual scars of enduring sexual servitude cannot be overstated. Sex trafficking survivors often suffer from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, mental health problems, violence-related injuries, drug and alcohol abuse, and problems related to pregnancy or forced abortions. It is not uncommon for survivors to have psychological disorders associated with suffering from extremely prolonged trauma and fear. Some survivors recount that they coped by "numbing" themselves, mentally "leaving" their bodies and imagining themselves elsewhere in order to endure daily rape by customers. This can lead to dissociative disorders in which their sense of self ceases to be integrated.

How widespread is this problem?

The statistics are staggering. The United States Department of State estimates that

Cross International Catholic Outreach and the NCCW partner to form Women Helping Women

SOUTH FLORIDA—Across the globe, it's far too easy to find innocent women in heart-wrenching and desperate situations. With young girls forced daily into the ever growing sex trade, and homeless mothers living on the streets unable to feed their children, the situation looks devastatingly bleak.

But the recent Women Helping Women partnership between Cross International Catholic Outreach, and the National Council of Catholic Women, is making a strong effort to bring light and aid into these seemingly dire situations.

Launched as an annual campaign this year, Women Helping Women's goal is to connect caring Catholic women in the United States with these hurting women and girls overseas who so desperately need a voice.

"This is our first year; we expect it to grow and help more and more women each year," said Pamela Lear, the Director for Church and Community Development for Cross International Catholic Outreach.

"We seek to put a face on the poor," said Lear. "Cross International Catholic Outreach allows the National Council of Catholic Women to see the face of the poor by sponsoring specific missions that are rescuing women."

"Cross is a unique way for our members to connect our campaign for human dignity with specific projects," said Cathy Jarboe, the director of Information and Issues Management for the National Council of Catholic Women. "It's a unique way for NCCW to help."

Funding for each project comes from members of NCCW seeking to support these women and girls. "It's off to a great start; our members are really excited about it," said Jarboe.

This year, Women Helping Women has

three areas of focus, Vietnam, Ethiopia, and Kenya, with a very specific project in each country.

In Vietnam, Women Helping Women is seeking to break the cycle of human trafficking and the enslavement of women and young girls. By providing education for these girls, Women Helping Women can help them escape this brutal lifestyle.

Women in Ethiopia have six children on average and are often abandoned by their husbands, leaving them alone to fend for their families the best that they can. Women Helping Women is working to build houses for these women so they have a safe and secure place to raise their children.

One of the biggest struggles for women in Kenya is finding a safe and hygienic place to give birth, as the nearest hospital is often miles away. Women Helping Women is providing medical services and equipment for the Cross Catholic maternity wing of the St. Raphael Dispensary.

"We want to empower poor women and their families, and restore human dignity," said Lear. "This will lead to greater self-sufficiency and prepare young girls for the future."

Cross International Catholic Outreach is a Catholic relief and development organization working in more than two dozen developing countries. In addition to providing material aid such as food, clothing, shelter and medicines, Cross Catholic supports ongoing programs that help the poor lift themselves out of poverty and thus break its vicious cycle. The ministry ensures that the aid reaches those who need it the most by working together with local priests, missionaries, and churches around the world.

For more information, contact Cross International Catholic Outreach at (800) 391-8545 ext. 123

800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year for commercial sex or forced labor, approximately 80 percent of whom are women and children. This figure does not include the tens of thousands trafficked within their own countries. The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes reported in 2009 that 79 percent of all global trafficking is for sexual exploitation, with increasing numbers of children involved.

The U.S. Department of State estimates that in the last ten years 145,000 to 175,000 foreign nationals have been trafficked into the U.S. for commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. Data suggests that at least 100,000 U.S. children are currently being exploited in the commercial sex trade in the U.S., and another 200,000 are at risk.

Why is trafficking so prevalent?

The huge demand for prostitution, pornography and sexual entertainment fuels modern-day slavery. The International Labor Organization estimates that commercial sexual exploitation netted \$28 billion in illicit profits in 2005. Sex-trafficked women, girls, and boys are the most profitable of slaves. Unlike commodities in the drug or arms trade, women, girls, and boys can be bought, sold, and resold, earning pimps and traffickers enormous revenues with little risk of being caught or prosecuted. Buyers receive few penalties, if any. In the U.S., a sex trafficker or pimp can make over \$200,000 per victim annually due to the high demand for sexual "services."

The USCCB Response

In a 2007 pastoral statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration, the bishops wrote: "Human trafficking is a

horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person. All efforts must be expended to end it . . . to ensure that, one day soon, trafficking in human persons vanishes from the face of the earth."

For many years, the Catholic Church has been actively combating trafficking in a number of ways, including advocacy, education, and direct assistance. As an example, from 2006 to 2009, the USCCB's Department of Migration and Refugee Services helped provide assistance to 1,500 foreign national survivors of human trafficking throughout the United States and its territories.

We have only begun the journey to end the evil of modern-day slavery. As Catholics, called to reflect the light of Jesus in places of great darkness, we must speak out and work tirelessly on behalf of our brothers and sisters in captivity. We must educate others on what we can do to eradicate the deplorable trade of women and children for profit. And we must pray for the rescue and restoration of victims, for the redemption of traffickers, and for the protection of all human life.

Diane Bayly is Educational and Outreach Coordinator for the USCCB Office of Migration and Refugee Services. Copyright © 2010, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C., Reprinted with permission.

RESPECT LIFE

To learn about all that the United States Council of Catholic Bishops is doing to protect victims of Human Trafficking, please go to <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking/index.shtml>



Special Collection

Black and Native American, Catholic Communications Campaign and Catholic University of America (all three combined) — June 5 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. For meeting dates, please call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Picnics, Activities, etc. May

Victoria—El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail exhibition at the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College now through May 28. This exhibit of 31 framed photographs and 300+ slide show images showcases breathtaking images that offer a glimpse of the significance and beauty of the historic resources associated with El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. Professor Christopher Talbot of Stephen F. Austin State University's School of Art is the photographer who captured outstanding images of trail swales, acequias, river crossings, forts, missions, presidios, and other original remnants along the old route. El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail was designated by Congress in 2004 to commemorate the significant historic routes extending from the international border at the Rio Grande to the easternmost section of the Spanish province of Texas in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

Weimar—The Weimar Gedenke will be held on Mother's Day Weekend, May 6-7. There will be Arts & Crafts, BBQ Cook-Off, Biergarten, Pie Contest and booths. Music will be provided by DJ Johnny Loco, Southbound 955, Chris Rybak, Battle Dance with the Telstars and The Night Shift Band. Saturday activities include a 5K Family Run/Walk at

7:30 a.m. and Festival Parade at noon. Free admission and parking; bring your folding chairs. For more information, please call 979-725-9511 or www.weimartx.org.

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

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

Upcoming Events

Flatonia—Sacred Heart Spring Picnic June 5 serving fried-chicken and stew dinner starting at 11:30 a.m. There will be games, music, auction and much more throughout the day. For more information contact the parish office at (361) 865-3568.

Port Lavaca—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2267 from Our Lady of the Gulf is hosting their annual games party from 1:30-5:30 p.m. on June 5 at St. Jude's Hall (415 W. Austin St.) across from the church. For table reservations, call (361) 552-6844, (361) 552-3233 or (361) 987-2387.

East Bernard—Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival June 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Hall sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. Admission is \$7 p/p and children 12 and under free. Entertainment indoors and under pavilion with water fan cooled comfort. Sausage and barbecue-chicken plate lunches available starting at 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers and sausage sandwiches available in the afternoon. Arts/crafts, kiddie games, cakewalk and more family fun. For more information go to www.kkfest.com or call (979) 335-7907.

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Jamaica/Bazaar June 12 held on church grounds (Avenue D & 12th Street) from 11:00 a.m. to dark. Fun for all ages: live music, children's games and rides, children's ferris wheel, cakewalk and more; food booths (some open at 9:00 a.m.), Mexican food and more. Bring your chair and enjoy the day!!!!

St. Mary—St. Mary Parish Picnic June 12 at the parish hall (1648 FM 340). Mass will be celebrated at the church at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be games, plants, cakewalk, train ride and country store. Hamburgers will be sold in the afternoon. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Dance to live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Texas Sound Czech, Tony Janak and Red Ravens.

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima will hold its annual parish picnic on June 12 at KC Hall. Masses will be held Sunday at 7:30 and 10 a.m. and 12:00 noon (Spanish). A meal featuring fried-chicken, sausage and all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the KC Hall. Adult plates \$7.50 p/p, children under 12, \$4.00 p/p. Drive-through adult plates will be available. Hamburgers, iced tea and other food and refreshments will be served all afternoon and evening. The biergarten will open at noon. The Shiner Hobo Band will be featured from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 1:30-3:30 p.m. (outside); Mark Halata and Texavia will play from 4-8 p.m. in the hall. One of the highlights of the picnic will be the big auction starting at 12:30 p.m. featuring cattle, quilts, antiques and much more. Other activities at this year's picnic will include bingo in the hall, as well as amusements and games, including a country store, cakewalk, country walk, rides for children, and pull tab bingo. The sweepstakes drawing will be at 8 p.m.

El Campo—Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Exemplification, Saturday, June 18 at 9:30 a.m. honoring S K Most Rev. David Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, at St. Philip Church. Any 3rd degree KC member interested contact Gerry Mikeska for more information at (979) 541-3502 or e-mail to gmikeska@gmail.com.

St. John—St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic on the parish grounds (7026 FM 957 - 6 miles SW of Schulenburg). Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by flag raising ceremonies at 10:30 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. More information to come.

Dubina—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 3

Moravia—Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 10

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 7

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 7

Palacios—St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 7

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 14

Praha—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria—Taizé Prayer Experience—Join the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters on Tuesday, May 17, from 7-8 p.m. in the Convent Auditorium (1101 N.E. Water Street). The Taizé prayer service is held in a candle-light atmosphere consisting of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession.

Port Lavaca—The Pan de Vida prayer group from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church invites you to a charismatic conference and Mass with Father Jacinto Olguin and Father Michael de Leon Saturday, June 18. Praise and Worship service will be held Friday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. Conference and Mass will be in the Spanish language only. For more information please see Spanish notice or contact Mr. Joe Carreon (361)

649-5328.

Victoria—Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at ljwsvoc2@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Have an event???
Contact us
(361) 573-5725 (FAX)
or e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org


Catholic Communications Campaign Collection — June 5

Father Eddie Winkler to celebrate silver jubilee

Shiner and Schulenburg — May 17, 1986 – 2011 — Celebrate the 25th anniversary of Father Eddie Winkler's ordination. There will be two opportunities to celebrate:

Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Parish, Shiner, 6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer presided by Bishop David Fellhauer, Diocesan Church of Victoria; covered-dish reception following.

Sunday, May 22, 2011, the Fifth Sunday of Easter: Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Parish, Schulenburg; Father Eddie will preside at the regular 10:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist; Reception following in the KC Hall; 11:00 - noon Social Hour followed by a covered-dish lunch.



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Noticias en Español

Port Lavaca—El Grupo de Oración Pan de Vida de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Golfo les invita a una conferencia y misa carismática con el Padre Jacinto Olguin y el Padre Michael de León. Adoración y Alabanzas a viernes, 17 de junio, a las 6:30 p.m., Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Golfo, 301 S. San Antonio; Conferencia Carismática, sábado, 18 de junio, en el Salón VFW (Hwy 238); registraciones a las 7 a.m.; conferencia principia a las 9 a.m. (no se permite menores de 10 años); Misa carismática de sanación a 7:00 p.m. a Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Golfo. Para más información, favor de llamar al Sr. Joe Carreon (361) 649-5328



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Pope Benedict beatifies Pope John Paul 'because of his faith'

Continued from p 1

of having worked for many years with Blessed Pope John Paul II," he said.

As prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 1982 until his election in 2005, Pope Benedict said he worked at the pope's side "and came to revere him."

"His example of prayer continually impressed and edified me: he remained deeply united to God even amid the many demands of his ministry," the pope said.

"Today his name is added to the host of those whom he proclaimed saints and blesseds during the almost 27 years of his pontificate," the pope said in his homily.

Pope John Paul during his pontificate beatified 1,338 people and canonized 482 – more than all of his predecessors combined. The beatification of Pope John Paul just six years and a month after his death in 2005 was the fastest beatification in some 500 years.

Pope Benedict said that even at the moment of his death people "perceived the fragrance of his sanctity and in any number of ways God's people showed their veneration for him. For this reason, with all due respect for the church's canonical norms, I wanted his cause of beatification to move forward with reasonable haste."

After the Mass, Pope Benedict went into St. Peter's Basilica and knelt in prayer for four minutes before Blessed John Paul's casket, which was set in front of the main altar. After the pope left, the concelebrating cardinals filed up to the wooden casket, touching it lightly and kissing it.

Eventually, the Vatican opened the basilica to the general public and planned to keep it open either until the faithful stopped coming to pay their respects or until preparations had to be made for the official Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification May 2.

Thousands of people spent a chilly, damp night camped out near the Vatican in an attempt to find a place in St. Peter's Square when the gates were scheduled to open at 5:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. Mass. The crowds were so large that police began letting people in at 2 a.m., according to news reports.

Thibaut Cappe, a 23-year-old from Paris, got up at 3 a.m. and managed to find a spot half way up the boulevard leading to

St. Peter's Square. He said Pope John Paul "is an example of simplicity in the way of being a Catholic. It's not always easy to be a Catholic in our world. He was doing it

Komorowski and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Valeria Buonpastore, who is from Charlotte, N.C., said Pope John Paul "tran-



People pack St. Peter's Square and the Via della Conciliazione leading up to the square during the beatification of Pope John Paul II May 1 at the Vatican. The late Polish pontiff moved a step closer to sainthood during a joyous ceremony that drew more than 1 million people. This aerial view photo provided by the Italian National Police. (CNS photo/Massimo Sestini, Italian National Police via Catholic Press Photo)



Pope Benedict XVI prays at the casket of Pope John Paul II in front of the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican May 1. Pope John Paul II's tomb was opened and his casket removed in preparation for veneration after his beatification May 1. During a brief ceremony April 29, top Vatican officials and a handful of the pope's former aides sang a litany in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica as the pope's casket was placed temporarily before the tomb of St. Peter, in an area closed off to visitors. The casket, which was covered with an embroidered gold cloth, was moved to a spot in front of the main altar on the basilica's upper level on the morning of May 1, where over 250,000 people prayed before it after the beatification Mass. Then it will be moved to a new tomb site in the chapel of St. Sebastian, located on the main floor of the basilica. The inscribed marble slab that covered Pope John Paul's original tomb will be sent to Krakow, Poland, where it will be placed in a new church dedicated to Blessed John Paul, the Vatican said. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

in a way that was understandable for everyone."

Alongside the altar in front of St. Peter's Basilica, priority seating was given to official delegations from more than 80 countries, the European Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The United States was represented by Miguel Diaz, the ambassador to the Vatican, and by his predecessors, Francis Rooney and Jim Nicholson. King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium led the list of royalty present and 16 heads of state attended, including Polish President Bronislaw

scended nationalities. He was universal, that's what made him so great. He was loved by people of other nations, religions. A lot of my Protestant friends loved him, too," she said.

Speaking briefly in Polish in his homily, Pope Benedict said of his predecessor: "By his witness of faith, love and apostolic courage, accompanied by great human charisma, this exemplary son of Poland helped believers throughout the world not to be afraid to be called Christian, to belong to the Church, to speak of the Gospel.

"In a word: he helped us not to fear the truth, because truth is the guarantee of liberty," the pope said.

Pope Benedict read the formula of beatification at the beginning of the liturgy after Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, petitioned the pope by saying, "I humbly ask Your Holiness to inscribe the venerable servant of God John Paul II, pope, among the number of blesseds."

The pope responded by saying that after consulting many bishops and members of the faithful and after having the Congregation for Saints' Causes study the matter, "the venerable servant of God, John Paul II, pope, henceforth will be called blessed" and his feast will be Oct. 22, the anniversary of the inauguration of his pontificate in 1978.

The crowds burst into sustained applause, many people cried and brass players intoned a fanfare as soon as the pope finished reading the proclamation.

Polish Sister Tobiana Sobodka, who ran Pope John Paul's household, and French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson's disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for his beatification, carried a relic to Pope Benedict and then to a stand near the altar. The relic was a clear glass vial of Pope John Paul's blood held in a reliquary of silver olive branches.

The Vatican explained that four vials of blood were drawn from Pope John Paul during the final stage of his illness by his personal physician. The vials were sent to the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome in case the ailing pope needed a transfusion, it said.

Reading a brief biography of the late pope, Cardinal Vallini said he "had lived through the tragic experience of two dictatorships" – Nazism and communism – "survived an assassination attempt on 13 May 1981 and, in his later years, suffered grave physical hardship due to the progression of his illness. However, his overwhelming optimism, based on his trust in divine providence, drove him to constantly look to the horizons of hope."

In his homily, Pope Benedict also spoke of Pope John Paul's suffering and his battle with Parkinson's disease, which eventually crippled him.

"There was his witness in suffering: the Lord gradually stripped him of everything, yet he remained ever a 'rock,' as Christ desired. His profound humility, grounded in close union with Christ, enabled him to continue to lead the Church and to give the world a message which became all the more eloquent as his physical strength declined," the pope said.

Pope Benedict also reminded the crowd of how devoted Pope John Paul was to Mary and to following her example of complete faith.

"Blessed are you, beloved Pope John Paul II, because you believed," the pope prayed at the end of his homily. "Continue, we implore you, to sustain from heaven the faith of God's people."

Contributing to this story were John Thavis and Carol Glatz at the Vatican.



French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson's disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for Pope John Paul II's beatification, carries a relic of the late pope during his beatification Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 1. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)